

Celebrating 40 Years 1968-2008 at the Center for 21st Century Studies



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From the Director

This year is the second in the Center's two-year exploration of the theme "Past Knowing," during which guest speakers, faculty fellows, graduate students, symposium attendees, and others involved in projects sponsored by the Center are considering the relationship of knowledge to its limits and exploring multiple aspects of the notion "past": beyond, previous, after, former. This coming year's events will build on those of last year, allowing reconsideration of key issues and long-term reflection on theories and practices, as well as explorations of new questions.

Extending the Center's theme from one to two years was one of the innovations that Daniel Sherman introduced during his six years as director. Although this might seem to be a minor change, it is representative of central aspects of his tenure. With a two-year theme, faculty interested in Center fellowships have been able to fit their applications more easily into their career trajectories, applying in the year in which having a reduced load of teaching and service would be most beneficial. Five of this year's fellows, for example, will be using the year to finish work on books, often the most difficult stage to accomplish in any project while also juggling teaching, advising, and committees. Thus this small change has enhanced the accessibility and appeal of the Center's central program supporting faculty research. Other of Dan's innovations similarly broadened the Center's audience, deepened support for faculty and student research, and increased opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue: faculty and students are now able to post working papers on the Center's website, expanding the audience for their research; research workshops organized by faculty and graduate students meet regularly in the Center's seminar room for discussion of common readings; the Center's annual conference now has curricular materials available for class tie-ins.

Dan's tenure involved continuities as well as changes, however. The Center continued to sponsor regular public events and serve as an intellectual community promoting the creation and sharing of knowledge in the humanities, arts, and social sciences, its core mission. From the first of our open meetings about the future of the Center, held last spring, it was clear that there is a consensus that this core mission should not change. It was also clear that the UWM community is grateful to Dan for his leadership of the Center, and that his goals of expanding the Center's connections across campus, across Milwaukee, and across the world are widely shared. As we mark the fortieth anniversary of the Center this year with a series of public events and festivities, we look backward with gratitude to Dan and the other former directors: Robert Roeming, Michel Benamou, Kathy Woodward, and Kristie Hamilton. We also look forward with anticipation to the Center's next forty years.

—Merry Wiesner-Hanks

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The Center for 21st Century Studies wishes Ruud van Dijk, former Associate Director for Publications, a fond farewell. Ruud and his wife Joan Dobkin (Visual Art, fellow 2002-03) have returned to Ruud's native Holland where Ruud will pursue his scholarship and teaching career in Cold War American history full time at University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

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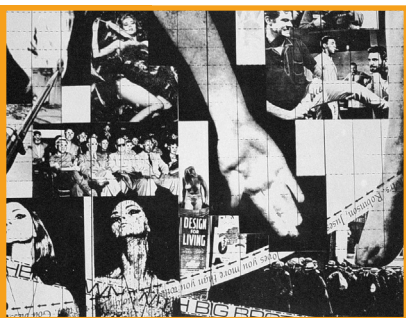
Fall 2008
Since 1968 related events



2007-08 fellows Michelle Bolduc, Barrett Kalter, Christina Maranci, and Caroline Seymour-Jorn (from left to right) will present their research in September 2008 (please see Calendar of Events, page 10, for details).

continued from front cover

The Center for 21st Century Studies has organized a variety of events to commemorate its 40th anniversary throughout the academic year 2008-09. Founded as the Center for 20th Century Studies in 1968 and thus one of the oldest humanities institutes in the country, the Center has a long history of fostering crossdisciplinary research in the humanities, humanistic social sciences, and the arts.



Untitled screen print from William Weege's Long Live Life portfolio, 1968 (courtesy Crossman Gallery, UW-Whitewater)

The commemorative year will begin with the conference *Since 1968* (Thursday - Saturday, October 23 - 25) and films by keynote speaker Carolee Schneemann (independent artist). Conference participants, including keynote speaker James Ferguson (Stanford) and speakers Martin Berger (UC-Santa Cruz), Fred Turner (Stanford), and Kath Weston (UVA), will explore the uses of 1968 today, examining the parallels between the international situ-

ation in 1968 and 2008 and the ways in which artists, theorists, and activists have made use of the many versions of 1968 in the decades since. For a full conference description, registration information, and Curricular Guide for faculty and under/graduate students, please go to <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/21st/>.

