

Jane Gallop Interviews New C21 Director Richard Grusin

Richard Grusin, C21's new director, comes to UWM from Wayne State. He is best known for his book *Remediation: Understanding New Media* (MIT, 1999), co-authored with Jay David Bolter, which has become one of the founding texts of new media studies. His latest book, *Premediation: Affect and Mediality After 9/11* (Palgrave, 2010), argues that at the beginning of the 21st century networked global media strive to ensure that the future has already been "pre-mediated" before it emerges into the present.



Distinguished Professor Jane Gallop (English), chair of the director's search committee, graciously agreed to interview Grusin for our newsletter. Excerpts from the interview follow; an extended version is on our website, www.C21.uwm.edu.

GALLOP: I want to begin with something I actually asked you months ago when you interviewed for the director's position [in January, 2010]. But I want to ask it again because I assume the answer will actually be different. Why did you want to be director of the Center? What do you think it allows you to do?

GRUSIN: Well, I'm interested not only in what the Center has been but also what the Center can be. In terms of what the Center has been—who wouldn't want to be director of a place where your job was to bring in interesting academics and interact with them both privately and in public!

When you look at the Center from the outside, and consider what it might be like to be its director, you have to wonder, "What do you want to do with it?" I'd like to not just keep things going as they have been going, but try to shape the discussion in new directions. . . . And as I said in my job talk, the idea of taking "21st century studies" seriously—that's where I'm starting. The one thing that I most

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From the Director

It is with the greatest pleasure and respect that I greet you at the beginning of my tenure as Director of the Center for 21st Century Studies. Please allow me to introduce myself and my vision for the future of the Center, before saying something about the programming for the year ahead.

Trained in the Berkeley English Department from 1976 to 1983, I have always been engaged in the interdisciplinary study of the humanities. I have published four books. The first, *Transcendentalist Hermeneutics: Institutional Authority and the Higher Criticism of the Bible* (Duke, 1991), concerns the influence of European (primarily German) theories of biblical interpretation on the New England Transcendentalists. With Jay David Bolter I published *Remediation: Understanding New Media* (MIT, 1999), which sketches out a genealogy of new media, beginning with the contradictory visual logics underlying contemporary digital media. *Culture, Technology, and the Creation of America's National Parks* (Cambridge, 2004) focuses on the problematics of visual representation involved in the founding of America's national parks. My fourth book, *Premediation: Affect and Mediality After 9/11* (Palgrave, 2010), argues that in an era of heightened securitization, socially networked US and global media work to pre-mediate collective affects of anticipation and connectivity, while also perpetuating low levels of apprehension or fear.

My research and teaching have always proceeded in conjunction with my programmatic involvement in rethinking humanities education by reshaping curriculum, pedagogy, and institutions. At Georgia Tech, where I taught from 1986-2001, my interest in the incorporation of new media technologies into education led to my leadership role in instituting the systematic integration of educational technology into the undergraduate curriculum, from first-year composition courses to senior-level seminars. At Wayne State, where I arrived as chair of the English Department in 2001 and taught until coming to UWM, I challenged my colleagues to reconsider our departmental identity in light of the forces of globalization, urbanization, and technology that are central not only to the mission of our university but also to many of the changes that the humanities and higher education are undergoing as we move forward into the 21st century.

As I begin my tenure as C21 Director, I am convinced that UWM is in the perfect position to take the national and international lead in developing and setting the initial agenda for the still-emergent field of 21st century studies. In the interview that begins on the preceding page, I take up in more detail the simple question: What is 21st century studies? Unsurprisingly, the Center has already been asking this question implicitly for several years. Nowhere is this more evident than in the two-part symposium on Embodied Placemaking that the Center will be hosting in October and April. The fall symposium, co-organized by Arijit Sen (Architecture) and Lisa Silverman (History), takes up questions that speak to some of the most contentious issues of the moment, including the controversial Arizona immigration law and the uproar over the building of an Islamic community center in the vicinity of Ground Zero. I look forward to seeing many of you at the symposium and to meeting many more of you in the years to come.

