

FACULTY NEWS

Tim Blackmore (FIMS) spent the year writing on war, with "Cyclic Gun-Human Evolution: Soldiers, Guns, Machine Logic, and the Future" *Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society* (September 2006, Volume 26, No.5: 363-369). He is thrashing away on his next book, and travelling to conferences and other universities to talk about war. He presented the papers "Scrapbooking in Vietnam: Natalie Nickerson's Fortunes." at the 36th Annual Popular Culture/American Culture Conference (April 12-15, 2006), "This is Your Brain on Bandwidth: Teaching Technology in the Humanities" and "Cyclic Gun-Human Evolution: Soldiers, Guns, Machine Logic, and the Future" at the 21st Annual International Association of Science, Technology & Society Conference (February 2-4, 2006). He was invited to Wilfrid Laurier University where he gave the talk "Through the Sight and Over a Barrel: Human Evolution in War", speaking about militarized society.

Michael Groden (English) has been appointed as Distinguished University Professor. He has published "Before and After: The Manuscripts in Textual and Genetic Criticism of Ulysses." in *Ulysses in Critical Perspective*, pp. 152-70 (2006), co-edited "James Joyce: Copyright, Fair Use, and Permissions FAQ" International James Joyce Foundation (May 22, 2006), and co-authored "Senn-sus: A Passage Index to Fritz Senn's Writings on Ulysses." *James Joyce Quarterly* 42/43:1/4, 133-96 (Fall 2004/Summer 2006). He gave several guest lectures including "Notes Toward a Biography of James Joyce's Ulysses" at the University of Tulsa, University of Cincinnati, Oxford University, Nipissing University, and the Twentieth International James Joyce Symposium in Budapest, where he also co-organized a 3-session Ulysses Reading Group. He presented "The New Finnegans Wake Manuscripts at the National Library of Ireland" at the James Joyce Symposium, and "Adventures with Ulysses: My Longest Ongoing Adult Relationship" at the University of Western Ontario. He was interviewed for the articles "The Injustice Collector," *New Yorker* (2006), and "Roots of Bloom: James Joyce in 'Judapest,'" *TLS* (2006), the "Canada Intends to Read" segment on CBC's "Sounds Like Canada", and was the subject of an article in the *Globe and Mail* about the Estate of James Joyce: Val Ross, "The Bloomsday Group's Battle," (2006).

Călin-Andrei Mihăilescu (Comparative Literature) published "Complit Is What?" *Comparative Literature in the Age of Multiculturalism*, Reingard Nethersole,

ed., Pretoria: Unisa Press, 2005: 55-68; "Ultima moarte a ____ lui Ion Stratan" (I.S.'s last death/Romanian), preface to his anthology *Cimitirul de maşini* (The scrape yard) Cluj: Grinta, 2005: 5-7; "Ego West!" *Analele Universităţii de Vest din Timişoara/Ştiinţe filologice*, 42-3 (2004-05): 333-38; two series of columns - "Cosmopolis," in *Averea*, Bucharest (Nov. 2005-Jan. 2006), and "Quand-cuando," in *Orizont*, Timişoara (Feb.-May 2006), and a number of shorter texts and interviews. His conference papers delivered over the past year include "Deleuze and Counting," "The Fist of Risk (2)," and "Do Numbers Count?" (as Distinguished Research Visiting Fellow, Haskayne School of Business, U of Calgary), "An Astrocentric Universe" (Umeå University, Sweden), and "Le ____ point de Dieu" (U of Montréal).

Tilottama Rajan (English) published the following articles in 2006: "On (Not) Being Postcolonial," *Postcolonial Text* Vol. 2: No. 1; "Organicism," *English Studies in Canada*. 30:4; "The Prose of the World: Romanticism, The Nineteenth Century, and the Reorganization of Knowledge," *Modern Language Quarterly* 67:4. She also gave the following papers: "The University and 'The Thought From Outside': Foucault and Derrida," *McMaster University*; "The Encyclopedia, the Archive, and the University Without Condition: From Hegel to Foucault," *Duke University*; "Godwin, Kant, and The Crisis of Judgment," *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Montreal; *Narrative as Justice: Godwin's Caleb Williams*, Society for the Study of Narrative Literature, Ottawa; "Perpetual Peace, Absolute War; Godwin's Mandeville," *Lines of Amity, Lines of Enmity: War and Peace in the Eighteenth Century*, Indiana University; "The Body of Knowledge: Idealism, Fluidity, Encyclopedics," *Bodies of Knowledge: The Organisation of Romanticism*, ACCUTE, York University; "The Encyclopedia and the University: Hegel, Schelling and the Organization of Knowledge," *University of Munich*; "The Abyss of the Past: Schelling's Ages of the World," *Scientia and Techne*, 14th annual NASSR Conference, Purdue University; "The University Outside the Nation: Derrida After Foucault," *Following Derrida*, University of Manitoba; "The Dissensus of Philosophy: Schelling, History, Psychoanalysis," *Modern Language Association*, Philadelphia.

