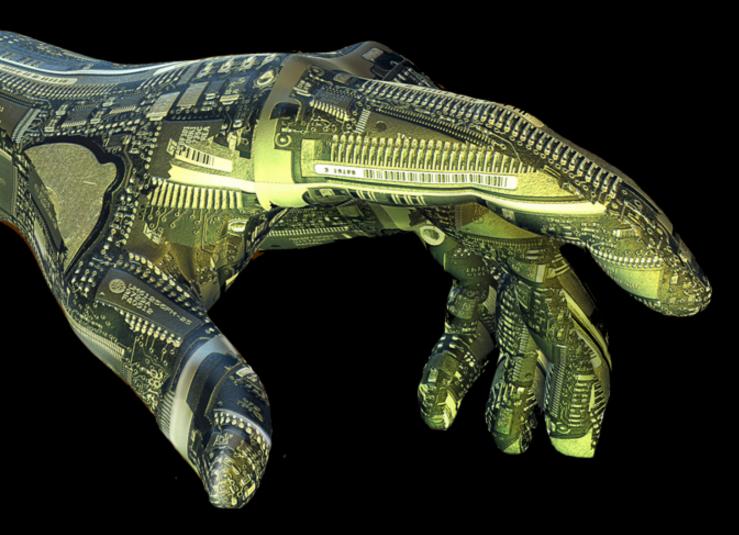
BOSTON UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Boston University Center for the Humanities works to promote and enhance the work of humanities scholars at Boston University. We grant research fellowships to junior and senior faculty, enabling them to complete scholarly projects. We bring distinguished scholars to Boston to participate in departmental and interdisciplinary programs including seminars, lecture series, exhibitions, and performances. We fund special library acquisitions, cover costs associated with publications, and award prizes to outstanding undergraduates and graduate students. In practice and in theory, we define the humanities not as a finite list of departments, but as an expansive and flexible mode of inquiry, and we welcome faculty and students from many departments and colleges who share a common interest in issues of interpretation and value.



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



The second year (2017-2018) of my directorship of the BU Center for the Humanities has seen a dramatic expansion of our programming and initiatives, as we focus on extending the Center's reach locally, nationally, and globally. At the same time, our events at BU are shaped increasingly by the needs of our student, faculty, and public constituencies. To expose our students to life and work as humanists both within and beyond academia we launched programs for undergraduates—summer publishing internships at Oxford University Press in New York City and our monthly "HumaniTeas" gatherings—and organized a campus visit by the President of OUP, Niko Pfund. Next fall our undergraduate programming will include workshops for students writing theses in humanities fields and sessions on graduate school in the humanities.

This year we also instituted a summer internship program for humanities graduate students, collaborating with the Associate Provost for Graduate Affairs to create a complement to our Graduate Dissertation Fellowships, that provides professional opportunities outside of the academy. We will continue to encourage undergraduate and graduate student participation in all of our BUCH programs and events: for example, we are including a pop-up student art exhibit in our fall forum, "Humanities Approaches to the Opioid Crisis."

The heart of our enterprise remains supporting BU's humanities faculty through project awards, fellowships, publishing stipends, and other types of funding. In particular, the Fellows' Seminar, comprised each semester of faculty and graduate students on research leaves funded by the Center, remains at the center of our mission. The intellectual energy and generosity on display during the weekly meetings is always a pleasure to see, as is the transformation of each group from a disparate collection of researchers into a democratic community of scholars. In the fall 2017 seminar, Professor Gregory Williams (History of Art & Architecture) introduced us to the innovative creations of an East-German post-Bauhaus tradition, which directs viewers outward to the edges of the art work and Professor Sarah Phillips (History) explained how agricultural legislation in the 20th c. U.S. reveals changing ideas about the value of natural resources. In the spring 2018 seminar, Professor Jonathan Klawans (Religion) demonstrated how the concepts of heresy and forgery informed the transition from Judaism to Christianity and graduate student Gregory Chase (English) revealed the ways in which the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein illuminates literary modernism. As to new faculty programs, we plan to continue our "Second-Book Workshop" in spring 2019 because the many faculty participants found it so helpful and motivating.

