

New Staff at the Center

In early July, the Center will welcome a new deputy director, Kate Kramer, when our long-time executive director, Carol Tennesen, retires (see pages 2 and 3). As deputy director, Kate will supervise Center staff and coordinate all the Center's public programs. Ruud van Dijk will take over as assistant director, with primary responsibility for Center publications, including the book series, working papers, and newsletter.



Kate Kramer & Ruud van Dijk

Kate Kramer received her PhD in Modern Studies from UWM in 1995. Her dissertation, "Questionable Characters: Turn-of-the-Twentieth-Century Fictions, Feminism and the Fallen Woman," analyzes the formal and informal discursive formations (historical, medical, legislative, juridical, philosophical) that regulate the traffic in women in literature, popular fiction, and Progressive era documents. Kate was a Project Assistant at the Center for Twentieth Century Studies in the late 1980s and reported to none other than Carol Tennesen. Following her 1994-1995 Humanities English Predoctoral Fellowship at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Kate shifted her focus to visual arts administration and scholarship. She worked as a curator and directed commercial fine art galleries and non-profit art centers, managing them from their inception to their structural completion in Southwest Florida. *Winter Works: Rauschenberg and Pottorf* was an early art exhibition Kate coordinated for Eckert Fine

Art - Naples in 1995. During her tenure as associate curator at the Naples Museum of Art from 1999-2001, she established a scholarly lecture series on Asian art, created operations and programming budgets, and planned, designed, and implemented the installation of the inaugural museum exhibitions for a 30,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility. In 2001, Kate returned to academe at Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, Florida, teaching courses in art history, literature, and professional practices. As gallery director, Kate promoted and implemented an ambitious, contemporary arts gallery program by working collaboratively with the university and regional community as well as with contemporary arts organizations. She also administered the university's Florida's Art in State Buildings Program, successfully encumbering \$300,000 for public art works on campus between January 2003 and May 2004. The past year has been eventful and rewarding: Kate and her husband, the sculptor and lighting designer Christopher Poehlmann, renovated an uninhabited Southwest Florida home on 1.3 acres and, most important, brought Charlotte Kramer Poehlmann into the world on August 30, 2003. The Center looks forward to having Kate on board, and to welcoming her and her family back to Milwaukee.

Ruud van Dijk completed a Ph.D. in history at Ohio University in 1999, working with John Lewis Gaddis. He has also studied at the Universities of Amsterdam and Kansas. His research considers issues connected with Germany's role in the Cold War, and his publications have appeared in the United States and Germany. He has also been a contributor to op-ed pages of newspapers in the Netherlands since 1991. Ruud has been an adjunct professor of history at Carnegie Mellon University and a visiting assistant professor of American history at Dickinson College. Since 2001 he has taught several courses for UWM's history department. He is a citizen of the Netherlands, although he has lived in the United States since 1988. When he is not on campus, he is often out riding or racing his bike (or speed-skating in the winter). He and his wife, artist Joan Dobkin of UWM's Department of Visual Art, live in Milwaukee's East Side and enjoy preparing authentic Dutch cuisine for their friends and colleagues.

This column comes to you from Paris, where I am spending part of May and most of June as a visiting professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. Although Paris in the springtime certainly offers many distractions, especially gustatory, horticultural, and aesthetic ones, the business at hand, the three “seminars” I have to deliver, has turned my thoughts to a genre question: what exactly is a seminar? Those familiar with the UWM course catalog, in which format descriptions don’t always match up with what actually takes place in the classroom, know that this question is more complicated than it seems.

When the Center schedules an event as a seminar, we generally make advance reading by the speaker available to interested participants. We ask the speaker to introduce her or his work briefly; most of the session will then consist of comments and questions from those in attendance, most of whom will at least have glanced at the readings. In France, a seminar means something rather different: even when regularly scheduled courses, as most are, seminars involve lengthy presentations, often two hours or more, by the faculty leader, and in most cases they are open to the public. The “seminars” of the luminaries of the French academy can assemble 50 or 100 people, both students and faculty; although the atmosphere is often electric, the operative model is one of performance rather than the exchange of ideas.

