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Christopher Florio is a historian of the United States, focusing on the long nineteenth century. His research interests include the history of slavery and emancipation, the history of capitalism, and the history of the US and the world. He is particularly interested in how Americans have debated and experienced moral problems that crossed national borders. In his first year as a Fellow, Dr. Florio made progress toward completing a book manuscript, “The Poor Always with You: The Problem of Poverty in an Age of Slave Emancipation.” The book explores how the problem of poverty in its many guises haunted struggles over the conceptualization, implementation, and experience of slave emancipation across the Anglo-American world throughout the mid-nineteenth century. In 2016–17, he began a new chapter on the history of poverty’s relationship to slavery before the era of slave emancipation. He also began revising two additional chapters, incorporating findings from archival research he conducted at the New-York Historical Society and the Quaker and Special Collections at Haverford College.

In addition to work on his book manuscript, Dr. Florio wrote a commissioned essay on the imperial turn in nineteenth-century US history for *Reviews in American History*, forthcoming in June 2018.

In the Fall and Spring semesters, he taught “Contemporary Civilization,” a year-long course that is part of Columbia University’s Core Curriculum. During Summer 2017, he taught his own newly-designed course on “The History of Poverty” at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women in Bedford Hills, New York as part of the Justice-in-Education Initiative.

Research Project:
The Poor Always with You: The Problem of Poverty in an Age of Slave Emancipation
Whitney Laemmli is a historian of science and technology whose work investigates the ways in which technologies designed to measure, control, and mechanize the human body have been used to resolve key questions about twentieth-century life. This past year, she has focused on the revision of her current book manuscript, “Measured Movements: Notation, the Body, and the Choreography of Modern Life,” which explores how a tool developed to record dance on paper in Weimar Germany found new life in the corporate boardrooms, robotics laboratories, and psychiatric hospitals of mid-century US and UK. In November 2016, the dissertation upon which the book is based was awarded the bi-annual dissertation prize from the History of Science Society’s Forum for the History of the Human Sciences.

Dr. Laemmli also published an article derived from this project in the January 2017 issue of Information and Culture. Titled “Paper Dances: Art and Information in Twentieth-Century America,” the paper told the story of New York City’s Dance Notation Bureau from the 1940s to the 1960s, focusing on the ways in which the Bureau’s leaders attempted to “rationalize and modernize” the art form. She organized a panel about the twentieth-century obsession with universal languages at the annual meeting of the History of Science Society, and presented a paper on dance and physiology in Weimar Germany at the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts.

In addition to teaching Contemporary Civilization in Fall 2016, Dr. Laemmli developed a new course for the Department of History, which she taught in Spring 2017. Titled “Technology, Work, and Capitalism,” the seminar examined the history of the relationship between technological change, labor, and larger structures of economic, political, and social power. The course attracted students from History, American Studies, Political Science, Computer Science, and Engineering, all of whom explored how new technologies—from the assembly line to the washing machine to the personal computer—transformed what it meant to work, and how workers, their families, and the companies who employed them reacted to these changes.
From Slavery to the Penitentiary: Police Power, Slave-Emancipation, and Liberal Freedom
Max Mishler, Lecturer in the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Columbia University

The United States is currently home to five percent of the world’s people and twenty-five percent of the world’s prisoners. African Americans and Latinos are disproportionately represented among America’s vast unfree population, with more black men under some form of carceral control (prison, parole, probation) than were enslaved in 1850. The systematic confinement and surveillance of people of African descent in the twenty-first century has led some scholars and activists to posit that contemporary mass incarceration is slavery, or, at the very least, an afterlife of slavery. In this telling, the carceral landscape of Mississippi cotton plantations and the antebellum slave patrol haunt contemporary supermax prisons and police departments empowered to detain, arrest, harass, and execute black bodies. This tragic narrative of American history points to enduring connections among police power, white supremacy, and black captivity. Yet, police power has also been indispensable to black liberation in the United States. The nineteenth-century abolition of slavery, post-Civil War Reconstruction (however brief), and the modern Civil Rights movement were all made possible by a vast expansion of the federal government’s police power.