—Richard Grusin

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Hellos and Goodbyes

The Center welcomes two newly appointed project assistants, **Kendrick Gardner** (MLS) and **Selene Jaouadi-Escalera** (MALLT), and LTE program associate **Lois Sarrel**.

Center staff give a heartfelt thank you to **Merry Wiesner-Hanks** who served as Center interim director 2006-07 and 2008-10. Distinguished Professor Wiesner-Hanks resumes her full-time position in the UWM Department of History this fall. We were fortunate to work with a scholar of the highest degree whose perspectives of world history have left a lasting impression on us.

Last but not least, the Center bids adieu to **Maria Liesegang**. Maria served as the Center office manager from July 2000-July 2010. Her good cheer, superb organization, and attention to detail will be missed by all of us on the 9th floor of Curtin Hall.

We wish Merry and Maria all the best in their future endeavors.

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GRUSIN, cont'd:
want to accomplish is to establish a sense of mission of what it means to be doing 21st century studies.

GALLOP: When you gave your job talk I found it really exciting that you emphasized 21st century studies because it was like every great idea: the minute you say it, it's immediately obvious but nobody had said it before. It's an idea that's both new and not new at the same time.

It's a way of making us distinctive, of making UWM a place that people turn to when they're trying to think about something that in some way everybody has to think about, which is what are we doing right now.

Can you say more about what thoughts you've had about what you think the Center for 21st Century Studies might look like, where it might go, what it might go to?

GRUSIN: Basically, I have a series of three working definitions of 21st century studies that I began developing when I first came to campus in January and have been working on since. I'll sketch these out from the most conventional, or the most continuous with

what the Center has been about, to perhaps the least continuous and most ambitious.

The most conventional notion would probably be what you all had in mind when you renamed the Center—that 21st century studies refers to how people are studying the humanities in this century. And that's where we start. . . .

But my second definition—and this is the part that's most exciting—is that the Center needs to think about issues that are crucial to the 21st century, as well as about the connection between those issues and issues that have been of concern to the humanities and social sciences in the past. . . .

My third definition of 21st century studies has to do with how we do research in this century, because this Center is both about the future of academia in the 21st century and about the nature of academic research. And that means, on the one hand, using 21st century technologies and tools to do one's research: databases, the web, digital archives, and so forth. But then the other aspect of this has to do with how you present your research. . . . There are other ways one can present one's research besides simply in print, which is, after all, not some kind of natural or essential way to do research, but the product of a certain historical moment. . . .

GALLOP: Do you see yourself trying to take on a definition, or definitions, of 21st century studies in your own individually authored work?

GRUSIN: I'm going to do a lecture in September about the future of 21st century studies. It will expand the job talk I did, but what I'd like to do is think about that as a longer piece. I've got to think about the best venue for that. And then begin thinking a bit about leading a call for 21st century studies.

GALLOP: So you see it more as almost a manifesto-type thing.

GRUSIN: Right. It could be.

GALLOP: Or at least a kind of position paper.

GRUSIN: Exactly, exactly. Something to sort of encourage us. What I've just been thinking about, and I will continue to in the next month or so as I write this, is to connect the talk with my recent work on *Premediation* by taking what I've observed about our current mediated environment, and see how that actually fits into this idea of the future of 21st century studies. . . .



REPORT

CHCI Annual Meeting, 2010

The Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) held its annual conference in Providence, Rhode Island, June 13-15. Hosted by Brown University's Cogut Center for the Humanities, the conference took place in historic Pembroke Hall. The conference theme took the form of a question: "Whose Global Humanities?" More than



120 attendees from 15 countries helped to formulate answers to the question of the provenance of global humanities both in formal lectures and workshops and in informal discussions. **Richard Grusin** represented C21 at this meeting, his first as the Center's new director.

The conference opened with remarks from CHCI President Srinivas Aravamudan, who usefully framed the political and intellectual questions of global humanities that the conference would be taking up. The first plenary talk, "Our Interconnected World: Education and the Environment," by Bonnie Reiss, Secretary of Education, State of California, provided a curious autobiographical tour of the interconnected worlds of politics, Hollywood, and global celebrity.

