

Columbia University  
in the City of New York

# The Society of Fellows in the Humanities

## 2010 Annual Report









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# Report from the Chair

*In 2009-2010, the Society of Fellows continued to build on its longstanding record of excellence in attracting and nurturing outstanding postdoctoral Fellows.*

This current academic year, the Society welcomed five incoming Fellows: Dana Fields, Princeton University (Ph.D., 2009); Daniel Lee, Princeton University (Ph.D., 2009); Emily Ogden, University of Pennsylvania (Ph.D., 2010); Edgardo Salinas, Columbia University (Ph.D., 2010); and Yanfei Sun, University of Chicago (Ph.D., 2010). These Fellows, whose appointments began 1 July 2010, joined three returning fellows: Joshua Dubler, Princeton University (Ph.D., 2008), Hagar Kotef, Tel Aviv University (Ph.D., 2009); and Adam Smith, University of California, Los Angeles (Ph.D., 2008). Five of the Fellows in residence in 2009-2010 will have left the Society by the time you read this report. Kevin Lamb will enter Yale Law School; John Lombardini will move to the College of William and Mary as Assistant Professor of government; Jennifer Nash will join George Washington University as Assistant Professor of American Studies and Women's Studies; David Novak will begin his position as Assistant Professor at the Department of Music at UC Santa Barbara; and Patrick Singy will begin as a visiting scholar at the Center for Bioethics at Union Graduate College, Mount Sinai School of Medicine while he finishes his book project.

In 2010-2011, the Society will be host to one Fellow in his third year, two in their second year, and five in their first year.

The record of intellectual events and accomplishments for 2009-2010 is very strong as well. All the resident Fellows presented papers during the Thursday lunchtime series, drawing an impressive audience of specialists in their respective fields and stimulating exchanges at a high level. For

the first time, the Society included in its lunchtime series an ACLS Recent Doctoral Recipient, Lihong Shi, and a deBary Postdoctoral Fellow in Asian Studies, Anabella Pitkin. For the spring semester, the Fellows selected “Violence and Critique” as their topic, and invited speakers from across the humanities and social sciences to consider the political, ethical, historical, legal, religious, aesthetic, and ethnographic conditions in which violence can arise and become an object of critique. This series, too, generated some of the most productive conversations on the Columbia campus and attracted an array of scholars from a variety of academic departments and institutions around the city.

In addition, the Society co-sponsored several academic events. On 30 October 2009, the Society was one of the hosts of the Columbia Medieval Guild’s annual conference, this year entitled “Approaches to the Late Medieval City.” Along with a series of panels and plenary talks, there was a reading of former Society of Fellows Governing Board member Paul Strohm’s short play, *The Testimony of William Thorpe*. The Society also participated in sponsoring a two-day spring event. On 8 April 2010, Irene Silverblatt, Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Duke University, lectured on “Torture and Civilization: Lessons from the Spanish Inquisition.” Speaking to a filled room, Silverblatt drew from her book *Modern Inquisitions: Peru and the Colonial Origins of the Civilized World* to discuss the Inquisition, which she describes as “a state-like bureaucracy that controls culture and society,” and its role in the development of the nation-state. The following day Silverblatt and her sister read the poems of their aunt and Paul Celan’s cousin, Selma Meerbaum-Eisinger, who died in one of the SS labor camps in 1942. The standing-room-only event, “Selma Meerbaum-Eisinger, Paul Celan, and the Space of Czernowitz,” included Marianne Hirsch (Columbia), Florence Heymann (Centre de Recherches Français de Jerusalem), and Stanley Corngold (Princeton). Hirsch and Heymann spoke about their books on Czernowitz, the home of both Meerbaum-Eisinger and Celan, in what is now Romania; Corngold discussed his work on Kafka and Celan.

The Society remains in good financial health despite the protracted global recession. While the income from the endowment has declined somewhat, we have more than ample funds to maintain the Society at eight postdoctoral Fellowships each year, with adequate funds to sustain the lunchtime lecture series, conferences, and other events. Indeed, with the Vice President for

Arts and Sciences, we have initiated a process that we hope will lead to establishing one or more Senior Fellowships 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.

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Chair and Director of the Society of Fellows David C. Johnston enjoyed a year of scholarly productivity in which he completed his book on justice. Eileen Gillooly, the Associate Director of the Society of Fellows and the Heyman Center, was on leave as an NEH Fellow at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina for most of 2009-2010. Because of her commitment to our mission, she returned several times during the academic year to carry out duties related to the Society of Fellows and the Heyman Center, and I'm extremely grateful to her for all she did this past year and continues to do for the Society. In Eileen's absence, Business Manager Krishana Bristol Allen and Program Coordinator Jonah Cardillo assumed extra responsibilities, which they executed superbly. I could not have gotten through the year without their considerable talents.

This year brought a permanent change to the Society of Fellows. Judy Huyck, our longtime and beloved administrative assistant retired in May 2010 after eighteen years of service. On 27 May 2010, the Society held a farewell party for her, during which heartfelt toasts and warm recollections celebrated Judy's essential role in the Society and in the intellectual life of the Fellows and all who work in the Heyman Center. Along with praise for a job well done, almost everyone commented on Judy's unflagging cheerfulness and her support of everyone she encountered at the Heyman Center. She will be greatly missed. Judy plans to fulfill longstanding dreams of travel, and we wish her the very best in her future journeys.

I would like to thank the Governing Board for offering me the opportunity to be the Acting Chair and Director in 2009-2010; it was an honor to do so. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the Fellows better, leading the Fellowship Competition, and otherwise engaging in this stimulating and deservedly prestigious enterprise of intellectual interaction and the advancement of knowledge. Finally, a warm welcome back to David Johnston and Eileen Gillooly for what undoubtedly will be another stellar year at the Society of Fellows in the Humanities.

**Patricia E. Grieve**

*Acting Chair and Director*

# HEYMAN CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

This Center is dedicated in honor of  
**DAVID M. HEYMAN '26** LL.D.  
Financier, Philanthropist, Civic Leader,  
Public Servant  
President and Chairman of the  
New York Foundation  
Devoted son and generous supporter  
of Columbia  
Steadfast in his commitment to the  
humane values which this Center  
has been established to serve.



## Thirty-fifth Annual Fellowship Competition

*The applicants for the thirty-fifth annual fellowship competition numbered 1,003, up more than thirty-seven percent from the record-breaking total of 728 of the previous year.*

The first round of readings took place in the fall, shortly after the close of the competition on 5 October 2009, with twenty-two departments, institutes, and centers participating in the vetting process. One hundred-nine applications were recommended to be advanced to the next level of competition, where each application was read by one current Fellow and two members of the Governing Board. The candidates were then ranked, and the rankings reviewed by the selection committee, a sub-committee of the Governing Board, comprising Akeel Bilgrami, Joshua Dubler, Eileen Gillooly, Patricia Grieve, Robert Hymes, Elisabeth Ladenson, Melissa Schwartzberg, Elaine Sisman, and Gareth Williams. In mid-December, the Governing Board offered interviews to thirteen candidates; these were held on 22 January 2010 at the Heyman Center.

Five fellowships were available for 2009-10. In February 2010, the Governing Board made offers to Dana Fields, Princeton University (Ph.D., 2009); Daniel Lee, Princeton University (Ph.D., 2009); Emily Ogden, University of Pennsylvania (Ph.D., 2010); Edgardo Salinas, Columbia University (Ph.D., 2010); and Yanfei Sun, University of Chicago (Ph.D., 2010). All offers were accepted.

The five new Fellows, whose appointments began on 1 July 2010, joined three returning fellows: Joshua Dubler, Princeton University (Ph.D., 2008); Hagar Kotef, Tel Aviv University (Ph.D., 2009); and Adam Smith, University of California, Los Angeles (Ph.D., 2008).





# 2010-2011 Competition Numbers

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## *Sorted By Department*

American Studies	58	5.78%
Anthropology	83	8.28%
Art History & Archaeology	70	6.98%
Classics	26	2.59%
Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race	27	2.69%
East Asian Languages & Cultures	20	1.99%
English & Comparative Literature	102	10.17%
Film	23	2.29%
French	25	2.49%
German	20	1.99%
History	105	10.47%
Institute for Research in African American Studies	25	2.49%
Institute for Research on Women & Gender	49	4.89%
Italian	16	1.60%
Middle East & Asian Languages & Cultures	38	3.79%
Music	54	5.38%
Philosophy	47	4.69%
Political Science	85	8.47%
Religion	55	5.48%
Slavic Languages	20	1.99%
Sociology	29	2.89%
Spanish & Portuguese	26	2.59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>100%</b>

Sorted By Country

Argentina	1	0.10%			
Australia	2	0.20%	South Korea	1	0.10%
Austria	1	0.10%	Kuwait	1	0.10%
Azerbaijan	1	0.10%	Macedonia	1	0.10%
Belgium	1	0.10%	Malaysia	1	0.10%
Cameroon	2	0.20%	Mexico	1	0.10%
Canada	30	2.99%	Netherlands	1	0.10%
China	2	0.20%	New Zealand	2	0.20%
Cyprus	1	0.10%	Nigeria	2	0.20%
Finland	1	0.10%	Poland	1	0.10%
France	14	1.40%	Romania	1	0.10%
Germany	9	0.90%	Scotland	1	0.10%
Greece	7	0.70%	South Africa	1	0.10%
Hungary	1	0.10%	Switzerland	4	0.40%
India	4	0.40%	Taiwan	2	0.20%
Indonesia	1	0.10%	Turkey	1	0.10%
Ireland	4	0.40%	United Arab Emirates	1	0.10%
Israel	11	1.10%	United Kingdom	46	4.59%
Italy	11	1.10%	United States	827	82.45%
Japan	3	0.30%	Venezuela	1	0.10%
Total			1,003	100%	







HEYMAN CENTER



# Members of the 2009-2010 Governing Board

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**Zainab Bahrani**

Art History and Archaeology

**Claudio Lomnitz**

Anthropology

**Akeel Bilgrami** (ex-officio)

Philosophy

**Molly Murray**

English and Comparative Literature

**Christopher L. Brown**

History

**Melissa Schwartzberg**

Political Science

**Giuseppe Gerbino**

Music

**Elaine Sisman**

Music

**Patricia Grieve** Acting Chair/Director

Spanish and Portuguese

**Michael Stanislawski** (ex-officio)

History

**Robert Hymes**

East Asian Languages and Cultures

**Mark C. Taylor**

Religion

**David C. Johnston**

Political Science

**Gareth Williams** (ex-officio)

Classics

**Elisabeth Ladenson**

French

**Katja Vogt**

Philosophy



A group of people are seated at a long wooden table in a dimly lit room. The background features a large, dark mural with figures. The scene is captured from behind several people, looking towards the table and the mural. The lighting is low, creating a focused and intimate atmosphere.

# Fellows-in-Residence 2009-2010



# 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 second-year Fellow, Dr. Dubler taught two new courses. In Columbia's Religion Department he taught "Alterities of Religion in American Culture," a seminar that traced the contours along which, over the last 200 years, something called "religion" has been constituted in relation to a range of oppositions that includes science, capital, politics, tartuffery, and despotism. Continuing his teaching at the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Graterford, through a program sponsored by Villanova University, he also taught a course entitled "Freud, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky" that explored conceptions of self and society, agency, and ethics in the work of those three thinkers.

In the past twelve months Dr. Dubler published two articles. "The Secular Bad Faith of Dr. Harry Theriault, a.k.a. the Bishop of Tellus"—which reads and rereads a 1974 Federal Court evidentiary hearing so as to demonstrate the elasticity of the "bad man" as foil for the constitution of bona fide religious faith before the law—appeared in *Soundings*. Along with Andrea Sun-Mee Jones, in *Cabinet Magazine*, he published "Gallery of Shooters," a distillation of their book, *Bang! Thud: World History from a Texas School Book Depository*, which exploits the figure of the assassin for the purposes of theorizing individual agency in history.

Over the course of the year, Dr. Dubler pursued three writing projects. He pushed toward completion the book manuscript based on his dissertation research: *The Chapel*, an experimental ethnography that recounts one week's time in the chapel at Pennsylvania's Graterford Prison. He began to braid strands of ongoing research into a second book project about two religious groups that began in U.S. prisons in 1970, and he commenced research into the changing nature of guilt in America over the course of the twentieth century.



In his third year in the Society of Fellows, he will teach two versions of the same course: one a graduate seminar at Columbia; another through Villanova at Graterford. Entitled "Event, Ethnography, History," the course will first consider the calculus by which an occurrence or series of occurrences is designated an event, then the range of empirical studies that take such events as points of departure.



