



Columbia University Institute for Scholars
at Reid Hall
NEWSLETTER

October 2005 **no. 5**

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From the Director



The Institute’s activities during Spring semester 2004 and the 2004-2005 academic year continued to be as varied as they were intellectually challenging. The Fellows in year-long residence helped us welcome the newcomers. Spring 2004, these were Gregory Mann (Columbia) and the

MSH/Columbia group working on Mathematics in the 19th century: José Ferreiros (University of Seville), Javier Legris (National Academy of Sciences at Buenos Aires), and Klaus Thomas Volkert (Johann Wolfgang Goethe University) as well as Philippe Nabonnand (Université de Nancy) and Dominique Flament (CNRS, Paris). Fellows shared common interests and, in some cases, drew upon the resources of other Fellows in residence. Thus, Matthew Jones (Columbia) was asked to participate in the roundtable organized by the team working on mathematics. I gave a paper in the colloquium “Change and Continuity in the Culture of Eighteenth-Century Istanbul,” organized by Nebahat Avcioglu (University of Manchester). Several Turkish scholars from Istanbul were invited, thereby widening our contacts internationally.

Fall semester 2004, we greeted three year-long Fellows, Anne McCall (Tulane), Samuel Moyn (Columbia) and Brian Ogilvie (University of Massachusetts), as well as, for the Fall, Andrew Arato (New School for Social Research), Fredric Cheyette (Amherst College), Jean Choen (Columbia), Donna Dickenson (University of Birmingham, UK), Marilyn Hacker (poet), and Robert Vilain (University of London). We participated in the conference on the international intellectual influence of Edward W. Said, on the first anniversary of his death. Over 300 people attended the sessions at the *Bibliothèque nationale de France*, and many of them came to Reid Hall to hear the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwich read a new poem written in

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2004-2005 FELLOWS

Individual Scholars

Full Year 2005-2006

Sara Beam

Department of History, University of
Victoria, BC, Canada
The Body of the Criminal, 1500-1750

Sheryl Kroen

Department of History
University of Florida, USA
*Capitalism and Democracy: the Lessons
of the Marshall Plan*

Barbara Woike

Department of Psychology,
Barnard College, Columbia University,
USA
*The Influence of Personality Motivation
on Autobiographical Memory*

Fall

Meredith Clausen

Department of Architecture and Art
History, Washington University, USA
*The Tour Montparnasse, Presidential
Politics and the Urban Fabric of Paris*

Peter Lunenfeld

Media Design Program Art Center
College of Design, Pasadena, USA
The Cultural Uses of Computing

Ben O'Shaughnessy

Department of Chemical Engineering
Columbia University, USA
*Membrane Dynamics and Cell Wound
Repair*

Noel Whiteside

Centre for the Study of Global Ethics
University of Birmingham, UK
*Biotechnology and Property in the Body:
Approaches from Feminist Philosophy
and Civil Law*

Spring

Charles Armstrong

Department of History of Art
University of Cambridge, UK
*Jean-Jacques Lebel and the Workshop of
Free Expression in Paris, 1964-66*

Martha Howell

Department of History
Florida State University, Tallahassee,
USA
Happiness: A History

Christia Mercer

Emeritus Professor of Art History
Utrecht University, Netherlands
*Johan Aegidiusz van der Marck (1707-
1772), an art historian "avant la lettre"*

Barbara Wright

School of Law
Columbia University, USA
*National Constitutionalism and
International Cooperation: Adaptation
and Projection*

Joint Projects

co-sponsored with

Maison des Sciences de l'Homme-IPAS

*Translation and Exclusion: Europe,
a community of translation*

Jelica Sumic

Faculté des Lettres
Université de Ljubljana, Slovenia

Ernesto Laclau

Department of Government
University of Essex, UK

Rado Riha

Centre des Recherches Scientifiques
Académie slovène des sciences et des
arts

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*Columbia University President Lee C.
Bollinger at Reid Hall on June 26 for the
"fun run" with Columbia Alumni in Paris.*

*MAISON DES SCIENCES DE L'HOMME
INTERNATIONAL PRO-
GRAMME FOR ADVANCED
STUDIES (IPAS)*

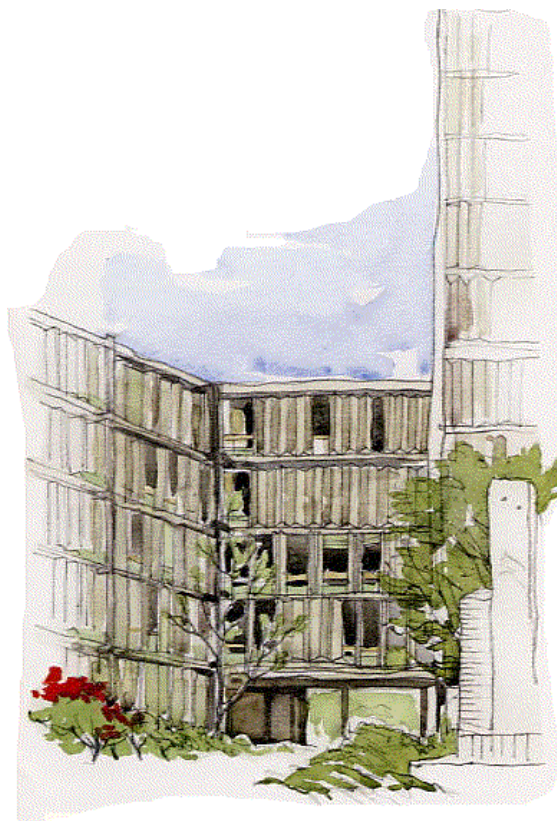
Columbia University Institute for Scholars's cooperation with the IPAS program of the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme continues to be fruitful and exciting. It provides a welcomed opportunity to broaden the international scope of the Institute and to give individual and group scholars opportunities to work together in a congenial atmosphere. We are pleased to announce that the [IPAS](#) now has its own website. Scholars interested in presenting group projects are encouraged to consult it.

