

EISENBERG INSTITUTE

F O R H I S T O R I C A L S T U D I E S

From the Director:

The history department at the University of Michigan scatters during the months of summer – many of its members off to archives or libraries, quiet places to think and write, often in interesting and even exotic parts of the world. As fall approaches, we come back to Ann Arbor, not particularly exotic but certainly a place for renewed intellectual investigations. Taking seriously its task of generating scholarly exchange, the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies has put together a program of lectures and workshops around its new theme “Taking Place: History and Spatial Imaginations.” The invited speakers come from a variety of disciplines – history, geography, linguistics, anthropology – as students of different regions of the world – the Middle East, Central America, East Asia – and different historical locations – nineteenth-century London, ancient China – to give us local and global perspectives on thinking about the past and present.

The world might be flat, according to some, but to historians it looks unusually bumpy. Our explorations will move through the changing landscapes of the past and present that, with the particular insights of historians, geographers, and anthropologists, will be made visible in new ways. We start with William Hanks, an anthropologist whose research in Yucatec Maya language and culture gives unique insights into the colonial formation of New Spain. Former Michigan historian Matthew Connelly, now at Columbia University, returns to give us his international and global perspective that has ranged from Algeria and the origins of the Cold War to world population control. Judy Walkowitz of Johns Hopkins will bring us back to the local with a talk on Victorian schlepping and shopping in Soho. Our Public History Initiative will introduce Alexandra Lord. And our own Ellen Muehlberger and Christian De Pee round out our fall schedule with perspectives from antiquity and the premodern.

We will also feature our visiting and internal fellows and graduate students in the Friday workshops, and in a special Fellows’ Forum on November 11. Our fellows come from near – Jonathan Hagood, Hope College; Annamarie Sammartino, Oberlin College; and Ronen Steinberg, Michigan State – and very far – Ethan Blue, University of Western Australia.

That’s the good news!

The bad news is that our extraordinary program coordinator, Shannon Rolston, is leaving the Institute (reluctantly, I might say!). Her husband, Ron, has been selected head coach of the Rochester (New York) Americans, an American Hockey League team. She, Maeve, and Ronan are moving east (I think she is slowly wending her way back to her hometown, Boston). We send our warmest wishes to her and her family.

Join us at the kickoff of our new theme on September 22. Welcome back to a new semester and an exciting fall at the Eisenberg Institute!

Ron Suny,
Director, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies

FALL SEMESTER

2011

2011-2012
EIHS Steering
Committee

Ronald Suny, Director
Kathryn Babayan
Jay Cook
Ian Moyer

Looking Ahead
Winter 2012 Calendar

January 12
Jay Cook
University of Michigan

January 26-27
Tim Cresswell
University of London

February 2
Kathleen Canning
University of Michigan

February 16-17
Sharon Zukin
CUNY Graduate Center

March 15-16
Nile Green
University of California, Los Angeles

March 29-30
Nicholas Purcell
St. John’s College, Oxford

University of Michigan
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TAKING PLACE:

HISTORY AND SPATIAL IMAGINATIONS

Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies
Fall 2011

Thursday Speakers 1014 Tisch Hall 4-6pm

September 22

William Hanks, University of California, Berkeley

“Reducción in the Making of Colonial Yucatec Maya”

October 6

Ellen Muehlberger, University of Michigan

“The Ignoble Death of Heretics and the Ingressive Memory of Place in Christian Historiography”

October 20

Matthew Connelly, Columbia University

“‘General, I Have Fought Just as Many Nuclear Wars as You Have’: Forecasts, Future Scenarios, and the Politics of Armageddon”

November 10

Christian de Pee, University of Michigan

“The City as Nature: Textual Geographies and Urban Space in Eleventh-Century China”

December 1

Judith Walkowitz, Johns Hopkins University

“‘Schleppers and Shoppers’: Jews, Street Markets, and Ready-to-Wear Fashion in Interwar London”

