

## THE FRANKE INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

## SPECTRUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

The humanistic enterprise continues to thrive at The University of Chicago despite the global recession, a financial downturn which has not spared the Humanities Division and the Franke Institute for the Humanities. Jim Chandler, the Director of the Franke Institute since 2001, took a well-deserved research leave to pursue his own scholarly agenda but nonetheless continued to shepherd the Franke Institute's strategic goals. Daily operations were left in the capable hands of staff and colleagues. As you will read in this issue of *Spectrum*, our Franke doctoral fellows and faculty fellows, led by Associate Director Margot Browning, pursued a wide and exciting array of research projects at the Franke Institute.

Our Every Wednesday luncheon work-in-progress talks, featuring new and long-time members of the University community, once again provided a forum where faculty could interact and learn about the work of their peers, meet colleagues from the sciences, and

In 2009-10, the University entered its first full year under the shadow of the recession that began in 2008. Budget constraints affected everyone, and the Franke Institute was not an exception. A number of our programs were cut back a bit. In other respects, though, we tried to keep up our levels of support for colleagues who had more trouble than usual securing funding from other sources. We continued to offer our full range of fellowships, both to faculty and to dissertation writers, and we funded a total of thirty conferences at levels very

gain information about collaborative projects. Professor of Music and Associate Dean of the Humanities Thomas Christensen led these talks and presented his own work in this series during the spring quarter. Offering a live lecture-demonstration with colleagues, his presentation provided a sonic snapshot of the domains and vertices of technology, literacy, and expanding leisure-practice in popular music making.

Although our downtown Franke Forum public lectures were curtailed by forces beyond our control such as the H1N1 flu, we saw record-breaking attendance for talks by Wendy Doniger and Josef Stern. Wendy's lecture on jewelry in South Asia highlighted research from her latest book, *Faking It: Narratives of Circular Jewelry and Deceptive Women*. We are pleased that the Franke Forum featuring Adrian Johns has been rescheduled for February of 2011. Adrian's talk will include research from his most recent publication, *Piracy: The Intellectual*

close to what we do in flush times. Helpful support for the Franke Institute itself continued to be on offer from the Mellon Foundation grant to support the Center for Disciplinary Innovation. This past year included François Velde, of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, who co-taught a seminar in Classics with Alain Bresson, also in Classics. Another great line-up of courses has been scheduled for next year, with two faculty visitors, George Lewis, in Music at Columbia who will co-teach "Improvisation as a Way of Life" with Arnold Davidson, and Ruth

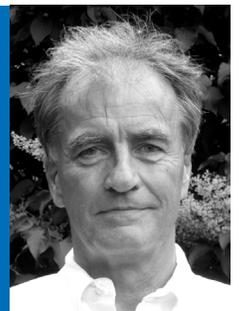
LETTER  
FROM THE  
DEAN

*Property Wars from Gutenberg to Gates.*

In all, the Franke Institute has continued to uphold its mission to foster innovative investigations in the Humanities, to enable young and mid-career scholars to pursue their research, and to provide a forum for these scholarly efforts for the University's community of scholars, students, alumni, and friends. We look forward to another outstanding and successful year in 2010-11.

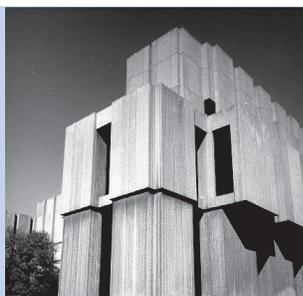
**Martha T. Roth**

Dean, Division of the Humanities

LETTER  
FROM THE  
DIRECTOR

Vanita, from the University of Montana, who will co-teach "Same-Sex Love and Desire in Indic Literatures" with Leela Gandhi

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## THE FRANKE INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES STAFF

James K. Chandler  
*Director*

Margot Browning  
*Associate Director*

Mai Vukceвич  
*Assistant Director*

Rachel Drew  
*Public Affairs Specialist*

Harriette Moody  
*Project Coordinator*

Bertie Kibreah  
*Senior Project Assistant*

## GOVERNING BOARD 2009–10

Alain Bresson  
*Classics*

Darby English  
*Art History*

Michael Forster  
*Philosophy*

Deborah Nelson  
*English Language & Literature*

Christine Stansell  
*History*

Christopher Woods  
*Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations*

Lawrence Zbikowski  
*Music*

# THE FRANKE INSTITUTE

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## FOR THE HUMANITIES

### FRANKE FELLOWS

While each year's group of fellows is newly in residence, some traditions carry over from year to year. One tradition is the diversity of the disciplines and subjects represented by each year's fellows, since the program is open to any topic or theme and since the group of humanities faculty and doctoral students also includes a faculty fellow from the humanistic social sciences.

Another tradition has resulted from the group's interdisciplinary character: each fellow not only introduces his or her chapter or article that everyone has read for that day but also places this work-in-progress in its disciplinary context, providing a thumbnail sketch of the fellow's discipline that is oriented to his or her project. This disciplinary overview proves both challenging to do for the fellow who is providing it and useful for the other fellows' grasp of the project.

Over the course of a year, the fellows discover ties with one another's specializations, and an ongoing conception of current practices and issues develops for the humanities. Led by the Institute's Director, Jim Chandler, the fellows' meetings provide an evolving site for participants to make contacts outside their departments and beyond their areas of expertise.

### AFFILIATED FELLOWS

With the support of the Whiting Foundation, a second fellows' group was inaugurated six years ago at the Franke Institute that is composed of Whiting, Mellon, Harper, and Provost's doctoral fellows in the humanities. Led by Associate Director, Margot Browning, it is also an interdisciplinary group with participants from various humanities departments.

Focused on dissertation chapters or imminent job talks, the group of affiliated fellows provides a special audience for one another in which questions and issues can arise free from programmatic constraints or departmental boundaries.

# Fellows' Research Projects, 2009–10

THE FOLLOWING PROFILES ARE REPORTS ON RESEARCH PROJECTS BY THE FELLOWS.

## Lisa Barca

Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures

### *Between the Asphalt and the Stars: The Struggle toward a Modern Poetics of Transcendence (1860-1954)*

My project offers new perspectives on the intersection of spirituality, language, and the history of ideas in the development of modernist poetry.

## Rad Borislavov

Doctoral Candidate, Slavic Languages & Literatures

### *Viktor Shklovskii - Between Art and Life*

Drawing on previously unavailable archival material, I interpret Viktor Shklovskii's celebrated theoretical texts from the 1920s as bold theoretical statements and rhetorical strategies of survival in the Soviet Union.

