



TOWNSEND

CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES UC BERKELEY

September/October 2015



Sephardic Identities on Screen
Depth of Field Film+Video Series
See page 16

HIGHLIGHTS

- 15, 17 Berkeley Book Chats
- 14 The Campanile at 100
- 16 New Discoveries in Mongolia



**Feminism & the Abomination
of Violence**
Jacqueline Rose
See page 17

Townsend Newsletter

The Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities
University of California, Berkeley

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2015

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 A Note from the Director
- 4 The Art of Writing
- 6 Program News
- 12 Una's Lecture: Beatriz Sarlo
- 13 Calendar of Campus Events

TOWNSEND CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

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A Note from the Director

by Alan Tansman

The aesthetic event is something as evident, as immediate, as indefinable as love, the taste of fruit, of water.

THAT'S BORGES, setting the Townsend Center tone for the coming year.

In November, **Beatriz Sarlo**, one of Latin America's most prominent cultural critics, will be delivering our *Una's Lecture*, "Borges and Post-pop Populism." She'll also be teaching a seminar called "Producing the World: Travels, Encounters, the Clash of Cultures." During her stay, scholars, critics, and writers from Argentina, Cuba, Chile, and Mexico, and Berkeley faculty as well, will take part in a symposium on "Culture and Politics in Latin America: Another Art of Transition?"

Here's Borges again:

You have wakened not out of sleep, but into a prior dream, and that dream lies within another, and so on, to infinity, which is the number of grains of sand. The path that you are to take is endless, and you will die before you have truly awakened.

In February, the renowned Indologist **David Shulman** will be speaking on "The Meanings of Dust: A South Indian Meditation" and will be teaching a seminar on "South Indian Models of the Mind." During his visit we'll be hosting a symposium on "The Imagination and Dreaming" with speakers from outside of Berkeley, including **Jonathan Lear**, **Amy Hollywood**, **Elliot Wolfson**, and **Sanjay Subrahmanyam**, and from within our own faculty, including **Maria Mavroudi**, **Mary Ann Smart**, **Anthony Cascardi**, and **Whitney Davis**.

To mention a few more items of particular interest:

We will have the chance in the Fall to hear, in intimate settings, from our colleagues **Irina Paperno**, **James Davies**, and **Darcy Grigsby**, in our *Book Chats*. Now in its fourth year, the series celebrates faculty work by having individuals informally speak with colleagues about their most recent publication.

We are presenting this year's *Depth of Field Film+Video Series* in collaboration with **The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life**. Our theme is *Sephardic Identities on Screen*.



Vacío ideológico, Daniel Santoro, 2006

Building on last year's success, **Lura Dolas**, senior lecturer in TDPS, will offer training sessions in public speaking, open to all doctoral students entering the job market.

A volume of our Berkeley Forum in the Humanities, *Plasticity and Pathology: On the Formation of the Neural Subject*, edited by **David Bates** and **Nima Bassiri**, will be out momentarily. The series is published by Fordham University Press.

The Townsend Center soon will begin cosponsoring public events with the Berkeley journal *Representations*. Our goal is to tap into the deep pool of talent at Berkeley and provide another pipeline for humanities and humanities-related publication. Please look for calls for your participation.

Lastly, we are pleased to announce a major new program at the Townsend Center: *The Art of Writing* (see p. 4). This year will see the first Art of Writing seminars uniting Berkeley faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates in the pursuit of writing well.

And so it seems fitting to end with Borges:

The art of writing is mysterious, the opinions we hold are ephemeral . . .

Please do get in touch if you have any comments or suggestions (tansmana@berkeley.edu).

The Art of Writing

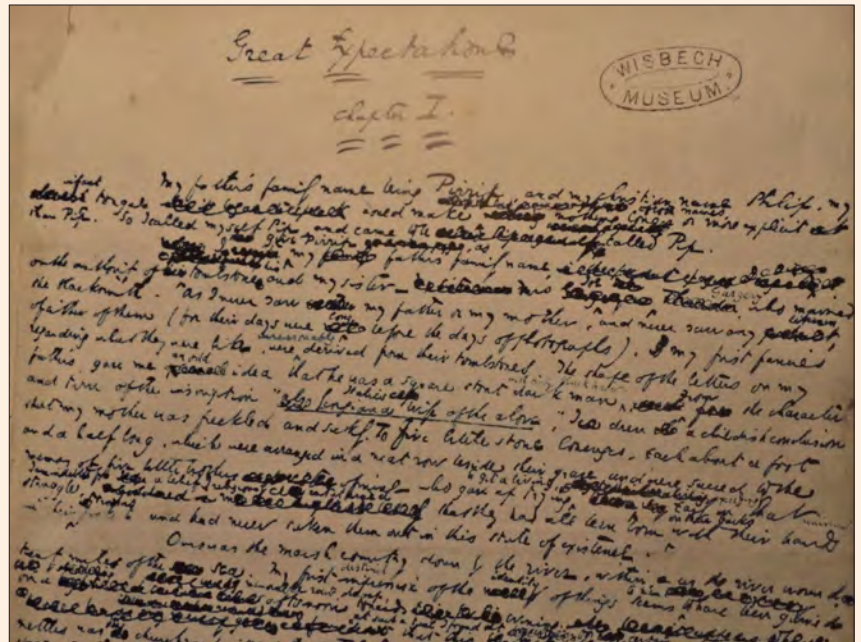
BERKELEY'S UNDERGRADUATES are the heart and soul of a new Townsend Center program, *The Art of Writing*. With a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and funding from a private donation, the Center has created The Art of Writing program to unite undergraduates with graduate students and faculty in the pursuit of writing well.

In line with the Townsend Center's mission to bring together people and perspectives from the humanities, social sciences, sciences, and professional schools, The Art of Writing program operates on the understanding that different disciplinary perspectives, different genres, and different contexts demand different styles of writing.

Ramona Naddaff, Associate Professor of Rhetoric, has been named faculty director of The Art of Writing. In her words, "Our mission is to teach students not only to write well in different genres, but also to develop critical self-awareness about the process of writing itself."

At the center of The Art of Writing is a new series of undergraduate seminars in which 10-12 students, a Berkeley faculty member, and a graduate student instructor mentored by the faculty member come together to form a collaborative and intimate intellectual writing community.

