



Columbia University Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall *NEWSLETTER*

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The Institute

Launched in January 2001 by order of Provost Jonathan Cole and former President George Rupp, the Columbia University Institute for Scholars has already hosted more than twenty researchers who have come from over fifteen institutions in eight countries. Chosen on the advice of a selection committee composed of faculty from Columbia University and scholars from the *Maison des Sciences de l'Homme*, Institute fellows have carried out individual research projects on topics such as the self-representations of Madame de Pompadour; German Jews and the origins of European modernity; and contemporary violence and drug war policing in Paris and New York. Collective projects, which are particularly encouraged, have focused on mathematical proofs in ancient traditions and their respective historiographies; comparative study of jurisdiction in international criminal law; and the politics of peace and partitions. Scholars selected as fellows are in residence for either a semester or a full academic year and are expected to participate in Institute activities. They are provided with fully equipped offices and the services of a staff. While the fellowships do not carry a stipend as such, the Institute has a budget to help support the organization of workshops and conferences. Further information about the Institute is available at its Web site, <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/reidhall/>. We urge past fellows to recommend new candidates in order to help us make the Institute a truly outstanding international research site.

--Danielle Haase-Dubosc, Director

This newsletter marks a new venture for Columbia University's Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall. The newsletter aims to disseminate information about Institute events as well as provide a forum for current, past, and future fellows to maintain contact with each other's ongoing scholarly activities. We welcome comments and suggestions for items to include which will interest readers. Please address inquiries to Maneesha Lal, ml.cuis@reidhall.com.

Institute Hosts Inaugural Conference On Inequality

A beautiful Parisian spring afternoon provided the backdrop for the official inauguration on March 28, 2002 of the Columbia University Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall. Over 200 guests gathered to celebrate the founding of the Institute, created to promote excellence in the humanities and social sciences by supporting the research of outstanding scholars from around the world. Danielle Haase-Dubosc, Director of the Institute and Associate Provost at Columbia University, launched the proceedings by introducing Provost and Dean of Faculties of Columbia Jonathan Cole, and Maurice Aymard, Director of the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme in Paris. The Institute for Scholars was established in close cooperation with the MSH, a premier French research organization, and benefits from its intellectual strengths as well as its experience in bringing international researchers to France. In her preliminary remarks, Danielle Haase-Dubosc emphasized that the Institute was founded on the conviction that scholars from all parts of the world could benefit by assembling in Paris to work on individual or collective projects that mobilized their intellectual and human strengths. The Institute sought to nurture a "space of freedom" where "political and national impediments...were reduced," Haase-Dubosc stressed, so that scholars from all cultures and continents could "reach beyond the strictures of their conventional patterns of thought."

The theme selected for the Inaugural Conference was "On Inequality." Two Columbia University faculty, Maryse Condé, Professor in the Department of French and Romance Philology, and Edward Said, University Professor of English and Comparative Literature, were joined by Mireille Delmas-Marty, Professor of Comparative Law at the Université de Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne), as the featured speakers.

In her presentation, entitled "On Cannibals and Other Monsters: Are Men Born Equal?", Maryse Condé illustrated how eating human flesh has been a particularly powerful trope in the European imagination since Greek times, as a marker of the boundaries of humanity. Despite no concrete evidence of its practice in the Caribbean, for example, Christopher Columbus' description of cannibalism in the West Indies was used to justify inequality of rights and even slavery. Centuries later, and paradoxically perhaps, Antillean and Brazilian intellectuals such as Aimé Césaire and Oswald de Andrade redefined the meanings of cannibalism and used it to claim a positive identity and cultural autonomy. This symbolic cannibalization, Condé showed, was a way of accommodating powerful external European myths and images by ingesting and integrating them, ultimately liberating the Antillean or Brazilian Self from dependence on the European Other while preserving difference. The acclaimed novelist and literary critic ended by arguing for a vision of the world which refused colonial divisions of human and sub-human and celebrated diversity and *métissage*. "If equality is standardization," she asserted, "we want no part of it and loudly proclaim our right to difference."

