Dear UCSB Community,

This year, the IHC will devote its annual public events series to one of the most exciting interdisciplinary fields: brain and mind studies. The 2015-16 program, *The Humanities and the Brain*, will feature innovative scholars, researchers and artists who are working at the interface of science and the humanities. The series will include film screenings, video artist presentations, and a culminating two-day conference. It will present research in fields such as neuroaesthetics and neuroethics, through perspectives deriving from the humanities and fine arts, and will explore topics ranging from creative inspiration, decision-making, and religious self-transcendence, to memory and forgetting, aging, Traumatic Brain Injury and autism.

IHC welcomes the opportunity to collaborate on some of these events with UCSB’s Sage Center for the Study of the Mind, the Carsey-Wolf Center, the Center for Spatial Studies, and the English Department’s Literature and the Mind Program. Please join us for our the inaugural lecture in *The Humanities and the Brain* series on Thursday, October 15, when Professor Ann Taves of the Religious Studies Department will speak on the topic of “Ecstasy: Linking the Humanities and the Brain.”

As we launch this exciting new year of public programming, I want to remind you that you can access video and audio recordings of the events from previous series, including our 2014-15 series *The Anthropocene: Views from the Humanities*, on the IHC website at [www.ihc.ucsb.edu/anthropocene](http://www.ihc.ucsb.edu/anthropocene).

Please allow me to call your attention as well to a pilot program that the IHC offered in June of this year, one that we hope will become an annual event: the UC Veterans Summer Writing Workshop. Twenty-three UC student veterans, representing all ten campuses of the University of California, came to UCSB spent five days producing creative nonfiction about their military experiences. The Workshop was supported by grants from the UC Office of the President and from the provosts, deans and humanities centers throughout the University of California. We are now seeking funding to support future summer workshops. We invite you to visit our website to learn more about the program ([www.ihc.ucsb.edu/uc-vww](http://www.ihc.ucsb.edu/uc-vww)). To make a donation to support the 2016 UC Veterans Summer Writing Workshop visit: [www.ihc.ucsb.edu/donate](http://www.ihc.ucsb.edu/donate).

This fall, we are welcoming a new member to our staff; Rick Benjamin will assume the newly created position of IHC Associate Director for Community Engagement. Rick is currently the State Poet of Rhode Island, and he brings to the IHC his extensive experience in designing and teaching community-engaged creative writing programs. Rick has taught at Brown University, at the Rhode Island School of Design, at Goddard College, and in many schools, community centers and assisted-living centers. Under Rick’s stewardship, the IHC looks forward to developing new community-engaged humanities and arts initiatives for the campus.

Susan Derwin  
*Director, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UC Santa Barbara*
SELECTED EVENTS 2015-16:

INAUGURAL LECTURE: Ecstasy
Ann Taves (Religious Studies, UCSB)
Thursday, October 15 / 4:00 PM

TALK: Conditions of the Brain: Meaning, Metaphor, and Mechanism in Illness and Healing
Rebecca Saligman (Anthropology, Northwestern University)
Thursday, October 22 / 4:00 PM

SCREENING: Manvencal (2010, 83 min.)
Q&A with director Jeff Malmberg
Wednesday, November 4 / 7:00 PM
UCSB Pollock Theater
The screening is free, but tickets are required. Visit this page for reservations: www.carseywolf.ucsb.edu/pollock
Cosponsored by the Carsey-Wolf Center.

TALK: Nature Spends the Past Few Million Years Experimenting with a Prasocial Brain
Kenneth Kosik (Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, UCSB)
Thursday, November 12 / 4:00 PM

TALK: The Neuroscience of Aesthetics and Art
Anjan Chatterjee (Neuroscience, University of Pennsylvania)
Thursday, November 19 / 4:00 PM

TALK: Seth Horowitz (The Listening Program)
Thursday, January 14 / 4:00 PM

TALK: Agustin Fuentes
(Anthropology, Notre Dame)
Thursday, January 21 / 4:00 PM

SCREENING: Still Alice (2014, 101 min.)
Wednesday, January 27 / 7:00 PM
UCSB Pollock Theater
Admission $10 general / $5 students
For tickets, visit:
www.carseywolf.ucsb.edu/pollock
Cosponsored by the Carsey-Wolf Center and the IHC’s UC Santa Barbara Health, Medicine and Care Working Group (UC SBHCWG).

