

Alma Guillermoprieto

An audience of roughly 200 people greeted award-winning journalist and author Alma Guillermoprieto in the Union Ballroom on Thursday, April 10, 2003, under the combined sponsorship of the Center for 21st Century Studies and the UWM Union's Distinguished Lecture Series. Guillermoprieto has published extensively in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, and other publications, and is the author of three books on Latin American politics and culture. Her topic at UWM was "Colombia: The Unbroken War."

Alma
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Guillermoprieto based her observations about Colombia and the ongoing civil war there on her experiences reporting from the region, including extensive interviews with participants on both sides of the conflict. She has always been interested in the personal "why" of war and insurgency, and her talk detailed some of her findings about the motives of those fighting. She described the organizer of a leading paramilitary group who fights guerrillas for the purpose of avenging his brother, who died at the guerrillas' hands. She described teenage guerrillas who find American pop culture fascinating even as they express profound loyalty to their guerrilla leader, and former guerrillas, themselves still quite young, living in a half-way house in Bogota where most of their countrymen consider them dispensable.

In the question and answer session, Guillermoprieto agreed with a native of Colombia who described the social classes in that country as essentially separate nations, and observed that Colombians have long had trouble imagining themselves as a single country. This is true even at a geographical level: one relief map of Colombia has several sections marked "insufficient geographical information." In the long run, she argued, the enormous profitability of cocaine and heroin that comes with prohibition will ensure that efforts at eradication in one nation will serve only to move production elsewhere. In any case, although the so-called "war on drugs" provides the pretext for American involvement in Colombian civil conflict, Guillermoprieto noted that some American military personnel are currently stationed in Colombia to protect oil production facilities owned by a U.S. company, Occidental Petroleum. Her talk thus provided a timely perspective on American foreign policy and intervention around the world.

Guillermoprieto's interaction with the UWM community continued the following morning with her participation in the opening round-table session in the Center for International Education's conference on Global Security. Aims McGuinness, assistant professor of history at UWM, summed up the views of many regarding Guillermoprieto's visit: "Guillermoprieto offers an insightful and nuanced analysis of a war that is too often misunderstood, mischaracterized, or simply forgotten in the United States."



The crowd for Guillermoprieto

“The best lack all conviction, the worst are full of passionate intensity”: these lines from William Butler Yeats’s “The Second Coming,” published just a few years after World War I, have been running through my mind, if only because the Center, this spring, seemed to demonstrate the opposite. Without wanting to comment on the worst, I can say that the best, that is the Center’s fellows, visitors, and larger scholarly community, have been full of conviction, and of passionate intensity, themselves.

In mid-March, just a few days before the beginning of “Operation Iraqi Freedom,” I attended the annual conference of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes at Harvard University. The conference theme, “The Humanities and Moral Authority,” struck me as both important and, at that particular moment, very difficult to talk about. Yet one of the keynote speakers, Judith Butler, brought home the real potency of the work that humanists do, using Emmanuel Levinas’s theory of the face to analyze the way the media shields Americans from the suffering caused by U.S. power and that of its surrogates. As careful as it was forceful, invoking her own heritage with obvious respect for that of others, Butler’s moving talk could lead to disagreement and debate, but hardly to indifference.



Speak Out and Seminar on the War in Iraq

The same feeling I had in listening to Butler, of inspiration mingled with a glimmer of hope, ran through the seminar room in Holton Hall where the Center held an extraordinary seminar/speak-out on the war in Iraq on April 17th. Given that our research this year focused on war, I felt an obligation to merge our ongoing scholarly conversation with the larger discussion going on around campus and, of course, outside it. Four current and two former fellows of the Center generously took the time not only to think about the war from the perspective of their own research, but to condense their thoughts into brief, thought-provoking presentations. Topics ranged from the moral puzzles posed by international law (Terry Nardin) and the effects of war on democracy (Carla Bagnoli) to media coverage (David Allen) and the looting of Iraqi museums (Carlos Galvao-Sobrinho). As at Alma Guillermoprieto’s talk the previous week on the war in Colombia, the speakers’ passionate intelligence found an echo in the questions and comments from the audience. No more forceful case could be made for the larger role of humanities research in making sense of our world.

