

## THE FRANKE INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

## SPECTRUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

The 05-06 academic year, the fifth year of Jim Chandler's first term as Director of the Franke Institute, was marked by a major conference, "The Fate of Disciplines," a culminating event in a conversation about scholarship and its present directions. With an audience from around the world, the discussion we have been having for some years now at the University of Chicago about how knowledge is organized and about shifts and transformations in that organizational structure should wend its way into the thoughts and work of humanists all over the world.

One significant shift in the disciplines of the Humanities is their closer connection of late to the arts. Faculty members and gradu-

ate students seek to link the work of scholarship to active aesthetic practice. Here too the Franke Institute has provided a source of leadership, with a quarterly Cinematheque for discussion of a film, and an increasing number of sterling presentations by artists such as painter William Kentridge, the documentary makers of Kartemquin Films, and jazz musician Chris Potter.

During the 2006-07 academic year, Françoise Meltzer, the Mabel Greene Myers Professor of Comparative Literature, Romance Languages & Literatures, the Divinity School, and the College, served as Interim Director of the Franke Institute. After a year of leave, Jim will return to undertake a second five-year term in the fall of 2007. We

LETTER  
FROM THE  
DEAN

are lucky to be able to continue to draw on his resources, as we were also exceptionally lucky to draw on the creativity and leadership of Françoise during this past year.

Franke Institute programming for 2006-2007 revealed that several years' worth of collaborative efforts are now bearing fruit

Continued on page 20

From 2003 through 2006, the Franke Institute's Mellon Project, "New Perspectives on the Disciplines: Comparative Studies in Higher Education" investigated how disciplines divide up not only our worlds of knowledge but also our geographic worlds through their distinctive practices and methodological approaches. In four conferences, including most recently, "The Fate of Disciplines," and several dozen visiting scholar lectures and workshop discussions, the Mellon Project addressed questions about disciplines, studies, and their interrelations with an eye to re-envisioning comparative studies in higher education as a new field. The "Arts

of Transmission" conference (May 2004), in conjunction with a special issue of *Critical Inquiry*, examined relationships among ideas and cultures of communication, past and present. "Disciplinary Orders: Objects, Methods, Problems" (May 2005) examined six disciplinary subjects from cross-cultural perspective. "What is Science Studies?" (November 2005), organized by the Mellon Project's Postdoctoral Fellow, John Tresch (Ph.D. 2003), investigated the emergence, boundaries, and teleologies of science studies.

The Center for Disciplinary Innovation (CDI) is a direct result of work begun during the Mellon Project on the Disciplines.

Continued on page 21

LETTER  
FROM THE  
DIRECTORS

2005-2006



2006-2007





## THE FRANKE INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES STAFF

James K. Chandler  
*Director*

Françoise Meltzer  
*Interim Director (2006-07)*

Margot Browning  
*Associate Director*

Mai Vukceвич  
*Assistant Director*

Rachel Drew  
*Public Affairs Specialist*

Harriette Moody  
*Project Coordinator*

## GOVERNING BOARD 2005-07

Leora Auslander  
*History*

Dipesh Chakrabarty  
*South Asian Languages & Civilizations*

Martha Feldman  
*Music*

Jonathan Hall  
*Classics*

Françoise Meltzer  
*Romance Languages & Literatures*

Richard Neer  
*Art History*

Candace Vogler  
*Philosophy*

Wu Hung  
*Art History*

Lawrence Zbikowski  
*Music*

# THE FRANKE INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

## FRANKE FELLOWS

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.



Affiliated Fellows, 2005-2006

### Standing (from left to right):

Krista Van Fleit, Daniel Morgan,  
William Bubelis.

### Seated (from left to right):

Wing Sze Leung, Chiara Fabbian,  
Clinton Tolley, Margot Browning  
(Associate Director).

# Fellows' Research Projects, 2005–2007

THE FOLLOWING PROFILES ARE REPORTS ON RESEARCH PROJECTS BY THE FELLOWS.

2005 - 2006

## William S. Bubelis

Doctoral Candidate, Classics

### *The Sacred Treasurers of Athens, 700-300 B.C.*

I examine the religious and political circumstances in which the Athenians developed particular magistracies and concepts in order to manage the property owned by their gods. I explore a particular kind of treasurer as a window onto the views and behavior of wider society.

## Robert Buch

Assistant Professor, Germanic Studies

### *The Legacy of Laocoön*

My book explores the fascination with violence evident in the works of a number of late twentieth-century writers and artists. Representations of suffering and pain have long been an important paradigm of aesthetic reflection. The works I examine stand in an uneasy relationship to that tangled poetological and iconographic tradition.

## James Conant

Professor, Philosophy

### *Mild Mono-Wittgensteinianism*

My monograph represents an effort to advance a debate currently raging among scholars of Wittgenstein's philosophy between those who advocate so-called "resolute readings" of Wittgenstein and those who deplore them. The monograph seeks both to correct certain misunderstandings of such readings, while discouraging advocates of such readings from accepting the terms of the debate as defined by the critics.



Franke Fellows, 2005-2006

## Daisy Delogu

Assistant Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures

### *Theorizing the Ideal Sovereign: Royal Biography in the Late Middle Ages*

Vernacular kings' lives represent a crucial voice in the sorts of debates that preoccupied political theorists of the late Middle Ages. I seek to recuperate the political content of royal biographies and to situate them in their historical, political, cultural and literary contexts.

## Chiara Fabbian

Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures

### *Study of a Forgotten Sense: The Sense of Smell in Italian Literature and Culture (XVIII-XX centuries)*

The anthropological, political, and cultural code of the sense of smell interacts with literature's own system of signs and meanings. Sociological methods assist in clarifying the connections between the sense of smell and perceptions of the other in terms of class, sex and race.

### Standing (from left to right):

James Chandler (Director), Gregory Golley, Allen Romano, Wei-Cheng Lin, Rajeev Kinra, Deborah Nelson, Robert Buch.

### Seated (from left to right):

Margot Browning (Associate Director), Daisy Delogu, Justin Steinberg, Alina Wyman, Ebru Turan.

## Gregory Golley

Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages & Civilizations

### *When Our Eyes No Longer See: Realism, Science and Ecology in Japanese Literary Modernism*

My project examines the relationship between early twentieth-century developments in science and a "realist" belief-system underlying the work of three representative Japanese modernist writers. I draw connections between this peculiar form of realism and the rise of early ecological thinking in Japan.

Continued on page 4

**Rajeev Kinra**

Doctoral Candidate, South Asian Languages & Civilizations

*Secretary-Poets in Mughal India and the Ethos of Persian: The Case of Chandar Bhan 'Brahman'*

My dissertation concerns Chandar Bhan 'Brahman,' the celebrated Indo-Persian litterateur and chief of the Mughal secretariat under Emperor Shah Jahan. I situate the complex cultural package expected of such imperial Mughal officials within the broader trajectory of South Asian literary, political, and socio-religious history.

**Wing Sze Leung**

Doctoral Candidate, Comparative Literature

*To Feel Is To Have Judged: Kant's and Wordsworth's Responses to Rousseau*

I argue for a fundamental affinity between Kant's *Kritik der Urteilskraft* and Wordsworth's *The Prelude*. I examine how feeling in both works makes possible the congruence between the structure of the mind and that of the world, playing a role in shaping moral agents' capacity to make judgment.

**Wei-Cheng Lin**

Doctoral Candidate, Art History

*Building a Sacred Mountain: Buddhist Monastic Architecture in Mt. Wutai during the Tang Dynasty, 618-907 C.E.*

My dissertation reconstructs a contextual history of the Foguang Monastery, the second oldest timber-frame structure, and asks how the building as a material embodiment of its religious meaning can be uncovered and understood.

**William Mazzarella**

Assistant Professor, Anthropology

*Cannibals Enjoy Comedies: Apprehending the Cinema in Late Colonial India*

This book deals with the colonial government's efforts to understand, regulate and exploit the cinema as an affect-intensive medium.

"The whole atmosphere of the Institute – all of it overseen by Jim Chandler's cool effectiveness and supported so warmly and generously by the Franke Institute staff – is a congenial model of academic life at its finest."

- Rajeev Kinra

**Daniel Morgan**

Doctoral Candidate, Cinema & Media Studies

*Cinema, Aesthetics, and the Films of Jean-Luc Godard at the End of the Twentieth Century*

I provide an interpretation of a series of films by Godard, exploring their engagement with some of the traditional questions of aesthetics. Godard's work of this period offers a compelling exploration of the aesthetic resources of film and demonstrates the value of aesthetics as an analytical framework for thinking about film.