The political tone of the morning was continued with an afternoon panel on "The Humanities and the New China." Speakers from Nanjing

University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Cornell addressed some of the challenges and opportunities posed for the humanities by China's current political climate. After the annual meeting dinner, James A. Leach, chair of the National Endowment of the Humanities, painted a sober but still hopeful picture of the climate for federal funding of the humanities in the decade ahead.

The highlight of the conference was the participation of internationally renowned scholar-artist Mieke Bal, who delivered the second plenary talk, screened one of her recent films, and was the subject of a video installation. Bal made the important point that people too often fail to distinguish between humanity and the humanities, which she defined broadly as encompassing the historical tradition of literary, visual, aural, and bodily expression, developed originally in the West. The title of her talk, "Now/Here," referred to the migratory aesthetics behind her recent film-making, which aims at the documentation of our everyday life.

The conference also featured workshops on "Funding the Humanities" and on the relations among "Humanities Centers and the Arts." Perhaps the most exciting news concerned the announcement of a five-year affiliation between CHCI and CenterNet, an international network of digital humanities centers. For the next two years the two organizations will meet together for a full day in conjunction with the annual CHCI conference. The first meeting will be at the 2011 conference, hosted by the Jackman Humanities Institute at the University of Toronto, June 13-14.



Welcome: Inaugural Provost Fellow

The Center for 21st Century Studies is pleased to welcome Matthew Burtner as our first Provost's Fellow.

Burtner comes to us from the University of Virginia, where he is associate professor of composition and computer music and where he also serves as associate director of the Virginia Center for Computer Music. A native of Alaska, he holds an MA in computer music composition from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University and a PhD in music from Stanford.

His work explores environmental systems (eco-acoustics), technological embodiment, and extended polyrhythmic and noise-based musical systems. Burtner's pieces often combine instrumental ensembles, computer technology, interactive acoustics, and multimedia. His instrumental and computer compositions are performed widely. Burtner also tours regularly with the meta-saxophone, an augmented computer instrument of his own creation.

During the year-long fellowship, Burtner will work on a project entitled "Auksalaq: Telematic and Temporal Fractures in a Global Performance Artwork." "Auksalaq," which means "ice is melting" in the Inupiaq language of northern Alaska, is a multimedia performance project using real-time interaction over global-scale distance. The piece, which will address humanistic issues of empathy, responsibility, and consequence, will exemplify the emergence of telematic performance art—interactive art performed in real time between networked spaces.

Burtner will also develop a series of scholarly activities in anticipation of the debut of "Auksalaq," including an interdisciplinary forum on distance and time and a concert series of telematic staged performances. Burtner's work presents a perfect fit for the Center's 2009-2011 research theme, Figuring Place and Time. Central to this two-year theme are explorations of hegemonic and alternative temporalities and spatialities, as figured in cultural and social theory, the social and physical sciences, literary and historical analyses, and creative production.

In addition to pursuing his own work, Burtner will be part of the Center's intellectual community for the year, engaging with other UWM and UW System fellows via semi-monthly seminars and participating in ongoing Center events such as lectures, symposia, and conferences.

The 2010-11 Provost's Fellowship marks the first time since the mid-1990s that the Center has offered a fellowship to a faculty member outside the UW System. For her support of this Fellowship, the Center is deeply grateful for the generosity of former UWM Provost Rita Cheng.

Congratulations

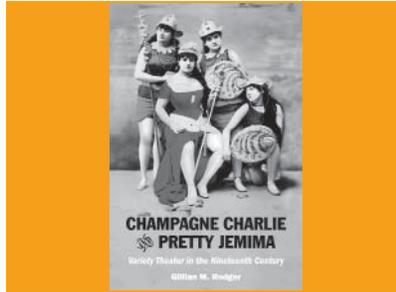
The Center would like to congratulate former Center fellows **Manu Sobti** (Architecture, 2009-10) and **Michael Oldani** (Anthropology, UW-Whitewater, 2008-09) for being granted tenure and promoted to associate professor in spring 2010!