– Daniel Sherman

The Center for 21st Century Studies has chosen a theme for the next two years, described in the enclosed brochure, and eight UWM fellows for the next year.

Center fellows for 2003-2004 exemplify both the substance of the theme and its capacity for enabling explorations of disciplinary and conceptual distinctions within and between the humanities and the social sciences. Those fellows are:

Sukanya Banerjee, English, “Imperial Diasporas and the Politics of Nation-Space: Colonial Identities and Metropolitan Englishness (1855-1935)”

Mark Bradley, History (L&S Dean’s Fellow), “The Human Rights Revolution: A Global History”

Kristin E. Espinosa, Sociology/Urban Studies (UW System Institute on Race and Ethnicity Fellow), “Across Space: Migrant Communication with Home Social Networks, Inequality, and Nostalgia”

Judith Kenny, Geography, “Housing Difference — Community and Public Housing”

Andrew Kincaid, English, “Holding the Center: The Geographies of Consolidation and the Emergence of Postcolonial Dublin”

Aims McGuinness, History, “Routes of Empire: Connecting the Atlantic World and the Pacific in Panama, 1848-1869”

Steven McKay, Sociology/Cultures and Communities, “Suspended Migrants: The Making of Filipino Seafarers”

Lisa Moline, Visual Art, “Taxonomies of Difference”

Fellows of the Center are appointed by the Dean of the College of Letters and Science on the recommendation of the Center’s director and a faculty selection committee. This year the committee consisted of three members of the Center’s Advisory Committee, Sherry Ahrentzen (Architecture), Vicki Callahan (English), and Joyce Kirk (Africology), as well as former Center fellow and MLS Director Jeffrey Hayes (Art History). We are especially grateful to the UWM System Institute on Race and Ethnicity and the College of Letters and Science for their additional support for the fellowship program.



Fellows for 2003-04. Standing: Kristen Espinosa, Steven McKay. Seated: Mark Bradley, Sukanya Banerjee, Judith Kenny, Andrew Kincaid. Not pictured: Aims McGuinness, Lisa Moline

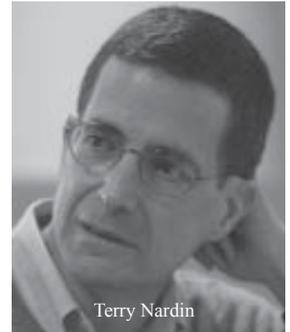
The Center has begun an extensive program to make greater use of our web site. The goals are to distribute more information about the Center and its events, and to make some of the scholarship that the Center produces available on line. A new “archive” button on the navigation bar leads to a page with links to a photo album, on-line copies of the Center newsletter, and a list of Center fellows since 1974. The photo album link leads, in turn, to a page with links to photos from all of the major Center events during 2002-03. Another new button on the navigation bar leads to a page with a calendar of meeting dates and times for all Research Workshops, plus individual pages with information about the topic and coordinator(s) for each. Finally, the web site has a new, simplified URL: www.21st.uwm.edu. This URL directs visitors to the original URL, www.uwm.edu/Dept/21st, which still functions.



Support the Center

Recently, you may have received a letter from us asking for a donation. These letters are part of a larger Center program to increase our external funding from all available sources. If you support the Center's work, we hope you'll consider making a donation. Please make your check payable to the UWM Foundation, with the Center for 21st Century Studies on the memo line, and mail it to:
 Center for 21st Century Studies
 University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
 P.O. Box 413
 Milwaukee, WI 53201

Center Advisory Committee member and former fellow (01-02) **Terry Nardin**, Political Science, has received the designation Distinguished Professor from the Board of Regents.



Professor of Sociology and former Center fellow (95-96) **Dale Jaffe** has been named Interim Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost for Research. He will take on the new position effective July 1, replacing retiring Dean William Rayburn.

Former Rockefeller fellow (95-96) **Anne Basting** has accepted the position of Director of UWM's Age and Community Center. Basting was a Fellow in 1995-96, during which she expanded her dissertation into the book, *The Stages of Age*.

Javier Tapia, Assistant Professor of Education and Center Fellow (01-02), has received an appointment as ambassador to Wisconsin from the Mexican state of Guanajuato. The Governor of Guanajuato, Romero Hicks, made the appointment on February 5, 2003.

