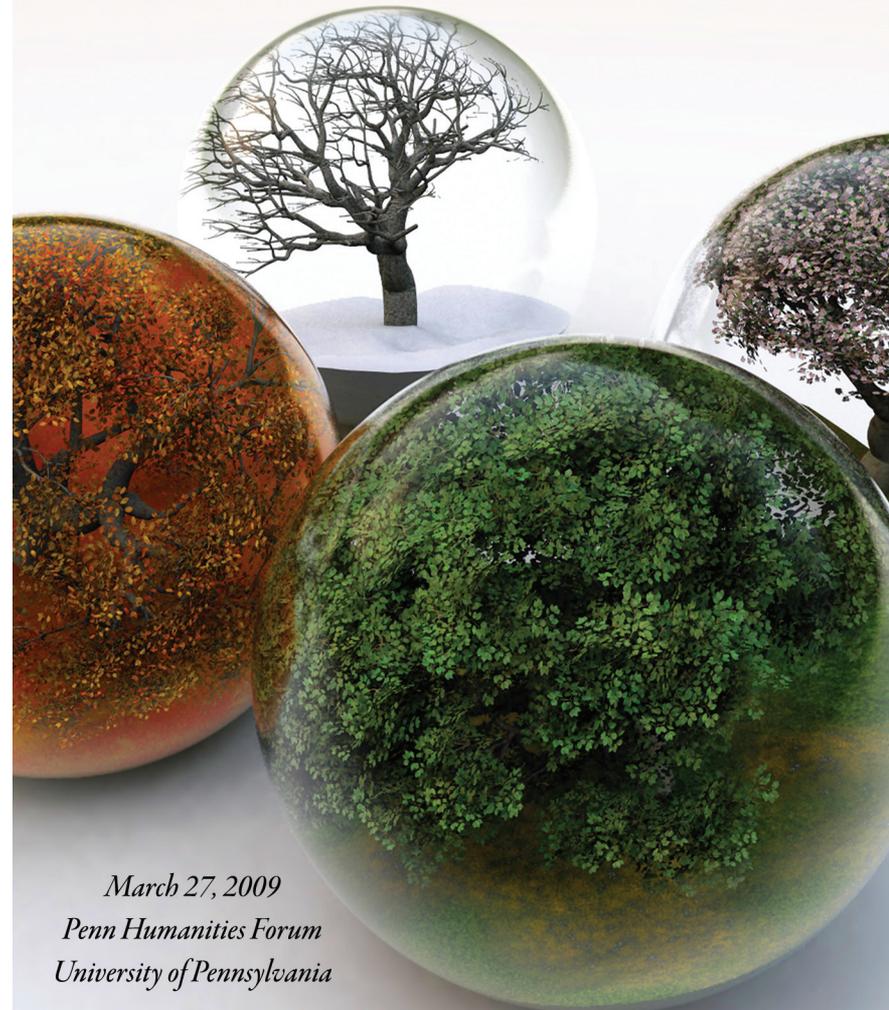


UNDERGRADUATE HUMANITIES FORUM

Tenth Annual Research Conference

CHANGE



March 27, 2009
Penn Humanities Forum
University of Pennsylvania



3619 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6213
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DAVID REINECKE
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DANIEL ROSS**
PHILIP SHECTER*
SERENA STEIN
NOAH WEISS
TALI YAHALOM
JESSICA YU

UNDERGRADUATE HUMANITIES FORUM

◆ Coordinating Research Fellow ◆ Steering Committee

Tenth Annual
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PENN HUMANITIES FORUM
UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA

The Penn Humanities Forum gratefully acknowledges the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

WELCOME

PENN HUMANITIES FORUM

Established in 1999, the Penn Humanities Forum is charged with taking a fresh look at ideas that touch on the human experience. The Forum's goal is to introduce humanistic perspectives to the sciences, professions, and public, and to bring ideas, long confined to the ivory tower, into popular discourse. Addressing a different topic each year, the Forum offers an integrated program of research, teaching, and outreach, inviting students, scholars, the cultural community, and the general public to discover common ground.