Dr. Mishler explored the Janus-faced nature of police power in American history through the prism of nineteenth-century New York, where the gradual abolition of slavery coincided with the birth of the modern penitentiary. Well before the US Civil War and the modern Civil Rights movement, New York’s state government deployed its police power to abolish chattel slavery and to build an expansive state prison system. Gradual emancipation liberated black New Yorkers from the yoke of chattel bondage, but structural racism rendered free people of African descent increasingly vulnerable to incarceration in penitentiaries that epitomized the carceral logic of liberal free-labor ideology.

For Purity and Profit: Choreographing the Modern Self
Whitney Laemmli, Lecturer in History, Columbia University

In 1928, the German choreographer Rudolf Laban announced what he believed to be an explosive development in the history of dance: the creation of an inscription system that could “objectively” record human movement on paper. The technique, known as “Labanotation,” relied upon byzantine combinations of lines, tick marks, and boxes, but, despite its difficulty, was adopted within dance and far beyond it throughout the twentieth century.

Dr. Laemmli explored two seemingly distant, but in fact closely-linked, moments from Labanotation’s history: its origins in the anxiety-ridden, vibratory atmosphere of Weimar Germany and its use in the American and British corporate office in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. In particular, the talk focused on how writing down movement functioned as a means of understanding and controlling the individual psyche, promising to reconcile the invented and the authentic, the individual and the group, the body and the machine at a time of growing social upheaval.
American world came to reconceive of enslaved people as impoverished people, we begin to see how policymakers, aid workers, and African Americans themselves wrangled over the relationships between labor and livelihood, charity and entitlements, maintenance and freedom. Along the way we are able to consider anew the bounds of the nineteenth-century moral imagination, as we also begin to see how the black poor migrated for a time into the category of the worthy poor, and to what effect. Above all, we begin to see how connections between slavery and poverty—forged in debates over the needs of the emancipated black poor—unsettle the historical and historiographical boundaries of slavery and freedom.

8 December

Classics in the Community: Philosophy for ESL Students
Liane Carlson, Public Humanities Fellow, Columbia University

How can academics create spaces where non-traditional students—whether GED or ESL students—can engage in the sort of substantive debates about agency, evil, and free will that students in the Core Curriculum at Columbia enjoy? While creating a forum to discuss the traditional philosophical issues covered in the Core might seem like a trivial social intervention in a cultural moment rocked by debates about racism, xenophobia, and police brutality, this talk argued that programs for non-traditional students need to make space for such discussions in order to engage older students whose life experiences often vastly outstrip their reading abilities.

Dr. Carlson discussed the experiences that led her to establish one such forum at the New York Public Library Jefferson Market Branch. In her talk, she discussed how her background teaching GED students, undergraduates at Columbia, and continuing education students led her to see the need for such a space. From there, she covered the challenges and insights she gained from teaching the class. She ended by offering her thoughts on the benefits to her own scholarship of teaching non-traditional students.

Spring 2017

Shock and Reverberation

10 February

Shock of the Old/Reverberation of the New
Alexander Rehding, Fanny Peabody Professor of Music Theory, Harvard University

A number of scholars in the 1990s lamented that we can no longer truly hear the Ninth, and exhorted us to listen with fresh ears. A recent radical rendition of Beethoven’s Ninth should make them prick up their ears: Leif Inge’s 9 Beet Stretch (2002), a digital installation stretching the sounds of a CD recording of the Ninth to a length of 24 hours. At this glacial pace, the phrases, motives, and rhythms of Beethoven’s music are almost unrecognizable. Is it in fact still the Ninth?

In this paper, Harvard Professor Alexander Rehding argued that this digital installation responds to a number of specific cultural and philosophical challenges of the turn of the millennium—temporality, monumentality, and selfhood. Not only is Leif Inge’s innovative 9 Beet Stretch an appropriate version of the Ninth for the digital age; its fundamental principle—which media theorists call “time axis manipulation”—can also be read as a parable of the pair shock/reverberation itself.

