

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I began my year at the Cogut Institute, I naturally presumed that the only interruption to define my term would be the relatively harmless one of the appointment itself. But alas, 2019-2020 will be remembered as the year in which our events were upended by the COVID-19 pandemic and our courses and seminars migrated online. Even as it imposed itself on our conversations, however, the lockdown brought home the relevance of the humanities for understanding our historical situation. In April, three weeks after the fellows' seminar moved to Zoom, Daniel Hirschman, Assistant Professor of Sociology and a Faculty Fellow, addressed the seminar on the way in which, since the 1990s, cost-benefit economic models have come to determine climate change policy in Washington. Climate change, said Hirschman, has been transformed from an ecological problem into "one of many competing economic problems." As became apparent during the session, cost-benefit models have also determined the disastrous national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as the economic impact of the pandemic took precedence over its status as a public health crisis.

A week later, Adi Ophir, Visiting Professor in the Humanities and Middle East Studies, spoke about the "shared" nature of the earth and world. For Ophir, the fact of our shared environment is a rebuke to the cost-benefit model, the effect of which is to destroy any sense of a shared world. Ophir's presentation brought into focus the degree to which the coronavirus pandemic – the first truly global event – announces the definite appearance of a "finite" world, the sharedness of which can no longer be ignored.

The ironies of some spring cancellations were felt acutely. "Radical Gardening in the Time of Climate Change," a one-day conference on sustainable food practices in local and indigenous communities, organized by members of the Cogut Institute's Environmental Humanities Initiative, was scheduled to

take place in March. The conference would have taken aim at the same intensified conditions of industrial food production and distribution that have made a global pandemic possible and so devastating. "Capitalism and the Human," a two-day



conference I had organized with Visiting Professor of the Humanities Jeremy Gilbert, would surely have examined the very demographic and racial inequalities that the pandemic has thrown into sharp relief. As I write, the news narrative about the spread of the virus is being overlaid by unprecedented mobilizations of public anger and collective energy as these longstanding inequities find even more grotesque expression in the continued killings of black citizens by police officers and white vigilantes caught on film.

These tumultuous events have cast a retrospective urgency and luminosity onto much of our programming and teaching this past year. In December the Political Concepts Initiative convened an all-women conference on the theme of "Retouch," considering modes of what the organizers (Ariella Azoulay, Vazira Zamindar, Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman and Leela Gandhi) called "redress, redistribution, and resurgence" in the context of imperialist and racial-capitalist formations. Politics in the Humanities (PITH), an initiative led this year by Kevin Quashie (English), presented "Uneasy Sanctuaries: Rethinking Race-Thinking," a provocative talk by philosopher Paul C. Taylor (Vanderbilt University) on the need for Black Studies to avoid any number of problematic "sanctuaries" (repurposing Ralph Ellison's term) currently distracting the field, according to Taylor, including race theory, black male studies, and pessimism. The Collaborative Humanities Initiative is now three years old. A second cohort of students from various departments completed the Doctoral Certificate by taking the Project Development Workshop, which I enjoyed co-teaching with Brian Meeks (Africana Studies). The Collaborative Humanities Course Award supports teamtaught undergraduate course proposals on timely topics and methods that cross disciplinary fields. The award was conferred on "Loss, Political Activism, and Public Feelings: Between Fact and Affect," a course proposed by Professors Juliet Hooker (Political Science) and Emily Owens (History). Again, the themes of this course, which is scheduled for Fall 2020 and described in detail on the following page, speak directly to our political moment.

It is in this context, too, that we might revisit an evening event in March, just before the COVID-19 sequester: a screening and conversation with the artists of the Otolith Group, presented as part of the newly launched Black Visualities Initiative directed by Tina Campt, Owen F. Walker Professor of Humanities and Modern Culture and Media. The Group's 2017 installation, The Third Part of the Third Measure, features four pianists performing a discordant, defiant work by the black, gay American minimalist composer Julius Eastman, who died, destitute, in 1990, aged 49. In explaining the motivations for the piece, founding member Kodwo Eshun talked of his desire, in the wake of Trump's 2016 election and the dedication of the Movement for Black Lives, to make a work that would not merely "commemorate" Eastman: "We wanted to make Eastman prospective and contemporary ... We wanted to orient the commemorative apologias and expiations [around Eastman's work] towards a certain kind of perseverance, a certain kind of insistence, and a certain kind of resilience ... It was about setting up a condition in which to come face to face with the resources required for resilience and for persistence and for insistence."

As we look toward the uncertainties of the coming year at Brown, and live through a time of indisputable reckoning for the country and the world, there seem no better words for what the Cogut Institute might hope to mobilize for the members of our community and beyond: resources for resilience, for persistence, and for insistence.

TIMOTHY BEWES

Interim Director, Cogut Institute for the Humanities, 2019-2020 Professor of English



COLLABORATIVE HUMANITIES INITIATIVE

2020 Undergraduate Collaborative Humanities Course Award

The award supports the development of innovative team-taught undergraduate courses proposed by pairs of faculty members, one in the humanities and one in another division or school of the University.



Loss, Political Activism, and Public Feelings: Between Fact and Affect Juliet Hooker, Professor of Political Science Emily Owens, Assistant Professor of History

Political scientist Juliet Hooker (upper left) and historian Emily Owens (lower right) are the recipients of this year's Collaborative Humanities Course Award. The award, part of the Cogut Institute's Collaborative Humanities Initiative, recognizes curricular innovations that enhance and develop undergraduate education and research as well as departmental course offerings. Hooker and Owens will offer a new undergraduate course, "Loss, Political Activism, and Public Feelings: Between Fact and Affect," this Fall 2020.