# Hagar Kotef

2009-2012

*Tel Aviv University, School of Philosophy, Ph.D., 2009*

*“Tracing the Political Body: A Story of First-Wave Liberal Feminism”*

Hagar Kotef’s research interests include feminist theory, liberal philosophy, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and contemporary continental political philosophy. During the academic year she published three essays. The first, “On Abstractness: First-Wave Feminism and the Construction of the Abstract Woman” (*Feminist Studies* 35.3, Fall 2009), delineates a game of shifts in the formation of first-wave feminism, wherein corporeality was ascribed

to discursive objects positioned at ever more distant margins of this new-born discourse. The second, “Objects of Security: Gendered Violence and Securitized Humanitarianism in Occupied Gaza” (*Comparative Studies of South Asia Africa and The Middle East* special issue on feminist state-theory, 30:2, 2010), is based on a talk she presented at the Society of Fellows Lunchtime Series in the fall, on the symbiosis between humanitarian logic and Israel security discourse around the bombarding of Gaza in 2008. The third article, an attempt to form a definition of the Hebrew concept *Ba’it* (also the title of the essay), whose English translation resides somewhere between household and home, appeared in the Israeli journal *Maftekh: Lexical Journal for Political Thought*. Dr. Kotef was asked to translate the article, which was then re-published in English and Hebrew in the catalog of the exhibition *Home Less Home*, Museum of the Seam: Socio-Political Contemporary Art Museum, Jerusalem.

Dr. Kotef also joined the board of editors of *Maftekh*, and is now organizing a conference for Fall 2010 at the New School for Social Research in an attempt to expand this unique project. These days she is finishing the final edits for a fourth essay, forthcoming in *Theory, Culture and Society*, which she co-authored with Merav Amir. The essay, entitled “Between Imaginary Lines: Violence and Its Justifications at the Military Checkpoints in Occupied Palestine,” analyzes the spatial configuration of the checkpoints. It proposes that we should understand the checkpoints not merely as “valves” through which Palestinian movement is regulated, but also as a component within a set of corrective technologies that are meant to fail and thereby facilitate the appearance of violence as putatively “justified” violence.



Dr. Kotef taught a seminar on gender and violence at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, in the fall semester, and Contemporary Civilization in the spring. She also gave several presentations based on her current research: a talk at the Western Political Science Association; a paper delivered at a conference on “Gender, Peace and Security” at Columbia’s School for International Affairs; and an article on motion and its political meanings at Tel Aviv University. The latter inspired a new book project on which she will be working this summer (and in the coming years). She also hopes to complete revisions to her manuscript *Anatomy of Political Bodies*, based on her dissertation and recently vetted by Fordham University Press.



# Kevin Lamb

*2007-2010*

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

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*“Impersonality and the Modernist Art of Critique”*



Kevin Lamb's research centers on the relation between modernist literature and philosophy. As a third-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, the aim of which is not self-expression but self-transformation. Titled *Subject to Style: Impersonality and the Transformation of Modernist Criticism*, the book constructs a genealogy of authorial impersonality from the Victorian fin de siècle to the present, focusing on the critical writings of Oscar Wilde, Virginia Woolf, Michel Foucault, and Stanley Cavell.



In 2009-2010, Dr. Lamb also began a second book, tentatively titled *New Hellenisms: Self-Government, Modernism, and the Modernity of Greek Thought*, which studies the relation between virtue and govern-

ment in modernist literature and philosophy. He presented an excerpt of this new book as his talk at the Society in December. In February, he participated by invitation in the Young Scholars Workshop sponsored by the Duke University Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature. There he presented a paper on Stanley Cavell and was the respondent to a fellow participant's paper on Nietzsche. In April, he delivered a talk on "The Senses of Criticism" at a meeting sponsored by the *Columbia Journal of Literary Criticism*. During the spring, Dr. Lamb also taught a seminar on "Subjects of Desire: Law, Literature, Film," in the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

Dr. Lamb will attend Yale Law School beginning in Fall 2010.





John Lombardini

*2009-2010*

*Princeton University, Department of Politics, Ph.D., 2009*

*"Democratic Laughter: Aristophanes, Plato, and the  
Comedy of Athenian Democracy"*



John Lombardini taught Contemporary Civilization in the fall semester and a course on ancient Athenian democracy in the Political Science department in the spring. He also worked on revising his dissertation, which focuses on laughter and politics in democratic Athens, by completing two new chapters on Thucydides and Aristotle, and he completed an article-length manuscript on Socratic laughter. Dr. Lombardini presented his work at the Northeastern Political Science Association, the Western Political Science Association, the University of Maryland, and Columbia's Department of Classics.

Dr. Lombardini will spend the summer as a Senior Associate Member at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, working on a project on equality and ancient democracy that he will present at the American Political Science Association's annual meeting in September 2010. In August, he will begin a tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor of Government at the College of William and Mary.





# Jennifer Nash

2009-2010

*Harvard University, Department of African and African American Studies, Ph.D., 2009*

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## *“The Black Body in Ecstasy: Reading Race, Reading Pornography”*

Jennifer Nash’s research focuses on black sexual politics, black feminisms, sexual economies, and critical race theory.

As a first-year Fellow, she worked on her book manuscript, *The Black Body in Ecstasy: Reading Race, Reading Pornography*, which studies representations of black women’s bodies in hard-core pornography. She also completed work on an article entitled “‘Hometruths’ on Intersectionality,” a genealogical approach to black feminism’s conception of identity, and began research for an article entitled “Laughing Matters: Race Humor on the Pornographic Screen” to be included in the anthology *Porn Archive* (SUNY Press).

During the academic year, Dr. Nash presented two papers on her recent research: “Black/Women and Beyond: Re-thinking Intersectionality,” at the National Women’s Studies Association conference, and “‘Hometruths’ on Intersectionality,” at the Critical Race Symposium at University of California Los Angeles Law School.



Dr. Nash also had the pleasure of teaching Contemporary Civilization in the fall semester and “Black Feminism: Theory, Politics, Activism,” an upper level seminar, in the spring semester. In September, she will join the American Studies and Women’s Studies Departments at George Washington University.



# David Novak

2007-2010

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

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*“Japan Noise: Global Media Circulation and the Transpacific Circuits of Experimental Music”*

David Novak works on the circulation of popular media, histories of 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 popular music genre that circulates between musicians and listeners in Japan and the United States. As a Fellow in 2009-2010, he completed the final revisions of his forthcoming book, entitled *Japanoise: The Cultural Feedback of Global Media Circulation*, which will be published by Duke University Press in 2011. David also published two papers in 2010. The first, “Cosmopolitanism, Remediation and the Ghost World of Bollywood,” was published in *Cultural Anthropology*; the second, entitled “Playing Off Site: The Untranslation of Onkyô,” appeared in *Asian Music*. In addition, he contributed a book chapter, “Onkyô/Oto, Chinmoku/Ma to Impuro no Sendaitekina Disukuuru” [“Sound(s), Silence(s), and the Global

Discourses of Improvisation”], for the Japanese-language edition *Nyuu Jazu Sutadizu* [*The New Jazz Studies*] (2010), edited by T. Miyawaki and M. Molasky (Tokyo: Artes).





Photo by David Novak: Keiji Haino performing at the No Fun Festival 2007 in Red Hook.



# 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 third-year fellow he taught "The History of Sexuality" in the spring semester.

Dr. Singy has spent most of his time this year working on his first 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," he argues that sexuality is a specifically modern experience, with a beginning in the middle of the nineteenth century and a gradual dissolution at the end of the twentieth century.

Dr. Singy has also presented two papers this year, one at Columbia's Society of Fellows Lunchtime Lecture Series, and the other at a conference on Michel Foucault in Pisa, Italy.

In 2010-11 he will be a Scholar-in-Residence at the Center for Bioethics at Union Graduate College, Mount Sinai School of Medicine.



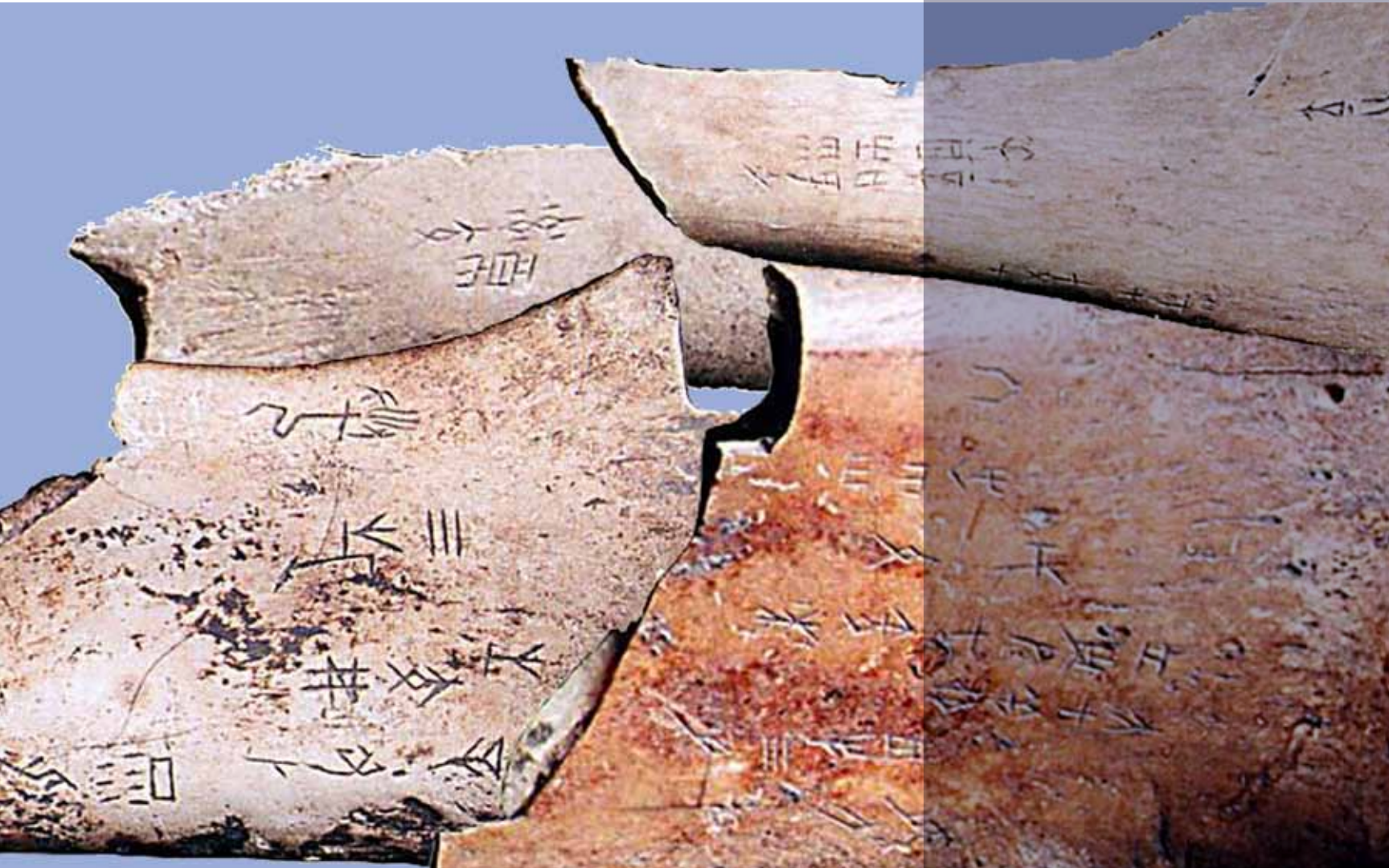
# Adam Smith

2009-2012

*University of California, Los Angeles, Ph. D., 2008*

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*“Writing at Anyang: the Role of the Divination Record in the Emergence of Chinese Literacy”*



Adam Smith's research concerns the emergence and evolution of the Chinese writing system during the late second and first millennia BC, as well as the early literate activities with which it was associated. He is interested in institutions for scribal training, the link between incipient literacy and the recording of divination, the beginnings of textual transmission, the cognitive consequences of the transition to literacy, and linguistic reconstruction of the early stages of the Chinese language.

During 2009-2010, he completed two papers for publication. "The Chinese Sexagenary Cycle and the Ritual Origins of the Calendar," will appear as a chapter in *Calendars and Years II: Astronomy and Time in the Ancient and Medieval World*, edited by John M. Steele and published by Oxbow Books (Oxford, forthcoming). The chapter describes the calendrical apparatus that was used by Chinese elites to schedule sacrificial performances directed toward dead kin during the late second millennium BC.

A second paper, "Are Writing Systems Intelligently Designed?," argues that writing systems that emerge in the absence of influence from other literate cultures (as with cuneiform ca. 3000 BC or Chinese ca. 1300 BC) are not products of intelligent design by groups of would-be scribes who foresightedly envisage the benefits of literacy. Rather, literacy emerges and develops from



pre-existing practices of sign-use or image manipulation when those practices become subject to repetitious intensification. Intensified replication of signs with "object-like" visual features leads to blind selection for what (with hindsight) are increasingly "word-like" visual features. A written version of this paper, first presented at the 2009 meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (Atlanta, Georgia), is to appear in a book edited by Joshua Engelhardt entitled *Early Writing and Agency in Archaeology*, from the University of Colorado Press.







