

New Conversations at the Center

Three Initiatives

Center Director Daniel Sherman has taken steps during his first semester to review the Center's direction and gather ideas about the future. The two primary vehicles for this effort are working groups of the Advisory Committee and open forums.

The working groups are Fellowships/Research, New Initiatives, and Publications. Each of the groups consists of Center Advisory Committee members and other interested faculty. Paul Brodwin, Thomas Malaby, Jeffrey Merrick, and Leslie Vansen are the members of the Fellowships/Research working group. New Initiatives consists of Margo Anderson, Kristie Hamilton, Joyce Kirk, and Terry Nardin. Vicki Callahan, Jane Gallop, Lane Hall, and Tasha Oren make up the Publications group. Each group has now met at least once to review the Center activities that fall under its purview and to consider possible changes.

Two open forums have occurred to gather input from a wide variety of Center constituents. The first took place on September 26, the second on December 2. Both events produced beneficial, frank discussion and concrete suggestions about the Center's future.

Growing out of these forums, a new initiative already underway is the creation of Research Workshops designed to support interdisciplinary exchange among faculty and staff at UWM and other area institutions. Workshops are open to all interested scholars. The Center is pleased to assist in multiplying the conversations taking place under its auspices.

Research Workshops

Ethics Across the Disciplines

Coordinators: Paul Brodwin, Anthropology (brodwin@uwm.edu), and Terry Nardin, Political Science (nardin@uwm.edu).

Topic: Interdisciplinary perspectives on ethical judgment, choice, discourse, and theory, including applied, professional, and philosophical ethics.

Digital Praxis

Coordinator: Sandra Braman, Journalism/Mass Communication (braman@uwm.edu)

Topic: "Praxis" as a modernist concept denoting theoretically informed practice applied to postmodern, digital "meta-technologies."

Companion Animal Studies: The Human-Animal Bond in Domestic and Healing Environments

Coordinators: Helena Pycior, History (helena@uwm.edu); Charlene Douglas, UW System (douglasc@uwm.edu); Linda Sabatini, Health Sciences

Topic: "Anthrozoology," the interdisciplinary study of human-animal bonds, especially in domestic and healing environments.

Early Modern Group

Coordinator: Mark Netzloff, English (netzloff@uwm.edu)

Topic: Research across disciplines in the early modern period of European history (ca. 1500-1800).

Animal Studies Research and Cross-Disciplinary Pedagogy

Coordinator: Nigel Rothfels, Edison Initiative (rothfels@uwm.edu)

Topic: Formulating theoretical and cross-disciplinary connections to contribute to the field's pedagogy

Urban Studies

Coordinators: Jennifer Jordan, Sociology (jajordan@uwm.edu), and Amanda Seligman, History (seligman@uwm.edu)

Topic: Research across disciplines into urban lives and experiences.



Tasha Oren, Vicki Callahan, and Daniel Sherman discuss the Center's publications program

Schedule of Center Events, Spring 2003

Fri Feb 7

Considering American Conservatism: A Mini-Symposium on the Presidency of Ronald Reagan

Fiona Wright (Political Science, UWM)

Robert Beck (CIE, UWM)

William B. Turner (21st Century Studies, UWM)

Moderator: Glenn Jeansonne (History, UWM)

3 pm; Curtin Hall 118

Fri Feb 21

Pirates and Errors

a lecture by Keller Easterling (Yale University)

4:30 pm; Architecture & Urban Planning Building 170

Mar 6-7 War and Gender/Gender and War II

Thur Mar 6

Most Dangerous Women, a musical documentary on the international women's peace movement

7:30 pm; Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts

Fri Mar 7

Repeat performance of **Most Dangerous Women**

9 am; Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts

Buffet Lunch and Panel Discussion of **Most Dangerous Women**

Cheryl Ajitutu (UWM)

Susan K. Kent (University of Colorado at Boulder)

Jan Maher (Seattle)

Merry Wiesner-Hanks (UWM)

12 noon; Golda Meir Library Conference Center—4th floor

(Lunch: \$10; please contact the Center for reservations; deadline for payment: Monday, March 3)

At a Loss for Words: British Responses to the Ibo Women's War, 1929-31

a lecture by Susan K. Kent (University of Colorado at Boulder)

2:30 pm; Curtin Hall 118

Fri Mar 28: Masculinity and Father-Son Conflict in American Film, Pre- and Post-9/11

a lecture by Susan Jeffords (University of Washington)

3:30 pm; Curtin Hall 118

Apr 2-3 War and Memory in 20th-Century France

Wed Apr 2

Remembering Police Violence in Paris: 17 October 1961 in France and Algeria

a seminar with Joshua Cole (University of Georgia)

time tba; Curtin Hall 939; advance reading available at the Center

Thur Apr 3

Testimony and Experience: "True" and "False" in French War Narrative, 1930-1980

a lecture by Christophe Prochasson (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris) 3:30 pm; Curtin Hall 118