**Deborah Nelson**

Associate Professor, English Language & Literature

*Tough Broads: The Morality of Style*

My project investigates the anti-sentimentalism of a group of women intellectuals, writers, and artists. Their work forms a counter-tradition to the late twentieth century, positioned between the expressive authenticity often associated with the progressive social movements of the post-World War II era and the ironic detachment thought characteristic of postmodernism.

**Karen Pagani**

Doctoral Candidate, Comparative Literature

*Forgiveness and the Age of Reason: Fénelon, Rousseau and Staël*

My dissertation examines the extent to which the popularization of deist methodology during the eighteenth century challenged more traditional understandings of forgiveness.

**Joti Rockwell**

Doctoral Candidate, Music

*Lonesomeness, Drive, and the Genre of Bluegrass Music*

I study bluegrass music, a contemporary American genre with roots in Appalachian folksong and early twentieth-century country music. I focus on the connections between the genre's most central ideas as articulated by performers, critics, and fans, and the sonic elements of musical performance.

**Allen Romano**

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow

*The Craft of Origins: Explanatory Myths in Ancient Greek Poetry*

I analyze the function of explanatory myths in ancient Greek poetry and drama from 800 to 300 B.C.E., focusing on the rhetoric specific to explanatory myths and studying the use of such myths from the earliest surviving examples in Hesiod and the Homeric Hymns.

**Adam Rzepka**

Doctoral Candidate, English Language & Literature

*The Production of Theatrical Experience in Early Modern England*

My project reconfigures the question of audience response during the rise of London's public theaters in the middle and late sixteenth century. I examine the emergent theater's transformative interventions in normative structures of affect, imagination, and memory.

**James T. Sparrow**

Assistant Professor, History

*Americanism & Entitlement: Authorizing Big Government from the New Deal to the Cold War*

My book looks at the cultural formation of state power at the grassroots. I explain how the U.S. quickly reconciled a powerful, centralized national government with foundational notions of individualism, rights, and anti-statism that had long framed American political culture.

## Justin Steinberg

Assistant Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures

### *Accounting for Dante: Urban Readers and Writers in Late Medieval Italy*

I investigate Dante's response to his earliest readership. Dante's first readers were often merchants and notaries, members of a new political class whose uses and abuses of Dante's early lyrics shape in various ways his subsequent work.

---

## Clinton Tolley

Doctoral Candidate, Philosophy

### *Kant's Conception of Logic*

My research concerns the historical and conceptual foundations of Immanuel Kant's theory of logic. I also demonstrate Kant's influence upon contemporary debates in the philosophy of logic and mathematics.

---

## Ebru Turan

Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

### *The Sultan's Favorite: Ibrahim Pasha (1523-1536) and the Making of Ottoman Universal Sovereignty in the Reign of Sultan Suleyman*

Focusing on Ibrahim Pasha, I reconstruct the historical context in the early sixteenth-century Mediterranean world that prompted the creation of the universal monarchy ideology.

---

## Krista Van Fleit

Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations

### *People's Literature and the Construction of New China, 1949-1966*

I study the literature and culture produced in China between the founding of the People's Republic and the beginning of the Cultural Revolution. I examine the ways in which authors, artists, and critics worked to create a body of socialist mass culture that shaped the ideals and passions of a new Chinese citizenry.

---

## Alina Wyman

Doctoral Candidate, Slavic Languages & Literatures

### *The Task of Active Empathy: Scheler, Bakhtin and Dostoevsky*

My dissertation explicates Mikhail Bakhtin's early philosophy in light of Max Scheler's personalist phenomenology. Analysis centers on the largely neglected concept of active empathy, which is revised with the help of Scheler's relevant theories of empathy and Christian love.

---

2006 - 2007

## Jeannie Britton

Doctoral Candidate, Comparative Literature

### *Sympathy and the Novel: Shared Sentiment in Britain and France, 1750-1850*

My project argues that British and French novels ultimately posit a version of sympathy that relies on a sustained auditory engagement with narrative. I locate the representation of sympathy at the center of the novel's experimentation with point of view and narrative structure.

---

## Paroma Chatterjee

Doctoral Candidate, Art History

### *Narrating Sanctity: Byzantine and Italian 'vita' Icons*

My dissertation is a study of the development and functions of a specific visual formula for imaging saints in the Byzantine Empire and Italy in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

---

Continued on page 6

## Franke Fellows, 2006-2007



### < Standing (from left to right):

Rebecca Zorach, Oren Izenberg, Seth Richardson, Benjamin Nelson, Vanessa De Giffis.

### Seated (from left to right):

Françoise Meltzer (Director), Lina Steiner, Jeannie Britton, Tahera Qutbuddin.

Continued from page 5

### Vanessa De Gifis

Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

#### *Qur'anic Features of Political Rhetoric during the Career of al-Ma'mun (r. 198-218/813-833)*

I analyze several diplomatic letters and speeches composed in the contexts of civil war, frontier raids, and domestic policy-making, demonstrating how structural, lexical, and thematic features of the Muslim scripture have been borrowed and integrated into articulations of personal ideologies.

### Kesha Fikes

Assistant Professor, Anthropology

#### *Emigration from Cape Verde: The Spatial Production of Local Cape Verdean Difference, 1863-1975*

My academic year with the Franke Institute enabled me to complete a manuscript entitled *Managing African Portugal* (forthcoming, Duke University Press), while beginning another entitled *The Racial Politics of Emigration from Cape Verde, 1863-1975*.

### Paul Fischer

Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations

#### *The Formation of the Shi Zi*

I analyze the formation of an early Chinese masters text called the *Shi Zi*. My aims are to describe its content and problematic transmission, argue for its authenticity, discuss the history of the authorship paradigm most applicable to it, and analyze its intertextual relations to other texts like it.

### Oren Izenberg

Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature

#### *Being Numerous: Poetry and the Ground of Social Life*

My work addresses a set of interdependent problems in the history, theory, and politics

"The opportunity to share a chapter from my book was invaluable; the disciplinary diversity forces us to take nothing about our distinctive disciplines for granted, and this in turn helps us develop clarity and precision in argumentation."

- Kesha Fikes

of Anglo-American poetry. I challenge the nearly unanimous critical consensus that would divide poetry into two warring camps, and argue that a more coherent poetic history might begin by offering, not a revisionary account of what "poetry" is: less an aesthetic discourse whose goal is the production of a special kind of object, than an occasion for re-grounding the concept and the value of the person.

### Heather Keenleyside

Doctoral Candidate, English Language & Literature

#### *A New Breed: Humans, Animals, and Other Characters in Eighteenth-Century British Literature*

I look at how and when different writers turn to animals in order to rethink categories of being and belonging, to question the constitution of persons, things, and the relations between them.

### Benjamin Nelson

Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures

#### *Tending to Empire: The Spanish Pastoral Novel and Its Reflection upon Imperial Spain*

My research deals with Hispanic literatures of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, primarily how writers of a specific genre were cognizant of the sociopolitical status of Spain and its empire and how they inscribed their commentaries of Imperial Spain into their literary texts.

### John Paulas

Doctoral Candidate, Classics

#### *Diet of the Learned*

My dissertation work focuses on Athenaeus' *Deipnosophists*, an eccentric multi-volume exploration of dining culture written in Greek around the turn of the third century A.D. I investigate the effect on readers of the text's propagation of literary learning about objects of desire, their purveyors, and consumers.

### Courtney Quaintance

Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures

#### *Masculinity and Collective Identity in a Sixteenth-Century Venetian Salon*

My dissertation focuses on the literary salon of Domenico Venier, the most important center for intellectual exchange in Venice at the middle of the sixteenth century. I argue that Venier and his cohort inscribed and publicized their identities as members of an elite writing collective.

### Tahera Qutbuddin

Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

#### *Classical Arabic Oratory: The Khutba from Pre-Islamic through Umayyad Times*

I analyze the speeches and sermons of the Arabic speaking peoples from pre-Islamic through Umayyad times. I present the main features of the genre—sources, authenticity, terminology, types, functions, themes, style, structure, and setting—through four simultaneous, chronologically developing, cultural gridlines: pagan to Islamic, tribal to imperial, nomadic to urban, and oral to written.

## Seth Richardson

Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

### *Studies in Late Babylonian History*

This project has two goals - one, to write a period history of the Late Old Babylonian period under the successors of Hammurabi; two, to undertake an examination of the causes for the kingdom's collapse. The work not only looks at the textual evidence for the end of the period, but positions historical questions about that time.

