

center for 21st century studies

a newsletter from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee ■ winter 2008

FALL SYMPOSIUM

Past Knowing / Future Knowledge: Archaeology and Museums in the 21st Century

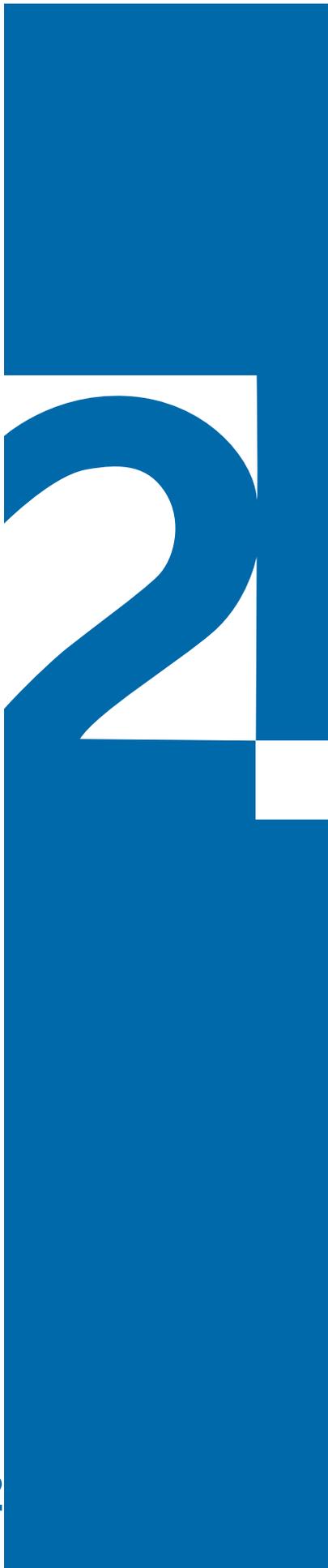
On Friday, October 12, the Center convened a symposium on the traffic in looted objects around the world and museums' responsibilities in this situation. Five panelists and an audience of nearly 80 discussed issues concerning the loss to knowledge from looting of archaeological sites, the repatriation of looted artifacts to the countries of origin, and how museums are responding to these challenges. The panel was comprised of archaeologists, museum professionals and an expert on the legal aspects of the trade in archaeological artifacts and works of art.



symposium panelists (l to r): Carla Antonaccio, Susanne Ebbinghaus, and Geoff Emberling

Following introductory remarks by the symposium co-chairs, Daniel Sherman (History and Center director) and Jane Waldbaum (past president of the Archaeological Institute of America [AIA] and Art History emerita, UWM), the first panelist to speak was Carla Antonaccio (Classical Studies, Duke). Antonaccio began by emphasizing the vital role context plays in producing knowledge of the past and why it is important to protect such contexts. She argued that when sites are looted "it's like tearing pages from a book," resulting in the irreplaceable loss of collective human knowledge. Critics of repatriation argue that a lack of proper facilities, as well as a shortage of equipment, funding, and staff in some countries puts objects at risk. In contrast, Antonaccio believes that the increased attendance at sites such as Morgantina in Sicily will provide the resources to address these critics' concerns.

continued on page 4



From the Director

In her 1998 book *The Gender of History*, the historian Bonnie Smith, a 2004 visitor to the Center, describes how the professionalization of history imposed norms of practice that cemented masculine assumptions about how we study the past. In place of historians' standard version of our own past as a steady march toward objectivity (a goal proclaimed if never quite reached), Smith recounts a comprehensive struggle to marginalize a number of practices of historical writing common in Europe in the early nineteenth century. Many of those genres, such as the semi-fictionalized, ego-centric works of Madame de Staël, have since reclaimed a place in the more experimental, or less prestigious, corners of history today. But the celebration of the lone author-researcher, in the nineteenth century almost invariably male, at the expense of his many helpers—usually female, and often a wife or daughter—has had a lasting impact on the way scholars in the humanities conceive of our work.

This fall our new associate director for advancement and planning, John Blum, and I have met with a number of Center constituencies—past and present Center fellows, research workshop coordinators, and several humanities departments—about our initiative to develop collaborative research projects under the Center's umbrella. Consistently, the notion of "collaborative" research in the humanities has proved the most difficult to get across. Some have argued that the humanities do not lend themselves to structures modeled on the scientific or medical laboratory, and that our emphasis on single-authored books and articles makes collaborative projects risky before the tenure stage. Lurking beneath these entirely valid concerns may be others, such as, isn't this really about attracting outside funding? Don't I have enough meetings to attend already? Isn't the Center meant to be a haven where fellows can get back to their own writing?

