How easy it is to write about the Franke Institute! It is the heartbeat of the Humanities Division. Amid the energy and enthusiasm at the Institute, new projects are born, ideas move from one discipline to another, and scholars discover connections across time, place, and genre. At the Franke Institute, one sits at the center of the intellectual movements that currently define the Humanities Division at the University of Chicago.

I wish we could map the routes along which ideas travel: we might trace, with a blue line, a remark on history and agency by Marshall Sahlins at the Gleacher Center as it travels into a Classics classroom and is there transformed, before traveling back again to the Franke Institute as a remark uttered by a participant at a conference on demonology in the late antique world. We might trace in red a remark about film and perception by Berthold Hoeckner at a Wednesday lunchtime talk as it moves to the Gleacher Center to be modified by Joel Snyder’s reflections on the relationship between science, conceptualization, and image making, and afterwards wanders on to Ida Noyes to be repeated, and changed.

If we could trace the lines along which ideas travel at the University of Chicago, the Franke Institute would stand revealed as where all thoughts cross, commingle, and produce unrecognizable offspring. How wonderful! We are here, after all, for the serendipity of insight and discovery.

We owe a chorus of thanks to Jim Chandler who keeps it all happening these days and also to those whose gifts of endowments have made this possible.

Danielle S. Allen
Dean, Division of the Humanities

During 2004-05, the Franke Institute hosted year two of the three-year Mellon Project on “New Perspectives on the Disciplines: Comparative Studies in Higher Education.” In keeping with the project’s international perspective on disciplines, events took place not only in Chicago but also at the UC Paris Center. Our moving target has been to re-conceptualize academic disciplines in relation to interdisciplinary challenges: does interdisciplinarity become a new model for discourse, or can disciplines innovate from within their ongoing specialist practices?

In collaboration with the University of Paris VII, the Mellon Project organized a conference on “Disciplinary Orders: Objects, Methods, Problems.” Speakers from Chicago, Paris, Cambridge, and Venice contrasted internal structures of disciplines and their external intersections in comparative literature; philosophy, psychoanalysis, semiotics and aesthetics; the history and philosophy of science; and objects of study between disciplines.

In Chicago, in counterpoint with public lectures by visiting speakers, a series of workshops also focused on paradigmatic contributors to modern conceptions of disciplines: Durkheim, Veblen, and Foucault. With faculty experts providing contextualization for each author, we debated how disciplines originated and have developed according to Durkheim’s “Pedagogy and Sociology,” Veblen’s The Higher Learning in America, and Foucault’s “The Order of Discourse.”

Another Mellon workshop explored a historical overview of disciplines: how have they been visualized in diagrams, charts, or other pictures? Aiming for an ‘atlas of the disciplines’ this discussion analyzed the

Continued on page 16
While each year’s group of fellows is newly in residence, some traditions carry over from year to year. One tradition is the diversity of the disciplines and subjects represented by each year’s fellows, since the program is open to any topic or theme and since the group of humanities faculty and doctoral students also includes a faculty fellow from the humanistic social sciences.

Another tradition has resulted from the group’s interdisciplinary character: each fellow not only introduces his or her chapter or article that everyone has read for that day but also places this work-in-progress in its disciplinary context, providing a thumbnail sketch of the fellow’s discipline that is oriented to his or her project. This disciplinary overview proves both challenging to do for the fellow who is providing it and useful for the other fellows’ grasp of the project.

Over the course of a year, the fellows discover ties with one another’s specializations, and an ongoing conception of current practices and issues develops for the humanities. Led by the Institute’s Director, Jim Chandler, the fellows’ meetings provide an evolving site for participants to make contacts outside their departments and beyond their areas of expertise.

Affiliated Fellows

With the support of the Whiting Foundation, a second fellows’ group was inaugurated a year ago at the Franke Institute that is composed of Whiting, Mellon, and Harper doctoral fellows in the humanities. Led by Associate Director, Margot Browning, it is also an interdisciplinary group with participants from various humanities departments. This community includes several members who are now humanities faculty members at the University who once held Whiting doctoral fellowships while pursuing their Ph.D. degrees.

Focused on dissertation chapters or imminent job talks, the group of affiliated fellows provides a special audience for one another in which questions and issues can arise free from programmatic constraints or departmental boundaries.
Fellows’ Research Projects, 2004–05

THE FOLLOWING PROFILES ARE REPORTS ON RESEARCH PROJECTS BY THIS YEAR’S FELLOWS.

Daniel Barolsky
Doctoral Candidate, Music

Musical Performance as Creation
My dissertation explores how a musical performance is understood to work collaboratively with that of the score and its composer. I examine the creative motivation, analysis, or aesthetic that compels certain musicians to interpret or “re-create” compositions in what can be seen as radically idiosyncratic ways.

