Lecture: The Art of Writing: Queer Diasporas and The Book of Salt
Thursday, October 18 / 4 PM / Humanities 210

David Eng’s forthcoming book, The Feeling of Kinship: Queer Diasporas and the Racialization of Intimacy, examines the impact of Asian diasporic and queer social movements on conventional structures of family and kinship in the U.S. It explores the ways race is exploited and privatized in a “colorblind” age to shore up ideals of family and kinship in the global North. The book also investigates why we have numerous poststructuralist accounts of language but few poststructuralist accounts of kinship. This presentation, drawn from The Feeling of Kinship, explores Monique Truong’s 2003 novel The Book of Salt in relation to issues of historicity and historiicism. When Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas were expatriates living in Paris, the American couple employed a series of Vietnamese cooks. Truong’s novel is told from the cook’s point of view. In this talk, Eng asks why it is that Stein and Toklas can appear in history as the icon-lesbian couple of modernism and modernity while Binh, the “gay” migrant laborer, cannot appear. In other words, how is it that Stein and Toklas are placed in history while Binh is displaced from it? As an “Asian American,” “refugee,” and “postcolonial,” and “queer” text, The Book of Salt positions itself within and against the historiography of modernism by illuminating what this historiography obscures: the more extensive forms of social violence and forgetting that configure the political as well as epistemological limits of modernity.

Seminar: Transnational Adoption, Racial Melancholia, and Racial Reparation
Friday, October 19 / 10 AM – 12 PM / Humanities 210

David Eng’s previous work has explored the relationship between racial melancholia and processes of immigration, racialization, and assimilation for Asian Americans. In these two essays, he considers how the contemporary practice of transnational adoption traces out a psychic and social arc from racial melancholia to racial reparation. He writes, “If racial reparation might be considered a constrained response to the psychic and social pressures of racial melancholia, I would like us to consider collectively in this seminar how, and under what conditions, the disparate paradigms of psychic and political reparation might be brought together in a productive manner. In other words, what if any is the relationship between psychic reparation, which is at the heart of object relations theory (Melanie Klein), and political reparation, which is central to histories of genocide, slavery, apartheid, comfort women, and other crimes against humanity?”

For a copy of the seminar readings, please email cultstudies@ucsc.edu.
Experiments in Reparation

Friday, October 5, 5:15 PM / Humanities 210

This event presents a forum for interdisciplinary scholars in science and technology studies to offer fragments, nascent thought formations, and erosive ideas. Through the interplay of less-than-complete papers, the cluster will experiment with the ways that early interaction informs more fully realized work. In keeping with our current theme, Risk and Play: Experiments in Knowing and Repairing, we organized a series of collaborative, speculative engagements as a form of experimental academic practice. Topics of exploration include human/non-human relations, ecologies of hope, and the ethics of scientific experimentation. We welcome interlocutors from all disciplines to collaborate with our presenters.

For more information contact: Martha Kenney, mkenney@ucsc.edu

Sponsored by the Science Studies Research Cluster

Lyn Hejinian
University of California, Berkeley

Poetry and Poetics
LECTURE AND DISCUSSION
Friday, November 6, 1:10 PM / Humanities 210

Poetry Reading
Friday, November 16, 7:00-10:00 PM

Fela Kuti Gallery, 105 E. Mission, downtown Santa Cruz

Lyn Hejinian is the author or co-author of fourteen books of poetry, including My Life in the Nineties (Shark, 2003) and The Fatalist (Omnidawn, 2003), as well as the award-winning My Life (Green Integer, 2002). Poetry Flash has described My Life as a work that has “real, almost hypnotic power, obsessive intelligence, and [is] astonishingly beautiful.” Hejinian teaches in the English Department at UC Berkeley. Her critical writings were published in The Language of Inquiry, California, 2000. She has been the editor of chapbooks and co-editor of Poetry Journal.

