

Center Hosts Major International Conference

Curators, scholars, students, and museum-goers from across the region, and as far away as New York, congregated in Milwaukee for the Center's major annual conference, "Museums and Difference," on November 14 and 15. They joined a distinguished group of speakers from around the U.S. and Europe for a day and a half of intense, lively discussion of the ways various categories of human difference shape, and are shaped by, the display practices, programs, and institutional politics of museums and related venues such as trade shows and worlds' fairs. The conference began on Friday afternoon in the Marianne and Sheldon B. Lubar Auditorium at the Milwaukee Art Museum, where participants were welcomed by the museum's director, David Gordon, and continued all day Saturday at UWM's Hefter Center.



The speakers in front of the Hefter Center

Highlights of the conference included Friday afternoon's round-table discussion on current museum practice moderated by Nicholas Thomas, the well-known scholar and critic of Oceanic art and culture, with remarks from Régis Michel of the Louvre, Norman Kleeblatt of the Jewish Museum, Brooke Anderson of the American Folk Art Museum, and William Truettner of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The conference keynote speaker Saturday morning, Tony Bennett, considered the contribution of the museum to social and scientific discourses regulating difference, with special reference to Victorian Britain. Papers, which were pre-circulated to allow for maximum discussion and exchange at the conference, covered such topics as the project for a new museum of non-Western art in Paris (Nélia Dias), the difficulty of establishing a museum of "other" cultures in Japan (Angus Lockyer), a new cross-cultural exhibition at the British Museum that strives to bridge the arts and ethnography (Lissant Bolton), the controversial "Body Worlds" exhibitions in contemporary Germany (Peter McIsaac), and museums based on the personal taste (Anne Higonnet) or off-beat sensibilities (Christopher Steiner) of their patrons. Current and former Center fellows Bettina Arnold, Leslie Bellavance, and Andrew Kincaid, as well as director Daniel Sherman, provided comments to orient the discussion at each session. Attendance was strong throughout the conference, approaching 90 at the museum and ranging from 60 to 75 at the Hefter Center. A book growing out of the conference papers is now in preparation.

The conference concluded with a brief tribute to Center executive director Carol Tennesen, who retires in June. This conference, like so many others before it, benefited from her tireless efforts and superb organizing skills. Many of the speakers thanked her and the Center's staff for their hard work in making the conference run so smoothly. For additional photographs and comments on the conference, please see page 4.

In front of Hefter Center (above). First row (left to right): Ira Jacknis, Alice Conklin, Andrew McClellan. Second row: Anne Higonnet, Renée Green, Annie Coombes, Bettina Arnold, Nélia Dias, Lissant Bolton. Third row: Mark Sandberg, Daniel Sherman, Peter McIsaac, Norman Kleeblatt, Nicholas Thomas, Angus Lockyer, Leslie Bellavance. Fourth row: Robert Haywood, Andrew Kincaid, Tony Bennett, Christopher Steiner, William Truettner.

From the Director

Over the course of several weeks in December, Executive Director Carol Tennesen and I met with over a dozen candidates for positions in a number of departments in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Departments like to bring their candidates to the Center to demonstrate the university's commitment to supporting research and promoting interdisciplinary dialogue; we tell them about the fellowship program, about the lectures, conferences, and colloquia we sponsor, about the ongoing research workshops and other new initiatives at the Center. Many scholars coming to UWM for the first time know of the Center by reputation; some list it among the university's major attractions. Almost everyone, however, comments on the view, as well as on the tranquility of our setting. The ninth floor of Curtin Hall, however, tells only part of the story of the Center's physical space.

An important aspect of this year's research theme and the object of important theoretical and empirical research over the past few decades, space has symbolic as well as practical dimensions, and it is usually deeply political. Thus many long-time denizens of the Center experienced the reconfiguration of our long-time colloquium space on the ground floor of Curtin Hall as a loss, even though we retain use of the room, Curtin 118, for events on Friday afternoons. The room's capacity of around 40 has not changed, but the shift of tables and chairs from an in-the-round format to a standard classroom layout, rows of tables facing an instructor's desk and podium, robbed the space of its previous intimacy and imposed, willy-nilly, the hierarchy implicit in the term "back of the room." The forthcoming renovation of Curtin 175, which we use for larger events, will temporarily put further pressure on our schedule. Our own conference room seats a maximum of 25, while also serving – thanks to the experience, creativity, and elbow grease of our staff – as our main reception area and as the home for many of our ongoing research workshops.

