



Oregon Humanities Center

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“Witnessing Genocide” Symposium Features Five Keynote Speakers

In May of 1996, the Oregon Humanities Center hosted a major conference entitled “Ethics After the Holocaust,” which not only brought renowned thinkers and speakers such as Elie Wiesel, Emil Fackenheim, and Deborah Lipstadt to Eugene, but which also led to the establishment of the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at the University of Oregon. Now, eleven years later, to commemorate that important conference, the Humanities Center in collaboration with Judaic Studies—with generous support from The Carlton Raymond and Wilberta Ripley Savage Endowment for International Relations and Peace and many other cosponsors—is hosting a symposium entitled “**Witnessing Genocide: Representation and Responsibility**” on **April 28-30, 2007**. This symposium will explore various artistic and literary modes of representing genocide, including poetry, painting, music, architecture, film, literature, and visual and print media, and will inquire into the ethical obligations of the witness.

The event will feature two full days of panels (Sunday and Monday) and five keynote addresses. Some of the questions that will be explored include: What does it mean to bear witness? What is the ethical obligation of the witness? Can we represent genocide without trivializing it? What is at stake if we do not try to represent or remember such catastrophic events? How might our attempts to represent genocide in various ways shape others’ views of what has occurred—or in the case of Darfur today—what is currently taking place in the world?

The symposium will open on **Saturday evening, April 28th at 7:30 p.m. in 182 Lillis Hall** with a keynote address entitled “Can Genocide Be Stopped in an Age of Terror?” by **Samantha Power**, the **Oregon Humanities Center’s in-**

augural Tzedek Lecturer. Power is The Anna Lindh Professor of Practice of Global Leadership and Public Policy at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. Her book *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide* was awarded the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for general non-



fiction, the 2003 National Book Critics Circle Award for general non-fiction, and the Council on Foreign Relations’ Arthur Ross Prize for the best book on U.S. foreign policy. Power’s *New Yorker* article on the horrors in Darfur, Sudan

won the 2005 National Magazine Award for best reporting. Power was the founding executive director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy (1998-2002). From 1993-1996, she covered the wars in the former Yugoslavia as a reporter for *U.S. News and World Report*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The Economist*. Power is the editor, with Graham Allison, of *Realizing Human Rights: Moving from Inspiration to Impact*. A graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, she moved to the United States from Ireland at the age of nine. She spent 2005-06 working in the office of Senator Barack Obama and is currently writing a political biography of the UN’s late Sérgio Vieira de Mello.

On Sunday afternoon, **April 29th at 1:30 p.m. in 182 Lillis Hall, James E. Young** will give a slide presentation and lecture, “The Stages of Memory and the Monument:



continued on page 4

Colette Brunschwig Exhibit: “The Rose of No One”

In conjunction with the **Witnessing Genocide: Representation and Responsibility** symposium, the **Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art** will feature an exhibit of seventeen untitled works by the French artist **Colette Brunschwig** **April 28** through **June 16, 2007**. Each of Brunschwig’s collages is a meditation on a poem by Paul Celan, one of the most celebrated modern European poets. The work of Brunschwig and Celan—both of whom survived the Holocaust—bears witness to that catastrophe.

Colette Brunschwig (b. 1927) is a renowned painter currently living in Paris. Brunschwig was hidden during the Nazi occupation by a Catholic friend who introduced her to the art of China. Brunschwig conceived of her art as bearing witness to the Holocaust, including

the loss of her own family members in the catastrophe. In order to bear witness to the trauma of the Holocaust through her art, Brunschwig turns away from representation, from the notion of mimesis that dominates Western art from its beginnings through early modernism.

Jeffrey Librett, German and Scandinavian, will give a **gallery talk** entitled “Traces of the Holocaust in Paul Celan’s Poetry and Colette Brunschwig’s Art” on **May 9 at 6 p.m.** at the Museum.

The Museum hours are Wednesday 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and Thursday through Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays and Tuesdays and major holidays. For information, call (541) 346-3027.

