

BROWN UNIVERSITY

2006/07

The Cogut Center for the Humanities

Annual Report

Operations, Programs, Events
2006–2007





“...a microcosm of a more civilized planet and of the most basic principles of the humanities and education itself – knowledge of self and other, dialogue, the art of listening, and an exhilarating explosion of young talent.”

MICHAEL P. STEINBERG

ON THE COVER: Conductor Daniel Barenboim rehearses the Brown Orchestra at Sayles Hall, December 2006.

From the Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

As the Cogut Center for the Humanities continues its fast-paced growth, it accumulates a history as well as a future. It is a pleasure to share this record and souvenir of 2006–07, our second year of programming, and an especially exciting and defining one.



Our fellowship programs continue to grow and to benefit more Brown University faculty members and students. In 2006–07 we welcomed eight faculty members as well as two inaugural graduate fellows. They were joined by our two inaugural Mellon Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellows.

We defined three areas of program focus and expansion: Digital Humanities, International Humanities, and Medical Humanities. A Digital Humanities working group has begun intensive discussion on the

paths of scholarship, creativity, and communication in areas of pioneering strength at Brown. Our International Humanities program will welcome four postdoctoral fellows in 2007–08. These exciting scholars will serve multiple departments in areas such as medical anthropology, dance and movement studies, political history and gender studies, and comparative Asian studies. Our new cooperation with Brown's Warren Alpert Medical School will bring the humanities into the core of its new curriculum, with a seminar on "Pain" geared to second-year medical students and other interested Brown students and faculty members.

Our fellowship and seminar programs will continue to grow as we contemplate both our move into the renovated Pembroke Hall and the addition of prestigious external semester fellowships, all in 2008–09. Our fellowship program continues to form the core of our activities, the driving force of our three new program foci as well as the array of special events, conferences, and symposia that we are honored to plan and to host.

This past year was a stunning one in the special-event department. I still recall the telephone call, late on a Friday afternoon last September, asking whether the Cogut Center and Brown would host Daniel Barenboim and the 100-plus-member West-Eastern Divan orchestra for four days of rehearsing, playing, and campus discussions at the end of the semester. By Monday morning I was able to report that every imaginably relevant unit of the University had said "What an opportunity . . ." and "Count on us!" The resulting encounter, persuasively summarized in the following pages (but without the music), gave us a microcosm of a more civilized planet and of the most basic principles of the humanities and education itself – knowledge of self and other, dialogue, the art of listening, and an exhilarating explosion of young talent.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL P. STEINBERG
Director, Cogut Center for the Humanities;
Barnaby Conrad and Mary Critchfield Keeney
Professor of History; Professor of Music

About the Cogut Center

OFFICES

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for the Humanities**
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Brown University has long offered a unique focus and quality in the humanities, combining the preservation of knowledge with a spirit of innovation and adventure. The humanities today include ever-vital traditional disciplines such as history, philosophy, language and literary studies, and religious studies. They also include the newer disciplines of art history, musicology, the interpretive dimensions of social sciences such as anthropology and political science, and more recently, interdisciplinary initiatives such as media studies and gender and sexuality studies.

Brown has played a key role in the pioneering of new and interdisciplinary work, while at the same time developing and advancing the frontiers of knowledge within the humanistic disciplines. Scholars at Brown are known as innovators who challenge and redefine the foundational categories of the humanities in the largest sense – by asking what it means to be human. Over the years, they have developed new modes of scholarship at the interstices of older disciplines and across the boundaries of national cultures.

Named for Craig M. Cogut '75 and Deborah Cogut in recognition of their generous support,

the Cogut Center for the Humanities is a key player in Brown's Plan for Academic Enrichment, providing multiple programs to bring Brown faculty and students into regular and innovative contact with each other, as well as with national and international scholars and scholarship. Today, through its fellowship, grant, and distinguished-visitors programs, and regularly scheduled and special events, the Cogut Center strives to:

- Support and maintain Brown's stellar reputation in the humanities.
- Encourage and support interdisciplinary and cross-cultural work and groundbreaking intra-disciplinary work in the humanities.
- Sustain and nurture international perspectives at Brown in an era of increasing globalization: exploring the relations between the local and the global, investigating the fate of the concept of the nation and of nationalism, and pursuing issues of cultural translation.
- Explore the public role of the humanities, the various crises it has witnessed in the past decade, and the pressures confronting the humanities in the current economic and political climate.
- Interrogate the relation between various disciplines in the humanities and the growth of technologies of information and visualization: questions of the archive (what a culture conserves and how it is conserved), the viability and role of the humanities in an era of increasing prestige of the sciences, the impact of digitization and digital media.
- Nurture relations between the humanities and the studio and performing arts.
- Reinvigorate the concept of "critique" and the role of critical theory in the disciplines of the humanities.
- Explore the re-emergence of pressing issues of ethics and aesthetics in the humanities.

In fulfilling its mission to the University and to the field of humanities, the Cogut Center supports and enhances Brown's outstanding reputation in the humanities.

**Historic Pembroke Hall, the future home of
the Cogut Center for the Humanities**



Fellowship Programs

Brown University Faculty Fellowships

The Cogut Center sponsors semester-long fellowships for Brown faculty in the humanities. All regular Brown University faculty (lecturers, senior lecturers, tenure-track, and tenured faculty) are eligible to apply. Each year, four fellowships are awarded for the fall semester and four for the spring semester. Recipients are relieved of their regular teaching responsibilities for the semester of the award. Applications are reviewed by the Center's external fellowship selection committee and evaluated for both scholarly merit and the likelihood that a collective experience will enhance and be enriched by the proposed research project. Research projects must be humanistic in character but need not necessarily come from members of designated humanities departments. Fellows attend a weekly seminar consisting of a two-hour discussion of a pre-circulated essay or chapter from the work in progress. Cogut Center Faculty Fellowships for the 2006–07 academic year were awarded to:

Cogut Center Faculty Fellowships for the fall 2007 and spring 2008 semesters have been awarded to:

FALL 2007

Peter Andreas
Political Science

Susan Harvey
Religious Studies

Mark Swislocki
History

SPRING 2008

Mary Ann Doane
Modern Culture and Media

Karl Jacoby
History

David Konstan
Classics

Kurt Raaflaub
Classics

Michael Satlow
Judaic Studies



Timothy Bewes
Associate Professor of English
PROJECT TITLE: "Shame After Colonialism: Aesthetic and Ethical Quandaries in Late Twentieth-Century Writing"



Olakunle George
Associate Professor of English
PROJECT TITLE: "Pagans and Patriots: Conversion and the Text of Africa"



Mary Gluck
Professor of History,
Departments of History and
Comparative Literature
PROJECT TITLE: "The Function of the Jewish Joke in Late Nineteenth-Century Budapest"



Daniel Kim
Associate Professor of English
PROJECT TITLE: "The Dematerialized Zone: American Cultural Representations of the Korean War"



Bernard Reginster
Associate Professor of
Philosophy
PROJECT TITLE: "Intersubjectivity and Identity"



Zachary Sng
Assistant Professor
of German Studies
PROJECT TITLE: "Corrupting the Fountains of Knowledge: Language and Error from Locke to Romanticism"



Stanley Stowers
Professor of Religious Studies
PROJECT TITLE: "The Power of Disinterestedness, the Interests of Powerlessness, and the Beginnings of Christianity"



Patricia Ybarra
Assistant Professor of Theatre,
Speech, and Dance
PROJECT TITLE: "Performing Conquest: Theatre, History, and Identity in Tlaxcala, Mexico, 1538–2003"

"My experience at the Cogut Center has been extremely positive. It has provided just the right balance of structure and freedom to allow me to accomplish a great deal of work."

FACULTY FELLOW MARY GLUCK
HISTORY

“In addition to working with excellent undergraduate and graduate students and being able to devote time to my research, this fellowship has enabled me to work with faculty colleagues in my own and other departments on a close and regular basis. This has stimulated my research, helped improve my teaching, broadened my intellectual horizons within and outside of my own discipline, and contributed significantly to making the year thoroughly enjoyable.”

MELLON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW MICHAEL ROHLF
PHILOSOPHY

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities



At top, Sherine Hamdy, anthropology / science and technology studies



Michael Rohlf, philosophy

In 2005, Brown University received a \$1.16 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support two-year postdoctoral fellowships in the humanities, humanistically oriented social sciences, and new fields with close ties to the humanities. The Mellon grant enables us to invite two new postdoctoral fellows to Brown annually, each for a term of two years. Fellowships are awarded to postdoctoral scholars who have received their degrees from institutions other than Brown within the last five years. All Brown academic departments are eligible to submit proposals to the Cogut Center. Brown programs, centers, and institutes are also welcome to submit proposals jointly with Brown academic departments. Fellowship candidates are recruited by, and fellows are appointed to, academic departments, where they teach half-time.

All fellows are affiliated with the Cogut Center, where they participate in center activities as appropriate to their research. Fellows have the opportunity to interact with Brown faculty affiliated with the center; to participate in fellows' seminars, lectures, and conferences; and to participate in the planning of working groups and large-scale seminars on various topics, all of which occur in a stimulating scholarly environment in which to pursue research, develop new interdisciplinary connections, and network. The program enriches the Brown curriculum by bringing visiting faculty working in new fields

to campus and by providing students with new areas for study and research. It also gives recent Ph.D.s opportunities to gain teaching experience, to develop their research, and to publish as they seek permanent positions.

The first two fellowships for 2006–08 were awarded to Michael Rohlf in philosophy and Sherine Hamdy in anthropology / science and technology studies. Through the Fellows' Seminars in the last academic year, Hamdy presented a portion of her book in progress under the title “Where Cyborg Anthropology Meets God.” In that same venue, Rohlf delivered his work “Contradiction and Consent in Kant's Ethics.” Each seminar was received enthusiastically and sparked lively scholarly discussion.

In September 2006 the Cogut Center established its second cohort of Mellon Fellows after soliciting Brown departments for proposals. The two winning proposals for the 2007–09 fellowships were “Islamic Archaeology and Art History” from religious studies / archaeology and “Islam, Secularism, and Literature in the Muslim World” from comparative literature. The departments successfully recruited their first-choice candidates, Ian Straughn and Syed Nauman Naqvi.

Graduate Fellowships in the Humanities

The Cogut Center for the Humanities in conjunction with the Graduate School sponsors year-long fellowships for Brown graduate students in the humanities. In 2006–07, two graduate student fellowships in the humanities were awarded by the center’s governing board. Fellowships cover the enrollment fee, health insurance, health services fee, and a stipend. Doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy are eligible and encouraged to apply. Fellowships are not exclusively for students who are completing their dissertations; those who are at earlier stages of research are also eligible. Cogut Center Graduate Fellows receive office space at the humanities center and are expected to participate actively in the Cogut Center’s scheduled Faculty Fellows’ seminars and other center events. These fellowships provide an enhanced context for advanced doctoral students, including the opportunity for presentation of work and the benefits of critique from an exciting group of Cogut Center Faculty Fellows, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellows, and Distinguished Visiting Fellows.

The inaugural Graduate Fellows of the Cogut Center in 2006–07 were Christine Evans in theatre, speech, and dance; and Jessica Barr in comparative literature. As part of the fellows’ seminars, Evans delivered her paper “The Library in the Desert of the Real” and Barr “In the Absence of Authority: Satirizing the Visionary Tradition in Chaucer’s *House of Fame*.”

The 2007–08 Graduate Fellows cohort has been doubled to a total of four students. Two graduate fellows in their fourth or fifth years of study will be funded by the Graduate School. Two graduate fellows in the sixth year will be funded by the Cogut Center. After assessing the scholarship and research projects of more than two dozen applicants, the governing board chose the following 2007–08 Graduate Fellows: Pannill Camp, theatre, speech and dance; Robert Newcomb, Portuguese and Brazilian studies; Emily Steinlight, English; and Amy Vegari, comparative literature.



