



# The Humanities Foundation News



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*Supporting Humanities at Boston University since 1981*

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## New Director, New Administrator, New Office, New Policies

The Humanities Foundation has undergone many exciting changes this academic year. Starting in September 2008, we welcomed Professor James Winn as our incoming Director, with Professor Katherine O'Connor continuing as Co-Director for the 2008-2009 year. As of September 2009, Professor Winn will be the sole director of the Humanities Foundation. Long-time Foundation Administrator Frances Heaton retired over the summer, and Christine Loken-Kim became the new Administrator in October 2008. The Humanities Foundation also moved to a new office suite located in room 107 at 725 Commonwealth Avenue across from the Dean's Office.

To assist Professor Winn in selecting persons and projects for Foundation support, and to set new policies going forward, Dean Sapiro has appointed a new Foundation Executive Committee, whose names are listed below. We are deeply grateful to them for their service.

## Newsletter Spotlight

- New Director, New Administrator, New Office, New Policies
- Letter from the Director
- Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellows 08/09
- 08/09 Junior Fellows
- 08/09 Executive Committee Members

## Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellows 2008/2009



Clockwise from top left: Charles Capper, Sofia Perez, Bruce Schulman, Michael Prince, Shahla Haeri, and Susan L. Mizruchi.

### Projects

Charles Capper — Professor, History

*The Transcendental Moment: Romantic Intellect and America's Democratic Awakening*

Shahla Haeri — Associate Professor, Anthropology

*Women, Religion, and Politics: Crafting Grassroots Democracy in Iran*

Susan L. Mizruchi — Professor, English and American Studies

*Risk and Contemporary American Culture*

Sofia Perez — Associate Professor, Political Science

*Immigration, Welfare States and the Left in Europe*

Michael Prince — Associate Professor, English

*Aesthetics and the Novel in Eighteenth-Century England*

Bruce Schulman — Professor, History

*"Reawakened Nation": The Birth of the Modern United States, 1896-1929*

## Faculty Project Highlights 2008/2009

The Humanities Foundation supported a number of faculty projects over the 2008/2009 academic year. Here are a few of the highlights.

**Art History and The African Studies Center**— the art exhibition, *Exposures: Other Histories in Early Postcards from Africa*. November 21, 2008—January 18, 2009, and the related symposium, *Cosmopolitan Identities and Alternative Histories: Africans in Front and Behind the Camera*, November 22, 2008.



Christraud Geary and Cynthia Becker exhibition curators

**Archaeology Department** — *Context and Human Society*, a week of lectures by Dr. Richard Hodges.

**Women's Studies Program** — lecture series on *Women, Power and Knowledge* including a lecture by Hilary Neroni, on the topic of "The Violent Woman: Femininity, Narrative, and Violence in Contemporary American Cinema."

**BU Center for the Study of Asia** — *Spring Conference April 2—3, 2009*

Presenting the innovative Balinese Shadow Play *Wayang Kali*, featuring Balinese puppeteer I Made Sidia with Balinese and Western Musical Accompaniment



Puppeteer I Made Sidia, Dr. I Made Bandem, and BU Music Professor Brita Heimarck.

**The International Center for East Asian Archaeology & Cultural History** —

*The East Asian Archaeology Forum*, a year long series of lectures including:

"A Yuan Dynasty Tomb at Dong'ercun: Changing Identities in the Chinese Afterlife" by Nancy Shatzman Steinhardt; "Cultural Heritage Management in China: General Trends and a Micro-focus on Luoyang Municipality" by Luca Zan.