Through its Undergraduate Humanities Forum, PHF offers annual fellowships for Penn students interested in conducting independent research outside the classroom on some aspect of PHF's yearly topic, which in 2008–2009 is Change.

On behalf of the Undergraduate Humanities Forum and the University of Pennsylvania, I am pleased to welcome you to our tenth annual conference, entitled "Change."

Founded in 2000, the Undergraduate Humanities Forum provides financial, communal, and scholarly support for a group of Penn undergraduates conducting research in the many fields of the humanities. This year's topic, Change, has brought together students studying subjects running the gamut from the 1994 Republican Revolution to the handover of Hong Kong to the narratives of African refugees living in Philadelphia. We meet every other week to discuss the status of our work, to develop new research tools, and to engage in enrichment activities such as field trips and outside lectures.

All of this would be impossible without the help of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Penn Humanities Forum (PHF), and the generous financial support they provide for this conference and all of our other events.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Prof. Wendy Steiner, PHF's Founding Director; to Prof. Peter Struck, this year's Topic Director and our keynote speaker; and to Chris Hunter, PHF's Research Assistant and Chair of the Graduate Humanities Forum.

Special thanks go out to Dr. Christina Cogdell, one of PHF's Mellon Postdoctoral Fellows, for her astonishing and shocking talk on genetic architecture.

I am deeply grateful to my colleagues Phil Shecter and Chloé Hurley, members of the UHF Steering Committee, for their tireless and patient commitment to making this year's Undergraduate Humanities Forum a success. Phil must also be recognized for the wonderful job he did designing the cover of this year's program. Prof. Catriona MacLeod, our faculty advisor, is without equal for her calm insight and bright presence.

Lastly, I must recognize the two stars of the second floor of 3619 Locust Walk. Many thanks to Jennifer Conway, PHF's Associate Director, for her wisdom and guidance, and to Sara Varney, PHF's Administrative Coordinator, without whom this coordinating fellow would have been unable to coordinate much of anything. Thank you both so much.

I hope that you all enjoy the conference as much as we enjoyed preparing for it.

Dan Ross
Coordinating Fellow
Undergraduate Humanities Forum

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Undergraduate Humanities Forum Fellows thank the following Penn faculty, administrators, and friends for their immeasurable guidance and support throughout the year:

Debra Bowen	Trevor Pinch
Linda Chance	John Pollack
Christina Cogdell	Timothy Powell
Jennifer Conway	Daniel Raff
Andrew Dalzell	Barbara Savage
Frederick Dickinson	Rogers Smith
Emily Dolan	Peter Stallybrass
Lee Eisenberg	Wendy Steiner
David Eisenhower	Kristen Stromberg Childers
Sarah Gordon	Peter Struck
Sheldon Hackney	Thomas Sugrue
Stephanie Harzewski	KC Tan
Paul Hendrickson	Margot Todd
Chris Hunter	John Tresch
Sarah Igo	Leonard Tso
Bruce Kuklick	Nicole Myers Turner
Heather Love	Sara Varney
Catriona MacLeod	Sue Weber
Jamie Massarelli	Liliane Weissberg
Kathy Peiss	Beth Wenger

We also thank the following people for their role as conference respondents:

Larissa Brewer-Garcia	Catriona MacLeod
Deirdre Loughridge	Mara Mills
Greta Lynn	Nick Theis

PROGRAM

8:45–9:00: Registration and Coffee

9:00–9:15a: Welcome

Catriona MacLeod, Faculty Advisor, UHF, and Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures

9:15–10:50a: EMERGING, SHIFTING, SHAPING: IDENTITY

Respondent: Professor Catriona MacLeod

Abby Brisbon, College '09, History

Good Hair, Bad Hair: African-American Hair Relations in the Early Twentieth Century

Benjamin Fletcher, College '09, English

Increasing Awareness for the Indigenous in the 21st Century

Elizabeth Raposa, College '10, Comp Lit, Psychology

Serena Stein, College '09, Anthropology, Comp Lit

Trauma and Metamorphosis: The Narratives of African Refugees in Philadelphia (Joint Project)

