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# report from the chair

In 2008-2009 the Society of Fellows continued to build on its longstanding record of excellence in attracting and nurturing outstanding postdoctoral Fellows.

The Society received 728 applications for its Fellowships to begin in July 2009, a number that once again sets a new record. After an initial round of vetting by potential host departments and a second round of readings by Fellows and Board members, the Governing Board selected fifteen candidates for interview. From this pool of finalists four were invited to join the Society in 2009, all four of whom will be in residence at the Society in 2009-2010. Our perfect yield in 2009 continues a trend that has become well-established over the past four years, when seventeen of our nineteen offers were accepted. Moreover, most of the incoming Fellows during that period either declined or postponed competing offers in order to join the Society. In short, our applicant pool is large and strong; we have culled the very strongest candidates from that pool to appear as finalists in the competition, and our Fellowship offers are accepted at a very high rate.

The record of intellectual events and accomplishments for 2008-2009 is also strong. All the resident Fellows presented papers during the Thursday lunchtime series, drawing an impressive array of specialists in their respective fields and stimulating exchanges at a high level. In the spring semester a series of invited speakers focused on a set of issues related to intellectual property. This series, too, generated some of the most productive conversa-

tions on the Columbia campus and attracted an array of scholars from a variety of academic departments and institutions around the city. In continuation of last year's initiative to integrate the Fellows more fully into their host departments, the Society funded five conferences or workshops this year, which were organized by at least one Fellow and one faculty member and are described elsewhere in this report. In addition, the Society sponsored or co-sponsored several additional academic events.

Four of the resident Fellows will have left the Society by the time you read this report. Sarah Jacoby is joining the Religion Department at Northwestern University as an assistant professor, and Andrey Shcherbenok has accepted a multi-year research fellowship at the University of Sheffield in England. Will Slauter moves to the History faculty at Florida State University, and Michael Allan joins the Comparative Literature faculty at the University of Oregon. We will welcome four new Fellows: Jennifer Nash (Harvard Ph.D., 2009), Hagar Kotef (Tel Aviv Ph.D., 2009), Adam Smith (UCLA Ph.D., 2008), and John Lombardini (Princeton Ph.D., 2009). Altogether, the Society will be host to three Fellows in their third year, one in his second year, and four in their first year.

The Society remains in good financial health despite the economic crisis and the sharp downturn in the value of its endowment that occurred in 2008-2009. While the payout from the endowment will decline by 8 percent in 2009-2010 and is likely to decline by a sim-

## Report from the Chair

ilar percentage in each of the next two years, we will have more than ample funds to maintain the Society at eight postdoctoral Fellowships each year together with adequate funds for the lunchtime lecture series, conferences, and other events. Indeed, with support from the Vice President for Arts and Sciences we have initiated a process that we hope will lead to the raising of funds for at least one and possibly more than one Senior Fellowship that would be filled each year by a scholar of note, an arrangement that would greatly enrich the intellectual life of the Society and its postdoctoral Fellows.

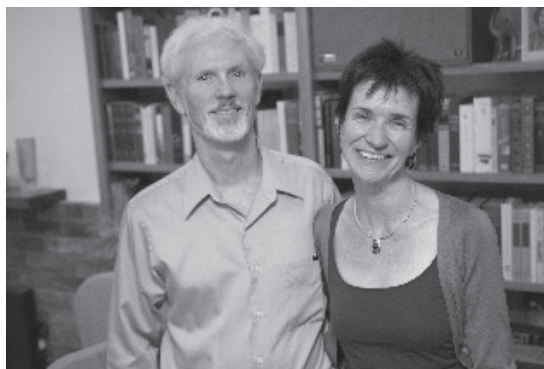
In the summer of 2008, the Society completed furnishing a new lounge, which now serves as a common room for the Fellows as well as a space for meetings and conference receptions. The Society will fund further improvements to the physical plant of the Heyman Center in the summer of 2009, with plans to replace carpeting and repaint the Fellows' offices and the public walls throughout much of the building.

Eileen Gillooly, the Associate Director of the Society of Fellows and the Heyman Center, will be on leave for most of 2009-2010. She was one of thirty-three scholars awarded a residential fellowship by the National Humanities Center (located in Research Triangle, NC). While there, she will work on completing her book project, "Anxious Affection: Parental Feeling in Nineteenth-Century Middle-Class Britain." Although she plans to visit us a few times during the year, she will not return to her full duties as Associate Director until the summer of 2010.

We congratulate her on her award, wish her a productive leave year, and look forward to her return.

I, too, will be on leave for the academic year 2009-2010, with the expectation that I will return to serve one more year after my leave is concluded. For the period of my leave, Patricia Grieve of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese has graciously agreed to serve as Director of the Society of Fellows and Chair of its Governing Board. I expect that under her leadership the Society will enjoy another outstanding year of intellectual activity and productivity. I encourage you to take an interest in the Society during the coming year, to attend its Thursday lunchtime talks as often as you are able, and to offer Pat your full support whenever an opportunity for that occurs.

David Johnston  
Chair and Director



*SOF Chair and Director David Johnston and Associate Director Eileen Gillooly*

**Members of the 2008-2009  
Governing Board**

# governing board

Zainab Bahrani  
*Art History and Archaeology*

Akeel Bilgrami (ex-officio)  
*Philosophy*

Christopher Brown  
*History*

Jenny Davidson  
*English*

Patricia Grieve (ex-officio)  
*Spanish and Portuguese*

David C. Johnston, Chair/Director  
*Political Science*

Adam Kosto  
*History*

Elisabeth Ladenson  
*French*

Claudio Lomnitz  
*Anthropology*

Molly Murray  
*English and Comparative Literature*

Sheldon Pollock  
*Middle East and Asian Languages and  
Cultures*

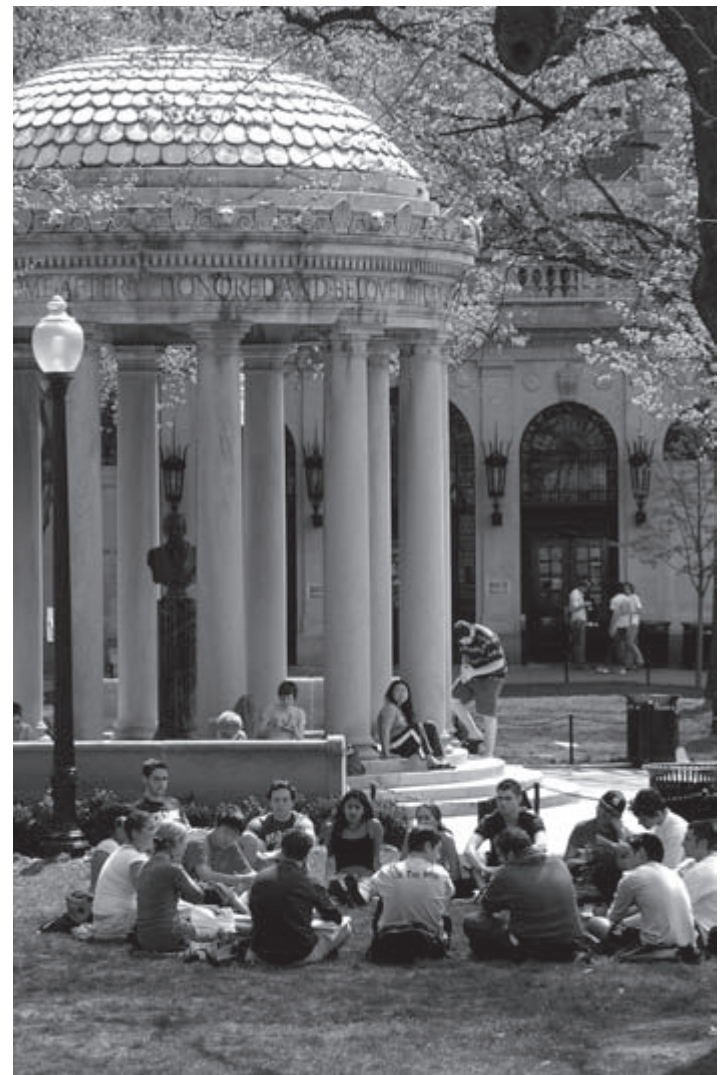
Melissa Schwartzberg  
*Political Science*

Elaine Sisman  
*Music*

Michael Stanislawski (ex-officio)  
*History*

Mark Taylor  
*Religion*

Gareth Williams (ex-officio)  
*Classics*





# fellows-in-residence, 2008-2009

## Michael Allan, 2008-2009

University of California, Berkeley,  
Department of Comparative Literature,  
Ph.D., 2008

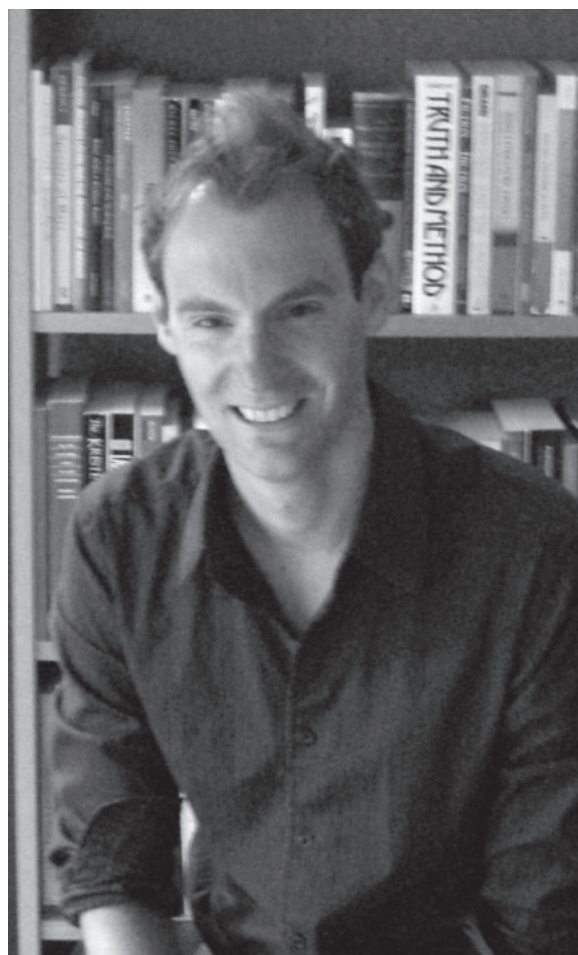
*The Limits of Secular Criticism: World  
Literature at the Crossroads of Empire*

Michael Allan's research focuses on film and literature in the Middle East and Africa (in Arabic, French, and Kiswahili), and draws from postcolonial studies, literary theory, anthropology, and religious studies. As a first year Fellow, he worked extensively on his book manuscript, "Inventing World Literature," which addresses the formation of modern reading practices and the governance of literacy in colonial Egypt. He significantly revised a chapter on the reception of Darwin in the Arabic novel and drafted new chapters on the literary public in the work of Taha Husayn, and on enchantment in Naguib Mahfouz's *Children of the Alley* [*Awlad Haratina*].

During the summer of 2008, Dr. Allan published "Deserted Histories: The Lumière Brothers in Egypt," as part of a special issue of *Early Popular Visual Culture*. His article analyzes a fifty-second film shot in 1896 at the pyramids in Egypt and considers the film alongside a lithograph by David Roberts, André Bazin's "The Ontology of the Photographic Image," and Alfred North Whitehead's theory of the event. In the same issue and in collaboration with Mohamed Talaat, Dr. Allan translated "The Cimenatograph [sic]," an article on early cinema that initially appeared in July 1903 in the Arabic journal *al-Muqtataf*. This summer, he will be returning to Cairo for research on literary curricula at Dar al-Ulum

and the Egyptian University (now Cairo University). In mid-June, he will deliver a paper on the close-up in Palestinian cinema, at a conference in Oslo, Norway, entitled "15 Years After Oslo: What Now for the Middle East?"

Dr. Allan gave several presentations based on his current research during the academic year. In December, he delivered a talk on "The Secular Bonds of World Literature: André Gide, Taha Husayn, and the Literary Imagination of Religious Difference" at the Modern Language Association meeting in San Francisco. In March, he presented "Provincial Cosmopolitanism: Literary



## Fellows-in-Residence, 2008-2009

Bonds in Taha Husayn's *A Man of Letters [Adib]*" at the American Comparative Literature Association meeting at Harvard University.

He also enjoyed collaborations and opportunities made possible by his year at Columbia. During the fall semester, he was a guest speaker in a course on Middle East and North African literature taught by Professor Irene Siegel at Hofstra University. In the spring semester, he participated in a faculty seminar on Secular Space/Religious Space organized by Reinhold Martin through the Buell Center and the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life. He also taught Literature Humanities in the fall and a seminar, "Secularism and Its Critics," cross-listed between Comparative Literature and MEALAC, in the spring.

Dr. Allan is delighted to be joining the faculty in Comparative Literature at the University of Oregon this upcoming year.

### Joshua Dubler, 2008-2011

Princeton University, Department of Religion, Ph.D., 2008

*Seven Days of Penitentiary Life: an Ethnographic Study of the Chapel at Pennsylvania's Graterford Prison*

As a first year Fellow, Joshua Dubler taught two semesters of Contemporary Civilization, which he enjoyed tremendously. He also delivered papers at the University of Pennsylvania, Georgia State University, and the University of Maryland, as well as two papers at Columbia University's Department of Religion. Dr. Dubler spoke on a variety of

topics ranging from the changing landscape of religious practice in prison in the era of carceral control to the question of individual agency in history.

Dr. Dubler—whose first book, *Bang! Thud: World History from a Texas School Book Depository*, was based on his dissertation research and co-authored with Andrea Sun-Mee Jones—has recently completed two articles for publication. The first, co-authored with Andrea Sun-Mee Jones, is about the assassin as the paradigmatic agent of history and will appear in *Cabinet Magazine*. The second, "The Secular Bad Faith of Dr. Harry Theriault, a.k.a. the Bishop of Tellus," explores the Church of the New Song, a religion that began in the federal prison system in the 1970s, and will appear in a collection of essays entitled *Secular Faith* to be published by Cascade Books in the fall.