## Jackie Bunting

Doctoral Candidate, Linguistics

### *From English to Sranan: An Assessment of Structural Similarities and Differences*

Sranantongo, a Surinamese Creole language, was born of contact between West Germanic languages as well as West and Central African languages. I study three related domains in Sranantongo: (i) serial verb constructions; (ii) case marking; and (iii) comparative constructions.

## Gerard Cohen-Vrignaud

Doctoral Candidate, Comparative Literature

### *Illiberal Arts: Romantic Political Economy and the Orientalist Imaginary of Rights*

My project examines Orientalist fantasies of the Romantic period for the way they stage liberal rights such as life, property, and assembly.



Franke Fellows, 2009-2010

#### Standing (from left to right):

Doron Galili, Rad Borislavov, Ryan Giles, Cecelia Watson, David Finkelstein, James Chandler (Director).

#### Seated (from left to right):

Margot Browning (Associate Director), David Martinez, Michael Kremer, Joshua Scodel.

## David H. Finkelstein

Associate Professor, Philosophy

### *Consciousness Matters*

I offer an account of the distinction between conscious and unconscious states of mind that has its roots in Ludwig Wittgenstein's late philosophy. Understanding the distinction enables us to better make sense of how and why consciousness matters to human agency and life.

## Doron Galili

Doctoral Candidate, Cinema & Media Studies

### *Seeing by Electricity: Vision, Temporality, and Intermediality in Early Television*

My dissertation deals with the earliest periods in the history of television, from the first ideas about image transmission in the 1870s to the beginning of public broadcasts in the 1930s.

## Ryan Giles

Assistant Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures

### *The Poetic Amulet: Subversive Prayer and Incantation in Medieval and Early Modern Spain*

My project examines literary uses of sacred names, prayers, and incantations that were also inscribed and printed as textual amulets in pre- and early modern Spain. I consider a broad range of works, from medieval poetry to later satirical works written during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

**David Hahn**

Doctoral Candidate, English Language & Literature

***The Problem of Rationality in Early Modern English Literature***

My dissertation argues that early modern literature tests humanism’s most basic assumptions about rationality and its relation to moral action.

**Erika Honisch**

Doctoral Candidate, Music

***Sacred Music in Prague, 1580-1612***

My dissertation explores connections between music, sacred culture, and politics in Prague with the aim of shedding light on how sacred music was heard in the complicated confessional world of late Renaissance Prague.

**Michael Kremer**

Professor, Philosophy

***Studies in Early Analytic Philosophy: Sense and Nonsense***

I am writing a series of four papers on the history of early analytic philosophy, covering figures such as Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein, and Ryle. A unifying theme is the idea of philosophical problems as arising from conceptual confusion.

**David Martinez**

Associate Professor, Classics and the Divinity School

***Ancient Greek Papyri from the University of Texas Collection***

My project consists of preparing an edition, translation, and commentary of thirty Greek papyri from the Egyptian Fayum dated to the second and third centuries BC.

**Michael Meeuwis**

Doctoral Candidate, English Language & Literature

***The Secret History of Victorian Theater: Literature, Performance, and the Quotidian, 1860–1914***

My dissertation establishes theater as a model for everyday life in Victorian England and its colonies through a new reading of literary texts, political and aesthetic theory, and archival materials drawn from around the world.

**Julia Orell**

Doctoral Candidate, Art History

***Picturing the Yangzi River - Particular Landscapes in Song and Yuan China***

My dissertation studies early handscroll paintings dating to the thirteenth century that depict the Yangzi River. I explore their interaction with other cultural practices including cartography, travel writing, and poetry.

**Trevor Pearce**

Doctoral Candidate, Conceptual & Historical Studies of Science

***Factors of Macroevolution: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives on Organism-Environment Interaction***

My dissertation explores scientific and philosophical debates over the relative importance of different causal factors in evolutionary history. I argue that scientists’ emphasis on particular factors stems from their respective accounts of organism-environment interaction.

**Christina Petersen**

Doctoral Candidate, Cinema & Media Studies

***Paradise for the Young: Youth Spectatorship in the American Silent Film Era, 1904-1933***

My dissertation considers generation as a previously overlooked factor in spectator experience during the era in which film first became a mass medium.

**Verity Platt**

Assistant Professor, Art History

***Images and Impressions: The Cultural Life of Seals in Ancient Greece and Rome***

I study the visual and physical qualities of seals (their use of iconography, miniaturism, and precious materials) alongside the use of the seal as a security device, a symbol of the individual, and a metaphor for sense perception in Hellenistic philosophy and poetics.

“I presented two chapters of my dissertation to the fellows and received suggestions and comments that could only come from an interdisciplinary group like the fellows, who were able to see my work from vantage points inaccessible to readers in my own discipline. These suggestions opened up dozens of new paths to explore in my research.”

— Cecelia Watson

## François G. Richard

Assistant Professor, Anthropology

### *Reluctant Landscapes: Space and Political Experience in Atlantic Senegal*

My project is a history of social landscapes in western Senegal over the past 400 years, focusing on how Europe's commercial and colonial expansions influenced the course of political experiences in the Siin region.

## Scott Richmond

Doctoral Candidate, Cinema & Media Studies

### *Resonant Perception: Cinema, Phenomenology, and the Illusion of Bodily Movement*

My dissertation is a phenomenological study of the cinematic illusion of bodily movement, or the feeling of flying through space that the cinema can induce in its spectators.

## Joshua Scodel

Professor, English and Comparative Literature

### *Living as One Pleases in English Renaissance Literature*

My book concerns English Renaissance literary representations of liberty with a focus on how the literature of the period dramatizes conflicting notions of what it means to be free.

## Joshua Trampier

Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

### *The Dynamic Landscape of the Western Nile Delta from the New Kingdom to the Late Roman Periods*

Integrating satellite photos, historical cartography, ancient texts, drill coring, and archaeological fieldwork, my dissertation traces the river's courses and settlements.

## Peggy Wang

Doctoral Candidate, Art History

### *Responding to the World: Contemporary Chinese Art and the Global Exhibitionary Culture in the 1990s*

I analyze how perceptions of cultural globalization and strategies of resistance informed the development of the domestic discourse on contemporary Chinese art.

## Cecelia Watson

Doctoral Candidate, Conceptual & Historical Studies of Science

### *Relating to Nature: John La Farge, William James, and the Search for Truth in Nineteenth-Century Art, Science, and Philosophy*

I argue that viewed in the broader context of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century anxieties over the possibility of objective truth, La Farge's method became the basis for James's answer to the question, "What, and how, can we know?"