It is therefore for practical as well as symbolic reasons that the Center has been spreading its wings and staging events in other venues around and even off-campus. In the past year we have held lectures at the School of Architecture and Urban Planning, the American Geographical Society Collection in the Golda Meir Library, the History Department seminar room, and the Milwaukee Art Museum auditorium. We're grateful for the hospitality these friends and partners have provided, but I also like the idea of the Center being larger than any one space. For example, this fall the Center co-sponsored presentations by last year's fellows on their work as fellows; these take place within the context of departmental lecture or colloquium series, research workshops, or exhibitions, thus symbolizing connections between the Center and the ongoing research of UWM faculty. The space that makes possible this connection is, of course, as much metaphorical as real – it is, in other words, time as much as space, but one doesn't have to be a physicist, or a fan of *Star Trek*, to know that these are part of a continuum.

–Daniel Sherman

Open Society Institute Fellow

Saltanat Mambaeva is a specialist in intercultural communication who teaches at the Institute of Modern Language, Manas University in Bishkek, in the former Soviet republic and now independent state of Kyrgyzstan. Thanks to a new relationship between the Center and the Open Society Institute, New York, she is spending the Spring 2004 semester at UWM as guest of both the Center and UWM's Center for International Education as Open Society Faculty Development Fellow and Visiting Scholar. Her faculty mentors are Sandra Braman and K.E. Supriya, both of UWM's Department of Communication.



The Open Society Institute's faculty exchange program is designed to encourage the pursuit of academic careers, generate new approaches to curricular and pedagogical reform, and support the development of regional and international institutional partnerships and collaborative projects, thereby improving the quality of social science/humanities education in the countries served, chiefly in Central Asia. Each year for up to three years, Fellows spend one semester at a U.S. university and one semester teaching at their home universities. Faculty Fellows have designed new course materials, led graduate-level seminars, presented conference papers, completed several articles and books, and developed new teaching methodologies for their home classrooms.

At UWM Dr. Mambaeva seeks to expand her scholarly and teaching experience into the areas of cultural studies and cultural anthropology. This being her first time in the United States, she is also gaining first-hand experience of American culture and day-to-day life in the country. At the Center, she has joined the current group of fellows and participates in the Fellows' Seminar and other Center activities.

Support the Center

With a gift to the Center for 21st Century Studies, you can help support research and public programming in the humanities. Your unrestricted gift allows the director to launch special initiatives among the Center's programs. Please make your check payable to the UWM Foundation, with the Center for 21st Century Studies on the memo line, and mail to:

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Center Calendar Spring 2004



Friday, February 27: New European Frontiers, a mini-symposium with

Marc Abélès (CNRS, Paris): "Identity and Borders: An Anthropological Approach to EU Institutions"

Daphne Berdahl (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities): "The Spirit of Capitalism and the Boundaries of Citizenship: Post-Wall Germany"

Laird Boswell (University of Wisconsin-Madison): "Right Wing Extremism in Frontier Regions: the French National Front and the Crisis of Alsatian Identity"

2:30 pm; Curtin Hall 118

(cosponsored with the Center for European Studies, UW Madison)

Friday, March 5: Open Forum at the Center 2 - 3:30 pm; Curtin Hall 939

Friday, March 12: The Intimacies of Four Continents
a lecture by **Lisa Lowe** (University of California-San Diego)
3:30 pm; Curtin Hall 118

Friday, April 2: Poetry as Archive: A History of Romanticism
a lecture by **Dipesh Chakrabarty** (University of Chicago)
3:30 pm; Curtin Hall 118

Thursday April 15 and Friday April 16: Colonial Cities Thursday, April 15:

a seminar with **Paula Sanders** (Rice University)
4:30 pm; Curtin Hall 939

advance reading available at the Center

Friday, April 16:

a mini-symposium with

Anthony King (SUNY Binghamton): "Colonial Cities: Past? Post? Or Permanent?"