"Refusing Inequalities: the Role of Law" was the title of the talk given by Mireille Delmas-Marty, an eminent jurist whose work has focused on comparative and international criminal law and human rights. Delmas-Marty argued that the first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which states, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights," expressed an ideal that seemed to be receding under the impact of globalization. While perhaps utopian, however, this ideal was more necessary than ever, even in the juridical domain, and implied the refusal of impunity and of exclusion. Systems of law could be important in achieving greater equality for individuals, Delmas-Marty claimed, but would require struggling against a "globalization synonymous with inequalities in order to promote...the enforcement of rules applicable to the most powerful and the access of the most powerless to fundamental rights."

Edward Said approached the question of inequality by choosing to focus not on efforts to reduce inequality but rather on a particularly intransigent vision of "immutable and irredeemable inequality." Said analyzed Jonathan Swift's longest and most well known work, *Gulliver's Travels*, pointing out that in light of the work's powerfully repellent representation of human destiny, its popular status as a harmless children's story was both "puzzling and preposterous." Yet it was only by grappling with such an "unswervingly firm" vision, Said maintained, one which absolutely refused the possibility of greater equality whether through "moral redemption, melioristic education, or utopian hope," that we could "get the full measure of how difficult [inequality] is really to overcome or in some way alleviate."

The Inaugural Conference, which served to formally introduce the Institute to the international academic community, was followed by a reception in the lovely rooms and gardens of Reid Hall.

2002-2003 Institute Fellows

Full Year 2002-2003

Abigail C. Cohn
Associate Professor
Department of Linguistics
Cornell University, USA
Word-Internal Prosodic Structure: A Cross-Linguistic Study

Friederike Moltmann
Reader
Department of Philosophy
University of Stirling, UK
Reference to Abstract and Derived Objects in Natural Language

Ourida Mostefai
Associate Professor of French
Department of Romance Languages and Literatures
Boston College, USA
Colonialism, National Identity and the French Enlightenment: Citizenship and 'Foreignness' in 18th-Century France

Fall 2002

Jeremy Jennings
Professor of Political Theory
Department of Political Science
University of Birmingham, UK
A History of Political Thought in France; Republicanism and Multiculturalism in Contemporary France

Sudhir Alladi Venkatesh
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
Columbia University, USA
A Comparative Study of Public Housing in France and the United States

Joint Project:
Les Vocabulaires Sociologiques Face à l'Unification de l'Europe: Construction, Transformation, Mondialisation

Reinhard Blomert
Visiting Professor
Department of Sociology
University of Graz, Austria

Natalia Chmatko
Director
Russian-French Center of Sociology
Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia

Vittorio Cotesta
Professor
Dipartimento di Sociologia e Scienza Politica
Università di Salerno, Italy

Franz Schultheis
Professor
Département de Sociologie
Université de Genève, Switzerland

Jan Spurk
Professor
UFR Sciences Sociales et Gestion
Université d'Evry Val d'Essonne, France

Spring 2003

Carolyn Burke
Research Associate in Humanities
University of California, Santa Cruz, USA
A Translation of the Selected Poems and Essays of Lionel Ray

Françoise Collin
Professor
Centre parisien d'études critiques, France
La question du genre dans la philosophie française contemporaine: Deleuze, Foucault, Lyotard, Derrida, Lacan, Althusser, Badiou, Bourdieu

Adriana Méndez Rodenas
Professor
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
University of Iowa, USA
Engendering the Nation: Women's Travels as Historical Discourse and Flora Tristan's Pilgrimage to Peru

Roundtable

On October 7, 2002, several Institute Fellows participated in a *Table-Ronde* and presented their research projects to their colleagues and members of the Reid Hall community. After Danielle Haase-Dubosc introduced the fellows and their projects, **Natalia Chmatko** began her presentation by discussing the methodological aspects of the joint project she is conducting along with four other European researchers on the transformation of sociological vocabularies in the context of European political and economic unification. Focusing on the years 1996 and 2001, the group will examine the sociological

