



Oregon Humanities Center

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Spring 2018

Cultural critic Margo Jefferson explores the meaning of “We” in “We the People”

The Oregon Humanities Center (OHC) is honored to host Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, cultural critic, journalist, and professor Margo Jefferson, who will give the final lecture in the OHC’s “We the People” series. Her lecture, titled “From ‘I’ to ‘We’: The Role of the Citizen-Critic,” will take place in Eugene on Wednesday, May 30th at 7:30 p.m. in 182 Lillis Hall on the UO campus, and in Portland on Thursday, May 31st at 7:30 p.m. at the UO in Portland, 70 NW Couch St. The OHC was fortunate to be able to reschedule Margo Jefferson’s Oregon visit after having had to cancel her visit planned for last May.

Jefferson asks, “how do we teach ourselves to go beyond the limits of our

own experience?” stating, “I think we all need to be citizen-critics. I think our task is to bring all the traditions that have shaped us—intellectual, political, aesthetic—to complex questions of identity and community.”

The daughter of a prominent physician and social worker-turned-socialite mother, Jefferson grew up in an upper-middle class black neighborhood of Chicago in the 1950s and ’60s. She writes about her experiences growing up in post-war America as a member of a privileged African American family in



Margo Jefferson

her memoir, *Negroland*, which won the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiography, The International Bridge Prize, and The Heartland Prize.

She writes, “‘We the People’ is an *continued on page 3*

Third annual “Musicking Conference” offers something for everyone

Thanks to generous support from our Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities, the Oregon Humanities Center is proud to be a sponsor of the third annual “Musicking Conference,” an international symposium featuring five days of concerts, workshops, and lectures about music and performance practices. The conference takes place April 10–14, 2018 on the UO campus, and all events are free and open to the public.

This year’s conference, centered around the theme of “Cultural Considerations,” will explore music of the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern eras. Featured performances will be presented on both historic and modern instruments, with a focus on the artistic, historical, sociologi-

cal, and cultural circumstances within which the music was created.

The conference will open with a concert of medieval music, titled “The Penitent Pilgrim: Roads to Salvation 1200–1400” with soprano Anne Azéma, Artistic Director of the Boston Camarata, and medieval strings player Shira Kammen, on Tuesday, April 10th at 7:30 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall.

A concert on Wednesday evening, April 11th, “Voices of Nature in Eighteenth-Century Germany,” will feature a lighthearted mixture of vocal and instrumental music by lesser-known German composers, linked by a theme of music inspired by animals. The concert will take place in Berwick Hall, 975 E. 18th Ave.

On Thursday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m.,



Anne Azéma and Shira Kammen

also in Berwick Hall, internationally-renowned recorder player, vocalist, and early music specialist Peter Van Heyghen will present a concert titled “Paradiso Armonico,” featuring vocal and instru-

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Symposium addresses diversity and justice on public lands

The UO's Center for Environmental Futures is excited to announce its inaugural symposium to be held on **Wednesday through Friday, May 9–11, 2018**. The symposium, “**Environmental Justice, Race, and Public Lands**,” will focus on issues of equity and environmental justice on public lands. Practitioners working on issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the Pacific Northwest will engage with scholars focused on race, environmental justice, and indigeneity as they relate to public lands.

The symposium will kick off with the “**Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples Lecture**” given by **Karletta Chief** (Diné), Soil, Water, and Environmental Sciences, University of Arizona; and **Margaret Hiza-Redsteer** (Crow), climate and ecosystem scientist, on **Wednesday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Many Nations Longhouse**.

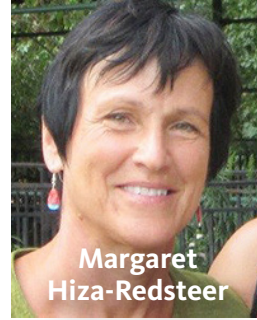
Panels will be held throughout the two days and there will be keynote lectures each evening. **Kyle Powys Whyte** (Citizen Potawatomi Nation) will speak on the relationship of global climate change to land use, ownership, and indigenous histories of dispossession on **May 10 at 7:30 p.m.** in **156 Straub Hall**. Whyte is a professor of Philosophy and Community Sustainability at Michigan State University. The following evening **Carolyn Finney**, professor of Geography at the University of Kentucky, will give a talk at **7:30 p.m.** in **156 Straub Hall**. Finney is a writer, performer, and cultural geographer. She is the author of *Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors*. Finney serves on the U.S. National Parks Advisory Board, which works to assist the National Parks Service in engaging in relations of reciprocity

with diverse communities.

