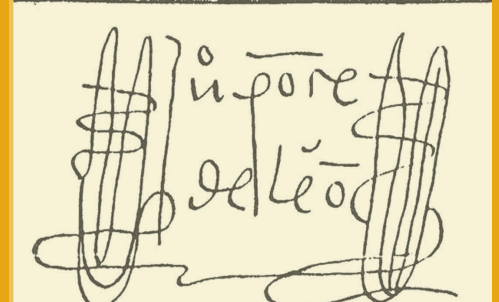


# 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT



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





# CONTENTS

Letter from the Director	2
Stanford Distinguished Professors	3-5
Florida at the Crossroads Conference	6-10
Essay and Poster Contest	11
Seminars for Teachers	12
Workshops	13
Lectures	14-15
Fellows' Symposium	16
Research Fellowships	17
David John Ruggiero Dissertation Award	18
Early Modern Women	19
BookTalks	20
Cosponsored Events	21
Friends of the Center	22
Faculty Board and Staff	23

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Center,

As my acting directorship draws to a close, and on Director Mihoko Suzuki's return from a well-deserved research sabbatical, I would like to thank you for participating so generously in the activities of the Center for the Humanities.

During 2011-12, the Center welcomed three Stanford Distinguished Professors: Miami's premier Latino playwright, Pulitzer-prize winner Nilo Cruz; professor of Philosophy and scholar of visual media Dominic McIver Lopes; and physicist and prize-winning novelist Alan Lightman. These presentations attracted not only a large number of faculty and students from the UM community, but also audiences from the greater community of South Florida.

Throughout the academic year, the Center commemorated the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de León's arrival to Florida with a series of events around our February 2012 conference, "Florida at the Crossroads: 500 Years of Encounters, Conflicts, and Exchanges." During fall semester, the Center sponsored three workshops for Miami-Dade teachers and a poster and essay contest for area middle schools. Supported by a generous grant from the Florida Humanities Council, the three-day conference hosted 27 speakers from Florida, US, and Spain, drawing close to 1,000 attendees. The conference ended with a play by 17th-century colonial Mexican poet Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, presented by the Center, GableStage, and the School of Music's Frost Chorale.

Other events of note were the co-sponsorship with various departments of talks by invited speakers, a series of BookTalks by UM faculty at Books & Books, the annual symposium by Faculty and Dissertation fellows, and workshops for faculty and graduate students on grant applications and on scholarly publishing. As the University of Miami celebrates the Year of the Humanities in 2012-2013, the Center will expand its offerings, which we are certain will continue to intrigue and attract audiences.

I take this occasion to thank the Center's faculty board for their counsel, and our Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Leonidas G. Bachas, and our President, Donna E. Shalala, for their ongoing interest in the Center and the Humanities. My responsibilities this year as acting director have been made infinitely less arduous by the outstanding work of the Center's staff—Associate Director Kyle Siebrecht, Administrative Assistant Zureyka M. Carsi, and Student Assistants Anna Anderson, David Bahamon, Jennifer North, Sarah Ritcheson and Devin Weinstein. My gratitude to them and to you, our Center colleagues and friends, for your generous and constant support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Anne J. Cruz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being the most prominent.

**Anne J. Cruz**

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

**Nilo Cruz****Theatre Accompanied by Light: Searching for Poetry in the Theatre***September 15-22, 2011*

Nilo Cruz is one of this country's most produced Cuban-American playwrights; born in Cuba and raised in Little Havana, Miami, he studied theater at Miami-Dade Community College, and earned his MFA from Brown University in 1994. As playwright-in-residence at the New Theatre in Coral Gables, he wrote *Anna in the Tropics*, which garnered him the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2003.

His works have been developed and performed both on and off Broadway at the NYSF/Public Theater; the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Studio Theatre (Washington D.C.); and the Lee Strasberg Theatre (Los Angeles). Among his plays are *Lorca in a Green Dress*, *A Bicycle Country*, *Dancing on Her Knees*, *A Park in Our House*, *Two Sisters and A Piano*, and *Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams*. Mr. Cruz's most recent play, *The Color of Desire*, premiered at the Actors' Playhouse in Coral Gables. He is the winner of the 2003 American Theatre Critics/Steinberg New Play Award, Theatre Communications Group Artist-in-Residence Grant, Alton Jones Award, AT&T Award, Barrie Stavis Award, and the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award. He has taught drama at various universities, including Brown, Yale, and the University of Iowa.

As Center for the Humanities' Stanford Distinguished Professor in September 2011, Nilo Cruz gave a riveting public lecture to a filled-to-capacity auditorium on poetry in the theater. Mr. Cruz was also in residence with the Department of Theatre Arts for five weeks, working extensively with students. He directed his play, *Night Train to Bolina*, produced by Chair of Theatre Arts **Henry Fonte** and acted by UM theatre students at the Jerry Herman Ring Theater. The play spins an intriguing and haunting tale set in an unidentified, war-torn Latin American country where two peasant youths, Mateo and Clara, create an imaginary world to cope with the starvation and oppression of their daily lives. Mr. Cruz conducted public talk-backs (interactive question-and-answer sessions) after two of the play's performances.