The Spirit of the Programme

The MSH enjoys a long experience of international networks and believes that the social sciences must be truly international in methods as well as in content and vision. Benefiting from its longstanding links with Russia, India and China in addition to strong connections with European Union countries and North America, the MSH is expanding its networks to Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

The International Programme for Advanced Studies (IPAS) of the MSH differs from many institutes for advanced studies in its fellowship policy. Rather than offering long-term fellowships to individual scholars, we offer medium-term fellowships for collective research. In practice, this policy produces core groups of three to five scholars, most of whom who live in residence for three months or so. The core group, which usually includes a France-based member, often interacts with a broader circle of scholars interested in their research. Some of these scholars may become associated with the project. Groups also benefit from the MSH network of French scholars and foreign visitors who are invited through a variety of MSH programmes. The MSH and its affiliate, the Maison Suger, offer great opportunities in this regard. So does the Columbia University Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall, with its scholars coming from diverse countries.

IPAS Fellows work in a congenial and intellectually stimulating atmosphere. The tri-



angle constituted by the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, the Maison Suger, and Columbia University in Paris, all situated in the 6th arrondissement of Paris, offers a dynamic infrastructure for interacting with the broader academic community. In such an intellectual climate, the invited teams are expected to be active in their research and conduct informal workshops and/or more formal seminars open to the scientific community. Special issues of journals, edited volumes, or other collective publications demonstrate the success of the IPAS concept.

Fellowships

The MSH offers IPAS Fellows coming from abroad grants that covers travel, accommodations, and a per diem. In some cases Columbia University Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall offers offices, logistical assistance, meeting facilities, and small grants.

Our guests usually stay at the Maison Suger. Not simply a place of residence, the Maison Suger is also a place for working, making contacts, and holding scholarly events. In addition, at the MSH main building at 54 boulevard Raspail fellows will find a library, a helpful administrative staff, and a number of research centres. Seminar rooms are available at the Maison Suger and the MSH main building as well as Reid Hall.

**INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME
FOR ADVANCED STUDIES (IPAS)**
(CONTINUED)

Projects

Since its inception in mid-2001, the International Programme for Advanced Studies has welcomed seven projects:

Codes of Otherness. Religion, Color, and Ancestry in France, the United States and Germany. Riva Kastoryano, CERI/CNRS, Paris; George Fredrickson, Stanford University; Uli Bielefeld, Hamburger Institut für Sozialforschung, Germany.

Justice pénale internationale. Variations autour d'un droit commun. Mireille Delmas-Marty, University of Paris I; George Fletcher, Columbia University; Abdoullah Cissé, Université Gaston Berger, Senegal; Jianping Lu, University of the People, China.

Partitions Compared and Lessons Learnt. Issues in the Politics of Dialogue and Peace. Rada Ivekovic, University of Paris VIII; Stephano Bianchini, University of Bologna, Italy; Ranabir Samaddar, South Asia Forum for Human Rights, Nepal; Sanjay Chaturvedi, Panjab University, India.

Mathematical Proof, Axiomatic Deductive Demonstration and the Historical Shaping of Discourses about Them. Karine Chemla, REHSEIS/CNRS, University of Paris VII; Geoffrey Lloyd, Cambridge University, UK; Ian Mueller, University of Chicago; Reviel Netz, Stanford University; Dhruv Raina, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India.

Les Vocabulaires sociologiques face à l'unification de l'Europe: Construction, transformation, mondialisation. Natalia Chmatko, Russian Academy of Sciences; Jan Spurk, LSCI/CNRS, Paris; Reinhard Blomert, University of Graz, Austria; Vittorio Cotesta, University of Salerno, Italy.

Trust and Democracy in Transition
Ivana Markova, Department of Psychology, University of Stirling; Per Linell, University of Linköping, Sweden; Michèle Grossen, University of Lausanne.