Fortunately, my gracious hosts at the École and at the University of Paris 8 (St. Denis) have been content with presentations around 75 minutes, which leaves ample time for discussion, and the attendance has been comparable to that at a Center seminar, a less intimidating two dozen or so. Of course an hour and a quarter represents a time half again as long as the limit we suggest to the Center’s outside speakers, and seemed like an eternity to me; could anyone, I wondered, have the concentration to focus that long? (And would my French hold up?) So far, though (two down, one to go) the experience has proved rewarding. The seminar leaders have initiated discussion with thoughtful and probing questions, and students and other colleagues have followed suit. To my great pleasure, many of the responses have urged me to push my arguments further, while only a few – also very helpful – suggested the need for greater nuance. As I realized earlier in the spring, when the intense engagement of a small faculty seminar on museum studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign both stimulated and focused my thinking on one aspect of my research, Jean Dubuffet and the French version of outsider art, at a seminar the quality of the response matters much more than the number of participants.

Indeed, for a seminar to work effectively, whatever the precise format, open minds have to reach out to each other, enter into dialogue, and, ideally, meet. It’s a good metaphor for what a university tries to encourage on a daily basis. Seminars don’t in themselves change the world, but it’s hard to imagine changing the world without something like them.

–Daniel Sherman

Currently, the Center has the following events planned:

September 10: Irit Rogoff (Visual Culture, University of London)

October 7-8: Symposium on Milwaukee History (Co-Sponsored with Urban Studies)

October 15: John Caldwell (Film, UCLA)

October 29: Symposium on Multicultural Australia with: Diane Bell (Anthropology, George Washington University), Jane M. Jacobs (Geography, University of Edinburgh), Elizabeth Povinelli (Anthropology, University of Chicago)

November 12: Bonnie Smith (History, Rutgers University)

December 3: Symposium on Imperial Cities with: Sue Alcock (Classics, University of Michigan), Michael Herzfeld (Anthropology, Harvard University)

For updates, please see: www.21st.uwm.edu/calendar.shtml

The Center also looks forward to welcoming a new group of fellows from the UWM campus. They are:

Gilberto Blasini (English/Film Studies)

Derek Counts (Art History)

Rina Ghose (Geography)

Douglas Howland (History)

Raymond Isaacs (Architecture)

Thomas Malaby (Anthropology)

Andrea Westlund (Philosophy/Women’s Studies)

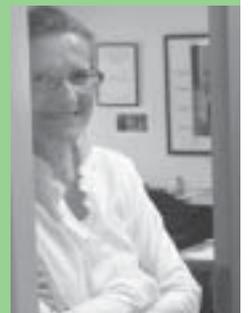
Jian Xu (French, Italian & Comparative Literature)

For extended profiles and project descriptions, please see our Fall newsletter.

Carol Tennesen Retires

At the College of Letters and Science Recognition dinner on May 13th, director Daniel Sherman read the following tribute to Carol Tennesen:

For over a quarter century, as a project assistant, associate director, and since 2000 as executive director, Carol Tennesen has exemplified the high standards and intellectual openness for which the Center for 21st Studies and its predecessor, the Center for 20th Century Studies, have become known. Her roles have been many: efficient and unflappable program coordinator, conscientious and supportive supervisor, careful and prudent manager, gracious host, notably during her several stints as acting director, and, not least, imaginative and endlessly creative graphic designer. More than anyone else she has given form and substance to the life of ideas that the Center has endeavored to create at UWM; her efforts have played a crucial role in building the intellectual community that the Center animates. On behalf of Carol’s many friends and admirers, the Center thanks her for her dedication, her loyalty, and her unflinching good humor. We look forward to her continued presence in the Center community and wish her a long, fruitful, and enjoyable retirement.



