

UB Humanities Institute

University at Buffalo The State University of New York

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www.humanitiesinstitute.buffalo.edu

Buffalo Humanities Festival
www.buffalohumanities.org

SCHOLARS@HALLWALLS

Scholars
 at Hallwalls

September 19

Jonathan Katz, Art
Art, Sex, and the Sixties

October 17

David Alff, English
*What is a Project? Scheming and
 Dreaming in Eighteenth-Century Britain.*

November 14

Adam Malka, History
*What the 1835 Baltimore Bank Riot Tells
 Us about Policing in the Early American
 Republic*

December 5

Miriam Paeslack, Arts Management
*Patterns of Intention: Berlin Photo
 Panoramas around 1900*

February 6

Fred Klaitz, Anthropology
*Life for Life: Tithes and Blessings in
 Buffalo's African-American Churches*

March 6

Stephanie Rothenberg, Art
*Reversal of Fortune: The Garden of
 Virtual Kinship*

April 10

Steve Hoffman, Sociology
*Nimble Knowledge Production in an Era
 of Academic Capitalism.*

May 1

Martha Malamud, Classics
Homeward Bound: An Epic Journey

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

—ERIK R. SEEMAN

IN a region with everything from a Smelt Festival to a Funk Fest, does Western New York really need a Humanities Festival?

The short answer: yes, urgently.

At a time when our civic discourse has been reduced to shouting matches across ideological chasms, the need has never been greater for the humanities to provide context for today's most important issues. This is the impetus behind the first annual Buffalo Humanities Festival, September 26 and 27 at the Albright-Knox, Burchfield Penney, and Buffalo State College. Let's take a pressing and controversial topic, and instead of digging our heels into reflexive stances, let's come together as a community and learn about the issue through history, literature, and the arts. And let's have a little fun while we're at it.

Thus was born the idea for "Migration Nation: Moving Stories," the theme of this year's Festival. We'll use narratives of migration and immigration to help answer the deceptively simple question, "How did we get here?" Stories (or, if you prefer, narratives) are at the heart of the humanities. Historians tell stories to make arguments about the past; anthropologists analyze the narratives embedded in rituals; artists situate



their work within implicit and explicit narratives about their mediums. There is no better way to demonstrate to the non-academic public what humanists do than to feature our facility with stories.

To that end, the Festival opens on Friday September 26 with an acclaimed immigrant storyteller: the *NYTimes* bestselling author and master of dark humor, Gary Shteyngart. The following day is a veritable Lollapalooza for life-long learners. With sixteen talks by local experts, a Performance Space featuring music and dance, a curated film and video screening, a Conversation Station offering intimate discussions with local immigrants, and a Puppet Parade, participants will be immersed in a world of moving stories. And if you purchase a day pass by Wednesday, September 24, you'll get a free boxed lunch from the West Side Bazaar. Not even the Smelt Festival can offer that.

For tickets and a full schedule of events, go to www.buffalohumanities.org.

2014-2015 HI FACULTY FELLOWS

Every year, the UB Humanities Institute offers fellowships for tenured and tenure-track UB faculty to support their humanistic research. We are delighted to present this year's class of Fellows whose proposed research projects demonstrate exceptional quality and potential.



David Alff is Assistant Professor of English. In 2012, he received his PhD in English Literature from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was awarded the Diane Hunter Dissertation Prize. He is the author of book chapters and articles that have been published in such venues as *Eighteenth-Century Studies* and *Restoration: Studies in English Literary Culture, 1660-1700*. As a Faculty Fellow at the Humanities Institute, he is working on a book manuscript titled *The Wreckage of Intentions: Projects in British Culture, 1660-1730*.



Steve G. Hoffman, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, is a researcher in organizational studies, social psychology, interpretive social theory, and science and technology studies. In 2008, he received his PhD from Northwestern University. The author and coauthor of numerous articles, Hoffman will use his time as an HI Faculty Fellow to focus on "Gadget

Guys and their Thinking Machines: Scientific Knowledge Production in an Era of Academic Capitalism," which interrogates the shifting mission of the research university from serving the public good to functioning as an "economic engine" of the new economy.