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2001-2002 Institute Fellows

Full Year 2001-2002

Colin Jones
Professor
Department of History
University of Warwick, UK
Madame de Pompadour: Images of a Mistress;
Teeth and Smiles in 18th-Century Paris;
The History of Paris

Cathy Lisa Schneider
Associate Professor
School of International Service
American University, USA
From Protest to Drug War Policing: Violence and
Identity in Buenos Aires, New York and Paris

Fall 2001

Mark M. Anderson
Professor
Department of Germanic Languages
Columbia University, USA
Uncanny Nation: German Jews in Paris and the
Origins of European Modernity

Gregory Stephen Brown
Assistant Professor
Department of History
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA
A Field of Honour: Writers, Court Culture and
Public Theater in the French Intellectual Field from
Racine to the Revolution; Literary Sociability in
Late Old Regime France: Beaumarchais, the Society
of Dramatic Authors and the Comédie Française

George P. Fletcher
Cardozo Professor of Jurisprudence
Columbia University School of Law, USA
Vers un droit pénal commun en matière de crimes
internationaux

Joint Project:
Separation and Dialogue – Issues in the Politics of
Peace

Stefano Bianchini
Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Bologna, Italy

Sanjay Chaturvedi
Reader
Department of Political Science
Panjab University, India

Ranabir Samaddar
Director
Peace Studies Program
South Asia Forum for Human Rights, Nepal

Spring 2002

Sandra L. Bermann
Professor
Department of Comparative Literature
Princeton University, USA
René Char and the Poetics of Memory

Phyllis Birnbaum
Writer, USA
Glory in a Line: A Biography of Foujita Tsuguji

Herman Lebovics
Professor
Department of History
State University of New York, Stony Brook, USA
The Once Colonial in the Once Center: The
Creation of the Musée du Quai Branly

Steven Ungar
Professor
Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature
University of Iowa, USA
Urban Subjects: City Scenes and Everyday Life in
Twentieth-Century France

Joint Project:
Mathematical Proof, Axiomatic-Deductive
Demonstration and the Historical Shaping of
Discourses about Them

Geoffrey E. R. Lloyd
Chair
East Asian History of Science Trust
Needham Research Institute, UK

Ian Mueller
Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Chicago, USA

Reviel Netz
Assistant Professor
Department of Classics
Stanford University, USA

Dhruv Raina
Associate Professor
Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies
School of Social Sciences
Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Balzac and the Japanese Translator

--Phyllis Birnbaum

Since my return from Paris, I have discovered Balzac. French specialists who read this will be amazed that I could have lived so long without Balzac, and I myself wonder how this was possible. I suppose that I have spent too much time with Japanese novels and have developed a taste for beautiful, meandering works. In a Japanese novel, plot is not an overriding concern; characters just exist, and few authors feel that their protagonists must undergo change over the course of three or four hundred pages. The natural world is a source of consolation to the heroes and heroines of Japanese fiction. Small changes in the autumn sky can bring them closer to the truth of things.

To go from a Japanese novel to Balzac is shocking. Take *Eugénie Grandet*, for example. If the Japanese author Kawabata Yasunari had got his hands on Eugénie, she might have spent the novel pining away for Charles and that would have been the end of it. We can imagine that, in Kawabata's version, Eugénie's feelings would have become more complex each time she gazed at her beloved's photo and that her conversations with her family would have been subtly, elegantly shaped by his memory. Kawabata would not have required more in the way of action.

Balzac hustles me into a noisier fictional world. All those characters shuttling in and out! All those extreme emotional states, precisely and unashamedly expressed! All those human aberrations so tenderly examined! I've tried to understand why Balzac is such a change for me. I suppose it's the difference between looking for meaning in a single green leaf and conducting the same search across a grand landscape where the trees grow wild and the talking never ceases.

Steven Ungar, Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Iowa and Institute Fellow during spring 2002, recited the first version of the following sonnet at a farewell dinner hosted by the fellows on May 21, 2002.

Eloge du CUIS

(sonnet lyrique et défectueux)

Ce séjour bien trop court donne quand même envie
De dire le plaisir que j'ai trouvé ici.
Formuler sans délai un très joli merci
Dire en rimes et en vers l'âme trop envahie.