TALK: Gesa Kirsch (English, Bentley University, IHC Visiting Scholar)
Thursday, February 4 / 4:00 PM

TALK: John D. Dunne (Religion, Emory University)
Thursday, February 18 / 4:00 PM

TALK: Your Brain, My Mind: Memory, Language and Perception in Artists’ Video
Laurel Backman (Art, UCSB)
Maya Gurantz (Visiting Lecturer, Art, UCSB)
Thursday, February 25 / 4:00 PM

SYMPOSIUM: Cognition, Phenomenology, Play
Jaak Panksepp (Integrative Physiology and Neuroscience, Washington State University)
Kay Young (English, UCSB)
Thursday, April 7 / 3:00 PM
Cosponsored by the English Department’s Early Modern Center and the English Department’s Literature and the Mind Specialization.

TALK: “Representations in the Brain”: Neuroscientific Discourse and the Humanities
Deborah Jenson (Romance Studies, Global Health, Duke University)
Thursday, April 21

TALK: The Physiology and Politics of Emotion Metaphors
Laura Otis (English, Emory University)
Thursday, April 28 / 4:00 PM

CONFERENCE: The Humanities and the Brain
Thursday-Friday, May 12-13

ALL EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE MCCUNE CONFERENCE ROOM, 6020 HSSB, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

ABOUT THE SERIES:

Seat of consciousness and the unconscious; motor of knowledge, memory, judgment and problem-solving; locus of language and creativity; regulator of movement and emotion; processor of sense perception – the brain reigns sovereign over human cognition and sentience.

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center’s 2015-16 public events series “The Humanities and the Brain” will explore the workings of the brain from perspectives deriving from the humanities and fine arts, as well as from newer interdisciplinary fields such as neuroaesthetics and neuroethics. The program will bring humanists and neuroscientists into dialogue to consider diverse analyses and representations of this most elusive organ.

IHC AWARD DEADLINES:

NOVEMBER 16:
Faculty Release Time Award
Faculty Collaborative Award

JANUARY 15:
Graduate Collaborative Award
Visual, Performing and Media Arts Award

APRIL 15:
Faculty Release Time Award
Faculty Collaborative Award
Predoctoral Fellowships

MAY 16:
Research Focus Groups
Research Fellowships

Inaugural Talk: Should We Welcome the Anthropocene? Ken Hiltner | Thursday, October 30, 2014


Reading: Eden Falls Written by Brian Granger | Dir. by Risa Branin | Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Talk: Andy Warner | Thursday, February 5, 2015

Talk: Ursula Heise | Thursday, April 23, 2015

The 2014-15 Diana and Simon Raab Writer-in-Residence
Lydia Davis, a fiction writer, essayist and literary translator of such works as Proust’s Swann’s Way and Flaubert’s Madame Bovary, spent three days in March at UC Santa Barbara as the 2015 Diana and Simon Raab Writer-in-Residence. Davis, a recipient of the 2013 Booker International Prize, gave a public reading from her latest collection of short stories, Can’t and Won’t. The following day, she met with undergraduate creative writers to explore the writer’s craft and with graduate students working in translation studies to discuss her approach to literary translation.

In June 2015, the IHC hosted the first annual UC Student Veterans Summer Writing Workshop at UC Santa Barbara.
RESEARCH FOCUS GROUPS

The IHC is sponsoring the twelve Research Focus Groups for the 2015-16 academic year. The IHC Research Focus Groups bring together faculty and graduate students with shared research interests from different fields and departments to foster the development of interdisciplinary research agendas. The RFGs meet to present work in progress, read and discuss texts and current scholarship, and plan and implement common research projects. For more information, and to find contact information for the following groups, visit http://www.ihc.ucsb.edu/research/rfg.html.

