



CHARLES PHELPS

TAFT
RESEARCH
CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF
Cincinnati

HUMANITIES NOW
GRADUATE CONFERENCE

March 4th - 6th, 2015

9:15AM // WELCOME

Adrian Parr, Director, Charles Phelps Taft Research
CenterIntroductory Remarks: Marshall Montrose, Vice Provost
& Dean of the Graduate School

9:30AM - 11:00AM // TAFT DISSERTATION FELLOWS

ALEX HOGUE, *German Studies*
*Dreaming of a Better Human, or are
we Still Just Conscious Machines?*

Questions about the nature and structure of consciousness and embodied being have been at the forefront of cultural debates since the German idealists and romantic philosophers reacted against problematic elements of Enlightenment philosophy. This debate about whether consciousness or physical embodiment is most fundamental to human existence has developed over the last two centuries to fit the cultures of romanticism, modernism and now posthumanism, but the underlying questions remain the same. Informed by this debate is a body of narrative works and visual art that directly engage with these very questions through the construction of artificial humans and artificial intelligences. By imagining humanity's Other, these works reflect in their various media cultural laboratories in which they are able to explore these questions further.



MAURICE LAMB, *Philosophy*
*Characteristics of Non-reductive Explanations
in Complex Dynamical Systems Research*

Reductive approaches to scientific explanations assume that explanations are given by describing smaller components and interactions of phenomena. However, such approaches fail to account for explanations of phenomena consisting of many nonlinearly interacting components, as in complex dynamical systems research in physics, psychology, and biology. The structure of explanation in these contexts is only partially worked out by philosophers and physicists defending theories of emergence in complex dynamical systems research in physics. I argue that complex dynamic systems research in physics and other fields provides the basis for a philosophical account of scientific explanation that acknowledges the significance of scale and complexity as they are treated in modern scientific communities and across disciplines. This account does not presuppose either reduction or nonreduction.



BRITTANY COWGILL, *History*
*Rest Uneasy: Monitoring Sudden Infant Death
Syndrome in Twentieth-Century America*

Rest Uneasy takes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) as its subject of historical analysis. Tracing the diagnosis from its mid-century origins through the late-1900s, it investigates the processes by which SIDS became both a discrete medical enigma and a source of social anxiety in the U.S. This project explores parents' and professionals' contributions and reactions to shifting conceptions of unexplained infant mortality and analyzes their various, often conflicting, strategies to manage and prevent inexplicable infant deaths. It shows how contemporary ideologies about medicine, infant care, technology, and family shaped Americans' attempts to identify, explain, and eradicate SIDS and reveals that the monitoring of babies, broadly conceived, was central to these developments.

**11:00AM - 12:30PM // ARCHITECTURE & POLITICS
OF THE MIDDLE EAST**

NAJLAA KAREEM, DAAP, University of Cincinnati

Difference and Repetition in (re) Development Project
for Al Kadhimiya Historical Site, Baghdad, Iraq: Towards
a Deleuzian Approach in Urban Design

MAE AL-ANSARI, DAAP, University of Cincinnati

Constructing Modern Identities in Kuwait's Built Environment:
Sabah alSalem Housing Project (SSHP)

SAYEDEH LADAN ZARABADI, DAAP, University of Cincinnati

Art, Politics, Democracy: Public Art and Urban Movement in Iran

FARIMA FOOLADI, Visual Arts, Pennsylvania State University

The Glorious Invasion (IRAN)

12:30 - 1:00PM // LUNCH

1:00PM - 2:20PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER // PROFESSOR MICHAEL LYNCH

Michael Lynch is the Director of the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute. He is Professor of Philosophy and has been at UConn since 2004. The author or editor of seven books including In Praise of Reason: What Rationality Matters for Democracy, Truth, Truth as One and Many, and True to Life. Lynch is the recipient of the Medal for Research Excellence from the University of Connecticut's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and has held grants from the National

Endowment for the Humanities and the Bogliasco Foundation. Lynch, whose work has been translated into multiple languages, is a contributor to the New York Times and has made appearances on NPR's On Point, The Brian Lehrer Show, and Colin McEnroe and many others. He lectures frequently nationally and internationally, and is presently working on The Knowledge Machine: Knowing More and Understanding Less in the Age of Big Data (W.W. Norton).

