

From Milwaukee to the Antipodes: Conferences and Symposia at the Center

Most of the Center's programming under the "Geographies of Difference" theme has dealt with geographical areas far away from Milwaukee, but on October 7 and 8 we turned our attention to the city of which we have such a majestic view from the ninth floor of Curtin Hall. The Center lent logistical support to UWM's Urban Studies Programs in organizing an international conference on **Milwaukee history**. Through the presentation of new research, local, national, and international scholars began the work that organizers Margo Anderson (History) and Victor Greene (History Emeritus) envision resulting in several pathbreaking publications on the history of our city.



Panel: "The Economy and the Peoples and Cultures of Milwaukee"

On Friday October 29, as part of a larger, three day symposium entitled "**Histories and Geographies of Difference: Australia and America**," (conceived by UWM Vilas Professor Emeritus Ihab Hassan, and cosponsored by the Center and UWM's Center for International Education) we turned our attention to Australia. The afternoon began with a panel examining "The Writer's and Artist's Perspective." Chaired by Patrice Petro (English and CIE) the panel consisted of Ihab Hassan, "Views of the Void: Painting a Continent;" Nicolas Jose (Sydney), "The Dreaming and the Dream: Australia and America;" and Chris Wallace-Crabbe (Melbourne), "Slouching toward the Nightmare of History."



Diane Bell

The Center-organized panel, "Multicultural Australia," focused on Australia's relationship with indigenous peoples under its control from the late nineteenth century to the present. Speakers were anthropologists Diane Bell (George Washington) and Elizabeth Povinelli (Chicago), and historian Patricia O'Brien (Georgetown). Starting off, Bell presented an open letter addressed to Australian prime minister John Howard. She pleaded for a new look at Australia's relations with ethnic minorities, Australia's ethnic make-up, and federal policies on immigration and refugees. Patricia O'Brien followed with an historical study of Australian colonialism in Papua New Guinea, for which, she argued, United States expansionism in the Pacific served as a model. Under the influence of a rising Japan in the second quarter of the twentieth century, Australia's approach evolved from a "benevolent colonialism" to a systematic integration of its "Brown Pacific" with national economic and defensive systems.

Finally, Elizabeth Povinelli examined, in the context of current international politics and indigenous rights issues, the rise of what she called "belligerent democratic nationalism" as represented by the "shameless state." Rejecting the relevance of the past and the need for amends, the shameless state seeks to "liberate" the present and future from the past and move toward "closure." Instead, Povinelli argued, a relentless orientation toward the future prevents a genuine recognition of the other and a coming to terms with an historically rooted subordination.



Elizabeth Povinelli and Patricia O'Brien

The Center's fall program concluded December 3 with a symposium on **Imperial Cities**. For a full description, please turn to page 3.

From the Director

Among the topics at the forefront of general conversation in the humanities, and indeed across the academy, these days is what many call the “crisis in scholarly publishing.” Although different constituencies experience it in different ways, the crisis manifests itself most clearly in two developments. First, many academic presses, faced with the funding cutbacks that have spared few universities in recent years, are publishing fewer scholarly monographs and more books of interest to a general readership. Some fields, for example early modern foreign literature, have suffered disproportionately from these changes, with others on the brink: several publishers with distinguished lists in art history have recently announced that they are pulling out of that field entirely. The second, related development we have all experienced in one way or another, as university libraries, themselves coping with diminished resources, reduce their purchasing of books and journals. Higher (and rapidly increasing) journal subscription prices for institutions represent a particular challenge, especially but not exclusively in the sciences.

Scholars tend to be suspicious of what many administrators regard as the panacea for these problems, electronic publishing. For their part, publishers, librarians, and others have some justification for regarding scholars as conservative and even irrational in their attachment to older forms of technology. So let me confess: I thought I would miss card catalogs, with their sometimes unexpectedly poetic directional labelling (“Romance-Slavery,” at my graduate institution’s library in the 1980s, was a favorite), but I don’t. I love J-STOR, the electronic archive of scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences, and applaud the efforts of my professional group, the American Historical Association, to provide scholarly legitimacy to e-publishing through its Gutenberg-e Project. And all of us who remain attached to turning the pages of an old book between our hands should remember that such pleasures come with finite costs to the institutions that pay our salaries or collect our taxes. On the other hand, those who develop new technologies often underestimate the learning curve they entail for people, like university faculty, with many other demands on their time.