The **White Lotus Gallery** at 767 Wilamette Street will feature a companion exhibit by Brunschwig of ink drawings in-

spired by Chinese masters **April 27** through **June 9, 2007**. There will be a **gallery talk** by **Steven Shankman** on Saturday, **April 28 at 2 p.m.** entitled “China and Colette Brunschwig’s Art of Witnessing.”

Special thanks to Marsha Wells Shankman for curating the show at the White Lotus gallery, and for arranging for the shipment of all of the artworks from France. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For information, call (541) 345-3276.



Ellen Rees Completes Book with Ernest G. Moll Fellowship

I have been haunted by a particular literary landscape since my first quarter in graduate school in the autumn of 1989. It is an arctic landscape of round-the-clock sunlight or darkness, mountains that look disconcertingly unreal, incongruous and stultifying Victorian parlors, shabby small-town cafés, and grimy wharves that link the far north of Norway to the rest of the world. I stumbled across this landscape by chance in a book called *The Child Who Loved Roads* by the twentieth-century Norwegian author Cora Sandel. It resonated immediately, since I myself was once a child who loved roads, a secret map-maker, builder of imaginary spaces, and literary votary. During winter quarter 2007 with the support of the **Ernest G. Moll Fellowship in Literary Studies** I was



able to complete the final two chapters in a book called *Figurative Space in Cora Sandel’s Novels*. This is the book that I have always dreamed of writing.

Sandel is a writers’ writer—meticulous, measured, experimental, and ironic. In the last ten years or so Norwegian literary scholars have rediscovered her, and nearly all of the newer commentaries bring out some aspect of movement or travel in her novels (the flaneur, the nomad), but none so far examine where it is that Sandel’s characters actually go as they move through arctic and urban landscapes. As a result, the task I set for myself in this book was to map these territories, to understand how space functions figuratively in her writing. Informed by a number of interdisciplinary theoretical examinations of how space creates meaning,

I have attempted to connect Sandel’s use of space to her experimentation with the novel as a genre.

Trained as a painter, in her mid-twenties Sandel left Norway for Paris and remained an expatriate for nearly all of her adult life. She arrived on the Left Bank around 1905 just as art, music, and literature began to express entirely new sensibilities and move further in the direction of abstraction. We see echoes of her training in the visual arts throughout all of her work, but most prominently in her last two novels, which she subtitled “Interior with Figures” rather than “Novel.”

The two novels I spent the most time with during my fellowship quarter, *Alberta and Freedom* from 1931 and *Don’t Buy Dondi* from 1958, manifest two extremes of Sandel’s literary topography. *Alberta and Freedom* traces Alberta’s attempt to maintain autonomy during a year spent in the streets, ateliers and cheap hotel rooms of the expatriate artists’ colony in Paris, while *Don’t Buy Dondi* takes place in one large room in a patrician house in a small town in the far north of Norway. In the twenty-four hour span of the novel the sun never sets, the characters never stop talking, and time in a sense morphs into space.

My book is now complete, and will appear within the next year under the imprint of Alvheim & Eide, a Norwegian publisher of scholarly books. Although I also wrote a dissertation on Sandel’s novels in 1995, nearly all the material in *Figurative Space in Cora Sandel’s Novels* has been developed since I joined the faculty of the University of Oregon in 2004. It has been a great joy to discover new depths (and new spaces) within a body of work that I mistakenly thought I already knew inside and out. The Oregon Humanities Center and the Ernest G. Moll Faculty Research Fellowship award thus created a very important intellectual space in my professional life.