Jessica Barr, comparative literature (dissertation topic: *The Limits of Revelation: Visionary Knowing and the Medieval Dream Vision Narrative*)

Tuition Fellowships to the School of Criticism and Theory

In January 2007 the Cogut Center announced its participation in the sponsored participant program of the School of Criticism and Theory (SCT), a summer institute held annually at Cornell University. The SCT offers faculty and advanced graduate students of literature and related social sciences a chance to work with preëminent figures in critical thought. In an intense, six-week course of study, participants from around the world explore literature’s relationship with history, art, anthropology, and the law; examining its role in ideological and cultural movements; and reassessing contemporary theoretical approaches. The Cogut Center’s participation in the program is by invitation of SCT, and sponsored participants are guaranteed admission.

The Cogut Center covers tuition costs for two Brown University participants, who must be either senior graduate students or junior faculty members. This past year’s recipients were graduate students Stefano Senu, Italian studies, and Jacques Amoureux, political science.



Christine Evans, theatre, speech, and dance (dissertation topic: *Art, War, and Objects: Reality Effects in the Contemporary Theater*)

“I profoundly appreciated the chance to participate in a collegial community. Presenting my own work in this context, with the chance for discussion with scholars across disciplines, was enormously useful.”

GRADUATE FELLOW CHRISTINE EVANS
THEATRE, SPEECH, AND DANCE

Humanities Research Group Grants

The Cogut Center sponsors semester-long Humanities Research Group Grants designed to support small groups of faculty and graduate students eager to undertake collaborative research. The primary aim of the Humanities Research Group Grants is to foster interdisciplinary work or innovative intradisciplinary work in the humanities. The research groups provide a structure in which projects from a broad spectrum of humanities faculty can germinate and grow into articles, creative projects, and exhibits that will enrich the intellectual environment for students as well as faculty at Brown. Each research group is composed of at least three Brown faculty members from at least two different departments or disciplines.

Research group proposals are assessed by the Cogut Center governing board, and award decisions are based on the quality of the proposal, feasibility, and the likelihood of making valuable contributions to scholarship. Faculty membership is not restricted to Brown, and

cross-institutional participation is welcomed. Members of these groups set their own agendas, schedule events in accordance with the project proposal, and submit a report at the end of the semester. The research groups in the 2006–07 academic year were:

“Epic and History, Ancient and Medieval,” coordinated by Professors David Konstan, Kurt Raaflaub, and Michel-André Bossy. This group took full advantage of the potential of cross-cultural comparison to gain new insights into the important topic of “epic and history.” Few attempts had been undertaken previously to compare heroic epics systematically and from various perspectives or to establish a typology of heroic epic. Nor had scholars undertaken a systematic effort to determine to what extent heroic epics reflect history, what kind of historical information could be retrieved from such epics, and what methodologies could be used to achieve these goals. The meetings and concluding conference brought together leading scholars on epic traditions in ancient West and South Asia, the Greco-Roman world, the medieval world and the modern world.

“Gesture” was coordinated by Professors Rebecca Schneider and Thalia Field, along with three faculty members from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). This group, assembled from literary, performance, visual, and media arts at Brown and RISD, investigated the promises and limits of “gesture.” The group was interested in duration, extension, futurity, deferral, and the possibly enduring place of the live body, or “liveness,” in conventionally non-live artwork – from text to painting to photography to film, video, and digital arts. André LePecki, associate professor in performance studies at New York University, gave the first lecture, entitled “dancesculpture: time-machine (or: minimalism’s stumble).” Later in the year Fred Moten, associate professor of English and American studies and ethnicity at the University of Southern California, presented his paper “Taste Dissonance Flavor Escape.”

“The Cogut grant gave us the means to articulate what we felt a humanities-based science studies program might look like here, and to plan a conference around it to attract interested scholars at Brown and from all over New England. We feel it has been a huge success, and that this is due in very large part to Cogut Center support.”

EVELYN LINCOLN
HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE
CO-DIRECTOR, NATURE’S DISCIPLINE RESEARCH GROUP

“Having a fellowship is obviously a huge help in allowing for time dedicated to thinking, research, and writing.”

MELLON POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW
SHERINE HAMDY,
ANTHROPOLOGY/
SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
STUDIES



“Nature’s Disciplines,” directed by Professors Evelyn Lincoln, Tara Nummedal, and Nicolás Wey-Gómez, explored the production, practice, and implications of early modern science in an interdisciplinary context. In the early modern period, *scientia*, or certain knowledge, depended on a vast terrain of assumptions and philosophies, practices and interests, that were integral to the demands and contingencies of a way of life completely different from our own. The group discussed how interdisciplinary studies of the history of science could best be researched and taught at Brown within existing structures, as well as ideas for how to modify those structures to accommodate such a course of study. Janice L. Neri of the Department of Art at Boise State University delivered the first lecture, “Beyond ‘Art’ and ‘Science’: Maria Sybilla Merian’s Crafting of New World Nature.” Paula Findlen, professor of history at Stanford University, presented “Representing Nature: Agostino Scilla and the Painting of Knowledge in 17th-Century Italy.” On the basis of their work last year, this research group has been chosen to organize the 2007 New England Renaissance Conference in October 2007. The Cogut Center will be the principal sponsor of this conference.

“Exhibiting Roman, Byzantine, and Early Islamic Jerusalem” was organized by Professors Katharina Galor, Steven Lubar, and Ian Straughn; the curator of ancient art from RISD; and three Brown graduate students. This group discussed the thematic parameters of a traveling exhibit on Roman, Byzantine, and Early Islamic Jerusalem to take place in 2010. The main goals for the group were to determine the venues of the exhibit, to establish a preliminary list of objects and educational support material to be included, to design the catalogue format and content, and to identify additional grant and funding sources for the show. The exhibition, entitled “Ancient Jerusalem: People and Places,” will open at the RISD Museum in 2010 and travel to two other venues, one in the Midwest and one on the West Coast.

Visiting Fellows / Scholars

The Cogut Center brings to the Brown community the most innovative and important new humanities scholarship through various programs of short and longer-term fellowships for distinguished visitors. Our Visiting Fellows / Scholars program provides Brown faculty and students the opportunity for regular and innovative contact with national and international scholars and scholarship, essential for the coming generations of scholars whose training for academic life and for the world at large is the key task of the university. In the 2006–07 academic year, the center hosted the following distinguished visitors:



Susan Bielstein is executive editor for art, architecture, film, and classical studies at the University of Chicago Press. Bielstein serves on the press’s task force on digital publishing and is the author of *Permissions, A Survival Guide: Blunt Talk about Art as Intellectual Property*. Bielstein gave two talks: “The Image Economy” and “What is a Book (in the Age of Digital Publishing)?”. She also participated in Cogut Center seminars and in discussions surrounding the proposed creation of a digital humanities program at Brown.

