

# 2018-2019 Annual Report



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

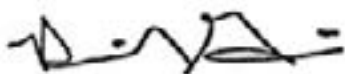
We are very pleased to welcome you back to C21, where this year we embark on our second half-century in existence. Last year marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Center for 21st—formerly 20th—Century Studies, making us one of the oldest (and surely most venerable) humanities centers in the US. We celebrated this milestone by drawing together luminary figures from the Center’s history for a celebration in October, our Remembering the Center for 20th Century Studies symposium. As an occasion to reflect on the legacy of the Center, it also allowed us to think about our mission into the future.

Throughout the past few decades, the Center would focus its research for the year on an interdisciplinary theme, around which our Fellows and programming constellated. But in 2017-18 we began to move away from an annual changeable theme to an ongoing emphasis on the critical, public, and digital humanities. As the humanities continue to be imperiled in higher education and in our society, this focus reflects a commitment to the urgent questions that only humanistic approaches can address. Our 2018-19 graduate fellow Allain Daigle (Ph.D. 2019) produced a remarkable video introducing our focus on critical, public, and digital humanities. You can watch it [here](#).

Last year also marked another important beginning, as we welcomed new Deputy Director Maureen Ryan, who earned her PhD in Screen Cultures at Northwestern University and is the author of *Lifestyle Media in American Culture: Gender, Class, and the Politics of Ordinariness* (Routledge, 2018). Maureen took to the position like a duck to water, immediately providing both intellectual and administrative leadership for C21. In her first year she organized or co-organized three events: a roundtable on popular feminisms, a half-day symposium on power and gendered labor in academia, and a panel on zine archiving. She also brings to the Center some wicked design and baking skills, the former evident in the three posters she created for the 50th anniversary celebration, the latter in the tasty cakes and cookies she provided periodically for Center staff and Fellows.

Among the many highlights of the year was a conversation between Anna Tsing and Donna Haraway (both UC-Santa Cruz) about human-nonhuman relations, the legacy of the plantation system, and ecological collapse. It was a packed house with attendees from other UW and Chicago-area campuses. Our spring conference *Insecurity* drew a national and international audience, with keynote speakers and panelists delivering gripping talks on various forms of political, sexual, technical, and economic insecurity. An edited collection based on the conference will be published by University of Minnesota Press in 2021.

As always, we are grateful for the support of the College of Letters and Science and the Office of Research, as well as the support of our campus community. It ensures that the vital work that is being done in the humanities, both by our own faculty and by the world-class scholars we bring to the UWM community, continues to flourish. We hope to see you at one of our terrific events this fall!