Les sciences sociales en Amérique Latine: institutionnalisation et échanges internationaux en Argentine, Brésil, Chili et Mexique (1945-1970). Manuel Antonio Garreton, University of Chile; José Luiz Reyna, The College of Mexico; Waldo Ansaldi, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina; Afranio Garcia, Center for the Study of Contemporary Brazil; Helgio Trindade, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Coping with Conflict: Democracy and its Challenges in South Asia. Paula Banerjee, Department of South and South-East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta, India; Christophe Jaffrelot, Director, CERI, Paris; Mohammad Waseem, Professor and Chairman, Department of International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

The Foundations of Mathematics in the 19th Century: between history, philosophy, epistemology, and cognition.
Dominique Flament, CNRS Fellow, Head F2DS Group, MSH, Paris; Philippe Nabonnand, Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of Nancy, France; Klaus Volkert, Professor of Didactics of Mathematics, Frankfurt University, Germany; Javier Legris, Professor of Logic, Buenos Aires y Conicet Universidad, Argentina; Jose Ferreiros Dominguez, Professor of Philosophy of Sciences, Sevilla University, Spain.

The Head of the International Programme for Advanced Studies at MSH is Jean-Luc Racine (racine@msh-paris.fr), **Maison des Sciences de l'Homme**, 54, Boulevard Raspail, 75006 Paris.

Jean-Luc Racine

INSTITUTE EVENTS

List of Recent Events

January 15, 2004

Presentation of Research

Former Institute Fellow **Sudhir Venkatesh**, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of Research for the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, discussed his recent research on immigration and Paris suburban communities.

March 4, 2004

Peter Sahlins, Director of the University of California Center in Paris and Professor of History at U.C. Berkeley, discussed his new book, *Unnaturally French: Foreign Citizens in the Old Regime and After* (Ithaca and London, 2004).

March 18, 2004

Institute Fellow's Presentation

Gregory Mann, Assistant Professor of History, Columbia University

“History as Argument: *sans-papiers*, soldiers' pensions, and the French-African relationship”

March 30, 2004

Poetry Reading

Works by four contemporary poets

J.H. Prynne, **Christophe Fiat**, **Keston Sutherland**, **Jean-Michel Espitallier**, with an exhibition of the illustrations of **Jean-François Bory**

May 7, 2004

Colloquium

“Change and Continuity in the Culture of Eighteenth-Century Istanbul”

Organized by **Nebahat Avcioglu**

Participants:

Maurice Cerasi, University of Genova, **Filiz Yenişehirlioglu**, Başkent University, Ankara, **Nicola Vatin**, CNRS and EHESS, Paris, **Tülay Artan**, Sabanci University, Istanbul, **Shirine Hamadeh**, Rice University, Texas, **Danielle Haase-Dubosc**, Columbia University Institute for Scholars, **Frederic Hitzel**, CNRS, Paris, **Ali Uzay Peker**, Middle Eastern Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, **Nebahat Avcioglu**, Fellow

June 16-17, 2004

Colloquium

Reid Hall and the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme

“Fondements et justification des pratiques en mathématiques,” organized by IPAS Fellows

Participants:

Matthew L. Jones, Columbia University, **Catherine Goldstein**, CNRS - Institut de mathématique de Jussieu, **Javier Legris**, Fellow, **José Ferreiros**, Fellow, **Jacqueline Boniface**, Université de Nice – CRHI, **Jean-Jacques Szczeciniarz**, Université de Bordeaux III– REHSEIS, **Klaus Volkert**, Fellow, **Marie José Durand-Richard**, Université de Paris VIII, **Dominique Flament**, Fellow, **Sébastien Gauthier**, Institut de mathématique de Jussieu, **Klaus Volkert**, Fellow, **Jean-Pierre Friedelmeyer**, Université de Strasbourg, **Philippe Nabonnand**, Fellow

June 24-26, 2004

Arrival of Columbia President **Lee C. Bollinger**

“Fun Run with Lee Bollinger” and festivities with Columbia alumni in Paris to celebrate Columbia University's 250th anniversary

Continued on next page



Columbia University alumni students gather in the courtyard of Reid Hall to celebrate the 250th anniversary of their alma mater.

INSTITUTE EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

September 24-25, 2004

Conference

“Hommage à Edward Said”

Co-organized by Université de Paris VII – Denis Diderot, Reid Hall, and the Bibliothèque nationale de France

Following two days of papers given on the work and influence of **Edward Said**, Reid Hall hosted Palestinian poet **Marmoud Darwich** who read a recent poem dedicated to his recently departed friend.

October 12, 2004

Music Recital

Christopher Britton

Member of the Pavlova Quintet, Oxford

Recital for flute: classical, contemporary, and jazz

October 14, 2004

Roundtable of Institute Fellows' Presentations

Fredric Cheyette

“From the Roman to the Medieval Landscape: What Archeology has Begun to Tell Us – Visual French and European Case Studies”

Marilyn Hacker

“Literary Translation: Contemporary French Poets”

Anne McCall

“Trial by Letters: Romantic Epistolary Discourse and Practice. Judiciary and journalistic usage of the correspondence of famous 19th-century couples”

Samuel Moyn

“French Political Theory in the 1970s: the Revival of Liberal Figures and Ideas and New Contemporary Problems.”

October 21, 2004

Roundtable of Institute Fellows' Presentations

Andrew Arato and Jean Cohen

“The Return of the Repressed: Sovereignty in Domestic and Transnational Politics”

Donna Dickenson

“Biotechnology and property in the body: approaches from feminist philosophy and civil law”

Brian Ogilvie

“Who was Ezechiel Spanheim?”

