A one-day series of seminars, explorations, and discussions aims to present an overview of his recent work and some of its more general theoretical and practical implications. In the morning session, Professor Rabinow will present a factitious dialogue about the problems and possibilities of human intimacy. Their conversation takes as its point of departure the central importance of psychoanalysis to the modern imagination, though they also claim that psychoanalysis has failed to realize its most exciting and innovative relational potential. In pursuit of new forms of intimacy they take up a range of concerns across a variety of contexts. To test the hypothesis that the essence of the analytic exchange is intimate talk without sex, they compare Patrice Leconte’s film about an accountantas a conversation with psychoanalyst, Intimate Strangers, with Henry James’s classic novel The Beast in the Jungle. A discussion of the radical practice of barehugging—unprotected and sex between gay men—delineates an intimacy that rejects the personal. Even serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer and the Bush administration’s war on terror enter the scene as the conversation turns to the way aggression thrills and gratifies the ego. Finally, in a reading of Secrets—theory of love from Plato’s Phaedrus, Bersani and Phillips call for a new form of intimacy which they term “impersonal narcissism”: a divestiture of the ego and a recognition of one’s non-psychological potential self in others. This revolutionary way relating to the world, they contend, could lead to a new human freedom by mitigating the horrifying violence we blindly accept as part of human nature.

**ARS SYNTHETICA:**

**The Anthropology of the Contemporary**

**featuring PROFESSOR PAUL RABINOW**

Social Cultural Anthropology, UC Berkeley

Friday, January 15 / 10 AM – 11 PM / Humanities 210

A one-day series of seminars, explorations, and discussions aiming to bring into focus actual and potential intersections among theoretical scholarship and some of the contemporary practical realities posing problems to thinking today. A central focus of the seminars will be recent work by Berkeley anthropologist Paul Rabinow, whose collaboratively styled interventions take place at the intersection of the most vigorous forms of academic theory and the most perplexing moments in contemporary scientific and cultural practice. Professor Rabinow’s most recent project, Ars Synthetica, provides a web-based forum for essays, including sociologists and non-specialists in an informed, ethical, and democratic dialogue on emerging sciences. It proposes developing multiple participatory channels for exploring questions about ethics, security, and how cutting-edge research is organized, governed, funded, and expanded. During the morning session, Professor Rabinow will present an overview of his recent work and some of its more general theoretical and practical implications. In the afternoon we will pursue these issues in two panels on contemporary biocentrism and computer networking technologies and practices. We want to explore possibilities for educating and critically engaging various publics about the challenges and opportunities of bringing new biocentric-centered and networking-centered entities, practices, and relations into the world.

For more information please visit the cluster website: http://ressamkolkhosianphilosophy.geigepox.com/arssynthetica.htm

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**LEO BERSANI & ADAM PHILLIPS**

Respondents: Teresa de Lauretis and David Marriott

**INTIMACIES**

*a conversation*

Tuesday, February 17 / 4 PM / Humanities 210

This event addresses issues raised by the co-authored Intimacies (Chicago, 1996), among them the re-description of sexuality and the possibility of a non- or anti-epistemological psychoanalysis.

**LEO BERSANI** is Emeritus Professor of French at UC Berkeley. His books include The French Body: Psychoanalytic and Ethics, and Empire in the Early Modern Atlantic World (Palgrave/Macmillan, 2008). He is the author of Intimacies (Chicago, 1996), and, with Ulises Dutoit, Encyclopedic Secrets (MIT, 1998), and Forms of Being/Cinema, Subjectivity, Aesthetics (RPF, 2008).

Concerning Intimacies, he writes, “Any durable political changes depend on changes in our most intimate relational structures. In addressing the possibilities of these changes, we ask such questions as: Is intimacy necessarily personal? What is the role of knowledge in intimacy? What has the role of psychoanalysis been in the promotion and/or obstruction of what Foucault called ‘new relational modes’?”


**TERESA DE LAURETIS** is Distinguished Professor Emerita of the History of Consciousness at UC Santa Cruz. Her most recent book is Freud's Drive: Psychoanalytic, Literature and Films (Palgrave/Macmillan, 2008).