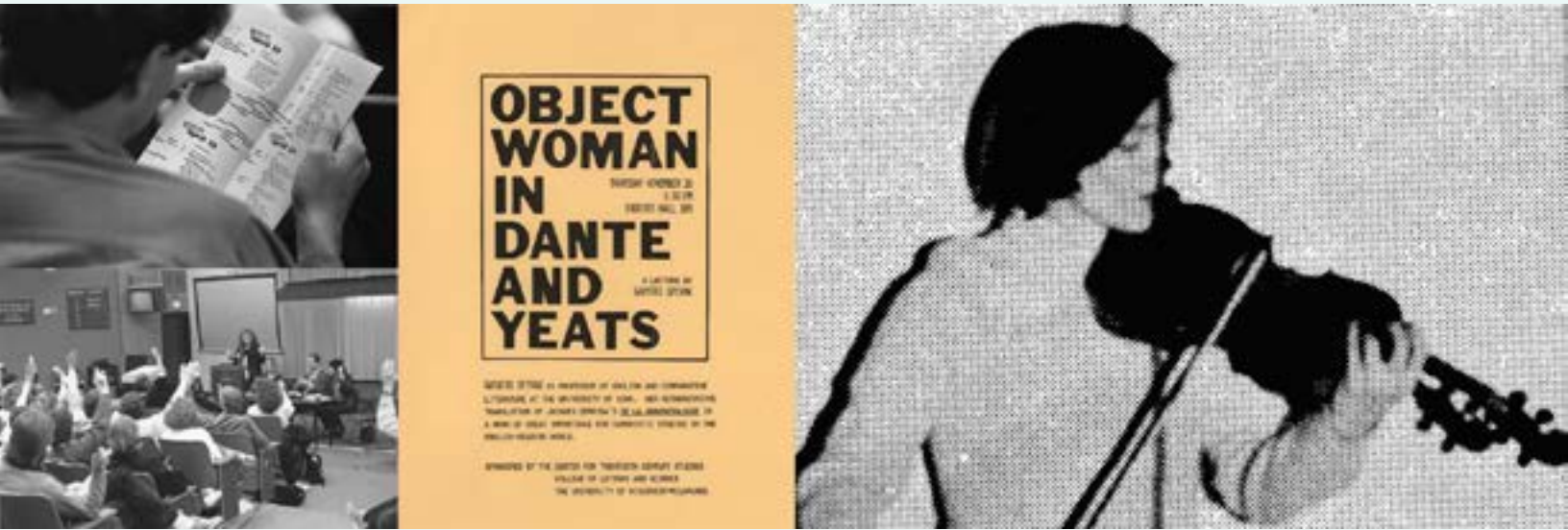


Richard Grusin, Director



## 50th ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

### *Remembering the Center for 20th Century Studies*



In honor of 50 years of research and collaboration, C21 hosted a landmark 50th anniversary symposium on October 26, 2018.

“Remembering the Center for 20th Century Studies” celebrated a half century as of one of the first humanities centers in the US, originally founded in 1968 as the Center for 20th Century Studies. The symposium brought together current and former faculty, doctoral students, and past directors. Our plenary speakers each presented their research and reflected on the role the Center played in their intellectual development: **Amelie Hastie** (Amherst), **Andreas Huyssen** (Columbia), **Tara McPherson** (USC), **Patricia Mellencamp** (UWM), **Gary Weissman** (University of Cincinnati) and **Kathleen Woodward** (University of Washington).

[View all symposium talks](#) on our website.



#### *Dedicating the Patricia Mellencamp Founding Collection*

To kick off our 50th anniversary symposium, C21 welcomed Distinguished Professor Emerita Patricia Mellencamp back to campus for a special dedication of the [Patricia Mellencamp Founding Collection](#) on October 25. A former Fellow at the Center who taught for 30 years in the Film Studies program at UWM, Mellencamp amassed a variety of historically significant 16mm film prints. These prints are being catalogued, cleaned and preserved by the Moving Image Society, a dedicated group of undergraduate and graduate students under the supervision of Film Studies Professor Tami Williams.

## ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE: INSECURITY

Our Spring 2019 conference drew an international group of over 100 scholars and visitors to UWM to consider “Insecurity” as one of the prevailing contemporary logics of economic, political and social life in the West. Over three days (May 2-4), 5 plenary speakers and 45 panelists addressed the various forms, causes and effects of insecurity on the contemporary global stage, picking up on and challenging key concepts of 21st century studies like “precarity,” “securitization” and “resilience.”

Our plenary speakers each gave electrifying lectures on campus sexual assault (**Jennifer Doyle**, UC Riverside), the automation of work (**Annie McClanahan**, UC Irvine), the origins of insecurity (**Mark Neocleous**, Brunel University London), , securitization in the military (**Naomi Paik**, Illinois) and the financialization of cities (**Saskia Sassen**, Columbia).

You can view the plenary talks and conference events [here](#).



## OTHER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

*The Fall of Wisconsin:* In April, author **Dan Kaufman** gave a talk on Wisconsin's politics and labor history in the wake of both Donald Trump's 2016 election and the 2018 midterm elections, the latter of which shifted the landscape of Wisconsin electoral politics yet again with the election of Governor Tony Evers. John Gurda, historian and author of *The Making of Milwaukee*, and former Wisconsin congressional candidate Randy Bryce were in attendance. (Watch Dan Kaufman's talk [here](#).)



*Unblocking Attachment Sites for Living in the Plantationocene:* **Donna Haraway** and **Anna Tsing** (both of UC Santa Cruz) held a fascinating and timely discussion in April on surviving alongside our human and nonhuman kin on a damaged planet.