Jonathan Katz, Associate Professor of Art History and Visual Studies in the Art Department, co-curated *Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture* (2010), the first queer exhibition at a major US museum. Katz is a pioneering figure in queer art scholarship, and the first tenured faculty member in queer studies in the United States. The author and coauthor of numerous books, exhibition catalogues, articles, and chapters, Katz is currently working on a book titled *Art, Eros, and the Sixties*. His next major exhibition, *ArtAIDSAmerica*, will open at the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art in 2015 and travel to three other locations.



Frederick Klaits is Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology and works on issues of religion, healing, and inequality. In 2010, he published *Death in a Church of Life: Moral Passion during Botswana's Time of AIDS*. His current project, "Life for Life: Moral Economies of Care in East Buffalo's Charismatic Churches," focuses on our own city. Klaits looks at how members of predominantly African-American charismatic Christian congregations make tithes and donations in order to secure material and spiritual benefits for themselves and others.

HI 2013-14 Facts

Events Organized

71

Attendance

1961

Events Co-sponsored

18

Attendance

5057

Joan Linder presenting at Hallwalls
April 11, 2014

2014-2015 HI FACULTY FELLOWS



Martha Malamud is Professor of Classics. Her research interests include Roman epic poetry, late antique literature, and classical reception. She edits the interdisciplinary classics journal *Arethusa* and has served as the Associate Dean for the Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences and as HI's first Executive Director. As a Faculty Fellow, Malamud will be working on a translation of Rutilius Namatianus' *De reditu suo* (*On His Return*...) along with an introductory essay and commentary. This is the only extant non-Christian account of the effects of the Gothic sack of Rome in 410.



Adam Malka is an Assistant Professor of History whose work centers on the ways Americans in the early US Republic (1789-1850s) understood and experienced both politics and power. In particular, he is interested in state formation, race and gender ideology, and the ways rights discourses empowered only certain groups of people in the early United States. Malka received his doctorate in History from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 2012. His current project, "The Rights of Men," provides a close study of policing and

punishment in nineteenth-century Baltimore.



Miriam Paeslack is Assistant Professor in the Arts Management Program. Paeslack holds a doctorate in art history from the University of Freiburg. Trained as an art historian and historian of law, Paeslack specializes in the critical analysis of visual representations of urban spaces; she is also interested in concepts of the urban with respect to memory and identity. During her 2014-15 fellowship year she will be working on her book project, "Curating Berlin: Urban Photography of Unification."



Stephanie Rothenberg is Associate Professor in the Department of Art and an interdisciplinary artist who engages participatory performance, installation art, and networked media to create provocative public interactions. She has exhibited in venues including the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, the Sundance Film Festival, and the Whitney Museum of American Art and has received awards from numerous institutions, including most recently the Harpo Foundation and Creative Capital. As an HI Faculty Fellow, Rothenberg will create

"Reversal of Fortune: The Garden of Virtual Kinship," an interactive, multifaceted, research-based artwork that engages the politics of global microfinance in the age of the internet.



UB in the '70s: Radical Arts
May 6, 2014

2013-14 Books by HI Fellows

- **Carole Emberton** (History), *Beyond Redemption: Race, Violence, and the American South after the Civil War* (University of Chicago Press)
- **Carine Mardrossian** (English), *Framing the Rape Victim: Gender and Agency Reconsidered* (Rutgers University Press)
- **Krzysztof Ziarek** (Comparative Literature), *Language After Heidegger* (Indiana University Press)



Jonathan Golove performing at Hallwalls
May 2, 2014

Scholars@Hallwalls Offers a Fourth Year of Outstanding Faculty Fellow Talks



Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, a space for experimental art and music located in the heart of Buffalo at Delaware and Tupper, has a storied history and a vibrant present. It offers the perfect setting for the Humanities Institute's Faculty Fellows to present their research in engaging lectures that result in lively conversations. This year's Scholars@Hallwalls lineup highlights the strength and interdisciplinary range of humanities research at UB. Talks are on **Friday afternoons at 4 p.m.** and are free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres are served. Please join us for any or all of the Scholars@Hallwalls series!