## Eric Slauter

Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature

### *A Cultural History of Natural Rights in America, 1689-1789*

I explain how a complex set of practices and customs was consolidated in the early eighteenth century under the rubric of rights, why ordinary people came to believe they had rights, and how revolutionary rights declarations inadvertently petrified what many took to be an evolving process of the discovery of new natural and civil rights.

## Lina Steiner

Assistant Professor, Slavic Languages & Literatures

### *Toward Universal Responsiveness: The Evolution of the Russian Novel and Mythology from 1812 to Dostoevsky*

My book explores the Romantic origins of the nineteenth-century Russian novel as a patriotic response to the national identity crisis provoked by the Napoleonic wars, as well as the subsequent transformation of the "Russian idea" into a supranational (or cosmopolitan) ethical and aesthetic doctrine of "universal responsiveness."

## James Sullivan

Doctoral Candidate, Classics

### *Thucydides Politicus: Revisiting the Political Dimension of Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War*

I spent this year completing my dissertation, which seeks to reinterpret the political critique of the internal politics of the Athenian democracy in Thucydides' *History*.

## Charles Tepperman

Doctoral Candidate, Cinema & Media Studies

### *Communicating a New Form of Knowledge: Tracing the Amateur Cinema League and its Films (1926-1954)*

My project analyzes the first wave of amateur film culture in North America, and focused, in particular, on amateurs who moved far beyond the "point-and-shoot" aesthetic of home movies, and understood moviemaking as way of creatively negotiating their experience of modern life.

## Bulbul Tiwari

Doctoral Candidate, South Asian Languages & Civilizations

### *Maha Multipedia: The Mahabharata reworked in mixed media, for a 9 night performance*

My dissertation is a digital site, one that presents the skeletal script (along with illustrative and background information) of a multimodal, critical-creative re-telling of the great Hindu tale, the *Mahabharata*.

## Rebecca Zorach

Assistant Professor, Art History

### *The Virtual Tourist in Renaissance Rome: Printing and Collecting the Speculum Romanae Magnificentiae*

My work followed several different tracks: first, the development of a digital database presenting the images and information on them; second, the preparation of an exhibition of these prints and related books to take place in the fall at the Regenstein; and finally, an interpretive research project on claims made for the broader civic value or "public utility" of prints in the late Renaissance.

## Ilya Yakubovich

Doctoral Candidate, Linguistics & Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

### *Sociolinguistics of the Luvian Language*

Luvian is an Indo-European Anatolian language closely related to Hittite and known from cuneiform tablets and hieroglyphic stelae that were found in Turkey and Syria and date back to the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age. My research reconstructs the status and function of this language in ancient Anatolian society.

**From left to right:** James Sullivan, John Paulas, Paroma Chatterjee, Bulbul Tiwari, Courtney Quaintance, Ilya Yakubovich, Paul Fischer, Margot Browning (Associate Director)



Affiliated Fellows, 2006-2007

# Events and Programs, 2005–07

8

“African Americans tend to make music and then move on, but if you talk about the blues, jazz, and hip hop, you’ve got to talk about ragtime too. I hear ragtime in hip hop everyday. During Black History Month, everybody wants to talk about how George Washington Carver made the peanut. What about Scott Joplin?”

**Reginald Robison,**  
2004 Recipient of  
MacArthur “Genius” grant  
from “Rediscovering Ragtime: An  
Evening with Reginald Robison”



Reginald Robison

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 2005–2006, the Institute co-sponsored sixty-six conferences, exhibits, and other events. In 2006–2007, the Institute co-sponsored forty-one conferences, exhibits, and other events.

## 2005–06 CONFERENCES

### October 6–8

“New Perspectives on Daoist Religion”

### October 7–8

“Wagner’s *Parsifal* and the Performance of Culture”

### November 11

“What is Science Studies?”

### November 11–13

“India: Implementing Pluralism and Democracy”

### November 12–13

“Midwest Seminar for the History of Early Modern Philosophy”

### November 18

“Towards a New Americas Studies: Hemispheric Perspective”

### November 18

“History and Literature”

### February 5–7

“Cinema and Modernity”

### February 12–13

“Art, Society, and Politics in Modern Hebrew Letters”

### February 17–19

“At the Edges of Empire”

### February 24–25

“The Cultural Study of the Middle Eastern City”

### February 24–25

“Translation in Colonial and Ethnic Studies”

### February 25

“Scientifica-mente: The Symbiosis of Literature and Science in Italian Culture”

### March 3–4

“How to Read. What to Do. The Future of Poetry Criticism”

### April 1

“Cinema Studies’ Historical Turn: The Influence and Implications of Early Cinema”

### April 6–8

“The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society”

### April 7

“Science in Nineteenth-Century Britain”

### April 7–8

“Devotion Before Print: Art, Literature, Liturgy and Prayer in the Christian Middle Ages”

### April 7–8

“I Simposi Joan Coromines: Catalan Studies at the University of Chicago”

### April 10

“French-American Week of Contemporary Poetry: Discussion on Translation”

### April 22

“Race-ing the Academy: Racialized Dreams, Myths and Realities”

### April 28

“Adam Zagajewski: From A to Z”

### April 28–29

“The Fate of Disciplines”

### May 12

“Forms of Formalism: Poetics, Play and Prescription in Modern and Contemporary French Literature”

### May 12–13

“The Twenty-First Middle East History and Theory Conference”

### May 12–13

“Language Trust”

### May 13

“Reinventing the Past: Antiquarianism in East Asian Art and Visual Culture “

### May 19–20

“Scalar Meaning”

### May 25–26

“World Jazz / Jazz Worlds”

### May 27–28

“Pleasure and Passion in Chinese Literature”



## 2005-06 LECTURES

### September 30

"Transfiguring Suburbs: The Design of the American Neighborhood"

### October 3

"Joyce: Voices from *The Dead*"

### November 8

"Empire and Democratic Anxieties in Victorian Britain"

### November 17

"Going Kinetic: Moving Beyond Biopower"

### January 21

"Plato vs. Simpsons"

### January 31

"Journey to the Moon"

### February 2

"Photography and the Opening of the American West"

### February 3

"Protecting Cultural Heritage: International Law after the War in Iraq"

### February 14

"The Expectation of the Unexpected in the Total Aesthetic Fact"

### February 15

"Selection, Individuation, Transindividuation"

### February 15

"America's Greatest Lawyer: Abraham Lincoln in Private Practice and Public Life"

### February 22

"Writing History of Science for the General Public"

### April 7

"Panoramas and Stereographs"

### April 10

"Discussion on Translation"

### April 11

"Balkan X: eXposition, eXperience, eX-yugoslavia"

### April 12

"The Ignorance of Chicken, or Who Believes What Today"

### April 17

"Ethiopia's Economic Potential: Population, Poverty, and the Environment"

### April 19

"Why Seemingly Small Things Matter So Much"

### April 19

"The Uses and Misuses of Violence"

### April 24

"Who Wrote That? Computational Approaches to Authorship and Style"

### May 2

"Finding Agency in a Time of AIDS: Reflections on Religious Health Assets from Field Findings in Southern Africa"

### May 17

"Biotechnology and Sustainable Energy for Africa: Intellectual Property Laws and Agriculture in the Third World"

### May 23

"Balkan Epic: Song and Poetry Between Past and Present"

### May 24

"Balkan Cultural Identity: Concepts and Realities"

**Continued on page 10**

## Co-sponsors for 2005-06 & 2006-07 Events and Programs

*At the University of Chicago:* Ancient Societies Workshop, Anthropology of Europe Workshop, Arts Planning Council, Biological Sciences Collegiate Division, Catalan Studies Program, Center for Comparative Constitutionalism, Center for East Asian Studies, Center for East European, Russian & Eurasian Studies, Center for Health Administration Studies, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on German Literature and Culture, Center for International Studies, Center for Latin American Studies, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Center for South Asian Studies, Center for the Study of Communication and Society, Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory, Chicago Review, Classical Language Society, The College, Committee on Cinema & Media Studies, Committee on Jewish Studies, Committee on Southeast Asian Studies, Comparing Colonialisms Workshop, Contemporary Philosophy Workshop, Council on Advanced Studies, Court Theater, *Critical Inquiry*, Cultural Policy Center, Environmental Concerns Organization, 18th and 19th Century Cultures Workshop, EthNoise!, Film Studies Center, Fishbein Center for the History of Science & Medicine, France Chicago Center, Graduate Council, Graduate Music Society, Green Campus Initiative, Julie and Parker Hall Endowment for Jazz and American Popular Music, Norman Wait Harris Fund, History & Philosophy of Science Workshop, Human Rights Program, Humanities Division, International House, International House Global Voices Lecture Program, Islamic Art & Artifact Workshop, Marjorie Kovler Visiting Fellow Program, Lichstern Fund of the Anthropology Department, Martin Marty Center, Mass Culture Workshop, Medieval Studies Program, Middle East History & Theory Workshop, Middle East Students Association, Minority Graduate Student Association, Office of Minority Student Affairs, New Testament & Early Christian Literature, Nicholson Center for British Studies, Oriental Institute, Philosophy of Mind Workshop, Poetry and Poetics Program, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Rhetoric and Poetics Workshop, Russian Studies Workshop, Smart Museum, Social Sciences Division, Social Sciences Graduate Student Committee, Social Structures & Processes in Urban Space Workshop, South Asian Language and Area Center, Student Government Finance Committee, UChicago Arts Grant, University of Chicago Press, Weissbourd Fund for the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts

*External co-sponsors:* American Academy Midwest Center, American Research Institute of the Southern Caucasus, Art History Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago Theological Seminary, City Design Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Comissió Any Coromines, Consortium for Humanities Centers and Institutes, Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Ecole Francaise D'Extreme-Orient, Feitler Family Fund, Generalitat de Catalunya, Herman Greene, Institut Ramon Llull, Instituto Italiano de Cultura, Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, National Science Foundation, Northwestern University, Presidential Arts Fellows Program, Public Square, Otto L. and Hazel T. Rhoades Fund, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Smart Family Foundation, Social Science Research Council, John Templeton Foundation, Abdulkader Thomas, University of Illinois at Chicago, Universite de Paris – Sorbonne, University of Tel Aviv's Philosophy Department, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities and Philosophy Department at Vanderbilt University

## Faculty Organizers

Anthropology, Art History, Cinema & Media Studies, Classics, Conceptual & Historical Studies of Science, Comparative Literature, Creative Writing, Divinity School, East Asian Languages & Civilizations, Economics, English Language & Literature, Environmental Studies, Germanic Studies, History, Human Rights, Jewish Studies, Law School, Music, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Philosophy, Political Science, Romance Languages & Literatures, Slavic Languages & Literatures, Sociology, South Asian Languages & Civilizations, Visual Arts

Continued from page 9

2005 - 06

EXHIBITS / FILMS / PERFORMANCES

**October 20**

"On Note(s)"

**October- November**

"Truth in Motion: A Retrospective of Kartemquin Films"

**November 11**

"Golub: Late Works are the Catastrophes"

**November 15**

"Film Screening: *Moloch*"

**February 1**

"Film Screening: *The Battle of Algiers*"

**February 23**

"Rediscovering Ragtime: An Evening with Reginald Robinson"

**April 5**

"Do Not Awaken Them With Hammers" Poetry Reading

2006 - 07

CONFERENCES

**October 6-8**

"The Problem of Non-Discursive Thought from Goethe to Wittgenstein"

**October 26-28**

"Without Nature? A New Condition for Theology"

**October 27-28**

"Visiting and Revisiting: Literature as a Special Form of Knowledge"

**November 3**

"The Misplaced Image, The Revealed Clue"

**November 3-4**

"Philosophy and Religion in Ancient Greece"

**November 3-4**

"Hermeneutics in History: Reconsidering the Work of Mircea Eliade, Joachim Wach, and the Science of Religion"

**November 10-11**

"The Long Silver Age: Russian Poetics Today"

**November 11-12**

"Euripides: The First Hellenistic Poet? Problems in Poetics, Periodization, and Reception"

**December 1-2**

"Chicago Workshop on Chinese Linguistics"

**January-February**

"Arthur Danto's *Transfiguration of the Commonplace* - 25 Years Later"

**January 24-25**

"The Self / Le Soi"

**January 26-28**

"Popular Music in Twentieth-Century Russia and the Soviet Union"

**February 23-24**

"Midwest Graduate Music Consortium"

**March 3-4**

"Midwest Seminar for the History of Early Modern Philosophy"

**March 30-31**

"Communicating Legitimacy: Putting Democratic Practice and Representation in Context"

**March 31**

"2007 Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Conference: Animation and Cinema"

**March 31**

"Rethinking Crossroads: Macedonia in Global Context"

**April 13-14**

"Iberian Imperialism and Language Evolution in Latin America"

**April 20-21**

"27th Annual Slavic Forum"

**April 21**

"Islamic Ornament"

**April 21**

"DE-MYTHifying Raced Bodies: (De)constructing Race Production"

**May 4**

"History Text-books and the Profession: Comparing National Controversies in a Globalizing Age"

**May 4-5**

"The Norman Cutler Conference on South Asian Literature"

**May 11-12**

"22nd Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference"

**May 12**

"Parole de Ridere: Humor, Satyre and Irony in Italian Culture"

**May 17-19**

"The Caucasus: Directions and Disciplines"

"The rich variety of issues collected here under the rubric of the problem of non-discursive thought reveal the problem's protean nature. By following this issue through strikingly varied intellectual inflections, disciplinary settings, and historical contexts, the papers and the lively discussions that they sparked both pressed the problem toward greater contextual specificity and brought into view lines of questioning that would have been closed off by both a narrower and less unified rubric."

— "The Problem of Non-Discursive Thought from Goethe to Wittgenstein," Sawyer Seminar 2006-07

**2006-07  
LECTURES**

**October 27**

Schaffner Lecture: "Reassembling the Social through Gabriel Tarde's Alternative Sociology"

**April 13**

"What Has Happened to the Russian Intelligentsia"

**April 23**

"The Never-Ending Catalan Middle Ages"

**May 3**

"The Social Lives of Institutions"

**May 3-5**

"Epidemics in the Era of Globalization"

**May 9**

"Scottish Neo-Logicism: What We've Learned, and Where We Are"

**May 17**

"Family Planning as an Investment in Development"

**2006-07  
EXHIBITS/FILMS/PERFORMANCES**

**November 28**

Staged Reading: *Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom*

**January 10**

"New Writing from the Balkans: An Evening of Reading and Conversation"

**March 14**

Collaborative Panel Discussion with the Chicago Humanities Festival: "Copycat"

**May 23**

"*Stony Island*: Film Screening and Panel Discussion"

**FRANKE INSTITUTE  
CALENDAR, 2007-08**

The Franke Institute is co-sponsoring the following conferences during the coming year. For up-to-date information about humanities events on campus, please visit the institute's Web page at: <http://franke.uchicago.edu>

**Autumn**

(De/Re)Constructed Identities in Iberian and Luso-Hispanic Literatures

The Elements of Style

Anxiety, Urgency, Outrage, Hope

**Winter**

Religion in French Literature and History

The Return to Presence

**Spring**

Climate Change and Social Change in Siberia

(What) Poetry Narrates

Phonologization



**From Left to Right:** Lawrence Weschler, Jonathan Lethem, Richard A. Posner, and Françoise Meltzer

< The Franke Institute and the Chicago Humanities Festival co-presented "**Copycat**," a collaborative panel discussion concerning plagiarism, at the Art Institute of Chicago. Jonathan Lethem, Richard Posner, Lawrence Weschler, and Franke Institute Director Françoise Meltzer joined forces to conduct a hard-hitting critical conversation in a public forum and to connect scholarly concerns to the broader domain of intellectual property.



# The Mellon Project, 2003-06

## NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE DISCIPLINES: COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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

2005-2006 was the culminating year of the three-year project on "New Perspectives on the Disciplines: Comparative Studies in Higher Education." Sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, it consisted of a series of lectures and workshop discussions with speakers and participants spanning the disciplinary gamut.

Examining both individual disciplines and their ever frequent points of intersection, the Mellon Project reflected the era of interdisciplinarity and questioned the future of both established disciplines and developing fields of study in light of historical, political, institutional, and ethical issues.

The three years of programming concluded with an international conference entitled "The Fate of Disciplines." Conference panels addressed such issues as the nature of an individual discipline and the interchange of objects of study between traditional and newer disciplines. The conference reestablished the unifying conceptual themes from the Project's three-year term: case studies and comparative studies of disciplines, 'studies', and area studies.

### 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.

#### 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.

### MELLON PROJECT VISITING SPEAKERS, 2005-06

#### Francesca Bordogna

Northwestern University

*Charting Knowledge: William James and Philosophical Trees*

Mr. Cole situated interdisciplinarity in post-war politics.

#### Étienne Balibar

University of California, Irvine

*Uprisings in the French Banlieues: Race? Nation? Or Class?*

Mr. Balibar's talk reflected on recent uprisings in the suburbs of Paris with regard to theories of ethnicity and race.

