

BOSTON UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



BUCH Director James Winn

In this, my final year as Director of your BUCH, the Center supported the largest number of Fellows in its history, producing lively dialogue at the weekly Fellows' Seminars and significant individual progress on research projects ranging from Beethoven's beginnings to death in Shakespearean England, from photographs of Paris to the politics of department stores, from American troops in China to civilian deaths in wartime, from imperial Kyoto to Crusoe's lonely island. The events highlighted here are a tiny fraction of the hundreds of programs wholly or partially funded by the income from our endowment.

Endings are difficult, as any novelist or composer will attest, and I look on the end of my eight-year term with mixed emotions. Thanks to timely support from two successive Deans and the collective energies of the humanities faculty, we have been able to transform this program in significant ways, making it more visible and vibrant. But of course we could have done more, and I believe our next Director will again transform the Center, bringing her intellectual and creative resources to bear upon its next phase. Rotation of leadership is a vital principle in all academic units, and if anything more important for an interdisciplinary program like ours, which needs both continuity and change. The Fellows chosen for next year will bring fresh energy to the Center, and the programs we have committed to funding will continue to strengthen and highlight the ongoing work of our colleagues in the humanities. From my new vantage point as a "regular" Professor of English, I shall watch the developments at the Center with great interest.

Let me take this opportunity to thank those who have worked most closely with me: Deans Gina Sapiro and Ann Cudd, Associate Deans Pat Johnson and Gene Jarrett, the many faculty members who have served tirelessly on the BUCH Executive Committee, the Chairs and administrators of the participating departments, and above all, Christine Loken-Kim, who has cheerfully done the work of two or three people as our only administrator.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Michael Zell

Art History

Walther Hopp

Philosophy

Christopher Maurer

Romance Languages

Deanna Klepper

Religion

James Siemon

English

Jeffrey Henderson

Classical Studies

Peter Schwartz

*World Languages and
Literatures*

Diane Wylie

History

Deborah Burton/Penelope Biztas

Musicology

JAMES WINN

Meet Our Fellows, 2015-2016

JEFFREY HENDERSON SENIOR FACULTY FELLOWS



MARY BEAUDRY
Professor of Archaeology
*Gastronomical Archaeology:
Food, Materiality,
and the Aesthetics of Dining*

FELLOWS' SEMINAR

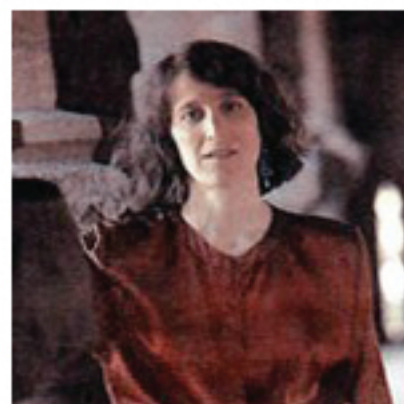
The core of the intellectual community supported by the Boston University Center for the Humanities is the Fellows' Seminar. This group, which has been in continuous existence since 1984, serves as a forum for research, debate, and public dialogue among humanities faculty from different disciplines and between junior and senior faculty. The seminar assists Junior Faculty Fellows in their career development and engages the larger questions of culture and imagination that the humanities have always examined. Since 2008, the Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellows have participated in the seminar and beginning in 2015, our Dissertation Fellows have also been full participants. The seminar meets biweekly to discuss work in progress by one or more of its members.



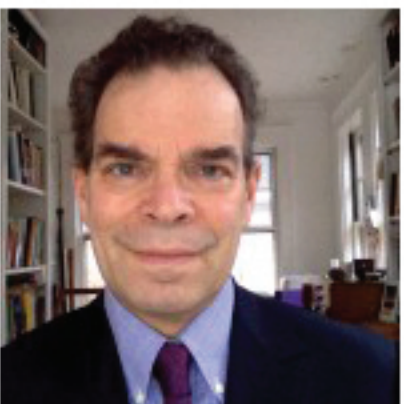
BROOKE BLOWER
Associate Professor of History
*Hidden Fronts: New American
Histories of WWII*