Verónica Schild (Political Science; Co-Director CSTC) gave the following conference papers: "Rethinking Challenges to Race/Gender Justice: A Transnational Perspective." *The Politics of Race, Gender and Equity: From Feminist Theory to Reality and Action* (A Conference to honour Dr. Carol Agocs and to celebrate the new Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research). The Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research,

University of Western Ontario. September 22 2006; and "Feminists and the Neo-liberal Revolution in Government." Paper presented at "Cultures of Resistance and Alternatives to Neo-Liberalism" A Studies in Political Economy Conference. Ryerson University, Toronto. February 23-25, 2006.

Clive Thomson (French) received a Standard Research Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in 2006 for a project entitled "L'émergence de nouvelles sexualités en France entre 1870 et 1900". His cross-appointment as professor in the UWO Department of Psychiatry was renewed for a three-year term until 2010. He published the following articles: "André Belleau: pensador heterocronotopico," in *Carlos Alberto Faraco et al. eds., Vinte en saios sobre Mikhail Bakhtin*. Petropolis: Aditora Vozes, 2006, pp. 280-289. (In Portuguese); "Psychoanalysis, Democracy, and Dialogism," in *Mika Lahteenmaki, ed., Proceedings of the Twelfth International Mikhail Bakhtin Conference*. Jyväskylä, Finland, 2006, pp. 383-393; "Dire l'altérité: Les Guérillères de Monique Wittig," *Acta Poetica*, no. 27.1 (2006), pp. 273-291. Conference presentations: "Une esthétique de la perte: exhibition et refoulement dans l'oeuvre de Rachilde." *Thirty-Second Annual Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium*, 19-21 October, 2006, Indiana University; "Psychoanalysis, Countertransference, and the Dialogical Principle," *Toronto Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, Toronto, January 4, 2006.

Each year the Centre offers one full-year, or two-one semester Visiting Fellowships (non-stipendiary), with a provision for office space and library privileges. Visiting Fellows contribute to the intellectual life of the Centre community. Accordingly, they are encouraged to offer a public lecture on their research projects, and to participate in the activities of the Centre. These Fellowships are intended primarily for individuals currently teaching or affiliated with an academic institution, though independent scholars may also apply. Faculty Fellowships are awarded at the assistant, associate and full professor ranks. Applications including a brief description of a research project and its relevance for the Centre (not more than 1,000 words), and an optional project bibliography (up to 2 pages), along with a curriculum vitae (C.V.) should be sent to the Centre by April 1st, 2008.



Volume 21 - Winter & Fall 2006

Director

Verónica Schild

Graduate Affairs Assistant

Melanie Caldwell-Clark

Graduate Studies Committee

Verónica Schild (Chair)

Nandita Biswas (Political Science)

Michael Gardiner (Sociology)

Christopher Keep (English)

Matthew Rowlinson (English)

Alexander Pershai (PhD)

Elise Thorburn (MA II)

Gerald McKinley (MA I)

Doctoral Studies Committee

Verónica Schild (Chair)

Regna Darnell (Anthropology)

Joel Faflak (English)

Helen Fielding (Philosophy)

Steve Lofts (Philosophy at King's)

Clive Thomson (French)

Kane Faucher (PhD)

Deadline for Application

for the 2008-2009 MA

and PhD Program

January 15, 2008

Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism

The University of Western Ontario
Room 2345, Somerville House
London, Ontario, Canada N6A 3K7

Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism

The University of Western Ontario

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2006 was a year of important changes at the Centre. Melanie Caldwell-Clark joined us in December of 2005 as the Centre's dynamic Graduate Affairs Assistant. In June we moved to our new location in Somerville House, placing the Centre at the centre of happenings on the campus. The new faculty and student lounge quickly became a place for ongoing student socializing and exchange and the new locus of receptions and parties. The new Director took the helm of the Centre in July, and in consultation with doctoral students and Core Faculty, tackled the much needed review of the Ph.D. program. The Ph.D., which entered its fifth year, with twenty-eight students, was facing inevitable "growing pains" and a priority of the Centre's Academic Plan approved in January was to make the necessary adjustments and changes.