We also congratulate **Anne Basting** (Social Welfare, Age and Community)—C21's Rockefeller Fellow 1995-96—who received a UWM Distinguished Public Service Award. Receiving a UWM Faculty Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award was **Lisa Silverman** (History), a C21 Fellow 2008-09. Congratulations to both Anne and Lisa!

Former Fellows and Staff

Thomas Haigh (SOIS, 2008-09) had two articles published: “Masculinity and the Machine Man: Gender in the History of Data Processing,” in *Gendered Codes: Why Women are Leaving Computing*, ed. Thomas J. Misa (IEEE Computer Society Press, 2010); and “Computing the American Way: Contextualizing the Early US Computer Industry,” in *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* 32, no. 2 (April-June, 2010).

In June **Gillian Rodger** (Music, 2006-07) published *Champagne Charlie and Pretty Jemima: Variety Theater in the Nineteenth Century* with the University of Illinois Press. Rodger’s book chronicles the social history and class dynamics of the robust, nineteenth-century American theatrical phenomenon that gave way to twentieth-century entertainment



forms such as vaudeville and comedy on radio and television. Rodger’s draft manuscript was completed while on fellowship at the Center.

Center Faculty Advisory Committee, 2010-11

- Aneesh Aneesh** (Sociology)
- Margaret Atherton** (Philosophy)
- Christopher Burns** (Music)
- Tim Ehlinger** (Biology)
- Jane Gallop** (English)

- Peter Paik** (Religious Studies)
- Arijit Sen** (Architecture)
- Lisa Silverman** (History)
- Tanya Tiffany** (Art History)
- Tami Williams** (English)
- Anne Wysocki** (English)
- Michael Zimmer** (Information Studies)

Ex officio members:
 Center Director **Richard Grusin**
 and Deputy Director **Kate Kramer**,
 L&S Associate Dean **Jeffrey Merrick**,
 and Master of Liberal Studies Director **Jeffrey Hayes**.

The Center would like to thank members who are cycling off the committee for their service: **Carlos Galvao-Sobrinho** (History), **Lane Hall** (English), **Thomas Hubka** (Architecture), **John Koethe** (Philosophy), **Elana Levine** (JMC), and **Bill Washabaugh** (Anthropology).

March on Milwaukee Web Site Launches

A UWM Libraries web site, March on Milwaukee (www.marchonmilwaukee.uwm.edu), was launched officially on September 16. Emanating from UWM’s 2007 conference commemorating the 40th anniversary of Milwaukee’s open housing marches, the project is a fully searchable, online archive of documents—personal letters, public school records, oral histories, video footage, and more—related to the civil rights struggle of the 1960s. The goal of digitizing these documents was not to replicate the physical archive, but to make a key selection of primary source materials more readily available.

The leading force behind this project was **Jasmine Alinder** (History, 2005-06), who worked with a team of a dozen professional staff, faculty, and students from UWM Libraries and the History department. Last spring, Alinder and **Michael Doyle** (UWM Libraries) presented their work on the March on Milwaukee web site at the Center’s forum on the place of public scholarship in higher education.

James Groppi and Vel Phillips on school bus, circa 1967-1968. James Groppi Papers, 1956-1978 collection.



Image courtesy UWM Libraries Digital Collections

FELLOWS



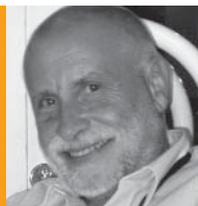
Matthew Burtner, the Center's first Provost Fellow, is Associate Professor in the Department of Music at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. His telematic performance project "Auksalaq: Telematic and Temporal Fractures in a Global Performance Artwork" explores changes in the Arctic and is performed live simultaneously on several stages around the world. He plans on developing a conference series with other universities, a concert series with other Telematic Collective institutions, and an interactive performance art project at UWM.