NETA CRAWFORD
Associate Professor
of Political Science
*"To Make Heaven Weep":
Civilians and the American
Way of War."*



SUSAN MIZRUCHI
Professor of English
*Risk and the Contemporary
American Novel*



MICHAEL PRINCE
Associate Professor of English
*Deism and the Genesis
of the Novel*



JON ROBERTS
Tomorrow Foundation Professor
of History
*The Science of the Soul:
American Protestantism and
the Mind, 1775-1940*



KIM SICHEL
Professor of History
of Art and Architecture
*Making Strange: Modernism
and the Making of French
Photography Books*



ALICE TSENG

Associate Professor of
History of Art and Architecture

*Conspicuous Constructions:
The Architecture of Imperial
Celebrations in Modern Kyoto*

Isn't It Romantic?

The 5th annual "Gift to Our Colleagues," an exploration of Romanticism in the arts and humanities, took place at the Conference Auditorium of the George Sherman Union on April 20, 2016.



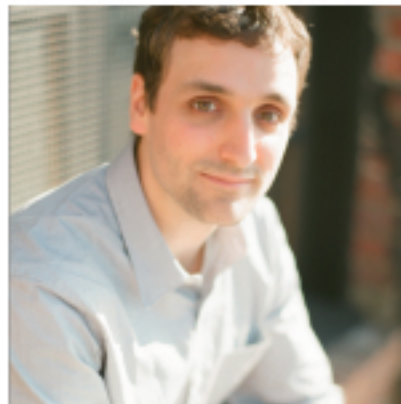
The event included presentations by Charles Rzepka (English), Jonathan Ribner (Art History), David Kopp (Music Theory) assisted by James Winn (English), and Liah Greenfeld (Sociology). The event was followed by a lavish reception in the Terrace Lounge that included a sumptuous selection of Italian Cheeses, Hors d'Oeuvres and Pastries, with fine Italian Wines.

JUNIOR FACULTY FELLOWS



MINOU ARJOMAND
Assistant Professor of
English

*Judging in the Company of
Others: The Courtroom and
the Stage after WWII*



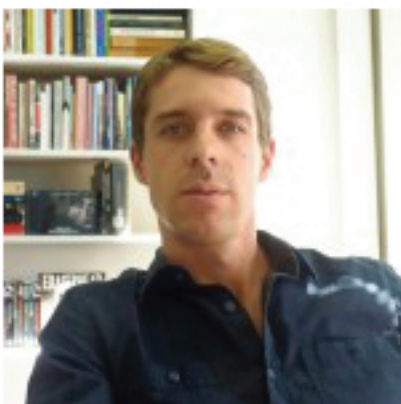
YURI CORRIGAN
Assistant Professor of
World Languages &
Literatures

*Imprisoned in the Other:
Dostoevsky and the Riddle
of the Self*

**"For all *Beauty* is
TRUTH. *True* Features
make the Beauty of a
Face; and *true*
Proportions the Beauty
of Architecture; as *true*
Measures that of
Harmony and Musick.
In Poetry, which is all
Fable, *Truth* still is the
Perfection."**

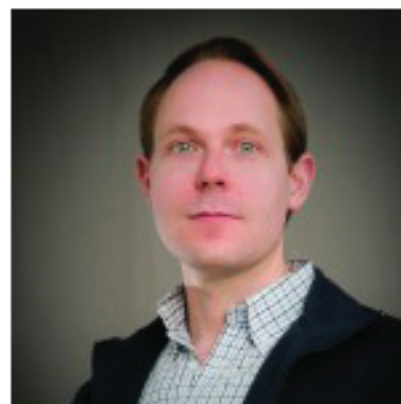
**~Anthony Ashley
Cooper**

**Third Earl of
Shaftesbury**



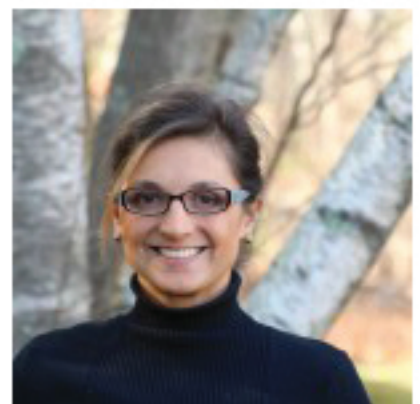
JONATHAN FOLTZ
Assistant Professor of
English

