



Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism

Director's Report

Volume 24, 2009-2010

The University of Western Ontario

Director

Veronica Schild

Program Coordinator

Melanie Caldwell Clark

Postdoctoral Fellow

Leo Stan

Resident Fellow

Peter Schwenger

Core Faculty

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Helen Fielding (Philosophy, WSFR)

Mark Franke (Huron)

Michael Gardiner (Sociology)

Christopher Keep (English)

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Calin-Andrei Mihailescu (Modern Languages)

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Jan Plug (English)

Elias Polizoos (Modern Languages)

Anthony Purdy (French)

Tilottama Rajan (English)

Christine Roulston (French, WSFR)

Matthew Rowlinson (English)

Scott Schaffer (Sociology)

Sharon Sliwinski (FIMS)

Daniel Vaillancourt (French)



The Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism continues to be a vibrant part of the University of Western Ontario. The record of interdisciplinary endeavours and accomplishments for 2009, with its diversity and richness, speaks for itself.

In 2009 the Centre's students pulled off the very successful Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, "The Artfulness of Play: Bridging Creative and Theoretical Discourses", with the participation of young scholars from across Canada, the United States, and Europe. Mark Jull, Jessica Reilly, and John Mark Vanderheide presented papers, and our Core Faculty member, Dr. Helen Fielding, gave a keynote speech.

This year's Theory Sessions, under the broad theme of "The Inter-disciplinary Nexus of the Love of Knowledge/Wisdom in its Broadest Sense", and in the able hands of co-coordinators Emanuele Leonardi (PhD II) and Peter Schwenger (Resident Fellow), were once again a resounding success. The Theory Sessions have become an established forum for discussions on Friday afternoons which invariably draw a large audience for engaging discussions on diverse topics of interdisciplinary research in theory. 2009 was no exception. The Theory Sessions featured presentations by faculty and students from the Centre and other programs. Professor Andrea Fumagalli, from University of Pavia in Italy, inaugurated the 2009 Sessions with his presentation of "Bioeconomics and the Hypothesis of Cognitive Capitalism." which was delivered to a full house and was followed by a lively discussion.

In 2009 we were very pleased to host Dr. Leo Stan for a second year (SSHRC Post-Doctoral Fellow), and Dr. Dan Mellamphy with their well attended reading groups, on "Kierkegaard: Politics and the Modern Scandal of Religion" and "The Ego Tunnel: The Science of the Mind and the Myth of the Self" respectively, drew faculty and students from different programs for regular, focused readings and discussions. Our Visiting Speaker Series, and our co-sponsored public lectures, welcomed an exciting group of scholars from universities in Canada, Italy, and the United States. Their well-attended presentations spanned the Social Sciences and Humanities, and helped showcase the Centre's commitment to providing a forum for a rich array of interdisciplinary conversations on campus.

In 2009 another cohort of our very talented students completed their M.A.s and went on to pursue further studies at Canadian and U.S.-based universities, and three of our Ph.D.s, Jason Dockstader, Kane Faucher and Ariel Fuenzalida, successfully completed their programs. And, many of our ongoing and incoming students in both the M.A. and Ph.D. programs, presented papers at conferences in Canada, the United States, and Europe.

I invite you to read of our activities and achievements in the following pages.

Verónica Schild

The Artfulness of Play: Bridging Creative and Theoretical Discourses

An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference

September 25 - 27, 2009



The Artfulness of Play proved to be an exciting and unique event with international performers and panelists, three keynote speakers, several art installations, and a diverse array of creative and theoretical scholarship that demonstrated the interdisciplinarity of the conference and its theme. *The Artfulness of Play* was the 3rd annual graduate student conference held by the Theory Centre and was coordinated by Jennifer Gartner (MA) and Katherine Lawless (PhD).

The following Theory Centre students and faculty participated in the conference:

Dr. Helen Fielding – Keynote Speaker

“DESIRING PLAY: QUESTIONING ‘HOMELAND’ THROUGH YAEL BARTANA’S WILD SEEDS”

John Mark Vanderheide, PhD Candidate, Theory and Criticism

PANEL 1: THE CRITICAL ART OF PLAY

Playing Frightened Inmate #2: Mimesis and Performativity in *Arrested Development*

Jessica Reilly, PhD Candidate, Theory and Criticism

PANEL 4: THE URBAN ARCHITECTURE OF PLAY

“The Struggle is the Game”: Guy Debord and the Politics of Play in the Situationist City

Mark Jull, PhD Candidate, Theory and Criticism

PANEL 4: THE URBAN ARCHITECTURE OF PLAY

“Contested Spaces of Play: The Subversive Potential of Urban Space”

Other Supported Events

Kierkegaard: Politics and the Modern Scandal of Religion

A reading group conducted by Leo Stan, SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow.