We start things off on September 19th with "Art, Sex, and the Sixties," a talk by distinguished art historian **Jonathan Katz**. While we tend to associate the late 1960s with sexual revolution, in fact, the psychoanalytic concept of Eros was a defining force in culture fully a decade earlier. Communal and utterly undifferentiated in terms of gender, sexuality, and race, Eros-inflected art embraced a vision of society based on a collective, universalized body-in-common. Rediscovering this ideal reveals a secret history of some of the best-known examples of mid-twentieth-century art.

English-literature specialist **David Alff**'s October 17th talk, "What is a Project? Scheming and Dreaming in Eighteenth-Century Britain," explores the eighteenth-century origins of what we think of as a modern idea: projects. Alff examines a series of failed schemes in the fields of agriculture, engineering, and urban planning and asks what old plans for the future can tell us about the past.

"What the 1835 Baltimore Bank Riot Tells Us about Policing in the Early American Republic," a November 14th talk by historian **Adam Malka**,

investigates one of the biggest riots in U.S. History, the Baltimore Bank Riot of 1835. Many interpret nineteenth-century riots as part of a larger process of professional police reform and the trigger for a powerful state. However Malka reveals how certain forms of popular policing persisted under the same logic that also supported the growth of state police institutions, and he argues that these practices are still with us today.

Photo Historian and Arts-Management specialist **Miriam Paeslack** will close out our fall lineup on December 5th with "Patterns of Intention: Berlin Photo Panoramas around 1900." Her talk will engage a set of twelve panoramic photographs taken in Germany's capital city. These particular panoramas, she will show, can be viewed as generators of a specific city image; as documents which reveal modern city dwellers' changing experience of urban space as simultaneously shrinking and expanding through such new inventions as the advent of rail travel; and, more generally, as manifestations of a period's distinct urban experience.

Fred Klaits, an anthropologist interested in issues of religion, healing, and inequality, kicks off our Spring semester on February 6th with "Life for Life: Tithes and Blessings in Buffalo's African-American Churches." Klaits will discuss his ethnographic research into the tithing and donation practices of members of predominantly African-American charismatic churches in east Buffalo. In a context of impoverishment, substantial cash offerings can represent "planting a seed in the Kingdom," work performed to secure material and spiritual benefits for believers themselves and for others under circumstances that deeply jeopardize them.

Artist **Stephanie Rothenberg** will discuss her project "Reversal of

Fortune: The Garden of Virtual Kinship" on March 6th. This interactive art installation takes the form of a telematic garden, one that exists in both physical and virtual environments. The physical portion of this project, an actual garden, is dependent on investment transactions received from popular microfinance websites such as www.kiva.org. In the poetry of a garden struggling to survive, Rothenberg finds space to explore the complex relationships between life and economic growth within new economic models.

"Nimble Knowledge Production in an Era of Academic Capitalism," sociologist **Steve Hoffman**'s April 10th talk, examines how the hunt for dollars has become a hallmark of the twenty-first-century research university. In his ethnographic study of Artificial Intelligence labs, Hoffman witnessed first hand how researchers blur distinctions between academic science, industry research, and consumer markets. These scientists must continually reassess their research programs to take advantage of piecemeal commercial opportunities as they arise. Hoffman finds in this practice important implications for both the priorities and products of contemporary academic science.

The 2014/15 Scholars@Hallwalls series will close on May 1st with "Homeward Bound: An Epic Journey," by **Martha Malamud** of the Classics Department. She will explore an epic poem by Rutilius Namatianus, a Roman aristocrat who made his political career in Rome and experienced the sack of that same city by the Visigoths in 416 C.E., an event that shook the Roman world to its core. His epic poem describes his journey back to his estates in Southern France after the sack of the city, and it gives us a rare first-hand account of a chaotic period.



HI Research Workshops Foster Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The Humanities Institute supports a wide array of Research Workshops on topics of interest to faculty and graduate students from diverse departments who want to come together to collaborate on a new initiative, share knowledge among scholarly fields, or probe a particular topic more deeply. HI offers them seed money to sponsor guest lectures, works-in-progress seminars, and conferences. Over the years, some Research Workshops have been long-term fixtures; others are intentionally created to exist for a specific period of time or to work towards a particular goal, such as a large conference or the creation of a new academic program. The groups are selected on a competitive basis, and we always welcome new proposals. If you are interested in creating a new Research Workshop, please see the “For Faculty” tab under “Opportunities” on our website.