To varying degrees, the answer to all those questions is yes; as for the last, nothing in our new initiative will alter or weaken the fellowship program. Part of John Blum's remit, too, is to assist faculty in the humanities and related fields in finding support for individual research. But the Center has always had a strong collaborative element, from the organization of our conferences and publication of the subsequent volumes to our research workshops. Likewise, the image of the solitary scholar in his or her study conceals a more complex, if largely hidden, network of collaboration without which none of us could function: peer reviews, editorial collectives, outside evaluation of tenure cases. The seminar model at the core of graduate instruction and the more recent system of post-doctoral fellowships for recent Ph.D.'s have strong roots in the sciences; in both cases, collaborative interchange with peers and mentors aims to facilitate, not hinder, individual research. The interdisciplinarity the Center seeks to foster necessarily involves collaboration of some kind, but multiple paths exist to achieve it. The Center's initiative aims in the first instance to stimulate reflection and dialogue on these issues, and then, above and beyond our existing programs, to bring together individuals who can see how collaboration might benefit their own work.

—Daniel Sherman

CONTENTS

2 From the Director

4 Feature Article

Past Knowing/Future Knowledge symposium, October 12

5 Events

Disciplinary Dialogue: Keith Hart and Ralph Litzinger,
September 7

Disciplinary Dialogue: Helena Michie, J. David Hoeveler, and
Jason Puskar, October 26

Gwendolyn Wright lecture, November 16

8 In the News

10 Calendar of Events

Thank You!

The Center thanks the following individuals who in recent months have made financial contributions in support of Center programming or the Tennessen Graduate Fellowship:

Aneesh Aneesh, John Blum, Debra Castillo, Ruud van Dijk and Joan Dobkin, Bruce Fetter, Carlos Galvao-Sobrinho, Peter Goldberg, Jeffrey Hayes, Stanley Hoffmann, David Hoeveler, Melanie Mariño, Jon McKenzie, Catherine Podolin, Mary Sheriff, Claire and Stanley Sherman, Daniel J. Sherman, Carol Tennessen, Tanya Tiffany, William Wainwright, Jane Waldbaum.

If you would like to support Center programming or the Tennessen Graduate Fellowship program, please contact John Blum: 414-229-3781; blumj@uwm.edu



Past Knowing / Future Knowledge symposium panel (l to r): Carla Antonaccio, Susanne Ebbinghaus, Geoff Emberling, Jane Waldbaum, Daniel Sherman, Virginia Fields, Patty Gerstenblith

Past Knowing symposium

continued from front cover

The next panelist, Susanne Ebbinghaus (Harvard University Art Museums), began by discussing the Mesopotamian site of Nuzi in modern Iraq, where extensive excavations in the 1930s led to the discovery of thousands of clay tablets inscribed with Akkadian cuneiform script. So many tablets were found that archaeologists reportedly destroyed many they considered superfluous. This case highlights the difficulties of preserving cultural remains, particularly when “preservation is not cheap and political bodies are fickle partners in the protection of sites.” The effectiveness of the 1970 UNESCO Convention in regulating the traffic in antiquities remains under dispute, but Ebbinghaus believes that most museum professionals have taken seriously the message that collecting unprovenanced artifacts perpetuates the black market.

Geoff Emberling (Oriental Institute Museum, University of Chicago) discussed two traditional museum models: object-based and knowledge-based. While cautioning that this dichotomy tends to be overdrawn, he described the former approach as generally the prerogative of art museums, while the latter model is more often the modus operandi of archaeology and history museums. To highlight this point, he discussed his past curatorial experience at New York’s Metropolitan Museum, where artifacts were often displayed in isolation and with minimal text in the exhibition galleries. In contrast, the

acquisition and exhibition approach at the Oriental Institute Museum is decisively knowledge-based. Emberling argues that the approach stems from the Chicago museum’s mission as an inactive-collecting institution, a mission that reduces the pressure to accept objects without context while “attracting donors who are genuinely interested in research.” In order to overcome this museum dichotomy, Emberling argued for an “inclusive knowledge-based model” as the best approach to museology and education.

Virginia Fields (Los Angeles County Museum of Art) addressed the misinformation that exists among the general public about archaeology, particularly about the ancient Maya. In this regard, museums stand at “the nexus between the academic world and the public,” making them a forum for presenting accurate and relevant information about the past. On the issue of repatriation of looted artifacts, she emphasized that international collaboration between cultural institutions can result in better preservation and presentation methods, citing her own work with museums and archaeologists in Latin America as an example.