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

AFRICAN STUDIES RFG
Conveners:
Peter Bloom, Film and Media Studies
Stephan Miescher, History

AMERICAN INDIAN AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RFG
Conveners:
Margaret McMurtry, Religious Studies
Ann Plain, History

ANCIENT BORDERLANDS RFG
Conveners:
Christine Thomas, Religious Studies
John W.I. Lee, History

IDENTITY RFG
Conveners:
Cynthia Kaplan, Political Science
Adrienne Edgar, History

LANGUAGE, INTERACTION AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION
Conveners:
Melissa Curtin, Linguistics
Gene Lerner, Sociology
Mary Bucholtz, Linguistics

NEW SEXUALITIES RFG
Conveners:
Paul Amar, Law and Society
Mireille Miller-Young, Feminist Studies
Jennifer Tyburczy, Feminist Studies

REINVENTING JAPAN RFG
Conveners:
ann-elise jiwallen, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies
Luke Roberts, History

SOUTH ASIAN RELIGIONS AND CULTURES RFG
Conveners:
Barbara Holdrege, Religious Studies
Bhaskar Sarkar, Film and Media Studies

FOR THIS YEAR, THE IHC WELCOMES FOUR NEW RESEARCH FOCUS GROUPS:

ARCHITECTURE AND THE MIND RFG
Conveners:
Volker M. Welter, History of Art & Architecture
Mary Hegarty, Psychological & Brain Sciences
Dan Montello, Geography
The Architecture and Mind RFG offers a forum for faculty, postdocs, and graduate students to explore and discuss issues around the design and experience of architecture and the scientific study of human spatial perception, cognition, and behavior. Among other issues, we consider the contrasting nature of arts and science; the psychology of aesthetics; and the relationship of architectural design to spatial orientation, perceived privacy, social interaction, and other aspects of human behavior and experience.

SLAVERY, CAPTIVITY, AND THE MEANING OF FREEDOM RFG
Conveners:
James F. Brooks, History and Anthropology
Jeaninne Marie Delombard, English
Rose Maclean, Classics
The categories of “slavery” and “freedom” are as complex and elusive as they are central to our understanding of the social, economic, and cultural phenomena with which students of the humanities are most deeply concerned. This RFG’s initial and perhaps most invigorating debate will address how to delineate our common object of study, a conversation which happens most effectively across disciplinary lines.

UC-SANTA BARBARA HEALTH, MEDICINE AND CARE WORKING GROUP (UC-SBHMCGWG)
Conveners:
Zakiya Luna, Sociology
Gabriela Soto Laveaga, History
Gwen Morse, RN, Ph.D.
This RFG brings together diverse interests on campus and beyond with a broad but common interest in health, medicine and care. Approaches to health and medicine – such as an issue of social justice, a human right, a component of citizenship studies, and an aspect of gender, race, criminality, and class, to name just a few – allow us to examine societies in flux in a novel and exciting way.

W/SHAKEPEARE RFG
Conveners:
James Kearney, English
Irwin Appel, Theater and Dance
The w/Shakespeare research focus group is dedicated to the innovative study and performance of Shakespeare. W/Shakespeare invites undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty from across the humanities and the university to think with and about Shakespeare. Our fundamental commitment is to reading and performing Shakespeare “with” other disciplines in the humanities: not only literature and theater, but history, art, film, philosophy, religious studies, ethics, and political theory.
IHC FACULTY AND GRADUATE FELLOWS

The following individuals and groups were granted IHC awards during the 2014-2015 academic year:

Faculty Release Time Award
This award releases faculty from teaching during one quarter in order to concentrate on research projects.

Elizabeth Heckendorn Cook, English and Comparative Literature, Talking Trees: Others and Ethics in British Enlightenment Literature
Kate McDonald, History, Modern Japan and the Politics of Place: The Geography of Empire (declined)
Swati Rana, English, Retrograde Minorities: Problem Characters in Ethnic Literature, 1900-1960

Faculty Collaborative Awards
These awards support conferences at UCSB or in the Santa Barbara area, collaborative research or instructional projects by faculty in one or more departments, and initiatives to bring visiting scholars and arts practitioners to campus for collaborative research or teaching.

