

2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Grenville Inlet



THE

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TERRARUM

CENTER FOR THE
HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES





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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



I am pleased to report that the College of Arts and Sciences Center for the Humanities completed a successful 2009-10, our first full academic year of operations. The Center was established in spring 2009, as a result of a proposal drawn up by a faculty committee appointed by former Dean of Arts and Sciences Michael Halleran. The mission of the Center is to support humanities, arts, and interpretive social science research and teaching, as well as to bring to the Miami community an awareness of the importance of the humanities for a more informed understanding of our own and other cultures. The Center thereby seeks to encourage mutual understanding among groups and cultures and to enrich the intellectual culture of the university and community.

In November 2009, to celebrate and mark the inauguration of the Center, we invited Marjorie Garber, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of English and of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, the former director of the Humanities Center at Harvard and the past president of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, to deliver a series of lectures and lead seminars for faculty and graduate students. Her inaugural lecture, "Shakespeare, Humanities, and Modern Culture," filled Storer Auditorium (with a capacity of 300) with members of the UM community, faculty and graduate students from area colleges and universities, secondary school educators, and members of the general public. In another lecture, "After the Humanities," she spoke on the centrality of the arts and culture in education today, and on the role of the university as a patron of the arts.

In addition to Professor Garber, the Center sponsored residencies of two Henry King Stanford Distinguished Professors in the Humanities: Daniel Mato, Professor of Social Sciences and Chair of the Program on Culture, Communication, and Social Transformation at the Center for Postdoctoral Research, Universidad Central de Venezuela; and Bas C. van Fraassen, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at San Francisco State University.

During 2009-10, the Center initiated sponsorships of five faculty and graduate student interdisciplinary research groups: Animal Studies, Atlantic Studies, Early Modern Studies, Hemispheric Studies, and Queer Studies. During spring 2010, we held two symposia, one, organized by Atlantic Studies, on "Atlantic Narratives," and the other, organized by Queer Studies, "Trans Global / Global Trans"—on globalism and sexuality. The videos of the closing panels from each symposium as well as the podcasts of the papers have been published on the Center's website. In addition, podcasts are available of lectures by Mark Bekoff (on animal morality),

Edward Friedman (on the rise of China), Susan Friedman (on feminism and globalism), and Yeidy Rivero (on the Cuban-American family).

Our first group of faculty and dissertation fellows (whose proposals were evaluated by external reviewers) met to discuss their works in progress during 2009-10. Following their year-long fellowship, Eduardo Elena (History) and Joel Nickels (English) have had their books accepted for publication, and Hugh Thomas (History) is currently a fellow at the Davis Center at Princeton University. The Center also awarded its first David John Ruggiero Dissertation Award in the Humanities to Allison Johnson (English) and an Honorable Mention to Sabrina Wengier (French).

To introduce the research of our faculty, the Center initiated a series of BookTalks. The first set of five were filmed at Lowe Art Museum and published on our website during spring 2009, and the second set were held throughout 2009-10 at Books and Books in Coral Gables, and their videos subsequently published. These events drew a large audience of both faculty and students from the university as well as members of the book-reading public.

As another part of our effort to reach out to the South Florida community, the Center applied for and was awarded a grant from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs to collaborate with area arts organizations in a series of videotaped commentary by our faculty. These "Insight Tracks"—on the retrospective on Judy Chicago at the Jewish Museum of South Florida, on the performance project *Closest Farthest Away* by the Miami Light Project, and on the production of Carlo Gozzi's *The Tale of Three Oranges* at the Playground Theatre—can be viewed on our website.

As you can see, we have had an event-filled inaugural year! The faculty board generously offered their collective wisdom and Senior Associate Dean Perri Lee Roberts her invaluable support. Last but not least, the staff of the Center—Associate Director Kyle Siebrecht, Secretary Liana Minassian, and Student Assistant David Bahaman—were all indispensable in carrying out our programs and events.



Mihoko Suzuki

*Director, Center for the Humanities
College of Arts & Sciences, University of Miami*

INAUGURAL EVENTS

November 4 – 6, 2009

FEATURED SPEAKER:

Marjorie Garber

Henry King Stanford Distinguished Professor in the Humanities

Marjorie Garber is the William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of English and of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, where she is also Chair of the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies and Director of the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts. She is the past President of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes.