All Research Workshop meetings are open to everyone. Their events are posted on the HI calendar—housed on our website—and announced on our email listserv.*

The 2014-15 Research Workshops are:

Contemporary Europe (New)

This workshop explores the social, political, economic, and cultural processes that have been unfolding in the European continent since the 1990s in a context of such shifting dynamics as European unification; the Balkan Wars; the recent and ongoing financial crises; and migration flows to, from, and within Europe.

Disability Studies

This group aims to offer broad exposure to innovative methodological and theoretical approaches to studying disability primarily in the humanities, with extensive collaboration in the social sciences, education, law, and the health sciences. It seeks to work with

and expand the reach of UB’s Center for Disability Studies.

Early Modern

The Early Modern Research Workshop focuses on the period between 1450 and 1800. It exists to establish an interdisciplinary network of scholars at UB, facilitate the exchange between early modernists and invited scholars, raise awareness of contemporary debates across fields, encourage harmonization of curricular development, and furnish a forum for faculty to present works-in-progress.

Ecocritical Studies

Grounded in the idea that the relationship between nature and culture is the key intellectual question of the twenty-first century, the EcoCritical Studies Research Group focuses on the relationship between issues of ecology and environment on the one hand and literary and cultural narratives on the other.

Emerging Practices (New)

A range of artistic practices that invent and appropriate rapidly changing technological tools have come to be known as “Emerging Practices.” The tactical, cultural, and communicative potential of emerging technologies such as interactive multi-media, robotics, simulation systems, computational media, and biotechnology are of interest to this group.

Foundations of South Asian Studies

The Foundations of South Asia Studies Reading Group fosters collaboration by bringing together a large and diverse community of scholars already working in the field of South Asian Studies at UB and other local institutions of higher learning to establish a shared framework for communication and scholarly cooperation.

Haudenosaunee-Native American Studies

Comprised of Indigenous and non-Indigenous allied faculty and graduate-student scholars from across disciplines at UB, this workshop provides a forum for discussion of recent academic work in the emerging interdisciplinary field of Indigenous studies. This group’s Haudenosaunee-specific focus is a respectful recognition of UB’s location within the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee people.

Queer Studies (New)

The first Queer Studies course was taught at UB in 1971, a mere two years after the Stonewall riots, and the university continues to have strengths in this field across the humanities disciplines. The longer-term goal of this Research Workshop is to found a doctoral program in Queer Studies at UB.

Science Studies

This group seeks to explore critically the cultural dynamics and poetics of science, medicine, and technology both within specific social, institutional, and material spaces and within different historical periods.

* If you are not currently receiving our emails and wish to be added to the list, please send a request to huminst@buffalo.edu.



After a Haudenosaunee-Native American Studies Research Workshop event

Humanities and the Public University

April 16-17, 2015

During the past decade, public universities have undergone dramatic restructuring due to budget cuts and austerity measures, while a confluence of other trends continue to make the purpose of higher education a matter of intense public debate. Tuition increases, new technological opportunities, and the increased pressure for universities to serve as engines of economic growth have opened a national and international discussion about the value of higher education and the role of the public university in contemporary democratic society.

These changes have affected all units of the university, but the debate about the value of public university education has focused largely on the humanities, which are often cast as a financial luxury that we can no longer afford. On April 16-17, the Humanities Institute is sponsoring *Humanities and the Public University*, a conference that will explore these changes and the debates from a variety of perspectives – philosophical, cultural, and historical – belonging to the humanities. The goal of this conference is to yield a better understanding of current changes in higher education and to develop a rich range of responses.

The conference will be preceded by two roundtable discussions: “Publics / Intellectuals / Humanities” (November 13, 2014), and “Academic Capitalism and the New Technologies of Knowledge” (Spring, 2015, date to be announced).

