Dear UCSB Community,

Over the last decade, public interest in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq has been sporadic. Witness the scant attention afforded the wars in the current presidential campaign. With an all-volunteer military comprising less than one percent of the population, it is not surprising that these wars have also been of peripheral concern to the UCSB campus, notwithstanding the fact that the country has been at war for half of the lifetime of the average UCSB undergraduate.

Acknowledged or not, these wars have undeniably had a substantial impact on the country. They have cost three trillion dollars of borrowed money. They have involved almost 2.4 million U.S. service members. They have claimed the lives of nearly 5,000 soldiers. Today as many as a million veterans are dealing with wounds, diseases, or chronic physical or mental conditions directly resulting from having served in Afghanistan or Iraq. California is home to the largest veteran population in the country. About 30,000 veterans live in Santa Barbara County, some of whom currently retain in their units of the National Guard or Active Reserves while studying at UCSB. The campus currently counts about 100 veterans as students, and at neighboring Santa Barbara City College, 400 veterans are enrolled.

Though the soldiers are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan in increasing numbers, the discourse on the reintegration of combat veterans has largely remained confined to discussions of the best treatments for those with psychiatric maladies. Such clinically-focused discussions address only one narrow part of a larger social process of reintegration through which returning veterans can rejoin their communities as active and productive citizens. Some have argued that the focus on PTSD bespeaks a widespread belief, or perhaps a wish, that the issue of post-war integration is of exclusive concern to the soldiers who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq. But war does not happen only to soldiers; it also happens to the soldiers’ society. To regard soldiers’ wounds as theirs alone is to overlook that these wounds have also been inflicted on the body politic, in whose name, and on whose behalf, soldiers serve.

With these issues in mind, the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center is mounting its 2012-13 series Fallout: In the Aftermath of War. Open to the campus community and the public, Fallout will explore the ways in which the recent wars have altered the lives of the soldiers who fought them and the country that sent them to fight. From the psychological, social, practical, and spiritual challenges facing returning veterans, to the community’s role in the process of social reintegration, Fallout will inquire into the manifold and extensive reverberations of war’s aftermath.

To highlight only a sampling of events, the series begins with two framing lectures: on October 25, the inaugural lecture will be given by Professor John E. talbott, an expert on war and society, who is currently working on a book entitled “Mind Wounds: War and Psychic Injury from Bull Run to Fallujah.” Professor Talbott’s lecture, “War in History and Memory,” will explore the “world of pain” as told in war stories—true, mythical, and false—from Troy through Afghanistan. On October 30, Pulitzer-winning journalist Dexter Filkins will speak in Campbell Hall. Few journalists know the human landscape of war as well as Mr. Filkins, who will give a slide-show presentation based upon his many years of coverage of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In early November, veteran-artist Dominic Fredianelli will be in residence for ten days, during which time he will work with UCSB’s student veterans to create a large-scale mural depicting his and their war experiences. On November 8, Fredianelli will join filmmaker Heather Courtney in a discussion of Mr. Courtney’s Emmy award-winning film Where Soldiers Come From, which documents the enlistment, deployment to Afghanistan, and return of Dominic and those of his friends, who joined the Michigan National Guard together. The film’s title reflects its abiding concern with understanding these young soldiers in relation to the communities they come from and to which they return after their service. Intrinsically to the process of social healing is reflection upon the sites of war and the consequences of war for the local cultures and societies where the wars have been waged. To this end, on January 31, Fallout will convene a faculty panel to discuss the religious consequences of the War on Terror. On the panel will be Professors Kathleen Moore (Religious Studies), Salim Yaqub (History), Juan Campo (Religious Studies) and Richard Hecht (Religious Studies). These four scholars will discuss the Arab uprisings of 2010-12, the Sunni-Shi’i Divide, religious freedom, and US policy toward the Middle East since 9/11.