Sandra Kogut has performed, written, directed, and produced theater, documentary and musical television, advertisements, videos, and films since 1984. Born in Brazil, Kogut now lives in Paris. She screened and discussed her 2001 documentary, *The Hungarian Passport (Um Passaporte Húngaro)* and led a seminar entitled “The Foreign and the Familiar: Selected Moments in Video and Film,” all as part of the ongoing Hannah Arendt Seminars.



Thomas Y. Levin is an associate professor of German at Princeton University. His research interests range from the history of aesthetic theory and Frankfurt School cultural theory to the history and theory of media (archaeologies of vision, early German cinema, Weimar cinema, New German cinema, rhetoric of new media). Levin offered a lecture, “Anxious Cinema: Surveillance as Narrative Form,” and led a seminar, “Watching Watching: Surveillant



Intermediality in Fritz Lang’s *The 1000 Eyes of Dr. Mabuse*,” as part of the ongoing Hannah Arendt Seminars.

“I don’t know quite how the seminar managed it, but the quality of interaction every Tuesday created a climate of expectation and real engagement.”

FACULTY FELLOW
TIMOTHY BEWES
ENGLISH



Seminars and Events

Fellows' Seminars

Cogut Center Fellows meet on a regular basis to discuss their work in progress. Interested faculty and students from the Brown community, as well as other invited guests, may register to receive the pre-circulated papers and attend each seminar. Seminars included the following:

SEPTEMBER 22: **"The Right to Have Rights (Four and a Half Remarks)"** and **"The Right Not to Use Rights: Human Rights and the Structure of Judgments,"** Werner Hamacher, New York University visiting professor, University of Frankfurt

OCTOBER 3: **"Technologies of Intimacy: State Biopower and Civil Diplomacy in South Korea's Overseas Adoption Program,"** Eleana Kim, UCLA Korea Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, New York University, Department of Anthropology

OCTOBER 17: **"Dramaturging the Continents,"** Duca Knezevic, director of literary services, Playwrights Foundation

OCTOBER 24: **"The Claims of Modern African Fiction,"** Olakunle George, Faculty Fellow, Department of English

OCTOBER 31: **"Staging the Exceptional Historian in Saltillo, Mexico,"** Patricia Ybarra, Faculty Fellow, Department of Theatre, Speech, and Dance

NOVEMBER 7: **"Towards a Social Explanation for the Formation of Christian Anti-Judaism,"** Stanley Stowers, Faculty Fellow, Department of Religious Studies

NOVEMBER 14: **"Is Anything Owed for What Was Done? Reparations for Injustices to Previous Generations,"** Rahul Kumar, fellow, Center for Human Values, Princeton University

NOVEMBER 21: **"What Happened to American Culture during the Korean War and What Did It Have to Do with Race?,"** Daniel Kim, Faculty Fellow, Department of English

NOVEMBER 28: **"Contextualizing the Jewish Joke: Anti-Semitism and Liberal Politics in Late Nineteenth-Century Hungary,"** Mary Gluck, Faculty Fellow, Department of History

DECEMBER 5: **"In the Absence of Authority: Satirizing the Visionary Tradition in Chaucer's House of Fame,"** Jessica Barr, Cogut Center Graduate Fellow, Department of Comparative Literature

DECEMBER 12: **"Contradiction and Consent in Kant's Ethics,"** Michael Rohlf, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Philosophy

JANUARY 30: **"The Rights of the Stateless: A Case in Point,"** Judith Butler, Maxine Elliot Professor in the Departments of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

FEBRUARY 20: **"The Library in the Desert of the Real,"** Christine Evans, Cogut Center Graduate Fellow, Department of Theatre, Speech, and Dance

MARCH 6: **"The Active Reader in Classical Antiquity,"** David Konstan, professor of classics

MARCH 13: **"Satire and Pseudoethnography: The 18th-Century Oriental Tale as Investigative Modality,"** Srinivas Aravamudan, NEH Fellow, John Carter Brown Library; professor of English, Duke University

MARCH 20: **"The Matter of Mind: Reason and Experience in the Age of Descartes,"** Christopher Braider, visiting professor, comparative literature; professor of French and comparative literature, University of Colorado, Boulder

APRIL 3: **"Where Cyborg Anthropology Meets God,"** Sherine Hamdy, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology

APRIL 10: **"On Sentiment and the Sublime in the 18th Century,"** Zachary Sng, Faculty Fellow, Department of German Studies

"These weekly sessions directly energized and nourished my own work."

FACULTY FELLOW OLAKUNLE GEORGE
ENGLISH

“It is extremely fruitful for hashing out an understanding of what we are and should be doing, individually and collectively, as scholars in the humanities.”

MELLON
POST-DOCTORAL
FELLOW
MICHAEL ROHLF,
PHILOSOPHY

APRIL 24: “**Identification in Psychoanalysis,**” Bernard Reginster, Faculty Fellow, Department of Philosophy

MAY 1: “**Shame as Form,**” Timothy Bewes, Faculty Fellow, Department of English

MAY 8: Year-End Fellows’ Seminar “**The (Re)Turn to Religion in the Humanities,**” convened by Timothy Bewes, Bernard Reginster, Zachary Sng, Stanley Stowers, and Sherine Hamdy



Fellows’ Seminars form the core of the Cogut Center’s fellowship programs.

