It has been a tumultuous year for the humanities, for higher education, and for the University of Wisconsin System. The Center for 21st Century Studies (C21) was at the heart of this tumult, undergoing significant financial cuts and facing continuing threats to our very existence.

But as long as we stand, our commitment to promoting and protecting scholarship remains. Our theme for 2015-16, “Indigeneity,” turned our attention to the often-overshadowed work of Native American philosophers, theorists, and authors. Our research fellows dedicated their research to the same theme, and a culminating conference entitled “Landbody: Indigeneity’s Radical Commitments” brought together scholars from North America, Australia, and Europe to further discuss how attention to indigenous thought and lives transforms the world.

This past year, UWM was declared a “Research 1 Institution” by the Carnegie Foundation, putting us in the top tier of research universities nationally. The support for scholarship within The Center for 21st Century Studies (and, before our renaming, The Center for 20th Century Studies) played a considerable role in this reclassification: in the most recent 20-year period, for example, our fellows, staff, and conferences have produced at least 77 monographs or edited volumes, 129 academic essays, and 12 large-scale art and theater projects.

We also spent the year in the second of three years as part of a $1.35 million Mellon-funded graduate research grant in cooperation with Justus Liebig University Giessen, Australian National University, and the University of California at Santa Cruz. This summer here in Milwaukee, C21 hosted students, faculty, and humanities center directors from these institutions. We held productive meetings and thoughtful discussions, as well as recognizing the first successfully completed dissertation to emerge from the grant’s support (UWM’s Ashkan Rezvani Naraghi).

As we turn toward the future, we note that C21 is one of the oldest intellectual centers in the country, having developed a model now shared by the majority of research universities and liberal arts colleges. Our upcoming 50th year anniversary—in 2018!—promises great excitement. We have also initiated a new opportunity for Milwaukee-area residents to participate in the kinds of intellectual conversations we participate in on a regular basis: this fall’s Conversational Symposium will focus on political ideals. We continue to create and promote new programs, new ideas, and new arguments, cutting across disciplines and received assumptions.

Thanks for your support in these endeavors!

Kennan Ferguson, Director
Contents

Letter from the Director ii
Landbody Conference 2-4
Lecture Series: Indigeneities 5-6
Cosponsored Events 7
2016 Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference 8
Mellon IGHERT Grant 9
2016 CHCI Conference 10
C21 Books 11
2016-17 Calendar of Events 12
2016-17 Fellows 13-14
C21 In the News 15
About C21 16-17
Landbody Conference

Landbody
Indigeneity’s Radical Commitments

Is being indigenous necessarily located in place?

C21’s 2016 conference, Landbody, considered the implications of Native ontologies and epistemologies, emphasizing the animate, living nature of place and the conceptual primacy of connection and locale. Despite colonial incursions, Native communities continue their tribal lifeways, constructing and reconstructing systems of reciprocal survival in regions and localized spaces throughout lands and other spaces occupied by and contested by colonial powers and people. Place is not a neutral backdrop. An ontological connection to a specific land comprises a central component of indigenous being, a commitment to place contrary to current celebrations of migration, individualism, and cosmopolitanism.

Spanning three days, Landbody included five plenary speakers, nearly thirty speakers through nine breakout panels, an art exhibit, a film screening, a tour of a local Native American effigy mound, an introduction to the Anishinaabemowin language, Native American prayers and prayer cards, and Native American drummers and singers.

The conference’s concluding roundtable discussion with Kennan Ferguson and the four remaining plenary speakers—Gerald Vizenor had to leave a bit early—noted a few emergent themes: the representation and performance of indigenous images; the significance of nonhuman life forms and their relation to the world; and how these nonhuman life forms are greatly under-represented in European philosophy.

The speakers also noted how unusual, yet significant, it was to assemble four women Indigenous Studies scholars in one place, with those scholars representing emerging modalities in the field along political, cultural, and gender lines. As Jennifer Nez Denetdale quipped, it was a wonderful chance to meet up again with “the indigenous mothership.”

