THE SOCIETY OF FELLOWS IN THE HUMANITIES
ANNUAL REPORT 2015–2016
Report From The Chair | 5
Members of the 2015–2016 Governing Board | 8
Forty-First Annual Fellowship Competition | 9
Fellows in Residence 2015–2016 | 11
  • Benjamin Breen | 12
  • Maggie Cao | 13
  • David Gutkin | 14
  • Hidetaka Hirota | 15
  • Dan-el Padilla Peralta | 16
  • Carmel Raz | 17
  • Rebecca Woods | 18
  • Grant Wythoff | 19
Thursday Lectures Series | 21
  • Fall 2015: Fellows’ Talks | 23
  • Spring 2016: Altered States | 26
Special Events | 31
Heyman Center Events | 39
  • Event Highlights | 40
  • Public Humanities Initiative | 47
  • Heyman Center Series and Workshops | 49
  • Full List of Heyman Center Events 2015–2016 | 52
Alumni Fellows News | 59
Alumni Fellows Directory | 62
This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the Society of Fellows in the Humanities at Columbia University—a milestone that coincides with a particularly robust year in the activities of the Society and the accomplishments of its Fellows.

Our Fellows were prodigious in teaching, publishing, and generating a dynamic array of public humanities programming on the Columbia campus. They taught courses across the Core Curriculum and offered seminars on avant-garde music, science fiction, nativism, and the history of cold, as well as “Humanities Texts, Critical Skills”—a seminar modeled in format and content on Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization that serves as a gateway course for the Justice-in-Education Initiative. Established in 2015 with the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the JIE Initiative aims to increase educational opportunities for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Two of our Fellows saw their books in print this year: Dan-el Padilla Peralta’s memoir, Undocumented: A Dominican Boy’s Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League, and Grant Wythoff’s The Perversity of Things: Hugo Gernsback on Media, Tinkering, and Scientifiction were published by Penguin and the University of Minnesota Press, respectively. The Fellows were extremely successful in obtaining fellowships, research grants for course design and conference travel, visiting scholarships, and book contracts. They also produced more conference papers and essays than can be listed here. [See the “Fellows in Residence” profiles for more details.]

As in years past, the 2015 Fall Thursday Lecture Series was devoted to the ongoing research of our current Fellows, offering a window on the exceptional range of their scholarship. Attended by faculty, postdoctoral students, and graduate students from Columbia and other local universities, the Fall Series offered presentations on African-American jazz operas, West Central African healing practices in the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries, sites of religious pilgrimage in Republican Rome, science fiction in electrical parts catalogues, nineteenth-century theories of music and neurophysiology, British colonial sheep-breeding and transportation, Chinese glass paintings, and contract labor in the US antebellum period. The 2016 Spring Thursday Lecture Series, organized by the Fellows, featured presentations by distinguished visiting speakers on the theme of “Altered States”—a theme capacious enough to include such topics as Martin Luther’s writing on Islam, President Lincoln’s assassination, and theories of spontaneous generation in the Renaissance.
In addition, the Fellows organized a record number of major conferences this year in collaboration with the departments and centers in which they hold their teaching appointments. Maggie Cao and Rebecca Woods coordinated “Ice³: An Inquiry into the Aesthetics, History, and Science of Ice,” which brought together climate scientists, art historians, historians of science, geographers, artists, and others in interdisciplinary conversation. Maggie Cao also led a one-day symposium on “Art and the Monetary,” which she co-organized with collaborators from the Tate Museum and the Sorbonne. Hidetaka Hirota organized both a panel discussion celebrating Dan-el Padilla Peralta’s memoir *Undocumented* and an interdisciplinary conference on “Mobility and Confinement” that considered the problem of incarceration in America. We also had visits this past year from two alumni Fellows. Joshua Dubler (SoF 2008–11) delivered a talk on “Teaching Contemporary Civilization in Prison,” drawn in part from his experience as an instructor in Pennsylvania’s Graterford State Correctional Institution while a Fellow in the Society—an experience that he discusses in his book *Down in the Chapel: Religious Life in an American Prison* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2013; Picador paperback, 2014). In June, Will Deringer (SoF 2012–15) led a workshop on “Science and Capitalism: Entangled Histories” that brought together contributors to an upcoming special issue of the historical journal *Osiris* to discuss their works in progress.

On behalf of the Heyman Center for the Humanities, which has provided a home for the Fellows since 1981, the Society of Fellows organized or supported over a hundred events in 2015–16. Among these was a series of thirteen seminars on Foucault’s *Late Lectures*, imagined and organized by SoF Board Members Bernard Harcourt and Jesús R. Velasco and sponsored in partnership with the Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought (directed by Bernard Harcourt). This series proved to be extremely popular among faculty and graduate students, filling to capacity its various campus venues and often reaching a live-streaming audience of 500 or more throughout the world. Another event of note this past year was a two-day conference on the HBO series *The Wire*, which focused on the afterlife and legacies of that groundbreaking series, including the continuing community activism of some of its lead actors, whose panel discussion drew in a large public audience. These and other events are described in greater detail elsewhere in this report. Please note that most of these events are available for viewing under the “Media” menu tab on the Heyman Center website.

We were excited to welcome three new Fellows to the Society of Fellows this year: Benjamin Breen (PhD, 2015), Lecturer in History, who joined the Society from the University of Texas, Austin; David Gutkin (PhD, 2015), Lecturer in Music, who received his doctorate from Columbia University; and Carmel Raz (PhD, 2015), Lecturer in Music, who completed her PhD at Yale University. The incoming cohort has melded seamlessly with our continuing Fellows: Maggie Cao (Art History), Hidetaka Hirota (History), Dan-el Padilla Peralta (Classics), Rebecca Woods (History), and Grant Wythoff (English and Comparative Literature). As happens every year, however, our enthusiasm for our
new Fellows is tempered by our sadness in bidding others farewell, even as they leave us to take up exciting new positions. Maggie Cao departed in January for the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she began her appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Art & Art History. Starting in Fall 2016, Hidetaka Hirota will be Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the City College of New York; Dan-el Padilla Peralta will be Assistant Professor of Classics at Princeton; and Rebecca Woods will be Assistant Professor in the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto.

After a rigorous Fellowship Competition, six new Fellows were selected to join the Society, beginning in Fall 2016. We look forward to welcoming Christopher Florio (PhD, 2016, Princeton University), Lecturer in History; María González Pendás (PhD, 2016, Columbia University), Lecturer in Art History; Heidi Hausse (PhD, 2016, Princeton University), Lecturer in History; Arden Hegele (PhD, Columbia University), Lecturer in English; Whitney Laemmli (PhD, 2016, University of Pennsylvania), Lecturer in History; and Max Mishler (PhD, 2016, New York University), Lecturer in the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race.

Christopher L. Brown
Director and Chair of the Governing Board
MEMBERS OF THE 2015–2016 GOVERNING BOARD

Christopher L. Brown (ex-officio)  
Chair/Director  
*History*

Tina Campt  
*Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies*  
*Barnard College*

Julie Crawford (ex-officio)  
*English and Comparative Literature*

Souleymane Bachir Diagne  
*French*

Giuseppe Gerbino (ex-officio)  
*Music*

Matthew L. Jones (ex-officio)  
*Contemporary Civilization*

Rob King  
*Film*

Eugenia Lean  
*East Asian Languages and Cultures*

Reinhold Martin  
*Architecture, Planning and Preservation*

Mark Mazower (ex-officio)  
*History*

Alondra Nelson  
*Sociology*

Jesús Rodríguez-Velasco  
*Latin American and Iberian Cultures*

Katharina Volk  
*Classics*

Ellie Hisama  
*Music*

Eleanor Johnson  
*English and Comparative Literature*
The forty-first Society of Fellows in the Humanities fellowship competition closed on 5 October 2015, with 780 applicants vying for the six fellowship positions available for 2016–17. Representatives from twenty-two departments, institutes, and centers conducted the first round of vetting. Each application recommended for advancement to the next level of competition received three readings: two by members of the Governing Board and one by a current Fellow. Each applicant was ranked on a scale of one to five and subsequently reviewed by the selection committee, a sub-committee of the Governing Board. In mid-December, the committee invited fifteen applicants to campus for interviews, which were held in January 2015 at the Heyman Center.

The six available fellowships for 2016–17 were offered to, and accepted by: Christopher Florio, PhD in History from Princeton University; María González Pendás, PhD in Architecture History and Theory from Columbia University; Heidi Hausse, PhD in History from Princeton University; Arden Hegele, PhD in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University; Whitney Laemmli, PhD in History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania; and Max Mishler, PhD in History from New York University.

The six Fellows, whose appointments began 1 July 2016, bring to the Society of Fellows a number of different perspectives and approaches within the humanities. Dr. Florio is a scholar of nineteenth-century United States history, whose research explores the interconnected histories of poverty and slavery across the United States and the British Empire. Dr. González Pendás is an architect and historian of the twentieth-century Iberian world, whose work examines Spanish architecture under the dictatorship of Francisco Franco. Dr. Heidi Hausse is a historian of early modern Europe, whose work examines the culture, medicine, and technology of prostheses. Dr. Hegele is a literary scholar specializing in nineteenth-century British literature and the medical humanities; her work argues that Romantic poetry and prose borrow formal methods from medical science. Dr. Laemmli is a scholar of twentieth-century science and technology, whose research focuses on the influence of dance notation on unexpected spaces, from the corporate boardroom to psychiatric hospitals. Dr. Mishler is a historian of the Atlantic world, whose research connects slave-emancipation with the birth of the modern penitentiary.
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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>No. of Applicants</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
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<td>Art History and Archaeology</td>
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<td>Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity</td>
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<td>Classics</td>
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<td>English and Comparative Literature</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Institute for Comparative Literature and Society</td>
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<td>Italian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin American and Iberian Cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE
2015–2016
Benjamin Breen is a historian of science and medicine who specializes in the Portuguese and British Empires. In his first year at the Society of Fellows, he made progress toward completing a book manuscript, “The Invention of Drugs: Nature, Knowledge, and Globalization in the Early Modern World,” which is under contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press. The book reconstructs how the modern category of “drugs” emerged out of commercial and intellectual networks in the seventeenth-century Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds, by focusing on the connections between natural philosophers in London, apothecaries in Lisbon, and enslaved and indigenous healers in West Central Africa and Brazil. It argues that the global circulation of substances like tobacco, cinchona bark, and opium over the course of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries forged new modes of capitalist consumption and scientific inquiry—the influence of which is still being felt today. In 2015–16, Dr. Breen began a new chapter on the history of intoxication in the Enlightenment and partially rewrote three other chapters. He presented this material in several invited talks at Yale, Brown, Penn, and Stanford. In spring of 2016, his doctoral dissertation, upon which “The Invention of Drugs” is based, won a university-wide prize from UT Austin for the best humanities dissertation defended in the previous year.

Dr. Breen also developed material from a side project on the history of poison and presented it at a conference on pharmacopeias held at the University of Wisconsin in April of 2016. This resulted in a chapter in an edited collection based on the conference, which is currently under review with the University of Pittsburgh Press. In the spring of 2016, he also completed revisions on two other pieces for edited volumes: an essay on pharmaceutical networks in the Portuguese Empire called Empires of Knowledge (forthcoming from Routledge) and another in the edited collection Entangled Histories and Severed Archives (forthcoming from the University of Pennsylvania Press).

Dr. Breen will begin a tenure-track position in the Department of History at UC Santa Cruz in January 2017, after three semesters at the Society of Fellows.
Maggie Cao is an art historian whose work focuses on intersections of art with histories of technology, natural science, and economics. In her second year as a Fellow, Dr. Cao secured a contract from the University of California Press to publish her book manuscript, “The End of Landscape in Nineteenth-Century America.” This project examines the dissolution of landscape painting as a major cultural project in the United States in the late nineteenth-century and argues that landscape is the genre through which American artists most urgently sought to come to terms with modernity. In February, she co-organized a state-of-the-field roundtable on landscape in American art history at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The proceedings will be published in the journal American Art in 2017.

Dr. Cao’s article on the theoretical and material links between painting and camouflage at the turn of the twentieth century, entitled “Abbott Thayer and the Invention of Camouflage,” was published in the journal Art History in June 2016. She also published a short essay in the online journal Common-Place, entitled “Washington in China,” that examines an early nineteenth-century China Trade oil-on-glass portrait of George Washington. The essay stems from Dr. Cao’s new book project, “New Media in the Age of Sail,” which considers new art forms that emerged from global commerce in the long eighteenth century. Dr. Cao recently presented two conference papers related to her new research: “New Media in the Age of Sail: Ink on Paper as Medium and Media,” at the media studies conference INHA in Paris, and “Copying in Reverse: China Trade Painting,” at a conference on Chinoiserie at Seton Hall University.