The final panelist, Patty Gerstenblith (Law, DePaul University), began by retracing the history of museums and archaeology from the nineteenth-century heyday of antiquarianism to the exponential growth in the appetite for acquiring collections, regardless of provenance, following World War II. Many sites were destroyed by clandestine looting, as artifacts were traded up the line, many ending up in museum collections. To account for how the traffic in unprovenanced objects continues to influence acquisition policies, she pointed to several justifications commonly used by certain museums to acquire undocumented artifacts. Gerstenblith concluded on a skeptical note, by asking if the future of collecting unprovenanced material will be different from the past, and increased international cooperation will lead to museum acquisitions only of well-provenanced artifacts, or whether in thirty years we will be engaged in discussions similar to the current ones.



Eduardo Douglas (standing)

A lively discussion followed the presentations, initiated by the co-chairs and with challenging questions posed by several audience members. The entire symposium was recorded, and an edited transcript will be available in the Center’s electronic working paper series.

Keith Hart and Ralph Litzinger Disciplinary Dialogue: Toward a New Human Universal



l to r: Ralph Litzinger and Keith Hart

On Friday, September 7, the Center launched two years of research under its new theme, Past Knowing, with its first Disciplinary Dialogue, featuring a lecture by Keith Hart with commentary by Ralph Litzinger. Through this format, the Center seeks to explore practices of knowledge gathering, organization, and dissemination that contemporary disciplines and institutions view as parts of their own past, and the narratives through which they construct their relationship to them.

Hart, Professor of Anthropology at Goldsmith's College, University of London, began with a lecture entitled "Toward a New Human Universal: Rethinking Anthropology for the

Twenty-first Century." Hart's lecture explored anthropology's possible contribution to a new human universal emerging as part of the interconnected and interdependent world of the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Our time, Hart began, is a "Magellan moment," with humanity having formed a world society—a single interactive social network—for the first time. But, Hart continued, our increasingly interconnected world "is massively unequal and the voices for human unity are often drowned."

Hart began with a deep historical overview of his own discipline, starting with Immanuel Kant's *Anthropology* (1798) and its vision of world citizenship, and touching on the pathbreaking work of Lewis Henry Morgan in the nineteenth century, as well as that of his own teacher, Jack Goody, for whom the key to social forms was production. Continuing on this last theme, Hart argued that since the Second World War the world has regressed, as global integration has gone hand in hand with an overemphasis on the market and capital. Current alienation, the rupture between self and society, should be repaired, according to Hart, by building up or enlarging the self—not through traditional, Western means such as Christianity and capital, but instead through literature and the teaching of tolerance for others.

Turning to the part anthropology as a discipline might play in creating a new human universal, Hart lamented recent developments such as growing commercialization at Western universi-

ties and trends toward bureaucratization and narrow specialization among academic professionals. In spite of anthropology's evolution from a Western-based to a burgeoning global field in recent decades, Hart maintained that the discipline has become too specialized, with academics mostly speaking to each other and their students. As an alternative, Hart presented, following Edward Said, a vision of "intellectuals as migrants," and anthropology as extending beyond the university.

In his commentary, Ralph Litzinger (Anthropology, Duke University) generally accepted Hart's analysis of the current moment, rephrasing Hart's concern in the form of a set of questions: how can universalism become the ground for a new kind of political project? How could it deal with political, social, and economic inequality and environmental degradation? Litzinger wondered if the glass here might not be half-full instead of half-empty, pointing by way of example to several community-oriented initiatives by graduate students at Duke. Public and political engagement, in other words, is happening, according to Litzinger, although certainly more is needed.

An animated question-and-answer session followed, with broad participation from the standing-room only audience with faculty and student representation from across the humanities and social sciences. Many also took the opportunity for further, informal conversation with the speakers at a reception at the Center following the close of the afternoon's formal proceedings.

"It's hard to look the world in the face and still have some measure of hope."—Keith Hart

**Helena Michie, J. David Hoeveler, and Jason Puskar
Disciplinary Dialogue:
The Tenses of Historicism**

On Friday, October 26, the Center hosted its second Disciplinary Dialogue of the 2007-08 academic year, featuring Helena Michie (English, Rice University) and as commentators J. David Hoeveler (History, UWM), and Jason Puskar (English, UWM). We also welcomed a diverse audience of faculty and graduate students from a number of departments.