## Dominic McIver Lopes

November 3-9, 2011

Dominic McIver Lopes is Distinguished University Scholar and Professor of Philosophy at the University of British Columbia. He works mainly in aesthetics and is a member of UAB's aesthetics group. His research focuses on pictorial representation and perception; the aesthetic and epistemic value of pictures, including scientific images; theories of art and its value; the ontology of art; and computer art and new art forms.

Professor Lopes's books include *A Philosophy of Computer Art* (2009), winner of the 2009 Outstanding Book Prize from the American Society for Aesthetics; *Sight and Sensibility: Evaluating Pictures* (2005); and *Understanding Pictures* (1996). He has also co-edited (with Diarmuid Costello) a special issue of the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* on the medium of photography. He has been a fellow of the National Humanities Center and a Distinguished Scholar at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, in addition to holding visiting positions at Ritsumeikan University, the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. Most recently he was Leverhulme Visiting Research Professor in Aesthetics at the University of Warwick. He has won two Indiana University Teaching Excellence Awards, a *Philosophical Quarterly* Essay Prize, the American Society for Aesthetics Outstanding Monograph Prize, and a Killam Research Prize.

Professor Lopes gave two public lectures as Stanford Distinguished Professor: "We're All Artists Now: Art in the Age of Digital Photography"; and "Why Art Education Matters." Both his talks fully engaged the audience by crossing traditional boundaries between the arts, education, and philosophy. In addition, he presented a seminar for faculty and graduate students on his current project, "Beyond Art: Foundations of Appreciation", which discusses theories of art, the arts, and their value.



## Alan Lightman

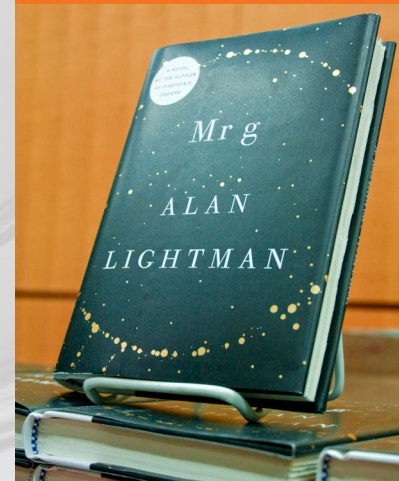
### At the Crossroads of Art & Science: The Physicist as Novelist

March 28, 2012

Alan Lightman is Adjunct Professor of Humanities, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. An award-winning novelist, essayist, and theoretical physicist, he has served on the faculties of Harvard University and MIT, and received the first dual faculty appointment at MIT in science and the humanities.

Professor Lightman's work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *Nature*, among other publications. His novel, *Einstein's Dreams* (1993) was an international bestseller and has been translated into thirty languages. *The Diagnosis* was a finalist for the 2000 National Book Award in fiction, and *Reunion* (2003) was a Washington Post bestseller; both were Barnes and Noble national college bestsellers. Professor Lightman's *The Discoveries: Great Breakthroughs in 20th Century Science* was named by *Discover Magazine* as one of the ten best books on science in 2005. *The New York Times* calls his most recent book, *Mr. g*, "a soulful riff on the birth and eventual demise of our universe... Lightman the humanist allows room for the compatibility of rationality with spirituality and mystery, while Lightman the scientist plays devil's advocate with the partisans of Genesis, blinding them with logic."

As the Center for the Humanities' Henry King Stanford Distinguished Professor, Professor Lightman spoke to a rapt audience on his experience in writing at the crossroads of art and science. Before his public lecture, Professor Lightman met with an interested group of Physics students and professors to discuss the similarities and differences in the ways that scientists and artists view the world.



## FLORIDA AT THE CROSSROADS

### An International and Interdisciplinary Conference in Commemoration of the 500 Anniversary of Juan Ponce de León's Arrival in Florida February 9-11, 2012

To mark the 500th anniversary of Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León's landing on the shores of Florida, the University of Miami Center for Humanities hosted an international and interdisciplinary conference on February 9-11, 2012. The conference, organized by **Viviana Díaz Balseira** (Modern Languages and Literatures), and generously supported by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council, and contributions from Spain-Florida Foundation and Miami-Dade County Schools, is the first of three major conferences held in Florida to commemorate this historic event.