Examining Geographies of Difference: Colonial Cities

A high point in the Center's Spring 2004 calendar was its Colonial Cities symposium and seminar on April 15 and 16. Both the Thursday seminar and the Friday symposium created numerous opportunities for cross-disciplinary inquiry and for comparisons across time and place under the theme of "Geographies of Difference." The event also brought together faculty and students from several UWM departments for additional meetings with our distinguished visitors under the Center's Curricular Initiative. Held in the Center conference room, the Thursday seminar discussed a pre-circulated paper by Paula Sanders (Rice University) entitled "Keeping Cairo Medieval: World Heritage, Religion, and the Debates over Fatimid Monuments." The paper, which Professor Sanders introduced with a presentation of visual materials, considers the conflicting standards of the international (though largely Western)



from left: Daniel Sherman, Paula Sanders, Peter Zinoman



Anthony King

preservationist community and those of the Bohra community of Ismaili Muslims with regard to the restoration of various Cairo mosques dating from the eleventh through the sixteenth centuries. The lively discussion focused on the complex relationship between spirituality, architecture, and the colonial legacy in the middle east and elsewhere. On Friday afternoon, a capacity crowd gathered in the Department of History seminar room for the symposium, which began with presentations on colonial cities in three different times and places, beginning with the earliest. Alejandra Osorio (Wellesley College) presented "Indians, Castes, Spaniards and Urban Ritual Spaces in Seventeenth-Century Lima," which examined the elaborate staging of Spanish royal power for the benefit

of indigenous inhabitants. Paula Sanders introduced another portion of her current project under the title "Cairo of the *Arabian Nights*," which uses the methods of textual criticism – in particular, the complicated publishing history of the much-loved tales – as a model for understanding the architectural accretions of the colonial city. The Berkeley historian Peter Zinoman discussed aspects of a new project under the title "Colonial, Urban, Modern: Interwar Hanoi in the Work of Vu Trong Phung," considering how a Vietnamese journalist and fiction writer wove together the complexities of crime, disease, poverty and social division into a broader if veiled critique of the colonial situation. After a break, Anthony King (SUNY Binghamton), in a presentation that ranged widely across various literatures and themes, highlighted key issues and questions in the study of colonial cities over the past generation. The afternoon concluded with a reception generously hosted by Anne Hansen and Mark Bradley at their home just a few minutes' walk from campus; the continued lively discussion of some of the issues raised in the symposium testified to the event's success.



Alejandra Osorio

Kathleen Woodward Sends Tribute

I had the wonderful good fortune to work with Carol Tennesen for some twenty years and can say with complete and utter certainty that she is simply the best executive director of a humanities Center in the entire country. I have long admired Carol for her legendary skill as an administrator, deploying the resources of the center with impeccable judgment, encouraging the best from people with a firm hand and an enviable equilibrium, and embracing the difficulty of the detail while rising above it. Her perfect poise, always displayed as grace under pressure, is characterized by both modesty and tenacity. Her temperament of calm lucidity is also leavened by a wry sense of humor that can take people by pleasurable surprise. Carol understands the profound importance of the humanities, and early on at the Center she pioneered programs that engaged the greater community of Milwaukee and later held the key position of chair of the Wisconsin Humanities Council. Carol also understands the comedy of manners that can characterize an academic bureaucracy, and I still smile at the memory of some of the spoofy organizational charts she designed with vectors going every which way to capture the way we all worked together. Having worked with five directors, she has a finely honed appreciation of the idiosyncratic. Her commitment to the Center has been central to its success, which in great part has to do with her dedication to the long run (I still remember being panicked when she was offered another position and my

sense of relief—both personal and institutional—when she decided to stay at the Center). It also has to do with her fine aesthetic eye for color, tone, and shape. She is beloved by many faculty as well as by graduate students for whom she has served as a steady and strong mentor. From my vantage point in Seattle, I can only say how much I miss her.

Former Center director Kathleen Woodward is director of the Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington

Center Launches Tennesen Graduate Fellowship

To honor Carol Tennesen and to promote graduate research at the Center we envision creating a summer residency fellowship for one or two dissertators working in areas within the Center's purview. We have launched a fundraising campaign to this effect and hope to award the first Tennesen Fellowship(s) for Summer 2005. If you have not received a letter seeking a contribution but would like to help, please contact the Center at ctr21cs@uwm.edu or 414-229-4141, or send us your contribution, directed to: "Center for 21st Century Studies - Tennesen Fund," at the Center for 21st Century Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