We will meet every other Thursday from 12:30 to 14:30; first meeting on Jan. 14, 2010.
Location: The Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism,
Sommerville House, Rm. 2346.

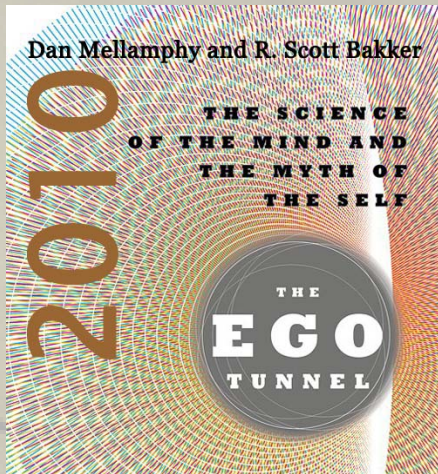
For more information please contact Leo at lstan2@uwo.ca



Kierkegaard: Politics and the Modern Scandal of Religion, a reading group conducted by Leo Stan, SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow.

This seminar opened a few vistas into the topic of what it means to be religious today, with the help of thinker Soren Kierkegaard, a philosopher who was essentially influenced by Christianity. The workshop examined the way in which Kierkegaard’s Christianity enables us to assess the religious crisis of modernity, and to critically enquire whether Kierkegaard’s tentative depiction of possible ways of this crisis is tenable from a socio-political standpoint.

Other Supported Events



The Ego Tunnel: The Science of the Mind and the Myth of the Self, a reading group conducted by Dan Mellamphy and R. Scott Bakker.

This informal reading course is devoted to the study of Thomas Metzinger's most recent publication, *The Ego Tunnel: On the Science of Mind and the Myth of the Self*. In this book he argues that no such things as 'selves' exist in the world: no one ever had of has ever been a 'self'. All that exists are 'phenomenal selves' as they appear in conscious experience. He argues that the 'phenomenal self', however, is not a *thing* but rather an ongoing *process*, and that this process is the content of the 'transparent self-model'.

The Theory Sessions: The Inter-Disciplinary Nexus of the Love of Knowledge/Wisdom in its Broadest Sense, coordinated by Emanuele Leonardi and Peter Schwenger.

The Theory Sessions are a student initiative that serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas to promote interdisciplinary research in theory at the Centre and across campus. Students and faculty present their papers and engage in spirited discussions, with contributions from interested Centre scholars as well as faculty and students from other fields and disciplines at Western.



We'd like to thank everyone who participated in this year's sessions:

October 16, 2009

Andrea Fumagalli

Bioeconomics and the Hypothesis of Cognitive Capitalism

October 30, 2009

Lily Cho

Between States: Structures of Feeling in Chinese Head Tax Certificates

November 13, 2009

Averil Farrar

Toward a Metapolitics of Relation: The Political Displacement of Politics

November 27, 2009

Brendan Bruce

The Subject of Anarchism: Community, Solidarity, and Fellow-Feeling

January 29, 2010

Tony Purdy

Archive Anxiety.doc

February 26, 2010

Atle Mikkola Kjosén

on digital media piracy

March 5, 2010

Aileen House

on Blanchot and crime fiction

March 26, 2010

Veronica Schild

on feminism and the new spirit of capitalism

April 9, 2010

Jason D'Aoust

on the disappearing voice in Wagner

Speakers Series

During the 2009-10 academic year, the Theory Centre sponsored a number of guest speakers and public lectures.

