

2013 - 2014
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES
NEWSLETTER

Room 105, 725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215
 (617) 353-6250, buch@bu.edu



BUCH Director James Winn

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

When I was in graduate school, there was an annual lecture called "The Lonely Scholar," delivered by a famous professor. In his talk, the great man sang the praises of patient archival work conducted by one person, apparently oblivious to the possibilities of collaboration or the joys of conversation. Last year, I had an intense experience of the life of the lonely scholar: I was living in London and going every day to the manuscripts room in the British Library or the National Archives at Kew, reading primary documents relevant to the life of Queen Anne. Although I needed that time to finish a project that had occupied me for too many years, I have been very glad indeed to abandon the life of the lonely scholar and return to the vibrant community of the Humanities Center.

The faculty fellows in residence this year have been exemplary in their attention to community, so that the formal discussions taking place in our Fellows' Seminar have continued informally throughout the year. Although each of our Fellows has made substantial progress in individual research, they have all shown genuine curiosity and concern about the work of the others. Next year, we shall welcome an even larger and more diverse group of faculty fellows, with projects ranging from Beethoven quartets to Korean fiction, from sacred rice to lost boys. To this group of faculty, who represent nine different departments, we are about to add our first Graduate Student Fellows, scholars who expect to complete their dissertations next year, and who will be full-fledged members of our community. This is an exciting new program, one I believe will enrich our community while providing much-needed support to the faculty of the future.

As you know if you receive our weekly bulletins, your BUCH also supports numerous conferences, lecture series, reading groups, exhibitions, and performances. These, too, are opportunities for colleagues to reach across disciplinary boundaries and escape the confining constrictions of the lonely scholar. Let me take this opportunity to thank all of those who continue to make this program possible, especially Bonnie Costello, who served as Acting Director last year; Christine Loken-Kim, who shoulders many burdens as our senior administrator; the nine members of the BUCH Executive Committee; the outgoing Fellows, who have set a high standard for collegiality and cooperation; and, of course, our student staff.

JAMES WINN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Michael Zell
Art History
- Daniel Dahlstrom
Philosophy
- Dorothy Kelly
Romance Languages
- Jonathan Klawans
Religion
- Erin Murphy
English
- Jeffrey Henderson
Classical Studies
- Margaret Litvin
Modern Languages & Comparative Literature
- Arianne Chernock
History
- Jeremy Yudkin
Musicology

JEFFREY HENDERSON
 SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS



JODI CRANSTON
 Professor of Art & Architecture

Green Worlds in Renaissance Venice



MAURICE LEE
 Associate Professor of English

Textual Excess and Information Management in Nineteenth-Century Literature

Fellows' Seminar

The core of the intellectual community supported by the Boston University Center for the Humanities is the Fellows' Seminar. This group, which has been in continuous existence since 1984, serves as a forum for research, debate, and public dialogue among humanities faculty from different disciplines and between junior and senior faculty. The seminar assists Junior Faculty Fellows in the development of their careers and engages the larger questions of culture and imagination that the humanities have always examined. Since 2008, the Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellows have also participated in the seminar, which gathers them monthly to discuss work in progress by one or more of its members.



ZSUZSANNA VÁRHELYI
 Associate Professor of Classical Studies

The Others of the Self: Practices and Contexts of Selfhood in Ancient Rome



WILLIAM WATERS
 Associate Professor of Modern Languages & Comparative Literature

Rilke's "New" Poems



LAURA KOROBKIN
 2012/2013 Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellow, Member of 2012/2014 Fellows' Seminars

JUNIOR FACULTY FELLOWS



DAVID CARBALLO
 Assistant Professor of Archaeology

Religion and Urbanization in Ancient Central Mexico



PHILLIP HABERKERN
 Assistant Professor of History

Patron Saint and Prophet: Jan Hus in the Bohemian and German Reformations



WILLIAM HUNTING HOWELL
 Assistant Professor of English

Against Self-Reliance: The Arts of Dependence in the Early United States



BECKY MARTIN
 Assistant Professor of History of Art & Architecture

The Art of Contact; Comparative Approaches to the Eastern Mediterranean



MAGDALENA OSTAS
 Assistant Professor of English

Romanticism and Interiority: Poetry, Narrative, Philosophy



JOSEPH REZEK
 Assistant Professor of English

The Aesthetics of Provinciality: London and the Making of Irish, Scottish, and American Literature