2:20PM - 2:40PM // COFFEE BREAK

2:40PM - 4:00PM // HUMANITIES IN CONTEXT

MICHELLE DIETZ, German Studies, University of Cincinnati

Trains and Oddities or Status and Commodities?: Illness, Industry,
and Ideology in Hauptmann's Bahnwärter Thiel

FEDIR V. RAZUMENKO,

MMA, History (Medicine), University of Saskatchewan

Normality before Morality: Canadian innovation in cancer treatment
human research and its ethical grounding in the 1960s

ELLEN GUERRETTAZ, University of Cincinnati

Herodotus and Truth, History, Education, Creativity

WILLIAM KENLON,

Musical Arts (Composition & Theory),

University of Maryland at College Park.

Exploring the Influence of Early Twentieth Century Microtonal
Composers on Charles Ives's Three Quarter-Tone Piece

4:00PM - 5:45PM // TAFT DISSERTATION FELLOWS

**CIERA GRAHAM, Sociology**

Black Spaces At White Institutions: How Black Students Perceive and Utilize Black Student Campus Organizations at Rural and Urban Predominately White Colleges?

Current sociological research shows both that black college students are confronted with racism on a daily basis on college campuses, and that white educational institutions are ideologically organized around white norms, making them fundamentally white institutional spaces. However, research on how black students navigate this environment and deploy resistance strategies is relatively under developed. To address this gap, this dissertation will explore how black students at predominately white rural and urban colleges perceive and utilize the black campus community (i.e. African American student organizations). Extant literature has highlighted how involvement in black campus organizations facilitates black students' sense of belonging to their own racial group as well as to the larger institution. In this sense, it is useful to think of the black campus community as a space where strategies of resistance can be developed, employed and shared. However, we know less about how involvement in the black campus community is influenced by the larger environment in which the institution is situated. To address these questions, I will conduct forty in-depth face to face interviews with undergraduate black students at one urban predominately white college located in a racially diverse area, and one rural institution located in a predominately white and remote area in the state of Ohio. Moreover, the sample will be selected to ensure diversity in terms of major social identities, such as gender, class and sexuality. This will allow me to examine how students from different backgrounds experience the racial climate on campus differently, and hence, may perceive and use the black campus community in different ways.

**FRANCIS CARTIERI, Philosophy**

Is Evolutionary Biology Possible? Overcoming the Limits of Integration

Evolutionary biologists are increasingly embracing the notion of "integration" as a novel strategy for tackling the most ambitious and socially critical issues in the life sciences of the 21st century (e.g. biodiversity loss, food stability, synthetic biology, etc.). However, biologists have tended to systematically underestimate the extent and depth of empirical and conceptual conflicts between the diverse approaches relevant to those problems that are most in need of integrated, cross-disciplinary treatment. Worse, the most prevalent models of integrative research in biology reflect this systematic underestimation. To remedy these issues, I provide an account of the limits that typify integrative approaches to evolutionary biology's more complex, pragmatically weighty problems, and then develop a new model of integration ("Frontier Integration") that is designed to overcome these limits.

**AARYN GREEN, Sociology**

Does Popular Network and Cable Television Programming Simultaneously Promote Colorblindness and Nonwhite Racial Stereotypes and if so, How?