During the conference, twenty-seven scholars from the State of Florida, across the United States, and Spain offered a thought-provoking dialogue revisiting the past, examining the present, and envisioning the future of Florida as a crossroads of peoples, quests, and exchanges. The conference opened with the keynote address "On the Trail of Texts from Early Spanish Florida" by renowned colonialist **Raquel Chang-Rodríguez**, Distinguished Professor of Hispanic literature and culture at The Graduate Center and The City College of the City University of New York (CUNY). Dr. Chang-Rodríguez's most recent book is *Voces de Hispanoamérica. Antología literaria* (4th ed. 2012); *Aquí, ninfas del sur, venid ligeras'*, *Voces poéticas virreinales* (2008); *Entre la espada y la pluma. El Inca Garcilaso y sus 'Comentarios reales'* (2011) which features her conversation with Nobel prize winner Mario Vargas Llosa. Dr. Chang-Rodríguez is the founding editor of the prize-winning journal *Colonial Latin American Review*.

The conference's second keynote address, "Miami: Still on the Edge?," was given by eminent scholar **Alex Stepick**, Director of the Immigration and Ethnicity Institute, Acting Director of the Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy (RISEP), and Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at Florida International University. His publications include *Churches and Charity in the Immigrant City* (2009); and *Immigrant Faiths: Transforming Religious Life in America* (2005). In 2011, Dr. Stepick held a Fulbright Fellowship at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany.





## FLORIDA AT THE CROSSROADS

The three-day public conference drew close to 1,000 attendees as scholars from different disciplines discussed Florida's past, present, and future.

On Friday, moderated by **Traci Ardren** (UM, Anthropology), **Kathleen Deagan** and **Jerald T. Milanich** (Florida Museum of Natural History), and **Paul E. Hoffman** (Louisiana State University) addressed the arrival of Ponce de León and the collision of cultures. **Robin Bachin** (UM, History) moderated a panel on maritime conflicts and Spain's loss of empire, with **Amy T. Bushnell** (Brown University) and **Carmen de la Guardia Herrero** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid). An afternoon roundtable moderated by **Arva Moore Parks** (Coral Gables Museum) extended the dialogue among the morning speakers.

In the afternoon break-out sessions, Amy T. Bushnell related the conflicting accounts of the Sack of St. Augustine in 1668; while **Susan Danforth** (John Carter Brown Library) discussed early Florida cartography. **Andrew Frank** (Florida State University) focused on Seminole material culture, and **Yolanda Gamboa** (Florida Atlantic University) spoke about Spanish women who arrived and lived in St. Augustine.

The Saturday morning break-out sessions included **Anne J. Cruz** who anticipated the conference's closing play with a talk on Golden Age theater and the Mexican author Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. **Gary Monroe** (Daytona State College) showed the fascinating work of Florida Highwaymen artists, while **Andrew T. Huse** (University of South Florida) discussed with the audience Florida's food and culture. **Robert Brazovsky** (Miami-Dade County Public Schools) compared Miami public schools with national educational trends.

In the Saturday afternoon panel, moderated by **Kate Ramsey** (UM, History), **Jane Landers** (Vanderbilt University), **Susan Eckstein** (Boston University), and **Michel Laguerre** (University of California-Berkeley) shed light on Florida as a haven for African-Americans, Cubans, and Haitians. Moderated by **Alex Lichtenstein** (Indiana University), the discussion continued with **George Yúdice** (UM, Modern Languages), **Raymond Arsenault** (University of South Florida-St Petersburg), and **Jan Nijman** (UM/University of Amsterdam), who addressed South Florida's cultural transformations through immigration and foreign enterprise.



## FLORIDA AT THE CROSSROADS

The final panel on Saturday afternoon, “Gateways to the Future,” moderated by anchorman **Elliott Rodríguez** (CBS4 Miami, and UM alumnus), brought together sociologist **Alejandro Portes** (UM/Princeton University); **Alberto Ibargüen** (President and CEO, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation); and UM President **Donna E. Shalala**. After the individual topics were addressed by each panelist, the conversation turned to the audience, who enjoyed a unique opportunity to hear the speakers’ strong endorsement of the humanities as a key element in Florida’s future.

Alejandro Portes noted that as the Southernmost peninsulas of the US and the EU, Florida and Spain attract a great deal of immigration as well as tourism; while Spain’s financial firms profit heavily from their Latin American subsidiaries, Florida also has major financial and industrial investments in Latin America. The triangular flow of investment, trade, and people between the two peninsulas — Spain and Florida — and Latin America cannot but accelerate in the future.

Alberto Ibargüen emphasized the importance of the availability of consistently reliable, objective information necessary to democracy on the local level. This availability is endangered by the decline in print journalism, which reported on local issues, by contrast to web-based media largely concerned with national and international news. The shift from newspapers being owned locally to their being bought by institutional investors has led to a decrease in their focus on civic responsibility. He expressed great hope in the schools of journalism at universities, which foster the development of “digital natives” who have a passion to be the storytellers of the future.