Together with the Student Union Art Gallery, the Center is pleased to present "Another World: Student Life ca. 1968," black and white photography by Alan Magayne-Roshak in the Union Atrium in late October. Alan, a UWM alumnus and UWM career photographer, will display photographs that date from the late 1960s when he was a staff photographer for *The Post*, UWM's student newspaper.

The Center is also a co-presenter of two films at the 21st annual Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival which runs this September 4 - 14: Rosa von Praunheim's *It Is Not the Homosexual Who Is Perverse, But the Society in Which He Lives*, the landmark German film that prompted great discussion, organizing, and activism in German's gay community, and Scott Bloom's *Call Me Troy*. This latter film is a portrait of the preacher/activist Troy Perry who founded the Metropolitan Community Church—a Christian church for the LGBT Community. His tale also provides a history of the struggle for LGBT civil rights, from the early 1960s to present day.

In Spring 2009, the Center will continue to explore the premises of the *Since 1968* conference with an

art exhibition in the UWM Art History Gallery (Thursday, January 29 - Thursday, February 12). Curated by Center deputy director Kate Kramer, the exhibition will include works of art that date from the late 1960s and that are on loan from the permanent collections at UW-Milwaukee and Crossman Gallery, UW-Whitewater. For details about these and other campus events, please visit www.uwm.edu.

Finally, the Center has invited Kathleen Woodward (Director, Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington) and Herbert Blau (Byron W. and Alice L. Lockwood Professor of the Humanities, University of Washington) to return to UW-Milwaukee on Friday, April 3, for what promises to be a weekend celebration of the Center's forty year history. Please save the date and join us for this event.

The collage of black and white images on this newsletter also forms the background of an interactive online timeline of images that graphically display the many events and people who have moved through the Center over the past forty years. The timeline was created by Center graduate student project assistant Scott Canevit (Urban Studies). The Center gratefully acknowledges Scott's ingenious (and sometimes tedious) work on creating the collage and the timeline. To see it with all of its features, please go to <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/21st/>.

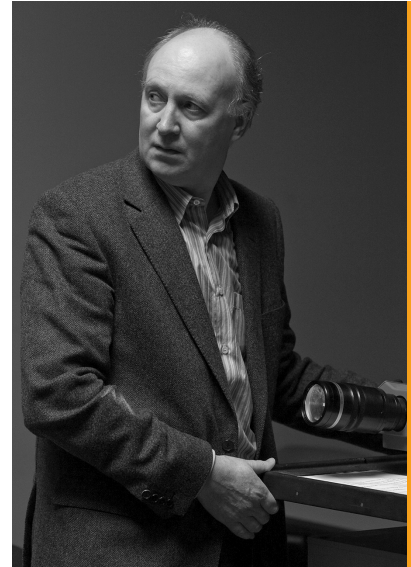
EVENTS

Precisionist Painting and Critical Art History's Dilemma: Aesthetics and the Limits of Historical Meaning A Lecture by Andrew Hemingway

Art historian Andrew Hemingway (University College, London) visited the Center on April 18 to present a lecture entitled "Precisionist Painting and Critical Art History's Dilemma: Aesthetics and the Limits of Historical Meaning." The author of several books on British and American art and most recently editor of *Marxism and the History of Art: From William Morris to the New Left* (Michigan 2006), Hemingway in his lecture sought to approach the artistic work of American precisionist painter Stefan Hirsch (born in Germany to American parents in 1899) through Theodor Adorno's aesthetic theory. According to Hemingway, Adorno considered philosophy a necessary medium for the interpretation of art, but also believed that the creative process has its own force or dynamic. For Adorno, art remains something mimetic, yet critical of society, and form does have cognitive import. Modernism's emancipation of meaning from form, Adorno believed, was good for all arts.