In January 2016, Dr. Cao began her new faculty position as the David G. Frey Assistant Professor of American Art at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She returned frequently to the Society of Fellows, however, as an organizer of two conferences. In April, she and Fellow Rebecca Woods presented Ice³: The Aesthetics, History, and Science of Ice, an interdisciplinary conference that brought together scientists, humanists, and artists to share conversations about ice that are currently taking place within climate science, aesthetics, geography, arctic studies, the history of science, glaciology, and the arts. In May, she organized “Art and the Monetary,” a one-day symposium in which speakers examined the parallel concern for consumption, valuation, circulation, materiality, authenticity, and imitation that emerged from both artistic and economic spheres from the early modern period to the present.

Research Project:
The End of Landscape in Nineteenth-Century America
David Gutkin is a scholar of American and European music from the early twentieth century through the present. Through studies of operas with roots in experimental jazz, monumental site-specific spectacles, and works designed for serial television broadcast, his current book project, entitled “Meanwhile, Let’s Go Back in Time: New York Avant-Garde Opera and the Historical Imagination,” aims to show how avant-garde artists, by adapting an eminently “historical” form, participated in—and sometimes transformed—late twentieth-century debates over the concept of history as such. In 2015–16, Dr. Gutkin drafted a chapter about the Harlem Opera Society that chronicles the group’s 1970s collaboration with multi-instrumentalist and avant-garde jazz composer Sam Rivers as they sought to forge a “relevant,” civically engaged form that they alternately called “jazz improvisational opera,” “Harlem-style opera,” and “operavisation.” Dr. Gutkin presented some of this work at the American Musicological Society national conference in Louisville in November 2015. He also spent much of June 2016 looking through the late Robert Ashley’s file cabinets at his studio in Tribeca in order to augment a previously drafted book chapter on the composer.

In addition to work on his book manuscript, Dr. Gutkin continued research on the little-known composer H. Lawrence Freeman (“the Negro Wagner,” as he called himself). A portion of that work was published in a special issue of American Music Review (Fall 2015) devoted to opera in the Harlem Renaissance, which Dr. Gutkin co-edited. He also taught Music Humanities in the Fall and a new course titled “New York Avant-Gardes: Music and Performance Since 1950” in the Spring. The cross-listed seminar drew undergraduate and graduate students in numerous departments across the university, including English, Art History, Anthropology, History, and Music. The class visited multiple art spaces and institutions around New York, including La Monte Young’s Dream House, John Zorn’s The Stone, and the New York Public Library’s Performing Arts Library.

In the upcoming year, Dr. Gutkin looks forward to interviewing musicians involved with the Harlem Opera Society, traveling to Japan (Tokyo and Toga Village) to research a chapter on Robert Wilson’s CIVIL warS, and beginning archival research on Meredith Monk’s early 1970s site-specific opera-happenings.
Dr. Hirota spent the Fall semester on final revisions to his book manuscript, “Expelling the Poor,” which examines the historical origins of immigration restriction in the United States. The book is under contract with Oxford University Press and scheduled to be published in January 2017.

In the meantime, Dr. Hirota advanced research on two new book projects. His second book explores the meaning of foreign contract labor—the labor of foreign workers coming to the US under contract with American employers—in American immigration history. As a first foray into the project, he wrote an article for American Quarterly on immigration restrictions against Japanese contract laborers at the Washington-British Columbia border during the turn of the twentieth century. Dr. Hirota’s third book project provides a synthetic history of American nativism from the American Revolution to the present. He secured research fellowships from the Huntington Library and the New York Historical Society for this project while teaching the seminar “American Nativism,” which greatly helped him conceptualize this new work.

Dr. Hirota’s scholarly activity this year extended well beyond his published work. In the Fall semester, he presented at the annual meeting of the American Society for Legal History in Washington DC and at an interdisciplinary conference on nation building at the University of Cambridge. In the Spring, he was invited to speak at two conferences—at Yale and the New School—and presented work at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Providence. In March 2016, Dr. Hirota was welcomed as a visiting scholar to the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Studies at the National University of Ireland-Galway, where he gave a public lecture on the deportation of nineteenth-century Irish immigrants to the US back to the UK. As a member of the Executive Board of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, he served on the George E. Pozzetta Dissertation Award Committee. Event organization was another area in which he was very active this year. In November 2015, he was honored to organize an event to celebrate the publication of Undocumented, the memoir of Fellow Dan-el Padilla Peralta. In March 2016, Dr. Hirota organized the interdisciplinary conference on incarceration in America entitled “Mobility and Confinement,” which brought scholars from universities across the country to the Heyman Center.

Dr. Hirota would like to thank all the board and staff members of the Society of Fellows as well as his fellow Fellows for their friendship, mentorship, and assistance over the past three years. In Fall 2016, he will start his new position as Visiting Assistant Professor of History at the City College of New York.
In his final year with the Society of Fellows, before beginning a tenure-track job in the Classics Department at Princeton University, Dr. Padilla Peralta published his memoir, *Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League* (Penguin Press); made progress on his book manuscript, “Divine Institutions: Religion and State Formation in Mid-Republican Rome”; submitted a co-edited volume, *Empire of Plunder: Roman Cargo Culture and the Dynamics of Appropriation* to Cambridge University Press; wrote a series of academic and public articles; and travelled extensively, delivering scholarly papers, speaking on the public humanities, and promoting his book. He also co-taught “Humanities Texts, Critical Skills,” the gateway course of the Justice-in-Education Scholars program, generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which provides education to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Dr. Padilla Peralta’s published or forthcoming work this past year includes an essay on buildings, epigraphy, and lexicography for an edited volume on texts and monuments in Augustan cultural history; a note for *Classical Philology*; a book review in *Classical World*; and a chapter, “Classical Pasts in Caribbean Presents: The Politics of Reception in Santo Domingo,” for *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Political Theory*, one of whose editors is Murad Idris (SoF 2014–15).

His writing for the online journal *Eidolon* has taken him into increasingly public-facing writing about Classics. “From Damocles to Socrates: Classics in/of Hip-Hop” (June 2015) was followed in November by two long pieces on ancient rhetoric about immigration and modern immigration anxieties that were re-published in *Newsweek*, and a note for *Eidolon* that summed up some of the unexpected—and for that reason all the more rewarding—aspects of doing public scholarship.

A promotional tour for *Undocumented* allowed Dr. Padilla Peralta to speak to broad audiences in various contexts, including high schools, public libraries, churches, the NYC Department of Homeless Services, and the International Festival of Arts & Ideas in New Haven. The book was widely reviewed in venues such as the *New York Daily News*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *LA Times Book Review*, *Oprah Magazine*, and *Slate*. Media appearances included a video with Brian Lehrer for Big Think, a 13-station radio tour, and *ABC*’s “Tiempo,” as well as coverage by Univision and Telemundo. *Undocumented* received an Alex Award from the American Library Association, was a finalist for the 20th Annual Books for a Better Life Awards, was named to the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts’ 100 list for 2016, and was awarded the Guanin Youth Literature Leadership Award by the Dominican-American National Roundtable. The pinnacle of the year was a Spanish-language advertisement by the Hilary Clinton campaign about Dr. Padilla Peralta.
**CARMEL RAZ**  
*Yale University, Department of Music, PhD 2015*


Dr. Raz presented her research at the annual meetings of the American Musicological Society and the Society for Music Theory, as well as at the annual meeting of the International Society for the History of Neurosciences, the Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies at Cornell University, the Royal Music Association’s Music & Philosophy Study Group at King’s College, London, and the 10th Biennial Conference on Music in Nineteenth-Century Britain at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

In Fall 2015, she taught “Music and the Brain from Descartes to Helmholtz,” an undergraduate seminar exploring the history of using sound to theorize the workings of the brain, the nature of cognition, and the function of the nerves; in Spring 2016, she taught Music Humanities.
Dr. Woods devoted the fall of her third year in the Society to revising her manuscript, “The Herds Shot Round the World: Native Breeds and the British Empire, 1800–1900.” She presented a chapter, “Breeds of Empire: Cattle, Sheep, and Anthropogenic selection in the Nineteenth Century,” at the University Seminar in Human-Animal Studies in February 2016, and she gave a round-table presentation based on the manuscript at the annual History of Science Society meeting in November 2015. Dr. Woods also gave several invited talks in 2015 and 2016, including the keynote address at the Vermont Historical Society’s annual meeting in September 2015, entitled “Tails from the Archive: Tracking the Lives of Four-legged Creatures from Vermont to Australia,” and “Porcine Bloodlines and Imperial Ties: Revitalizing the Tamworth Breed of Pig circa 1977,” at the conference, “Pig Out: Hogs and Humans in Global Historical Context,” hosted by Yale University’s Program in Agrarian Studies in October 2015.

Dr. Woods’s second book project is a history of cold, which served as the topic for several of her presentations this year, including her lecture in the Society’s Thursday Lecture Series, entitled “Suspended Animation: The Politics and Production of Cold in the Nineteenth Century;” and at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science, also in November. Dr. Woods taught an upper-level undergraduate seminar, “The Histories of Cold,” based on this work, at Columbia in Spring 2016. She also participated in a roundtable celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of William Cronon’s influential Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England (1983) at the American Historical Association’s annual meeting in April.

Grant Wythoff’s book The Perversity of Things: Hugo Gernsback on Media, Tinkering, and Scientifiction was published by the University of Minnesota Press’s Electronic Mediations series in 2016, a leading forum for new work in media theory. The Press also selected this book as a pilot project for its new online, interactive books platform called Manifold Editions, intended to go live in 2017. By turning the very successful and popular web version of “Debates in the Digital Humanities” into an extensible platform, Manifold Editions will allow authors not only greater space to express their thoughts than the traditional monograph permits, but to engage a broader range of resources as well. The Perversity of Things has already received wonderful reviews in popular and academic venues, including, among others, The New York Review of Books, Leonardo, Science Fiction Studies, and Kirkus Reviews. It also received an honorable mention from the Research Society for American Periodicals for its annual book prize.

Dr. Wythoff’s second book, “Gadgetry: A History of Techniques,” has been percolating ever since an intensive one-week workshop at the First Book Institute at Penn State, where eight recent doctoral recipients worked on turning their dissertations into book manuscripts. His article “Sustainable Authorship in Plain Text Using Pandoc and Markdown”—a peer-reviewed tutorial co-authored with colleague Dennis Tenen and published in The Programming Historian, a leading digital humanities venue—was recently translated into Spanish. Another essay, “Artifactual Interpretation,” which discusses comparative methodologies between media studies and archaeology, was recently published in the Journal of Contemporary Archaeology for a special forum on media archaeologies. A short piece on the aesthetics of digital television, “The Form of Content Delivery,” was published with Media Fields Journal. In addition, his essay on digital humanities and media studies pedagogies, entitled “Design and DH in the Media Studies Classroom,” appeared in a special issue of Cinema Journal.