Studies on cultural appropriation are almost uniformly centered on whites' interpretations, behaviors, and explanations. This begs the question: what about the groups being appropriated? Particularly, in the age of colorblindness where almost all racial and/or cultural contact is framed by popular culture as good, do nonwhites have a sense that their culture is being appropriated by the white mainstream? If yes, what are their responses to this process? Does colorblind rhetoric play a part in how they come to understand and discuss the process? What does their understanding of appropriation look like in comparison to their white counterparts' understanding? The dissertation will use content analysis and

focus group interviews to investigate these questions and to analyze how cultural appropriation is perceived and discussed by white and nonwhite pop culture audiences, paying particular attention to the discussions of nonwhites (whose culture is routinely appropriated).



EMILY BAUMAN, *German Studies*
*Berlin's Image(s): Art Exhibitions in Berlin's
Transitional Architecture, 1989-2013*

Berlin's post-1989 reconstruction has stimulated rich visual cultural research investigating how architecture performs national identity. My research contributes to and expands on this scholarship with an examination of visual and performance art, museum exhibition practices, and monumental architecture, as I explore how collective, and specifically, national identity is expressed through visual cultural media. In my project, I take the museum architecture of the Spree Island urban cultural forum as my case study in an analysis of German national visual culture. In an examination of the five museums of Museum Island, built over the course of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and extensively renovated following German unification, as well as of the forthcoming Humboldt-Forum, a reimagination and rebuild of the former Hohenzollern Palace that will house Berlin university, library, and museum collections, I demonstrate that the expression of Germanness through national museum architecture since the Fall of the Berlin Wall does not in effect present a new, cosmopolitan Germany, but rather echoes the nationalist and colonialist sentiments of the nineteenth century.



9:30AM - 11:00AM // TAFT DISSERTATION FELLOWS

RACHEL STEIGER-MEISTER,
English & Comparative Literature
Sea's Edge (a novel)

Sea's Edge, my creative dissertation, is a young adult fantasy novel that takes place in Ireland at the end of the nineteenth century. The novel follows the story of Fíona, a young woman from the Aran Islands, who falls in love with a visiting young scholar, Agnes. Fíona and her community's subsistence way of life is vastly different from Agnes's privileged upbringing in Dublin. The novel explores what it means to love across differences in class, education, language, and worldview. The setting—Fíona's windswept, rocky island where the supernatural figures of Irish folk belief are made real—emphasizes the power and wonder of the natural world. With its focus on romantic love between young women and traditional island life, Sea's Edge will be a unique contribution to young adult literature.



DAVID GOMEZ-CAMBRONE,
Romance Languages & Literatures
In Search of Elysium: Spanish Poetry of Difference at the Turn of the 21st Century

At the turn of the 21st century, Spain's poetic literary field was embroiled in a cultural conflict between the centralized and hegemonic poets of experience and the marginalized and counterhegemonic poets of difference. As the immense influence of the poets of experience began to wane in the 1990s, the poets of difference emerged, seeking an innovative aesthetic and a prized place in the legacy of contemporary Spanish poetry. By employing the theoretical frameworks of Pierre Bourdieu and Itamar Even-Zohar, this project endeavors to expose the social workings and mechanisms of the era in order to prove the true literary value of the heterodox poets of difference through an analysis of the works of the Spanish poets Federico Gallego Ripoll, Juan Carlos Mestre and Concha García.



BRIAN TRAPP,
English & Comparative Literature
Michael and Sal

My dissertation-in-progress is a novel titled Michael and Sal—a serio-comic coming-of-age story that follows a set of twins: Sal, who has severe cerebral palsy and mental disabilities, and Michael, the “normal one,” who struggles with survivor's guilt. The novel challenges common disability narratives of compensation and sentimentality, drawing on the modes of the interior novel and the comic novel to tell a unique, domestic family story. Written in a tonally nimble style that vacillates between comedy and tragedy, Michael and Sal extends and problematizes debates in disability studies.