## Fellows-in-Residence, 2008-2009

This summer, Dr. Dubler will complete a second book manuscript drawn from his dissertation research. Tentatively entitled “Seven Days of Penitentiary Life,” the manuscript is a narrative account of the quotidian and momentous events that took place during a single week’s time in the chapel at Pennsylvania’s maximum-security prison at Graterford.

In the fall semester Dr. Dubler is slated to teach two new courses. In Columbia’s Religion Department he will teach a course entitled “Alterities of Religion in American Culture.” He will also be teaching “Freud, Nietzsche, Dostoyevsky” in Villanova University’s program at Graterford Prison on a *pro bono* basis.

### Sarah Jacoby, 2006-2009

University of Virginia, Department of Religious Studies, Ph.D., 2007

*Consorts and Revelation in Eastern Tibet: The Auto/biographical Writings of the Treasure Revealer Sera Khandro (1892-1940)*

Sarah Jacoby’s research interests include South and East Asian religious traditions, Indo-Tibetan Buddhist doctrine and ritual practice, gender studies, Tantric literature, autobiography studies, Buddhist revelation, Buddhism in contemporary Tibet, and Eastern Tibetan area studies.

Dr. Jacoby spent the year working on her book manuscript, “Love Revelations: The Autobiography of a Tibetan Dakini,” which

is under contract from Columbia University Press. She also completed editing a book (with Antonio Terrone) entitled *Buddhism Beyond the Monastery: Tantric Practices and their Performers in Tibet and the Himalayas*, to be published this summer with Brill. Her article in *Buddhism Beyond the Monastery* is “To Be or Not To Be Celibate: Morality and Consort Practices in Early Twentieth-century Eastern Tibet.”

Dr. Jacoby was invited to give multiple lectures this year, including one at the University of Toronto’s Numata Buddhist Studies lecture series, where she spoke on the nature of love in Sera Khandro’s biographical



## Fellows-in-Residence, 2008-2009

writings, the subject of the fifth chapter of “Love Revelations.” She also lectured at Berkeley’s Center for Buddhist Studies and presented a paper on her current research at Columbia’s Society of Fellows in the Humanities spring lecture series. A highlight of her year was organizing a two-part workshop, sponsored by the Society of Fellows, with Andrew Quintman, from Princeton University’s Society of Fellows, entitled “New Directions in Tibetan Literary Studies: A Workshop on Perspectives and Prospects Emerging in the Field of Auto/Biography.” The fall workshop, sponsored by the Society of Fellows, was held at Columbia University, and the spring workshop was held at Princeton, where Dr. Jacoby gave a talk titled “Reading Sentiments in Tibetan Auto/biography.”

As a third-year Fellow, Dr. Jacoby enjoyed teaching a seminar course in the Religion Department titled “Buddhist Auto/biography.”

In September, she will join the Department of Religion faculty at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

### Kevin Lamb, 2007-2010

Cornell University, Department of English, Ph.D., 2007

*Impersonality and the Modernist Art of Critique*

Kevin Lamb’s research centers on the relation between modernist literature and philosophy. As a second-year Fellow, he

continued work on a book manuscript that traces the emergence and legacy of an alternative understanding and practice of aesthetic criticism rooted in the concept of impersonality, understood as a deliberate form of work on the self whose aim is not self-expression but self-transformation. As part of this ongoing project, he revised an article entitled “Undoing...the One Who Does It’: Modernist Criticism and Cavell’s Illustrious Style” for a collection of essays dealing with the work of the American philosopher Stanley Cavell.

In 2008-2009, Dr. Lamb gave three presentations of his work in progress. In addition to his talk at the Society in December, he delivered a paper on “Historical Method, Philosophical Style” at Columbia as part of an October conference on “Historical Epistemology,” sponsored by





## Fellows-in-Residence, 2008-2009

the Society of Fellows, which he co-organized with Patrick Singy and Matthew Jones. In March he presented a paper entitled “Aestheticism and Moral Perfectionism in Dialogue” at the annual conference of the American Comparative Literature Association. During the fall, he also offered a seminar on “Aestheticism: Theory and Practice” in the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

Dr. Lamb is happy to be remaining at Columbia to complete the final year of his postdoctoral fellowship.

### David Novak, 2007-2010

Columbia University Department of Music, Ph.D., 2006

*Japan Noise: Global Media Circulation and Experimental Music*

David Novak’s work focuses on the circulation of popular media, sound technology, and social practices of listening as critical discourses of global modernity. His long-term research project is an ethnography of Noise, an underground electronic genre emergent in US-Japan networks of musicians and listeners. As a 2008-2009 Fellow, Dr. Novak continued revisions of a forthcoming book based on this work, entitled “Japanoise: Media Circulation and the Cultural Feedback of Experimental Music,” to be published by Duke University Press (2010). Also in 2008-2009, his paper “Playing Off Site: The Untranslation of *Onkyô*” was accepted for

publication by the journal *Asian Music*. In fall 2008, he taught Asian Music Humanities in the Music Department.

Dr. Novak presented several papers in 2008-2009. In October 2008, he chaired the “Appropriation and Remediation” panel at the Seminar for Ethnomusicology meeting, and presented “The Transcultural Ghost World of Bollywood.” In November, he delivered “Of Tents and Trains: Public Soundscapes and Urban Displacement in South Osaka” at the meeting of the American Anthropological Association, and initiated the AAA Music and Sound Interest Group. In January and February 2009, he gave three invited papers: “Media Circulation and Cultural Politics” at the University of



## Fellows-in-Residence, 2008-2009

Oklahoma; “Overwhelming Techne” at the University of Pittsburgh; and “Distorting Music: The Cultural Feedback of Japanoise” at the Global East Asia Humanities Project Symposium at the University of Rochester. He also programmed and moderated panel presentations for *1986 Mixtape: How American music played out at the end of the 1980s*, as part of an exhibition by artist Matt Keegan at the Anna Helwing Gallery in Los Angeles. On 13-14 February 2009, Dr. Novak co-organized a major interdisciplinary conference on issues of sound, listening, and musical circulation with Ana Maria Ochoa. The conference, entitled “Listening In, Feeding Back,” was sponsored by the Society of Fellows in the Humanities with major funding from the Center for Ethnomusicology, the Music Department, and the Donald Keene Center. It brought together an international group of scholars and composers from Brazil, Japan, England, Canada, and the Netherlands. The conference also featured a concert of experimental music at Columbia’s Miller Theater that was favorably reviewed in *The New York Times* and other publications.

Finally, he and his partner Jen Gherardi were delighted to welcome their son August Benjamin on 5 March 2009. Thanks to all for their best wishes.

### Andrey Shcherbenok, 2006-2009

University of California, Berkeley,  
Department of Rhetoric, Ph.D., 2006  
*Trauma and Ideology in the Soviet Film*

*of 1929–1945.*

St. Petersburg State University (Russia),  
Department of Russian Literature,  
Kandidat of Science Degree, 2002  
*Tolstoy, Chekhov, Bunin, Nabokov:*  
*Rhetoric and History*

Andrey Shcherbenok’s research interests include Russian and Soviet film, trauma theory, ideology, and cinematic sexuality, as well as Russian literature. In his research, Dr. Shcherbenok brings together close psychoanalytic readings of films and their larger historical and political context. In the 2008-09 academic year he completed his book project, “Trauma and Ideology in the Soviet Film of 1929–1945,” and sent a book proposal to



## Fellows-in-Residence, 2008-2009

several academic publishers. In fall 2008 he organized a two-day international conference, "Screened Sexuality: Desire in Russian, Soviet, and Post-Soviet Cinema" at Columbia, co-sponsored by the Society of Fellows and the Harriman Institute. He edited a special edition of the journal *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema*, which includes several of the "Screened Sexuality" conference papers, and wrote an introduction to the collection. Dr. Shcherbenok also published a review of the collected volume *Tarkovksy* (ed. Nathan Dunne, London: Black Dog Publishing) and a film review, and he submitted an article entitled "Vicissitudes of Heterosexual Desire in Pre-Revolutionary and Early Soviet Cinema" to the *SRSC*.

In 2008-2009 Dr. Shcherbenok gave several presentations, which included: "Trauma and Ideology in the Soviet Cinema of the 1930s," given as a lecture at the Society of Fellows lunchtime lecture series and as a conference talk at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies national convention; "Sublime Gaze and Suffering Woman in Soviet World War II Cinema," presented at the American Association of the Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages conference; and "Conceptual Disturbance of the Great Terror and Its Cinematic Resolution in Fridrikh Ermler's *The Great Citizen*," presented at the Mid-Atlantic Slavic Conference. He also organized and participated in a roundtable entitled "What is Soviet About Post-Stalinist Soviet Cinema?" at the AAASS national convention and gave an invited lecture entitled

"Transcendental Desire and Female Cinematic Gaze in *Zoya* (1944) and *The Cranes Are Flying* (1957)" at Tokyo University.

In spring 2009 he taught Literature Humanities. Throughout the academic year he introduced films in the *Russian Movie Nights* series, organized by the Russian International Association at Columbia.

In fall 2008 Dr. Shcherbenok was awarded a two-year Newton International Fellowship by The British Academy, The Royal Academy of Engineering, and the Royal Society to do a joint research project with professor Evgenii Dobrenko on the Soviet past as the traumatic object of contemporary Russian culture. To undertake this project he will move in fall 2009 to the University of Sheffield (UK), where he will also be teaching nineteenth century Russian literature.

### Patrick Singy. 2007-2010

University of Chicago, Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, Ph.D., 2004

*Experiencing Medicine: An Epistemological History of Medical Practice and Sex in French-Speaking Europe, 1700-1850*

Patrick Singy's research interests include the history of medicine and sexuality, the historiography of science, and the history and philosophy of psychology and psychiatry. As a second-year Fellow he taught Contemporary Civilization in the spring semester.

## Fellows-in-Residence, 2008-2009

In October 2008 Dr. Singy organized a two-day international conference on “Historical Epistemology.” The Franco-American tradition of historical epistemology is far from homogeneous, and the speakers at the conference engaged in lively and sophisticated debates on topics ranging from the lexical appropriateness of the expression “historical epistemology,” to thorny historiographical issues related to causality, ethics, and the place of case-studies. With the help of conference co-organizer Matthew Jones, Dr. Singy is preparing some of the papers for publication.

Dr. Singy also submitted three articles for publication this year. An essay review of Lorraine Daston and Peter Galison’s *Objectivity* is forthcoming in *Iris: European Journal of Philosophy and Public Debate*. “The Popularization of Medicine in the Eighteenth Century: Writing, Reading and Rewriting Samuel Auguste Tissot’s *Avis au peuple sur sa santé*,” conditionally accepted for publication in *The Journal of Modern History*, focuses on the gradual transformation, through successive editions, of Tissot’s famous medical self-help book. The third article, submitted to *Modern Language Notes*, is a literary essay on the first volume of Michel Foucault’s *Histoire de la sexualité*. It argues that Foucault encapsulated the political stakes of his history of sexuality in the crucially ambiguous comma of the title of the book’s first part, “Nous autres, victoriens.”



Dr. Singy also co-edited (with Philippe Huneman) a special issue of the *Bulletin d'histoire et d'épistémologie des sciences de la vie* (vol.15, no.2), which focuses on experiment and observation in the eighteenth-century life sciences and includes a translation in French of one of his papers, previously published in English in *Representations*.

Dr. Singy continued to work on his book, tentatively entitled “Sadism at the Limits: Sex, Violence, and the Historical Boundaries of Sexuality.” Through a historical and conceptual analysis of the psychiatric perversion of “sadism,” this monograph argues that sexuality is a specifically modern experience, with a beginning in the middle of the nineteenth



## Fellows-in-Residence, 2008-2009

century and a gradual dissolution at the end of the twentieth century

Dr. Singy also presented several papers at diverse venues this year: the Historical Epistemology Conference, The Society of Fellows lecture series, and the Book History Colloquium—all at Columbia, the American Historical Association; and the International Colloquium in Twentieth- and Twenty-First-Century-French and Francophone Studies at the University of Minnesota.

After a short trip, Dr. Singy looks forward to returning to the Society in 2009-2010.

### Will Slauter, 2007-2009

Princeton University, Department of History, Ph.D., 2007

*News is a Collaborative Textual Process*

Will Slauter studies the history of communication in early modern Europe and the Atlantic World. Drawing inspiration from bibliography and history of the book, he is interested in how texts of all kinds come to take the forms that they do, and how those forms ultimately matter to the way people understand events. Consider a manuscript newsletter from the seventeenth century or a blog posting from last week: where did the words come from and how did they get onto the page or the screen? Why does the text look one way rather than another and to what effect? In the case of both the manuscript newsletter and the blog, Dr. Slauter argues that news is a collaborative textual process: the version that we ultimately read

depends upon the collective (though not necessarily coordinated) efforts of the many people who copy, translate, excerpt, and rewrite the news as they relay it from one place to another. His current project, building on a dissertation supervised by Robert Darnton at Princeton, explores these questions by focusing on the creation of international news in the Eighteenth-century Atlantic World.

As a Fellow, Dr. Slauter began a second project that considers some of the same questions



**Fellows-in-Residence, 2008-2009**

in a very different context: the London Plague of 1665. Research in London archives during the summer of 2008 led to a paper about the Bills of Mortality, a peculiar genre of publication that shaped the way people understood and reacted to the epidemic of 1665. After giving a talk on that subject to the Society of Fellows in October, he presented related material to the “Interacting with Print” group in Montréal, the “Forms of Early Modern Writing” conference at Columbia, and the Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Indiana University.