Professor Garber has published fifteen books and edited seven collections of essays. Her topics range from animal studies to literary theory, but her work has mostly been centered on Shakespeare. *Shakespeare After All* (Pantheon, 2004), which is based on her lectures at Yale and Harvard, received the 2005 Christian Gauss Book Award from Phi Beta Kappa. *Newsweek* magazine chose *Shakespeare After All* as one of the five best nonfiction books of 2004, and praised it as the “indispensable introduction to an indispensable writer ... Garber’s is the most exhilarating seminar room you’ll ever enter.”

Her work on issues concerned with university culture includes her recent book, *Patronizing the Arts* (Princeton University Press, 2008), in which she argues for the centrality of the arts and culture in education today, and puts forward a vision of the university as patron of the arts. Her most recent book, *Shakespeare and Modern Culture* (Pantheon, 2008), focuses on the reciprocal relationship by which modern culture makes Shakespeare and Shakespeare makes modern culture. Professor Garber is currently at work on a collection of essays about the humanities, and on a new book about literature and its place in life.



LECTURES

Shakespeare, the Humanities, and Modern Culture

Professor Garber's inaugural lecture attracted an audience of 300 from the University of Miami community, faculty from area colleges and universities, secondary school educators, and the general public. Her lecture addressed the questions: How do the works of Shakespeare inform and transform our understanding of modern literature and modern life? What role does Shakespeare play in creating as well as interpreting what we think of as the broader culture of the humanities today?

After the Humanities

Professor Garber's lecture posed the question, "What would higher education be like without 'the humanities' as we currently understand the term?"

A Tale of Three Hamlets: Repetition & Revenge

Professor Garber discussed the surprising, even uncanny intertwining of literature and cultural politics in the story of three versions of *Hamlet* from the 1930's: a privately printed edition of the play, a work of criticism, and a detective story.

SEMINARS

The Animal Moment: The Visual & Verbal Animal

Professor Garber's seminar explored the new field of animal studies in scholarship and pedagogy.

The Future of the Profession: From Nuts & Bolts to Rumors & Theories

This professional development seminar addressed key issues concerning the direction scholarship in the humanities is and will be taking—including emerging fields and the future of the monograph.



Bas C. van Fraassen, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at San Francisco State University, was until recently McCosh Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University. He has also taught at Yale University, University of Southern California, and University of Toronto. He has been editor of the *Journal of Philosophical Logic* and co-editor of the *Journal of Symbolic Logic*. He has been awarded honorary degrees from University of Lethbridge, University of Notre Dame, and the Catholic University of Louvain. He is a Foreign Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Titular Member of the Académie Internationale de Philosophie des Sciences, Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy, and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is the 1986 laureate of the Lakatos Award for his contributions to the philosophy of science. Recent publications include: *Scientific Representation: Paradoxes of Perspective* (Oxford UP, 2008), *The Empirical Stance* (Yale UP, 2002), and *Possibilities and Paradox: An Introduction to Modal and Many-Valued Logic* (with J.C. Beall) (Oxford UP, 2003).

During his week-long residency, Professor van Fraassen gave three lectures: "Against Naturalism: A Parting of the Ways"; "Will the Real Anti-Realist Stand Up?"; and "The Self: Beyond the Illusions of Reason." He also led two seminars for faculty and graduate students.



Daniel Mato, Professor of Social Sciences and Chair of the Program on Culture, Communication, and Social Transformations (PCCTS) at the Center for Postdoctoral Research, Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV), holds a Doctorate in Social Sciences (UCV) and has been a Visiting Professor at several universities in Latin America, Spain and the United States. He has been the chair of the Section on "Culture, Politics, and Power" of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), as well as of the Working Group on "Culture and Power" of the Latin American Council on Social Sciences (CLACSO). He is the author of numerous books and articles published in Spanish, as well as of several articles published in English in both books and academic journals. He was a plenary speaker at the Third International Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference held in Birmingham, UK, in 2000. His most recent book is *Crítica de la modernidad, globalización y construcción de identidades* (1995), and his most recent coedited volumes are *América Latina en tiempos de globalización* (1996) and *América Latina en tiempos de globalización II* (2000).

During his residency in fall 2009, Professor Mato taught a Program Seminar in Latin American and Caribbean Studies: "Interculturalities: Relations, Conflicts, and Negotiations across Cultural Differences in Latin America." He also gave a lecture, "Interculturality: Contexts, Usages, and Meanings," examining the difference between the US concepts of "multiculturalism" and "cultural diversity" and the Latin American term "interculturality" through its uses in fields such as healthcare, education, communication, and business.