LINDA ALCOFF

Professor of Philosophy at Hunter College/CUNY
Graduate Center
“Adorno’s Political Epistemology”
October 15, 2009

ROB KING

Assistant Professor, University of Toronto
“The Art of Diddling: Slapstick, Science, and Anti-
Modernism in the Films of Charlie Bowers”
January 28, 2010

UGO PERONE

University of Eastern Piedmont
“The Risks of the Present: Benjamin, Bonhoeffer and
Celan”
October 19, 2009

ALLEN SHELTON

Associate Professor Sociology, Buffalo State College
“Where the North Sea Touches Alabama”
March 4, 2010

REI TERADA

Professor of Comparative Literature, University of
California Irvine
“Living against Life (Arendt and Others)”
November 20, 2009

VICTOR LI

Associate Professor, University of Toronto
“Civilization: State of Exception or Dialogical
Opening?”
March 19, 2010

2009-10 External Award Recipients

AVERIL FARRAR (PhD)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship

OWEN GLYN-WILLIAMS (MA)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship

JASON HALADYN (PhD)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship

MARK JULL (PhD)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship

KATHERINE LAWLESS (PhD)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship

DOLLEEN MANNING (PhD)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship

CLAUDIE MASSICOTTE (PhD)
Fonds quebécois de la recherche sur la société et la
culture

JESSICA REILLY (PhD)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship

SARA RODRIGUES (MA)
Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate
Scholarships Program - Master's Scholarship

WILLIAM SAMSON (MA)
Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate
Scholarships Program - Master's Scholarship

HART WALKER (MA)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship

2009-10 Courses

The Centre offers graduate level courses on a variety of research topics taught by core faculty members and faculty from other departments across campus.

FALL

AFTER BIOPOLITICS

Joshua Schuster, English

DECONSTRUCTIONS

Jan Plug, English

PSYCHOANALYSIS AND THE IMAGE

Sharon Sliwinski, Information and Media Studies

QUEER AND FEMINIST PEDAGOGIES

Christine Roulston, French & Women's Studies

SCANDALS OF TEMPORALITY

Calin Mihailescu, Modern Languages and Literature

THE ART OF BEING POLITICAL

Mark Franke, Centre for Global Studies, Huron University College

WINTER

AESTHETICS, POLITICS, AND THE REAL

Allan Pero, English

CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Scott Schaffer, Sociology

MODERNITY AND THE WORK OF ART

Elias Polizoos, Modern Languages and Literature

THE IMAGINARY AND ITS USE

Daniel Vaillacourt, French

Theses Completed in 2009

Brock Baines (MA) *The Practice of Freedom: Kant and Levinas in Proximity*

Michael Bennett (MA) *Sociality and Infinity*

Jason Dockstader (PhD) *Spinoza's Divine Wisdom*

Kane Faucher (PhD) *Onontology: Plateau 1001*

Ariel Fuenzalida (PhD) *Pharmakontologies*

Laura Krahn (MA) *Eat Your Words: The Incorporation of Language and Body*

Alastair McMillan (MA) *Mechanism, Dynamism and Subjectivity*

Laurel Mitchell (MA) *Find the Dyke in This Picture*

Catherine Ngoh (MA) *Memory and Truth*

Jessica Reilly (MA) *Beyond the Spectacle: Rethinking Debord*

Jessica Sherman (MA) *Israel and Its Discontents*

Faculty News

Nandita Biswas Mellamphy (Political Science) and [Dan Mellamphy](#) hosted the very successful [2010 Nietzsche Workshop @ Western](#) ("Nietzsche, Foucault, Deleuze: Re-Thinking War in the 21st Century"), which boasted 70-80 participants from [Canada, the USA, Europe and India](#), and traveled directly from there to the United Kingdom, where they presented a joint conference-paper on the subject of "Hierozoontotechnics: Individuation and Techno-Religion" at Cardiff University's [Centre for Cultural Studies](#) (with plenary speakers [Bernard Stiegler](#) and [David Wills](#) both in attendance). Following their UK paper, they were invited to participate in a week-long interdisciplinary workshop devoted to their joint research at *Das Haus des Fröhlichen Wissenschaft* (Maison Gai Saber) in *Leigné-sur-Usseau* France, after which they were the invited Chairs (thanks to their nearly-completed translation for *Semiotexte* of Gilbert Simondon's treatise *On the Mode of Existence of Technical Objects*) of the two opening Conference-Panels at the first International Conference in English devoted to the work of [Gilbert Simondon](#) -- a conference hosted by the [American University in Paris](#). Prior to these European engagements, they were part of a three-person plenary panel (with the CSTC's Emanuele Leonardi) at the [Congress of the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy](#): a panel entitled "The Compostmodern Condition: Trans-Individuation, Technology and Politics" which developed the ideas they had generated following their "Individuation, Technology and Politics" Round-Table with Bernard Stiegler at Villanova University's 14th Annual Philosophy Conference on [New French Thought](#). They also attended the International Conference on [Nietzsche and the Becoming of Life](#) in *Santiago-de-Chile*, where Nandita delivered a paper entitled "Nietzsche's Experimental Ontology: Toward a Theory of Individuation" -- a follow-up to her paper "Political, Anti-Political, Überpolitical: The Three Stigmata of Friedrich Nietzsche" which was presented at the Cardiff School of English, Communication and Philosophy's symposium on "[The Symptom in Theory](#)" in September (a symposium under the auspices of the journal of *Deleuze Studies*). Between these various engagements the [Critical Theories and Practices Research and Reading Group](#) (the brain-child of Nandita) continued its stimulating sessions. More news to follow.

