

Brown University

The Cogut Center for the Humanities

2007/08
Annual Report



Operations, Programs, Events



“We nurture **specialized and precise knowledge**
and identify this knowledge with fields, specializations,
departments and disciplines. At the same time ...
we participate in the **overall life of the university**
by linking together these specific identities into
**a shared purpose of advancing
knowledge** and solving problems.”

MICHAEL P. STEINBERG

Cover photo: “Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg”
(Katharina Wagner, Bayreuth)
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From the Director

Students and faculty members have multiple homes within the university, and multiple ways of linking our university careers to the world at large. We nurture specialized and precise knowledge and identify this knowledge with fields, specializations, departments, and disciplines. At the same time, however, we participate in the overall life of the university by linking together these specific identities into a shared purpose of advancing knowledge and solving problems. Often we work alone: reading, thinking, learning languages, writing books. Just as centrally, we depend on each other for ideas, corrections and new perspectives.

Brown's Cogut Center for the Humanities connects the disciplines to the university and to the world, while also linking scholarship's solitary dimensions to its collective ones. Scholarly originality, quality and importance come from both kinds of experience, just as research and teaching are fundamentally connected. Our fellows and programs serve the central mission of the university, participating centrally in the growth and transformation associated with the Plan for Academic Enrichment.



In 2007-2008 we welcomed four postdoctoral fellows in the inaugural year of an International Humanities postdoctoral program: a cornerstone of the university's internationalization initiative. In the fall semester 2008, one of our International Humanities fellows, Adrián López Denis, leads Brown's inaugural student semester in Havana, Cuba. His classroom will be electronically connected to the Brown campus classroom of our Mellon Foundation postdoctoral fellow Rachel Price, for a combined weekly

discussion of 20th-century Cuban culture. Rachel's students will be studying the work of Cuban thinkers who will speak to them from Havana, where they will be guests in Adrián's classroom. Our Medical Humanities initiative in partnership with the Warren Alpert Medical School enjoys a similarly exciting trajectory. In August 2008, second-year medical student and medical humanities concentrator David Washington spent a week in Spain with Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, writing an ethnographic report on the question of "music and social medicine."

In 2008-2009 we dedicate our new facility in Pembroke Hall. We will welcome 28 semester- or year-long fellows from all ranks, from undergraduate and graduate student fellows to senior Brown University as well as visiting faculty members. We will introduce a series of Humanities Seminars to the undergraduate curriculum, with graduate seminars planned for 2009-2010. In 2008-2009 we will co-sponsor (with the Committee on Science Studies) a year-long series on evolution's impact on the sciences and the humanities, and a second series (with the Office of Internationalization) on globalization and the humanities.

We prepare this report as we move into our new home in Pembroke Hall—a stunning facility that will enable our programs to continue to grow and thrive. Please visit us there often.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Michael P. Steinberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

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 the social sciences such as anthropology and political science and more recently, interdisciplinary initiatives such as gender and sexuality studies, media studies and digital humanities.

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. Scholars of the ancient, medieval, and early modern worlds have been giving us new concepts and new ways to imagine and conduct research. Those working on modern and contemporary cultures – on the language, literature, and culture of the post-colony, or the complex and often self-contradictory messages with which new media bombard us – have continued to change the horizons of the humanities.

OFFICES

Cogut Center
for the Humanities
Box 1983
172 Meeting Street
Providence, RI 02912
401/863-6070

STAFF

Michael Steinberg
Director

Kit Salisbury
Department Manager

Leslie Uhnak
Cogut Center Assistant

Named for Craig M. Cogut '75 and Deborah Cogut in recognition of their generous support, the Cogut Center for the Humanities was launched in the fall of 2003 as the Brown Humanities Center to support collaborative research among scholars in the humanities. Today, through its fellowship, grant, and distinguished visitors programs, and regularly scheduled events, the Cogut Center strives to:

- Nurture disciplinary and interdisciplinary growth in the humanities and in cooperation with the social and natural sciences
- Encourage and enable faculty and departmental development
- Inspire a new interconnectedness between teaching and research, between undergraduate and graduate teaching
- Sustain and nurture international perspectives at Brown in an era of increasing globalization
- Explore energetically and critically the history and effects of the rapid growth of technologies of information and visualization

The Cogut Center is poised to build on the strengths of Brown University at a moment of unique institutional distinction and growth, and at a time of particular national and global urgency. As a key player in Brown's Plan for Academic Enrichment, the Cogut Center is 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. In fulfilling its mission to the University and to the field of humanities, the Cogut Center supports and enhances Brown's stellar reputation in the humanities.



2007-08 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Steinberg
Director

Susan Bernstein
Comparative Literature

Sheila Bonde, *ex officio*
Dean of the Graduate School

Rey Chow
Modern Culture and Media

Lynne Joyrich
Modern Culture and Media

Kevin McLaughlin
English

Dietrich Neumann
History of Art and Architecture

CD Wright
Literary Arts Program

Fellowship Programs

The Cogut Center sponsors semester-long fellowships for Brown faculty in the humanities. All regular Brown University faculty (i.e. 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. Fellows attend a weekly seminar consisting of a two-hour discussion of a pre-circulated essay or chapter from work in progress. Cogut Center Faculty Fellowships for the 2007-08 academic year were awarded to:



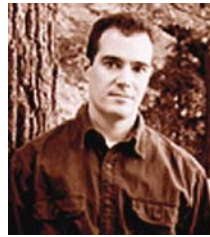
Peter Andreas
Associate Professor of Political Science
PROJECT TITLE: "Black Markets and Blue Helmets: The Political Economy of War and Peace in Sarajevo"

Mary Ann Doane
Professor of Modern Culture and Media

PROJECT TITLE: "Bigger than Life: The Close-up and Scale in the Cinema"



Susan Harvey
Professor of Religious Studies
PROJECT TITLE: "Teaching Women: Biblical Women and Women's Choirs in Syriac Tradition"



Karl Jacoby
Associate Professor of History
PROJECT TITLE: "Shadows at Dawn: The Camp Grant Massacre and the Borderlands of History"

David Konstan
Professor of Classics
PROJECT TITLE: "The Active Reader in Classical Antiquity"



Kurt Raaflaub
Professor of Classics
PROJECT TITLE: "Early Greek Political Thought in its Mediterranean Context"

Michael Satlow
Associate Professor of Judaic Studies
PROJECT TITLE: "People of the Land: Jewish Piety in Late Antiquity"



Mark Swislocki
Assistant Professor of History
PROJECT TITLE: "Culinary Nostalgia: Food and Cultural Memory in Shanghai"

"I found the experience most profitable and agreeable, and I am enormously grateful for the opportunity it offered me to learn new things and advance my own research."

