Indiana University

The Poynter Center
for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions

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Upcoming Events:

- Nature in the Scientific and Moral Imagination, Oct. 21
- Helen Nissenbaum, Privacy and Information Technology: The Trouble with the Public/Private Dichotomy, Oct. 26
- Ethics Bowl Regional Competition, Nov. 1
- Health Care Ethics, Nov. 16
- Health Care Ethics, Dec. 14

See http://poynter.indiana.edu for details of these and other programs.

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Poynter Center Fellows for 2006-07: "Memory: Ethics, Politics, Aesthetics"

Richard Miller, director of the Poynter Center, has announced the six IU faculty members selected as Poynter Center Fellows for 2006-07. They are studying "Memory: Ethics, Politics, Aesthetics." The group will meet in a seminar format ten times during the year; each faculty member has a research topic on a facet of memory's ethics, politics, and/or aesthetics.

Back row: Patrick Dove, Joseph Hoffmann, John Lucaites, Richard Miller. Front row: Purnima Bose, Lynn Struve, Maria Bucur

Miller remarked: "This is a wonderfully diverse range of scholars, tracking issues of memory in the United States, Eastern Europe, Argentina, China, and among South Asian Indians in the heartland of Indiana. The campus's richness in interdisciplinary work, multiculturalism, and global studies is on full display with this group. I look forward to another engaging and intellectually vigorous year."

The seminar will be led by Richard Miller and joined by Byron Bangert, research associate, and Melissa Seymour and Mark Wilson, research assistants at the Poynter Center.

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Privacy and Technology Seminars

Businesses seem to know as much about us as the government does. Shop online and your identification information pops up. Citizens are increasingly concerned about the privacy of their medical, legal, and financial records. Should we be concerned about privacy in an increasingly public world?

The Poynter Center is presenting four workshops on the subject this year. Deborah Johnson of the University of Virginia School of Engineering spoke September 21 on "Privacy in Public? Technology, Privacy, and Democracy." Eden Medina, IU School of Informatics, presented the response.

Helen Nissenbaum of

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Privacy and Technology

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New York University will speak Oct. 26 on "Privacy and Information Technology: The Trouble with the Public/Private Dichotomy."

The prevailing ethical view of privacy has been that we ought to protect a sphere of privacy as a matter of "respect for person" and out of concern for the value of individual liberty. But in general that view has been applied only to issues pertaining to intimate realms, such as family, sex, and medicine, with the aim of limiting governmental intrusion. Such an approach has yet to explore fully whether there is a sphere of privacy that is worthy of protection from non-governmental organizations. Nor has there been sufficient attention to clarifying how to define the boundary between "public" and "private" when both of these spheres are non-governmental.

The series is funded by a New Perspectives Grant from the Office of the Vice-Provost for Research.

Photo:

Medina, Miller, Johnson

Nature in the Scientific and Moral Imagination

The 2005-06 Poynter Center Fellows will present summations of the research and writing they did as part of the study last year of "Nature in the Scientific and Moral Imagination." The presentations will be Saturday, October 21, from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the IUB School of Law, Room 124.

Check the web site for the agenda and for information about the readings from last years' seminar.

Richard Miller, Heather Reynolds, Scott Sanders, Rob Kunzman, Betsy Stirratt, Aaron Stalnaker, Russ Skiba

Ethics Bowl Regional Competition, November 11

The Ethics Bowl competition has grown so much it is instituting a series of regional competitions this fall, prior to the national competition February 22 at the annual meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.

The 2006-07 team of five includes Khalil AbuGharbieh, a senior in Political Science, Religious Studies, Near Eastern Languages and Culture; Emily Crouch, a senior in Religious Studies; Ryan Funk, a senior in Political Science and Religious Studies; Neil Shah, a sophomore in Mathematics, Finance, and Accounting; and Emma Young, a junior in Classical Studies and Religious Studies.

The team is coached by Mark Wilson, Ph. D. candidate in Religious Studies, who has coached three previous teams. Richard Miller, director of the Poynter Center, is the advisor.

Torture, Compassion, and the Exceptional Case

John Reeder, Professor of Religious Studies at Brown University and Visiting Professor of Ethics at Harvard Divinity School, presented a lecture on the topic of "Torture, Compassion, and the Exceptional Case" on October 5. He addressed psychological impediments to feeling compassion along with moral values that may block or override the "reach" of compassion for torture victims.

Reeder works primarily in Western philosophy and Christian ethics, with comparative interest in Judaic and Buddhist thought. His publications include *Source, Sanction, and Salvation: Religion and Morality in Judaic and Christian Traditions* and *Killing and Saving: Abortion, Hunger, and War*. He is associate editor of the *Journal of Religious Ethics*.

His visit was sponsored by the Poynter Center and the IU departments of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Undergraduate Research Stipend Program

The Poynter Center is offering Research Stipends in Practical Ethics for IUB undergraduates to assist students who are doing research for a class. Students selected will be addressing theoretical and applied dimensions of a moral issue in public life.

James Conant was the first student awarded a stipend last year. James, a senior in political science and philosophy, studied the Oregon Basic Health Services Act of 1989 and other acts to create an argument for universal access to health care. As a condition of the stipend, James gave a brief presentation to interested people at the Poynter Center.

Poynter Center Fellows

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The faculty members are:

- Purnima Bose, an associate professor of English and director of the Cultural Studies Program.
- Maria Bucur, associate professor and John V. Hill Chair in East European History and acting director for the Russian and East European Institute.
- Patrick Dove, assistant professor in the department of Spanish and Portuguese.
- Joseph Hoffmann, the Harry Pratter Professor of Law at Indiana University Bloomington.
- John Louis Lucaites, associate professor of Communication and Culture and a member of the faculties in American Studies, Cultural Studies, and the Hutton Honors College.
- Lynn Struve, professor of History and of East Asian Languages and Culture.

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Poynter Center and Ewha Womans University of Korea Sign Cooperation Agreement

Representatives of IU and the Ewha Institute for Law and Bioethics at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea have signed an agreement of friendship and cooperation. Soo-Hun Park, who is a visiting scholar at the IUB School of Law, initiated the discussions with Richard Miller, director of the Poynter Center. The agreement is to promote mutual understanding and academic, cultural, and personnel exchanges.

Founded in 1886, Ewha Womans University is now the largest university for women in the world, with 21,000 students. They are preparing to open a medical school and law school. The Ewha Institute for Law and Bioethics was designated a Bioethics Policy Research Center by the Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare in 2006.

Soo-Hun Park and Richard Miller exchange copies of the agreement.