Rusty Barrett
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow

Speaking with the Tongue of an Other: Sociolinguistic Crossing, Language Ideology, and the Reproduction of Difference
My research focuses on the relationship between language ideology and sociolinguistic crossing (the use of a language variety that indexes membership in a social group that is outside a speaker's usual perception of their own identity). I analyze a number of distinct cases of crossing, including the use of foreign languages in English-language romance novels.

Shadi Bartsch
Professor, Classical Languages & Literatures

Reading Ancient Metaphor
My project is a study of the theory, use, and reception of tropological language in Roman poetry. It dwells in particular on the metaphors with which classical rhetoricians, poets, and philosophers talked about metaphor, and on why metaphor was regarded both as antithetical to rational thought and as typical of the cognitive ability through which we learn.

Joy Beckman
Doctoral Candidate, Art History

Layers of Being: Bodies, Objects and Spaces in Warring State Funerals
Funerals ostensibly focus on the deceased, but they are meaningful events in the lives of the mourners. My dissertation explores how, in ancient China, objects buried with the dead were made meaningful for the mourners in the context of the funeral.

Robert Bird
Assistant Professor, Slavic Languages & Literatures

Engaging Fictions: Russian Modernist Aesthetics and the Origins of Narrative Theory
I am reinvigorating narrative theory by returning to its roots in the literature and thought of Russia's revolutionary era. I argue that the Formalists’ narrative theory arose under the dual pressures of artistic experimentation and a need for engagement.

Jessica Burstein
Whiting Postdoctoral Fellow

Literalism
My project takes up varying accounts of the term “literalism” as it has circulated in literary, visual and philosophical contexts. Ranging between the art historian Michael Fried's wonderfully denigrating use of the term “literalist” in his 1967 account of minimalist art to Stanley Cavell’s proposition of “the possible identity of spatiality with literality,” I look at varying ways in which the art object and the written word resist representation.

Bradin Cormack
Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature

A Power to Do Justice: Jurisdiction in English Law and Literature 1509-1625
Continued on page 4
Continued from page 3

My project looks at writers such as Thomas More, Edmund Spenser and William Shakespeare to explore the intersection of the legal and literary imaginations in the sixteenth century. It tracks the cultural reaction to legal centralization, a process that made the long-standing fact of jurisdictional complexity newly and urgently visible as a theoretical problem for the common law.

**Drew Davies**
Doctoral Candidate, Music

*The Italianized Frontier: Music at Durango Cathedral, Español Culture, and the Aesthetics of Devotion in Eighteenth Century New Spain*

This project considers the reception and refraction of Italianate music at cathedrals in colonial Mexico during the eighteenth century as exemplary of religious reform and is developed from several years archival work throughout Mexico.

**Fanny Dolansky**
Doctoral Candidate, Classical Languages & Literatures

*Ritual, Gender, and Status in the Roman Family*

My project examines the religious practices of Roman families primarily within the central period of Roman history (200 BCE to 200 CE). I show how domestic rites such as annual festivals in honor of the dead reinforced normative attitudes and behaviors concerning gender and juridical status and thus functioned to unify the disparate members of the family into a corporate entity.

**Emily Godbey**
Doctoral Candidate, Art History

*Rubbernecking and the Business of Disaster*

Photographs, movies, postcards, and amusement park attractions about disaster were all part of popular entertainment. My dissertation examines how images of accidents and catastrophes circulated in American popular visual culture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

“He Monday fellows’ seminar proved to be much more than just a chance to sample the wide-ranging research of my colleagues: in several sessions, including my own, I also discovered unexpected affinities between my work and theirs and began conversations that I plan to continue.”  

- Patchen Markell

**Erin Hazard**
Doctoral Candidate, Art History

*Realized Day-Dreams: Excursions to Authors’ Homes*

My dissertation examines a group of nineteenth century authors’ homes (like Hawthorne’s Wayside and Wordsworth’s Dove Cottage) as popular attractions. I trace the history of these houses’ exhibition from their initial fashioning to their formal museumification in the first half of the twentieth century.

**Gary Jaeger**
Doctoral Candidate, Philosophy

*Motivational Bootstrapping: The Moral Psychology of Action*

My project answers questions about the sources and structures of motivation. It is critical of two received views, which attribute motivation either to desire or to the faculty of reasoning, because both assume models of motivation that obey physical laws. Once this assumption is dropped, arguments can be made to suggest that agents can actively decide to act by justifying their own conditional reasons for action.

**Jessica Levin**
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow

*Fang Reliquaries and the Art of Extinction*

My project is a post-history of this canonical sculptural tradition (1780-1930) from Gabon, southern Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea. I identify the particularities of history that have contributed to its decline and consider how loss is inscribed in such diverse materials as church architecture, penal codes, and urban myths.