—Faculty Fellow Kurt Raaflaub
Classics

Cogut Center Faculty Fellowships for the academic year 2008-09 have been awarded to:

FALL

Matthew Garcia, American Civilization
Philip Rosen, Modern Culture and Media
Michael Vorenberg, History
Vazira Zamindar, History

SPRING

Elizabeth Bryan, English
Dana Gooley, Music
Timothy Harris, History
Ethan Pollock, History

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities

“This year has allowed me to lay the groundwork for completing a book project, organizing my next field project, developing new courses, and disseminating my research both to institutions in the US and internationally.”

— Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow
Ian Straughn
Archaeology and the Ancient World

A \$1.16 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation supports two-year postdoctoral fellowships in the humanities, humanistically oriented social sciences, or in fields with close ties to the humanities. This generous grant enables the Cogut Center to bring visiting faculty to campus to enrich the curriculum and provide students with new areas for study and research. The Fellows teach one class per semester for their home departments and participate in the weekly Fellows' Seminar series to discuss their research and that of the other Cogut Fellows.

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, all of which occur in a stimulating scholarly environment in which to pursue research, develop new interdisciplinary connections, and network. It also gives recent PhDs opportunities to gain teaching experience, to develop their research, and to publish as they seek permanent positions.

The 2008-10 cohort will be Ipek Tureli, History of Art and Architecture, and Rachel Price, Hispanic Studies.



2006-08 MELLON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Sherine Hamdy

Anthropology/Science and Technology Studies
SEMINAR TITLE: "When the State and Your Kidneys Fail: Dialysis Patients, Political Etiologies, and the Egyptian Body Politic"

Michael Rohlf
Philosophy

SEMINAR TITLE: "Systematicity and Conditions of Experience in Kant"



2007-09 MELLON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Syed Nauman Naqvi

Comparative Literature
SEMINAR TITLE: "The Imperatives of Aesthetic Modernism and Muslim Nationalism in the Critical Thought of Muhammad Hasan Askari in the 1940s"



Ian Straughn

Archaeology and the Ancient World
SEMINAR TITLE: "Dar al-Islam and the Territorial Problem"



Postdoctoral Fellows in International Humanities

The Postdoctoral Fellows in International Humanities explore and enhance Brown's commitment to the humanities in an international context by teaching one class per semester, participating fully in the lives of their home departments, meeting at the Fellows' Seminars on a regular basis to discuss their work in progress, and convening a bi-weekly seminar on the humanities and the transnational university.



Meida McNeal

Theatre, Speech and Dance

SEMINAR TITLE: "The Janus-face of Postcolonial Caribbean Performance: Negotiating Tradition, Creativity and Ambivalence in Trinidadian Folk Practice"



Lorenzo Benadusi

Italian Studies/Gender Studies

SEMINAR TITLE: "The Image of the Soldier: Fascism, Militarism and Masculinity"



Adrián López Denis

History/Latin American Studies

SEMINAR TITLE: "Communities of Immunity in the Iberian Atlantic World"



Yukiko Koga

East Asian Studies

SEMINAR TITLE: "The Double Inheritance: The Afterlife of Colonial Modernity in Former 'Manchuria'"

"[The weekly fellows' seminars] not only broadened my peripheral vision but also opened up a new horizon of knowledge that would play a central role in my own projects."

—Yukiko Koga
Postdoctoral Fellow
in the International Humanities
East Asian Studies

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 2007-2008, four Graduate Student Fellowships in the Humanities were awarded by the Center's governing board. Fellowships cover the enrollment fee, health insurance, the 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 participate actively in the Cogut Center's regularly 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 Fellows.

The 2008-09 Graduate Fellows cohort will be Kelley Kreitz, Comparative Literature; Sarah Moran, History of Art and Architecture; Kathryn Rhine, Anthropology; and Sarah Wald, American Civilization.



Pannill Camp

Theatre, Speech and Dance
DISSERTATION TITLE: "Le Premier Cadre: Theatre Architecture and Objects of Knowledge in Eighteenth-Century France"



Robert Newcomb

Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
MacMillan Graduate Fellow in the Humanities
DISSERTATION TITLE: "Counterposing *Nossa* and *Nuestra América*"



Emily Steinlight

English
DISSERTATION TITLE: "Mass Man and the Future of the Social in Nineteenth-Century Literature"



Amy Vegari

Comparative Literature
MacMillan Graduate Fellow in the Humanities
DISSERTATION TITLE: "Violence, Immediately: Representation and Materiality in Twentieth-Century Literature, Film, and Theory"

"The feedback I received during my seminar was some of the most rigorous and insightful that I have ever received. Indeed, I think the Cogut Center provides one of the most intellectually rigorous forums for exchange on campus."

— Graduate Fellow Rob Newcomb
Portuguese and Brazilian Studies

Humanities Research Group Grants

The Cogut Center sponsors 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 intra-disciplinary 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 which will enrich the intellectual environment for students as well as faculty at Brown. 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 2007-08 academic year were:

Nature's Disciplines and the New England Renaissance Conference

The original 2006-07 research group on "Nature's Disciplines" explored the production, practice, and implications of early modern science in an interdisciplinary context. The original intent was to discuss how interdisciplinary studies of the history of science could best be researched and taught at Brown. In 2007-08 this group organized the New England Renaissance Conference on the theme of "Nature's Disciplines," helping this research group identify and draw in people interested in the interdisciplinary study of early modern natural knowledge at Brown.