Daniel Ross, College '09, History; Science, Technology, and Society

Jew Like Me: An Oral History of Congregation Temple Bethel, a Black Synagogue in the West Oak Lane Neighborhood of Philadelphia

10:50–11:05a: Break

11:05a–12:30p: POST-

Respondent: Nick Theis, Ph.D. student, Germanic Languages and Literatures

Chloé Hurley, College '09, History

The Passed and the President: Presidential Obituaries

Philip Shecter, College '09, English

The Angel of History: Rituals of Recovery in Post-9/11 Fiction

Jessica Yu, College '10, English

Up in Smoke: The Afterlife of America's Industrial Beacon

12:30–1:00p: Lunch

1:00–2:15p: WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

Respondent: Larissa Brewer-Garcia, Ph.D. student, Romance Languages

Nina Johnson, College '09, Philosophy

Citizenship and Nationality in a Globalizing World

Kojo Minta, College '09, European History, Classical Studies, Religious Studies

The Aesthetic of the Ascetic

Tali Yahalom, College '09, History

Roman Holidays: The Role of Publicity in Criminal Trials

2:15–3:30p: BREAKING OF (ID)

Respondent: Deirdre Loughridge, Ph.D. student, Music

Siobhan Atkins, College '09, History

The American Student Power Movement of the 1960s

Sarah Gibbons, College '09, History

The Savings and Loan Crisis: A Morality Play of Modern American Finance

Noah Weiss, College '09, History

"A campaign promise is one thing, a signed pledge is quite another." A Political History of the 1994 Republican Revolution

3:30–3:45p: Break

3:45–5:00p: NEAR, FAR, AND SOUTH: CHANGES IN THE EAST

Respondent: Greta Lynn, Ph.D. student, English

Yuen Kit (Jacky) Chau, College '10, Philosophy, Politics, Economics/Finance

Hong Kong: Ten Years Since the Handover

Nicole CuUnjieng, College '09, History

The Regime of Ferdinand Marcos and the Role of the Supreme Court of the Philippines

Naomi Rosenblatt, College '09, History

Oil and the Eastern Front: US Foreign and Military Policy in Iran, 1941-1945

5:00–6:15p: "ASSEMBLING AN ALARM CLOCK TO ROUSE THE KITSCH OF THE PREVIOUS CENTURY:" COLLECTING THROUGHOUT THE AGES

Respondent: Mara Mills, Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, History and Sociology of Science

Lizzie Frasco, College '09, Art History, Visual Studies

Non-Traditional Methods for Non-Traditional Art: Conserving Art in the 20th Century

Brooke Palmieri, College '09, English, History

Impudence to Copy: The Relation Between Print Culture and the Manuscripts of Francis Daniel Pastorius

David Reinecke, College '09, Science, Technology, and Society

Technostalgia: How Old Gear Lives on in New Music

ABSTRACTS

SIOBHAN ATKINS

COLLEGE '09, HISTORY

The American Student Power Movement of the 1960s

The "student power" movement of the 1960s in America was characterized by a push for curricular reform, academic freedom, and a greater student and faculty role in decision making at universities across the nation. Not only was the movement widespread—virtually no university remained untouched—but it also resulted in tangible reforms, many of which remain to this day. What hopes and concerns did America's youth have towards their society at the dawn of the postindustrial era? How did school administrators, parents, and intellectuals react? And what do these findings reveal about the generational conflicts at the heart of student dissent of the 1960s?

ABBY BRISBON

COLLEGE '09, HISTORY

Good Hair, Bad Hair: African-American Hair Relations in the Early Twentieth Century

Why an African-American woman chooses to do her hair in any particular style embodies a complex history of an evolving relationship with acceptable standards of beauty, both within the community and as part of the larger society. This project will examine that evolution from the opening of Madame CJ Walker's business in 1905 through the Great Depression. What do cultural expressions such as advertisements, literature, and art say about how African-American women might have internalized the beauty standards that were placed upon them, and how did their ideas about hair evolve over the first part of the century?