LECTURES

Animal Passions and Wild Justice: The Emotional and Moral Lives of Animals and Why They Matter

Marc Bekoff, Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Colorado-Boulder

January 26, 2010

Drawing on research showing animals as emotional and empathic beings and displaying moral intelligence, Professor Bekoff presented numerous examples on the emotional lives of animals to make his case about animal morality, or what he calls “wild justice.” His talk focused on the details of social play behavior—the many ways in which animals play cooperatively and fairly.

All In The Cuban American/Sit-Com Family: *¿Qué Pasa USA?* (1975–1980)

Yeidy Rivero, Associate Professor of American Culture
Screen Arts and Culture, University of Michigan

January 29, 2010

¿Qué Pasa, USA? is America's first bilingual situation comedy. The series focuses on the identity crisis of the members of the Peña family of Miami as they are pulled in one direction by their elders—who want to maintain Cuban values and traditions—and pulled in other directions by the pressures of living in a predominantly Anglo society. Professor Rivero examined how national and transnational cultural identities are constructed and negotiated through media discourses about race, ethnicity, nationality, and gender. Her current research explores the ways in which television in 1950s Cuba was utilized as a commercial-national medium to re-articulate discourses of modernity.



Cosmopolitanism, Women, and War: From Virginia Woolf's *Three Guineas* to Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*

Susan Stanford Friedman, Virginia Woolf Professor of English & Women's Studies
Sally Mead Hands Bascom Professor of English, University of Wisconsin-Madison
February 11, 2010

What happens to the cosmopolitan dream of world citizenship during a time of war? What is women's relationship to patriotism when the nation uses the language of protection against violence to justify its circumscription of women's rights? Professor Friedman's lecture explored Virginia Woolf's *Three Guineas* (1938) and Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* (2003) in the context of current debates about cosmopolitanism "from below," arguing that both women advocate a cosmofeminism "from the side" that refuses loyalty to nation-states at war that do violence to their own citizens while claiming to protect them.

The Rise of a Superpower China

Edward Friedman, Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison
February 12, 2010

Some well-informed analysts see China dominating the world in the years ahead and re-shaping politics towards authoritarianism rather than human rights and democracy. Others see China as a bubble economy that will inevitably burst. Yet others fear for a war between the present and rising superpowers, the U.S. and China. By contrast, the Chinese Communist Party government insists that China's rise will facilitate peace and prosperity. Professor Friedman's lecture probed what lies behind these clashing perspectives on the future. Whatever lies ahead, no one should doubt that the rise of China is a world-changing event perhaps as significant as the rise of Europe in the 1500's.



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RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

2009-2010 Faculty Fellows

- Eduardo Elena, Assistant Professor of History
Consuming Dignity: The Politics of Citizenship and Consumption in Peronist Argentina
- David W. Kling, Professor of Religious Studies
A History of Christian Conversion
- Louis Herns Marcelin, Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Democratization, Social Identities, & Youth-Gang Violence in Haiti
- Joel Nickels, Assistant Professor of English
The Art of the Possible: Spontaneity, Modernism, and the Multitude
- Gema Pérez-Sánchez, Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures
Perilous Strai(gh)ts: Immigration, Sexuality, and Race in Contemporary Spanish Culture
- Patricia J. Saunders, Associate Professor of English
Buyers Beware, Hoodwinking on the Rise: Epistemologies of Consumption in Jamaican Popular Culture
- Hugh Thomas, Professor of History
Between Earth and Heaven: English Secular Clerics and the Twelfth-Century Renaissance

2009-2010 Dissertation Fellows

- Lauren Lane (History)
Gender, Labor, and Virtue in Eighteenth-Century Georgia
- Simonetta Marin (History)
The Reform of Popular Piety in the Closing Years of the Venetian Republic: 1770-1797
- Brian Mondy (Philosophy)
Epistemic Actions



RESEARCH GROUPS

Animal Studies Research Group

Conveners:

Frank Palmeri, Professor of English

Mark Rowlands, Professor of Philosophy

Atlantic Studies Research Group

Conveners:

Tim Watson, Associate Professor of English

Ashli White, Assistant Professor of History

Early Modern Studies Research Group

Conveners:

Karl Gunther, Assistant Professor of History

Jeffrey Shoulson, Associate Professor of English

Hemispheric Studies Research Group

Conveners:

David Luis-Brown, Assistant Professor of English

Michelle Maldonado, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

Queer Studies Research Group

Conveners:

Brenna Munro, Assistant Professor of English

Gema Pérez-Sánchez, Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures



SYMPOSIA

Atlantic Narratives

February 4-5, 2010

The symposium, organized by the Center's Atlantic Studies Research Group, provided a forum for examining the production and reception of narratives in and about the Atlantic world in the period up to the mid-nineteenth century. Participants considered the authors and subjects as well as the practices and theories that have informed—and continue to inform—the writing of Atlantic narratives.