UWM Assistant Professor of History **Winson Chu** will spend his time at the Center focusing on multi-ethnicity in Germany and Poland by examining the city of Łódź, Poland, and more specifically the term "Iodzermensch," which translates to "man of Łódź." He also will research how the "Iodzermensch" was used during German-Polish reconciliation and how it contributed to a multicultural history. He anticipates that this work will contribute to a monograph examining interethnic relations around the German-Polish border.



W. John Coletta, Professor of English at UW-Stevens Point, is continuing his research for the tentatively titled project "Evolutionary Bodies of Knowledge: James Audubon, Theodore Roethke, Octavia Butler, and the Phenomenology of Evolutionary Time and Ecological Space." He will examine the impact Roethke and Butler have on readers trying to understand their personal evolutionary palimpsests, discussing the ways transitional and ecologically situated bodies have been used for religious and political purposes.



Professor of Geography **Mick Day** is a Master in Liberal Studies (MLS) Fellow. He is the author of numerous articles discussing karst and caves. His project, titled "Underground Enigmas: Dimensions of Time and Space in Caves," will examine themes of underground in regard to the Center's theme of place and time. He is developing a comprehensive spatial and temporal approach to caves while considering natural and social sciences along with the humanities. He anticipates he will publish his research in a book titled "Caves, Karst and Conflict."

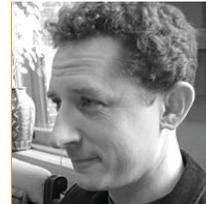


Assistant Professor of Geography **Ryan Holifield** will investigate the process through which environmental injustice and racism have changed from perceived injustices to facts based in scientific analysis and the way this shift has altered the two concepts. He will discuss why these changes have not been described as contributing factors to the "stagnation" of the concept of collective action frames. He hopes to produce at least one journal article discussing the ways environmental justice and racism have changed through the redefinition of places and times.

Valerie Laken, Assistant Professor of English, is author of the novel *Dream House*. She hopes to complete a draft of short stories loosely based on her travel experience during her time at the Center. While she visited a resort in Thailand, a young Western boy disappeared for a period of six hours before he was found safe. She will write the stories from vantage points of various characters, including the boy's family, the accused Burmese migrant workers, and other resort guests. She anticipates these short stories will contribute to a collection titled "Golden Triangle."



Richard A. Leson is Assistant Professor of Art History. During his fellowship at the Center, he will study the recurring or fixed patterns in the prayer books of four aristocratic women in medieval France. He will examine how the dynamics of place and time within manuscript illumination affect political, familial, and sexual identities. This study will contribute to his project "Mapping the Margins: Negotiating Place and Time in Late Thirteenth-Century Franco-Flemish Devotional Manuscripts."



Colleen Ludwig is Assistant Professor of Visual Art at the Peck School of the Arts. Her work at the Center contributes to her project "Elemental Bodies: A Suite of Four Immersive Installations with Sensor Control." This project merges her earlier piece *Circular Influences II* with her new creative work. She plans to show her interactive room *Shiver* in targeted venues while creating the final two rooms in her series. She expects to write an article discussing a scientific study of "Elemental Bodies."



Assistant Professor of English **Tami M. Williams** will explore the 1920s French Cinematic Impressionist movement through its pioneer Germaine Dulac. She will use her time at the Center to revise her book "Beyond Impressions: The Life and Films of Germaine Dulac, from Aesthetics to Politics (1882-1942)" for publication. She will also begin her next project "The New Silent Cinema," which will discuss 1920s French Impressionist cinema and trends in contemporary cinema.