With The Art of Writing seminar, the program moves beyond the basic skills undergraduates have learned in "Reading and Composition" courses to help students pay closer attention to style, to focus on the process of revision, and to sharpen their critical thinking and argumentation skills. At the end of any given semester, The Art of Writing program will bring together the undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty who have participated in that semester's seminars



to showcase the students' writing and to share their experiences and perspectives.

The Art of Writing will offer faculty members curriculum development grants to create the writing seminars that form the core of the program. The program provides graduate students with fellowships and professional mentoring, and — with the generous support of the Daniel E. Koshland Jr. Distinguished Chair in Writing — a Summer Writing Institute in which to hone their pedagogical skills.

An Art of Writing lecture series will bring to campus renowned writers from across the globe to talk about their craft.

Seminars currently in development display the diversity of perspectives and writing styles that the program hopes to foster. These include:

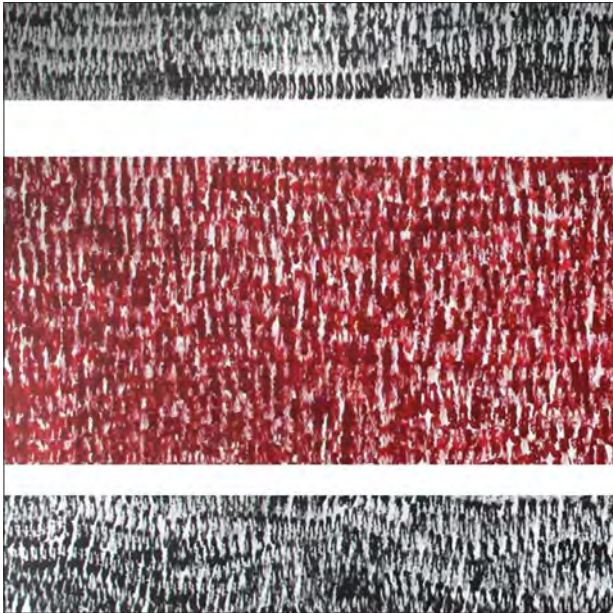
Writing about Buildings and Cities

Professor: Margaret Crawford

GSI: Alec Stewart

Affiliation: Architecture

ON EXHIBIT AT THE TOWNSEND CENTER



Lineas Existentes I (detail), 2006, mixed media on canvas

Exhibit hours are Monday-Friday, 9 am-4 pm.

The exhibit is located in a meeting space; please call (510) 643-9670 in advance to inquire about room availability.

MULTITUDES

Paintings by Andrés Weissman

Until December 18, 2015, Geballe Room, 220 Stephens Hall

BORN IN Argentina, Andrés Weissman is an emblematic figure in the world of contemporary art. He has worked in Barcelona and Paris and exhibited in Europe, Israel, and Latin America. Weissman has received numerous awards, and his work is part of many international collections such as the Essex Collection of Art from Latin America (University of Essex), the Blanton Museum of Art (University of Texas at Austin), Museum of Latin American Art (Long Beach), The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life (UC Berkeley), the Palazzo Burgio-Spanò (Marsala, Italy), Universidad Torcuato Di Tella (Buenos Aires, Argentina), Museo Castagnino-MACRO (Rosario, Argentina), and the Museum Killka (Mendoza, Argentina).

Weissman's work conveys not only a visual but also a deep philosophical and political statement — a visually expressed stance before the contemporary world. In 2005, the book *Weissman/A Pilgrim Artist* by Rodrigo Alonso was published, and his life and work was the subject of a PBS documentary by Eduardo Montes Bradley entitled *Weissman* (2010). The artist currently lives and works in Argentina where he created Studio Cri Program, a space for young artists to work and discuss their work.

Finding the Story: Scholarship and Narrative Form

Professor: **Kathleen Donegan**

GSI: **Stephanie Moore**

Affiliation: English

Presenting the Past in the Present: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology in Popular Media

Professor: **Rosemary A. Joyce**

GSI: **Katherine Kinkopf**

Affiliation: Anthropology

The Art of Writing Stylish Prose

Professor: **Michael Nylan**

GSI: **Nicholas Constantino**

Affiliation: History

Arts of Writing: Academic Writing, Food Writing, Grant Writing

Professor: **Susan Schweik**

GSI: **Samia Shabnam Rahimtoola**

Affiliation: English

Writing Fluidly about Flow

Professor: **Evan Variano**

GSI: **Kimberly Huynh**

Affiliation: Civil and Environmental Engineering

Program News

Townsend Fellows 2015-16

THE TOWNSEND Fellowships program supports the research of faculty, advanced graduate students, and other research professionals at UC Berkeley. Throughout the year, the fellows meet for regular discussion and peer review of their research in progress.

Graduate Student Fellows



Katie Kadue's (Comparative Literature) dissertation, “‘The living labours of public men’: Poetic Production as Domestic Practice from Rabelais to Milton,” explores how early modern French and English male authors conceived

of their work as a form of domestic and reproductive labor, better understood as iterative rather than innovative. For these authors, reading and writing worked like housewifery: their textual practices aimed to preserve and maintain fragile bodies, unstable households, and precariously organized communities. Although declaredly concerned with grand narratives, these writers devoted significant textual space to household activities such as jam-making, pickling, gardening, and mold-management, their language often echoing that of the time's domestic advice literature. This affinity for a domestic sphere that was, beginning in the sixteenth century, increasingly private and feminized challenges the common scholarly view of early modern authorship as a publicity-seeking, self-stylized heroic enterprise, a view that overlooks authors' preoccupations with drudgery, domesticity, and preservation.

In her dissertation, “Illusion and Instrument: The Lives of Characters in Dostoevsky and Tolstoy,” **Chloe Kitzinger** (Slavic Languages & Literatures) focuses critical attention on a central but underexplored



problem in the history and theory of the novel: that realist characters exist independently from the author's control, and even from the constraints of form, a technical illusion she calls a character's “mimetic life.” Kitzinger

suggests that Tolstoy and Dostoevsky were themselves preoccupied with questions of how this illusion of “life” is produced, what conditions maintain it, and at what points it starts to falter. Investigating the character systems of four novels with widely differing narrative structures — Tolstoy's *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina* and Dostoevsky's *The Adolescent* and *The Brothers Karamazov* — Kitzinger provides an account of the narrative sources and limitations of mimetic illusion in the novel and analyzes the productive tension between mimetic character and the bounds of form.