Dr. Wythoff received a course development grant from the Center for Science and Society at Columbia (with funds from the Heyman Center to support interdisciplinary innovation) for his Spring 2016 course, “The Science of Fiction: American Naturalism, 1880–1915.” In addition, he was awarded grants from centerNET and the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) to support his attendance at the annual Digital Humanities conference in Sydney during the summer of 2015, where he participated in the New Scholars Seminar.
THURSDAY LECTURE SERIES
Society of Fellows in the Humanities
Columbia University

Thursday Lecture Series
Fall 2015

Talks begin at 12:15pm
In the Heyman Center for the Humanities
Common Room

September 24
David Gutkin
Fellow/Lecturer in Music
"Jazz, Opera, and the Signifier"
Chair: Souleymane Bachir Diagne

October 1
Benjamin Breen
Fellow/Lecturer in History
"Fetishizing Drugs: Feitiçaria and Poison in West Central Africa, 1640-1800"
Chair: Eugenia Lean

October 8
Dan-el Padilla-Peralta
Fellow/Lecturer in Classics
"Quantifying Piety: Pilgrimage to Republican Rome"
Chair: Eleanor Johnson

October 15
Grant Wythoff
Fellow/Lecturer in English
"The Perversity of Things: How Science Fiction Emerged from an Electrical Parts Catalogue"
Chair: Reinhold Martin

October 22
Carmel Raz
Fellow/Lecturer in Music
"Hector Berlioz’s Neurophysiological Imagination"
Chair: Ellie Hisama

November 5
Rebecca Woods
Fellow/Lecturer in History
"Lively Technologies and Suspended Animation"
Chair: Alondra Nelson

November 12
Maggie Cao
Fellow/Lecturer in Art History
“Painted Prints and Reflective Pictures: Making Sense of the Copy in Canton”
Chair: Barry Bergdoll

November 19
Hidetaka Hirota
Fellow/Lecturer in CSER and History
“Wrong Kinds of Labor? Alien Contract Labor Law in American Immigration History”
Chair: Jesús R. Velasco

December 3rd
Joshua Dubler
Assistant Professor of Religion,
University of Rochester; SoF 2008-11
“Teaching Contemporary Civilization in Prison”

Free and open to the public.
societyoffellows.columbia.edu
24 September

**Jazz, Opera, and the Signifier**
David Gutkin, Society of Fellows, Lecturer in Music

Clause twelve of the production contract for Anthony Davis’s 1986 opera, *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*, reads: “The word ‘jazz’ should not be used in any connection with this piece, including Anthony Davis’s biography.” Although vehemently opposing the classification of his work as jazz, Davis simultaneously sought to position the “jazz tradition” as the central impetus for the creation of that perennially elusive form: “American opera.” To comprehend this apparent contradiction, this talk traced intersections between jazz and opera through three case studies. The first considered the unperformed Wagnerian “jazz opera” *American Romance* (1924–1929) by H. Lawrence Freeman, founder of the Harlem-based Negro Grand Opera Company. The second addressed Sam Rivers and the Harlem Opera Society’s Black Arts Movement-inspired “jazz improvisational operas” of the 1960s and 1970s. The final case study returned to Anthony Davis’s *X*. Building on the earlier analyses, Dr. Gutkin reformulated the problem of “jazz” in the work—and interpreted its racial significance—in terms of a longstanding ambiguity in opera concerning the representation of music within an existing musical form.

1 October

**Fetishizing Drugs: Feitiçaria and Poison in West Central Africa, 1640–1800**
Benjamin Breen, Society of Fellows, Lecturer in History

Early modern European visitors tended to perceive equatorial Africa as a landscape haunted by the threat of poisoning, strange fevers, demonic possession, and madness. But the flip side to this conception of a poisoned landscape was that Europeans also regarded African medical practitioners as both skilled and dangerous competitors to their own physicians. This was a dynamic that passed across the Atlantic largely intact, leading to several well-studied instances of enslaved healers accused of poisoning or, conversely, lauded for their skill in formulating novel antidotes. Yet the African context has received much less attention, particularly in the Portuguese sphere. In religiously and culturally hybrid zones like coastal West Central Africa, *feiticeiros* (as the Portuguese called them) or “fetisheers” (as the English did) bridged the gap between spiritual and medical practice—a gap that was quite ambiguous even in a domestic European setting, and doubly so in the supposedly preternatural environs of the tropics.

8 October

**Quantifying Piety: Pilgrimage to Republican Rome**
Dan-el Padilla Peralta, Society of Fellows, Lecturer in Classics

Religiously motivated travel is well documented for Christian Rome: late antiquity and the early middle ages witnessed the institutionalization of a pilgrimage economy of which Rome—with its many churches—was a primary node. That Christian pilgrimage made use of (and in some cases directly mapped upon) pre-Christian itineraries and networks of travel is no longer seriously disputed. What may come as a surprise, however, is the claim that Rome was a hub for pilgrimage well before the advent of Christianity. In this talk, Dr. Padilla Peralta argued that already by the third and second centuries BCE Rome was attracting out-of-towners to visit its dense landscape of shrines and temples. The first two-thirds of the talk presented bodies of evidence and read them as signs (or in the second instance, as relics) of the spatial dynamics of pilgrimage to Rome. The final third of the talk concentrated on the anatomical terracottas, quantifying them and generating some (speculative but statistically premised) models for how many out-of-towners likely visited Rome to offer dedications during the third and second centuries.

15 October

**The Perversity of Things: How Science Fiction Emerged from an Electrical Parts Catalogue**
Grant Wythoff, Society of Fellows, Lecturer in English

Hugo Gernsback is best remembered today for launching the first science fiction magazine, *Amazing Stories*, in 1926. But...
entirely overlooked has been the context of the genre’s birth in Gernsback’s earlier electrical experimenter publications, as well as his work as a pioneer in wireless media technologies and as an activist for amateur broadcast rights. In these electrical supply catalogs and compendiums of amateur designs, the reader might easily find a literary treatise on the genre of “scientifiction” alongside a blueprint for a home-manufactured television receiver (in 1914!)—together with various projections of what such speculative media would look like in the near future. This talk looked at the emergence of American science fiction from what began as a mail-order electrical parts catalogue.

22 October

**Hector Berlioz’s Neurophysiological Imagination**
Carmel Raz, Society of Fellows, Lecturer in Music

In his famous essay *De la musique en général* (1837), Hector Berlioz asserts that certain kinds of music induce “a strange agitation in my blood circulation: my arteries beat violently . . . a trembling overtakes my limbs and a numbness my hands and feet, while the nerves of sight and hearing are partially paralyzed.” Berlioz’s detailed self-report lends this account the veneer of a medical case study. Indeed, as the son of a well-known physician and himself an erstwhile medical student, Berlioz avidly followed many of the medical and scientific debates of his day. Examining the system of neurophysiological affect emerging from his critical writing, Dr. Raz focused on the composer’s documented engagement with contemporaneous neurophysiology, in particular the pioneering ideas of Marie-François-Xavier Bichat. Challenging traditional conceptions of Berlioz’s musical writings as journalistic hackwork, she argued that the remarkable medical literacy presented in his arguments reveals a hitherto neglected dimension of nineteenth-century engagement with the embodied effects of music. Bichat posits a comprehensive division of the body into two systems: *la vie organique* and *la vie animale*. The former is governed by the passions; the latter, by the will and understanding. Both “lives” communicate with each other through a spiraling system of sympathetic interactions. Explicating Bichat’s theory of the interaction between these “lives,” Dr. Raz revisited a number of Berlioz’s critical writings on the nature of music, arguing that the biological and neurophysiological discourses underlying *De la musique en général* challenge an aesthetically generated state of transcendence. Dr. Raz concluded by considering a number of Berlioz’s compositional innovations, ranging from spatializing the orchestra to its expansion to massive proportions, as steps toward an aesthetics of overpowering neurophysiological experience.

5 November

**Lively Technologies and Suspended Animation**
Rebecca Woods, Society of Fellows, Lecturer in History

The British Empire in the nineteenth century witnessed two population explosions: a human one at the heart of the empire and an ovine one in the Australasian colonies. While commentators in the metropole worried about how to feed their growing (industrialized, urbanized) population, producers in the colonies worried about how to make good on the perishable components of their live capital. Wool was easy to store and ship, but the bodies of sheep raised in Australia and New Zealand were waste—they far exceeded colonial demands for meat, hides, and fertilizer (three of their primary uses). Historians have long credited the development of refrigerating engines as the solution to this particular problem of imperial supply and demand: refrigerated shipping allowed the productive surplus of the colonies (in the form of frozen sheep carcasses) to satisfy the appetites of a growing metropolitan population. The technological shifts that enabled this happy ending, however, were in fact two-fold. They encompassed not only the development of viable refrigerators, but also the reconfiguration of colonial sheep breeds according to metropolitan norms. The second of these—the sheep themselves—were lively technologies, embodied innovation. And while steam-powered refrigerators worked to forestall decay—to suspend animation—the whole enterprise rested on the very liveliness of sheep. Thus this pair of technologies, underpinning the imperial frozen meat trade, was an oppositional one: at once mechanical and biological, inert and alive. Both, significantly, were imperial hybrids, born out of material conditions and knowledge regimes that spanned the metropolitan/colonial divide and served to further gird the one to the other.
12 November

**Painted Prints and Reflective Pictures: Making Sense of the Copy in Canton**

Maggie Cao, Society of Fellows, Lecturer in Art History

This lecture offered a look at the early history of things “made in China.” In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, artisans in Canton (then China’s sole port of foreign trade) became specialists in producing Western artifacts for export. Their copies, of everything from silver spoons to oil paintings, ranged from legally troubling counterfeits to creative variations injected with the flair of exoticism. Dr. Cao focused on a particular medium of reproduction: reverse painting on glass—framed pictures painted in oil on the back of sheets of glass but viewed from the front or unpainted side. Despite their fragility, glass painting developed into a highly specialized export art in Canton, where it was favored for making painted copies of foreign prints brought to China for replication. By breaking down the layers of technical virtuosity and cultural exchange involved in making glass paintings, this talk considered how artisanal strategies of copying in reverse might be metonymic of the China Trade’s creative labors. Indeed, this unusual craft may have offered Chinese artisans and their Western patrons a sophisticated means of making sense of the practices of replication and imitation driving their globalizing, mercantile world.

19 November

**Against the Importation of “Hordes of Coolies”**

Hidetaka Hirota, Society of Fellows, Lecturer in History and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race

This presentation explored the significance of contract labor in American immigration history. Since the antebellum period, Americans opposed the immigration of foreign workers who would allegedly degrade the dignity of labor and lower American wage standards. The opposition became especially strong in the case of contract workers: people immigrating under prearranged contract with American employers to perform labor in the United States. When the American labor movement became particularly active in the late nineteenth century, American workers’ antipathy to so-called “alien contract labor” resulted in the passage of the federal act to ban the landing of foreign contract workers. Dr. Hirota demonstrated how alien contract labor provoked anti-immigrant sentiment in multiple parts of the nation after the Civil War, becoming the arena where cultural and economic prejudice against various groups of immigrants—Asians, Europeans, and Mexicans alike—converged. Despite its relatively overlooked status in American immigration scholarship, alien contract labor law is crucial to our understanding of American history, helping as it did to transform immigration control from a regional issue for coastal and borderland states to a matter of national concern.

3 December

**Teaching Contemporary Civilization in Prison**

Joshua Dubler (Society of Fellows 2008–2011)
Assistant Professor of Religion, University of Rochester

In partnership with the Justice-in-Education Initiative, the Society of Fellows invited Alumni Fellow Joshua Dubler to discuss his experience of teaching in prison classrooms before, during, and after his tenure in the Society of Fellows (2008–11)—an experience he explores at length in his book *Down in the Chapel: Religious Life in an American Prison* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2013; Picador paperback, 2014). Dr. Dubler spoke about the promise and limitations of prison education as a strategy for effecting justice and about the opportunities that prison education affords to those of us in the humanities. Weirdly and tellingly, he noted, prison may be the one place in higher education at the moment where the humanities are thriving. In advocating for prison education in the public square and at our institutions, humanists would be wise to appeal not simply to brute metrics like recidivism, but also to humanist concepts such as the good life.
Spring 2016
Altered States

11 February

What “Things” Can Do: Writing Entangled Histories of Early Modernity
Marcy Norton, Associate Professor of History, The George Washington University

Global histories of modernity often reproduce rather than challenge Eurocentric narratives. “Entanglement”—a term currently finding favor among physicists and philosophers—may be equally useful to humanities scholars who desire to escape Eurocentric accounts of modernity. Dr. Norton explored why “entangled” is a metaphor that is “good to think with.” Entangled histories of “things” make it possible to foreground the importance of technologies, aesthetics, and rituals (as well as beliefs), and to avoid exaggerating the importance of slippery and sometimes essentializing concepts such as epistemology, cosmology, or ontology.

18 February

Luther Orientalisch: Soldiers, Missionaries, and Second Comings
Murad Idris (Society of Fellows 2014–2015)
Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Virginia

Today, Martin Luther’s name insistently appears alongside “Islam,” to signal Islam’s lack and its need for its own Luther. Such calls, however, are neither new nor exclusive to Islam: across the nineteenth century, in the Near East, South Asia, and East Asia, many identified themselves or others as a Luther of the Orient. These calls forget the significance of Luther’s own writings on the Orient, on the Turk. In these writings, Luther transforms the Christian subject of war into a soldier, and then, imagining that the soldier’s status is altered through military capture, Luther transforms him into a missionary. The soldier and the missionary are fundamental to the modern state and empire. Luther’s elaboration of each is bound to the Ottoman Empire—against the Turk, for the Turk. Centuries later, then, the emergence of numerous Luthers across the Orient forgets that the first Luther was already of the Orient, and it neglects that these other Luthers emerge out of colonial conquest (the soldier) and imperial demands for conversion and reform (the missionary). Dr. Idris concluded by reflecting on how this imperial constellation can transform our understanding of the modern state project, liberalism, and the Protestant hermeneutics embedded in secularism.