Robert Vilain

“The Mutual Influence of French and German Literature, 1870-1936”

February 10, 2005

Roundtable of Institute Fellows' Presentations

Samuel Moyn

“French Political Theory in the 1970s”
(updated work-in-progress)

Brian Ogilvie

“Who was Ezechiel Spanheim?”
(updated work-in-progress)

Darrin McMahon

“A History of Happiness?”

Gerald Neuman

“National Constitutionalism and International Cooperation: Adaptation and Projection”

February 17, 2005

Roundtable of Institute Fellows' Presentations

Jelica Sumic, Ernesto Laclau, Rado Riha, Olivier Marchart

“Translation and Exclusion. Europe: a community of translation”

February 24, 2005

Alan Forrest, Director of the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies at the University of York (UK), was invited to discuss his current research on citizen-soldiers and war in France during the long nineteenth century. We were also

INSTITUTE EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

visited this day by former fellow, **Colin Jones**, University of Warwick, who talked about his new book, *Paris: A Biography* (London, 2004)

February 18, 2005

Workshop

“Unité et division de l’Europe: politiques linguistiques en Europe”

Organized by the IPAS group “Translation and Exclusion: Europe, a community of translation?”

Participants:

Muhamedin Kullashi, University of Paris VIII-Saint Denis; **Oliver Marchart**, Institute Fellow; **Jean-Pierre Marcos**, University of Paris VIII-Saint-Denis; **Tanja Petrovic**, Center for Scientific Research, Ljubljana; **Jelena Petrovic**, Institute for the Studies of the Humanities, Ljubljana; **Ernesto Laclau**, Institute Fellow; **Rado Riha**, Institute Fellow; **Christina Schaeffner**, Aston University, Birmingham; **Jelica Sumic**, Institute Fellow

March 18, 2005

Workshop

“Exclusion and/or Translation”

Organized by the IPAS group “Translation and Exclusion: Europe, a community of translation?”

Participants:

Antonia Birnbaum, University of Paris VIII-Saint Denis; **Ernesto Laclau**, Institute Fellow; **Jelica Sumic**, Université de Ljubljana; **Rado Riha**, Institute Fellow; **Oliver Marchart**, Institute Fellow

March 30, 2005

Seminar

“Women, Politics and Law: New Issues, New Perspectives”

Speaker:

Patricia Williams, Columbia University Law School

2004-2005 FELLOWS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Institut de Philosophie, Slovenia

Oliver Marchart

Institut für Medienwissenschaften
University of Basel, Switzerland

Guest Fellow

Jean-Pierre Marcos

Département de Philosophie
Université de Paris 8, France

Forms of Knowledge of the Past

Alexei M. Rutkevich

Institute of Philosophy
Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia

Irina M. Savelieva

Institute for Theoretical and Historical
Studies in the Humanities
State University - Higher School of
Economics, Russia

Klaus von Beyme

Institut für Politische Wissenschaft
Ruprecht-karls-Universität Heidelberg,
Germany

Guest Fellow

Jutta Scherrer

Centre d'études du monde russe, soviétique
et post-soviétique
Ecole des hautes études en Sciences
sociales, France

INTERVIEWS WITH FELLOWS

On Populist Reason

Ernesto Laclau



Ernesto Laclau, Professor in the Department of Government at the University of Essex and Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature at the State University of New York, Buffalo, has written and co-authored several path-breaking books in the field of discourse analysis, notably Hegemony and Socialist Strategy (with Chantal Mouffe; London, 1985) and Contingency, Hegemony, Universality: Contemporary Dialogues on the Left (with Judith Butler and Slavoj Zizek; London, 2000). His new book, On Populist Reason, will appear later this year with Verso.

Please tell us about your new book, On Populist Reason, and how it evolved from your previous work?

This book does not mark a new turn but rather the possibility of deepening the question of exclusion, which has been quite central to my work. It treats the question both philosophically and empirically. Philosophically, it treats the relationship between inclusion and exclusion; empirically, it investigates historical cases in which the category of heterogeneity plays a substantial role that goes beyond binary oppositions, such as those that often appear in the work of sociologists.

How do you see the IPAS group as having evolved in their interactions here at the Institute?

In fact, we have been working together for a long time, and our position was a rather unified one by the time we came to the Institute. This is the first time, however, that we have applied our approach to the question of Europe. From this point of view, we have been able to make substantial improvements.

Does the group's work have implications for understanding the issues involved with the current questions concerning the ratification of a European Constitution?

Problems associated with European unification are many and can advance in several directions. There is, for example, the question of how grass-roots demands cut across national limits. From this point of view, we have been able to study the "Europe of the People" – something that interests us very much. European unification also requires new institutional arrangements on the national level, and this area of study does not necessarily overlap with the first. Finally, there is the question of the relation of state and society in each one of the member countries, each with its own patterns and history. Therefore, the process of unification must take into consideration each of these three levels.