16 February

Tensions of Refuge: Revolt, Backlash, and the Sanctuary Ideal in 19th Century America
Paul A. Kramer, Associate Professor of History, Vanderbilt University

Professor Kramer’s talk explored a crisis in the sanctuary ideal as a fundamental approach to US immigration policy and the United States’ role in the world. Nineteenth-century Americans took very seriously the idea that the United States, as an emerging republic in a world of powerful monarchies, had a duty to offer safety to those escaping political repression elsewhere: if America wanted the distinction of being an exemplary and exceptional re-
acoustic goniometers, the Baillaud parabolöide and the Perrin té-
lösitemetre.

Professor Ouzounian’s presentation examined new modes of
listening that emerged in relation to these devices, including “alt-
azimuth” listening and other modes of collaborative and coop-
erative listening. It further uncovered historical phenomena like
the establishment of écoles d’écoute, “schools of hearing” where
Allied soldiers received training in operating acoustic defense tech-
nologies, and it examined the design of “ear training exercises”
for a new class of expert military auditor. It argued that, during
this period, the listening act was reconfigured as a complex, frag-
mented act of data collection in ways that prefigured modern no-
tions of “machine listening.” Similarly, directional listening, which
had previously been studied in terms of perceptual psychology,
was newly understood in strategic terms: a tactical activity that
could determine human and even national survival.

13 April

**Cruel Empathy: The Shocking Case of Beatrice Cenci**
Alan Richardson, Professor, Boston College

This talk illustrated the practice of cognitive historicism as it de-
velops the theoretical foundation for a new reading of P. B. Shelley’s
*The Cenci*. Rather than inquiring into the morality of Beatrice
Cenci’s murder of her father, as numerous readers have done,
Professor Richardson considered the efficacy of Count Cenci’s
program for corrupting his daughter and turning her into a version
of himself. Count Cenci engineers a perverse kind of empathic
identification, one that Shelley calls, in *Prometheus Unbound*,
“loathsome sympathy.” Richardson understands “loathsome” sym-
pathy in turn as an extreme or inverted form of the sympathy
that plays so crucial a role in Shelley’s poetic and ethical theory
and that he develops from the work of eighteenth-century writ-
ers including Hume, Rousseau, and Adam Smith. Twenty-first cen-
tury research on empathy and “mirror neurons”—whether or not
it ends up holding up scientifically—provides a number of partial
and provocative analogies with eighteenth-century sympathy the-
ory and may help open up new perspectives on the tradition that
leads from Hume to Shelley.

Professor Richardson explored the extent to which Shelley,
and the theorists he relied upon, developed a, comparable sense
of sympathy, and how this comparison might lead to a new read-
ing of *The Cenci*.

20 April

**Learning/Teaching at Rikers Island: A Critical Reflection**
Natacha Nsabimana, 2016–2017 Public Humanities Fellow,
Columbia University

For the past year and a half, Natacha Nsabimana has been work-
ing with Columbia University’s Justice-in-Education Initiative at
the Rose M. Singer Center at Rikers Island. Nsabimana reflected
on the experience of teaching “inside” as well as learning from
it. More than a presentation, the talk was an open invitation to
engage with issues surrounding mass incarceration and criminal
justice reform.
lived experience and his attempted theorizations of racial difference, framed the Atlantic as a place of white power, made productive by enslaved black labor. His politics of place fixed England, Jamaica and Africa in a fateful triangle, secured by racial binaries of “White” and “Negro.” Those binaries could only be sustained by disavowal, that practice of knowing and not knowing the humanity of others, that remains central to an understanding of racisms in the present. For Hall, the effort to enter imaginatively into the states of mind that have underpinned those identities is a part of the project of “unlearning” modes of cultural domination.