## Mark Yeary

Doctoral Candidate, Music

### *Perception, Pitch, and Musical Chords*

My dissertation examines the chord—a simultaneity of two or more tones heard as a single object—through an understanding of its acoustic, perceptual, and cultural features.

## Yijiang Zhong

Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations

### *Gods Without Names: Shinto and the Cultural Origins of Modern Japan*

My dissertation explores the contesting politics of what constituted "Shinto" and their ideological ramifications in the formation of religion and the nation-state in nineteenth-century Japan.

### **Standing (from left to right):**

Trevor Pearce, Margot Browning (Associate Director), Jackie Bunting, Mark Yeary, Michael Meeuwis, Julia Orell.



Affiliated Fellows, 2009-2010

# Events and Programs, 2009–10

The Institute organizes conferences on interdisciplinary topics in the humanities including themes and issues drawn from the social sciences that are co-sponsored with University of Chicago centers, departments, workshops, and divisions, as well as with other institutions. During 2009-10, the Institute co-sponsored fifty conferences, lectures, and other events, through use of the conference room or a grant.

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“Our goal for ‘Reflections in the Margins’ was to bring together scholars from diverse institutions and fields to engage in an interdisciplinary debate about marginalized voices in the literatures and histories of Iberia and Latin America. Key questions we examined included the following: How have traditionally marginalized writers made their voices heard in Hispanic literature? How does the very language of expression contribute to the marginalization and repression of voices?”

- Traci Dybdahl

## CONFERENCES

### October 3

Fun and Practical Activities for Teaching Polish and Russian

### October 8 – 9

Captive Senses and Aesthetic Habits

### October 16 – 17

Reflections in the Margins: Representations of the Marginalized in Iberian and Latin American Literatures

### October 18

Asturias and the Asturians throughout History: Past, Present, and Future

### October 24

31st Annual University of Chicago Humanities Day

### October 29 – 31

9th International Conference on Greek Linguistics

### November 9 – 11

François Recanati on the Philosophy of Semantics and Language

### November 12 – 13

Perspectives on the Lektion: A Conference on Contemporary Work on Contextualism and Relativism in Semantics, Philosophy of Mind, and Epistemology

### November 13

Migration and Literature

### January 21 – 23

Deconstructing Dialogue – New Perspectives on Religious Encounters: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern

### February 4 – 6

New Histories of Modern Art: the Eastern European Avant-Gardes

### February 22

A Symposium in Honor of Philip Gossett

### February 26 – 27

The Material and the Code: Disciplinary Crossings of Cinema and New Media

### March 5 – 6

Religion and Realia in Medieval China

### March 12

After Europe: Postcolonial Thought in the Age of Globalization

### March 12 – 13

Montesquieu and the Uses of Nobility

### April 2 – 3

Human Sciences, Human Subjects

### April 8

46th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society

### April 9 – 10

Celebration of Bill Wimsatt's Scholarship

### April 9 – 10

Everyday Matters: Embodied Life and Experience

### April 9 – 10

The New Antiquity: Art + Archaeology Now

### April 15

German and Hebrew: Histories of a Conversation

"The Praxes of Theory brought together artists and scholars to probe the relationship between artistic theory and performance practice in a host of disciplines. The colloquium took place in the immediate aftermath of groundbreaking ceremonies for the Logan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts and sought to explore the conjunction of theory and practice that the new center promises to house."

– David J. Levin

**April 16 – 17**

Midwest Graduate Music Consortium, 14th Annual Conference

**April 17**

"Let everyday life become a work of art":  
The *quotidiano* in Italian Studies

**April 21**

Music, Race, Empire

**April 23 – 24**

Slavic Forum

**April 30**

Hopeful Spaces of Critique: Post-Yugoslav  
Anthropology in the Coming Decade

**May 7 – 8**

Intellectual Exchange and Networks in Europe,  
1500-1660: Approaches from the Humanities  
and Social Sciences

**May 7 – 8**

Emerging Approaches to Race and Research:  
Discussing Transdisciplinary Studies of  
Race in Academia

**May 14 – 15**

25th Anniversary Middle East History and  
Theory Conference

**May 14 – 15**

Linguistic Terrains: Landscapes and  
Socioscapes

**May 15**

The Films of Marcel Broodthaers:  
Between Art History and Film Studies

**May 21**

Worlding, Writing: A Practicum on Making  
New Genres

**May 21 – 22**

The Praxes of Theory

**May 21 – 23**

Mind, Meaning, and Understanding:  
The Philosophy of John Haugeland

**May 29 – 30**

10th-Century China and Beyond: Art and  
Visual Culture in a Multi-centered Age, Part 1

**LECTURES**

**October 8**

David Bathrick on *Der Untergang*  
(*The Downfall*)

**October 9**

David Bathrick on Taking Apart the Berlin Wall  
on TV: Heiner Müller and Alexander Kluge in  
Dialogue

**January 27**

Penal Labor in Hungarian and U.S. Prisons

**April 12**

Sociolinguistic Implications of Writing One  
Language with Two Scripts

**April 27**

The Politics of Democratic Performativity:  
Poland Before and After 1989

**April 29**

Greek gifts: Archaeophilia, Ochlocracy, and  
Monochromatism in Contemporary Macedonia

**May 4**

Photography, Film, and Marginality in Italy:  
Three Case Studies, 1952-2010

**May 17**

Bullets to Ballots

**EXHIBITS / FILMS / PERFORMANCES**

**October 17**

Heartland-AREA Southside Study Day

**February 18**

Modernism: Global Failure

**February 25**

Poetry reading by Joanna Kurowska-Mynarczyk

**March 4**

Henry Darger and the Pulp

**April 14**

Poetry reading by A. E. Stallings

**May 6**

Film Screening: Representing Chicago:  
Experimental Video and Television at the Media  
Burn Archive Screening and Discussion with  
Tom Weinberg and Sara Chapman

**May 27**

Film Screening: *Medium Cool*: An Evening with  
filmmaker Haskell Wexler

**June 15**

Andries Botha, in conversation with Theaster  
Gates: Public Intellectuals Shaping Public  
Spaces

# Chicago Humanities Forum

**H**ow do the humanities relate to public life? Presented by University faculty members in lectures on their current research, these forums at the downtown Gleacher Center explore special topics in all areas of the humanities, as well as other domains of knowledge.