Oh mon Montparnasse, faut-il bien que je fasse
Et refasse l'éloge de ce lieu si chéri.
Le thé de l'infini nous chauffe les jeudis
Il nous calme et nous berce et nous chasse la crasse.

Si je fais donc rimer c'est parce que j'estime
L'effort et la grâce qui crée tour à tour
Un printemps à Paris sans le moindre détour.

Adieu donc Danielle, Mihaela, Maneesha.
Merci pour l'idylle, pour ce stage idéal
Dans le cadre du beau et très digne Reid Hall.

Dreaming of Paris

It is striking how many former fellows expressed their longing to be back in Paris. Below are some unattributed quotations; can readers figure out which quotation matches which fellow?

"Now I'm back in..., having to put aside my translation for other work which has piled up. And it's 92 degrees Fahrenheit. I wish I was back in the sixième"

"Missing Paris"

"I was thinking today how much I miss last fall, not only Paris but the great work environment of the Institute"

"I'm continuing my passion for French films...My dentist roller blades and joined my group in Paris on the Friday night skate during a weekend visit! I miss Paris!"

"Returned yesterday from two weeks on a Greek island whose total population is less than 300 people. I still managed to bump into someone I knew!! I think getting away from it all is an impossible concept. Here in...it is pouring with rain, so I am wishing I was in Greece, Paris - or indeed anywhere would do!!"

"Except for [my spouse], my cats, and my job, I'd really rather be in Paris"

Quotations extracted from emails sent by George Fletcher, Steve Ungar, Colin Jones, Cathy Schneider, Ian Mueller, and Greg Brown.

News from Past Fellows

Gregory S. Brown writes that his book, *A Field of Honor: Writers, Court Culture and Public Theater in French Literary Life from Racine to the Revolution*, is being published by Electronic Publishing Initiative at Columbia (EPIC), as part of its "Gutenberg-e" series of monographs in history. The book offers a multilevel study of the intellectual, social, and institutional contexts of dramatic authorship and the world of playwrights in 18th-century Paris. Greg interweaves research in archival and printed materials, case studies of individual authorial strategies, the historiography on the French Enlightenment and contemporary cultural theory and criticism. The book can be accessed in multimedia and in printable PDF formats at <http://www.gutenberg-e.org>. The electronic version offers enhancements not available in the print version, including images, primary source documents, a glossary, and hyperlinks to relevant on-line texts and other web resources.

George Fletcher has a new book coming out with Princeton University Press, entitled *Romantics at War: Glory and Guilt in the Age of Terrorism*. He worked on a preliminary version of the book during his sojourn in Paris last year.

Colin Jones's book, *The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon (1715-99)*, was published in the UK by Penguin in August and will be published in the USA in spring, 2003 by Columbia University Press. His book *Madame de Pompadour: Images of a Mistress*, written to accompany the major exhibition of the same name being held at the National Gallery, London, from October 2002 to January 2003, is being published by National Gallery Publications in October 2002 and will be distributed by Yale University Press. In addition, Colin has been invited to give seminars at the Collège de France in spring, 2003.

Geoffrey Lloyd reports that Karine Chemla, the French host and organizer of the Spring 2002 joint project "Mathematical Proof, Axiomatico-Deductive Demonstration and the Historical Shaping of Discourses about Them," is working on the book based on the work the group accomplished last spring. Fellows associated with this project who were hosted by the Institute included **Ian Mueller**, **Reviel Netz**, and **Dhruv Raina** in addition to Sir Geoffrey.

Ian Mueller enjoyed attending conferences and travelling in Greece and northern France this summer as well as spending a month in London working at the excellent library of the Institute for Classical Studies. He participated in a conference on Aristotle and Plato on the island of Santorini and in a mathematics conference at the International Cultural Center at Delphi (where he met up again with **Reviel Netz**). Ian reports that the center is marvelous and urges "anyone who has a chance to spend a few days there to take it; almost everyone's room looks down on the Gulf of Corinth." He and **Geoffrey Lloyd** attended the Symposium Aristotelicum in Lille.