30 March

*Mortality Mansions*

A collaboration of 2006 US Poet Laureate Donald Hall and Grammy® Award-winning composer Herschel Garfein, *Mortality Mansions* reflects on the themes of love, sexuality and bereavement in old age in Hall’s poems and traces the adoption of Hall’s work into the curricula of medical schools across the country. The Heyman Center hosted the world premiere performance, which featured tenor Michael Slattery and Dmitri Dover, acclaimed pianist for the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist program, who were joined by Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Ford, National Book Award-winning poet Jean Valentine and Dr. Rita Charon, professor of Clinical Medicine and director of the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University, who read Hall’s poems. Hall participated via remote video link from his farmhouse in New Hampshire.

4 April

*The Irish and the Jews*

As two diasporic communities whose paths have often crossed, the Irish and the Jews have complex shared histories. This exhibition and discussion aimed to connect these interwoven narratives of migration, displacement, and cultural contact. Pól Ó Dochartaigh (National University of Ireland, Galway) presented on his exhibition at the Royal Irish Academy, “Representations of Jews in Ireland,” and Irish novelist Ruth Gilligan read from her
Heyman Center Series and Workshops

The Heyman Center sponsored several new and ongoing series: the Nietzsche 13/13 Seminar; the New Books Series; and the Program in World Philology.

Nietzsche 13/13 Seminar

The Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought and the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for Humanities at Columbia University developed a new 13/13 seminar series on the impact of Friedrich Nietzsche for 2016–17 following last year’s successful first series. A broad range of contemporary critical thinkers in the twentieth century drew inspiration from Nietzsche’s writings. Together, they developed a strand of critical theory that has influenced disciplines as varied as history, law, politics, anthropology, philology, and the theory of science. These twentieth-century thinkers effectively forged a unique Nietzschean strand of contemporary critical thought, very different from critical strands represented by the Frankfurt School or Lacanian psychoanalytic theory. This seminar series proceeded through a close reading of thirteen contemporary critical thinkers who drew on and engaged Nietzsche’s thought and writings. The seminar series was organized and moderated by Bernard E. Harcourt, Daniele Lorenzini, and Jesús R. Velasco.

New Books in the Arts & Sciences

Co-sponsored by the Society of Fellows and the Heyman Center for Humanities and the Office of the Divisional Deans in the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, this new book series celebrates recent work by the Columbia Faculty with panel discussions of their work.

18 October

New Books in the Arts & Sciences
Celebrating Recent Work by Lila Abu-Lughod & Elizabeth Povinelli

First published in 1986, Lila Abu-Lughod’s Veiled Sentiments: Honor and Poetry in a Bedouin Society has become a classic ethnography in the field of anthropology. For almost two years in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Abu-Lughod lived with a community of Bedouins in the Western Desert of Egypt, studying gender relations, morality, and the oral lyric poetry through which women and young men express personal feelings. The poems are haunting, the evocation of emotional life vivid. But Abu-Lughod’s analysis also reveals how deeply implicated poetry and sentiment are in the play of power and the maintenance of social hierarchy. What begins as a puzzle about a single poetic genre becomes a reflection on the politics of sentiment and the complexity of culture. This thirtieth-anniversary edition includes a new afterword that reflects on developments both in anthropology and in the lives of this community of Awlad ‘Ali Bedouins.

In Geontologies: A Requiem to Late Liberalism, Elizabeth A. Povinelli continues her project of mapping the current conditions of late liberalism by offering a bold retheorization of power. Povinelli describes a mode of power she calls geontopower, which operates through the regulation of the distinction between Life...
which would be destroyed twice before his eyes; explore early twentieth-century Japan amid sweeping cross-cultural changes; and confront profound family tragedy alongside the horror of war. From these multiple angles we see how Kurosawa’s life and work speak to the epic narrative of modern Japan’s rise and fall. Bringing these formative forces into focus, Anderer looks beyond the aura of Kurosawa’s fame and leads us deeper into the tragedies and the challenges of his past. Kurosawa’s Rashomon uncovers how a film like Rashomon came to be, and why it endures to illuminate the shadows and the challenges of our present. Discussants included Jack Lewis Snyder (Columbia), Nadia Urbinati (Columbia), Katharina Pistor (Columbia), and Mattias Kumm (New York University).