Respondents: Joshua Cole, Mary Louise Roberts (UW-Madison), Leonard Smith (Oberlin College)

Thur Apr 10

Colombia: The Unbroken War

a lecture by journalist/author Alma Guillermoprieto

8 pm; UWM Union Ballroom

Fri May 2

Falling Persons and National Embodiment: *The NY Times* Portraits: 9/11/2001

a seminar with Susan Lurie (Rice University)

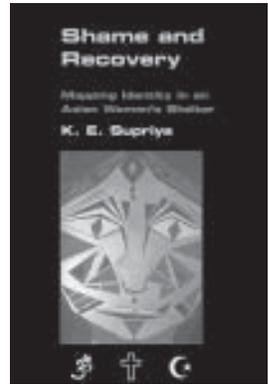
2 pm; Curtin Hall 939; advance reading available at the Center

Former Center Fellows Publish Books

Shame and Recovery: Mapping Identity in an Asian Women's Shelter

K. E. Supriya, UWM Assistant Professor of Communication and former Center fellow, is the author of a book based in part on research she conducted during her fellowship at the Center in 1998-1999.

Peter Lang published the book in 2002 as the second volume in its series, Critical Intercultural Communication Studies.



Bright Balkan Morning: Romani Lives and the Power of Music in Greek Macedonia

Bright Balkan Morning, from Wesleyan University Press, features photographs by UWM Film Professor and former Center Fellow Dick Blau with text by Angeliki Vellou Keil and Charles Keil, and a CD by Steven Feld.

The volume appeared in 2002.

Center Screens Film by UWM Alumnus

On December 6, the Center welcomed back UWM alumnus (MA, Modern Studies, 1996) and former Center project assistant Garrett Scott, now a journalist and filmmaker based in Oakland, California, for a screening of his new documentary, *Cul-de-Sac: A Suburban War Story*. The documentary revolves around an event that took place in San Diego in May 1995: an unemployed plumber and veteran, Shawn Nelson, stole a tank from a National Guard parking lot and took a 23-minute ride through residential streets before being stopped by authorities.

Distilled from 75 hours of interviews with Nelson's family, friends, and neighbors, and extensive research in film and documentary archives, *Cul-de-Sac* compellingly frames Nelson's trip as a strange but by no means inexplicable moment in the half-century-old history of the Southern California military-industrial complex. In a post-screening discussion with an enthusiastic crowd of about 60, Scott credited both his training in Modern Studies and his stay in Milwaukee with sensitizing him to the phenomenon of deindustrialization and its consequences on cities and their residents. *Cul-de-Sac: A Suburban War Story* is distributed through First Run/Icarus Films in New York City (718-488-8900; www.frif.com).

Every other Wednesday, the fellows of the Center gather for a brown-bag seminar with me, executive director Carol Tennesen, and assistant director Bill Turner. A long-standing tradition at the Center, the fellows' study group takes place in our conference room, the only space on the top floor of Curtin Hall with a window facing east, over Lake Michigan. But the striking views of the lake, the occasional passing vessel, and the ever-changing weather conditions rarely distract us from the ideas under discussion.

This year, discussions have focused on topics chosen by the participants, each of whom leads the seminar on a rotating basis. Fellows can share a sample of their own work with their colleagues, but so far most have chosen instead selections from primary or secondary work that they have found particularly useful in defining or framing their projects. Thus, readings have ranged from the work of the influential political theorist Leo Strauss, whom fellow Peter Paik is using to decipher certain aspects of American conservatives' views of war, to that of the photographer and critic Martha Rosler, an inspiration and model for fellow Joan Dobkin's artistic practice. Dobkin's seminar in fact led us out of the Center to view her billboard installation on a university-owned building at Kenilworth and Prospect.

In November, the seminar went public, joining with interested students, faculty, and community members to talk with Macalester College professor James Dawes about his new book, *The Language of War*. Yet even when we remain in the cosy confines of Curtin 939, the seminar serves as a kind of metaphorical voyage in which we accompany each of our colleagues, at least for a short stage, on their own intellectual journeys. The seminar's leader usually begins with a short introduction, to contextualize the reading we have all done and explain its relationship to his or her research. Then come the questions, comments, and exchanges, usually at a brisk clip, as each of us tries to understand the topic at hand from our unique disciplinary and personal perspectives.

Discussion of a well publicized or controversial topic, such as fellow Helena Pycior's work on the breast cancer "wars," may be especially lively, but I've been impressed with the degree of engagement in all of the seminars we've held so far: although the seminar leader remains the principal interlocutor, the exchanges quickly go beyond Q&A. For me, this kind of civil, intense, and probing dialogue epitomizes the work of the Center

at its best. As we explore the topic of "war" from a variety of perspectives, we may come to think about it, and our own work, differently. Opening up new ways of thinking – that, more than anything, seems to me what a Center like ours should aim for.