Friday Workshops 1014 Tisch Hall 12-2pm

September 23

“Sacred Spaces, Texts, and Languages”

William Hanks, Robyn d’Avignon (Anthro/History), Paul Johnson (Anthro/History), Ian Moyer (History), Rachel Neis (History, Judaic Studies)

October 7

“Beyond Academe: A Conversation with Alexandra Lord”

Alexandra Lord (Branch Chief, National Historic Landmarks Program)

A collaboration with the Public History Initiative

October 21

“Internationalizing History, Ordering Futures”

Matthew Connelly, Pamela Ballinger (History), Christopher Tounsell (History), Matthew Woodbury (History)

November 11

EIHS Fellows Forum

December 2

“Urban Cosmopolitanism in the Center of Empire: Cultural Politics, Local and Global”

Judith Walkowitz, Emma Amador (History), Angela Perez-Villa (History & Women’s Studies), Scott Spector (History, Germanic Languages and Literatures, Judaic Studies)

SEPT. 22-23



William Hanks

is Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley. He received a PhD in Linguistics and Anthropology from the University of Chicago in 1983, where he remained on the faculty of both departments from 1983 to 1996. He was Professor of Anthropology and Milton H. Wilson Professor of the Humanities, at Northwestern University from 1996 until July 2000, when he joined Cal as the Berkeley Distinguished Chair Professor in Linguistic Anthropology. Hanks' work is resolutely interdisciplinary and international, and the empirical basis of his research has been the history and ethnography of Yucatan, Mexico, where he has conducted about 30 months of fieldwork and archival research. His speciality is Yucatec Maya language and culture, with fieldwork conducted in Maya language. Hanks has become increasingly interested in early modern Spain and Spanish as a necessary step towards understanding the colonial formation of Yucatan and New Spain.



OCT. 6



Ellen Muehlberger

is Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Studies and History at the University of Michigan. Her interests range over a number of religious and intellectual traditions in antiquity including research in the Coptic and Syriac fields, and in method and theory in the study of religion generally—witness recent publications in the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, the *Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Periods*, and *Vigiliae Christianae*. Her current project, *Angels in Late Ancient Christianity*, compares the attitudes of urban Christian intellectuals with those of ascetic communities. This lecture is a portion of a new project that examines shifting Christian notions of death during late antiquity.

OCT. 7



Alexandra Lord

holds a PhD from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and is the co-founder of www.beyondacademe.com, a website dedicated to educating historians about their options outside of academe. Trained in early modern British medical history, Lord has published and given papers on topics ranging from early medical theories of menstruation and medical fraud (Munchausen's Syndrome) to the history of epidemiology and the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919. She worked as an historian in the Public Health Service for seven years (2001-2008) before becoming Branch Chief of the National Historic Landmarks Program in the National Park Service in 2008. Her recent book, *Condom Nation: The US Government's Sex Education Campaign from World War I to the Internet* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010), examines the history of federally funded sex education in the United States.

Matthew Connelly

is Professor of History at Columbia University. He received his BA from Columbia (1990) and his PhD from Yale (1997). His publications include *A Diplomatic Revolution: Algeria's Fight for Independence and the Origins of the Post-Cold War Era* (Oxford University Press, 2002), and *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population* (Harvard University Press, 2008). His work focuses on international and global history, and he has written research articles in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *The International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *The American Historical Review*, *The Review française d'histoire d'Outre-mer*, and *Past & Present*. He has also published commentary on international affairs in *The Atlantic Monthly* and *The National Interest*.

OCT. 20-21



Christian DePee

is Associate Professor of History at the University of Michigan. In his published work, he contributes to a cultural history of Middle-Period China (eighth through fourteenth centuries) that accommodates the particularities of the sources of the period. His first book, *The Writing of Weddings in Middle-Period China: Text and Ritual Practice in the Eighth through Fourteenth Centuries* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2007), seeks to recover the practice of Middle-Period weddings by interpreting writing as a trace of ritual practice and by recognizing texts as ritual objects. His lecture for the Eisenberg Institute will be based on his current research, which traces the emergence of the cityscape into writing during the eleventh century.