With the aid of numerous images, Hemingway argued that viewed through the lens of Adorno's theory, the work Stefan Hirsch began to produce after arriving in the United States, such as *Mill Town* and *New York, Lower Manhattan*, might be seen as representative of "temperate modernism." Hirsch himself at the time discussed his work in terms of a purist emphasis on mood and concept. What has been missing from critiques of Hirsch's work, Hemingway argued, is the element of genre, because Hirsch's paintings showing a new urban, industrialized world also referenced landscape painting. "Hirsch," according to Hemingway, "shows a human-created second nature that keeps humans on the outside," in a disenchanted view of the industrial maze. This friction in Hirsch's work, the melding of the modern human experience with older traditions of landscape painting, Hemingway argued, represents Hirsch's attempt to find a pictorial and aesthetic form that would salvage images of industrializing societies.

The multi-disciplinary audience of about thirty Center fellows, UWM faculty, and graduate and undergraduate students eagerly engaged Professor Hemingway during the question-and-answer period following the formal presentation. Many also participated in the reception the Center hosted at its conference room on the 9th floor of Curtin Hall.





Center Faculty Advisory Committee for 2008-09

Aneesh Aneesh (Sociology)
Christopher Burns (Music)
Jane Gallop (English)
Carlos Galvao-Sobrinho (History)
Lane Hall (English)
Thomas Hubka (Architecture)
John Koethe (Philosophy)
Elana Levine (Journalism and Mass Communication)
Tasha Oren (English/Film Studies)
Peter Paik (French, Italian, and Comparative Literature)
Tanya Tiffany (Art History)
William Washabaugh (Anthropology)

Ex officio members: Center Interim Director **Merry Wiesner-Hanks**, L&S Associate Dean **Jeffrey Merrick**, and Master of Liberal Studies Director **Jeffrey Hayes**.

The Center would like to thank members who are cycling off the committee for their service: **Anne Hansen** (History), **Raymond Isaacs** (Architecture), and **Carol Stabile** (Journalism and Mass Communication).

The Death of Politics? Human Rights, New Public Spheres, and the Jihad A Lecture by Thomas Keenan with Comment by Samuel Weber

The final event of the 2007-08 year at the Center was a lecture by Thomas Keenan (Comparative Literature and Human Rights Program, Bard College) with a comment by Samuel Weber (Avalon Professor of Humanities, Northwestern University). Co-sponsored by the English Department Colloquium Series in the Global Modern and the Comparative Study in Religion Program, Professor Keenan's lecture, "The Death of Politics? Human Rights, New Public Spheres, and the Jihad," was based on his monitoring of what he called the on-line jihadi media scape: websites, but especially discussion forums.

Keenan's project asks whether jihadi terrorism still belongs in the realm of politics (in the sense that it ultimately seeks to achieve a political objective), or if it must be considered inimical to politics. A connected concern for Keenan, in response to the work of Michael Ignatieff, is whether anyone claiming to protect human rights can resort to violence.

After showing several video clips gathered from jihadi websites, Keenan argued that while there are recognizable political goals, on the whole jihadists operate against politics itself. However, jihadists risk getting caught up in politics through their distribution of video materials and through this could become similar to other actors in the international political sphere, a development that Keenan noted should be welcomed.

In response to Keenan's talk, Samuel Weber emphasized that especially today—with the world-wide availability of video produced by anyone, anywhere—the meaning of "politics" is shifting rapidly, as is its relationship to force and violence. Media frameworks within which political discourse takes place are less firm or predictable than ever before; on-line jihadist discussion forums, Weber noted,

might be the ultimate form of content without imminent frame and could well promote insecurity. He concluded with a question prompted by the Center's theme "Past Knowing": will this kind of knowing leave room for the unknown?

The diverse and sizable audience of Center fellows, UWM faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and members of the wider community participated in a lively discussion with professors Keenan and Weber before repairing to the Center's conference room for further conversation during a reception.