Alejandra Osorio (Wellesley College): "Geographies of Power/Geographies of Difference: Indians, Castes, Spaniards and Urban Ritual Spaces in Seventeenth-Century Lima"

Paula Sanders (Rice University): "Cairo of the Arabian Nights"

Peter Zinoman (University of California-Berkeley): "Colonial, Urban, Modern: Interwar Hanoi in the Work of Vu Trong Phung"

2:00 pm; Holton Hall 341

(cosponsored with the Department of Architecture)

Friday, May 7: Globalizing Africa? Observations from an Inconvenient Continent

a lecture by **James Ferguson** (Stanford University) 3:30 pm;
Curtin Hall 118

Judith Kenny published "Constructing the 'Genuine American City': Neotraditionalism, New Urbanism and Neoliberalism in the Remaking of Downtown Milwaukee" (with Jeffrey Zimmerman), *Cultural Geographies* (formerly *Ecumene*) Vol.11, No.1 (January 2004), pp. 74-98. She also presented two papers, both at the Society for American City & Regional Planning History conference in St. Louis in November: "Reexamining New Urbanist Values in the Revitalization of a Milwaukee Neighborhood"; and (with Thomas C. Hubka) "Situating the 'American' Garden Suburb: Hegemann's and Peets' Washington Highlands, 1916."

Andrew Kincaid presented research on the growth of garden suburbs in Dublin in the aftermath of Irish independence at the Society for American City and Regional Planning conference, held in November in St. Louis.

Lisa Moline's poster, "Cicada Pumping its Wings," was selected for the AIGA Annual Design Exhibition 24. This year's 113 winners will be on display at the National Design Center through February 20, 2004. See: www.aiga.org or www.badscience.org

The Center's Assistant Director, **Ruud van Dijk**, published "Deutschland in der internationalen Politik 1955: Sieg und Niederlage der Ideologie," in Heiner Timmermann, hrsg., *Deutschlandvertrag und Pariser Verträge: Im Dreieck von Kalten Krieg, deutscher Frage und europäischer Sicherheit* (Münster: LIT Verlag, 2003), pp. 137-160. He also presented several papers, notably at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Toronto, November 21, 2003; and the *DDR Forschertagung*, Europäische Akademie Otzenhausen, November 7, 2003.

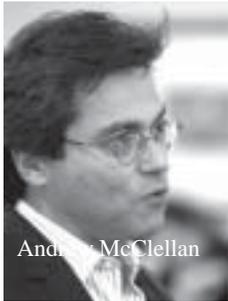
New book by former Center Fellow

Mark Netzloff (English), Fellow in 2001-2002, recently published *England's Internal Colonies* (Palgrave). In this study, he argues that the practices of English colonialism were initially formulated in relation to the realm's own "internal colonies," the displaced classes and colonized regions of early modern England, Scotland, and Ireland. Examining English colonialism as a site of ongoing class conflict, Netzloff explores the effects of capital formation on the status of marginal communities (pirates, vagrants, gypsies, cottagers) and peripheral regions (the Anglo-Scottish Borders, Ulster). Analyzing texts by Shakespeare, Jonson, Heywood, and Speed alongside material practices, Netzloff addresses the destabilizing consequences of internal colonialism as well as the possibilities of agency and resistance enabled by this history.



Museums & Difference: Participants, Comments

Vicki Callahan (UWM) wrote, “that was a wonderful conference with a great mix of folks — I haven’t seen such a diverse group of academics at an event here in the two years I have been at UWM. . . . congratulations on a really interesting (and well run) event.”



Andrew McClellan

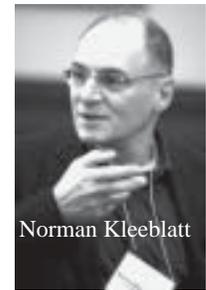


Alice Conklin

Center fellow **Aims McGuinness** found the conference “easily the most rewarding event of its kind that I have encountered since I first set foot in Milwaukee The Hefter Center (and I’m sure the Museum as well) has rarely (if ever) seen such smarts—and such numbers.”