YUEN KIT (JACKY) CHAU

COLLEGE '10, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, ECONOMICS/FINANCE

Hong Kong: Ten Years Since the Handover

On July 1, 1997, China resumed its sovereignty over Hong Kong. In 1984, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping proposed an intriguing idea that Hong Kong could continue to operate under its capitalist system and lifestyle for 50 years, a policy that was later adopted in the Basic Law of Hong Kong. Now more than ten years have passed since the handover. What are some of the major social, economic, and political changes that have occurred in Hong Kong since 1997? In particular, the study will look at the tensions between forces of convergence and divergence in Hong Kong over the period.

NICOLE CUUNJIENG

COLLEGE '09, HISTORY

The Regime of Ferdinand Marcos and the Role of the Supreme Court of the Philippines

My research centers on the Philippine political tradition and contextualizing President Ferdinand Marcos's 1972-1986 dictatorship within that perspective. I wish to intervene

within the existing academic debate on the nature of this tradition. Challenging the established scholarship, which presents Marcos's regime as the anomaly of the Philippine patronage system, I instead argue that Marcos is the perverse apotheosis of the system. I wish to argue that Marcos embodies all the ills already present in Philippine politics and merely brings them to their extreme conclusion. More recent scholars have also championed this reading and I wish to further develop the argument by examining the legitimizing role that the judiciary played in this history.

BENJAMIN FLETCHER
COLLEGE '09, ENGLISH

Increasing Awareness for the Indigenous in the 21st Century

This study is part of a larger project entitled "Ben Franklin and the Lenape Indians," underway at the Smithsonian Library of Congress maps section, whose purpose is to locate colonial maps of Pennsylvania that depict Lenape villages and place names. Historically, the Lenape are one of the most important tribes of the Eastern US, yet neither the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania nor the federal government recognizes them. Through the use of digital technology—videos of the Lenape's current Chief Bob Redhawk Ruth, tribal archival records and oral history, as well as historical documents and maps—I hope to clearly identify the Lenape as an integral part of Pennsylvania's cultural history.

LIZZIE FRASCO
COLLEGE '09, ART HISTORY, VISUAL STUDIES

Non-Traditional Methods for Non-Traditional Art: Conserving Art in the 20th Century

Art conservation as a practice of preventing change in a useful way has recently begun to change with the more ephemeral nature of the material that increasingly characterizes late 20th-century art. Today's neon lights, foil, newspaper, synthetic paints, soil, glue, and Magic Marker have not been tested for durability or chemical stability. Their uneven and unpredictable rate of degradation further complicates their analysis and evaluation during conservation. What are the current technical, historical, and ethical challenges in contemporary art conservation, and what do they tell us about the chances for the long-term survival of this art?

SARA GIBBONS
COLLEGE '09, HISTORY

The Savings and Loan Crisis: A Morality Play of Modern American Finance

Owning your own home is often considered as big a part of American life as voting or apple pie. But who or what created this culture of home ownership, and has it always been beneficial to America's economy and citizens as a whole? I will explore the encouragement of home ownership by the U.S. government and how it has led to economic catastrophe for America in the form of the Savings and Loan Crisis of the late 1980s. I will trace the government-sown culture of home ownership beginning with the

New Deal, explore historical motives and reasoning for this mission, and explain in an historical context how this culture led to, and worsened, the Savings and Loan Crisis.

CHLOÉ HURLEY
COLLEGE '09, HISTORY

The Passed and the President: Presidential Obituaries

Although tradition dictates that in eulogizing the dead, we turn ordinary qualities into great virtues and minimize the flawed or banal, the presidential obituary is more complex than it may appear. How the death of a president is presented to the public has a far greater impact on later perceptions of that president than does any coverage during his administration. Using the obituary as an entrance point, this study is an investigation not just into presidential legacies, but into how a president is characterized at the moment of death, and whether that characterization can thereafter be redrawn.