## Lunchtime Lecture Series

*Each 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 2009-2010, a total of twenty lectures were presented.*

# FALL 2009: Fellows' Work

24 September

## *Objects of Security: Gender, Violence, and Humanitarian Concerns*

Hagar Kotef, Society of Fellows, Columbia University

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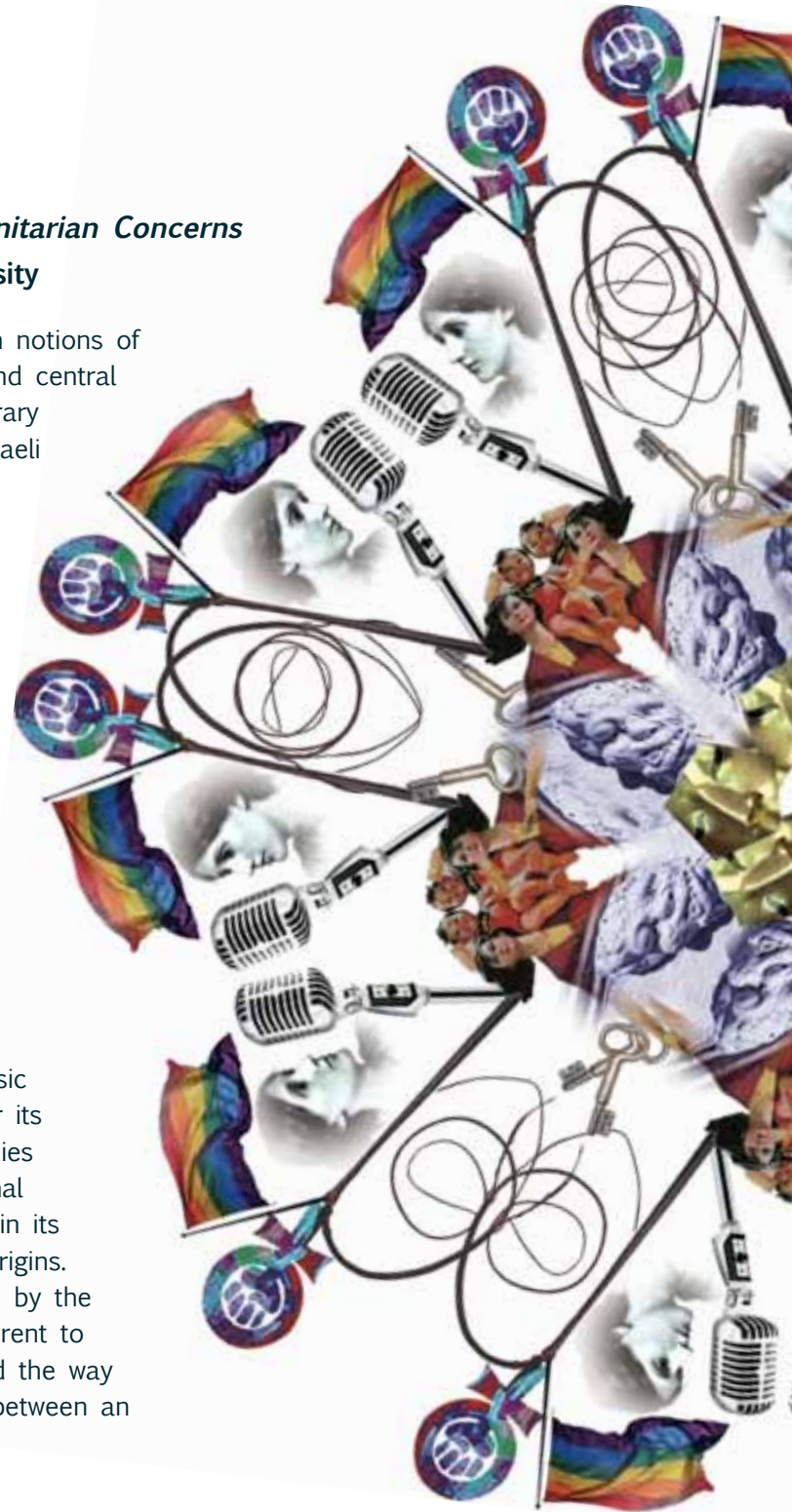
Tracing a shift within the gender categories that underpin notions of justified (i.e. state) violence, Dr. Kotef sought to understand central mechanisms in the legitimating apparatuses of contemporary conceptions of security. She reflected primarily on the Israeli occupation, and in particular its violent control over the Gaza Strip, in order to examine the relations between war and enmity, on the one hand, and humanitarianism and subjects-citizens on the other. Showing how the distinction between (feminized) civilians and (masculinized) aggressors was replaced with more “gender-blind” categories, she argued that “securitized” violence incorporates both humanitarian language and aberrant disciplinary processes to form a subject whose killing is always-already justifiable.

1 October

## *New/World/Music/Media*

David Novak, Society of Fellows, Columbia University

A new form of world music, sometimes called “World Music 2.0,” has recently begun to emerge in North America. For its redistributors—labels and MP3 blogs like Sublime Frequencies and Awesome Tapes from Africa—this is a world of regional popular media forms that is strikingly experimental, both in its noisy rawness and in its undocumented mix of cultural origins. It is an emergent form of “new old media,” authenticated by the distortion, noise, and psychedelic incommensurability inherent to global circulation. In his presentation, Dr. Novak described the way this new old media emerged in the ideological overlaps between an “open source” informational commons and an







earlier “D.I.Y. (do-it-yourself)” ethics of redistribution developed in North American underground counterculture. World Music 2.0 has appeared simultaneously in online and physical modes, via blogs and file sharing services, as well as physical media (notably vinyl LPs and CDs). Redistributors use this overlap to generate a double-barreled critique both of academic hegemony and the legalistic lockdown of music by corporate media industries. In connecting the residual structures of a nostalgic analog underground with the logics of emerging digital networks, redistributors conjure an experience of world music emancipated from commercial industry and the influence of historical culture.

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**8 October**

***The Emergence of Literacy: The  
Historical Particularities of the  
East Asian Case, along with Some  
Generalizing Hypotheses***

**Adam Smith, Society of Fellows,  
Columbia University**

The emergence of literacy took place in several world regions in the absence of interaction with any already-literate neighboring populations. The apparent relative swiftness of the transition to literacy, as well as its independence from technological or material constraints, has invited interpretations of the process of emergence that emphasize human agency and conscious foresight. Authors typically refer to the first appearance of writing as though it were the result of creative invention. The first scribes are often portrayed as tailoring their nascent scripts to the “needs of society” as they perceived them.

In his talk, Dr. Smith proposed an alternative account of the beginnings of writing in which the process takes place independent of

human deliberation, through a fundamentally blind selectionist mechanism. According to his proposal, literacy emerges from precursor systems of non-literate sign-use that rely on more general and universal cognitive capacities for object recognition and naming. The transition is set in motion when a precursor system of sign-use is subject to repetitive intensification by an interacting community of specialist users, typically as part of more general trends toward intensification of production and full-time specialization such as characterize early complex societies.

### **15 October**

#### ***Death, Miracles, and Other Modern Tibetan Buddhist Anxieties***

**Dr. Annabella Pitkin, de Bary Postdoctoral Fellow in Asian Studies,  
Columbia University**

Questioning the presumed incompatibility between the persistence of “traditional” religious communities and various notions of modernity, Dr. Pitkin explored the interrelation of “modern” and “traditional” practices and ideas in a Tibetan Buddhist context, as well as the loaded deployment of these terms. Taking the iconoclastic life story of a twentieth-century Tibetan Buddhist luminary, Khunu Lama Tenzin Gyaltzen—one of the teachers of the present Dalai Lama—as a lens, Dr. Pitkin examined the interaction of modern and traditional styles of selfhood and forms of behavior. In particular, Dr. Pitkin considered the conceptual and practical problems created by the deaths of Buddhist teachers and by the miracles attributed to these teachers. As of August, she will be Term Assistant Professor, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College.

### **22 October**

#### ***Embracing a Singleton-Daughter: An Emerging Transition of Reproductive Choice in Rural Northeast China***

**Lihong Shi, 2009-2010 Mellon-ACLS Recent Doctoral Recipient Fellow,  
Columbia University**

Dr. Shi explored an emerging reproductive pattern in rural Northeast China, where an increasing number of couples have decided to have a singleton-daughter (one child, a daughter), rather than taking advantage of the modified birth-planning policy that allows

them to have a second child. Focusing on the impact of China's male-biased sex ratio for individuals of marriageable age on gender dynamics in marriage, she examined how young women have gained the upper hand in marriage formation, marital conflicts, marriage termination, and family relations. She argued that women's empowerment in marriage has undermined the necessity to have a son, who used to be essential to securing the mother's status, and offers women great leverage to exercise their agency in making reproductive decisions. This fall, Dr. Shi will be An Wang Postdoctoral Fellow, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University.

**29 October**

***The Politics of Laughter in Greek Political Thought***

**John Lombardini, Society of Fellows, Columbia University**

Dr. Lombardini's talk explored the political dimensions of Aristotle's writings on laughter as a potential resource for constructing a normative account of virtuous practices of laughter between democratic citizens. In the *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Eudemian Ethics*, Aristotle identifies *eutrapelia* (often translated as "wittiness") as an ethical virtue within the sphere of harmonious interactions; in particular, it is the mean between *bomolochia* (buffoonery) and *agroikia* (boorishness). The one who possesses this virtue, Aristotle argues, is adept at both making and taking jokes, even when those jokes are directed against oneself.

Aristotle, however, offers two potentially contradictory standards for assessing whether a particular action can be construed as virtuous according to his definition of wittiness. The first standard entails laughing and joking only in ways that do not cause pain to the person who is the object of such practices; the second standard requires that the witty person laugh and joke only in ways that would be pleasing to the individual of the middle position (i.e. to others who also possess the virtue of wittiness). Bypassing this discussion, Dr. Lombardini argued that there is actually a third standard by which to evaluate practices of laughter from within Aristotle's ethical thought: that of avoiding the excesses of domination or obsequiousness. This categorization, drawn from Aristotle's brief discussion of friendship in book two of the *Nicomachean Ethics*, allows for such virtuous laughter to be a critical practice within the context of interpersonal deliberation. Given that Aristotle's discussion of wittiness is intimately connected with his discussion of friendship in book two (in that both are identified as virtues in the sphere of harmonious interactions),



Dr. Lombardini argued that Aristotle's conception of virtuous laughter possesses an important political dimension, insofar as it offers a standard for evaluating laughter between political friends within the context of public deliberation.

## 5 November

### ***Beyond Metaphor-Politics: New Directions for Black Feminist Thought***

**Jennifer Nash, Society of Fellows, Columbia University**

Jennifer Nash's talk used a Golden-Age pornographic film, *Sexworld*, as a point of departure for theorizing the connections between race, sexuality, and pleasure. Examining *Sexworld*'s representation of its black female protagonist, Dr. Nash located pleasure in the character's blackness, thereby suggesting that race can confer erotic and sexual pleasures on subjects on all sides of the proverbial color line. Dr. Nash's talk concluded by suggesting that scholars grapple with the pleasurable underpinnings of race even as we work to understand—and dismantle—its continuing power to shape our social and sexual imaginations.

## 12 November

### ***A History of Violence: Sadism and the Emergence of Sexuality***

**Patrick Singy, Society of Fellows, Columbia University**

Dr. Singy argued that the discourse of sexuality emerged within the context of the rise of forensic psychiatry. Starting in early nineteenth-century France, psychiatrists began to claim an expertise in criminal matters. One of their concerns was to decide the criminal responsibility of individuals who had committed atrocious sexual deeds without motives. Some of those individuals were deemed legally irresponsible: they were perverts whose uncontrollable instinct had forced them to commit violent and cruel acts. Sexual violence toward others, which in 1890 was coined "sadism" by Richard von Krafft-Ebing, played therefore a fundamental role in the emergence of sexuality.

**19 November**

***New World/New Song***

**Josh Dubler, Society of Fellows, Columbia University**

Juxtaposing the emergence of two groups of religious prisoners in the 1970s—the New World of Islam, which broke off from the Nation of Islam at New Jersey’s Rahway State Prison, and the Church of the New Song, which sprung into being in the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia—Dr. Dubler asked how much DNA must be shared in order to justify treating two discrete cases as one historical phenomenon.