And we look forward especially to our second major Humanities Center forum on the Opioid Crisis, in the fall of 2018, featuring a Friday night panel on October 12 introduced by President Robert Brown and moderated by WBUR health reporter Martha Bebinger (MA, BU English) and including public officials such as Mayor Martin Walsh and scholars, Elaine Scarry (English, Harvard) and Samuel Kelton Roberts (History, Columbia). Subsequent panels on Saturday, October 13 will feature, among others, Michael Botticelli, Head of the Grayken Center for Addiction Medicine; Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and BU humanities faculty including Benjamin Siegel, Amy Appleford, and James Uden. We hope you will save the date and join us, and also follow the life of the Center and the humanities at BU and in the world more generally.

-- Susan Mizruchi, Director

JEFFREY HENDERSON SENIOR FACULTY FELLOWS



Sarah T. Philips
Associate Professor, English
The Price of Plenty: From Farm to Food Politics in Postwar America



Paul Katsafanas
Associate Professor, Philosophy
The Secular Afterlife of the Sacred



Jonathan Klawans

Professor, Religion and Judaic Studies

Heresies, Forgeries, and Novelties: Constructing and Crossing the
Boundaries of Ancient Judaism



Gregory Williams

Associate Professor, History of Art & Architecture

Carlfriedrich Claus: Drawing, Writing, and Instrumental Thinking in the German Democratic Republic



Teena Purohit *Associate Professor, Religion*Making Islam Modern



Michael Zell

Associate Professor, History of Art & Architecture

The Poetics of the Mirror and the Image of the Beloved in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Painting

JUNIOR FACULTY FELLOWS



Benjamin Siegel
Assistant Professor, History
The Nation in Pain: American Bodies and Indian Pharmaceuticals in an Age of Distress



Michael Birenbaum Quintero

Associate Professor, Musicology & Ethnomusicology

Fierce Joy: Sound, Violence, and Community in the Ashes of Politics



Alexander (Sasha) Nikolaev
Assistant Professor, Classical Studies
Grammar of Poetry: Artificial Language in Early Greek Epic



Alexis Peri
Assistant Professor, History
Fraternizing with the Enemy: Soviet-American Friendships amid
Cold War



Kimberly Arkin

Assistant Professor, Anthropology

Naturalizing the Social or Socializing the Natural? Race, Sex, and
Catholic Secularism in France

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 Research Fellows in the

GRADUATE DISSERTATION FELLOWS

Gregory Chase



Lara Ayad

History of Art & Architecture

Picturesque Peasants: Painting Egyptian Identity at the Fouad I

Agricultural Museum in Cairo



English
"The Silent Soliloquy of Others": Language and Acknowledgment in Modernist Fiction, 1910-52



Caitlin Dalton
History of Art & Architecture
Imprinting Art and Ideology: Memory and Pedagogy in the Early
German Democratic Republic



Daniel LibatiqueClassical Studies
Tereus, Procne, and Philomela: Speech, Silence, and the Voice of Gender



Alex MacConochie

English

Touch and Gesture in Early Modern Drama

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 bi-weekly to discuss work in progress by one or more of its members.

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LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES IN THE DIGITAL AGE OCT 5-7, 2017



Kirsten Weld is the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences in the Department of History at Harvard University. Her presentation explored efforts to secure citizen access to the archives of Cold War regimes in Latin America. The opening of such state records is now recognized as essential to the restoration of justice in the postwar, post-dictatorship era of Latin America, and civil society movements have fought ardently for their release.

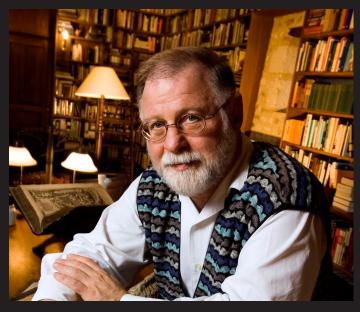
On October 5-7, the BU Center for the Humanities hosted its inaugural forum, Recording Lives: Libraries and Archives in the Digital Age, cosponsored by the Boston Public Library and the Boston Athenæum.