Margaret Noodin
Plenary Speakers

Jennifer Nez Denetdale (Diné | University of New Mexico)  
“Refusing the Gift of Democracy and Embracing Diné Concepts of Kinship—Navajo LGBTQ, Nation, and Citizenship”

Jolene Rickard (Tuscarora | Cornell University)  
“Decolonizing the Arts of Dispossession”

Audra Simpson (Mohawk | Columbia University)  
“We are Not Red Indians’ (We Might All Be Red Indians): The Gender of Anticolonial Sovereignty across the Borders of Time, Place, and Sentiment”

Kim TallBear (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate | University of Alberta)  
“Making Love and Relations Beyond Settler Sexualities”

Gerald Vizenor (White Earth Nation | UC-Berkeley)  
In conversation with Kimberly Blaeser, Wisconsin’s poet laureate, and a reading from his recently published novel, Treaty Shirts: October 2034—A Familiar Treatise on The White Earth Nation (Wesleyan University Press)
Art Installation
“Experiencing Native North America”
An American Indian Studies Community Project, with Bernard Perley, Margaret Noodin, Cary Miller (UWM)

Introduction to Anishinaabemowin Language
With Margaret Noodin and UWM students

Prayer Cards
Plenary talks and breakout panels were introduced by a Native American prayer in the Anishinaabemowin language. Each of the one dozen prayers was printed on a separate card with an accompanying illustration. Virtual prayer cards and audio recordings of the prayers are available at http://ojibwe.net/projects/prayers-teachings/landbody-conference/

Performance
Native American drummers and singers, from the Indian Community School of Milwaukee

Tour
Native American Effigy Mound in Lake Park
“Ho-Chunk Perspectives on Mounds,” with Bill Quackenbush, Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)

Film Screenings
Sky Hopinka, “Kuninkaga Remembers Red Banks, Kuninkaga Remembers the Welcome Song” and “Jááji Approx.”
C21’s research and public programming for 2015-16 were focused on the theme of contemporary indigeneities. The concept of indigeneity continues to evolve, rooted in five hundred years of colonialism, underpinning contemporary nationalisms, and serving as a resource for native peoples across the globe. This theme was chosen to complement C21’s participation in the Mellon-funded program in Integrative Graduate Humanities Education Research and Training (IGHERT), which takes up the topic “Indigeneity in an Expanded Field” (see page 9).

**Friday, November 20, 2015**

**Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair** (Native Studies, University of Manitoba)
“Bagijiganan: Anishinaabe Ethics in Native Studies”

**Friday, December 11, 2015**

**Siobhan Senier** (English, University of New Hampshire)
“Indigenizing Wikipedia: Expanding the Presence of Native Authors on the World’s Largest Encyclopedia”

**Friday, February 12, 2016**

**Stephen Graham Jones** (English, University of Colorado)
“Native Werewolves”
Friday, March 4, 2016
Patricia Richards (Sociology, Women's Studies, Georgia)
“Recollections of Violence and Survival in the Life Histories of Mapuche Women Elders”
with UWM Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS)

Friday, April 1, 2016
Becoming and Being a Refugee (in the Milwaukee Area)
An EmergentC21 Forum

Community Panelists: Mette Brogden, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families | Anwar Sallumi, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families | Barb Graham, Catholic Charities Legal Services for Immigrants | Patrick Thein, Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Services | Tammie Xiong, Hmong American Women’s Association

UWM Respondents: Kalyani Rai, Professor, Educational Policy and Community Studies, UWM | Omar Mohamed, UWM Student, Social Work, Lutheran Social Services
C21 also supports public lectures and discussions arranged by other UWM departments and external organizations, as well as benefitting from the support of others. Among the events we supported over the 2015-16 academic year were the following:

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015**

**George Lipsitz** (Black Studies, UC-Santa Barbara)
“The Ferguson Conjuncture: Why the Humanities Matter Now”
UWM Comparative Ethnic Studies Program, History Department, Africology Department, Cultures and Communities Program, Urban Studies Program, and College of Letters and Science

**Thursday, November 12, 2015**

*A Town Called Brzostek*
Film screening and talkback with director Simon Target
UWM Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies

**Monday, November 16, 2015**

*The Return*
Film screening and talkback with director Adam Zucker
UWM Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies

**Thursday, November 19, 2015**

*Beyond Crisis: The Humanities in Renewal*
A Symposium Dedicated to Ihab Hassan
UWM College of Letters & Science

**Tuesday, March 22, 2016**

**Joséphine Bacon** (Innu poet)
A Conversation with Joséphine Bacon
UWM American Indian Studies program

**Tuesday, April 12, 2016**

**Michael Twitty** (food historian)
“Kosher/Soul: Black & Jewish Identity Cooking”
UWM Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies

**Thursday, April 28, 2016**

**Sianne Ngai** (English, Stanford)
“Theory of the Gimmick”
5th Annual Literature & Cultural Theory Lecture
UWM English Department’s Graduate Program in Literature and Cultural Theory
The Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference (MIGC) is organized, hosted, and staged by graduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, with support from the Center for 21st Century Studies. The conference serves as a venue for an interdisciplinary group of graduate students to share their research in a supportive and critical environment. This year’s theme was IN PROCESS.

**Keynote speakers**

**Friday, February 19, 2016**

**Levi Bryant** (Philosophy, Collin College)

“The Interior of Things”

**Saturday, February 20, 2016**

**Nick Montfort** (Digital Media, MIT)

Exploratory Programming Workshop

Papers delivered at MIGC 2016 sought answers to the question, “What is meant when we consider something to be in process?”

The Process suggests movement along a sequence of conditions: it is the fermentation of an ancient ale, linguistic migrations, the grind to level 90, interactive fictions, the nodes of grassroots journalism, rotted infrastructures, the recovery of New Orleans. To exist within process is to be undetermined. If the anticipated ends are repeatedly achieved, however, a process becomes convention over time. In other words, whether perceived as a dynamic undulation and recombination of qualities or a persistent practice, the process are those conditions that constitute becoming.

When we recognize that something is in process, how do we negotiate the currents of its past, immediate, and potential states? When we speak of the process in scholarship, we are discerning what Levi Bryant refers to as the “entanglements” of its components and how they influence one another. As the academy increasingly resembles the experimental sandbox, we find ourselves with opportunities to jump in, get dirty, and extract these relationships.

MIGC 2016 helped us pause, extract, and dissect the “entanglements” that comprise the uncertain terrain of The Process, focusing on the various processes that move, compose, and become the world in an effort to open new opportunities to reveal new perspectives.
Two years ago, C21 was honored to have been selected to participate in a $1.35 million grant awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI). The three year pilot project, Integrative Graduate Humanities Education Research and Training (IGHERT), brings together doctoral students and faculty from four international institutions in a series of structured events to undertake jointly mentored and collaborative research within the broad theme of Indigeneity. In addition to UWM, participating institutions include the Australian National University in Canberra, Justus Liebig University Giessen (Germany), and University of California, Santa Cruz.

Each year, one institution hosts meetings and workshops for all four collaborating centers. C21 hosted the 2016 gathering, which we coordinated and interlinked with our May 2016 Landbody conference (see page 2).

Through the IGHERT grant, C21 has been supporting two UWM doctoral researchers, Lara Ghilseni (Anthropology) and Ashkan Rezvani Naraghi (Urban Studies), as well as two UWM faculty, Aneesh Aneesh (Sociology) and C21 director Kennan Ferguson (Political Science).

Ashkan's project, closely linked to his dissertation, examined the transformation of the public sphere and public spaces in Tehran, Iran during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries alongside the socio-spatial changes in the country. His 2016 IGHERT report details the profound impact of IGHERT readings, discussion, and collaboration on his dissertation: the experience “pushed me to reevaluate the timeframe of my research. . . . I realized the significance of studying Iranian urban society and its spaces before the increasing contacts with the West and transformation of society and the cities. This temporal shift provided the essential underpinning of my project.”

We look forward to Lara's report in the coming year.
This summer the CHCI (Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes) annual conference was held at the School of Advanced Study at the University of London. CHCI, whose second director was UWM’s Kathleen Woodward in the late 1990s, consists of approximately two hundred international academic organizations dedicated to research, and is affiliated with the American Council of Learned Societies.