11:00AM - 12:30PM // INTERDISCIPLINARY HUMANITIES

DUSTIN JULIUS, Penn State University

Complexity, Commoditization, and Meaning in Architecture

KORY BEIGHLE, DAAP, University of Cincinnati

Architectural Remix: Disciplinarity in a post-Humanities World

JOSEPH BLAKE LANE, DAAP, University of Cincinnati

Land Grab: Neoliberal Principles of Rio's Barra da Tijuca and the favela Vila Autódromo

RASHA AL-TAMEEMI, DAAP, University of Cincinnati

12:30PM - 1:00PM // LUNCH

1:00PM - 2:20PM // NEW PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THEORY

IGOR KOVAČ, *Political Science, University of Cincinnati*
Geopolitics: Shangri-La of International Relations

SANGAR SALIH, *Sociology, University of Cincinnati*
Parental Involvement in Children's Education in a Kurdish Community in the United States

JIHAD OTHMAN, *Sociology, University Of Cincinnati*
Masculinity and health practices among male Kurdish immigrants to the US

SHALLAW A MOHAMMED, *Political Science, University of Cincinnati*
The Influence of Energy Power in Reshaping the Iraqi Kurdistan

2:20PM - 2:40PM // COFFEE

2:40PM - 4:00PM // PERSPECTIVES ON ARCHITECTURE

SAMUEL MORREN, *DAAP, University of Cincinnati*
Honored Poets

VENUS S. AKEF, *DAAP, University of Cincinnati*
Architecture of Peace (Baghdan - Iraq)

NILOUFAR KIOUMARSI,
Department of Art and Architecture Pennsylvania State University
Space within Space: The spatial effects of digital media

SHUBBER FALAH, *DAAP, University of Cincinnati*
The High Line Park in New York City

4:00PM - 5:30PM // GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND MEANING

JO TEUT (KELCI),
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, University of Cincinnati
Transgressing Binary Gender Roles in Hemingway's The Garden of Eden

TRAVIS D. SPEICE, *Sociology, University of Cincinnati*
"Shades of gay: The problem with defining gender and sexuality"

PERRY MILLER, *Comparative Studies, Ohio State University*
Response-ability and meaning: A study of melancholia and neuroses in the production of Asian American Woman

FAZILAT SOUKHAKIAN, *University Of Cincinnati (DAAP) (IRAN)*
The Shah and His Camera in the Unveiling of Iranian Women from the Harem: 1850 to 1979, the Year of the Islamic Revolution. How photography and political power worked hand-in-hand at the highest echelon of society in the production of Iran's modernity

9:30AM - 11:00AM // TAFT DISSERTATION FELLOWS



ROBERT NESTHEIDE, *Political Science*

Primary Energy Resource Transitions and Great Power GrandStrategy: Exploring the American and British Navies' Transition from Coal to Oil

The significant role of energy security in state grand strategy is widely acknowledged. However transitions by states militaries from one energy source to another are understudied. Many scholars and scientists have noted the likely future transition from fossil fuels to other, more sustainable, resources. In order to prepare for and manage future likely transitions, it is important that we examine past transitions. This dissertation seeks to understand the impact of such transitions by studying the shift of the U.S. and British navies from coal to oil for fueling their fleets between 1904 and 1918. I hypothesize that this transition shifted state perspectives, policies and grand strategy and thus lead to increased competition between the two powers over control of the newly prioritized energy resource.



JIREH LOREAUX, *Mathematical Sciences*

Diagonals of Idempotents

A square matrix is a two-dimensional array of numbers with equally many rows and columns, however, this number may be either finite or infinite. The diagonal of a matrix is the sequence of numbers starting with the top left entry and proceeding diagonally to the bottom right entry. An idempotent matrix is one which is unchanged when multiplied by itself. The purpose of this project is to investigate and attempt to characterize the possible diagonals of infinite idempotent matrices. This has been done for finite idempotent matrices by Giol, et al. in 2011 [GKL+11]. It has also been done for certain infinite idempotent matrices that satisfy a symmetry condition known as being self-adjoint by Kadison in 2002 [Kad02a],[Kad02b]. As Giol, et al. show, this investigation has applications to frame theory and signal processing.