—Ellen Rees, German and Scandinavian

Engaging the Public: John Lysaker to Launch Humanities Center Faculty Lecture Series

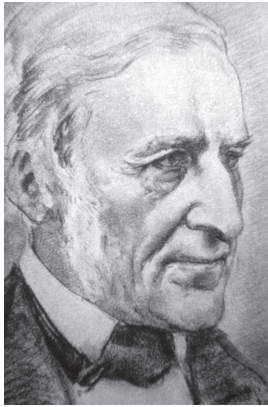
The Oregon Humanities Center is pleased to host philosophy professor John Lysaker as the inaugural speaker in our new “Engaging the Public” lecture series, in which distinguished UO faculty with a special gift for engaging audiences beyond academia present lectures in the humanities to audiences both on and off campus. During the month of May, Lysaker will be giving two lectures and a morning workshop on the subject of Ralph Waldo Emerson, spirituality, and humanistic reflection.

“Emerson’s Spiritual Exercises”

Friday, May 18, 2007

7:30-9 p.m.

First Christian Church
1166 Oak Street



Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) continues to strike many as a principal presence in American intellectual life. Through lecture and discussion, we will explore how Emerson’s works provide readers with spiritual exercises that promise increased self-knowledge and a deepened responsiveness to the world around them. No prior knowledge of Emerson will be presumed, though Emersonians of all stripes are heartily welcome.

“The Challenge of a Spiritual Life”

Saturday, May 19, 2007

9-11:30 a.m.

First Christian Church
1166 Oak Street

Drawing upon passages from the essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson, we will discuss several questions facing those who elect to live a spiritual life. Here are four: How should we understand revelation, and is it an ongoing affair? What does it mean to have a vocation? What is the role of fate in a spiritual life? How might we learn from perspectives foreign to our own while maintaining the integrity of our own beliefs? No prior knowledge of Emerson will be presumed, though Emersonians of all stripes are heartily welcome.

“Emersonian Humanities”

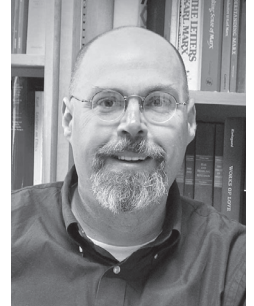
Tuesday, May 29, 2007

4 p.m.

Knight Library Browsing Room
UO campus

“Emersonian Humanities” is an unabashed apologetic for an approach to humanistic reflection that entails “taking texts personally” while resisting the lure of social scientific methodologies on the one hand, and overt moralizing on the other.

John Lysaker is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oregon. His teaching and publications engage issues in the philosophy of art, philosophical psychology, and political philosophy. He is the author or co-author of some thirty articles, of the book *You Must Change Your Life: Poetry, Philosophy, and the Birth of Sense* (Penn State Press, 2002), and of the forthcoming monograph, *Emerson and Self-Culture* (Indiana University Press).



All events are free and open to the public. Special thanks to the Office of the President for the funding that made this lecture series possible. For more information, call 344-1425 (for the May 18 and 19 events), or 346-3934 (for the May 29 lecture.)

Wulf Professor Bringing Guests to Speak about Islam and Global Forces

During spring term 2007, **Anita Weiss**, professor of international studies and a recipient of a 2006-07 **Wulf Professorship in the Humanities**, will be teaching a new course entitled “Islam and Global Forces” (INTL 399). Weiss developed this course with the help of the Robert and Evelyn Nelson Wulf Professorship in the Humanities through the Oregon Humanities Center.

The course will offer an introduction to the general salience of the Islamic religion in contemporary global politics; the pivotal role the religion plays in Muslim societies; and the effects of global forces on the political economy of countries with major Muslim populations. The course intends to contextualize and enrich the study of the interactions between global influences and political, social, and economic concerns in Muslim societies.

In conjunction with the class, two distinguished visiting scholars will give public lectures. **Francis Robinson**, University of London, will give a lecture entitled “The Christian and Islamic Reformations Compared” on **April 19 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Knight Library Browsing Room**. Robinson is author of the forthcoming book, *Islamic Reform and Modernity in South Asian Studies*.

John Voll, professor of Islamic history and associate director of the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, will give a lecture entitled “Burqas, Bikinis, and Hip Hop: Different Kinds of Muslims” on **May 22 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Knight Library Browsing Room**.