**Pawel Maciejko**
Whiting Postdoctoral Fellow

*The Interchange between Jews and Secret Societies in Early Modern Europe*

I worked on the interchange between Jewish sectarian groups, notably the Frankists, and Christian secret societies in eighteenth century Central and Eastern Europe. Heterodox groups offered an alternative to those Jews who felt constricted by the rigid authority of the rabbinate.

**Patchen Markell**
Assistant Professor, Political Science

*Rule of the People*

My project studies the ways in which democratic theory has been affected by its inheritance of conceptions of rule, power, and action forged in hierarchical political settings. It includes engagements with contemporary democratic thinkers as well as figures as diverse as Karl Marx, John Stuart Mill, Hannah Arendt, and Aristotle.

**Hratch Papazian**
Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

*Domain of Pharaoh: The Structure and Components of the Economy of Old Kingdom Egypt*

The economic administration of Egypt’s Old Kingdom highlights the centrality of the cult of the reigning king and the control exercised by the palace in the economic sphere. My thesis analyzes the structure of the original system, its evolution, and the enactment of administrative initiatives that culminated in the transference of the economic agency of Egypt from the palace to the temples.

**Hilary Poriss**
Whiting Postdoctoral Fellow

*Fragmenting Opera: The Diva Versus the Work of Art*

My project explores the art of aria substitution and interpolation in productions of nineteenth century operatic works by Rossini, Donizetti, and Bellini. My focus falls primarily on the singers who participated in these productions, the alterations they made to operatic scores, and the implications those alterations had on future performances.
Anthony Raynsford  
Doctoral Candidate, Art History  
*Sites of Lost Dwelling: The Figure of the Archaic City in the Discourses of Urban Design, 1938-1972*  
My dissertation examines the ways in which ancient and preindustrial cities figured visually and metaphorically in theoretical writings on architecture and urban planning in the mid-twentieth century.

Daniella Reinhard  
Doctoral Candidate, Classical Languages & Literatures  
*Playing Dead: Hades, Eidolatry and Tragedy*  
My project investigates the meaning and significance of Hades and his realm in the Greek poetic imagination. Through a reading of Sophocles’ *Oedipus at Colonus, Electra* and *Antigone,* “Playing Dead” explores the poetic and political paradoxes at play when staging the hidden realm of the invisible god in the theatre of fifth century Athens.

Valerie Ritter  
Assistant Professor, South Asian Languages & Civilizations  
*The Nature of the Modern: Hindi Poetry and Peri-Colonial Poetics, 1885-1935*  
My project examines critical writing in Hindi on modern poetry, and the evolution of certain traits defining “modern” in Hindi poetry. I look at two phenomena which I call “peri-colonial” in the sense that they surfaced within colonial culture but partook of English critical thought only selectively.

Fay Rosner  
Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures  
*Art as Social Currency in A la recherche du temps perdu*  
The problem of art and society in Proust’s novel has traditionally divided scholars into two broad currents: the aesthetic and the sociohistorical. I bridge the gap between these two critical approaches, arguing that both are necessary for a more complete understanding of Proust’s representation of art and society.

David Sena  
Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations  
*Reproducing Society: Lineage and Kingship in Western Zhou China*  
My dissertation examines the social history of ancient China through an analysis of the concept of lineage as it is represented in inscriptive texts on bronze ritual vessels used in ancestral worship. My research shows how lineages served to organize and regulate relationships among the living and deceased members of elite families.

Xiaobing Tang  
Associate Professor, East Asian Languages & Civilizations  
*The Consequences of Art in Modern China: Discourses, Institutions, Movements*  
My study traces the various developments that constitute the dynamic art field in the first decades of the twentieth century, with a focus on the modern print movement.

William Wimsatt  
Professor, Philosophy  
*Developing Culture and Culturing Development*  
I am developing an account of cultural evolution that reflects the central role of development in enculturation. Because cultural information is acquired through the lifetime, earlier acquisitions affect later ones; so cultural transmission is more complex than genetic transmission. The “scaffolding” we construct to aid enculturation is characteristic of cumulative culture, and gives new handles on the realms of meaning and “thick description.”
THE FRANKE INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

Events and Programs, 2004–05

The Institute organizes conferences on interdisciplinary topics in the humanities including themes and issues drawn from the social sciences that are co-sponsored with University of Chicago centers, departments, workshops, and divisions, as well as with other institutions. During 2004-05, the Institute co-sponsored sixty-four conferences, exhibits, and other events. These events are often held at the Institute.

CONFERENCES

October 28-30
“Playing French: A Symposium and Roundtable Discussion on Contemporary French Theater”

November 4-6
“Ekphrasis in the Age of Cervantes”

November 5
“Literature, Theory and Common Sense”

November 11-12
“Chicago-Vienna-Chicago: Urban Icons and the Transatlantic Relationship”

November 11-13
“Around Zukofsky: A Poetry and Poetics Event at the University of Chicago for the Birth Centenary of Louis Zukofsky”

November 11-14

February 4-5
“Roundtable on Family and Modernization Projects in the Middle East: Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries”

February 23
“Women as a Minority in Science: A University of Chicago Forum”

March 4-6
“The Spirit Within: Inspiration, Possession and Disease in the Ancient Mediterranean World”

April 1-2
“Family Values”

April 2
“The City in Italian Literature and Culture”

April 7-9
“The 41st Annual meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society”

April 7-9
“Feminism and Hip Hop”

April 8
“Theorizing the Present”

April 15-16
“From the Colonial to the Postcolonial: South Asia in Transition, 1937-1960”

April 15-16
“From Me to You: The Significance of the Second Person”

April 22
“Quixotic Repercussions and Impacts across the Ages: The Publication of Don Quixote I”

April 23
“(Re)defining Europe: Expanding Ideas and Changing Perceptions”

April 28
“Britain’s Long Eighteenth Century: Dynamism and Change 1660-1800”

April 29-30
“New Antiquities: Aesthetics, Taste and Scholarship in the Eighteenth Century”

May 6-7
“The Question of Method in Modern Chinese Literary Studies”

May 7
“Rendering Race Visible: Centralizing the Effects of Racial Realities”

May 12-13
“Disciplinary Orders: Objects, Methods, Problems”

May 13-14
“Art and Commerce: Circulating Cultures of East Asia”

May 13-14
“The 20th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference”

May 21
“Performance / Performativity in the Middle Ages”

May 21
“Modernizing Politics?”
LEcTures

October 11
"Indo-European Phylogeny and the Formation of Greek"

February 11
"Pessimism of the Intellect, Utopianism of the Will: On Nostalgia for the Future"

February 11
"The Bugs that Made Men: Crickets and Cultural Rhetorics in Late Imperial China"

February 25
"In Search of a Villain: The Representation of the Enemy in Film and Narrative"

April 1-2
"Paper Museums: The Reproductive Print in Europe, 1500-1800"

April 12
Schaffner Lecture: “Making and Unmaking Epochs: Conquista and the Times of History”

April 27
"History, Narrative and the Dialectic"

May 10-17
Video Screening and Lecture Series: Barbara Cranmer

May 12
"The Gender of Things: Explorations in the Category of ‘Women’s Things’ in Imperial China"

May 19
"The Postwar Borderlands and the Origins of the Transnational Imaginary, 1945-50"

May 26
"Cultural Agents in the Americas"

EXHiBITs/FILMs/PERFORMANCES

October - February
"Narrative Purgatory,” work by first-year MFA students

February - May
“Two if by See: Contemporary World Making-Experimentation in Perception and Language,” work by first-year MFA students and writers from the Master of Arts Program in the Humanities

June – October
“Effloresco,” work by Advanced Photography Students

Co-sponsors
Andrew and Gail Brown Fund for Undergraduate Initiatives; Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Arts Planning Council; Committee on the Ancient Mediterranean World; Center for the Art of East Asia; Center for East Asian Studies; Center for Gender Studies; Center for Interdisciplinary Research on German Literature and Culture; Center for Latin American Studies; Center for Middle Eastern Studies; Chicago Linguistic Society; Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture; Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory; China Committee; Humanities Collegiate Division; Committee on Cinema & Media Studies; Committee on Social Thought; Committee on Southern Asian Studies; Council for Advanced Studies; Divinity School; Early Christian Literatures; Film Studies Center; France Chicago Center; French Cultural Services; Humanities Division; Illinois General Assembly; Illinois Humanities Council; Instituto Cervantes de Chicago; International House Global Voices Program; Italian Studies Collective; Japan Committee; Japan Foundation; Korea Committee; Modern South Asia Project; National Endowment for the Humanities; Nicholson Center for British Studies; Norman Wait Harris Fund; Office of Minority Student Affairs; Poem Present; Robert Pippin and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Smart Museum; South Asia Language and Area Center; University of Chicago Paris Center; University of Chicago Press; University of Chicago Student Government; University Theater; Women in Science

Faculty Organizers
Art History; Classical Languages & Literatures; Cinema & Media Studies; Comparative Literature; Creative Writing Committee; East Asian Languages & Civilizations; English Language & Literature; Germanic Studies; Jewish Studies; Linguistics; Music; Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; Philosophy; Political Science; Romance Languages & Literatures; Slavic Languages & Literatures; Social Thought; South Asian Languages & Civilizations; Visual Arts
The Mellon Project, 2003-06

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE DISCIPLINES: COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/institute/mellon/index.html

Sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Franke Institute is coordinating a three-year project, directed by James K. Chandler and a faculty steering committee, about “New Perspectives on the Disciplines: Comparative Studies in Higher Education.”