The course's focus is on the political constructions and uses of loss, from the mobilization of quantitative approaches to the personal charge of political

encounters. How do activists, elected officials, cultural workers, academics, and artists, among others, ground their claims between fact and affect? What work can the presumption of the impartiality of "data" do for political actors in times of crisis? How, on the other hand, do movement builders draw attention to the affective density that such quantitative data hides? Can numbers, too, speak the language of feeling? What, if anything, is lost when feelings become mobile in quantitative form?

Drawing on studies of political behavior in political science, recent developments in affect theory, as well as the history of slavery, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Movement for Black Lives, this course will explore how the past figures in the present and makes claims on how we might remake the future. It will juxtapose texts from public health, public policy, empirical political science, and law, with cultural and artistic responses that foreground public feelings of mourning, rage, and defiance.



Among possible assignments, it will invite students to build a visual exhibit on the ongoing legacy of the Brown Slavery and Justice Report and the project of slavery's memorialization in Rhode Island and at the university.

2019-20 Collaborative Humanities Graduate Seminars

HMAN 2400P | The Idea of the University

Gerhard Richter (German Studies) and Peter Szendy (Comparative Literature and Cogut Institute)

HMAN 2400R | Tracing Translations: Artistic Migrations and Reinventions in the Early Modern World Shahzad Bashir (History and Middle East Studies) and Holly Shaffer (History of Art and Architecture)

HMAN 2400S | Race, Nation, Immigration

Prerna Singh (Political Science and International and Public Affairs) and Michael Steinberg (History and Music)

HMAN 2400T | Imagining Cities: Early Modern Urban Perspectives

Laura Bass (Hispanic Studies) and Evelyn Lincoln (History of Art and Architecture and Italian Studies)

HMAN 2400U | Italian Thought: Inside and Out

Laura Odello (French Studies) and Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg (Italian Studies, Comparative Literature and Pembroke Center)

HMAN 2400W | The Visual Frequency of Black Life

Tina Campt (Modern Culture and Media and Cogut Institute) in parallel with Saidiya Hartman (Columbia University)

HMAN 2400X | Premodern Art-Science, or the Work of Knowing in Europe before 1800

Harold Cook (History) and Tara Nummedal (History and Italian Studies) in parallel with the University of Minnesota

HMAN 2500 | Project Development Workshop

Timothy Bewes (English and Cogut Institute) and Brian Meeks (Africana Studies)

2020 Recipients of the Doctoral Certificate in Collaborative Humanities

Nicholas Andersen (Religious Studies)
Kevin Ennis (Portuguese and Brazilian Studies)
Jeffrey Feldman (Political Science)
Ahona Palchoudhuri (Anthropology)
Michael Paninski (German Studies)

Mirjam Paninski (German Studies)
Michael Putnam (Religious Studies)
Miriam Rainer (German Studies)
Nicole Sintetos (American Studies)

For more information on Collaborative Humanities events and programming, see page 23.

2019-20 Mellon Graduate Fellows in Collaborative Humanities



NICHOLAS ANDERSEN Religious Studies



KEVIN ENNISPortuguese and Brazilian Studies



MELAINE FERDINAND-KINGAfricana Studies



Nomaan Hasan Anthropology



CAROLINA-MARIA MENDOZA
Religious Studies



MICHAEL PANINSKI German Studies



MICHAEL PUTNAM Religious Studies



Urszula Rutkowska English

OTHER COGUT INSTITUTE COURSES

HMAN0700A | Simulating Reality: The (Curious) History and Science of Immersive Experiences

Massimo Riva (Italian Studies) and Fulvio Domini (Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological Sciences)

HMAN0701A | Brazilian Democracy in Literature and History
James Green (Portuguese and Brazilian Studies) and Leila Lehnen (Portuguese and Brazilian Studies)

HMAN1971S | Introduction to iPhone/iPad Moviemaking Using 3-D and 360VR Comparisons Theodore Bogosian (Cogut Institute)

HMAN 1974E | **Political Theology for the Anthropocene**Adi Ophir (Cogut Institute and Middle East Studies)

HMAN 1974K | Governing Culture: Music and the Arts in Political Life Damien Mahiet (Cogut Institute)

HMAN 1974L | The Coming Apocalypse: Between the Earth and the World Adi Ophir (Cogut Institute and Middle East Studies)

HMAN 1974M | Solidarities: Sharing Freedom, Inventing Futures
Jeremy Gilbert (Cogut Institute and University of East London)



STUDENT FEEDBACK on 2019-20 HMAN Courses

Exceptional and fascinating class!

What I most enjoyed about [the professor's] teaching was his uncanny ability to find a fascinating and unexpected angle on every text we read.

I loved that discussion was encouraged, especially friendly disagreement.

One of the best classes with some of the best teachers at Brown (not only at Brown, actually).

I looked forward to this seminar every week and felt privileged to learn with and from the professors and peers who formed this outstanding seminar.

And as we pivoted to remote learning...

The professors adapted the second half of the semester in an admirable and generative way that I and many others so appreciated.

This course was absolutely amazing in transitioning to online learning in times of a real and unprecedented crisis.

I learned a ton...this was probably the best groupwork experience I've ever had (despite the challenges of all being in different time zones!).

RELATED COURSES

These courses were taught for partnering departments by Cogut Institute Postdoctoral Fellows and Humanities Initiative Faculty.

