Year in Review
2017–2018
CENTER FOR CULTURAL ANALYSIS
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 A Letter from the Director: Henry S. Turner

**MEDICAL HUMANITIES SEMINAR**

6 A Note from Seminar Co-Directors Ann Jurecic and Susan Sidlauskas
7 Faculty Fellows
9 Post-Doctoral Associates
9 Graduate Student Fellows
12 Inter/Dependency: A Symposium on the Medical Humanities
14 Catalog of Events

**SPONSORED GROUPS**

19 Aesthetics of Shared Spaces
20 Developing Room
21 Neoliberalism: Past and Present
22 Pragmatism
23 Race and the Early Modern World
24 Resilience: Places, Cultures, and Environments in Latin America
25 Sound Studies/Media Studies
26 Americanist Seminar
28 Early Modern Research Group (EMRG)
30 Modernism and Globalization Research Group (MGRG)

**2018–2019 PREVIEW**

33 Classification Seminar
34 2018–2019 Sponsored Groups
Overlooking the Raritan from the top floor of the new Academic Building at 15 Seminary Place, the CCA continues its dedication to advanced interdisciplinary research at the intersection of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Our annual seminar on Medical Humanities, under the direction of Ann Jurecic (English) and Susan Sidlauskas (Art History), explored the many relationships between the science of medicine, the institutions and politics of health care, visual and narrative representations of embodiment, the norms of race, gender, and class, definitions of illness and treatment, disability, psychology, and the patient experience, among many other topics. We welcomed two extraordinary postdoctoral fellows, Todd Carmody and Jeanette Samyn, who organized our annual spring symposium on “Inter/Dependency,” with talks by Jane Thrailkill (UNC), Cristobal Silva (Columbia), Erica Fretwell (SUNY-Albany), Keren Hammerschlag (Georgetown), Anthony Hatch (Wesleyan), and Priscilla Wald (Duke). We collaborated with the Center for Race and Ethnicity, the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, and the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis to bring artist and activist Leroy Moore and disability advocate Jane Dunham for a public event on “Blackness and Disability.” And Alfredo Jaar, the noted Chilean artist and architect, gave a moving public lecture at the Zimmerli Museum that drew from his site-specific installations on homelessness and care, immigration and the European refugee crisis, and the nature of public art in a time of social and political crisis.

Each year the CCA sponsors Working Groups to promote new avenues of inquiry across the disciplines. We welcomed new groups on Sound Studies/Media Studies and on Race and the Early Modern World, which brought Kim Hall (Barnard) and Jennifer Morgan (NYU) for a colloquium on race, gender, slavery, and food studies in the early modern Atlantic world. We continued the long-standing work of The Developing Room on all things photographic, including its first annual graduate student symposium, “Writing the Histories of Photography.” Also continuing were groups on the histories and theories of Neoliberalism and on the Aesthetics of Shared Space—the latter bringing together scholars of early modern burial sites and biologists studying marine migration patterns off the New Jersey Coast. We sponsored the Resilience Working Group, on the political ecology of Latin America, and the Pragmatism Working Group, which welcomed Melvin Rogers (Brown) and Alexander Livingston (Cornell) to give seminars on the work and politics of John Dewey. The anthropologist Eduardo Kohn joined us for a seminar on the philosophy of Charles Sanders Peirce. And our year was full of many other public events organized by our several affiliate groups: the Modernism and Globalization Research Group sponsored seminars by Jahan Ramazani (Virginia) on “the local poem,” by Harris Feinsod (Northwestern), on hemispheric poetry, and by Beth Blum (Harvard) on self-help culture. The Early Modern Research Group sponsored a day-long workshop with William West (Northwestern) and Ellen MacKay (Chicago) on early modern theater and performance. And the Americanist Seminar hosted Kyla Wazana Tompkins (Pomona) in a discussion of aesthetics, affect, and white nationalism and an event with Banu Subramaniam (University of Massachusetts), Peter Coviello (University of Illinois, Chicago), Che Gossett (Rutgers) and Dana Luciano (Georgetown) featuring a collective discussion of Kyla Schuller’s newly published The Biopolitics of Feeling: Race, Sex, and Science in the Nineteenth Century (Duke UP, 2018). We also welcomed a new research group on Literature and Political Theory organized by Douglas Jones, which brought Rutgers PhD Carrie Hyde (UCLA) back to campus for a discussion of her new book Civic Longing: The Speculative Origins of US Citizenship (Harvard UP 2018).

It would be impossible to capture the special blend of creative inquiry, intellectual rigor, and warm welcome that characterizes all CCA projects. As any fellow will attest, you simply need to be a part of it! 2018–19 promises to be another extraordinary year: our annual research seminar on “Classification” will be under the direction of Andrew Goldstone (English) and Meredith McGill (English), we’ll continue our many Working Groups and Affiliated Groups, and we’ll be sponsoring many exciting public lectures and events. Stay tuned, and join us at the CCA—all are welcome.

---

Henry S. Turner, Director
MEDICAL HUMANITIES SEMINAR
Letter from Seminar Co-Directors

ANN JURECIC & SUSAN SIDLAUSKAS

There are many challenges to convening a multi-disciplinary Medical Humanities seminar. At first glance, the Medical Humanities appears to be inherently interdisciplinary because researchers have a common interest in embodiment, health, illness, or disability, which they often examine in relation to biomedicine and medical culture. Due to the structure of the university, however, members of the CCA seminar tend to publish and teach within their primary fields of study. As a result, we brought to our year-long conversation different vocabularies, methodologies, theories, and disciplinary assumptions. We also grappled with unfamiliar types of evidence—from visual images and works of literature to medical files, archives, field notes, and coded qualitative data. The necessity of thinking across disciplinary boundaries quickly became an opportunity to approach topics from new perspectives and to test our own disciplinary assumptions.

We were delighted this year to gather six faculty fellows, six graduate fellows, and two post-doctoral affiliates who came from an array of disciplines—American Studies, Art History, Communication Studies, English, History, Psychology, Sociology, and Women’s and Gender Studies.

The seminar welcomed several regular participants, including a Special Collections Librarian from Biomedical and Health Sciences in Newark, an English professor from Rowan University, and a graduate student from the Department of Italian. Each meeting also attracted new attendees from across the university, including, on occasion, faculty and students from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and undergraduates from both humanities and science departments.

The seminar’s visiting speakers expanded our sense of how humanistic perspectives can inform interdisciplinary scholarship. We welcomed visitors from the fields of Literature (Catherine Belling), Art History (Mary Hunter), Disability Studies (Rachel Adams; Leroy Moore and Jane Dunham), Sociology (Kelly Joyce), Political Science (Mark Rheinhardt), and History (Johanna Schoen). In February, visual artist Alfredo Jaar delivered a public lecture/performance about global suffering to a capacity crowd at the Zimmerli Museum. Postdoctoral Fellows Todd Carmody and Jeanette Samyn organized another highlight of the year, a one-day symposium on the subject of Inter/Dependency, with talks by Erica Fretwell, Keren Hammerschlag, Anthony Hatch, Cristobal Silva, Jane Thraillkill, and Priscilla Wald.