#### Michèle Lamont

Harvard University

*Interdisciplinarity as a Problem*

Ms. Lamont shared material from her book *Cream Rising: What Defines Excellence in the Social Studies and the Humanities*, a sociological study of the difficulties in defining and evaluating academic success.

#### Peter de Bolla

Cambridge University

*Against Interdisciplinarity*

Mr. de Bolla scrutinized the ambiguous parameters in which "interdisciplinarity" is often defined.

#### Kristin Ross

New York University

*Historicizing Untimeliness*

Ms. Ross discussed her recent research which examines the reworking of disciplinary borders brought on by revolutionary events in 1968 France.

#### Jamie Cohen-Cole

University of Chicago

*Interdisciplinarity and Anti-Boundary Work: Presentation for the Creative Scientific Self in 20th Century Social Science*

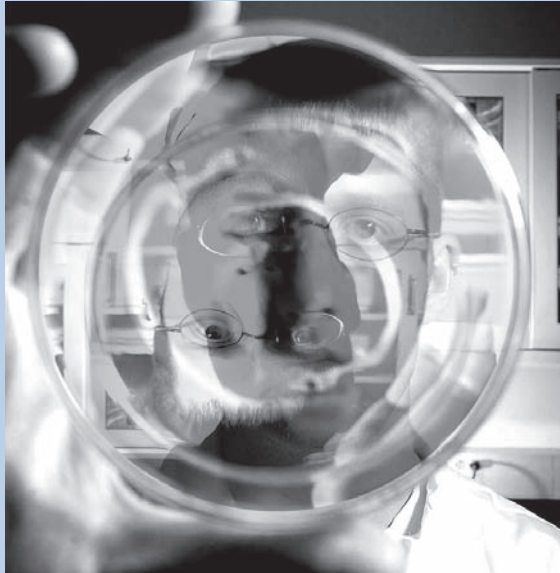
#### Dava Sobel

*Paper Planets*

Dava Sobel, VARE Nonfiction Writer in Residence at the University of Chicago, read from her latest book, *The Planets* (2005).

## “ W H A T I S S C I E N C E S T U D I E S ? ”

During the fall 2005 quarter, the Mellon Project organized a one-day conference entitled “What is Science Studies?” This conference centered around the burgeoning field of science studies, as an intermediary discipline between the humanities and the natural sciences. Sponsored in part by the Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine, the conference was organized into three panels featuring distinguished scholars from across North America. Recordings of the conference are available at <http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/institute/mellon/events.html>



### Panels

#### The Emergence of Science Studies as a Discipline

Karin Knorr Cetina, University of Chicago  
Robert Brain, University of British Columbia  
Emily Martin, New York University

#### Science Studies and its Boundaries

Ken Alder, Northwestern University  
Katherine Hayles, University of California, Los Angeles  
John Carson, University of Michigan

#### Teleologies of Science Studies

Trevor Pinch, Cornell University  
Thomas Gieryn, Indiana University  
Adrian Johns, University of Chicago  
Joseph Rouse, Wesleyan University

## I N S T A N C E T H E D E T E R M I N A T I O N

An on-site installation at the University of Chicago  
Helen Mirra, Harvard University

*Instance the determination*, a public art project by Helen Mirra created in conjunction with the Mellon Project’s “Fate of Disciplines” conference, takes the form of thirty brief segments of text, each painted directly on the wall in locations dispersed throughout the academic buildings on the main quadrangle at the University of Chicago campus. These texts are derived from indexes created by Mirra from two books by authors closely connected to the University of Chicago and the city of Chicago: John Dewey’s *Experience and Nature* (1929) and Jane Addams’ *Newer Ideals of Peace* (1907).

By turning the index form into a kind of poetry, as well as taking it off the page, Mirra produces an interaction between the practices of art and the practices of scholarship. The installations are located in stairwells and hallways in order to be encountered through ordinary, everyday movement around the University. For an interactive project map, a recording of Helen Mirra speaking about “The Disciplines and the Arts,” and the installation’s press release, please visit: <http://instance.uchicago.edu>

John Dewey, *Experience and Nature*.  
New York: Norton, 1929.

# “The Fate of Disciplines” Conference

“The Fate of Disciplines” was at once the culmination of a three-year project on “New Perspectives on the Disciplines: Comparative Studies in Higher Education” and the conference for the annual meeting of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI). It brought together scholars from across the globe, representatives from humanities institutes as diverse in size and scope as those from institutions in Australia, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as over a hundred University of Chicago faculty, staff, and students from a wide range of fields in the humanities and social sciences.

Over the course of two days, in five panels of speakers, the conference explored the relations among disciplines and studies by asking how we might conceive of disciplines — are they static and atomic? — and how we might conceive of their relations to each other: do disciplines comprise a dynamic system, a changing set of relationships? The first panel attacked head-on the question of definition: what is a discipline? The second and third panels offered pairings of older and newer disciplines that stand in some significant relation to each other: Philology and Cinema-Media Studies; Religious Studies and Science Studies. The conference addressed these disciplines in themselves and, by way of specially invited commentators, in relation to each other. The penultimate panel looked at the ensemble of disciplines in systematic terms. The final panel, by way of the Helen Mirra art installation commissioned for the conference itself, took up a question, more insistent in recent years, as to the relation of the disciplines and the practice of fine arts. “The Fate of Disciplines” was sponsored by the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and supported by a UChicagoArts grant from the Arts Planning Council. Recordings of the conference are available online at: <http://franke.uchicago.edu>

14

## Panels

### Session 1: What is a Discipline?

**Robert Post**, Yale University; *Debating Disciplinarity*

**Judith Butler**, University of California, Berkeley; *Critique, Dissent, and Disciplinarity*

Moderator: **Dipesh Chakrabarty**, University of Chicago

### Session 2.1: Cinema & Media Studies

**Tom Gunning**, University of Chicago;

*Depth of Field: Selective and Deep Focus in Film Studies*

**Gertrud Koch**, Freie University;

*The 'Dispositive' of Cinema as Foundation for its Studies*

Moderator: **Yuri Tsivian**, University of Chicago

### Session 2.2: Philology

**Sheldon Pollock**, Columbia University;

*Future Philology? The Fate of a Soft Science in a Hard World*

**Francois Hartog**, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris;

*The Double Fate of the Classics*

Moderator: **Richard Neer**, University of Chicago

### Session 2.3: Cinema-Media Studies and Philology

Commentary: **Miriam Hansen**, University of Chicago

Moderator: **Robert Pippin**, University of Chicago

The image chosen for the conference's poster appears opposite. It is the title page of *Margarita Philosophica* by Gregor Reisch (Freiburg: Johanne Schottus, 1504).

Courtesy of Special Collections Research Center of the Regenstein Library, The University of Chicago.

### Session 3.1: Science Studies

**Mario Biagioli**, Harvard University;

*Putting Fate Back in the Humanities, With Help from Science Studies*

**Lorraine Daston**, Max Planck Institute, Berlin;

*Science Studies and the History of Science*

Moderator: **Adrian Johns**, University of Chicago

### Session 3.2: Religious Studies

**Amy Hollywood**, Harvard University; *Theology and the Study of Religion*

**Saba Mahmood**, University of California, Berkeley;

*Religious Signs and Secular Reason: Tracing a Fracture Across Disciplinary Divides*

Moderator: **Bruce Lincoln**, University of Chicago

### Session 3.3: Religious Studies and Science Studies

Commentary: **Rivka Feldhay**, Tel Aviv University

Moderator: **Arnold Davidson**, University of Chicago

### Session 4: Disciplinary Systems / Disciplinary Economies

**David Wellbery**, University of Chicago; *The General Visits the Library:*

*Discipline and Complexity*

**Marshall Sahlins**, University of Chicago; *The Conflicts of the Faculty*

Moderator: **Lisa Wedeen**, University of Chicago

### Session 5: The Disciplines and the Arts

**Helen Mirra**, Harvard University; *Instance the determination*

**W.J.T. Mitchell**, University of Chicago; *Interdisciplinarity and Visual Culture*

**Bill Brown**, University of Chicago; *Counting*

Moderator: **Laura Letinsky**, University of Chicago



# Chicago Humanities Forum, 2005-07

**H**ow 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, AT THE DOWNTOWN GLEACHER CENTER

2005-06

### W.J.T. Mitchell

Gaylord Donnelley Distinguished Service Professor, Departments of English Language & Literature and Art History, and the College