The meeting began days after the “Brexit” vote, in which a majority of UK voters elected to leave the European Union. For such an internationally-minded set of academics, this gave the conference theme, “Area Studies in a Globalizing World,” a particularly charged and timely set of questions and challenges.

Representing UWM at the conference were C21 director Kennan Ferguson and two graduate students who were part of the Mellon-funded Integrative Graduate Humanities Education Research and Training (IGHERT) project (see page 9)—Lara Ghisleni (Anthropology) and Ashkan Rezvani Naraghi (Urban Studies). Both Lara and Ashkan participated in a presentation to the entire conference on behalf of funding for interdisciplinary and transnational graduate education.

In the next two years, the Mellon Foundation will decide whether to expand the IGHERT model (which was developed by a group that included C21’s previous director, Richard Grusin) to a wide array of international campuses.

The conference was dedicated to the memory of Srinivas Aravamudan, until recently the president of CHCI, and a scholar widely recognized for his brilliance and joie de vivre. His leadership has already been missed. This year also sees the transfer of CHCI from Duke University to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, under the able guidance of Sarah Guyer, director of the Center for the Humanities. We welcome CHCI back to Wisconsin!
As part of our support for interdisciplinary research, C21 has published academic works since the 1970s. After a long history with Indiana University Press, our book series is now published with University of Minnesota Press.

The first volume in our new series with Minnesota, *The Nonhuman Turn*, was published in 2015. Edited by Richard Grusin, C21 director at that time, this multi-author volume originates from our 2012 conference of the same name.

This is the first book to name and consolidate a wide array of current critical, theoretical, and philosophical approaches to the humanities and social sciences under the concept of the nonhuman turn. Each of these approaches engages in decentering the human in favor of a concern for the nonhuman, understood by contributors in a variety of ways—in terms of animals, affectivity, bodies, materiality, technologies, and organic and geophysical systems.

In addition to an introduction by Richard Grusin, the volume includes essays by Jane Bennett, Ian Bogost, Wendy Hui Kyong Chun, Mark B. N. Hansen, Erin Manning, Brian Massumi, Timothy Morton, Steven Shaviro, and Rebekah Sheldon.

*The Nonhuman Turn* can be ordered through the website of the University of Minnesota Press, upress.umn.edu, or through your favorite bookseller.

Many of our earlier books remain available through the website of Indiana University Press, ipress.indiana.edu.

**Forthcoming**

**Spring 2017**

*Anthropocene Feminism*, ed. Richard Grusin
From our 2014 conference of the same name

**Spring 2018**

*After Extinction*, ed. Richard Grusin
From our 2015 conference of the same name
Friday, September 16
Brian Price (Cinema Studies, University of Toronto)
“Regret and Remake”

Friday, December 2
Thomas Dunn (Political Science, Amherst College)
“I Would Prefer Not To’: Bartleby, Neo-liberalism, and the Great Refusal”

Friday, January 27
Cindi Katz (Geography, Environmental Psychology, Women’s Studies, CUNY)
“Refusing Mastery: The Detroit Geographical Expedition and Institute as Minor Theory”

Tuesday, February 14
Daniel T. Rodgers (History, Princeton)
“Age of Fracture: The Transformation of Ideas and Society in Modern America”
Cosponsored with the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars Program

Friday, February 24
Catherine Lutz (International Studies, Anthropology, Brown University)
“Getting to No in War”

Friday, March 10
Camille Robcis (History, Cornell University)
“Fanon, Psychiatry, and the Decolonization of the Mind”

April 27, 28, 29
C21 Annual Conference

Calendar listings are tentative. Please check our website (C21.uwm.edu) for the most up-to-date information.
Each year the Center pursues a specific yet broad area of research. UWM faculty, and faculty from other UW System schools, are selected to participate as Fellows. We coordinate lectures, seminars, conferences, and colloquia around the year’s research theme.

The focus of our research in 2016-17 is “Naysaying.”