Helen Fielding (Philosophy, Women's Studies) has completed a co-edited manuscript (Christina Schuees, Dorothea Olkowski, and Helen Fielding), *Time in Feminist Phenomenology* (forthcoming Indiana University Press, 2011). She gave several presentations on space, Merleau-Ponty and Arendt at the following places: a keynote talk at the Merleau-Ponty Circle; the Distinguished Alamshah Speaker Series, California State University, Fullerton; a plenary talk at The Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy in London. She also gave an invited paper on Yael Bartana's 'Wild Seeds' for the Theory Centre Graduate Conference on The Artfulness of Play. She attended Congress in Montreal delivering a paper on Merleau-Ponty and Anne Truitt.

Michael Gardiner (Sociology) was on sabbatical leave in the 2009-10 academic year. He was a visiting professor at the Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies at the University of Limerick, Ireland, in March-April 2010, and gave several talks both here and at the University of Cork. New publications include "'Under the Reign of King Logos': Henri Lefebvre on Vision, Space and Modernity" and 'Phenomenology and its Shadow: Visuality in the Late Work of Merleau-Ponty', both in Barry Sandywell and Ian Heywood (eds.), *Handbook of Visual Culture*, Oxford: Berg Publishers, 2010; 'Schützian Phenomenology and the Everyday Lifeworld: A Bakhtinian Critique', in Jin Y. Park (ed.), *Comparative Political Theory and Cross-Cultural Philosophy: Essays in Honor of Hwa Yol Jung*, Lanham: Lexington Books, 2009, 197-221. Currently, he is also co-editing, with Gregory J. Seigworth, a special issue of the journal *Space and Culture* on Henri Lefebvre.

Faculty News

Christopher Keep (English) was the key note speaker at the Pacific Rim Conference on Literature and Rhetoric, held at the University of Alaska (Anchorage) in February. His paper drew on his recent research on spirit photography and commodity fetishism in the nineteenth century. At the 2010 Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities, he presented three papers, addressing Victorian education practices, the future of academic hiring in the humanities, and academic fashion. His most recent publication is a special issue of the *Victorian Review* on Disability Studies, and he has articles forthcoming on the psychogeography of Paris and London and the gendering of telegraphy in Henry James' novella, *In The Cage*.

Laurence de Looze (Modern Languages and Literatures) presented a number of conference papers including "Patronio, Analogy, and the Translation of Daily Life into Model Narrative in Juan Manuel's *El Conde Lucanor*." *Modern Language Association of America* annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 29 Dec. 2009; "Orthography, the Latin Tradition, and the Projection of International Power in Sixteenth-Century France." *Renaissance Society of America* annual meeting, Venice, Italy, 12 April, 2010; and "The Double Analogy of Exemplo I in Juan Manuel's *El Conde Lucanor*." *Congrès des savants*, Montreal, 29 May, 2010. Laurence has two articles forthcoming: "Orthography and National Identity in the Sixteenth Century." Forthcoming in *Sixteenth Century Journal* (2010) and "Analogy, Exemplum, and the First Tale of Juan Manuel's *El Conde Lucanor*." Forthcoming in *Hispanic Review* (Summer, 2010).

Mary Helen McMurrin (English) received tenure this year and is Associate Professor of English as of July 1, 2010. Her book *The Spread of Novels: Translation and Prose Fiction in the Eighteenth Century* was published by Princeton University Press in the Fall of 2009. Her article: "Transnationalism and the Novel: A Call for Periodization" appeared in *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 42.3 (2009). Mary Helen received a SSHRC Standard Research Grant for her new book project "Paganism and Sacralization in the Eighteenth Century." She also won two short-term fellowships at research libraries in the U.S., the Huntington Library and the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library (affiliated with UCLA) and presented a paper at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Albuquerque in March 2010.