President Shalala, stated that many educators are deeply committed to the humanities in order to prepare Florida’s leaders who can anticipate and adjust to the future. Young people need to have a sense of history that will give them a context for their changing world. She announced that to this end, UM will celebrate the humanities, arts, and architecture during 2012-13 to stimulate intellectual life among students, as well as in the community.



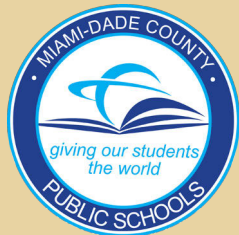
## FLORIDA AT THE CROSSROADS

The conference closed Saturday evening with a dramatic reading of “Hail, God of Seeds!” a collaborative performance of professional actors directed by **Joseph Adler** (GableStage) and the UM Frost Chorale, led by **Karen Kennedy** (Music Director). UM’s Clarke Recital Hall lent an ideal venue to the play’s allegorical resolution of the conflict between religion and conquest in the New World through the allegorical figures of the indigenous, the missionary, and the soldier. The play, composed by seventeenth-century Spanish colonial poet Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648-1695) was set to period music by UM alumnus **Vicente Chavarría** and performed by instrumentalists and choral ensemble.

The closing reception for the conference, held at Storer Auditorium, was cosponsored by the España Florida Foundation 500 Years.

UM’s Otto G. Richter Library joined in the commemoration with an exhibit of its Floridian and Cuban Heritage Collections, “Legacies: Five Hundred Years of Florida History from the UM Special Collections,” curated by **Cristina Favretto**. During the conference, tours were given of the exhibit to the public.

An essay collection, *Spain-Florida: 500 Years at the Edge, 1513-2013*, which will include papers given at this conference and edited by Viviana Díaz-Balsera, Rachel May (University of South Florida), and Gary Mormino (University of South Florida-St. Petersburg), will be published by the University Press of Florida.





## ESSAY & POSTER CONTEST

As part of the events commemorating the 500 anniversary of Ponce de León's arrival to the shores of Florida, the Center for the Humanities, with the collaboration of Mr. **Robert Brazofsky**, District Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction in the Social Sciences for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, sponsored an Essay and Poster contest for Miami Dade schoolchildren.

The student contest winners were awarded their prizes at an award ceremony held on November 19, 2011, at the University of Miami's Shoma Hall, Communications International Building.

### Essay Contest - 8th Grade:

1st Place: Natasha Sealey - South Miami Middle School

*Teacher - Mr. Andrés Jaramillo*

2nd Place: Anna Carolina Pelaez - Coral Way K-8 Center

*Teacher - Mr. Rolando De Jesus Alvarez*

3rd Place: Emma Lam - Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center

*Teacher - Mr. Geoffrey Aladro*

The podcasts for the winning essays may be accessed at:

<http://humanities.miami.edu/symposia/florida500-winners>

### Poster Contest - 4th Grade:

1st Place: Raul Batista - James Bright Elementary

*Teacher - Vivian Pérez de Villa Amil*

2nd Place: Cherlyan Pérez - Mae M. Walters Elementary

*Teacher - Maxinia Rodríguez*

3rd Place: Laura Ogelsby - Perrine Elementary Expressive Arts School

*Teacher - Michel Morales*

### Florida at the Crossroads

Miami-Dade Public School Poster Contest



by Raúl Batista  
James Bright Elementary School

### Florida at the Crossroads

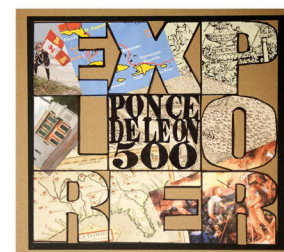
Miami-Dade Public School Poster Contest



by Cheylan Pérez  
Mae M. Walters Elementary

### Florida at the Crossroads

Miami-Dade Public School Poster Contest



by Laura Ogelsby  
Perrine Elementary Expressive Arts School

## SEMINARS FOR TEACHERS

During the fall semester 2011, the Center for the Humanities launched an outreach program for Miami-Dade public school teachers as part of the 500 Anniversary of Ponce de León's arrival to Florida. Three Saturday workshops focused on topics related to the commemoration. These events were supported by the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Education.

*September 24, 2011*

**Mallory O'Connor**, Santa Fe College

### **The Immortal Fountain: The Fountain of Youth in Art and Myth**

The workshop examined art works (both fine art and popular culture) that use the Fountain story for inspiration to show how they reflect the role of the Fountain story in the evolution of Florida's identity as a place for rejuvenation and restoration.

*October 15, 2011*

**Lillian Manzor**, University of Miami

### **The Cuban Tradition of 'el lector' in Nilo Cruz's *Anna in the Tropics***

The tradition of lectors reading out loud in cigar factories started in Cuba in 1864 and was introduced in Florida in 1868 with the migration of Cuban cigar factory workers. The workshop focused on a discussion of the lectors, their role in the education of factory workers, in the creation of multiethnic communities, and in the labor movement in Tampa. It also analyzed the play's poetic transformations and adaptations of history and literature.