8 February

New Books in the Arts & Sciences
Celebrating Recent Work by Souleymane Bachir Diagne

Souleymane Bachir Diagne’s The Ink of the Scholars: Reflections on Philosophy in Africa identifies four important topics of philosophical reflection on the African continent. One is the question of ontology in relation to African religions and aesthetics. Another is the question of time and, in particular, of prospective thinking and development. A third issue is the task of reconstructing the intellectual history of the continent through the examination of the question of orality but also by taking into account the often neglected tradition of written erudition in Islamic centers of learning. Timbuktu is certainly the most important and most famous of such intellectual centers. The fourth question concerns political philosophy: the concept of “African socialisms” is revisited and the march that led to the adoption of the “African Charter of Human and Peoples’ Rights” is examined. All these important issues are also fundamental to understanding the question of African languages and translation. Discussants included Madeleine Dobie (Columbia) and Gary Wilder (The Graduate Center, CUNY).

5 December

New Books in the Arts & Sciences
Celebrating Recent Work by Turkuler Isiksel

Turkuler Isiksel’s Europe’s Functional Constitution: A Theory of Constitutionalism Beyond the State evaluates the extent to which constitutionalism, as an empirical idea and normative ideal, can be adapted to institutions beyond the state by surveying the sophisticated legal and political system of the European Union. Having originated in a series of agreements between states, the EU has acquired important constitutional features like judicial review, protections for individual rights, and a hierarchy of norms. Nonetheless, it confounds traditional models of constitutional rule to the extent that its claim to authority rests on the promise of economic prosperity and technocratic competence rather than on the democratic will of citizens. Critically appraising the European Union and its legal system, this book proposes the idea of ‘functional constitutionalism’ to describe this distinctive configuration of public power. Although the EU is the most advanced instance of functional constitutionalism to date, understanding this pragmatic mode of constitutional authority is essential for assessing contemporary international economic governance. Discussants included Jack Lewis Snyder (Columbia), Nadia Urbinati (Columbia), Katharina Pistor (Columbia), and Mattias Kumm (New York University).
Full List of Heyman Center Events
2016–2017

FALL 2016

8 September
Nietzsche 13/13
Martin Heidegger
Babette Babich, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Fordham University
Taylor Carman, Professor of Philosophy, Barnard College
Jesús Valasco, Professor, Department of Latin American & Iberian Cultures, Columbia University

15 September
A New Aesthetic Called ‘Aesthetic’
Virginia Heffernan, journalist

16 September
When Sugar Hill was Sweet
A centennial celebration of 409 & 555 Edgecombe Ave.

16 September
What is Journal Work?
A roundtable conversation

16 September
Field Notes from the Muslim International
Sohail Daulatzai, Associate Professor in the Departments of Film and Media Studies, African American Studies, and the Program in Global Middle East Studies, University of California, Irvine

19 September
Horacio Castellanos Moya: Reading and Q&A
Horacio Castellanos Moya, Salvadoran novelist, short story writer, and journalist

22 September
Nietzsche 13/13
Georges Bataille
Denis Hollier, Professor of French Literature, Thought and Culture, New York University
Rosalind Morris, Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University
Anthony Vidler, Professor, Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture, The Cooper Union

23 September
The New Seriality Studies
A one-day conference

23 September
The Imitation Imperative: Making Sense of the Crisis of Black Sea Europe
Ivan Krastev, Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia, Bulgaria, and Permanent Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, Austria

27 September
Europe & Africa: The Making of European Development Aid
Véronique Dimier, Associate Professor in Political Science, Université Libre de Bruxelles

28 September
Burning Issues in African Philosophy
Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Professor of French, Columbia University
Drucilla Cornell, Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Rutgers University