Tony Purdy (French) received a SSHRC Standard Research Grant for "The Archival Imaginary in Contemporary Visual and Literary Culture" (2010-13). His book, *Time's Shipwreck: Narrative, Material Memory, and the Archaeological Imagination*, is under consideration with Oxford University Press.

Tilottama Rajan (English) (Canada Research Chair and Former CSTC Director) has published "The Epigenesis of Genre: New Forms From Old" in *The Cambridge History of English Romantic Literature* (ed. James Chandler, CUP, 2009), and "The Psychanalytic Turn of Idealism: Friedrich Schelling's *The Ages of the World* (1815)," in *Romanticism Today*, ed. Lars Eckstein and Christoph Reinfandt. (Trier: Wissenschaftliche Verlag, 2009). She has also coedited the proceedings of a conference she co-organised with Lilla Maria Crisafulli at the Centro Interdisciplinare di Studi Romantici in Bologna (*European Romantic Review*, 20:5 [2009]). Her book *Romantic Narrative: Shelley, Hays, Godwin, Wollstonecraft* will be published by Johns Hopkins UP later this year. In addition, she gave the following papers: "Excitability: The (Dis)Organization of Knowledge from Schelling's *First Outline* (1799) to *Ages of the World* (1815)" (precirculated paper [35pp.], discussed at *Romanticism and Modernity*, 17th annual NASSR conference, Duke University); "The Pathology of History: Godwin's *Mandeville*," (*Sympathies and Antipathies*, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities, Cambridge University); "Before Psychoanalysis: Philosophy and the Sciences of the Real in German Idealism (*Romantic Disorder*, University of London); "'Something not yet made good': The Byronic Paternity of Mary Shelley's *Falkner*," (conference on *Byron and History*, Athens); "Excitability: Schelling and Brown's *Elements of Medicine*" (*Romantic Explorations*, 13th annual meeting of the Gesellschaft für Romantik, Koblenz); "Untimely Histories: Mary Shelley's *Valperga* and Jacob Burckhardt's *Civilisation of the Renaissance in Italy*" (*The Romantics and Italy*, Florence).

Faculty News

Matthew Rowlinson (English) has a new book, *Real Money and Romanticism*, which just appeared from Cambridge UP. *Real Money and Romanticism* interprets poetry and fiction by Sir Walter Scott, John Keats, and Charles Dickens in the context of changes in the British monetary system and in the broader economy during the early nineteenth century. In this period modern systems of paper money and intellectual property became established; the book describes the consequent changes in relations between writers and publishers and shows how a new conception of material artifacts as the bearers of abstract value shaped conceptions of character, material culture, and labor in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Veronica Schild (Political Science) published "A Vision of "Public Space" in Latin America: Beyond Eurocentric Images" in *Los poderes de lo publico. Debates, espacios y actores en America Latina*, edited by Marianne Braig and Anne Huffschnid (Vervuert 2009)., edited by Marianne Braig and Anne Huffschnid (Vervuert Verlag, Germany, 2009, pp. 53-68). She gave the plenary presentation "Feminist Politics and the 'New Spirit of Capitalism'" at the Pre-Conference *New Political Orders, New Subjects of Feminism?* of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Gender & Feminist Studies Section in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (June 10 2009). She also co-organized a workshop on "Feminisms in the Américas: Alternative Genealogies of Rights and Resistance", for the XXVIX International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association to meet in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (June 11-14 2009), and took part as commentator in the workshop. At that same conference, she presented the paper, "Feminists and the Neo-liberal Revolution in Government: A Critical Essay on Politics and the State. She also presented the paper "Recasting the Relation Between Rights-Based Feminsim, Neo-liberalism and Moral Regulation" at the 53° Congreso Internacional de Americanistas in Mexico City (July 20-21 2009).

Sharon Sliwinski (FIMS) Published two papers last year: "On Photographic Violence" in *Photography and Culture*, (Vol 2, No, 3 November 2009), and, "The Aesthetics of Human Rights" in *Culture, Theory, and Critique*, (Vol 50, no 1 May 2009). She was invited to present two papers: "Visual Testimony: Lee Miller's Dachau" at the Durham Centre for Advanced Photography Studies in the UK in September, and, "Rolleiflex Witness: Picturing the Nazi Camps," at a workshop on Visual Evidence and Eyewitnessing at UCLA/USC in May. She also moderated a public programming panel at Gallery TPW in Toronto in October about an exhibition called "War at a Distance" which explored how Canadians are struggling to make sense of the war in Afghanistan.