In all we have more than fifteen events planned throughout the year. Usually, though not always, they take place on Thursday afternoons at the IHC. Please check our website regularly. And feel free to stop by the IHC to chat. I am in my office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. I look forward to seeing those of you I know at the events of the Fallout series and to making new acquaintances from the campus and community, as we gather to explore what the last decade of war has meant.

Susan Derwin
Director, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center

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PHOTO BY ST. BENJAMIN ADDISON, 2012
RESEARCH FOCUS GROUPS

The IHC is sponsoring the fourteen Research Focus Groups for the 2012-13 academic year. The IHC Research Focus Groups bring together faculty and graduate students with shared research interests from different fields. They sponsor and coordinate interdisciplinary research projects at the University. For more information, and to find contact information for the following groups, visit www.ihc.ucsb.edu/rfg.

For this year, the IHC welcomes five new Research Focus Groups:

**ETHNICITY AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

**RESEARCH FOCUS GROUP**

**Conveners:** Mary Hancock, Anthropology and History; David Novak, Music

The Research Focus Group in Ethnicity and Cultural Studies aims to take stock of the ways that ethnographic practice has diversified in response to the challenges of contemporary culture. Our central question is: How does contemporary ethnography work? What claims does it make about the world, and what kinds of research questions come into focus through its practice? The work of our RFG is to bring ethnography into dialogue with a range of different disciplinary expressions of cultural studies to investigate and expand the range of possible tools to study contemporary culture, and to highlight its continuing importance in opening up new areas of research.

**MODERN MEXICAN STUDIES**

**Conveners:** Ruthie Helless-Timco, Music; Gabriela Soto Laveaga, History

Sarah Townsend, Spanish and Portuguese

Contemporary or modern Mexico, covering the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, is the principal focus of this group, with an emphasis on political, ideological, cultural, social, technological, pedagogical, and artistic movements, processes, and activities. Through our research we trace, analyze, and explore the interconnectedness and complexity of official state processes, corporate enterprises, and community-based efforts, in contexts ranging from the local to the international and global. Our areas of interest include: nationalism; knowledge production; citizenship; history/historiography; education; public health; recorded sound and radio; theater, performance, music, and dance; film; science and culture; migration; memorialization; and myth-making.

**THE USES OF THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY**

**RESEARCH FOCUS GROUP**

**Conveners:** Ann Berghahn, History of Art; Constance Penley, Film and Media

The Uses of the Public University is an RFG devoted to imagining the role of the University of California in serving the State, its citizens, the nation and the world. Fundamental to this role is maintaining the University as a place for the creation and preservation of knowledge and for teaching and learning at the highest levels. The University is a community of inquiry where innovation thrives and where Californians are educated to be informed, ethical citizens. In 2012-13 the RFG will devote itself to examining this core belief and imagining ways in which these ideals might be strengthened and fulfilled in the future. Questions we might explore include: What is the value of a University of California education? How do we understand our roles as teachers? What are the future challenges we and our students face? What should be the role of technology in teaching and learning? What are the core skills, ideas and values we need to teach? How should we go about teaching them? The RFG will explore these questions through readings, discussions, and roundtables with visiting faculty.

**HUMANITIES RESEARCH FOCUS GROUP**

**Conveners:** Peter Alagona, History; Chloe Diamond-Lenov, Feminist Studies; Russell Samoelsky, English

This RFG brings the myriad work emerging in the growing field of animal and posthumanist studies together in its diversity. We are talking across disciplinary boundaries—science, social science, and humanities—on disciplines including philosophy, biology, feminist studies, English, comparative psychology, anthropology, cultural studies, history, comparative literature, black studies and cognitive ethology. We are crossing both epistemological and ontological boundaries. We are interrogating the production of boundaries—between nature and culture, human and animal, life and death, and how these are informed by ideas about race, gender, class, sexuality, and (dis)ability. We are also focusing on the ethical concerns in relation to animals and ecology.

**THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH FOCUS GROUPS ARE RETURNING TO THE IHC THIS YEAR:**

**4HUMANITIES RESEARCH FOCUS GROUP**

**Conveners:** Linda Adler-Kassley, Writing Program; Alan Liu, English; Claudio Fogg, French and Italian

**AFRICAN STUDIES RFG**

**Conveners:** Sylvester Ogbechie, History of Art and Architecture; Betsy Brenner, Education; Mhiza Chikwemo, History

**ANCIENT BORDERLANDS RFG**

**Conveners:** Elizabeth Digenis, History; Christine Thomas, Religious Studies; John W. Lue, History

**ARCHAEOLOGY RFG**

**Conveners:** Stuart Tyson Smith, Anthropology; Bruce Erickson, Classics

**HISTORY OF BOOKS AND MATERIAL TEXTS RFG**

**Conveners:** Charlotte Beck, English; Kamey Shallots, English; Sophia Rochmes, History of Art and Architecture

**IDENTITY RFG**

**Conveners:** Cynthia Kaplan, Political Science; Vesna Wallace, Religious Studies

**LANGUAGE, INTERACTION AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION (LISO) RFG**

**Conveners:** Mary Bucholtz, Linguistics; Melissa Curtin, Linguistics; Gene Lerner, Sociology

**NEW SEXUALITIES RFG**

**Conveners:** Mireille Miller-Young, Feminist Studies; Celine Shimizu, Asian American Studies

**SOUTH ASIAN RELIGIONS AND CULTURES RFG**

**Conveners:** Barbara Holdrege, Religious Studies; Bhaskar Sarkar, Film and Media Studies

**FEATURED FELLOW:**

Michael Morgan: The Odyssey Project

The People's Voice (Theater 43/143) is an innovative course that pairs social justice organizations in the community with UC students to forge a mutual learning environment with a creative and potentially life-altering outcome. The current community partner is Los Prijets Boys Camp, a rehabilitative facility whose mission is to teach its wards life skills and prevent further transgressions against the law. In this course, UC students collaborate with a select group of teens to tell their life stories using the heroic template of Homer's Odyssey. In the summers of 2011 and 2012, a group of teens from Los Prijets, accompanied by probation officers to guarantee safety, were bused into UCSB. Through a series of workshops, writing and improvisational exercises, the participants paralleled the Homeric hero's circuitous route home by exploring past deeds and confronting their issues. In the process, they learned how theatrical action could have a healing and transformational impact on their lives. The project provided a level playing field where everyone, UC students and the Los Prijets Boys Camp wards, were all heroes in their journey toward identity and recovering their authentic voices in society. Out of this collaboration, The Odyssey Project emerged as a public performance presented at Center Stage, a downtown venue. This was a symbolic and a literal return for the wards to their community. In 2012, this important reconnection with society was made possible by the generous support of the IHC.

The Odyssey Project is a multicultural experiment that brings together contemporary youth culture with a literary pinnacle of Western civilization. The participants progress from interpretation to ownership and authorship as they evolve in the process to a point where they are able to re-write the Odyssey in their own words. The project seeks to validate the culture, music and choice making ability of the participants by bringing their writings into a shared theatrical space with an acknowledged masterwork of western literature. The purpose is not to privilege the master narrative but to enter, examine and co-opt it toward creating a new form and expression. This democratizing approach in co-authorship dignifies and elevates the participants in order to shift the paradigm of victimhood to empowerment.

