

12TH
**ANNUAL
RESEARCH
SYMPOSIUM**

February 27 – March 6, 2017
12:30 PM



12TH ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

START TIME FOR EACH LECTURE IS 12:30 PM

MONDAY, FEB. 27

Shailaja Paik,
History

The Politics of Performance: Caste, Sexuality, and Discrimination in Popular Culture in India

&

Lucinda Ramberg,
Cornell University

TUESDAY, FEB. 28

Aryay Finkelstein,
Judaic Studies

Emperor Julian and the Jews: The Place of Jews in the Making of a Pagan Empire

&

Christine Shepardson,
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 1

Gergana Ivanova,
Asian Studies

Unbinding The Pillow Book: Gender, Adaptation, and the Afterlife of a Japanese Classic

&

Jamie Newhard, Washington
University in St. Louis

THURSDAY, MAR. 2

Heidi Maibom,
Philosophy

Coming to Grips with Perspective Taking

&

Karsten Stueber,
College of The Holy Cross

FRIDAY, MAR. 3

Furaha Norton, English &
Comparative Literature

The Uses of Realism in the Postmodern Literary World: Reading Toni Morrison After George Eliot

&

Cherene Sherrard-Johnson,
University of Wisconsin — Madison

MONDAY, MAR. 6

Earl Wright, II,
Africana Studies

Jim Crow Sociology

&

Obie Clayton Jr.,
Clark Atlanta University



SHAILAJA PAIK

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, HISTORY

The Politics of Performance: Caste, Sexuality, and Discrimination in Popular Culture in India

Why did the “folk” theatre of tamasha paradoxically engender a degraded form of “folk” performance demeaning Dalits (“Untouchables”) and non-Dalits alike? How did mixed-caste performers in tamasha connect with the larger politics of their social, political, economic, and intellectual marginalization? Why did modern Maharashtrians depict tamasha as “dirty” and “corrupt” and at the same time embrace it as a regional icon? Investigating these questions, Dr. Paik focuses on Maharashtrian popular culture that has been rooted in the politics of caste and gendered practices and engendered certain caste-specific norms of gender and sexuality. Dr. Paik purposefully delves into the realm of popular culture—doggerels and poems, songs and theatrical performances—fashioned by lower caste women and men to express their concerns, experiences, and aspirations as they negotiated with colonial rulers, the upper-castes, and lower castes in particular historical conjunctures. Here, Dr. Paik studies Dalit performers ideas, actions, and lives, focusing on the intersections of caste, class, gender, sexuality, and popular cultural practices in the cities of Pune and Mumbai (Western India) in the 20th century.



INTERLOCUTOR / LUCINDA RAMBERG

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY,
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

A medical and sociocultural anthropologist and interdisciplinary scholar, Dr. Ramberg works at the intersection of several fields including feminist, postcolonial and queer theories; religion and secularism; medicine and the body; and South Asia. Dr. Ramberg’s research projects in South India and the United States engage the politics of sexuality, gender and religion, and are focused on the body as an artifact of culture and power in relation to questions of sexual subjectivity, social transformation and citizenship projects. Her current research focuses on religious conversion in the context of the revival of Buddhism in Karnataka, South India.



ARYAY FINKELSTEIN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, JUDAIC STUDIES

Emperor Julian and the Jews: The Place of Jews in the Making of a Pagan Empire

This project demonstrates how Emperor Julian (361–363), the nephew of Constantine, used Jews' proximity to pagans in Syrian Antioch to re-make imperial pagan identity and to delegitimize Christian "others." This important discovery in the study of religion of late antiquity, for Jewish-Christian relations, stems from the fact that Julian's comments have never been examined in any depth, and the fact Julian only mentions Jews in the final six months of his 18-month rule. Nevertheless, beginning in January 363 and in the midst of growing opposition from both Christians and pagans alike to his program in Antioch, Julian wrote six works in which Jews figured prominently. In these works he used the Jewish God, Jewish practices, Jewish heroes, and the Jerusalem temple to model imperial pagan religion and to delegitimize Christianity. This work explores the relationship between religion and state, and between religion and empire, and in particular, the state's use of religious identity to legitimate itself and to de-legitimate its opponents.