Dr. Slauter taught Contemporary Civilization in the fall and had the spring free for research (though he did enjoy being a guest at François Furstenberg’s seminar at the Université de Montréal in February). He revised an article on the relationship between financial speculation and political prediction in eighteenth-century journalism that should see print sometime next year and began another on the history of the paragraph as a unit of textual transmission, focusing on the emergence of the paragraph as a genre of news reporting in the eighteenth century. Taking off from the Society’s spring lecture series on intellectual property, and in preparation for a conference on public opinion to be held at Université Paris 7 next fall, Dr. Slauter will spend the summer studying changing attitudes toward the ownership (and copyright) of news reports. In August 2009 he will join the history department at Florida State University, where he will be part of a new interdisciplinary program in the “History of Text Technologies.”



## Thirty-fourth Annual Fellowship Competition

# thirty-fourth annual fellowship competition

The applicants for the thirty-fourth annual fellowship competition numbered 728, up more than thirteen percent from the record-breaking total of 642 of the previous year.

The first round of readings took place in the fall, shortly after the close of the competition on 6 October 2008, with twenty-two departments, institutes, and centers participating in the vetting process. Ninety-four applications were recommended for advancement to the next level of competition, where each application was read by one current Fellow and two members of the Society of Fellows Governing Board. The candidates were then ranked, and the rankings reviewed by the selection committee, a sub-committee of the Governing Board. In mid-December, fifteen candidates were offered interviews, which were held on 23 January 2008 at the Heyman Center.

Four fellowships were available for 2009–2010. In February 2009, offers were made to Hagar Kotef, School of Philosophy, Tel Aviv University (Ph.D., 2009); John Lombardini, Department of Politics, Princeton University (Ph.D., 2009); Jennifer Nash, African and African American Studies, Harvard University (Ph.D., 2009); and Adam Smith, Department of Archaeology, University of California, Los Angeles (Ph.D., 2008).

The four new Fellows, whose appointments began 1 July 2009, joined four returning Fellows: Joshua Dubler, Department of Religion, Princeton University (Ph.D., 2008), Kevin Lamb, Department of English, Cornell University (Ph.D., 2007); David Novak, Department of Music, Columbia University (Ph.D., 2006); and Patrick Singy, Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, University of Chicago (Ph.D., 2004).



## Applicants for 2009-2010 Fellowship

# applicants for 2009-2010 fellowship

### Sorted by Country

Country	Number of Applicants	% of Total
Australia	5	0.69%
Austria	1	0.14%
Belgium	2	0.27%
Brazil	2	0.27%
Canada	29	3.98%
China	3	0.41%
Czech Republic	1	0.14%
France	17	2.34%
Germany	6	0.82%
Greece	5	0.69%
Hungary	1	0.14%
India	3	0.41%
Ireland	8	1.10%
Israel	8	1.10%
Italy	8	1.10%
Latvia	1	0.14%
Netherlands	3	0.41%
New Zealand	1	0.14%
Portugal	1	0.14%
Nigeria	1	0.14%
Singapore	1	0.14%
South Korea	1	0.14%
Sweden	1	0.14%
Taiwan	1	0.14%
Turkey	3	0.41%
United Kingdom	56	7.68%
Ukraine	3	0.41%
United States	556	76.37%
Total Applicants	728	

### Sorted by Department and Field

Department	Number of Applicants	% of Total
African American Studies	14	1.92%
American Studies	54	7.42%
Anthropology	50	6.87%
Art History and Archaeology	59	8.10%
Classics	23	3.16%
Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race	15	2.06%
East Asian Languages and Cultures	29	3.98%
English and Comparative Literature	86	11.81%
Film	16	2.21%
French	29	3.98%
German	17	2.34%
History	73	10.03%
Institute for Research on Women and Gender	21	2.88%
Italian	4	0.55%
Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures	29	3.98%
Music	33	4.53%
Philosophy	31	4.26%
Political Science	48	6.59%
Religion	45	6.18%
Slavic Languages	14	1.92%
Sociology	22	3.02%
Spanish and Portuguese	16	2.21%
Total Applicants	728	



# programs 2008-2009

## Lunchtime Lecture Series

Every year the Fellows organize a series of weekly talks open to members of the Columbia community and by invitation. Each Fellow gives one lecture in every year of residency and is responsible for inviting one or more of the distinguished scholars who fill out the series program. In 2008-2009, a total of fourteen lectures were presented.

## FALL 2008

October 9, 2008

*The Ghost World of Bollywood*

David Novak, Society of Fellows,  
Columbia University

This paper considered changing modes of appropriation in the transcultural circulation of South Asian popular culture, as viewed through two North American remediations of the song-and-dance

sequence *Jaan Pehechaan Ho* from the 1964 Hindi film classic *Gumnaam*. The clip, an over-the-top rock-and-roll number, was recently restored and used in the opening sequence of the 2001 US independent film *Ghost World*, where it eagerly offers itself as a kitschy, familiar-but-strange object of bewilderment and fantasy for distant media consumption. Dr. Novak discussed how this particular Bollywood film song, itself a kitschy send-up of American popular culture, constitutes an exemplary instance of the ways in which remediation transforms ideas about cultural property and its global circulation.



## Programs 2008-2009

October 16, 2008

*Theorizing Religion in Prison*

Joshua Dubler, Society of Fellows,  
Columbia University

Drawing on the work of his students from a course he taught at Pennsylvania's Graterford Prison entitled "Religion in the Tradition of Social Theory," Dr. Dubler reflected on the relationship between ethnography and pedagogy. In presenting his students' critical reflections on Marx and Foucault, he argued implicitly for leveling the barrier between those who write and those who are written about.

October 23, 2008

*Trauma and Ideology in the Soviet Cinema of the 1930s*

Andrey Shcherbenok, Society of Fellows,  
Columbia University

In his lecture Andrey Shcherbenok concentrated on the most enigmatic and disturbing event of Stalinist politics, the Great Purges of 1937-1939. He argued that the traumatic impact of the purges results primarily from the inability of the Soviet subjects, up to the very top of the political hierarchy, to make sense of the Purges in general and the particular charges they faced personally. Analyzing the Politburo records on the trial of Nikolai Bukharin and Fridrikh Ermler's

film *The Great Citizen* (1937, 1939), Dr. Shcherbenok showed that these contradictions largely depend on the problematic status of psychological analysis as a basis for establishing one's true political position. Ermler's film articulates this problem by conflating the psychological realism of the portrayal of its characters with an explicit denial of the relevance of psychology. The film, however, offers a purely cinematic resolution of this antinomy that works to interpellate the spectator into ideology despite—or rather owing to—its manifest contradictions.

October 30, 2008

*Reading and Writing the Plague*

Will Slauter, Society of Fellows,  
Columbia University

Long before they became sources for social and demographic history, the London Bills of Mortality circulated among the public, shaping the way people understood the geography of the city, the spread of disease, and the passage of time. Focusing on the "Great Plague" of 1665, Dr. Slauter's paper reconstructed the work of the various people involved in the production, distribution, and reception of the Bills of Mortality. Doing so revealed how the reporting of the epidemic depended upon the collective (but not necessarily coordinated) efforts of compassionate searchers, overworked

gravediggers, fastidious clerks, contract printers, and rogue street vendors. The unpredictable labor of hundreds of anonymous people ultimately became obscured behind an official-looking table of numbers that gave elite Londoners a sense of control over the city. The plague was refracted through the bills, which in turn fed back into the collective behavior of the community. For better and for worse, the publication of the bills influenced the course of the epidemic itself.

November 6, 2008

*Debating Darwin: The Crisis of 1882 and Naguib Mahfouz's Palace of Desire*  
[Qasr al-shawq]  
Michael Allan, Society of Fellows,  
Columbia University

In 1882, when Dr. Edwin Lewis mentioned Charles Darwin during a commencement address at the Syrian Protestant College (now the American University in Beirut), he ignited a scandal that led to his eventual resignation and the near dissolution of the university. Years later, when the Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz published the second volume of his Cairo Trilogy, he also invoked the reception of Darwin by staging a debate within the family at the center of the novel. Dr. Allan's talk discussed the historical and literary permutations of this story within the world of modern Arabic

letters. Thanks to the writings of prominent Arabic-speaking intellectuals such as Ya'qub Sarruf, Faris Namir and Jurji Zaydan, the Crisis of 1882 has commonly been understood as the conflict between modern science and religious traditions. Against this conventional story, Dr. Allan considered what we might learn by hearing discussions of Darwin differently—that is, by refusing the opposition between the secular and religious that is so commonly invoked. Drawing from archival letters and Mahfouz's novel, his talk analyzed the formal relationship between literary narration and historical knowledge and questioned how modern reading practices limit the sensible relationship to the past.

November 20, 2009

*The Popularization of Medicine in the Eighteenth Century: Writing, Reading, and Rewriting Samuel Auguste Tissot's Avis au peuple sur sa santé*  
Patrick Singy, Society of Fellows,  
Columbia University

Samuel Auguste Tissot's *Avis au peuple sur sa santé*, first published in 1761, was one of the biggest medical bestsellers of the eighteenth century. Because of this success, historians have seen in this book the quintessential example of the popularization of medicine. Dr. Singy's paper argued that this assertion needs to be

## Programs 2008-2009

qualified: by studying the successive editions of *Avis au peuple* and the vast correspondence between Tissot and his patients, he showed that it is only gradually that *Avis au peuple* came to popularize medicine. At first, Tissot purposefully limited his ambition to offering simple medical truths, never simplified ones. Because the first editions of *Avis au peuple* did not make complex professional knowledge available to lay people, they did not popularize medicine. However, when readers of *Avis au peuple* wrote to Tissot to complain about the lack of information related to complex diseases, he modified his book, and later editions of *Avis au peuple* increasingly dealt with such diseases. In the case of *Avis au peuple* the popularization of medicine was therefore a process that involved both author and readers, took shape through successive editions, and was the effect rather than the cause of editorial success.

December 4, 2008

*Toward a Historical Poetics of Critique: Impersonality and the Cursed Critics*  
Kevin Lamb, Society of Fellows,  
Columbia University

Kevin Lamb's talk explored the relation between the modernist fascination with impersonality—that is, styles of self-presentation that obscure or displace the expressive “I” of the author—and the

emergence of an alternative ethos of criticism. Scholars have for some time associated poetic impersonality with mysticism or negative theology, seeing the insistence by T. S. Eliot, among others, on the poet's renunciation of self in poetry as an esoteric invocation. As a result, scholars have generally overlooked the extent to which the late-Victorian aesthetes were the early architects not only of this concept of art but also of a transformed practice of criticism based on it. In a reading of three examples that cross between art and criticism (Pater's “Diaphaneité,” Mallarmé's “Crise de vers,” and Verlaine's “Il pleure dans mon cœur...”), Dr. Lamb argued that the concern with aesthetic impersonality arises historically at the same time that many aesthetes began to reflect on the conditions and possibilities of criticism as both a literary genre and an ongoing task of self-critique, in which one poses and pushes the limits of one's own thinking.

### SPRING 2009: Intellectual Property and Its Discontents

February 12, 2009

*The Author as Vegetable: Images of Nature in the Discourse of the Commons*  
Mario Biagioli, Professor of History and Science, Harvard University

Images of nature are often invoked by



cultural environmentalists in their attempt to cast the public domain as something that needs to be defended from the increasingly intensive and extensive use of intellectual property. We are told that, like green pastures or other natural resources, the knowledge commons is at risk of being fenced off and turned into private property by the so-called “second enclosure” movement. While Professor Biagioli supported the political goals of the cultural environmentalists, he also expressed concern about the inadvertent reification of the logic of IP law implicit in the celebration of the naturalness of the commons and/or of the public domain. The unintended consequence of such a celebration has been to reinforce the nature/society dichotomy structuring the legal doctrine that cultural environmentalists believe themselves to be critiquing.

February 26, 2009

*Fashion, Comedy, Cuisine and Other Stories of Innovation without Intellectual Property*

Christopher Sprigman, Associate Professor of Law,  
University of Virginia

In many domains, such as fashion, cuisine, and stand-up comedy, inno-

vation thrives outside the bounds of intellectual property law. How is this possible, when copyright is supposedly essential to creativity? Christopher Sprigman explored this question by presenting material from a forthcoming book, co-authored with Kal Raustiala, called “The Piracy Paradox.” Beginning with the example of fashion, Professor

**Society of Fellows  
Fall Lunchtime Lecture  
Series 2008**



October 9 David Novak  
“The Ghost World of Bollywood”

October 16 Joshua Dubler  
“Theorizing Religion in Prison”

October 23 Andrey Shcherbenok  
“Trauma and Ideology in Soviet Cinema of the 1930s”

October 30 Will Slauter  
“Reading and Writing the Plague”

November 6 Michael Allan  
“The Limits of Secular Criticism: Disciplining Literature in Colonial Egypt”

November 13 George Levine  
Senior Scholar, Columbia University/Kenneth Burke Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University  
“On Darwin and the Joys of Science”

November 20 Patrick Singy  
“Cutting the Past Open: History and Medicine, 1750-1850”

December 4 Kevin Lamb  
“Toward a Historical Poetics of Critique”

All talks at 12:15 in the Heyman Center Common Room, East Campus  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/societyoffellows/>

## Programs 2008-2009

Sprigman argued that piracy, far from deterring innovation, actually propels it forward. By copying—and tweaking—a desirable design, competing firms help to create and then cement a trend. But once a design becomes ubiquitous it loses its appeal for the fashion's early adopters, who move on to the next new design, thereby re-starting the cycle of trend-making. Piracy, in short, paradoxically spurs more—and faster—creativity, and more consumption of fashion goods. Drawing further examples from stand-up comedy and cuisine, Professor Sprigman concluded that piracy does not necessarily stifle creativity, but that it does transform the process of innovation itself. We therefore have much to learn by looking more closely at how certain industries thrive in the face of piracy.

