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NINTH ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE HUMANITIES FORUM CONFERENCE

ORIGINS

March 28, 2008
Penn Humanities Forum
University of Pennsylvania

2007-2008 PHF MELLON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWS

PRIYA AGARWAL

RAJIV BHAGAT

LI CHEN

JANET COMENOS

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JORDAN GREENWALD*

ALICE HICKEY

JASON NAGATA

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DAVID RIMOCH

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MARCH 28, 2008

3619 LOCUST WALK
PENN HUMANITIES FORUM
UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Jennifer Conway, Associate Director, Penn Humanities Forum
Leslie Delauter, Director, College Houses & Academic Services
Mark Liberman, Faculty Director, College Houses & Academic Services
Catriona MacLeod, Faculty Advisor, Undergraduate Humanities Forum
Erik Mathisen, Chair, Graduate Humanities Forum
Wendy Steiner, Director, Penn Humanities Forum
Gary Tomlinson, Acting Director, Penn Humanities Forum
Sara Varney, Administrative Coordinator, Penn Humanities Forum

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Jo Cohen	Claire Taylor Jones
Cassie Good	John Tresch
Mamie Guidera	Claudia Valeggia
Adrian Khactu	Arthur Waldron
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John Pollack	

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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 approximately twenty fellowships each year for Penn students interested in conducting independent research outside the classroom on some aspect of PHF's yearly topic, which in 2007–2008 is Origins.

PROGRAM

8:30–9:00: Registration and Breakfast

9:00–9:10a: Welcome

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

9:15–10:50a: CULTURE AND CONSUMPTION

Chair: Catriona MacLeod

Sheira Feuerstein, College '08, English

Selling Shakespeare: Hamlet's Spectacle and Star in Nineteenth Century Playbills

Jordan Greenwald, College '08, Comparative Literature, French

Picturing Desire: The Sexual/Textual Revisions of Dorian Gray

Jason Nagata, College '08, Health & Societies, Biological Basis of Behavior

Beliefs, Practices, and Sanitation of Food and Health in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala

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

How Do Musicians Stay in Time Together? Problems of Coordination and Rhythm in the Origins of Techno and House Music

10:50–11:05a: Break

11:05a–12:40p: THE STATE

Chair: Adrian Khactu, Graduate Humanities Forum and PhD Candidate, English

Li Chen, College and Wharton '09, East Asian Studies, Finance

The Correlation between the Rise of Early Modern Japanese Nationalism in the Tokugawa Period and the Dynastic Change in China in the Seventeenth Century

Rachel Omansky, College '08, European History

The Sixteenth-Century Origins of Scottish National Identity: Kirk, Queen, Feud and Factionalism and the 1565 Chaseabout Raid

David Rimoch, College '08, Intellectual History

The Affair or the State: Intellectuals, the Press, and the Dreyfus Affair

Curtis Roche, College '08, Classical Studies

The Trial of Socrates

12:40–1:20p: Lunch

1:20–2:35p: NARRATIVES AND THE SELF

Chair: Claire Taylor Jones, Graduate Humanities Forum and PhD Candidate, Comparative Literature and Literary Theory

Alicia Puglionesi, College '09, English, Cognitive Science

A Troublesome Speck: Crises of Selfhood in 19th-Century Autobiography

Jason Saunders, College, '09, History, Africana Studies

"On Broken Bodies and Lost Souls": Desire and the Ethics of Black (Male) (A)historicity

Alice Hickey, College '08, Diplomatic History

The Life of an Ambulance Driver and the Historiography of War Letters: Letters from William A. Rich, Volunteer, American Field Service, 1942-1945

2:35–2:50p: Break

2:50–3:45p: STRATEGY IN WAR

Chair: Joseph Benatov, GHF Research Assistant and PhD Candidate, Comparative Literature & Literary Theory

Melissa Teixeira, College '08, Economics, Economic History

Caught on the Periphery: Portuguese Neutrality during World War II and Anglo-American Negotiations with Salazar

Samuel (Ari) Wisch, College '08, Diplomatic History

Orde Wingate, the Special Night Squads, and Israeli Counterinsurgency

3:45–4:00p: Break

4:00–5:15p: TENSIONS AND UNITY

Chair: Catriona MacLeod

Priya Agarwal, College '08, Diplomatic History, Economics

Forgetting the Violence, Remembering a Report: The Paradox of the 1931 Kanpur Riots

Rajiv Bhagat, College '09, South Asia Studies, English

Origins of Hindu-Muslim Communal Antagonism and Harmony in Gujarat, India

Serena Stein, College '09, Anthropology, Comparative Literature

Writing Specificity, Writing Indigeneity: Contemporary Latin American Indigenous Poets, Public Intellectualism and Ethnogenesis

ABSTRACTS

PRIYA AGARWAL

COLLEGE '08, DIPLOMATIC HISTORY, ECONOMICS

Forgetting the Violence, Remembering a Report: The Paradox of the 1931 Kanpur Riots

This thesis explores the paradox between the events of the Kanpur Riots and the Kanpur Riot Commission Report, written in its aftermath. While the former is regarded as another example of Hindu-Muslim strife in the twentieth century, the latter has become a lionized text in nationalist historiography. I argue that the significance of the report is bound up in the Kanpur Riots. The riot participants were the subject and audience of the report, and the authors of the Kanpur Riot Commission Report used them to create a framework for understanding Indian history that continues to be invoked today.

RAJIV BHAGAT

COLLEGE '09, SOUTH ASIA STUDIES, ENGLISH

Origins of Hindu-Muslim Communal Antagonism and Harmony in Gujarat, India

The 2002 riots in my family's state of Gujarat were not the origins, but merely the culminations of Hindu-Muslim Communalism that had plagued the state for several hundred years, far before partition in 1947. In my research, I focus in part on investigating the origins of this Hindu-Muslim community antagonism in the history of Gujarat, examining in detail the first recorded communal riot in the city of Ahmedabad in 1713. I also look, however, into the origins of Hindu-Muslim community peaceful coexistence in the history of Gujarat, as captured through local folk culture and literature. In concluding, I explore ways to adapt my historical research into poetry that could be integrated into my high school peace education program in the city of Rajkot in Gujarat, to help Hindu and Muslim city youth better comprehend and address the current deteriorating relations through the lens of the pre-independence past.

LI CHEN

COLLEGE AND WHARTON '09, EAST ASIAN STUDIES, FINANCE

The Correlation between the Rise of Early Modern Japanese Nationalism in the Tokugawa Period and the Dynastic Change in China in 17th Century

Most historians consider Japan and Japanese culture developing along a totally independent track against that of the Asian mainland and especially China, after the Heian period (794 C.E.–1185 C.E.). They think the Japanese then began to shift their attitude toward China and Chinese culture from unconditionally assimilating to conditionally adopting, and to gradually nurturing and accumulating their own culture and tradition. Accordingly, many argue that the subsequent Chinese dynasties and her tributary states then made less and less impact on Japan and her society in the recent millennium; Japan would often tend to stay indifferently away from the movement and conflict in mainland Asia. Particularly during the Tokugawa period, a period considered

by historians as the most isolated time in Japanese history, even though some dramatic dynastic change took place in China and East Asia. In fact, this conventional wisdom is questionable. Much evidence actually suggests that there should be another point of view regarding the history of relations between Japan and the continent. Therefore, this thesis considers how the real impact of political and social change in China and mainland Asia led to the change of political and philosophical thoughts in Japan; and how that helped to nurture the rise of early modern Japanese nationalism, particularly during the early Tokugawa period. While my main focus is on politics and culture, other miscellaneous aspects, such as trade, are also discussed.

SHEIRA FEUERSTEIN

COLLEGE '08, ENGLISH

Selling Shakespeare: Hamlet's Spectacle and Star in Nineteenth-Century Playbills

Formative in the deviation of Shakespeare in text from Shakespeare in performance, nineteenth-century promptbooks of *Hamlet* reveal cuts, alterations and added stage directions that dramatically alter the quartos and first folio. The playbills for performances of *Hamlet* associated with these promptbooks reflect similar themes, advertising star actors, benefactors, scenery and music and of the pantomimes and melodramas performed alongside *Hamlet*. Commensurate with the undermining of Shakespeare's name in nineteenth-century promptbooks, his name and authorship are marginalized in playbills to make room for the advertisement of the spectacle created for each specific production.

JORDAN GREENWALD

COLLEGE '08, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, FRENCH

Picturing Desire: The Sexual/Textual Revisions of Dorian Gray

From the manuscript, to the *Lippincott's* edition, to its final book form (published in 1891), Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* was subjected to a painstaking process: the systematic erasure of its more-or-less explicit homoerotic language. By studying these revisions, one also observes the manipulation and disruption of certain strategically placed silences. Although, as Wilde once stated, "[w]hat Dorian Gray's sins are no one knows," the reader nonetheless gains an epistemological foothold in the later edition of the text. My paper performs two important tasks: analyzing the new knowledge provided in the 1891 edition, and tracing the contours of the silence that exists in its stead in the original. By doing so, we gain a glimpse into the way that gay sexuality is (dis)articulated in the context of *fin-de-siècle* consumerism, channeled through the figure of the dandy.