For information about either of these lectures or the course, call Anita Weiss at 346-3245.

Symposium keynotes *(continued from front page)*

From Berlin to New York.” In his keynote talk, Young will examine the stages of memorialization as they have played out in design competitions in Berlin for Germany’s national Holocaust memorial and in New York City for the World Trade Center Site Memorial. He will also look at how the vernacular of memorials has changed since the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial, how the very idea of the memorial has evolved from icons of individual mourning to those of mass death.

James Young is Professor of English and Judaic Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and is Chair of the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies. He is the author of *Writing and Rewriting the Holocaust* (1988); *The Texture of Memory* (Yale University Press, 1993); and *At Memory’s Edge: After-Images of the Holocaust in Contemporary Art and Architecture* (Yale University Press, 2000). He was the guest curator of an exhibition at the Jewish Museum in New York City, entitled “The Art of Memory: Holocaust Memorials in History.”

Sunday’s events will be capped by an evening lecture by **Jerry Fowler**, Staff Director, Committee on Conscience, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (on leave 2006-07), and currently the William F. Podlich Distinguished



Visiting Professor at Claremont McKenna College.

Fowler, the first visiting scholar at The Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights at Claremont McKenna, studies

the causes and consequences of mass violence in order to raise awareness and encourage action. His talk, entitled “Today’s Witness to Genocide: Moses or Sisyphus?”, will be given on **Sunday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. in 182 Lillis Hall.**

Barbie Zelizer will present the Monday afternoon keynote lecture “What Does Genocide Look Like, and How Do We Know It When We See It?” on **April 30 at 1:30 p.m. in Gerlinger Alumni Lounge.** In her talk, Zelizer will trace some of the patterns by which we have come to recognize the visual representation of genocide in the news, and address the

ways in which various events involving violence and mass destruction have come to stand in, often erroneously, for genocide. She raises the question of whether we have developed the fullest repertoire possible for seeing genocide, and questions the degree to which what we see often falls short of understanding the phenomenon more fully.



Zelizer is the Raymond Williams Professor of Communication and Director of the Scholars Program in Culture and Communication at the University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg School for Communication. Zelizer has authored or edited seven books, including the award-winning *Remembering to Forget: Holocaust Memory Through the Camera’s Eye* (Chicago, 1998); *Covering the Body: The Kennedy Assassination, the Media, and the Shaping of Collective Memory* (Chicago, 1992); and *Journalism After September 11* (with Stuart Allan, Routledge, 2002). The recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, Zelizer is also a media critic, whose work has appeared in *The Nation*, the Jim Lehrer News Hour, and *Newsday*.

Nicholas D. Kristof will conclude the symposium with the **2007 Singer Family Lecture**, “Covering the First Genocide of the 21st Century: Reporting from Darfur,” on Monday evening, **April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in 150 Columbia Hall.** He will describe how the situation in Darfur came about and comment on how the media rarely cover genocide well.

A columnist for *The New York Times* since 2001, Kristof writes op-ed columns that appear each Sunday and Tuesday. After joining *The New York Times* in 1984, initially covering economics, he served as a correspondent in Los Angeles and as bureau chief in Hong Kong, Beijing, and Tokyo. In 2000 he covered the presidential campaign, and in particular then-Governor George



W. Bush, and he is the author of the chapter on Mr. Bush in the reference book, *The Presidents*.

In 1990 Mr. Kristof and his wife Sheryl WuDunn, also a *Times* journalist, won a Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of China’s Tiananmen Square democracy movement. Mr. Kristof won a second Pulitzer in 2006.

Kristof grew up on a farm near Yamhill, Oregon. After graduating from Harvard College he won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford where he studied law. He later studied Arabic in Cairo and Chinese in Taipei. Kristof has lived on four continents, reported on six, and has traveled to 120 countries, all 50 states, every Chinese province, and every main Japanese island.