NINA JOHNSON
COLLEGE '09, PHILOSOPHY

Citizenship and Nationality in a Globalizing World

Liberalism, as a philosophical doctrine, is based on the idea that individuals matter. Individuals set fundamental ends that they believe to be valuable and then revise and pursue those ends in the real world. Where a person is born can have a profound effect on the ends that a person sets and the means with which they examine and realize them. Given that people do not choose the nation in which they are born, nationality seems arbitrary from the moral point of view. This paper examines nationality and what it means to be a member of a national community, in an effort to show that the experience of being raised in such a community 'marks' individuals in a way that is normatively significant. Ultimately, I argue that the fact that individuals are bounded to particular nations changes the way in which we should look at them from the perspective of justice.

KOJO MINTA
COLLEGE '09, EUROPEAN HISTORY, CLASSICAL STUDIES, RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Aesthetic of the Ascetic

This study of the casuistry of William Perkins (in particular, his Cases of Conscience) attempts to reconcile differing contemporary representations of the puritan tradition, which consider whether puritan doctrine produced comfort or despair. Puritan divines acknowledged that despair was a serious concern among their flock. Yet in Reformation theology, the doctrine of election was viewed as providing uncommon comfort to the believer. Perkins' casuistry allows us to understand that puritan divines believed the doctrines they espoused represented comfort. Paradoxically, however, they also realized that the more developed the conscience, the more likely one might realize more fully the wretchedness of one's sin and thus fall into despair. The casuistry of Perkins suggests a conscious, concerted effort by Elizabethan divines in the 1590s both to preempt and to treat a specific malady—despair—among the godly.

BROOKE PALMIERI
COLLEGE '08, ENGLISH, HISTORY

Impudence to Copy: The Relation Between Print Culture and the Manuscripts of Francis Daniel Pastorius

In 1683, Francis Daniel Pastorius (1651-1719), a German-born Quaker and well-trained Lawyer, arrived with the first German settlement to found Germantown, under a charter given him by William Penn. By 1696 Pastorius began the most ambitious of his works, “Beehive”, a massive folio comprising thousands of entries quoting hundreds of books he had read. But Pastorius’s concerns with the collection of knowledge at the book’s conception had assumed, according to him, “quite an other form or face” by the time the book had doubled in size at the end of his life; a change reflected in the books he gathered commonplaces from, and the system of organization he developed in order that each collected work could be recollected with ease and efficiency.

Joint project

ELIZABETH RAPOSA
COLLEGE '10, COMP LIT, PSYCHOLOGY

SERENA STEIN
COLLEGE '09, ANTHROPOLOGY, COMP LIT

Trauma and Metamorphosis: The Narratives of African Refugees in Philadelphia

Beyond the terror and trauma of conflict, adolescent refugees face many challenges when adapting to critical lifestyle changes in a new country, grappling with destabilized notions of self and world. This project draws on in-depth interviews and the literature of refugee narratives to explore issues of individual identity, as well as shared patterns of experience among young adult refugees currently living in West Philadelphia. Exposure to violence and trauma organizes thought along dichotomies of past and present, homeland and country, and prior and possible selves. We engage the ways that traumatic events are narrated and incorporated into the sense of self, how refugee collectives are organized and interpreted, and, how exile and relocation constitute a transformative event.

DAVID REINECKE
COLLEGE, '09, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

Technostalgia: How Old Gear Lives on in New Music

Working from a series of interviews with musicians, dealers, and collectors over the past three semesters in collaboration with Professor Trevor Pinch (Cornell), this study explores the current major revival in vintage music equipment. For the past 20 years, vintage gear has become a much sought after commodity, fetching extraordinary prices on the second-hand market. Jumping on the bandwagon, companies have begun to reissue and imitate their own earlier designs, and new software companies have taken to emulating audio equipment from the past. Far from being obsolete, vintage music technologies have new utility.

NAOMI ROSENBLATT
COLLEGE '09, HISTORY

Oil and the Eastern Front: US Foreign and Military Policy in Iran, 1941-1945

During World War II, the United States established a military presence in Iran that marked a dramatic change in U.S. involvement in the Middle East. Unlike earlier centuries when Americans traveled to the Middle East primarily as missionaries, merchants, and pilgrims, during WWII, the U.S. government began to establish deep political and economic ties to the region. How did U.S. foreign policy towards Iran develop within the context of a global war? What tensions developed between the State Department’s long-term diplomatic goals and the War Department’s urgent short-term military aims? In short, how did the United States balance its own competing interests in Iran: ensuring a speedy victory at minimal human and financial cost, while knowing that its military efforts could very well disrupt its long-term diplomatic interests.