**3 December**

***The Virtue of Modernist Criticism***

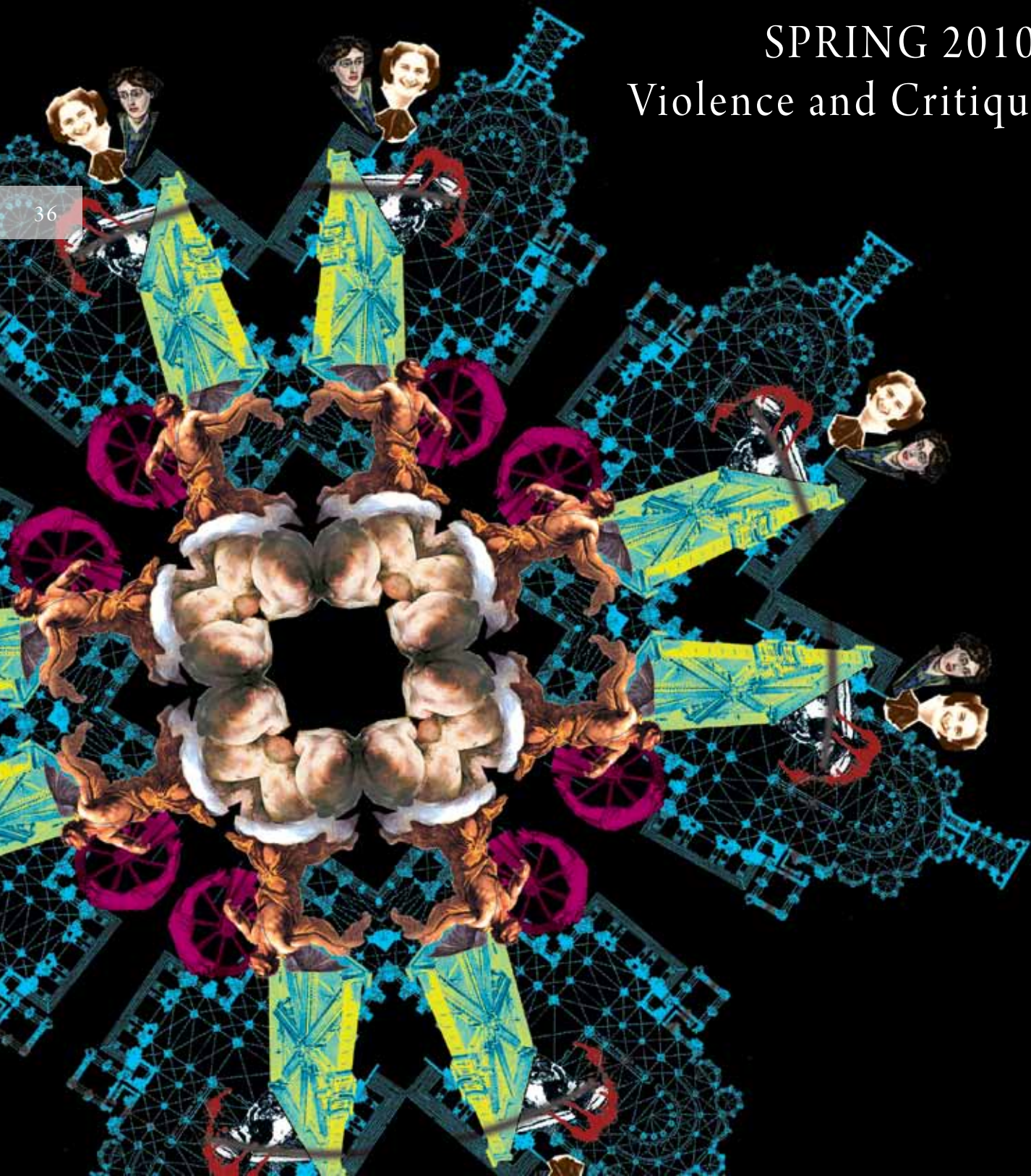
**Kevin Lamb, Society of Fellows, Columbia University**

The afterlife of Greek ethics in literary and philosophical modernism is strong if somewhat surprising. In his talk, Kevin Lamb addressed one aspect of this legacy, tracing the relation between critique and virtue from such modernists as Walter Pater, Oscar Wilde, and Martin Heidegger to contemporary thinkers such as Stanley Cavell and Judith Butler. Some theorists have recently recruited Aristotle and antiquity to describe how virtue shapes the successful practice of the disciplines, showing how cultivated epistemic habits correlate with modern ideals of scientific research, philosophical argument, and even deliberative democracy. In so doing, these theorists have neglected Aristotle’s stress on *theoria*, or contemplation, as the highest instance of ethics. Their focus instead on *phronêsis*, or practical wisdom, and character has pictured virtue as complementary to disciplinary training.

Dr. Lamb contrasted such accounts, which typically ignore modernism, with the modernists’ own efforts to rethink the legacy of ancient virtue. Modernism features a sharply agonistic relation to disciplinary norms, which are taken to impinge on the subject’s freedom to contemplate. Linking virtue to *theoria*, Pater, Wilde, and Heidegger all urge a form of thinking that attends to the subject’s inability to think and that accordingly questions the disciplinary constraints on thought. In their view, even art and philosophy can hinder the higher calling of Aristotelian contemplation by being formulated as expert or technical cultures. For these modernists and their contemporary heirs, virtue does not fit one to a given profession; on the contrary, it fosters a vigorous attitude of critique toward both the demands of professional life and one’s very tendency to conform.

# SPRING 2010: Violence and Critique

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#### 4 February

##### *Listen to the Devil*

**Scott Atran, University of Michigan, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and CNRS (Paris)**

In a talk sharing a title with his forthcoming book, Professor Atran made the case for scientific anthropological field research directed toward understanding the reasons behind an individual's decision to commit terrorist violence. Current policies by governments, intended to anticipate and respond to the threat of terrorist violence, are hampered by a lack of understanding of the social pathways to violent extremism. A central puzzle is why, of the many millions who sympathize with, for instance, the jihadi cause, only a very tiny proportion demonstrate an active willingness to commit violence. Professor Atran offered a number of case studies of the process by which individuals are recruited into violent extremism, examining the role of networks of friendship and kin within contexts of neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and leisure activity.

#### 11 February

##### *Forensic Architecture: Only the Criminal Can Solve the Crime*

**Eyal Weizman, Goldsmiths College, University of London**

A strange story unfolded in the shadows of the legal and diplomatic furor that accompanied the release, on 15 September 2009, of Richard Goldstone's Report on the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, which alleged that the Israeli army (and Hamas) committed war crimes and indeed that Israel might even be guilty of "crimes against humanity." On the same day Human Rights Watch (HRW), itself conducting an in-depth analysis of Israel's 2009 attack on Gaza, announced the suspension of its "expert on battle damage assessment," Marc Garlasco. Prior to joining the HRW's Emergencies Division in 2003, Garlasco had been for seven years an intelligence analyst, "battle damage assessment expert," and "targeting specialist" at the Pentagon, where he was involved in targeting operations in Kosovo, Serbia, and Iraq and later served as an in-house military forensic analyst. His investigations focused largely on the examination of material remnants found in sites of destruction and on analysis of munitions types and military technology. Providing crucial material evidence for HRW's research on violations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Gaza, Burma and Georgia, Garlasco had, by the time of his suspension, authored

and contributed to a series of reports alleging violation of international humanitarian law (IHL) by the Israeli military, in both its Gaza offensive and a string of earlier incidents. His research was considered crucial to the Goldstone Report, referred to there no fewer than thirty-six times.

## **18 February**

### ***The Prison, Welfare, and Labor Market Nexus: A Gendered Analysis of the Violence of Incarceration***

**Kristin Bumiller, Professor of Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies, Amherst College**

Professor Bumiller's talk examined the gendered dimension of ex-prisoner issues, in particular, the ways that ex-prisoners' concerns, including employment, discrimination, and even activism, are fundamentally shaped by their intersections with gender. For example, Professor Bumiller's research finds that while male ex-prisoners often rank employment as their primary concern, female ex-prisoners, particularly mothers, rank housing as their primary concern, as they struggle to provide for their children. The talk concluded by critiquing neoliberal policy with regard to prisons, particularly as neoliberal regimes are invested both in curtailing their responsibilities to dependent citizens and in regulating those citizens who need governmental services.

## **11 March**

### ***The Invention of Islamic Fundamentalism***

**David Harrington Watt, Professor of History, Temple University**

Operating between the registers of cultural, intellectual, and religious history, Professor Watt explored the processes through which, over the course of the twentieth century, "fundamentalism" metastasized from a parochial condition of American Protestantism to a purported global phenomenon marked as being a problem: dangerous, authoritarian, and worthy of concerted scrutiny.

25 March

***Music, Interpellation, and Violence among Korean Survivors of the Japanese Military “Comfort Women”***

**Joshua Pilzer, Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology, University of Toronto**

There are numerous ways to understand the place of violence in the lives of the survivors of Japanese military sexual slavery during the Asia Pacific War (1910-45), but it is perhaps most important to ask how survivors have thought about and responded to violence. Over the many years since the end of the war, survivors have culled resources for framing and understanding violence from folk and popular culture, making them their own.

Owing to the long era of public secrecy that separated the end of the Japanese colonial era in Korea (1910-45) and the beginning of the political movement to secure apology and reparations from the Japanese government for the crimes of the wartime sexual slavery system, Korean survivors of the “comfort women system” made use of veiled expressive forms such as song and film to reckon with their experiences of violence and forge social selves. It is here we must look to understand both the different ways that the women have responded to violent experience and the ways in which violence became a condition of subjectivity, hence shaping and guiding those responses.

1 April

***Rape: Notes Toward a Moral Ontology of the Body***

**J.M. Bernstein, University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, The New School for Social Research**

The ambition of Professor Bernstein’s talk was to examine the precise nature of the moral harm of rape. Surprisingly, standard moral theories—Kantian deontology and Utilitarianism—fail to capture the awfulness of rape: the former fails because it can do nothing with the idea of rape as a violation of bodily integrity; the latter, because the awfulness of rape depends not on the physical pain caused, but on its being a violation of the victim as a person. The moral injury of rape, in other words, is its injury to the standing of the victim as a person (an end-in-itself in Kantian jargon). The bodily experience of invasion decimates the moral body: the body as bearer of personhood, the body as morally bound. As a consequence, it imposes on the victim the apparent necessity to



absorb and make a part of her self-consciousness the revelation of that devastation. It is because of this fact that rape is routinely trauma-inducing. Rape can have these consequences, however, only if the bodily self is constituted by social practices of recognition: one is a person only if one is recognized as a person by proximate others.

29 April

***Meet the Spartans: Softness, Corpulence, and Everyday “Violence”***

**Christopher E. Forth, Jack and Shirley Howard Teaching Professor in Humanities and Western Civilization at the University of Kansas**

This talk engaged with some modern fantasies of Spartan hardness with special attention to the gendering of fat as “feminine” and the often violent imagery employed to describe and combat it. The invitation that we have to attack fat, to exorcise it from our bodies, to treat it as an enemy that must be destroyed is not a distinctly modern innovation, but reflects deeper cultural tendencies loosely related to how Western culture has long perceived fat as an ambiguous substance and how it has transferred some of these qualities to corpulent individuals. The second half of Professor Forth’s talk surveyed some of the uses to which the Spartan mirage has been put in the modern era, where, for example, images of hardness have served therapeutic fantasies in which both Western and colonized peoples benefit from a sort of “regeneration through violence,” to borrow Richard Slotkin’s apt phrase. Professor Forth suggested that what one scholar sees as the “obesity warmongering” of today draws upon deeper tendencies within Western culture towards the denigration of the soft and the disgust it has historically inspired. That disgust about “softness” can elicit and in some cases authorize violence is sometimes taken for granted, whether in American legal cases—where defendants have cited revulsion as an explanation for murdering homosexuals—or in Nazi concentration camps, where the methodical dehumanization of inmates (that is, making them disgusting) made acts of outright murder much easier to commit. Disgust and the urge to destroy are thus frequent companions, even when what we find disgusting is violence itself.

The background image shows a library interior. On the right, there are tall bookshelves filled with books. On the left, there is a long wooden study table with several wooden chairs. The room is lit by warm, pendant-style lights. The overall atmosphere is quiet and scholarly.

# Heyman Center Programming Fall 2009-Spring 2010

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*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 2009-2010 programming follows.*

# Fall 2009

## 17 September

### Google, Libraries, and the Digital Future

Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and director of the University Library at Harvard University, discussed the benefits and problematic ethical, logistical, and academic issues related to the Google Library Project.

## 21-22 September

### The Western Illusion of Human Nature

### The Whole Is a Part: Intercultural Politics of Order and Change

The prominent American anthropologist and Charles F. Grey Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, Marshal Sahlins, presented a public lecture, "The Western Illusion of Human Nature," on the evening of 21 September and offered a workshop entitled "The Whole Is a Part: Intercultural Politics of Order and Change" the following day.

## 23 September

### Poetry Reading

Rita Dove served as Poet Laureate of the United States and Consultant to the Library of Congress from 1993 to 1995 and as Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Virginia from 2004 to 2006. She has received numerous literary and academic honors, among them the 1987 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. Ms. Dove read selections from her latest publication, *Sonata Mulattica*, a book-length narrative poem exploring the life of violin prodigy George Augustus Polgreen Bridgetower (1780-1860). Marcellus Blount, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, moderated the discussion that followed the reading.

## 28 September

### Culture, Identity, and Politics

Participants in this panel discussion included Charles Taylor, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at McGill University and winner of the 2007 Templeton Prize and the 2008 Kyoto Prize; Alan Montefiore, Emeritus Fellow, Balliol College, Oxford; and Emmanuel Picavet, Professor of Political Philosophy, University of Paris. The event was co-sponsored by the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life and the Committee on Global Thought.



## 6 October

### *The Lionel Trilling Seminar:*

#### **Who Cares Who Shot Liberty Valance?: The Prosaic and the Heroic in John Ford's Film**

Robert Pippin, Evelyn Stefansson Nef Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago, addressed notions of the prosaic and the heroic as they relate to various characters in John Ford's classic film, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. Responding were James Schamus, President of Focus Features and Professor of Film at Columbia University School of the Arts, and Geoffrey O'Brien, Editor-in-Chief, Library of America.