*Cloning Terror: The War of Images, 2001-2004*

### Martha Feldman

Professor, Department of Music and the College

*The Castrato's Tale*

### David E. Wellbery

LeRoy T. & Margaret Deffenbaugh Carlson University Professor, Department of Germanic Studies, and the College

*Kafka's Wish*

### David A. Strauss

Harry N. Wyatt Professor, Law School

*The Supreme Court: Where We Are Headed*

### Alison Winter

Associate Professor, Department of History, Committee on the Conceptual & Historical Studies of Science, and the College

*The Forensic Self: A Prehistory of the Memory Wars*

### Sheila Fitzpatrick

Bernadotte E. Schmitt Distinguished Service Professor, Department of History and the College

*Looking Back on the Soviet Union from the Twenty-First Century*

2006-07

### Janice Knight

Associate Professor, Department of English Language & Literature and the College

*The Devil in the Damsel: Reading Women and the Bible*

### Richard Theodore Neer

Associate Professor, Department of Art History and the College

*Brilliant Bodies, Diaphanous Robes: Surface and Depth in Ancient Greek Sculpture*

### Philip Bohlman

Mary Werkman Professor, Department of Music, Committee on Jewish Studies, and the College

*The Silence of Genocide*

### Larry Norman

Associate Professor, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures, Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities, and the College

*On Ancients and Moderns*

### James K. Chandler

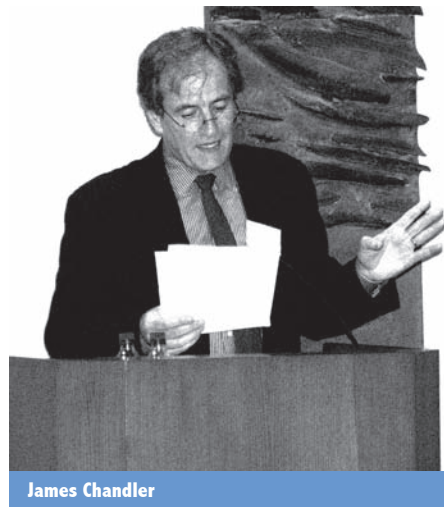
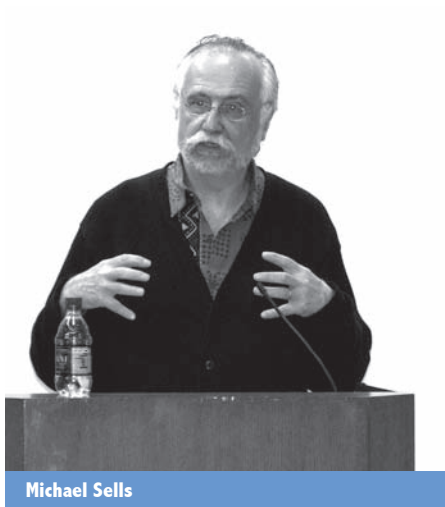
Barbara E. and Richard J. Franke Professor, Department of English Language & Literature, Committees on the History of Culture, Cinema & Media Studies, and Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities, and the College

*Sterne's Sentimental Journey: How Humanities Scholarship Matters*

### Michael Sells

John Henry Barrows Professor, Divinity School

*'Translation of Desires': The Love Poetry of Sufi Master Ibn al- 'Arabi (D. 638/1240)*





# Gifts and Grants, 2005–07



David E. Wellbery

## UPCOMING FORUMS, 2007 - 08

**October 3**

**Jacqueline Goldsby**

*Abstract Is As Abstract Does: African American Poetry and Painting during the 1940s and 1950s*

**November 14**

**Wu Hung**

*What is 'Contemporary Chinese Art'?*

**February 6**

**Lawrence Zbikowki**

*Birds, Spinning Wheels, Horses, and Sex: Painting Images with Music*

**March 5**

TBA

**April 9**

TBA

**May 7**

TBA

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

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 eighth 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.

Autumn 2005

**Wagner's Parsifal and the Performance of Culture**, an interdisciplinary conference held on Wagner's opera, drawing participants from the fields of musicology, music theory, cultural history, and literary criticism.

Autumn 2005

**On Note(s)**, an exhibition of drawings and doodles from the notebooks of Department of Visual Arts graduate students.

Spring 2006

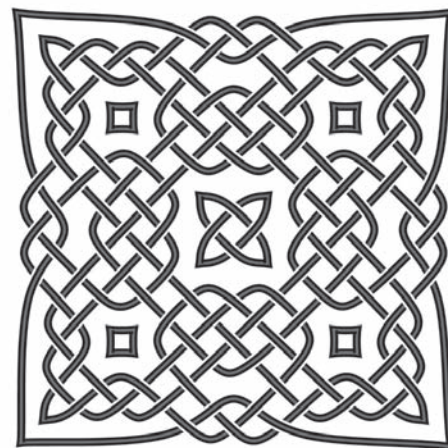
**Cinema Studies' Historical Turn: The Influence and Implications of Early Cinema**, the third annual Graduate Cinema conference was comprised of presentations on cinema historiography, specifically in relation to early cinema's status in film history, theory, and practice.

Spring 2006

**Reinventing the Past: Antiquarianism in East Asian Art and Visual Culture**, a symposium reexamining the role of the study and collection of antiquities and that of people who engaged in antiquarian activity in East Asia, spanning from the ancient to the modern.

Winter 2007

**Midwest Graduate Music Consortium**, an annual conference including a keynote



address by a noted scholar, papers on music-related topics presented by graduate students, and a concert of new music by composition students from different institutions.

Spring 2007

**Animation and the Cinema, the fourth annual Graduate Cinema Conference** bringing together graduate students working on issues of historiography, technology, and aesthetics in relation to animation studies, and the question of animation in current film and media theory.

Spring 2007

**Symposium: Islamic Ornament**, a full-day symposium featuring leading scholars discussing the history, use, and meaning of ornament in Islamic art.

# Big Problems Curriculum in the College

<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/other/interopp/index.shtml>



## On the course, *Is Development Sustainable?*

"I am leaving this course with more questions than when I started and with the terrifying realization that there will never be enough answers. Thank you, and please keep mind-expanding courses like this coming!"

— **Fourth-year  
College Student**

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.

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 with a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, 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, 2005-06

### Course

**Alison Boden**, Divinity School  
**Margot Browning**, Franke Institute for the Humanities  
*Terror, Religion and Aesthetics*

### Course

**John Haugeland**, Philosophy  
**William Wimsatt**, Philosophy  
*Boundaries, Modules and Levels*

### Course

**Daniel Brudney**, Philosophy  
**Farr Curlin**, Medicine  
**John Lantos**, Pediatrics  
*Medicine and Society: Things, Bodies, Persons*

### Course

**Salikoko Mufwene**, Linguistics  
**William Wimsatt**, Philosophy  
*Biological and Cultural Evolution*

### Course

**Katia Mitova**, Social Thought  
**David Orlinsky**, Human Development  
*Aspects of Love*

### Course

**Sonja Pieck**, Environmental Studies  
**Theodore Steck**, Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology; Environmental Studies  
*Is Development Sustainable?*

### Course

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

### Course

**Melvin Rothenberg**, Mathematics  
**Ron Baiman**, Economics at UIC  
*From Neo-Liberalism to Neo-Imperialism*

**On the course, *Romantic Love: Cultural and Psychological Perspectives*:**

The readings I've done this quarter and the guidance I've received in understanding them have not only enhanced my education, but have resulted in a deeper self-understanding and a new perspective on an issue that will be important to my orientation in the world for my entire life. For this I am incredibly grateful.