Earthly Jerusalem from the Romans to the Fatimids

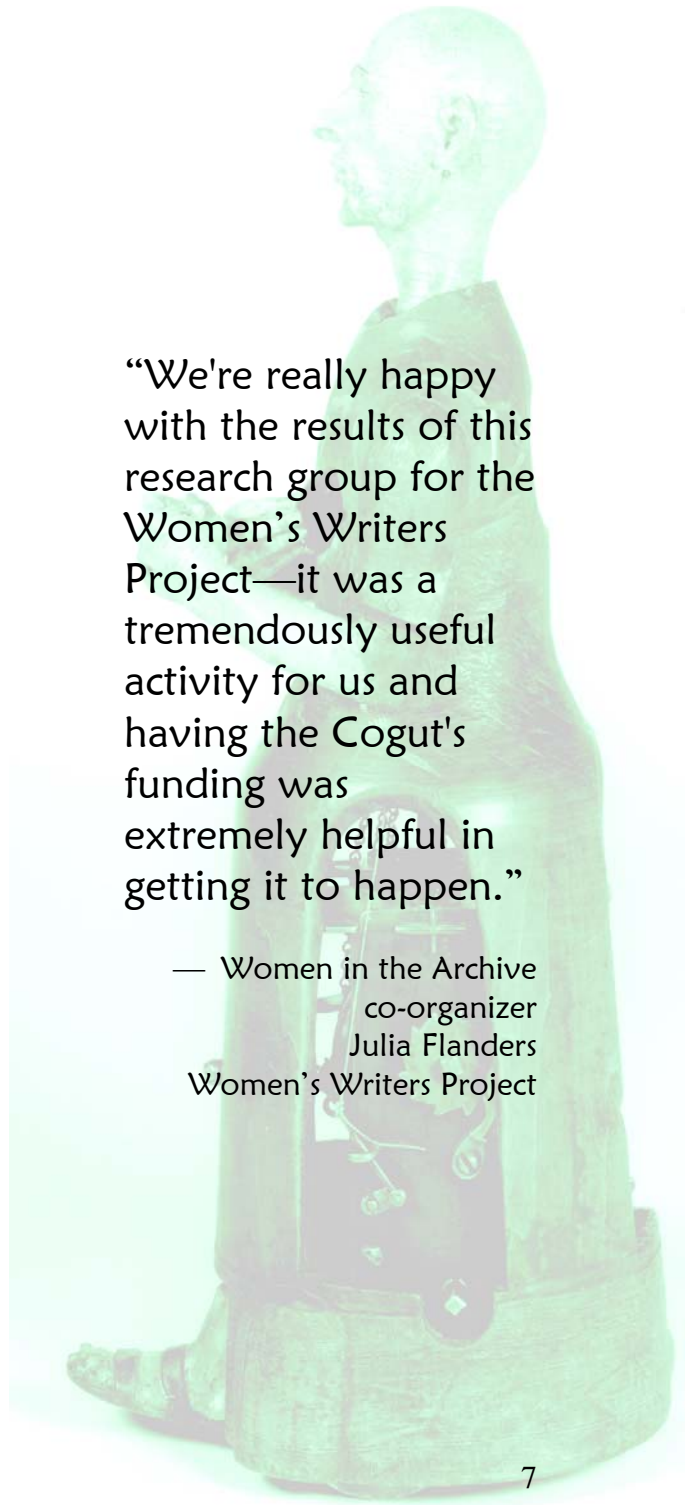
Proceeding with the groundwork laid by the "Exhibiting Roman, Byzantine and Early Islamic Jerusalem" the Earthly Jerusalem research group continued to discuss the thematic parameters of a traveling exhibit on Roman, Byzantine and Early Islamic Jerusalem to take place in 2010.

Material Worlds

The aim of this group was to explore the potential of material culture as a unifying concept in examining questions that range from the nature of agency to the aesthetics of art. In the spring of 2008 the working group hosted a symposium that provided a forum in which Brown researchers and a number of outside colleagues presented ongoing projects in which "things" matter.

Women in the Archive

The goal of Women in the Archive was to deepen our historical perspective on scholarship on women, their texts, and their culture across the disciplines. The research group then organized a one-day conference, "Revealing Women: Pedagogy, Text, Technology," which brought together a range of scholars, historians, women's studies scholars, literary scholars, art historians and others.



“We're really happy with the results of this research group for the Women's Writers Project—it was a tremendously useful activity for us and having the Cogut's funding was extremely helpful in getting it to happen.”

— Women in the Archive
co-organizer
Julia Flanders
Women's Writers Project

Distinguished Visiting Fellows

The Cogut Center brings to the Brown community the most innovative and important new 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, and with 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 2007-08 academic year, the Center hosted the following distinguished visitors:



Lucy Shelton

SOPRANO

As part of the Cogut Center's Fall Humanities colloquium "The Flowering of Baudelaire," Ms. Shelton performed a concert of music from Baudelaire's time and/or inspired by his poetry, featuring the

world premiere of Elliott Carter's "La musique." Ms. Shelton also offered a Fellows' Seminar, "The Birth of a Recital," in which she spoke about her process in learning a new work and the circumstances of how new works come into being. In addition, she held a master class for advanced vocal students.

"[The Cogut Center's hosting of] Lucy Shelton in the fall added a lot to our Applied Music series of Master Classes this year. I hope you will continue to bring musicians of such high caliber to our campus."

—Frederick Jodry
Music

Ruth HaCohen

ARTUR RUBINSTEIN CHAIR IN MUSICOLOGY
HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

In her month-long stay at Brown, Prof. HaCohen offered a lecture "Noisy Jews': Between Cultural Reality and Vocal Fictions" and a follow-up seminar "Modern Aesthetic and Psychoanalytic Strategies of Working through the Noise Accusation." In addition to meeting with faculty and students, she participated in the campus forum "International Education and Democratic Society."