In a paper entitled “In the Meantime: The Tenses of Historicism,” Michie explored “the imaginary but institutionally powerful line that divides ‘literature’ from ‘history.’” Her emphasis was on “flashpoints” between these academic disciplines, such as “the nature and sufficiency of evidence, the role of language and metaphor, the power of narrative, the relation between truth and fiction, the validity of casual explanations, and the possibilities and limitations of the archive.”



Helena Michie

Professing herself especially interested in “how relations to and expectations about history get registered in the shape and structure of sentences,” she proceeded to examine ten historicizing sentences, both from works of Victorian literature—such as Dickens’s *Bleak House*, Anthony Trollope’s *Phineas Redux*, and George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*—and by contemporary Victorianists, for example Jonathan Grossman, all expressing, in different ways, simultaneity.

Historicist sentences in realist novels, Michie argued, do important work, as they remind the reader that the novel is not just involved with individual lives, but also a wider social context. Michie referred to Benedict Anderson’s *Imagined Communities*, arguing that “it is the existence and the grammatical intelligibility of these sentences that offer up community in its most condensed form,” reminding the reader that “there are worlds beyond the one with which s/he is temporarily engaged.” The same goes, Michie concluded, for historicist scholars, who thanks to the emergence of forms of history such as social and intellectual history “rely for their ethics and their epistemologies on something like the notion of simultaneity endorsed by the historical novel....”

In his comments, Hoeveler hailed Professor Michie’s paper as a fresh and fruitful exploration of the nexus between literature and history, arguing that while many historians continue to be skeptical of the “linguistic turn” in their field, connecting language to social structure is nonetheless promising. Hoeveler noted that some of Michie’s selected sentences would not be considered historical by most historians, but he added that literary historicism remains crucial for insight in historical situations and a fertile tool for expanding the area where literature and history overlap.

The second commentator, Jason Puskar, focused on the stakes for language in Michie’s presentation, noting both the awkwardness and the inevitability of historicist sentences such as those selected by Michie. He argued that Michie’s analysis helps us see hierarchy and difference, but wondered if there can be an alternative in language to subordination (and simultaneity) and if, as a result, language does not also serve to preserve difference. Is the historicist sentence the product of a particular social, economic, and political milieu (Victorian/ism) or is it a product of language because language has no other way to deal with simultaneity than through subordination (and the preservation of difference)?

During an animated discussion, Michie addressed Puskar’s question by arguing that the kinds of historicizing sentences she examines may not be tied exclusively to Victorian/ist writing, but more broadly can be found in what she called social problem novels such as *War and Peace* and *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. Other issues discussed after the formal presentations included the unease professional historians can feel when novelists “historicize” or claim to be doing so, and the extent to which professional historians can gain insight into the past through literary work of the kind presented by Professor Michie.

EVENTS

Gwendolyn Wright lecture

On Friday, November 16, architectural historian and PBS "History Detective" Gwendolyn Wright (Architecture, Columbia) visited the Center to deliver a lecture entitled: "Excavating American Modern Architecture." Wright's talk had as its central theme the importance of a historical and interdisciplinary perspective for forward-looking architecture.

Noting that this view is not universally accepted in the field of architecture, Wright used both the Center's interdisciplinary mission and its current research theme, Past Knowing, to argue that in order to understand an increasingly complex, integrated world and to make decisions about places with many diverse traditions and histories, architects need to know many disciplinary languages, including architectural history. She then proceeded to analyze, and deconstruct, the notion of "modern architecture." While there exist competing views of what constitutes modern (including modern architecture), according to Wright, the historical, geographical, and ideological complexities connected with the term are not always sufficiently recognized. Questioning modern architecture in reality involves the questioning of modernity, Wright argued, and this theoretical exercise is an important part of learning what modern architecture actually involves.

The study of modern architecture, Wright argued, requires a critical, historically informed engagement with complexity and diversity. Five themes in particular stand out, according to Wright, when "excavating" American modern architecture: hybridity; the impact of commercial culture; economic growth and ethnic diversity; the power of media as a means to disseminate new architectural ideas; and the extent to which architecture has engaged with its surroundings and the wider public. "There is always more going on than one would think following large labels," she concluded. The Center welcomed a capacity crowd of approximately 120 at UWM's School of Architecture and Urban Planning, co-sponsor of the event, with many staying after the end of the formal program to engage Professor Wright with questions and comments.



l to r: Arijit Sen, Brian Wishne, Gil Snyder, and Gwendolyn Wright

Ningbo University Delegation Visit

On October 4, a delegation of senior officials from Ningbo University in Ningbo, China visited the Center as part of a week-long seminar on U.S. higher education organized by UWM's Center for International Education. Because of similarities in our locations, Ningbo and Milwaukee have a "friendship city" relationship, and UWM has a partnership agreement with Ningbo University. Center staff members and fellow **Arijit Sen** discussed the Center's four main activities—the resident fellowship program, public programs, publications, and advancement and planning. The visitors seemed especially interested in exploring the multiple meanings of the Center's current research theme, Past Knowing.