Daniel Vaillancourt (French) has been invited as keynote speaker in the Conference "L'envoûtement. Principe du processus figural" (Concordia University, March 2010). He has published *Les Urbanités parisiennes au XVIIe siècle. Le livre du trottoir*, Québec, Presses de l'Université Laval, 2009 and edited *La Cérémonie: entre le protocolaire et l'intime*, (Daniel Vaillancourt, Ed.) London, Mestengo Press, 2008. Book Chapters: « Les jésuites à la Fête ou le Désir de la Procession », *Vérité et Fiction dans les entrées solennelles à la Renaissance et à l'âge classique* Nassichuk, John (Éd.), Québec, PUL, 2008, p. 257-274 ; « Malaise dans la cérémonie : les entrées de Marie de Médicis » *Writing Entries in Early Modern Europe*, edited by Jean Andrews, Marie-Claude Canova-Green, and Marie-France Wagner (Turnhout: Brepols, forthcoming).

Student News

Kamran Ahmed (MA I) H.B.Sc., Philosophy & Psychology from the University of Toronto (2009), was elected as the MA Student Representative for the 2009-10 academic year. Presented a paper entitled "The Art of Reminiscing: A (Re)Turn to Freud" at The VII Annual Social Theory Forum: Freud and Lacan in the 21st century held at the University of Massachusetts, Boston (April 2010). News about a possible publication is pending.

Jason D'Aoust (PhD II) During his second year as a doctoral student, Jason gave a paper at Concordia University on the voice in Wagner's opera "Tristan und Isolde" during the conference "Transposition: Théorie à l'œuvre." This paper, rewritten into an article, is scheduled for publication early next year. While finishing his course work this past Winter, he completed the first part of his comprehensive examination. His application for an Ontario Government Scholarship also met with success.

Jonathan Fardy (MA/PhD) will spend this summer and early fall assisting in a research project on 19th and 20th century photography. Jonathan will be working with Dr. Sharon Sliwinski (UWO, CSTC), Dr. Thy Phu (UWO, English) and Dr. Elspeth Brown (University of Toronto, History).

Jen Gartner (MA II) After completing the Explore French-Language Bursary Program in Trois-Pistoles, Quebec, and working as a summer research assistant at The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction in Bloomington, Indiana, Jen returned to London to co-chair the 3rd Annual CSTC Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, "The Artfulness of Play: Bridging Creative and Theoretical Discourses." Following the overall success of "The Artfulness of Play," Jen continued to remain active on campus; she presented her work at two conferences hosted by UWO and served as the MA representative for the CSTC Steering Advisory Committee. She also held a GTA position in the Psychology Department for the 2nd year course "Psychology of Human Sexuality" and was a guest lecturer for the 3rd year Women's Studies course, "Sex...in the Margins." Outside UWO, Jen delivered a lecture for the Advocacy Through Action Lecture Series at the London Public Library and recently presented her work for the CWSA at Congress 2010, hosted by Concordia University. She has a forthcoming presentation at the University of Cambridge in July, and will have two publications from refereed conference proceedings prior to beginning her PhD in Women's Studies at York University this September.

Brendon Langer (MA II) presented with the Arthur O. Lewis Award for the best paper given by a younger scholar at the annual meeting of the Society for the Utopian Studies, "Thinking Metaphorically, *'Engaged Kerygmatically: Utopian Concerns in the Phenomenology of Myth of Northrop Frye.'*" Conference Volume of the Proceedings of the 10th International Conference of the Utopian Studies Society (forthcoming) "*To kindle a light of meaning in the darkness of a mere being: 'Toward a Hermeneutics of Utopia and Aspects of Language, Myth, Metaphor, and Desire.'*" *Essays In Criticism* [Oxford: Oxford UP] (submitted for review) "*that myth of concern that protests the present conditions of living: 'Rehabilitating Northrop Frye and the Kerygmatic.'*" 10th International Conference of the Utopian Studies Society: *'Far Other Worlds and Other Seas'* The University of Porto, Porto (Portugal): 1 – 4 July/ 09 "*To kindle a light of meaning in the darkness of a mere being: 'Toward a Hermeneutics of Utopia and Aspects of Language, Myth, Metaphor, and Desire.'*" The 34th Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies: *'Utopian theory/ utopian practice'* Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina – Blockade Runner Hotel: Oct. 29 – Nov. 1/ 2009 "Thinking Metaphorically, *'Engaged Kerygmatically: Utopian Concerns in the Phenomenology of Myth of Northrop Frye.'*" Brendon will be delivering his paper 'contemporary and possible futures: Cassirer, Heidegger, and the Movement toward a Hermeneutics of Utopia at the 35th Annual Conference of the Society for Utopian Studies.