*The IPAS group
"Translation and Exclusion: Europe, a
Community of Translation?"
From left to right: Oliver Marchart,
Ernesto Laclau, Jelica Sumic, Rado Riha*

INTERVIEWS WITH FELLOWS

National Constitutionalism and International Cooperation: Adaptation and Projection

Gerald L. Neuman



Gerald L. Neuman is Herbert Wechsler Professor of Federal Jurisprudence at Columbia University Law School. His teaching and research focus on constitutional law, immigration law and nationality law, comparative constitutional law, and human rights law. He is the author of Strangers to the Constitution: Immigrants, Borders, and Fundamental Law (Princeton, 1996) and Human Rights (with L. Henkin, D. Leebron, and D. Orentlicher; New York, 1999). He is currently working on a comparative study on constitutionalism and national cooperation in France, Germany, and the United States.

Please describe the central problems in constitutionalism and international cooperation that you are investigating?

As international cooperation has become more intense, in Europe but also globally, states have faced the problem of resolving conflicts between their usual national constitutional rules and the terms of their international obligations. Sometimes these conflicts concern different conceptions of individual rights (such as the limits on freedom of expression), and sometimes they concern institutional structures (such as official immunity or

independence of the judiciary). Different countries, including France, Germany and the United States, have taken different approaches to adapting – or refusing to adapt – their constitutional practices in order to resolve these conflicts.

How does your research relate to the current issue of a European Constitution?

The adaptation of French constitutional practice to the prospect of the European Constitution illustrates two of the techniques France has used to address possible conflicts. In June of 2004, the *Conseil Constitutionnel* announced a new interpretive approach that defers to the European Court of Justice in matters concerning common European values such as freedom of expression to legislation implementing EU directives, while reserving to the *Conseil* itself the authority to apply distinctively French constitutional values such as *laïcité*. In November, the *Conseil* issued a ruling identifying aspects of the European Constitution that would contradict existing provisions of the French Constitution, and in March 2005 the French Constitution was expressly amended to overcome these barriers to ratification.

Does your current research have implications for understanding constitutionalism or international cooperation in/with other parts of the world?

My investigation recognizes tensions between the specificities of EU law and the practices of international cooperation. At the same time, there may be interplay between the legal methods that EU states use to facilitate compliance with EU law and the methods they use more broadly for international cooperation. Studying both the regional and the external examples should generate insights that are applicable to non-European states and to transregional cooperation.

INTERVIEWS WITH FELLOWS

Ezechiel Spanheim and the Learned Culture of Seventeenth-century Europe *Brian Ogilvie*



Brian W. Ogilvie is Professor of History at the Department of History, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He is a specialist of early modern European cultural and intellectual history and has recently completed a book, The Science of Describing: Natural History in Renaissance Europe, to be published by Chicago University Press later this year. He is currently working on Ezechiel Spanheim, a scholar and diplomat of the late seventeenth century.

How did you get interested in Ezechiel Spanheim?

I first came across Spanheim in a famous 1950 article by Arnaldo Momigliano, "Ancient History and the Antiquarian" in which Momigliano mentioned him in passing as the founder of modern numismatics. Due to a peculiar chain of circumstances, I had studied renaissance numismatics in graduate school and therefore had more reason to become interested in Spanheim. The further I investigated, the more I became convinced that he was an interesting figure in the study of the ancient past during the seventeenth century, particularly the social organization and culture of antiquarianism.

How does this project fit in with discussions about the 17th century Republic of Letters and international diplomatic culture?

Spanheim held a special position within the Republic of Letters due to the fact that he was a diplomat as well. In the 1680s and 1690s disputes among numismatists in France erupted over the origins of some ancient coins. Spanheim participated in those debates but unlike the others managed to remain not so acrimoniously involved. He easily passed across confessional, national, and linguistic lines. Therefore, some of the politeness that historians see shaping the Republic of Letters in the eighteenth century can already be detected in Spanheim in the late seventeenth century. Having spent his youth in Geneva and the Palatinate, he was an outsider in the circles in which he travelled later in life. Part of his successful career as a diplomat and scholar was that he was judicious – perhaps too judicious – in an age in which many threw caution to the wind.

How has your stay at the Institute been helpful to you?

In several ways. Having spent much time researching in Paris in the past without an office, I appreciate having a place to work that is quiet and where there are office supplies, printer, and internet access. The Institute is certainly a more comfortable to work than my tiny apartment, and it allows one to escape the hassles and distractions of the *Bibliothèque nationale* or the *Archives nationales*. It has also been helpful to meet and talk with the other fellows and the staff. Research in the humanities can be very isolating, but the Institute has offered the chance to discuss various subjects beyond research, with others. The weekly teas have been great in this regard and have been very helpful for improving my French!

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD SAID

Contrepoint

Mahmoud Darwich is a Palestinian poet who, after years of exile, returned to live in Ramallah in Spring 2004. A close friend of Edward Said for more than thirty years, Darwich came to Reid Hall on September 26 to read a poem in Arabic dedicated to his living memory. The poem was read in French by Parisian poet Jérôme Game. An excerpt of Darwich's poem follows.

New York. Novembre. 5^{ème} Avenue.

Le soleil est une soucoupe éclatée.

A l'ombre, j'ai interrogé mon âme étrangère :

Cette ville est-elle Babylone ou Sodome ?

Là-bas, au seuil d'un gouffre électrique

Haut comme le ciel, j'ai rencontré Edward,

Il y a trente ans.