Hannah Arendt Seminar Series

Partnering with the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women and the Watson Institute for International Studies, the Cogut Center launched the Hannah Arendt Seminars in spring 2006. This multi-semester series of events celebrated the work of renowned German philosopher and political theorist Hannah Arendt and honors the centennial of her birth. The series brought together noted scholars from within and outside Brown for lectures, workshops, film screenings, and other events that explored issues pertaining to the humanities, the study of women and gender, and international studies. The Hannah Arendt Seminars hosted during the 2006–07 academic year included the following:

JANUARY 30: Seminar – “**The Rights of the Stateless: A Case in Point,**” and lecture – “**Hannah Arendt and the End of the Nation-State?**”; Judith Butler, Maxine Elliot Professor in the Departments of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

MARCH 6: Lecture – “**War in the Thought of Hannah Arendt,**” Patricia Owens, department lecturer in strategic studies in the Department of Politics and International Relations, and Seton Watson Research Fellow in International Relations, Oriel College, University of Oxford

APRIL 3: Film screening – *Die Tausend Augen des Dr. Mabuse* (Lang, 1960)

APRIL 4: Lecture – “**Anxious Cinema: Surveillance as Narrative Form,**” Thomas Y. Levin, associate professor of German at Princeton University and Cogut Center Distinguished Visiting Scholar

APRIL 5: Seminar – “**Watching Watching: Surveillant Intermediality in Fritz Lang’s *The 1000 Eyes of Dr. Mabuse,***” Thomas Y. Levin, associate professor of German, Princeton University, and Cogut Center Distinguished Visiting Scholar

APRIL 5: Film screening – *Um passaporte Húngaro* (Kogut, 2001). The screening was followed by a discussion with director Sandra Kogut, Cogut Center Distinguished Visiting Scholar.

APRIL 6: Lecture – “**The Foreign and the Familiar: Selected Moments in Video and Film,**” filmmaker Sandra Kogut, Cogut Center Distinguished Visiting Scholar

THE
Hannah Arendt
SEMINARS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2007

Judith Butler
Maxine Elliot Professor in the Departments of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature, University of California—Berkeley

12–2 P.M. • Crystal Room, Alumnae Hall
A SEMINAR WITH JUDITH BUTLER
The Rights of the Stateless: A Case in Point

Preregistration is required. Seating is limited. Lunch provided.
Professor Butler will convene a discussion of her essay “Israel/Palestine and the Paradoxes of Academic Freedom” (Political Philosophy, 2006) and Hannah Arendt’s “The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man” (The Origins of Totalitarianism, 1951). Readings will be made available to registered attendees.

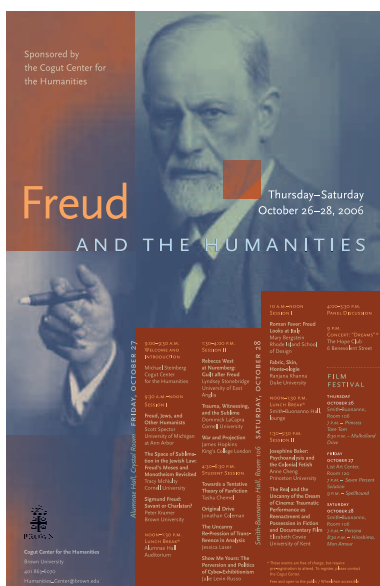
5 P.M. • Crystal Room, Alumnae Hall
LECTURE
Hannah Arendt and the End of the Nation-State?
Reception to follow

A multi-semester program on the centenary of the birth of political theorist and philosopher Hannah Arendt (1906–1975), cosponsored by the Cogut Center for the Humanities, the Pembroke Center, and the Watson Institute for International Studies, devoted to topics including the humanities, feminist and gender studies, and international studies.

BROWN
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and Middlebury
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Fall Humanities Weekend – Freud and the Humanities

The second annual Fall Humanities Weekend offered a wide variety of papers, discussions, film screenings, and a multimedia musical performance on the topic “Freud and the Humanities.” The Cogut Center assembled an international panel of scholars from many fields to explore and expand our understanding of the impact of Freud and psychoanalysis on the humanities.



OCTOBER 26

Film Screening – *Princess Tam-Tam* (Gréville, 1935) and *Mulholland Drive* (Lynch, 2001)

OCTOBER 27

Papers / discussion – **“Freud, Jews and Other Humanists,”** Scott Spector, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; **“The Space of Sublimation in the Jewish Law: Freud’s Moses and Monotheism Revisited,”** Tracy McNulty, Cornell University; **“Sigmund Freud: Savant or Charlatan?”**, Peter Kramer, Brown University; **“Rebecca West at Nuremberg: Guilt After Freud,”** Lyndsey Stonebridge, University of East Anglia; **“Trauma, Witnessing, and the Sublime,”** Dominick LaCapra, Cornell University; **“War and Projection,”** James Hopkins, King’s College, London.

Student Papers / Discussion – **“Towards a Tentative Theory of Fanfiction,”** Tasha Chemel; **“Original Drive,”** Jonathan Coleman; **“The Uncanny Re-Pression of Transference in Analysis,”** Jessica Laser; **“Show Me Yours: The Perversion and Politics of Cyber-Exhibitionism,”** Julie Levin Russo

Film Screening: *The Seven Percent Solution* (Ross, 1976) and *Spellbound* (Hitchcock, 1945)

OCTOBER 28

Papers / Discussion – **“Roman Fever: Freud Looks at Italy,”** Mary Bergstein, Rhode Island School of Design; **“Fabric, Skin, Honte-ologie,”** Ranjana Khanna, Duke University; **“Josephine Baker: Psychoanalysis and the Colonial Fetish,”** Anne Cheng, Princeton University; **“The Real and the Uncanny of the Dream of Cinema: Traumatic Performance as Reenactment and Possession in Fiction and Documentary Film,”** Elizabeth Cowie, University of Kent.

“From Vienna to Hollywood, no one thinks without Freud. Some think with him and some against him. The resulting debates are always interesting and important.”

MICHAEL STEINBERG

DIRECTOR, COGUT CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

Film Screening – *Persona* (Bergman, 1967) and *Hiroshima, Mon Amour* (Resnais, 1959)

Evening Performance – **“Dreams”: Concert for piano and two voices.** This multimedia piece was performed by noted pianist Thomas Bagwell, soprano Meagan Miller, and tenor Richard Cox. The visual program of images and poems displayed behind the singers was created especially to accompany this musical work and was first presented at the Austrian Cultural Forum, New York.

“Teaching young people is where you learn the most.”

DANIEL BARENBOIM
CONDUCTOR



Listen to the World!

December saw the historic first visit to Providence of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and their music director, Daniel Barenboim. The Divan, made up of young people from Israel, Arab countries, and Europe, offers the participants the opportunity of, as Barenboim said, “understanding the point of view of another and, if not accepting the point of view itself, accepting at least its legitimacy.”