Helena Pycior

– Daniel Sherman

David Allen is chairing the Media Ethics Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

In November, he served as commentator for a seminar on media and democracy at Université Laval, Québec, Canada. The seminar was sponsored by the Centre D'Etudes sur les Médias at Université Laval in collaboration with the Center for Canadian-American Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

He contributed the chapter, "Jürgen Habermas and the Search for Democratic Principles," to *Moral Engagement in Public Life: Theorists for Contemporary Ethics*, eds. Sharon L. Bracci and Clifford G. Christians (New York: Peter Lang, 2002).

Carlos Galvao-Sobrinho gave three papers during the fall. At the IX Simpósio de História Antiga, Department of History, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, in September, he spoke on "A cidade no espelho: espaço urbano, poder e memória em Roma." He gave the paper, "Burial Rites, Funerary Sociability and the Self-image of Slaves at Rome," for the conference, Seeing Slaves in Ancient Rome, in the Department of Classics at UC Berkeley in November. At UWM's Border Cities/Border Cultures conference, also in November, the title of his talk was "'No place for a Roman': Crossing Borders, Slavery, and Ethnic Identity in the Ancient Metropolis."

Joan Dobkin spoke in November at the University of Wisconsin System's 27th annual Women's Studies Conference on "Identity and Representation in Design."

Dobkin currently has two projects displayed on Milwaukee-area buildings. "Live for Less" is on the Woodland Pattern Bookstore, and "Allocations" is on the side of the University's Kenilworth building. These works have generated coverage in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *Milwaukee Magazine*, and the *Shepard-Express*, a free weekly newspaper.

Recent Publications by Former Center Fellows

Sherry Ahrentzen (Center Fellow, 1994-95), "Socio-Behavioral Impacts of the Built Environment: A Matter of Qualities," in R. Dunlap and W. Michelson, eds., *Handbook of Environmental Sociology* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 2002).

Carla Bagnoli (Center Fellow, 1999-2000), "Moral Constructivism: A Phenomenological Argument," *Topoi* XXI/1-2 (2002): 125-38.

Paul Brodwin (Center Fellow, 1992-93, 1996-97, current chair, Center Advisory Committee), "Genetics, Identity, and the Anthropology of Essentialism," *Anthropological Quarterly* 75/2 (2002): 323-30.

John Koethe (Center Fellow, 1979-80, 1993-94), *North Point North: New and Selected Poems* (New York: HarperCollins, 2002).

William Wainwright (Center Fellow, 1988-89), "Jonathan Edwards and the Hiddenness of God," in Paul Moser and Daniel Howard-Snyder, eds., *New Essays on Divine Hiddenness* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

On November 22nd, the Center sponsored a seminar with James Dawes, assistant professor of English at Macalester College, on his book *The Language of War* (Harvard University Press, 2002). The 35 participants in the seminar included the Center's fellows and staff and students in English 820, a course for Modern Studies students focused on Center events. They read the introduction and last chapter of *The Language of War*, which concerns the relationship between war and American literary accounts of it from the Civil War to the present.

Dawes contextualized the last chapter, which deals with theoretical approaches to contemporary human rights law, by giving a brief précis of his fieldwork for a new project with human rights groups in Turkey.

In his work, Dawes tries to move beyond what he sees as a dichotomizing tendency in prior accounts of the relationship between war and language – the views that language either provides a refuge from or actively promotes the violence of war. The lively discussion ranged from theoretical approaches to “language” to the politics of memory in the contemporary United States; like Dawes, many participants grappled with the paradox of human rights groups that, while seeking to avoid past errors, have difficulty reconciling theory and practice.



James Dawes



Seminar on The Language of War

Center Staff

Daniel J. Sherman, Director
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 William B. Turner, Assistant Director,
 Newsletter Editor
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The Center's major conference for 2002-2003, **9/11: Reconstructions**, took place on October 4 and 5, 2002. It included roundtables on Commemoration and the Urban Fabric, the Media, and International Law and Ethics, as well as a Conversation with Reporters featuring three reporters from New York City, and a keynote address by Elaine Scarry, Walter N. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value in the English Department at Harvard University.

Brigitte Nacos of Columbia University wrote after the event, “The meeting had the right mix of participants and audience members—



not too large and not too limited. I came back with lots of new ideas, questions, and answers—just the right stimulation one wants to take away from such a meeting.”

Michele Bogart of Stony Brook offered this compliment: “‘9/11: Reconstructions’ was a great conference. The level of the papers and discussions was exceptionally high, and I was really impressed with the professionalism and organization of the staff of your Center.”