Nov. 10



Judith Walkowitz

is Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University. For the past thirty years, her research and writing have concentrated on nineteenth-century political culture and the cultural and social contests over sexuality. Her first book, *Prostitution and Victorian Society* (Cambridge University Press, 1980), examines the system of medical and police regulation of prostitution, a system first established in 1864 and abolished in 1886, to control the spread of venereal disease among enlisted men. *City of Dreadful Delight* (University of Chicago Press, 1992) maps out a dense cultural grid through which compelling representations of sexual danger, including W.T. Stead's exposé of child prostitution and the tabloid reporting of Jack the Ripper, circulated in late-Victorian London. Her new book, *Nights Out: Life in Cosmopolitan London* (Yale University Press, forthcoming) extends her interest in the cultural and social history of London to mid-twentieth century.

DEC. 1-2



TAKING PLACE:
HISTORY AND SPATIAL IMAGINATIONS

FALL 2011

EISENBERG INSTITUTE

2011-2012 EIHS FACULTY FELLOWS

Rachel Neis

is Assistant Professor jointly appointed in the Program for Judaic Studies and in the History Department at the University of Michigan. She has a PhD in Judaic Studies from Harvard University and also holds degrees in Law from the London School of Economics (LLB hons.) and Philosophy of Religion from Boston University (MA). She is working on a book about how the ancient rabbis shaped, experienced, and understood the sense of sight. Her interests include rabbinic literature and culture, the history of the senses, and comparative ancient and contemporary law and legal theory.

Clement Hawes

holds a joint position in History and English. He specializes in British literature and history 1660-1800, writing broadly about the problematic of periodizing the Enlightenment and more closely about such authors as Jonathan Swift and Christopher Smart. One of his consistent interests has been in the literature of enthusiasm harking back to the English Revolution, which produced such unprecedented writers as the "Ranter" Abiezer Coppe. Another preoccupation has been with the cultural dynamics of early empire: the making of an imperial Britishness as it informs historical narrative and explanation. Recently he has expanded on a personal liking for travel by studying early modern travelogues. Professor Hawes was educated at Yale University (PhD, English literature, 1986) and Hendrix College (BA, English Literature, 1978).



2011-2012 Eisenberg Graduate Fellows

Robyn D'Avignon

is a PhD student in Anthropology and History. Her fields of study include Francophone West Africa, Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Congo France Belgium. She holds a BA from Washington University (St. Louis) and an MA from the University of Michigan.



Krista Goff

holds a BA from Macalaster College and an MA from Brown University. A student of Soviet history, she focuses on Soviet and post-Stalinist nationality policies and problems.



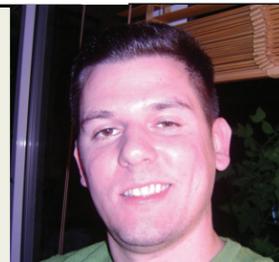
Brady G'Sell

is a PhD student in Anthropology and History. She holds an MA from the University of Chicago. Brady's research areas of interest include 20th and 21st century South Africa, law, culture, motherhood and child support.



Kevin Jones

is a PhD student in History, with research interests in Modern Near East; Iraq; Colonialism, Nationalism, Anti-Imperialism and Arabic Poetry. Kevin holds a BA in History and Philosophy from Wake Forest University.



Anthony Ross

studies US urban and suburban history, and political and economic history in the US since the 1960s. His dissertation is entitled, "The Ownership Society": Fannie Mae, Mortgage Securitization, and the Metropolitan Landscape since the 1960s." Anthony holds a BA in History from Penn State University.