Stephanie Moore (English) examines the role of allegory in English literary history by revealing its affinities with scholarly methods of sorting, retaining, and retrieving information. In her dissertation, “Allegory as

Cognitive Technology in Early Modern England,” Moore argues against the critical tendency to dismiss allegory as a conservative genre whose “abstractness” rendered it unfit for modernity. By redefining allegory not as a structure of meaning but as a therapeutic method, she reveals the functional purpose behind allegorical form — to improve the reader's powers of practical reason by organizing and cultivating the memory — and argues that knowledge-ordering schemes like the medieval memory arts and, later, the humanist commonplace-book provided allegory with formal models for manipulating cognition.

Moore shows how allegory evolved in response to new ways of organizing facts and texts, and reassesses allegory's contributions to the new generic formations taking shape in England at the end of the seventeenth century.



Jane Raisch (Comparative Literature) reimagines the period-defining narrative of the Renaissance as the age of classical rediscovery by investigating the distinctive impact of Greek antiquity on early modern English literature. In “Fictions

of Scholarship: Hermeneutics & Hellenism in Early Modern England,” Raisch argues that the reception of Hellenistic and Imperial Greek literature produced new paradigms for textual interpretation and fiction-making in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Greek’s cultural and linguistic “newness” in the Renaissance, unlike Latin’s essentially uninterrupted cultural presence in Western Europe throughout the Middle Ages, compelled a departure from preexisting scholarly methodologies toward more experimental techniques of cultural recovery. Responding to these techniques, Renaissance authors merged scholarly speculation with imaginative world-creation to produce manifestly innovative literary texts. In tracing this fictional appropriation of scholarly practices, Raisch locates the experimental, imaginative, and proto-novelistic origins of early modern English literature in the Renaissance’s engagement with Greek texts.



Samuel Robinson’s dissertation in History, “Flesh Be Made Spirit: Theology, Materialism, and Radical Religion in Early Modern England,” considers the relationship between conceptualizations of God and matter in seventeenth-

century England. Working chronologically from the ideological upheaval of the English Revolution (1642-1660), Robinson draws upon medical, alchemical, and natural philosophical texts to chart an intellectual history of the ways in which early modern thinkers “embodied” God. The idea of “body,” a range of formulations regarding the nature of corporeality and matter, increasingly served as a resource for theological discourse, philosophical debate, and popular religious belief in the late seventeenth century. Questions of materiality, divine agency, and religious knowledge were deeply entwined in the English Enlightenment’s broad question concerning the relationship between spirit and body. Robinson argues that this period was the moment when the relationship between God and matter collapsed under the weight of this intense intellectual interrogation.



In his dissertation, “Don’t Show A Hyena How Well You Can Bite: Performance, Race and the Animal Subaltern in Eastern Africa,” **Joshua Williams** (Theater, Dance & Performance Studies) focuses on the animal in

the political and performance history of colonial and postcolonial East Africa. He begins his analysis with sites of colonial power such as white amateur theaters and natural history societies. Williams sets the complex repertory of performance practices with which late colonialism sought to master the wild and its beasts alongside the efforts of evolutionary biologists to establish the prehistory of humankind in the East African fossil record. This assemblage of practices, performances, and discourses hinged on a subsumption of black life into animality, which, in turn, legitimated the colonial expropriation of native land. Williams goes on to consider black anti-colonialist counter-claims on the category of the human and the ramifications of that struggle in cultural production and social life.



British modernism’s signature “difficulty” is often attributed to intellectual elitism. With literacy only becoming widespread in 1870, modernism’s obscurity is interpreted as an attempt to alienate inexperienced

readers. In his dissertation, “Artless: Ignorance in the Novel and the Making of Modern Character,” **Brandon White** (English) argues that modernist novelists were instead inspired to resist education altogether, retaining a model of characterization that remained readable to a wide audience, but repurposing that model to help readers unlearn socially imposed standards. Novels normally idealize education — as the plot progresses, characters learn more about their world. Yet novelists, from Henry James to D.H. Lawrence, suspected that this ideal too easily echoed social norms and attempted to reverse the process, staging ways for individuals to extract themselves from education’s influence. White’s dissertation thus provides an alternative explanation for modernism’s origins: many of the techniques ordinarily attributed to “difficulty” emerged first as strategies for making this new characterization coherent.

Brandon White is the recipient of the Norman Jacobson Memorial Teaching Award.

Faculty Fellows



Associate Professor of French **Deborah Blocker’s** current book project forms part of her broader work to shed critical light on the understandings of art that currently prevail in the West by historicizing the processes through which

they rose to prominence in early modern Europe (1550-1850). Provisionally entitled “The Freedom to Enjoy: Art, Knowledge and Politics amid the Alterati of Florence (1569-ca. 1625),” Blocker’s book traces the development of an aesthetics of leisurely enjoyment within one of the major Florentine academies of the late sixteenth century, the *Accademia degli Alterati*. In this book, Blocker examines how the social and political circumstances of the Alterati prompted them to develop novel understandings of the nature and social function of artistic practices, as well as innovative conceptions of how art is to be enjoyed. The book also asks how, from being marginal and subversive, these hedonistic understandings of art progressively became acceptable and even widespread.



The *banlieues*, the formerly marginalized, criminalized space of urban peripheries, and then the standardized product of urban modernity, have recently gained centrality in contemporary France. Assistant Professor

Églantine Colon (French) studies the function of these urban peripheries in contemporary aesthetic production and critical theory in her book project, “Tenir la marge. Poétiques et politiques du précaire (Holding the Margin: The Poetics and Politics of Precarity).” The project starts from the identification of a “turn to the peripheries” in post-1990 French culture, and argues that the banlieues, unlike the now museified and gentrified Parisian city center, confront aesthetic figuration with a structurally conflicting space. Conceptualizing the French banlieues as precarious spaces, Colon analyzes texts and films that use the banlieues to show how the aesthetic figuration of urban peripheries have enabled a movement beyond the “spatialist” tendencies of the postmodernism of the 1980s and 1990s towards an aesthetics that she calls “precarism.”