**Erica Bornstein** (Anthropology)
“Rules for the Unruly: Legal Activism and Naysaying in India”

Although NGOs were part of a hopeful, associational revolution of the 1990s that birthed global social justice movements, by the turn of the century governments had increasingly placed restrictions on civil society groups. With this history in mind, Erica Bornstein will be analyzing what legal protest and reform mean to NGOs in India that are rejecting state governance directives. These NGOs represent unruly, associational civil society groups that do not conform to market-based, state-based, or corporate models.

**Nan Kim** (History)
Protests against the Construction of a Naval Base on Jeju Island, South Korea

Nan Kim’s project explores the activities of an informal coalition of residents, activists, and the Catholic Left to oppose the construction of a naval base on Jeju Island, South Korea. The protestors charge that construction will lead not only to irreversible environmental damage, but also to dangerous military instability. Besides the coalition’s political activity, they are also engaged in significant artistic and musical production and intellectual debate. Interestingly, South Korea had earlier designated Jeju Island an Island of World Peace, honoring the traumatic memories of residents’ mass deaths that lead to the Korean War.

**Nadine Kozak** (School of Information Studies)
How State Governments and Telecommunication Companies Are Challenging Municipalities’ Attempts to Expand Broadband

Nadine Kozak will be examining state and incumbent telecommunication and cable company challenges to more localized endeavors to access advanced telecommunications. To fetter the development of municipal broadband ventures, for example, some state legislatures have enacted laws banning new municipal development or expansion of existing projects. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), with its mandate from Congress to “remove barriers to infrastructure development,” intervened to preempt state legislation restricting municipal broadband. The states, however, filed suit in response. Kozak’s project then looks at the conflict among federal policy about extending broadband, states’ rights, and municipal home rule.
Ann Mattis (English | Gender Studies)  
UW System Fellow (UW-Sheboygan)  
“Naysaying and Feminist Counterpublics in U.S. Culture”

The recent stardom of female comedian Amy Schumer is a celebrity phenomenon that invites us to reconsider the ways overtly feminist discourse manages to circulate in a postfeminist media landscape. Schumer interweaves feminist ideologies into an array of comedic tropes that allow her to strike a balance between mainstream likeability and pointed political critique. This rhetorical intersection allows her to facilitate a feminist counter-public that is premised not on affective ambivalence, but intellectual dissatisfaction with normative gender arrangements.

Jocelyn Szczepaniak-Gillece (English | Film Studies)  
“Refusing the Death of Cinema: The Optical Vacuum: Spectatorship and Modernized American Theater Architecture”

Jocelyn Szczepaniak-Gillece refutes the notion of the “death of cinema” because the very space in which cinema was defined at mid-century—the movie theatre—remains intact and that space is as essential, if not more, to spectatorship as the film itself. Szczepaniak-Gillece’s project focuses on Benjamin Schlanger, an American designer and theorist of modern theatrical architecture, who ushered in a more austere, and less showy, style that facilitated the spectator’s immersion into, not the luxurious architectural frills of the movie theater, but the film itself. The theater thus became a machine for achieving cinema’s democratic aspirations, and for shaping an audience of enraptured spectators.

Tanya Tiffany (Art History)  
“Nuns, Naysaying, and Sacred Images in Imperial Spain, 1563-1709”

Although the Roman Catholic Church during the early modern Spanish Empire forbade the superstitious use of images and warned of the perils of idolatry, the nuns and lay sisters of this period—including Teresa of Ávila, founder of the Discalced Carmelites—continued to attribute divine power to paintings, sculptures, and other examples of sacred material culture. This mutual naysaying between ecclesiastical officials and the nuns whose devotion they sought to regulate is the subject Tanya Tiffany’s book project, which will focus on women who employed images in communing with God and who thereby rejected the notion that only male clerics could mediate between earth and heaven.
C21 In the News

Former C21 Fellows

Kimberly Blaeser (93-94, 15-16) has been a whirlwind of activity, fulfilling her duties all around the state as Wisconsin’s Poet Laureate for 2015-17.