The role of archives and libraries in the digital age is one of the most pressing concerns of humanists, scholars, and citizens worldwide. Questions of what to record and how to record it touch the very core of who we are as individuals, cultures, and nations. Now, more than ever, the accessibility of curated historical information, the sharing of resources, and the uses of digitization raise questions central to democratic society. This forum brought together specialists from academia, public libraries, governmental agencies, and philanthropic and commercial archives to pursue common questions about value across the institutional boundaries that typically separate us.

The forum was launched with an event at the Boston Athenæum, "Recording Lives at Lightning Speed," featuring panelists from the Athenæum, the Congressional Library & Archives, the Handel and Haydn Society, Historic Newton, Mount Auburn Cemetery, and the Mellon Sawyer Seminars at BU, to discuss how local cultural and academic organizations are deploying digital technologies to provide or expand access to their collections and engage more diverse audiences. On Thursday evening, October 5, Robert Darnton delivered a public lecture, "Libraries, Books,



Harriett Green is Head of Scholarly
Communication and Publishing, Scholarly
Communication and Publishing Librarian, and
Associate Professor, University Library at the
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
She discussed the ways in which library and
information professionals can engage with
faculty in research collaborations, and how
initiatives for educating practitioners and
scholars across the university in digital methods
are critical to this aim.



Alberto Manguel is an Argentinian-Canadian writer, translator, editor, and critic, as well as the director of the National Library of Argentina. His presentation addressed questions such as: How can a national library serve readers and non-readers alike? Is it possible for a national library to convert non-readers into readers, and furthermore, to transform perceptions held by many non-readers that libraries are alien territories? What are the prospects for turning the contemporary library into an effective democratic intellectual space?

and the Digital Future," in the newly renovated Rabb Hall at the Boston Public Library and Christopher Ricks provided commentary. This was followed by two days of panels in the Law School Auditorium on BU's Charles River Campus, which included scholars and practitioners in the fields of archives and libraries such as Alberto Manguel, Director of the National Library of Argentina, David Ferriero, the 10th National Archivist of the U.S., and Jeannette Bastian of Simmons School of Library and Information Sciences.

Our fall forums are continuous intellectual enterprises that will shape and contribute to programming and scholarship for years to come. In keeping with this, the Center is at work on a book collection of essays from the 2017 forum. In addition, the center hosted two follow-up events to the forum this year: a screening of Fredrick Wiseman's newest film, Ex Libris, followed by a Q&A with Wiseman himself, and a roundtable discussion of archival work, "A Report from the Archives," featuring speakers from The HistoryMakers®, the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, and BU Faculty from CAS and COM.

In 2020, BUCH will return to the theme of Libraries and Archives for the annual fall forum, when the three-year cycle recommences.



SECOND BOOK WORKSHOP

On October 13 - 14, 2017 BUCH sponsored a Second Book Workshop for faculty led by Suzanne Ryan, Editor in Chief of Humanities at Oxford Uni- finding a vocation and building a satisversity Press. In a seminar for participants on the first day of the workshop, Ryan covered the nuts and bolts of academic publishing from early drafts to finished books, addressing strategies for locating suitable presses and editors, the submission and vetting process, and editing timelines, as well as broader issues such as the use of publicity firms and social media, and the pursue it. future of the scholarly monograph. On the second day. Ryan met individual- BATTLE OF THE SEXES ly with participants, providing advice on their pre-submitted proposals, and discussing their specific questions and publishing goals.

