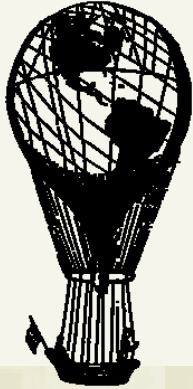


March 2006

INDIANA UNIVERSITY



# American Studies Program Newsletter

Cynthia Gwynne Yaudes, editor

## WHAT A PICTURE IS WORTH

**Upcoming lectures in the  
"Where Are the Americas  
in American Studies?"  
series:**

**Marshall Eakin  
"What's the Place of  
Latin America in  
American Studies?"  
27 March 2006  
4:00 pm  
Ballantine Hall 004**

**AND**

**Kirsten Silva Gruesz  
"The Once and Future  
Latino"  
20 April 2006  
1:30 pm  
Ballantine Hall 004**



One image of the Cuban Revolution that is probably most familiar to outsiders is that of Fidel Castro addressing a crowd of roughly one million, gathered in Havana's Plaza de la Revolution in 1959. Taken from behind the podium, the photograph shows the animated Castro leaning toward the crowd, gesturing wildly as he lays out the class content of his revolution.

It is a snapshot of a pivotal moment that had lasting international repercussions. Even more, Latin American scholar Lillian Guerra asserts, the photograph is important to an understanding of the visual process of (Cuban) revolution: creating an alternative reality around images and

then working to make that alternative reality primary. As part of a recent lecture sponsored by the American Studies Program and the Department of History, Dr. Guerra, an Assistant Professor of Caribbean history at Yale University, demonstrated her extensive research into the political and social development of twentieth-century Cuba, and the first phase of the nation's revolution in 1959.

Narrating the broad timeline from the flight of ousted leader Fulgencio Bautista in 1956 to the establishment of the Castro regime in 1959, and illustrating it with photographs from official newspapers and magazines, Guerra explained that it was through living these images of the revolution in the literal sense, that is, in terms of photography and other forms of primarily visual discourse, that Cubans came to understand what was happening on a day-to-day basis and to feel empowered by it. By orchestrating events (such as encouraging affluent Havaneros to host peasants in their homes for the mass demonstration of 26 July)

and by controlling the illustration of those events, the newly established Cuban government could put forth the message of cross class/cross racial unity as a vehicle for the redemption of their nation.

Whether or not the Cuban Revolution achieved these stated ends in creating a new Cuba is less important to Guerra than how the revolution actually "worked" on a daily and personal level. She is more interested in how Cubans on the island imagined the revolution, or were helped to imagine it, and, thereby, accepted it, as a supernaturally-driven, morally righteous project whose utopian ends were unprecedented in human history and therefore, beyond criticism. Images of total national unity, in the end, evolved into a mandate for total unity; and the power of the pictures of that unity through revolution mattered more than material reality.

Perhaps more than ideology or rhetoric, Lillian Guerra concludes, a good photograph is the best defense of the Revolution.

## CONFERENCE INVITATIONS

### **"Media and Visual Culture: Reading the Black Male Body"**

**Wheelock College  
Boston, Massachusetts  
28 April 2006**

The American Studies Department at Wheelock College in Boston is holding a one-day conference entitled "Media and Visual Culture: Reading the Black Male Body." Keynote speaker is Professor Herman Gray, author of *Culture Moves: African Americans and the Politics of Representation*. Other speakers include Mark Anthony Neal, Imani Perry, Keith Harris, Byron Hurt, Joyce Hope Scott and Gail Dines. The afternoon will feature a showing of Byron Hurt's new documentary, *Beyond Beats and Rhymes: A Hip-Hop Head Weighs in on Manhood in Hip Hop Culture*. The film was recently showcased at the Sundance Film Festival and will be shown on PBS later this year. After the viewing, Byron Hurt will lead a discussion. For full conference program and registration, please go to: [www.wheelock.edu/mvc-conf/](http://www.wheelock.edu/mvc-conf/)  
Space is limited so registration is necessary.