Fall Semester

ANTH 1720 | The Human Skeleton

Aviva Cormier (Anthropology)

COLT 1210 | Introduction to the Theory of Literature

Peter Szendy (Comparative Literature) and Marc Redfield (Comparative Literature)

HIAA 1631 | Authority, Identity, and Visual Culture in Colonial Latin America

Jessica Stair (Early Modern World and History of Art and Architecture)

HISP 2160N | Antiquity and Innovation in the Hispanic Renaissance

Andrew Laird (Classics, Hispanic Studies and Early Modern World)

HISP 2520R | Radical Borders

Gustavo Quintero Lozano (Hispanic Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies)

HIST 1978D | Contested Histories of Colonial Indochina: Encounters, Social Transformations, Legacies of Empire

Cindy Nguyen (History)

MCM 1204J | A New Black Gaze

Tina Campt (Modern Culture and Media)

MUSC 1240R | Rap as Storytelling

Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo (Music)

POLS 18201 | Indigenous Politics in Hawai'i: Resurgence and Decolonization

Mary Tuti Baker (Political Science)

Spring Semester

ANTH 1750 | Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology

Aviva Cormier (Anthropology)

ARCH 0317 | Heritage in the Metropolis: Remembering and Preserving the Urban Past

Lauren Yapp (Archaeology and the Ancient World)

COLT 1814U | Politics of Reading

Peter Szendy (Comparative Literature)

HIAA 1151 | Painting Indigenous Histories in Colonial Mexico

Jessica Stair (Early Modern World and History of Art and Architecture)

HISP 1371F | Narrating the Borderlands: Literature, Legality, and Solidarity

Gustavo Quintero Lozano (Hispanic Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies)

HIST 1962E | Print and Power in Modern Southeast Asia

Cindy Nguyen (History)

LATN 1040B | Virgil: Aeneid

Andrew Laird (Classics, Hispanic Studies and Early Modern World)

MCM 1506E | Rethinking Black Visuality

Tina Campt (Modern Culture and Media)

MUSC 1240S | Feminist Sonic Futures

Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo (Music)

PHIL 1720 | Kant: The Critique of Pure Reason

Paul Guyer (Philosophy)

PHIL 2080L | Idealism in the Twentieth Century

Paul Guyer (Philosophy) and Rolf-Peter Horstmann (Philosophy and Humboldt University, Berlin)

POLS 0920B | Introduction to Indigenous Politics with Pacific

Islander Focus

Mary Tuti Baker (Political Science)

Spring 2020 Visiting Professor of Humanities

Jeremy Gilbert is Professor of Cultural and Political Theory at the University of East London. He is Editor of the journal New Formations and has written and spoken widely on politics, music and cultural theory. He writes regularly for the British press and for think tanks, is routinely engaged in debates and discussion on Labour Party policy and strategy—and is also an active DJ and dance-party organizer. His books include Anticapitalism and Culture: Popular Politics and Radical Theory (Berg 2008), Common Ground: Democracy and Collectivity in an Age of Individualism (Pluto, 2014) and Twenty-First Century Socialism (Polity, 2020).

While at the Cogut Institute, Gilbert led a seminar, "Solidarities," which gathered 23 undergraduate and graduate students with concentrations in the humanities and social sciences as well as the life, physical, and computer sciences:



HMAN 1974M / HMAN 2971H | Solidarities: Sharing Freedom, Inventing Futures

Solidarity between people—even between species—has never been more needed. But our culture is saturated by personality politics and ubiquitous narcissism. How can we think and organize ourselves out of this impasse? Is it shared interests or shared identities that unite us? What does freedom mean in an interconnected age? These are some of the questions that any attempt to think through the question of solidarity in the twenty-first century must encounter. Writers considered in the course included Karl Marx, Hannah Arendt, Michel Foucault, Gilbert Simondon, Toni Negri, Stuart Hall, Maurizio Lazzarato, Donna Haraway, Couze Venn, and Ruth Ozeki, among others.



As part of his appointment Gilbert joined the weekly Fellows' Seminar, where he presented some recent reflections on the significance of social media for political campaigning and political life. He also served as a faculty reader in the May 2020 Collaborative Public Workshop, sharing his response to the work of graduate students in collaborative humanities.

FACULTY FELLOWS



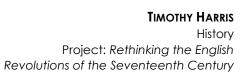
BATHSHEBA DEMUTH
History
Project: Call of the Domestic: HumanDog Cultures and the Making of
Nineteenth-Century Arctic Borderlands







MARY-LOUISE GILL
Classics
Project: Becoming Like God in Plato's
Timaeus Trilogy







DANIEL HIRSCHMANSociology
Project: The Costs of Climate Change

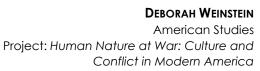






DANIEL J. SMITH

Anthropology
Project: Okadas, Danfos, and Molues:
Citizenship, the State, and the Privatization of
Public Transportation in Nigeria





MELLON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



MARY BAKER
Political Science
Project: Cultivating Kīpuka Aloha 'Āina: The
Dynamics of Indigenous Resurgence in
Relationship to Other Social Justice
Movements



JESSICA STAIR

History of Art and Architecture

Project: The Inscribed Hand: Mapping Memory and

Space in Colonial Nahuatl Documents



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITIES



AVIVA CORMIER Anthropology Project: Ancient Rare Diseases and Life Course Experiences: Reevaluating the Role of Bioarchaeology in the the Study of Disability, Health, and Identity



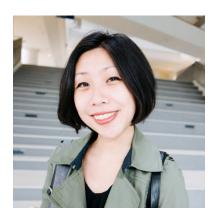
GUSTAVO QUINTERO Hispanic Studies Project: Aesthetics of No-Future: Mexican Experimental Video During the Lost Decade