Perhaps the best way to communicate the breadth of our interests as well as our common concerns is to describe some of the research projects presented by our seminar members. We began the year with a discussion of a group of “citizen scientists” who resist federal law and research the efficacy of psychedelic drugs as therapy for cluster headaches. Some of the concerns in this project—how laypeople and medical workers have organized in response to indifference from medical institutions, the drug industry, and government—also surfaced in other projects. We discussed the ways competing conceptions of homosexuality affected the struggle to recognize and respond to AIDS in the 1980s. We learned about healthcare workers in Chicago’s Cook County Hospital who fought against austerity measures and the privatization movement that threatened the hospital’s survival. And we learned about the ill-conceived efforts of the British military to supply Indian World War I veterans with prostheses that were inappropriate for their climate and culture.

Seminar members also presented work that explored how language, image, and conventional narratives reflect cultural assumptions and modes of thought, and how they affect the health of populations. We discussed, for example, the multiple meanings of the term “diversity” within the biomedical industry and the implications of those meanings for biological citizenship. We talked about how hunger and the body were understood and experienced differently by colonial and native populations in the northeastern US and southeastern Canada, from 1630–1770. We reflected on our assumptions about categories of mental and emotional disorder as we learned how such disorders were understood among the
CARLA CEVERASCO

As a CCA fellow this year, I completed and submitted the proposal for my first book, Violent Appetites: Hunger, Natives, and Settlers in the Northern Borderlands, as well as an article, “Look’d Like Milk: Feeding Infants in Atlantic Borderlands”; I also began another article based on a book chapter, titled “Govern Well Your Appetites: The Biopolitics of Feasting and Fasting in Early North America.” Participating in the seminar helped me to situate my work more firmly in the field of medical humanities, and I received invaluable feedback from seminar participants. For a new faculty member, the fellowship offered the chance to find a warm community of scholars with related interests, which will help support my research at Rutgers for years to come.

JOANNA KEMPNER

What a pleasure to spend 2017–18 with so many smart scholars, all dedicated to thinking through the boundaries, possibilities and potential of the medical humanities! The seminar’s thoughtful discussions enabled me to draft a working outline of my new book manuscript on psychedelic medicine, tentatively titled The Daytrippers: Citizen Scientists, Psychedelics and the Pursuit to End Pain, which I presented to the Sociology Department at the University of Pennsylvania. I’m enormously grateful that the seminar introduced me to Lauren Berlant’s work on cruel optimism, which – in a roundabout way – motivated me to write a book chapter on the neuroethics of inequalities in pain treatment (forthcoming) and which I am using to draft an article on ways of seeing and understanding others’ pain. The ideas we discussed in our seminar also popped up in courses that I taught this semester and in talks delivered nationally. I’m very grateful to the CCA, to the seminar’s leaders, and to all of the seminar’s participants for helping create a wonderfully stimulating space for the development of ideas.

CATHERINE LEE

My year as a CCA fellow gave me the time and space to think both more broadly and deeply about my book project on the meaning of diversity in U.S. biomedicine. More specifically, I had the opportunity to begin empirical analysis of my data and to write an article, which I shared with the seminar fellows in the spring. The thoughtful comments and suggestions have been helpful as I prepare the article for submission to a journal and as I write a book prospectus. They guided my identification of the reading audience.
and expanded my understanding of the intersection between medicine, humanities, and social sciences. Even more invaluable than the stimulating conversations we had bi-weekly on the seminar’s theme was the sense of camaraderie fostered over the course of the year. I especially enjoyed meeting the graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and learning more about their work. The intellectual strength and enthusiasm and sense of community that are the best of Rutgers were on display every time we met.

Lisa Mikesell

This year’s CCA seminar on the Medical Humanities was an invaluable experience and often the part of my week I most looked forward to. The diverse disciplinary backgrounds of my co-fellows opened my eyes to the innovative work being done across the campus at the intersections of medicine and the humanities. I can’t thank them enough for sharing their work and in doing so expanding my understanding of the Medical Humanities and strengthening my belief in its importance in ways I could not have imagined. Their insights and collective thinking on a manuscript I had been stuck on for months helped me move past a hurdle I could not have independently jumped. The guest speakers were inspiring, our co-leaders dynamic, and the discussions thoughtful. A truly wonderful year.

James Walkup

Selection to participate in the Medical Humanities seminar at CCA was, well, just what the doctor ordered for me. After a couple of decades of empirical work on the organization and financing of care for socially marginal populations, such as people with HIV and/or serious mental health problems, this research year allowed me to write about the early days of the HIV epidemic in New York City, including grassroots efforts to develop mental health services. Writing from a humanities framework, and basing my conclusions on archival research, I was able to give scholarly consideration to the early 1980s,
which I recall personally from my time as a graduate student.

While I have occasionally written on intellectual and cultural history over the past few decades, this project gave me an opportunity to investigate the early events and institutions that shaped the policy and service delivery environment I have studied empirically. The warm, supportive atmosphere, and the chance to reacquaint myself with theory and practice in the humanities have made a decisive contribution to my intellectual development.

Jeanette Samyn

This past year at the CCA has been inspiring. As part of Ann Jurecic and Susan Sidlauskas’s seminar on the medical humanities, I was able to take part in stimulating conversations that challenged common assumptions about the medical humanities and questioned what it means to engage with scholars and ideas across disciplines. We analyzed and contributed to this fast-evolving, interdisciplinary field in ways that were both rigorous and generous: I learned a lot about collegiality from Ann, Susan, and the other fellows, while also learning about their excellent and deeply relevant work. From refugee and migrant mental health in Canada to the ethics of abortion, seminar topics were closely attuned to contemporary concerns, and were models for engaged scholarship in the medical humanities. With these ideas and the fellows’ commentary in mind, I made valuable progress on my book manuscript, *In Praise of the Parasite: Asymmetrical Relations in the British Empire*, and completed two new articles drawing out the project’s larger stakes; one of these articles is under review, while the other will be published in *Configurations* this year.

With Todd Carmody, I also organized Inter/Dependency, a symposium on questions of connection and relationality in the medical humanities. This seminar was a fitting near-culmination to an incredible year, as it featured talks by scholars behind some of the most fascinating work in the field and drew out some of the questions of health, medicine, illness, and physical embodiment that most interested us in seminar meetings; we couldn’t have done it without the help of April Graham, Henry Turner, Ann and Susan, and the rest of this year’s seminar participants.

Nick Allred

I came into the CCA Seminar with my prospectus barely dry on the page, and couldn’t have asked for a better environment to get the dissertation underway. Week in and week out, the impressive slate of members and guests brought projects of all shapes, sizes, and stages, and the conversation was friendly, welcoming,
and incisive. Fittingly enough, I couldn’t have finished my chapter on the rhetoric of “bad examples” this year without CCA’s roomful of good examples: models of how to be a scholar and colleague. My particular thanks to seminar leaders Ann and Susan, director Henry Turner, and our indispensable administrators April and Phedra, all of whom made this wonderful year possible.