INTERLOCUTOR / CHRISTINE (TINA) SHEPARDSON
LINDSAY YOUNG PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

Dr. Tina Shepardson studies the history of early Christianity, particularly the Mediterranean world in the period of late antiquity. Her latest book, *Controlling Contested Places: Late Antique Antioch and the Spatial Politics of Religious Controversy* (University of California Press, 2014), demonstrates the ways in which contests over local places shaped the development of religious orthodoxy and orthopraxy in the late Roman Empire. Dr. Shepardson's current book project, which is also the title her 2016–17 NEH Fellowship project, is *A Memory of Violence: The Radicalization of Religious Difference in the Middle East (ca. 431–750 CE)*. She is the winner of a 2016–2017 NEH Fellowship, a 2009–2010 ACLS Fellowship, a 2008 NEH Summer Stipend, and a 2008 Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society.



GERGANA IVANOVA

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, GERMAN/ASIAN STUDIES

Unbinding The Pillow Book: Gender, Adaptation, and the Afterlife of a Japanese Classic

This project examines the intersections between gender ideology, political context, cultural appropriation, and literary production of women in the Heian (794–1185), with a special focus on the *The Pillow Book* (early 11th c.), which is viewed as one of the most important literary works in the Japanese language, a masterpiece of world literature, and has elicited severe criticism and intense praise over the centuries. Works of this period are frequently referred to as “classics,” and have played a crucial role in the creation of national literature in modern Japan. Here, Dr. Ivanova examines different streams of influence on perceptions of such works, tracing how they come to take on different evaluations. Why, for example, do some literary works from the distant past continue to play important roles in cultural production? What processes and agents have contributed to new readings of Japanese “classics”? Why have the images of women writers been manipulated and appropriated over the centuries?



INTERLOCUTOR / JAMIE NEWHARD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Dr. Newhard specializes in premodern Japanese literature and language, with a particular interest in courtly narrative of the Heian period (*The Tale of Genji*, *Tales of Ise*, poetic diaries, etc.) and its reception in later ages. Her most recent monograph, *Knowing the Amorous Man: A History of Scholarship on Tales of Ise* (Harvard University Press, 2013), combines primary-source research with a theoretically framed analysis, exploring commentaries from the medieval period into the early 20th century, and situating the text’s critical reception within an evolving historical and social context. Newhard identifies the ideological, methodological, and literary issues that shaped the commentators’ agendas as the audience for classical literature expanded beyond aristocratic circles to include other social groups. Dr. Newhard’s current work is on early modern educational books for women.



HEIDI MAIBOM

PROFESSOR, PHILOSOPHY

Coming to Grips with Perspective Taking

What do we do when we put ourselves in someone else's situation? What do we hope to achieve? How does our ability to take others' perspectives relate to our empathizing with them, respecting them, understanding what it's like to be them, and acting morally towards them? Do certain perspectives undergird traditional political power structures? Despite the centrality of these questions to our lives, there have been relatively few accessible and interdisciplinary investigations into perspective taking as a whole. This monograph addresses these questions in a unified approach, uniting psychology and philosophy, and extending our understanding of perspective taking. Dr. Maibom defends a version of the common sense view that perspective taking involves a substantive change of perspectives, is experiential, contains more details than more objective and discursive modes of thought, allows you to share (part of) someone else's experience, and brings to light distinctive kinds of information (what it's like).



INTERLOCUTOR / KARSTEN STUEBER

PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY, COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

Widely published in the area of philosophy of language, philosophy of mind and the philosophy of the social sciences, Karsten Stueber is the author of *Rediscovering Empathy: Agency, Folk Psychology, and the Human Sciences* (MIT Press 2006, 2nd edition 2010) and *Donald Davidsons Theorie Sprachlichen Verstehens* (Anton Hain, 1993). In addition he has co-edited four anthologies: *Philosophie der Skepsis* (utb, 1996), *Empathy and Agency: the Problem of Understanding in the Human Sciences* (Westview, 2000), *Debating Dispositions* (DeGruyter, 2009), and *Moral Sentimentalism* (Cambridge UP, in press). He is very much concerned with accounting for our knowledge of other minds and with defending the claim that empathy is epistemically central for this purpose. More recently he has become interested in exploring the metaethical implications of this epistemic thesis.