In “Ethnography, Literature, and National Projects in the Hispanic Caribbean,” Assistant Professor **Daylet Domínguez** (Spanish and Portuguese) analyzes both the links between literature and ethnography in the Hispanic Caribbean

between the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the early twentieth century and ethnography’s role in the rise of cultural nationalism. Domínguez uncovers how the traditions of travel literature and *costumbrismo* (picturesque representations of local customs) were important to the establishment of ethnography in the Hispanic Caribbean. While most studies on Caribbean ethnography focus on its connection with European and North American scientific paradigms, Domínguez proposes an alternative genealogy emphasizing the clear continuities between ethnographic discourse and the rhetoric of travel and *costumbrista* literatures. She argues that this new discourse offered nationalists an apparatus for rethinking multiracial Caribbean societies and played a key role in circulating fictions of identity and difference over which national paradigms were traced.



Between 20,000 BCE and 2,000 BCE the Middle East witnessed some of the most fundamental developments in human prehistory: aggregations of semi-sedentary hunter-gatherers on an unprecedented scale, the emergence of the

world’s earliest farming villages, and the appearance of urban centers. Excavations at these sites have produced an impressive range of material objects and tools that played a decisive role in the creation and transformation of prehistoric societies. Yet these objects are much more than just passive cultural markers.

To understand the archaeological record, Assistant Professor of Anthropology **Lisa Maher** emphasizes technology as an entangled social process in her book project, “The Archaeology of Technology in the Prehistoric Middle East.” Looking at the decisions made and actions taken throughout the production sequences of various technological traditions, Maher investigates the reasons for these choices and actions, how they varied across space and time, and how they influenced social relationships during the development of complexity in prehistory.



In “Sensorium and Sacrament in a Hindu Pilgrimage Town: Theological Aesthetics, Ecology, and the Islamicate, 1550–1850,” Assistant Professor **Sugata Ray** (History of Art) takes the aesthetics of seeing nature

as locus of inquiry to trace a history of environmental aesthetics in early modern and colonial South Asia. Examining architecture, paintings, temple jewelry, and sacramental textiles alongside theological texts, hymns, and poetry, Ray argues that post sixteenth-century liturgical practices in the Hindu pilgrimage town of Vrindavan, the primary center of Krishna worship in India, triangulated Islamic visualities, eleventh-century theories of performativity, and a place-oriented theology based on venerating nature. He situates artistic practices, theology, and the agentic nature of the environment within a multi-sensorial world of talismans, mineralogy, horticulture, and ritualized vegetarianism. In examining the interstices of the ecological and aesthetic, Ray delineates relational practices shaped by human interaction with the environment in the Little Ice Age (ca. 1550–1850).

In 1762, British warships carrying 24,000 soldiers and sailors and almost 2,000 enslaved Africans descended on and seized the city of Havana. In her book project entitled “The Occupation of Havana:



Slavery, War, and Empire in the Eighteenth Century,” Assistant Professor **Elena Schneider** (History) studies this momentous event as a part of the interconnected histories of British and Spanish empires. In considering why Britain

went to such lengths to take Havana and why Spain agreed to give up Florida in order to get Havana and its surroundings back, Schneider explores the nature and functioning of empires in the eighteenth-century Atlantic world. Emphasizing the geopolitics of the slave trade in the grand narrative of eighteenth-century imperial transformation, Schneider shows how the role of people of African descent in these events and Spanish reliance on the British slave trade at the time inspired a series of wide-ranging Spanish imperial reforms with global implications.



Associate Professor of English **Elisa Tamarkin’s** book project, “Apropos of Nothing: Histories of Relevance and Irrelevance,” offers a history of the ideas of “relevant” and “irrelevant” knowledge after 1800. Proceeding

from the premise, as new in the nineteenth century as the concept of “news” itself, that certain ways of knowing and thinking come to be defined by their “relevance,” Tamarkin traces the concept of relevance in the fields of logic, philosophy, aesthetics, semantics, and the natural sciences. She shows how our claims for relevance signal a belief not just in the significance of our work but also in its adaptability within systems of knowledge that demand constant novelty and shifting sites of interest. With readings of Hegel, Bentham, Mill, Tocqueville, Emerson, Thoreau, William James, Dewey, and others, Tamarkin examines how theories of relevance come to inform debates about the meaning of art and the purpose of criticism.

Senior & Library Fellows

Professor of English **Steven Goldsmith** works in the fields of critical theory and nineteenth-century British poetry. His recent book, *Blake’s Agitation: Criticism and the Emotions* (Johns Hopkins, 2013), explores the role of emotion and agency in Blake’s critical thought. Goldsmith’s current work challenges the contemporary critical tendency to celebrate generative materialism, looking instead at the possibility of a materialism that allows physical loss to be nothing more than loss. To this end, Goldsmith examines effects such as surface deterioration and flattening of tone in materials as varied as Rembrandt’s portrait of Saint Bartholomew, C.S. Giscombe’s latest book-length prose poem, “Ohio Railroads,” and Kurt Schwitters’ late collages produced in the English Lake District following World War II.

Professor of Classics **Ellen Oliensis** is known for her work on Roman literature and literary culture, especially the poets of the Augustan era. Her work centers on questions of erotics, authority, gender, and interpretation. Her last book, *Freud’s Rome: Psychoanalysis and Latin Poetry* (Cambridge, 2009), reinvigorated Freudian criticism through close readings of Catullus, Virgil, and Ovid. Her current book project traces the intertwining of the writing life and the life of love in Ovid’s *Amores*. She is also working on a commentary on Book 6 of Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, a book well known for its influential versions of the Arachne, Niobe, and Philomela myths.

Niek Veldhuis is Professor of Assyriology. His research focuses on ancient Mesopotamian lexical texts that taught scribal students how to read and write cuneiform beginning in the third millennium BCE. He is also broadly interested in Sumerian and Akkadian literature and in the religions of the period. His wide range of publications on literary, documentary, medical, ritual, and magical texts includes the monographs *Religion, Literature, and Scholarship: The Sumerian Composition “Nanše and the Birds”* (Brill, 2004) and *History of the Cuneiform Lexical Tradition* (Ugarit-Verlag, 2014). He has long

been involved in the area of digital humanities and has been instrumental in making texts written in cuneiform available electronically as director of the *Digital Corpus of Cuneiform Lexical Texts*.