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## 13 October

### **Of Two Minds**

Daniel Kahneman, Eugene Higgins Professor of Psychology Emeritus at Princeton University and winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in Economics, delivered a talk on his recent psychological research. Responding were Jon Elster, Robert K. Merton Professor of Social Sciences at Columbia University; George Ainslie, Chief Psychiatrist at Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Coatesville, PA, and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Temple University; and Walter Mischel, Niven Professor of Humane Letters in Psychology at Columbia University.

## 21 October

### **What Is Academic Freedom For? –a day-long conference made possible by generous funding from the Ford Foundation**

Participants in this conference on academic freedom included Judith Butler, Maxine Elliot Professor in Rhetoric and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley; David Bromwich, Sterling Professor of English at Yale University; Robert Zimmer, President of the University of Chicago; and Richard Shweder, William Claude Reavis Distinguished Service Professor of Human Development at the University of Chicago.

## 22 October

### **Word and Image in Renaissance Moral Thought**

Quentin Skinner, Barber Beaumont Professor of the Humanities at Queen Mary, University of London, and the acclaimed author of many publications, including the celebrated two-volume *Foundations of Political Thought* (1978) and *Reason and Rhetoric in the Philosophy of Hobbes* (1996), spoke on "Word and Image in Renaissance Moral Thought."

## 5 November

### **Transforming Psychology**

This panel discussion featured two thinkers whose work helped shape feminist inquiry for a generation: Carol Gilligan, Professor of Humanities and Applied Psychology at New York University, and the internationally renowned

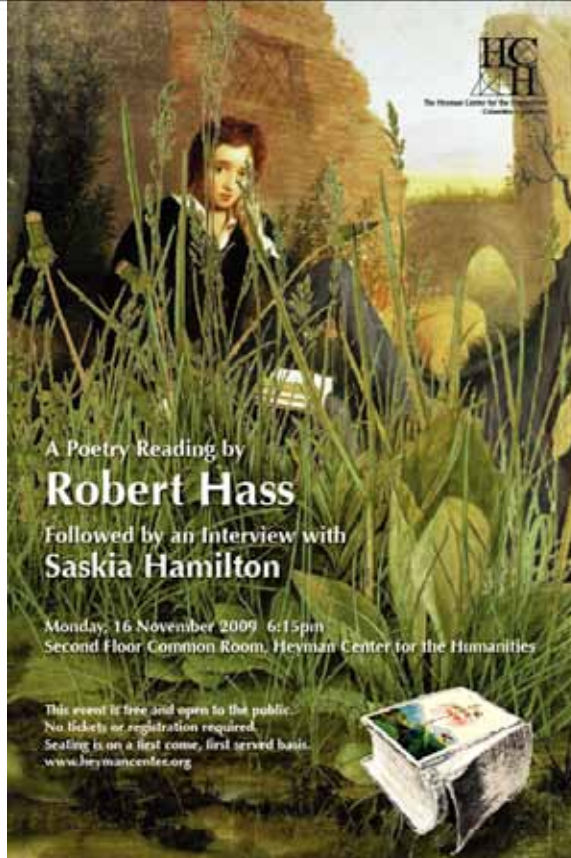


## "American Exceptionalism and the Question of Style"

Tuesday, 8 December 2009 6:15pm  
Second Floor Common Room, Heyman Center for the Humanities



This event is free and open to the public.  
No tickets or registration required.  
Seating is on a first come, first served basis.  
[www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)



## A Poetry Reading by Robert Hass Followed by an Interview with Saskia Hamilton

Monday, 16 November 2009 6:15pm  
Second Floor Common Room, Heyman Center for the Humanities

This event is free and open to the public.  
No tickets or registration required.  
Seating is on a first come, first served basis.  
[www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)



## "Culture, Identity, and Politics"

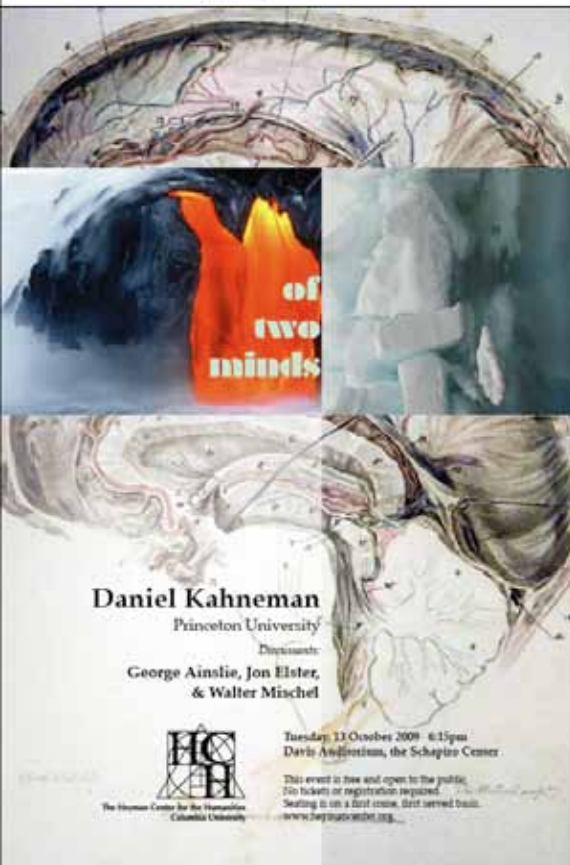
Monday, 28 September 2009 7:00pm  
1501 International Affairs Building

Co-Sponsored by the Heyman Center, the Committee on Global Thought,  
and the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life

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



Institute for religion, culture, & public life



## Daniel Kahneman Princeton University

Discussants:  
George Ainslie, Jon Elster,  
& Walter Mischel

Tuesday, 13 October 2009 6:15pm  
Davis Auditorium, the Schapiro Center

This event is free and open to the public.  
No tickets or registration required.  
Seating is on a first come, first served basis.  
[www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)



## "What is Academic Freedom For?"

--a conference in two sessions  
Wednesday, 21 October 2009 Presidential Rooms 2 & 3, Third Floor, Faculty House

4:00pm-6:15pm  
Robert Zimmer  
University of Chicago  
David Bromwich  
Yale University

6:30pm-8:45pm  
Judith Butler  
University of California, Berkeley  
Richard Shweder  
University of Chicago

This event is free and open to the public.  
Seating is on a first come, first served basis.  
Please arrive early to ensure a seat.  
No tickets or registration necessary.  
[www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)



## "WHAT IS HAPPENING IN HISTORY NOW?"

CAROLINE BYNUM  
Institute for Advanced Study

Discussants:  
Alan Brinkley, Victoria de Grazia, Eric Foner, and Pamela Smith

Thursday, 19 November 2009 6:15pm  
Davis Auditorium, the Schapiro Center

This event is free and open to the public.  
No tickets or registration required.  
Seating is on a first come, first served basis.  
[www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)





author of *In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development* (1993); and the feminist sociologist and psychoanalyst Nancy Chodorow, author of the groundbreaking work *The Reproduction of Mothering: Psychoanalysis and the Sociology of Gender* (1999).

### **10 November**

#### **Can Human Action Be Explained?**

The philosopher Charles Taylor, winner of both the Templeton Prize and the Kyoto Prize, returned to the Heyman Center for the third time in as many semesters. This event was co-sponsored by the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, the Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration, and Religion, and the Committee on Global Thought.

### **13 November**

#### **Dutch Cities, Radical Enlightenment, and the “General Revolution” (1776-90)**

This talk featured Jonathan Israel, Professor of Modern European History at the Institute for Advanced Study, who is a leading scholar of Dutch history, the Age of Enlightenment, and European Jewry, as well as the author of several major works on the Dutch Golden age, including the multi-volume collection *Radical Enlightenment: Philosophy and the Making of Modernity, 1650-1750* (2001).

### **16 November**

#### **An Evening of Poetry with Robert Hass**

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Robert Hass served as Poet Laureate of the United States from 1995 to 1997. Professor Hass read a selection of his poems, followed by an interview with Saskia Hamilton, Associate Professor of English at Barnard College.

### **19 November**

#### **What Is Happening in History Now?**

Offering the keynote talk of this panel discussion was Caroline Bynum, Professor of Western European Middle Ages at the Institute for Advanced Study. Discussants included Eric Foner, Alan Brinkley, Victoria de Grazia, and Pamela Smith, all of Columbia University.

### **20 November**

#### **Freedom, Law, and Academic Inquiry –a day-long conference made possible by generous funding from the Ford Foundation**

This day-long conference was the second of two events on the subject of academic freedom held in the fall semester. Speakers included Stanley Fish, Davidson-Kahn Distinguished University Professor of Humanities and Professor of



Law at Florida International University; Catharine Stimpson, University Professor and Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Science at New York University; and Bruce Robbins, Old Dominion Foundation Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University. This conference was co-sponsored by the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

### **3 December**

#### ***The Edward Said Memorial Lecture: The Unipolar Moment and the Culture of Imperialism***

Noam Chomsky, Institute Professor Emeritus at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, returned to the Heyman Center to deliver the fifth annual Edward Said Memorial Lecture. Professor Chomsky is internationally recognized as a leading intellectual, a scholar of linguistics, cognitive science, and philosophy, as well as a political activist. He is perhaps most widely known for his criticism of U.S. foreign policy, mass media, and capitalism.

### **8 December**

#### ***American Exceptionalism and the Question of Style***

Ezra Tawil, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, was joined by discussants Andrew Delbanco and Ross Posnock, all of Columbia University. Professor Tawil is the author of *The Making of Racial Sentiment: Slavery and the Birth of the Frontier Romance* (1996) and was a 2008-09 Fellow at the Cullman Center for Scholars & Writers at the New York City Public Library.

### **11 December**

#### ***The Kenneth Arrow Lecture: Social Choice and Individual Values***

Giving the annual Kenneth Arrow Lecture this year was Amartya Sen, Thomas W. Lamont University Professor and Professor of Economics and Philosophy at Harvard University, who was the recipient of the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economics. Eric Maskin, recipient of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Economics, served as respondent, and Joseph Stiglitz, recipient of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economics, chaired.

## **Spring 2010**

### **4 February**

#### ***Race in the Renaissance***

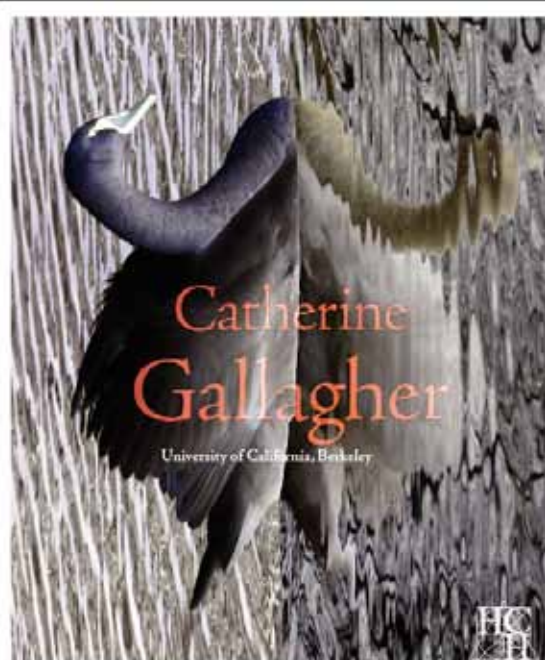
Anthony Grafton is Henry Putnam University Professor of History at Princeton University and the author of numerous studies on the classical tradition from the Renaissance to the eighteenth century and on the history of historical scholarship. Among his most celebrated books are *Defenders of the Text* (1991) and *The Footnote: A Curious History* (1997).

# Charles Taylor McGill University Can Human Action be Explained?

Tuesday, 10 November 2009 6:15pm  
Davis Auditorium, the Schapiro Center

This event is free and open to the public.  
No tickets or registration required.  
Seating is on a first come, first served basis.  
[www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)

Co-sponsored by the Heyman Center,  
the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life  
and the Committee on Global Thought  
and the Center for Democracy, Tolerance, and Religion



## Catherine Gallagher

University of California, Berkeley

### Telling It Like It Wasn't: the Actual History of Counterfactual History

Monday, 26 April 2010 6:15pm  
Second Floor Common Room, Heyman Center for 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. Photo ID required for entry.  
[www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)

The Lionel Trilling Seminar:  
"Who Causes Who  
Shot Liberty Valance?"