— Fourth-year College Student

**COURSES AND LECTURES, 2006-07**

**Course**

**Donald Levine**, Sociology  
**Jocelyn Malamy**, Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology  
*The Complex Problem of World Hunger*

**Related Lectures**

**Berhanu Abegaz**, College of William and Mary  
*International Development Aid*

**Daniel Assefa**, Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute  
*Ethiopia's Economic Potential: Population, Poverty, and the Environment*

**Philip G. Pardey**, University of Minnesota  
*Biotechnology and Sustainable Energy for Africa: Intellectual Property Laws and Agriculture in the Third World*

**Course**

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

**Course**

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

**BIG PROBLEMS GENERAL LECTURE, 2005-06**

**Douglas Chien**, Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club

**Stephanie Smith**, Smart Museum of Art

**David Rothenberg**, New Jersey Institute of Technology  
*Can Beauty Save the Earth?*

**Course**

**Patrick La Riviere**, Radiology  
**Barbara Stafford**, Art History  
*Perspectives on Imaging*

**Course**

**Daniel Brudney**, Philosophy  
**John Lantos**, Pediatrics  
**Alison Winter**, History  
*Autonomy and Medical Paternalism*

**Course**

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

**Related Lecture**

**William Marling**, Case Western Reserve University  
*Globalization, Technology, and Languages*

**Course**

**Harold Pollack**, Social Service Administration

**Jose Quintans**, Pathology  
*Biology and Sociology of AIDS*

**Course**

**Yuri Tsivian**, Art History  
**Bruce Winstein**, Physics  
*Antonioni's Films: Reality and Ambiguity*

**Course**

**Sonja Pieck**, Environmental Studies  
**Theodore Steck**, Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology; Environmental Studies  
*Is Development Sustainable?*

**Course**

**Katia Mitova**, Social Thought  
**Herman Sinaiko**, Humanities  
*Romantic Love: Philosophical and Literary Perspectives*

**Course**

**Martha McClintock**, Psychology  
**Jose Quintans**, Pathology  
*Psychoneuroimmunology*

**Course**

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

**Course**

**Melvin Rothenberg**, Mathematics  
**Ron Baiman**, Economics at UIC  
*From Neo-Liberalism to Neo-Imperialism*

**Course**

**James Ketelaar**, History and East Asian Languages & Civilizations  
**Michael Raine**, East Asian Languages & Civilizations  
*Images of Time: Japanese History Through Film*

**Related Lecture**

**Robert Rosenstone**, California Institute of Technology  
*Inventing Historical Truth on the Silver Screen*

Continued on page 20

Continued from page 19

Course

**Bertram Cohler**, Psychology  
**Peter Homans**, Divinity School  
*Memory, Commemoration and Mourning*

Course

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

BIG PROBLEMS GENERAL LECTURES,  
2006-07

**Jane Roberts**, Co-founder of 34 Million Friends of the United Nations Population Fund  
*How Empowering Women Can Help the Environment: 34 Million Friends of Women*

**T. Paul Schultz**, Yale University  
*Health, Human Capital, and Development: Learning About Causal Relationships*



T. Paul Schultz

COURSES, 2007-08

Course

**Daniel Brudney**, Philosophy  
**John Lantos**, Pediatrics  
*Autonomy and Medical Paternalism*

Course

**Salikoko Mufwene**, Linguistics  
**William Wimsatt**, Philosophy  
*Biological and Cultural Evolution*

Course

**Harold Pollack**, Social Service Admin.  
**Jose Quintans**, Pathology  
*Biology and Sociology of AIDS*

Course

**Mary Lee Behnke**, Classics  
**Cabell King**, Theology  
*Empire*

Course

**Robert Richards**, History  
**Naomi Beck**, Soc. Sci. Coll. Div.  
*Evolutionary Theory and Its Role in the Human Sciences*

Course

**Sonja Pieck**, Environmental Studies  
**Theodore Steck**, Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology; Environmental Studies  
*Is Development Sustainable?*

Courses

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

LETTER FROM THE DEAN  
Continued from page 1

to enrich our collective intellectual lives. January's conference, "The Self/Le Soi," was the second part of a two-part conference, bringing European and American academics together in conversation both in Chicago and at the University's Paris Center. This year's subject was philosophy and religion. In both transatlantic colloquia, the opportunity to sustain a conversation over time and across an ocean led to profound engagement. We are working now to secure funding to institutionalize such two-part transatlantic conferences as an annual ritual. The Franke thus anchors not only inter-disciplinarity but also cosmopolitanism.

Another new bridging emerged in March. The Franke Institute and the Chicago Humanities Festival co-presented "Copycat," a collaborative panel discussion concerning plagiarism, at the Art Institute of Chicago. Jonathan Lethem, Richard Posner, Lawrence Weschler, and Françoise Meltzer joined forces to conduct a hard-hitting critical conversation in a public forum and to connect scholarly concerns to the broader domain of intellectual property.

Such collaborative ventures strengthen our scholarly enterprise by requiring that we vet our claims and arguments in front of new audiences. While the Franke fellows' bi-weekly conversations inside the Institute are certainly a valuable experience for the development of their work, we also do well to test our arguments on the touchstone of unfamiliar opinion. As the Franke Institute builds a web of connections that provide our faculty with the opportunity to find unfamiliar contexts into which to extend their conversations, it secures on our behalf a critical and re-vitalizing resource. We should thank Jim Chandler and Françoise Meltzer for initiating and supporting such wide-ranging affiliations!

**Danielle S. Allen**  
Dean, Division of the Humanities

# Cinematheque and Arts Talk Series

**G**iven 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. During the 2005-2006 academic year, the Arts Talk series hosted two events for faculty and graduate students. Chris Potter, multi-reedman & composer, joined Travis Jackson, Associate Professor of Music, at the Franke Institute for a conversation focused on extending possibilities in jazz. With the aid of his sax, Mr. Potter demonstrated a history of jazz music in the United States.

## CINEMATHEQUE SERIES

**Jean Rouch & Edgar Morin's** *Chronicle of a Summer*. With an introduction and discussion by **Judy Hoffman**.



**Mira Nair's** *Monsoon Wedding*. With an introduction and discussion by **Rochona Majumdar**.



## ARTS TALK SERIES

Tradition and Innovation with **Chris Potter** and **Travis Jackson**

**Alfred Brendel** in conversation with **Arnold Davidson** and **David Wellbery**

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS Continued from page 1

The CDI will be a place for pedagogical collaboration and innovation, complementing the established disciplines and departments. It will offer graduate, team-taught courses that will keep the disciplinary questions continually in focus while bringing attention to issues of broad concern, particularly those of method and epistemology. With the support of the Mellon Foundation, we look forward to offering six CDI courses in the 2008-2009 academic year.

During the fall and winter quarters of 2006-2007, the Institute was forced to close its doors to events due to the renovation of the HVAC system for the Regenstein Library. The Institute's staff worked together to organize and host internal programs such as the bi-weekly Franke fellows discussions, the Every Wednesday Luncheon series for faculty, and public events such as the downtown Chicago Humanities Forum, all while continuing to support faculty members organizing conferences and other special events.

We moved back into our space in time to

host the Institute's annual "Classics in Context" program held in conjunction with the Chicago Humanities Festival. This daylong program features two UChicago faculty presenters speaking on the selected classic as it relates to the yearlong Festival-programming theme. This year's theme "Peace and War: Facing Human Conflicts" prompted the selection of *Hamlet* with David Bevington and Eric Slauter each providing different inroads to themes from *Hamlet*. Another collaborative event with the Festival presented itself through "Copycat," a panel discussion on plagiarism and copyright featuring Jonathan Lethem, Richard Posner, Lawrence Weschler and Françoise Meltzer. This event was held at the Art Institute and featured on CSPAN Books. Currently, we are working with the Festival to organize a philosopher's symposium for early November where University of Chicago scholars will join visiting scholars to consider the current climate of concern around global warming and other such threats to our ongoing existence as a species.

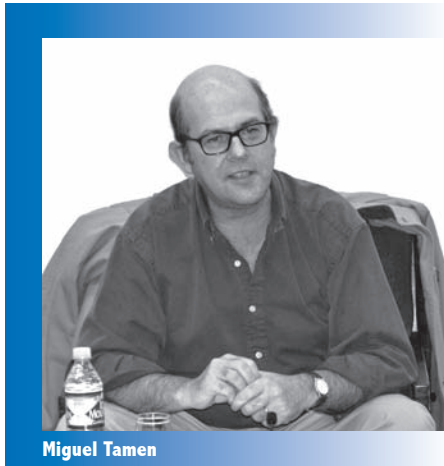
The end of spring quarter brought two successful programs that I'd like to share with you. In May, Michael Sells gave a talk

for the Chicago Humanities Forum series entitled "'Translation of Desires:': The Love Poetry of Sufi Master Ibn al-'Arabi (d. 638/1240)." For this collaborative event with the Divinity School, Michael described the vastly divergent and intertwined themes of love in Ibn al-'Arabi's poetry, encompassing his knowledge of both mysticism and the sciences, as well as the multiple traditions of love found in Bedouin, courtly, and religious Arabic literature. In the Wednesday series of faculty luncheons, Robert von Hallberg presented a work in progress titled "sobballads." Using tools of literary criticism, Bob looked at the recovery of sentiment in American popular song after Cole Porter, while also exploring the apprehension around the limits of sentimentality amongst popular songwriters such as Frank Sinatra. A recording of his talk is available through the Franke Institute's website: <http://franke.uchicago.edu>

**James K. Chandler,**  
Director, 2005-2006

**Françoise Meltzer,**  
Director, 2006-2007

# Every Wednesday Luncheon Series, 2005-07



Miguel Tamen

## NEW FACULTY, 2005-06

### Kelly Austin

Department of Romance Languages & Literatures

*On Pablo Neruda*

### Persis Berlekamp

Department of Art History and the College

*The Conditional Efficacy of Tusi's Talismanic Images*

### Yigal Bronner

Department of South Asian Languages & Civilizations and the College

*Crooked Talk and Intertextuality in Early Sanskrit Poetics*

### Kevin Davey

Department of Philosophy and the College

*On Why Time Goes from Past to Future: Statistical Mechanics, Probability, and Skepticism*

### Sascha Ebeling

Department of South Asian Languages & Civilizations and the College

*Print, Novel, Nation: Tamil Literature of South India during the Nineteenth Century*

### Christiane Frey

Department of Germanic Studies and the College

*Genius, Talent, and Individuality from Huarte to Goethe*

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 ten 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.