For more information contact Andrea Osaka, a.osaka@ucsc.edu

Sponsored by the Poetry and Politics Research Cluster

Kara Keeling
Critical Studies & American Studies and Ethnicity, USC

Looking for Marquise: Queer Temporality, Black Political Possibility, and the Future

Thursday, October 11, 7:15 PM / Humanities 210


For more information contact karakeeling@ucsc.edu

Sponsored by the Black Culture Studies Research Cluster

Lyn Hejinian
University of California, Berkeley

Poetry and Poetics
LECTURE AND DISCUSSION
Friday, November 6, 1:10 PM / Humanities 210

Poetry Reading
Friday, November 16, 7:00-10:00 PM

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For more information contact Andrea Osaka, a.osaka@ucsc.edu

Sponsored by the Poetry and Politics Research Cluster

Cary Wolfe
English, Rice University

“Animal Studies,” Disciplinarity, and the Posthumanities

Wednesday, December 5, 12 PM / Humanities 210

Cary Wolfe teaches at Rice University, where he teaches the Bruce and Elizabeth Dunlevie Chair in English. His recent books include Animalities: Bodily Knowledge and the Cinema of Species, and Posthumanist Theory (Chicago, 2000), and the edited collection, Zoontologies: The Question of the Animal (Minnesota, 2000). He recently completed the series “Posthumanities” at the University of Minnesota Press and is currently completing two books: What Is Posthumanism? and a collection of essays (with Branka Zupic) called Along the Other europes.

What Is Posthumanism? explores issues animating the new series at the University of Minnesota Press, “Posthumanities.” Both investigate the ways the idea of “the human” has been called into question in recent decades with the reemergence of a range of forces in contemporary social, material, and intellectual life. One particular manifestation of this fact is how our visions of the relation between human and non-human animals have radically changed in the wake of myriad developments in the sciences, such as cognitive ethology, and in philosophy and ethics around areas associated with “animal rights.” At the other end of the spectrum, “the human” has been unleashed by a host of developments in technology, media, and biomedicine that have posed similarly pressing questions about the autonomy and self-determination of the human as traditionally conceived by familiar forms of humanism (particularly liberal humanism). Wolfe’s work therefore concerns itself not with the transcendence or eclipse of “the human” but rather of “humanism” and as such it confronts the various modes of embedding, inter- dependence, embodiment, and prosthesis that in a fundamental sense restore “the human” to its full complexity. What Is Posthumanism? explores various attempts to think and express these developments in philosophy, “theory,” and ethics, and in cultural practices such as film, architecture, art, and music.

2007-2008 RESEARCH CLUSTERS

INDIGENITY
Contact: Kevin Bideau, kevinb@ucsc.edu
Engages in dialogue and discussions about the historical and contemporary issues of indigenous peoples of the Americas.

PACIFIC ISLANDS
Contact: Oceana DeCossio, oceana@ucsc.edu
Promotes the active growth of Pacific Studies at UCSC. While its interests vary and traverse disciplines, the cluster focuses primarily on the historical legacies currently facing Oceania’s island populations: sovereignty movements, tourism, militarization, economic development, globalization, negotiations of identity, migration and diaspora.

POETRY & POLITICS
Contact: Andrea Osaka, a.osaka@ucsc.edu
Consider poetry as a discursive category constituted not only by poems and statements about poetics, but also by the historical struggle over its social function and meaning.

QUEER THEORY
Contact: Greg Frances, gfrances@ucsc.edu, Brian Molloy, brianm@ucsc.edu
Meets to discuss recent, innovative work in the field of lesbian, gay, transgender, and queer theory, as well as foundational earlier texts and movements, to prepare for occasional visiting speakers, and to organize an annual mini-conference or symposium.

SCIENCE STUDIES
Contact: Bob McQuillen, bmcquillen@ucsc.edu, MarthaKreutzer, mkreutzer@ucsc.edu
A transdisciplinary group that collaborates and converses around themes of science, technology, and culture. This year’s theme, Risk and Play: Experiments in Knowing and Relating, emphasizes continuing interrogation of kinds of relating, the materiality of knowledge production, and the crafting of careful knowers.