LAUREN YAPP Archaeology and the Ancient World Project: The Future in the Past: Colonial Modernity as Urban Heritage in Contemporary Indonesia



ENONGO LUMUMBA-KASONGO Music Project: On Boundary Work and Professional Audition: Reconciling Production Values in Multivalent Recording Spaces



CINDY NGUYEN History Project: Misreading: The Social Life of Libraries and Colonial Control in Vietnam 1865-1958

GRADUATE FELLOWS



CLAIRE GRANDY
English
Project: Poetics of the Record: Robin Coste Lewis's
"Voyage of the Sable Venus"

BRIGITTE STEPANOV
French Studies
Project: Human/Animal/Monster: Fleeting
Distinctions and Repentance in Gilbert Gatore's
"Le Passé devant soi"





DENNIS HOGANComparative Literature
Project: Franca Comunicación: Literature and the
Transit Zones

UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS



ZAHRA ASGHAR Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences Project: Humanitarian Anti-Politics: Public Health Infrastructure, Homemaking, and Development in Za'atari Refugee Camp



ALIOSHA BIELENBERG Archaeology and the Ancient World and Critical Thought and Global Social Inquiry Project: How Do We Make a World? Hannah Arendt, the Khoi-San, and the Problems of Alterity and Humanism



ISAAC LEONG History Project: Contested Justice: Law and Ritual in the Aftermath of the Chinese Massacre



Development Studies and Middle East Studies Project: Surviving Gender and Genocide: TransMen Under the Khmer Rouge Regime

FELLOWS' SEMINARS

SEPTEMBER 17

"The Future in the Past: Colonial Modernity as Urban Heritage in Contemporary Indonesia," Lauren Yapp, Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities, Archaeology and the Ancient World

SEPTEMBER 24

"Apocalypse, Appropriation, and Empire in Virgil's 'Messianic' Ecloque," Joseph Reed, Faculty Fellow, Classics

OCTOBER 1

"Call of the Domestic: Human-Dog Cultures and the Making of Nineteenth-Century Arctic Borderlands," **Bathsheba Demuth**, Faculty Fellow, History

OCTOBER 8

"Human/Animal/Monster: Fleeting Distinctions and Repentance in Gilbert Gatore's "Le Passé devant soi'," **Brigitte Stepanov**, Graduate Fellow, French Studies

OCTOBER 15

"Poetics of the Record: Robin Coste Lewis's 'Voyage of the Sable Venus'," Claire Grandy, Graduate Fellow, English

OCTOBER 22

"Nations on Parade: Forms of Seriality in International Relations," **Damien Mahiet**, Associate Director, Cogut Institute for the Humanities

OCTOBER 29

"Rethinking the English Revolutions of the Seventeenth Century," Timothy Harris, Faculty Fellow, History

NOVEMBER 5

"Franca Comunicación: Literature and the Transit Zones," Dennis Hogan, Graduate Fellow, Comparative Literature

NOVEMBER 12

"In the Shadow of Genius: Paul Erdős, Collaboration, and the Hidden Labor of Care," **Paja Faudree**, Faculty Fellow, Anthropology

NOVEMBER 19

"Cultivating Kīpuka Aloha 'Āina: The Dynamics of Indigenous Resurgence in Relationship to Other Social Justice Movements," **Mary Baker**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Political Science

NOVEMBER 26

"Humanitarian Anti-Politics: Public Health Infrastructure, Homemaking, and Development in Za'atari Refugee Camp," **Zahra Asghar**, Undergraduate Fellow, Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences

"Contested Justice: Law and Ritual in the Aftermath of the Chinese Massacre," **Isaac Leong**, Undergraduate Fellow, History

DIXA RAMÍREZ D'OLEO at "Political Concepts: Retouch" December 6-7, 2019

DECEMBER 3

"Surviving Gender and Genocide: TransMen Under the Khmer Rouge Regime," **Tabitha Payne**, Undergraduate Fellow, Development Studies

"How Do We Make a World? Hannah Arendt, the Khoi-San, and the Problems of Alterity and Humanism,"

Aliosha Bielenberg, Undergraduate Fellow,

Archaeology and the Ancient World

JANUARY 28

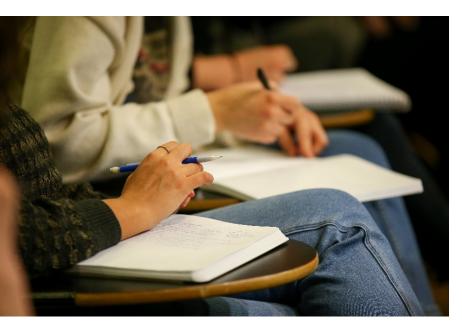
"On Boundary Work and Professional Audition: Reconciling Production Values in Multivalent Recording Spaces," **Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo**, Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities, Music

FEBRUARY 4

"Okadas, Danfos, and Molues: Citizenship, the State, and the Privatization of Public Transportation in Nigeria," **Daniel J. Smith**, Faculty Fellow, Anthropology

FEBRUARY 11

"Platforms and Potency," **Jeremy Gilbert**, Visiting Professor of Humanities, Cogut Institute for the Humanities and University of East London



FEBRUARY 25

"Aesthetics of No-Future: Mexican Experimental Video During the Lost Decade," **Gustavo Quintero**, Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities, Hispanic Studies

March 3

"Human Nature at War: Culture and Conflict in Modern America," **Deborah Weinstein**, Faculty Fellow, American Studies