Hillary Buxton

The Medical Humanities seminar provided me with a conducive, stimulating environment in which to finish my dissertation. My own focus on the intersections of race, trauma, and healing in the First World War British Empire complemented the seminar’s exploration of the relationship between knowledge, ethnicity, gender, culture, and formalized medicine. Each seminar held something new and enlightening for my own research: from conflicts of expertise, self-treatment, and medical translation (Joanna Kempner, Lisa Mikesell) to broader ideologies about Cartesian divisions and understanding of the self (Jorie Hofstra); questions of the social body and social care (Amy Zanoni, Jeanette Samyn, Todd Carmody, James Walkup) to questions of how we conceive difference, and how difference structures and impacts bodies, minds, and selves. Dialogue over the course of the seminar enabled me to revise two papers into articles for publication. It also introduced me to new theories of disability and legal frameworks for bioethics. The seminar showcased both individual activists and political organizers, like Leroy Moore and Jane Dunhamn, as well as academics engaged in dramatically revising medical education, from Catharine Belling to Jane Thrailkill. I was struck by the linkages between these two formats of engagement and systemic reform, both bringing change to different modes of healthcare. The CCA also provided me with a new vocabulary of the health humanities, and experiences of interdisciplinarity that were immensely useful as I moved through the job market and sought to contextualize my work and its connections more broadly. Most valuable of all have been the cross-disciplinary conversations and relationships I’ve forged with the fellow seminar participants. Their opinions and research – from nineteenth century venereal disease and public healthcare to migrant health and nutrition studies – have dramatically shaped my continuing revision of my dissertation into a monograph.

Jorie Hofstra

Through the seminar directors’ careful selection of seminar participants and speakers, our series of meetings provided an immersive introduction to the interdisciplinary field of the medical humanities. I learned about bodies of literature that were entirely new to me, and this has lent new dimensions to my thinking in my own research on personal narratives of brain injury. For instance, I took my work in a new direction in an article that is currently under review for publication in a journal of the medical humanities. Calling upon the work of several authors I became aware of through the seminar, I argue in this piece for the urgency of attending to metaphor in clinicians’ approach to people experiencing socioemotional symptoms after a brain injury, and I demonstrate a close analysis of a particular metaphor that recurs in narratives of brain injury by situating this metaphor in its relevant philosophical, historical, and literary context. The metaphor under consideration is shown to entail a view of identity that may be extremely hard to sustain after surviving a brain injury, and which may therefore represent a source of distress and perhaps an obstacle to recovery. This article also serves as a draft of a dissertation chapter. Participating in the seminar was thus an excellent way to try out new directions for my research while continuing to move forward with my work.

Kathleen Pierce

My year at CCA has shaped my work and thinking in ways both innumerable and still unfolding. Having the time and opportunity to engage with the scholarship of both the seminar’s fellows and invited guests broadened my perspective, demonstrating the medical humanities’ breadth while simultaneously helping me think deeply about my own discipline—art history—in new ways. The opportunity to receive thoughtful and sustained feedback on my dissertation project, which examines medical images of the skin and avant-garde painting...
to understand relationships between visualizations of the surface of the modern body and the surface in modern painting, allowed me to refine and complete a chapter of my dissertation, begin writing a third, and prepare several conference presentations. Most significant of all, however, were the many conversations initiated both within and without the seminar with other fellows and guests. These conversations generated new questions to consider in my dissertation project, pointed to rich objects and texts I had not previously considered, and fostered ideas for future projects. They helped me envision how my scholarship and voice can fit into the inherently interdisciplinary space of the medical humanities while simultaneously illuminating my intervention within art history. But more than this, they created a supportive and fruitful space for connecting with other scholars. Thank you, Ann and Susan, for a truly lovely and productive year.

Louise Tam

Having conducted extensive fieldwork in Toronto, CCA provided me the space and time to draft the first chapter of my doctoral dissertation. The seminar affirmed the very interdisciplinary nature of my dissertation, as my research on immigrant mental health services resonated with multiple audiences across the disciplines. Colleagues in adjacent fields such as Sociology and History helped me grapple with methodological challenges, while fellows in English helped me refine my theoretical questions and concepts. Moving forward, I feel committed to the advancement of interdisciplinary projects both in my work and the work of others.

Amy Zanoni

My year as a Center for Cultural Analysis Graduate Fellow in the Medical Humanities Seminar has been incredibly generative. During my fellowship year, I wrote two chapters of my dissertation, “Poor Health: Retrenchment and Resistance in Chicago’s Public Hospital,” which explores the history of Chicago’s only public hospital in the late twentieth century. “Poor Health” examines the various campaigns to disinvest from and privatize services at Cook County Hospital as well as the resistance movements such actions provoked from approximately 1945 until 2002, when the hospital was decommissioned and replaced by a smaller facility. By focusing on a single public hospital, the dissertation sheds light on the public institutions that have historically provided a substantial amount of healthcare to vulnerable populations, and the people who mobilized to improve and protect these institutions when they came under threat in the context of welfare state retrenchment. When I had the opportunity to present one of those chapters, “‘Hard Times at the Cooker’: Retrenchment Comes to County, 1976–1981,” to my fellow seminar participants, my colleagues offered thoughtful and incisive feedback. Sociologists gave me astute advice on how to think more extensively about the context in which my study is situated, for example the coincident contraction and expansion of public healthcare and the racial stratification of hospital labor. Clinician scholars drew on their personal experiences as well as their research to shed light on the relationship between public and private hospitals. Literary scholars highlighted the analytic possibilities of interpreting hospital activist narratives that emphasized maintaining the public hospital in spite of its imperfections. The diverse disciplinary perspectives of scholars working within the field of Medical Humanities were and continue to be uniquely constructive.