Yaron Ezrahi

PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Prof. Ezrahi spent a month at the Cogut Center and, in addition to participating in the campus forum "International Education and Democratic Society," offered a public lecture "The Political Imagination and the Production of Freedom" and its follow-up seminar "The Making of Voluntary Political Agencies and the Production of Public Facts."



Seminars and Events

FELLOWS' SEMINARS

SEPTEMBER 18: **“Globalization and the State: Is an Era of Neoeugenics in the Offing?”** Margaret Lock, Marjorie Bronfman Professor in Social Studies in Medicine, McGill University

OCTOBER 2: **“Communities of Immunity in the Iberian Atlantic World,”** Adrián López Denis, Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities, History/Latin American Studies

OCTOBER 9: **“The Image of the Soldier: Fascism, Militarism and Masculinity,”** Lorenzo Benadusi, Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities, Italian Studies/Gender Studies

OCTOBER 16: **“Blue Helmets and Black Markets: The Business of Survival in Besieged Sarajevo,”** Peter Andreas, Faculty Fellow, Political Science

OCTOBER 18: **“The Birth of a Song Recital,”** Lucy Shelton, Soprano, Distinguished Visiting Scholar

OCTOBER 23: **“Nature's Disciplines: A Report on the New England Renaissance Conference,”** Evelyn Lincoln, History of Art & Architecture/Italian Studies; Tara Nummedal, History; and Nicolás Wey-Gómez, Hispanic Studies

OCTOBER 30: **“Earthly Jerusalem: From the Romans to the Fatimids,”** Katharina Galor, Judaic Studies

NOVEMBER 6: **“The Double Inheritance: The Afterlife of Colonial Modernity in Former ‘Manchuria’,”** Yukiko Koga, Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities, East Asian Studies

NOVEMBER 13: **“The Work of Women's Words: Gendered Dialogue in Ancient Syriac Hymns,”** Susan Harvey, Faculty Fellow, Religious Studies

NOVEMBER 27: **“Bodily Violence and Textual Material,”** Amy Vegari, Graduate Fellow, Comparative Literature

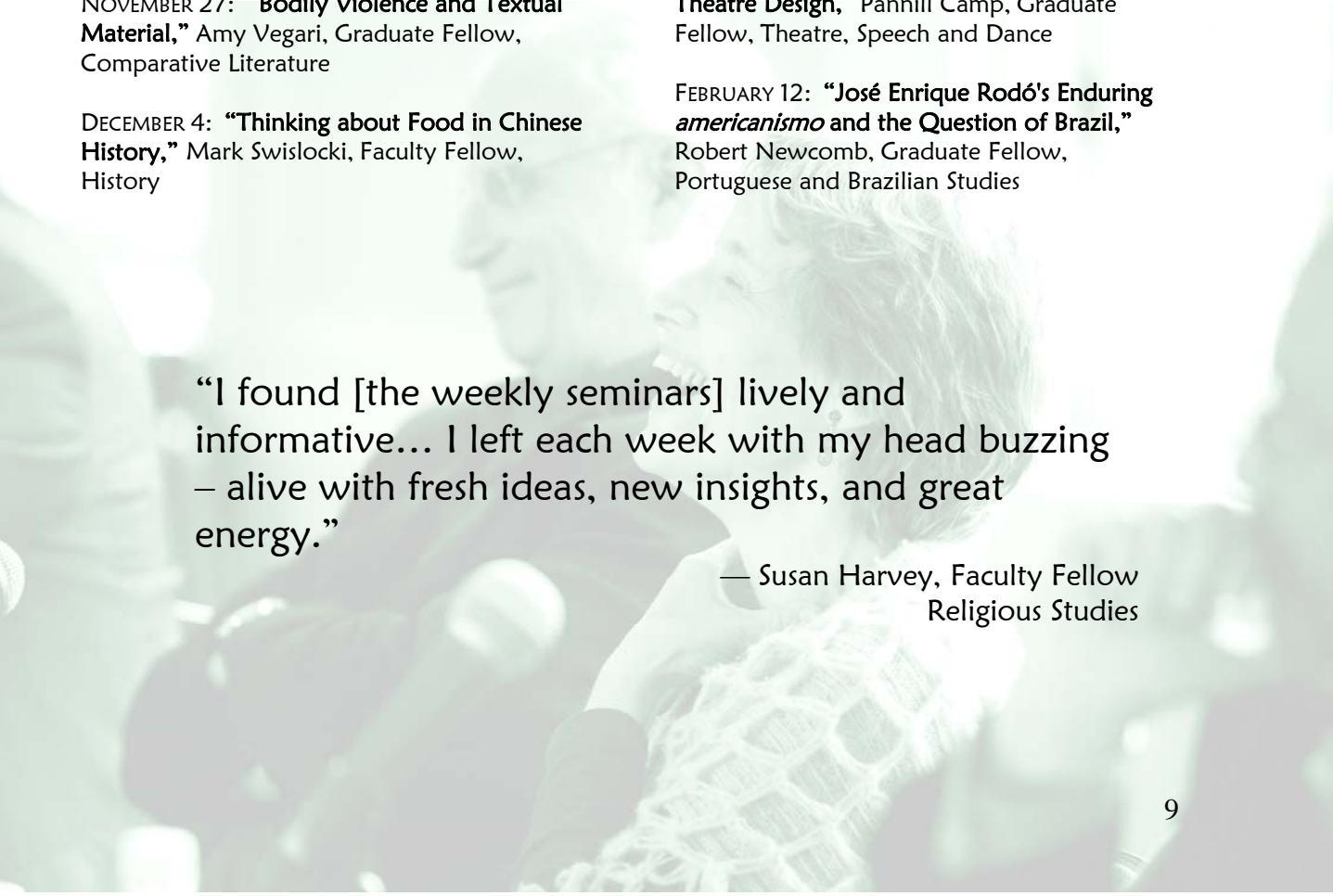
DECEMBER 4: **“Thinking about Food in Chinese History,”** Mark Swislocki, Faculty Fellow, History