*November 19, 2011*

**Marvin Dunn**, Scholar-in-Residence, Camillus House of Miami

### **Blacks in Florida History**

The presentation included a pictorial history of the involvement of people of African descent in the history of Florida from the arrival of the Spanish in 1513 to the Civil Rights era. More than 200 photographs and images were presented covering a variety of topics such as blacks in Florida during the colonial period, slavery, reconstruction, anti-black violence, education, as well as work and daily life in early Florida.



## WORKSHOPS

### Writing Grant Proposals for Postdocs and Dissertation Completion Fellowships

March 2, 2012

Led by University of Miami faculty: **Renée Fox** (English), **Karl Gunther** (History), **Pamela Hammons** (English), **Mary Lindemann** (History), and **Gema Pérez-Sánchez** (Modern Languages & Literatures)

The workshop gave advice on topics including the art of writing proposals; the various funding agencies for graduate students and post-docs; and funding opportunities in Europe. It reviewed criteria of funding agencies and samples of winning applications from different granting sources.

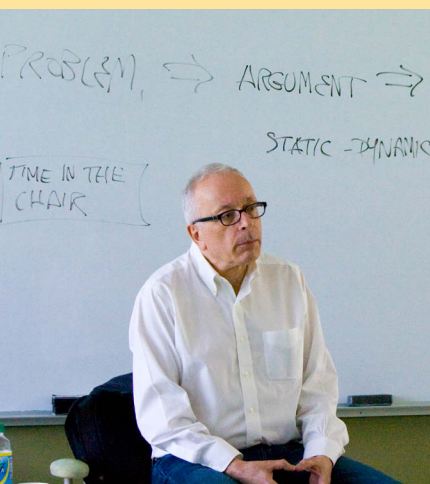
### Book Two: Writing the Second Scholarly Book

**William Germano**, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, The Cooper Union

May 18, 2012

The acclaimed author of *From Dissertation to Book* (2005) and *Getting It Published* (2001, 2008), William Germano was for over twenty years a distinguished editor at Columbia University Press and Routledge.

Focusing on issues such as how one should think about a second book, and how to get it written, the workshop offered enrolled participants helpful advice on book proposals, and guidance on time management, book organization and structure, and information concerning the book market and publishing.



## LECTURES

### **Independence Lost: The Gulf Coast and the American Revolution**

*October 6, 2011*

#### **Kathleen DuVal**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (History)

(Cosponsored by the Program in American Studies and Department of History)

Kathleen DuVal's research focuses on early America, particularly cross-cultural relations on North American borderlands. The subject of Professor DuVal's talk was the Revolutionary War on the Gulf Coast. There, Spaniards, Britons, Creeks, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Acadians, enslaved and free African Americans, and others—but not American revolutionaries—took advantage of the war to forward their own ambitions. Her lecture told an alternative story of the American Revolution with unexpected actors, forgotten events, and surprising consequences.

### **Of Anagrammatology: Decoding the Renaissance Text**

*March 29, 2012*

#### **William Sherman**

Professor of Renaissance/Early Modern Studies, University of York (UK)

(Cosponsored by Department of English)

William Sherman has published widely on the history of books and readers, Renaissance drama, travel writing, and textual editing; his recent publications include *Used Books: Marking Readers in Renaissance England*. Professor Sherman's lecture suggested that anagrams may deserve a central place in a larger history of literary studies, one with broader textual, cultural, and intellectual dimensions. Bringing together some of the key figures in the birth of linguistics, literary criticism, psychoanalysis, cryptography, and experimental art, Professor Sherman argued wittily and convincingly that anagrams offer a surprisingly useful lens through which to understand the hidden message of modernity in early modern texts.





## LECTURES

### **My Love Affair with Art**

March 23, 2012

#### **Johnnetta Cole**

Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art

The only person to have served as president of two historically Black colleges for women, Dr. Cole is Professor Emerita of Emory University, where she was Presidential Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Women's Studies, and African American Studies. She serves on the Scholarly Advisory Board for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. She has consistently addressed racial and gender parity. Dr. Cole's lecture, at UM's Lowe Art Museum, focused on yet another passion in her life: her ongoing love of art and its significance as a means to understand national and international cultures.

### **Out of Bounds? A Critique of the New Policies on Hyperandrogenism in Elite Female Athletes**

April 27, 2012

#### **Katrina Karkazis**

Medical Anthropologist, Center for Biomedical Ethics at Stanford University  
(Cosponsored by Department of Anthropology, the Program in Women's and Gender Studies, and Queer Studies Research Group)

A medical and cultural anthropologist, Dr. Karkazis is an expert on cultural and social aspects of disease and illness categories, health policy, and the biomedicalization of difference. Her book, *Fixing Sex: Intersex, Medical Authority, and Lived Experience* (2008) addresses the controversies over treatment for people with intersex traits. Dr. Karkazis' lecture considered whether gender-atypical bodies require treatment and how the world of sports is grappling with the issue of sex variance in the wake of the controversy over South African runner Caster Semenya.