Other speakers include:

Lawrence Baron, San Diego State University

Amy Colin, University of Potsdam; W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University; University of Pittsburgh

Dominick LaCapra, Cornell University

Berel Lang, Wesleyan University

Victoria Sanford, Lehman College, CUNY

Oren Stier, Florida International University

All events are **free and open to the public**, thanks to our many generous co-sponsors, including the **Carlton Raymond and Wilberta Ripley Savage Endowment for International Relations and Peace; the Arlene and Harold Schnitzer CARE Foundation; The Georgianne and Dr. Kenneth Singer and Mrs. Roberta Singer Family Fund in Judaic Studies; Don Schireson; Michael and Michelle Wiener; and Howard Zellman.** For a complete list of symposium sponsors, and for more information about the daytime symposium schedule, please visit our web site: <http://www.uoregon.edu/~humanctr/witnessingGenocide/index.htm>

Seating at all events is on a first-come, first-served basis and is limited, so please plan to arrive early. For information or disability accommodation, call (541) 346-3934.

Great Romances: The World of Proust

In conjunction with the Oregon Humanities Center's **Wulf Professorship in the Humanities**, French professors Karen McPherson and Evlyn Gould are team teaching a year-long course entitled "Great Romances: Proust" (RL 410/510), during which students will read through the whole of Proust's masterpiece, *A la recherche du temps perdu*. During spring term, as a culmination of the year-long sequence, Gould and McPherson will offer a seminar entitled "The World of Proust" (RL 623), and will host a series of public lectures by distinguished visiting scholars. The seminar will focus in particular on two intersecting lines of inquiry: Jewish studies (with attention to Proust's Jewish or Marrano culture), and queer studies (with attention to Proust as a "theorist" of both male and female homosexual desire). Each of the visiting scholars will use Proust's work as point of departure for a more general discussion of literary and cultural theory.



April 26—Leo Bersani, UC Berkeley, will speak on "Psychoanalytic Subjectivity, Knowledge and Spirituality in Proust" at **4 p.m.** in **Gerlinger Alumni Lounge**.

May 3—Larry Schehr, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, will give a talk entitled "Astonishments and Reversals: Queering the *Recherche*" at **4 p.m.** **Location TBA**.

May 17—Elisabeth Ladenson, Columbia University, will give a talk entitled "Proust for Adults Only" at **4 p.m.** in the **Knight Library Browsing Room**.

May 18—Brigitte Mahuzier, Bryn Mawr College, and **Elisabeth Ladenson**, Columbia University, will give a talk on "War and Sex in Proust" from **noon to 2 p.m.** **Location TBA**.

May 31—Andre Benhaïm, Princeton University, will speak on "Swann's (Sephardic) Synagogue: Proust's (Oriental) Jewishness" at **4 p.m.** **Location TBA**.

For information, contact Karen McPherson at 346-4048 or ksmcpher@uoregon.edu.

2007-2008 OHC Fellowships Announced

Research Fellowships

Deborah Baumgold, Political Science: *Slavery in Early European Thought* (Spring)

Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, Romance Languages: *Cities in Ruins in Modern Poetry* (Spring). Professor Enjuto Rangel is also the recipient of the **Ernest G. Moll Research Fellowship in Literary Studies**.

Daniel Falk, Religious Studies: *Contribution of the Qumran Scrolls to the Study of Ancient Jewish Liturgy* (Spring)

Katya Hokanson, Russian and Eastern European Studies: *Theatrical Asides: Gender and Nation in Russian Women's Travel Writing* (Spring). Professor Hokanson is also the recipient of the **Ernest G. Moll Research Fellowship in Literary Studies**.