28 September
Civic Engagement and the Humanities
Liz Ševčenko, Director, Guantánamo Public Memory Project

29 September–1 October
What is Comparative Media?
A three-day conference

3 October
Writing the Brazilian Telenovela
João Emanuel Carneiro, filmmaker
4 October
Publishing Scholarly Books Successfully in the 21st Century
Norm Hirshy, Senior Editor in the Academic and Trade Division, Oxford University Press

6 October
The Lionel Trilling Seminar
Symbiosis of Nature and Art: A New Neo-Mannerism?
Horst Bredekamp, Professor of Art History, Humboldt University Berlin

10 October
Invisible Men: Panel Discussion Celebrating
Flores Forbes’ New Book
Flores Forbes, Associate Vice President for Strategic Policy and Program Implementation, Columbia University

12 October
Poetry Reading: Shane McCrae and Monica Youn

13 October
Filming at the Borders
Stopover (L’Escale)
Seyla Benhabib, Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science & Philosophy, Yale University

13-14 October
The Long Poem Conference
A two-day conference

13 October
Heyman Center Workshops
The Idea of Freedom of Choice in Neuroscience and History
Sophia Rosenfeld, Professor of History, Yale University
Sheena Iyengar, S. T. Lee Professor of Business, Columbia Business School
David Barack, Presidential Scholar in Society and Neuroscience, Columbia University

13 October
Nietzsche 13/13
Maurice Blanchot
Annelies Schulte Nordholt, University of Leiden, the Netherlands
Étienne Balibar, Visiting Professor of French, Columbia University
Patricia Dailey, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

14 October
Filming at the Borders
The Messengers (Les Messagers)
Madeleine Dobie, Professor of French, Columbia University

14–15 October
Docile Individuals? Privacy, Community, and State
A one-day conference

18 October
Filming at the Borders
Hope
Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Professor of French, Columbia University

18 October
New Books in the Arts & Sciences
Celebrating Recent Work by Elizabeth Povinelli and Lila Abu-Lughod

18 October
A Poetry Reading by Dorthea Lasky and Robyn Schiff

19 October
Filming at the Borders
May They Rest in Revolt (Qu’ils reposent en révolte)
Sylvain George, Director
Jane Gaines, Professor of Film, Columbia University

19 October
Justice Forum
Unlocking Potential: Education is the Key
A panel discussion on access to higher education for Black and Latino men

20 October
Filming at the Borders
Burn the Sea (Brûle la mer)
Étienne Balibar, Visiting Professor of French, Columbia University

21 October
International Workshop on Historical Dialogue and Mass Atrocity Prevention
A one-day conference
16 November  
**Bridging the Gap: Humanities in Action**  
Nicole Callahan, Preceptor, Contemporary Civilization, Columbia University  
Nicole Gervasio, PhD candidate in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University  
Emily Hainze, PhD candidate in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University  

18 November  
**What is Populism?**  
A roundtable discussion  

21 November  
**Global Hot Spots: Turkey in the World**  
Orhan Pamuk, Robert Yik-Fong Tam Professor of the Humanities; Fellow, The Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University  
N. Turkuler Isiksel, James P. Shenton Assistant Professor of the Core Curriculum, Political Science, Columbia University  
Mark Mazower, Commentator, Ira D. Wallach Professor of History, Columbia University  

29 November  
**What Would It Mean to Understand Climate Change?**  
Isaac Held, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, NOAA  
Philip Kitcher, John Dewey Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University  
Jonathan Weiner, Maxwell M. Geffen Professor of Medical and Scientific Journalism, Columbia University  

30 November  
**Citizen Subject**  
Étienne Balibar, Visiting Professor of French and Romance Philology, Columbia University  

30 November  
**Dan Hoyle’s The Real Americans**  
Dan Hoyle, Actor, Playwright, and Writer  

30 November  
**Screening and Discussion: Videos by Moscow-based artist Olga Chernysheva**  
Nova Benway, Curator at the Drawing Center  
Julian Tulovskiy, Curator of Russian and Soviet Nonconformist Art at the Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University  