Les temps étaient alors moins impétueux.

Chacun a dit à l'autre :

Si ton passé est expérience

Fais du lendemain sens et vision !

Partons,

Partons vers notre lendemain, sûrs

De la sincérité de l'imagination et du miracle de l'herbe.

Je ne sais plus si nous avons été au cinéma ce soir-là,

Mais j'ai entendu des Indiens anciens me crier : Ne fais confiance

Ni au cheval ni à la modernité.

Non. Aucune victime n'interroge son bourreau :

Suis-je toi si mon glaive

Avait été plus grand que ma rose ...

Aurais-je agi comme toi ?

Une telle question suscite la curiosité du romancier

Dans un bureau de verre donnant

Sur les lys d'un jardin...

Là où l'hypothèse est blanche comme la conscience

De l'auteur s'il solde ses comptes

Avec la nature humaine... Nul lendemain

Dans la veille, avançons donc !

...

Mahmoud Darwich



Danielle Haase-Dubosc with poet Mahmoud Darwich on the evening of September 26 for the commemoration of Edward Said.

INTERVIEWS WITH FELLOWS

Property, Women, and the Body: A Study in Bioethics *Donna Dickenson*



In January, Donna Dickenson will be moving to the University of London as Professor and Director of the Birkbeck Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities. She has authored a number of books on bioethics, including most recently Risk and Luck in Medical Ethics (Cambridge, 2003).

Could you describe your work in bioethics and tell us how it relates to your prior book?

In my previous book, *Property, Women, and Politics: Subjects or Objects* (New Brunswick N.J., 1997) I argued that property as a concept--although not necessarily private property--and liberal contractualism more generally reinforced women's autonomy and gender justice. Against a body of feminist literature that sees property as pernicious because women have mainly been the subjects of property in the body, my study read past some of the sexist assumptions that have accompanied liberal contract theories, showing that the core of such theories could, in fact, be liberating for women. My present research takes the feminist theory of property developed in the previous book and applies it to property in human tissue and patenting of the human genome.

What research will you be doing while in residence this semester at the Institute?

In my current research, I am considering how the commodification of tissue in the new biotechnology is rendering all bodies "female." Whereas women's bodies have been often construed as the property

of men, today's commodification of the body is bestowing on all bodies -- men's and women's -- this traditional female status. That means that bioethics has much to learn from feminist responses to the objectification of the body.

How has being in France been helpful for your research?

It is a good time to be here. Recently, the French government passed a law permitting the importation of bio-products, and last week the health minister announced that stem cell lines could now be purchased from abroad. This is a radical departure from French legal tradition, which has been reluctant to commodify the body. France serves as one of two case studies in my book -- the other being Maori culture -- which exemplify a view of commercialism in bioethics as 'taboo'. The question is how effective this resistance to commercialisation has really been, when France still permits its researchers to benefit from developments in other countries which have been less resistant.

What do you see as the important questions being raised in bioethics?

I think we need to worry most about the way in which genomics, genetics and reproductive technologies are regulated, or in fact often not regulated. Many people have expressed concern about the way in which governance lags behind technological change, so that a 'Wild West' is developing in tissue trade and patenting of gene sequences. This trade increasingly takes place on a global scale, with imports of oocytes taking place from Eastern Europe, for example. Bioethics has always lagged behind technological developments: for example, the early growth of bioethics attempted to regulate the way in which life could now be prolonged through artificial respiration or ventilation, in order to give guidance to clinicians and meaningful choice to patients. The difference now is that these decisions about regulation are made in a weakly regulated global market context, not simply as one-to-one doctor-patient encounters, and that they concern the human genome as a whole.

INTERVIEWS
WITH FELLOWS

**Trial by Letters: Romantic
Epistolary Discourse and Prac-
tice**

Anne McCall



Anne McCall, Associate Professor in the Department of French and Italian and Director of the Women's Studies Program at Tulane University, has published numerous articles on the epistolary genre and a book on George Sand, *De l'être en lettres. L'autobiographie épistolaire de George Sand* (Amsterdam, 1996).

*Please tell us about your current re-
search.*

I am currently researching the evolution of private letters as a published and publishable literary genre in nineteenth-century France. We know, as Derrida and others have reminded us in recent decades, that letters are "literature itself", that they summarize its structure and render explicit the material and symbolic relationships in which it functions. We have yet to give adequate thought to what happens to letters and what letters can themselves do in a period in which the structures of identity and literature are changing. My hypothesis is that the association of epistolary writing with Old Regime literature and sociability made letters a peculiarly sensitive genre for the expression, enforcement, and reformulation of new identities in nineteenth-century France. In fact, epistolary texts from the period put both writers and the nation on trial, summoning post-Revolutionary and modern, Republican France to name itself. Since letter collections serve as a focal point for intense

debates concerning private property, authorship, and public propriety, I am currently paying particular attention to the legislation, legal treaties on the status of private letters, and press coverage of trials that questioned or otherwise invoked the status of letters.

What do you see as the risks and benefits of incorporating a cultural historical approach to the study of literature?