A less obvious consequence of cutbacks at university presses involves the system of peer review on which authors, publishers, and, ultimately, tenure and promotion committees rely. It may be that universities will have to adjust their expectations to the newly constricted market in scholarly publishing, but I have little doubt that we will find new ways of evaluating the merits of our colleagues’ work. What worries me more is that, as publishing changes, scholars may not get the critical scrutiny we all need to test and improve our work. It’s in that spirit that the Center recently revived its old “Working Papers” series in electronic form. Our Working Papers come from former Center fellows or visitors who want to share their scholarship outside of traditional channels. Working Papers do not undergo peer review, but they do receive careful editorial attention at the Center; the idea is to maintain the immediacy and excitement of work presented at our fellows’ seminar and public events. Ideally, on-line publication should not only help make new ideas and theories quickly and widely available, it should also provide quick feedback to the authors, potentially from people they have never even met. I invite you to check out – in the vernacular

sense – our newest working papers, and to send your thoughts and comments about them to their authors, thus extending our scholarly community to cyberspace and continuing in a new form a tradition of intellectual exchange that goes back many centuries.

–Daniel Sherman

Irit Rogoff Visits the Center

On September 10 the Center welcomed its first speaker of the 2004-05 academic year, the second and final year of the Center theme

Geographies of Difference. Irit Rogoff, chair of Visual Culture at the University of London, discussed her new project, entitled “Of Fear, Of Contact, and Of Entanglement,” in the context of other examples of what she called “border work.” A wide-ranging exploration of the meaning of borders and the significance of artistic, scholarly, and political attempts to overcome them, the talk explored less bounded fields of



possibilities—“to militate against the border.”

As a jumping-off point Rogoff used the film *Border* by Michal Rovner, which the audience of about 55 viewed prior to her talk. She also, as background to her talk, showed further examples of how contemporary visual artists are drawn to borders because of what they see as their increasingly divisive effect on people and societies (the “fear” factor). The purpose is not only to move from the xenophobic to tolerance and acceptance, but also to challenge traditional, Western liberal approaches to accepting others. Rogoff proposes a wider historical view of “an endless process of contact,” based on the idea that people everywhere have always been in contact with each other.

From this definition of contact one could begin to overcome the colonial heritage, including the Western self-image of its ability simply to add other cultures to the Western, modern model. In other words, Rogoff argued, one could move to a notion of a post-colonial world not founded in alterity and its binary structure, where there is no space outside of cultural difference. What one would end up with could in geographic terms be labeled “extraterritoriality,” and socially and culturally “entanglement.” For her, a Deleuzian ambiguity represents the only real constant; not strictly for the Israel/Lebanon border or even national borders in general, but any place where cultures, ethnicities or religions become entangled through close contact.

Both Rogoff’s general framework and her specific references to the immediate post-colonial moment of 1947 in Israel/Palestine, elicited lively responses from scholars across the arts and humanities.

Gilberto Blasini (English) presented “Local (Sexual) Affairs, Global (Financial) Matters: Discourses of Sexuality in Alfonso Cuarón’s Mexican Films,” at the 25th International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in Las Vegas, NV.

Derek Counts (Art History) presented “Potnios Theron: The Search for a Principal Male Divinity in Cyprus” at the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in San Antonio, TX. His article “Art and Religion in the Cypriote Mesaoria: The View from Athienou-Malloura” will appear in the *Cahier du Centre d’Études Chypristes* 34.

Raymond Isaacs (Architecture) presented a paper at the Symposium of the International Urban Planning and Environmental Association in Louisville, KY entitled “Global Pressures of Local Autonomy: Challenges to Planning for Sustainability and Development.”