Currently, a short film is being edited that documents the creative process that took place in the class. The film examines the efficacy of art as a rehabilitative alternative to incarceration and penalty, and will be available in January 2013. For more information about bringing the class or film to your organization, please contact Michael Morgan, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Theater and Dance; mmorgan@theaterdance.ucsb.edu
IHC RESEARCH FELLOWS

The following individuals and groups were granted IHC awards during the 2011-2012 academic year:

FACULTY FELLOWS:
- RELEASE TIME AWARD: This award releases faculty from teaching during one quarter in order to concentrate on research projects.
  - David Novak, Music, Keywords in Sound Studies

RESEARCH FELLOWS:
- SoundGene: A world Symposium in Sound Studies

PROCUREMENT FELLOWS:
- Puerto Rican Studies

IHC RESEARCH FELLOWS:

JUNIOR FELLOWS:
- PREDOCATIONAL RESEARCH AWARDS: Pre-doctoral fellowships support doctoral candidates and advanced MA students whose research facilitates dialogue across the traditional disciplinary boundaries within the arts and humanities, and/or between the arts & humanities, sciences, and social sciences.
  - Paul Reed Baltimore, History, From the Camel to the Cadillac: The Culture of Consumption and the U.S.-Saudi Special Relationship
  - Caty Aiken, Theater and Dance, Profit, Performance, and Politics: Gay Nightlife in Los Angeles and West Hollywood, 1967-2010

PHD FELLOWS:
- Ruth Hellier-Tinoco, Music, Possible Ecologies: Literature, Nature, and Hope in the Pacific
- Roberto Strongman, Black Studies, Diaspora and Identity

U.S. STUDENTS:
- Amber Workman, Spanish and Portuguese, Women Singers in Global Contexts: An Ethnography
- Sarah Hirsch, English, The Odyssey Project

PREDOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARDS:
- These awards support graduate students in organizing conferences, symposia, exhibitions, and performances.
  - Pablo Calapinti, Media Arts & Technology; David Gray, Film and Media Studies; Rahul Mukherjee, Film and Media Studies; Jade Petermon, Film and Media Studies; Lindsay Thomas, Film and Media Studies, Media Fields Journal: Critical Explorations in Media and Space

VISUAL, PERFORMING AND MEDIA ARTS AWARDS:
- These awards support innovative projects in the visual, performing and media arts that engage creatively with issues of interdisciplinary concern.
  - Xarene Eskandar, Media Arts & Technology, SoundCloud
  - David Gordon, Music, Kon-Hyong Kim, Media Arts & Technology, SoundGame
  - Solen Kiratli DiCicco, Media Arts & Technology, Soundfield
  - Michael Morgan, Theater and Dance, The Odyssey Project

IV ARTS NEWS

Now in its eighth year, IV Arts is a grassroots arm of the IHC, actively exploring the relationship between campus and community, culture and civil society, particularly in the neighborhood closest to the university: Isla Vista. While Magic Lantern Films fills Friday and Monday nights with a wide variety of cinematic pleasures from the arthouse to the grindhouse, IV Live holds down the historic Embarcadero Hall with weekly improvisational theater shows. Word: Isla Vista Arts & Culture Magazine is soon to publish its eighteenth issue, reflecting journalistic concerns from lifestyle features to politically-engaged reporting. Beyond the UCSC student community, Nuestra Voz summer theater camp annually reaches into the heart of the I.V. youth community with made-to-order summer theater. All of these endeavors have academic links to courses in the university in Film & Media, Theater and Dance and the IHC, turning out students who care deeply about bettering the places where they live. Director Ellen Anderson is available for consultation with campus organizations producing or planning new cultural events in Isla Vista: rander@theatere.ucsb.edu

PLATFORM

The IHC is pleased to host PLATFORM exhibition space. Originating from the French word plateforme, meaning “ground plan” or “flat shape,” PLATFORM is an exhibition space and journal designed to bolster the careers of young international artists though the submission and display of two-dimensional media, time-based artwork and creative writing. The exhibit space aims to create bridges between individuals, communities and cultures. All submissions to PLATFORM are completed online and must adhere to the theme and specifications set by the curators. Because of the online submission process, PLATFORM does not require artists to pay submission fees or ship physical art objects, creating an opportunity for artists to participate regardless of their location or resources. For more information, visit www.ihc.ucsb.edu/platform.