# FELLOWS' SYMPOSIUM

## Annual Fellows' Symposium

October 21, 2011

The 2010-2011 fellows presented from the work accomplished during the Center fellowships in one morning and two afternoon sessions.

### Session 1

1. "An Anthropological Turn in Postwar Transatlantic Literature: Barbara Pym and Saul Bellow," **Tim Watson** (English)
2. "Migrant Minds': Expanding Definitions of Home in Kate O'Riordan's Fiction," **Jennifer Slivka** (English)

### Session 2

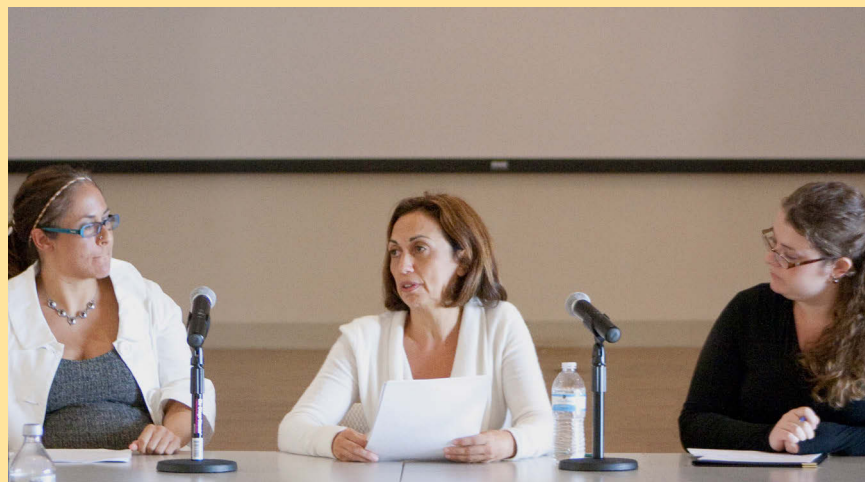
1. "The Problem of Puritan Origins," **Karl Gunther** (History)
2. "Northern Teachers in the Old South and the Emergence of American Sectional Identity, 1790-1865," **Michael Bernath** (History)
3. "L. Frank Baum's Enduring Fantasy of Cosmopolitan Nostalgia," **John Funchion** (English)

### Session 3

1. "The Queen Mother's Diplomacy: Dynasty, War, and the Spanish Empire, 1665-1668," **Silvia Mitchell** (History)
2. "Entre Adelitas y Cucarachas: The Soldadera as Trope in the Mexican Revolution," **Christine B. Arce** (MLL)
3. "Sex, Drugs, and Global Apocalypse in Recent Feminist Science Fiction," **Amanda Thibodeau** (English)

### Session 4

1. "Can Animals be Moral?," **Mark Rowlands** (Philosophy)
2. "Pragmatism and Empiricism," **Aaron Wilson** (Philosophy)
3. "What can we do in metaphysics and how can we do it?," **Amie Thomasson** (Philosophy)



## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

### 2011-2012 Faculty Fellows

- **Hermann Beck**, Professor of History  
*Before the Holocaust: The Reaction of German Society to Anti-Semitic Attacks during the Nazi Seizure of Power*
- **June Teufel Dreyer**, Professor of Political Science  
*Middle Kingdom and Empire of the Rising Sun*
- **Simon J. Evnine**, Associate Professor of Philosophy  
*Making Objects and Events: A Neo-Aristotelian Approach to Metaphysics*
- **Jennifer Ferriss-Hill**, Assistant Professor of Classics  
*The Anonymous Interlocutor of Roman Satire: A Biography*
- **Lillian Manzor**, Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures  
*Sites that Speak: Miami Through its Spanish Performing Arts Spaces*
- **Brenna Munro**, Assistant Professor of English  
*The Postcolonial Politics of Stigma: Sexuality, Nation, and Diaspora in Contemporary Nigerian Writing*
- **Kate Ramsey**, Assistant Professor of History  
*Colonialism and Magic in the French and British Empires, 1750-1900*

### 2011-2012 Dissertation Fellows

- **Nick Wiltsher**, Philosophy  
*The Structure of Sensory Imagination*
- **Stephen Lazer**, History  
*French-German Encounters in Early Modern Alsace 1648-1789*



## DAVID JOHN RUGGIERO AWARD

The 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.