An exciting mix of ongoing and incoming domestic and international students both at the M.A. and Ph.D. level, with diverse backgrounds, interests and intellectual engagements, contributed significantly to the intellectual life of the Centre. Another graduating cohort of MAs went on to pursue further studies at Canadian and U.S.-based institutions. Martin McCallum secured a Teaching Fellowship in the Foundation Year Programme at University of King's College, Andrew Robb is studying Law at Dalhousie, and Averil Farrar and Matthew Austin stayed for a doctorate in Theory at the Centre. Many of our students presented papers at conferences in Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Centre students were actively involved in the successful yearly graduate student conference organized with peers from the Comparative Literature and Spanish programs.

The conference, "Dark Matters: Obscured thinking and shadowed language", held in April, was a very successful event with the participation of Alexander Pershai, Helen Parkinson, Josh Synenko, and Ariel Fuenzalida. 2006 also saw an innovation; the organization of a Centre-based interdisciplinary graduate student conference that drew on participants from the Social Sciences and Humanities. The conference, "Illusions of Identity: resisting (beyond) identity politics" brought twenty-eight presenters to the campus in October, and had Professor Bobby Noble of York University as keynote speaker.

In addition to these activities, 2006 saw an exciting series of speakers. Our visiting speaker series was somewhat reduced this year because of budgetary constraints but it proved to be as intellectually stimulating as ever. It included talks by Sanda Golopentia, Deborah P. Britzman, Gregory J. Seigworth, and Marjorie Agosin.

Finally, during the Fall term, students were busy preparing an innovative series of ongoing Friday afternoon seminars, The Theory Sessions, to be launched in January of 2007. This seminar series, open to the university community at large, features presentations by students and faculty from the Centre and other programs on campus, followed by lively discussions which aim to foster dynamic interchange between established scholars and rising young researchers on topics related to their individual research. We look forward to this kind of dynamic interaction between members of the Centre and the University community at large.

2006 SPEAKER SERIES

WINTER 2006

Sanda Golopentia (Brown University)
"Theatrical Endings"
Thursday, January 19

SPRING 2006

Deborah P. Britzman (York University)
"Freud's Accidental Pedagogy: The Problem of a Psychoanalytic Encounter"
Thursday, March 9th

Gregory J. Seigworth (Millersville University, Pennsylvania)
"One Paradigm Less: Deleuze and Cultural Studies"
Thursday, March 16th

Marjorie Agosin (Wellesley College)
"Threads of Memory: Meditation on Writing, Memory & Human Rights"
Wednesday, March 22nd

MA STUDENTS 2006-2007

Kieran Aarons, BA Philosophy, Oregon

Brock Baines, BA Political Economy/
Political Studies, Trent

Michael Coutu, BA History, UWO

Leila El-Qawas, BA Philosophy, Reading
(UK)

Linda Beth Flack, BA Sociology/Fine
Arts, Buffalo

Corey Katz, BA Philosophy, Toronto

Sheena McKay, BA Cultural Studies/
English, Trent

Gerald McKinley, BA Native Studies,
Trent

Anya Oberdorf, BA, Contemporary
Studies/Women's Studies, Dalhousie

Adam Parker, BA Philosophy/Semiotics,
Toronto; BA Cinema, Toronto

Christopher Shaw, BA English Studies,
Wisconsin; BSc Engineering, Michigan

Adrian Sinclair, BA Communication,
Simon Fraser

Emily Smart, BA Spanish/Comparative
Literature, UWO

Kevin Spencer, BA English, Alberta; MA
English, Alberta

Joshua Synenko, BA Political Science,
York

Elise Thorburn, BA International
Development/Women's Studies,
Dalhousie

Sarah Trimble, BA English/Women's
Studies, York

MA THESES COMPLETED

Timothy August
The Edible Plebiscite

Matthew Austin
Critical Studies on the Subject, the
Genius Figure and Faust

David Collins
Physical and Artistic Taste in Hegel,
Nietzsche and Huysmans

Averil Farrar
Toward a Critical 'Ontology
of the Present'