WORKSHOP WITH NIKO PFUND

On November 16, 2017, Niko Pfund, the president of Oxford University Press USA, travelled to BU to give a presentation entitled "22 Things I Wish I Had Known When I Was 22." Speak-

ing to a large student (and faculty) audience in Kilachand Hall, he reflected on his career in publishing and drew on these reflections to offer advice on fying life. The next morning, Pfund led a seminar for undergraduates where he discussed his personal experience and anticipated the future of the publishing industry. Students came away with an understanding of publishing as an exciting and broad-ranging field that is undergoing major changes that are creating opportunity for those who

SCREENING

Little Miss Sunshine directors Valerie Faris and Jonathan Dayton came to BU on December 7, 2017 to host a screening of their new film, Battle of the Sexes, which dramatizes the eponymous landmark tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs. The film explores the sexual politics surrounding the event and follows both the public and private jour-



neys of the protagonists. Faris and Dayton led a Q&A after the screening, where they described the film as a period piece: "You can step out and watch it as a viewer would have watched it in 1973." In response to audience questions, they discussed their experiences as a husband-wife director team, their relationship to Billie Jean King (a BU Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters recipient in 2008), and their thoughts both on changing film-viewing practices with the decline of cinema attendance, and on their roles as independent film makers in an era of blockbuster films.

ARCHIVES ROUNDTABLE

On February 6, 2018, BUCH hosted "Report from the Archives," a round table discussion of archival work, featuring speakers from The HistoryMakers®, the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center and BU faculty, including Dick Lehr, Professor of Journalism, Walter Fluker, Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership, and Christine D'Auria, PhD student in American and New England Studies. Louis Chude-Sokei, Director of the African American Studies Program, moderated. Developing ideas

from the October 2017 forum, "Recording Lives," panelists highlighted the relationship between technology and archives, and discussed how archival collections serve to prevent marginalized cultures from being erased. During the Q&A that followed, panelists and audience members contemplated the varied purposes of the archive—as a place of law and authority as well as a source of wonderment.

EX LIBRIS SCREENING

On February 7, 2018, renowned documentarian Frederick Wiseman visited BU for a screening of his award-winning 2017 documentary, Ex-Libris, about the New York Public Library system, and how it contributes to the lives of New Yorkers from all backgrounds and walks of life. Through the film's stunning portrait of the social center that the contemporary urban library has become, Wiseman's work provides the human dimension for the ideas and theories of the October 2017 "Recording Lives" forum, showing how libraries and archives function on a daily basis. While Wiseman is notoriously reticent about his filmmaking methods, he provided some jewels of





insight for the students, faculty, and community members in attendance. "When filming, you come across absolutely extraordinary things which you don't invent and you're lucky enough to be present when they occur, and recognize how to use them," he noted, adding that every film is the product of extensive editing and orchestration of materials.

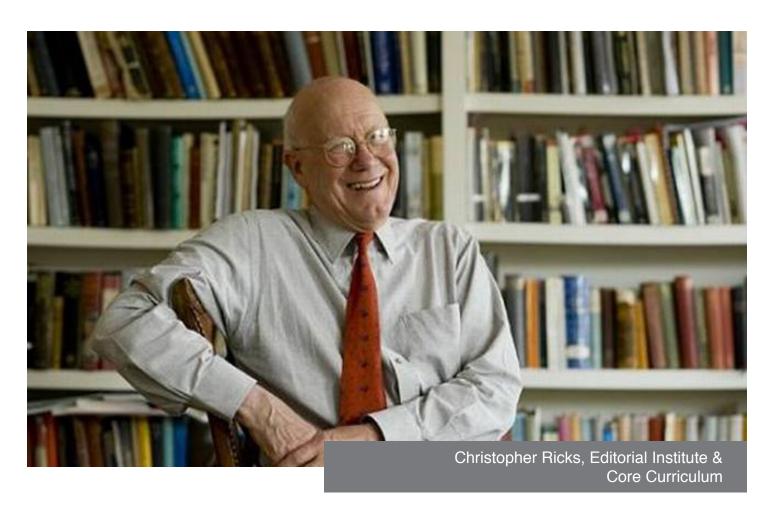
UNDERGRADUATE PUBLISHING INTERNSHIPS WITH OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

This year the Center launched a pilot program of paid publishing internships at Oxford University Press USA's office in New York City. For eight weeks during the summer of 2018, four BU undergraduates from different depart-

ments will work at the OUP offices on Madison Avenue as editorial assistants, helping to prepare manuscripts for production, devising publicity plans, and engaging in the daily tasks of the publishing industry. They will also attend OUP editorial meetings and participate in group activities with OUP interns from other universities. This joint initiative is part of an effort by BUCH to provide hands-on experience in Humanities careers for BU undergraduates, and of OUP New York to expand the pool of editing professionals at the entry level.