Mark L. Johnson, Philosophy: *The Aesthetic Roots of Human Values* (Winter)

Lamia Karim, Anthropology: *The Political Economy of Shame: NGOs and Debt in Bangladesh* (Fall)

Kate Mondloch, Art History: *Look at this: Attention, Spectacle, and the Problem of Participation* (Fall)

Jeffrey Ostler, History: *The Question of Genocide in U.S. History, 1776-1890* (Spring)

Tze-lan Sang, East Asian Languages: *Alternative Modernities: Popular Fiction and Urban Culture in Early Twentieth-Century China* (Winter)

Alternate

David Li, English: *Globalization in Speed: Economy, Emotions and Ethics in Contemporary Chinese Cinema* (Spring)

Teaching Fellowships

Michael Aronson, English: *New Media: Digital Culture* (Fall: ENG 481/581)

John Davidson, Political Science: *The Right to Life—Legal, Political, & Philosophic Perspectives or Matters of Life and Death* (Spring; PS 410/510). Professor Davidson has also been awarded a **2007-2008 Robert F. Wulf and Evelyn Nelson Wulf Professorship in the Humanities**.

Daniel Wojcik, English: *Apocalypse Culture: Contemporary Perspectives on Apocalyptic & Millennialist World Views* (Winter: FLR 410/510)

Coleman-Guitteau Teaching-and-Research Fellowship

Judith Raiskin, Women's and Gender Studies: *Travel Writing and Tourism* (Fall: WGS 415/515)

Graduate Research Fellowships

Larissa M. Ennis, English: *Melodramas of Ethnicity and Masculinity: Generic Transformations of the American Screen Gangster, 1971-2006* (Winter)

Christen L. Picicci, Romance Languages and Literatures: *Force and Human Suffering in Sixteenth-Century Epic Poetry: Torquato Tasso's La Gerusalemme Liberata and Alonso de Ercilla y Zúñiga's La Araucana* (Fall)

Kelly Sultzbach, English: *Nature Replies in a Modern Voice: The Relationship Between Humans and the Environment in the Work of E.M. Forster, Virginia Woolf and W.H. Auden* (Winter)

Robin L. Zebrowski, Philosophy: *We are Plastic: Human Variability and the Myth of the Standard Body* (Fall)



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Mark Your Calendars

We continue our series of **work-in-progress talks** by University of Oregon faculty and graduate students on their current or recent research on **Fridays** at **noon** in the Humanities Center Conference Room, **159 PLC**. Brown-bag lunches are welcome!

April

- 20 Elizabeth Reis**, women's and gender studies, on "Sex and Medical Ethics"

May

- 4 Stephen Rodgers**, music theory, on "Berlioz and the Nineteenth-Century French Romance: Convention, Ingenuity, and Autobiography in His Songs (1842-50)"
- 11 Daniel Wojcik**, English, on "Artist Outsiders: Vernacular Environments, Personal Visions, and Public Display"
- 18 Martha Bayless**, English, on "Oral Traditions in Ancient and Modern Culture"
- 25 Jenifer Presto**, comparative literature, on "The Politics of Disaster: Blok, Gorky, and the 1908 Messina Earthquake"

All faculty and graduate students are encouraged to attend. The conference room seats eighteen; early arrival is recommended.

Sex and Medical Ethics

Women's and Gender Studies in conjunction with the **Oregon Humanities Center's Coleman-Guitteau Teaching-and-Research Fellowship** presents **Intersex Symposium** on **April 12** from **2 to 5 p.m.** in **182 Lillis Hall**. Participants will explore the ethical issues (both social and medical) surrounding the treatment of those with intersex conditions, i.e., those whose bodies do not conform anatomically to conventional categories of male or female.

Keynote speakers include **Alice Dreger**, Medical Humanities and Bioethics Program, Northwestern University, author of *Intersex in the Age of Ethics* and *Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex*, and **Suzanne Kessler**, SUNY Purchase, author of *Lessons from the Intersexed*.

Responses by Elizabeth Reis, women's and gender studies, and students from "Sex and Medical Ethics" (WGS 415).

For information, contact Elizabeth Reis, 346-5904 or lzreis@uoregon.edu.

The University of Oregon is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To arrange disability accommodations for Humanities Center events or to obtain this newsletter in an alternative format, call 541-346-3934.