2007-2008 FACULTY SEMINAR ON EMERGING WORLDS

Call for Interest/Participation

INSPIRED by the Anthropology department’s graduate program focus on “Emerging Worlds: Culture and Power after Progress,” the Center for Cultural Studies invites interested faculty to participate in a seminar on Emerging Worlds. Where a nineteenth- and twentieth century ideas of progress and modernization created an anthropological concept of culture that nostalgically invoked “tradition” and “vanishing worlds,” Emerging Worlds considers instead the histories and practices of world making in all of its myriad forms, as networks, geographies, ecologies, assemblages, concepts, knowledge systems, ideologies, art works, meanings, affectivities, and becoming, among other things, matters of scale (micro or macro; everyday or “historical”), extension (global, regional, local, or virtual), and duration (instantaneous, repetitive, long durée); and thinking through disparate objects, artifacts, and events (weather, commodity chain, memory, gossip, artistic genres, social practice, space, mind, emotion, religion, science, language), the seminar will explore what it means to analyze, interpret, write about and create emerging worlds.

Contact Carla Freccero at cbfreccero@ucsc.edu or CarlaFreccero@ucsc.edu
with expressions of interest and telling topic proposals for individual and group-allocated seminar sessions.

Research Clusters are groups of faculty and graduate students pursuing a collaborative research effort. Clusters are encouraged to share elements of their work with the larger community and to work toward the production of a tangible scholarly event such as a workshop, conference, speaker series, or publication. Most of the clusters include reading groups. All clusters are actively interested in new members.

Current Clusters:

1. ASIA-PACIFIC-AMERICA
Contact: Sarahsaw@ucsc.edu, Sarahsaw@ucsc.edu

Presents a forum for cross-disciplinary discussions about scholarship on Asians, focusing on Black culture and the circumstances of Black life throughout the African diaspora in the United States, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

2. CAPITALISM & ANTI-CAPITALISM
Contact: wesleyd@ucsc.edu

Focuses on the history, structure and future of the world capitalist system. The cluster considers various intellectual perspectives on capitalism and the prospects for movements and states that seek to build alternatives to it.

3. FILIPINO/O STUDIES
Contact: gonzalesb@ucsc.edu, gonzalesb@ucsc.edu

Draws on the work of the Critical Filipina and Filipino Studies Collective (https://efface.focuser.org) on the War on Terror, the war on political activists in the Philippines, and the destruction of the US’simon industrial complex to regions outside U.S. borders. The cluster will enter into discussions on the effects of colonialism in Asia, Pacific, and Asia/Pacific Americas knowledge forma- tions with an emphasis on both scholarship and community organizing.

4. FEMINISM & PORNOGRAPHY
Contact: juliejones@ucsc.edu, juliejones@ucsc.edu

Seeks to develop feminist understandings and critiques of the pornography industry. Research for inclusion: content analyses of pornographic publications and films; empirical analyses of pornography’s social impact; investigations of pornography’s role in discourse constituting or representing sexuality; and the intersections of race, class, and gender in pornography production, content, and consumption.

5. FOUCALUT ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES
Contact: kophiyan@ucsc.edu

A cross-disciplinary exploration of the thought and impact of Michel Foucault, read “across” the disciplines in at least two ways: as an interdisciplinary project drawing on work across the spectrum, and as a counterdisciplinary critique performatively questioning the way such work often curbs itself up into isolated disciplinary contexts. In Fall Quarter the cluster will focus on Foucaultian historiography and in Winter Quarter will host a major two-day Foucault conference.

June 2007
In Fall 2007, the Center for Cultural Studies will continue to host a Wednesday Colloquium series, which features current cultural studies work by campus faculty and visitors. The sessions are informal, normally consisting of a 30-40 minute presentation followed by discussion. We gather at noon, with presentations beginning at 12:15 PM. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lunches; the Center will provide coffee, tea, and cookies.

Notes on Speakers

Susan Gillman is Professor of Literature at UCSC. She is the author, most recently, of Blood Talk: American Race Melodrama and the Culture of the Occult (Chicago, 2003), and co-editor (with Alys Eve Weinbaum) of Next to the Color Line (Minneapolis, 2007). Her next project (tentatively titled Appendage Years: Adaptations, Translation, American Studies) uses theories of adaptation to understand the field variously called hemispheric studies, post-nationalist American Studies, or comparative U.S. studies. The archive is drawn from works famous for their travels on stage and in film, the hypertext networks of the Uncle Tom’s Cabin/ICC/Valois/Ramona complex, the multiple editions of the slave narrative/testimonio complex, and contextual examples of specific situations in which some nations need other nations’ histories as models. This talk lays out the Fernando Eret- amar-Martí/Caball-Ramona nexus of adaptation and translation to which the book as a whole is indebted.