Faculty Project Highlights

The Boston University Center for the Humanities supports many interesting faculty projects. Here are some of this year's highlights:

The Institute for Philosophy & Religion held a year long lecture series, "The Contemporary Face of Suffering." The series explored philosophical, religious, and literary aspects of suffering from the recent public debate over physician-assisted suicide to new academic research on topics like social suffering and the effects of trauma. The series' roster of speakers included experts in philosophy of religion, bioethics, literary theory, and narrative medicine.

In April, the annual Humanities Lecture, part of the Lectures in Criticism series, was given by D.A. Miller from the University of California. Miller presented "The Long Wrong Man," about Alfred Hitchcock and his film "The Wrong Man." Hitchcock's film was screened on April 1st, the lecture was given April 3rd, and a follow-up seminar with Miller for faculty and graduate students was held on April 4.

In October, the Department of Philosophy, held BUCH sponsorship, held the Third Annual Boston University Workshop on Late Modern Philosophy. The topic of this year's workshop was "History's Relevance for Philosophy."

At the end of February, the Department of History of Art & Architecture hosted their 30th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, entitled "See the Light". Featuring papers by graduate students nationwide, the symposium explored the employment and reception of light in the history of art and visual culture.

"The Landscape Listens: Women Poets and the American Experience" was a conference held by the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, the College of General Studies Poetry Reading Series, and the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program. Over two days in March, a festival of readings and panels celebrated the rich tradition of American women poets.



Shakespeare at 450: A Birthday Celebration

As a "gift to our Colleagues," a celebration of Shakespeare's 450th birthday. The event featured a short dramatic production; a lecture by Margaret Litvinn, Professor of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature; and different musical settings of "Full Fathom Five," a song from Shakespeare's last play, *The Tempest*. The event was followed by a reception featuring wines, cheeses, ales, and Elizabethan cuisine.

"A Revolutionary Moment: Women's Liberation in the late 1960s and early 1970s" was a conference held in late March by the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program and cosponsored by the BUCH. The conference brought together activists, scholars, artists, writers, and filmmakers to reflect on a significant period of the women's liberation movement. Featured speakers included Geena Davis, Susan Faludi, Demita Frazier, Linda Gordon, Marge Piercy, and Kathie Sarachild.

In March, the BUCH cosponsored a conference held by the African American Studies Program, "African American Music in World Culture: Art as Refuge & Strength in the Struggle for Freedom." This international conference was a tribute to the musical legacy of George & Joyce Wein. The conference's keynotes speakers were George Wein, Bernice Johnson Reagon, and Joshua Rifkin; also, the conference featured a special concert by popular contemporary jazz singer Dee Dee Bridgewater.

Upcoming Fellows, 2014-2015

JUNIOR FACULTY FELLOWS

JOANNA DAVIDSON
 Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Sacred Rice: Identity, Environment, & Development in Rural West Africa

YOON SUN YANG
 Assistant Professor of Modern Languages & Comparative Literature

From Domestic Women to Sentimental Men: The Rise of Modern Korean Fiction, 1906-1917

JEFFREY HENDERSON SENIOR FACULTY FELLOWS

CYNTHIA BECKER
 Associate Professor of History of Art & Architecture

Gnawa: Visual Art and the Performance of Africa in Morocco

ANDREA BERLIN
 Professor of Archaeology

Site and Story: The Administrative Complex at Tel Kedesh, Israel

ARIANNE CHERNOCK
 Associate Professor of History

The Right to Reign and the Rights of Women in Victorian Britain

ABIGAIL GILLMAN
 Associate Professor of Modern Languages & Comparative Literature

A History of the German Jewish Bible

CATHIE MARTIN
 Professor of Political Science

Imagine All the People: Individualism and the Story of the Lost Boys

JOHN MATTHEWS
 Professor of English

Look Away, Look Away: The Problem of the South in American Fiction

WILLIAM MOORE
 Associate Professor of History of Art & Architecture

Not-So-Simple Gifts: The Image and Interpretation of the Shakers in America, 1925-1965

buch@bu.edu

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