ALICE HICKEY

COLLEGE '08, DIPLOMATIC HISTORY

The Life of an Ambulance Driver and the Historiography of War Letters: Letters from William A. Rich, Volunteer, American Field Service, 1942-1945

Letters give historians a fascinating and unmediated glimpse into the minds of historical persons, famous and unknown. War letters, however, present a number of

historiographical problems along with their wealth of information. The reconstruction of a complete, cohesive narrative from war letters alone is nearly impossible because of censorship and the lack of historical perspective. From the years 1942 to 1945, William A. Rich, a volunteer ambulance driver with the American Field Service, wrote a vast collection of letters home, detailing his experiences in the Middle East, North Africa, Italy, France, Germany and India. He corresponded with his family and girlfriend biweekly about his experiences and opinions, resulting in a collection of more than 300 letters. From these letters, supplemented by additional archival sources, a story emerges. Rich's story explains the complexity of life as a non-combatant on the frontlines of a total war.

JASON NAGATA

COLLEGE '08, HEALTH & SOCIETIES, BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF BEHAVIOR

Beliefs, Practices, and Sanitation of Food and Health in Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala

How do the Tz'tujil Maya of Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala, associate food with health? Knowing the underlying beliefs that inform practices related to food preparation can help us better understand the culture of the Tz'tujil Maya. Through participant observation from March 2–11 and 50 semi-structured interviews in June through July, 2007, I specifically examine infant malnutrition causes, breastfeeding beliefs and practices, drinking water, and “Coca-Colonization,” the phenomenon in which nutrient-poor processed foods and drinks such as Coca Cola are introduced into people's diets, leading to new health problems in the region.

RACHEL OMANSKY

COLLEGE '08, EUROPEAN HISTORY

The Sixteenth-Century Origins of Scottish National Identity: Kirk, Queen, Feud and Factionalism and the 1565 Chaseabout Raid

The mid-sixteenth century witnessed religious and political upheaval across much of Western Europe, particularly in the British Isles. In 1565, a good portion of the Scottish nobility rebelled against their sovereign, Mary, Queen of Scots. The roles played and decisions made by the nobles during this revolt, known as the Chaseabout Raid, provide important insights concerning the converging issues of feuding, factionalism, and religion in Scotland. My reconstructed narrative of the Chaseabout Raid indicates that there were, in fact, no firm factions determined by ideology, but rather shifting allegiances in the midst of conflict, determined by complex and interrelated factors, personalities, and motivations. The primary motivation for the coalitions formed during the Chaseabout Raid was selfish personal ambition—base desire for individual gain still superseded any proto-nationalistic ideas or purely ideological commitments. Using this incident, I offer new conclusions regarding the origins of the Scottish kirk and national identity, the rise of the modern notions of loyalty and allegiance, and the construction of the modern Scottish state.

ALICIA PUGLIONESI

COLLEGE '09, ENGLISH, COGNITIVE SCIENCE

A Troublesome Speck: Crises of Selfhood in 19th-Century Autobiography

The very act of writing entails a question: “Who am I, the writer?” Following on its tail are a slew of other conundrums: “What made me who I am?” “How do I want to represent myself?” and, of great interest to philosophers and self-help gurus alike, “Can I change?” This project explores the status of the self-concept as represented in 19th century autobiography and memoir, using accounts such as the *Autobiography of John Stuart Mill* and Thomas de Quincey's *Diary of an Opium Eater* to reevaluate conventional narratives of Romantic self-formation. How did authors answer the question of their own intellectual origins, and how did their answers reflect the same insecurities that pervade modern attempts to constitute a unique “self”?

DAVID REINECKE

COLLEGE '09, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & SOCIETY

How Do Musicians Stay in Time Together? Problems of Coordination and Rhythm in the Origins of Techno and House Music

One of the most immediately recognizable features of techno and house music is its repetitious beat, a steady metronomic pulse that drives the music forward. This research asks how and why this became the norm, that through an exploration of both the human actors and the non-human technologies that produced the genres we know today as techno and house music. In particular, I focus on how musicians stayed in time with each other first through the disciplining of the body and then later through the gradual introduction of time-structuring technologies such as the drum machine and sequencer. Only when these two separate means of staying in time come together do we see the emergence of techno and house.

DAVID RIMOCH

COLLEGE '08, INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

The Affair or the State: Intellectuals, the Press, and the Dreyfus Affair

The Dreyfus Affair was a catalyst for the political differences that dominated nineteenth-century Europe. For the Dreyfusards, the State had to stand as the enforcer of individual rights. Its legitimacy came from a humanitarian tradition dating back to the Declaration of the Rights of Man. The anti-Dreyfusard camp, on the other hand, found its legitimacy in the notion of general interests far and above the individual's plight for particulars. In this vision, the State embodied a higher will concerned with maintaining the integrity and respectability of its institutions. This thesis argues that the only way to fully understand his debate is to situate it within a conflict between modernity and premodernity.