STIPEND SUPPORTED SUMMER INTERNSHIPS FOR PHD CANDIDATES

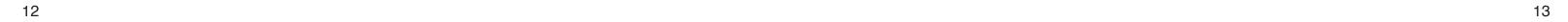
This year, BUCH joined with Daniel Kleinman, Associate Provost for Graduate Affairs, to inaugurate a program of five funded summer internships for PhD candidates in the humanities at BU. These internships are designed to introduce humanities PhD students to career opportunities at institutions beyond academia. Located at leading institutions throughout the Boston area, these internships will demonstrate, both to professionals at these institutions and to the students themselves, what humanities graduate students have to offer, and will also help our students to understand their academic talents and skills in more far-reaching professional terms. During the summer of 2018, five BU humanities PhD students will hold internships at the Boston Athenæum, the Boston Public Library, the Boston Red Sox, the Gardner Museum, and the Mayor's Office.



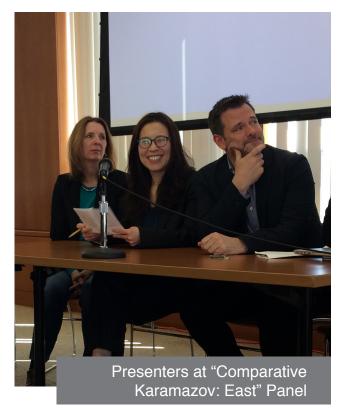
HUMANITEAS: INFORMAL GATHERINGS FOR UNDERGRADUATES

In 2017/18 BUCH also instituted monthly "HumaniTeas." These Friday afternoon undergraduate teas allow students with common interests to meet, and also enable informal encounters between students and distinguished faculty, who share personal stories about finding their ways to careers in the humanities. Our first three Humani-Teas featured Professor Jennifer Knust (Religion, WGS), Professor Christopher Ricks (Core Curriculum, Editorial Institute), and Professor Anna Henchman (English). Professor Knust described her complex relationship to her own religious upbringing and how this was reconciled with her eventual study of Religion as an academic discipline. Professor Ricks spoke about how his

experience in a British boarding school and the formative teachers with contrary perspectives on interpreting literature helped to shape his own approach to scholarship and teaching. Professor Henchman detailed her journey through different occupations, and how she learned to ask on the point of committing to a vocation whether the profession and the people in it were helping her to express her best self. All three professors addressed student questions and concerns, particularly those bearing on post college options for humanities majors. These events will continue in the 2018-2019 school year with faculty guests from different humanities disciplines.







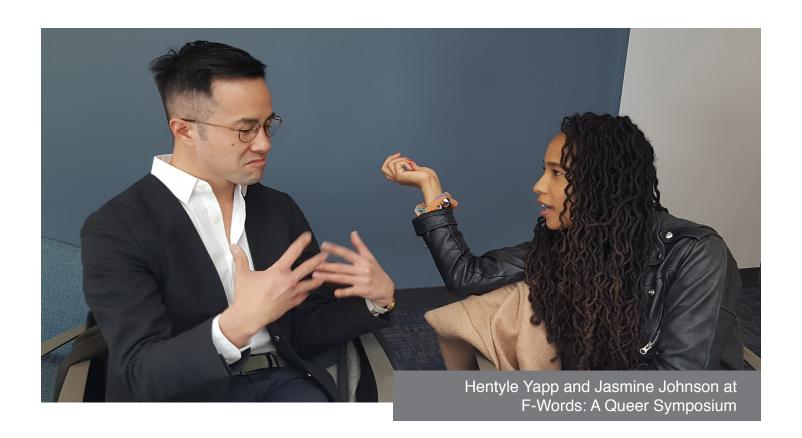
THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV

On April 7, 2018, the Department of World Languages & Literatures presented "Worlds of The Brothers Karamazov," the third in an annual series of one-day departmental symposia on "Big Fat Books." The symposium marked the culmination of student and faculty study of Dostoevsky's final novel, The Brothers Karamazov, both United States to BU for two days of in Professor Yuri Corrigan's spring semester course and in the department was a March 23 public symposium of WLL more generally, where reqular meetings were held throughout of evidence in architectural history, the year to explore the novel's signif- and how narrative methods in the field icance across disciplines and literary compare to those of other fields in the traditions. The keynote speakers for humanities, arts, sciences, and social the event were Robin Feuer Miller (Brandeis University) and Gary Saul Morson (Northwestern University). Their lectures were followed by BU the best ways for architectural historifaculty panels on "Comparative Kara- ans to share their knowledge and ideas mazov: West" and "East," and a stu- with scholars in other disciplines?

dent panel, presenting close readings of the novel.

EVIDENCE + NARRATIVE IN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

This conference, organized by Professor Daniel Abramson of the Department of History of Art & Architecture, brought scholars from Europe and the events. Most prominent among them where participants discussed the use sciences. How do architectural historians draw on evidence for shaping their arguments and stories? And what are



THE PHOTOGRAPHIC BOOK & THEY WERE ALWAYS MARCHING: AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN AND THE CIVIL **RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

In conjunction with the exhibition "Let Us conference opened with papers by three March On: Lee Friedlander and the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom" in the Boston University Art Galleries' Stone Gallery from February 2 to March 25, 2018, the College of Fine Arts organized two interdisciplinary panels to foreground the long-range and immediate historical issues raised by the exhibit. These panel discussions, led by historians, art historians, and contemporary artists, illuminated the complexity of Lee Friedlander's images while detailing the history of the Civil Rights Movement.

YOGIC TRADITIONS AND SACRED **SOUND PRACTICES**

This full-day conference on April 6, 2018, presented by the Center for the Study of Asia and organized by CFA Professor from

the Department of Ethnomusicology and Musicology Professor, Brita Heimarck, combined scholarly presentations, a yoga workshop, and musical performance. The Sanskrit scholars on the historical and literary roots of Indian yogic traditions. Next, scholars of religion and ethnomusicology discussed their philosophically-grounded ethnographic research on contemporary practice in both India and the United States. This was followed by panels exploring diverse kirtan practices in communities across the US and the contemporary experimental music grounded in yogic traditions. In keeping with the conference's ongoing effort to balance practice and scholarship, the afternoon concluded with a Nada Yoga workshop and then a keynote address, "Understanding Indian Sacred Sound Concepts and Liturgical, Musical, or Ritual Practices in the American Context."



THE ROSENBERGS: AN OPERA

April 12-22, 2018 at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre and at Brandeis University. The April 14 performance was followed by a post-show conversation with the directors, writers, and cast. Inspired by the letters of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were executed for espionage in 1953, this award-winning opera dramatized their romantic relationship. The production was the opera's North American debut.

BU FACULTY GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES GROUP/ SEDGWICK MEMORIAL LECTURE

This year's Faculty Gender & Sexuality Studies Group (GenSex) focused on "Intersectional Bodies: Race, Sex, and Gender." Dean Spade delivered the annual Sedgwick Memorial Lecture on March 29, 2018. A professor



of Law at Seattle University, Spade is The Rosenbergs: An Opera ran from a leading scholar of sexuality, transgender studies, and law, as well as an activist. Spade's lecture, "How Social Movements Feel," drew on the sense of political urgency that suffuses Sedgwick's writings, which, as Spade noted. counter conventional demands for academic "objectivity." As one undergraduate attendee remarked, Dean Spade "made the whole process of enacting our ideas about what society could and should be seem more feasible." Other GenSex events included reading groups on Spade's work, a graduate student seminar led by Spade, and a lecture by Megan Goodwin on anti-Klan laws and their impact on the policing of black women.