Petra Hroch
Puppet Masters: Aesthetics and
Politics of the Marionette

Darren MacDonald
(En)counter Dialogues

Martin McCallum
Trauma and Metaphor:
Lacan, Lacapra, and the
'Poetic Spark'

Andrew Robb
Hegemony and Governmentality

Kathryn Simpson
Minerva's Owl

PHD STUDENTS 2006-2007

Aykan Alemdaroğlu, MA Latin, Istanbul;
BA Philosophy, Middle Eastern Technical
University

Adina Arvatu, MA Comparative
Literature, UWO; MA Comp. Lit./Theory,
Bucharest; BA Romanian/English,
Bucharest

Mark Asberg, MLIS; MA Theory &
Criticism, UWO; BA English/French/
Philosophy, UWO

Dustin Atlas, MA Theory & Criticism,
UWO; BA Philosophy, York

Matthew Austin, MA Theory & Criticism,
UWO; BA Political Science, Victoria

Ayse Batur, MA Cultural Studies,
Istanbul; MA Philosophy, Boğaziçi; BA
Philosophy, Boğaziçi

Mary Bunch, MA Theory & Criticism,
UWO; BA Psychology, York

Elana Comisso, MA Theory &
Criticism, UWO; MA Italian, Toronto; BA
Italian/History, Toronto

Jason Dockstader, MA Theory &
Criticism, UWO; MA Philosophy, Brock;
BA History/Philosophy, Le Moyne

Averil Farrar, MA Theory & Criticism,
UWO; BA Political Science, Victoria

Kane Faucher, MA & BA Philosophy,
Carleton

Ariel Fuenzalida, MA Religion, Carleton;
BA Psychology, Carleton

Stephen Gray, MA Philosophy, Brock;
MA Labour Studies, Brock; BA English/
Political Theory, York

Mark Jull, MA Social & Political
Thought, York; BA Political Science,
Victoria

Cynthia Leighton, MA Theory &
Criticism, UWO; BA English, Alberta

Miriam Love, MA English, Oklahoma; BA
English, Earlham College

Jared McGeough, MA English,
Dalhousie; BA English, Regina

Cristian Melchiorre, MA Theory &
Criticism, UWO; BA Cultural Studies/
English, Trent

Christopher Morrison, MA Theory &
Criticism, UWO; BA English/Philosophy,
King's

Helen Parkinson, MA Art History,
Carleton; BA Fine Art, York

Alexander Pershai, MA Humanities,
Bremen; MA & BA Language/Literature,
Minsk

Alexandru Polgár, MA Nationalism
Studies, Budapest; MA French
Philosophy, Cluj; BA Philosophy, Cluj

Aarnoud Rommens, MA Literary Theory/
Cultural Studies, Leuven; BA Germanic
Languages, Leuven

Matthew Sang, MA Philosophy, Brock;
BA Philosophy, CalPoly State

Nur Savasci, MFA, Bilkent; BS Sociology,
Middle East Univ., Ankara

Andrea Schwam, MA Theory & Criticism,
UWO; BA English, Victoria

John Vanderheide, MA Theory &
Criticism, UWO; BA English, Calgary; BA
Psychology, Calgary

Jakub Zdebik, MA Theory & Criticism,
UWO; BA English/Art History, McGill

COURSES 2006-2007

504a Anxiety
Jan Plug

506a Theorizing Emotion
Lily Cho

507b "The Pre-eminent
Litterateur": The Spaces
of Love and Event
Allan Pero

508b The Fingerprint of Spirit
Brian Wall

509a Ordering Things
Tony Purdy

513a Heidegger
Stephen Lofts

518a Queer Theory and Cultural
Production
Margaret DeRosia

519b Derrida in the Americas
Matthew Rowlinson

548y Theory's History
Stephen Lofts

578b The Concept of Utopia
Michael Gardiner

593b Towards a Post-modern
Philosophy of Religion:
Advanced Problems in
Contemporary Continental
Theory
Stephen Lofts