How do we best understand the disciplinary history of the humanities and related social sciences in the American university over the last century and a quarter? How did the area studies paradigm emerge and how do we assess its continued validity? What happens to “humanities” globally in the context of the push for globalization? What can we learn or advise about educational structures and pedagogical practices now being developed in changing societies such as South Africa and Russia?

On select Fridays throughout the year, participants in the Mellon Project gathered to hear and discuss public lectures by invited speakers, followed by informal workshop discussions about some of the speakers’ writings. As befitting an interdisciplinary project, participants this year have varied with the speaker, shifting among disciplinary communities—literary criticism or sociology, South Asian or East Asian studies, British or South African perspectives on universities.

MELLOM PROJECT VISITING SPEAKERS, 2004–05

Francesca Bordogna
Northwestern University
Charting Knowledge: William James and Philosophical Trees

Richard Buchanan
Carnegie Mellon University
The 21st-Century University: A Problem in Design
Mr. Buchanan’s lecture was followed by a workshop for faculty and graduate students, in which participants grappled with the diverse functions of the American university, in its many manifestations.

Simon During
Johns Hopkins University
Is Cultural Studies a Discipline?
Mr. During ran a workshop where the relationship between the disciplines and the various “add-ons” was examined, with specific reference to the broader features of the academic landscape today.

James Ferguson
Stanford University
Globalizing Africa? Observations from an Inconvenient Continent

Achille Mbembe
University of the Witwatersrand
Knowledge, Funding and Institutions: Experiences from the South

Doris Sommer
Harvard University
Cultural Agents in the Americas

MELLOM PROJECT WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS, 2004–05

Andrew Abbott, Daniela Barberis, John Kelly, and Moishe Postone
Discussion of Emile Durkheim’s Pedagogy and Sociology

Arnold Davidson and James Chandler
Discussion of Michel Foucault’s The Order of Discourse

Mr. Mitchell spoke on the economy as an object of disciplinary knowledge.

Ramón Saldívar
Stanford University
The Postwar Borderlands and the Origins of the Transnational Imaginary, 1945-50

Timothy Mitchell
New York University
The Work of Economics: How a Discipline Makes Its World
Continued from page 8

**Marshall Sahlins, Elisabeth Clemens, and James Chandler**  
*Discussion of Thorstein Veblen’s The Higher Learning in America*

The panel addressed issues pertinent to Veblen’s own historical moment, so foundational to the disciplines that make up our universities today.

**MELLON FELLOWS, 2005–06**

**John Tresch**  
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow  
*Mechanical Romanticism: Rebuilding the Cosmos in the French Industrial Revolution, 1815–48*

An alumnus of Cambridge University (Ph.D., 2003) and the University of Chicago (A.B., 1995), John has been a postdoctoral fellow in History at Northwestern University and Columbia University. During the winter quarter, John led a workshop entitled “Toward an Atlas of the Disciplines.” Beginning with an overview of the various maps of knowledge from the thirteenth century to the present, the workshop examined ways of visually representing relations between the disciplines.

**Anita Chari**  
Mellon Doctoral Fellow  
*The Reification of the Political: Marx, Adorno and the Possibility of Politics*

Anita Chari is an advanced graduate student in the Political Science Department at the University of Chicago.

**Laura Desmond**  
Mellon Doctoral Fellow  
*Constituting Pleasure: An Analysis of Vatsyayana’s Kamasutra*

Laura Desmond is an advanced graduate student in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago.

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The 2005 spring quarter saw the realization of a long-planned international conference entitled “Disciplinary Orders: Objects, Methods, Problems,” on May 12-13 at the University of Chicago Paris Center in Paris, France. Sponsored jointly by the Mellon Project on the Disciplines, the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the Institute for Contemporary Thought at the University of Paris VII, and the University of Chicago Paris Center, this bilingual conference involved twenty participants from the sponsoring institutions, discussing six disciplinary subjects in cross-cultural perspective: Comparative Literature, The Place of Philosophy, Psychoanalysis, Semiotics/Aesthetics, History and Philosophy of Science, and Objects between Disciplines. Several of the papers from this conference will be published in a forthcoming edition of the *Cahiers parisiens*, a publication of the University of Chicago Paris Center.

### Panels

**“Comparative Literature” Panel**  
Pierre Chartier, University of Paris VII  
David Wellbery, University of Chicago  
Martin Rueff, University of Paris VII  
Jean-Patrice Courtois, University of Paris VII  
Session Chair: Philippe Jaworski, University of Paris VII

**“The Place of Philosophy” Panel**  
François Jullien, University of Paris VII  
Arnold Davidson, University of Chicago/Institut Universitaire de France  
Dominique Lecourt, University of Paris VII  
Session Chair: Françoise Meltzer, University of Chicago

**“Psychoanalysis” Panel**  
Monique David-Ménard, University of Paris VII  
Françoise Meltzer, University of Chicago  
Session Chair: Arnold Davidson, University of Chicago/Institut Universitaire de France