Fall Conference to Focus on Museums

As part of its thematic focus on Geographies of Difference, the Center, in cooperation with the Milwaukee Art Museum, is organizing an international conference on “Museums and Difference” to be held November 14-15, 2003. The conference will look at how museums and exhibitions of all types, from art and ethnology museums to festivals, present and represent difference, whether cultural, temporal, or of some other kind, and will examine the ways in which assumptions about human difference enable, undergird, and challenge museums' own institutional practices. One of the world's leading theorists of museums, Tony Bennett (Open University, U.K.), will deliver the keynote address, and a panel of curators from such institutions as New York's Jewish Museum, Harvard's Fogg Art Museum, and the Louvre will explore questions of difference in relation to their own professional practice. Scholars from an array of fields, including art history, history, anthropology, and literature, will discuss both historical and contemporary institutional cases from Japan, South Africa, Britain, France, and Germany, as well as the United States. Further information about the conference will be available on the Center's web site in early fall; or, to receive information electronically, send an email to crt21cs@uwm.edu.



Keller Easterling

Keller Easterling, Professor of Architecture at Yale University, spoke at UWM on Friday, February 21 under the joint sponsorship of the Department of Architecture and the Center for 21st Century Studies. Her title was “Pirates and Errors.”

Easterling is interested in the role that characteristically American architectural forms, especially those that architects may consider banal, play in political struggles around economic development in nonwestern nations. She began by

exploring the notion of a pirate as someone who exploits the inevitable failures of systems.

Her research has focused in particular on the areas of “error” that mark the points where the separate worlds of global empire collide; the organizations that flourish in these zones can be called “piratical” in that they both transmit and process such error, churning up the smooth seas of empire and exposing the complexity, even criminality, that lies behind even its most banal facades. For Easterling piracy thus represents both a fact of our current situation and a potentially fruitful theoretical position, one that, for architects at least, can reveal “cheating” to be an ethically correct choice in certain political situations.

The second part of Easterling’s talk offered a number of examples of such zones of error: cruises organized by Hyundai that brought passengers from the South to a secured encampment in North Korea to view natural landmarks; immense greenhouses near El Ejido, Andalusia, running for miles through a narrow weather-defined band of territory to produce cherry tomatoes for European and American consumption using cheap immigrant labor; automated port complexes in Rotterdam and Pudong relying on legal regimes of extra-territoriality; information technology campuses in India; and global religious cartels with colossal architectural ambitions.

In all these cases, Easterling argues, architectural research can help us understand the spatial disguises and masquerades that run through world politics and the transnational marketplace.

Jan Maher combined the study of theater education and neuroscience for her Ph.D. from the Union Institute. She now teaches at Heritage College’s Seattle extension campus. She visited Milwaukee to direct a recent performance of her musical, *Most Dangerous Women*, which documents the international women’s peace movement.

On Thursday, March 6 and Friday, March 7, the Center for 21st Century Studies, in conjunction with the Center for Women’s Studies, sponsored performances of *Most Dangerous Women* as part of “War and Gender/Gender and War II.” After the Friday morning performance, Maher participated with Susan K. Kent of the University of Colorado at Boulder, Rose Daitsman, UWM emeritus, and Merry Wiesner-Hanks, UWM Professor of History and Director of the Center for Women’s Studies, in a panel discussion of the play.

Most Dangerous Women consists of peace songs and speeches, mostly by women, in a narrative structure of headlines beginning with World War I and the founding of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in 1915. Maher wrote the play and produced the first performance to celebrate the 75th anniversary of WILPF in 1990.

On Friday afternoon, Susan Kent gave a lecture entitled, “At a Loss for Words: British Responses to the Ibo Women’s War, 1929-1931.” She described events in Nigeria, then a British colony, in which women protested a proposal to tax them. They demonstrated at the office of the local colonial administrator, singing, baring their breasts, and using other sexually provocative gestures and acts. Troops dispersing the crowd fired shots, killing roughly 30 women. Eight more drowned in the resulting melee.

