



CHARLES PHELPS

TAFT

RESEARCH
CENTER

2015-16

ANNUAL REPORT

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR, TAFT FACULTY CHAIR

Now completing the third year of my five-year appointment as the Chair of Taft Faculty and Director of the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati, I am proud to say that we have realized a number of goals originally set forth in the proposed agenda. In particular, we have realized significant gains in collaboration on individual projects as well as center-based endeavors. This spirit of collaboration has allowed us to build a stronger intellectual community locally, both at UC and within Cincinnati, as well as strong national and international partnerships. This approach has expanded Taft's reach in the community and, accordingly, won the center some long-overdue recognition for its contributions in supporting the humanities and social sciences. The collaborative approach has also allowed us to create unique opportunities for large-scale projects not previously possible.

Of the new programs I have initiated, I am particularly proud of the **TAFT** co-lab events, which engender the collaborative spirit mentioned above. This year, the program supported four major events: *Eco-Judaism: New Jewish Approaches to the Environment*, *Louder Than a Bomb* (LTAB), the fifth annual International Feminist Journal of Politics (IFJP) Conference, and the International Žižek Studies Association Conference: Materialism and Materiality. The Eco-Judaism lecture series featured a number of talks on the Jewish faith and the relation of such faith to the environment, including Rabbinic and Zionist approaches to environmental issues. LTAB, which enjoyed an enormous first-year success, extended its reach to include 20 local schools and after-school programs and over 120 students. We hosted a crowd of more than 600 people at the LTAB finals, on April 9, at the School for Creative and Performing Arts Corbett Theater. Former Cincinnati Bengals player Dhani Jones and Malcolm London, who won the 2011 Chicago LTAB, co-hosted the event. In mid-May, we helped support the IFJP conference, which is a unique cross-cultural and international forum for discussing the intersection of international relations, politics, and women's studies. Scholars from across the Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle-East attended. The keynote speaker for this event, Dr. Zillah Eisenstein of Ithaca College, is one of the world's foremost political theorists

and activists of our time. She spoke on *BEING PRESENT 2016: seeking new feminisms against empire*. The conference was followed by a call for papers for a special issue of IFJP that will be guest edited by Anne Sisson Runyan, Professor of Political Science and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. A special thanks is owed to Anne Runyan, for her efforts in organizing this conference and welcoming Taft. Lastly, the International Žižek Studies Association Conference is an internationally well-recognized and attended conference featuring addresses by Slavoj Žižek himself, Greg Harman, and Frances Restuccia, among others. Each is an internationally recognized expert in their field. Well over 100 scholars attended from across Canada, France, Germany, Mexico, Philippines, Slovenia, the United Arab Emirates, UK, and the USA.

In addition to the **TAFT**co-labs, we hosted the humanities**NOW**Taft Graduate Conference for the second year, increasing both the audience size and number of participants from across the nation. The redesigned format has proven far more productive as a scholarly endeavor and is better attended than the previous format of just a few years ago. To date, we have received a great number of compliments from participants. The keynote address was given by Dr. Gregg Lambert, Dean's Professor, founding Director of the Syracuse University Humanities Center, and Principal Investigator of the Central New York Humanities Corridor. Dr. Lambert is the author of 13 books and critical editions, and has written well over 100 articles. He is internationally renowned for his general writings on the contemporary humanities, as well as his numerous scholarly writings on critical theory, philosophy, film, the contemporary university, Baroque and Neo-Baroque cultural history, and especially for his work on the philosophers Gilles Deleuze, Jacques Derrida, Jean-François Lyotard, and Jean-Luc Nancy. His address, *Philosophy After Friendship*, was well attended by both faculty and students.