“Listen to the World!” was hosted by Brown President Ruth J. Simmons and the Cogut Center as a musical residency, offering the campus and community the chance to attend numerous public discussions, open rehearsals of the Divan, and, ultimately, a free concert at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. In addition, Daniel Barenboim spent one electrifying evening in an open rehearsal with the Brown Orchestra, followed by a lively conversation between the conductor and the audience on a wide range of topics. As Michael Steinberg, Cogut Center director, observed in a short film made about that rehearsal, “Ultimately teaching is not about the student. It’s not about the teacher. It’s about that third element, which is some kind of devotion to knowledge... a devotion to the world. That’s what comes across when Daniel Barenboim works with students.”

DECEMBER 6

Film screening – A free screening of *Knowledge is the Beginning*, an International Emmy Award-winning documentary, told the story of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, in which young Arab and Israeli musicians perform side by side. Special guest Mariam Said, widow of orchestra co-founder Edward Said, provided commentary after the film.

DECEMBER 14

Open rehearsal – The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra’s rehearsal was open to the public at Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

Open rehearsal and campus conversation – Daniel Barenboim worked in rehearsal with the Brown Orchestra on Beethoven’s *Piano Concerto No. 5* (“Emperor”) with piano soloist Saleem Abboud Ashkar. This rehearsal was followed by a question-and-answer period between the audience and Barenboim.



“I was absolutely riveted. I was waiting to be inspired, and I was completely and utterly inspired.”

CHRISTINE CLANCY '07
BROWN ORCHESTRA

“Ideally, if the artist is a great artist he should achieve what we had ... where 100 or 200 or 2,000 people start almost to breathe together. That is a great concert.”

SALEEM ABBODD ASHKAR
PIANO SOLOIST



DECEMBER 15

Open rehearsal – The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra’s rehearsal was open to the public at Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

Performance and Campus Conversation – The Providence String Quartet and members of the West-Eastern Divan performed the first movement of Mendelssohn’s *Octet for Strings*, followed by a discussion with Daniel Barenboim, Mariam Said, and the audience.

DECEMBER 16

Concert – The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, conducted by Daniel Barenboim, performed a full program in a sold-out free concert at Veterans Memorial Auditorium for the campus and Providence communities. The program included Beethoven’s *Leonore Overture No. 3, Op. 72a*, Mozart’s *Sinfonia Concertante for Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, Bassoon, and Orchestra KV 297b*, and Brahms’s *Symphony No. 1, Op. 68*.



“The world is starved for what the humanities can bring to public life. And there is no place that can advance the general principles of the humanities better than universities.”

RUTH J. SIMMONS
PRESIDENT
BROWN UNIVERSITY



Inaugural Invitational Lecture in the Humanities

On April 9 the Cogut Center was honored to have Brown President Ruth J. Simmons give the inaugural Invitational Lecture in the Humanities. In this annual event, a prominent member of the Brown University faculty considers pressing issues in the humanities, issues of importance to scholarship and to the world at large. This occasion gives the University and the community an opportunity to learn from our most distinguished colleagues, many of whom have more regular opportunities to speak off campus than at Brown.

The humanities are “central to any way of thinking about the human race,” Simmons told a

packed auditorium. Citing the humanities as the foundation for other academic fields, she urged a “forceful engagement” by humanists to contribute to problem-solving in all arenas, whether it is ethics, the environment, or international affairs. The humanities are and should be at the heart of public debate, Simmons said. “Whatever the setting, we have to believe that we belong there and have something to offer.” The Cogut Center, she added, will figure prominently in demonstrating that humanists have a great deal to offer in the consideration of and solutions to the world’s problems.

Lectures, Readings, and Exhibitions

The Cogut Center hosted a rich and varied program of scholarly events throughout the 2006–07 academic year, including readings, lectures, workshops, seminars, and performances, to promote the research, study, and enjoyment of the humanities at Brown. In addition to the events listed elsewhere in this report, the center hosted:

OCTOBER 23 – Lecture: “**Religion and Public Life: The United States and France Compared.**” R. Laurence Moore, H.A. Newman Professor of American Studies at Cornell, spoke on the disagreement in “modern” Western formulations of church-state relations by

comparing the American idea of church-state separation with the French ideal of *laïcité*.

NOVEMBER 15 – Lecture: “**Moral / Political Theory: Aspects of the Conflict.**” Sari Nusseibeh, president of the University of Al-Quds, Jerusalem, spoke on the many moral problems that are raised in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

APRIL 12 – Seminar: “**A Conversation with Olga Neuwirth.**” Olga Neuwirth, composer, discussed avant-garde opera, the state of operatic composition and production in Europe and the United States, and the role of opera studies in the opera world.

APRIL 16 – Lecture: **“Migratory Aesthetics: Video and Migration.”** Mieke Bal, professor at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, is a well-known cultural analyst and theorist. Bal’s areas of interest include literary theory, semiotics, visual art, cultural studies, postcolonial theory, feminist theory, French, the Hebrew Bible, the 17th century, and contemporary culture.

MAY 26 – Commencement Forum: **“Studies in Movement: New Technologies for Interactive Performance.”** Joseph “Butch” Rován, associate professor of music, discussed his new multimedia chamber opera, an homage to the work of French physiologist Etienne-Jules Marey (1830–1904). Rován presented a broad picture of Marey himself and provided an overview of the custom technologies created for the chamber performance and examples from the work in progress.

Co-Sponsored Initiatives

The Cogut Center offers financial support on an ad hoc basis to other Brown departments, programs, and student groups that host humanities-oriented events and activities. In 2006–07 the center provided financial support to 29 departments and student groups. Some examples of student-led activities and departmental events that the center has supported financially include:



“Brown Radio History Project” – A team of students from both Brown radio stations, WBRU and WBSR, worked together to find out how radio at Brown evolved over the past 70 years and became what it is today. The project resulted in an archival Web site, an audio documentary on CD, and a museum exhibit at the John Hay Library.

“Teach Truth: The State of the Native American Reservation” – A year-long, student-run project addressed political, economic, and cultural issues around the current state of Native American reservations.