Current Center Fellows and Staff

Michelle Bolduc (Comparative Literature) published "Naming Names: Matfre Ermengaud's Use of Troubadour Quotations," *Tenso, Bulletin de la société Guilhem IX* 22:1-2 (2007): 42-75.

Barrett Kalter (English) delivered a paper, "Reading Walpole in the Dark: The Gothic Novel and the Public Sphere," at the Midwestern American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, this past October in Kansas City, MO.

Christina Maranci (Art History) presented two papers last fall: "Powerful Geometries: Building Churches in Early Medieval Armenia" at the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Koç University, Istanbul, in September, and "Landscape, Memory, and Architecture in Early Medieval Armenia," at a symposium on Sacred Landscapes in Anatolia, Bilkent University, Ankara, in October (read by Charles Gates).

Bernard Perley (Anthropology) participated in a Presidential Session and HighTable discussion on "Activism in North American First Nations" at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, in Washington, D.C. late November– early December. At the same meeting he also participated in an invited panel discussion of the Society for Humanistic Anthropology, entitled "Evoking Culture: Performance and Media Production in Anthropology."

Arijit Sen (Architecture) presented

a paper, "Redrawing a Nation from Outside: Visual Culture and Peoplehood," at the American Studies Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia, in October.

Caroline Seymour-Jorn (Comparative Literature) gave a paper, "Journeys into Memory and Experience: Ebtihal Salem's 'A Small Box in the Heart,'" at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in Montreal on November 20.

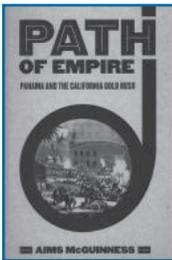
John Blum, Associate Director for Advancement and Planning, attended a panel discussion on "Entrepreneurialism in the Humanities" at UW-Madison, hosted by UW's Center for the Humanities. Four UW faculty members presented their innovative methods of securing extramural funding in an era of shrinking humanities budgets. John will use the information gleaned from the panel discussion in his work with UWM faculty to find external funding for their own research projects in the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

Former Center Fellows and Speakers

At the annual UWM fall awards ceremony, Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School Colin Scanes honored Center Faculty Advisory Committee Chairman and former fellow **John Koethe** (Philosophy) with the Research in the Humanities Award.

The Center congratulates former fellows and members of the Center's

Faculty Advisory Committee **Margaret Atherton** and **Robert Schwartz** (both Philosophy), who have been named UWM Distinguished Professors.



Aims McGuinness (History, Fellow 2003-04) has published *Path of Empire: Panama and the California Gold Rush* (Cornell University Press, 2007). The book, on which he worked

as a Center fellow, presents a novel understanding of the intertwined histories of the California Gold Rush, the course of U.S. empire, and anti-imperialist politics in Latin America. Between 1848 and 1856, Panama saw the building, by a U.S. company, of the first transcontinental railroad in world history, the final abolition of slavery, the establishment of universal manhood suffrage, the foundation of an autonomous Panamanian state, and the first of what would become a long list of military interventions by the United States. Using documents found in Panamanian, Colombian, and U.S. archives, McGuinness reveals how U.S. imperial projects in Panama were integral to developments in California and the larger process of U.S. continental expansion.

Suzan Letzler Cole (English, Albertus Magnus College), a speaker at the 1996 Center conference Women & Aging: Bodies, Cultures, Generations, has

published *Missing Alice: In Search of a Mother's Voice* (Syracuse University Press, 2007), an experimental memoir about her mother, a project she began at the 1996 Center conference.

Mrinalini Sinha (History, Penn State), a speaker at last spring's Center conference In Terms of Gender, has been awarded the American Historical Association's Joan Kelly Memorial Prize for her book *Specters of Mother India: The Global Restructuring of an Empire* (Duke University Press, 2006).