22 February

Material Encounters: Surface Tension, Screen Space
Giuliana Bruno, the Emmet Blakeney Gleason Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University

Dr. Bruno explored the place of materiality in our visual age of rapidly changing materials and media in a talk based on her latest research and book, Surface: Matters of Aesthetics, Materiality, and Media (University of Chicago Press, 2014). Dr. Bruno examined how material relations appear on the surface of different media—on film and video screens, in gallery installations, or on the skins of buildings and people. Showing how technologies of light produce new forms of materiality, she explored the screen surface as a site where different forms of mediation, memory, and transformation can take place.

25 February

45 Years Trying to Destroy the Theater in Order to Illuminate My Own Stumbling Self and Perhaps Others
Richard Foreman, Playwright and Founder, Ontological-Hysteric Theater

This lecture examines Richard Foreman’s forty-five years creating theater that forces the spectator to make sense of his aggressive style (a style that fragments the world of normal activity) and to put the “pieces” of a broken world together. Foreman describes his theater as a kind of therapy. The “material”—the text—is the chaotic structure that he shapes so that “aesthetic” discoveries can be made. These include the discovery of new mental tools that re-orient one to life as well as to art. Foreman thinks of himself as essentially a comic artist and he once described what he does as “Mallarme on a Vaudeville stage.”
Second Floor Common Room, Heyman Center, East Campus

Unless otherwise noted:
Talks begin at 12:15pm
Open exclusively to Columbia faculty and students and invited guests
Others wishing to attend should email sof-fellows@columbia.edu describing their interest and requesting registration.

22 February
Giuliana Bruno
Emmet Blakney Gleason Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University
Material Encounters:
Surface Tension, Screen Space
This lecture will take place at 6:15 pm in the Second Floor Common Room, the Heyman Center, East Campus. Free and open to the public. No registration. First come, first seated.

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3 March
Lisa Gitelman
Professor of Media and English, New York University
Emoji Dick and the Eponymous Whale

10 March
Mark Hansen
Professor of Literature, Duke University
Glimpses of Alterity?: Electromagnetism, Media, and Human Experience

24 March
Brian Kane
Associate Professor of Music, Yale University
Jazz, Meditation, Ontology

31 March
Martha Hodes
Professor of History, New York University
Mourning for Lincoln: Altered States, Transformed Nation

7 April
Sarah Milov
Assistant Professor of History, University of Virginia
Smoke Ring: The Japanese Smokers’ Wives Study and the American Anti-Tobacco Movement

14 April
Andrea Bayer
Jayne Wrightsman Curator, Metropolitan Museum of Art
Kelly Baum
Curator of Postwar and Contemporary Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art
Unfinished Art and Altered States

21 April
Daryn Lehoux
Professor of Classics, Queen’s University
Spontaneous Generation

5 May
Martha Feldman
Mabel Greene Myers Professor of Music and the Humanities, University of Chicago
The Castrato Phantom: Moreschi, Fellini, and the Sacred Vernacular in Rome

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3 March

*Emoji Dick and the Eponymous Whale*
Lisa Gitelman, Professor of Media and English, New York University

Lisa Gitelman is a media historian whose research concerns American book history, techniques of inscription, and the new media of yesterday and today. This talk took a 2010 “translation” of Moby Dick into emoji as an opportunity to consider the conditions of possibility that might delimit books and literature in the contemporary moment. A massive white codex and extended work of crowd-sorcery, “Emoji Dick” points toward the varieties of reading and—not reading that characterize our evermore digitally mediated and data-described world. By way of comparison, Dr. Gitelman located “Emoji Dick” alongside an absurd sequel, “Emoji Dickinson.”

10 March

*Glimpses of Alterity? Electromagnetism, Media, and Human Experience*
Mark B.N. Hansen, Professor of Literature, Duke University

Over the past decade, Mark B.N. Hansen has sought in his research, writing, and teaching to theorize the role played by technology in human agency and social life. More recently, Dr. Hansen has been part of a revival of interest in the work of Alfred North Whitehead, a revival that includes Hansen’s most recent book, *Feed-Forward: On the Future of Twenty-First Century Media*. In this presentation, Hansen used the process philosophy of Whitehead to explore his thesis that “human experience is currently undergoing a fundamental transformation caused by the complex entanglement of humans within networks of media technologies that operate predominantly, if not almost entirely, outside the scope of human modes of awareness.”

24 March

*Jazz, Meditation, Ontology*
Brian Kane, Associate Professor of Music, Yale University

The ontology of musical works has long been a venerable theme in the philosophy of music. Yet the primary, indeed arguably exclusive, focus of such study has been classical music. Dr. Kane displaced that focus in his consideration of jazz “standards.” Responding primarily to realist conceptions of musical works for performance, Kane outlined an emergent, non-essentialist, network-based ontology of jazz standards. He presented two key operations—replication and nomination—to make a philosophical and musicological argument where “work-determinative” properties were shown to be sufficient but not necessary. Under this concept, works are corrigible and subject to mediation. Not only do subsequent performances change the nature of the work: the very act of “replication” (or musical reproduction) requires social mediation. Kane also drew a series of broad contrasts between the network-based concept of musical works and the realist view.

31 March

*Mourning for Lincoln: Altered States, Transformed Nation*
Martha Hodes, Professor of History, New York University

When President Lincoln was murdered, less than a week after his armies won the American Civil War in 1865, the nation confronted its first presidential assassination. Public responses to Lincoln’s death have been well chronicled, but Dr. Hodes is the first to delve into the personal responses of African Americans and whites, Yankees and Confederates, men and women, soldiers and civilians. Exploring a catastrophic event on a human scale, this talk investigated the altered states of consciousness—shock, grief, glee—that held sway in the immediate aftermath of the assassination. In doing so, it brought to life a key moment of national uncertainty and conflict, taking us far beyond the headlines to illuminate the warring anxieties and fears that characterized the months following Lincoln’s death. Black freedom, the fate of former Confederates, and the future of the nation were suddenly at stake for everyone, whether they grieved or rejoiced when they heard the news.
7 April

Smoke Ring: The Japanese Smokers’ Wives Study and the American Anti-Tobacco Movement
Sarah Milov, Assistant Professor of History, University of Virginia

In 1981, the British Medical Journal published the results of a Japanese study that concluded that the nonsmoking wives of smoking husbands were twice as likely to die from lung cancer as women whose husbands did not smoke. In the United States, the Japanese “Smokers’ Wives Study” bolstered the claims of the determined nonsmokers’ rights movement, adding quantitative validation to activists’ claims that they should not have to breathe in other people’s smoke. This talk examined the intertwined circulation of commodities and knowledge around the world: how American tobacco exports to Japan inadvertently fueled the nonsmokers’ rights movement in the United States.

14 April

Unfinished Art and Altered States
Andrea Bayer, The Jayne Wrightsman Curator in the Department of European Paintings, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Kelly Baum, Curator of Postwar and Contemporary Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

The scholarly and innovative exhibition Unfinished Art and Altered States, which ran at the Met Breuer from 18 March to 4 September 2016, examined the term “unfinished” in the broadest possible way. Among the artworks presented, some were left incomplete, and others were non finito—intentionally unfinished—partaking of an aesthetic that embraces the unresolved and open-ended. Some of the greatest artists explored this aesthetic, including Titian, Rembrandt, Turner, and Cézanne. Modern and contemporary artists have taken the “unfinished” in entirely new directions, blurring the distinction between making and un-making and extending the boundaries of art into both space and time. Comprising over 190 works dating from the Renaissance to the present, this exhibition mined rich collections and scholarly resources to present modern and contemporary art within a deep historical context.

21 April

Spontaneous Generation
Daryn Lehoux, Professor of Classics, Queen’s University

Spontaneous generation, the idea that some animals spring into life from nonliving matter (maggots from rotting meat, eels from mud) was a remarkably tenacious idea in the history of biology, not completely disappearing until almost the dawn of the twentieth century. Focusing mainly on the period from antiquity through the Renaissance, Dr. Lehoux argued that there were very good reasons for believing in spontaneous generation, but that at the same time, the phenomenon posed major theoretical problems that had to be overcome. How exactly does nonliving matter turn into living matter? What processes must it undergo to change from dead, frothy mud into a school of small fish? How, in short, does material—inert earth, air, water, fire—become life?

5 May

The Castrato Phantom: Moreschi, Fellini, and the Sacred Vernacular in Rome
Martha Feldman, Mabel Greene Myers Professor of Music and the Humanities, University of Chicago

Exploring what she calls the “sacred vernacular”—the peculiarly Italian and especially Roman tendency to domesticate the sacred by means of the everyday—Dr. Feldman discussed the uncomfortable anomaly of the castrato in mid-twentieth-century Rome. Alessandro Moreschi, the last castrato, died in Rome in 1922. Perhaps the most iconic elaborator of sacred monstrosity or the sacred vernacular in mid-twentieth-century Rome was Federico Fellini, whose films teem with boundary figures as well as with references to the sacred in homespun contexts. With the exception of Fellini, however, the castrato as a cultural figure came to be almost wholly suppressed in twentieth-century Roman consciousness until Anton Giulio Bragaglia (1890–1960) published his groundbreaking monograph “On Castrated Singers” (Degli evirati cantanti, Florence, 1959) and the director Pietro Germi portrayed a castrated chapel singer in Divorce Italian Style (1961), singing the Bach-Gounod Ave Maria. In Germi’s film, the castrato is represented as an angelic voice imprisoned in a deficient body.
In an effort to integrate the Fellows more fully as members of their home departments and to encourage them to work with professional colleagues elsewhere on projects of mutual interest, the Society financially supported seven special events at the Heyman Center in 2015–2016, which the Fellows themselves organized.

Full event details—including speakers, programs, and co-sponsors—are noted in the Events section of the Society of Fellows website.
17 September

*Should Humanists use Information Visualizations?*

In her talk, Johanna Drucker, Breslauer Professor of Bibliographical Studies in the Department of Information Studies at University of California, Los Angeles, argued that most forms and protocols of information visualization come from disciplines outside the humanities, and that the basic principles of empirical and quantitative methods on which they depend are antithetical to the interpretative methods of the humanities. In light of this, Dr. Drucker considered key issues in using borrowed methods, and asked what epistemological, critical, and aesthetic considerations need to be brought to bear on their use for projects in the humanities. She asked whether we should accept that the adopted methods can reveal something about humanistic corpora, or whether we should, instead, be pushing humanistic principles into the shaping of new visual tools and approaches. Organized by Fellow Grant Wythoff.

21 September

*Keywords in Sound: A Roundtable Discussion*

Editors and contributors discussed *Keywords in Sound* (Duke University Press, 2015), a collection of twenty entries by leading scholars in the field of sound studies, edited by David Novak (SoF 2007–10) and Matt Sakakeeny, Associate Professor of Music.
at Tulane University, in an event moderated by Susan Boynton, Professor of Music at Columbia University. Examining subjects such as noise, acoustics, music, and silence, contributors detailed the intellectual history of various keywords and their role in cultural, social, and political discourses, charting the philosophical debates and core problems in defining, classifying and conceptualizing sound.

12 November

*Undocumented: Conversation with Dan-el Padilla Peralta*

In this event, Fellow Dan-el Padilla Peralta discussed his recently published memoir, *Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League* (Penguin Press, 2015) with several distinguished scholars of American immigration. Growing up as an undocumented immigrant, Dr. Padilla Peralta spent some of his childhood at a New York City homeless shelter. And yet he ultimately thrived at the nation’s top schools, graduating from Princeton and receiving a doctorate in Classics from Stanford. While his story is admittedly an exception rather than a norm, it provides us with important insights into several issues of critical significance in contemporary America, such as immigration, education, and social mobility. Organized by Fellow Hidetaka Hirota.