1 December  
**Nietzsche 13/13**  
Alain Badiou and Bruno Bosteels: Lectures on Nietzsche  
Alain Badiou, Rene Descartes Chair, European Graduate School  
Bruno Bosteels, Professor, Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University  

1–2 December  
**Brexit Before and Beyond**  
A two-day conference  

2 December  
**New Books in the Arts & Sciences**  
Celebrating Recent Work by Paul Anderer  

5 December  
**New Books in the Arts & Sciences**  
Celebrating Recent Work by Turkuler Isiksel  

7 December  
**Leonard Cohen: A Retrospective**  
A roundtable discussion  

8 December  
**Feminism/Realism: Elena Ferrante**  
Alessia Ricciardi, Professor of Italian And Comparative Literature, Northwestern University  
David Kurnick, Associate Professor of English, Rutgers University  
Rebecca Falkhoff, Assistant Professor of Italian, New York University  

9 December  
**CualaNYC Story Shebeen: New York Rising**  
An evening of performances  

12 December  
**Techniques of the Body**  
Mark Mazower, Director/Chair, Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia University  
Naor Ben-Yehoyada, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University
15 December
Nietzsche 13/13
Aimé Césaire
Alex Gil, Digital Scholarship Coordinator for the Humanities and History Division and Affiliate Faculty of the English and Comparative Literature Department, Columbia University
Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Professor of French, Columbia University
Romuald Fonkoua, Director of the Centre international d'études francophones, Université Paris-Sorbonne
Daniele Lorenzini, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Center for Contemporary Critical Thought, Columbia University, and at the Institut des Sciences Juridique et Philosophique de la Sorbonne, University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
Françoise Vergès, Chair, Global South(s), Collège d'études mondiales, Foundation Maison des sciences de l'homme

SPRING 2017

5 January
Nietzsche 13/13
Sarah Kofman
A seminar series

19 January
Nietzsche 13/13
Frantz Fanon
Emily Apter, Professor of French and Comparative Literature, New York University
Homi Bhabha, the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of English and American Literature and Language, and the Director of the Humanities Center, Harvard University
Brandon Terry, Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies and Social Studies, Harvard University

23 January
Film Screening: Depth Two
A video screening and discussion

25 January
The Way to the Spring: Life and Death in Palestine
Ben Ehrenreich and Colm Tóibín in conversation

2 February
La Serenissima: The Millenarian Venice
Jordi Savall, performer

3 February
Great Incompletes: Italy’s Unfinished Endeavors
An interdisciplinary conference

8 February
New Books in the Arts & Sciences
Celebrating Recent Work by Souleymane Bachir Diagne

9 February
Nietzsche 13/13
Michel Foucault
Judith Revel, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre
François Ewald, Series Editor of Foucault’s Collège de France Lectures
Bernard Harcourt, the Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law and Professor of Political Science, Columbia University

13 February
Fidel Castro and Iraq in 1990: Muhsin J. Al-Musawi in Conversation with José C Moya
Muhsin J. Al-Musawi, Professor of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Columbia University
José C. Moya, Professor of History, Barnard College

15 February
Affect and Democratic Politics:
The Shortcomings of Anti-humanism
Elaine Stavro, Associate Professor of Political Studies, Trent University

20 February
Global Perspectives in Histories of Music Theory
A one-day conference
ancestral speaker communities, focusing on their intersection with gender, life stage and power. During her time as a Heyman Center Fellow, Stephens was able to revise a journal manuscript that grows out of this project and complete drafts of two chapters of the book manuscript.