2011-2012 RESIDENCY RESEARCH FELLOWS

Ethan Blue

is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Western Australia. He completed a PhD at the University of Texas at Austin. His research focuses on the ways in which states, citizens, and those denied citizenship—be they maligned as "criminals" or "aliens"—contest the meanings of identity, territory, nation, and community. In addition to *Doing Time in the Depression: Everyday Life in Texas and California Prisons* (New York University Press, 2012), his work has appeared in *Pacific Historical Review*, *Journal of Social History*, and *Radical History Review*. During his tenure with the Eisenberg Institute, Blue will research the history of "undesirable aliens" and deportation from the United States in the late 19th and early 20th century.



Jonathan Hagood

is Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Hope College. His recent research, for which he received support from the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program, focused on the history of social medicine and public health in 1930s-50s Argentina. Other projects have included the history of nuclear research in Argentina and nuclear weapons policy and history. He holds a PhD and an MA in Latin American History from the University of California, Davis. Before graduate study, Professor Hagood worked in the architecture industry, was a founding partner in an information technology consulting firm in San Francisco, and taught as an adjunct at City College of San Francisco.



Ari Sammartino

is Associate Professor of History at Oberlin College and the author of *The Impossible Border: Germany and the East, 1914-1922* (Cornell University Press, 2010) which addresses the political and ideological ramifications of migration during and after World War I. Her current project, entitled "Freedomland: Mass Housing and Urban Crisis in New York City and East Berlin, 1965-2000," is a study of the large-scale housing projects Co-op City and Marzahn, which examines how housing was used as a response to the social and political crises of the 1960s and 1970s on both sides of the Cold War divide.



Ronen Steinberg

is Assistant Professor of History at Michigan State University. He received his BA in Philosophy and History from Tel-Aviv University and his PhD in History from the University of Chicago in 2010. He is working on a book manuscript, entitled "*The Afterlives of the Terror: Dealing with the Legacies of Violence in Post-Revolutionary France*," which examines how those who had lived through the Reign of Terror in France (1793-1794) struggled to come to terms with its effects on themselves as well as on society as a whole. His research interests include the revolutionary era, transitional justice, and the relationship between mass violence and modernity. His next project will examine the relationship between atrocity and modern visual technologies.



2011-2012 EIHS POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

Anne Berg

completed her doctoral work in modern German history at University of Michigan in 2011. Her dissertation, "In and Out of War: Space, Pleasure and Cinema in Hamburg, 1938-1949" offers a locally grounded study of Nazi cinema that zeros in on interactions between Hamburg's administration and the city's moviegoing publics as they struggled to define film's role in the Third Reich. In her current book project, *Fields of Vision: Local Publics, Social Control and the Making of Nazi Cinema* Anne examines how movie showing and viewing reordered the relationships between urban publics and National Socialist authorities in Berlin, Hamburg, and Düsseldorf. Anne's wider research and teaching interests include film studies, urban history, the history of the modern welfare state and the history of food and waste in global contexts.



Graham Nessler

examines conflicts over the meaning of liberty and citizenship in the colonies that became Haiti and the Dominican Republic during the Haitian Revolution (1789-1809). During this period, Santo Domingo (the colony that later became the Dominican Republic) also experienced profound political and social changes, passing in 1795 from the rule of slaveholding Spain to that of the emancipationist French Republic. Nessler's project investigates the implications of these political changes for the fifteen thousand men, women, and children who were held captive in Santo Domingo when its cession transpired. Nessler will ultimately contend that the case of Santo Domingo severely challenged the French Republican emancipationist project and its grand promises of universal liberation and equal citizenship.



TAKING PLACE: HISTORY AND SPATIAL IMAGINATIONS

The dimensions of historical inquiry are as much spatial as temporal. The subjects of history inhabit space and move across it; they shape space and are shaped by it. It is hard to imagine historical work that does not in some way contend with the dialectic of space and place—interrelated yet distinct concepts—whether in the territorial claims of nations, the making of cityscapes, the crossing of boundaries, the limits and possibilities imposed by mountains and oceans. Whether “chosen peoples” have the primary right to settle and rule in a given place and others are fated to migrate and live as exiles, refugees, or diasporas, both the settled and the mobile contend with their relationship to space. And yet, while disciplines from geography to anthropology long ago turned to thinking about space as both analytic and metaphor, historians’ contributions to this theoretical literature have thus far been muted.