1 December

*Mixing or Matching: Hybridization and Taxonomy in the Nineteenth Century and After*

Harriet Ritvo, Arthur J. Conner Professor of History at MIT, gave a talk on hybridization and taxonomy, discussing how the possibilities offered by hybridization engaged the energies of animal experts from stockbreeders to zookeepers in the nineteenth century; it also attracted the fascinated or horrified attention of the general public. Motivations were equally various, from the pragmatic desire to improve agricultural breeds to idle curiosity. Since the results (and non-results) of these activities were unpredictable, they also provided a way of challenging the limits of individual species and, consequently, the definition of that category (as well as other, more vernacular ones). Along with other taxonomically anomalous creatures, they have continued to perform similar functions up to the present time.
Visible Hands: Markets and the Making of American Art

The ‘invisible hand’ of the market, an idea first coined by Enlightenment philosopher Adam Smith, has become a fundamental principle for advocates of free market capitalism. Smith’s famous turn of phrase disembodies the sensations of sight and touch, but by restoring their primacy in this workshop’s title, his metaphor acquires new possibilities for tracing the influence of the market on works of art. Far from neutral or natural creations, markets—like artworks—are forms that are always composed and manipulated according to the interests of their makers. This event brought together participants who explored the role of the market in the circulation and exchange of American art, and its visual and theoretical impact on the work of art itself. With scholarship concerning works from the late-nineteenth century until the late twentieth century presented, speakers engaged questions such as these in order to explore the role of the market in the making of American art and art history.

Embodied Cognition Workshop: Music and Movement

In this workshop Luc Nijs, Postdoctoral Researcher at Ghent University, and Mariusz Kozak, Music Department, Columbia University, examined the relationship between music and embodiment. Nijs discussed the importance of the embodied music cognition paradigm for instrumental music teaching and learning, focusing on the different levels of embodiment. Mariusz Kozak drew upon recent work in motion-capture and on close readings of several passages from contemporary Western Art Music to consider how music as an aesthetic object can be understood through the bodies of performers and listeners. Their explorations were followed by a panel discussion with music scholars from different disciplines.

Modern Women in Local Tibetan History: The View from Biographical Sources

Fellow Sarah Jacoby (2006–2009) returned to Columbia to speak on the representation of women in Tibetan history. Jacoby is currently Assistant Professor in the Religious Studies Department at Northwestern University and her research focuses on South Asian religions with a specialization in Tibetan Buddhism. She is the co-chair of the Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group at the American Academy of Religion. She is the author, most recently, of Love and Liberation: Autobiographical Writings of the Tibetan Buddhist Visionary Sera Khandro (Columbia University Press, 2014), which is the first study in any language of the autobiographical and biographical writings of one of the most prolific female authors in Tibetan history, Sera Khandro Künzang Dekyong Chônyi Wangmo (1892–1940).
24 March

Caribbean Feminisms on the Page: Gloria Joseph and Naomi Jackson


29 March

Mobility and Confinement: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Incarceration in America

With presenters from various academic disciplines, including History, Sociology, and Law, this one-day conference explored one of the most important political, economic, and legal problems in contemporary American society: mass incarceration. Assembled under the broadly defined theme of “Mobility and Confinement,” with the goal of provoking an interdisciplinary discussion of incarceration, criminal justice, and human rights, the conference addressed a wide range of topics of central importance to the issue of incarceration, such as economic mobility and poverty; the detention of migrants and refugees; the regulation of drug trafficking; the war on drugs; and the war on terror.
within climate science, aesthetics, geography, arctic studies, the history of science, glaciology, and the arts.

The event included a keynote conversation between composer John Luther Adams and author Barry Lopez as well as a performance by Sandbox Percussion of Adams’s “... and bells remembered ...” and a reading of “The Trail: A Short Short Story” by Lopez. A screening and discussion of Isaac Julien’s film True North and a walking tour sponsored by City as Living Lab, led by Marshall Reese, Nora Ligorano, and Ben Orlove, followed.

20 April

The Humanities and Public Life

Roosevelt Montas, Director of the Core Curriculum, spoke with Fellow Dan-el Padilla Peralta, author of the memoir, Undocumented: A Dominican Boy’s Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League, about the role of the humanities in public life. Drawing on their experience teaching Contemporary Civilizations, the two discussed the relationship between liberal education and democracy, debates over the canon, and the role of humanities texts in teaching social justice. In the end, they argued for the importance of promoting the humanities in public life, especially to push back against the systematic denial of this kind of education to whole groups of people.

28 April

Insuetude: Conversations in Technological Discard and Archaeological Recuperation

Insuetude is a quality of not being in use and also an “unaccustomedness.” It seems to evoke the state we find ourselves in today: drawers spilling over with wires and plugs that were in use just a few years ago, obsolete technology stuffed in the back of cupboards or curated on high and inaccessible shelves. The past decade has seen an efflorescence of research in media studies dedicated to the topic of “media archaeology,” a field devoted to the curiosities and forgotten paths not taken in the history of technology. This conference explored what the discipline of traditional archaeology might offer a media archaeology, and sought
to stimulate both new ways of thinking about the archaeological past and novel methods for doing so through the engagement of archaeologists with media theorists.

30 April

Philosophy in Cicero’s Letters

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106–43 BCE)—ill-fated statesman during the collapse of the Roman Republic, Latin orator extraordinaire, and the author of a wide-ranging and influential corpus of philosophical writings—is unique among pre-modern individuals in that we possess large parts of his correspondence and are thus unusually well informed about both the minutiae of his life and the developments of his thought. Scholarly interest has increasingly turned to the philosophical aspects of this correspondence, which contains everything from passing references to philosophical jokes, serious disquisitions, and the author’s attempts to apply philosophical precepts to his own and his correspondents’ lives.

This one-day symposium aimed to capture this moment in the fast-developing scholarship on Cicero, ancient philosophy, and intellectual history. Papers were presented by Margaret Graver (Dartmouth), Nathan Gilbert (University of Toronto), Katharina Volk (Columbia), and Raphael Woolf (King’s College London). These speakers were paired with responses from four specialists on Cicero, ancient philosophy, and late Republican culture: Yelena Baraz (Princeton), Brad Inwood (Yale), Wolfgang Mann (Columbia), and James Zetzel (Columbia).
13 May

Art and the Monetary

From Manet’s single asparagus painted for a two-hundred-franc overpayment to Duchamp’s Teeth’s Loan & Trust check drawn for his dentist, the potential equivalence of art and money has been postulated as both generative and problematic. This one-day symposium considered intersections of the artistic and monetary worlds from the eighteenth century to the present, examining the mutual concern for consumption, valuation, circulation, materiality, authenticity, and imitation that emerged from both artistic and economic spheres. Participants examined the ways in which aesthetic and monetary values are related, how economic and artistic circulations have mirrored one another historically, and how artists have given pictorial form to speculation, credits, and other abstract forms of monetary exchange. Conversely, they explored the ways in which aesthetic concerns or artistic projects informed or drove economic thinking, and how the aesthetic concerns of finance evolved with shifts from metallic to paper to electronic currencies. Organized by Fellow Maggie Cao (2014–16), Alex J. Taylor, Tate Museum, and Sophie Crase, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

10 June

Science & Capitalism: Entangled Histories—Workshop for the 2018 Volume of Osiris

The histories of science and capitalism have always been bound up together. As far back as the seventeenth century, if not before, precise and detailed empirical knowledge has been valued by those seeking commercial gain. Since Max Weber’s polemical account of the protestant work ethic, Boris Hessen’s materialist take on Newton’s *Principia*, and Robert K. Merton’s doctoral thesis on the culture of knowledge production in Puritan England, the evolving relationship between science and capitalism has been a central concern of science studies. In today’s world of patented gene sequences, spin-off biotech companies, and technology transfer offices, the question of how personal self-interest coexists with the ideal of science as the disinterested pursuit of objective truth has only grown in importance. Not only that, but the financial crisis of 2008 and its aftermath has prompted a much broader interest in the history and development of modern capitalism across the academy. At the heart of this “new” history of capitalism has been a desire to denaturalize markets: to understand capitalism not as an abstract force or inevitable stage in economic development, but as a constellation of institutions, beliefs, and relationships created by particular people with specific motivations informed by their local circumstances.

This workshop explored what role profit motives and commercial self-interest have played in the knowledge-making enterprises of science, and, conversely, how the practices and prestige of science have contributed to the profit-making enterprises of capitalism. Participants discussed draft papers for a proposed volume of *Osiris* that revisits and reframes some of these foundational questions while posing new agendas for twenty-first-century research.
The Society of Fellows financially supports the extensive pro-
gramming—lectures, panel discussions, conferences, and work-
shops—presented by the Heyman Center for the Humanities. The
Heyman Center provides the intellectual and physical space for
members of the Columbia community and the New York City pub-
lic to consider topics and issues of common interest and concern
from the perspectives of the humanities and the humanistic social
sciences. A selection of these events follows. For a full listing, see
page 52. Additional details—including speakers, programs, and
cosponsors—may be found at heymancenter.org/events.
Event Highlights

24–26 September

Policing the Crises: Stuart Hall and the Practice of Critique

Jamaican-born Stuart Hall was Great Britain’s leading post-colonial intellectual from the 1960s until his death in 2014 at 82. Along with Richard Hoggart, he was one of the pioneers of cultural studies at the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies. Described by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. as “Black Britain’s leading theorist of black Britain,” Hall’s influence extended across all intellectuals on the New Left; his theorizations of race, ethnicity, feminism, and nationality, as well as his diagnoses of the strategies and discontents generated by “Thatcherism,” rocked political and academic worlds, shaping their discourse for the remainder of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. The conference was titled “Policing the Crises” after Hall’s seminal work on race relations in Britain and the ways in which his ideas continue to address political as well as academic concerns in our time.

1–2 October

Legacies of the Slave Past in the Post-Slave Present

Several years ago, Catherine Hall, Nick Draper, and Keith McClelland launched a project at University College, London, on the “Legacies of British Slave Ownership.” The project sought to document the impact of slave ownership on the formation of modern Britain. Phase one involved building a searchable, pub-
licitly accessible, database that identified all slave-owners in the British Caribbean, Mauritius, and the Cape at the time of slave abolition in 1833. The recently published book, *Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain* (2014), is a collaborative work based on this first phase. In phase two the researchers began inquiring into the structure and significance of slave ownership in the British Caribbean between 1763 and 1833. Hall, Draper, and McLelland presented on this timely and instructive research project, with wide implications for rethinking the present of past slaving and slave societies.

9–10 October

**Theosophy and the Arts: Texts and Contexts of Modern Enchantment**

The second conference of the international research network Enchanted Modernities: Theosophy, Modernism and the Arts, c. 1875–1960, sought to locate the source of Theosophy’s influence for artists in the modern age, and trace the textual practices and philosophical, historical, and cultural traditions that produced and sustained it. For many, Theosophy was far more than an aesthetic inclination, and proved useful precisely because it gave social and political purpose to the arts. The conference explored how we might conceptualize the historical specificities of Theosophical arts in relation to class, gender and race, to momentous historical events such as the First World War, to geopolitics, or the local politics of place. Organized by Gauri Viswanathan (SoF 1986–1988; English & Comparative Literature, Columbia University).
20 October

The Science and Society Lectures
*The Metabolic Condition: From Concept to Science, Medicine, and Culture*

The Science and Society Lectures bring together researchers from a number of disciplines to examine an important scientific or public health topic from different angles. Hannah Landecker, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director for the Institute for Society and Genetics, University of California, Los Angeles, and Derek LeRoith, Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Bone Disease, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, reviewed how the concept of metabolism has developed from the beginning of the modern era of medicine to the most recent scientific, clinical, and social understanding. Speakers also discussed the current major challenges in metabolism research and new experimental and clinical breakthroughs in the treatment of metabolic disorders, including obesity, diabetes, and cancer. Moderated by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jonathan Weiner and Maxwell M. Geffen, Professor of Medical and Scientific Journalism.

6–7 November

**Against Educational Apartheid: The Other Global University**
Forum on the Past, Present, and Future of Higher Education

This forum brought together educators to rethink relationships between institutions of higher education, their local communities, and their global milieu. In response to current, hegemonic trends of globalizing higher education, we explored alternative histories and theories of education, asking how local and global concerns in fact pertain to all educational institutions, and how educational inequalities relating to class, race, gender, and geography might be either exacerbated or redressed through new institutional, interdisciplinary, and pedagogic strategies. Rather than reject outright a concept of global education, this forum instead asked participants to consider what it would mean to truly make higher education globally accessible and what aims such an education would need to address. Presentations offered alternative visions of higher education, touching on issues of disciplinarity, class, geography, institutional structures, and new educational media.

23 October

The Disciplines Series
*Hoarding: An Interdisciplinary Conversation*

The phenomenon known as “hoarding” has recently become quite prominent in two separate disciplines. On the one hand, an efflorescence of literature in psychiatry has sought methods to diagnose and treat individuals who suffer from “hoarding disorder.” On the other hand, economists and other policy experts have been pondering various methods to reduce bank hoarding and thereby revivify the lending that seized up during the 2008 financial crisis. This panel put these two diverse strains of research into conversation with one another, in order to ensure that insights and findings concerning hoarding are shared across fields that are often segregated.