The Center for Environmental Futures is an interdisciplinary group of faculty and students that reflects a longstanding investment in environmentalism and social justice at the University of Oregon and in the larger Eugene community. Its mission is to encourage faculty and students in interdisciplinary environmental studies research and teaching; to encourage and support members



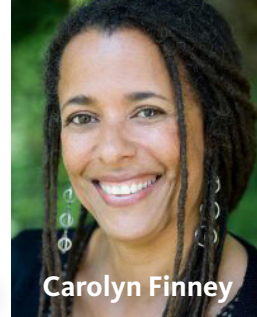
Karletta Chief



Margaret Hiza-Redsteer



Kyle Powys Whyte



Carolyn Finney

of the community to participate in the UO's environmental studies programming and problem-solving; and to cultivate relationships and build projects to address pressing environmental and social problems.

“Environmental Justice, Race, and Public Lands” is cosponsored by the **OHC's Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences,**

and Humanities. For more information go to: blogs.uoregon.edu/ejrpl

OHC welcomes Associate Director Jena Turner

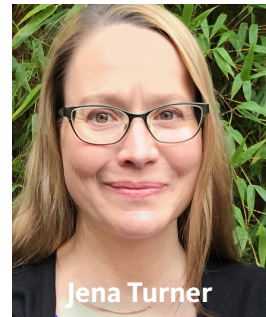
We are pleased to welcome Jena Turner to the role of Associate Director of the OHC. Jena comes to us from the Office International Affairs (OIA) where she served as Director of Global Education Oregon (GEO) for 5-1/2 years. She began work at the OHC on January 16 and has been working closely with Julia Heydon, the outgoing Associate Director.

Prior to working in OIA, Jena served as the Assistant Director of the UO's Center for Intercultural Dialogue, and also spent six years as a Program Manager for the non-profit organization Mobility International (MIUSA). At MIUSA, Jena provided leadership for and designed, managed, and facilitated more than 40 U.S. and international exchange programs and events.

Jena also spent a year as an AmeriCorps Volunteer and more than 3-1/2 years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras and Zambia, where she worked on community development projects in underrepresented communities and in partnership with local women's groups.

Jena received her bachelor's degree in environmental studies from UC-Santa Barbara. She is the co-author of a 200-page Spanish-language field guide to the plants of Sierra de Agalta in Honduras.

Please join us in welcoming Jena to the OHC.



Jena Turner

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affirmation, but it's a provocation too. It provokes each of us as individuals, as 'I's who cherish our particular identities, to think about how those identities can join forces in a community. And by 'forces' I mean beliefs, achievements and dreams, but also uncertainties and conflicts: histories and traditions that often clash. 'We the People' are a nation of communities and cultures struggling hard to make sense of one another. What kind of 'we' is worth dreaming of and working for?"

Jefferson currently teaches writing at Columbia University School of the Arts. Her previous book was *On Michael Jackson*. She has been a staff writer for The New York Times and Newsweek, and has



published in New York Magazine, The Nation, The Washington Post, The Believer, and Guernica. Her essays have been anthologized in: *The Best American Essays, 2015*; *The Inevitable: Contemporary Writers Confront Death; What My Mother Gave Me; The Best African-American Essays, 2014*; *The Mrs. Dalloway Reader*; *Black Cool*; and *The Jazz Cadence of*

American Culture. She also wrote and performed a theater piece, *Sixty Minutes in Negroland*, at The Cherry Lane Theatre and The Culture Project.

Both lectures are free and open to the public. The Eugene lecture will be followed by a book sale and signing. For disability accommodations (which must be made by May 23, 2018) or for information, call (541) 346-3934, or visit ohc.uoregon.edu.

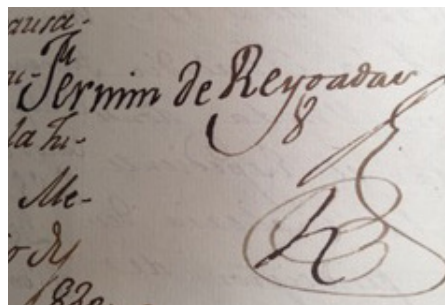
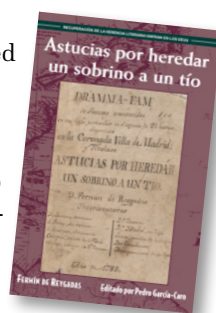
Former Wulf professor discovers historic manuscript of Hispanic comedy

UO's University Theatre will stage *Tricks to Inherit*, the first English-language translation of *Astucias por Heredar: Un sobrino a su tío* (*Tricks to Inherit: A Nephew from His Uncle*). The long-forgotten, Spanish-language play was written by Fermín de Reygadas in Mexico in 1789. The play traveled north with settlers to near today's Santa Cruz, California. The connection between the Hispanic comedy and this community hadn't been traced until UO Romance Languages professor Pedro García-Caro discovered the only handwritten copy of the play signed by Reygadas.