CURTIS ROCHE

COLLEGE '08, CLASSICAL STUDIES

The Trial of Socrates

In 399 BCE, Socrates was tried and executed by the Athenian democracy on charges of impiety, atheism and corrupting the youth. Since then, Socrates has largely become a secular saint in the Western tradition, a symbol of intellectual freedom and warranted civil disobedience. A close examination of contemporary evidence, however, greatly problematizes this vision of Socrates as an idealized philosopher. Our first source on Socrates is a comedic drama written by Aristophanes, a playwright known both for his scurrilous humor and mordant satirical insights. Aristophanes depicts Socrates as more of a fool than philosopher, a man too engrossed in arcane studies to realize the essential nihilism of his teachings and the dangers they posed to the democratic government. Were Socrates' detractors correct to criticize him, or did he die a martyr's death in name of philosophy? What can the trial of Socrates tell us about the tension between individual rights and the demands of the state?

JASON SAUNDERS

COLLEGE, '09, HISTORY, AFRICANA STUDIES

"On Broken Bodies and Lost Souls": Desire and the Ethics of Black (Male) Historicity

When we wrestle with "Origins," we necessarily begin a conversation on history and historical formations as social enterprises. In this spirit, I examine the ways in which contemporary historiographies service sexual politics within the African-American community. Specifically, I am interested in the consequences that arise for Black Queer folk when we place traditional Jim Crow scenes at the center of African-American historical narratives. I explore the different investments in "the closet" as a historical paradigm, and the ways that Black Queer folks have fashioned useable histories for themselves in light of their perceived ahistoricity. In the course of this work, my project grapples with issues of memory, trauma, queer (trans)nationalism, critical race theory, and poststructuralism to begin to theorize how we might further move toward a Black Queer subject position that is both politically participatory and constituent within the larger black community.

SERENA STEIN

COLLEGE '09, ANTHROPOLOGY, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Writing Specificity, Writing Indigeneity: Contemporary Latin American Indigenous Poets, Public Intellectualism and Ethnogenesis

Against the backdrop of indigenous political mobilization in the late 20th century, leading up to the United Nations' 2007 Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, indigenous leaders have stepped forward to advocate specific group identities and their concerns. At the same time, indigenous activists and representatives have come to the fore in forging opportunities for global indigenous discourse on recognition, rights and redress. By considering contemporary Latin American indigenous poets' textual

and political practices in regional and transnational contexts, as well as situations of exile, this project probes the rise of indigenous poets as public intellectuals, with not only local, but often transnational, constituencies and celebrity. Having self-identified or ascribed roles of rewriting past projections of indigeness, contesting essentialist portrayals, and constructing new notions of authenticity, I explore the interplay between the poetics and politics of indigenous imagination. To whom and for who do the poets speak/write, and how can we read these texts as the origins of future indigeneity?

MELISSA TEIXEIRA

COLLEGE '08, ECONOMICS, ECONOMIC HISTORY

Caught on the Periphery: Portuguese Neutrality during World War II and Anglo-American Negotiations with Salazar

On 9 October 1939, shortly after the outbreak of World War II in Europe, António de Oliveira Salazar addressed the National Assembly and declared Portugal's neutrality. Salazar, the stern and fastidious Prime Minister of the *Estado Novo* regime in Portugal from 1932 to 1969, adhered to strict neutrality in order to keep this underdeveloped nation on the periphery of the grueling conflict. But the Açores Islands in the Atlantic and the critical stocks of wolfram made Portugal an immense strategic concern for the Allied Powers. The Anglo-American negotiations with Salazar for the use of facilities on the Açores Islands and a complete embargo on the sale of wolfram to Germany were empowered by the fourteenth-century Luso-Anglo Alliance, which obliged Salazar to concede to Britain's requests. While the concessions to the Allies were guaranteed in principle, Salazar needlessly protracted the negotiations in an attempt to wield what little power he had over the insignificant details of the final agreements. While Salazar's tactics were largely ineffective, they revealed the extent his post-war anxieties. The outcome of the conflict would decide the status of Portugal's overseas empire and the survival of his regime; thus Salazar had no choice but to maneuver these negotiations in a way that both reinforced his control over the Portuguese Government and his ability to withstand foreign pressures.

SAMUEL (ARI) WISCH

COLLEGE '08, DIPLOMATIC HISTORY

Orde Wingate, the Special Night Squads, and Israeli Counterinsurgency

During the 1936-1939 Arab Revolt in Palestine, the British military officer Orde Charles Wingate formed and led a small joint British-Jewish force, the Special Night Squads (SNS). Many features of the SNS would become hallmarks of the Israeli military, and its soldiers included future leaders of the Israeli military such as Moshe Dayan and Yigal Allon. I examine Wingate's counterinsurgency methods and their significance as a model for Israeli counterinsurgency operations.