Elisabeth Weber, German and Slavic Studies; Wolf Kittler, German and Slavic Studies; Julie Carlson, English, Metamorphosis: Human, Animal, Armor
Claudio Fogli, French and Italian; Harold Marcuse, History; Werner Kuhn, Geography; Mary Hagarty, Psychology, A Spatial Turn in Holocaust Studies
Katherine Saltzman-Li, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, War and Remembrance: Cultural Imprints of Japan’s Samurai Age

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.

Peter Romaskiewicz, Religious Studies, Encountering a Buddha: An Early History of Buddhist Imagery in Mass Media
Emily C. Thomas, Art, Infinite Human Night Light
Shannon Wills, Art; Tim Wood, Media Arts and Technology, Quantum Love Story

Predoctoral Fellowships
Pre-doctoral fellowships support doctoral candidates and advanced MFA 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.

Lynette Arnold, Linguistics, Communicative Care across Borders: Language, Materiality, and Affect in Transnational Family Life
Chandra Russo, Sociology, Solidarity Witness: Resistance, Cultural Politics and the U.S. National Security State
Sahar Sajadi, Media Arts and Technology, “Is Any-Body There?”: A Theatrical Turing Test
Lindsay Vogt, Anthropology, New Water in New India: How Does IT Sector Philanthropy Recast Water and Citizenship?
Christopher Walker, English, Un timely Ecologies: Decay, Sustainability, and the Modern Ecological Imagination

Graduate Collaborative Awards
These awards support graduate students in organizing conferences, symposia, exhibitions, and performances.

Bianka Ballina, Bhargavi Narayanan and Alexander Champlin, Film and Media Studies, Media Fields Conference 2015: Encounters
Melissa Barthelemey, History, Shari Sanders, Comparative Literature, Acts of Love and Compassion in the Wake of the Isla Vista Tragedy

Research Fellows
The IHC Research Fellowship is awarded to recent UCSB Ph.D.s in the humanities and the humanistic social sciences. The Fellows are affiliated with the IHC and have opportunities to participate in the Center’s classes, activities and research groups.

Claire Burke, Spanish and Portuguese
Brigit Ferguson, History of Art
Zack Horton, English
Rachel-Anne Johnson, History of Art
Mary McGuire, History of Art
Ana Mitrovici, History of Art
Kristie Soares, Comparative Literature
Deborah Spivak, History of Art
THE IHC GRADUATE AFFILIATES PROGRAM

The IHC's GAP program, now in its third year, seeks to foster a community of graduate student scholars to engage in dialogue around the events of the 2015-16 IHC series The Humanities and the Brain. In the course of the academic year, graduate students will exercise their skills in communicating with scholars from diverse fields about points of intellectual convergence and difference.

This year's GAP scholars are:

Sara Balance, Department of Music
Rebecca Chenoweth, Department of English
Rena Heinrich, Department of Theater and Dance
Evelyn Patrick Rick, Department of Classics
Allison Shapiro, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
John Thibdeau, Department of Religious Studies

IV ARTS NEWS

Now in its twelfth 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, IV Live holds down the historic Embarcadero Hall with weekly improvisational theater shows. Word: Isla Vista Arts & Culture Magazine is soon to publish its twenty-sixth issue, reflecting journalistic concerns from lifestyle features to politically-engaged reporting. Beyond the UCSB student community, Nuestra Voz summer theater camp annually reaches into the heart of the IV 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, with UCSB students who care as much about improving their minds as 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. eanderson@ihc.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 through the submission and display of two-dimensional media, time-based artwork and creative writing.

With a current portfolio of five exhibitions, PLATFORM has displayed the work of more than seventy artists from over 16 nationalities. The subject matter of the exhibitions are aligned with the academic yearly series of the IHC, providing a great space to bridge the artwork and writings of the participants, individuals, communities, and cultures.

For more information, visit www.ihc.ucsb.edu/platform.