The Pros and the Cons  
in John Ford's Film

Robert B. Pippin  
University of Chicago

Respondents:  
James Schamus  
Focus Features  
and Columbia University

Geoffrey O'Brien  
Library of America

Tuesday, 6 October 2009 6:15pm  
Davis Auditorium, the Schapiro Center

This event is free and open to the public.  
No tickets or registration necessary.  
Seating is on a first come, first served basis.  
[www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)

## Jamaica Kincaid

A reading followed by an interview  
with Saidiya Hartman

I'm someone  
who writes  
to save  
her life

Thursday, 22 April 2010 6:15pm-8:15pm  
Davis Auditorium, the Schapiro Center

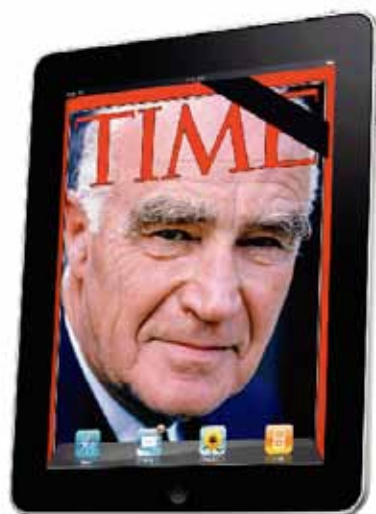
Co-sponsored by the  
Africa Diaspora Literary Society and the  
Caribbean Student Association

This event is free and open to the public.  
No tickets or registration necessary.  
Seating is on a first come, first served basis.  
[www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)

### "Henry Luce and the Future of Journalism"

Thursday, 6 May 2010 6:15pm  
Second Floor Common Room, Heyman Center for 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. Photo ID required for entry.  
[www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)



David Bromwich  
Yale University

Nicholas Lemann  
Columbia University

Alan Brinkley  
Columbia University

Nancy Chodorow  
University of California, Berkeley

&  
Carol Gilligan  
New York University

Thursday, 5 November 2009 6:15pm  
Davis Auditorium, the Schapiro Center

### "Transforming Psychology"



This event is free and open to the public. No tickets or registration required.  
Seating is on a first come, first served basis. [www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)

## 11 February

### **Blacked-Out Spaces: Freud and War Censorship**

Peter Galison, Joseph Pellegrino University Professor at Harvard University, spoke on Freud and war censorship. Director of the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments at Harvard, Professor Galison was named a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellow in 1997; in 1999, he was a winner of the Max Planck Prize.

## 15 February

### **Puritanism, Liberty, and the English Civil Wars**

Blair Worden, Research Professor in History at the University of London, spoke on “Puritanism, Liberty, and the English Civil Wars.” One of Britain’s pre-eminent scholars of the seventeenth century, Professor Worden recently published *The English Civil Wars 1640-1660* (2010).

## 17 February

### **The Great American University: Is Its Preeminence at Risk?**

Jonathan Cole, John Mitchell Mason Professor of the University and Provost and Dean of the Faculties Emeritus at Columbia University, addressed topics from his new publication, *The Great American University: Its Rise to Preeminence, Its Indispensable National Role, and Why It Must Be Protected* (2010). Joining him in the discussion were Richard Axel, University Professor and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics and of Pathology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; Geoffrey Stone, Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor and Provost Emeritus, University of Chicago; and Matthew Goldstein, Chancellor of The City University of New York.

## 4 March

### **The Ivory Tower: A History of an Idea about Knowledge and Politics**

Steven Shapin, Franklin L. Ford Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University, is best known for his work on the history and sociology of scientific knowledge. He is the author of *The Scientific Life: A Moral History of a Late Modern Vocation* (2008). Craig Calhoun, the Director of the Social Science Research Council, chaired.

## 8 March

### **Jewish Identity and the “Jewish Question” in France**

Susan Suleiman, C. Douglas Dillon Professor of the Civilization of France and Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University, considered the questions of European Jewry during the twentieth century in the context of the life and work of Irène Némirovsky.



## **25 March**

### **The Continuing Financial Crisis: Perspectives from the North and South**

Nobel Laureate and Columbia University Professor Joseph Stiglitz, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development Jomo Kwame Sundaram, and Prabhat Patnaik, Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University at New Delhi, considered the impact of the financial crisis on the lives of southern nations and their ongoing problems with regionalism, nationalism, and secularism. Justin Yifu Lin, Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of the World Bank, chaired. This event was co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought.

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## **31 March**

### **Marx or Keynes or ... ?**

Prabhat Patnaik (see *The Continuing Financial Crisis* above), Duncan Foley, Leo Model Professor of Economics at The New School for Social Research, and David Harvey, Distinguished Professor at the City University of New York (CUNY), considered the comparative relevance of Marxist and Keynesian economics to our current socio-political concerns and speculated on the need for a new theory cognizant of identity politics, religious fervor, and terrorism. This event was co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought.

## **1 April**

### **Neo-Liberalism, Secularism, and the Future of the Left in India—a day-long conference**

The Heyman Center took advantage of Prabhat Patnaik's visit to organize a day-long conference on secularism, liberalism, and its relation to left politics in India today. Participating were prominent Indian politicians and intellectuals including Jayati Ghosh, C.P. Chandrashekar, Javeed Alam, and Sitaram Yechury. Discussants included Sanjay Reddy, Arjun Jayadev, Anush Kapadia, Anwar Shaikh, Vijay Prasad, and Akeel Bilgrami. This conference was co-sponsored by the Columbia University Seminar in Studies in Political and Social Thought, the Center for Democracy, Toleration, and Religion, and the Committee on Global Thought.

## **2 April**

### **Amjad Ali Khan – a lecture and concert**

Indian classical music by Amjad Ali Khan, perhaps India's greatest musician and an outspoken champion of secularism, was arranged in tandem with the previous day's conference. Prior to the concert Amjad Ali Khan gave a lecture on his music and its relation to secularism. The lecture and concert were co-sponsored by the Columbia University Seminar in Studies in Political and Social Thought, the Center for Democracy, Toleration, and Religion, and the Committee on Global Thought.

## 5 April

### Republic of Letters: Survival or Revival?

Peter Burke is Professor Emeritus of Cultural History and Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, and a cultural historian of the early modern era, specializing in subjects ranging from the Italian Renaissance to the intersection of art and power in contemporary representations of Louis XIV. Anthony Grafton, Henry Putnam University Professor of History at Princeton University, chaired.

## 12 April

### The *History and Theory* Lecture: Historical and Literary Approaches to the “Final Solution”

Dominick LaCapra, Bryce and Edith M. Bowmar Professor of Humanistic Studies at Cornell University, delivered the annual *History and Theory* Lecture on approaches to the “Final Solution” as embodied by Saul Friedländer’s writing and by Jonathan Littell’s novel *The Kindly Ones*. Ethan Kleinberg, Associate Professor of History at Wesleyan University, commented. This event was co-sponsored by the Consortium for Intellectual and Cultural History and *History and Theory*, the international journal published at Wesleyan University.

## 14 April

### Free Speech in a Globalized World

Salman Rushdie, Booker Prize-winning author and essayist, and David Ignatius, columnist for the *Washington Post*, joined Michael Schudson, Professor of Journalism at Columbia University, and Lee C. Bollinger, President of Columbia University, to discuss issues related to President Bollinger’s recent book, *Uninhibited, Robust, and Wide-Open: A Free Press for a New Century* (2010). Michael Doyle, Harold Brown Professor of U.S. Foreign and Security Policy and Professor of Law and Political Science, chaired. This event was co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought and University Programs and Events.

## 15 April

### The Lionel Trilling Seminar: Ellison, Obama, King, and the American Dream

Eric Sundquist, Distinguished Professor of English at UCLA, delivered the Lionel Trilling Seminar on “Ellison, Obama, King, and the American Dream.” Responding were Kenneth Warren, Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago, and Glenn Loury, Merton P. Stoltz Professor of the Social Sciences at Brown University.

**22 April**

**Jamaica Kincaid – a reading and interview**

Jamica Kincaid, renowned novelist and Professor of Literature at Claremont McKenna College, read several passages from her work in progress. Following the reading, Professor Kincaid was interviewed by Saidiya Hartman, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University.

**26 April**

**Telling It Like It Wasn't: the Actual History of Counterfactual History**

Catherine Gallagher, Eggers Professor of English Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, spoke on the connections between alternate history novels and counterfactual histories, social policies, and political debates. She examined current intersections of these four phenomena, discussing what they tell us about the state of our collective historical imagination.

**28 April**

**The Fourth Dimension of a Poem**

M.H. Abrams, Class of 1916 Professor of English Emeritus at Cornell University, is a renowned literary critic and theorist specializing in the study of Romanticism. His best-known work, *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition* (1953), continues to be one of the most influential texts of literary criticism in any field. Professor Abrams is also the founding editor of the *Norton Anthology of British Literature*. His talk was co-sponsored by the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

**29 April**

**Four Ways to Misunderstand Euripides' *Medea***


Glenn Most, Professor of Social Thought and of Classics at the University of Chicago, has published books on the history and methodology of Classical studies, on the Classical tradition and Comparative Literature, on literary theory, and on the history of art. Professor Most led a spirited discussion of Euripides' *Medea*.

**3 May**

**Writing Constitutions into British and Global Histories**

Linda Colley, Shelby M.C. Davis 1958 Professor of History at Princeton University, asked what place national constitutions have in a world where globalization has weakened the nation state and where religious identities and affiliations have powerful transnational purchase. This event was co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought.





**The Lionel Trilling Seminar**

**"Ellison, Obama, King, and the American Dream"**

**Eric Sundquist** University of California, Los Angeles

**Respondents:**  
**Kenneth Warren** University of Chicago  
**Glenn Loury** Brown University

Thursday, April 15, 2010 6:15pm  
 Davis Auditorium, the Schapiro Center

This event is free and open to the public. No tickets or registration necessary. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Please ID required for entry. [www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)

**HC**  
 The Heyman Center for the Humanities  
 Columbia University

**LINDA COLLEY**  
 PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

WRITING CONSTITUTIONS  
 INTO BRITISH AND GLOBAL HISTORIES

Monday, 3 May 2010 6:15pm-8:15pm  
 Second Floor Common Room, Heyman Center For The Humanities

**NORM  
 LAW  
 CODE**

Co-sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought  
 This event is free and open to the public. No tickets or registration necessary.  
 Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Photo ID required for entry.  
[www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)

**COMMITTEE ON**  
**Global Thought**  
 THOMSON UNIVERSITY


**HC**  
 The Heyman Center for the Humanities  
 Columbia University

**PETER BURKE**

The Republic of Letters:  
 Survival or Revival?

Chair: **ANTHONY GRAFTON**

Monday 5 April 2010 6:15pm  
 Second Floor Common Room, Heyman Center



This event is free and open to the public. No tickets or registration necessary. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Photo ID required for entry. [www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)

**HC**  
 The Heyman Center for the Humanities  
 Columbia University



**Peter Galison**  
 Harvard University

**"Blacked-Out Spaces:  
 Freud and War Censorship"**

Thursday, 11 February 2010  
 6:15pm-8:15pm  
 Heyman Center for the Humanities,  
 Second Floor Common Room

This event is free and open to the public. No tickets or registration necessary. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Photo ID required for entry. [www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)

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 Columbia University

**GLENN MOST**  
 UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

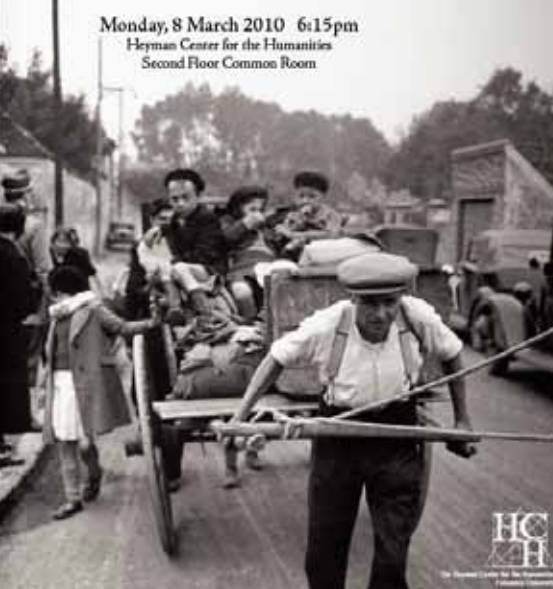
**FOUR WAYS  
 TO MISUNDERSTAND  
 EURIPIDES' MEDEA**

Thursday, 29 April 2010 6:15pm  
 Second Floor Common Room,  
 Heyman Center for 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. Photo ID required for entry. [www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)

**HC**  
 The Heyman Center for the Humanities  
 Columbia University

Monday, 8 March 2010 6:15pm  
 Heyman Center for the Humanities  
 Second Floor Common Room



**SUSAN SUELIEMAN**  
 "JEWISH IDENTITY  
 and the  
 'JEWISH QUESTION'"

This event is free and open to the public. No tickets or registration necessary. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Photo ID required for entry. [www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org)

**HC**  
 The Heyman Center for the Humanities  
 Columbia University

**6 May**

**Henry Luce and the Future of Journalism**

On the occasion of the publication of Alan Brinkley’s *The Publisher: Henry Luce and His American Century* (2010), the Heyman Center hosted a panel discussion of the publishing titan Henry Luce and the future of the publishing industry that he so broadly influenced. Panelists included David Bromwich, Sterling Professor of English at Yale University, Nicholas Lemann, Dean and Henry R. Luce Professor of Journalism at Columbia University, and Alan Brinkley, Allan Nevins Professor of American History at Columbia University.