Student News

Claudie Massicotte (PhD I) is pursuing her PhD at the Centre with funding from the *Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Société et la Culture* (FQRSC). Last year, her article « Mémoires de la modernité : la fonction de l'architecture ferroviaire dans *Austerlitz* de W.G. Sebald » was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Problems of Literary Genres* (2009: vol.52, no.1-2 p.103-114) and another article (« Espace et temps de l'identité latino-américaine : la figure de la cathédrale dans *Le Siècle des Lumières* d'Alejo Carpentier ») has been accepted for future publication in the journal. She recently returned from Montreal, where she presented a paper at the *Annual Conference of the Canadian Communication Association (CCA)* and two papers at the *78th Annual Conference of the Francophone Association for Knowledge (ACFAS)*. During the past academic year, she also presented on Freud at the University of Western Ontario (*In transit - 12th Annual Graduate Student Conference*) and at Villanova University (*15th Annual Conference in Philosophy*). Claudie is a student representative for the *International Conference at the Center for the Study of Theory and Criticism* and will be continuing her research on space, memory and trauma in the upcoming year.

Jarrad Reddekop (PhD II) passed his first Qualifying Exam with distinction, and looks forward to his Field Exam in the Fall. He also presented a paper, "Charisma and the Problem of Enchantment in Modernity," at the 20th annual conference of the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism at the London School of Economics in London, England.

Jessica Reilly (PhD I) defended her MA thesis, entitled *Beyond the Spectacle: Rethinking Debord in Theory & Practice*, in the fall of 2009 and presented "The Struggle is the Game: Guy Debord and the Politics of Play in the Situationist City" at the Theory Centre's Artfulness of Play conference. Jessica was re-elected as Chief Steward of Arts & Humanities in the GTA Union. She also chairs the GTA Union Women's Committee and is the founding organizer of the Women & Labour Speakers Series. This year, with the help of an OGS and a Graduate Fellowship of Academic Distinction from the Theory Centre, Jessica was able to devote additional mental energy to pondering the topics that will haunt the pages of her future PhD dissertation: the relationship between politics and aesthetics, the distinction between private and public, the impact of commodified public space on social formations of community and citizenship, and critiques of everyday life in French social theory.

Alumni Updates

Gerald McKinley (2008) is currently finishing the second year of his PhD at the University of Western Ontario in the Anthropology Department under the supervision of Regna Darnell. His research areas include narrative, identity, Bakhtin, literature as an ethnographic site and the author as public intellectual. Gerald presented "Literature as Ethnographic: Contemporary Indigenous Narrative and the Author as Public Intellectual" at the 2010 CASCA conference in Montreal. Gerald continues to live in Peterborough with his family.

LindaBeth Nichols (2008) finished her second year teaching Sociology at Monroe Community College, and also taught Sociology at Genesee Community College in Batavia, NY this year. In the fall, she'll be attending an accelerated, 3-month paralegal certification program in San Diego, CA, after which she will be seeking employment with a social justice advocacy organization.

Chris Shaw (2008) Due to some confusion on Chris Shaw's part he applied to The Texas School of Esthetics in order to study aesthetics. After realizing that beauty school was not so bad, Chris has decided to stay and work on his hair design skills. Currently Chris is working on a chapter in his final pamphlet entitled "split-enz: Design undone, identity frayed." Chris has taken on the position of assistant manager for the school's beauty shop.