Beyond receiving feedback on my own work, I learned a great deal from our bi-weekly seminar meetings. As a PhD candidate studying the history of healthcare policy and social movements, the opportunity to participate in sustained conversations with brilliant scholars from a variety of disciplines was invaluable. Reading and discussing the work of seminar participants often led me to see my research in a new light. In addition, the seminar’s conveners and postdoctoral fellows invited several guests who presented work on topics ranging from medical education to the aesthetic and spatial qualities of medical institutions, illuminating, for example, the broader professional, political, technological, and material context my research considers. The amazing CCA staff and conveners helped create a rigorous, congenial, and well-functioning seminar environment. I look forward to continuing to reflect on the insights I gathered on Wednesday afternoons at the CCA.
INTER/DEPENDENCY: A SYMPOSIUM ON THE MEDICAL HUMANITIES
As part of this year’s CCA seminar, we organized a one-day symposium on “Inter/Dependency.” Our goal was not to define the medical humanities as such, or even to put together a roster of speakers that might hope to encompass the field in its entirety, but rather to build on what had become a compelling through-line in many of our seminar discussions. With inter/dependency, we hoped to address from a range of vantage points the various modalities of connection made between and among bodies, ideas, states, and epistemologies. If the slash in our title, as a colleague from the seminar pointed out, is a perhaps somewhat inelegant throwback to late-eighties academic edginess, we meant only to emphasize how ideas about health, illness, and disability inevitably take shape at fraught moments of encounter and negotiation – whether institutional, aesthetic, or historical. Inter/dependency might thus serve as a placeholder for the medical humanities as such, highlighting as this term does the contingencies of relation and the structures of mediation that arise whenever we find ourselves in the realm of the medical, within reach of the humanities, or somewhere in between. We were thrilled to be able to welcome six of the most exciting scholars working in the field today to begin this conversation. Our first panel, titled simply “Feel,” included a paper by Jane Thrailkill (English, UNC) on the corporate instruction of empathy in medical schools and another by Cristobal Silva (English, Columbia) on the origins of nostalgia in colonial medicine. On our second panel, “See,” Erica Fretwell (English SUNY Albany) considered the overlapping histories of the phantom limb and spiritual photography and Keren Hammerschlag (Art History, Georgetown) spoke about racial hybridity in the paintings of James McNeill Whistler. Finally, our last panel, “Know,” paired a paper on institutional addiction in the U.S. carceral state by Anthony Hatch (Sociology, Wesleyan) with a provocative query about the nature of life in the age of genomics by Priscilla Wald (Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, Duke).

---

Todd Carmody and Jeanette Samyn
MEDICAL HUMANITIES

Seminar with Joanna Kempner & Jorie Hofstra

Joanna Kempner, Associate Professor of Sociology at Rutgers University and affiliate member of Rutgers's Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research, works at the intersection of medicine, science, gender, and the body. Her research investigates knowledge production and social change across gender, race, and class. Her book, Not Tonight: Migraine and the Politics of Gender and Health (Chicago 2014), examines the social value embedded in the way we talk about, understand, and make policies for people in pain. She has also written extensively on the formation of “forbidden knowledge,” which are the boundaries that limit what we think is too dangerous, sensitive, or taboo to research. Kempner is currently working on several projects related to the politics of disease, pharmaceutical development, and health care delivery, including a new book manuscript on underground psychedelic drug research.

Jorie Hofstra is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at Rutgers University. Her research interests include medicine and health, emotion, narrative, culture, and identity. In her dissertation, “Narrating the Neurally-Disrupted Self: Brain, Self, and Society in the Attribution of Dysregulated Anger” she studies how people facing the problem of anger after a brain injury negotiate cultural discourses relating the brain to the self, and what these people's narratives reveal about the possibilities for selfhood in an era in which the brain is believed to be central to identity. Hofstra holds an MA in Sociology from Rutgers University and a BA in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. Her research has been supported by the National Science Foundation.

For access to the readings or questions, please contact: admin@cca.rutgers.edu

MEDICAL HUMANITIES SEMINAR

Seminar with Catherine Belling

Program in Medical Humanities and Bioethics at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine

September 27, 2017
1:10pm-4:10pm
Academic Building 6051
15 Seminary Place
New Brunswick, NJ

Catherine Belling is Associate Professor of Medical Education at the Feinberg School of Medicine. She is the author of A Cure from the Inside: The Meaning of Hypochondria (Oxford UP, 2012). Her research interests include hypochondriasis as a psychiatric diagnosis, hypochondria as a cultural narrative, and the role of narrative in patients’ and physicians’ thinking about the inside of the living human body. Her research has been supported by the National Science Foundation.

For access to the readings or questions, please contact: amgraham@cca.rutgers.edu

BLA C K N E S S & Disability

FROM THE BLACK COMMUNITY TO HIP-HOP AND HIGHER EDUCATION

with Jane Dunhamn & Leroy Moore

Jane Dunhamn and Leroy Moore have collaborated on Black disability issues for more than fifteen years. Together they have a combined 45 years of disability advocacy experience. During the late 1980’s Jane formed the New Jersey Black Disability Coalition (NJBDC), while in the 1990’s Leroy formed Disabled Advocates Minority Organization (DAMO). In the 1990’s Jane and Leroy spearheaded the National Black Disability Coalition (NBDC). Leroy’s current research, historical research, international works and activism around Black disabled people mix well with Jane’s expertise in parent advocacy, legislation, service delivery systems, and disability culture within the Black community and non-profits organizations.

RUTGERS ACADEMIC BUILDING
WEST WING, ROOM 6051
15 SEMINARY PLACE
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ
WWW.KRIPHOPNATION.COM
WWW.BLACKDISABILITY.ORG

Sponsored by:
Center for Race and Ethnicity
Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Kathleen Pierce is a PhD Candidate in the Rutgers Department of Art History whose work considers intersections of art and medicine in modern and contemporary art. Her dissertation project, titled "Surface Tension: Skin, Disease, and Visuality in Third Republic France," examines a broad range of objects—from dermatological illustrations and wax-cast moulages, to public health posters and vanguard painting—to understand relationships between visualizations of the surface of the modern body and the surface in modern paintings by Paul Gauguin and his followers.

Kathleen Pierce is a PhD Candidate in the Rutgers Department of Art History whose work considers intersections of art and medicine in modern and contemporary art. Her dissertation project, titled "Surface Tension: Skin, Disease, and Visuality in Third Republic France," examines a broad range of objects—from dermatological illustrations and wax-cast moulages, to public health posters and vanguard painting—to understand relationships between visualizations of the surface of the modern body and the surface in modern paintings by Paul Gauguin and his followers.

Rachel Adams is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, where she specializes in pre-twentieth-century medical, humanistic, and scientific culture. Her research and teaching focus on the intersections of art and medicine, with particular attention to eighteenth-century French and British visual culture. Her current project, "The Art of the Parasite," explores the history of parasitology and its representation in visual culture from the eighteenth century to the present. Adams is the author of "Rearing Life: Animal and Human in the Nineteenth Century," which examines the impact of the new scientific fields of biology and anthropology on the representation of animal and human subjects in visual culture. Her work has been published in journals such as "The笛: In Revolutions" and "Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture," and she is currently working on a book-length manuscript titled "Praise of the Parasite: Asymmetrical Relations Between Art and Medicine."
IT IS DIFFICULT
ALFREDO JAAR

Zimmerli Art Museum
Rutgers University
71 Hamilton Street
New Brunswick, NJ

Sponsored by
The Center for Cultural Analysis
Mason Gross School of the Arts
Rutgers University
Zimmerli Art Museum

Kelly Joyce, PhD, is a professor in the Department of History and Chair of the Science, Technology, and Society program. Professor Joyce’s research investigates the role of medical imaging technologies in medical practice, scientific and technological innovations created by medical people, and the lived experiences of people diagnosed with autoimmune illnesses. Her work highlights the social dimensions of medicine. She teaches courses on the social dimensions of health and illness as well as courses on the values embedded in technological design and use.