DECEMBER 11: **“The Imperatives of Aesthetic Modernism and Muslim Nationalism in the Critical Thought of Muhammad Hasan Askari in the 1940s,”** Syed Nauman Naqvi, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Comparative Literature

JANUARY 29: **“Desire, Absorption, and the Close-Up,”** Mary Ann Doane, Faculty Fellow, Modern Culture and Media

FEBRUARY 5: **“Optics and Representations of Stage Space in Eighteenth-Century French Theatre Design,”** Pannill Camp, Graduate Fellow, Theatre, Speech and Dance

FEBRUARY 12: **“José Enrique Rodó's Enduring *americanismo* and the Question of Brazil,”** Robert Newcomb, Graduate Fellow, Portuguese and Brazilian Studies



“I found [the weekly seminars] lively and informative... I left each week with my head buzzing – alive with fresh ideas, new insights, and great energy.”

— Susan Harvey, Faculty Fellow
Religious Studies

FEBRUARY 26: **“Cartesian Solitude and the Nature of Reading: The View from Classical Antiquity,”** David Konstan, Faculty Fellow, Classics

MARCH 4: **“Shadows at Dawn: The Camp Grant Massacre and the Borderlands of History,”** Karl Jacoby, Faculty Fellow, History

MARCH 11: **“Dar al-Islam and the Territorial Problem,”** Ian Straughn, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Archaeology and the Ancient World

MARCH 13: **“Sleepless in America,”** Emily Martin, Professor of Anthropology, New York University

MARCH 18: **“Thinking about, Conceptualizing, and Theorizing Peace in the Ancient Greek World,”** Kurt Raaflaub, Faculty Fellow, Classics and History

APRIL 1: **“The Janus-face of Postcolonial Caribbean Performance: Negotiating Tradition, Creativity and Ambivalence in Trinidadian Folk Practice,”** Meida McNeal, Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities, Theatre, Speech and Dance, Brown University

APRIL 8: **“Adventures on the Möbius Strip: Anthropological Thoughts on Reproduction and Disability,”** Rayna Rapp, Professor of Anthropology, New York University

APRIL 15: **“Mass Man and the Future of the Social in Nineteenth-Century Literature,”** Emily Steinlight, Graduate Fellow, English

APRIL 22: **“When the State and Your Kidneys Fail: Dialysis Patients, Political Etiologies, and the Egyptian Body Politic,”** Sherine Hamdy,

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow,
Anthropology/Science and Technology Studies

APRIL 29: **“Systematicity and Conditions of Experience in Kant,”** Michael Rohlf, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy

MAY 6: **“Charity and Piety in Late Antique Judaism,”** Michael Satlow, Faculty Fellow, Judaic Studies

MAY 13: Year-End Fellows’ Seminar **“Pheng Cheah’s *Spectral Nationality*,”** Pheng Cheah, Professor of Rhetoric, University of California, Berkeley. Seminar convened by Graduate Fellow Pannill Camp.

HANNAH ARENDT SEMINARS

Partnering with the Pembroke Center and the Watson Institute for International Studies, the Cogut Center co-hosts The Hannah Arendt Seminars. This multi-semester series of events celebrates the work of renowned German philosopher and political theorist Hannah Arendt and honors the centennial of her birth. The series brings noted scholars from within and outside Brown together for lectures, workshops, film screenings, and other events to explore issues pertaining to the humanities, the study of women and gender, and international studies.

The Hannah Arendt Seminars hosted during the 2007-08 academic year included the following:

February 11: Lecture – **“Hannah Arendt and Love,”** Idith Zertal, Professor of Contemporary History, Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Basel

February 12: Seminar – **“From Hannah Arendt’s ‘Zionism Reconsidered’ (1945) to Idith Zertal’s ‘Lords of the Land’ (2007),”** Idith Zertal, Professor of Contemporary History, Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Basel

April 30: Seminar – **“Judging in a Lawless World: Hannah Arendt and the Eichmann Trial,”** Lyndsey Stonebridge, Professor of Literature and Critical Theory, University of East Anglia

FALL HUMANITIES WEEKEND — THE FLOWERING OF BAUDELAIRE

The third annual Fall Humanities Weekend offered a wide variety of papers, discussions, poetry readings, art exhibits and concerts. This important conference commemorated the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Les Fleurs du mal*, probably the most important book of poems published in modern times.

The invited speakers, from leading universities in the United States and Europe, are among the most important scholars working on Baudelaire, 19th-century literature and the arts.



“I knew the conference would be a treat but I now realize what a crucial role the Cogut Center played in putting together such a multifaceted event. It left me with a sort of craving for all the tantalizing areas that I discovered...”

— Mireille Rosello
University of Amsterdam

OCTOBER 18

Special Fellows' Seminar - “**The Birth of a Song Recital.**” Soprano Lucy Shelton presented a seminar about her process in learning a new work and the circumstances of how new works come into being.

Poetry Reading - CD Wright, Brown University; Keith Waldrop, Brown University; poet Michael Palmer.