DANIEL ROSS
COLLEGE '09, HISTORY; SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

Jew Like Me: An Oral History of Congregation Temple Bethel, a Black Synagogue in the West Oak Lane Neighborhood of Philadelphia

Congregation Temple Bethel is a 58 year-old Black synagogue in the West Oak Lane neighborhood of Philadelphia. It began as a prayer group in the living room of founder, Rabbi Louise Elizabeth Dailey, and is today a thriving Jewish community. Mother Dailey died in 2001, but she was succeeded by her daughter, Rabbi Debra Bowen, who shares, along with several older members of the congregation, memories of the synagogue’s earliest days. Theirs is a story that deserves telling, in the form of this oral history. The American Jewish community is considered whitewashed, yet a survey of the American Jewish universe increasingly uncovers a constellation of ethnic, class, and social backgrounds. This project is about the changing face of American Judaism, and the emerging identities behind it.

PHILIP SHECTER
COLLEGE '09, ENGLISH

The Angel of History: Rituals of Recovery in Post-9/11 Fiction

In his *Theses on the Philosophy of History*, Walter Benjamin writes of “the angel of history” that it “would like to stay, awaken the dead, and make whole what has been smashed.” Carolyn Forché adopted the phrase, half a century later, as the title for her third collection of poems - a meditation on memory and survival in the context of twentieth-century atrocities. Now, more than two decades on, the angel of history has re-emerged. In the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001, novelists have attempted to use fiction as a means of rehabilitating a world stuck in a state of post-trauma. This presentation evaluates various conventions contemporary writers have implemented as rituals of recovery.

NOAH WEISS

COLLEGE '09, HISTORY

“A campaign promise is one thing, a signed pledge is quite another:” A Political History of the 1994 Republican Revolution

January 4, 1995, signaled a momentous change in American politics as Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-MO) handed the gavel of the House of Representatives to the newly elected Speaker of the House, Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA). For the first time in four decades, Republicans constituted a majority of the House. This research examines the 1994 U.S. midterm elections, the so-called Republican Revolution, in which 54 seats changed hands. Was the Republican landslide truly a revolution? And, was it fundamentally a triumph of ideas or of partisan politics? To answer these questions, I will examine Republican strategy, the formulation of the “Contract with America,” the Democratic Party’s response, the Contract’s legislative implementation, and finally the stalling of the Revolution with the government shutdowns of 1995–1996.

TALI YAHALOM

COLLEGE '09, HISTORY

Roman Holidays: The Role of Publicity in Criminal Trials

The media sensationalized the 1954 trial of Sam Sheppard (accused of murdering his wife), his acquittal, and post-prison years. The intense coverage set journalistic and legal precedents, motivating various judges to address, in legal terms, the media’s role during pretrial investigations and courtroom proceedings. This thesis uses newspapers, magazines and court opinions to explore the extent of the media blitz, and addresses the question of whether the press compromised justice. This thesis also examines the case’s continuing relevance: Why was this particular case so popular? Why did the public react with a collective desire to convict Sheppard? As an indelible presence in American public memory, how did the case change the legality and culture of trial coverage in the US? The recurring presence of the trial in publicity-related cases today highlights the irreconcilable tension between a public’s right to a free press and a defendant’s right to a fair and speedy trial.

JESSICA YU

COLLEGE '10, ENGLISH

Up in Smoke: The Afterlife of America’s Industrial Beacon

The clock is ticking for smokestacks in America. For the relics of 20th century industry, the transition to softer commerce has penned dates for their destruction. Hundreds of people attend festivals to witness the explosions and artists capture on canvas the moments when Worcester, MA, and Bethlehem, PA, bid farewell to a bygone era. Smokestacks, once an icon of economic progress, are now an ironic symbol in present-day deindustrialization. As Rust Belt cities dispel their manufacturing identities, what are they transitioning into and which relationships are being replaced?