Humanities and the Public University brings together an internationally recognized group of academics whose work both as scholars and public figures represents the most innovative and eloquent thinking about the humanities and the university in its current state. For up-to-date information on the conference and roundtable discussions, please see the Humanities Institute website.

Michael Berubé

Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Literature and Director of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at Pennsylvania State University, Michael Berubé is the author of seven books to date, including *What's Liberal About the Liberal Arts? Classroom Politics and "Bias" in Higher Education*. He served as the president of the Modern Language Association and regularly publishes in popular media on the humanities in higher education.

Wendy Chun

Wendy Chun is Professor and Chair of Modern Culture and Media at Brown University. She has studied both Systems Design Engineering and English Literature, and is a leading figure in Digital Humanities. She is the author of *Control and Freedom: Power and Paranoia in the Age of Fiber Optics* and *Programmed Visions: Software and Memory*.

Julie Ellison

Professor of American Culture and English at the University of Michigan and Faculty Associate in the Department of African and Afroamerican Studies and the Stamps School of Art and Design, Julie Ellison served as Founding Director of *Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life*, a consortium of 90 colleges and universities. She co-authored *Scholarship in Public: Knowledge Creation and Tenure Policy in the Engaged University* and published “This American Life: How are the Humanities Public.”

Shannon Jackson

Shannon Jackson is the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Chair in the Arts and Humanities at the University of California, Berkeley, where she is Professor of Rhetoric and of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies. She is also Director of the Arts Research Center. Her work explores relations between performance and higher

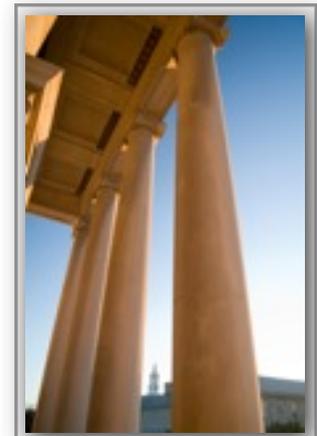
education. Her books include *Professor Performance: Theatre in the Academy from Philology to Performativity* and, most recently, *Social Works: Performing Art, Supporting Publics*.

Chris Newfield

Professor of literature and American Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara, Christopher Newfield is one of the founders of the research field Critical University Studies. He is completing a book called *Lowered Education: What to Do About Our Downsized Future*. His books include *Ivy and Industry: Business and the Making of the American University, 1880-1980* and *Unmaking the Public University: The Forty Year Assault on the Middle Class*.

Sheila Slaughter

Sheila Slaughter is the first occupant of the McBee Professorship of Higher Education at the University of Georgia. Her scholarship concentrates on the relationship between knowledge and power as it plays out in higher education policy at the state, federal, and global levels. She focuses on topics such as intellectual property and statutes and the commercialization of academic science and technology market mechanisms in higher education. Her most recent book is *Academic Capitalism and the New Economy*.



NEW FACULTY SEMINAR SERIES

Tuesday, September 16, 3:30pm



Paige Sarlin
Media Study

**“Between You and We:
Collectivity and the Filmed
Interview”**

Since the 1960s, media interviews have played an important role in bringing the first person singular to the foreground of social and cultural discourse. Looking at feminist documentary films from the 1970s, this paper explores how the filmed interview also operates as a structure for collective identification. Sarlin focuses in particular on the importance of direct address and the shifting usage of pronouns to argue that these films make public the politics of the personal in ways that challenge the reduction of feminist critique to a form of identity politics.

Wednesday, March 11, 3:30pm

Alexander Green
Jewish Thought and Heritage



**“Contemporary Virtue Ethics
and Medieval Jewish Thought”**

Over the last fifty years, Western ethical and political thinkers have been strongly critiqued for their dependence on universal moral laws and have subsequently undergone a major shift to focusing on either individual or cultural difference. Leading advocates of both of these responses to modern law-based ethics have in turn responded by reconstructing an ethics of character out of elements of Aristotle’s ethics of virtue. However, a close look at these models shows that they contain certain inherent paradoxes. A turn to medieval Jewish thought offers a way of helping to resolve these tensions and may provide a more balanced approach to modern ethical dilemmas.