**“Semiotics/Aesthetics” Panel**  
Paolo Fabbri, University Iuav of Venice  
Richard Neer, University of Chicago  
Françoise Gaillard, University of Paris VII  
Martin Rueff, University of Paris VII  
Session Chair: Leora Auslander, University of Chicago

**“History and Philosophy of Science” Panel**  
Dominique Lecourt, University of Paris VII  
Simon Schaffer, University of Cambridge  
Session Chair: Robert Morrissey, University of Chicago

**“Objects between Disciplines” Panel**  
Monique Chemillier-Gendreau, University of Paris VII  
Leora Auslander, University of Chicago  
Jean-Noël Missa, University of Paris VII  
Session Chair: Richard Neer, University of Chicago
Gifts and Grants, 2004–05

On the first or second Wednesday of the month, twice every quarter, University alumni and friends gather for a public lecture by a University faculty member at the downtown Gleacher Center. For the sixth year, these lectures for the Chicago Humanities Forum, and the receptions that follow, have been funded by the Visiting Committee to the Division of the Humanities Centennial Endowment.

The Humanities and the Arts are supported at the Institute by the ADELYN RUSSELL BOGERT ENDOWMENT FUND, which sponsored the following events about visual arts, film, and theater.

### Playing French
A symposium and roundtable discussion on contemporary French theater.

### Paper Museums: The Reproductive Print in Europe, 1500-1800
A symposium bringing distinguished scholars and curators together to reassess the definition of the reproductive print and to reflect on the historical and geographical instability of that definition.

### A Day with Barbara Cranmer
Included screenings and a panel discussion of Cranmer’s work. Cranmer is a filmmaker, educator and recorder of cultural history.

### Art and Commerce: Circulating Cultures of East Asia
The third annual symposium of the Center for the Art of East Asia, examined East Asian art and commerce in eras spanning from the ancient to the modern.

### Narrative Purgatory
An art exhibit by first-year M.F.A. students. The Franke Institute provides an interesting venue for art students who usually wish to show their work in galleries and museums. It is a valuable challenge for students to deal with this more typical placement of art, somewhere between wall-decoration and — as in keeping with contemporary art production — provocation.

### Two if by See: Contemporary World Making-Experimentation in Perception and Language
An art exhibit and poetry reading by first-year M.F.A. students and creative writers from the Masters of Arts Program in the Humanities.

### Effloresco
A photography exhibit by advanced photography students. Pieces ranged from traditional 8x10 black and white prints to multiple juxtaposed large format images in vivid color.
How do the humanities relate to public life? Presented by University faculty members in lectures on their current research, these forums at the downtown Gleacher Center explore special topics in all areas of the humanities, as well as other domains of knowledge.

**THE HUMANITIES IN PUBLIC LIFE, 2004–05 AT THE DOWNTOWN GLEACHER CENTER**

**David M. Bevington**  
Phyllis Fay Horton Distinguished Service Professor in the Humanities, Departments of English Language & Literature and Comparative Literature, and the College  
*Fathers and Daughters in Shakespeare’s Late Plays*

**Patricia Barber**  
Pianist-Vocalist  
*Travis Jackson*  
Associate Professor, American Music, Department of Music and the College  
*A Conversation on Jazz*

**Marshall Sahlins**  
Charles F. Grey Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology and Social Sciences Collegiate Division  
*Apologies to Thucydides: Understanding History as Culture and Vice Versa*

**Françoise Meltzer**  
Mabel Greene Myers Professor, Departments of Comparative Literature and Romance Languages & Literatures, Divinity School and the College  
*A Poem by Baudelaire: The Revolution of 1848 in France*

**Joel M. Snyder**  
Professor, Department of Art History and the College and Committees on Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities, Cinema & Media Studies, and Visual Arts  
*The Debt of Science to Art: The Role of Pictures in the Investigation of Nature*

**Jacqueline M. Stewart**  
Associate Professor, Department of English Language & Literature and the College and Committees on Cinema & Media Studies and African & African-American Studies  
*Black Cinema, Black Modernism*

**U P C O M I N G  F O R U M S , 2 0 0 5 - 0 6**

**October 5**  
W.I.T. Mitchell  
*Cloning Terror: The War of Images, 2001-2004*

**November 9**  
Martha Feldman  
*The Castrato’s Tale*

**February 1**  
David E. Wellbery  
*Kafka’s Wish*

**March 1**  
David A. Strauss  
*The Supreme Court: Where We Are Headed*

**April 5**  
Alison Winter  
*The Forensic Self: A Prehistory of the Memory Wars*

**May 3**  
Sheila Fitzpatrick  
Looking Back on the Soviet Union from the Twenty-First Century

To reserve a seat, please call 773-702-8274.