**Religion Department** — author Mary Gordon discussing her memoir *Circling My Mother*.

## Humanities Foundation Junior Fellows 2008/2009



From left: Brooke L. Blower, Robert Chodat, Meg Tyler, Irit Kleiman, and Arianne Chernock

### Projects

Brooke L. Blower— Peter T. Paul Assistant Professor, History  
*Becoming Americans in Paris: Transatlantic Politics and Culture between the World Wars*

Arianne Chernock— Assistant Professor, History  
*Champions of the Fair Sex: Men and the Creation of Modern British Feminism*

Robert Chodat— Assistant Professor, English  
*Symbolic Action in a Cognitivist Age*

Irit Kleiman— Assistant Professor, Romance Studies  
*Traitor, Author, Text*

Meg Tyler— Assistant Professor, College of General Studies  
*Broken Sonnets*

## Projects Continued



Lectures in Criticism, April 6th  
lecture by Rey Chow “Making  
Diaspora Visible: The Provocation  
of Asian Cinema.”

**Religion Department** — author  
Mary Gordon discussing her  
memoir *Circling My Mother*.  
**Religion Department** —  
Conference entitled: *What the  
Gods Demand: Blood  
Sacrifice in Mediterranean Antiquity*.  
**Modern Languages and Com-  
parative Literature Department**  
— Bernard Schlink, author of *The  
Reader*, speaking on “The Pres-  
ence and the Past.”

## Junior and Senior Research Fellows 2009/2010

The Humanities Foundation Executive Committee has selected the Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellows and the Junior Fellows for the 2009/2010 academic year.

Congratulations to:

### Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellows

Charles Griswold, Philosophy      Michael Zell, Art History  
Dorothy Kelly, Romance Studies  
Christopher Martin, English  
Nina Silber, History

### Humanities Foundation Junior Fellows

Mark Alonge, Classical Studies      Christopher Lehrich, Religion  
Peter Bokulich, Philosophy      Paolo Scrivano, Art History  
Deborah Burton, Music Theory      Andrew Shenton, Music  
Gina Cogan, Religion      Keith Vincent, MLCL

## Letter From Director James Winn



Dear Friends,

As my first academic year in this position draws to a close, I am filled with gratitude towards many. My thanks to Gina Sapiro for her faith and support, to the hardworking Executive Committee for their high standards and fresh ideas, to Katherine O'Connor for her institutional memory, to Chris Loken-Kim for her passion for detail, to the resident Fellows for their vigorous intellects, and to all our colleagues for their forbearance as we have worked to learn our jobs.

In this transitional year, we have sought to improve our communications with all our constituencies: with chairs and administrators, faculty colleagues, students, alumni, and the wider humanities community. We have learned much from organizing the competitions for junior and senior fellowships, humanities projects, and student awards. Next year, we shall try to put that knowledge to work in order to improve the clarity and efficiency of our programs.

We have also taken an important step in announcing a Foundation theme for the 2009–10 academic year: “Judgments of Value.” Several funded projects will explore that theme as it relates to specific disciplines, periods, and regions, and the Foundation itself will sponsor a reading group and a conference to foster sustained interdisciplinary discussion.

## Humanities Foundation Executive Committee 2008/2009



Clockwise from top left: Alliso Blakely, Fred Kleiner, Bonnie Costello, Abigail Gillman, Patricia Johnson, Dorothy Kelly, Allen Speight, Joshua Rifkin, Frank Korom

Allison Blakely, Professor of History and African American Studies  
Bonnie Costello, Professor of English  
Abigail Gillman, Professor of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature  
Patricia Johnson, Professor of Classics  
Dorothy Kelly, Professor of Romance Studies  
Fred Kleiner, Professor and Chair of Art History  
Frank Korom, Professor and Religion  
Joshua Rifkin, Professor of Music (College of Fine Arts)  
Allen Speight, Professor of Philosophy

**Letter From Director James Winn (Continued)**

The Foundation belongs to the groups it serves, and we earnestly solicit your ideas for future themes, improved programs, and continuous innovation.

Yours faithfully,  
James A. Winn

**Student Awards**

The Humanities Foundation will present Merit Awards to 20 undergraduate students and 13 graduate students at our annual student award ceremony, which takes place on Tuesday May 12, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at the Castle.