The Center also hosted lectures by UWM Distinguished Professor **Jane Gallop** (English), visual culture scholar **Nicholas Mirzoeff** (NYU), and posthumanist scholar **N. Katherine Hayles** (Duke), as well as a roundtable on *popular feminisms* inspired by Roxane Gay's visit to campus, a roundtable discussion with author **Amitav Ghosh**, and a discussion on *zine archiving* and the digital humanities.



*Power and Gendered Labor in the Academy:* This half-day symposium in March featured keynote speaker **Carol Stable** (Oregon) and a host of UWM roundtable participants, and led to a lively audience discussion.



## C21 COLLABORATORIES

Through the generous support of the Office of Research and the College of Letters and Science, our [Collaboratory program](#) was renewed for another three years. Although it officially kicked off in the Spring semester, our 7 Collaboratories were remarkably productive, many of whom in addition to conducting timely research also did exciting work organizing events and performances on campus:

- ***The Sound Inquiry Collaboratory*** hosted **Liz Covart** of the popular history podcast *Ben Franklin's World* to discuss podcasting with WUWM's *Lake Effect* host **Mitch Teitch**. (Part of their [Podcasting the Past series](#))



- ***The Public Humanities PhD Collaboratory*** invited **Teresa Mangum** to speak about humanities PhDs as paths to working both within and outside of the academy.

- ***The Media Studies Research Group*** organized the [Women Film Pioneers Symposium](#), a half-day symposium that brought together four luminary keynote speakers to discuss the oft-neglected but integral roles women played in the early developments of cinema, along with a 3-day program of films by early women directors at Milwaukee Film's Oriental Theater.

- ***The Muslim Milwaukee Collaboratory*** welcomed Egyptian musician and theater director **Salam Yousry**, who arranged a performance of his international Choir Project in Milwaukee.



- ***The Critical East Asian Humanities Reading Group*** brought historian **Charles Kim** to campus to discuss the April 19th Students' Revolution that occurred in 1960 in South Korea.

## TENNESSEN SCHOLARS

In conjunction with our 50th anniversary year, C21 awarded six graduate-student scholarships named for longtime Center Deputy Director Carol Tennesen. Our Tennesen Scholars attended all C21 events, helped foster engagement among the Center's active graduate student community, and contributed critical responses and reflections to monthly lectures and events at the center. Read some of their work at the [Tennesen Scholars blog](#).

## FACULTY FELLOWS

Join us in congratulating our 2018-19 C21 Fellows on their many accomplishments during their year in residence at the Center:



**Joel Berkowitz** (Foreign Languages and Literature) had his chapter, “Between This World and the World to Come: Staging Encounters with the Dead in Yiddish Drama,” accepted for publication in *The Dybbuk Century*, edited by D. Caplan and R. Moss.



**Miren Boehm** completed an article on David Hume’s philosophy, forthcoming in the journal *Synthese*.



**Aragorn Quinn** (Foreign Languages and Literature) completed his new manuscript (under contract with Routledge Press), and a translation of *Higoromo (The Crimson Cloak)* by Asamatsu Ken, due out in December 2019 with Kurodahan Press.



**Thomas Malaby** (Anthropology) completed two forthcoming book chapters: “Selves in Play: Pop-up Casinos and Discontinuous Persons in Greece” (for *Play Beyond the Computer*, ed. Mark Johnson, Bloomsbury Academic Press); and “Institutions in Play: Practices of Legitimation in Games” (for *Participative Practices in Games*, ed. Pablo Abend, Springer Press).



**Elana Levine** (JAMS) finished her book, *Her Stories: Daytime Soap Opera and US Television History* (Duke University Press). She arranged for Bowling Green State University to take a collection of soap opera fan magazines, which she organized and catalogued, into its permanent collection.



**Rachel Ida Buff** (History) completed “Sanctuary Everywhere: Some Key Terms, 1945- Present” (forthcoming fall 2019, *Radical History Review*), and the manuscript for *A is for Asylum Seeker* (under contract, Fordham University Press). She has also secured a One Semester Fellowship with the Institute for Research in the Humanities.



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