







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 neuroesthetics 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*



# THE HUMANITIES AND THE BRAIN

Interdisciplinary Humanities Center  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA | 2015 - 2016

## 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 neuroesthetics and neuroethics. The program will bring humanists and neuroscientists into dialogue to consider diverse analyses and representations of this most elusive organ.

## 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 Seligman (Anthropology, Northwestern University)  
Thursday, October 22 / 4:00 PM

**SCREENING: *Marwencol* (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](http://www.carseywolf.ucsb.edu/pollock)  
Cosponsored by the Carsey-Wolf Center.

**TALK: *Nature Spends the Past Few Million Years Experimenting with a Prosocial 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: Agustín 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](http://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-SBHM CWG).

**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 Beckman (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 Jensen (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.

## 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



2014-15 IHC SERIES:  
THE ANTHROPOCENE:  
VIEWS FROM THE  
HUMANITIES



INAUGURAL TALK: SHOULD WE WELCOME THE ANTHROPOCENE / KEN HILTNER | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2014 (above)



READING: EDEN FALLS WRITTEN BY BRIAN GRANGER / DIR. BY RISA BRANIN | TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015 (above)



TALK: ANDREW REVKIN | THURSDAY, NOV 13, 2014 (above left)



TALK: ANDY WARNER | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015 (above)



2014-15 CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS: TIMOTHY MORTON | THURSDAY, JAN 7, 2015 (right)



TALK: URSULA HEISE | THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015 (above)

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. (see image left)



In June 2015, the IHC hosted the first annual UC Student Veterans Summer Writing Workshop at UC Santa Barbara. (see image below)





# 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 McMurtrey, Religious Studies

Ann Plane, 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 lewallen, 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

Jeannine 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-SBHMCWG)

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 on 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/SHAKESPEARE 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 Fogu, French and Italian; Harold Marcuse, History; Werner Kuhn, Geography, Mary Hagarty, Psychology, *A Spatial Turn in Holocaust Studies*

Ann Marie Plane, History, *Women, Gender, Sex: Social and Cultural Histories of the Long Nineteenth Century — A Conference in Honor of Patricia Cline Cohen*

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 Willis, 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 Sajadieh, 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 Re-Cast Water and Citizenship?*

Christopher Walker, English, *Untimely 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 Barthelemy, 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

Zach 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

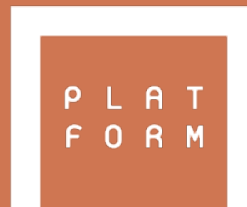
Now in its twelfth year, IV Arts is a grassroots arm of the IHC, actively exploring the relationship between campus and community, culture and civil society, particularly in the neighborhood closest to the university: Isla Vista. While Magic Lantern Films fills Friday and Monday nights with a wide variety 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](mailto: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](http://www.ihc.ucsb.edu/platform).





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