March 26, 2009

*Analog Copyright: Interpretation, Fair Use, and the Aesthetics of Access*

Lucas Hilderbrand, Assistant Professor, Film and Media Studies, Visual Studies, University of California, Irvine

Many of the anxieties—technological, economic, and legal—of the digital media era were previously worked through during the first decade of analog home video and its defense through the legal codification of fair use. The interdependence of videotape and statutory fair use exemp-

tions may have started out as a historical coincidence when both appeared in the 1970s, but through the 1984 Supreme Court ruling on the Betamax case, they became mutually constitutive as a matter of public policy. Professor Hilderbrand suggested that fair use remains contested and ambiguous in the age of digital technologies and regulations (in part, because it is analog in its logic), yet it remains essential in understanding the flexibility of the law. By recognizing the ways in which the Betamax case demonstrates that the law can be *interpreted* rather than merely followed or applied, we may just have a precedent for thinking about how copyright can still protect the rights of audiences.

April 2, 2009

*Your Right to What's Mine: On Personal Intellectual Property*

Paul Saint-Amour, Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania

Building on Margaret Jane Radin's theory of personal property, Paul Saint-Amour explored the benefits and limits of a personal intellectual property right conceived by analogy with tenants' rights and domestic rent control regulations. Fair use doctrine typically mitigates a rightsholder's property claims according to First Amendment rationales. By contrast, a personal intellectual property

right would legally acknowledge the fact that in a digital world we increasingly produce our personhood through an intimate engagement with other people's intellectual property.

April 9, 2009

*Branding the Mahatma: The Untimely Provocation of Gandhian Publicity*  
William T.S. Mazzarella, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Social Sciences, University of Chicago

Professor Mazzarella explored the relationship between Mahatma Gandhi, as a contested figure in present-day Indian public culture, and Gandhi the man, as an innovative technician of mass publicity. He began with an analysis of a scandal in early 2002 that followed an attempt to license the Mahatma for use in advertising and proceeded to explore the complex connections between Gandhi's iconization and his demonization in contemporary India. The second half of his talk addressed Gandhi as a master technician of mass publicity. Although the Mahatma's thinking on communicative efficacy is frequently appropriated by a commercial brand logic, Professor Mazzarella argued that Gandhian publicity remains resistant to such appropriations because of Gandhi's insistence on taking constant personal responsibility for the potential ideological complicities

of our bodily practices.

April 16, 2009

*Love Revelations in the Autobiography of a Tibetan Dakini*  
Sarah Jacoby, Society of Fellows, Columbia University

Romantic love as we think of it today is a product of a particular set of socio-historical influences exclusive to European-American cultures, or so many scholars contend. The Tibetan Buddhist context would seem to prove this point, as love between a man and a woman is more often associated with the Buddhist nemeses of attachment, desire, and craving than with the path to enlightenment. Despite the ubiquity of iconographic and literary depictions of male-female (yab-yum) deities, sexual union in Tibetan Buddhism is usually understood less as a sacralization of the love act than as a means to the end of spiritual realization. That said, the rare autobiography of the Tibetan visionary Sera Khandro (1892-1940) and the biography she wrote of her root teacher and partner Drimé Özer (1881-1924) offer a different perspective on consort practices far more akin to "Western" notions of love than her Tibetan Buddhist context would seem to allow. In this talk, Dr. Jacoby suggested that as one of the few Tibetan women to have written her autobiography or to

## Programs 2008-2009

have her writings become accepted as authentic Buddhist revelation, Sera Khandro drew on the Tantric paradigm of wholeness as the union of male method and female wisdom to write herself into the male-dominated religious hierarchy of her early twentieth-century Eastern Tibetan world.

April 23, 2009

*Piracy: Early Modern Rhetorics and Realities*

Martha Woodmansee, Professor of English and Law,  
Case Western Reserve University

The news media regularly carry reports about the piracy that is besetting U.S. software and entertainment industries—shrill complaints from the industries themselves about the way they are being ripped off by Asian pirates, and equally emphatic, if more diplomatic, objections from the U.S. government. Martha Woodmansee examined an early modern instance of this phenomenon: the charge of piracy that eighteenth-century booksellers in the developed north of Germany leveled against their counterparts in the developing south. Her focus was the program of unauthorized reprinting by the Viennese bookseller Johann Thomas Trattner. In literary histories Trattner figures as the scourge of Germany's nascent national literature on

account of his piracy, but a closer look at his publishing career shows otherwise. The substantial contribution that Trattner made, especially but not only to cultural and economic development in the south, suggests that there is a pressing need to put thorough reevaluation of “piracy,” both historical and contemporary, at the top of research agendas



# SOCIETY OF FELLOWS 2008-2009 CONFERENCE SERIES

This year, in support of our goal of fully integrating the Fellows into their host departments, the Society funded five two-day conferences organized by Fellows and faculty members working in concert. All five conferences proved enormously successful, attracting a large and distinguished group of international scholars while showcasing the high caliber and collective enterprise of the Fellows-in-residence.

## SCREENED SEXUALITY: DESIRE IN RUSSIAN, SOVIET, AND POST-SOVIET CINEMA

October 10-11, 2008  
501 Schermerhorn Hall

**Organizer:** Andrey Shcherbenok, Society of Fellows in the Humanities,  
Columbia University

<b>SCREENED SEXUALITY</b> Desire in Russian, Soviet, and Post-Soviet Cinema		International Conference, Columbia University, New York Oct 10, 2pm - 9pm Oct 11, 10am - 6:30pm	
<b>ORGANIZER:</b> Andrey Shcherbenok, Columbia University, Society of Fellows			501 Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University
		<b>CONFERENCE PANELS:</b>	
		CINEMATIC CONSTRUCTION OF DESIRE  SEXUALITY AS A SOCIAL SYMPTOM  STALIN, WOMEN, AND THE SPECTATOR	

**Speakers:** Anthony Anemone, The New School; Oksana Bulgakowa, Internationale Filmschule Köln; Gregory Carleton, Tufts University; Julia Cassiday, Williams College; Katerina Clark, Yale University; Nancy Condee, University of Pittsburgh; Dan Healey, Swansea University; Volha Isakava, University of Alberta; Lilya Kaganovsky, University of Illinois; Yulia Ladygina, University of California, San Diego; Kristi McKim, Hendrix College; Louise

## Conference 2008-2009

*McReynolds, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Anne Eakin Moss, the Johns Hopkins University; Cathy Nepomnyashchy, Columbia University; Joan Neuberger, University of Texas; Irina Novikova, University of Latvia; Serguei Oushakine, Princeton University; Richard Pena, Columbia University; Masha Salazkina, Colgate University; Dawn Seckler, University of Pittsburgh; Andrey Shcherbenok, Columbia University; Greta Slobin, Wesleyan University; Rebecca Stanton, Columbia University; James Steffen, Emory University; Anna Toropova, University College, London*

**Screening:** *Factory of Gestures (DVD)*, written, edited, and directed by Oksana Bulgakowa

The close association between cinema and sexual desire has been established since the inception of cinematography. Set at the juncture of secrecy and exhibitionism, cinema provides a powerful medium for the orchestration of spectatorial desire and reflection on human sexuality, both of which have become a subject of sustained scholarly analysis. Studies of individual film genres have shed light on the staging of sexual desire in topoi ranging from thriller plots to melodramatic mise-en-scene, while, starting with the works of Linda Williams, the study of the cinematic representation of the sexual act has also become firmly entrenched in cinema studies.

At the same time, studies of sexual desire in a given cinematic tradition cutting across the boundaries of genres and theories remain scarce, and the field of Russian, Soviet, and Post-Soviet cinema is not an exception. Although there are a number of works on the representation of femininity, masculinity, and gender politics in this cinematic tradition, few scholars of the subject address sexual desire per se. Even when desire is addressed, existing studies tend to put the stress upon the ways (apparently “natural”) sexuality is repressed, “perverted,” or appropriated, mainly for political purposes, rather than upon the cinematic mechanisms that create a sexual dynamic between diegetic characters or the spectator and the screen.

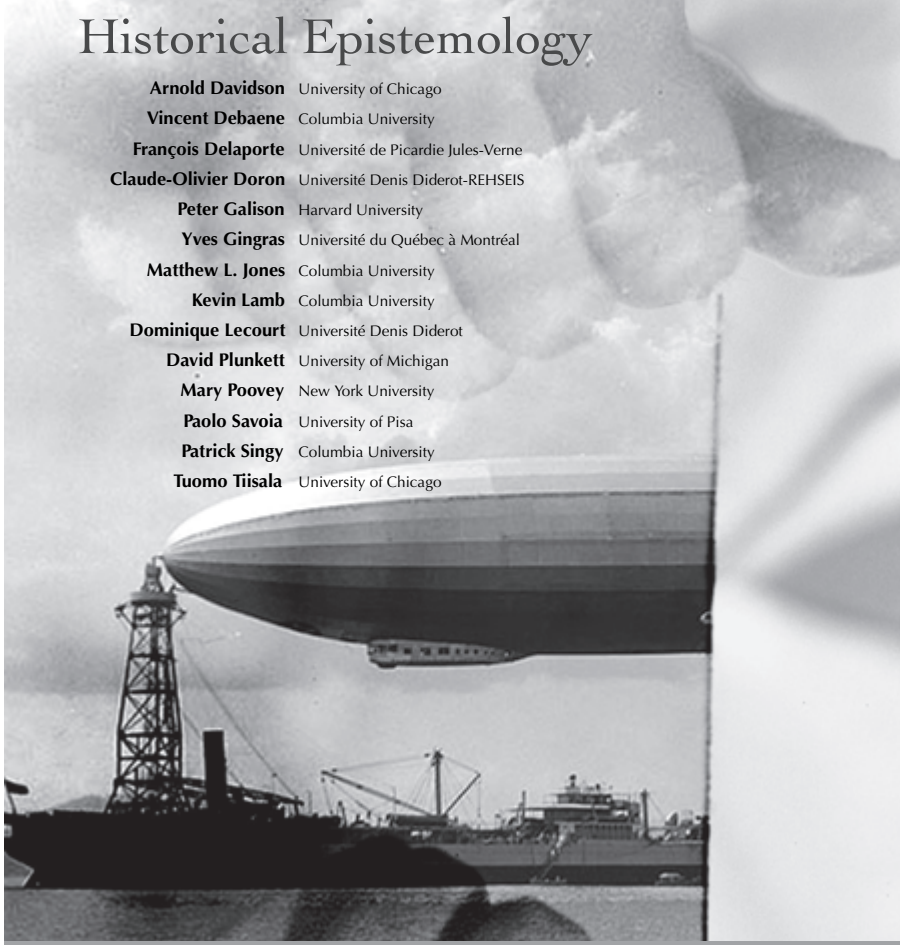
The Conference explored the medium-specific and theoretically sophisticated ways in which sexual desire is articulated and constituted by cinema within the Russian, Soviet, and Post-Soviet space.

*Co-sponsored by the Society of Fellows in the Humanities and the Harriman Institute*

October 10 and 11, 2008, 9:30 a.m to 6:30 p.m.  
Columbia University, Maison Française  
[http://www.columbia.edu/cu/societyoffellows/historical\\_epistemology.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/societyoffellows/historical_epistemology.html)

## Historical Epistemology

**Arnold Davidson** University of Chicago  
**Vincent Debaene** Columbia University  
**François Delaporte** Université de Picardie Jules-Verne  
**Claude-Olivier Doron** Université Denis Diderot-REHSEIS  
**Peter Galison** Harvard University  
**Yves Gingras** Université du Québec à Montréal  
**Matthew L. Jones** Columbia University  
**Kevin Lamb** Columbia University  
**Dominique Lecourt** Université Denis Diderot  
**David Plunkett** University of Michigan  
**Mary Poovey** New York University  
**Paolo Savoia** University of Pisa  
**Patrick Singy** Columbia University  
**Tuomo Tiisala** University of Chicago



This Conference is free and open to the public. No registration is necessary.  
Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.  
*Funding generously provided by the Society of Fellows and the Sterling Currier Fund.*

## HISTORICAL EPISTEMOLOGY

October 10-11, 2008

Maison Française, Buell Hall

## Conference 2008-2009

**Organizers:** Patrick Singy, *Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University*; Matthew L. Jones, *Columbia University*; Kevin Lamb, *Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University*

**Speakers:** Arnold I. Davidson, *University of Chicago*; Vincent Debaene, *Columbia University*; François Delaporte, *Université de Picardie Jules-Verne*; Claude-Olivier Doron, *Université Denis Diderot-REHSEIS*; Peter Galison, *Harvard University*; Yves Gingras, *Université du Québec à Montréal*; Matthew L. Jones, *Columbia University*; Kevin Lamb, *Columbia University*; David Plunkett, *University of Michigan*; Mary Poovey, *New York University*; Paolo Savoia, *University of Pisa*; Patrick Singy, *Columbia University*; Tuomo Tiisala, *University of Chicago*

At the intersection of philosophy and history, historical epistemology has become in recent years a powerful alternative to traditional approaches to the history of science and philosophy. Focused upon conditions of possibility that transcend social causes and biographical idiosyncrasies, historical epistemology uncovers the fundamental concepts that organize the knowledge of different historical periods. It might be defined as the discipline that introduces historical contingency into ways of understanding the world. Kant was wrong, historical epistemology argues, to think that human beings can only understand the world as, say, Euclidean or ruled by causality. He was right, historical epistemology contends, to work to understand the conditions of possibility underlying knowledge and practice: such careful philosophical work needs to be historically specific.