**“A CONVERSATION ON JAZZ”**

Patricia Barber, Pianist & Vocalist, and Travis Jackson, Associate Professor of Music, came together to discuss possibilities for jazz. As Professor Jackson posed questions to Ms. Barber about her songwriting process, guests were treated to answers that often involved song and piano accompaniment. In 2003, Patricia Barber received a Guggenheim Fellowship. This year-long grant afforded her the opportunity to study the poetry of Ovid and Tennyson as well as the work of classical composers such as Chopin, Verdi, and Schubert. *Mythologies*, her current album in progress, seeks to balance the worlds of music and literature.
The University’s College is renowned for its common core curriculum in humanities, social sciences, biological sciences, and physical sciences with which undergraduates begin their degree programs. Yet how can a program of courses also provide a transition from college to whatever comes next — at a job or in graduate school?

The Big Problems program, coordinated by the Franke Institute and the College, provides a capstone curriculum for third- and fourth-year students. These elective courses offer students opportunities to broaden their studies from their departmental major by focusing on a “big problem”—a matter of global or universal concern that intersects with several disciplines and affects a variety of interest groups. By their nature, “big problems” call for interdisciplinary teamwork, yet their solutions may not be obviously or finally determinable.

In keeping with the multiple perspectives needed to study a big problem, these capstone courses are team-taught by faculty members from different disciplines, engaging the students in the dialogue and debate between the instructors. Further extending this discussion, a visiting speaker gives a public lecture and teaches a class for each course.

### Courses and Lectures, 2004–05

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<td>Patrick LaRiviere, Radiology</td>
<td>Herman Sinaiko, Humanities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Stafford, Art History</td>
<td>David Orlinsky, Human Development</td>
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<td>Perspectives on Imaging</td>
<td>On Love: Text and Context</td>
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<td>Related Lecture</td>
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<td>Joseph Tabbi, University of Illinois, Chicago</td>
<td>William Schweiker, University of Chicago</td>
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<td>Cognition Against Interpretation</td>
<td>Should We Reverence Life? Reflections at the Intersection of Ecology, Religion and Ethics</td>
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<td>Bertram Cohler, Psychology</td>
<td>Theodore Steck, Environmental Studies and Biology</td>
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<td>Peter Homans, Divinity School</td>
<td>Murat Arsel, Environmental Studies</td>
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<td>Rewriting the Past: Narrative, Ritual, and Monument</td>
<td>Is Development Sustainable?</td>
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<td>Yuri Tsivian, Cinema &amp; Media Studies</td>
<td>Martha McClintock, Psychology</td>
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<td>Bruce Winstein, Physics</td>
<td>José Quintans, Pathology</td>
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<td>Antonioni’s Films: Reality and Ambiguity</td>
<td>Psychoneuroimmunology</td>
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<td>Related Lecture</td>
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<td>Marsha Kinder, University of Southern California</td>
<td>All About the Brothers: Retro-Seriality in Almodovar’s Bad Education</td>
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For information about Big Problems courses, see the program’s listing in the “Interdisciplinary Opportunities” section of the College catalog. Please find the URL at the top of the page.

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"The course was unique, interesting and effective at forcing us to probe the issue of globalization in considerable depth. It was unlike any other course I took during my four years at the University and the experience was certainly worthwhile."

—Fourth-year College Student

http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/other/interopp/index.shtml
“My Big Problems course was useful in my education because it brought together people of various disciplines to debate the issues concerning world hunger. From economics to biology, it was fascinating to gain the perspective of peers that I would not normally talk to in class.”

—Fourth-year College Student

### Course

**Mel Rothenberg**, Mathematics  
**Ron Baiman**, Economics at UIC  
**Globalization and Neo-Liberalism**

**Related Lecture**  
Mark Weisbrot, Center for Economic & Policy Research  
**What the Experts Got Wrong about the Global Economy**

### Course

**Salikoko Mufwene**, Linguistics  
**William Wimsatt**, Philosophy  
**Language and Globalization**

**Related Lecture**  
John Tomlinson, Nottingham Trent University  
**Changing Terminals: Globalization, Media and Speed**

### Course

**Lauren Berlant**, English  
**Rebecca Zorach**, Art History  
**Utopias**

**Related Lecture**  
Claire Pentecost, Art Institute of Chicago  
**Now Insert Utopia Here**

### Course

**Michael Geyer**, History  
**Charles Bright**, History, University of Michigan  
**Globalization: History and Theory**

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### Course

**Paul Friedrich**, Anthropology  
**Katia Mitova**, Social Thought  
**Creation and Creativity**

**Related Lecture**  
Sean Carroll, University of Chicago  
**Our Place in the Expanding Universe**

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### Course

**T. Colin Campbell**, Cornell University  
**Changing the Status Quo: The Misunderstood Role of Nutrition in Health, Medicine and Society**

**Sahotra Sarkar**, University of Texas, Austin  
**Planning for Biodiversity: Conservation and Restoration**  
**The Poverty of Design: Evolution and Its Discontents**  
**The Politics of Anti-Naturalism**