Rutgers Academic Building
West Wing, Room 6051
15 Seminary Place
New Brunswick, NJ

Wednesday, January 17
1:10pm – 4:10pm

KELLY JOYCE

James Walkup is a Professor in the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology. He joined Rutgers in 2007, where he is also a member of the Department of Psychology. In 2010, he received a National Institute of Mental Health T32 Pre-doctoral Fellowship in Health Communication. In 2011, he received a National Institute of Mental Health Research Scientist Development Award in Health Communication. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the School of Communication and Information. His research focuses on the social and ethical dimensions of patient-centered care, communication technologies, and health information technology. His current projects focus on understanding the role of health communication technologies in improving patient outcomes and engaging patients in their care.

Louis A. Sass is a leading scholar of German philosophy and psychoanalysis. He has written extensively on the work of the Frankfurt School, particularly on the work of Theodor Adorno, and has contributed to a number of collections and edited volumes on the Frankfurt School.

Rutgers Academic Building
Rm. 6051
15 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ

Wednesday, February 14, 2018
Lecture 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Reception following

James Walkup

Louis A. Sass
Photography and the Visual Politics of Race

Mark Reinhardt
Williams College

March 21, 2018
1:10pm-4:10pm
Rutgers Academic Building Rm. 6051
15 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ

Mark Reinhardt is the Cole of 1966 Professor of American Civilization at Williams College, where he teaches political theory and American Studies. He is a co-author of The Art of Being Free: Taking Liberties with Tompkins Square, and America and Aria Speaks Her Indigenous Mind. To flesh out the details, he has written primarily on the ethics and politics of images, and his recent books include catalogues for an exhibition titled Imagining History: Theodore Roszak and Spectacles; and, a book that explores how struggles over identity politics shape the material world, politics, and the material world. To this extent, he has written on vision, politics, and the history of the body, disability studies.

His seminar, drawn from that research, concentrates on how bodies appear in images, visual culture, and sign. It is framed through the lens of photo history. Images considered include a 17th-century engraving of the body politic, photographs of mortuary remains, Surrealism, photography, Mickey Mouse, and the works of the contemporary artist, Kara Walker. Theoretical approaches engaged include Thomas Hobbes, Walter Benjamin, Sigfried Kracauer, and Arlene Aldty.

For access to pre-circulated readings, please contact: admin@cca.rutgers.edu

--

ABORTION CARE AS MORAL WORK

Johanna Schoen

Johanna Schoen is a professor of History at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, in the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. She is a historian of health, ethics, and aging. She is the author of two books, Global elder Care: Work, Care, bicycles, and feminism in Public Health and Medical Sociology and The Birth and Death of the American Baby: Care, Power, and the Birth of the Modern Baby (University of North Carolina Press, 2015), which won the Black Madonna of the American Association for the History of Nursing.

For the past decade, she has worked with abortion providers to preserve the history of legal abortion in the United States and to investigate the ethical work that is present in the work of abortion providers. She has served as the principal investigator of two grants awarded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Cancer Institute to preserve the history of abortion providers. Her research has been published in Health Care History, American History and the Journal of Women's History.

For the past decade, she has worked with abortion providers to preserve the history of legal abortion in the United States and to invest in the ethical work that is present in the work of abortion providers. She has served as the principal investigator of two grants awarded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Cancer Institute to preserve the history of abortion providers. Her research has been published in Health Care History, American History and the Journal of Women's History.

For the past decade, she has worked with abortion providers to preserve the history of legal abortion in the United States and to invest in the ethical work that is present in the work of abortion providers. She has served as the principal investigator of two grants awarded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Cancer Institute to preserve the history of abortion providers. Her research has been published in Health Care History, American History and the Journal of Women's History.

For the past decade, she has worked with abortion providers to preserve the history of legal abortion in the United States and to invest in the ethical work that is present in the work of abortion providers. She has served as the principal investigator of two grants awarded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Cancer Institute to preserve the history of abortion providers. Her research has been published in Health Care History, American History and the Journal of Women's History.
SPONSORED GROUPS
The Aesthetics of Shared Spaces Working Group Presents

Coexistence, Identity Politics, & Empathy in Trump’s America:
What Can We Learn from the Shared History of Jews and Muslims in France?

Ethan Katz, Associate Professor of History at University of Cincinnati

The searing political divisions in America today often appear not only bitter but insurmountable. Much the same is true across the pond. Headlines from France make it seem as if Muslims are pitted against Jews in an age-old struggle. But history tells a different story. In his acclaimed book The Burdens of Brotherhood, Ethan Katz traces how Jewish-Muslim relations in France historically formed a rich patchwork of both friendly interactions and underlying tensions. Conflict between the two groups was never inevitable, but rather emerged from precise historical forces. As state policies often divided France’s Jews and Muslims along legal lines and ethnic and religious identity politics became ubiquitous, two groups that had so many reasons to see each other as alike increasingly took up opposing positions. Katz’s talk will discuss this history and use it to shed light on the current situation in America, particularly the rise of identity politics on both Left and Right and the assault on empathy. He will ask how the story of Jews and Muslims in France might help us to confront our own challenges and restore a sense of civic harmony and engagement.

September 28, 2017
4:30pm-6:30pm
Rutgers Academic Building Room 6051
15 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ

Co-Sponsored by the Department of French, Department of History, & Department of Geography

For access to the pre-circulated reading, contact: admin@cca.rutgers.edu

The Aesthetics of Shared Spaces working group at the CCA hosted a timely lecture in September by acclaimed historian, Ethan Katz, on civic identity, religious pluralism, and empathy in twentieth-century France and post-election America. The lecture, entitled “Coexistence, Identity Politics, & Empathy in Trump’s America: What Can We Learn from the Shared History of Jews and Muslims in France?,” focused on Katz’s acclaimed book, The Burdens of Brotherhood: Jews and Muslims from North Africa to France (Harvard UP, 2015; paperback, 2018). Katz traces how Jewish-Muslim relations in France historically formed a rich patchwork of both friendly interactions and underlying tensions. Conflict between the two groups was never inevitable, but rather emerged from precise historical forces. As state policies often divided France’s Jews and Muslims along legal lines and ethnic and religious identity politics became ubiquitous, two groups that had so many reasons to see each other as alike increasingly took up opposing positions. Katz’s talk will discuss this history and use it to shed light on the current situation in America, particularly the rise of identity politics on both Left and Right and the assault on empathy. He will ask how the story of Jews and Muslims in France might help us to confront our own challenges and restore a sense of civic harmony and engagement.