Dhruv Raina writes that he is busy examining the proofs for his book entitled *Images and Contexts: Critical Essays on the Historiography of Science of India*, to be published by Oxford University Press. Recently named to the post of Associate Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, Dhruv is also teaching two M.Phil. courses this semester, one on the philosophy of science and the other on the emergence of the science and technology research system in India.

Steven Ungar reports that an article he completed last spring at the Institute, entitled "In the Thick of Things: Rouch and Morin's *Chronicle of a Summer* Reconsidered," is forthcoming in *French Cultural Studies* (February 2003). Steve also has a book contract for a manuscript coauthored with Dudley Andrew; entitled *Popular Front Paris: Between the Politics and Poetics of Culture*, it is due to be published by Harvard University Press in 2004.

Events, Fall 2002...

On September 19 and 20, 2002, the Institute for Scholars hosted a Workshop on Youth, Globalization, and the Law in the 21st Century, organized by Fellow **Sudhir Venkatesh** of Columbia University in cooperation with the Institute and the Social Science Research Council of New York. The workshop is part of a larger initiative launched by Venkatesh and Ron Kassimir of the SSRC called the Youth & Globalization Collaborative Research Network, whose goal is to understand the impact of globalization on young people. This initiative links together scholars, practitioners, and policy makers in order to document three sociological dimensions of globalization, namely, migration, activism, and the law, as they affect the life experiences of young people around the globe.

Attending the September workshop were scholars from South America, the United States, Europe, and Africa. The objective was to explore the ways in which legal institutions shape the transition of young people into adulthood and provide opportunities (or not) for basic social reproduction. Given the central role that young people have played in contemporary transnational movements, it is clear that they constitute a principal focus and play a critical role in the reconfiguration of legal, normative, and juridical structures under globalization. Young people may be simultaneously involved in resisting social institutions, harnessing the power of others, and working to develop yet other means of ensuring social order and justice. The workshop allowed researchers to introduce abstracts of potential empirical case studies, based in different regions of the world, which would shed light on the relationship of youth to the law. These case studies included U.S. youth creating extra-state community courts to address local crimes, the impact on newly developing nations of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the importation of North American and European policing practices in South American cities, and children taking up arms in Africa. The participants will meet again in summer, 2003 in order to present their research and analyses. An edited volume of the workshop proceedings is planned; in addition, a film documentary will be created of the initiative as a whole.

Roundtable, continued from page 3

literature published in five different countries in order to compare dominant themes, key concepts, and terminological changes, testing whether they converged over the course of the five-year period. **Jan Spurk**, another member of the group, stressed that an important objective will be to explore the extent to which large-scale political changes are reflected in the subject matter of the different countries' major sociological journals. **Abigail Cohn** offered an introduction to the linguistic concept of prosodic structure within words, which refers to the relative prominence and hierarchical organization of sounds as they are organized into words, in describing her research project "Word-Internal Prosodic Structure: A Cross-Linguistic Study." Relying on an integrated phonological and phonetic methodology to examine such phenomena as long consonants across morpheme boundaries in English and "e muet" [silent e] in French, Abigail will also study comparable structures in Austronesian languages in order to develop an understanding of possible cross-linguistic prosodic patterns in geographically disparate and genetically unrelated languages. **Jeremy Jennings** began his presentation entitled "Comment Etudier la Pensée Politique en France?" by discussing his intellectual trajectory in autobiographical terms. Initially influenced by intellectual history as practiced at Oxford in the late 1970s, Jeremy has in his more recent work incorporated the methodology of the Cambridge School as well as that of Pierre Rosanvallon. This will be reflected in his forthcoming book from Oxford University Press on the history of French political thought since the eighteenth century. Organized around such themes as the rights of man, Rousseau and the social contract, histories of the French Revolution, and the role of the intellectual, the book will end with a discussion of the contemporary debate about the nature of the French Republic. Jeremy plans to complete the manuscript by the end of this academic year.