My project is interdisciplinary, but my research is primarily literary, focusing on the narrative structures at play in a series of popular letter collections written by contemporary authors and published between 1792 to 1896, as well as in a few correspondences that have been saved, perhaps for publication, but that did not appear in print or as real letters during the nineteenth century. Since my goal is to achieve understanding of this genre over a period of about one hundred years, it is as impossible to evacuate history as it would be foolhardy to ignore more instrumental uses of letter writing that are part of the cultural backdrop against which letter collections were formed and read. In the past fifteen years, historians, sociologists, and literary scholars have contributed greatly to our understanding of letters in nineteenth-century France, but differences in the choices of topics (on the whole, individual writers for those in literature and collective practices for historians and sociologists), have tended to minimize the extent to which each field has been enriched by the other. Moving between the literary and the non-literary, integrating literature into a broader cultural landscape, and thereby increasing the dialogue across disciplines should not dissolve the literary into the historical; rather, it should aid in understanding the very specificity of art.

What resources do you plan to use here in Paris?

Many resources are available at the BNF, the BHVP, and the Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, namely, newspapers, periodicals (general, literary, legal, and political), theses for doctoral degrees in law, legal commentaries, original editions of correspondences, and literary criticism. Some trial records involving epistolary publications are available at the Archives nationales. I may also use the Bibliothèque de l'Institut and some private archives. Office space, equipment, support, advice, and the intellectual interchange at Reid Hall are all especially appreciated.

INTERVIEWS WITH FELLOWS

The “Liberal Turn” of French Leftwing Thought in the 1970’s

Samuel Moyn



Samuel Moyn, Assistant Professor in the History Department at Columbia University since 1991, works on 20th century French thought. He has two forthcoming books, Origins of the Other: Emmanuel Levinas and Interwar Philosophy and A Holocaust Controversy: The Treblinka Affair in Post-war France. He is currently working on a study of French thought in the 1970s.

How did you get interested in French political thought of the 1970's?

I got interested in this period because of the global influence, since 1989, of the view that the end of communism may have brought about “the end of history.” For a long time, Marxism had provided the guiding philosophy of many French intellectuals, and it was really in the 1970s that this began to change. The dynamics of Marxism's disappearance in an intellectual laboratory like France should interest everyone who cares about the ideological disputes in the post-Cold War era of the present day. The 1970s were a period of wide-ranging ideological controversy in effect about whether and how to leave Marxism behind, and it is this period of the so-called “bataille anti-totalitaire” that gave birth to a totally new configuration of political ideologies that remains potent to this day. In other words, ideologically speaking, the 1970s seem to me to have opened the present day.

Can you tell us about your topic?

Having published recent articles on the early

intellectual careers of Marcel Gauchet and Pierre Rosanvallon, my goal this year at Reid Hall is to combine them and to write a full history of this sector of French political theory in the 1970s, with an emphasis on the emergence of these current major figures in French thought from the traditions of the French past and the politics of the moment. Due emphasis will have to be given to the older mentor intellectuals for these then younger men – Cornelius Castoriadis, Pierre Clastres, Louis Dumont, François Furet, and, above all, Claude Lefort – but my real interest is in the younger figures. I am especially interested in their role in the revival of liberal figures and liberal ideas, contributions which have changed the face of international scholarly discussions and exchanges. I also want to try to work out how their origins help cast light on their present disputes and on the current alternatives before which their movement stands.

In your project, you historicize the works of individuals who are still active on the French intellectual scene. How would you characterize the way their thought is evolving today? What are the factors influencing this evolution? In what way are their ideas being challenged?

Of course, there are critiques of these liberal intellectuals from the left and from the right. What I find more interesting is their internal fragmentation. As the recent “Lindenberg affair” graphically showed, all is not well in the so-called anti-totalitarian family of intellectuals. For Rosanvallon, at least, the point of anti-totalitarianism in the 1970s had been the reinvention of the left, and he remains actively interested in this project still. But he acknowledges that some of the slogans of the 1970s have outlived their usefulness. In a recent article on “Open Democracy” (open-democracy.net), for example, he rejects the attempt by some figures to present Iraq as one more totalitarian menace and America as the anti-totalitarian agent. Clearly, others believe that the anti-totalitarianism forged in the 1970s has a longer life ahead of it. I'm interested in working out how these alternatives may have been implicit from the beginning in the rise of anti-totalitarianism, and therefore how the renaissance of liberal ideas and assumptions leads to new problems rather than obvious solutions.

From the Director

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homage to Said.