Ameer Sohrawardy
Andrés Zervigón

This year the Developing Room staged an academic workshop and the first of what it hopes will be an annual graduate symposium for students pursuing studies in photography. The workshop “Is Photomontage Over?” inquired into the viability of a technique that once powered the postmodern critique of photography and stimulated a profound rethinking of the historical avant-garde. Following on the 2011 symposium “Is Photography Over?” held at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, it asked if photomontage, like photography itself, is potentially exhausted as a mode of critical inquiry. Or have new ways to discuss and engage in the practice emerged? As a group, the participants reached the conclusion that photomontage indeed continues as an essential practice, but in a different and largely digital form. The five presentations along with four additionally commissioned papers are now being shaped into a special issue of the journal History of Photography. The graduate symposium “Writing the Histories of Photography” offered Ph.D. candidates from various fields of study an opportunity to present their work on photography before an audience of peers and an official respondent, Prof. Steffen Siegel of the Folkwang Universität der Künste (Essen, Germany). The papers had been chosen by a committee of Rutgers graduate students, one of whom offered the event’s introduction. Here too the discussion was lively and helpful to what we hope will be an audience of regular attendees and participants. The aspiration is to develop the symposium into a go-to event for Ph.D. candidates studying photography. It should be an open location for sharing ideas, building networks, and establishing an esprit de corps.
Melissa Feinberg and Jennifer Mittelstadt

The Neoliberalism: Past and Present Working Group had a busy and productive year. In the fall, we had a series of meetings to discuss the work in progress of three Rutgers graduate students who work on topics related to neoliberalism. We heard about food access and environmental devastation in the South Bronx, the intrusive and gender-biased practices of unregulated credit reporting agencies in the US and critiques of consumerism in socialist East Germany in the 1970s. We also co-sponsored a lecture by Duke historian Nancy MacLean, author of *Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right’s Stealth Plan for America*. In the spring, we organized two symposia: “Privatizing the Public Good: Neoliberalism and the Transformation of the State” (February 9) and “Discipline, Social Control and Neoliberal Subjectivities” (March 23). Both events brought together scholars from across the country and from a range of disciplines to discuss their most recent work with the members of the working group and the Rutgers community.

Although our activities did not bring us to any definitive consensus about the usefulness of the term “neoliberalism,” our work has inspired group members to think more globally and to see their own work in productive conversation with interdisciplinary research on the economic transformations of the 20th century.
Eduardo Kohn

Eduardo Kohn is the author of the book How Forests Think, which has been translated into several languages. It won the 2014 Gregory Bateson Prize and is short-listed for the upcoming 2018 Prix littéraire François Sommer. His research continues to be concerned with capacitating sylvan thinking in its many forms. He teaches Anthropology at McGill University.

Anthropology as Cosmic Diplomacy: Toward an Ecological Ethics for the Anthropocene

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 4:30pm-6:00pm
Rutgers Academic Building, Room 2160
15 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ

“Forests think. This is neither a metaphor nor a cultural belief. There exists a kind of thinking, which I call ‘sylvan,’ that is made exquisitely manifest by tropical forests and those that live with them. This kind of thought extends well beyond us humans and, in fact, holds us human forms of thinking. Thinking with the sylvan logics that thinking forests amplify can provide an ethical orientation—an emergent mode of thought—that is adequate for these times of planetary human-driven ecological devastation that some call the ‘Anthropocene.’

I here discuss three projects in and around the tropical forests of Ecuador whose goal is to capacitate sylvan thought. This research, which has brought me into collaboration with indigenous leaders and shamans, lawyers and conceptual artists, and even forest spirits and archaic pre-hispanic ceramic figures, has encouraged me to see my anthropological vocation as a kind of ‘cosmic diplomacy.’ This form of diplomacy is ‘psychedelic’ in so far as its goal is to make manifest the mind manifesting nature of the sylvan thinking on whose behalf it advocates. Another word for this kind of emergent mind is ‘spirit’.

I here explore alternative ‘sylvan’ means to give voice to the spirits among us, and I trace the challenge this poses for how we should think about what it means to be human.”

Seminar on C.S. Peirce with Eduardo Kohn

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1:30pm-4:00pm
Van Dyck Hall, Room 301
16 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ

For access to pre-circulated readings, contact admin@cca.rutgers.edu

Over the last two years, the working group has taken up many of the peculiarities of nineteenth century philosophy surrounding the emergence of Pragmatism—for instance, most recently, Peirce on protoplasm; and we have done so with an eye, for the most part, on philosophical precedents, namely Kant and Hegel. And yet, a parallel tradition of equal importance has been lurking somewhat below the surface of our discussions, namely developments in the natural sciences, which we have caught a glimpse of by way of frequent allusion to Charles Darwin. This year, the group will take up this second branch of nineteenth century thought with a series of directed readings of Alexander von Humboldt and Darwin. In the fall, we will turn our attention to Humboldt’s most widely read and influential work, Views of Nature (published as Ansichten der Natur in 1808). Spring semester will be devoted to a more wide-ranging engagement with Darwinian ideas in pragmatist thinking, then and now. As in years past, the group will be inviting a number of specialists to campus to share their work and lead seminars on primary materials, leading to a one-day “Humboldt, Darwin and Pragmatist Worldviews” symposium in February or March.
This semester has seen some amazing advances in our working group. Each of our participants has workshoped an essay or chapter in progress, and Patricia’s paper is now in print as part of her new monograph, *Shakespeare and the Cultivation of Difference* (Routledge). Several of us gave papers from new work that emerged from the group: at the Renaissance Society of America, at NYU Abu Dhabi, at the MLA, and other new work is awaiting imminent publication. Our working group has also found its stride in organizing special events that bring together scholars from across the disciplines and fields. Our first event, a pair of talks by literary critic Kim Hall (Barnard) and historian Jennifer Morgan (NYU) drew an audience of faculty and graduate students from across the departments and campuses of Rutgers and from the wider NY/NJ area. Our second event ranged even farther, bringing together speakers from Spanish (Nick Jones, Bucknell) and English (Henry Turner, Rutgers NB) and engaging scholars and grads in an interactive and productive extended conversation. All such activities attest to the continued commitment of this forum to its original mission: developing an interdisciplinary network of scholars across the Rutgers campuses and affiliated universities whose work is relevant to the subjects of this seminar. Over the course of the year we have slowly developed a plan for a larger event, a symposium that would share the theme of our working group: Race in the Early Modern World. We look forward to assembling a line-up of interdisciplinary scholars and engaged participants who hope to learn more about the concepts of “race” and “world” through alternating presentation and discussion. As we have seen this year, the meanings of these terms and concepts vary widely for scholars working in different regions and languages, and in different fields and critical or theoretical traditions.
Resilience: Places, Cultures and Environments in Latin America enjoyed a busy academic year with events and gatherings that brought together faculty and graduate students from Spanish and Portuguese, Comparative Literature, English, Geography, Biology, Economics, and Music. Our definitions of “resilience”—and the plural is intentional—draw from our various disciplines, methods, and pedagogies to explore a broad complex of approaches to perseverance: ecological, geographical, cultural, visual, and technological, among others. We hosted two lectures by international scholars from Peru and Uruguay, a film screening by a Colombian director, and a musical evening with a Puerto Rican cuatro player and his orchestra. The discussions, readings and presentations often involved works in progress and on-going projects, offering our group the opportunity to intervene, question, and challenge the presenters. The projects and movements we examined demonstrated efforts to sustain and preserve places and practices in the context of environmental and cultural crisis or contestation. The resilience of traditional musical forms; the adaptations of place-based environmental activism; and the ways in which science, art and writing intersect provided fertile ground for interdisciplinary inquiry.
Carter Mathes

During our first year of activities, we have existed primarily as a reading group—focusing our efforts on analyzing and discussing a recent major text in the field, *Keywords in Sound*. Our meetings featured faculty and graduate students from Music, English, Comparative Literature, History, and Women’s and Gender Studies. We have been able (through our focus on the *Keywords* volume) to come up with a preliminary working list of scholars we hope to invite in the future.