*Modernism and the
Narrative Cultures of Film*



ANTHONY PETRO
Assistant Professor of
Religion

*"Good Morality Is Good
Medicine": Public Health, Moral
Citizenship, and American
Christianity since the 1950s*



ANA MARÍA REYES
Assistant Professor of
History of Art and Architecture

*Beatriz Gonzalez Strategic
Localism and the Critique
of Cultural Modernization
in 1960s Colombia*

GRADUATE DISSERTATION FELLOWS



LESLIE BROWN

Ph.D. Candidate in
History of Art and Architecture

"Picture Ahead! Kodak as you go": the Picture Spot Sign in American Photography, Visual and Material Culture, and the Touristic Landscape



DEVIN BYKER

Ph.D. Candidate in English

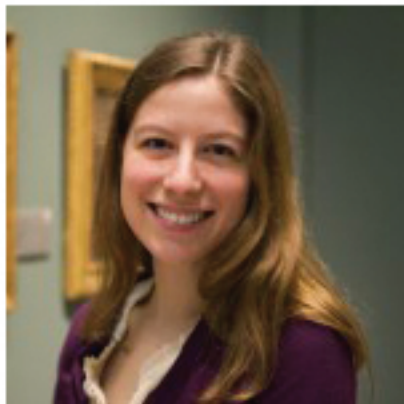
Glimmering Worlds: The Drama of Dying in Shakespeare's England



ZACH FREDMAN

Ph.D. Candidate in History

A Wary Embrace: American Servicemen and the Chinese, 1941-1947



REED GOCHBERG

Ph.D. Candidate in English

Novel Objects: Museums and Scientific Knowledge in 19th c American Literature



NIKI LEFEBVRE

Ph.D. Candidate in
American and New England
Studies

Beyond the Flagship: Politics and Trade in American Department Stores, 1888- 1945



SOPHIA MIZOUNI

Ph.D. Candidate in
Romance Studies

Nineteenth Century Paris, Capital of Illusion: Commercialized Urban Landscapes in the works of Flaubert, Baudelaire and Zola

Banner Image from: Wanderer above the Sea of Fog - Caspar David Friedrich

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SUSAN MIZRUCHI APPOINTED DIRECTOR

After an internal search, Dean Ann Cudd has appointed Professor Susan Mizruchi as the next Director of the BUCH. In announcing this appointment, the Dean summarized Professor Mizruchi's impressive credentials:

From the search Susan Mizruchi emerged as an outstanding choice to be the next director of BUCH. Susan received her B.A. from Washington University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University. She often writes at the intersection of social, religious, and literary studies. Her specialties are American literature and film; religion and culture; literary and social theory; literary history; and history of the social sciences. Her books include *Brando's Smile: His Life, Thought, and Work* (Norton, 2014, 2015); *The Rise of Multicultural America* (North Carolina UP, 2008) *Becoming Multicultural: Culture, Economy, and the Novel, 1860–1920* (Cambridge UP 2005); *The Science of Sacrifice: American Literature and Modern Social Theory* (Princeton UP, 1998); *The Power of Historical Knowledge: Narrating the Past in Hawthorne, James, & Dreiser* (Princeton, 1988); and as editor, *Religion and Cultural Studies* (Princeton UP, 2001). She is the recipient of many academic honors, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Huntington Library, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Fulbright Scholars Program. She serves as Oxford University Press's Literature Delegate, and as a consultant for many foundations, among them, PBS (the American Master's Series) and the Princeton University English Department Advisory Council. She has directed thirty dissertations at BU and is the 2015 recipient of the Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Excellence in Graduate Education. Her creative, interdisciplinary vision for leading BUCH in the years ahead, along with the world-class and interdisciplinary profile of her scholarship, combined to distinguish her candidacy for directing the center. We are pleased that she has accepted the offer to be its next leader.

In the months following the Dean's announcement, Professor Winn has been working closely with Professor Mizruchi to assure an orderly transition. The official handoff of authority takes place on 1 July.