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KEYNOTE



CHANDRA TALPADE MOHANTY

DEPARTMENT CHAIR AND PROFESSOR,
WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES, SOCIOLOGY,
AND THE CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS OF
EDUCATION & DEAN'S PROFESSOR OF THE
HUMANITIES, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Mohanty is a world-renowned expert in Transnational Feminist Theory, Feminist Studies of Colonialism, Imperialism and Race, Anti-Racist Education and Pedagogies of Dissent, and Privatization, and Anti-Capitalist Critique. Her scholarship focuses on the politics of difference and solidarity; the relation of feminist knowledges and scholarship to organizing and social movements, mobilizing a transnational feminist anti-capitalist critique; decolonizing knowledge, and theorizing agency, identity and resistance in the context of feminist transborder solidarity. Her current work examines the politics of neoliberalism in the academy and in social movements.

Dr. Mohanty is the author of dozens of articles, as well as *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity* (Duke University Press, 2003). She is also the co-editor of *Sage Handbook of Identities* (Sage Publications, 2010), *Feminism and War: Confronting U.S. Imperialism* (Zed Press, 2008), *Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures* (Routledge, 1997), and *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism* (Indiana University Press, 1991), and the Series Editor of *Gender, Culture and Global Politics*, as well as *Comparative Feminist Studies*. Among her numerous accolades, Dr. Mohanty has received honorary Doctorates from Wooster College (2012) and Lund University Sweden (2008).



FURAHA NORTON

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ENGLISH &
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

The Uses of Realism in the Postmodern Literary World: Reading Toni Morrison After George Eliot

Victorian novelist George Eliot, born Mary Ann Evans, has been canonized as one of the greatest 19th century British writers for novels such as *Silas Marner*, *The Mill on the Floss*, and *Middlemarch*. Toni Morrison, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature, has garnered countless accolades for her 10 novels, *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula*, and *Beloved* among others. Both use the realist novel to champion a broad range of ethical concerns: to critique how patriarchal societies limit women's choices and possibilities for growth and achievement; to articulate the transformative power of sympathy; and to illuminate the crucial role of childhood, memory and history in characters' conceptions of themselves and what it means to belong to a community. To do all of these things both writers use the omniscient narrator in strikingly similar ways, despite the differences of time and place that would seem to divide them. This monograph illustrates how both Eliot and Morrison use the realist novel—one which seeks to represent everyday life and the lives of characters in a believable manner—to ensure readers understand their characters' lives and the beliefs and values that inform their fictive worlds.



INTERLOCUTOR / CHERENE SHERRARD-JOHNSON

SALLY MEAD HANDS-BASCOM PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH,
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN — MADISON

ChereNe Sherrard-Johnson is the Sally Mead Hands-Bascom Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she teaches 19th and 20th century American and African American literature, cultural studies and feminist theory. She is the author of *Portraits of the New Negro Woman: Visual and Literary Culture in the Harlem Renaissance* (Rutgers UP, 2012), and *Dorothy West's Paradise: A Biography of Class and Color*, a 2013 BCALA honor book. She is the editor of an annotated edition of Jessie Redmon Fauset's *Comedy: American Style and the critical anthology, A Companion to the Harlem Renaissance* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2015).



EARL WRIGHT, II

PROFESSOR, AFRICANA STUDIES

Jim Crow Sociology

The first book-length examination of “Black Sociology” in the United States, *Jim Crow Sociology: From the Atlanta Sociological Laboratory to the Association of Black Sociologists*, is the second of a three-book series on the origin, development and significance of sociology in the United States as practiced by Blacks at predominately Black institutions. *Jim Crow Sociology* extends the examination of the Black sociological enterprise beyond the exploits of W. E. B. Du Bois and Atlanta University and into the individual accomplishments of persons including, but not limited to, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Anna Julia Cooper and Maria Stewart and institutional units including Fisk University, Howard University and Tuskegee Institute over a nearly 50-year period. This volume concludes with an examination of the conditions leading to the establishment of the Association of Black Sociologists and a discussion of the impact of desegregation on sociology at predominately Black institutions.



INTERLOCUTOR / DR. OBIE CLAYTON JR.

ASA EDMUND WARE DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR,
CHAIRPERSON, SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE,
CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

Editor of the acclaimed book *An American Dilemma Revisited: Race Relations in a Changing World* (Russell Sage Foundation, 1996), Obie Clayton, Jr. is best known for his service and research in examining race relations, urban inequality, demography and the family. From 2011 through 2013 he was the inaugural Hollowell Distinguished Professor of Social Justice and Civil Rights Studies at the University of Georgia and founding Director of the University's Center for Social Justice, Civil and Human Rights.





University of

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