Research Workshops

In fall 2007 the Center welcomed a new reading group to its roster of research workshops. Coordinated by graduate students Andrew Anastasia and Meredith Drew (both Modern Studies and English), the **Queer Theory** group started meeting on a regular basis in the Center conference room last September. Members include graduate students from English and Modern Studies, Women's Studies, and History. Anyone interested in joining the group is encouraged to contact the coordinators.

On Friday, October 26, Center speaker Helena Michie (English, Rice) conducted a special seminar with the **Feminist Theory** workshop discussing her recent book *Victorian Honeymoons: Journeys to the Conjugal* (Cambridge University Press, 2007).



Spring 2008 Calendar of Events

FRI FEB 15

David Halperin (English, Michigan)

“Tragedy Into Melodrama: Towards a Poetics of Gay Male Culture”

Keynote for Midwest Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference, Living Remains

3:30 pm, CRT 175

FRI FEB 29

Pablo Boczkowski (Communication, Northwestern)

“Past Knowing?: The Practice and Infrastructure of Imitation in Contemporary News Work,” a lecture

3:30 pm, CRT 118

FRI MAR 14

Peter McIsaac

“Past Anatomy: Figures of Salvage and Transformation in the Body Worlds Exhibitions,” a seminar

Noon CRT 939

FRI MAR 28

Disciplinary Dialogue

“Neomedievalism and the Church of Theory: Academic Prose from the Cold War to the War on Terror” a lecture by **Bruce Holsinger** (English & Music, Virginia)

with comment by **Gabrielle Spiegel** (History, Johns Hopkins)

3:00 pm, HOL 341

THU-FRI, APR 3-4

Picturing the Modern: Photography, Film, and Society in Central Europe, 1919-1945

a symposium organized by **Daniel J. Sherman** and **Lisa Hostetler** (Milwaukee Art Museum), with **David Frey** (History, West Point), **Elizabeth Otto** (Visual Culture, SUNY-Buffalo), **Anson Rabinbach** (Keynote; History, Princeton), **Lisa Silverman** (History, UWM), **Petr Szczepanik** (Film Studies, Masaryk University), **Matthew Witkovsky** (National Gallery of Art)

5:30 pm, April 3; 10 am, April 4, Milwaukee Art Museum

FRI APR 18

Andrew Hemingway (Art History, University College, London)

“Precisionist Painting and Critical Art History’s Dilemma: Aesthetics and the Limits of Historical Meaning,” a lecture

3:30 pm, CRT 118

continued on next page

Center Staff

Daniel J. Sherman

Director

Kate Kramer

Deputy Director

John C. Blum

*Associate Director for
Advancement and Planning*

Ruud van Dijk

Associate Director for Publications

Maria Liesegang

Business Manager

Scott Canevit

Project Assistant

Kevin Cullen

Project Assistant

Renee Pasciak

Project Assistant

e-mail ctr21cs@uwm.edu

web <http://www.21st.uwm.edu>

Photo credits

Alan Magayne-Roshak (Visual Imaging,

UWM) unless otherwise indicated

FRI MAY 2

Installation/Exhibition and Presentation by video artist **Paul Pfeiffer**
Colloquia in Conceptual Studies: Sensational! Sensing Media Arts Theory and Practice, Department of Film, Peck School of the Arts
—organized by Dr. Jennifer M. Barker and Dr. Michele Schreiber
co-sponsored by the Center for 21st Century Studies
2:00 pm Kenilworth Square East, 4th floor
(1925 E. Kenilworth Place)

IN MEMORIAM

The Center was saddened to learn of the death of Daphne Berdahl (Anthropology, University of Minnesota) from cancer on October 5, 2007, at the age of 43. Professor Berdahl, a specialist on eastern Germany since unification, participated in the Center's February 2004 symposium, "New European Frontiers." The author of *Where the World Ended: Re-Unification and Identity in the German Borderland* (University of California Press, 1999), she leaves her husband, John Baldwin, and two children. Reflecting on Berdahl's work on German unification, anthropologist Matti Bunzl (University of Illinois) said: "She was one of the finest ethnographers our discipline has produced."



Daphne Berdahl at the Center in February 2004

Center for 21st Century Studies
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
PO Box 413 Milwaukee WI 53201 USA

www.21st.uwm.edu ■ ctr21cs@uwm.edu

Nonprofit ORG
US postage
PAID
Milwaukee WI
Permit NO. 864

center for 21st century studies



From left to right: Jason Puskar, Jane Gallop, Daniel Sherman, and Helena Michie after Michie's lecture on Friday, October 26.