James Godsil, a graduate student in political science, wrote, “I was able to attend the Saturday afternoon session. It was a great experience for me. You and your center made a great contribution to Milwaukee. I hope you get the recognition you deserve.”

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:

Center for 21st Century Studies
 University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
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 Milwaukee, WI 53201

Center Sponsors Mini-Symposium on Gender and War

Cynthia Enloe, miriam cooke, and Paul Lerner were the panelists for a mini-symposium on gender and war at the Center on Friday, November 1. Turnout was excellent for the three speakers, all of whom looked at the complex relationship between conflict, theories of gender, and concrete historical and social situations.

cooke, chair of the department of Asian and African Languages and Literature at Duke University, spoke on the changing conception of women's *jihad* among Islamic feminists. Although the reputation of the women who fought with Muhammad was long available as inspiration, cooke noted that specific conflicts such as the Algerian war of independence (1954-62) empowered Muslim women as political actors. Subsequently, Islamic feminists used such historical moments as arguments for the value of female participation in increasing the effectiveness of political movements and reducing levels of violence. These thinkers believed, moreover, that if conditions of national emergency justified women's participation, women might have the opportunity to progress socially in more normal times as well. The events of 9/11, however, by publicizing a kind of binary thinking in which Islamic women are either victims or terrorists, almost certainly represent a serious setback to Islamic feminism.

Lerner, who teaches European history at the University of Southern California, discussed the gendering of trauma by German doctors from the 1880s to the 1920s. In 1889 the new German national insurance system recognized the trauma that may result from work-related accidents as a legitimate disability. But this diagnosis quickly produced discomfort in the medical community, which saw the very act of applying for a pension as feminizing, because it removed men from the world of work and action. Although such trauma diagnoses constituted barely one percent of all pension claims, doctors considered them a severe enough problem that they saw warfare as a kind of shock cure. When World War I proved a far greater source of trauma,

psychiatrists attributed shellshock to soldiers' internal weakness rather than to the violence of war, and developed therapies based on removing patients from "female" influence rather than attending to their symptoms. Thus war provided an occasion for reinforcing gendered binaries, with disturbing consequences for the reconstruction of German society after 1918.

Enloe, a political scientist from Clark University, addressed the largely unacknowledged policy of encouraging prostitution around United States military bases. The issue has produced considerable protest from activists in Okinawa and South Korea. Military officials have typically responded, in effect, that a necessary part of a good soldier's identity is a certain amount of sexual adventuresomeness. During the Gulf War, however, as Enloe explained, US policy makers bowed to pressure from a Saudi government concerned about its conservative insurgency by preventing prostitution in the vicinity of US bases there.



Cynthia Enloe, miriam cooke, and Paul Lerner, panelists for the mini-symposium, Gender and War I

Michael Geyer Lecture at Center

Michael Geyer, Professor of History at the University of Chicago, spoke at the Center on Friday, November 15. The title of his talk was "Catastrophic Nationalism: Germany 1918 and 1945."

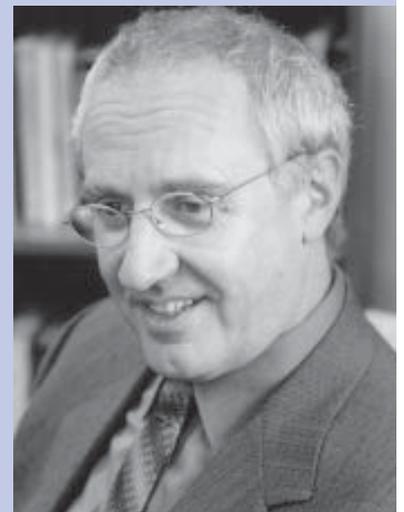
Professor Geyer's exploration of German military history at the end of both World Wars is particularly apposite at present. He explained that German casualties reached their peak during both wars after it became obvious that Germany would lose. Thus, "catastrophic nationalism" serves as a key concept for understanding the larger phenomenon of suicidal tenacity in battle.

A scholar with significant interests in world history and the history of violence, Geyer began by noting the fragility of nation states as organizers of politics and identities. One consequence of such fragility is their periodic requirement that citizens die in the name of national survival.

Especially in the case of the Nazis at the end of World War II, surrender meant the demise of the nation, resulting in susceptibility to revenge – the Allies would inflict on the Nazis

what the Nazis had inflicted on others. Individuals who fought to the death, by contrast, ensured the survival of their heroic story beyond the Third Reich, leaving the hope that future generations would take their example as inspiration.

Geyer thanked Center Director Daniel Sherman for the opportunity to present his thoughts on this timely and important topic. "I appreciated the most useful questions and comments," Geyer wrote. "They will definitely enter the further versions of the talk, the paper, and the book."



Michael Geyer