## THE HUMANITIES IN PUBLIC LIFE, 2009-10 AT THE DOWNTOWN GLEACHER CENTER

### Wendy Doniger

Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor, Divinity School, Department of South Asian Languages & Civilizations, Committee on Social Thought, and the College

*Faking It: Narratives of Circular Jewelry and Resourceful Women*

### Josef Stern

Professor, Department of Philosophy, Committee on Jewish Studies, Divinity School (Associate Member), and the College

*The Unbinding of Isaac: Maimonides on Genesis 22 (The Aqedah)*

## UPCOMING FORUMS, 2010-11

### October 20

#### George Lewis and Arnold Davidson

*Improvisation as a Way of Life: Time, Form, Technology, Ethics*

### February 2

#### Adrian Johns

*The Politics of Media Piracy*

### May 4

#### Lauren Berlant

*On Media, Sensationalism, and Political Desire*

To reserve a seat for upcoming forums, please call 773-702-8274. >>

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### Co-sponsors for 2009-10 Events and Programs

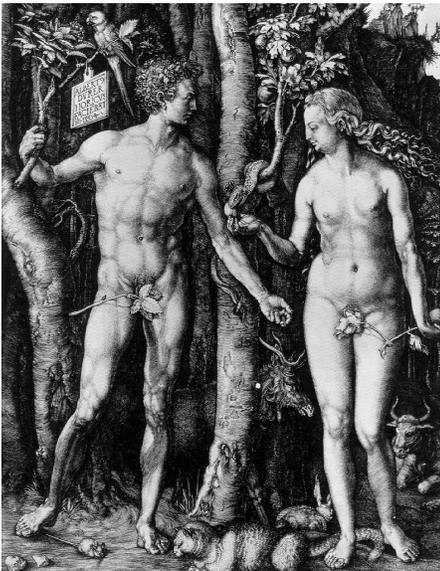
**At the University of Chicago:** Affective Publics Reading Group, Anthropology of Europe Workshop, Anthropology Students Association, Art Speaks, Arts Council, Big Problems Program in the College, Bosch Foundation, Center for the Arts of East Asia, Center for East Asian Studies, Center for East European & Russian/Eurasian Studies, Center for Gender Studies, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on German Literature and Culture, Center for International Studies, Center for Jewish Studies, Center for Latin American Studies, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Center for the Study of Communication & Society, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, & Culture, Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory, Chicago Studies Program, China before Print Workshop, Ciao Club, Civic Knowledge Project, Committee on Chinese Studies, Committee on Social Thought, Computation Institute, Council for Advanced Studies, Film Studies Center, Fishbein Center for the History of Science, France Chicago Center, French Fund of the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures, Humanities Division, Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop, International House Global Voices Program, Italian Studies Collective, Karla Scherer Center for the Study of American Culture, Lichstern Fund, Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, Mass Culture Workshop, Middle East Students' Association, New Media Workshop, Nicholson Center for British Studies, Norman Wait Harris Fund, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Program in Ancient Art, Semantics and Philosophy of Language Workshop, Smart Museum's Heartland Exhibition, Social Sciences Division, Student Government, University of Chicago Presents, Western Mediterranean Culture Workshop

**External co-sponsors:** Academia de la Lingua Asturiana, American Council of Learned Societies, AREA Chicago, Chicago Public Schools Office of Language & Cultural Education's World Languages & International Studies Unit, Free University of Berlin, Gobierno del Principado de Asturias, Istituto Italiano di Cultura (Chicago), Max Planck Institute, Program for Cultural Cooperation between Spain's Ministry of Culture and United States Universities, Le Service Culturel du Consulat Général de France à Chicago, World Council of Hellenes

### Faculty Organizers

Anthropology, Art History, Cinema & Media Studies, Comparative Literature, Creative Writing, Divinity School, East Asian Languages & Civilizations, Ecology & Evolution, English Language & Literature, Germanic Studies, History, Linguistics, Music, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Philosophy, Political Science, Romance Languages & Literatures, Slavic Languages & Literatures

# Gifts and Grants, 2009–10



Albrecht Dürer, *Adam and Eve*, 1504

## FRANKE INSTITUTE CALENDAR, 2010-11

The Franke Institute is co-sponsoring the following conferences during the coming year. For up-to-date information about humanities events on campus, please visit the Institute's web page at: <http://franke.uchicago.edu>

### Autumn

Representation, Emotion, and Cognition

The Politics and Esthetics of Contemporary French Theater

The Global Crisis: Rethinking Economy and Society

### Winter

Spiritual Exercises: From Antiquity to the Present

### Spring

The Battlegrounds of Interpretation in Early-Modern Europe

Historical Poetics: Past, Present, and Future

On the first or second Wednesday of the month, once every quarter, University alumni and friends gather for a public lecture by a University faculty member at the downtown Gleacher Center. For the eleventh year, these lectures for the Chicago Humanities Forum, and the receptions that follow, have been funded by the Visiting Committee to the Division of the Humanities Centennial Endowment.

The Humanities and the Arts are supported at the Institute by the ADELYN RUSSELL BOGERT ENDOWMENT FUND, which sponsored the following events about visual arts, art history, and film.

### Autumn 2009

**Mapping the Peripheries**, a conference examining “peripheral” regions in and near Chicago, as well as conceptual peripheries. This event was held in conjunction with the Smart Museum’s Heartland exhibition and the release of issue #9 of AREA Chicago and included a panel discussion on Idea Mapping.

### Spring 2010

**The New Antiquity: Image, Site, Text**, the first of two conferences exploring recent developments at the intersection of Art History and Archaeology. This conference focused on the Greco-Roman world, while the conference in 2010-11 will adopt a global, comparativist perspective.

**10th-Century China and Beyond: Art and Visual Culture in a Multi-Centered Age**, the beginning of a two-year conference program focusing on 10th-century art and visual culture in East Asia.

**The Praxes of Theory**, an international colloquium intended to probe the relationship between artistic theory and practice in a host of disciplines, bringing together scholars and artists from North America and Europe, as well as a research group representing parallel disciplines based at the Free University of Berlin.

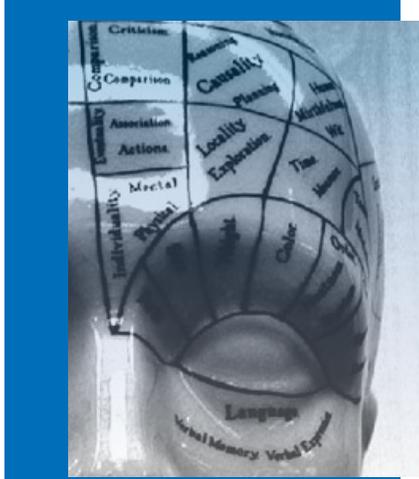
**The Films of Marcel Broodthaers: Between Art History and Film Studies**, a one-day symposium on the work of Belgian conceptual artist Marcel Broodthaers, whose films are usually not available in the United States. The event includes screenings of two of Broodthaers’ films and a round-table discussion of his work.