March 10

"Ancient Rare Diseases and Life Course Experiences: Reevaluating the Role of Bioarchaeology in the the Study of Disability, Health, and Identity," **Aviva Cormier**, Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities, Anthropology

March 31

"Misreading: The Social Life of Libraries and Colonial Control in Vietnam 1865-1958," **Cindy Nguyen**, Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities, History

APRIL 7

"The Inscribed Hand: Mapping Memory and Space in Colonial Nahuatl Documents, **Jessica Stair**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, History of Art and Architecture

APRIL 14

"The Costs of Climate Change," **Daniel Hirschman**, Faculty Fellow, Sociology

APRIL 21

"Sharing the World," **Adi Ophir**, Visiting Professor of Humanities and Middle East Studies, Cogut Institute for the Humanities

APRIL 28

"Becoming Like God in Plato's Timaeus Trilogy," Mary-Louise Gill, Faculty Fellow, Classics

MAY 5

Final Presentation from Undergraduate Fellows **Zahra Asghar**, **Aliosha Bielenberg**, **Isaac Leong**, and **Tabitha Payne**

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

THE GREG AND JULIE FLYNN COGUT INSTITUTE SPEAKER SERIES

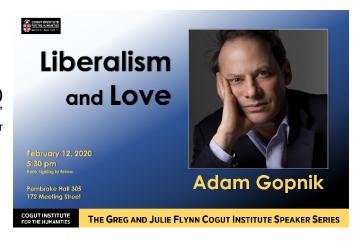


OCTOBER 2 (LECTURE AND UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR)
"The Creative Imagination and Race"
Claudia Rankine, Frederick Iseman Professor of Poetry,
Yale University

FEBRUARY 12-13 (LECTURE AND UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR)

"Liberalism and Love"

Adam Gopnik, New Yorker Staff Writer



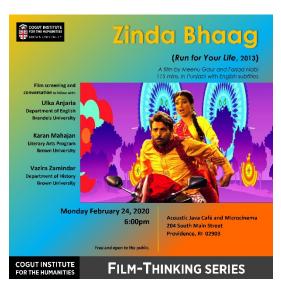
FILM-THINKING SERIES



OCTOBER 28 (FILM SCREENING AND CONVERSATION)
"The Death of Maria Malibran"
Alexander García Düttmann, Berlin University of the
Arts; Gertrud Koch, Freie Universität Berlin and Brown
University; Peter Szendy, Brown University.

DECEMBER 9 (FILM SCREENING AND CONVERSATION) "The Mirror"

Shahzad Bashir, Brown University; **Timothy Bewes**, Brown University; **Samine Tabatabei**, Brown University.





FEBRUARY 24 (FILM SCREENING AND CONVERSATION) "Zinda Bhaag"

Ulka Anjaria, Brandeis University; **Karan Mahajan**, Brown University; **Vazira Zamindar**, Brown University.

CREATIVE MEDICINE LECTURE SERIES

OCTOBER 16 (LECTURE)
"Dancing with Parkinson's: Exploring Aesthetics in
a Climate of Instrumental Benefit"
Sara Houston, University of Roehampton, London



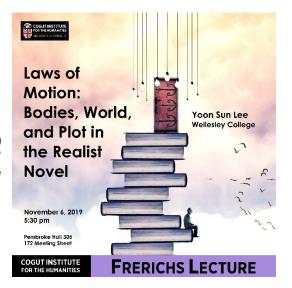


DECEMBER 4 (LECTURE)

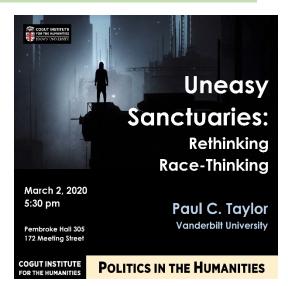
"Human Connection in the Digital Age: Professional and Personal Spheres of Changing Interactions" Teresa L. Schraeder, MD, Alpert Medical School, Brown University

SARAH CUTTS FRERICHS LECTURE IN VICTORIAN STUDIES

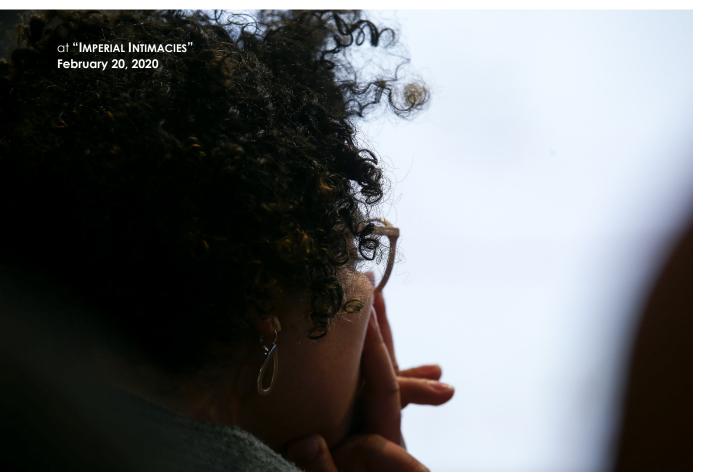
NOVEMBER 6-7 (LECTURE AND GRADUATE SEMINAR)
"Laws of Motion: Bodies, World, and Plot in the Realist Novel"
Yoon Sun Lee, Wellesley College



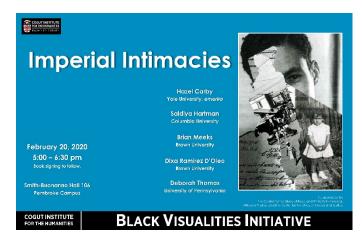
PITH – POLITICS IN THE HUMANITIES



MARCH 2 (LECTURE AND GRADUATE SEMINAR)
"Uneasy Sanctuaries: Rethinking Race-Thinking"
Paul C. Taylor, Vanderbilt University



BLACK VISUALITIES INITIATIVE



FEBRUARY 20 (BOOK SALON)
"Imperial Intimacies"
Hazel Carby, Yale University; Saidiya Hartman,
Columbia University; Brian Meeks, Brown University;
Dixa Ramírez D'Oleo, Brown University; Deborah
Thomas, University of Pennsylvania.