Links to selected websites mentioned in the program listings:	
Heyman Center for the Humanities:	<a href="http://www.heymancenter.org">www.heymancenter.org</a>
Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration, and Religion:	<a href="http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/cdtr">www.sipa.columbia.edu/cdtr</a>
Committee on Global Thought:	<a href="http://www.cgt.columbia.edu">www.cgt.columbia.edu</a>
Consortium for Intellectual and Cultural History:	<a href="http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cich">www.columbia.edu/cu/cich</a>
Department of English and Comparative Literature:	<a href="http://www.columbia.edu/cu/english">www.columbia.edu/cu/english</a>
<i>History and Theory</i> :	<a href="http://www.wesleyan.edu/histjrnl">www.wesleyan.edu/histjrnl</a>
Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life:	<a href="http://www.ircpl.org">www.ircpl.org</a>
University Programs and Events:	<a href="http://www.universityprograms.columbia.edu">www.universityprograms.columbia.edu</a>
University Seminars:	<a href="http://www.columbia.edu/cu/seminars">www.columbia.edu/cu/seminars</a>









# Alumni Fellows News

## *In Remembrance*

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*It is with sadness that we mark the passing of **Irene Bloom** (1939-2010). Professor Bloom was a member of the Society of Fellows from 1976-1978 and served on the Society of Fellows Governing Board from 1997-1999. More recently, she was the Anne Whitney Olin Professor Emerita of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures at Barnard College, as well as Chair of the Department until her retirement in 2002. A distinguished scholar, Irene Bloom spent much of her academic career studying China's philosophical traditions.*

**Andrew Apter** (1987-1989) is pursuing various projects in Atlantic historical anthropology. His co-edited volume (with Lauren Derby), *Activating the Past: History and Memory in the Black Atlantic World* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010), explores coded pasts within ritual systems of West Africa and the Americas. In June he organized “Mumbo Jumbo: Critical Perspectives on Black Atlantic Sacred Arts,” a conference honoring the work of UCLA colleague Don Cosentino and funded by a Mellon Transforming the Humanities grant. In 2010-2011 he will pull together two decades of fieldwork and archival research on “Creole Divides: Slave Coasts and Hinterlands in Black Atlantic Perspective,” funded by a Guggenheim fellowship. The project examines ritualized forms of African-European interaction and exchange in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, focusing on “fetish contracts” and money forms in Senegambia, Ghana, Benin, and Nigeria.

**Jeffrey Andrew Barash** (1983-1985) taught during the spring semester as Hans-Georg Gadamer Professor in the Philosophy Department at Boston College and is currently serving as Fellow at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Zentrum at the University of Konstanz in the group *Geschichte und Gedächtnis*. In 2009-2010, he published several articles that explored, among other topics, the works of Emmanuel Levinas, Paul Ricoeur, Hermann Heller, and Confucius.

**Giorgio Biancorosso** (2001-2003) won the University of Hong Kong's Outstanding Young Researcher Award in 2009 and was Visiting Professor at the Graduate Institute of Musicology, National Taiwan University, in spring 2010. "Ludwig's Wagner and Visconti's Ludwig" came out in *Wagner and Cinema* (Indiana UP) and "Global Pop/Local Cinema: Two *Wong Kar-wai* Pop Compilations" in *Hong Kong Culture* (Hong Kong UP). He is completing a book on film music for Oxford University Press. Giorgio has also been voted a member of the Programme Committee of the Hong Kong Arts Festival and will serve in that position for the next three years.

This year **Akeel Bilgrami** (1983-1985) published two papers in philosophy, "Why Meaning Intentions Are Degenerate" and "Agency and Self-Knowledge," while also responding to critics in a published symposium on his book *Self-Knowledge and Resentment*. He also published a paper on Gandhi's philosophy in the *Cambridge Companion to Gandhi*.

**Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski** (1981-1983) continues as Professor of French at the University of Pittsburgh. This year she published articles in *Viator*, *Romania*, and *Speculum*. Her most recent book is a translation and commentary co-authored with her colleague Bruce Venarde entitled *Two Women of the Great Schism: The 'Revelations' of Constance de Rabastens by Raymond de Sabanac and 'Vita' of Ursulina of Parma by Simone Zanicchi* (Toronto UP, 2010). She will become chair of her department this summer.

**Betsy Connor Bowen** (1976-1977) is a writer and videographer. Her current projects are *Truth Teller*, a biography of her mid-twentieth century liberal journalist father Croswell Bowen, and an edition of his World War II memoir *Back from Tobruk*. She is active in statewide environmental causes as founder of the Maine Alliance for Road Associations, as board member of Maine's Congress of Lake Associations, and as board member of the North Wayne Schoolhouse Preservation project. Her recent novella, *Spring Bear*, won a 2010 Maine Literary Award. A collection of local ghost stories and a novel are planned. She and her husband retired to Maine in 2002.

In 2009 **D. Graham Burnett** (1997-1999) was promoted to full professor at Princeton, where he is a member of the Program in History of Science. He spent 2009-2010 back at Columbia on a Mellon New Directions Fellowship, which supported his collaborative research into contemporary art and the sciences of mind. His video project with the artist Lisa Young, “Free Fall: The Life and Times of Bud ‘Crosshairs’ MacGinitie,” premiered at the Wellcome Collection (London). He also co-curated “An Ordinal of Alchemy,” an experimental exhibition on collecting and value that showed in New York and Philadelphia. Burnett is an editor at *Cabinet*.

**Peter A. Coclanis** (1983-1984) just completed his twenty-sixth year at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he is the Albert R. Newsome Distinguished Professor of History. After serving as Associate Provost for International Affairs for six years, he moved into a new position in December 2009: Director of UNC’s newly established Global Research Institute, which is modeled in part after Columbia’s Earth Institute. Coclanis continues to research and write in the fields of U.S., Southeast Asian, and international economic history.

**Jim Collins** (1980-1981) was Leverhulme Visiting Research Professor in the UK during spring 2009. The leave allowed him to finish the robustly-revised second edition of *The State in Early Modern France* (Cambridge UP), which came out in November. He is also nearing completion on *Slaying the Hydra of Anarchy: State and Republic in Early Modern France*, which he hopes will be out in late 2011. In spring 2011, he will be at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris, finishing up a project, started in 1986, on social and geographic mobility in early modern France.

**Mark DeBellis** (1988–1990) is Adjunct Professor at Kaplan University, where he teaches ethics and political philosophy. His article “Perceptualism, Not Introspectionism: The Interpretation of Intuition-Based Theories” was recently published in *Music Perception*, and “Schenkerian Theory’s Empiricist Image” is forthcoming in *Music Theory Spectrum*.



**Laurence Dreyfus** (1979-1981) is Professor of Music at University of Oxford. He has completed a book entitled *Wagner and the Erotic Impulse*, which will be published by Harvard University Press in October 2010. Larry's performing group, the viol consort Phantasm, will now be based as Consort-in-Residence at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he is Fellow and Tutor, and where the group will give concerts, make recordings, and collaborate with the Chapel Choir, which has been singing daily services in term since 1480. Their latest recording (for Linn Records) is devoted to consort works by the Jacobean composer, John Ward, and can be found, among other places, on iTunes.

**Joshua Fogel** (1980-1981) taught his fifth year at York University in Toronto as Canada Research Chair in Modern Chinese History. Monographs, edited volumes, and translations all told, his fortieth book was recently accepted for publication. He is also completing a volume on the famous gold seal given by the emperor of the Later Han dynasty to an emissary from "Japan" in 57 C.E. and discovered in Kyushu in 1784—a book that primarily deals with the waves of historiographical writings about the seal and the discovery site and Japan's relationship to the East Asian mainland.

**Douglas Frame** (1980-1982) published a book in 2009, which included work he began at the Society of Fellows: *Hippota Nestor*. He works for the Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington, DC.

**Jennifer Greeson** (2001-2003) is greatly enjoying teaching American literature at the University of Virginia. Her first book, *Our South: Geographic Fantasy and the Rise of National Literature*, is out from Harvard University Press in the fall of 2010.

**Michele Hannoosh** (1982-1985) finished her term as Chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in June 2010. In 2010-2011, she will be the Clark/Oakley Fellow in the Humanities at the Clark Institute and Williams College. Her new edition of Delacroix's *Journal* appeared in 2009, for which she did a book tour in France and Belgium and appeared as a guest on France Culture's "Du jour au lendemain" (December 9, 2009). She will assume the co-editorship of *Word and Image* in 2011.

Since April 2010, **Gary Hausman** (1996-1997) has been working as South Asia Librarian at Princeton University.

**James Higginbotham** (1977–1978, 1979–1980) continued as Distinguished Professor and Chair of the USC Linguistics Department. A collection of his articles was published by Oxford under the title *Tense, Aspect, and Indexicality*. He also contracted to continue as Visiting Professor of Philosophy at Oxford for the Trinity (spring) Terms 2010 and 2011. At USC he continues to teach the basic course for first-year graduate students in Philosophy (to get them started) and the required Advanced Logic course (to keep them moving).

In January 2010 **David Johnson** (1979-1981) published *Spectacle and Sacrifice: The Ritual Foundations of Village Life in North China* (Harvard UP). It describes in considerable detail two major types of village festival, mainly in southern Shanxi province, using rare, recently-discovered liturgical manuscripts and opera scripts. A quiet polemic in defense of microhistory, it addresses substantive issues in the study of village religion in late imperial China.

**Dalia Judovitz** (1981-1982) is National Endowment for the Humanities Professor of French at Emory University. She has published a new book, *Drawing on Art: Duchamp & Company* (U of Minnesota P, 2010), and contributed an article, “*Le Visible et le lisible dans l’oeuvre de Georges de La Tour*,” to *Aux limites de l’imitation: L’ut pictura poesis à l’épreuve de la matière (XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles)* (Rodopi, 2009). She also presented several conference papers in various countries in 2009-2010, and participated in an in-depth web interview: [www.rorotoko.com/index.php/single/dalia\\_judovitz\\_book\\_interview\\_drawing\\_art\\_duchamp\\_company](http://www.rorotoko.com/index.php/single/dalia_judovitz_book_interview_drawing_art_duchamp_company).

**Jonathon Kahn** (2003-2005) is an assistant professor of religion at Vassar College. His first book, *Divine Discontent: The Religious Imagination of W. E. B. Du Bois* (Oxford UP), came out in August 2009.

**Vinay Lal** (Kenan Fellow, 1992-1994) has gone on leave from UCLA to assume a position as Professor of History at University of Delhi. His most recent books include *The Other Indians: A Political and Cultural History of South Asians in America* (HarperCollins, 2008), *Political Hinduism: The Religious Imagination in Public Spheres* (edited, Oxford UP, 2010), and *My Father Is a Thief, I've Got Mom: The Pleasures of Deewaar* (in press, HarperCollins, 2010). His book, *Introducing Hinduism* (London, 2006), has been reissued as *Graphic Guide to Hinduism* (Icon Books, 2010), and recent translations of some of his other books have appeared in Finnish, Kannada, and Urdu.

**Suzanne Lodato** (1998-2000) is Co-Director of Indiana University's Institute for Digital Arts and Humanities and Assistant Scholar for Research Development in IU's Office of the Vice Provost for Research. She directs an academic digital arts and humanities unit that provides support to faculty fellows and other digital arts and humanities projects at the university. In addition, she coordinates and supports the development and submission of proposals for multi-unit and multi-institutional interdisciplinary grant projects. Previously, she worked at the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

**Susan Manning** (1987-1988) has just finished her second year of a three-year term as Chair of the Department of English at Northwestern University. She is looking forward to a research year in Berlin in 2011-2012 as a Fellow at the recently founded International Research Center for Theater Studies at the Free University. There she will start work on a new book on global encounters in modern dance across Asia, Latin America, Europe, and the United States in the period 1900 to 1960.

**Darrin M. McMahon** (1997-1999) is the Ben Weider Professor of History at Florida State University. In March of 2010 he was a visiting professor at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, and in 2011 he will be an Alexander von Humboldt fellow at the University of Potsdam. The five volume *The Enlightenment: Critical Concepts in Historical Studies*, which he co-edited with Ryan Hanley, appeared in 2009. McMahon is currently writing a history of the idea of genius, to be published with Basic Books.



**Amira Mittermaier** (2006–2007) is an Assistant Professor in the Department for the Study of Religion and the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto. Her book, *Dreams that Matter: Egyptian Landscapes of the Imagination*, is forthcoming in November 2010 from University of California Press.

**Marjorie Munsterberg** (1984-1986) published "Ruskin's Turner: the Making of a Romantic Hero" in *The British Art Journal*. Material from her website, [www.writingaboutart.org](http://www.writingaboutart.org), has been published in book format. More recently, she was one of the organizers of and speakers at the all-day "Colloquium in Honor of Theodore Reff," which was held by the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia on 9 April 2010. She also gave a talk about Delacroix and Chopin as part of a program held at City College, New York, celebrating the bicentennial of the composer's birth. She currently is writing a monograph about the development of art criticism in Britain during the late eighteenth century.