### **The Center for Working-Class Studies Institute Youngstown, Ohio 24-28 July 2006**

The Center for Working-Class Studies will host a one-week institute for graduate students and faculty interested in strategies for teaching about social class, especially in the context of courses that address other cultural categories and ideas about inequality. Participants will discuss readings, presentations, and resources; share their own experiences and strategies; and develop assignments, syllabi, classroom activities, and/or research plans. The organizers hope to gather a diverse group, including faculty and students from different academic fields, geographical areas, and kinds of institutions. For more information, visit the Center's website: [www.yzu.edu/~cwcs](http://www.yzu.edu/~cwcs), and click on "Class in the Classroom."



### **"Engaging Through Places"**

**Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio  
6-8 October 2006**

"Engaging Through Places," this year's Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life conference, will be held at the Ohio State University. Imagining America is a consortium of 80 colleges and universities committed to public scholarship and public culture-making through the humanities, arts, and design. Imagining America's mission is to strengthen the public role and democratic purposes of the cultural disciplines and interdisciplines. It supports publicly-engaged academic work and the structural changes in higher education that such work requires. Imagining America's national network includes collaborators in K-12 schools, non-profit and public cultural institutions, public media, government agencies, and grassroots organizations. For more details and information regarding submission of session proposals, visit [www.ia.umich.edu](http://www.ia.umich.edu). For further information, please contact Josephine Tsai at [jotsai@umich.edu](mailto:jotsai@umich.edu).

### **Edwin Forrest Bicentennial Conference Riverdale, New York 4 November 2006 Proposal deadline 15 June 2006**

The Department of History of the College of Mount St. Vincent invites paper and panel proposals for a conference on New York City social and cultural history during the lifetime of American actor Edwin Forrest (1806-1872). We especially welcome papers that address subjects such as class formation, theater, and immigration in this era. (Papers need not address Forrest himself.) If interested, please contact Professor Daniel Opler at [daniel.opler@mountsaintvincent.edu](mailto:daniel.opler@mountsaintvincent.edu).

# FUNDING OPTIONS

**Gilder Lehrman Fellowships**  
**Application deadline 1 May 2006**

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History invites applications for short-term fellowships for scholars and for doctoral candidates who have completed exams and begun dissertation research and writing. The Gilder Lehrman Fellowships support work in one of five archives in New York City: The Gilder Lehrman Collection, on deposit at the New-York Historical Society; The Library of the New-York Historical Society; The Columbia University Rare Book and Manuscript Library; The New York Public Library or The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (NYPL).

**Fellowship in the History of American Obstetrics and Gynecology**  
**Application deadline 1 October 2006**

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Fellowship in the History of American Obstetrics and Gynecology is a stipend of \$5000 to be used to defray expenses while spending a month in the ACOG historical collection and other collections in the Washington, DC, area while performing research. For further information contact Debra Scarborough at 202-863-2578 or [dscarborough@acog.org](mailto:dscarborough@acog.org).



**Fellowships in the Social Sciences and Humanities**  
**Woodrow Wilson International Center**  
**Application deadline 1 October 2006**

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars awards academic year residential fellowships to individuals from any country with outstanding project proposals on national and/or international issues. Topics and scholarship should relate to key public policy challenges or provide the historical and/or cultural framework to illumine policy issues of contemporary importance. Fellows are provided stipends which include round trip travel, private offices, access to the Library of Congress, Windows-based personal computers, and part-time research assistants. For more information, visit [www.wilsoncenter.org/fellowships](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/fellowships).

**Post-Doctoral and Junior Faculty Fellowships**  
**American Academy of Arts and Sciences**  
**Visiting Scholars Program**  
**Postmark deadline 14 October 2006**

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences is interested in proposals that relate to its current projects in the following program areas: Humanities & Culture, Science & Global Security, Social Policy & American Institutions, and Education. Projects that address American cultural, social, or political issues from the founding period to the present are especially welcome, as are studies that consider developments in America from a multidisciplinary and/or comparative perspective. In conjunction with its 225th anniversary, the Academy has launched a major archival initiative to preserve its historic papers and invites proposals that will draw upon these holdings as well. For details, e-mail [vsp@amacad.org](mailto:vsp@amacad.org). Application information is available on the Academy's website at [www.amacad.org/visiting.aspx](http://www.amacad.org/visiting.aspx).



## PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

### **Food, Culture, and Society. Food and War.** Submission deadline 1 May 2006

Historically, war has been both an agent of destruction and a catalyst for innovation. We invite essays that look at the myriad ways that war has affected food production, distribution, and consumption. For submission details, write editor Warren Belasco at [belasco@umbc.edu](mailto:belasco@umbc.edu).

### ***The Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas*** Submission deadline 30 May 2006

JASAT is a peer-reviewed journal published by the American Studies Association of Texas. The journal welcomes manuscripts of 15 to 25 pages on various aspects of American culture: history, literature, popular culture, critical theory, technology, race and ethnicity, and the arts (preferably with an emphasis on Texas, the South or Southwest). Send manuscripts in MLA style as an e-mail attachment in Word format to Professor Maxey Parrish at [Maxey\\_Parrish@baylor.edu](mailto:Maxey_Parrish@baylor.edu)

### ***Mickle Street Review*** Submission deadline 1 June 2006

*Mickle Street Review*, the electronic journal, invites papers for issue number 19. The journal addresses the life and work of Walt Whitman and his impact on artistic and cultural expression. The focus of the next issue is aural and visual elements in American culture, including but not limited to the poetry of Walt Whitman. We are especially interested in work that explores changes in the way Americans see and hear and in what they see and hear in the mid- to late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (drive-in movies, sound recording technologies, soundscapes, etc.). Send inquiries or submissions to [mstreetr@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:mstreetr@camden.rutgers.edu). More information on the journal may be found at [www.micklestreet.rutgers.edu](http://www.micklestreet.rutgers.edu)

### ***The Journal of Interdisciplinary Feminist Thought*** Submission deadline 1 June 2006

The journal invites contributions for its next issue, which will be devoted to the theme Women and Science. Papers are sought in all disciplines; joint papers and papers co-authored with student researchers are also encouraged. Papers should be 20 to 25 pages in length, typed, and formatted according to the accepted method for the discipline. Send three blind copies of all manuscripts to:

Drs. Carol Gibbons and Lois Eveleth, co-editors  
c/o Hare Academic Center  
Salve Regina University  
Newport, RI 02840

Each copy should be accompanied by a title page with contact information: author(s) name(s), institutions, telephone number(s) and email address(es) for all authors, and home and work address for the corresponding author.

### **American "Makover" Mythos** No deadline specified

For a book, I seek interdisciplinary essays that historicize US fantasies, practices, and industries of self reinvention, from the 18th century to the current moment, including reality shows such as "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and "Extreme Makover: Home Edition." How do makeover narratives of physical and social transformation connect to myths of American immigration, evangelicalism, and expansionism? Work that addresses the gendered, racialized, sexualized, and class-based notions of self-realization that mirror national myths are especially welcome.

Send proposals, completed essays, queries to:  
Dana Heller  
BAL 432  
Old Dominion University  
Norfolk, VA 23507  
[dheller@odu.edu](mailto:dheller@odu.edu)



## AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSMAKERS



Beyond the Multiplex: Cinema, New Technologies, and the Home, by Professor **Barbara Klinger**, (Communication and Culture) was published by the University of California Press this month. Her book addresses the kinds of film cultures and patterns of reception that have arisen in the home since the 1980s as a result of innovations such as the VCR, home theater, DVD, and the Internet.

**Matt Backer** (Art History) will be presenting a paper entitled "The Dilemma of the Black Female Form in the Work of Eldzier Cortor" at the Art Institute of Chicago's 41st annual graduate student symposium, held 7-8 April.