Center Fellows and Staff

Christopher Burns (Music, 2008-09) collaborated with two Peck School of the Arts colleagues (Luc Vanier and Leslie Vansen) to produce *Triptych*, an evening-length work that encompassed an exhibition, performances, and a custom-built labyrinth in June 2008 at Kenilworth Square East, UWM.

Cecelia Condit (Film, 1995-96) has her first solo show in New York at CUE Art Foundation (September 4 – October 11). In addition to her newest video, *Annie Lloyd*, seven of Condit's other video works were on view, ranging from 1981 to the present and covering subjects such as childhood self-discovery, suburban living, child abuse, and ageism.

Thomas Haigh (School of Information Studies, 2008-09) published two articles, "Protocols for Profit: Web and Email Technologies as Product and Infrastructure" and "The Web's Missing Links: The Search Engine & Portal Industry" in *The Internet and American Business* edited by William Aspray and Paul Ceruzzi (MIT Press, 2008).

Barrett Kalter presented "Gloomth" at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies conference, Portland, OR, in March.

Last spring, **John Koethe** (Philosophy, 1979-80, 1993-94) gave poetry readings and papers at Vanderbilt University, University of Rochester and Mt. Holyoke College, where he also judged the Glascock Poetry Contest. He was

the Elliston Poet in Residence at the University of Cincinnati in May.

Christina Maranci (Art History, 2007-08) presented two papers: "Sculpting Genealogy and Inscribing the Memory in Early Medieval Armenia," St. Nersess Seminary, New Rochelle, NY, April 14, and "Architecture and Memory in Early Medieval Armenia" at the Symposium on Armenian Studies, King's College, Cambridge, England, June 10-12.

Bernard C. Perley (Anthropology, 2007-08) presented "Language Fantasies in Technotopia: Plugged In but Tuned Out" at the Native American Languages in Crisis: Exploring the Interface between Academia, Technology and Smaller Native Language Communities conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, on May 3.

Michael J. Oldani (Anthropology, UW-Whitewater, 2008-09) published the chapter "Deadly Embrace: Psychoactive Medication, Psychiatry, and the Pharmaceutical Industry" in *Killer Commodities: Public Health and the Corporate Production of Harm* edited by Merrill Singer and Hans Baer (Altamira Press, 2008).

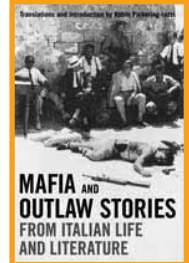
Amanda Seligman (History, 2001-02) has been appointed Director of UWM's Urban Studies Program. Professor Seligman, **Stacey Olikier** (Sociology, 1989-90), and **Kate Kramer** (Center deputy director) were appointed to the UWM Family Leave Task Force last spring.

Robin Pickering-Iazzi (French, Italian and Comparative Literature, 1989-90, 1995-96) edited and translated *Mafia and Outlaw Stories from Italian Life and Literature* (University of

Toronto Press, 2008). A historically diverse examination of criminal and outlaw institutions by some of the most significant figures in Italian literature, this book takes a unique and intriguing approach to the subject of the Mafia and offers informed judgments about its historical impact on Italian society and culture.

Arijit Sen (Architecture, 2007-08) presented "Global Culture in Local Economies: The Role of Regional and Local Economies in the Growth of Fast Food Restaurants" at the 2008 Annual ACSA conference, Houston, in March and "Imagining Home(land) in Diaspora: Geographic Imaginations and Production of Place among South Asian Immigrants in the United States" at the World Making: Art and Politics in Global Media conference, UWM, in April.

For the second year, Center Interim Director **Merry Wiesner-Hanks** was the Chief Reader for the Advanced Placement World History Examination, held in Fort Collins, Colorado this past summer, in charge of the more than 700 readers grading over 125,000 exams.