MARCH 5 (FILM SCREENING AND CONVERSATION)

"Third Part of the Third Measure"

Rizvana Bradley, Yale University;

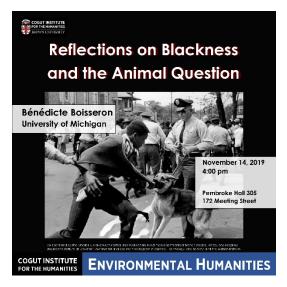
Anjalika Sagar and Kodwo Eshun, The Otolith Group;

Tina Campt, Brown University.





ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES AT BROWN



NOVEMBER 14-15 (LECTURE AND SEMINAR)
"Reflections on Blackness and the Animal Question"
Bénédicte Boisseron, University of Michigan

MARCH 5 (LECTURE)

Presented with the Program in Science, Technology, and Society
"The Great Chernobyl Acceleration"

Kate Brown, Massachusetts Institute of Technology





THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
Environmental Humanities Reading Group
Coordinator: Michael Putnam, Religious
Studies.

POLITICAL CONCEPTS INITIATIVE



December 6-7 (Conference)

"Political Concepts: Retouch"

Speakers: Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman, Brown University; Ariella Aïsha Azoulay, Brown University; Tina Campt, Brown University; Keisha-Khan Perry, Brown University; Jasmine Johnson, University of Pennsylvania; Dixa Ramírez D'Oleo, Brown University; Poulomi Saha, University of California, Berkeley; Emily Owens, Brown University; Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning; Imani Perry, Princeton University; Thangam Ravindranathan, Brown University; Ainsley LeSure, Brown University and Occidental College; Patricia Ybarra, Brown University; Vazira Zamindar, Brown University.

Organizers: **Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman**, Brown University; **Ariella Aïsha Azoulay**, Brown University; **Leela Gandhi**, Brown University; **Vazira Zamindar**, Brown University.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
Political Concepts Reading Group
Coordinators: Nick Pisanelli, English,
and Mara Nagelhout, English.



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE EARLY MODERN WORLD

SEPTEMBER 25 (LECTURE)

"Pushing Historical Boundaries: Rediscovering El Norte and the Forgotten Hispanic Past of the United States, 1500-1800"

Carrie Gibson, Journalist and Independent Scholar

OCTOBER 16 (LECTURE)

"Imagining Time in Early Modern India: Persian Chroniclers and Their Interpreters"

Shahzad Bashir, Brown University

NOVEMBER 1 (FOLGER INSTITUTE SEMINAR)

"The Visual Art of Grammar: Iconographies of Language from Europe to the Americas"

Andrew Laird, Brown University; Ahuvia Kahane, Trinity College Dublin.



State of the control of the control

NOVEMBER 13 (LECTURE)

"The Matriarch, the Duchess, the Queen, and the Countess: Aristocratic Patronesses of the Chinese Catholic Mission and their Role in Early Modern Chinese-European Relations"

Eugenio Menegon, Boston University

FEBRUARY 5 (LECTURE)

"Early Modern Queer: Sons and Lovers from Virgil to Dante and Beyond" Gary Cestaro, DePaul University

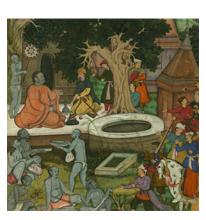
FEBRUARY 20 (LECTURE)

Presented with Department of the History of Art and Architecture "Shimmer and Surfeit: Gold from Gothic Italy to Cattelan's America"

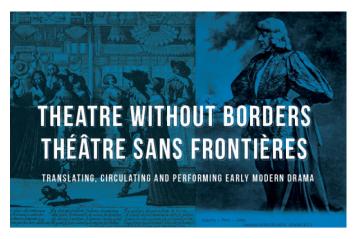
Anne Dunlop, University of Melbourne

MARCH 4 (LECTURE)

"La literature perdida de Charcas colonial: el rescate de una herencia olvidada de Bolivia/The Lost Literature of Colonial Charcas: Recovering Bolivia's Forgotten Legacy" Andrés Eichmann Oehrli, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, La Paz



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



SEPTEMBER 27 (CONFERENCE)
"Theatre Without Borders/Théâtre sans frontières"

Speakers: Jennifer Row, University of Minnesota; **Christian Biet**, Université Paris Nanterre; **Katherine Ibbett**, Trinity College, Oxford; **François Lecercle**, Université Paris-Sorbonne; **Michael Moon**, Emory University.

Organizers: **Karen Newman**, Brown University; **Lewis Seifert**, Brown University



OTHER EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



JANUARY 24 (CONVERSATION)
"Taġġa.tuq: To See One's Own Reflection | New Poems & the Question of Context"
Poet Joan Naviyuk Kane, in conversation with Bathsheba Demuth, Brown University



COVID PROGRAMMING

PUBLISHED MAY 20 (FILMED CONVERSATION)

"Viral Times: COVID-19, Sovereignty, and Biopolitics"

A conversation between **Peter Szendy**, David Herlihy Professor of the Humanities and Comparative Literature, and **Timothy Bewes**, Professor of English and Interim Director of the Cogut Institute for the Humanities.