In so doing, this conversation aimed to further refine a term that for centuries has been associated with extreme selfishness and anti-sociality. Given the pervasiveness of the term, the panel explored whether we need to look more carefully at what, precisely, constitutes hoarding. Several prominent economic thinkers of the nineteenth century used the term “hoard” as a simple synonym for “reserve,” thereby suggesting that not all forms of hoarding should be discouraged. Equally, agreements such as Basel III, as well as laws covering reserve minimums, suggest that placing some unused money aside to hedge against future catastrophe seems beyond dispute in our society, at least for collective institutions such as banks. Nevertheless, interesting questions emerge about how both individuals and corporate entities navigate the murky line between an anti-social hoard and a socially beneficial reserve fund. This event was part of the “Money Series” and organized by Gustav Peebles, ACLS Fellow in Residence at the Heyman Center for Humanities.

19 November

The Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture
*The Future of the Past: Revival Ireland 1891–1922*

Declan Kiberd, Donald and Marilyn Keough Professor of Irish Studies and Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame,
delivered the annual Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture. The history of literature, said Carlyle, is a narrative of “revivals.” The Revival, which occurred in Ireland a century ago, far from being a case of late-blooming Romanticism, was a systematic attempt to adapt and update the civic values of the eighteenth-century Enlightenment. Although simplified in many subsequent accounts as a manifestation of nationalism, it was in fact a project for liberation. It offered new roles for women, theosophists, socialists, pacifists, secularists and alternative models of republican modernity outside of the available state codes; and its leaders took Ireland as a test-case of the modern decolonizing world. The lecture considered a range of Irish authors, including Yeats and Joyce, along with less familiar figures such as Mary Colum, James and Margaret Cousins, and Francis Sheehy Skeffington.

Robert Alter, Class of 1937 Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of California at Berkeley, delivered a talk on the David story and Stendhal’s Charterhouse of Parma. These two narratives from the Western literary tradition are deeply instructive instances of how the vehicle of fiction can provide insights into the realm of politics. Each in its own way shows the role individual character plays in the gaining and maintaining of power and how the exercise of power affects or distorts character. The biblical story is compellingly grave, Stendhal’s novel satiric
and sometimes comic, but both manifest an unblinking vision of man as a political animal.

Herbert Marks, Professor of Comparative Literature at Indiana University, and Michael Wood, Emeritus Professor at Princeton University, served as respondents.

22 March

**On Looking Closely at Things: An Exhibition and Conversation with Photographer Andy Sewell**

Renowned British photographer Andy Sewell exhibited his recent work at the Heyman Center. The Guardian called Sewell’s first book, *Something Like a Nest*, “a classic of understated observation.” The Financial Times Magazine wrote that Sewell “doesn’t want to shatter our illusions, merely quieten them—to allow us to see the complexity of what’s before us.” The first week of the exhibition included a public talk and an informal discussion with faculty and students.

March 23

**Poetry Reading by John Ashbery, Followed by a Q&A with Timothy Donnelly**

The event featured a reading by John Ashbery, widely regarded as the most important American poet of the second half of the 20th Century, including work from throughout his career with a special focus on his most recent collection, *Breezeway*. Ashbery, whose style The New Yorker has called “so influential that its imitators are legion,” has won nearly every major prize for poetry, including the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Following the reading, the poet engaged in a rare, lengthy and high-spirited Q&A with author Timothy Donnelly, Chair of the Writing Program at Columbia University School of the Arts. The best-attended poetry reading in the history of the Writing Program, the event drew a crowd of more than 200, with, regrettably, many turned away for lack of space.

April 1

**1916: The Irish Rising at 100 Years**

Sponsored jointly by the Heyman Center; the Moore Institute of the National University of Ireland, Galway; and the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, this series of panels commemorated the centennial of the Easter Rising with discussions of the uprising’s many cultural and political ramifications. Dan Carey, director of the Moore Institute, opened by reflecting on the contested legacy of the uprising, thus setting the stage for a series of lectures that unpacked its diverse facets. On the first panel, Conor McNamara delivered a talk that focused on the American involvement in the rising, and highlighted the degree to which it was a “self-consciously international event.” Following him, John Cunningham addressed the respective roles of Irish socialism, trade unions, and labor movements more generally within the generation and in the execution of the uprising.
The second panel focused on the literary and cultural underpinnings of the rebellion, with Mary Harris discussing the work of Patrick Pearse and Eoin MacNeill, two key figures of the Easter Rising, which sought to unite Irish political regeneration with Gaelic literary and linguistic revival. Adrian Paterson subsequently reflected on Yeats’ play, “The Dreaming of the Bones,” exploring the notion of the rebellion as an “act of theater.” The event concluded with a lively roundtable in which participants spoke on various aspects of the rising, ranging from the role of wireless telegraphy (Bloom) to issues surrounding commemoration (Cole and Saint-Amour), imagination and re-imagination of the rising in media (Cox and Lorde), and the decolonizing composition of the rebellion’s manifesto (Lyon).

8 April

The Wire—The Conference

Although critically acclaimed from the start, the HBO series The Wire was far less widely viewed during its original presentation (2002–08) than it has been in the succeeding years. It is one of the very few television series that have become both more popular and more revered over time, consistently ranking on top-ten lists as one of the best series in television. It has also—perhaps uniquely among television shows—become a frequent object of multidisciplinary inquiry, appearing on the syllabi of courses in sociology, African-American studies, anthropology, literature, religion, law, urban studies, criminal justice (the list goes on) in the United States and abroad.
This two-day conference considered the afterlife and legacies of *The Wire*, paying particular attention to the ways in which the questions it raises have led in an unusual degree to collaborative endeavor among its audiences (such as team-teaching across disciplines, research projects, and outreach activities in the academy) as well as to the community activism of “The Wire family” itself. Among the more than thirty-five participants were cast members Jamie Hector, Felicia Pearson, Wendell Pierce, and Sonja Sohn, who discussed their activist work, and journalists Adrian Le Blanc, Andrea Elliot, Andrea K. McDaniels, and June Cross, all of whom offered reflections on the ethics and challenges of “immersion journalism.” Scholars from a number of disciplines discussed the issues that *The Wire* raises in a variety of pedagogical and scholarly contexts, including: seriality as epistemology; sound and ambient music in urban experience; Baltimore as a “public square” site of stories about community, race, and responsibility; the school-to-prison pipeline; and the intersection of race, religion, and politics in the inner city.

11 April

**Feminism and the Abomination of Violence**

Feminism rightly sees one of its most important tasks as the exposure of, and struggle against, violence toward women. In the twenty-first century this violence shows no sign of decreasing. In this lecture, Jacqueline Rose, Professor of Humanities, Birkbeck Institute of Humanities, University of London, argued that because the discourse on violence has tended to be appropriated by radical feminist thinking—violence is not only, but also exclusively, what men do to women—the question of violence, as part of psychic reality, has become something that feminism repudiates. Continuing her ongoing engagement with psychoanalysis and feminism, Rose described the work of two women thinkers, Hannah Arendt and Melanie Klein, who placed violence at the core of their life’s work. Drawing on the complex relation between violence in the world and in the mind, Rose explained how Arendt and Klein’s understanding of violence might be theorized for feminism today.
Public Humanities Initiative

The Public Humanities Initiative sponsors cultural events, discussions, and collaborative projects that advance public engagement with the humanities. These projects involve faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, community organizations, and local artists.

With the exception of the 13 November event, *CRY HAVOC: A One-person Play*, these events were co-sponsored by the Center for Justice at Columbia University and the Heyman Center for the Humanities, as part of the Justice-in-Education Initiative, a partnership that aims to increase educational opportunities for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals as well as to integrate the study of justice more fully into the Columbia curriculum.

13 November

*Cry Havoc: A One-person Play*

*Cry Havoc* is a one-person play written and performed by Stephan Wolfert and directed by Eric Tucker. After overcoming two years of paralysis and six years in the Army, and while battling PTSD, Stephan Wolfert discovered William Shakespeare’s *Richard III*. Twenty years later, using Shakespeare’s timeless words, actor/veteran Stephan Wolfert leads the audience on an interactive journey through Shakespeare and his portrayal of soldiers and veterans. While in the military, men and women are tested and trained for combat. They are tested to ensure “combat readiness” and trained to harness their “Berzerker-energy.” After years of service, there is no training to eliminate the Berzerker. Shakespeare wrote about the relationships between veterans, politicians and civilians. He wrote how these relationships can either prevent or create havoc. *Cry Havoc* unites veterans and non-veterans, and explores the difficulties that our veterans and their families face, so that we may help them eliminate the Berzerker.
26 February

Real Women, Real Voices

This symposium highlighted the issues and concerns that affect incarcerated women. The three-part event featured a video simulcast of currently incarcerated women, joined by formerly incarcerated women and children of incarcerated parents, to discuss the impact of imprisonment and the need for carceral policy reform. The Ladies of Hope Ministries presented the Real Women, Real Voices symposium as a precursor to the 2016 Beyond the Bars Conference.

9 December

Justice Poetry featuring the BreakBeat Poets

An evening of justice poetry featured the editors of and contributors to The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip Hop. Poets read from their new and published works related to issues of justice and discussed the events and experiences that inspired them. Poet and activist Messiah Ramkissoon opened the event with a poem dedicated to the memory of Kalief Browder, who committed suicide after years in solitary confinement, and Columbia Adjunct Professor Morgan Parker closed the evening with a poetry selection. During the discussion period, the poets were joined in conversation with the widely acclaimed rapper Pharoahe Monch. The BreakBeat poets conducted a special workshop for youth at Rikers—which was sponsored by the Heyman Center prior to the event on campus. Featured poets included Kevin Coval, founder of Louder Than A Bomb: The Chicago Youth Poetry Festival, the world’s largest youth poetry festival, Nate Marshall, author of Wild Hundreds (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2015), and Angel Nafis, author of BlackGirl Mansion (The Neutral Zone, Red Beard Press/New School Poetic, 2012).
Heyman Center Series and Workshops

The Heyman Center sponsored several new and ongoing series: the Center for Race, Philosophy, and Social Justice (CRPS) Workshop Series; the Foucault 13/13 Seminar; the Neuroscience and History Series; and the Program in World Philology.

CRPS Workshop Series

The Center for Race, Philosophy, and Social Justice promotes normatively inflected social and political thought geared to thinking through the demands of racial justice in the United States in the aftermath of Jim Crow and the election of our nation’s first Black president. Housed in the Institute for Research in African American Studies, the Center sponsors interdisciplinary initiatives that, while chiefly driven by the scholarship of philosophers and social and political theorists, regularly engages the broadest available range of empirical, social scientific and interpretive, historical-cultural inquiry. CRPS builds on the legacy of Manning Marable, Columbia Professor of African-American Studies, by maintaining a focus on the contributions that African American Studies has made and continues to make to the articulation of a racial justice agenda.

Talks in the Workshop series included Tommie Shelby, Caldwell Titcomb Professor of African and African American Studies and of Philosophy at Harvard University on “Richard Wright: Realizing the Promise of the West” (18 September); Desmond Jagmohan, Postdoctoral Research Associate in Politics at Princeton University on “Cultivating Civic Capacity Under Domination: A Reappraisal of Booker T. Washington’s Accommodationist Rhetoric and Uplift Politics in the Era of Jim Crow” (16 October); Lawrence Blum, Professor of Philosophy & Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts & Education at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, “On Racialization, Racial Identity, and Race Blindness: Concepts of Racial Identity in the U.S., South Africa, and Brazil” (20 November); and Gayatri Spivak, University Professor at Columbia University, on “Writing on Du Bois: A Work in Progress” (April 15).

Foucault 13/13 Seminar

Race war, biopolitics, the hermeneutics of the self, governmentality, the examination of one’s conscience, sécurité, the courage of truth, illégalismes, juridical forms, governing through truth, the “punitive society,” truth-telling, judicial apparatuses of repression, the Nu-pieds rebellions of 1639, parrhesia . . . Michel Foucault’s 13 years of lectures at the Collège de France introduced us to new concepts and novel research avenues. They represent, as Foucault intended, rich and productive “pistes de recherches.” With the publication of the entirety of these lectures—the last, Théories et institutions pénales (1971–1972) was released in May 2015—it is now time to read them chronologically, to grasp the overall project of those lectures at the Collège, and to continue to excavate our own “pistes de recherche” building on Foucault’s.

The Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought and the Columbia Society of Fellows, with the support of the Maison Française, the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, and the Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures, were delighted to host 13 seminars on Foucault’s work, open to Columbia faculty, fellows, and students, as well as faculty and students from other New York universities, extending over the full 2015–2016 academic year.

Reading the Foucault Collège de France Lectures with more than two dozen Columbia faculty members were: David Armitage, Homi Bhabha, Judith Butler, Veena Das, François Ewald, Didier Fassin, James Faubion, Nancy Fraser, Frédéric Gros, Daniele Lorenzini, Nancy Luxon, Achille Mbembe, Paul Rabinow, Judith Revel, Pierre Rosanvallon, Ann Stoler, and Linda Zerilli. The seminars were moderated by Bernard E. Harcourt and Jesús R. Velasco.
Neuroscience and History Series

An ongoing reading and discussion group fostering an interdisciplinary conversation about the promises and challenges of contemporary neuroscience. This series explores the historical conditions for the emergence of neuroscience as a discipline, as well as the synergies and tensions between historical and neuroscience modes of explanation. Scholars, clinicians, students, and the interested public are all welcome. Sponsored by Center for Science and Society and the Heyman Center for the Humanities.

14 October

Vatted Dreams: Neurophilosophy and the Politics of Phenomenal Internalism

Despite much social scientific work on the neurosciences, little ethnographic and historical attention has been paid to the field of neurophilosophy. Yet anthropologists studying brain research occasionally critique neuro-philosophers for reducing the mind to the brain while affirmatively citing philosophers of mind who present the mind as emerging from interactions between brain, body and environment. This talk by Nicolas Langlitz, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at The New School for Social Research, examined the ostracized camp of so-called phenomenal internalists—neuro-philosophers who believe that consciousness can supervene on the brain alone. This ontological commitment is driven by certain existential and political experiences, from false awakenings to disenchantment with the counterculture of the 1970s. But it also draws from neuroscientific research on the dreaming brain. The talk concluded with a plea to anthropologists to attend to relations of detachment, both social and neural, and to reconsider their own ontological commitment to externalism in light of dream research.

11 November

Norman Geschwind, Behavioral Neurology and Left Handedness

Howard Kushner, Nat C. Robertson Distinguished Professor of Science & Society at Emory University, gave a talk on the Harvard neurologist Norman Geschwind (1926–1984), who proposed a controversial hypothesis in the early 1980s that uterine stress produced allergies, immune disorders, learning disabilities, and initially, left-handedness. Having read the work of nineteenth-century German aphasistologist Carl Wernicke in the original, Geschwind discovered Wernicke’s multi-layered explanation that distinguished between localized lesions that affected motor movement and multiple lesions located in association pathways, which, when extensive, resulted in behavioral disorders. He also reread the works of the holists, discovering that while their rhetoric rejected Wernicke, their explanations of aphasias actually reinforced Wernicke’s hypothesis. Building on his readings of these historical documents and his clinical experiences, Geschwind urged the resurrection and expansion of Wernicke’s disconnection syndromes. Geschwind went further than Wernicke, suggesting that higher function disorders resulted from disconnection, and he ultimately came to believe that learning disabilities, allergies, immune disorders, talent, and left-handedness were, like complex aphasias, association disorders with a common mechanism but with different presentations dependent on the nature and timing of environmental insults in utero.

24 February

Spiritualizing Neurology in the Fin de Siècle

In this talk, Larry S. McGrath (Wesleyan University), argued that the development of neurology in the late nineteenth century inaugurated a historical moment when the brain came to be taken seriously not only as the organ of thought, but also as the lynchpin of a materialist ideology. God and consciousness, many believed, had been excised from the natural world. Yet a movement of self-proclaimed French “spiritualists,” including Henri Bergson, Alfred Fouillée, and Jean-Marie Guyau, told a different story. They demonstrated that theology and metaphysics were not simply compatible with but sustained neurology and physiological psychology. What was spirit (l’esprit) and what was the intellectual movement that went by the name of spiritualism? This installment of the Neuroscience and History Series explored the persistence of spirit within the experimental, quantitative, and pathological methods that lie at the origins of the modern neurosciences.
The Program in World Philology

The Program in World Philology (PWP) aims to unite Columbia scholars across departments and schools around the discipline-based study of texts. Philology, defined over the course of its history as everything from text criticism to “slow reading” to “all erudition in language,” is at base the discipline of making sense of texts. Under this description philology is almost as old as the production of written texts themselves. Over time it has proven to be as central to knowledge as mathematics or philosophy, and its methods, like theirs, have similarly been adopted in other disciplines.

27 October

Traditions of Exegesis: What Audiences Do with Oral and Written Texts in Africa
Karin Barber, Professor of African Cultural Anthropology, University of Birmingham

Professor Barber presented on the popular philology of Africa and the transition from oral to print texts. This talk touched on pressing issues related to the philology of the present, of the unlettered, and of the oppressed.

19 November

Glossing and Other Traces of Vernacular Reading
John Whitman, Professor in the Department of Linguistics, Cornell University

Professor Whitman argued that one of the dominant forms of pre-modern philology is glossing, or providing difficult textual passages with synonymous explanations and paraphrases. In certain traditions, this practice expands to the point where it overlaps with the act of reading itself: every word in a canonical text written in a classical language is glossed in the vernacular language. This phenomena is best attested in premodern Japan, where it was modeled on Korean precedents that recent discoveries have clarified, and there is evidence of similar practices elsewhere in East and Central Asia. Whitman also discussed more far-flung examples of vernacular reading of classical texts, for example of Latin into English in medieval Britain.

26 February

Sounding Off: Murmurs, Quotes, Cries, and Cackles in Maya Glyphs
Stephen D. Houston, Dupee Family Professor of Social Science, Brown University

Professor Houston discussed how philology, as the practice of making sense of texts, can be extended to include visual representation of verbal texts. Mayan glyphs are well-known examples of ancient writing that maintained pictorial components, but they also existed in a rich context of representation of speech, both pictorially and non-pictorially. These devices included a variety of “speech balloons,” straight and wavy lines emanating from the mouths of divine and human figures, and also onomatopoeic graphs and graphic elements. This diverse complex of direct and indirect depictions of sound belies the stereotype of silent hieroglyphic writing.

18 April

Christianity and Philology: Blood Wedding?
Anthony Grafton, Henry Putnam University Professor of History, Princeton University

Professor Grafton explored the intersections of philology and Protestantism in post-Reformation Europe, where the science of textual exegesis took on a new and highly consequential role for social as well as intellectual life. In characteristic fashion, Grafton illustrated his talk with a remarkable array of unpublished manuscript materials where the philological contended with the textual for primacy on the page.
Full List of Heyman Center Events 2015–2016

FALL 2015

7–18 September
Intimate Archives: Connective Histories
Art exhibition and conference

14 September
Foucault 13/13
Lectures on the Will to Know (1970–71)
James Faubion, Rice University
Nancy Luxon, University of Minnesota

18 September
Richard Wright: Realizing the Promise of the West
Tommie Shelby, Harvard University

21 September
Keywords in Sound
A roundtable discussion

24–26 September
Policing the Crises: Stuart Hall and the Practice of Critique
A two-day conference

28 September
Foucault 13/13
Penal Theories and Institutions (1971–72)
Etienne Balibar, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre and Columbia University
François Robert Ewald, Series Editor of Foucault’s Collège de France Lectures

29 September
A Day of Talks with Philosopher Bernard Stiegler
Bernard Stiegler, University of Technology of Compiègne

1 October
Anti-Imperial Metropolis: Interwar Paris and the Seeds of Third World Nationalism
Michael Goebel, Freie Universität Berlin

1–2 October
Legacies of the Slave Past in the Post-Slave Present
Discussion of University College, London’s “Legacies of British Slave Ownership” project
Catherine Hall, Nick Draper, and Keith McClelland, lead investigators

9–10 October
Theosophy and the Arts: Texts and Contexts of Modern Enchantment
A two-day conference

12 October
Foucault 13/13
The Punitive Society (1972–73)
Didier Fassin, Institute for Advanced Studies (Princeton)
Axel Honneth, University of Frankfurt & Columbia University
Nadia Urbinati, Columbia University

14 October
Vatted Dreams: Neurophilosophy and the Politics of Phenomenal Internalism
Nicolas Langlitz, The New School for Social Research

16 October
CRPS Workshop Series
Cultivating Civic Capacity Under Domination
Desmond Jagmohan, Postdoctoral Research Associate in Politics, Princeton University

20 October
The Metabolic Condition: From Concept to Science, Medicine, and Culture
Hannah Landecker, University of California, Los Angeles
Derek LeRoith, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine
21 October
Cornel West and Jeff Stout in Conversation on Secularism and Democracy
Cornel West, Union Theological Seminary
Jeff Stout, Princeton University

23 October
Hoarding: An Interdisciplinary Conversation
Carolyn Rodriguez, Stanford University
Robert Hockett, Cornell University Law School
Gustav Peebles, The New School
Jesse Eisinger, Journalist

23 October
Staging Africans: Race and Representation in Early Modern European Theaters
A one-day conference

23–24 October
The Workshop Series
Accommodations Workshop

26 October
Foucault 13/13
Psychiatric Power (1973–74)
Linda Zerilli, University of Chicago
Alondra Nelson, Columbia University
Anna Lvovsky, Columbia University

27 October
The Program in World Philology
Traditions of Exegesis: What Audiences do with Oral and Written texts in Africa
Karin Barber, University of Birmingham

27 October
Film Screening: In the Birch Grove
Alan Marcus, University of Aberdeen

29 October
Women Poets at Barnard: Rosanna Warren, Meg Tyler, and Fiona Wilson

4 November
Women Poets at Barnard: Fanny Howe, Christina Davis, and Katie Peterson

4 November
After Charlie Hebdo: French laïcité and Islam: Can the Republican Model Hold?
Discussion in the aftermath of the Charlie Hebdo shooting

5 November
Saul Bellow Centenary Roundtable
A roundtable discussion

6–7 November
Against Educational Apartheid: The Other Global University
A Forum on the Past, Present, and Future of Higher Education

9 November
Intersections, Interventions, and the Homoerotics of Orientalism
Joseph Allen Boone, University of Southern California

11 November
Norman Geschwind, Behavioral Neurology and Left Handedness
Howard Kushner, Emory University

11 November
Race and New Media
A panel discussion

13 November
Public Humanities Initiative
CRY HAVOC: A One-person Play
Stephan Wolfert, Actor/Writer/Director

16 November
Foucault 13/13
Abnormal (1974–1975)
Veena Das, Johns Hopkins University
Pierre Rosanvallon, Collège de France, Paris
Emmanuelle Saada, Columbia University
3 December
Public Humanities Initiative
Teaching Contemporary Civilization in Prison
Joshua Dubler, University of Rochester

4–6 December
The Confined Arts: Art Exhibition and Conference
A forty-day exhibition consisting of art, poetry, motivational speaking, panel discussions, a promotional screening, and workshops

7 December
An Evening with Jules Feiffer
Jules Feiffer, award-winning cartoonist and author

7 December
Foucault 13/13
David Armitage, Harvard University
Jeremy Kessler, Columbia University
Adam Tooze, Columbia University

8 December
Identity and Universality: A Lecture in Light of Contemporary Tragic Events in Paris and Elsewhere
Alain Badiou, European Graduate School

9 December
Public Humanities Initiative
Justice Poetry featuring the BreakBeat Poets
Poetry by editors and contributors to The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip Hop

10 December
Justice-in-Education Initiative Workshop
Teaching in Prison
Susan Castagnetto, Intercollegiate Women’s Studies of The Claremont Colleges
Todd Young, Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison
Mary Shanley, Vassar College
Geraldine Downey, Columbia University

17 November
Home Within
Kinan Azmeh, Musician and Composer
Kevork Mourad, Artist

19 November
The Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture
The Future of the Past: Revival Ireland 1891–1922
Declan Kiberd, University of Notre Dame

19 November
The Program in World Philology
Glossing and Other Traces of Vernacular Reading
John Whitman, Cornell University

20 November
Europe 1945–2015 from ‘Displaced Persons’ to ‘Asylum Seekers’
Ian Buruma, Bard College
Abram De Swaan, Columbia University and University of Amsterdam
Adam Tooze, Columbia University

20 November
CRPS Workshop Series
Lawrence Blum on Racialization, Racial Identity, and Race Blindness
Lawrence Blum, University of Massachusetts, Boston