Daniel Sherman (History and Center Director) published “Post-Colonial Chic: Fantasies of the French Interior, 1955-1962,” *Art History* 27:5 (November 2004): 772-807, and “‘Peoples Ethnographic’: Objects, Museums, and the Colonial Inheritance of French Ethnography,” *French Historical Studies* 27:3 (Summer 2004): 669-703.

Ruud van Dijk (Center Assistant Director and Editor) published “Die Regierung Nixon, die Ostpolitik und die Anerkennung der DDR.” In Heiner Timmermann, ed., *Das war die DDR: DDR-Forschung im Fadenkreuz von Herrschaft, Außenbeziehungen, Kultur und Souveränität*, volume 128 of the “Dokumente und Schriften der Europäischen Akademie Otzenhausen.” (Münster: LIT Verlag, 2004), 412-427.

Tennessee Fund Update

The Center would like to express its sincere thanks to the following contributors, and a number of donors who prefer to remain anonymous, to the Tennessee Fund for graduate research at the Center.

Constance Balides, Nan Bardes, Johanna Baxandall, Joan Dobkin and Ruud van Dijk, Brian Doherty, Fred Eckman, Ray Green, Lane Hall, Howard Handelman, Jeffrey Hayes, David Hoeveler, Linda Huang, Gregory Jay, Connie Jo, Gwynne Kennedy, Joyce Kirk, Diane Kitchen, Kate Kramer, Lisa Moline, Edith Moravcsik, Jane and Terry Nardin, Donald Pienkos, Julio Rodriguez-Luis, Nigel Rothfels, Sylvia Schafer, Daniel Sherman, Andrea Stone, Carol Tennesen, William and Eleanor Wainwright, Jessica Wirth, Rob Yeo.

The Tennessee Fund, named to honor executive director emerita Dr. Carol Tennesen, is designed to create summer fellowships at the Center for dissertators from the Center’s traditional areas of emphasis at UWM. Tennessee Fellows will have the opportunity to spend one month away from the Center for research purposes, receive other research support, and be offered the opportunity of a public presentation at the Center in the academic year following the fellowship. At the beginning of the spring 2005 semester the

The final Center program of Fall 2004 was a symposium entitled “Imperial Cities,” held before an engaged capacity crowd of more than 100 people on December 3. We were privileged to welcome two major scholars: Susan Alcock (Classics, University of Michigan) and Michael Herzfeld (Anthropology, Harvard).

Professor Alcock presented a paper entitled “Making Sure You



Know Whom to Kill: Spatial Strategies in Roman Imperial Cities,” in which she offered a new interpretation of the aftermath of a large massacre of Roman settlers in Asia Minor in 88 B.C.E. Using a wealth of material and visual evidence, Alcock argued that in the decades following the massacre a significant social realignment occurred in the cities of this part of the empire. This

realignment was visible in practices of elite bonding, crowd control, and a sense of cultural caution manifesting itself in subtle separations between Greeks and Romans, notably around the dinner table. Ultimately, therefore, Alcock’s account offered a reinterpretation of “the transition from murder to consensus in the Greek East,” an examination of efforts “to live with, through, and by a traumatic massacre” in an imperial setting.

Michael Herzfeld discussed a work in progress under the title “Fabricating Cultural Authority: Eccentric Angles on Urbanity and Western Identity,” which juxtaposes Athens, Rome, and Bangkok. He argued that all three, and the countries they represent, have been engaged in the civilizational project of “giving a country a culture,” and that each in its own way has had to contend with an “eccentric” relationship with the West. Particularly interesting for the Center’s audience was the way in which parts of Professor Herzfeld’s talk resonated in this respect with the presentations at the Center’s April 2004 “Colonial Cities” symposium, in particular historian Paula Sanders’ talk on nineteenth-century Cairo. Herzfeld’s talk also, however, touched on themes similar to Alcock’s, for example the struggle between “variety and unity,” or imperial efforts to eradicate disorder and maintain control, and to forge cultural identity, through the manipulation of space.



Center will issue a call for proposals, after which we expect to welcome the first Tennessee Fellow to the Center the following summer.

The response rate for this new campaign has been well above average, and we hope we can maintain the momentum generated in the past year. If you would like to add your name to the list of donors, please send a check to “Center for 21st Century Studies—Tennessee Fund,” University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Do it today! Thank you very much!