Marcel Broodthaers, *La Pluie (Projet pour un texte)*, 1969

# Big Problems Curriculum in the College

<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/other/interopp/index.shtml>



## Big Problems

### On “Autonomy & Medical Paternalism”

“This course has given me a general introduction to the field of medical ethics centered around two main themes: autonomy and paternalism.

It has made me very interested in more deeply pursuing these much debated philosophical issues.”

— Fourth-year College student

For information about Big Problems courses, see the program’s listing in the “Interdisciplinary Opportunities” section of the College catalog. Please find the URL at the top of the page.

The University’s College is renowned for its common core curriculum in humanities, social sciences, biological sciences, and physical sciences with which undergraduates begin their degree programs. Yet how can a program of courses also provide a transition from college to whatever comes next – at a job or in graduate school?

The Big Problems program, coordinated by the Franke Institute and the College, provides a capstone curriculum for third- and fourth-year students. These elective courses offer students opportunities to broaden their studies from their departmental major by focusing on a “big problem” – a matter of global or universal concern that intersects with several disciplines and affects a variety of interest groups. By their nature, “big problems” call for interdisciplinary teamwork, yet their solutions may not be obvious or finally determinable.

In keeping with the multiple perspectives needed to study a big problem, these capstone courses are team-taught by faculty members from different disciplines, engaging the students in the dialogue and debate between the instructors. Further extending this discussion, a visiting speaker gives a public lecture and teaches a class for some courses.

### COURSES AND LECTURES, 2009-10

#### Course

#### Autonomy and Medical Paternalism

**Daniel Brudney**, Philosophy

**John Lantos**, Pediatrics

#### Course

#### Biological and Cultural Evolution

**Salikoko Mufwene**, Linguistics

**William Wimsatt**, Philosophy

#### Course

#### Energy and Energy Policy

**Stephen Berry**, Chemistry

**George Tolley**, Economics

#### Course

#### Sex and Ethics

**Lauren Berlant**, English

**Candace Vogler**, Philosophy

#### Course

#### What Do the Genomes Teach Us About Evolution?

**James Shapiro**, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

**Manyuan Long**, Ecology & Evolution

#### Related Lecture:

*Trail through “Deep Time” - The web (not the tree) of life in Earth*

**Lynn Margulis**, University of Massachusetts

#### Course

#### What is Enlightenment?

**Margot Browning**, Humanities

"I expanded beyond my typical field of study, picked up some good heuristics, and wrote the longest, most intense paper of my college life."

— Fourth-year College student

COURSES, 2010-11

Course

**Biology and Sociology of AIDS**

**Harold Pollack**, Social Service

Administration

**Jose Quintans**, Pathology

Course

**Cosmos and Conscience: Looking for Ourselves Elsewhere**

**William Schweiker**, Divinity School

**Don York**, Astronomy

Course

**Energy and Energy Policy**

**Stephen Berry**, Chemistry

**George Tolley**, Economics

Course

**Medical Ethics: Who Decides and on What Basis?**

**Daniel Brudney**, Philosophy

**John Lantos**, Pediatrics

**Alison Winter**, History

Course

**Sex and Ethics**

**Lauren Berlant**, English

**Joseph Fischel**, Political Science

Course

**The Ugly American Comes Home**

**Martha Merritt**, International Studies

**Betsey Brada**, Anthropology

Course

**What is Civic Knowledge?**

**Bart Schultz**, Philosophy

**Margot Browning**, Humanities



# CDI: Center for Disciplinary Innovation

<http://franke.uchicago.edu/cdi.html>

# CDI

Center for Disciplinary Innovation

## *Race, Media, and Visual Culture*

“Race, Media, and Visual Culture provided an ideal format for developing my thinking about race and racial experience across disciplinary boundaries. The course did an excellent job of shifting tenses between current critical dialogues and enduring historical perspectives, and pairing both with a diverse range of visual media to ground discussion.”

— **Leslie Wilson**

## *Perception and Understanding of Multimedia*

“This course served as a successful pilot project for bringing the social sciences and humanities together not only in an interdisciplinary, but also an inter-Divisional setting. The course created an environment that fostered asking new questions and creating new approaches not typically generated from within established disciplinary traditions.”

— **Berthold Hoekner and Howard Nusbaum**

The Center for Disciplinary Innovation (CDI) offers team-taught courses at the graduate level with participating faculty from different disciplines. When two faculty propose a course for the CDI, they present a course-rationale framed not only in respect to substantive issues but also in respect to the disciplinary contexts: why the course cannot be offered in the usual curricular structures, how such a course, or another like it, might advance our understanding of where the disciplines are and where they might be going. Unlike other programs in team teaching, the CDI constitutes the faculty participants as a fellowship, a group whose aim is to keep the larger disciplinary questions continually in focus.

## COURSES & WORKSHOPS, 2009-10

### Course

**Race, Media, and Visual Culture**  
**W.J.T. Mitchell**, English and Art History  
**Darby English**, Art History

### Course

**Perception and Understanding of Multimedia**  
**Berthold Hoekner**, Music  
**Howard Nusbaum**, Psychology

### Course

**Growth and Institutions in the Economy of the Ancient World**  
**Alain Bresson**, Classics  
**François Velde**, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

### Related Lectures:

“Technology and Knowledge: Why was there no Industrial Revolution during the reign of Augustus?”

**Joel Mokyr**, Northwestern University

“Children of Adversity: The Care and Feeding of American Slaves”

**Richard H. Steckel**, Ohio State University

### Course

**Arabesque Narrative: A Hybrid Form of the Imaginary**  
**David Wellbery**, Germanic Studies  
**Ralph Ubl**, Visual Arts and Social Thought

### Course

**Seeing / Writing the Everyday in Twentieth-Century France**  
**Alison James**, Romance Languages & Literatures  
**Jennifer Wild**, Cinema & Media Studies

### Related Workshop:

“The Conditions of Everyday Life”

**Kristin Ross**, New York University

### Course

**Cultural Consequences of Colonization**  
**Salikoko Mufwene**, Linguistics  
**Dain Borges**, History



Detail from *Vertumnus* by Giuseppe Arcimboldo, 1591.