*Jacqueline Grant's* dissertation, *Public Performance: Free People of Color Fashioning Identities in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Cuba*, explores in depth and with great subtlety how free people of color created identities and sustained community in an environment of repression. Both Spanish and Cuban regimes imposed significant restrictions that largely prevented *libres de color* from obtaining educational and employment opportunities, but which also ridiculed their cultural heritage in writing and often forbade them to perform in public. Grant shows how free blacks fought to create their own public space as they developed an oppositional identity to the ones creole and peninsular Cubans dictated. By forming their own associations and by asserting their own traditions of dance and music, free blacks presented themselves on their own terms and thus found ways to participate in a Cuban public sphere that had sought to exclude them. Deeply researched in public and private archives and libraries, Grant's dissertation impressively deploys several methodologies drawn from the different disciplines of history, performance, dance, and anthropology. The interdisciplinary appeal of the dissertation is wide and it will attract the attention of scholars in political science, sociology, anthropology, and literary and cultural studies. It is a strikingly original, even pioneering, work that demonstrates considerable accomplishment and sophistication in thinking and analyzing across disciplines. Elegantly written, *Public Performance* should appeal to a wide range of readers, both in the academic and the non-academic environment. It makes a significant contribution to the history of the Caribbean and of the public sphere throughout the Atlantic world.

### HONORABLE MENTION



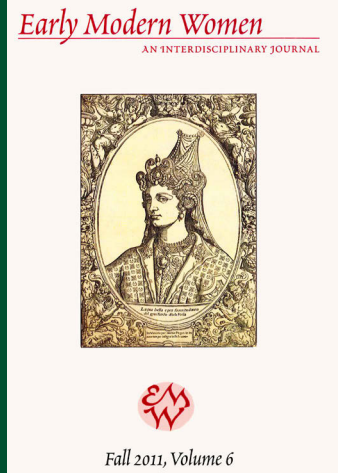
*Nick Wiltsher's* dissertation, *The Structure of Sensory Imagination* is a nuanced and impressive discussion of a human capacity that underlies so much of what is studied in the Humanities, the capacity to imagine. Wiltsher is concerned specifically with sensory imagination, experiences like picturing to yourself a parrot or hearing its squawk in your head. Drawing on gestalt psychology and theories of perception and using examples from music and the visual arts, Wiltsher skillfully examines existing theories of sensory imagining and proposes a novel one of his own. The dissertation is elegantly written, extremely clear, and will be of particular interest not only to philosophers but to psychologists and students of art, literature, and music.

## ***EARLY MODERN WOMEN***

In June 2011, the editorial office of *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal* moved to the Center for the Humanities from the University of Maryland Center for Renaissance and Baroque Studies, where it was founded in 2006. The coeditors of the journal are **Anne J. Cruz**, Professor of Spanish and Cooper Fellow; **Mary Lindemann**, Professor and Chair of History; and **Mihoko Suzuki**, Professor of English and Director of the Center; all are members of the Early Modern Studies Research Group at the Center. **Sarah Ritcheson**, a PhD candidate in English, is editorial assistant; **Zureyka M. Carsi**, is the graphic designer. The journal is also supported by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Departments of English, History, and Modern Languages and Literatures. *EMWJ* is produced, printed, and distributed by the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

In February 2013, the editors will organize a conference, “Early Modern Women: New Perspectives,” in conjunction with the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures’ biennial Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque Conference, to celebrate the first volume of the journal published at Miami.

*Early Modern Women* is the only journal devoted solely to the interdisciplinary and global study of women and gender during the years 1400 to 1800. Each volume gathers essays on early modern women from every country and region, by scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines, including art history, cultural studies, music, history, political science, religion, theatre, history of science, and history of philosophy. It publishes field-defining articles as well as forums on topics such as early modern women and material culture, transculturalisms, and the rise of the mercantile economy.



## **BOOKTALKS**

**Jan Nijman, Professor Emeritus of Geography and Regional Studies;  
Professor of Urban Studies, University of Amsterdam**

*Miami: Mistress of the Americas*

University of Pennsylvania Press

**Kunal Parker, Professor of Law and Dean's Distinguished Scholar**

*Common Law, History and Democracy in America, 1790-1900*

Cambridge University Press

**Kate Ramsey, Assistant Professor of History**

*The Spirits and the Law: Vodou and Power in Haiti*

University Of Chicago Press

\*Winner of the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Best First Book Prize

**Barbara Woshinsky, Professor Emerita of French**

*Imagining Women's Conventual Spaces in France, 1600-1800*

Ashgate Publishing

**Eduardo Elena, Assistant Professor of History**

*Dignifying Argentina: Peronism, Citizenship, and Mass Consumption*

University of Pittsburgh Press



## COSPONSORED EVENTS

September 22, 2011

**Eric Foner**, DeWitt Clinton Professor of History, Columbia University, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* (History)

September 30, 2011

**Richard Dawkins**, Emeritus fellow of New College, Oxford, *The Magic of Reality* (Philosophy)

October 11, 2011

**María Antonia Sáinz Sastre**, *Florida in the Sixteenth Century: Discovery and Conquest* (España-Florida Foundation 500 Years)