Historical epistemology is also a distinctive Franco-American approach to the history of philosophy and science. Building upon an earlier tradition of French history and philosophy of science culminating in the work of Georges Canguilhem, the work of Michel Foucault pointed toward historical epistemology as a viable approach for studying the past by uncovering and reconstructing the underlying historical *a priori* of different periods. Yet even while three of the most prominent contemporary historical epistemologists—Lorraine Daston, Arnold Davidson, and Ian Hacking—drew on different aspects of Anglo-American philosophy and history in developing Canguilhem's and Foucault's approaches, the precise contours of historical epistemology nevertheless remain blurry. This conference brought together scholars who have rarely had the opportunity to discuss publicly their ideas on historical epistemology.

*Co-sponsored by the Society of Fellows in the Humanities, the Sterling Currier fund and Maison Française.*

Conference 2008-2009

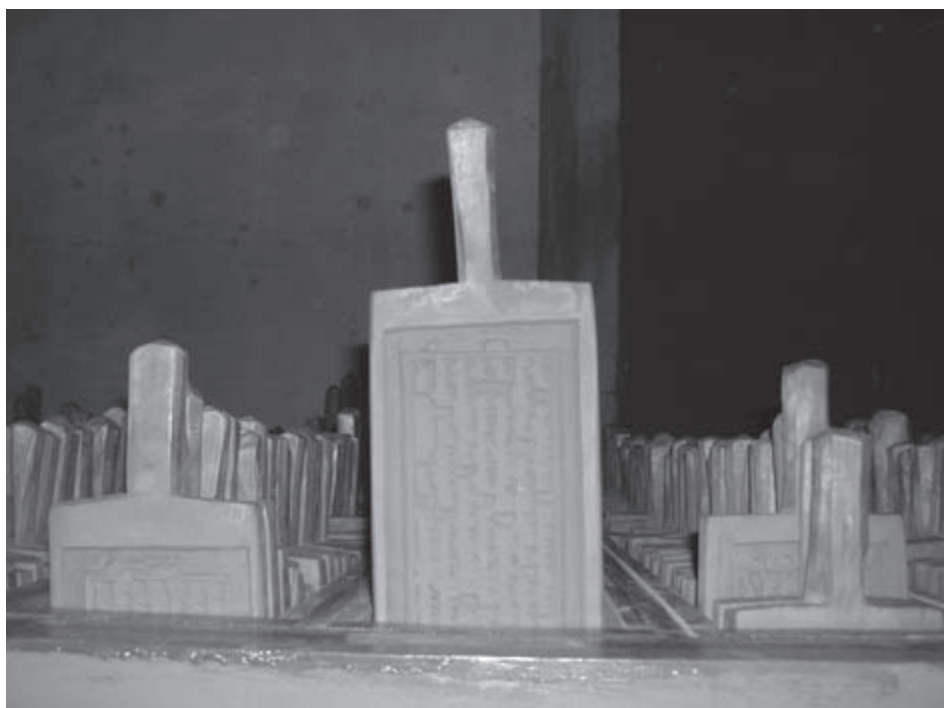
**NEW DIRECTIONS IN TIBETAN LITERARY STUDIES:  
A TWO-PART WORKSHOP ON PERSPECTIVES AND PROSPECTS  
IN AUTO/BIOGRAPHY**

**November 14-15, 2008**

**Second Floor Common Room,  
Heyman Center for the Humanities**

**Organizers:** Sarah Jacoby, Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University  
and Andrew Quintman, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, Princeton University

**Speakers:** Suzanne Bessenger, University of Virginia; Ben Bogin, Georgetown  
University; Janet Gyatso, Harvard University; Sarah Jacoby, Columbia University;  
Annabella Pitkin, Columbia University; Andrew Quintman, Princeton University; Kurtis  
Schaeffer, University of Virginia; Gene Smith, Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center; Carl  
Yamamoto, University of Virginia





**Conference 2008-2009**

Biography and autobiography have recently emerged as two of the most promising avenues for the study of religious and literary cultures across the Himalayan Buddhist world. Panels at numerous academic conferences in the past year (the American Academy of Religion, the Association of Asian Studies, and the International Association of Buddhist Studies) have opened up an exciting and fruitful conversation about new directions in the study of Tibetan literature. In an effort to seize upon this watershed moment and to more rigorously focus that conversation, a two-day workshop was held November 14-15 to discuss the future direction of Tibetan literary studies and broadly address questions of sources and genres in Tibetan auto/biographical literature. How do we understand, translate, and analyze traditional classifications of texts and literary genres? How are these categories maintained or blurred, both in traditional literature and in our own work? What sources and resources are we drawing on and how can we better make use of them?

*Co-sponsored by the Society of Fellows in the Humanities, the East Asian Languages and Cultures Department, and the Modern Tibetan Studies Program.*

# Listening In, Feeding Back

An Interdisciplinary Conference on Sound

A two-day event at Columbia University with special concert performance

Friday, February 13, 2009, 301 Philosophy Hall

3:00 – 5:30 Panel 1

## Listening, Feedback, and Composition

Otomo Yoshihide Independent Composer/Performer, Tokyo

“Musics Between Noise and Silence”

James Fei Mills College

“Feedback in Experimental Music:

Folding Electricity, Space and Time Upon Itself”

Steven Feld University of New Mexico/University of Oslo

“Bufo Variations”

5:30 – 6:00 Introductory Remarks

David Novak Columbia University

Ana Maria Ochoa Columbia University

8:00 – 10:00

## “Listening In, Feeding Back”

Concert Performance Miller Theatre

James Fei, Kato Hideki, Nakamura Toshimaru Trio

Alvin Lucier

Otomo Yoshihide

Saturday, February 14, 2009 301 Philosophy Hall

9:00 – 11:30 Panel 2

## Sensing Sound, Text, and the Voice

Brian Kane Yale University

“Listening to ‘The Burrow’: Kafka and Acousmatic Sound”

Elizabeth Travassos University of Rio de Janeiro

“The ‘Transparent Envelope’: Proust, Hahn, Listening and the Voice”

Steven Connor Birkbeck College

“Earslips: On Mondegreens and Mishearings”

Mark M. Smith University of South Carolina

“Sound Teaching and the Contexts of Listening”

Saturday, February 14, 2009 continued

11:45 – 1:45 Panel 3

## Feedback and Public Circulation

David Novak Columbia University

“Feedback, Experience and Subjectivity in Japanese”

Charles Hirschkind University of California, Berkeley

“Street Noise in the Egyptian Blogosphere”

Louise Meintjes Duke University

“The Fedora, the Jogger and the Watch: Mimesis and

Brokerage in Zulu Ngoma Song and Dance”

1:45 – 3:00 Lunch Break

3:00 – 5:00 Panel 4

## Listening in/to Technological Contexts

Karin Bijsterveld Maastricht University

“Tuning in: The Car Radio

and the Rise of the Mobile Listening Booth”

Amanda Weidman Bryn Mawr College

“Sound and the City: Mimicry and Phonography in South India”

Jonathan Sterne McGill University

“Sound Reproduction After Noise: Perceptual Coding and the Homology of the Fields, 1955-1979”

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/societyoffellows/listeningin.html>

Organizers:

David Novak Columbia University

Ana Maria Ochoa Columbia University

Sponsored by:

Society of Fellows in the Humanities

Center for Ethnomusicology

Department of Music

Department of Anthropology

Donald Keene Center

Both the conference and concert are free and open to the public.

No registration or tickets necessary. Seating is on a first come, first served basis.

## Conference 2008-2009

# LISTENING IN, FEEDING BACK AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE ON SOUND WITH SPECIAL CONCERT PERFORMANCE

All talks in 301 Philosophy Hall  
Concert in Miller Theater

February 13-14, 2009

**Organizers:** David Novak, Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University and Ana Maria Ochoa, Columbia University

**Speakers:** Karin Bijsterveld, Maastricht University; Steven Connor, Birkbeck College; Steven Feld, University of New Mexico; James Fei, Mills College; Charles Hirschkind, UC Berkeley; Brian Kane, Yale University; Louise Meintjes, Duke University; David Novak, Columbia University; Otomo Yoshihide, Independent Composer/Performer, Tokyo; Mark Smith, University of South Carolina; Jonathan Sterne, McGill University; Elizabeth Travassos, University of Rio de Janeiro; Amanda Weidman, Bryn Mawr College. Moderators included Fellow Will Slauter, as well as Ellen Gray and John Szwed of Columbia University, Jairo Moreno of NYU and Thomas Porcello of Vassar College.

**Performers:** Alvin Lucier, Otomo Yoshihide, James Fei, Kato Hideki, and Toshimaru Nakamura

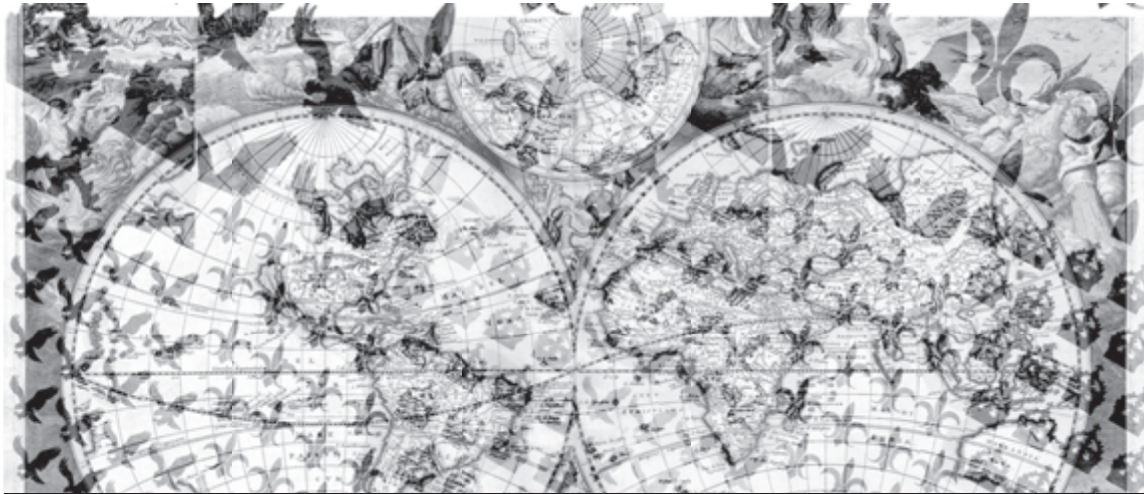
In recent years, several North American academic disciplines, including history, anthropology, ethnomusicology, and media studies, have devoted significant attention to practices of listening. The act of listening is an underexplored dimension of modern sensory experience—and of modernity itself, which is too often characterized by an over-determined regime of visibility. What can listening offer to emerging interdisciplinary work on perception, performance, aesthetics, social life, and the circulation of sound media? Listening is more than a given function of musical interpretation, which might attend to sound only in its deliberately aesthetic or openly communicative forms. Rather, it is a culturally-situated practice that shapes the particular spatial and material conditions of our perception. Listening influences the social distinctions of daily life and is inextricably bound to aesthetic and bodily experiences with music and noise. Increasingly, characterizations of listening recognize its diverse practices as productive transcultural relationships, which in them-

selves constitute the globalization of media. Our experiences with sound are key to broad projects of self-making that rewrite logics of authorship and cultural origin through circulation and new modes of appropriation.

Adding the metaphor of feedback to contemporary inquires into listening encourages us to reconsider the creative social relations that develop within the distinct spaces and circulations of sound media. Feedback touches on the cyclical nature of people's experiences with recordings, the recurrent relationships between different sites of listenership, the connections between production and consumption, and the many circuits of authenticity and transformation through which sound travels. Re-situating feedback from cybernetics and network theory into mediated social practices of listening helps to reveal logics of interconnection, emplacement, attention and subjectivity that have become crucial to cultural politics. Feedback loops challenge linear histories of music; the isolation of hearing as a sense (and of listening publics from each other); and the maintenance of distinctions between genres and categories of musical style and experience. Feedback instead offers links, circulations, and connections: not as closed tautological arguments, but cross-wired circuitries that recognize constant change, and also stress their own coincidental and unpredictable infrastructure. In conjunction with the conference, a concert was arranged at Miller Theatre on February 13, with performances by Otomo Yoshihide, Alvin Lucier and the trio of James Fei, Kato Hideki, and Nakamura Toshimaru. The concert was a "Voice Choice" in the Village Voice and reviewed by Ben Ratliff for *The New York Times*, who said that the music "fully inhabited the room...you understood exactly what was happening, and there was still room for the mystery of sound."

*Co-sponsored by the Society of Fellows in the Humanities, the Center for Ethnomusicology, the Department of Music, the Department of Anthropology, and the Donald Keene Center.*

## Conference 2008-2009



### “Republic and Empire: Rethinking the Categories”

A two-day conference at Columbia University

Friday, 3 April 2009 9:15am-7:30pm Saturday, 4 April 2009 9:30am-5:15pm

Organized by: Jean L. Cohen, Columbia University

Plenary on “Republic and Empire: The U.S.A. Today” by Bruce Ackerman  
with commentary by Andrew Arato to take place at 5:30pm on April 3 in 501 Schermerhorn Hall

All other panels to take place in the Heyman Center Second Floor Common Room

#### Participants include:

<b>Bruce Ackerman</b> Yale University	<b>Andreas Kalyvas</b> The New School
<b>Nida Alahmad</b> The New School	<b>Benedict Kingsbury</b> New York University
<b>Jose Alvarez</b> Columbia University	<b>Matthias Lutz-Bachmann</b> Frankfurt University
<b>Andrew Arato</b> The New School	<b>Karuna Mantena</b> Yale University
<b>Robin Blackburn</b> The New School	<b>Samuel Moyn</b> Columbia University
<b>Philip Bobbitt</b> Columbia University	<b>Yoav Peled</b> Tel Aviv University
<b>Neha Bhuta</b> University of Toronto	<b>Phillip Pettit</b> Princeton University
<b>Jean L. Cohen</b> Columbia University	<b>Pierre Rosanvallon</b> Collège de France
<b>Victoria de Grazia</b> Columbia University	<b>Melissa Schwartzberg</b> Columbia University
<b>Eric Foner</b> Columbia University	<b>Benjamin Straumann</b> New York University
<b>Rainer Forst</b> Frankfurt University	<b>Anders Stephanson</b> Columbia University
<b>Amal Jamal</b> Tel Aviv University	<b>James Tully</b> University of Victoria
<b>David Johnston</b> Columbia University	<b>Nadia Urbinati</b> Columbia University
<b>Ayşe Kadioglu</b> Sabanci University	

For conference details and full program, please visit: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/societyoffellows/republic.html>

Conference Co-Sponsored by: Center for Law and Philosophy, Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, University Seminars,  
Department of Political Science, European Institute, Society of Fellows in the Humanities

This event is free and open to the public. No tickets or registration necessary. Seating is on a first come, first served basis.