Dehlia Hannah (Provost Fellow, 13-14), with Cynthia Selin, published “Unseasonable Fashion: A Manifesto” in The Avery Review (No. 15, April 2016), as part of Dehlia’s larger, multi-year project, A Year Without Winter, which calls attention to the catastrophic “year without a summer” of 1816 during which Mary Shelley conceived Frankenstein: Or, The Modern Prometheus.

Jennifer Johung (09-10, 13-14) received an Australian Council Grant for Emerging and Experimental Arts Development (with Oron Catts, Elizabeth Stephens, and Robert Fink), and co-curated the University of Western Australia exhibition, DeMonstrable, for the twenty year anniversary of the bioengineered Earmouse.

Ted Martin (12-13) and Annie McClanahan (13-14) were fellows at UW-Madison’s Institute for Research in the Humanities during 2015-16.

Anna Mansson McGinty (12-13), Kristin Sziarto (11-12), and Caroline Seymour-Jorn (07-08, 15-16) received the 2015 Morris Fromkin Memorial Award for their Muslim Milwaukee Project, a collaboration with Muslim community leaders in Milwaukee.

Books by Former Fellows

Aneesh Aneesh (08-09)

Ivan Ascher (14-15)
Portfolio Society: On the Capitalist Mode of Prediction (Zone / Near Futures, 2016)

Kennan Ferguson (C21 director) and Patrice Petro (87-88, 91-92), editors
After Capitalism: Horizons of Finance, Culture, and Citizenship (New Directions in International Studies, 2016)

Jennifer Jordan (01-02)
Edible Memory: The Lure of Heirloom Tomatoes and Other Forgotten Food (University of Chicago Press, 2015)

Nan Kim (09-10, 16-17)
Memory, Reconciliation, and Reunions in South Korea: Crossing the Divide (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016)

Elana Levine (14-15), editor

Robin Pickering-Iazzi (89-90, 95-96)
The Mafia in Italian Lives and Literature: Life Sentences and Their Geographies (University of Toronto Press, 2015)

Nigel Rothfels (14-15) and Dick Blau (00-01)
Elephant House (Penn State University Press, 2015)

Julius Sensat (92-93, 05-06)
The Logic of Estrangement: Reason in an Unreasonable Form (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016)

Lisa Silverman (08-09) and Daniel H. Magilow (University of Tennessee), editors
Holocaust Representations in History: An Introduction (Bloomsbury, 2015)
The Center for 21st Century Studies (C21), a UW System Center of Excellence at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee campus, leads the way in imagining, defining, and creating the burgeoning field of 21st century studies, focusing on the intersection of the humanities, arts, and sciences (social and natural) with issues of compelling concern.

C21 supports the study of the 21st century, which means in the first instance studies of the future, present, and very recent past—issues of pressing concern for the 21st century. C21 also encourages contemporary, cutting-edge study of the arts, humanities, and social sciences in all fields, and at all historical periods. By studying what is distinctive about issues of the present or near future, we are able to rethink or reconceptualize our study of the past. Finally, C21 sponsors and supports the creation and deployment of 21st-century modes of research, analysis, and representation.

Thank You!

C21 is deeply grateful to the following people who in the last year have made financial donations: Christopher Amirault, Katherine Behar, John C. Blum, Bennett Carpenter, Carmen Cavallo, Winson W. Chu, Carolyn Eichner, Susan Eichner, Christine E. Evans, Eric Herhuth, Gregory S. Jay, Devoney Looser, Maria del Pilar Melgarejo, Stuart Moulthrop, Terry Nardin, Renee A. Pasciak, Amy Raddant, Helaine Randerson, Siobhan Senier, Lisa Silverman, Kristin M. Sziarto, Lindsay Thomas, Tanya Tiffany, Ying Wang, Kenneth Wark.

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C21 is situated uniquely at the intersection where scholars, artists, and students from across all disciplines can engage in robust dialogue concerning topics of compelling interest. You can contribute to this important work.

Your tax-deductible donation supports our efforts to encourage and strengthen cross-disciplinary studies. It helps us sustain our reputation for excellence, provides more flexibility for our programming, and expands our outreach to both the academic community and the public at large.

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