As part of our ongoing efforts to identify and build the sound/media studies community at Rutgers, we hope to host at least one event in the next academic year that will allow faculty and graduate students to briefly and informally present aspects of their current work in the field.
The Americanist seminar hosted two big events in 2017–18. In October Kyla Wazana Tompkins (Pomona) led a discussion of her essay “You Make Me Feel Right Quare,” in which she identifies an aesthetic-affective category linked with white nationalism and tracks the circulation of this carnivalesque, free-market affect from the Progressive Era through the 2016 election. In February a panel comprised of Banu Subramaniam (University of Massachusetts), Peter Coviello (University of Illinois, Chicago), Che Gossett (Rutgers) and Dana Luciano (Georgetown) led a discussion of Kyla Schuller’s newly published book *The Biopolitics of Feeling: Race, Sex, and Science in the Nineteenth Century* (Duke UP, 2018). Schuller’s groundbreaking book recovers the importance of nineteenth-century ideas about impressibility—the capacity to be transformed by one’s environment and experiences—to the regulation of feeling and the management of sexual and racial differences in the national population. In coordination with the Seminar on Literature and Political Theory, the Americanist seminar helped bring Rutgers PhD Carrie Hyde (UCLA) to campus for a discussion of her new book *Civic Longing: The Speculative Origins of US Citizenship* (Harvard UP 2018). We also co-sponsored a talk by Lara Cohen (Swarthmore) on Kentucky’s Mammoth Cave as an unexpected site for nineteenth-century theorizations of racial blackness.

Planning is currently underway for the 4th Annual 19th Century Workshop, a joint production of the Americanist Seminar and the Rutgers British Studies Center, which will return to Rutgers October 4–5, 2018, and will take up the topic “War / After War: Memory, Fear, Indifference.”
This article uses two ephemeral patent remedy advertisements from the 1890s to examine an aesthetic-affective category I call white sovereign entrepreneurial terror. Linking the period before the rise of progressivism and New Deal economics to the total collapse and evacuation of those structures following the 2016 election, I detail the qualities of this intoxicated, carnivalesque, free-market affect, outline its affiliation with the aggressive return of white nationalism, and make an argument for a determined return to a pre-twentieth century archive in American studies, grounded in contemporary queer and minoritarian, in particular African American, critique.

I call the methodology of this interdisciplinary turn "promiscuous reading."
EMRG sponsors guest lectures and conferences by scholars outside of Rutgers, establishes residencies on campus by distinguished scholars, fosters new teaching initiatives at both the graduate and undergraduate level, and organizes interdisciplinary workshops, colloquia, and seminars for faculty and students at Rutgers University.

In 2017-18, the EMRG continued its work on early modern theater and performance through an intensive day-long colloquium on current research with William N. West (Northwestern) and Ellen MacKay (Chicago). Best-known as one of the leading scholars of Shakespeare and of early modern theater, with a focus on the rich history of philosophy and of humanism, Professor West is the author of *Theatres and Encyclopedias in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge UP, 2002) and, most recently, of *As If: Essays in As You Like It* (punctum, 2016). In addition to his own monographs, he has co-edited (with Helen Higbee) Robert Weimann’s *Author’s Pen and Actor’s Voice: Writing and Playing in Shakespeare’s Theatre* (Cambridge UP, 2000) and (with Bryan Reynolds) a collection of essays honoring Weimann, *Rematerializing Shakespeare: Authority and Representation on the Early Modern Stage* (Palgrave, 2005). He has been a Trustee of the Shakespeare Association of America, a Fellow at the Huntington Library, and Unvited Professor at the École Normale Superieure-Lyon. With Jeffrey Masten, he is the co-editor of the journal *Renaissance Drama* (University of Chicago Press).

His seminar was drawn from his current research on “understanding and confusion in the Elizabethan theaters.” Professor Ellen MacKay works at the intersection between performance and history, or, as she writes, “the way history and performance compete for meaning across a variety of places and historical moments in conditions that range from the grandiose to the mundane.” Her work encompasses all aspects of early modern English drama and public culture, including sermons, royal entries, ballads, mayoral pageants, beast baiings, polemics, satires, and feuds, and Western theater and performance more generally, from the Greeks to the present. She is the author of *Persecution, Plague, and Fire: Fugitive Histories of the Stage in Early Modern England* (University of Chicago Press, 2011) and she is a leader, too, in digital Shakespeare, having edited *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* for the Luminarium / Folger Shakespeare Library iPad Shakespeare series. Her seminar for EMRG was drawn from her ongoing research into the way the audience looks from the standpoint of playwrights and players and in the early modern social imaginary, where being an audience meant not just paying attention to a play but being subsumed into new collective formations that were often at odds with inherited concepts of the self and society.
STATE OF THE ART:
EARLY MODERN DRAMA AND PERFORMANCE

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Rutgers Academic Building Room 6051
15 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ

WILLIAM N. WEST
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERARY STUDIES | NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
The Occupations of Playing

ELLEN MACKAY
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND TAPS (Theatre and Performance Studies) | UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
The Audience as a Knowledge Problem: A Slow Reading of Timon’s Sea of Wax

Join us at the Center for Cultural Analysis at Rutgers for a day of presentations and a discussion of current research in Early Modern drama and performance. Professors William N. West and Ellen MacKay will each conduct a two-hour workshop based on their current work. Each session will consist of collective discussion centered around a brief paper and precirculated essay. Lunch will be provided and a reception will follow the final session.

R.S.V.P. to admin@cca.rutgers.edu for a copy of the precirculated essays.

SPONSORED BY
EMRG @ RU: EARLY MODERN RESEARCH GROUP AT RUTGERS CENTER FOR CULTURAL ANALYSIS
The MGRG had a busy year in 2017–2018, focusing on the challenges of thinking about post-1900 literature and culture not only across borders but across genres as well. Discussions of modernism and globalization in literary studies have focused on the novel; our guests all took us beyond this genre.