What does COVID-19, and the US government response to it, tell us about the kind of society and mode of governance we are living through? In April 2020, days after the publication of Peter Szendy's essay "Vital Times" on In the Moment (a blog dedicated to the pandemic hosted by the interdisciplinary journal Critical Inquiry), Timothy Bewes and Peter Szendy explored Foucault's paradigms of sovereignty and biopolitics, the way these paradigms delineate the current moment without exhausting it, and the experience of heterochrony (or plurality of temporalities) at work in the event of COVID-19. They also discussed the relation between Szendy's reflection and Giorgio Agamben's earlier intervention on the "state of exception" in Italy.

PUBLISHED IN JUNE (FILMED DISCUSSIONS) Italian Thought on COVID-19

"Italian Thought: Inside and Out," a collaborative humanities graduate seminar taught by **Laura Odello** and **Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg** in Spring 2020, was already underway when Italy and the U.S. successively became epicenters of the global coronavirus pandemic. As Italian philosophers and thinkers engaged in a rapid-fire analysis of the event and its implications, seminar participants and guest speakers explored those responses in turn. The collaborative project *Italian Thought* on COVID-19 features a series of essays and resources selected, translated, edited, and composed by seminar participants.

Contributions included an introduction by Odello and Stewart-Steinberg, and the following essays:

Mariam Aboukathir, Nicholas Andersen, and Katherine Contess, "Apocalypse Live: Italian Media in the Time of COVID-19."

Sergio Benvenuto, "Heretical Reflections," translated by F. S. Ciccone and Andrea Sartori.

Cristina Morini, "Take Care: Society of Care and Self-determination Income," translated by Francesca Zambon (and edited by Julie Dind and Katia Rozenberg).

Vito Teti, "What Can 'Remaining' Mean Today?," translated by Morris Karp and Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg.

Raffaele Alberto Ventura, "The latrogenic Society," translated by Pablo a Marca (with proofreading, copyediting, and paratext by Alessandro Moghrabi).

Non Una di Meno, "Life Beyond the Pandemic," translated and introduced by Sara Colantuono and Geophrey Darrow.

The project also included a "Dossier on Plague Literature" compiled by Geophrey Darrow and F. S. Ciccone, and "Reading the Decameron in the COVID-19 Era," an interview with Brown University faculty members **Ronald Martinez** and **Massimo Riva** by **Morris Karp** and **Francesca Zambon**.

CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

2019-20 (Lecture Series) "Great Nonfiction Writers Lectures" Francisco Cantú, writer

2019-20 (Graduate Student Publication) "Brown Journal of History"

September 18 (Concert and Lecture) "Roma Culture in History and Music" Speaker Oleg Timofeev, University of lowa and musical group Zingaresca.

October 3-4 (Graduate Student Conference) "At the Margins: Interconnections of Power and Identity in the Ancient Near East" Speakers included: Speakers included: Alexander Ahrens, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut; Gojko Barjamovic, Harvard University; Lorenzo d'Alfonso, New York University; Peter Dubovsky, Pontifical Biblical Institute; Pinar Durgun, Wesleyan University; Avraham Faust, Bar-Ilan University; Daniel Fleming, New York University; N. Ílgi Gerçek, Bilkent University; Claudia Glatz, University of Glasgow; Mahri Leonard-Fleckman, College of the Holy Cross; Alvise Matessi, Instituto Italiano per la Storia Antica; Ellen Morris, Barnard College; Ann Shafer, Rhode Island School of Design; Valeria Turriziani, Sapienza University of Rome.

October 7-8 (Lecture) "Gratuitous Violence: Comic Experience and Lyric Misogyny" Speaker: David Carrol Simon, University of Maryland.

October 26 (Workshop) "ReSeeding the City: Ethnobotany in the Urban" Speakers included: Sue Anderbois, Food Strategy, State of Rhode Island; Geri Augusto, Brown University; Brian Byrnes, Parks & Recreation, City of Providence; Keely Curliss, Movement Ground Farm; Peter Del Tredici, Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University; Elizabeth Hoover, Brown University: Rebecca Uchill, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

October 30 – November 1 (Conference) "Northeast Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory" Keynote speaker: Heather Lechtman, Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

November 1-3 (Workshops, Events, and Outings) "Ivy Native Council Summit" Keynote speaker: Elizabeth Hoover, Brown University.

November 2 (Workshop) "Asian and Asian American Studies Writing Group" Speakers included: **Douglas Ishii**, Emerson University; **Jewel Pereyra**, Harvard University; **Stephanie Wong**, Brown University.

November 4-5 (Film Screening, Performance, and Presentation) "The Art of Unforgetting: Folk Memory Project and Chinese Documentary" Speakers included: Zhang Mengqi, Wu Wenguang, and Hu Tao, Caochangdi Workstation, Beijing.

November 12 (Lecture) "A House with a Date Palm Will Never Starve" Speaker Michael Rakowitz, Northwestern University.

November 16-22 (Public Lectures and Week-Long Residency) "Julian Boal Residency" Speakers included: **Geri Augusto**, Brown University; **Julian Boal**, Brazil Escola de Teatro Popular; **Anani Dzidzienyo**, Brown University; **Kelly Howe**, Loyola Marymount Chicago; **Keisha-Khan Perry**, Brown University.