Kent noted that these events received virtually no coverage at all in the English press, in sharp contrast to the Amritsar massacre in India only ten years before. Borrowing from the French psychoanalytic theorist Jacques Lacan, Kent suggested that many Englishmen, especially colonial administrators and other officials, suffered a significant fear of dismemberment -- return to the “corps morcelée” of early infantile development in Lacanian theory -- as a result of the trauma of World War I. The sexual aggressiveness of the Ibo women’s protest, in this view, triggered that fear, leaving Englishmen speechless.



Ginny Parkman, Jerriane Hayslett, and Vel Phillips after panel discussion of “Most Dangerous Women”

In conjunction with the Society for French Historical Studies, which held its annual meeting in Milwaukee that weekend, the Center sponsored two events on War and Memory in 20th Century France, April 2 and 3.

The first event was a seminar with Joshua Cole (University of Georgia) on his paper, "Remembering Police Violence in Paris: 17 October 1961 in France and Algeria."

The second event was a lecture by Christophe Prochasson (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris) on "Testimony and Experience: 'True' and 'False' in French War Narrative, 1930-1980," with comments by Cole, Mary Louise Roberts (UW-Madison), and Leonard Smith (Oberlin).

Prochasson explored how French Holocaust denier Paul Rassinier used a seemingly exacting notion of "truth," especially with respect to individual testimony, as the vehicle for disputing the worst atrocities of the Holocaust, including the total number of deaths. In some respects, Rassinier's approach to the events of World War II mirrored that of Jean Norton Cru to the events of World War I.

In responding, Mary Louise Roberts of UW Madison argued that Rassinier and Cru had used "truth" in service to a universalizing skepticism, in contrast to other historians who scrutinized records from participants in war to create a particular, specific conception of "truth." Cole and Smith disagreed over the need to respond to Holocaust denial literature at all. Smith suggested that denial claims are too outlandish to merit refutation, while Cole saw in the comparison between denialist and mainstream historiography an important line demarcating the legitimacy of the profession, a line worthy of defending.



Cole, Roberts, Prochasson, and Smith

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George Clark gave the Fiction Reading and Narrative Craft Lecture, Southern Connecticut State University, East Haven CT, February 20-21. He read from his work at The Cape Town Festival, Cape Town SA, March 20, and was a guest speaker at the National Writing Project Writers Retreat, San Juan PR, April 5-6. His short story, "The Leopard Gang," appeared in translation in the Spanish edition of *Zoetrope: All Story*.

Joan Dobkin created original artwork in response to the war in Iraq that appears on the web site. The home page includes a small version of the full image as a link to the complete version.



Center fellow Peter Paik



Center fellow Carlos Galvao-Sobrinho



Center fellow Joan Dobkin

Robert Wolensky presented a paper at the Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Chicago, April 15-19: "Stints, Strikes, and Subcontracts: The Changing Organization of Work in the Anthracite Coal Industry." He gave the keynote presentation at the Anthracite Mine Reclamation conference, Scranton, PA, May 16-17: "Preserving Anthracite History."

Carlos Galvao-Sobrinho has given several papers recently, including "Popular Mobilization and Violence in Alexandria in the Early Arian Controversy," conference on Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity, Santa Barbara, CA, March 20-23, 2003; and "New Ways of Being Christian: Christian Controversy and the Expansion of Christianity," Symposium on The Expansion of Christianity in the First Four Centuries, Department of History, Columbia University, New York City, March 30, 2003. He recently published "Autocratie, ressentiment et engagement politique dans le haut empire romain," in *Le ressentiment*, eds. P. Ansart et al., Brussels, 2002, pp. 277-292.

Peter Paik spoke at the American Comparative Literature Association, April 6, 2003, California State University-San Marcos, on "Strange Adversaries and Invisible Bedfellows: The Gnostic Theologies of Postmodernism."

Daniel Sherman delivered a lecture, "Trouble in Paradise: France and the Beginnings of Mass Tourism in Tahiti, 1955-1965," at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Georgia in February. He appeared as a discussant at the symposium on "War and Memory in Post-Cold War East Asia" at Oberlin College in April.

William B. Turner spent one week in February as a Visiting Scholar in the Feminism and Legal Theory Project, Cornell University Law School. His presentation was "An Immodest Proposal Regarding Equal Protection and Sodomy."