COURSES, 2010-11

Course

**Improvisation as a Way of Life**

**Arnold Davidson**, Philosophy and Comparative Literature

**George Lewis**, Columbia University

Course

**Literature, History, and Science: 1750-1900**

**Alison Winter**, History

**James Chandler**, English Language & Literature

Course

**Seeing Madness: Mental Illness and Visual Culture**

**Françoise Meltzer**, Romance Languages & Literatures

**W.J.T. Mitchell**, English and Art History

Course

**Climate and History**

**Dipesh Chakrabarty**, South Asian Languages & Civilizations and History

**Fredrik Albritton Jonsson**, History

Course

**Revolutionary Culture in Eighteenth-Century France and America**

**Eric Slauter**, English

**Paul Cheney**, History

Course

**Same-Sex Love and Desire in Indic Literatures: Problems and Approaches**

**Leela Gandhi**, English

**Ruth Vanita**, University of Montana

**Seeing / Writing the Everyday in 20th-Century France**

“This was an extremely productive and enriching teaching experience for both of us, allowing us to discover shared intellectual commitments and bringing to light new aspects of canonical works in our respective fields. Our combined perspectives allowed a synthetic view of the French cultural and artistic landscape and of intellectual currents that evade capture within traditional disciplinary approaches.”

— **Jennifer Wild and Alison James**

**About the Consortium of Centers for Disciplinary Innovation**

In the 2006-07 academic year, the Center for Disciplinary Innovation at the University of Chicago served as the leading force in the formation of a consortium of centers for disciplinary innovation, a partnership with humanities centers at Columbia, Cambridge, and Berkeley.

Each humanities center has received support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The purpose of this consortium is to begin to address collectively a problem that we take to be of great significance for higher education in the coming decades. The problem is how universities of the twenty-first century ought best to respond to the challenge of disciplinary change in the humanities and social sciences (and beyond).

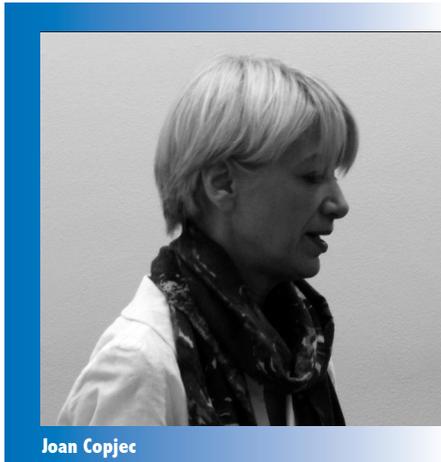
The consortium is especially well-positioned to try to make some headway with the large questions of disciplinary innovation in our time. Our four universities are known for their intense intellectual vitality, and for a willingness to reflect on the structures and procedures of academic knowledge production. Each institution is making its own experiments according to its own sense of its local strengths and distinctive contributions.

**“Arabesque Narrative: A Hybrid Form of the Imaginary”**

“As an art historian, it was interesting to hear how literary-minded people approached the texts and images covered in the course. I was particularly challenged by a collaboration with a student of literature, which caused me to rethink my typical approach to a canonical figure in my field. What was most useful for me was seeing — in action — a style of argumentation structured quite differently from my own. Professors Wellbery and Ubl worked well together, bringing to the course an incredible depth and breadth of knowledge.”

— **A graduate student in Art History**

# Every Wednesday Luncheon Series



Joan Copjec

Helping faculty members stay abreast of their colleagues' current work from any department in the humanities or humanistic social sciences, the Every Wednesday Luncheon Series was created thirteen years ago to provide University humanities faculty with regular opportunities to assemble informally. On most Wednesdays during the academic year, a faculty member gives an informal talk over a catered lunch at the Institute about his or her work-in-progress and afterwards responds to questions from the audience. For each talk, participants also include five graduate students who are invited on behalf of the speaker. In addition to "Every Wednesday" talks about ongoing faculty members' works-in-progress, this series also presents talks by new faculty members in the humanities, by faculty colleagues in the sciences, by visiting professors, and about collaborative faculty projects.

## NEW FACULTY

### Melvin Butler

Department of Music and the College

*Pentecostals and Popular Music*

### Agnes Gellen Callard

Department of Philosophy and the College

*The reason to be angry forever*

### Daniel Desormeaux

Department of Romance Languages & Literatures and the College

*Toussaint Louverture and Slavery*

### Chelsea Foxwell

Department of Art History and the College

*Late Nineteenth-Century Japanese Art*

### Hakan Karateke

Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and the College

*Ottomans and Death*

### Michèle Lowrie

Department of Classics and the College

*On Security*

### Boris Maslov

Department of Comparative Literature and the College

*Comparative Conceptual History*

### Rocco Rubini

Department of Romance Languages & Literatures and the College

*Renaissance Humanism and Italian Existentialism*

### Noa Steimatsky

Department of Cinema & Media Studies and the College

*The Face of Film*

## DISCIPLINARY DIRECTIONS

### Ilsa Flanagan

Director of Sustainability, Facilities Services

*On Sustainability*

### Andreas Glaeser

Department of Sociology and the College

*Agency, Critical Agency, and Meta-Agency*

### Patchen Markell

Department of Political Science and the College

*On Hannah Arendt*

### William Schweiker

Divinity School and the College

*Posthumanism and the New Humanisms*

## WORK IN PROGRESS

### Thomas Christensen

Department of Music and the College

*On Piano Transcriptions*

### Jonathan Lear

Committee on Social Thought, Department of Philosophy, and the College

*Unconscious Identity*

### Laura Letinsky

Department of Visual Arts, Department of Cinema & Media Studies and the College

*On "After All," an Upcoming Publication of Still Life Photographs*



### Lawrence Rothfield

Departments of English Language & Literature and Comparative Literature and the College

*The Analytics of Cultural Scenes*

### Malyne Sternstein

Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures and the College

*Hooliganism as Dissent among Czech Artists*

### Matthew Stolper

Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and the College

*On Salvage Epigraphy*

### PROJECT LUNCHEON

#### Bart Schultz

Department of Philosophy and the College

*On the Civic Knowledge Project*

### VISITING PROFESSOR

#### Joan Copjec

Department of English Language & Literature, SUNY at Buffalo

*Islam and Psychoanalysis*



Patchen Markell

### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Continued from page 1

of English. This coming spring, Chicago will host the meeting of the four-university CDI consortium, which will address, among other topics, the question of technology and the disciplines. We will make use of this occasion to mark, and to celebrate, the Institute's twentieth anniversary.

#### James Chandler

Director, The Franke Institute for the Humanities

# Humanities Faculty 2008 & 2009 Publications

The fruit of years of research, collaboration, creation, and writing, the publications of Humanities faculty members - books, CDs, musical scores - are celebrated every year at a special reception for them and their colleagues, toasted by the Dean of the Humanities and the Provost of the University. For this occasion, the publications are also gathered together and displayed at the Institute. The event takes place each spring quarter for the previous year's publications, and a bibliography is prepared annually that lists these new publications by department.