John Caldwell Screening and Talk

On Friday, October 15, the Center welcomed a diverse group of faculty, students, and community members to a screening of filmmaker John Caldwell's recent *Rancho California (por favor)*. We were privileged to have the artist himself present for an introduction, entitled "The Racialized Landscape," and discussion afterwards. Earlier in the day, through the Center's Curricular Initiative, Caldwell, associate professor of Film and Television at UCLA, also conducted a well-attended brown bag seminar with graduate students and faculty from the Film Department.



The *Rancho California* project began in 1994 as an exploration of the presence of migrant workers in Southern California's affluent suburban communities. The film, and Caldwell's comments, underscore the importance of both change and continuity in this story. While the lives of the migrants studied, Mixtec-speaking Mexican Indians, are certainly subject to great volatility, the migrant camps featured in *Rancho California* are part of a pattern that stretches back to the mid-nineteenth century. Predecessors of the Miztequos include Native Americans at the time of the California Gold Rush, Chinese laborers in the late nineteenth century, Depression era "Okies," and, after World War II, Mexicans.

Caldwell noted that during the five years of filming he observed a masculinization of the migrant camps, as growing violence against migrants and an almost exclusive focus on their labor disfavored the presence of women and girls. But it also became clear to him, and the film clearly shows, that in spite of being fenced in (or out), monitored, controlled, and exploited, the migrants have managed to build their own communities where both artistic expression and social activism have their place.

This precise yet empathic depiction of the myriad ways in which the Miztequo migrants reflect on, and try to retain control of their lives suffuses the film. From a series of appreciative rejoinders it became clear that the audience sympathized with Caldwell's stated purpose of "trying to figure out how it's done that you erase people."

Research Workshop Plans for Spring 2005

The Political Economy of Race plans to meet four times and in February will discuss Jason DeParle's *American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids, and A Nation's Drive To End Welfare*. The **Colonialisms** group plans to meet three times. On March 11, the group will welcome Peetri Chopra (UW-Madison). The **Early Modern** group will join the Center in welcoming Sachiko Kusakawa (History, Trinity College, Cambridge) on February 11. **Ethics Across the Disciplines** will meet again in March to discuss the tacit knowledge (or dimensions) of ethics, with readings from the work of Michael Oakeshott, among others. Finally, both the **Feminist Theory** and the **Cognitive Studies** groups will continue to meet in the new semester, with specifics on topics to follow. For the latest on all research workshops, please go to: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/21st/workshops/index.shtml>.

Former Fellows in the News

John Koethe (Philosophy, Fellow in 1979-80; 1993-94) will be spending the spring semester at the American Academy in Berlin working on poetry.

Terry Nardin (Political Science, Fellow 2001-02) published "Justice and Coercion," in Alex Bellamy, ed., *International Society and Its Critics* (Oxford University Press, 2004), 247–263.

K.E. Supriya (Communication and a Visiting Scholar at the University of Texas-Austin for 2004-05; Fellow 1998-99) published *Remembering Empire* (Peter Lang). Based on an ethnography of Fort St. George Museum of Chennai (formerly Madras), India, this study explores the public and private politics of preserving the memory of the British period in the former seat of the British East India Company. Supriya shows how the preservation of artifacts and paintings from the British period has become a means through which the imperialist politics of empire are reworked in the cultural memory of the South Indian people.



Guest Presenters Thank Center

In October, the Center welcomed **Paul Arthur**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Social and Community Research, Murdoch University, Western Australia. He writes us the following: *My research visit achieved far more than I had expected. This was largely due to the welcome and support I was offered through the*



AGS Library and the Center for 21st Century Studies. I want to thank the Center for providing such a stimulating intellectual environment and for so generously making available its resources, staff and office space. The seminar I presented at provided an opportunity to meet the community of fellows at the Center, and I was very pleased to find that it was also well attended by researchers from other departments. The seminar format allowed for a genuinely interdisciplinary exchange of ideas – one that brought up important research leads that I have since followed up. Having visited many research centres around the world, I am pleased to say that my visit to UWM was my most productive and also most memorable to date. Dr Paul Longley Arthur-- Helen and John S. Best Research Fellow, American Geographical Society Library

Michael Herzfeld, speaker at our "Imperial Cities" symposium and guest at an animated brown bag luncheon with UWM graduate students organized through the Center's Curricular Initiative, writes to Director Daniel Sherman: "I relished the encounter with you and all your colleagues, and am very impressed with the operation you have running there at the Center." Fellow speaker **Susan Alcock** sent similar compliments.