Commemorative Events, like **TAFT**co-labs, provides a low-cost, collaborative approach, focusing on events that remember, honor, and celebrate important contributions and sacrifices in our history. These one-off events continue to rise in popularity and have begun to out-pace available funds. This year, we were able to support the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Women's History Month, and National Poetry Month, each of which enjoyed large or over-capacity crowds. Hispanic Heritage month speaker Gudrun Maurer, Goya curator of the Prado Museum in Madrid, Spain, spoke on the lesser known aspects of Goya's works. Marian Marzynski, an award-winning documentary film-maker, presented his documentary, *Never Forget to Lie: Unique Challenges and Opportunities in Making Holocaust Memorial Films*, for the Holocaust Remembrance celebrations. It was a truly moving portrait of survivor challenges. Rosi Braidotti, Philosopher and Distinguished University Professor and Director of the Centre for Humanities at Utrecht University, spoke on *Posthuman Feminism* for Women's History Month, illuminating a new type of discourse from the explicit antihumanism supported by post-structuralist theories since the 1980s. Lastly, spoken-word poet Malcolm London provided several performances during the National Poetry Month, both in the community and at the LTAB finals. As a direct result of these events, new collaborations and partnerships have been formed, furnishing additional, prospective opportunities. We are proud to recognize and celebrate unique contributions from across and beyond Taft disciplines.

We have continued to develop the **TAFT**talks program and have now recorded dozens of scholars and activists discussing their work. Of note, Professor Braidotti's **TAFT**talk is now available for free on our website and through Vimeo and YouTube. This year the Center helped

lead the charge toward UC's Third Century initiative, supporting sustained programing in water studies with the launch of **H2O**talks. Building on the success of our **TAFT**talks, **H2O**talks focus on water rights, usage, and responsibility. Like **TAFT**talks, all **H2O**talks are freely available on our website.

The Center's 11th annual Research Symposium was a great success, featuring our center fellows and internationally recognized scholars as interlocutors to the fellows' work. Interlocutors included Ebenezer Obadare, associate professor of sociology at the University of Kansas; Sunita Parikh, associate professor of political science at Washington University in St. Louis, Melissa Dinverno, associate professor of Spanish literature and culture at Indiana University, Rachel Dwyer, associate professor of sociology at Ohio State University, and Eric Rentschler, the Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and the Chair of the Film and Visual Studies at Harvard University. We were pleased to host Rosi Braidotti as the symposium keynote.

We also created several new programs, improved upon a number of our sustaining programs, and trimmed back underperforming programs. Along with a collaborative approach to funding, these changes have allowed for continued growth, without a significant increase to our budget. Along these lines, I am proud to announce the pilot-expansion of the Center Fellows program in the 2016/2017 academic year, which will include an additional (sixth) fellowship position. This program affords faculty a release from teaching and service obligations in order to sustain an intense research and writing period for in-depth projects. This program has enjoyed increased success in the last few years and has proven itself to be a very productive program for supporting large-scale faculty projects.

While we have made significant gains in a number of areas, this progress was not easily achieved. I have spent many hours in negotiation and solicitation in order to accomplish success in these areas. To date, I have personally raised close to \$70,000 to support our initiatives. Going forward, it is important that we develop long-term, sustainable, collaborative funding support for Center-led initiatives, in order to maintain our advances.

I am pleased to say the Center has received a remarkably large volume of compliments this year from the scholars we hosted and their colleagues. We continue to make strides toward hosting more gifted scholars in the future.

I want to thank the Taft staff, Taft faculty and students, UC administration, our community partners, and most of all the Taft Trustees for their continuing support of the Taft Research Center.

In appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Parr', written in a cursive style.

ADRIAN PARR, PH.D.

Chair of Taft Faculty, Director

Charles Phelps Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati

MAJOR INITIATIVES

CENTER FELLOWS

In looking to expand our support for humanities, social sciences, and mathematical sciences research, the executive board voted to pilot an extension of the Center Fellowship program, allowing for a sixth Center Fellow in 2016-2017. We are proud to announce the 2016-2017 cohort will include Aryay Finkelstein of Judaic Studies, Gergana Ivanova of German Studies, Heidi Maibom of philosophy, Furaha Norton of English & comparative literature, Shailaja Paik of history, and Earl Wright, II of Africana Studies.

COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

Celebrating the history or heritage of particular groups of people, these events offer significant opportunities for public reflection and engagement, as well as collaborations. Unlike many of our other programs, these are center-based, providing Taft a larger role in humanities programming at and beyond the University of Cincinnati.