REPUBLIC AND EMPIRE  
RETHINKING THE CATEGORIES  
April 3-4, 2009

Second Floor Common Room,  
Heyman Center for the Humanities

**Organizer:** Jean L. Cohen, Columbia University

**Speakers** Arnold I. Davidson, University of Chicago; Vincent Debaene, Columbia University; François Delaporte, Université de Picardie Jules-Verne; Claude-Olivier Doron, Université Denis Diderot-REHSEIS; Peter Galison, Harvard University; Yves Gingras, Université du Québec à Montréal; Matthew L. Jones, Columbia University; Kevin Lamb, Columbia University; David Plunkett, University of Michigan; Mary Poovey, New York University; Paolo Savoia, University of Pisa; Patrick Singy, Columbia University; and Tuomo Tiisala, University of Chicago.

This conference focused on the concepts of the republic and republicanism as well as on the historical/systematic relation between republics in a system of states (or city states) and on imperial expansion. Among the issues discussed were the effects of imperialism and colonial possessions on republican institutions at home and whether there is an internal dynamic or an elective affinity between republican states and imperial expansion. The two-day conference was composed of five panels: "Republican Thought and Empire," "The State System and Empire: Historical Perspectives," "U.S. Republicanism and the Imperial Example," "French and Turkish Republicanism and Imperial Logics," "Israel: A Late Republic and Internal Empire," and "Beyond Sovereign Equality?: Global Constitutionalism and/or Empire." A plenary session took place on the first evening of the conference, featuring Bruce Ackerman on "Republic and Empire: The U.S.A. Today."

Co-sponsored by the Society of Fellows in the Humanities, the Center for Law and Philosophy, the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, University Seminars, the Department of Political Science, and the European Institute.

## Programs 2008-2009

### Heyman Center for the Humanities ([www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org))

The Society of Fellows provides major funding for the extensive series of conferences and lectures presented by the Heyman Center for the Humanities, which brings together the interests of the university's various departments in the humanities and the broad conceptual, methodological, and ethical issues that are of interest to the natural sciences and to the professional schools of law, medicine, journalism, arts, and international affairs. The series includes the Lionel Trilling Seminar (given once each semester) and the Edward Said Memorial Lecture (once each year.) A complete list of 2008-2009 programming follows.

#### FALL 2008

September 22

##### *What Was Democracy in America?*

Following Josiah Ober's talk on Athenian democracy in Spring 2008, Joyce Appleby, Professor Emerita of History at UCLA and a celebrated scholar of American history, spoke on the evolution of democracy in America. Her talk was the second in the Heyman Center's series "What Was Democracy?," which explores the evolution of democratic ideas and culture. Eric Foner, the Dewitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University, chaired the discussion.

September 29

##### The Fourth Annual Edward Said

#### Memorial Lecture: *A Reading and Concert*

In remembrance of Edward Said on the fifth anniversary of his death, the Arabic poet Adonis read selected poems, which were then read in English by the American poet C. K. Williams. Alternating with the readings were piano pieces by Bach, Brahms, and Chopin, as played by the pianist Saleem Abboud Ashkar, a protégé of Daniel Barenboim, who, along with Edward Said, founded the youth orchestra known as the West-Eastern Divan. The clarinetist and composer Kinan Azmeh played a piece specially composed for the occasion.

October 1

##### *Peculiar, Bracing Cosmopolitanisms among the Colonized in the Twilight of Empire*

Benedict Anderson, the Aaron L. Binenkorb Professor Emeritus of International Studies, Government, and Asian Studies at Cornell University, addressed the ways in which Indonesian communities assumed more cosmopolitan sensibilities as a result of colonization. This talk was co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought.

October 2

##### *Screening and Discussion of Terlena: The Breaking of a Nation*

This screening was held in conjunction with Benedict Anderson's talk of the previous day. Writer, journalist, political analyst, playwright, and filmmaker Andre Vltchek wrote and produced *Terlena: The Breaking of a Nation*, a documentary about the

destruction of Indonesian intellectuals after the 1965 US-backed military coup in Indonesia. After the screening, Mr. Vltchek raised discussion along with Benedict Anderson. This talk was co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought.

October 3

***Lionel Trilling and His Legacy—a day-long conference***

This conference explored the legacy of Lionel Trilling, one of Columbia's most famous literary scholars, and coincided with the publication of Trilling's unfinished novel, *The Journey Abandoned*, recently discovered by Professor Geraldine Murphy of City College, CUNY. Speakers included Jonathan Arac, Louis Menand, Geraldine Murphy, John Rosenberg, George Stade, Fritz Stern, and Michael Wood. Funding was provided by Columbia University Press, the University Libraries, the Lionel Trilling Seminars at the Heyman Center for the Humanities, the Department of English and Comparative Literature, and the Simon H. Rifkin Center for the Humanities and the Arts, City College, CUNY.

October 7

***Reasons for Justice***

Harvard University's Amartya Sen, winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economics, returned to the Heyman Center to discuss his recent work on reasons for justice in a global economic climate of increasing inequity. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought and the Philosophy Department.

October 8

***Who Do You Think You Are?: Feminist Memoirs***

Lynne Segal, Anniversary Professor of Psychology & Gender Studies at Birkbeck, University of London, discussed the topic of feminist memoirs and the evolution of feminism over the past century. This talk was co-sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women and Gender and the Columbia University English Department.

October 15-16

***Two Lectures by Keith Thomas***

The Heyman Center welcomed the eminent English historian Sir Keith Thomas as its Distinguished Visiting Scholar for the 2008-2009 academic year. In addition to a number of private workshops, Professor Thomas delivered two public lectures: "From Barbarism to Civil Society," on the evening of October 15, 1

October 20

***The Lionel Trilling Seminar: The Virtues of Mendacity: On Lying in Politics***

Martin Jay, the Sidney Hellman Ehrman Professor of History at The University of California, Berkeley, and an eminent figure in modern European intellectual history, inquired into the ethics and long history of lying in politics. Acting as respondents were the influential political philosopher George Kateb of Princeton University and Corey Robin of Brooklyn College, a provocative new voice in political thought.

## Programs 2008-2009

October 24 and 25

### The Function and Fate of Teleology in the Enlightenment—a two-day conference

This conference explored the eighteenth-century critique of teleology in the study of nature, aesthetics, political philosophy, anthropology, psychology, and history. Organized by Columbia professor Dorothea von Mücke, the conference featured Stefan Andriopoulos, David Bates, Akeel Bilgrami, Jenny Davidson, Martin Jay, Matthew Jones, Thomas McCarthy, Uday Mehta, Dorothea von Mücke, Fred Neuhauser, Jonathan Sheehan, Joanna Stalnaker, Jörn Steigerwald, James Steintrager, and Fernando Vidal. This conference was co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and by University Seminars.

October 27

### *Spinoza in His Time and Ours*

Susan James, Professor of Philosophy at Birkbeck, University of London, and Jonathan Israel, Modern European History Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, assessed the continuing relevance of Spinoza and his political thought. Professor James's talk was titled "Spinoza and Narrative," and Professor Israel spoke on "Spinoza, Radical Enlightenment, and the Making of Democracy in the Revolutionary Era (1770-1800)."

November 5

### *An Election Postmortem*

With Provost Alan Brinkley moderating,



Hendrik Hertzberg, senior editor and staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine, and Katha Pollitt, poet and columnist for *The Nation*, shared their thoughts on the 2008 presidential campaign, the election of Barack Obama, and the legacy of the Bush Administration. This event was co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought.

November 11

### *Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk in conversation with Andreas Huyssen*

Orhan Pamuk, winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize in literature and recently-appointed Robert Yik-Fong Tam Professor in the Humanities at Columbia, spoke with colleague Andreas Huyssen, Villard Professor

## Programs 2008-2009

of German and Comparative Literature. The conversation about Pamuk's writing was followed by an audience question and answer period. This event was co-sponsored by the Provost's Office.

November 17 and 19

*Two lectures featuring Charles Taylor*

The philosopher Charles Taylor, winner of both the Templeton Prize and the Kyoto Prize, spoke about his new and controversial book, *A Secular Age*, over the course of two evenings. His first lecture addressed the question "What is Enchantment?," and the second discussed "The Secular Age in a Global Context." These talks were co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought, the Institute for Religion, Culture,

and Public Life, and the Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration and Religion.

November 18

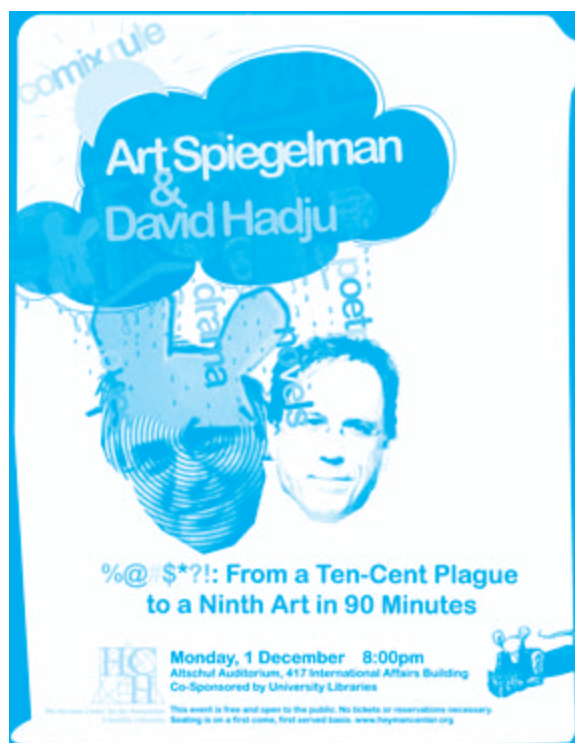
*A Genealogy of Liberty*

Quentin Skinner, Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge University, explored changing notions of "liberty" in the history of politics, starting with Enlightenment notions of the term and tracing permutations of its meaning and connotation to the present day. Professor Skinner's talk was the third in a series presented by members of the "Cambridge School" of political theory in recent years, following those by J. G. A. Pocock and John Dunn in 2007.

December 1

*%@#\*?!: From a Ten-Cent Plague to a Ninth Art*

Art Spiegelman, the cartoonist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the graphic novel *Maus*, returned to the Heyman Center to discuss the history of American comic books—from their origins as cartoon strips in yellow journalist newspapers at the turn of the century, to the opposition and censorship they faced in 1950s America, to their current place as a marginal, though ever more widely accepted, "literary" form. David Hajdu, the author of the recent much-praised book on comics, *The Ten-Cent Plague*, and Professor of Journalism at Columbia University, joined Mr. Spiegelman in discussion. This event was co-sponsored by the University Libraries.





## Programs 2008-2009

### SPRING 2009

February 5

*Globalization: Which Globe, Which Politics?*

Renowned anthropologist and philosopher Bruno Latour returned to the Heyman Center to discuss various notions of globalization and the ways in which socio-political and economic factors influence varying definitions of the term. This event was co-sponsored by the Alliance Program, Columbia University.

February 9

*Poetry Reading*

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Paul Muldoon, Howard G.B. Clark '21 University Professor in the Humanities at Princeton, read early and recent selected poems before engaging in a discussion of his poetry with his compatriot C  il  n Parsons, Lecturer in English at Columbia. A question and answer session followed.

February 19

*You Must Change Your Life*

The renowned philosopher Peter Sloterdijk, author of the bestselling *Critique of Cynical Reason* (English translation, 1988) and professor of philosophy and media theory at the Karlsruhe School of Design, Germany, spoke on his most recent book, entitled *Du Mu  st Dei Leben   ndern* (You Must Change Your Life). His advice for coping in a time of global crisis: if you cannot

change the world, you must change yourself to adapt better to adverse circumstances.

March 2

*How to Think about the Financial Crisis*

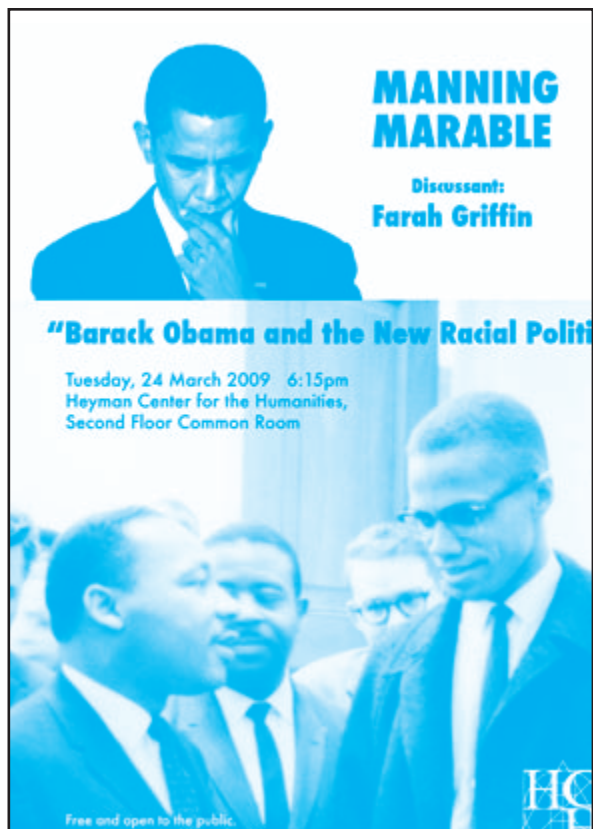
Distinguished economist and political commentator Prabhat Patnaik and Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz discussed the underlying causes of the current financial crisis. They offered analysis of the U.S. and global governmental responses to the crisis and posited their views on the necessary steps to recovery. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, UN Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, chaired the event, which was co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought.