PROJECTS AND CONFERENCES

Dark Matters: Obscured thinking and shadowed language

The Eighth Annual Graduate Student Conference in Comparative Literature, Spanish and Theory & Criticism took place April 6-8, 2006. The interdisciplinary conference sought to explore the notion of "darkness" in its various conceptualizations and codifications, both throughout history and in the present. There was an emphasis on the idea of the dark as a terrain of constant negotiation, and as a concept with a plurality of meanings and implications. The conference elaborated upon these diverse perceptions of darkness, from the idea of the abyss in psychoanalysis to literary metaphors and tropes, and other ways of constructing, thinking about, and representing darkness in the present.

Illusions of Identity: resisting (beyond) identity politics

Hosted by the Centre for the Study of Theory & Criticism, the Illusions of Identity conference was held October 14-15, 2006. This conference aimed to answer the urgent need to contribute to the ongoing efforts to rethink identity in our contemporary political climate. Presented as an opportunity to work through and disseminate new frameworks for thinking, social movement and resistance. The event brought together students and activists whose works traverse disciplinary boundaries in an attempt to articulate some of the possibilities and pitfalls of identity categories

(gender, race, nationality, class, sexuality, ability, etc.). The conference included a talk from Keynote Speaker J. Bobby Noble, Assistant Professor of Sexuality Studies in the School of Women's Studies at York University, and a launch of the book *Trans/Forming Feminisms*, edited by Krista Scott-Dixon with contributions from Alaina Hardie and Alexander Pershai. Centre students who gave presentations at the conference:

Alexander Pershai, "Nationalism in Eastern Europe: requirements of becoming a nation"

Helen Parkinson, "Speaking from the Margins: Uttering the Myth of Identity"

Josh Synenko, "Thinking Sovereignty Differently"

Ariel Fuenzalida, "Ayauasqueros, Pharmaceutical Illusion and Colonialism: Theorizing (beyond) the Bio-politics of Drug Use"

Corey Katz, "'One is then like grass': A Thousand Plateaus and Identity Politics"

OTHER EVENTS

The Centre has continued to support a variety of events at UWO, including:

The graduate conference **Ethics and History of Philosophy**, hosted by the department of Philosophy, held November 17 & 18, 2006.

The 4th annual graduate conference in philosophy of mind, language, and cognitive science PhiMiLCog, hosted by the department of Philosophy on April 1 & 2, 2006.

STUDENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS 2005-2006

The Centre provided financial support for graduate students to present their work at the following conferences:

Martin McCallum, "Grotesque Bodies: Reading Jaques Lacan and Mikhail Bakhtin through Hieronymus Bosh's Garden of Earthly Delights" - Fourth Annual Symposium on the History of Art, Society of Art History Graduates, University of Florida (February 2006).

Cynthia Leighton, "Becoming Corporate, or Globalization's Intermezzo" - Globalization and Resistance, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana (March 3-4, 2006).

Sarah Trimble, "No Man's Land: Transgender Boys/Men and Masculinity" - Dangerous Desires: Queer Politics in the New Millennium, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville NY (March 3-4, 2006).

Alex Pershai, "Transgression and Transgenderism" - Transgressions, York University (March 17, 2006).

Ariel Fuenzalida, "Materia Psychonautica: Post-cyborgian Theory & Machinic Intoxication" - The Human

and Its Others, Princeton University (March 23-26, 2006).

Jared McGeough, "Perceptive Mind and Affective Eyes: William Blake's Romanticism without Organs" - Critical Aesthetics, Cornell University, Ithaca NY (April 6-8, 2006).

Elise Thorburn, "Genderqueer" - TRANS-forming Feminism 2006, SUNY New Paltz, NY (April 22, 2006).

Josh Synenko, "Life at the Site: Post-Contemporary Political Subjectivity"

- Deconstructing Empire, University of Victoria (June 22, 2006).

Corey Katz, "Fighting Heteronormative Hegemony through Liminality: The Dangers of the Rights Based Approach and the Political Activism of Queer Nation" - Interface 2006: Ruptures, Carleton University, Ottawa (May 2, 2006).

Emily Smart, "Odd Being/Being at Odds" - New Voices Graduate Student Conference on the Human Condition, Georgia State University (September 28-30, 2006).