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**SHEILA ROWBothAM** Gender and Labor History, University of Manchester

A Very Modern Victorian: Edward Carpenter 1844-1929

Thursday, January 5 / 4 PM / Humanities 210

Sheila Rowbotham studied history at St Hilda's College, Oxford University, and has held positions at Chelsea College of Advanced Technology, London University, the University of Amsterdam, and the University of Paris. She holds an honorary doctorate from the London Metropolitan University and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Her books include Hidden from History (Pluto, 1973), A Century of Women (Viking, 1999), The First is Before Us (Pandora 1989, Penguin 1990), Women in Movement (Routledge, 1990), and Promise of a Dream (Penguin 2000, Verso 2001), a memoir of the 1960s. Her biography, Edward Carpenter: A Life of Liberty and Love, has recently been published by Verso.

An advocate of women's emancipation and gay rights in the late nineteenth century, Carpenter anticipated the sexual revolution of the 1960s. He also exerted an extraordinary impact on the cultural and political movements of the late nineteenth century and his works were read in many countries, including the U.S.

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**LINDA GREGERSON**

Violence and the Word: Ben Jonson on Stage

Tuesday, January 20 / 12 PM / Humanities 210


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**LINDA WILLIAMS**

Poetry Reading

Film Studies & Rhetoric, UC Berkeley

Friday, February 27 / 12 PM / Humanities 210

Linda Williams is the author of Figures of Desire (Illinois, 1981), Hard Core: Power, Pleasure, and the Fantasy of the Visible (California, 1989), and Playing the Race Card: Melodramas of Black and White from Uncle Tom to OJ Simpson (Princeton, 2003). Her most recent book, Steersmen, Sex, chronicles the trajectory of sexual representations on American screens from the “era of the kiss,” to the time when American cinema “grew up” and “went all the way.” She tells the story of a general tendency towards revolution, a greater graphic imagination of sex. But she also shows that every revolution is also a concession. Her presentation at UCSB is also interested in the graphic imagination, this time of torture. Errol Morris’s film, more than any other of the Iraqi documentaries, raises the question of the frame of reference within which we view the gruesome images of the acts of torture committed by our government. In this film that is also about revelation and concealment, she is interested in discovering the work performed by the frame.
The Mediterranean and the Modern World(s)

Saturday, January 17, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM, Humanities 210

The work of our contributors reveals a complexity of interactions among religious, ethnic, local, regional, and global identities, and other ‘destinations’, motivating us to think through the role of the Mediterranean in the construction of the history of the modern “West.”

TRAVELS, CROSSINGS, AND ENCOUNTERS

Brian Cattos

Was there a ‘Mediterranean’ world?

Razmi Rouhi

Islam, Christianity, and Encounters in the Mediterranean

Roya Koo

Material Life, Markets, and Western Africa’s Urban and Rural Landscapes (9th–12th Centuries)

Remodeling the Medieval Mediterranean

Karla Maltzatt

What is a Mediterranean Medieval Literature?

Transitions & Conversions: from Medieval to Early Modern

Michelle Hamilton

Reclaiming Jewish Identity in the Western Mediterranean in the post-492 Era

Daniel Schroeter

In a manner decisive for French post-structuralism.

Seth Kimmel

Religious Studies, UC Santa Barbara

The Mediterranean and the Modern World

Oumehlaine Zhiri

Converts and the Birth of Oriental Studies

SILVIA FERDICI

Feminism and the Politics of the Commons in an Era of Primitive Accumulation

MEDITERRANEAN MODELS

Seth Kimmel

Literature, UCSC

Michelle Hamilton

Spanish and Portuguese, UC Irvine

Dwight Reynolds

History, University of Minnesota

Marc Baer

History, UC Irvine

Winter Speakers

Winter 2009

Sponsored by the Psychoanalysis & Sexuality Research Cluster

Sponsored by the Gender and Political Economy Cluster

CHANGES IN AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES


CHARLES SHEPHERDSON

Institutions of Emotion: Aesthetics, Ethics, and the “Catharsis of Folly and Fear” in Aristotle and Tragedy

Thursday, January 29, 11:00 AM–4:00 PM, Humanities 210

Charles Shepherson is the author of Vital Signs: Nature, Culture, Psychoanalysis (Routledge, 2009); Loucas and the Limits of Language (Fordham, 2008); and The Ego and the Body (Stanford, in press).