Leti Volpp (Berkeley Law) is the Robert D. and Leslie Kay Raven Professor of Law. Her research examines questions of citizenship, migration, culture, and identity from the intersection of legal studies, American Studies, and the humanities. Her most recent publications include “The Indigenous as Alien” (2015), “Civility and the Undocumented Alien” (2014), “The Boston Bombers” (2014), and “Imaginations of Space in Immigration Law” (2012). Volpp’s current research examines the correspondence between a literary text (*Uncle Tom’s Cabin*) and a legal text (Stowe v. Thomas) to consider the relationship between the law of slavery and intellectual property, as well as the relationship between law and literature.

East European, Central Asian, and Slavic Studies librarian **Liladhar Pendse**’s bibliographic project examines the influence of Azerbaijani periodicals among Muslims throughout the Russian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, and Qajar Iran. In post-Czarist Russia, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR) was the first democratic and secular republic in the Muslim world. Despite the ADR’s relatively short existence from May 1918 until April 1920, the period witnessed a flowering of Azerbaijani press that reflected democratic and secular ideals. Pendse’s project, “Contesting Identities: Azerbaijani Periodicals Press of the Late 19th and Early 20th Century,” investigates the formation of “new” Azerbaijani identity in the ADR and creates the first comprehensive annotated bibliography of the periodicals of Azerbaijan from 1875 to 1920.

2015-16 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SEMINAR

The Fate of Nature in the Anthropocene The Humanities and the Environmental Turn

AFTER A BRIEF hiatus, the Collaborative Research Seminar program returns to the Townsend Center in Spring 2016 with the seminar *The Fate of Nature in the Anthropocene: The Humanities and the Environmental Turn*. Collaborative Research Seminars are designed as team-taught seminars of six faculty, and enrollment is open to 12 graduate students in the third year of study or beyond.



The seminar, convened by **Anne-Lise François** (English and Comparative Literature) and **Carolyn Merchant** (Environmental

Science, Policy, and Management), brings together faculty and graduate students from the humanities and environmental sciences to develop a theoretical framework for the environmental humanities. Examining possibilities of an integrated approach to the recent environmental turn in the humanities, the seminar explores the complex meanings of the term *Anthropocene* — the era in which human activities have had a significant impact on the earth’s ecosystems — and investigates how new theories of ethics and justice can be made applicable to resolving large-scale, complex environmental problems. Other faculty participants include **Justin Brashares** (Environmental Science, Policy, and Management), **Mel Y. Chen** (Gender & Women’s Studies), **Greg Levine** (History of Art), and **Dan O’Neill** (East Asian Languages & Cultures).

The Townsend Center is now accepting applications for the 2016-17 Collaborative Research Seminar. The application deadline is November 13, 2015. Please visit townsendcenter.berkeley.edu for further details.

UPCOMING UNA'S LECTURE

Beatriz Sarlo, Cultural and Literary Critic

Borges and Post-pop Populism

November 12, 2015, 7 pm, Maude Fife Room, 315 Wheeler Hall

IN HER UNA'S Lecture, **Beatriz Sarlo** will examine populism in relation to Borges' work, to the paintings of the distinguished artist Daniel Santoro, and to its most recent avatar, found in post-pop political populism.

A scholar of Latin American literature and culture and one of the most important Argentine literary and cultural critics of the last 40 years, Sarlo has authored more than two-dozen books on literary criticism, cultural history, visual culture, and politics about topics ranging from Sarmiento, Borges, Victoria Ocampo, and the Shoah to Eva Perón and Néstor Kirchner.



Professor Sarlo will be in residence at Berkeley during November 2015, and will also offer a graduate seminar entitled "Producing the World: Travels, Encounters, the Clash of Cultures."

This course will examine the discourse on travel as a way to account for different symbolic, political, social, and ethnic experiences. Seminar readings integrate theoretical accounts of travel from major Latin American authors. These examples help develop an inquiry about tourism especially in its comparative manifestations — as entertainment and distraction for a mass public or as an inquiry for a lettered elite who prevailed upon travel accounts to advance a national project at home.

The course is open to all Berkeley graduate students and is offered as a 1 or 2 unit option. Please consult the schedule of classes and the Townsend Center web site for more details.

Professor Sarlo will also participate in a symposium November 13-14, 2015 on "Culture and Politics in Latin America: Another Art of Transition?" This two-day symposium will gather writers and cultural critics from Latin America and the U.S. to explore twenty-first century Latin America, emphasizing the transitions and crises

that have marked the cultural field. Panelists will include: **Diamela Eltit** (Chile), **Andrea Jefanovic** (Chile), **Robert Kaufman** (Berkeley), **Gwen Kirkpatrick** (Georgetown), **Francine Masiello** (Berkeley), **Raquel Olea** (Chile), **Antonio José Ponte** (Cuba), **Beatriz Sarlo** (Argentina), and many former students of Professor **Francine Masiello**, who will be honored at the symposium in recognition of her distinguished work in the field of Latin American Literature and Culture and her profound dedication to her students.

For more information:

townsendcenter.berkeley.edu/programs



'Heladera Siam Di Tella, argentina, noble y buena', Daniel Santoro, 2002



La familia, Andrés Weissman, 1980

SEPTEMBER 2

PopUp Lecture with Artist Andrés Weissman

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

PopUp Exhibition

Andrés Weissman and Gachi Prieto on Art, Memory, and Argentina

THE MAGNES COLLECTION OF JEWISH ART AND LIFE, TOWNSEND CENTER

12-1 pm | The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, 2121 Allston Way

In the 2015-16 inaugural PopUp Exhibition, Argentine artist Andrés Weissman (Buenos Aires, b. 1955) is interviewed by Buenos Aires gallerist Gachi Prieto about his work and the role of art in contemporary Argentina. The presentation is accompanied by the display of Weissman's painting, *La familia* (1980), in the collection of the Magnes.

Event Contact: townsend_center@ls.berkeley.edu



SEPTEMBER 5-6

Conference in Honor of Thomas Laqueur

page 14

townsendcenter.berkeley.edu/upcoming-events

events.berkeley.edu

The Hungarian Challenge to Liberal Democracy

INSTITUTE OF SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES (ISEEES)

12-1:30 pm | 270 Stephens Hall

Speaker: Zsolt Enyedi, Professor of Political Science, Central European University

Hungary is a member of the European Union and is one of the most globalized countries in the world. Yet, about two-thirds of its population supports parties that reject liberal democracy and are typically described as populist and authoritarian. Next to analyzing the ideology of these parties (Fidesz and Jobbik), this lecture also discusses the compatibility between elitism and populism and the ways the institutionalization of a party system can undermine the quality of democracy.