**Suzanne Nalbantian** (1976-1978) is Professor of Comparative Literature at Long Island University and an interdisciplinary scholar in the humanities and neuroscience. She is the chief editor of the forthcoming interdisciplinary volume *The Memory Process: Neuroscientific and Humanistic Perspectives* (to be published by the MIT Press in October 2010). Her pioneering book *Memory in Literature: From Rousseau to Neuroscience* (Palgrave/Macmillan 2003) has forged new pathways linking memory studies to neuroscience. Her previous books include *Aesthetic Autobiography: From Life to Art in Marcel Proust, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and Anaïs Nin*; *Anaïs Nin: Literary Perspectives* (edited); *Seeds of Decadence in the Late Nineteenth-Century Novel*; and *The Symbol of the Soul from Hölderlin to Yeats*. She has designed an innovative interdisciplinary course on memory and neuroscience which she has been teaching at her university and also on the graduate level at the Universities of Tübingen and Würzburg in Germany (2006, 2007). In the fall of 2007 she organized an Interdisciplinary Symposium on Memory in Neuroscience and the Humanities, at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Long Island, NY.

**David L. Pike** (1993-1995) published six articles, essays, and book chapters last year: “Afterimages of Victorian London” in *Victorian Literature and Culture*; “Buried Pleasure: Doctor Dolittle, Walter Benjamin, and the 19th-century Child” in *Modernism/Modernity*; “De la ópera a los museos” (on Atom Egoyan) in *Cahiers du Cinéma España*; “Looking Underground” in *Wayne Barrar: An Expanding Subterra*; “Thoroughly Modern Maddin” in *Playing with Memories: Essays on Guy Maddin*; and “Wall and Tunnel: The Spatial Metaphorics of Postwar Berlin” in *New German Critique*. He presented papers on various underground topics at Bard College, Brown University, the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Massey University, the New Zealand Institute of Architects, and the University of Auckland. The first edition of *Literature: A World of Writing*, co-authored with Ana Acosta, was published in January 2010 by Longman.

**Linda Przybyszewski** (1995-1997), at the University of Notre Dame, is still working on her book on the Cincinnati Bible War and gave a lecture on it for the Supreme Court Historical Society and Ohio Judicial Center, which is available on the Ohio Channel. She has been distracted of late by finishing up “Religion and Morality in the Constitutional Order,” which is due out this year as part of the American Historical Association’s series *New Essays on American Constitutional History*, and by her work on a popular book on dress in modern America. For this last project, she has been writing opinion pieces for the public radio station in Elkhart, Indiana, and served as a judge for the Annual Garment Challenge at the meeting of the Association of Sewing and Design Professionals.

**Martha Ann Selby** (1997-1998) is Associate Professor of South Asian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She has been appointed NEH Fellow at the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, for the 2010-2011 academic year.

In 2009-2010 **Richard Serrano** (1996-1998) was the founding chair of the Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures at Rutgers University. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2010-2011 in order to complete his book *Qur’an and the Lyric Imperative*. He has also added German to his list of languages, since he needed it in order to complete the research for this project. Fortunately, learning German meant living in Hamburg and Vienna, at opposite ends of the German-speaking world. A

chapter he contributed on the poetry of the Alhambra appeared in a volume of essays entitled *Visible Writings* (Fall, 2010).

**Samer Shehata** (1999-2000)'s book, *Shop Floor Culture and Politics in Egypt* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2009), was published in a Middle East edition, with a new afterword, by the American University in Cairo Press in 2010.

In Fall 2009 **April G. Shelford** (1997-1999) enjoyed a semester in Scotland as a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh. She devoted her time there to her new project, *A Caribbean Enlightenment*. She is also in the second of her three-year term as co-editor of the online publication *Proceedings of the Western Society for French History* (<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/w/wsfh/volumes.html>). Last year's volume includes her article "Pascal in Jamaica; or, The French Enlightenment in Translation."

**Andrey Shcherbenok** (2006-2009) is a Royal Society Newton International Fellow at the University of Sheffield, where he is working on his book *Soviet Past as the Traumatic Object of Contemporary Russian Culture*. During the last year, he has published articles on Stalinist cinema (*Kritika*), Cold War cinema (*Kinokultura*), and Anton Chekhov (*SEEJ*). He is currently co-organizing a conference, "Between History and Past on the Soviet Legacy," at the University of Sheffield, and a Higher Education Support Program-sponsored seminar, "Industry at the Point of Bifurcation: Global Art, Local Geography and the (Post) Industrial Cityscape," at the Ural State University.

**Ginger Strand** (1993-1995) is working on a new book about the interstate highway system and violence, due out in 2012 as part of the University of Texas Press series *Discovering America*. Part of it will be excerpted this year in *Lapham's Quarterly*. She continues to write for *Orion* as a contributing editor, as well as for other magazines.



**Joanne van der Woude** (2007-2008) has enjoyed her second year on the tenure track in Harvard's English Department. Her contribution to *A New Literary History of America* (Harvard UP, 2009) was favorably mentioned in a review of the collection on Salon.com. She also published several other articles this year and is putting the final touches on her first book, *Becoming Colonial: Indians, Immigrants, and Aesthetics in Early America*, which is under consideration at the University of Chicago Press.

**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 Università di Bologna, Ravenna, and at the Saggiatore Musicale Conference. Details of her discovery with Alfredo Vitolo of a large Renaissance music collection will be published in *Early Music History* later this year. Her concertizing on baroque and classical bassoon this past season included performances in the Bay Area and Los Angeles. She will be on leave in 2011 thanks to an ACLS fellowship.

**Franciscus Verellen** (1987-1989) is professor and director at Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient, and a member of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres, Institut de France. In 2009-2010 he was Edwin C. and Elisabeth A. Whitehead Fellow in the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.

**Joanna Waley-Cohen** (1988-1990) is Collegiate Professor and Chair of the NYU History Department. She continues to work on the history of daily life, culinary culture, and consumption in early modern China. In the past year she has given lectures in Boston, Toronto, and Abu Dhabi entitled "What's Cooking?: Cooks in Early Modern China," "Gastronomy and Consumption in Eighteenth-century China," "Food and Religion in Chinese History," and "China and the Silk Roads." Her essay "Possessing All Things: Qianlong Reconsidered" was published in Chinese in a volume commemorating Professor Yu Ying-shih's 80th birthday.

In April 2010, **Andrew Zimmerman** (1998-2000) published *Alabama in Africa: Booker T. Washington, the German Empire, and the Globalization of the New South* (Princeton UP).



## *In Memoriam*



### **Karl Kroeber** (1926-2009)

*Mellon Professor Emeritus in the Humanities, served as Co-chair of the Society of Fellows Governing Board from 1994-97, as Chair in 2001-02, and as a Board member for many additional years. A legendary teacher and mentor to generations of students and Fellows, he was beloved for his passionate intellectual engagements and wide-ranging scholarship.*

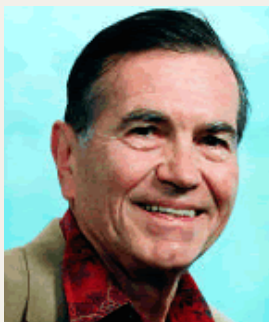
The last Columbia College class Karl lived to see graduate was that of 2009. That spring, he was asked by Cathy Popkin to deliver the Phi Beta Kappa address. As was always the case with Karl, he seized the opportunity to challenge those with whom he was speaking. But one such moment that afternoon appeared at first blush to be mere self-deprecation: “Throughout my career I’ve enjoyed going into new fields, and as soon as I get the lay of the land, I start looking for other unmapped territories. A less heroic way to put this might be to say I’m like a cuckoo bird – I lay my eggs in other birds’ nests and let them do the hard work of hatching and rearing.” There he was, reminding us all yet again—especially at such moments of high achievement, when self-congratulation might easily breed complacency—that neither our intellectual nor spiritual horizons were anywhere near broad enough to live up to the responsibilities we bear. And those of us who knew him also knew that he held himself to that impossible standard, and on a daily basis, despite his remarkable scholarly output, which was not only prodigious but also profoundly dazzling in both its breadth and depth.

I had the astonishing privilege of being thus challenged by Karl for over thirty years, sometimes several times a week if we were both teaching the same course (most often Literature Humanities) or the same poem (most recently *Omeros*, with its infinite horizons). Even in that final summer of his life, when he emailed me “the conclusion of a crazy piece on Blake that is I don’t know what” and which he entitled “A Final Note,” he wouldn’t stop pushing me. “It might touch upon some of your old buddies” he wrote in the accompanying



email, some of my (by then) “old buddies” being “territories” he had pioneered and had opened up to me. But he knew I still needed help with the lay of these lands, and he also knew that I still wasn’t fully up to “the hard work of hatching and rearing.” I’m not sure I am yet able completely to understand Karl’s “Final Note” (which explores “Blake’s concept of regenerated life” and its relation to “self-transforming” poetic language). But I feel certain that in sending it, Karl was sounding his inescapable regenerative refrain one more time: “*Lhude sing cuccu.*”

—**Richard Sacks**, Department of English, Columbia University



**Carl Woodring** (1919-2009)

*George Edward Woodberry Professor Emeritus in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, was a founding co-director of the Society of Fellows in the Humanities at Columbia University (1975-1978).*

Consider with us the front cover of *Studies in Romanticism*, 25: 3, Fall 1986: “Homage to Carl Woodring.” There he is in coat and tie and white shirt, holding a big white cat named Persephone, Per for short. Her forepaws are out, her brow a little scrunched in wonder, just below his delighted face half in shadow and just above his left hand with its gleaming wedding band. The background is of books in their dust jackets packed in, neatly vertical. This was the picture he wanted on the issue made up of contributions by Jerome McGann, Donald Reiman, Peter Manning, Kenneth Johnston, Stuart Sperry, and Stuart Curran. The essays honor the scholar who (somewhat to his amusement he told us) had come to be referred to as a progenitor of the New Historicism. But more than that, wrote editor David Wagenknecht, they bear witness to the “personal quality of the man as well as the inspiration of his work.”

Those of us who studied under him—who owe our PhDs and hence our professional lives to him, who got to know him and share times with him as our post-Columbia decades unrolled—continue to bear witness to the multiple experiences and awarenesses into which he guided us.

The printed program for “Byron and Shelley in Italy: A Tribute in Verse & Song to Carl Woodring” (2000) reminds us how “as graduate students at Columbia, we knew him as Mister Woodring, never Professor or Doctor. Later on he became Carl.” Nina Auerbach, in her 1980 profile of Carl in *The Wordsworth Circle*, pays tribute to his “generosity that teaches through the assumption that his listener already knows.” Indeed, he inspired his students and readers with the sense that we, too, could think and write about literature with mindfulness, substance, and precision. In his inscription to our copy of *Politics in English Romantic Poetry* some thirty years after its publication, he wrote “To Susan and Bob partly for all you have taught me but mostly for the rich memories of friendship—from Carl.” What we taught him?—what could that mean?—and yet, he always meant what he said.

Introducing his unique and original chapter on Wordsworth’s prose, Carl quoted Newell C. Smith: “It does not sparkle.” As a lecturer or speaker, Carl Woodring did not try to “sparkle.” Not every graduate student who began it stayed with his year-long course on British Romanticism. There was a joke about just what the order was of that seemingly random assortment of index cards from which he spoke, up there, behind the lectern. Those of us who stayed wrote it all down, letting the connective tissue become as clear as his Texan inflection and as firm as his straight posture. In speaking as in writing, his was a Romantic organic performance, with its own kind of sequence, association, natural selection—dry, deeply witty, once you learned how to listen to it.

Something characteristically American inhabited his storytelling: the vast expanse of his frames of reference (such as his experience on the minesweeper DMS 13 in the Pacific during the Second World War), the welcoming attention before his paradoxically full yet still laconic response. He had style: courtly, pleasing, angular, inimitable. Even as he consistently produced important work, he gave himself to the university

and to his students. During the campus events of 1968, Mr. Woodring held his seminars in his apartment (a gracious act in its own right) and listened carefully to our evolving understanding of ourselves as members of the university, sometimes hitching his right shoulder up in a way that signaled a “yes, but, well” coming. That, too, was part of his teaching of politics.

The photo of *Studies in Romanticism* opens so many distinct mental and aural images of Carl. He was, we came to know, an underwater photographer. We remember a slide session in his apartment, of scores of brilliant, fantastic, surprising Caribbean fish. He got that close to them. Then there is the last holiday-season card we received from him: on the front a montage of two gleaming cardinals perched on snow-laden limbs in a moving winter river, and affixed to the inside a typed greeting that included this Carl Woodring sentence: “Of all the novels, memoirs, history of DMS 13, and other waste stuffed into the PC, I would most like published a piece on Federalism with a proposal for conscription of every child for community service, national conservation, or military service.” There follows a sentence in parentheses that begins: “The term Federalism has been captured and choked by the far right . . .”

He never stopped absorbing, arranging, responding, teaching. He modeled Keats’s idea that “every mental pursuit takes its reality and worth from the ardour of the pursuer.” The “greeting of the Spirit” that makes life “wholly exist” is his legacy to us all. He was like Wordsworth: “what we have loved / Others will love.” And what he concluded about Wordsworth is equally true of Carl himself: the “absolute accomplishment endures.”

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