Professor **Yeidy M. Rivero** (Communication and Culture) was one of three speakers at a plenary session at this year's Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference in Vancouver, Canada. The session entitled "Location and Flow: Crossing Borders, Changing Channels, Charting Difference" was the first SCMS plenary devoted to Television Studies.

**Nathan Carroll** (Communication and Culture) has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication and Theatre Arts beginning in the fall of 2006 at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN, where he will be developing several new film courses.

Professor **Sarah Knott** (History) was recently received an Outstanding Junior Faculty award from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the Dean of Faculties. On 6 March, she gave a public lecture in London on "Slavery and the American Revolution."

**Helen Gremillion**, in her capacity as Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Gender Studies, has recently hosted a campus visit for the first cohort of students admitted into the department's new Ph.D. Program (the first of its kind in the nation). The event was quite a success! On a personal note, Helen will be giving birth to a baby girl in late May. She and her partner Nigel are very excited.

**Professor Audrey T. McClusky** (African American African Diaspora Studies) was the invited lead-off speaker in the Women's History Month "Renowned Authors Series," sponsored by the National Park Service at the historical landmark, Bethune Council House in Washington, DC. She discussed her co-authored book, Mary McLeod Bethune: Building a Better World. She is also a newly elected member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's (ASLAH) National Speakers Bureau. Her most recent lecture in that series was "African American Women in Hollywood during the Golden Era," at IU-PUI in February.



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cyaudes or the  
Program at amst.*

Professor **Phaedra Pezullo** (Communication and Culture) has been selected to receive an Outstanding Junior Faculty Award. This award of \$14,500 is given to enable tenure-track faculty to enhance their research programs and to recognize junior faculty who have devoted considerable time to research, teaching and service missions.

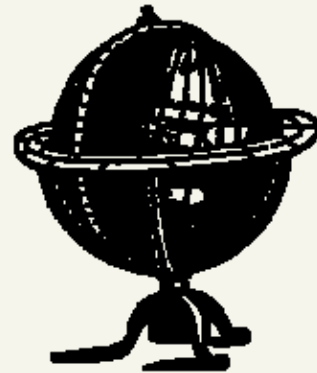
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Dr. Kathryn Lofton

## A DIFFICULT DECISION

The January/February newsletter highlighted the search for a new faculty member that was being undertaken by the Department of Religious Studies and the American Studies Program. Candidates for the position John Giggie, Kathryn Lofton and Candy Gunther Brown visited campus and each gave a brief presentation of their current research project(s). (See the last newsletter issue for a complete synopsis of each.)

Choosing one applicant from among those candidates was quite difficult. Each demonstrated wide ranging and solid scholarship and held a set of experiences that would add to the curriculum and methods of Religious Studies and American Studies. In the end, however, a decision had to be made. The offer was ultimately extended to, and recently accepted by, Dr. Kathryn Lofton.

Currently visiting Assistant Professor of Religion and Humanities at Reed College, her work examines the classificatory dynamics of religion in the United States and, more specifically, the cultural dimensions of evangelicalism. Professor Lofton is the first scholar hired to complement the newly organized American Studies undergraduate major. She will serve fifty percent of her time in the Program and fifty percent of her time in the Department of Religious Studies, her "tenure home."

Lofton will be teaching one course for American Studies during the upcoming Fall semester: A350 Topics in Interdisciplinary American Studies. The topic of the course will be "Finding Indiana," an exploration of the state of Indiana through traditional American Studies research methodologies, including archival research, literary analysis and intel-

lectual history. The class will examine the culture of the Indianapolis 500, the mythology of Johnny Appleseed and its connection to Midwestern agriculture, representations of masculinity in Hoosier sports, the novels of Booth Tarkington, and the lives of James Dean, Eugene V. Debs and Madam C. J. Walker. Although the subject of the course will be Indiana, its focus will be on the tactics of scholarship, asking: How are texts interpreted? What constitutes historical argumentation? What are the symbols of a culture and what do those signifiers represent?

"Finding Indiana" should be popular with students, not only in its coverage of unique subjects and its use of interesting methods, but also because of the enthusiasm with which it will, no doubt, be taught.