The symposium was a collaborative project between the Center and Florida International University, and was cosponsored by the University of Miami Departments of English, History, Modern Languages and Literatures; American Studies Program; Center for Latin American Studies; and Florida International University Departments of History and English; African and African Diaspora Studies; Department of History Graduate Student Association; Graduate English Association; and Atlantic History Seminar.

The Thursday session on "Atlantic Enlightenments" was held at FIU, and featured Sunil Agnani (Illinois-Chicago), Christopher Hodson (Brigham Young), and William Nelson (UM). Yvette Pigguish (FIU) chaired and Frank Palmeri (UM) served as respondent. The Friday sessions at UM opened with a session on "History and Memory in Atlantic Narratives," chaired by Jenna Gibbs (FIU), in which Christopher Iannini (Rutgers), José Jouve-Martín (McGill), James Sweet (Wisconsin-Madison) presented papers. George Yúdice (UM) chaired "Intercolonial Atlantic Narratives," which included papers by Anna Brickhouse (Virginia), Bianca Premo (FIU), and Lisa Voight (Ohio State). The symposium concluded with a closing roundtable among the participants. The opening session at FIU and the closing roundtable were videotaped and have been posted on the Center website.

A special issue of *Clio: A Journal of Literature, History, and the Philosophy of History*, edited by Tim Watson, Associate Professor of English, will publish articles based on papers given at this conference.



Trans Global/Global Trans

April 2, 2010

This symposium, organized by the Center's Queer Studies Research Group, brought together UM faculty and three ground-breaking interdisciplinary scholars who work on queer and transgender studies in different cultural contexts throughout the world, to speak about queer formations of gender. In particular, the symposium participants addressed the question of how transgender identities and queer sexualities intersect and diverge in different locales and how the globalization of culture and the politics of postcoloniality affect different imagined and lived gender rebellions.

Two morning sessions featured papers by UM faculty: Gema Pérez-Sánchez (Spanish), Brenna Munro (English), Steve Buttermann (Portuguese), and Lillian Manzor (Spanish). During the afternoon sessions, Jarrod Hayes (French, Michigan), Neville Hoad (English, Texas-Austin), and Judith Halberstam (English, USC) gave presentations, each followed by a question-and-answer period. The podcasts of these papers by both UM faculty and invited speakers are available on the Center's website. The closing panel, which was videotaped and published on the web, was moderated by Steven Blevins (FIU).

Cosponsors of the symposium included the Joseph Carter Memorial Fund of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Departments of English and History, and Women's and Gender Studies Program. It was held in cooperation with the Centro Cultural Español de Cooperación Iberoamericana de Miami.



WORKSHOPS

A Publishing Primer: Nuts and Bolts for Scholarly Books in an Era of Change

Marlie Wasserman

Director, Rutgers University Press

October 30, 2009

An overflow audience of junior faculty and graduate students attended this workshop on how to prepare an effective book proposal and do's and don'ts in approaching a publisher.

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Workshop

Anne R. Meyer

Senior Program Officer, Division of Research Programs

March 29, 2010

Faculty and graduate students from the University of Miami as well as from area colleges and universities participated in the workshop on applying for research and other grants from the NEH. Individual sessions provided the opportunity for participants to receive advice from Dr. Meyer concerning their projects and proposals.



DAVID JOHN RUGGIERO DISSERTATION AWARD

This annual award for the best dissertation in the humanities was established with the generous support of Guido Ruggiero, Professor of History, in memory of his brother, David John Ruggiero.

Allison Johnson's dissertation, *Virtue's Friends: The Politics of Friendship in Early Modern English Women's Writing*, exhibits a capacious knowledge of an important topic in the humanities, a thorough examination of historical contexts, a broad interdisciplinary appeal, and a clear and cogent presentation. Demonstrating her mastery of classical, humanist, and contemporary theoretical writings on friendship, she persuasively argues for seventeenth-century Englishwomen's imaginative and strategic revision of the received discourse of friendship that excluded women—in genres ranging from poetry of various kinds, drama, historical chronicle, and letters. The result is a contribution that not only brings a new critical perspective to these works, but will also enable a deeper understanding of women's participation in politics and political thought in early modern England.