“Expanding Our Community: Making Our Presence Visible” – Part of the student-organized Multicultural Heritage Week

“The fellowship was instrumental in getting me through the last stages of my dissertation while giving me the time to focus on the job search. The feedback I received at my seminar was extremely helpful, both in terms of getting me to hone my paper and in preparing me for the kinds of questions I received in interviews.”

GRADUATE FELLOW JESSICA BARR
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE



“Modern and Macabre: The Explosion of Death Imagery in the Public Sphere – Mexico, 1790–1880” – A lecture delivered by Claudio Lomnitz, director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Columbia University



“The Ties that Bind: Strengthening the Connections that Shape our Communities” – A month-long, student-run series of lectures, performances, and discussions celebrating the cultural heritage of Brown’s Asian and Asian-American student community.

“Sound Scraps, Vision Scraps: Paul Celan’s Poetic Practice” – Marjorie Perloff, professor emerita of English at Stanford University, delivered this year’s Reinhard Kuhn Memorial Lecture.

“Patronizing the Arts” – Marjorie Garber, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English and American Literature and Language and of Visual and Environmental Studies and director of the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, delivered the Department of English’s 2006–07 Graduate Student Lecture.

“sonic.focus” – Convened by Anthony Cokes, professor of modern culture and media, this conference examined complementarities and antagonisms between sound and image in contemporary culture.

“What do Gay Men Want? Sex, Risk, and the Subjective Life of Male Homosexuality” – A lecture by David Halperin, W.H. Auden Collegiate Professor of the History and Theory of Sexuality and professor of English, University of Michigan.

“How Cancer Crossed the Color Line: Race and Disease in America” – A lecture delivered by Keith Wailoo, Department of History and the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research at Rutgers University, as part of “The History of Race in Medicine and Public Health.”

“What Literature Knows, or, Calvino’s Non-Knowledge” – A lecture by Barbara Spackman, Giovanni and Ruth Elizabeth Cecchitti Chair in Italian Literature, University of California, Berkeley.

“Beyond Paradise: Demystifying Southeast Asia” – A student-run, week-long series of lectures, performances, and discussions celebrating the cultural heritage of Brown’s South-east Asian student community.

“Race and Science: New Challenges to an Old Problem” – A lecture by Evelyn Hammonds, professor of the history of science and of African and African-American studies and senior vice provost for faculty development and diversity at Harvard University, as part of “The History of Race in Medicine and Public Health”

“Emancipation and Authoritarianism: The Contradictory Legacy of the Haitian Revolution” – Robert Fatton Jr., Julia A. Cooper Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia, spoke as part of events coordinated by the Students of Caribbean Ancestry.

“Almost Perfect Machinery: Racial and Sexual Politics in the American Medical Association, 1850–1900” – Doug Haynes, associate professor of history, University of California, Irvine, spoke as part of “The History of Race in Medicine and Public Health.”

“Theoretical Pluralism and the Science of Human Behavior” – A lecture by Helen Longino, professor of philosophy, Stanford University

“Behold this Face: Frederick Douglass, Sarah Winnemucca, and the Ethical Command” – Linda Bolton, associate professor of English at the University of Iowa, presented this talk as part of the Mellon Graduate Workshop on “Aesthetics and Ethics.”

“Israel’s Memory of the Holocaust and the Israeli-Arab Conflict” – A lecture by Idith Zertal, professor of contemporary history, Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Basel, Switzerland

“The Penny and the Well: A Quarter-Mile Along – Twenty Years as a Book Reviewer” – A talk by Richard Eder, foreign correspondent, film reviewer, and drama critic for *The New York Times*

“Instrumental Reason and Aesthetics in History” – Timothy Reiss, professor of comparative literature at New York University, spoke as part of the Mellon Graduate Workshop on “Aesthetics and Ethics.”

“Guantanamo and Beyond: U.S. Lawlessness in the ‘War on Terror’” – Jumana Musa, advocacy director for domestic human rights and international justice, Amnesty International, spoke as part of Brown Amnesty International’s “The America I Believe In” events.

Ghosts of Abu Ghraib – A screening of Brown alumna Rory Kennedy’s 2007 film as part of Brown Amnesty International’s “The America I Believe In” events

“Recuento de Nuestro Movimiento: Transcending, Living, and Remembering Borders” – Natalia Almada, filmmaker, RISD graduate, and founder of Altamura Films, delivered this talk as the convocation for *Semana Chicana*, a week of student activities and events.

FRONTLINE: The Torture Question – Screening of the 2005 Emmy Award-winning *FRONTLINE* documentary on Abu Ghraib as part of Brown Amnesty International’s “The America I Believe In” events

“The Future of Social and Cultural Critique” – Speakers at this colloquium included Srinivas Aravamudan, research fellow, John Carter Brown Library, and professor of English, Duke University; Talal Asad, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, City University of New York Graduate Center; Wendy Brown, professor of political science, University of California, Berkeley; and Joan Wallach Scott, Harold F. Linder Professor of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study.

“Rachel Carson Was Right” – A presentation by Dianne Dumanoski, co-author of *Our Stolen Future*, and Julia Brody, executive director of Silent Spring Institute, as part of the student-led celebration of Rachel Carson’s 100th birthday.

“The Future of Critique in Science and Technology” – Colloquium speakers included Wendy Chun, associate professor of modern culture and media, Brown University; Anne Fausto-Sterling, professor of biology and gender studies, Brown University; and Elizabeth Wilson, ARC Australian Research Fellow, University of New South Wales.

“Balkan Literatures of Dissent” – Conference speakers included Kostis Kornetis, European University Institute (Florence); Gail Holst-Warhaft, Cornell University; George Syrimis, Yale University; Tatjana Aleksic, Rutgers Uni-

versity; Dusan Bjelic, University of Southern Maine; John Cox, Wheeling Jesuit University; Vangelis Calotychos, Columbia University; Vojislava Filipcevic, Columbia University; and Angelina Ilieva, University of Chicago.

“Prisons Beyond The Law: An Examination of Post-9/11 Detentions – Where We’ve Been, Where We’re Going” – Joseph Margulies, professor of law at Northwestern University, spoke as part of Brown Amnesty International’s “The America I Believe In” events.