Only in the second year of programming, these events continue to draw large crowds and interest across disciplinary, institutional, and community lines. Commemorative events are some of our most well-attended events, which provide significant engagement of new constituencies and interaction among colleagues with similar interests.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Gudrun Maurer, Goya curator, Prado Museum, Madrid, Spain provided a lecture to over 150 people in DAAP's Aronoff Theater. The audience included curators from local museums, members of the Hispanic community, and students and faculty from the colleges of Arts & Sciences and DAAP. Maurer is widely recognized as the preeminent expert in Goya, one of the most iconic painters of the last two centuries. The lecture, titled *Francisco de Goya: Beauty and Recondite*, was featured in several news outlets, including Local 12 CBS affiliate WKRC and CityBeat magazine. A special thanks is owed to Carlos Gutierrez, Chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, for his organization of this event.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

We were delighted to host Marian Marzynski for the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day. Marzynski is an Emmy Award recipient for documentary filmmaking, with a filmmaking and film teaching career spanning more than 50 years, both in Europe and the United States. This event featured a preview of his new documentary titled *Never Forget to Lie: Unique Challenges and Opportunities in Making Holocaust Memorial Films*, which provides a unique, penetrating look at individual lives of child survivors. Marzynski teases out their feelings about Poland, the Catholic Church, and the ramifications of identities forged under circumstances where survival began with the directive “never forget to lie.” The Taft Research Center hosted a near-capacity crowd of almost 100 people for this event.

We would like to thank Gila Safran Naveh, Department Head of Judaic Studies, for her hard work in putting together this program, without which this would not have been possible. As a result of the interactions at this event, Mr. Marzynski has accepted an invitation to become an Affiliate Fellow in the Judaic Studies Department and promised to offer additional presentations and film workshops highlighting his new work on opera/film.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Rosi Braidotti, Philosopher and Distinguished University Professor and Director of the Centre for Humanities at Utrecht University, was our guest speaker for Women’s History Month. Braidotti spoke about Post-Human Feminism to an over-capacity crowd of 120 people. Braidotti is a pioneer in Women’s Studies, having been the founding professor of the field at the University of Utrecht (1988), the founding Director of the Netherlands research school of Women’s Studies (1995), as well as the founder of the inter-university Socrates Network of Interdisciplinary Women’s Studies in Europe (NOISE), as well as the Socrates Thematic Network Project: Advanced Thematic Network in Activities in Women’s Studies in Europe (ATHENA).

Braidotti’s research focuses at the intersection of social and political theory, cultural politics, gender, feminist theory, and ethnic studies. Her most recent books include the *Posthuman* (2013), and the co-authored (with Paul Gilroy) *Conflicting Humanities* (2016). She is the founding Director of the Centre for the Humanities at Utrecht University (2008) and has received numerous awards throughout her career, including an honorary doctorate in philosophy from Linköping University in Sweden (2013), the University Medal from the University of Łódź in Poland (2006), and a Royal Knighthood bestowed by Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard, of the Netherlands, on March 3, 2005.

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Many Cincinnati high school students got their second chance to participate in the Louder Than a Bomb competition. In its second year, the contest grew by 50%, with 120 students and 20 schools participating in this Spoken Word contest. Masters of ceremonies Dhani Jones and Malcolm London lead performances in front of more than 600 people at the LTAB finals, on April 9 at the School for Creative and Performing Arts Corbett Theater. Dhani Jones is a former Cincinnati Bengal and television show host; Malcolm London is a world-renowned Spoken Word artist that has been featured alongside actor Matt Damon and musician John Legend on PBS’ one-hour special “TED Talks Education.”



TAFTtalks

TAFTtalks are short videos featuring preeminent scholars discussing their research and its contemporary relevance and import beyond the academy. One of our least expensive and most widely-recognized programs, **TAFTtalks** have featured the likes of Rosi Braidotti, Slavoj Žižek and Henry Giroux. To date, we have received a rather large number of compliments from humanities centers around the world, and interest in the program continues to grow.

Posthuman Feminism

In her **TAFTtalk**, well-known contemporary philosopher and feminist Rosi Braidotti contrasts the idea of posthumanism against different ideas of humanism and anthropocentrism, and urges a questioning of any received notion of the human. Being human in today's world is biogenetically and technologically mediated, and crossed with inhuman instances of injustices, cruelty, devastation, and death of staggering proportions. Posthuman feminism tries to grapple with these contradictions without having a single, unified front.

Braidotti is a pioneer of women's studies, having founded university programs, centers, and scholarly networks of women's studies.