New European Frontiers

On February 27, with 40 people in attendance, the Center turned its attention to Europe with a mini-symposium on "New European Frontiers." Marc Abélès (Anthropology, Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique) opened the event with a wide-ranging talk on the tensions in the European Union between, on the one hand, ambitious conceptions of a united Europe and, on the other, the conflicts that such ambitions inevitably produce. Drawing on his own experience as an observer at the EU, Abélès argued that "Europe," in fact, is not a concept. While the founders of European integration envisioned an irreversible process of integration, the political aims of the European project have never been clear. As a result, few European citizens identify with the EU and continue to define their identities in national or regional terms. Daphne Berdahl (Anthropology, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities) discussed the relationship between consumerism and citizenship in the newly reunified Germany. Since the fall of the Wall, former East German citizens have had to make the transition from a society centering on the production unit to a Western consumer society where many measure personal fulfillment and, indeed, full citizenship through access to consumer goods. Berdahl argued that this phenomenon, linked to global economic processes, has forced nation states to rethink the relationship between citizenship and the law. The final speaker was UW-Madison historian Laird Boswell. His research on the French region of Alsace-Lorraine emphasizes its status as a border region as key to understanding the strength of the extreme right Front National of Jean-Marie Le Pen there. Integration (especially with adjacent German areas), internationalization, and even prosperity do not necessarily lead to greater toleration, Boswell suggested. Instead, change often makes people long for a mythical past when present-day problems did not exist. To follow up on a very stimulating discussion, the Center hopes to publish versions of both Marc Abélès' and Laird Boswell's papers in its electronic Working Papers series this summer.



from left: Marc Abélès, Daphne Berdahl, Laird Boswell

Former Fellows in the News

Dick Blau, Film (00-01), had a one-person show of photographs from his project, *Bright Balkan Morning*, at Photosynkeria 2004, the international biennial of photography, Thessaloniki, Greece in February and March. He is also one of two recipients of the 2003 Mary L. Nohl Prize for Established Artists.

Joan Dobkin, Visual Art (02-03), has been in eleven juried national and international exhibitions since January, and won two awards, with pieces elaborating on work she made during her fellowship year under the theme of "War."

Carlos Galvao-Sobrinho, History (02-03), has been awarded a UW-System Fellowship Grant for Fall 2004; he presented "The Orator and the Hunter: City, Country, and Civic Ideology in Dio's *Euboicus*" at the Third Penn-Leiden Colloquium on Ancient Values, June 3-5, 2004, Leiden University, the Netherlands.

John Koethe, Philosophy (79-80, 93-94), was awarded the Major Achievement Award by the Council for Wisconsin Writers, 2004.

Terry Nardin, Political Science (01-02), is currently Canterbury Visiting Fellow at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Peter Paik, French, Italian & Comparative Literature (02-03), has been awarded a UW-System Fellowship Grant for Spring 2005.

Center Curricular Initiative at Work

After our Colonial Cities Symposium, the Center received the following message from K.E. Supriya (Communication, Fellow 98-99):

"I want to express great appreciation for Dr. Anthony King's visit to my class. Dr. King's erudition and personable demeanor made this one of the most exciting intellectual experiences for me, especially the dynamic ways in which my research and teaching and interaction with the scholarly community came to be all at once. My students of global communication valued this unique opportunity to get first-hand current and state-of-art knowledge on globalization, built environments, and real estate aesthetics in China, Indonesia, and India. The curricular initiative of the Center is a fantastic way to energize our students and enrich our classrooms so as to arrive at a synergy between research and teaching in the humanities and other fields. I want to fully participate in this venture in the future."

New Research Workshop: The Political Economy of Race

The purpose of this group is to bring faculty together from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds to discuss books and articles addressing the relationships between race and political economy. The workshop understands political economy to be the study of laws and political institutions that shape the production and distribution of wealth. Participants plan to begin in the Summer of 2004 with studies of black radicalism in the United States, and then move in the Fall to works that

theorize the politics of racial neutrality. Coordinators: Will Jones, History and Cultures and Communities (wpjones@uwm.edu); Nik Heynen, Geography and Urban Studies (nheynen@uwm.edu); Kent Redding, Sociology and Urban Studies (kredding@uwm.edu). The group will meet throughout the summer.