OCTOBER 19

Baudelaire and the Arts Panel - Gretchen Schultz, Brown University; Ann Smock, University of California, Berkeley; Susan Bernstein, Brown University

Baudelaire and the Arts Exhibit - Visit with commentary by Dominique Coulombe, John Hay Library, Brown University

Baudelaire and the Arts (II) Panel - Thangam Ravindranathan, Brown University; Michèle Hannoosh, University of Michigan; Katherine Bergeron, Brown University

Pornography, Censorship and the Legacy of *Les Fleurs du mal*: A Roundtable - Michael Steinberg, Director, Cogut Center for the Humanities; Carolyn Dean, Brown University; Abigail Solomon-Godeau, University of California, Santa Barbara; Judith Surkis, Harvard University

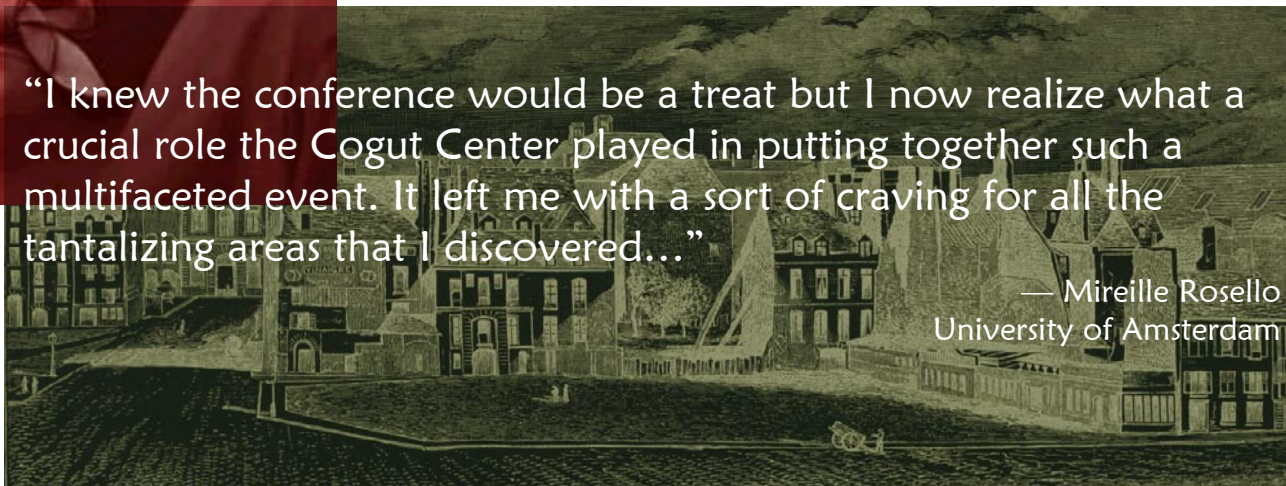
L'Invitation au voyage: A Concert of Musical Translations of Baudelaire from the 19th to the 21st Centuries - Music by Duparc, Charpentier, Chabrier, Becker, Plamenac, Grechaninov, Harvey; new video work by Butch Rovon, Brown University. World premiere of Elliott Carter's “La musique” with Lucy Shelton, soprano and Angelina Gadeliya, piano

OCTOBER 20

Baudelaire and Ethics Panel - Pierre Saint-Amand, Brown University; Jonathan Culler, Cornell University; Emily Apter, New York University; Kevin McLaughlin, Brown University

Master Class - Lucy Shelton with Advanced Vocal Students

Baudelaire and Colonialism - Réda Bensmaïa, Brown University; Françoise Lionnet, University of California, Los Angeles; Mireille Rosello, University of Amsterdam; Edward Ahearn, Brown University



WAGNER AND SCANDAL

Neither taste nor scholarship has lifted the veil of scandal from the work and legacy of Richard Wagner. Modern music is unthinkable without him, but might the world have turned for the healthier without him? American opera audiences have by and large not wanted to confront such questions. German and other European audiences, after 1945, have been asked to do so, and have generally agreed to the provocation. Focusing on three recent productions from the Wagner canon, the editors of *The Opera Quarterly* and several colleagues from within Brown and beyond offer the following conversation.

MARCH 13

Film Screenings

Lohengrin (Peter Konwitschny, Hamburg/Barcelona): Act 1

Tristan und Isolde (Patrice Chéreau, Milano): Act 2 (excerpt)

Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg (Katharina Wagner, Bayreuth): Act 3 (excerpt)



MARCH 14

Panel Discussions and Workshop

Two hour panel discussions of each screened staging *Lohengrin*, *Tristan und Isolde* and *Die Meistersinger*

Panel participants: Carolyn Abbate (Harvard), Bettina Brandl-Risi (Berlin/Yale), Alessandra Campana (Tufts), Lydia Goehr (Columbia), Dana Gooley (Brown), Gundula Kreuzer (Yale), David Levin (Chicago), Ryan Minor (Stonybrook/Harvard), Chris Morris (Cork), Clemens Risi (Berlin/Brown), Robert Sollich (Berlin/Bayreuth), Michael Steinberg (Brown), Heather Wiebe (Ann Arbor)

SARAH CUTTS FRERICHS LECTURE IN VICTORIAN STUDIES



This lectureship fund, named for Sarah Cutts Frerichs AM'49 PhD'74, supports annual lectures on topics related to Victorian Studies — the study of English culture of the Victorian period — including, but not limited to, comparative literature, social and political history, and the histories of education, philosophy, fine arts, economics, law and science.

The inaugural Sarah Cutts Frerichs Lecture was presented by Ilana Pardes (*pictured left*), Professor of Comparative Literature and Chair of the Department of Comparative Literature at Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

APRIL 15: Lecture - **“Melville’s Bibles and Victorian Perceptions of Motherhood”** Prof. Pardes's lecture explored Melville's choice to end *Moby-Dick* with an evocation of Jeremiah's verse on Rachel's inconsolable cry on behalf of her exiled children. She reads Melville's rare allusion to a biblical female figure against the background of the rise of women's bibles and the growing involvement of women in the exegetical scene.

LECTURES, READINGS, EXHIBITIONS

The Cogut Center hosted a rich and varied program of scholarly events throughout the 2007-08 academic year. In addition to the events listed elsewhere in this report, the center hosted:

OCTOBER 11: **The Messiaen Lectures - “The Shock of the Positive: Messiaen, St. Francis and Redemption through Modernity,”** Robert Sholl, Thames Valley University/King's College, London; and **“Technics, Religion and Music,”** Sander van Maas, University of Amsterdam.