In October 2017 the MGRG welcomed the distinguished poetry scholar Jahan Ramazani (English, University of Virginia) for a pair of events. Ramazani is the author of five books, including the pioneering *The Hybrid Muse: Postcolonial Poetry in English* (Chicago, 2001) and most recently *Poetry and Its Others: News, Prayer, Song, and the Dialogue of Genres* (Chicago, 2013); he is also a prolific editor, serving as co-editor of, among others, the most recent *Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry* (2003) and *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* (2012). Ramazani led a lively workshop discussion of “the local poem”; the participants—including graduate students and faculty from multiple departments—read his recent published essays on the subject and a selection of poems in advance. The following day, Ramazani discussed a chapter of his book in progress with the fall meeting at Rutgers of the New York–New Jersey Modernism Seminar, a biannual event jointly hosted with Columbia. Around twenty faculty and graduate students joined the seminar, including students from Princeton and Penn as well as Rutgers and Columbia.

Our guest in February 2018 was Harris Feinsod (English and Comparative Literature, Northwestern), presenting work from his newly published book, *The Poetry of the Americas: From Good Neighbors to Countercultures* (Oxford, 2017). A group of twenty-five colleagues and students from English, French, Spanish & Portuguese, Comparative Literature, and Italian joined Feinsod in spirited discussion of hemispheric poetry studies in English and Spanish, poetry and politics, and comparative methodology.

In March 2018 the NY–NJ Modernism Seminar held its spring meeting, at Columbia. The guest was Martin Püchner (English and Comparative Literature, Harvard). As always, the Rutgers contingent traveling to New York City for this event was numerous.

In April 2018 the MGRG held its final meeting of the year with Beth Blum (English, Harvard). Blum belongs to a group of early-career scholars developing sociologically and book-historically inflected approaches to twentieth-century literature, using new methodologies to turn scholarly attention to the activities of understudied readers, institutions, and genres. Blum’s book in progress—from which she has work or forthcoming in *Modernism/modernity*, *Modern Language Quarterly*, and *PMLA*—focuses on literary history of the self-help industry. A highly engaged though smaller contingent of English department graduate students and faculty attended her provocative talk, “The Shadow University of Self-Help,” provoking us to consider the degree to which academic culture has come to be saturated by the rhetoric and the genres of self-help which it ostensibly derogates in favor of formally credentialed expertise.
This talk, drawn from Feinsod’s new book, charts a history of relations among poets in the US and Latin America, spanning from the Good Neighbor diplomacy of the 1930s through the Cold War cultural policies of the 1960s. Connecting works by Bishop, de Burgos, Cardenal, Ginsberg, Hughes, Lezama, Neruda, Olson, Paz, Padilla, Stevens, Walcott, Williams, and others, Feinsod reveals how poets of many nations imagined the contradictory ideal of a “poetry of the Americas,” which linked multiple cultures, even as it reflected the inequities of the inter-American political system.

HARRIS FEINSOD
Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature
Northwestern University

Thursday, February 15, 2018
4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Reception to follow
Rutgers Academic Building, Room 6051
15 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ

Harris Feinsod is the author of The Poetry of the Americas: From Good Neighbors to Countercultures (Oxford, 2017), and the co-translator (with Rachel Galvin) of Decals: Complete Early Poems of Oliverio Girondo (Open Letter Books, forthcoming). His essays have appeared in American Literary History, American Quarterly, Centro, Modernism/modernity, and n+1. He is assistant professor of English and Comparative Literature at Northwestern University.
This coming year’s seminar will focus on the topic of Classification. From early modern commonplace books to tweets with hashtags, from the ritual markers of aristocratic degree to state statistics on race and ethnicity, from the divisions of trivium and quadrivium to the modern system of academic disciplines, practices of classification are where the organization of knowledge meets the organization of society. Long central to humanistic and social-scientific study, questions of classification have become newly salient as the digital remediation of the print record and the digital media of the present generate enormous quantities of information, most of it already organized in value-laden categories, for scholars to sort out.

The seminar, led by Meredith McGill and Andrew Goldstone, will meet approximately once every two weeks for three hours on Wednesday afternoons over the course of the 2018–19 academic year. We will read and discuss scholarship related to classification, and members will circulate and present work-in-progress. In addition, distinguished guests will visit the seminar to discuss current projects and share insights and expertise.

Faculty Fellows:

**ATIF AKIN** Visual Arts, Mason Gross School of the Arts

**FRANCESCA GIANNETTI** Digital Humanities, University Libraries

**PREETHA MANI** AMESALL

**HANA SHEPHERD** Sociology

**LAURA WEIGERT** Art History

Graduate Fellows:

**DANIELLE ALLOR** English

**VIRGINIA CONN** Comparative Literature

**AGHIL DAGHAGHELEH** Sociology

**MÓNICA P. HERNÁNDEZ OSPINA** Geography

**ALEX LESLIE** English

**IRINA NICORICI** Sociology

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit: cca.rutgers.edu
2018–2019 SPONSORED RESEARCH GROUPS

This year the CCA will continue to foster interdisciplinary research by sponsoring research groups. We are pleased to provide support for these groups, including several new working groups and a new affiliated group.

*NEW IN 2018-2019

**Organizers:**

**AMERICANIST SEMINAR**
Organizer: Meredith McGill (English)

**EMRG @ RU: Early Modern Research Group at Rutgers**
Organizer: Henry Turner (English)

**MODERNISM AND GLOBALIZATION RESEARCH GROUP**
Organizer: Rebecca Walkowitz (English)

**SEMINAR ON LITERATURE AND POLITICAL THEORY**
Organizer: Douglas A. Jones, Jr. (English)

Working Groups:

**SOUND STUDIES / MEDIA STUDIES**
Organizers: Carther Mathes (English) and Eduardo Herrera (Mason Gross School of the Arts)

**URBAN HUMANITIES**
Organizers: Anjali Nerlekar (AMESALL / Comparative Literature), Meheli Sen (AMESALL / Cinema Studies), Chiara Degli Esposti (PhD student, Italian), and Rudrani Gangopadhyay (PhD student, Comparative Literature)

**THE DEVELOPING ROOM**
Organizer: Andrés Zervigón

Affiliated Groups:

**RACE AND THE EARLY MODERN WORLD**
Organizers: Henry Turner (English), Patricia Akhimie (English - Newark), Ana Laguna (Spanish and Portuguese - Camden), and Caro Pirri (PhD student, English)

**EXPERIENCING THE SALON**
Organizers: Rebecca Cypess (Mason Gross School of the Arts) and Jennifer Jones (History / Dean of SAS Honors Program)

**NEOLIBERALISM: PAST AND PRESENT**
Organizers: Melissa Feinberg (History) and Jennifer Mittelstadt (History)

**RUSSOPHOBIAS**
Organizers: Jackson Lears (History), Jochen Hellbeck (History), and David Foglesong (History)

**PRAGMATISM**
Organizers: Brad Evans (English), and Chris Iannini (English)

**SOCIETY & DESIGN LAB**
Organizers: Anita Bakshi (Landscape Architecture) and Zaire Dinzey-Flores (Sociology & Latino and Caribbean Studies)

For more information, visit: cca.rutgers.edu