Tony Benner



Norman Kleeblatt

Lissant Bolton wrote, “I enjoyed the conference greatly, and it gave me some things to think about, which is what one wants from such an occasion.”



Anne Higonnet



Nélia Dias

Régis Michel called the conference “magnifique,” adding, “The most difficult thing is to manage to create an atmosphere, which you succeeded so well in doing . . . It’s very rare in such events to be able to communicate so freely and extensively.”



Mark Sandberg

And **Nélia Dias** thought the event “a success from every point of view: the choice of speakers, the papers presented, the discussions, and all the care taken to make the conference a very agreeable and sociable space.”

New Center Initiative: Call for Conference Proposals

This spring, the Center is launching a new initiative that aims to increase faculty involvement in the planning of Center events. Early in the semester we will circulate a call for conference proposals for 2005-2006. Conferences could be seminars, speaker series, one-day symposiums, or multi-day events. The Center will offer financial and logistical support for the selected proposals and also hopes to draw its research theme from the process. The call for proposals grows out of discussions in the Center’s research working group last year; it was drafted by the the research program subcommittee of the Center’s advisory committee, consisting of Sherry Ahrentzen (Architecture), Margo Anderson (History/Urban Studies), Jane Gallop (English), Thomas Malaby (Anthropology), and Center Director Daniel Sherman. This group will also serve as the selection committee for proposals, which are due April 5. On March 5 at 2 pm (see Events Calendar) there will be an Open Forum in the Center Conference room, Curtin 939, where members of the sub-committee will be available to discuss this initiative, and other Center activities, with interested faculty.

Huge Crowd for Artist Xu Bing

For the second event in its fall line-up, in keeping with a long standing tradition of including the visual arts in its programming, on October 7, 2003 the Center played host to Chinese artist Xu Bing, now of New York. Speaking to an overflow crowd in the Art History lecture room, Xu Bing presented a range of work from his nearly thirty-year career, including several of his more recent projects, notably *Panda Zoo* and *New English Calligraphy*. Leslie Vansen, chair of the Department of Visual Art, a co-sponsor of the event, hailed the event as a big success. “It’s very satisfying when an artist of Xu Bing’s caliber draws such a large and knowledgeable crowd. Among the many important elements in his high quality work is the remarkable commonality of theme, no matter what materials, sites, issues and venues he addresses. Every project seemed to have as one of its central components the intention to appear to be one thing but then upon closer inspection to be something else. Chinese characters are really English text arranged as Chinese characters; what appear to be Panda bears turn out to be pigs.” Others, such as Visual Arts lecturer William Andersen, shown here with the artist, wondered if this masking technique emerged in part in response to politically difficult circumstances during Xu Bing’s emergence as an artist in 1970s China. From some of the questions after Xu Bing’s presentation it was clear that for many in the audience the aptly conceived presentation had illuminated both the Center’s theme, Geographies of Difference, and the artist’s own extraordinary work.



Xu Bing

Research Workshop News

Ancient Mediterranean Studies/Classical Tradition:

Tuesday, February 24: H. Alan Shapiro, W.H. Collins Vickers Professor of Archaeology, Department of Classics/Johns Hopkins University. Political Uses of Hero-Cults in 5th c. BC Athens.

Friday, March 19: William Keith, Communications, UWM. Classical rhetoric and the academy.

Friday, April 30: Nancy Hubbard, School of Architecture and the Department of Art History, UWM. Vitruvius and his later Reception. All meetings at 3 pm, Curtin 939.

The new Colonialisms Workshop:

Friday, February 13: Anne Maxwell, "Colonial Photography and Exhibitions: Representations of the 'Native' and the Making of European Identities" (1999), which is available on electronic reserve at the library (under Anne Hansen's name).

Friday, March 19: Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Habitations of Modernity: Essays in the Wake of Subaltern Studies" (2002).

Friday, April 30: excerpts from Vicente Rafael, "Contracting Colonialism: Tradition and Christian Conversion in Tagalog Society under Early Spanish Rule" (1988), and Gauri Viswanathan, "Outside the Fold: Conversion, Modernity, and Belief" (1998).