SAVE THE DATE

FRI APR 29

Embodied Placemaking in Urban Public Spaces (part two)

a symposium organized by **Merry Wiesner-Hanks** (History) and **Kate Kramer** (Center for 21st Century Studies)

For more information, please visit www.C21.uwm.edu



***SAVE THE DATE! FRI APR 29**

**Embodied Placemaking
(part two) SPRING 2011**

organized by UWM faculty **Merry Wiesner-Hanks** (History) and **Kate Kramer** (C21), with **Rachel Breunlin** (U of New Orleans), **Elizabeth Currid** (USC), **Emanuela Guano** (Georgia State), **Janet Geigel Mikulay** (UIPUI), **Carl Nightingale** (SUNY-Buffalo), **Charlie Todd** (Improv Everywhere, pending), and **Janet Zweig** (Independent artist, Brooklyn)

FALL 2010 CALENDAR

FRI SEP 10

2009-10 Fellows Presentations by **Bruce Charlesworth** (Film), **Jennifer Johung** (Art History), **Nan Kim** (History), and **Deborah Wilk** (Art History, UW-Whitewater)

2:30 pm Curtin 118

followed by **C21 OPEN HOUSE**

4:00 pm Curtin 929

FRI SEP 24

Richard Grusin (Center director)

"The Future of 21st Century Studies," a lecture

3:30 pm Curtin 175

FRI OCT 8

***Embodied Placemaking in Urban Public Spaces (part one)**, a symposium organized by UWM faculty **Arijit Sen** (Architecture) and **Lisa Silverman** (History), with **Swati Chattopadhyay** (UC-Santa Barbara), **Karen E. Till** (Virginia Tech), **Charlotte Fonrobert** (Stanford), **Jennifer Cousineau** (Parks Canada), **James Rojas** (Latino Urban Forum), and **Joseph Sciorra** (John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College)

co-sponsored by UWM Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Initiative, Center for Jewish Studies, Cultures & Communities Program, Departments of Anthropology and Geography, and the Urban Studies Program

9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Curtin 175

THU OCT 21

Jussi Parikka (English, Communication, Film and Media, Anglia Ruskin University; Director, Cultures and Digital Economy Research Institute [CoDE])

"Media Archaeology as Zombie Media Research," a lecture

co-sponsored by the Department of English

2:00 pm Curtin 368

FRI NOV 5

Arun Saldanha (Geography, University of Minnesota)

"A Tear in the Fabric of Time: The Immediate Impact of Jan Huygen van Linschoten's *Itinerario*," a lecture

co-sponsored by Department of Geography

3:00 pm Curtin 175

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THU NOV 11

Paula Massood (Film Studies, Brooklyn College)

Second Annual New American Studies Lecture: "Harlem and Visual Culture"
co-sponsored by CIE, Cultures & Communities Program, and Department of Film
2:00 pm Curtin 368

FRI DEC 10

Arthur Kleinman (Anthropology, Harvard University; Medical Anthropology, Harvard Medical School)

a lecture
3:30 pm, Curtin 175
co-sponsored by Medical College of Wisconsin and C21 research workshop
Science, Technology, Medicine and Society

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Reverse: Image Credit © Heidi Gras 2008,
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Tennessee Graduate Research Fellowship & Summer Graduate Research Fellowships, 2010

Over the summer, the Center was pleased to have Susan Kerns (Modern Studies, English) as our sixth Tennessee Graduate Research Fellow. At the Center, Susan found plenty of time and space to devote to her dissertation, "Propagating Monsters: Conjoined Twins and Popular Culture." By examining conjoined twins in American popular culture, such as the nineteenth century's Chang and Eng and the Hilton sisters from Todd Browning's movie *Freaks* (1932), "Propagating Monsters" demonstrates how conjoined twins remain bodies onto which normative-bodied people project their own emotions, fears, and fantasies—thereby effectively removing some of the "humanity" from conjoined people.

Susan tells us she was grateful for the fellowship because it allowed her "to step away from another job

to spend more time reading, researching, and writing." She adds, "My other favorite part

was that office! It's so lovely having your own writing space outside of your house."

The Tennessee Graduate Research Fellowship provides financial and resource support to exemplary PhD candidates nearing completion of their dissertations. Because the quality of applicants was so high this year, the Center was also able to provide some assistance to Jen-Li Ko (Anthropology), Jackleen Salem (History), and Carrie Wadman (English). Calls for next summer's Tennessee fellowship will be available from our website during spring 2011.



REPORT

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embodied placemaking

a Center for 21st Century Studies two-part symposium
FRI 10.08.2010 • FRI 04.29.2011