### Course

**Alison Boden**, Divinity School  
**Tanya Luhrmann**, Comparative Human Development  
**Body / Soul: Approaches to Prayer**

**Donald Levine**, Sociology  
**Jocelyn Malamy**, Biological Sciences  
**Complex Problem: World Hunger**

**David Orlinsky**, Human Development  
**Katia Mitova**, Social Thought  
**Romantic Love: Cultural / Psychological Perspectives**

**Mel Rothenberg**, Mathematics  
**Ron Baiman**, Economics at UIC  
**Neo-Liberalism / Neo-Imperialism**

**Ted Steck**, Environmental Studies and Biology  
**Sonja Pieck**, Environmental Studies  
**Is Development Sustainable**
Every Wednesday Luncheon Series

Helping faculty members stay abreast of their colleagues’ current work from any department in the humanities or humanistic social sciences, the Every Wednesday Luncheon Series was created eight years ago to provide University humanities faculty with regular opportunities to assemble informally. On most Wednesdays during the academic year, a faculty member gives an informal talk over a catered lunch at the Institute about his or her work-in-progress and afterwards responds to questions from the audience. For each talk, participants also include five graduate students who are invited on behalf of the speaker. In addition to “Every Wednesday” talks about ongoing humanities faculty members’ works-in-progress, this series also presents talks by new faculty members in the humanities, by faculty colleagues in the sciences, and by visiting scholars at the University.

New Faculty

Kelly Austin
Department of Romance Languages & Literatures
On Pablo Neruda

Orit Bashkin
Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and the College
On Arab Jews – Reflections on the Jewish Community in Modern Iraq

Drew Beattie
Committee on the Visual Arts and the College
Painting with Plural and Singular Voices

Jonathan Beere
Department of Philosophy and the College
How Aristotle Brought Peace to (Plato’s) Gods and Giants

Raúl Coronado
Department of English Language & Literature and the College
The Natural Sympathies that Unite All of Our People: Journalism and the Making of a 19th Century Gulf of Mexico Community

Frances Ferguson
Department of English Language & Literature and the College
Wordsworth, Barbauld, and Making Private Emotion Public

Elina Gertsman
Department of Art History and the College
The Body on Display: Defining Medieval Macabre

Agnes Lugo-Ortiz
Department of Romance Languages & Literatures and the College
Invisible Bodies? Slave Portraiture in Cuba

Mark Payne
Department of Classical Languages & Literatures and the College
Pindar, Pragmatism and Poetic Interpretation

Michael Raine
Department of East Asian Languages & Civilizations and the College
On Crazed Fruit and Non-National Cinema

Kotoka Suzuki
Department of Music and the College
Visual-Music, Interaction and Technology

Hans Thomsen
Department of Art History and the College
Fruits of the Salon: Moving Images of the Rokuonji Temple

Christopher Woods
Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and the College
On the Origin and Development of Writing in Mesopotamia

Alan Yu
Department of Linguistics and the College
Tonal (Near) Merger in Cantonese
Given the ubiquity of films and their incorporation into different fields of study, film criticism is no longer either a non-academic pursuit or solely a specialization. The Cinematheque Series enables University faculty and graduate students to screen a film as a community and afterwards reflect upon it from different perspectives over supper.

For artistic works, an audience’s critical appreciation and enjoyment is enhanced when artists talk about their performances. This past year the Arts Talk series brought Helen Mirra together with humanities faculty and graduate students to participate in a discussion of her recent writings which have taken the form of indexes. Mirra shared some of her ideas behind clash, 247, her index to a volume of William James’ essays, where she engages the relationships between conceptualization and materialization.
forms that these maps of knowledge have taken in order to assess the prescriptive vs. descriptive weightings of different maps, and to contrast their principles of organization.

The Institute’s programs also promoted interactions between the humanities and the arts. At the downtown Forum, the Chicago pianist/vocalist Patricia Barber – at the piano – conversed with Travis Jackson, Professor of Music, about intersections of jazz and poetry in her music. In the ‘Every Wednesday’ lunch series, Stanley Cavell, the Critical Inquiry Visiting Professor, joined us for conversation with Arnold Davidson and other faculty members from the Humanities Division.

Looking ahead, in 2005-06, the Mellon Project will culminate with a major international conference on April 28-29, 2006, entitled “The Fate of Disciplines.” The conference will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, and will host one hundred directors and associate/assistant directors of humanities institutes at universities from the U.S. and around the world.

I will also be reporting to you on the outcome of a faculty working group on the future of interdisciplinary studies at the University. Under the aegis of the Mellon Project, this group of faculty from the Humanities, the Social Sciences and the Divinity School, is currently in the final stages of drafting its recommendations, and will submit its proposal to the Dean of the Humanities Division.

James K. Chandler, Director