Friday, February 11

“In Search of the Absolute: Pictorial Knowledge in 16th Century Anatomy and Botany,” a seminar
Sachiko Kusukawa (History, Trinity College, Cambridge)
co-sponsored by UWM History Department and
the Early Modern Research Workshop
(advance reading available at the Center, Curtin 929, and the
Department of History)
1:30 pm, Holton 341

Thursday, February 24

Le Mur (The Wall)
a film by Simone Bitton (France/Israel, 100 minutes, English
subtitles, 35mm, 2004)
7 p.m., Union Cinema

Friday, February 25

Le Mur Panel Discussion
Brian Edwards (English & Comparative Literature,
Northwestern), Ussama Makdisi (History, Rice),
and Tasha Oren (English, UWM)
co-sponsored by UWM Center for Jewish Studies
noon, Union 191

Friday, March 4

Art and Public Space, a symposium
Siah Armajani (artist) “Public Art in America”
and
Sheba Chhachhi (artist), “Bearing Witness: Women’s
Testimonies”
co-sponsored by UWM English Department
3 p.m., Mitchell 191

Friday, Saturday, April 8-9

Routing Diasporas: Labor, Citizenship, Empire
an international conference
organizers: Sukanya Banerjee (English, UWM),
Aims McGuinness (History, UWM),
and Steven McKay (Sociology, UWM)
keynote address by Aihwa Ong (Anthropology, UC Berkeley)
full program and advance registration available at
<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/21st/conferences.shtml>
conference begins 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 8th
AGS Library, Golda Meir Library, UWM

Friday, April 22

“Death and Translation,” a lecture
Haun Saussy (Comparative Literature & Asian Studies, Yale)
3:30 p.m., Curtin 118

Friday, May 13

“Learning as Equals: What is Wrong with Inequality in K-12
Education?” a lecture
Debra Satz (Philosophy, Stanford)
co-sponsored by UWM Philosophy Department
3:30 p.m., Curtin 118

On Friday, November 12 an audience of around 45 welcomed Bonnie Smith, Board of Governors Professor of History at Rutgers University and a renowned scholar in the fields of modern European and gender history. Her talk, “Global Trade in Ideas,” comes from a



book in progress on the influence of the non-Western world on Western culture and society since the seventeenth century. Whereas in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Smith argued, Western borrowings from the East fueled innovations in fields from design to industry, by the twentieth, the focus of her lecture, the appeal of the non-Western world had moved to a wide array of avant-gardes. Indeed, by the early twentieth century, for Smith, “being modern meant being global.” She drew examples from such activities and movements as dance, sex, painting, theosophy, and ecology.

The lecture, and Smith’s responses to questions, drew a lively, stimulating, sometimes disturbing picture—high-level Nazis were devotees of Eastern philosophy and were committed vegetarians—of a web and pattern of connections far vaster and more complex than Western scholarship has normally acknowledged. Professor Smith’s visit was co-sponsored by the Department of History, as part of its monthly colloquium series, and by the Feminist Theory Research Workshop, which included her in its Thursday symposium on “Gender, Professions, and Professionalization.”

New On-Line Working Papers

Originating in last year’s “New European Frontiers” symposium at the Center, we’re excited now to present the latest in our on-line Working Papers series: **Marc Abélès**, “Identity and Borders: An Anthropological Approach to EU Institutions.” Later in Spring 2005 we expect to add, from the same symposium, **Laird Boswell’s** “Right-Wing Extremism in Frontier Regions: The French National Front and the Crisis of Alsatian Identity.” All on-line working papers can be found at: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/21st/workingpapers/index.shtml>.

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