## ART HISTORY

### Christine Mehring

- *Blinky Palermo: Abstraction of an Era*

### Wu Hung

- *Meishushi shiyi (Ten discourses on art history)*
- *Zou ziji de lu: Wu Hong lun Zhongguo dangdai yishujia (On their own paths: Wu Hung on contemporary Chinese artists)*
- *Displacement: The Three Gorges Dam and Contemporary Chinese Art*
- *Zhang Huan gongzuoshi: Yishu yu laodong (The Zhang Huan studio: Art and Labor)*
- *Wu Hung on Contemporary Chinese Artists*
- *Making History: Wu Hung on Contemporary Chinese Art and Art Exhibition*
- *Waste Not: Zhao Xiangyuan and Song Dong*
- *Shikong zhong de meishu: Wu Hung Zhongguo meishushi wenbian erji (Art in time and space: Wu Hung on Chinese art, 2nd installment)*

### Rebecca Zorach

- *The Idol in the Age of Art: Objects, Devotions and the Early Modern World*

## CINEMA AND MEDIA STUDIES

### Noa Steimatsky

- *Italian Locations: Reinhabiting the Past in the Postwar Cinema*

## CLASSICS

### Clifford Ando

- *The Matter of the Gods: Religion and the Roman Empire*

### Shadi Bartsch

- *Seneca and the Self*

### Chris Faraone

- *The Stanzaic Architecture of Early Greek Elegy*

### Michèle Lowrie

- *Writing, Performance, and Authority in Augustan Rome*
- *Horace: Odes and Epodes*

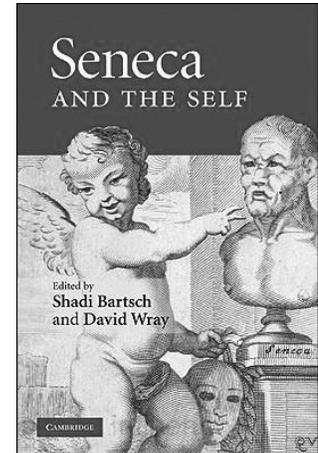
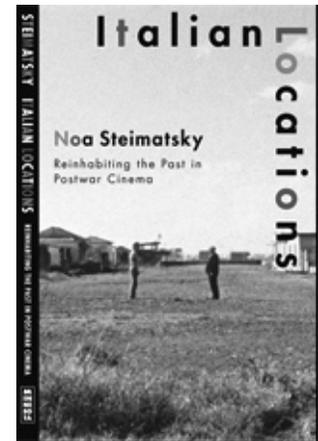
### David Wray

- *Seneca and the Self*

## EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS

### Michael Bourdaghs

- *Theory of Literature and Other Critical Writings by Natsume Soseki*



### Jacob Eyferth

- *Eating Rice from Bamboo Roots: The Social History of a Community of Handicraft Papermakers in Rural Sichuan, 1920-2000*

### Norma Field

- *Takiji: 21seiki ni do yomu ka (Reading Kobayashi: Takiji for the 21st Century)*

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

### Lauren Berlant

- *The Female Complaint: The Unfinished Business of Sentimentality in American Culture*

### David Bevington

- *Shakespeare's Ideas: More Things in Heaven and Earth*
- *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*

### James Chandler

- *The Cambridge History of English Romantic Literature*
- *The Cambridge Companion to British Romantic Poetry*

### Bradin Cormack

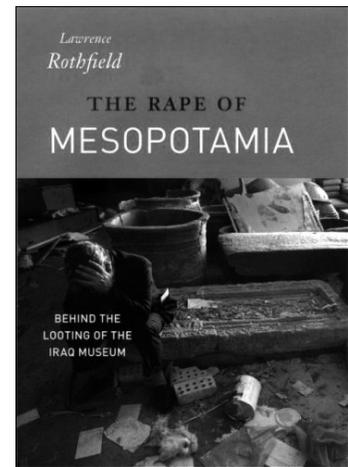
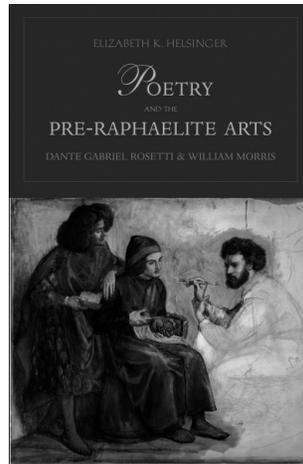
- *The Forms of Renaissance Thought: New Essays on Literature and Culture*

### Elizabeth Helsinger

- *Poetry and the Pre-Raphaelite Arts: Dante Gabriel Rossetti and William Morris*
- *The "Writing" of Modern Life: The Etching Revival in France, Britain, and the U.S., 1850-1940*

### W.J.T. Mitchell

- *Bildtheorie (German translation)*
- *Pictorial Turn: Saggi di cultura visuale (Italian translation)*
- *Das Leben Der Bilder: Eine Theorie Der Visuellen Kultur (German translation)*
- *Teoría de la Imagen (Spanish translation)*
- *Edward Said: Continuing the Conversation (Japanese translation)*



- *A Képek Politikája (Hungarian translation)*
- *Iconologie: Image, Texte, Idéologie (French translation)*

### Lawrence Rothfield

- *The Rape of Mesopotamia: Behind the Looting of the Iraq Museum*

### Jennifer Scappettone

- *Thing Odel/Ode oggettuale*
- *From Dame Quickly*
- *Belladonna Elders Series #5: Poetry, Landscape, Apocalypse*

### Eric Slauter

- *The State as a Work of Art*

### Richard Strier

- *Divisions on a Ground: Essays on the English Renaissance Literature in Honor of Donald M. Friedman*

## GERMANIC STUDIES

### David Wellbery

- *Die Gabe des Gedichts. Goethes Lyrik im Wechsel der Töne*

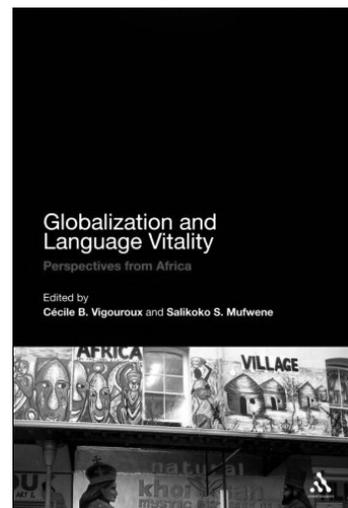
## LINGUISTICS

### Anastasia Giannakidou

- *Quantification, Definiteness, and Nominalization (Oxford Studies in Theoretical Linguistics, 24)*