Friday, May 21: Gyan Prakash, "Another Reason: Science and the Imagination of Modern India" (1999).

All meetings 12:30-2 pm in Curtin 939.

The **Digital Praxis** Group has reserved three meeting dates in the Center Conference Room. For further information, please contact Sandra Braman (braman@uwm.edu).

The Early Modern Group:

Friday, February 27: Paper by Margaret Atherton, Philosophy, UWM, "Reading Lady Mary Shepherd."

Thursday, April 1: Paper by Cynthia Cupples, Honors Program, UWM, "Prophetic Voices: Between the Convent and the World, ca. 1630-1650." 3-4:15 pm, Curtin Hall 939.

The **Ethics** Research Workshop continues its exploration of the ethics of belonging and exclusion.

Friday, February 20: Discussion of selections from Giorgio Agamben, *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life* and a brief essay by Bruce Lincoln, a scholar of Indo-European religion.

Next meeting: *Friday, April 9*, 3-5 pm, Curtin Hall 939.

Copies of the readings are available at the Center office, all are welcome. For more information contact Terry Nardin (tnardin@uwm.edu)

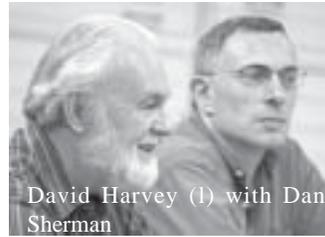
Feminist Theory Workshop:

Thursday, February 19: Paper by Christina Ewig, Political Science and Women's Studies, UWM, "Gender Equity, Gender Justice: A Feminist Framework for Social Policy Evaluation."

Wednesday, March 17: Elizabeth Whitney, LGBT Resource Center, Women's Studies, UWM, "DIY Culture and Performance Aesthetics."

Tuesday, April 13: Sarah Morgan, Nursing, Women's Studies, UWM, "Transgendered Embodiment."

Fall 2003 Events



David Harvey (l) with Dani Sherman

When in academic year 2002-2003 the Center asked UWM faculty for names of possible speakers in connection with its new theme, Geographies of Difference, geographer **David Harvey**, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at

CUNY Graduate Center, appeared on many lists. It was with considerable anticipation, therefore, that we welcomed Professor Harvey last October to the UWM campus. On the first day of his visit, October 13, Professor Harvey participated in a lively seminar at the American Geographical Society collection in the Golda Meir library with Center Fellows, UWM faculty, graduate students, and members of the community. A chapter from Harvey's *Spaces of Hope* had been distributed as advance reading. The discussion ranged widely, with considerable attention devoted to Harvey's involvement with Baltimore's living wage campaign during his time at Johns Hopkins University. As well as being a geographer and urban theorist, Harvey is an activist, and all of his work seeks to make scholarship politically effective. This was confirmed on the second day of his visit, when Harvey lectured to an audience of around 60 on the topic of "The New Imperialism." The title comes from his latest book, conceived in response to current American foreign policy. Harvey's critique was generally well received by the audience. An equally congenial reception back at the Center concluded the public part of this very successful appearance.

On October 24, 2003, award-winning filmmaker and art historian **Fatimah Rony** visited the Center as part of the Fall line-up of events addressing the Center theme Geographies of Difference. An assistant professor of film studies at the University of California-Irvine, Rony has long worked on issues of difference across space and time. At the Center, Rony presented parts of a new project examining the ethnographic films of Margaret Mead in 1930s Bali. Her presentation began with clips from this silent black-and-white footage of entranced, dancing Balinese men and women. Rony's main concerns center on Mead's distance from her entranced Balinese subjects, and her apparent "anthropologization" and "historization" of people and experiences one could also attempt to view as real and in the present. The talk also showed how Mead's working hypothesis, that the Balinese trancers suffered from schizophrenia, allowed her to skirt obvious traces of class, poverty, and colonialism in Bali. In contrast to Mead, Rony also discussed the work of another member of Mead's privileged circle of Western expatriates in Bali, the American writer Jane Belo, who approached the same subject material in more empathetic ways. Both the film clips and Rony's talk engendered much lively discussion by an engaged and appreciative UWM audience of about 40 faculty and students.



Fatimah Rony