Graduate Student Fellowships

Irina Denischenko
Slavic

Irina Denischenko’s dissertation research is on the status of words in avant-garde poetry, visual arts, and literary theory of Central and Eastern Europe in the 1910s and the 1920s. Her dissertation examines different figurations of the crisis of language that pervade poetic theory and practice at the turn of the 20th century and considers how artists attempted to overcome this crisis. She compares the visual poetry of the Russian Futurists, Hungarian Activists, and Czech Poetists and frames their experimentation with words and images as attempts to renew language. She also considers how, in an effort to save language from what is perceived as a fallen state, these literary movements entered into dialogue with contemporaneous theorizations of language and literature by the Russian Formalists, Prague Structuralists, and the Bakhtin Circle. During the Heyman Fellowship year, Denischenko completed an article, entitled “Beyond Reification: Mikhail Bakhtin’s Critique of Violence in Cognition and Representation,” which will appear in the “Bakhtin Forum” in the Slavic and Eastern European Journal this Fall. Denischenko presented this research to the Heyman Fellows and was able to make significant progress thanks to the feedback she received from her colleagues.

Samantha Fox
Anthropology

Samantha Fox’s research focuses on Eisenhüttenstadt, Germany, a city on the border between Germany and Poland founded in 1950 as a socialist utopian project that thrived until 1989. Today it suffers from urban blight and shifting demographics as young people leave for better lives elsewhere. Yet unlike in the US, where the rhetoric around post-industrial cities focuses on the promise of future growth, German planners embrace growth’s end. Fox’s goal is to understand how citizens and municipal officials imagine new urban futures when the possibility for population and economic growth has been curtailed. This is not a project about ruination, degradation, or the recuperation of abandoned things, so much as it is about the way that the durability of certain material structures—as well as a perceived entanglement between material and social structures—forces those who encounter them to reckon with questions of temporality, responsibility, and citizenship. Of her experience as a Heyman Center Fellow, Fox writes, “Being able to meet regularly with a community of engaging, kind, and supportive scholars provided an invaluable outlet for intellectual exchange. I also feel particularly lucky that, as a graduate student, I was able to get to know a wide variety of junior scholars who could act as role models for how I hope to shape my career when I finish my PhD in 2018.” Fox used part of her Heyman Center research budget to travel to Berlin, where she visited the national archives and Brandenburg state archives.

Ulug Kuzuoglu
History

Ulug Kuzuoglu’s dissertation explores the global history of Chinese script reforms from the 1890s to the 1980s. During this period, Chinese intellectuals identified the Chinese logographic writing system as the primary reason for backwardness, and re-engineered it to fit the demands of the modern information age. Kuzuoglu argues that Chinese script reform was part of a global history of knowledge economy, in which the management and optimization of clerical and mental labor through innovations in writing technologies were key concerns for modernizing economies. Examining Chinese as well as Russian, American, and Turkic scientists who were instrumental in giving a final shape to the Chinese script, his dissertation interrogates the historical interface between humans and information technologies. During his tenure as a Heyman Center Fellow, he was able to draft two more dissertation chapters, titled “Late-Qing Singularity: Telegraphic Wires, Phonetic Scripts, and Cerebral Consciousness in China”
It argues that as dance circulates between such media, it helps to emblematize broad forms of social upheaval characterized by motional effects, for example the migration of people and the spread of religious beliefs. During the Heyman Center Fellowship, the Fellows read Williams’s fourth chapter, which centers on the role of dance in the political factions that spanned the British Civil War and the 1688 Revolution. Questions and comments from other Fellows helped him attend especially to the geographical dimension of the project, and also to get a sense of how the material would read for scholars who do not specialize in dance. As a result of the Heyman Center’s financial support, Williams was able to present work from this project at two conferences: the Shakespeare Association of America and the Dance Studies Association, both of which provided further opportunities for feedback. He also used funds from the fellowship to expand his library and acquire standard reference works in his field. These books are now in Williams’s office across the street at Barnard where he accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Dance.

Seth Williams
English

“Virtual Motion: Dance and Mobility in Early Modern English Literature,” Seth Williams’s dissertation manuscript, asks how early modern literature may be apprehended as a choreographic medium. It treats dance as aesthetic patterns of movement that span a range of virtual and actual spaces, from the imagination of readers to specific material and textual phenomena, which include the human body most consequentially, but also scripts and libretti, moving scenery, engravings, and manuscript miscellanies.
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