### Ryan Giles

Department of Romance Languages & Literatures and the College

*Finding and Losing the Cruz Libro de buen amor, stanzas 112-122*

### Mark Hansen

Department of English Language & Literature and the College

*Time and Media*

### Alison James

Department of Romance Languages & Literatures and the College

*Some Thoughts on Chance in Proust and Perec*

### Christopher Kennedy

Department of Linguistics and the College

*The Grammar of Comparison*

### Rochona Majumdar

Department of South Asian Languages & Civilizations and the College

*Family Values in Postcolonial India: The Hindu Code Debates, 1955-56*

### Emanuel Mayer

Department of Classics and the College

*Propaganda, Staged Applause or Local Politics? Roman State Monuments under the Empire*

### Yitzhak Melamed

Department of Philosophy and the College

*Spinoza's Anti-Humanism*

### Srikanth (Chicu) Reddy

Department of English Language & Literature and the College

*Erasure as Poetic Composition*

### Jason Riggle

Department of Linguistics and the College

*Computational Simulation as a Tool for Understanding Language Learning and Change*

### Ulrike Stark

Department of South Asian Languages & Civilizations and the College

*Mass Printing and the Commercialization of Islamic Sacred Texts in Nineteenth-Century India*

### Gil Stein

Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and the College

*Variation in the Organization of Bronze Age Mesopotamian States*

### Robin Valenza

Department of English Language & Literature and the College

*The Economies of Knowledge*

## WORK IN PROGRESS, 2005-06

### Lauren Berlant

Department of English Language & Literature and the College

*It's Not the Tragedies that Kill Us, It's the Messes: Femininity, Form, and Dorothy Parker*

### **Herbert George**

Department of Visual Arts and the College

*Making a Sculpture Monument  
Dedicated to Chemical Warfare Victims*

### **Wu Hung**

Departments of Art History and East Asian  
Languages & Civilizations, and the College

*Mirror and Pillow in Traditional China*

### **DISCIPLINARY DIRECTIONS, 2005-06**

#### **Norman Bradburn**

Harris School, Department of Psychology,  
Graduate School of Business, and the College

*The Humanities Indicators Project:  
What Do We Want to Know About  
the Humanities*

#### **Carole Ober**

Department of Human Genetics and the College

*Genetic Studies in a Religious Isolate*

#### **Harinder Singh**

Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell  
Biology; Howard Hughes Medical Institute

*Gene Regulatory Networks and  
Synthetic Biology*

### **VISITING SCHOLARS, 2005-06**

#### **Slavoj Zizek**

Critical Inquiry Visiting Professor

*An Open Conversation*

### **NEW FACULTY, 2006-07**

#### **Clifford Ando**

Department of Classics and the College

*Legal Fictions in the Roman Empire*

#### **Tamara Chin**

Department of Comparative Literature and the  
College

*On "Barbarous Greek" in Early China*

#### **Ping Foong**

Department of Art History and the College

*Visual Evidence in Chinese Painting*

### **Petra Goedegebuure**

Department of Near Eastern Languages &  
Civilizations and the College

*Linguistics and Hittite: Exploring an  
Extinct Language Beyond Meaning and  
Morphology*

### **Yuming He**

Department of East Asian Languages &  
Civilizations and the College

*Operatic Music in Sixteenth-Century  
China*

### **Matthew Jackson**

Department of Art History and the College

*The Borders of Art*

### **Franklin Lewis**

Department of Near Eastern Languages &  
Civilizations and the College

*Translating Rumi*

### **Steven Rings**

Department of Music and the College

*Mathematical Models of Musical  
Perception*

### **Jennifer Scappetone**

Department of English Language & Literature  
and the College

*The Obsolescence and  
Counter-obsolescence of Cities*

### **Mark Slouka**

Department of English Language & Literature  
and the College

*The Politics of Idleness*

### **Malika Zeghal**

Divinity School

*The Politics of Sainthood*

### **WORK IN PROGRESS, 2006-07**

#### **Laura Letinsky**

Department of Visual Arts and the College

*Intimacy as the Homely and the  
Beautiful*

#### **Salikoko Mufwene**

Department of Linguistics and the College

*Globalization and Language  
Endangerment*

### **Larry Norman**

Department of Romance Languages &  
Literatures and the College

*Ancients and Moderns*

### **Barbara Maria Stafford**

Department of Art History and the College

*On Visual Formulas*

### **Robert von Hallberg**

Department of English Language & Literature  
and the College

*Sob-ballads*

### **William Wimsatt**

Department of Philosophy and the College

*Re-Engineering Philosophy for Limited  
Beings*

### **DISCIPLINARY DIRECTIONS, 2006-07**

#### **Ian Foster**

Department of Computer Science and the College

*On Computation*

#### **Jocelyn Malamy**

Department of Molecular Genetics & Cell Biology  
and the College

*Transgenic Crops and Feeding the World*

#### **Theodore L. Steck**

Department of Biochemistry and the College

*On Saving the Environment*

### **VISITING SCHOLARS, 2006-07**

#### **Anne Baillet**

Department of Germanic Studies

*On German Manuscripts of the  
Regenstein Library*

#### **Ian Hacking**

Critical Inquiry Visiting Professor

*On What Has Happened to Autism*

#### **Miguel Tamen**

Department of Romance Languages &  
Literatures

*In Defense of Louis XVI*

**FRANKE FACULTY FELLOWS  
2007 - 08**

**Paul Cheney**

Assistant Professor, History  
*The Enlightenment Science du  
Commerce: Colonial Expansion and the  
New European Political Order*

**Mark Payne**

Assistant Professor, Classics  
*The Animal Part: Humans and  
Animals in the Iambic Tradition*

**Michael Raine**

Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages &  
Civilizations  
*Modernism, Materiality, and  
Cultural Mimesis: Japanese New Wave  
Cinema, 1955-1964*

**Ulrike Stark**

Assistant Professor, South Asian Languages &  
Civilizations  
*In Times of Transition. Raja  
Shivaprasad 'Sitar-e Hind'*

**Christopher E. Woods**

Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Languages &  
Civilizations  
*A Study of Sumerian Writing*

**Wu Hung**

Professor, Art History and East Asian  
Languages & Civilizations  
*Another Story of Ruins: Presence and  
Absence in Chinese Art and Visual  
Culture*

**Alan C. Yu**

Assistant Professor, Linguistics  
*Rescuing Fleeting Voices: A Study of the  
Sounds of a Dying Language*

**FRANKE DOCTORAL FELLOWS  
2007 - 08**

**Ari Bryen**

History and Classics  
*Violence, Law and Society in Roman  
and Byzantine Egypt*

**Jeehee Hong**

Art History  
*Theatricalizing Death: Performance  
Images of Mid-Imperial China in  
Mortuary Contexts (11th -13th  
centuries)*

**Jacqueline Jay**

Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  
*The Narrative Structure of Ancient  
Egyptian Tales: From Sinuhe to Setna*

**Jonathan Tsou**

Conceptual & Historical Studies of Science  
*Mental Health in Question: Issues in the  
Philosophy of Psychiatry*

**Co-Editors:** Margot Browning, Mai Vukceвич,  
Bertie Kibrah

**Telephone:** 773-702-8274

**Fax:** 773-702-0775

**E-mail:** franke-humanities@uchicago.edu

**Web:** <http://humanities.uchicago.edu/institute>

**Contributing photographers:** Mai Vukceвич,  
*The University of Chicago Chronicle*

**Graphic Designer:** Rachel Drew

THE FRANKE INSTITUTE  
FOR THE HUMANITIES



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO