Center for Cultural Analysis
2014 Annual Report

Henry Turner (Acting Director, 2013-14)
Curtis Dunn (Chief Administrator)
Christine Whalen (Administrative Assistant)

Founded in 1986, the Center for Cultural Analysis is the preeminent center for advanced research in the Humanities and Social Sciences in the Rutgers University system and is one of only two centers at Rutgers to be a member of the Consortium for Humanities Centers and Institutes, the international body for institutions dedicated to advanced interdisciplinary research in the Humanities. It has a decades-long tradition of enhancing and extending the reputation of the University through the innovative interdisciplinary work it fosters. We advertise globally and receive hundreds of applications for fellowships each year.

The primary aim of the CCA is to produce original research and to disseminate interdisciplinary scholarship throughout the university and into the academy at large. Through collaboration with peer centers at Stanford, Cornell, Duke, and other universities, the CCA also communicates to the public the importance of interdisciplinary scholarship to the advancement of knowledge and understanding of the Humanities.

This year the CCA co-sponsored 36 public events involving more than 30 Rutgers faculty from more than 25 different Rutgers departments, programs, and schools, including the RU Libraries, the History Dept. at Rutgers-Newark, the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, and RWJMS, plus 4 postdocs, 3 visiting scholars, and 20 current and former RU graduate students. The CCA brought more than 50 distinguished speakers to Rutgers from across the Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences: Art

The Big Move

After more than 25 years at 8 Bishop Place, in Summer 2013 we were moved to new temporary space at the 640 Bartholomew Modular Building on the Busch campus. The first half of our year was spent moving into and organizing this new space, where we were able to put our strong administrative skills to good use - coordinating technology, building maintenance, and a security overhaul for ourselves and all of the other departments with whom we share the building (a major undertaking).

So, please note our new, but temporary, address. We look forward to seeing everyone at the new offices!

Center for Cultural Analysis
640 Bartholomew Road Modular Building
Rutgers University - Busch Campus
Piscataway NJ 08854

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Histor y, Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Computer Science, Digital Humanities, East Asian Languages, English, Environmental Science, French, Genetics, Geography, the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, History, Landscape Architecture, Medicine, Philosophy, Photography, Political Science, Psychology, Sculpture, Sociology, South Asian Languages and Literatures, Urban Planning, and the US Forest Service.

Faculty, postdoctoral scholars, and graduate students affiliated with CCA programs have published over 275 books, articles, and essays resulting specifically from their work at the Center (through 2009—we’re still counting!).

Over 1,100 faculty, graduate students, regional scholars, and CCA alumni are actively subscribed to CCA e-mailing lists, receiving publicity about events and programs several times a week.

Every year the CCA facilitates graduate training and supports undergraduate instruction. Postdoctoral scholars offer undergraduate courses through their host departments that are tied to the theme of the seminar. Working Groups also sponsor interdisciplinary courses, sometimes across schools.

As the principal interdisciplinary center associated with the most distinguished departments at SAS, the CCA allows Rutgers to recruit and retain dynamic faculty eager to develop its programs. Over the past decade, the CCA has become one of the main spaces for the development of faculty initiatives.

The CCA pursues its primary research mission in three ways:

1) through its own immediate programming; the annual seminar and associated events;

2) as an administrative center that coordinates the programming of affiliated groups that are housed within the CCA;

3) teaching by CCA postdoctoral scholars and faculty fellows, who offer advanced undergraduate courses in the SAS curriculum that are supported by the CCA budget.

Director's Notes

Welcome to the Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University's hub for interdisciplinary research in the humanities and beyond. Each year we run a biweekly seminar that draws faculty, advanced graduate students, post-doctoral researchers and various affiliated scholars into a sustained conversation on a topic of importance. In 2014-15 our seminar topic will be “Totality.” Disciplines across the humanities and social sciences are experiencing a turn towards paradigms of the whole. Those paradigms—globe, world, planet, empire, system, and network, to name a few—ask us to imagine totality rather than particularity, whole instead of part. Within different fields, this development goes by many names, takes various forms, and has emerged at uneven rates. But it is everywhere freighted with ethical and political urgency. This seminar aims to historicize that urgency as well as the key terms with which it has been articulated. We will consider why this kind of thinking and imagining seems so important today. The interdisciplinary format of the seminar will allow us to explore how and why frameworks for totality have emerged in disparate fields, and how that emergence has followed separate as well as overlapping paths. We will be interested to explore the prehistory for the terms we have—as well as new paradigms that may just now be emerging. Paradigms of totality are being used to organize knowledge, calibrate social relations, imagine communities, and calculate geographies. We seek to bring together a broad spectrum of scientists, humanists, and social scientists who are using, inventing, and thinking about these and other models of the whole. Our planned guests include: Bruce Robbins (English, Columbia), John Short (History, Georgia), Feryal Ozel (Astronomy and Physics, Arizona), Bonnie Honig (Political Science, Brown), Priya Joshi (English, Temple), Claudio Lomnitz (Anthropology, Columbia), Mary Dudziak (Law, Emory), and Paul Saint-Amour (English, Penn). The CCA also sponsors a number of interdisciplinary working groups that bring faculty and students into dialogue. The Developing Room studies the history, theory, and practice of photography. The Medical Humanities group works on the relationship between various humanistic disciplines and medical practice and research. If you are a faculty member or graduate student with an idea for a new, interdisciplinary working group, please contact us to discuss how we might convene it.

Similarly, the CCA houses several Affiliated Groups with an interdisciplinary mission: the Program for Early Modern Studies, the Modernism and Globalization Seminar Series, the Americanist Seminar, and the Digital Humanities Initiative. Working Groups and Affiliated Groups welcome new members; please check with the working group coordinator for policies and schedules.

Welcome to our 2014-15 Fellows!

Faculty Fellows

Mukti Mangharam (English)
Carter Matthes (English)
Genese Marie Sokidoff (Sociology and Anthropology, Rutgers Newark)
Judith Surkis (History)
Nükhet Varlik (History, Rutgers Newark)

Graduate Fellows

Mark Bray (History)
F. Dilara Demir (Sociology)
Noah Eber-Schmidt (Political Science)
Matthew John Phillips (English)
Anel Velázquez (Women’s and Gender Studies)
Mimi Winick (English)

Post-Doctoral Fellows

Matthew H. Baxter (Political Science, UC Berkeley)
Andrew Moisey (Film and Media, UC Berkeley)
I. ANNUAL SEMINAR

In 2013-14, the CCA’s annual research seminar drew faculty postdoctoral scholars, graduate fellows, and eminent visitors into a sustained, year-long conversation on the topic of “Objects and Environments.” The seminar addressed overlapping developments in the humanities and social sciences: a renewed attention to the world of objects, on the one hand, and a rethinking of the concept of environment, on the other. Speculative realism, actor-network theory, and object-oriented-ontology all proceed from non-dualist premises in seeking to call attention to the world of things in which we live. This theoretical turn has been intensively by new findings in cognitive science, which describe knowing as an activity lodged both inside and outside the body. New thinking about environments likewise tries to understand the complex relationship between humans and their surroundings.

Contemporary eco-criticism reminds us that humans are themselves a part of the environments they study, as captured by the concept of “political ecology” in social science; students of climate change and climate catastrophe have increasingly sought to model human agency within environments that are by definition more than human. The seminar explored the political and philosophical reasons for embracing an organism-environment model of cognition rather than one that distinguishes the knower from the known, as well as the challenges presented by this new work for new thinking about environments alike tries to understand the complex relationship between humans and their surroundings.

Faculty Fellows (6): David Hughes (Anthropology), Margaret Ronda (English), Laura Weigert (Art History), Colin Jager (English), Jorge Marcone (Comp Lit), Henry Turner (English)

Postdoctoral Fellows (4): Darryl Wilkinson (Anthropology and Archaeology), Anita Bakshi (Architecture and Urban Planning), Rachel Feder (English), Daniel Clinton (English)

Graduate Fellows (6): John Miller (English), Max Hankel (Women’s and Gender Studies), Miriam Tola (Women’s and Gender Studies), Sean Tanner (Geography), Eric Sarmiento (English)

Affiliated Scholars (1): Jennifer French (Spanish and Gender Studies), Sean Tanner (Geography), Eric Sarmiento (Geography and Urban Planning), Rachel Feder (Politics, Philosophy, University of Illinois), and Sarah Whatmore (Geography, Oxford University).

Invited Guests (9): Jonathan Skinner (English, Warwick), Lawrence Shapiro (Philosophy, U Wisconsin-Madison), Rob Nixon (English, UW-Madison), John McNeill (History, Georgetown), Mark Rowlands (Philosophy, University of Miami), Ian Bogost (Computer Science and Media Studies, Georgia Tech), Galen Strawson (Philosophy, U-Texas, Austin), Melissa Ortle (Political Science, U of Illinois), and Sarah Whatmore (Geography, Oxford University).

II. PUBLIC EVENTS

In 2013-14, the CCA also sponsored or co-sponsored 36 public events: conferences, talks, readings, and exhibitions at Rutgers.

S. Shankar (English and former Director of the Center for South Asian Studies, the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa). Co-sponsored with Anjali Nerlekar (Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures) in conjunction with the South Asia Studies Program.

Vinay Dhawadker (Languages and Cultures of Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison). Co-sponsored with Anjali Nerlekar (Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures) in conjunction with the South Asia Studies Program.

A public lecture by Elly Truitt (Medieval History, Bryn Mawr College) on “The Quick and the Dead: Corpses, Memorial Statues, and Automata,” co-sponsored with the Program in Medieval Studies.

“Urban Natures”

The basic distinction between Nature and Culture has long been central to modernist thought, and yet this one fundamental divide is now subject to a sustained and growing critique across the humanities and social sciences. Traditionally, the cultural side of this divide has been iconically represented through the image of the city; the place that more than any other seems the most culturally shaped and where Nature - if it is to be found at all - is no more than a residual or marginal presence. Yet it seems the idea of the city as the epitome of the cultural is harder and harder to sustain in the light of such critiques. The aim of this conference is to explore environmental change, human agency, and the affective moods that attend them. So far, climate scientists, social scientists, and humanists have largely viewed the weather as contingent and beyond their respective disciplinary boundaries. This conference hopes to begin the process of a truly interdisciplinary dialogue.

Participants: Tony Broccoli (Environmental Sciences, Rutgers University), Karen Thewber (Comp. Literature and East Asian Languages, Harvard University), Anahid Nersessian (English, Columbia University), Ben Orlove (Earth Institute, Columbia University)

“After 400 PPM: Science, Politics, and Social Natures in the Anthropocene: A Workshop for Junior Scholars”

A graduate-student and faculty conference co-organized by two CCA seminar Graduate Fellows, Sean Tanner and Eric Sarmiento, and featuring a keynote talk by Sarah Whatmore (Geography, Oxford), who later visited the CCA seminar for a special session.

“Symposium on Experiment”

The Rutgers Symposium on Experiment convened to interrogate the concept and category of “experiment” in relation to methodological innovations, formal deviations, and questions of style and history. By asking what it means to label a work of art “experimental,” speakers and participants will uncover and revisit an under-theorized site of evaluation, debate, and surveillance.

Participants: Rachel Feder (Mellon Postdoc, Rutgers University), Anahid Nersessian (English, Columbia University), Susan Sontag (Art History, Rutgers University), Rebecca Ariel Porte (University of Michigan), and Stephen Burt (English, Harvard University), Charles Bernstein (English, University of Pennsylvania)
A public talk by Rob Nixon (UM-Madison) on “This Brief Multitude: The Anthropocene in a Time of Inequality.”

A series of monthly art exhibitions and installations organized around the theme of “Objects and Environments.” Featured artists were Kathryn Rizzitello (NJ), Nicole Colella (NJ), Megan Bigelow (NYC), and Dana Alter (MFA at Mason Gross, co-sponsored by Danielle Neumaier and Stephen Westfall at the Mason Gross School of the Arts). The art was exhibited at the CCA space on the Busch campus.

This Brief Multitude: The Anthropocene in a Time of Inequality

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 - 4:30pm

Presented with the kind support of http://cca.rutgers.edu.

The CCA will curate a series of monthly exhibitions featuring artists who are using, inventing, and thinking about models of totality and the whole. A featured artist will be selected for September, October, and November 2014 and February, March, and April 2015. Application forms should include a curatorial statement, and a description of your project not to exceed 500 words, and a budget of anticipated reimbursable costs.

For information, contact Curtis Dunn: 848-932-7750, curtis.dunn@rutgers.edu

Public Art at the CCA

The Center for Cultural Analysis seeks proposals from artists for exhibitions or installations that address our 2014-15 annual theme of “Totality.” The problem of the relationship between totality and particularity, whole and part, is as old as the history of philosophy. Today, new paradigms for thinking about totalities are emerging in many different fields, from physics, computer science and ecology, to sociology, geography, and political theory, to philosophy, literature, and art.

We seek works that address any aspect of the problem of totality — whether from a formal, structural, political, or conceptual standpoint. What defines a “whole” and what defines a “part”? How does the whole that the part forms differ from the whole from which the part has been taken? What are the ethical implications of thinking about totalities rather than particularities? In a network of difference necessary to the notion of a totality or a whole, or could totalities be plural or dialectical? What is the value of arts such as complexity, system, and network to thinking about totality?

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III. WORKING GROUPS

The CCA sponsors interdisciplinary Working Groups open to faculty and graduate students from all three Rutgers campuses. These groups meet regularly over a number of years to explore emerging areas of inquiry; over time, they often scale up to become the main research seminar, and they generate programming of their own for the campus community. Working Groups are “start-ups” for research in leading areas. They are inexpensive to run but huge significant in their impact on advanced research in the humanities and social sciences, in particular; in their open, experimental structure they foster many unexpected collaborations among faculty members from all parts of the university.

Our current primary Working Group is the Medical Humanities Working Group at CCA and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Susan Sideraskas (Art History), Ann Jurecic (English), and Gloria Bachmann (RWJMS) have created an open forum and space for faculty and students to discuss and learn about the medical humanities. They have held a number of events this year, including a poetry reading and public forum on ecopoetics with Jonathan Skinner (English, Warwick) and a lecture by Rob Nixon (English, Warwick) on “This Brief Multitude: The Anthropocene in a Time of Inequality.”

During the 2013-14, the group concentrated on how it envisions the emerging field of “medical humanities” taking shape at Rutgers and began building the fundamentals of a program. Professors Bachman and Sideraskas submitted a proposal for an elective course for medical students to the curriculum committee at the medical school, approved after very engaged and lively discussion and widespread faculty interest at the Medical School. A pilot version of the course, “The Visual and Narrative Culture of Medicine,” will be taught by Dr. Bachman, Professor Sideraskas, and Professor Ann Jurecic in Fall 2014, with the additional participation of Professor Kate Ellis and Robert Light, M.D., the director of the “Patient-Centered Medicine” curriculum at the medical school. A sub-committee consisting of Linda Brzustowicz, M.D., Ph.D., and Chair of Genetics, Gloria Bachman, Ann Jurecic, Professor Ann Coiro and Professor Sideraskas have drafted a proposal for an interdisciplinary, cross-school program, submitted as part of the new strategic plan proposed by President Barchi.

In association with the New Brunswick Honors Program and the College Avenue Campus Dean, the Medical Humanities Working Group and the CCA co-sponsored a public talk by Dr. Bruce Fisher (RWJMS) on “Tuberculosis in History and the Arts,” in recognition of World Tuberculosis Day. The event was widely attended by students and faculty from RWJMS, SAS, and Rutgers-Newark.

The group co-sponsored a public talk by Monique H. Green (History, Arizona State University) on “Leaving from the Middle: Using the Medieval Scourges of Leprosy and Plague to Frame a Deep Global History of Health,” with GAA, the Department of History, Rutgers-Newark, the Program in Medieval Studies, and the Center for Cultural Analysis (November 21, 2013).

We also co-sponsored a variety of lectures and symposia this year (see PEMIS, below). We anticipate continuing informal meetings at CCA, and pursuing more concentrated discussions on a future curriculum. We would like to develop an interdisciplinary introductory course; an M.A. and a certificate program.

The Literature and Philosophy Working Group began mid-year and will continue in 2014-15. Co-organized by Elizabeth Camp (Philosophy) and Nick Gaskill (English), the group has submitted a proposal for the Rutgers Strategic Plan. It sponsored:

A public symposium on “Lyric: Or, the Constitution and Dissolution of the Self” (April 22, 2014), featuring John Gibson (Philosophy, University of Louisville) and Michael C. Clune (English, Case Western Reserve University).

The Developing Room, a working group on photography and the image coordinated by Andres Zervigon (Art History) was on hiatus during 2013-14 because of faculty leave patterns but has been refunded for 2014-15 with a full program of events.

IV. AFFILIATED GROUPS

The CCA acts as the administrative home for several groups on campus devoted to interdisciplinary research. These groups bring their own funding, which is managed by the CCA. The CCA provides space, staff support, event support, technology support, and publicity for all of these programs.

The Americanist Seminar is convened by Meredith McGill to foster interdisciplinary work in American Studies. In 2013-14, the seminar hosted three visiting scholars:


Anne-Lise Francois (UC Berkeley), a leading figure in ecocriticism and transatlantic romanticism (March 27, 2014)

Dana Luciano (Georgetown), an important scholar of LGBT studies and the new materialism (May 1, 2014)

The Americanist Seminar also tried out a new format, an “article workshop” in which dissertation students circulated work-in-progress to Rutgers faculty, students, and a local expert in the field. These seminars are intended to help reach Ph.D. students place work drawn from their dissertations in leading journals.

Brian Becker got valuable feedback on his article on race and radio from Edward Miller (CUNY) (Oct. 30, 2013)

William Ryan got the benefit of Cristobal Silva’s (Colombia) comments on his article on radical Protestantism and empiricism in Hans Sloane’s narratives of disease (April 2, 2014).

The highlight of the year was an interdisciplinary half-day colloquium on William James’s Principles of Psychology (February 28, 2014), which drew local faculty from History, English, and Applied Psychology into dialogue with a number of visiting scholars, and with a packed audience of students and faculty from Rutgers, Princeton, Yale, and CUNY. Featured speakers included Nicholas Gaskill (Rutgers), Jim Livingston (History, Rutgers), Lindsay Reckson (UT-Austin), Joan Richardson (CUNY), and Louis Sass (Psychology, Rutgers).
Faculty in the seminar spent a good deal of time in the late spring planning next fall’s interdisciplinary “Nineteenth-Century Workshop,” which will bring historians, literary scholars, and historians of science to Rutgers in early October 2014 to discuss “Circulation” in nineteenth-century culture.

The Program in Early Modern Studies (PEMS) is an interdisciplinary research program housed at the Center for Cultural Analysis at Rutgers and directed by Henry Turner. It studies the chronological period ranging from approximately the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries inclusively, across the humanities and social sciences. At Rutgers, Early Modern Studies is an active, vibrant field of research and teaching in which the university can claim genuine distinction, based upon the national and international reputations of individual faculty members in numerous departments. Approximately fifty Rutgers faculty and graduate students are currently on the email contact list. The purpose of the PEMS is to provide a forum for Rutgers faculty, graduate students, and visitors to exchange work-in-progress, to explore intensively emerging problems and arguments, and to test new methods of research.

In 2013-14 the PEMS initiated and sponsored in a number of public events:

A one-day conference on “The Healing Arts across the Mediterranean: Communities, Knowledge, and Practices” (March 28, 2014), co-sponsored with the Program in Medieval Studies, SAS, the Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, the Department of History at Rutgers-Newark, and the Medical Humanities Working Group at CCA and RWJMS.

Participants: Monica Green (Arizona State University), Glen Cooper (Brigham Young University), Nahyan Fancy (De Pauw University), Tuna Artun (Rutgers-New Brunswick), Jennifer Edwards (Manhattan College), Leah DeVun (Rutgers University), Ozgen Felek (Middle East & Middle East American Center, The Graduate Center, CUNY), Valentina Pugliso (University of Cambridge), Nühet Varlik (Rutgers-Newark), Yaron Ayalon (Bail State University).

The conference included an exhibition of rare books at Rutgers University Libraries, organized by Erika Gorder (RU Libraries).

A symposium on “Digital Humanities / Early Modern Texts,” co-sponsored with the Rutgers Digital Humanities Initiative and the Book History and Media Studies Group at Rutgers. The symposium featured Daniel Shore (English, Georgetown), Scott Trudell (English, University Maryland, College Park), Elliott Visconi (English and Chief Academic Digital Officer, University of Notre Dame), November 8, 2013.

A day-long seminar on “Reading Machiavelli in England and France,” featuring pre-circulated work by András Kisér (English, City College, CUNY) and Jeff Rufo (English, CCA, Affiliated Scholar). The seminar was part of the PEMS’s annual theme: “Comparative Early Modern Studies: The View from France.”

The peak of this annual theme was our Visiting Scholar (March 31 – April 4, 2014), a new format for the PEMS piloted this year at CCA. This involved a week’s visit from a younger established scholar currently doing work at the leading edge of the field. The year’s inaugural visitor was Professor Katherine Ibbett (French, University College, London). Professor Ibbett spent a week in residence at Rutgers, attending seminars, holding office hours, and meeting faculty and graduate students over meals. She conducted a three-hour seminar on “Theatricality, Politics, and Affect in 17th Century France” (which focused on Racine and Benjamin’s evocative comments about a French “trauerspiel”), which drew undergraduates and graduate students from both English and French. She gave a public talk taken from her book-in-progress, entitled “Compassion’s Edge: Fellow Feeling and its Limits in Early Modern France.”

The Modernism & Globalization Seminar Series is convened by Rebecca Walkowitz and at the CCA. The five events from 2013-2014 brought together faculty, graduate students, and visitors from several Rutgers departments, including English, AMESAL, Comparative Literature, History, and Women’s and Gender Studies. The NYNJ Modernism Seminar, a collaboration between the MGSS at Rutgers and English/Comparative Literature at Columbia, recently completed its third year.

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A full-day visit by Jed Esty and Eric Hayot involved well-attended sessions of faculty and graduate students from Rutgers, Princeton, Columbia, Draw, and CUNY (about 40 people at Esty’s; about 30 at Hayot’s), followed by informal sessions for graduate students and postdocs (only). The seminars involve the precirculation and discussion of work in progress. At the subsequent sessions for students, visitors continued the conversation in a more informal atmosphere and also talked with students about professional issues affecting their fields. The twentieth-century studies events, a lunchtime roundtable and afternoon symposium, were extraordinarily lively and well attended (about 60 people at the lunchtime event; about 80 at the symposium). The visits by Ben Glaser and Vinay Dharwadker were cosponsored events. We were very glad to be able to collaborate with other units on campus whose programming overlaps with the MGSS mission.

Meeting of the NYNJ Modernism Seminar, Jed Esty (English, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2014)

“Teaching Twentieth-Century Studies” and “Twentieth-Century Studies, Past and Future,” featuring talks by 10 graduates of the Rutgers English PhD program (Spring 2014)

Translation events featuring Vinay Dharwadker (South Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin). Co-sponsored with AMESAL (Spring 2014)

Poetry and Poetics event with Ben Glaser (English, Yale), Co-sponsored with Poetry and Poetics and Modernism Groups (Spring 2014)

Finally, we co-sponsored a number of events, using our funding to leverage cognate projects and to put the DH Initiative on the map locally. Chief among these was the hugely successful Feminist Digital Pedagogies event run by the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies; our funding made it possible to live-stream this event. We also co-sponsored lectures with PEMS and the Book history group, and with the School of Communication and Information, which brought a speaker from Pratt to lecture on the Linked Jazz project: http://linkedjazz.org.
V. STRATEGIC PLANNING

In keeping with the CCA mission, our broadest goal is to identify and expand into new areas of interdisciplinary research and to establish new patterns of collaboration with other departments and other centers and institutes across schools at Rutgers. We are pursuing these goals in four primary ways:

1. We will continue to develop our annual research seminar, which crystallizes an emerging problem of central interdisciplinary interest and brings leading scholars (nationally and internationally) to Rutgers to develop research on a major inquiry of common concern. Next year’s seminar is on the theme of “Totality” (imagining, representing, and analyzing problems of the “whole” from art to social sciences, to natural science, including the novel, the poem, the idea of the “social” and the “global,” astronomical bodies, biological entities, energy structures in physics). Subsequent seminars will be on “Archipelagic Cultures” (geo-political and territorial structures in a global world and the unique cultures they produce) (2015-16) and on “Art and Aesthetics” (2016-17).

2. We will continue to incubate our Working Groups. In 2013-14 and 2015-16 we will have five active Working Groups: Medical Humanities, The Developing Room, Philosophy and Literature, Secularism, and Mimicry and Mimesis.

3. We will continue to administer and coordinate our Affiliated Groups, adding new groups as they are created and where appropriate.

4. The CCA co-sponsored four separate projects to the University’s new Strategic Plan. Each project was co-sponsored by at least one other academic unit and will be administered and convened at the CCA. Each project is intended as a three-year incubational venture that will culminate in a significant new program or ongoing research partnership across academic units. We view each of these projects as being fundamental to fulfilling and expanding the primary mission of the CCA: interdisciplinary research, especially across the Humanities, the Social Sciences, and the Natural Sciences; collaboration and research across schools at Rutgers; and public outreach and communication about the importance of scholarly research in the Humanities and Sciences at a public university.

Environmental Humanities at Rutgers: the CCA plays the leading role as the primary institutional sponsor of this collaborative project, which will be undertaken in collaboration with the Rutgers Climate Institute. CCA will administer and oversee all programming and staff.

The Environmental Humanities is one of the most dynamic and urgent areas of research nationally, one that is fundamentally interdisciplinary and publicly-oriented, given growing international concern over climate change and with particular relevance to New Jersey in light of Hurricane Sandy. We view this project as fundamental to the missions of the CCA: establishing a more integrated collaboration across the Humanities and the Sciences in SAS and among schools at Rutgers (SAS and SEBS). Currently, resources and faculty research are happening at Rutgers and need to be coordinated, from the lab to the classroom; Rutgers could become a real leader in this area, and the CCA is setting a direction for it.

Language, Imagination, and Meaning, a collaborative research project between the Departments of English, Philosophy, and Computer Science, brought together under the joint-sponsorship of the Center for Cultural Analysis and the Center for Cognitive Science. As in the other projects, the CCA has taken the leading role in developing and coordinating this project, which will explore core questions that are pre-disciplinary in nature and that bind together methods, categories, and assumptions that are fundamental to all branches of the University. The purpose of the project is to focus the resources of these especially strong departments in SAS, coordinated through two of the leading interdisciplinary research centers at the University. It has been designed to foster collaborative inquiry across the Humanities and the Sciences so as to model how new strategic alliances might be forged across disciplinary and institutional units at a curricular level as well as at the level of advanced research.

Religion and Secularism in the Humanities and Social Sciences, a collaborative research project between the Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion (RCPR) and the “Secularism” working group at the Center for Cultural Analysis (CCA). Jointly sponsored by the CCA and RCPR, the project will explore the complex questions raised by the so-called “return” of religion in public discourse and in academic work, both in the United States and abroad.

Digital Humanities at Rutgers: the CCA plays a leading role as the primary institutional sponsor of this collaborative project and will administer and oversee all programming, staff, and computer lab. The Digital Humanities is one of the most active emerging areas of research and funding in the Humanities in the US and internationally and promise to revolutionize work across the university, from archival analysis and information, to library collections, to fundamental academic research, to teaching and curriculum. Rutgers lags its peers in this crucial area – which is of enormous institutional organizational importance as well as of intellectual impact. This 3-5 year project is meant to prepare the way for a new center and program in Digital Humanities at the University that will integrate the many projects currently underway across many different departments and schools at the university.