Lisa Refel is Professor of Cultural Anthropology at UCSC. Her new book is Desiring China: Experiments in Neoliberalism, Sexuality and Public Culture (Duke, 2007). She is currently at work on three projects: a forthcoming issue of positions: east asia cultures critique entitled Across the Straightjackets: Transnationalism and Chinese Queer Politics, co-edited with Petrus Lin, which stages a dialogue on the divergent views of the question, what do “Chinese” and “Chinese politics” mean, and how do queer developments open up and shape this debate? a project on independent documentary film-making in China; The New Chinese Documentary Film Movement: For the Public Record (Minneapolis), co-edited with Chris Berry and Liu Xinyu; and a collaborative project with Sylvia Yanagauski on The Twenty-First Century Silk Road, between Italy and China.

Barbara Spackman is Cecchetti Professor of Italian Studies and Professor of Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley, where she chairs the Italian Studies Department. She is the author of Decadent Genealogies: The Rhetoric of Siceliness from Boccaccio to D’Anna (Cornell, 1989) and Fascist Vitrines: Rhetoric, Ideology, and Art in Fascist Italy (Minneapolis, 1996). She is currently working on a study entitled De- toxification: Traveling Fictions from Italy to Islam, which looks at the Italian peninsula as a place traveled from, and reads the accounts of a handful of women, from early nineteenth-century tourists to post-Napoleonic Egypt and the Ottoman Empire, to an early twentieth-century Italian convert to Islam. The larger stakes of the project involve claims about the specificity of Italian Orientalism and the conditions of its production.

Susan Harding is Professor of Anthropology at UCSC and author of The Book of Jerry Falwell: Fundamentalist Language and Politics (Princeton, 2000). During the 1990s and 1990s, American fundamentalists planted lighthouses secular and liberal institutions and practices, not to be assimilated but to assimilate, to consume, digest, and convert the politics they encountered to their ends. Voices are now emerging that are turning the tables. The current project examines the voices of these other Christians, some of them liberal, lapsed, or ethnic, but most of them more moderate evangelical Christians, that are taking up the narrative and mimetic forms of the religious right, performing them with a difference, and subverting them to other ends. This talk will take a look at green evangelicalism, the emerging church movement, and “Big Love.”


Renee Tajima-Peña is an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker and Assistant Professor and founding faculty of the Social Documentation Program in the Community Studies Department at UCSC. She is completing the feature-length Calveron Highway, a road documentary that follows her husband Armando Peta and his brother Carlos as they carry their mother’s ashes back to South Texas and reunite with their brothers. Calveron Highway will be broadcast on the PBS documentary series “P.O.V.” in the fall of 2008. She is also executive producing Whatever It Takes, a documentary about a high school in the South Bronx that is a part of the “small schools” movement.

Harry Berger Jr. is Professor Emeritus of Literature and Art History and the author, most recently, of Masculon, Marriage, and Miscegenation: Rembrandt’s “Night Watch” and other Dutch Group Portraits (Fordham, 2007) and Situated Utterances: Texts, Bodies, and Cultural Remains (Fordham, 2005). His current projects include Approbation. Dialogical Writings in Plato’s Writing, which argues that Platonic writing is a critique of the interrogatory events it dramatizes. The study targets the dominant practices and discourses of Athenian public life as language game shaped and encouraged by speech-centered institutions. Plato represents Socratic method or philosophy as a failed attempt to overcome the influence of those language games. Obliged to argue on the grounds provided by his interlocutors, Socrates is unable to free his method from the constraints of its rhetorical predication.

Angela Y. Davis is Professor in the History of Consciousness Department at UCSC. She is the author of eight books, and most recently Abolition Democracy (Seven Stories, 2000) and Are Prisons Obsolete? (Seven Stories, 2003). She is currently completing a collection on forcing the prison state to think seriously about the future possibility of a world without prisons and to help forge a 21st century abolitionist movement.