“Queerness as Virtuosity, Queerness as Failure” – José Esteban Muñoz, chair of the Department of Performance Studies, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, spoke as part of “Ellipses . . . The Space Between,” LGBTQ Pride Month 2007.

“Anatomy, Identity, and the Future of Normal” – Alice Dreger, professor, Medical Humanities and Bioethics Program, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, delivered this lecture as part of “Ellipses . . . The Space Between,” LGBTQ Pride Month 2007.

“Charcot, Hysteria, and Hypnosis: A Constant Source of Inspiration for Literature” – A lecture by Peter Koehler, Atrium Medical Center, Heerlen, the Netherlands

“Race, Immigration, and the War on Terror” – Tram Nguyen, executive editor of *ColorLines* magazine, spoke as part of Brown Amnesty International’s “The America I Believe In” events.

“A Novel in Which Nothing Happens: Fontane’s *Der Stechlin* and Literary Friendship” – Martha Nussbaum, professor of law at the University of Chicago, spoke as part of the Mellon Graduate Workshop on “Aesthetics and Ethics.”

Brown Journal of History – The History Department Undergraduate Group solicited scholarly student papers, reviewed and selected by an undergraduate editorial board, for inclusion in this new journal.

“A Moveable Feast: Poetry in Portuguese” – A dozen poets in the Portuguese language presented readings and participated, along with scholars, in roundtable discussions.



Developing Programs

During the fall 2006 semester, the Cogut Center launched three programs. These programs will retain a prominent profile and will serve as coordinating themes for ongoing and developing fellowship, seminar, and event programs.

Digital Humanities

The Digital Humanities Initiative will connect Brown University's leading edge in creative electronic technology to global innovations in the humanities. As a key component of the Cogut Center's strategic plan, Digital Humanities will explore a digital publications program and optimal use of the humanities laboratory being designed for the center's new home in the renovated Pembroke Hall.

A Digital Humanities Steering Group has been formed, chaired by Michael Steinberg, with principal attention to the publications program. A subcommittee chaired by Joseph Rovani of the music department will address the design of the humanities lab.

International Humanities

The International Humanities Program will explore and enhance Brown's commitment to the humanities in an international context and will form a long-term component of the Brown University Internationalization Initiative.

The Postdoctoral Fellowships in International Humanities program was announced in November 2006. Eight departments and/or department collaborations sent in proposals, and four were chosen in early January 2007:

History / Center for Latin American Studies: "History of the French, Spanish, or English-Speaking Caribbean, 16th to 19th Centuries"

East Asian Studies: "Empire and Culture in East Asia"

Italian Studies / Gender Studies: "Gender, Sexuality, and Science in Italy, 18th Century to the Present"

Theatre, Speech, and Dance and the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity: "International Dance Studies / Performance Studies"

The inaugural cohort of postdoctoral fellows in international humanities has been selected by their departments: Lorenzo Benadusi, Italian studies / gender studies; Yukiko Koga, East Asian studies; Adrián López Denis, history / Center for Latin American Studies; and Meida McNeal, theatre, speech, and dance / Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. In 2007–08, these scholars will convene a regular seminar under the rubric "The Humanities and the Transnational University."

Early discussion is under way with the subcommittee on international humanities on a proposed International Humanities Summer Institute. This summer program held at Brown University would develop and enhance the seminars and topics of the ongoing international humanities initiative and would highlight the growing presence of international scholars in relevant fields.

Possibly related to the summer institute is a proposed International Humanities Consortium to be formed in partnership with international universities strategically placed to benefit and to benefit from Brown University scholarship. Under early discussion are partnerships with Nanjing University and Al-Quds University (Jerusalem).



Medical Humanities

The Medical Humanities Program is the result of a cooperative effort between the Cogut Center for the Humanities and the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. An ad hoc steering committee for medical humanities includes representatives from the Cogut Center, physicians associated with the Alpert Medical School, and Brown medical students.

In 2007–08, medical humanities will form one of the concentrations to be added to the medical curriculum on an elective basis. The inaugural seminar of the medical humanities concentration, offered for second-year medical students and led by Michael Steinberg, will center on pain as a focal point in examining how the human body and its physical experiences relate to and require mediations involving language, knowledge, representations, and politics.

“The vigorous and exciting interdisciplinary exchanges that I participated in throughout the semester were intellectually stimulating, and pushed me to clarify my own project in important ways.”

FACULTY FELLOW ZACHARY SNG
GERMAN STUDIES

Governing Board

The governing board of the Cogut Center consists of the director, six elected senior scholars active in research from Brown departments and programs in the humanities, and the dean of the Graduate School. The director of the Cogut Center serves as chair of the governing board. Faculty members of the board serve in staggered three-year terms. Each spring the governing board issues a call for nominations for candidates for election to the board. From the names produced, the provost selects six to eight candidates in consultation with the current board, and the board then prepares a ballot of six to eight potential governing board members. Regular faculty from departments and programs in the humanities or faculty who have chosen to be full participating members in the center's activities are entitled to vote for three members on the slate. The three members receiving the most votes serve on the governing board for three years beginning on July 1 of the year of election.

2006–07 BOARD MEMBERS

MICHAEL STEINBERG

Director

SUSAN BERNSTEIN

Comparative Literature

SHEILA BONDE, *ex officio*

Dean of the Graduate School

REY CHOW

Modern Culture and Media

KEVIN MCLAUGHLIN

English

JOSEPH "BUTCH" ROVAN

Music

(spring 2007)

PIERRE SAINT-AMAND

French

(sabbatical leave, spring 2007)

REBECCA SCHNEIDER

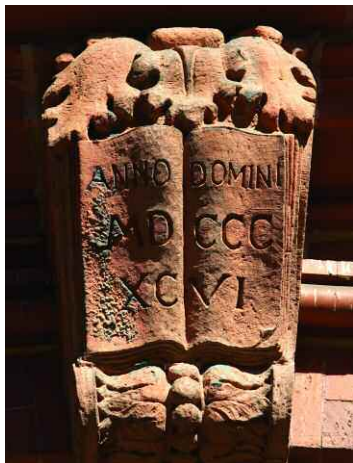
Theatre, Speech, and Dance

CAROLYN WRIGHT

Literary Arts Program



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