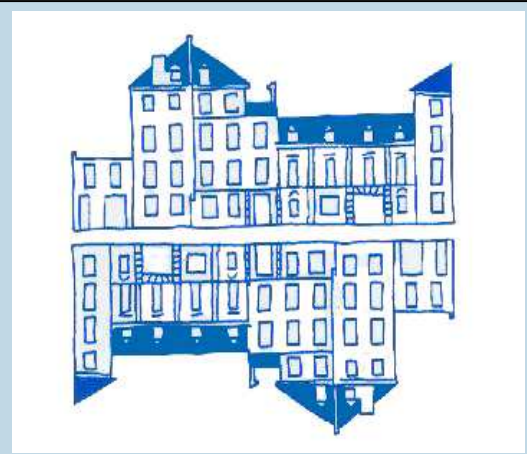
We were privileged in others ways as well. The renowned flutist Christopher Britton, husband of one of our Fall Fellows, Donna Dickenson, gave a solo concert at Reid Hall that will long be remembered. Once again, the year-long fellows helped us greet the newcomers Spring Term 2005: Alyce Mahon (Cambridge University), Darrin McMahon (Florida State University, Tallahassee), Gerry Neuman (Columbia Law School), and the MSH/ Columbia group working on translation and exclusion: Europe, a community of translation, including Ernesto Laclau (University of Essex), Oliver Marchart (University of Basel), Rado Riha (Institute of Philosophy, Ljubljana), and Jelica Sumic (University of Ljubljana).

Throughout this time, we continued to invite distinguished visitors to our Thursday teas, and Fellows presented their work in progress. Returning Fellows also contributed to the life of the Institute. Thus Sudhir Venkatesh (Columbia) discussed his recent research on immigration and Paris suburban communities. Gregory Mann (Columbia) secured the approval of the Sterling Currier Fund for a colloquium, to be held at Reid Hall later this year, on three contemporary patterns of francophone West African migration. We want to encourage such projects for all our Fellows in the future.

As I note the different facets of our work, I am struck once again by the spirit of collegiality and openness that animates the Institute. It bodes well for the future and allows us to look forward to many new accomplishments.



Patricia Williams (Columbia Law School) speaks on "Women, Politics and Law: New Issues, New Perspectives" at the Institute on March 30, 2005



MAISON SUGER

The Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall has been working with the Maison Suger over past two years to house Institute Fellows in a scholarly setting.

Set in the heart of the Latin Quarter, the Maison Suger, a non-profit organization, was created by the *Maison des Sciences de l'Homme* Foundation, a non-profit organization, to provide a welcoming work environment for foreign researchers spending time in Paris and working with colleagues in the social sciences. The Institute has welcomed the opportunity to share interests with the Maison Suger, thus giving fellows the opportunity to live with other scholars and to participate in many professional and recreational activities.

The building contains 33 units, ranging from studios to two-room suites, designed to function as both apartments and offices. The units are entirely furnished and include bath and kitchen facilities. The standard equipment in each apartment includes a telephone and color TV receiving domestic and international channels.

Also available to residents are computer terminals linked to an in-house server with access to software and laser printing as well as Internet and e-mail. Residents will find a variety of common areas where they can meet, work, and relax.

NEWS, PROJECTS, AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM PAST AND PRESENT FELLOWS

Vicki Caron is Maurice C. Shapiro Senior Scholar-in-Residence at the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. this academic year where she continues to work on her study of Jewish-Catholic relations in France since 1870.

José Ferreirós's article, "Un episodio de la crisis de fundamentos: 1904" has recently been published in *La Gaceta de la Real Sociedad Española de Matemáticas* 7, nº 2 (2004). José is editor of the journal's section on the history of mathematics.

Victoria de Grazia's forthcoming book, *Irresistible Empire: America's advance through twentieth-century Europe*, will appear in Spring 2005, published by Belknap Press of Harvard University.

Jeremy Jennings of the University of Birmingham, who is again teaching a methodology course for Columbia's M.A. in French Cultural Studies at Reid Hall this year. He has recently published "Intellectuals and the Myth of Decline" in the *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* and "Political Thought in Continental Europe during the Twentieth Century," in Gaus and Kukathas (eds.), *A Handbook of Political Theory* (London, 2004). A book he co-edited with Iseult Honohan, *Republicanism in Theory and Practice*, will be published by Routledge in 2005.

Colin Jones's new book, *Paris: Biography of a City*, appeared in late 2004 in England with Allen Lane/Penguin Publishers and in the US with Viking Penguin.

Hermann (Gene) Lebovics's new book, *Bringing the Empire Back Home: France in the Global Age (Radical Perspectives)* (Durham, 2004) appeared last year.

Adriana Mendez has published an article on British travelling-artist Adela Breton, "Sensibilidad victoriana, cuerpos mexicanos: El arte de Adela Breton," which appeared in *Poligrafías--Revista de Literatura Comparada* (UNAM), vol. IV (2003).

Jan Spurk co-edited two books that appeared last year, one with M. Lallement, *Comparaisons internationales*, (Éditions du CNRS, 2003) and another with Daniel Mercure, *Le travail dans la pensée occidentale*, (Québec, 2003).

Steven Ungar's forthcoming book, co-authored with Dudley Andrew, *Popular Front Paris and the Poetics of Culture* (Cambridge, Mass., 2005) will appear this year, as well as numerous essays, including "Writing in Tongues: Thoughts on the Work of Translation," in *ACLA: State of the Discipline* (2005), "Saussure, Barthes and the First Wave of Structuralism in France," in *The Cambridge Companion to Saussure* (Cambridge, 2005).

IPAS Group

The Foundations of Mathematics in the XIXth Century: Between History, Philosophy, Epistemology and Cognition
 Spring 2004



From left to right: Dominique Flament, Klaus Volkert, Javier Legris, Philippe Nabonnand, and José M. Ferreirós-Dominguez