Event Contact: 510-642-3230

DAILY THROUGH NOVEMBER 2

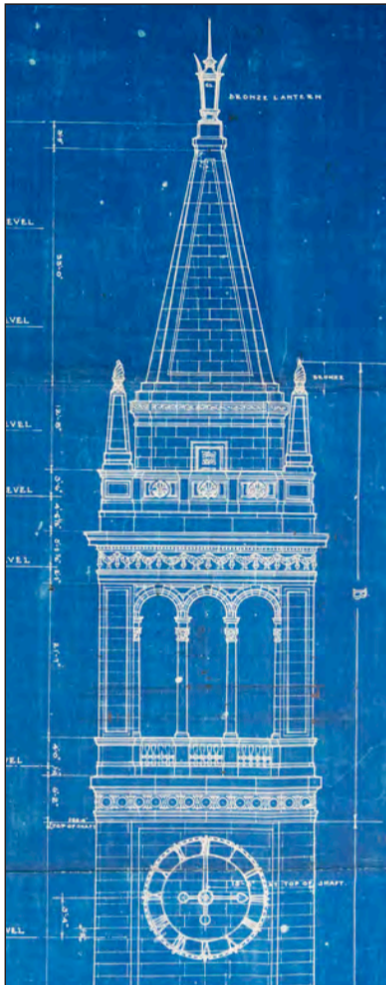
Berkeley's Ivory Tower: The Campanile at 100

BANCROFT LIBRARY

10 am–5 pm | Rowell Cases, Bancroft
Library

Sather Tower, also known as the
Campanile, looms large both as a
physical structure and as the most
widely recognized symbol of the
Berkeley campus. This exhibition
celebrates the centennial of the
landmark through holdings from the
University Archives and The Bancroft
Library's manuscript and pictorial
collections.

Event Contact: bancroft@library.berkeley.edu



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

In the Cave: The Humanities and the Human Condition

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

5 pm | Maude Fife Room, 315 Wheeler
Hall

Speaker: Stephen Greenblatt, Cogan
University Professor of the Humanities,
Harvard University

With technology, science, and
medicine, we expect and indeed
demand the latest, most advanced
version; with the Humanities, the latest
is not necessarily the best. How is that
possible? In this lecture, Greenblatt
talks about the paintings in the
Chauvet Cave, from 30,000 years ago,
and then turns to *Gilgamesh*, *Genesis*,
and the *Iliad*. What do these artifacts,
among the earliest that survive, have
to tell us about the ways that the
Humanities make us human?

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

'Imaginary Activism': The Role of the Artist beyond the Art World with Guillermo Gómez-Peña

ETHNIC STUDIES

7 pm | Durham Theater, Dwinelle Hall

Guillermo Gómez-Peña has spent
many years developing his unique
solo style, combining “embodied
poetry, performance activism and
theatricalizations of postcolonial
theory.” In his ten books, as in his
live performances (with his troupe La
Pocha Nostra), digital art, videos and
photo performances, he pushes the
boundaries still further, exploring what
is left for artists to do in a repressive
global culture of censorship, paranoid
nationalism, and what he terms “the
mainstream bizarre.” Introduced by
Laura E. Pérez, Associate Professor,
Department of Ethnic Studies.

Event Contact: marcoflores06@gmail.com

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5-6

Conference in Honor of Thomas Laqueur, Helen Fawcett Distinguished Professor of History

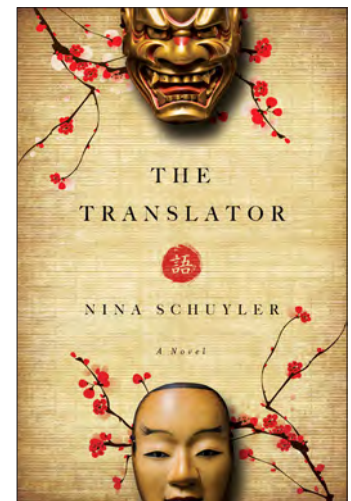
HISTORY

9 am–5 pm | Social Science Matrix, 8th
Floor, Barrows Hall

Thomas Laqueur has taught at Berkeley
since 1973. His contribution to the
intellectual life of the campus has
been immense, and the influence of
his scholarship upon the humanities
and social sciences has traversed the
globe. This conference does not try to
grapple with the entirety of what might
be called the Laqueur-effect, but brings
together his academic interlocutors and
former students on the occasion of his
70th birthday.

Event Contact: (510) 642-1971

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10



Story Hour in the Library

Nina Schuyler, Author

THE LIBRARY

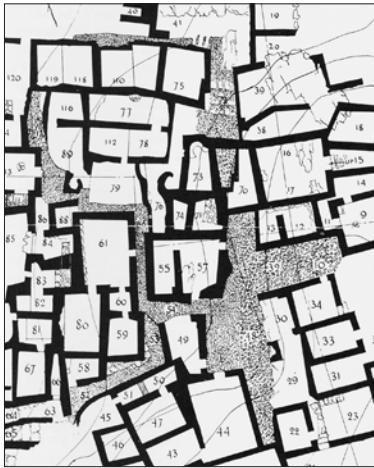
5–6 pm | Morrison Library

Nina Schuyler is the author of *The
Translator*, which won the Next
Generation Indie Book Award for
General Fiction and was shortlisted

for the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing. Her first novel *The Painting* was nominated for the Northern California Book Award and named by the San Francisco Chronicle as a best book for 2004 and by MSNBC as a “fearless debut.”

Event Contact: storyhour@berkeley.edu

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15



After the Collapse: Crete in the Early Iron Age

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

7 pm | 370 Dwinelle Hall

Speaker: Leslie Preston Day, Professor Emerita, Classics, Wabash College

The twelfth century BCE saw the final collapse of many of the high civilizations of the Bronze Age in Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Palestine, and Syria. An examination of excavated twelfth-century sites, particularly Karphi, Kavousi, and the Isthmus area in eastern Crete, provides information about the dynamics of the resulting population shift and reveals much about the period’s political, social, economic, and religious life.