March 5

*The Letter Kills: On Some Implications of 2 Corinthians 3:6*

Carlo Ginzburg, noted historian and pioneer of microhistory, returned to the Heyman Center to discuss "The Letter Kills: On Some Implications of 2 Corinthians 3:6." Matthew Jones, Columbia Professor of History, chaired the discussion following the talk, which was co-sponsored by the Consortium for Intellectual and Cultural History and served as its annual "History and Theory" Lecture.

## Programs 2008-2009



March 11

### *Is Marxism Relevant Today?*

David Harvey, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and Duncan Foley, Professor of Economics at the New School for Social Research, joined Prabhat Patnaik (see *How to Think about the Financial Crisis*, March 2) to discuss the relevance of Marxism as it pertains to the current financial crisis and beyond. This

event was co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought.

March 24

### *Barack Obama and the New Racial Politics*

Manning Marable, Professor of History and Political Science and Director of the Center for Contemporary Black History at Columbia, discussed the genealogy of racial politics and the ways in which Barack Obama has both embraced and diverged from the politics of his African-American political forebears. Farah Griffin, Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, served as discussant.

March 25

### *The Wm. Theodore de Bary Lecture: Classics of Japanese Diaries*

Donald Keene, Shincho Professor Emeritus of Japanese Literature at Columbia University and recipient of Japan's 2008 Order of Culture, spoke about the diaries of Japanese soldiers recovered by Americans during the Second World War. Author Shirley Hazzard, recipient of the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award, served as chair.

April 3-4

### *Wisdom in Ancient Thought—a two-day*

## Programs 2008-2009

### conference

Papers exploring the concept of on wisdom in ancient thought included “Wisdom and Poetry in Early Stoic Thought,” “Aesop and the Tradition of Pre-Philosophic Sophia,” and “Divination and Wisdom in Iamblichus’s *De mysteriis*.” Speakers included Rachel Barney, Jonathan Beere, John Cooper, Leslie Kurke, Wolfgang Mann, Steven Strange, Peter Struck, Hakan Tell, Iakovos Vasiliou, Katja Vogt, and Nancy Worman. This conference was co-sponsored by the Center for the Ancient Mediterranean and the University Seminar on Classical Civilization.

April 6

### *The Politics of Recognition*

In the last of his three Heyman Center lectures this year, philosopher Charles Taylor spoke about his experience on the Bouchard-Taylor Commission—a commission appointed by the Quebec government to investigate, through a series of public hearings, the problems and challenges of recognizing and negotiating religious and cultural differences in the collective life and identity of Quebec. This event was co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought, the Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration, and Religion, and the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life.

April 7

### *Mumbai, Terror, and Islamism*

Journalist Basharat Peer, novelist and jour-

nalist Hari Kunzru, Professor Akeel Bilgrami of Columbia University (and Director of the Heyman Center) and Professor Fawzia Afzal-Khan of Montclair State University discussed the connections between the recent attacks in India and radical Islamist ideology, as well as the historic struggle over Kashmir, and the prospects for future relations between India and Pakistan. This event was co-sponsored by the New York Public Library and the Asia Society, and was held in the South Court Auditorium of the New York Public Library.

April 8

### *Poetry Reading and Conversation*

Mark Strand, Professor of English at Columbia University and former U.S. Poet Laureate, read a selection of his poems and discussed his poetic career with his longtime friend Richard Howard, Professor of Writing at Columbia’s School of the Arts and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

April 10

### *The Cold War and the Social Sciences: Approaches and Arguments—a day-long workshop*

Among the eight papers presented during this workshop were “Deconstructing Cold War Anthropology,” “Theorist at Work: Talcott Parsons and the Carnegie Project,” and “The Rise of the Chicago School of Economics and the Birth of Neoliberalism.” Speakers included Jamie Cohen-Cole, Nicholas Dirks, Nils Gilman, Nicolas Guilhot, Joel Isaac, Peter Mandler, Mark Mazower, Philip Mirowski, Bradley Simpson, Anders Stephanson, Yanis



## Programs 2008-2009

Varoufakis, and Carl Wennerlind. This was co-organized by the Center for International History, and was funded by a grant from the Mellon Foundation.

April 21

### **The Lionel Trilling Seminar: *Plato's Cunning: Philosophy as Political Strategy***

Danielle Allen, Professor of Classics at the Institute for Advanced Study and a recipient of the MacArthur "Genius" Grant, discussed Plato as a knowing political strategist. Columbia professors Nadia Urbinati and Katja Vogt served as respondents.

April 22

### ***Baroque Prose***

Novelist, short story writer, essayist, critic, and former philosophy professor William Gass explored the characteristics of baroque prose as evinced in John Donne's sermons and other, more contemporary works. Nicholas Dames, Theodore Kahan Associate Professor in the Humanities at Columbia, chaired the discussion.

April 15-29

### ***First Light: Satyajit Ray from the Apu Trilogy to the Calcutta Trilogy—a film festival and conference***

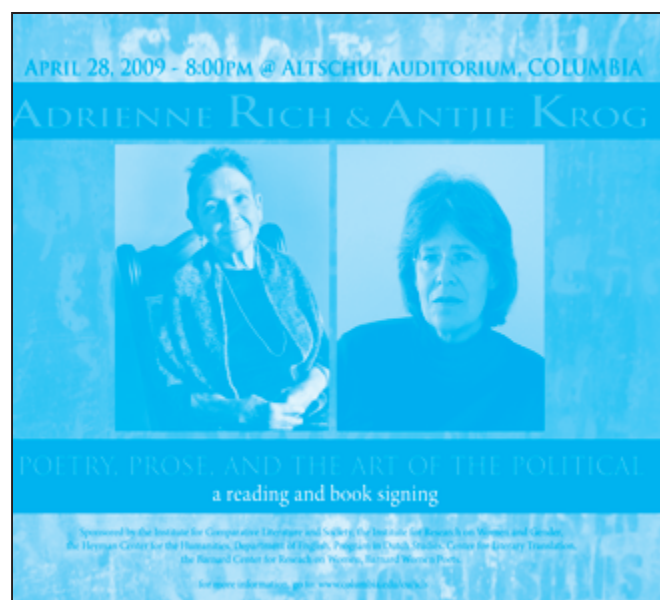
Beginning on April 15, twenty-two films by Satyajit Ray, including the Apu and Calcutta Trilogies, were screened at Walter Reade Theater, Lincoln Center. On April 29, the final day of the "First Light" festival, filmmakers and professors from various universities met to discuss the work of Satyajit Ray during a day-long conference. Speakers

included Robert Young, Marcia Landy, Mira Nair, Ashish Rajyadhyaksha, Shyam Benegal, Mihir Bhattacharya, Samik Bandyopadhyay, Michael Wood, Moinak Biswas, and Richard Terdiman. This festival was co-sponsored by the Film Society of Lincoln Center, the Humanities Division of the University of California, Santa Cruz, Columbia University's Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, and the Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures.

April 28

### ***Poetry, Prose, and the Art of the Political***

For the first time anywhere, Adrienne Rich and Antjie Krog—two of the most accomplished and celebrated of contemporary poets and longtime admirers of one another's work—shared the stage to read selected poems. The reading was co-sponsored by the



## Programs 2008-2009

Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, the Center for Research on Women at Barnard, and Barnard Women Poets.

April 29

*Islam, Islamisms, and the West in a Global Context*

Marxist literary theorist and political commentator Aijaz Ahmad discussed the socio-political genealogy of Islamism as an emergent phenomenon in world history. Akeel Bilgrami, the Director of the Heyman Center, served as chair for this event, which was co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought, the Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration, and Religion, and the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life.

### Links to selected websites mentioned in Program listings:

Heyman Center for the Humanities:  
<http://www.heymancenter.org>  
 West-Eastern Divan: <http://west-easterndivan.artists.warner.de/>

Committee on Global Thought:  
<http://cgt.columbia.edu/>

Columbia University Press:  
<http://cup.columbia.edu/>

The University Libraries:  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/>

Institute for Research on Women and Gender:  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/irwag/index.html>

University Seminars:  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/seminars/>

Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life: <http://www.ircpl.org/>

Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration and Religion:  
<http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/cdtr/>

Alliance Program:  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/alliance/>

Consortium for Intellectual and Cultural History: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cich/>

Center for the Ancient Mediterranean:  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cam/>

New York Public Library:  
<http://www.nypl.org/>

Asia Society: <http://www.asiasociety.org/>

Center for International History:  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cih/>

Institute for Comparative Literature and Society: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/icls/>



# alumni fellows news

**Jeffrey Andrew Barash** (1983-1985) is professor of philosophy at the Université de Picardie, Amiens. He will be a Gadamer visiting professor in the philosophy department of Boston College in Spring 2010. In 2009 an Italian translation of his book *Politiques de l'histoire: L'historicisme comme promesse et comme mythe* was published. He also recently edited *The Symbolic Construction of Reality: The Legacy of Ernst Cassirer* (U of Chicago P, 2008) and *Paul Ricœur: Interprétation et reconnaissance* (Presses Universitaires de France, 2008).

**Sandrine Bertaux** (2002-2004) is currently Lecturer in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Marmara University, Istanbul, and non-residential Fellow (2009-2012) at the Amsterdam School for Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam, in the program "Culturalization of Citizenship." Her current research project concerns "The Guests Who Returned: Retired Memories of 'Europe' in Turkey" (with Murat Akan). In 2008, she co-directed (with

Murat Akan) a workshop entitled "Secularism, Secularization, Secular: Religious Minorities and Democracy" at the ninth Mediterranean Research Meeting (EUI). Her recent papers include "Recasting 'Third World' in the First World: Alfred Sauvy, Fascist Legacies, Colonial Domination and the Rise of American Social Demography," delivered at the German Historical Institute, Washington, May 2009 and "Protecting Turkish Women? Gender Equality, Migrant Women and Prostitution in Turkish 2003 Citizenship Law" (with Firat Bozcali) at the ECPR conference entitled "Practices of



## Alumni Fellows News

Citizenship and the Politics of (In)-Security,” in Lisbon, April 2009.

**Giorgio Biancorosso** (2001-2003) teaches Music and Film Studies at The University of Hong Kong. His essay on sound appeared in *The Routledge Companion to Film and Philosophy* (2008), and his chapter “Ludwig’s Wagner and Visconti’s ‘Ludwig’” was published in *Wagner and Cinema* (Indiana UP, 2009). Other publications include “The Harpist in the Closet: Film Music as Epistemological Joke,” which appeared in the journal *Music and the Moving Image* and the book *Musical Aesthetics through Cinema* (Oxford UP, forthcoming). Professor Biancorosso has been lecturing on sound in Chinese cinema, opera, and musical aesthetics in Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo, Stanford, Berkeley, and New York. He is also active in Hong Kong as a writer on music and as a concert programmer. In the spring of 2010, he will take up a Visiting Professorship in Music at National Taiwan University (Taipei).

**Akeel Bilgrami** (1983-1985) was this year named a fellow to the Dorothy and Lewis Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, where he is writing a book on Gandhi’s thought. He has published papers over the year on “Why Meaning Intentions Are Degenerate” and “Freedom, Truth, and Balance in the Academy,” and is at present writing responses to critical commentaries for a published symposium on his recently published book *Self-Knowledge and Resentment* (Harvard UP, 2006).

**Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski** (1981-1983) spent the fall, supported by an ACLS grant, as a visiting fellow at Princeton University. In the spring she returned to the University of Pittsburgh as acting chair of the Department

of French and Italian. The main focus of her research is still Philippe de Mézières, a fascinating figure from the late fourteenth century. She co-organized an international colloquium on de Mézières at the University of Cyprus in Nicosia in June 2009 with grants from the Florence Gould and Delmas Foundations. Two of her articles on Philippe de Mézières’s work have appeared in *Viator* and *Romania* this year.

**George Bournoutian** (1978-1980) is Professor of History at Iona College. In 2009, Mazda Publishers released two of his books: *A Brief History of the Aghuank’ Region* and *Jambr*, which was favorably reviewed by the *Times Literary Supplement* (March 2009). During Spring 2009, he was a Kazan Fellow at California State University, Fresno, and presented lectures in Tehran (Iran), Isfahan (Iran), and at the University of California, Berkeley and California State University, Fresno.

**Betsy Connor Bowen** (1976-1977) produced *The People Nobody Believed in*, a 48-minute documentary on an innovative program called “church with beds.” Designed to meet the needs of Maine people returning to society from prison, the program has been successfully reducing recidivism. Her novella *Spring Bear* will be available on Amazon in summer 2009 via [www.betsyconnorbowen.com](http://www.betsyconnorbowen.com). She is writing a memoir, *Before Tobruk, After Tobruk* on her writer father’s life, his World War II experience, and its impact on her family. Her collection of Maine regional fiction (short stories) is about half done. She is currently writing a video blog for the local paper, restoring a one-room schoolhouse, and working to pass legislation in Maine to help reduce eutrophication of Maine’s beautiful lakes, one of which she looks at as she writes this.

## Alumni Fellows News

[Peter A. Coclanis](#) (1983-1984) recently completed his twenty-fifth year at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he is Associate Provost for International Affairs and Albert R. Newsome Professor of History and Economics. He continues to work and write in the areas of international, Southeast Asian, and American economic and business history.