Susan has our full confidence and support as she begins her new role in July 2016. Please join us in congratulating her.

Faculty Projects 2015-16

The Center for the Humanities is supporting 43 faculty projects over the 2015/2016 academic year. Here are a few of the highlights.



BUCH

On October 29, 2015, the BUCH hosted Anne Krook, a former professor of English who has held various roles in US and international website development, program management, internal audit, and infrastructure, in a series called “Humanities in the Real World.” In the afternoon, Dr. Krook met with graduate students for a workshop, “The graduate students’ and postdocs’ guide to the non-academic job market.” Later that evening, she gave a lecture for undergraduates entitled, “But what are you going to do with a humanities major? A guide for the perplexed.”

History

In October, Professor James Schmidt organized a two-day Digital Humanities Symposium at which Julia Flanders, Director of the Digital Scholarship Group in the Northeastern University Library, delivered the keynote speech. Since 2013, humanities scholars at BU have been meeting informally to discuss issues related to the presentation of humanities scholarship in digital form, and in the autumn of 2016, we are sponsoring a weekly seminar for faculty, postdocs, and graduate students with digital interests.

Classical Studies

Stephen Scully of the Department of Classical Studies was able to arrange for the traveling exhibition of a rare collection of, “Portraits of Black Classicists, From Slaves to Scholars” to be hung at the Rubin-Frankel Gallery of BU’s Hillel House from November to January. After the opening reception in November, curator Michele Ronnick spoke on “Black Classicism in the Bay State.” The exhibition was open until January 8th, when it moved to the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground.

American and New England Studies

In April, AMNESP, in conjunction with Historic New England, the BU Initiative on Cities, and the Preservation Studies Program, organized a 2-day conference on the urban history of New England titled “Directions in 21st-Century Preservation: The Dynamic City: Futures for the Past,” featuring mayoral addresses from the Mayor of Liverpool, England and the Mayor of Genoa, Italy, with a Keynote speech from the Planning and Development Director of the City of Detroit.



Music

From April 25-29, IRCAM (France's Institute of Research and Coordination in Acoustics/Music) and the BU Center for New Music, led by Professor Joshua Fineberg, joined forces to present a musical, pedagogical, and scientific event that allowed the engineers, performers, scientists and pedagogues of IRCAM to interact with American composers, scientists, students, performers, and audiences during a week-long series of concerts, lectures, and workshops. These events corresponded with the final week of Austrian composer Beat Furrer's residency with the BU Center for New Music.



English, and Modern Languages & Comparative Literature

From March 10th through 12th, Boston University hosted "The South in the North," the annual conference of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature. The conference was organized by English Professor John Matthews, current president of the Society, and was the first time the Society had held a conference north of the Mason-Dixon Line. 200 participants came to BU during our Spring Break for this 3-day conference. One of the featured events of the conference was a trip to the Isaac Royall House in Medford, MA, with its documented slave quarters.



African American Studies

The departments of Romance Studies, History, Religion, and Anthropology and the School of Theology worked together with African American Studies to co-sponsor a forum on "Jewish, Armenian, and African Diasporic Identities Constructed and in Formation: The US and Beyond" in September 2015. Speakers included John Thornton (BU), Linda Heywood (BU), Nancy Harrowitz (BU), Jonathan Boyarin (Cornell), Frank Korom (BU), Michelle Wright (Northwestern), Kimberly Arkin (BU), Rady Roldan-Figueroa (BU), Simon Payaslian (BU), and Khachig Tololyan (Wesleyan).

Modern Languages & Comparative Literature

Professor Catherine Yeh, Acting Director of the Center for the Study of Asia, coordinated the "Asian Women Leaders Forum," which took place April 8th through 9th. This forum brought outstanding leaders from India, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan together for the 2-day forum, and was held in conjunction with a film series on Asian female avengers.

Philosophy

Professor Walter Hopp of the Philosophy Department organized a conference in honor of Dallas Willard in October. Dallas Albert Willard, a professor at the University of Southern California from 1965-2013, was known for his writings on Christian spiritual formation, and his publications in philosophy are concerned primarily with epistemology, the philosophy of mind and of logic, and with the philosophy of Edmund Husserl, the founder of phenomenology. Over his long career, he was a teacher and mentor of many in the profession today.



Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies

Professor Andrea Berlin has coordinated a year-long series entitled, “The Maccabees Project: Virtual Brown Bags, Dialogue Events, Lectures and Interviews.” This project was an interdisciplinary effort to sort out fact from fiction in the biblical books of the Maccabees, by bringing together scholars from biblical studies, ancient history, archaeology, and the history of religion.

Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies

In November, the BUCH, the EWCJS, the BU Jewish Cultural Endowment, and the BU Arts Initiative co-sponsored the performance of a new composition by Matti Kovler, Russian-Israeli composer in residence at BU, “The Quill of the Soul: A Musical Tribute to Elie Wiesel” which took place in the Tsai Performance Center.

Faculty Publication Awards, 2015-2016

BETTY ANDERSON

History

A History of the Modern Middle East: Rulers, Rebels, and Rogues

CHARLES CHANG

Romance Studies

Context Effects on Second-Language Learning of Tonal Contrasts

WIEBKE DENECKE

Modern Languages and Comparative Literature

Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature

NANCY HARROWITZ

Romance Studies

Primo Levi and the Identity of a Survivor

LINDA HEYWOOD

History, African American Studies

African Goddess: Queen Njinga of Angola

REBECCA MARTIN

History of Art and Architecture

The Art of Contact: Comparative Approaches to Greek and Phoenician Art

CARRIE PRESTON

English, Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Learning to Kneel: Nob, Modernism, and the Journeys of Teaching

BRUCE REDFORD

History of Art and Architecture

John Singer Sargent and the Art of Allusion

ANA MARÍA REYES

History of Art and Architecture

Simón Bolívar: Travels and Transformations of a Cultural Icon

JOSEPH REZEK

English

London and the Making of Provincial Literature: Aesthetic and the Transatlantic Book Trade, 1800-1850

JEFFREY RUBIN

History

Sustaining Activism- Portuguese Translation

ANDREW SHENTON

School of Theology, Music

Arvos Pärt's White Light: Media, Culture, Politics

Incoming Fellows, 2016-2017

JEFFREY HENDERSON SENIOR FACULTY FELLOWS

DAVID FRANKFURTER Professor of Religion
Christianizing Egypt: Final Revisions to Book Manuscript

AARON GARRETT Associate Professor of Philosophy
The Making of Modern Moral Philosophy

DOROTHY KELLY Professor of Romance Studies
The Living Death of the Past: Balzac, Boudelaire, Zola

SANJAY KRISHNAN Associate Professor of English
Unsentimental Education: V. S. Naipaul's Twentieth Century

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN Professor of English
Outliving the Fashion: Arts of Aging in Seventeenth Century Literature

JAMES SCHMIDT Professor of History, Philosophy and Political Science
Persistent Enlightenment: Arguments About Reason, Power, and Progress, 1784-1789

MICHAEL ZANK Professor of Religion
Jerusalem: A Brief History

JUNIOR FACULTY FELLOWS

KIMBERLY ARKIN Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Naturalizing the Social or Socializing the Natural?: Race, Sex, and Catholic Secularism in France

DANIEL ERKER Assistant Professor of Romance Studies
Salvadoran Bostonians and the Linguistic Construction of Identity

GRADUATE DISSERTATION FELLOWS

HEATHER BARRETT English
In Hot Pursuit: Gothic Virgins and Villains in Nineteenth-Century American Fiction

PAUL EDWARDS American and New England Studies
Louis Douglas and Jonny spielt auf: Performing Blackness in Interwar Germany

AARON HILTNER History
Under Friendly Occupation: Sex, Crime, and Policing in World War II America

ERIN HYDE NOLAN History of Art and Architecture
Ottomans Abroad: The Circulation and Translation of Nineteenth Century Ottoman Photographs from Istanbul to Europe and America

EVA M. PASCAL Religious Studies
Finding Religion: Catholic Missionary Encounters and the Making of Buddhism

DAVID T. WEST Classical Studies
The Case for Politics: a Cross-generic Study of Cicero's Arguments for Political Engagement