FELLOWS



Aneesh Aneesh is Assistant Professor of Sociology at UWM. He is the author of *Virtual Migration: The Programming of Globalization* (Duke, 2006) and has published articles in such journals as *Current Anthropology* and *Theory and Society*. His project at the Center concerns the question of language in the construction of borders, particularly the production of modern Hindi in connection with the nationalist project in India. His research is expected to take the form of a book that examines the linguistic and nationalist conflicts surrounding the 1947 partition of South Asia, and their continued relevance today.



Christopher Burns, Assistant Professor of Music, is a composer of chamber and electroacoustical music as well as a researcher in computer music. He is particularly interested in software's ability to compose and transform pitch and rhythmic structures. His research at the Center will consist of designing new software improvisation instruments to enhance musical performers' ability to create improvisations and invite introspection into higher-level aspects of his improvisational work.



Luca Ferrero, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at UWM, has published articles in such journals as *Philosophical Studies* and *Brain and Behavioral Sciences*. His project will examine temporal aspects in the constitution of individual identity as well as the collective identity of institutions, social practices, and disciplines. His research is expected to develop into a monograph exploring the nature of diachronic agency and identity.



Thomas Haigh is Associate Professor of the School of Information Studies at UWM and has written articles for such books as *The Internet and American Business* and *Using History to Teach Computer Science*, as well as the *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* and *Business History Review*. His project will explore changing concepts of "information" in twentieth century business and library science discourses and their rhetorical association with computer systems. He is completing a book on this topic, an expansion of his earlier research on managerial information systems.

CENTER FOR 21ST

Michael J. Oldani is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at UW-Whitewater. He has published articles in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, *Discourse*, and in several collections, including *Killer Commodities* (2008). Specializing in medical anthropology, Oldani examines the interplay between cultural “scripts” and the prescription of psychotropic medication for children. While at the Center, he will be revising a book-length manuscript on this topic, and deepening its underpinnings in theories of narrative and emplotment.



Lisa Silverman, Assistant Professor of History at UWM, has published articles in such journals as *Austrian Studies*, *German Quarterly*, and *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History*. Her research will result in the completion of a book focusing on the nature of Jewishness and the way this figured in the creation of Austrian cultural identity during the interwar years. In particular, she will be exploring the cultural construction of Jewishness in relation to property, socialism, notions of gender, and Austria’s sense of nationhood.



Florence Vatan is Assistant Professor of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature at UWM. She is author of *Robert Musil et la question anthropologique (Man as a Question: Robert Musil's Anthropology)* (Presses universitaires de France, 2000) and has published articles in *Austriaca*, *Nineteenth-Century French Studies*, and *The French Review*. Her research at the Center explores Flaubert’s and Baudelaire’s critical dialogue with medicine, focusing especially on the ways in which medicine contributed to the elaboration of their aesthetics and their quest for artistic autonomy. She is currently finishing a book on this topic.



FRI SEP 5

OPEN FORUM: New Directions for the Center for 21st Century Studies

2:30 pm; CRT 118

The Center invites all faculty, staff, graduate students and interested parties to discuss new directions for the Center for 21st Century Studies, grant writing workshops, public programming 2009-2011, conference proposals, and the *Since 1968* conference curricular guide.



CENTURY STUDIES



SINCE 1968 RELATED EVENT!!

TUE OCT 21

**Experimental Tuesdays
at the Union Theatre**

**CAROLEE SCHNEEMANN:
Performing through Media
in conjunction with the
conference Since 1968**

Fuses (1965-7), *Plumb Line*
(1968-71), and *Viet-Flakes* (1966)

7:00 pm UWM Union Theatre **FREE**

2nd level, UWM Student Union

co-sponsored by the UWM Film Department, the
Women's Resource Center, and the Union Theatre

Fall 2008 Calendar

FRI SEP 19

2007-08 Fellows Presentations by **Michelle Bolduc** (French, Italian and Comparative Literature), **Barrett Kalter** (English), **Christina Maranci** (Art History), and **Caroline Seymour-Jorn** (French, Italian and Comparative Literature)