Taking Place: History and Spatial Imaginations seeks to focus inquiry on space and place in both history and historiography. Our theme seeks to bring temporality and context to questions of space and movement. We aim to do this by focusing on two analytical axes: mobility and scale. Mobility has been central to historical narratives, in the stories of travelers, traders, slaves, and diasporas, for example. And if mobility is in some ways about thinking laterally, scale allows us to think vertically: from the individual body to the global. Both scale and mobility challenge spatial concepts; they disrupt and support the immobile structures of history, society, and culture, forcing reconsiderations of the traditional places of historiography.

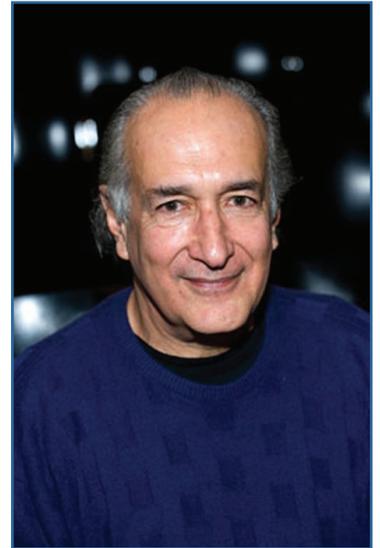
Taking Place therefore pushes us to articulate the centrality of space to the writing of history with more clarity. Indeed, one goal is to show how the discursive spaces of historical narrative—the spatial imaginations of history itself—can be opened up to critical examination. The “spatial turn” surely started a vital conversation. But space—particularly in its relationship to mobility and scale—must be addressed with renewed vigor. We at the Eisenberg Institute hope to provide the space, as it were, for that conversation to take place.

In Memoriam - Fernando Coronil (1944-2011)

Our friend and colleague, Fernando Coronil, passed away on August 16. Our sorrow is eased only slightly by the memory of his extraordinary lecture and workshop that he gave at the Eisenberg Institute this past April as Emeritus Professor of History and Anthropology. His last position (from early 2009) was Presidential Professor of Anthropology at the Graduate School of the City University of New York. While at Michigan he directed the doctoral program in Anthropology and History and the Center of Latin American Studies. And evaluations by Michigan students of Fernando in class praise him as brilliant, charismatic, and, I quote, “unbelievably sexy.” Born in Venezuela, much of Fernando’s work centered on his home country. Working often with his wife and collaborator, Julie Skurski, he began doing research in Cuba but soon turned back to Venezuela, but not before the US government declared him “a subversive agent” and ordered him deported from this country. In fact, Fernando was a subversive in the best sense of the word, undermining conventional assumptions about the way we see the world. His first book, shaped in the time he was at Michigan, *The Magical State: Nature, Money and Modernity in Venezuela* (Chicago, 1997) is a model of how the sister disciplines of anthropology and history can illuminate the often obscured concept of modernity by interrogating what he called “Occidentalism” -- “the representational practices whose effect is to present non-Western peoples as the Other of a Western self.” He also co-edited, with Julie, *States of Violence* (Michigan, 2006), a collection of essays directed against the reification of violence and demonstrating that the move to the modern, instead of diminishing or containing violence, has been fraught with violence in the very formation and consolidation of nations and states. At the time of his death he was working on a book on the 2002 coup against Hugo Chávez, entitled *Crude Matters*, and a collection of essays, *Beyond Occidentalism: Towards a Critical Academy*.

We mourn the loss of this brilliant and original intellectual. We send our thoughts to Julie and their daughters. We wonder at what insights the world has lost because Fernando is not with us. But we have the memories of his time here, and we share with you the talk he gave at the Eisenberg.*

Ron Suny,
Director, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies



*Fernando's last lecture can be found on our website at - <http://lsa.umich.edu/eihs/events/pastprograms>