Daniel Abramson, History of Art & Architecture Evidence and Narrative in Architectural History

Lanfranco Aceti, MET Arts Administration Crossroads (Choreographies)

Lynne Allen, School of Visual Arts & BU Art Galleries Let Us March On

Kimberly Arkin, Anthropology Religious Identities in Modern Mediterranean Societies

William Carroll, English Willing Suspension **Productions**

Louis Chude-Sokei, African **American Studies** Race, Politics, and Social Media: A Symposium in African American Studies

Yuri Corrigan, World Languages & Literatures The Worlds of the Brothers Karamazov

Daniel Dahlstrom, Philosophy Boston Phenomenology Circle (BPC) Symposium

Wiebke Denecke, World Languages & Literatures Seeking a Future for East Asia's Past: Workshops on Sinographic Studies

David Eckel, Religion Institute of Philosophy & Religion: "Philosophy and the Future of Religion"

Brita Heimarck, Musicology/ Ethnomusicology (CFA) Yogic Traditions and Sacred Sound Practices

Patricia Johnson, Classical Studies Graduate Student Conference in Classical Studies

Paul Katsafanas, Philosophy Workshop on Late Modern Philosophy

Jennifer Knust, Religion Faculty Gender and Sexuality Studies Group: Sedgwick Lecture

Pnina Lahav, Law Hannah Arendt: Putative Lives

Robert Murowchick, Archaeology East Asian Archaeology Forum-Public lecture series

Anita Patterson, English Lectures in Criticism

Jennifer Row, Romance

Studies Precarious Critique: Reading Race, Queerness, Disability

Jeffrey Rubin, History Seeing and Not Seeing Seminar

Charles Rzepka, English Boston Area Romanticist Colloquium

Stephen Scully, Classical Studies Boston Area Roman Studies Conference Myth and Religion in the Ancient World

Sunil Sharma, World Languages & Literatures Old Forms for New: Comparative Persianate Aesthetics

James Siemon, English Folger Library, Dues and Travel

Kate Snodgrass, Playwrights' Theatre Boston Theater Marathon XVI Massachusetts Young Playwright's Project "New Noise" Rosenburgs - An Opera

Daniel Star, Philosophy BU Ethics Seminar

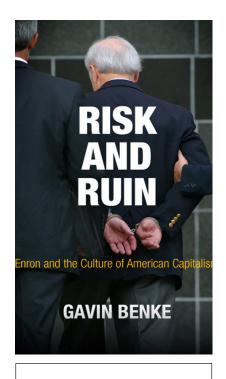
Meg Tyler, CGS Humanities Lecture and Performance Series: Institute for the Study of Irish Culture Poetry Reading Series

Yoon Sun Yang, World Languages & Literatures In Search of New Horizons: One Hundred Years of Modern Korean Literature

Catherine Yeh, World Languages & Literatures Asian Cultural Heritage Chinese Translation Prize Visiting Scholar: Xu Xing

Jeremy Yudkin, Musicology/ Ethnomusicology (CFA) Boston University Center for Beethoven Research Series

Michael Zell & Emine Fetvaci, History of Art & Architecture Boston University Graduate Symposium in the History of Art & Architecture



Arvo Pärt's Resonant Texts

Choral and Organ Music 1956–2015 Andrew Shenton





LIBRARY ACQUISITION AWARDS

Victor Coelho, CFA Musicology Vika Zafrin, Mugar Library Digitizing CFA Programs for OpenBU

William Moore, American and New England Studies Stephanie Wical, Mugar Library ProQuest: American Jewish Newspapers

Alexander Nikolaev, Classical Studies **Steve Smith**, Mugar Library *Kratylos: Annual Review of Indo-European and General Linguistics*

Andrew Robichaud, History Donald Altschiller, Mugar Library AAS Historical Periodicals

Catherine Yeh, World Languages & Literatures Mark Lewis, Geddes Center Chinese Language Films

PUBLICATION PRODUCTION AWARDS

Marié Abe, CFA, Musicology/Ethnomusicology Resonances of Chindon-ya: Sounding Space and Spatiality in Contemporary Japan

Gavin Benke, CAS Writing Program

Enron and the Culture of American Capitalism

Seth Blumenthal, CAS Writing Program

Children of the Silent Majority: Youth Politics and the Rise of the Republican

Party, 1964-1980

Charles Chang, Romance Studies

LEXTALE_CH: A Quick, Character-Based Proficiency Test for Mandarin Chinese

Jodi Cranston, History of Art & Architecture *Green Worlds of Renaissance Venice*