2:30 pm CRT 118

Center Open House

4:00 pm CRT 939

FRI SEP 26

George Wilson (Philosophy, USC)

2:00 pm film screening: *The Man Who Wasn't There* (Dir. Joel Coen, 2001)

4:00 pm lecture: "Love and Bullshit in Santa Rosa: On the Coen Brothers' *The Man Who Wasn't There*"

CRT 175

THU OCT 9

Monique Buzzarté

"Here Right Now: Live Processing and Improvisation (Where the Present is the Future and the Future is the Past)," a lecture/recital, trombone and live processing

7:30 pm Recital Hall

co-sponsored by Unruly Music Series, PSOA

FRI OCT 10

OPEN FORUM

1:00 pm CRT 939

THU-SAT OCT 23-25

Since 1968

a Center for 21st Century Studies 40th anniversary conference

organized by **Jasmine Alinder** (UWM), **Aneesh Aneesh** (UWM), **Kumkum Sangari** (UWM), **Daniel J. Sherman** (UNC-Chapel Hill), and **Ruud van Dijk** (University of Amsterdam) with keynotes by **James Ferguson** (Stanford) and **Carolee Schneemann** (independent artist / filmmaker); speakers include **Martin Berger** (UC-Santa Cruz), **Ann Reynolds** (UT-Austin), and **Kath Weston** (UVA)

co-sponsored by William F. Vilas Trust, Department of Film, and an anonymous donor

FRI NOV 7

Jean Comaroff (Anthropology, University of Chicago)

a lecture

3:30 pm CRT 118

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Center Staff

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- John C. Blum
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 UWM) unless otherwise indicated

**Two Events Presented by the Center and the Medical College of Wisconsin:
 THU NOV 20**

Charles Bosk (Sociology and Medical Ethics, University of Pennsylvania)
 Third Annual Medical Humanities Lecture
 4:30 pm Medical College of Wisconsin (room to be announced)

FRI NOV 21

A Brown Bag Discussion
 NOON CRT 118, UWM
 (for a copy of a pre-circulated paper, please contact the Center at 229.4141)
 co-sponsored by the Medical Humanities Program, Medical College of Wisconsin.
 Program support by educational grants from Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin
 Endowment and the David and Julia Uihlein Charitable Foundation.

**Fall 2008 Events Co-Presented by the Center to Commemorate Its 40th Anniversary
 21st Annual LGBT Film/Video Festival (September 4 - 14)**

FRI SEP 5

Rosa von Praunheim's 1971 *It Is Not the Homosexual Who Is Perverse, But the Society in Which He Lives*
 5:00 pm UWM Union Theatre (2200 East Kenwood Boulevard)

SUN SEP 7

Call Me Troy documentary
 1:00 pm UWM Union Theatre (2200 East Kenwood Boulevard)
<http://arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm>

Another World: Student Life, ca. 1968 (October 10 - November 1)

black and white photography by Alan Magayne-Roshak
 Student Union Atrium (2200 East Kenwood Boulevard)
<http://www.aux.uwm.edu/Union/events/gallery/>

2008 Tennesen Graduate Research Fellow



The Center awarded its 4th Tennesen Graduate Research Fellowship to **Gregory J. Carman** (Urban Studies). His dissertation, "The Third Migration: Milwaukee's Belated Increase in African American Population," focuses upon the persistence of racial segregation in metropolitan Milwaukee, both in the city proper and its suburbs. He analyzes how Milwaukee's belatedly burgeoning black population confronted seemingly insuperable barriers to residential racial integration at the very time the legal

landscape seemed most amenable to black homeownership in white residential areas due to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968. This summer, Greg completed a draft of one chapter of his dissertation, along with all interviews for the oral history component of his study—some of which occurred in the Center's conference room. "The Tennesen grant," writes Greg, "has been instrumental in my progress, and I hope to complete my dissertation in time for a May 2009 defense."

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THU-SAT OCT 23-25

SINCE 1968
a center for 21st century studies 40th anniversary conference