### Salikoko S. Mufwene

- *Language Evolution: Contact, Competition, and Change*
- *Globalization and Language Vitality: Perspectives from Africa*



Continued on page 18

# Humanities Faculty 2008 & 2009 Publications

Continued from page 17

## MUSIC

### Philip V. Bohlman

- *Ethnomusicology and Modern Music History*
- *Antropologia della musica nelle culture mediterranee: Interpretazione, Performance, Identità*
- *Jewish Cabaret in Exile*
- *Excursions in World Music*
- *Jewish Musical Modernism, Old and New*
- *Jewish Music and Modernity*

### Marta Ptaszynska

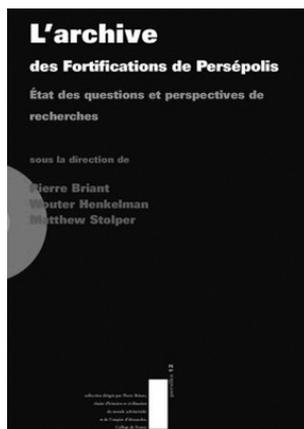
- *Drum of Orfeo*
- *Lumen*
- *Concerto for Marimba & Orchestra*

### Shulamit Ran

- *String Quartet No. 1*
- *Another Wedding March*
- *Bach-Shards*
- *Song and Dance*
- *The Show Goes On*

### Kotaka Suzuki

- "Hidden Voices" on Apparitions



## NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS

### Helga Anetshofer

- *Über Gereimtes und Ungereimtes diesseits und jenseits der Turcia: Festschrift für Sigrid Kleinmichel zum 70. Geburtstag*

### Orit Bashkin

- *The Other Iraq: Pluralism and Culture in Hashemite Iraq*

### Fred Donner

- *The Expansion of the Early Islamic State (The Formation of the Classical Islamic World Series, Volume 5)*

### Farouk Mustafa

- *Love in Exile (translation of a novel by Bahaa Taher)*
- *The Lodging House (translation of a novel by Khairy Shalaby)*
- *The Zafarani Files (translation of a novel by Gamal al-Ghitani)*

### Robert Ritner

- *The Libyan Anarchy: Inscriptions from Egypt's Third Intermediate Period, Writings from the Ancient World No. 21*

### Matthew Stolper

- *L'archive des Fortifications de Persépolis: Etat des questions et perspectives de recherches*

### Christopher Woods

- *The Grammar of Perspective: The Sumerian Conjugation Prefixes as a System of Voice*

## PHILOSOPHY

### Ted Cohen

- *Thinking of Others: On the Talent for Metaphor*

### Martha Nussbaum

- *Liberty of Conscience: In Defense of America's Tradition of Religious Equality*

### Robert Richards

- *The Tragic Sense of Life: Ernst Haeckel and the Struggle over Evolutionary Thought*

## ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

### Frederick De Armas

- *Hacia la tragedia áurea: lecturas para un nuevo milenio*

### Daisy Delogu

- *Theorizing the Ideal Sovereign: The Rise of the French Vernacular Royal Biography*

### Philippe Desan

- *Pensée morale et genres littéraires: de Montaigne à Genet*
- *Montaigne: Les formes du monde et de l'esprit*
- *Dieu à notre commerce et société: Montaigne et la théologie*

### Ryan D. Giles

- *The Laughter of the Saints: Parodies of Holiness in Late Medieval and Renaissance Spain*

### Alison James

- *Constraining Chance: Georges Perec and the Oulipo*

### Armando Maggi

- *The Resurrection of the Body: Pier Paolo Pasolini from Saint Paul to Sade*
- *Petrarch: A Critical Guide to the Complete Works*
- *Scrittori inconvenienti: Essays on and by Pier Paolo Pasolini and Gianni Celati*

### Françoise Meltzer

- *Faith Without Borders: The Curious Category of the Saint*

### Larry Norman

- *Révolutions homériques*

### Elissa B. Weaver

- *Scenes from Italian convent life: An Anthology of Convent Theatrical Texts and Contexts*

### Rebecca West

- *Scrittori inconvenienti: Essays on and by Pier Paolo Pasolini and Gianni Celati*

## SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

### Robert Bird

- *Andrei Tarkovsky: Elements of Cinema*
- *Andrei Roublev d'Andrei Tarkovski*

### Victor Friedman

- *Deloto na akademik Viktor Fridman (The work of academician Victor Friedman)*

## SOCIAL THOUGHT

### Glenn Most

- *Révolutions homériques*

## SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS

### Yigal Bronner

- "Self-Surrender," "Peace," "Compassion," and "The Mission of the Goose": *Poems and Prayers from South India*

### Steve Collins

- *Pali Grammar for Students*

### Wendy Doniger

- *The Hindus: An Alternative History*

### Rochona Majumdar

- *Marriage and Modernity: Family Values in Colonial Bengal*



A reception to celebrate the publications of Humanities Faculty in 2008 and 2009 took place at The Franke Institute for the Humanities on March 2, 2010.

**FRANKE FACULTY FELLOWS  
2010-11**

**Fredrik Albritton Jonsson**, Assistant Professor, Department of History; *The Stationary Future: The Politics of Environmental Limits in Britain, 1760-1850*

**Paul Copp**, Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages & Civilizations; *Tantric Transformations in Late Medieval China*

**Leela Gandhi**, Professor, English Language & Literature; *Art of Interruption: Postcolonial Ethics, Antifascism, and the Politics of Empire, 1900-1955*

**Kaley Mason**, Assistant Professor, Music; *The Labor of Music in South India*

**Srikanth Reddy**, Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature; *Readings in World Literature: Poems*

**Jason Salavon**, Assistant Professor, Visual Arts; *Atlas: A Corpus of Algorithmic Forms and Episodes*

**Yuming He**, Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages & Civilizations; *Reading Commonplace Books in Early Modern China (16th-17th Centuries)*

**FRANKE DOCTORAL FELLOWS  
2010-11**

**Andrew Erwin**, Department of Germanic Studies; *Mimesis, Madness, and Modernity: Robert Musil and the Ethics of Being without Qualities*

**Thomas Keith**, Department of Classics; *Blood, Toil, Tearless Sweat: Envisioning Sparta in the Imperial Stoa*

**Shayna Silverstein**, Department of Music; *Circulating Spaces: Power, Performance, and Place in Syrian Dabke*

**Gökçe Yazıcıoğlu**, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; *People of Kaneš in the 21st-17th C. BC: Communal and Individual Dimensions of Identity in a Cosmopolitan Center in Anatolia*

**Spectrum**

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