Adela Pineda, Romance Studies *Steinbeck y Mexico*

Ana María Reyes, History of Art & Architecture

Dis-Cursis: Beatriz González and the Critique of Modernization in

1960s Columbia

Adam Seligman, Religion

What Counts as the Same: Memory, Metaphor and Mimesis in Social Life

Andrew Shenton, CFA, Musicology

Arvo Pärt's Resonant Texts: Choral and Organ Music 1956-2015

Nina Silber, History

Fighting the Civil War in New Deal America



JEFFREY HENDERSON SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

Kecia Ali Religion

Japonica Brown-Saracino Sociology

Daniel Dahlstrom Philosophy

Keith Vincent World Languages & Literatures

Jonathan Zatlin History

JUNIOR FACULTY FELLOWS

Marc Gasser-Wingate Philosophy

Saida Grundy Sociology

April Hughes Religion

Andrew Robichaud History

GRADUATE DISSERTATION FELLOWS

Christina An History of Art & Architecture

Maité Cruz Tleugabulova Philosophy

Pardis Dabashi English

Pamela Feo Musicology

HUMANITIES APPROACHES TO THE OPIOID CRISIS OCT 12 - 13, 2018



Nora D. Volkow, M.D., became Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health in May 2003. NIDA supports most of the world's research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction. Dr. Volkow's work has been instrumental in demonstrating that drug addiction is a disease of the human brain. As a research psychiatrist and scientist, Dr. Volkow pioneered the use of brain imaging to investigate the toxic effects and addictive properties of abusable drugs.

Our annual BUCH Fall Forums are designed as "open air markets" in the classical sense, that further the free exchange of ideas among scholars in humanities fields and other professionals and practitioners who rarely come together to discuss social problems and their prospective solutions. Our subject in 2017 was "Libraries and Archives in the Digital Age"; our 2018 forum will treat "Humanities Approaches to the Opioid Crisis," and our topic in 2019 is "Sexual Politics."

By collaborating with colleagues beyond the College of Arts & Sciences at BU (the Boston Public Library and the Boston Athenæum for the Libraries Forum; area schools of public health and medicine, and city, state, and federal government for the Opioids Forum), we seek to initiate local, national, and global conversations with experts at both academic and non-academic institutions.

The goal is to share knowledge and skills in order to address social crises that require us to marshal every analytic and aesthetic concept. We believe that humanities fields can offer language that builds bridges across institutional and disciplinary borders, providing innovative thinking and perspectives that are complementary to non-humanities disciplines, as well as to work in philanthropic, governmental, and commercial arenas.

Addiction is perhaps the most significant, highly public and intractable social problem of the decade, and it has

FEATURED PANELISTS



Sandro Galea, dean of the Boston University School of Public Health, is an emergency physician and epidemiologist. He is the former Chair of Epidemiology at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Prior to his academic career in public health, Dr. Galea practiced emergency medicine in Canada and served in Somalia with Doctors Without Borders.



Elaine Scarry, Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value at Harvard University, is an essayist and literary critic. Her interests include Theory of Representation, the Language of Physical Pain, and Structure of Verbal and Material Making in Art, Science and the Law. She was formerly Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania.

hit especially hard in Massachusetts. The problems associated with it are complex, and while people from many different fields have weighed in, we see a unique role for the humanities to play in addressing these problems.

Historians have written transnational histories of the U.S. drug markets and philosophers have explored the ethical status of addictive states, the moral obligation of societies to those suffering from addiction, and the role that societal structures play in fostering addictive behaviors. But no humanities field has been more directly engaged with the subject of addiction than literary studies. Some of the greatest Anglo-American literature—in memoir, poetic, dramatic, and prose form—is fundamentally concerned with addiction.

The humanities fields offer original insights not only into the more obvious social stigma associated with addiction, but the much harder-to-define subjective experience that has such profound implications for treatment and policy. The forum seeks to more fully integrate work by humanists into the thinking of the medical community and governmental officials who are on the front lines in addressing these problems.



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