XINING LI, *Mathematical Sciences*
Preservation of Bounded Geometry
Under Metric Transformations

Calculus in metric measure spaces (sets where one can talk about metric or distances between points, and measures, or sizes, of subsets) is now an integral part of mathematical analysis. For a useful theory of calculus on such spaces, the metric and measure on the set must have certain geometric properties, called doubling and Poincaré inequalities. Thus it is of great interest to identify spaces that have these geometric properties. In my dissertation, I study deformations of spaces, called sphericalization (wrapping the space into a spherical object), flattening (unwrapping), uniformization (squeezing the volume at large scales), and hyperbolization (exponentially enlarging volume at large scales) with the aim of seeing whether these deformations preserve the geometric properties of interest.

11:00AM - 12:30PM // LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES

CHEN SUN, *Second Language Acquisition*,
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Reflections on Humor in the U.S. and China

CHRISTOPHER MAGGIO, *Creative Writing/Fiction*, *Miami University*

Blind Spot: The Traumatic Shaping of Jonathan Franzen's

"On Autobiographical Fiction"

C. AMALIA CANTISÁN-MUÑOZ, *Hispanic Literary and Cultural Studies*,
Hispanic and Italian Studies, *University of Illinois at Chicago*

Mourning National Trauma: Representations of 9/11 in David Foster Wallace's

"The View from Mrs. Thompson's" and Art Spiegelman's *In Shadow of No Towers*.

RICHARD LEBLANC, *Romance Studies*, *Cornell University*

Philip and Lyotard: Postcolonial and Postmodern

JILL QUARLES, *Hispanic Literary and Cultural Studies*, *Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies*, *University of Illinois at Chicago*

"Es amor desenfiar?" :Rethinking female morality constructions in Ana Caro's

Valor, agravio y mujer

12:30PM - 1:00PM // LUNCH

1:00PM - 2:20PM // KEYNOTE SPEAKER // PROFESSOR SARA GUYER

Sara Guyer is the Director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Humanities. Sara is a scholar of poetry and rhetoric, with a particular interest in romanticism and its legacies. Her research seeks to demonstrate the ongoing relevance of romanticism and poetry for thinking about the major social and philosophical issues of our time, including survival, the human after humanism, geographic displacement, and public life. She is the author of *Romanticism after Auschwitz* (Stanford, 2007) and *Reading with John Clare: Biopoetics, Sovereignty, Romanticism* (Fordham, 2015). With Steven Miller, she edited "Literature and the Right to Marriage," a special issue of *Diacritics*, and with Celeste Langan, she edited a special issue of *Romantic Circles* on "Romanticism and Materiality." She also edits *LitZ*, a new book series published by Fordham University Press. In addition to courses on Romantic and Holocaust literatures, Sara teaches Public Humanities: Theories, Cases, Methods and with Richard Keller has co-taught a graduate course on biopolitics that eventuated in a Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar on Biopolitics: the Politics of Life Itself.

2:20PM - 2:40PM // COFFEE BREAK

2:40PM - 4:00PM // CRITICAL VISUAL STUDIES

MARIA EUGENIA ACHURRA G., DAAP, University of Cincinnati

Debord's "Spectacle": A Critical Approach to Vision

**SABAH HAIDER, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies
in Society & Culture, Concordia University**

Emerging Trends in Filmmaking from the Arab World.

AMY LATESSA, DAAP, University of Cincinnati

Collage & Meaning

ROSS TINNEY, DAAP, University of Cincinnati

Teaching Beyond the Visual: Art Education and the New (Visual) Humanities

SSO-RHA KANG, DAAP, University of Cincinnati

Aesthetics of Trauma in Krzysztof Kieslowski's Blue (1992)



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University of Cincinnati
Edwards 1, Suite 1110
47 Corry Boulevard
Cincinnati Ohio 45221

513.556.0675
www.uc.edu/taftcenter

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