The Epoch of the Body

Sponsored by the Colonial Atlantic Worlds Research Cluster and the History Department

GILES PETERSON

Whitefield College in Design, Auckland

Peterson discusses his curatorial efforts reflecting the multiple voices and experiences of young urban-based Pacif ist artists in Aotearoa, New Zealand. His recent exhibitions, Urban Fugue, included works from twelve young Pacific and Island artists on the cutting edge of contemporary and customary practice.

FRESH GALLERY OTARI: Contemporary Pacific Art & Audiences in South Auckland

EMA TAVOLA

Fresh Gallery Auckland, South Auckland

Fresh Gallery Auckland, an artist-run visual arts facility in South Auckland, was established in 2006 to offer professional development opportunities to local visual artists.

Urban Pacific Art—from Niue to New Zealand

Urban Pacific Art is a research project exploring the diverse and innovative practices of contemporary Pacific artists from around the world.

Thursday, February 5, 1–4 PM, College 8, Room 240

Urban Pacific Art presents work by emerging and established artists from the Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand, and North America. The exhibition is part of the larger Urban Pacific Art initiative, which explores the cultural and social significance of contemporary Pacific art in the context of globalisation.

Innocent, Marginal, and Marginalized: Debates in Indigenous women’s writing and visual culture

Leilani Kake

Independent Artist, South Auckland

Kake, a leading figure in New Zealand’s indigenous art scene, explores the role of indigenous women in the construction of identity and the challenges they face in the contemporary art world.

Wolfen Worlds

Leilani Kake

Independent Artist, South Auckland

Kake investigates and celebrates the polytheistic and multifaith practices of indigenous Pacific peoples, drawing on her own experiences and those of her community in Southern Auckland.

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Emerging Worlds Initiative

ANNIE-MARIA MAKHULU
Cultural Anthropology and African and African American Studies, Duke University

LECTURE
The Search for Economic Sovereignty: Negotiating ‘Life and Debt’ in Contemporary South Africa
Monday, February 11, 5:10 PM, room 115

ANNA MARIA MAKHULU’s research interests cover South Africa, cities, space, globalization, political economy, oxid economies, neoliberalism, Marxism, and anthropology of finance. The Geography of Freedom: Revolution and the South African City (in progress) examines the South African city under apartheid and immediately after the transition to democracy.

Sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, Feminist Studies and the Center for Cultural Studies

ANN STahl
Anthropology, University of Victoria, British Columbia

LECTURE
Material Histories of Global Entanglements: Re-centering Africa and Provincializing Europe
Monday, March 11, 5:10 PM, Social Science WORKSHOP
Tuesday, March 12, 10 AM - 12 PM, room 115

Ann Stahl is Professor and Chair of Anthropology at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. Her research in the Banda area of west central Ghana centers on culture-making practices and shifting global entanglements using ethnographic, oral historical, documentary, and archaeological sources.

Voices for Visualities

S. JEFFREY LIEBER
History of Art and Visual Culture

LECTURE
Life in a Glass House
Wednesday, January 14, 5:10 PM, Cowell Conference Room


FEB 18 Ellen Kushner & Delia Sherman
Ellen Kushner’s most recent novel is The Privilege of the Sand (2006). Delia Sherman’s The Puritan Dowse won the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award.

FEB 25 Toby Barlow
Sharp Teeth. Toby Barlow’s first novel (2008), is written in free verse and concerns the metamorphosis of humans into wolves in Los Angeles.

MARCH 4 A conversation with Professor Louis Chude Sokei & Jack Womack
Author of Elusive, Random Acts and Ambient, Womack explores urban breakdown, class war and racial tensions in his fiction.

MARCH 11 John Crowley
Professor at Yale University and winner of the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award for Literature, John Crowley’s Engine Summer (1976) was nominated for the 1980 American Book Award. Aegon was published in 2007.