Every Black Woman I Know ...

An original performance by Malcolm London, 2011 winner of Louder Than A Bomb (Chicago). In this performance, Malcolm celebrates the strength and majestic front of black women, who face daily struggles as they send their husbands, sons, and grandsons out to work in the violence of a black community.

H2Otalks

H2Otalks is a new program launched in the fall of 2015, focusing on discussions on water rights, usage, and responsibility. It is based on the success of the **TAFTtalks** platform and a critical concentration of attention around such interests. Through this program and our research groups, Taft is helping to grow the critical mass necessary for a sustained program in water studies, in support of UC's Third Century initiative.

In the hopes of engaging a wide audience, we again teamed-up with recognized Spoken Word artist Malcolm London, who delivered an original performance on the water crisis in Detroit. In his performance, London provides a compelling interpretation of the de-humanization and moral bankruptcy stemming from proposed water-privatization solutions, while at the same time shutting down the service for nearly a third of its population. "The only water bill should be in the bill of rights," Malcolm London says in his **H2Otalk**, as he describes how the city government is shutting off many of the residents' water lines due to the water debts they cannot pay. He likens Detroit to Atlantis, which according to Greek mythology was swallowed by the sea. Analogously, London views Detroit as "drowning in misappropriated funds, the sewage left behind by politicians". Through his performance, listeners become intimate with the water issues facing Detroit residents, and the importance of water sustainability within the United States.

2016 LOUDER THAN CINCY A BOMB



In 2016, **Louder Than A Bomb (LTAB) Cincy** worked with 18 local high schools and over 120 students on Spoken Word projects. Hosting a number of workshops and open mic sessions, this program is beginning to grow the necessary critical interest of our local youth, providing the necessary literacy and performance skills, as well as a stage to showcase students' unique perspectives.

To date, **LTAB** has operated on the generosity of donors, establishing a low entry threshold and allowing for wide participation. Major sponsors for the 2016 **LTABcincy** include the Goldsmith Family, Kroger, and UC President Santa Ono's office, as well as continuing support and partnership with the McMicken College of Arts & Science, UC's Chief Diversity Office, Elementz, MetroLAB, UC Research Institute, DAAP, and Paperplane Creative.

This year we launched the **LTAB-UC** college preview day, in collaboration with the McMicken College of Arts and Science, UC Admission, the African American Cultural Resource Center, and the Taft Museum. A special thanks is owed to A&S Director of Student Retention Initiatives, Carol Tonge Mack, for her help in organizing events, and to A&S Director of Graduate Enrollment Initiatives Marilyn Kershaw for the



lunch at the CenterCourt, for both teachers and students. Additionally, a special thank you is owed to the Taft Museum of Art's Director of Education, Timothy Brown for arranging a special presentation by Alysia Nicole Harris, the 2015 Duncanson Artist-in-Residence. This event hosted half a dozen schools and brought over 40 students and teachers to UC for an all-day event. Several teachers reported back on their positive experience, with one saying it was "the best they have ever been treated on the UC campus."

Finals took place April 9, at the Corbett Theater, in the School for Creative and Performing Arts. This year we were happy to have Dhani Jones, philanthropist and former Cincinnati Bengal, return and partner with Malcolm London, the 2011 winner of the **LTAB**Chicago, as the Masters of Ceremonies. The 600-person audience was a nearly 50 percent increase over our first year.

Also of note, our founding partner, MetroLAB, won the "Architectural Advancement" award from the Cincinnati American Institute of Architects, as well as the 2015 Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture "Collaborative Practice" award, both for their work on the 2015 LTAB set.

humanities**NOW**

GRADUATE CONFERENCE

The second annual **humanitiesNOW** Taft Graduate Conference occurred Feb. 17-18, 2016. The conference hosted presentations from the 2016 Dissertation Fellows and students from universities across the country, including Ball State, Indiana University, Purdue University, The Ohio State University, University of Kentucky, Xavier University, University of Kansas, University of Illinois, and the University of Washington. The Dissertation Fellows served as the selection panel for the conference.