Alumni Updates

Joshua Synenko (2007) is continuing in the Humanities PhD at York and hopes to be ABD by the coming year. Joshua is keen to be moving forward with a writing project exploring the politics of universities and institutional memory, including the translation of memory discourse into contemporary, discipline-centered thought or "knowledge production". Joshua's dissertation will focus on three site-specific analyses and their respective theoretical articulations: from the museum of Enlightenment via its architectural representation, York University's Vari Hall, and its kinship to Jefferson's design of the University of Virginia, to the Universidad Centro Americana and Martyr's Museum at San Salvador, the capital city, Joshua investigates a set of perspectives that seek to re-imagine the discursively imprinted "return to Europe" in comparative cultural and memory studies, and the cohabitation of this sentiment with today's prevalently decentered remembrance narratives, its diffuse institutional foundations, and the rise of counter-commemorative attitudes in the present century. Joshua has a forthcoming publication in an edited volume, *Translating Cultures*, published by the International Society for Cultural History, entitled "Memory and Historicism in Andreas Huyssen's *Twilight Memories*."

Doctoral Students

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

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

Ayse Batur, MA Cultural Studies, Istanbul; MA Philosophy and BA Philosophy, Bogaziçi

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

Jason D'Aoust, MA Comparative Literature; BA English Studies & Comparative Literature, Univ. de Montréal

James Depew, MA Philosophy, Univ. of Guelph; BA Univ. of Manitoba

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

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

Julian Jason Haladyn, MA Theory, Culture & Politics, Trent; MFA, Goddard College; BFA, Western

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

Christopher Langlois, MA English, Windsor

Adam Langton, MA Cultural Studies & Critical Theory, McMaster; MA English Literature & Language, Windsor

Katherine Lawless, MA Theory, Culture & Politics, Trent; BA Gender Equality & Social Justice, Nipissing; BA Biological Science, Guelph.

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

Emanuele Leonardi, MA Occupation, Market, Environment; BA Sociology, Bologna University

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

Dolleen Manning, MA Theory and Criticism, Western; MA Visual Arts, Simon Fraser

Claudie Massicotte, MA Comparative Literature, Montreal

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

Doctoral Students cont'd.

Sheena McKay, MA Theory and Criticism, Western; BA Cultural Studies & English, Trent

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

Catherine Ngoh, MA Theory and Criticism, Western

Jarrad Reddekop, MA Political Science; BA Political Science, University of Victoria

Jessica Reilly, MA Theory and Criticism, Western; BA Semiotics and Communication Theory, U of T

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

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

Inna Viriasova, MA Analysing Europe, Univ. Maastricht; MA Political Science, Central European Univ.; BA Political Science, National Univ. of KMA

Masters Students

Kamran Ahmed, BA Philosophy, Toronto

Kimberly Booker, MA Literatures of Modernity; BA English & Comparative Literature, Royal Holloway, UK

Brendan Bruce, BA Classics and Anthropology, Univ. of Alberta

Marcus Callaghan, BA Cultural Studies & Religion, McMaster

Galen Crout, BA Arts, Science & Philosophy, McMaster

Colin Dignam, BA Classical Studies, BA Humanities, York

Jonathan Fardy, MA Art History, Bowling Green State; BA Art History, Framingham State

Jennifer Gartner, BA English Literature, Queens

Owen Glyn-Williams, BA Philosophy, McMaster

Aileen House, BA English, Trent

David Janzen, BA Philosophy with English, Alberta

Brendon Langer, BA English Language & Literature, Western

Ian McCausland, BA English, Univ. of Calgary

Tyler Miller, BA English, Calgary

Sara Rodrigues, BA Arts and Contemporary Studies, Ryerson; Laurentian

Laura Rooney, BA Women's Studies, Mount Saint Vincent

William Samson, BA Philosophy, Lakehead

Marshall Smith, BA Sociology, UBC

Ryan Staples, BA Sociology and Sp. Thought, York

Hart Walker, BA Anthropology, Carleton

The Year Ahead...

The Centre's Research Committee is pleased to announce the following guest lecturers as part of our 2010-11 Speaker Series*:

Debora Bergoffen

Professor of Philosophy at the George Mason University, USA

Wendy Brown

Professor of Gender & Women's Studies and Political Science at Berkeley

Shauna McCabe

Canada Research Chair in Critical Theory in the Interpretation of Culture at Mount Allison University
Director, CHARTS Centre for Humanities and Arts Research in Transdisciplinary Space

Eduardo Mendieta

Associate Professor of Philosophy at Stony brook University

David Simpson

Professor of English, UC Davis

* consult our web site in the coming weeks for confirmed dates & titles.

Contact Us

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