For more information on this and other Center affiliated workshops, please refer to the Center website at: www.21st.uwm.edu/workshops

University of California-San Diego literature professor Lisa Lowe visited the Center on March 12 to present a portion of her current research under the title “The Intimacies of Four Continents.” Taking as her starting point early-19th-century Atlantic labor networks linking Europe, Africa and the Americas, Professor Lowe seeks to add the traditionally obscure Chinese coolie to this multi-national configuration. By highlighting the presence of the coolie in the labor market and by evaluating how Chinese laborers were viewed by others, particularly in the British Caribbean, Lowe also asks us to reflect on the changing meanings of European humanism. Lowe uses the term “intimacy” in two ways: to describe the spatial proximity of Chinese as a new group in the post-slavery British Caribbean; and as a way to highlight the distinction between private and public spheres. Her research in the British colonial archive suggests that the latter version of “intimacy,” as an essential attribute of individual rights, was sometimes seen as particular to Chinese workers and, as such, a potential catalyst for change. Ultimately Lowe wants her work to go beyond the level of recuperating lost elements for a familiar story to pose fundamental questions about memory, forgetting, and the uneven distribution of European conceptions of human freedom; in this way she seeks to imagine alternative ways of knowing. Not surprisingly, Lowe’s innovative approach provoked a lively and engaged discussion from a large audience representing a broad cross-section of the humanities and social sciences at UWM.



We owe our readers reports on two more Center events in Spring 2004: a lecture by Dipesh Chakrabarty (University of Chicago) and a lecture by James Ferguson (Stanford University). For reasons of space, we will bring these to you in our Fall newsletter.

Center Staff Spring 2004

Daniel J. Sherman, Director
Carol Tennesen,
Executive Director
Ruud van Dijk,
Assistant Director;
Newsletter Editor
Maria Liesegang,
Business Manager
Claire Hicks,
Project Assistant
Briana Smith,
Project Assistant

Support the Center

With a gift to the Center for 21st Century Studies, you can help support research and public programming in the humanities. Your unrestricted gift allows the director to launch special initiatives among the Center’s programs. Please make your check payable to the UWM Foundation, with the Center for 21st Century Studies on the memo line, and mail to:

On April 30th, **Judith Kenny** presented the annual Trewartha Lecture in the Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison on “‘Public Neighbors’ and Public Neighborhoods: Planning Discourse and the (Re)Making of Milwaukee’s Parklawn (1930s & 1990s).”

Andrew Kincaid presented a paper entitled “What They Left Behind: the Irish Landscape after Emigration” at the UWM Center for International Education’s annual conference “Aftermaths: Exile, Emigration and Diaspora,” April 23, 24.

Steve McKay was an invited speaker on the Philippines for the Great Decisions 2004 Lecture Series, Institute of World Affairs, UWM. In June he presents his research on “Suspended Migrants, National Heroes: The Making of Filipino Seafarers” at two conferences at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands.

Sukanya Banerjee presented a paper, “The ‘Purdahnashin,’ Indian Female Professionalism, and the English Reading Public” at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Conference held at the University of Iowa in April.

Lisa Moline, in collaboration with Lane Hall (Visual Art) and Nigel Rothfels (Edison Initiative) has created an online project, “Criminal Animal,” which seeks to create a venue for creative scholarship about animals, humans, and the stuff in between. The project can be viewed at www.criminalanimal.org.

Maria Liesegang, Center business manager, received an honorable mention in the UWM Honors Program Essay Contest with “Hazel Motes: Case History of Neurosis.”

Daniel Sherman, Center director, delivered a paper entitled “‘Oublier Son Nom’: Jean Dubuffet, *Art Brut*, and the Problem of Categories” to the museum studies faculty workshop at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana on April 30th. He is spending a month in Paris in May-June as visiting professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales.

News From Center Visitors

“Living and Dying,” the exhibition curated by **Lissant Bolton** at the British Museum and the subject of her paper at the “Museums & Difference” conference in November, has won a Museums and Heritage 2004 Award for Excellence in the category of permanent exhibitions.

Artist **Xu Bing**, who spoke at the Center in October, has won the first Artes Mundi prize, awarded in Cardiff, Wales to stimulate interest in contemporary art in Wales.