November 27 (Book Club) "Activist Archives" Speaker: Doreen Lee, Northeastern University.

December 5 (Panel Discussions) "Style & Revolution" Speakers included: Simonetta Falasca-Zamponi, University of California, Santa Barbara; Anne Gorsuch, University of British Columbia; Ruthann Robson, City University of New York Law School; Regina Root, College of William and Mary; Christine Ruane, University of Tulsa.

December 14 (Workshops) "Database of Indigenous Slavery in the Americas" Speakers included: *Ken Alves*, Assonet Wampanoags; Rodney Butler, Mashantucket Pequot; Faries Gray, Massachuset-Ponkapaog Tribe; Cheryll Toney Holley, Nipmuc Nation; Liz Coldwind Santana Kaiser, Nipmuck; Meagan Running Deer Page, Pocasset Wampanoag Tribe; Ryan Page, Pocasset Wampanoag Tribe; Jim Peters, Massachusetts Indian Affairs; Paula Peters, Mashpee Wampanoag; Lorén Spears, Tomaquag Museum; Tall Oak Weeden, Pequot and Wampanoag; Toni Weeden, Pequot and Wampanoag.

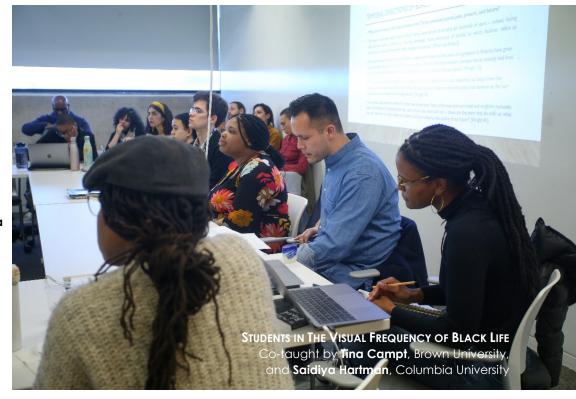
February 21 (Lecture)
"Southeast of Abolition:
Refiguring Urbanities in
(Apparently) Marginal Worlds"
Speaker: AbdouMaliq Simone,
Goldsmiths College, London.

February 21 (Lecture) "The Mexican Revolution on the World Stage" Speaker: Adela Pineda-Franco, Boston University.

February 22 (Performance Series) "Caribe Negro" Performers: Redobles de Cultura performance collective.

February 26 (Lecture)
"Sovereign and Martyr:
Necropower, Terrorism,
Nonviolence" Speaker: Siraj
Ahmed, City University of New
York Graduate Center.

March 6-7 (Graduate Student Conference) "Death" Keynote speaker: Joseph R. Winters, Duke University.



INITIATIVES AND CENTERS

INITIATIVES

The Institute's interdisciplinary initiatives host a variety of events, from reading groups to workshops to conferences, with the goal of advancing collaborative research on campus.

Collaborative Humanities

Director: Amanda Anderson, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of English and Humanities

Economies of Aesthetics

Director: Peter Szendy, David Herlihy Professor of Humanities and Comparative Literature

Environmental Humanities

Steering Committee: Mary Baker, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Political Science and Cogut Institute; Sophie Brunau, graduate student, French Studies; Mark Cladis, Brooke Russell Astor Professor of Humanities and Professor of Religious Studies; Bathsheba Demuth, Assistant Professor of History and Environment and Society; Nancy Jacobs, Professor of History; Sharon Krause, William R. Kenan, Jr. University Professor of Political Science; Brian Lander, Assistant Professor of History and Environment and Society; Shishav Parajuli, graduate student, Political Science; Michael Putnam, graduate student, Religious Studies; and Lukas Rieppel, David and Michelle Ebersman Assistant Professor of History

Humanities in the World

Director: Leela Gandhi, John Hawkes Professor of Humanities and English

Political Concepts

Director: Adi Ophir, Visiting Professor of the Humanities and Middle East Studies.

CENTERS

Center for the Study of the Early Modern World

Director: Andrew Laird, John Rowe Workman Distinguished Professor of Classics and Humanities

Center of Excellence

Director: Ourida Mostefai, Professor of Comparative Literature and French Studies

LECTURE SERIES

Creative Medicine

Convener: Jay Baruch, MD, Professor of Emergency Medicine

Film-Thinking

Convener: Timothy Bewes, Professor of English

PITH - Politics in the Humanities

Convener: Kevin Quashie, Professor of English

The Greg and Julie Flynn Cogut Institute Speaker Series

The Sarah Cutts Frerichs Lecture in Victorian Studies



STAFF

AMANDA ANDERSON

Director (on sabbatical 2019-20)

TIMOTHY BEWES

Interim Director

DAMIEN MAHIET

Associate Director

KIT SALISBURY

Department Manager

ARYN FINE

Academic Programs Coordinator

TRAUDE KASTNER

Cogut Institute Assistant

OFFICES

COGUT INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

Pembroke Hall Brown University 172 Meeting Street Providence, RI 02912 401/863-6070

2019-20 GOVERNING BOARD

SHAHZAD BASHIR

History

THOMAS A LEWIS

Religious Studies

REBECCA NEDOSTUP

History

PETER SZENDY

Comparative Literature

LAURA BASS

Hispanic Studies

MARC REDFIELD

Comparative Literature

PATRICIA YBARRA

Theatre Arts and Performance Studies

TIMOTHY BEWES

Interim Director



Box 1983
Providence, RI 02912
401/863-6070
https://www.brown.edu/academics/humanities/