[Wiebke Denecke](#) (2004-2006) spent 2008-2009 as a Member at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton working on a book project, which explores how younger

cultures such as Japan and Rome wrote their own literature through and against the literary precedents of their older reference cultures, China and Greece respectively. Her book manuscript "Chinese Philosophy: The Dynamics of pre-Qin 'Masters Literature'" was accepted for publication by Harvard University Press. She hosted a conference on "Commonality and Regionality in the Cultural Heritage of East Asia" with Wang Yong (ACLS visiting scholar, Barnard), which brought together scholars from Asia, Europe, and North America to discuss how a common



## Alumni Fellows News

Chinese cultural heritage developed outside of China in the East Asian cultural sphere.

**Naomi Diamant** (1992-1994) was recently appointed Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives at New York University.

**Constantin Fasolt** (1981-1983) is a recovering administrator. Having stepped down from a three-year term as Associate/Deputy Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Chicago, he spent 2008-2009 reacquainting himself with students, teaching, and research. He even managed to write a new paper—the first since 2005 that’s actually new and hasn’t merely been moving forward through “the pipeline” while he was administering. The paper is titled “Respect for the Word: What Calvin and Wittgenstein Had Against Images,” and it marks, he hopes, a new intellectual beginning.

**Joshua Fogel** (1980-1981) teaches Chinese and East Asian history at York University in Toronto. In 2009 he published *Articulating the Sinosphere: Sino-Japanese Relations in Space and Time* (Harvard UP), a revised version of his Reischauer Lectures from 2007. He also re-started publication of *Sino-Japanese Studies*, a journal he edited from 1989-2004, this time entirely online and completely free ([www.chinajapan.org](http://www.chinajapan.org)). He continues to work on a comprehensive history of Sino-Japanese relations, a historiographical study of the “gold seal” of 57 C.E., and the Japanese community of Shanghai in the 19th century.

**Michèle Hannoosh** (1982-1985) was again Chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She wrote an essay on Romanticism for the *Cambridge History of French Literature*, and an article on Delacroix’s “Still Life with Lobsters.” Her long-awaited edition of Delacroix’s *Journal* is

due to appear in late summer (José Corti, 2009, 2 volumes).

**James Higginbotham** (1977–1978, 1979–1980) was on leave for 2008-2009. In the fall he lived in Venice, Italy, and was back and forth to Pisa as Visiting Professor at the Scuola Normale. He spent the spring in Oxford as Visiting Professor of Philosophy and as Vera Brittain Visiting Fellow, Somerville College. He finally managed to get a collection of papers out (to appear in July) and is working on two more. Next year he continues as Chairman of Linguistics at the University of Southern California. He will be teaching a graduate Philosophy seminar on Self-Knowledge in the fall, and Advanced Logic in the spring. He wishes he had used more of both subjects in a practical way as a young man.

**Janet Johnson** (1985-1987) is currently a scholar-in-residence at the Newberry Library in Chicago, where she is working on a book project entitled “Shakespeare’s Romeo and Dante’s Giulietta: The Story of a Myth in Music.” This fall she will be a Snyder Fellow at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.

**Vinay Lal** (1992-1994) was in Delhi for eighteen months as Director of the University of California Education Abroad Program (India), and delivered nearly thirty-five talks in Hyderabad, Delhi, Patna, Udaipur, Mumbai, and Kolkata. His *The Other Indians: A Political and Cultural History of South Asians in America* was published in 2008 by the University of California in the U.S. and by HarperCollins in India. *The Future of Knowledge and Culture: A Dictionary for the 21st Century* (Viking Penguin, 2005), which he co-edited with Ashis Nandy, has been translated into



## Alumni Fellows News

Kannada, and *Empire of Knowledge* (Pluto, 2002) has recently been re-published in Urdu. His book *Introducing Hinduism* (Icon, 2005) has appeared in Spanish, Korean, and Finnish translations.

**Susan Layton** (1981-1983) remains a visiting scholar in the Russian department at the University of Edinburgh and an associate of Centre d'études des mondes russe, caucasien, et centre-européen (Paris). Her recent articles include "The Divisive Modern Russian Tourist Abroad: Representations of Self and Other in the Early Reform Era," forthcoming in *Slavic Review*, and "The Maude Translations of the Sevastopol Stories," in the latest issue of the *Tolstoy Studies Journal*.

**Andrew Lear** (2004-2006) will start a new job in the Classics Department at Pomona College in Fall 2009. His recent book, *Images of Ancient Greek Pederasty* (Routledge, 2008), has received a number of favorable reviews, including one by Craig Williams in the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (which can be accessed at <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-04-65.html>). Williams was, among other things, the respondent to Professor Lear's talk at the Society of Fellows in 2006. A paperback edition of the book is to be released in the late fall.

**Robin Lewis** (1978-1981) is now living and working in Beijing, where he heads his own higher education and public policy firm, Worldview Global Consulting, LLC ([www.worldviewglobal.com](http://www.worldviewglobal.com)). He is also Professor and Director of the Global Partnership Network at the School of Social Development and Public Policy (SSDPP) at Beijing Normal University—China's leading graduate teaching, research, and policy advisory institution in the field of social policy.

**Suzanne Lodato** (1998-2000) recently joined Indiana University's Office of the Vice Provost for Research as Academic Specialist for Research Development. Previously, she served as a consultant to the Library Services Division of the Library of Congress, as Director of the Division of Preservation and Access at the National Endowment for the Humanities, and as Associate Program Officer in the Scholarly Communications Program at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She has funded a wide range of grants spanning library technology, cataloging, electronic publishing, scholarly electronic resources, and research concerning current trends and issues in scholarly communication. Dr. Lodato is a founding member of the International Association for Word and Music Studies (WMA), of which she is Vice-President. She has edited two WMA proceedings volumes, published a number of articles on song and song cycle analysis, and authored entries for *The New Grove History of Music and Musicians* (2d edition), the *Reader's Guide to Music: History, Theory, and Criticism* (Rutledge), and *Europe since 1914: Encyclopedia of the Age of War and Reconstruction* (Scribner).

**Deborah Epstein Nord** (1980-1982) spent the Fall semester as a Senior Fellow at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina. Together with her colleague Maria DiBattista, she is currently at work on a book about women writers, 1800 to the present, and their engagement with public and political life. Her essay "The Making of Dickens Criticism" appeared in *Contemporary Dickens* (eds. Eileen Gillooly and Deirdre David, Ohio State UP, 2008). A second essay on Dickens, "Dickens's 'Jewish Question': Pariah Capitalism and the Way Out" will appear in *Victorian Literature and Culture*.



## Alumni Fellows News

In 2008, [David L. Pike](#) (1993-1995) published the essays “Hiding in Plain Sight: Cinematic Undergrounds” (in *Strange Spaces: Explorations into Mediated Obscurity*) and “The Passing of Celluloid, the Endurance of the Image: Egoyan, ‘Steenbeckett’ and Krapp’s Last Tape” (in *Image + Territory: Essays on Atom Egoyan*). He participated in the round-table “Underground” (*Working Papers* 2:2), presented a plenary talk on “Cinema and the Vertical City” at McGill University, and a paper on Walter Benjamin, Doctor Dolittle, and the nineteenth-century child at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference (INCS). *A World of Writing: Poems, Stories, Plays, Essays*, co-authored with Ana Acosta, will be published in January 2010 by Longman and a book on recent Canadian cinema later the same year by Wallflower Press.

In 2006-2007, [Hillary Poriss](#) (2001-2003) was a Fellow at the American Academy in Rome, and in Fall 2007 she began a new job at Northeastern University in Boston, very happy to be back on the east coast. Her monograph, *Changing the Score: Arias, Prima Donnas, and the Authority of Performance* (Oxford UP), and a co-edited volume, *Fashions and Legacies of Nineteenth-Century Italian Opera* (with Roberta Marvin, Cambridge UP) will appear late this year. Best of all, her son Lucas Dylan Bailey was born on March 10, 2009.

[Mark Rollins](#) (1985-1987) is Chair and Professor of Philosophy and of Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology at Washington University in St. Louis. He also holds a courtesy appointment as Professor in the Sam Fox School of Art and Visual Design and is Associate Dean for the Curriculum in the College of Arts and Sciences. His recent research concerns issues at the intersection of

cognitive science and aesthetics, such as the recognition of intentions in art, the brain basis for pictorial style, and neural plasticity and the history of art. He is currently completing a new book, *The Strategic Eye: Perceptual Strategies and Pictorial Art*.

[Scott A. Sandage](#) (1995-1996) is Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of History at Carnegie Mellon University. He is the author of *Born Losers: A History of Failure in America* (Harvard UP, 2005) and an annotated abridgement of Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America* (HarperCollins, 2007). In 2007-2008, he held an NEH Senior Faculty Fellowship to work on his next book, a study of mixed-race families entitled *Half-Breed Creek: A Tall Tale of Race on the Frontier, 1804-1941*. The germ of this book began in chats with Karl Kroeber at the Heyman Center and in subsequent conversations with Claudio Saunt (SOF, 1996-1998).

In 2008 [Claudio Saunt](#) (1996-1998) published “Go West: Mapping Early American Historiography” in *The William and Mary Quarterly*. He currently holds a sabbatical fellowship from the American Philosophical Society and is working on a book-length manuscript, *America in 1776*, which explores eight American places, ranging from the Aleutian Islands to the Black Hills to Tampa Bay. In April 2009, he delivered the biennial Littlefield Lectures at the University of Texas, Austin.

[Martha Ann Selby](#) (1987-1988) is Associate Professor of South Asian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She was appointed Directeur d’Études, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and Institut d’Études Avancées de Paris Ile de

## Alumni Fellows News

France during the months of May and June 2008. She co-edited a book of essays with Indira Viswanathan Peterson titled *Tamil Geographies: Cultural Constructions of Space and Place in South India* (SUNY Press, 2008). Her translation of *Ainkurunooru*, a fourth-century anthology of classical Tamil love poems, is forthcoming (Columbia UP, 2010). She is the grandmother of two splendid toddlers and plans to swim the English Channel before she turns 60.

**William Sharpe** (1981-1983) continues as Professor of English at Barnard College. His book *New York Nocturne: The City After Dark in Literature, Painting, and Photography* was published in Fall 2008 by Princeton University Press.

**Samer Shehata** (1999-2000) published *Shop Floor Culture and Politics in Egypt* (SUNY Press 2009). Professor Shehata was named a Carnegie Scholar for the 2009-2010 academic year, during which he will work on a project entitled "Islamist Electoral and Parliamentary Participation in Egypt, Morocco, and Kuwait."

**Ginger Strand** (1993-1995) is a 2009 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow in Nonfiction. Her book *Inventing Niagara: Beauty, Power and Lies* (Simon & Schuster, 2008) was a finalist for the Orion Book Award. In 2008-2009 she received a Pushcart Prize and grants from the Hartman Center at Duke University, the Eisenhower Foundation, and the Center for Land Use Interpretation to work on a new book about the interstate highway system.

**Mark Swislocki** (2001-2003) published *Culinary Nostalgia: Regional Food Culture and the Urban Experience in Shanghai* (Stanford UP, 2009). He is currently working

on a new book entitled "Human-Animal Relations as Cultural Frontiers in China."

**Jean Terrier** (2004-2006) joined the Centre Marc Bloch, the Franco-German Center for Research in the Social Sciences in Berlin, Germany, in 2006. He received research grants from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Humboldt University, Berlin, 2007-2008) and from the Institute for Cultural Inquiry (Berlin, 2008-2009). Starting in September 2009 he will be a Research Fellow in Political Science at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster. He is currently working on a book entitled *Visions of the Social: Politics and the Human Sciences in France around 1900*, which is under contract with Brill Publishers and is scheduled to appear in 2010.

**John Tresch** (2000-2002) is currently finishing his book, *The Romantic Machine: Metamorphosis and Technology in France, 1820-1851*. In 2009-2010, he will be in New York City on fellowship at the Dorothy and Lewis Cullman Center of the New York Public Library, doing research on Edgar Allan Poe and American science.

**Kate van Orden** (1996-1997) is Full Professor in the Music Department at the University of California, Berkeley. This year, in addition to her responsibilities as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, she gave invited lectures at the American Philosophical Society, the Catholic University of America, and keynoted the Thirty-Fourth Annual International Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Music in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Her concert performances on baroque and classical bassoon included venues in Houston and the Bay Area.

**Franciscus Verellen** (1987-1989), Director of

## Alumni Fellows News

the Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient, was elected Academician in the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Institut de France, in 2008. He has been named a Member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, for 2009-2010.

[Miriam Ticktin](#) (2002-2004) moved this past academic year from her position as Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan to take a job as Assistant Professor in Anthropology and International Affairs at the New School. She wanted to get back to NYC!

[Joanna Waley-Cohen](#) (1988-1990) is Collegiate Professor and Professor of History at New York University. She is writing an account of daily life in China around 1800 for use in college teaching and at the same time working on a study of early modern Chinese culinary history. In the past year she has participated in conferences in Cambridge (corruption in nineteenth-century China), Paris (urban life in Ming-Qing China), and New York (transnational history of food in East Asia).

[Nicholas Xenos](#) (1980-1982) presented papers on the concept of patriotism in John Stuart Mill's interpretation of the story of Junius Brutus at a meeting of the International Society for Utilitarian Studies held at the University of California, Berkeley and at the Department of Political Science at the University of Connecticut in Fall 2008. He also completed a chapter entitled "Everybody's Got the Fever: Scarcity and the US National Energy Policy" for a forthcoming volume on the concept of scarcity. Professor Xenos taught a graduate seminar in Fall 2008 on Critical Theory, with particular attention to the works of Walter Benjamin and T.W. Adorno.



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