January 12, 2012

**Workshop on Retrocausality and Time-Symmetry**, Keynote Speaker: Huw Price, Bertrand Russell Professor of Philosophy and Fellow of Trinity College, University of Cambridge, *Retrocausality – what would it take?* (Philosophy)

February 17, 2012

**Symposium: A Celebration of the New Lowe Dionysos Krater**, Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kathryn Topper, University of Washington, *Dionysos, the Symposium, and Greek Notions of Civilization* (Classics)

March 6, 2012

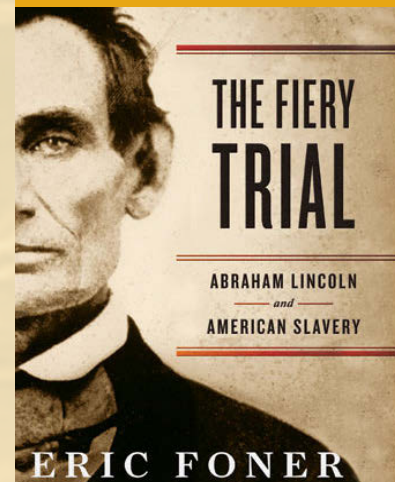
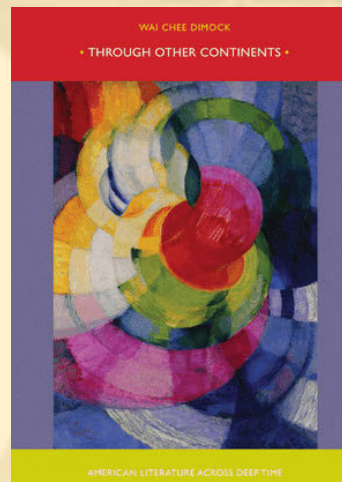
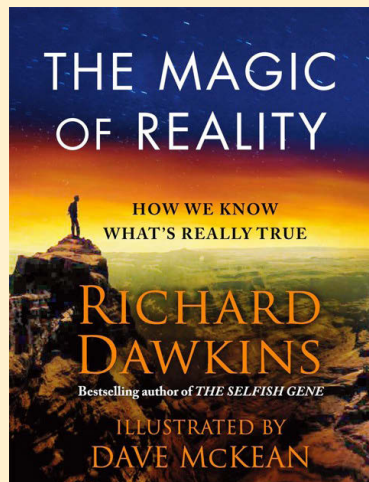
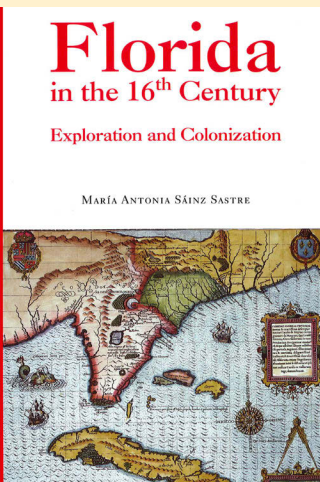
**Wai Chee Dimock**, William Lampson Professor of English & American Studies, Yale University, *The Middle East and the Global South* (American Studies, English)

March 22, 2012

**John Gifford**, Associate Professor and Director LSS, University of Miami (RSMAS), *Very Old but Very Well Preserved - Secrets of Little Salt Spring* (Anthropology)

May 14 - May 17, 2012

**Atlantic Geographies Institute**, Keynote Speaker: Vincent Brown, Professor of History and of African American Studies, Duke University, *Cartographies of Atlantic Worlds: What Are We Mapping?* (American Studies, English, History, Modern Languages and Literatures, University Libraries)



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### Comments on the Center's programs and events from faculty, graduate students and the general public:

*"Superb and inspirational content. Gracious organization - many thanks."*

*"Simply enchanting! And judging from the riveted gaze of those present (I sat all the way in the back, so had a panoramic view of the audience), I was not alone in succumbing to the eloquent charms of our distinguished speaker. A truly unforgettable evening!"*

*"What I like most about the Center events is the mix of attendees. It doesn't happen often to have representatives from students, faculty from many institutions, and the community."*

*"This talk confirmed for me the importance of building our knowledge in the humanities. If we had more knowledge in the humanities we as a country would be in much better shape."*

*"Just wanted to thank - and congratulate - those who put on Florida at the Crossroads conference... it was the best organized and well presented of any event I have attended in 44 years of being a teacher and later, social worker and I have attended MANY such events."*

*"Deagan, Milanich, Hoffman, Bushnell, Stepick, Landers, Nijman, Portes, Ibarguen and Shalala were all fabulous. I cannot pick just one event, because these speakers provided so much useful information and gave us so much to consider about living in Florida and Miami. Congratulations to all of them."*



## BOARD AND STAFF

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COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

**CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES**



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