Event Contact: sheltonk@berkeley.edu

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Berkeley Book Chats
'Who, What Am I?': Tolstoy Struggles to Narrate the Self
TOWNSEND CENTER
 12–1 pm | Geballe Room, 220 Stephens Hall
 Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures Irina Paperno gives an account of Tolstoy’s lifelong attempt to find adequate ways to represent the self, to probe its limits, and to arrive at an identity not based on the bodily self and its accumulated life experience.
 Event Contact: townsend_center@ls.berkeley.edu

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Jefferson Memorial Lecture

John Fabian Witt

BANCROFT LIBRARY

4:10 pm | International House, Chevron Auditorium

John Fabian Witt, Allen H. Duffy Class of 1960 Professor of Law, Yale Law School, presents the Jefferson lecture on Thursday, September 17, 2015, in conjunction with the observance of Constitution Day.

Event Contact: lectures@berkeley.edu

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Ayotzinapa and the Rebirth of Revolutionary Democracy: Mexico at the Crossroads

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE

3-5 pm | 370 Dwinelle Hall

Speaker: John Ackerman, Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas, UNAM

Event Contact: idelvalle@berkeley.edu or etarica@berkeley.edu

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24-27

The Genres of Archaic and Classical Greek Poetry: Theories and Models

CLASSICS

Hours vary by day | Faculty Club & Dwinelle Hall

This is the major international conference organized by The Network for the Study of Archaic and Classical Greek Song, held every other year. The topic of the conference is “theories and models of genre” as these apply to archaic and classical Greek poetry.

Event Contact: kurke@berkeley.edu





SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Archaeology of Knowledge: New Archival and Material Discoveries in Mongolia

INSTITUTE OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES

9 am–5 pm | 145 Dwinelle Hall

Mongol spaces have always been heavily trafficked intersections, sites of mediation, and global circuits of people and exchange in the heart of Asia. Recent archaeological work is shedding new light on Mongolia’s complex history. Experts from Mongolia who have been working with excavation sites join Berkeley and other scholars in analyzing their discoveries and the implications for our understanding of Mongolia’s past. Free and open to the public. Registration required.

Event Contact: ieas@berkeley.edu

Koreans and Camptowns

CENTER FOR KOREAN STUDIES (CKS)

9 am–5 pm | David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way

Speakers: Grace M. Cho, CUNY Staten Island; Sue-Je Lee Gage, Ithaca College; Eleana Kim, UC Irvine; Deann Borshay Liem

Discussants: Yong Nam Lee; Myung Duck Joo; Jai Song Seo

The Center for Korean Studies cohosts a conference with advocacy group Me & Korea about the camptowns that developed alongside American military bases in Korea during and after the Korean War. Free and open to the public. Registration recommended.

Event Contact: cksassist@berkeley.edu

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

The Phenomenological Antinomies and the Phenomenology of Antinomianism: Adorno and Scholem on Authority and Law

THE PROGRAM IN CRITICAL THEORY

5–7 pm | 370 Dwinelle Hall

Speaker: Asaf Angermann, Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Philosophy and the Program in Judaic Studies, Yale University

Event Contact: critical_theory@berkeley.edu

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Decolonizing Foodways

BERKELEY FOOD INSTITUTE

4–7:30 pm | Alumni House, Toll Room

Panelists: Catriona Rueda Esquibel, San Francisco State University, Gail Myers, Farm to Grow, Inc., Ron Reed, Karuk-UC Berkeley Collaborative, Lok Siu, UC Berkeley, Dawn Weleski, Conflict Kitchen, Pittsburgh

Building off scholar/activists Luz Calvo and Catriona Esquibel’s work “Decolonize Your Diet: A Manifesto,” the conference explores what the process of decolonizing foodways means. Taking a participatory, multi-sensory approach, this symposium features a panel of activists and scholars along with a freshly prepared meal by local chefs.

Event Contact: foodinstitute@berkeley.edu

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3-4

Humanism and Its Prefixes

RHETORIC

Times & Location TBD

The Department of Rhetoric hosts its annual graduate student conference on the question of “Humanism and Its Prefixes.” In this colloquium, participants consider the fate of the

human in the age of transhumanist intersubjectivity and the political forms that emerge concurrently with it.

Event Contact: ams@berkeley.edu

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6



Depth of Field Film+Video Series
El Gusto (2011)
Directed by Safinez Bousbia, 88 min
TOWNSEND CENTER, THE MAGNES COLLECTION OF JEWISH ART AND LIFE
7 pm | The Magnes Auditorium, 2121 Allston Way
Filmmaker Safinez Bousbia tells the story of a group of Algerian Jewish and Muslim musicians who were torn apart by the Algerian Revolution (1954-1962) and reunited 50 years later for an exceptional concert.
Event Contact: townsend_center@ls.berkeley.edu

German Digital Humanities

GERMAN

4–7 pm | 282 Dwinelle Hall

This conference explores the potential of digital humanities for the study of German literature.

Event Contact: ctang@berkeley.edu

**WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 7-8**

**Revisiting Freud and Moses: Heroism,
History and Religion**

GERMAN

Times vary by day | 370 Dwinelle Hall
Over the last few decades, vibrant debates regarding post-secularism have found inspiration and provocation in the works of Sigmund Freud. Revisiting Freud’s lifelong obsession with the figure of Moses, the conference features new research on the intersections of theology, trauma, and history in Freud’s psychoanalytic theories, with discussions on the origins of ethics in religion, the relationship between literature and historiography, and the interconnection of monotheism.
Event Contact: gilad.sharvit@berkeley.edu

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8



Story Hour in the Library
Yang Huang, Author

THE LIBRARY

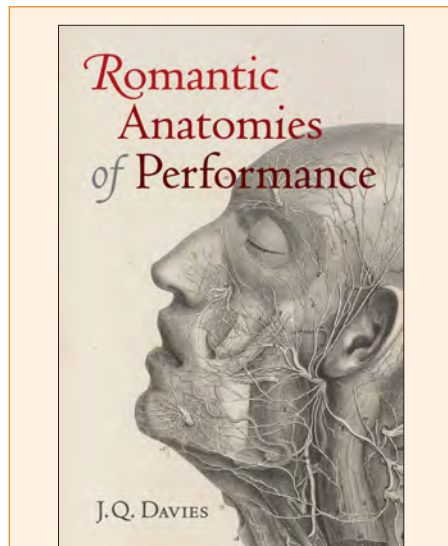
5–6 pm | Doe Library, Morrison Library

Yang Huang grew up in Jiangsu, China and came to the U.S. to study computer science. While working as an engineer, she attended Boston College and earned an MFA from the

University of Arizona. Her debut novel *Living Treasures* is a Pen/Bellwether Prize finalist and an INDIEFAB Book of the Year Award Finalist. Her fiction and a feature-length screenplay have appeared in *Asian Pacific American Journal*, *The Evansville Review*, *Futures*, *Porcupine Literary Arts Magazine*, *Nuvein*, and *Stories for Film*. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and works for UC Berkeley as a computer engineer.

