

FALL 2011

# Colloquium Series

The Center for Cultural Studies hosts a weekly Wednesday colloquium featuring work by faculty and visitors. The sessions consist of a 30-40 minute presentation followed by discussion. We gather at noon, with presentations beginning at 12:15 PM. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lunches; the Center provides coffee, tea, and cookies.

OCTOBER 5

## JULIANA SCHIESARI

Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature,  
Chair of Comparative Literature, UCD

### Rethinking Humanism: Horses, Honor and Virtue in the Italian Renaissance

Professor Schiesari is working on the relation between humanism and the post-human by rethinking the human and non-human as they are constructed in the Italian Renaissance. Her recent publications include *Beasts and Beauties: Animals, Gender and Domestication in the Italian Renaissance* (Toronto, 2010) and *Polymorphous Domesticities: Pets, Bodies and Desire in Four Modern Writers* (UC, forthcoming).

OCTOBER 12

## REI TERADA

Professor of Comparative Literature, UCI

### Pasolini's Acceptance

Professor Terada considers Pasolini's turn away from Italian politics in his late prose and *Salò*, and the alternative models of working-through and legibility subsequently engendered in the "absence" of hope for renewal. Professor Terada's books include *Feeling in Theory: Emotion after the "Death of the Subject"* (Harvard, 2001) and *Looking Away: Phenomenality and Dissatisfaction* (Harvard, 2009).

\*co-sponsored by the Affect Working Group

OCTOBER 19

## EUGENE SWITKES

Professor of Chemistry and Psychobiology, UCSC  
Affiliate Professor of Vision Sciences and Optometry, UCB

### Studies of Visual Perception: A Window into Brain and Behavior

Scientists and humanists have found common interests in understanding correlations between neural events and complex human behavior. Over the past thirty years we have studied how aspects of human visual perception arise from neural processes that occur in

the anatomical substrates of human vision. Professor Switkes discusses how understanding the brain's recoding of spatial and chromatic information sheds light on the neural basis of visual behavioral phenomena.

OCTOBER 26

## GILDAS HAMEL

S.O.E. Lecturer in History, UCSC

### Monotheism and Empire II

Professor Hamel is working on a history of religious representations in Hellenistic and Roman Palestine and the notion of monotheism. He examines recent histories of monolatry and monotheism and accounts of religious mediations, asking whether monotheism is to be explained as a response to the Babylonian and Persian empires or as an episode of cultural borrowing and translation of religious stories and practices.

NOVEMBER 2

## STEVEN MCKAY

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology,  
Director, Center for Labor Studies, UCSC

### Masculinities Afloat: The Fragile Gender Projects of Filipino Migrant Sailors

Professor McKay examines the performance of masculinities among a group of men often considered exemplars of masculinity: merchant sailors. The talk explores their gender projects across liminal space (ocean-going ships) and in productive and reproductive spheres. Professor McKay is co-editor of the forthcoming *New Routes for Diaspora Studies* (Indiana) and working on *Born to Sail? Racial Formation, Masculinity and the Making of Filipino Seafarers*.

NOVEMBER 9

## CARY HOWIE

Associate Professor of Romance Studies,  
Cornell University

### On Transfiguration

Professor Howie thinks about how contemporary American poets reimagine early Christianity, using transfiguration to talk about the



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persistence in transformation of figures, and how poetic and theological concerns speak to gender and sexuality. His books include *Claustrophilia: The Erotics of Enclosure in Medieval Literature* (Palgrave, 2007) and the co-authored *Sanctity and Pornography in Medieval Culture: On the Verge* (Manchester, 2010).

NOVEMBER 16

## DEANNA SHEMEK

Professor of Literature, UCSC

### Digital Princess: Toward an Open-Access Online Archive of Renaissance Correspondence

Professor Shemek studies intersections of elite and popular culture in early modern Italy, especially among women. Her current research focuses on early modern letter writing. She is completing an edition of Isabella d'Este's letters and a book on the broader significance of early modern women's letters. The talk addresses plans to digitize the manuscript sources for her edition and visualize the social network of a Renaissance princess.

NOVEMBER 30

## HERMAN GRAY

Professor of Sociology, UCSC

### At the Limit of Representation: Neoliberalism, Media and African American Visibility

With African Americans as the primary example, Professor Gray probes the social, intellectual, and political investment in the cultural politics of recognition and visibility in the context of neoliberalism, suggesting that with neoliberalism we have reached the limit of such investments. Looking beyond this investment in representation, recognition and visibility, he examines what other critical modes and sites of cultural analysis and politics are possible.

All Colloquia are  
in Humanities 210.

ALL CCS EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Staff assistance is provided by the Institute for Humanities Research.

The Affect Working Group presents:

## Affect Across the Disciplines: A Faculty-Graduate Workshop

Monday, October 24 / 3:30-5PM / College 8 Red Room

### PANELISTS:

#### Vilashini Cooppan

Associate Professor, Literature, UCSC

#### Affective History & Literary Studies

Professor Cooppan's recent work includes an article in *Trauma and Memory in South African Writing* (Rodopi, 2011), and a book project on affect, historical violence and world literature.

#### Sharon Daniel

Professor, Film & Digital Media and DANM, UCSC

#### Affect in/through New Media Documentary

Professor Daniel's essays have been published in books and professional journals, including *Database Aesthetics*, the *Saraí Reader* and *Leonardo*.

#### Danilyn Rutherford

Professor and Chair, Anthropology, UCSC

#### Affect, Ethics, & the Empirical in Anthropology

Professor Rutherford is the author of *Raiding the Land of the Foreigners: The Limits of the Nation on an Indonesian Frontier* (Princeton, 2002) and the forthcoming *Laughing at Leviathan: Sovereignty and Audience in West Papua* (Chicago, 2012).

#### Noah Wardrip-Fruin

Associate Professor, Computer Science, UCSC

#### Affective Computational Media

Professor Wardrip-Fruin has authored or co-edited books on games and digital media, including *The New Media Reader* (MIT, 2003) and *Expressive Processing: Digital Fictions, Computer Games, and Software Studies* (MIT, 2009).

### MODERATOR:

#### Kimberly Lau

Professor, Literature and American Studies, UCSC

Professor Lau is the author of *Body Language: Sisters in Shape, Black Women's Fitness, and Feminist Identity Politics* (Temple, 2011).

Contact: Deborah Gould, [dbgould@ucsc.edu](mailto:dbgould@ucsc.edu).

Co-sponsored by the Center for Cultural Studies.

The History of Consciousness Department presents:

## Steven Miller

English, SUNY Buffalo

### LECTURE

#### Violence Against the Nonliving: the Death Drive & Destruction in Contemporary Philosophy

Monday, October 24 / 4PM / Humanities I, 210

Professor Miller is a faculty mentor for the Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture and for *Umbr(a)*. His work in progress is *War After Death: Hyperbolic Thinking in Contemporary Philosophy and Psychoanalysis*.

Contact: Michael Holohan, [mholohan@ucsc.edu](mailto:mholohan@ucsc.edu).

Co-sponsored by the Center for Cultural Studies.

The Visual and Media Cultures Colloquia present

## Caren Kaplan

Professor, American Studies, UCD  
Affiliated Faculty in Film Studies, Cultural Studies,  
and Science & Technology Studies

### SEMINAR

#### The Visual Culture of Stealth: Interpretation & Deception in Militarized Aeromobility

Monday, November 14 / 7-9PM / Communications 139

Professor Kaplan authored *Questions of Travel: Postmodern Discourses of Displacement* (Duke, 1996) and co-authored and co-edited *Introduction to Women's Studies: Gender in a Transnational World* (McGraw-Hill, 2001/2005); *Between Woman and Nation: Transnational Feminisms and the State* (Duke, 1999); *Scattered Hegemonies: Postmodernity and Transnational Feminist Practices* (Minnesota, 1994); and two digital multi-media scholarly works, *Dead Reckoning* and *Precision Targets*.

Contact [visualmedia@ucsc.edu](mailto:visualmedia@ucsc.edu) for more information and to receive readings.

Co-sponsored by the History of Art and Visual Culture, Film & Digital Media, and the Arts Division.

# Of Interest

The Literature Department and LTMO 145B present:

## Mars A Film Series

All screenings are on Tuesdays at 6PM  
in Earth and Marine Sciences B214.

- Sept. 27 **The Man Who Fell to Earth**  
Oct. 4 **Red Planet Mars**  
Oct. 11 **Robinson Crusoe on Mars**  
Oct. 18 **Aelita**  
Oct. 25 **Rocketship X-M**  
Nov. 1 **Total Recall**  
Nov. 8 **Red Planet**  
Nov. 15 **Mission to Mars**  
Nov. 29 **Ghosts of Mars**

Contact:

Erik Bachman, [ebachman@slugmail.ucsc.edu](mailto:ebachman@slugmail.ucsc.edu)

Creative Writing and Literature present:

## The Living Writers Reading Series

Thursdays / 6-7:45PM / Humanities Lecture Hall

- Sept. 29 **Jaimy Gordon**  
Oct. 6 **Nina Revoyr**  
Oct. 13 **Martha Mendoza**  
Oct. 27 **Peter Orner**  
Nov. 3 **Maggie Nelson &  
Cecil Giscombe**  
Nov. 10 **Susie Bright**  
Nov. 17 **David Vann**  
Dec. 1 **Student Reading**

Contact: Micah Perks, [mepers@ucsc.edu](mailto:mepers@ucsc.edu),  
or visit <http://creativewriting.ucsc.edu>.

Co-sponsored by the Porter Hitchcock Poetry Fund and the Siegfried B. and Elisabeth Mignon Puknat Fund.

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### DIRECTOR'S FALL OFFICE HOURS

Wednesdays 1:45-3:30pm

### 2011-2012 ADVISORY BOARD

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