NOVEMBER 9: **Film premiere and conversation - “Listening to the World: Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra at Brown,”** pianist Saleem Abboud Ashkar; Katherine Bergeron, Brown; Michael

SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE: MUSIC FROM THERESIENSTADT

Czechoslovakia's Jews were among the first to suffer the oppressive weight of Nazi occupation. At the end of 1941 the small eighteenth-century garrison town of Terezin, also known as Theresienstadt, was transformed into a re-settlement camp to sequester the country's Jewish population. The bitter irony remains that in Theresienstadt there was a remarkable flowering of cultural life reflecting the enormous diversity and creativity of the camp's population.

Austrian baritone Wolfgang Holzmair (*pictured right*) and pianist Russell Ryan performed a recital of the music of Pavel Haas, Karel Bermann, Hans Krása, Viktor Ullmann, Ilse Weber, Zikmund Schul and Gideon Klein.



APRIL 3: Concert recital - Wolfgang Holzmair, baritone, and Russell Ryan, pianist

APRIL 4: Seminar - Historian Christopher Hailey and Wolfgang Holzmair, speakers

Master Class - Wolfgang Holzmair and advanced vocal students

Steinberg. World-premiere of this short film about the December 2006 residency of Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, produced by the Cogut Center for the Humanities and Udris Film.


NOVEMBER 10: **Concert Recital** - Saleem Abboud Ashkar performed a program of Brahms, Hayden, Beethoven and Chopin. Then Mr. Ashkar offered a Master Class to students of the Applied Music Piano Program.

APRIL 10: **Campus Forum - “International Education and Democratic Society”** Brown University's Vice-President for International Affairs David Kennedy presided over a panel of distinguished scholars including Menachem Magidor, President of Hebrew University, Jerusalem; B. Anthony Bogues, Africana Studies, Brown; Elliott Colla, Comparative Literature, Brown; Yaron Ezrahi, Political Science, Hebrew University; and Ruth HaCohen, Musicology, Hebrew University

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 preeminent 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 up to two Brown University participants, who must be either senior graduate students or junior faculty members. This year's sole recipient was graduate student **Amanda Minervini**, Italian Studies.



“My experience at the SCT [proved] very important and fruitful for my critical skills. . . This experience is and will be of paramount importance for my research but also for my intellectual life in the future.”

— Stefano Selenu
Graduate Student, Italian Studies
2007 Tuition Fellowship Recipient

Co-Sponsored Initiatives

The Cogut Center offers financial and promotional support on an ad hoc basis to other Brown departments, programs and student groups that host humanities-oriented events and activities. In 2007-08 the center provided financial support to 30 departments and student groups. Some examples of student-led activities and departmental events that the center supported this past year include:

SEPTEMBER 27: Lecture - **“Traditore-Traduttore: Treason & Translation at Saint Elizabeth's,”** Richard Sieburth, French/ Comparative Literature, New York University

OCTOBER 4: Lecture - **Annual Graduate Student Lecture**, Lee Edelman, Tufts University

SEPTEMBER 17: Lecture - **“Seduced by Plaques and Tangles: Alzheimer's Disease and the Cerebral Subject,”** Margaret Lock, Marjorie Bronfman Professor in Social Studies in Medicine, McGill University

SEPTEMBER 26 AND 29: Symposium - **“Urban Transformations/Shifting Identities,”** Elizabeth Diller, architect

SEPTEMBER 28: Lecture - **“Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures,”** Vincent Lam, author

OCTOBER 4-7: Symposium - **“Reading Digital Literature,”** convened by Roberto Simanowski, German Studies

OCTOBER 6: Film screening - **"The Burgess Variations: Theme and Thirty Variations on the Life and Works of Anthony Burgess"** BBC documentary.

OCTOBER 7: Lecture - **"Anthony Burgess as Composer: The Postmodernist Always Swings Nice,"** Paul Phillips, Brown University.

OCTOBER 22: Lecture - **"Inside/Out: Race, Sex, and Tattoos,"** Kip Fulbeck, University of California, Santa Barbara. Part of Multiracial Heritage Week.

OCTOBER 31: Lecture - **"The Black Hole of Empire,"** Partha Chatterjee, Director of the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, and Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University

NOVEMBER 1: Lecture - **"Contemporary Issues: Politics, Economy and Religion"** -Partha Chatterjee (*see above*)

NOVEMBER 3-10: Student-run activities - **"Emerging SEAs: Unweaving Southeast Asian Myths, Summoning a Collective Voice,"** Talks, film screenings and exhibits related to Southeast Asian Heritage Week.

NOVEMBER 9-10: Conference - **"Theories of the Novel Now: A Conference in Celebration of Forty Years of NOVEL,"** Franco Moretti, English/Comparative Literature and Director, Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University, keynote speaker.

NOVEMBER 12: Film screening - **"Colour of Olives"** Film screening of documentary followed by discussion with Daoud Sarhandi, the film's producer, editor and cinematographer. Part of events related to "Palestine Solidarity Week 2007: Behind the Wall: An Assertion of Palestinian Presence."

NOVEMBER 14: Film screening - **"Divine Intervention,"** Screening followed by discussion. Part of events related to "Palestine Solidarity Week 2007: Behind the Wall: An Assertion of Palestinian Presence."

FEBRUARY 13: Panel discussion - **"Fishes and Loaves"** Panel discussion, accompanied by film clips, about the politics, ethics, and science of food production organized by Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow Sherine Hamdy, Anthropology/Science and Technology Studies. Part of the Program in Bridging the Sciences and Humanities.

FEBRUARY 23: Conference - **"Fascism, Nazism & Sexuality"** Organized by Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities Lorenzo Benadusi, Italian Studies, in cooperation with the Departments of Italian Studies, German Studies, History, Comparative Literature and the Pembroke Center.

MARCH 1-20: Student-run activities - **"Facets of a Religion: Faith, Culture and Art,"** activities related to Islam Awareness Month.

MARCH 28-30: Conference - **"Empires and Science,"** Series of workshops examining how the cross-cultural study of empire can shed new light on the cultural bonds that tie the sciences and the humanities together.