HONORABLE MENTION

Sabrina Drei Wengier's dissertation, *The Politics and Poetics of Ekphrasis in Nineteenth-Century French Art Novels*, engages in substantial interdisciplinary research with rich humanities content, by addressing art, art criticism, aesthetics, literature, and history in the context of nineteenth-century French art novels by Zola, Balzac, and the Goncourts, while paying careful attention to the politics of gender representation. The dissertation also addresses the challenging topic of ekphrasis in an approachable and comprehensible way. Her work—erudite and theoretically sophisticated—demonstrates an impressive command of scholarship in three languages: French, German, and English. In addition, Wengier provides a thorough historical and geographical contextualization of her subject matter and makes important contributions to the fields of French nineteenth-century literary and art studies.



BOOKTALK

Anne J. Cruz (Modern Languages and Literatures)
Mihoko Suzuki (English)

The Rule of Women in Early Modern Europe
University of Illinois Press

David Luis-Brown (English)

*Waves of Decolonization: Discourses of Race and Hemispheric Citizenship
in Cuba, Mexico, and the U.S.*
Duke University Press

Martin Nesvig (History)

Ideology and Inquisition: The World of the Censors in Early Mexico
Yale University Press

Maria Galli Stampino (Modern Languages and Literatures)

Enrico; Or, Byzantium Conquered: A Heroic Poem
University of Chicago Press

Laura Giannetti (Modern Languages and Literatures)

*Leila's Kiss: Imagining Gender, Sex, and Marriage in Italian
Renaissance Comedy*
University of Toronto Press



Insight Tracks is an online video series in which University of Miami humanities professors provide commentary on upcoming events in collaboration with area arts organizations. These videos can be viewed at www.humanities.miami/programs/insighttracks.

Judy Chicago: Jewish Identity

Jewish Museum of Florida

September 8, 2009 – February 7, 2010

Paula Harper (Art History) provided a commentary on Judy Chicago's career and discussed with the artist her current work, in particular the subject of the exhibition that explores questions concerning Jewish identity and culture.



Closest Farthest Away

Miami Light Project

US Premier at Global Cuba Fest, Miami

March 11 – 13, 2010

The performance project *Closest Farthest Away* brought together filmmakers, theater artists, and musicians from the US and Cuba, crossing boundaries between the blockaded countries. David Luis-Brown (American Studies) and Lillian Manzor (Latin American Studies) discussed the significance and challenges of the project with Chi-wang Yang (theater director) and Sage Lewis (creator/composer).



Carlo Gozzi, The Love Of Three Oranges

The PlayGround Theatre

April 14 – May 23, 2010

Maria Galli Stampino (Italian) discussed the historical context of Gozzi's play in eighteenth-century Venice and interviewed the director Stephanie Ansin concerning her production for an audience of all ages, including children.



With the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.

COSPONSORED EVENTS

November 13-15, 2009

Third Annual Conference: Society for the Study of Childhood in the Past (Women's and Gender Studies)

January 28, 2010

Marcus Rediker, Distinguished Professor of Atlantic History, University of Pittsburgh, *Rethinking the AMISTAD Rebellion* (History)

February 10, 2010

Laura Lomas, Associate Professor of English, Rutgers University, Newark, *The Unbreakable Voice in a Minor Language: José Martí and the Literature of the Latin American Diaspora in New York* (Cuban Heritage Collection, University of Miami Libraries)

March 23, 2010

Anthony J. Cascardi, Professor of Comparative Literature and Director, Townsend Center for the Humanities, University of California-Berkeley, *Free Speech: Cervantes and the Discourse of Politics* (Modern Languages & Literatures)

April 15, 2010

Derek Attridge, Professor of English, University of York (UK), *Once More with Feeling: Affect and Literary Form* (English)

April 22, 2010

Laura Giannetti, Associate Professor of Italian, University of Miami, *Food and the Senses: Pleasure, Sin and Guilt in Sixteenth-Century Italian Literature and Art* (Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Fund, Villa I Tatti Harvard University Center for Renaissance Studies in Florence)



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Karen Ruffle (Religious Studies)

John Paul Russo (Classics and English)

George Yúdice (Modern Languages and Literatures,
Latin American Studies)







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CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES



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