Event Contact: storyhour@berkeley.edu

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14



Berkeley Book Chats

Romantic Anatomies of Performance

TOWNSEND CENTER

12–1 pm | Geballe Room, 220 Stephens Hall

Professor of Music James Davies’ book explores the very matter of musical experience: the hands and voices of virtuosic musicians and singers who plied their trade between London and Paris in the nineteenth century.

Event Contact: townsend_center@ls.berkeley.edu

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Feminism and the Abomination of Violence

THE PROGRAM IN CRITICAL THEORY

5–7 pm | Maude Fife Room, 315 Wheeler Hall

Speaker: Jacqueline Rose, Professor of Humanities, Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, University of London

Feminism rightly sees one of its most important tasks as the exposure of, and struggle against, violence towards women. In the twenty first century this violence shows no sign of decreasing. Continuing her on-going engagement with psychoanalysis and feminism, Jacqueline Rose explores two women thinkers who placed violence at the core of their life’s work: Hannah Arendt and Melanie Klein, both of whom track the complex relation between violence in the world and in the mind. How might their understanding of violence be theorized for modern feminism?

Event Contact: robkaufman@berkeley.edu

AIA Lecture – Reports from the Field

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

5:30–7:30 pm | 370 Dwinelle Hall

Young scholars from UC Berkeley archaeology programs present their research conducted during the past season.

Event Contact: sheltonk@berkeley.edu

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Violence/Non-Violence: A Conversation between Jacqueline Rose and Judith Butler

THE PROGRAM IN CRITICAL THEORY

4–6 pm | Maude Fife Room, 315 Wheeler Hall

Speaker: Jacqueline Rose, Professor of

Humanities, Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, University of London

Discussant: Judith Butler, Maxine Elliot Professor, Comparative Literature and the Program in Critical Theory, UC Berkeley

Event Contact: robkaufman@berkeley.edu



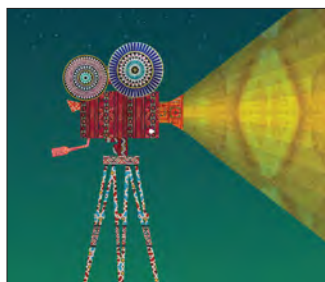
Orpheu and Avant-Garde Poetry SPANISH & PORTUGUESE

10 am–1 pm | 370 Dwinelle Hall

This conference commemorates the 100th anniversary of *Orpheu*, the literary magazine that inaugurated Portuguese literary modernism. The event not only highlights the importance of the magazine to modernist Portuguese literature, but also establishes connections to other avant-garde movements. An exhibit about the magazine will also be on display in 201 Moses Hall.

Event Contact: kbrune@berkeley.edu

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21



'Arab Shorts': Short Films from the Arab Film Festival

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

7 pm | 340 Stephens Hall

A new international short film series featuring exemplary narrative, documentary, and animated shorts from the Arab Film Festival.

Event Contact: cmes@berkeley.edu

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23



Art, Politics and the City in China and Mexico

GLOBAL URBAN HUMANITIES

Time TBD | Wurster Hall

Art, commerce, politics, history, and performance on both sides of the Pacific are examined in this wide-ranging symposium. Speakers including Ruben Gallo, Tatiana Flores, Minerva Cuevas, and Jesusa Rodriguez address Mexico City, while Winnie Wong (Rhetoric) and Margaret Crawford (Architecture) present their students' research on urban art villages in China's Pearl River Delta.

Event Contact: globalurbanhumanities@berkeley.edu

FRIDAYS, OCTOBER 30 & NOVEMBER 6



Public Speaking for Graduate Students

TOWNSEND CENTER

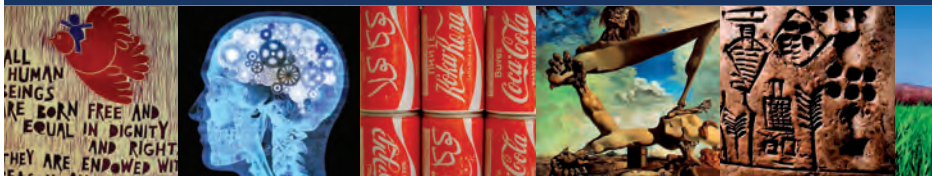
9:30 am–12:30 pm | Geballe Room, 220 Stephens Hall

Lura Dolas, Senior Lecturer in Theater, Dance, & Performance Studies, conducts two three-hour workshops designed to teach graduate students techniques to help them deliver job talks clearly, confidently, and persuasively. The deadline to apply is October 1, 2015.

Event Contact: townsend_center@ls.berkeley.edu

COURSE THREADS

Interdisciplinary Program for Undergraduates



The Townsend Center's *Course Threads* program allows Berkeley undergraduates to explore intellectual themes that connect courses across departments and disciplines.

For information, visit coursethreads.berkeley.edu

COURSE THREAD TOPICS

Human Rights

Cultural Forms in Transit

The Historical & Modern City

Humanities & Environment

Human-Centered Design

Old Things: The Past in the Present

Sciences and Society

Politics of Freedom & Violence

Visibilities: The Still and Moving Image

Carceral Geographies

and more!



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Townsend Initiatives

TOWNSEND INITIATIVES focus on topics of current faculty interest not supported within departments or programs. Initiatives encompass faculty working groups, mini-seminars, film series, lectures, and other topically related events. Current Initiatives include *Thinking the Self*, *Music & Sound*, *Global Urban Humanities*, and *Human Rights*.

townsendcenter.berkeley.edu/initiatives

Fall Semester Deadlines

September 11, 2015

Conference and Lecture Grants

October 1, 2015

Public Speaking for Graduate Students

November 13, 2015

Townsend Dissertation Fellowships

Townsend Fellowships for Assistant/Associate Professors

Townsend Fellowship for Library & Museum Professionals

Collaborative Research Seminars: (Stage 1)

December 1, 2015

Art of Writing Curriculum Grant

townsendcenter.berkeley.edu/deadlines