MONTH OF APRIL: Student-run activities - **Gay Pride Month,** lectures, film screenings and symposia.

APRIL 4-5: Conference - **"Reassessing the Foreign Language Curriculum in the Age of Globalization,"** Chinese-American novelist, Ha Jin, keynote speaker. Other speakers Scott McGinnis, the Defense Language Institute; Clara Yu, Monterey Institute for International Studies; Hans Lauge Hansen, Aarhus University in Denmark; Elizabeth Welles, formerly with the MLA; Damon Rarick, University of Rhode Island; Roger Allen, University of Pennsylvania; Rick Donato, University of Pittsburgh; and Katherine Arens, University of Texas.

APRIL 9-15: Student-run activities - **"Exploring Our Differences: Los Matices de Nuestra Comunidad"** Events focused on the diversity within the Mexican-American community.

APRIL 15-22: Interdisciplinary residency - **"David Amram: Celebrating a Half-Century of Multi-Cultural Artistic Collaborations"** A week long residency, with film screenings, conversations and concerts, honoring David Amram, American composer.

APRIL 24-25: Conference - **"The Demon Melancholy: Genealogies, Modernities"** Organized by the French Department, this conference brought together scholars to examine melancholy in relation to art, time, space, history and the mind/body connection.

APRIL 25: Symposium - **"City Lights. Literary Constructions and Urban Space in the Iberian Peninsula,"** convened by Enric Bou, Hispanic Studies. Speakers Vincenzo Arillo, Università di Venezia; Tom Harrington, Trinity College; Carlos Ramos, Wellesley College; Eduardo Mendoza, novelist.

International Humanities



BROWN IN CUBA

In the fall of 2008, Brown University is launching a study abroad program in Havana, Cuba. Designed and implemented in collaboration with Casa de las Américas, this initiative will give eleven of our undergraduate students an unprecedented opportunity to experience the complexities of Cuban history, culture and politics, while sharing a classroom with a similar number of local students. This semester-long program consists of four intense seminars taught in Spanish by Cuban professors. The core of the program lies the regular production of a podcast documenting how Cuban artists and intellectuals create and disseminate their work. All students enrolled in the program will participate in the development of these audio reports. They will record, edit and upload every episode from Havana, using a laptop, digital recorder and a couple of field microphones. A virtual workshop will connect the team in Havana with a group of students participating in a seminar that will be offered by our Hispanic Studies Department.

Two Postdoctoral Fellows at the Cogut Center for the Humanities will be responsible for implementing and managing this virtual workshop. Here at Brown, Rachel L. Price will be teaching the seminar on Contemporary Cuban Literature and Visual Culture. From Havana, Adrián López-Denis will be working as coordinator for the program as a whole, while teaching a seminar on Cuban history, Transnational Cuba: History and Contemporary Life.

Photo credit: Meredith Curtis, '10

NANJING-BROWN JOINT PROGRAM IN GENDER STUDIES AND THE HUMANITIES

Brown University's initiative to strengthen its international programs now includes a research partnership linking the Cogut Center for the Humanities, the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women and the East Asian Studies Department at Brown with the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Science at Nanjing University.

Nanjing University has long been a leading university in China and especially strong in the humanities and social sciences. This new program seeks to bring outstanding scholars in China, initially those from Nanjing University, into dialogue with scholars here at Brown about the global future of gender and feminist studies and the humanities in general. In June 2008 Nanjing University hosted a faculty symposium on gender and feminist theory and an international conference on Chinese female film directors. Six Brown faculty members visited Nanjing University to participate in the symposium. In the spring of 2009, Chengzhou He, Nanjing University's Associate Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies, will visit the Cogut Center as a Distinguished Visiting Fellow.



Digital Humanities

The Cogut Center sponsors an ongoing, university-wide exploration of the vital and fast-growing role of the digital world in relation to the humanities, including the proliferation and accessibility of databases, visualization technologies, and electronic writing and publishing. In 2007-2008, a self-selecting group of 35 faculty and staff members and visiting scholars met regularly to discuss Brown's strengths and potential in these fields. Planning foci included a possible publications program and the new Humanities Lab in Pembroke Hall. Discussion leaders included John Cayley (Literary Arts), Adrián López Denis (Cogut Center, History, Latin American Studies), David Cooper (Engineering), Katharina Galor (Judaic Studies), Chris Wetmore (Joukowsky Institute for the Study of the Ancient World), Julia Flanders and Elli Mylonas (Scholarly Technology Group).

Medical Humanities

The Medical Humanities initiative was inaugurated in 2007-2008 in partnership with the Warren Alpert Medical School and as one of the Medical School's elective concentrations. The Scholarly Concentrations Program offers students the opportunity to pursue a course of study beyond that of the conventional medical education curriculum and translate personal interests and activities into scholarship. Students who participate in a Scholarly Concentration undertake rigorous independent scholarship in a cross-disciplinary field of interest related to medicine, public health, engineering, or a bio-medically relevant topic in the sciences, arts, or humanities.

Four second-year medical students participated in a year-long seminar on "Pain," with a focus on literary, philosophical, aesthetic and anthropological engagements with pain as a physiological, cultural, political and representational challenge. Cogut Center Director Michael Steinberg convened the seminar with the participation of faculty colleagues Sherine Hamdy (Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Anthropology, Science Studies), Carol Poore (German Studies), Daniel Smith (Anthropology) and Arnold Weinstein (Comparative Literature).

In August 2008, David Washington, a member of the 2008-2009 Medical Humanities cohort, traveled to Pílas, Spain, with Michael Steinberg and Devin Beecher '08, to research an independent research project on "Music and Social Medicine" in the company of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and their music director, Daniel Barenboim. *Photo credit: David Washington '07, MD '11*





Cogut Center for the Humanities
Box 1983
172 Meeting Street
Providence, RI 02912
401/863-6070
Humanities_Center@brown.edu