Wednesday, February 11, 3:30pm



Alyssa Mt. Pleasant
Transnational Studies

**“Haudenosaunee Responses to
the ‘Civilization’ Policy,
Colonial Schooling, and
Agricultural Transformation”**

The US government’s “civilization” policy during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was a crucial element of its territorial expansion that has received too little scholarly attention. Drawing on oral and written testimony as well as material culture, Mt. Pleasant analyzes this policy through the lens of Haudenosaunee history. Paying particular attention to agricultural practices, she shows that Haudenosaunee people clearly comprehended the fundamental threat posed by the “civilization” policy, along with its model families, farms, and schools. In response to this policy, they developed a range of strategies to minimize its threat while simultaneously utilizing some innovations to preserve distinct social and political identities, as well as tribal homelands.

Wednesday, March 25, 3:30pm

Jasmina Tumbas
Art



**“Countering Persecution,
Misconceptions, and
Nationalism: Contemporary
Roma Activist Art”**

This presentation considers the role of art and activism within the contemporary Roma and Sinti community in Europe. Given the recent resurgence of Anti-Romaism worldwide, this talk focuses on contemporary Roma artists and their allies who thematize, expose, and confront social and political injustices, while simultaneously fighting against primitivizing and racist stereotypes of Roma and Sinti constructed by non-Roma over centuries (“Gypsy Witch,” “Global Nomads,” “Fortune Tellers,” “Parasites,” or “Unsocial/Asocial”). As such artists’ works frequently clash against a number of ideological fronts and complicate political alliances with the New Left and human rights organizations, this paper seeks to challenge such political relationships within the sphere of art and activism.

UB Humanities Institute Staff

Director: Erik R. Seeman
Executive Director: Elizabeth Otto
Program Administrator: Jinhee Song



Humanities Institute

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Rosalyn Diprose Named First WBFO-Eileen Silvers Visiting Professor in the Arts and Humanities

UB and the Humanities Institute are delighted to welcome Rosalyn Diprose, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy from the University of New South Wales in Australia, as the first WBFO – Eileen Silvers Visiting Professor in the Arts and Humanities. An internationally recognized scholar of Feminist and Continental Philosophy, Diprose is the author of numerous publications with a broad interdisciplinary impact, including *Corporeal Generosity: On Giving with Nietzsche, Merleau-Ponty and Levinas* and *The Bodies of Women: Ethics, Embodiment and Sexual Difference*. Her name was put forward by Krzysztof Ziarek, the chair of UB’s Comparative Literature Department, and she was selected for the Visiting Professorship through a highly competitive process.

According to Ewa Plonowska Ziarek, Julian Park Professor of Comparative Literature, “Diprose is a perfect choice because her research crosses the fields of social, ethical, feminist and political philosophy and engages with theories of embodiment, bioethics and biopolitics, community, responsibility, sexual, racial, and cultural differences. In addition to the feminist philosophical engagements with a wide range of philosophers, such as Arendt, Beauvoir, Derrida, Foucault, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty, Diprose has also written on medical technologies, risk management, film, Australian aboriginal art, and ecology.”

During her time on campus, Professor Diprose will give the keynote address at **Biopolitics, Health, and Sexualities: An**

Interdisciplinary Symposium with Rosalyn Diprose (September 5, Hallwalls; for schedule see the HI website). She will also give a public lecture titled “The Body and Politics” (Thursday, September 25, 5:00 pm, 640 Clemens Hall) and will team-teach a graduate seminar, “Arendt: Natality, Politics, and Narrative.”

The Visiting Professorship program—funded by a generous bequest of alumna Eileen Silvers (BA ’70) and proceeds from the sale of WBFO—brings world-class scholars, intellectuals, and artists to UB for short-term residencies. During their time on campus, Visiting Professors co-teach classes with UB faculty, present public talks and exhibitions, direct symposia and conferences, and otherwise engage with students, faculty, and the greater Buffalo community. HI welcomes proposals from faculty in all humanities and arts departments for the next WBFO – Eileen Silvers Visiting Professorship. Proposals are due by Dec. 1st and further information is available on the HI website, under “Opportunities.”