García-Caro found the manuscript while conducting research in June 2012 at UC-Berkeley's Bancroft Library to prepare for a course he was revising. His research and revision of SPAN 348 "U.S. Hispanic Literary Cultures" were funded by the **Oregon Humanities Center's Robert F. and Evelyn Nelson Wulf Professorship in the Humanities**. García-Caro's groundbreaking research located the source of the play in Mexico, including the censorship files, which had banned it from the Mexican stage in 1790. The colonial authorities took issue with its social critique and strong language. The fact that the play remained in manuscript form and was never printed or published meant that the text remained uncensored with all its original lines.

García-Caro completed a critical transcription of the early play, which has recently been released as an e-book by Arte Público Press (University of Houston) as part of its Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage project.

It is a critical, annotated edition with a detailed introduction describing the



Fermín de Reygadas's signature on his manuscript of *Astucias por Heredar: Un sobrino a su tío*.

context, author, and provenance of the comedy. García-Caro believes "this critical edition, its performance, and studies of this play showcase the University of Oregon as a place where cutting-edge research in cultural history across countries is fostered and valued."

The play, to be staged by University Theatre beginning May 25, was translated by Theatre Arts doctoral student Olga Sanchez Saltveit under the supervision of García-Caro. Saltveit directs the satirical comedy about a miserly uncle, his love-struck nephew, and their wily servants. For performance information go to: blogs.uoregon.edu/tricks2inherit

A roundtable discussion and presentations on the colonial setting of the play will take place on Friday, June 8th. More information will be made available at: las.uoregon.edu

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mental music of the 17th century, with Marc Vanscheeuwijck, baroque cello, Holly Roberts, baroque violin, Margret Gries, harpsichord, and soprano Emma Rose Lynn.

Van Heyghen will give the keynote lecture "**Conducting Early Music: (Re-)defining Historically Informed Practices and Responsibilities**" on **Friday, April 13th at 4 p.m. in Collier House**.

On Saturday, April 14 in Berwick Hall, beginning at 11 a.m., kids of all ages can learn the basics of organ building and baroque dance.

The culmination of the conference will be the UO Chamber Choir and UO Symphony Orchestra's culturally informed world-premiere 1790s rendition of **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Requiem**, led by Van Heyghen, who is professor of Historical Performance Practice at the early music departments of the Royal Conservatories in Brussels, The Hague, and Amsterdam, on **Saturday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall**. A pre-concert lecture with performance practice specialist Marc Vanscheeuwijck will take place at 6:30 p.m. in 163 Music.

For the complete conference schedule go to: blogs.uoregon.edu/musicking



Peter Van Heyghen

5211 University of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403-5211

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Conference provides a look at Russian history in the Pacific Northwest

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES) at the University of Oregon, REEES program faculty are organizing an international conference on **“Russians in the Pacific Northwest: From Fort Ross to the Aleutian Islands.”** The conference will be on **Friday and Saturday, April 6 and 7, 2018** in the **Gerlinger Alumni Lounge** on the UO campus. It is the first conference in Oregon to take stock of the Russians’ role in the vast region spanning from Alaska to northern California from the eighteenth century to the present day.

The event will include a keynote address by Russian historian Andrei Grinev of St. Petersburg Polytechnic University and scholarly presentations on a wide range of topics representing a number of disciplinary perspectives (anthropology, art history, ethnic studies, history, and religion), as well as cultural programming that will appeal to the broader public. Presentation topics will include: the history of Russian trade and colonization in the region; environmental and immigrant history; the interconnected histories of Russians and Native Americans in the region; and Russian art and religion of the Pacific Northwest. This event will provide a window into the complex and multifaceted history of Russians in the region—a topic of special significance in the state of Oregon, which has a large Russian diaspora.

Of particular interest to the general public will be a presentation by staff members from the Fort Ross Conservancy on Metini-Fort Ross; a talk by Russian-American artist Olga Volch-

kova on her unique vision of Russian America; and a lecture by artist and writer T. Edward Bak on his graphic novel on Georg Wilhelm Steller and Russian Alaska.

The event, cosponsored by the Oregon Humanities Center, is free and open to the public. For the conference program, visit the events section of the REEES homepage at rees.uoregon.edu



Oil painting by Henry Raschen of Fort Ross. Fort Ross was a Russian-American Company settlement from 1812 to 1841. It was the southernmost settlement in the Russian colonization of the North American continent, and was established as an agricultural base to supply Alaska.