Resident Scholars

The Center for Cultural Studies invites applications from scholars who wish to be in residence at UCSC during the 2008-2009 academic year in order to pursue cultural studies research. The Center offers University affiliation, library access, an office with computer, and a collegial interdisciplinary environment. Alternatively, we cannot provide salary replacement or a stipend. Affiliations without offices are also available. Visitors are expected to participate in Center activities while pursuing their own research. Residents may span the entire academic year or be held for shorter periods. Applicants should send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, an outline of the research project, two letters of reference, and an indication of the desired term(s) of residence to:

The Center for Cultural Studies
Attn: Resident Scholars Program
University of California Santa Cruz
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Additional information and application instructions can be found at: http://humanities.ucsc.edu/Centers/PROS/RSCHOL/residence.html

Deadline: March 7, 2008
The Feminist Studies Department and the Institute for Advanced Feminist Research present:

Catherine Waldby, University of Sydney

The Biopolitics of Reproduction: Post-Fordist Biotechnology and Women’s Clinical Labor

Wednesday, October 3, 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM | Humanities 210

Professor Catherine Waldby is International Research Fellow at the University of Sydney and collaborating partner of the Global Biopolitics Research Group, www.globalbiopolitics.org. She researches and publishes in social studies of biomedicine and the life sciences. Her most recent books are, with Robert Mitchell, Tissue Economies: Blood, Organs and Cell Lines in Late Capitalism (Duke, 2006), and with Brian Salt and Herbert Ganss, The Global Politics of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research (Palgrave, forthcoming). This presentation investigates some contemporary rearticulations of female reproductive biology: the advent of assisted reproductive technology, and the centrality of reproductive tissues to the regenerative medicine industries. Focusing on global markets for women’s oocytes, Professor Waldby explores the consequences of framing women’s contributions to the biotechnology industries as labor.

Co-sponsored by the Institute for Humanities Research, Center for Cultural Studies, and the Departments of History of Consciousness and Philosophy.

The Pre and Early Modern Studies Research Unit of the BEF presents:

Valerie Traub, English and Women’s Studies, University of California

Mapping Embodiment in the Early Modern West

Monday, October 15, 4 PM | Humanities 215

Valerie Traub is Director of the Women’s Studies Program and Professor of English and Women’s Studies at the University of Michigan. Her publications include Desire & Anxiety: Circulations of Sexuality in Shakespearian Drama (Routledge, 1992); The Remains of Lovelessness in the Early Modern English Novel (Cambridge, 2002); and Gray Stones, co-edited with David Halperin (Chicago, forthcoming). She is currently at work on two projects: Mapping Embodiment in the Early Modern West: The Prehistory of Normality and Making Sexual Knowledge: Essays in the History of Sexuality.

Co-sponsored by the Queer Theory Research Group.

The Politics Department presents:

David Theo Goldberg, Director, UCIRI

Neoliberalizing Race

Tuesday, October 30, 4 PM | Charles E. Merrill Lounge, Merrill College

David Theo Goldberg is Director of the UC Humanities Research Institute and Professor of Comparative Literature at UC Irvine. His work ranges over issues of political theory, race and racism, ethics, law and society, critical theory, cultural studies and digital humanities. He is author of The Racial State (Blackwell, 2002); Racial Subjects: Writing as Race in America (Routledge, 1997); Racial Culture: Philosophy and the Politics of Meaning (Blackwell, 1993); and Ethical Theory and Social Issues (Wadsworth, 2nd ed., 1995).

Saba Mahmood, University of California, Berkeley

Religious Signs and Secular Reason: Thinking Across the Incommensurable?

Friday, November 2, 2:00 PM | Humanities 210

Saba Mahmood is Associate Professor of Anthropology at UC Berkeley. She is the author of Politics of Purity: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject (Princeton, 2004), which received the Victoria Schuck award in 2006. She works on issues of secularism, religious politics, gender, and postcoloniality. This past year she was the recipient of the Carnegie Scholar’s Award and the Frederick Burkhardt fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. This presentation analyzes the semantic assumptions and juridical norms governing recent debates about the proper place of religious symbols in Europe through a close examination of the Danish cartoon controversy and recent decisions of the European Court of Human Rights.

Co-sponsored by the College Division, UCSC Diversity Fund, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research.

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