23 November
Seminars in Society and Neuroscience
Creative Minds: What Can Neuroscience Offer the Study of Creativity?

23 November
Foucault 13/13
“Society Must Be Defended” (1975–76)
Ann Stoler, The New School
Partha Chatterjee, Columbia University
Robert Gooding-Williams, Columbia University
11–12 December
Women, Music, Power
Celebration of the work of Suzanne G. Cusick through a symposium, concert, library exhibit, and the launch of a festschrift volume of Women and Music: A Journal of Gender and Culture in Professor Cusick’s honor, guest-edited by Emily Wilbourne

14 December
Difficult Decisions: The Complexities of Choice in the Real World
Alessandra Casella, Columbia University
L. A. Paul, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Michael Platt, University of Pennsylvania

18 February
The Promise and Challenge of Precision Medicine: An Interdisciplinary Conversation
David Goldstein, Columbia University
Jonathan Metzl, Vanderbilt University

19 February
The Future of Racial Morality After Black Love and Black Rage
Christopher Lebron, Yale University

14 December
Radical Grace: The Role of Art in Response to Present Tragic Circumstances
Alain Badiou, European Graduate School
Udi Aloni, Filmmaker
James Schamus, Columbia University

SPRING 2016

28 January
Foucault 13/13
The Birth of Biopolitics (1978–1979)
Nancy Fraser, The New School
Richard Brooks, Columbia University
Kendall Thomas, Columbia University

4 February
Esther Eng and Other Challenges to World Feminism
Yvonne Tasker, University of East Anglia
Lingzhen Wang, Brown University

11 February
Embodyed Cognition: Music and Movement
A workshop

11 February
Foucault 13/13
Jean Cohen, Columbia University
Achille Mbembe, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Daniele Lorenzini, Université Paris-Est Créteil, France

12 February
Esperantic Modernism: Joyce, ‘Universal Language,’ and Political Gesture
Spring 2016 meeting of the NYNJ Modernism Seminar
Nico Israel, CUNY Graduate Center and Hunter College

18 February
The Promise and Challenge of Precision Medicine: An Interdisciplinary Conversation
David Goldstein, Columbia University
Jonathan Metzl, Vanderbilt University

19 February
The Future of Racial Morality After Black Love and Black Rage
Christopher Lebron, Yale University

19 February
An Aesthetic of Indifference: Poems/Photos/Graphs
Walter Benn Michaels, University of Illinois at Chicago

22 February
Material Encounters: Surface Tension, Screen Space
Giuliana Bruno, Harvard University

24 February
Neuroscience and History Series—Spiritualizing Neurology in the Fin de Siècle
Larry S. McGrath, Wesleyan University

26 February
The Program in World Philology
Sounding Off: Murmurs, Quotes, Cries, and Cackles in Maya Glyphs
Stephen D. Houston, Brown University
26 February
Preserving Indigenous Knowledge and The Library for Food Sovereignty
Loren Cardeli, A Growing Culture

26 February
Public Humanities Initiative
Real Women, Real Voices
Symposium highlighting the issues and concerns that impact incarcerated women

2 March
A Reading by Diane Williams followed by a Q&A with Sam Lipsyte

3 March
Patriarchy Takes a Back Seat in Kurdish Syria: Implications for Gender Theory, the Middle East, and the Midwest
Bülent Küçük, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul
Nazan Üstündağ, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul
Narges Erami, Yale University
Michael Taussig, Columbia University

3 March
Foucault 13/13
Judith Butler, University of California, Berkeley
Katherine Franke, Columbia University
Stathis Gourgouris, Columbia University

4 March
Beyond the Bars 2016: Connecting the Struggles
The 6th annual conference

March 7
The Lionel Trilling Seminar
Political Fiction, Ancient and Modern: From David’s Court to Fabrice’s Charterhouse
Robert Alter, University of California at Berkeley

10 March
Foucault 13/13
The Hermeneutics of the Subject (1981–1982)
Homi Bhabha, Harvard University
Paul Rabinow, University of California, Berkeley
Lydia Liu, Columbia University

12 March
Public Humanities Initiative
The Confined Arts: Solitary Confinement Edition
Symposium consisting of an art exhibition, poetry readings, a panel discussion, and a screening

21 March
Woman and City: Wang Anyi in conversation with Lydia Liu

22 March
Allochronism, Space and Sexuality in India: Cities, Sex Workers, and LGBTQ Subjects
Svati Shah, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

22 March
On Looking Closely at Things: An Exhibition and Conversation with Photographer Andy Sewell

23 March
Poetry Reading by John Ashbery Followed by a Q&A with Timothy Donnelly

25 March
Is the “Post-” in Post-Identity the same as the “Post-” in Post-Genre? Race & Pop Music Aesthetics
Robin James, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

29 March
Mobility and Confinement: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Incarceration in America

30 March
Poetry Reading by Marilyn Hacker and Deema Shehabi
13 April
*A Conversation with Christian Hawkey*
The author of *Ventrakl* (inspired by the work of Georg Trakl) discusses the politics of experimental translation techniques in poetry

14 April
Foucault 13/13
Frederic Gros, Sciences Po
Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Columbia University
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia University

15 April
CRPS Workshop Series
*Writing on Du Bois: A Work in Progress*
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia University

15–16 April
Ice3: An Inquiry into the Aesthetics, History, and Science of Ice
Interdisciplinary conference organized by Maggie Cao (Society of Fellows 2014–2016) and Rebecca Woods (Society of Fellows 2013–2016)

18 April
The Program in World Philology
*Christianity and Philology: Blood Wedding?*
Anthony Grafton, Princeton University

19 April
*Women’s Shebeen*
A gathering of Irish women writers, storytellers, musicians and academics to share stories, songs, and poems as part of Cuala NYC, New York City’s first annual Irish Cultural Festival
Susana McKeown, Musician
Eimear McBride, Author
Belinda McKeon, Rutgers University
Tara Clancy, Independent Author
Geraldine Downey, Columbia University
20 April
*Austerity Measures*

20 April
*Hindu Nationalism and India’s New Culture Wars*
Ananya Vajpeyi, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi

22 April
*Reading Against Time: Trans Historicism and Early Modern Literature*
Conference with keynote by Jeff Dolven, Princeton University

27 April
*A Reading and Conversation with Bernadette Mayer*

28 April
*Of Grammatology Re-Translated: 40th Anniversary edition: A Tribute*
A panel discussion with Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia University, and a performance by pianist and Columbia scholar Yohann Ripert

28–29 April
*Conversations in Technological Discard and Archaeological Recuperation*
A two-day conference

30 April
*Philosophy in Cicero’s Letters*
A one-day symposium

3 May
*Teanga Shebeen: Irish Language*
Presentation on the history of the Irish language, followed by a number of short presentations in Irish Gaelic with subtitles as part of Cuala NYC, New York City’s first annual Irish Cultural Festival

13 May
*Art and the Monetary*
One-day symposium organized by Maggie Cao (Society of Fellows 2014–2016), Alex J. Taylor, Tate Museum, and Sophie Crase, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

14 May
*A Woman’s Celebration*
Love Thyself First’s second annual woman’s wellness celebration

10 June
*Science & Capitalism: Entangled Histories—Workshop for the 2018 Volume of Osiris*
A workshop organized by Will Deringer (Society of Fellows 2012–2015)
Michael Allan (2008–2009) published *In the Shadow of World Literature: Sites of Reading in Colonial Egypt* (Princeton University Press) in 2016, was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, and was named a Petrone Faculty Scholar at the University of Oregon.

Jeffrey Andrew Barash (1983–1985) was a fellow at the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. During his period at the IAS, he completed his book manuscript, entitled *Collective Memory and the Historical Past*, which was published by the University of Chicago Press in November, 2016.


Akeel Bilgrami (1983–1985) is Sidney Morgenbesser Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University. He has recently edited two books, *Who’s Afraid of Academic Freedom?* (Columbia University Press, 2015), with Jonathan Cole as co-editor, and *Beyond the Secular West* (Columbia University Press, 2016). He has been Director of the South Asian Institute the past three years and embarked on a long book-length project on the nature of practical reason.

Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski (1981–1983) was promoted to Distinguished Professor of French at the University of Pittsburgh in 2015. Her book *The Strange Case of Ermine de Reims: A Medieval Woman between Demons and Saints* appeared with the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2015. In May 2016 she co-organized, with Joël Blanchard, a conference on the idea of Europe in the Middle Ages at the Université du Maine in Le Mans, France.

George X. Bournoutain (1978–1980) this year published *The 1829–1832 Russian Surveys of the Khanate of Nakhichevan* (Mazda Pub, 2016), *The 1819 Russian Survey of the Khanate of Sheki* (Mazda Pub2016), and *The 1820 Russian Survey of the Khanate of Shirvan* (Oxford, Gibb Memorial Series, 2016). He also received the 2015 Irene Hammerbacher Outstanding Faculty Research Award, Iona College.


Sarah Jacoby (2006–2009) was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in the Religious Studies Department at Northwestern University. She credits this achievement to “the fantastic three years I spent as a fellow at the Heyman Center.”


John Lombardini (2009–2010) was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in the Department of Government at the College of William & Mary. He also won the College’s Alumni Association Teaching Award for 2016.

Susan Manning (1987–1988) is serving from 2012 to 2018 as Principal Investigator for a Mellon-funded project, “Dance Studies in/and the Humanities.” The two-million-dollar project supports six years of postdoctoral fellows at Northwestern, Brown, and Stanford plus intensive summer workshops for emerging scholars from 2012 through 2015. She is also co-editing a volume based on the project entitled “The Futures of Dance Studies.”


Jennifer C. Nash (2009–2010) began a position as Associate Professor of African American Studies and Gender & Sexuality Studies at Northwestern University.

Deborah Epstein Nord (1980–1982) was named the Woodrow Wilson Professor of Literature in 2015, and, in 2016, was awarded an Old Dominion Fellowship by Princeton (for the 2016–17 year) to work on a new project on the interplay of Victorian texts and images, tentatively entitled “What Can Be Seen: Ekphrasis, Illustration, and Iconography in Victorian Narrative.” As an Old Dominion Fellow she participated in weekly seminars at Princeton’s Society of Fellows. She writes that “this brought back happy memories of my time at the Columbia Society of Fellows.”

Emily Ogden (2010–2013) published an article in the Summer 2016 issue of Critical Inquiry, “Beyond Radical Enchantment: Mesmerizing Laborers in the Americas.” She also received a $25,000 teaching prize in 2015, the Cory Family Teaching Award at the University of Virginia.


from the Spencer Foundation for 2015–16 and a Public Scholar Award from the National Endowment from the Humanities for 2016, to support work on her book on a church-state case that riveted the nation’s attention in 1869.

Mark Rollins (1985–1987) is Professor in Philosophy and the Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Program, as well as Chair of the Performing Arts Department, at Washington University in St. Louis. In the 2015–16 academic year, he received the Dean’s Leadership Award.


William Sharpe (1981–1983) got a job at Barnard College on the far side of Broadway directly after leaving the Society of Fellows, and has been teaching in the English Department there ever since. His apartment window looks out over 118th Street, toward the Heyman Center, so he has his happy days as a Fellow regularly in view. His latest book, Grasping Shadows, about the role played by shadows in literature and the visual arts, is forthcoming from Oxford University Press in early 2017.

Jean Terrier (2004–2006) worked from 2009 to 2015 as a Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Munster in Westphalia, Germany. In 2015 he joined the Philosophy Department at the University of Zurich to conduct research on the political thought of the Swiss Philosopher Jeanne Hersch. Dr. Terrier also teaches Political Science at the Swiss Open University. In recent years he has continued his research on the history of social ideas in France and Germany around 1900 and published numerous scholarly articles on a variety of authors, including Marcel Mauss, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber.

Barbara L. Tischler (1983–1985) was named the Head of the Speyer Legacy School, a K–8 school for intellectually gifted students in Manhattan, in July 2015. In November of that year, she published Muhammad Ali, A Man of Many Voices (Taylor and Francis).

Kate Van Orden (1996–1997), Dwight P. Robinson Jr. Professor of Music at Harvard University, received the Medal of Honor from the City of Tours, France, for her contributions to Renaissance studies. Her book Materialities: Books, Readers, and the Chanson in Sixteenth-Century Europe (Oxford University Press, 2015) won the Bi-Annual Book Award from the Society for Renaissance Studies for books published in 2014–15. She was also named a Walter Channing Cabot Fellow for 2015 in recognition of her outstanding contributions to musicology.

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