This year's Dissertation Fellows included:



Gary Cornwall, economics, *Estimating the Distribution of Income Using a Mixture of Distributions with Spatial Dependence*



Megan Underhill, sociology, *Middle-Class Whites and Uncivilized Others*



Eric Rogers, philosophy, *Building a Better Invasion Biology: A Normative Approach to the Problem of Terminological Disunity*



Alyssa McClanahan, history, *Women and Life on Earth: Peace, Ecology and Transnational Women's Movement, 1975-1999*



Linwood Rumney, English and comparative literature, *Discrepant Means*



Catalin Dragan, mathematical sciences, *Sums of Equivalent Sequences of Positive Operators*



John Shahan, German studies, *Concepts of Justice in Spy and Detective Fiction Viewed Through a Kantian Lens*



Manuel R. Montes, romance languages and literature, *Fiction Writing as an Aesthetic Identity Pursuit in the Spanish Language Novel.*



humanitiesNOW Keynote:
Philosophy after Friendship

Gregg Lambert, Dean's Professor, Founding Director of the Syracuse University Humanities Center, and the Principal Investigator of the Central New York Humanities Corridor, delivered the keynote address, titled *Philosophy after Friendship*, at the **humanitiesNOW** Taft Graduate Conference. Lambert spoke on the political idea of friendship as a democratic consensus of equals. Friendship, he contended, has been corrupted by capital and it no longer serves its original utopian function. Our political ties and alliances are no longer an adequate basis of political strategy, and we must now be wary of such "friends." This may be the heralding of a new political ideal, moving away from friendship and toward permanent conflict.

In addition to the CNY Humanities Corridor, Lambert has directed several other major multi-institutional research and interdisciplinary initiatives including the *Society for the Study of Biopolitical Futures* (with Cary Wolfe, Rice University), the *Trans-Disciplinary Media Studio* (with SU School of Architecture) and *The Perpetual Peace Project*, a multi-lateral curatorial initiative partnering with the Slought Foundation (Philadelphia), the European Union National Institutes of Culture, the International Peace Institute, the United Nations University, Utrecht University Centre for Humanities, and the Treaty of Utrecht Foundation (the Netherlands). In 2013, he was elected as a member of the International Advisory Board of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes.

Lambert is also a well-received author, having written 13 books and critical editions and more than 100 articles. Many scholars note his work in the contemporary humanities as well as his writings on critical theory and philosophy. The French philosophers Gilles Deleuze, Jacques Derrida, Jean-Francois Leotard and Jean-Luc Nancy provide the foundation for much of his research. Lambert received his doctorate in 1995 from the University of California, Irvine. He studied under the guidance of the late-French philosopher Jacques Derrida and literary theorist Gabriele Schwab. Before obtaining his Ph.D. in comparative literature and critical theory, Lambert was a fellow at the Center for Hermeneutic Studies at the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley. There, he finished his Master's degree in theology and literature. A year after receiving his doctorate, Lambert joined the English department at Syracuse University. University officials appointed him as chair in 2005. He left his position as chair in 2008 to take his current position with the Syracuse University Humanities Center.

ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The annual Research Symposium is the highlight and culminating event for the Center, showcasing the year-long work of our Center Fellows. A Center Fellowship affords faculty a full academic year free from teaching and service obligations in order to engage in sustained research projects. Not surprisingly, this is a highly-prized award among advanced faculty, and has grown to be decidedly competitive, as well as one of our largest and most successful programs. Perhaps more than any of our other offerings, this program directly supports the vision of our original benefactor, Anne Sinton Taft, to advance culture and art at the University of Cincinnati, in relation “to the improvement of the mind [rather] than to physical and material betterment.”

The work of the 2015-2016 Center Fellows was featured at the 11th annual Research Symposium, held February 29 – March 4. The new format, featuring the Center Fellows alongside a select interlocutor, which was only adopted only last year, has received significant positive feedback over the last two years, from both the Center Fellows and their interlocutors. The work of the 2015-2016 Center Fellows is highlighted below, along with their selected interlocutor.



ASHLEY CURRIER,
Department of Women's,
Gender, and Sexuality
Studies

*The Politicization of
Homosexuality in Malawi*

Dr. Currier traces the emergence and effects of political homophobia in Malawi, as a strategy of statecraft, against transnational activist and foreign donor insistence on respect for LGBT rights. Such political homophobia ensnares not only gender and sexual minorities, but also different social movements, such as HIV/AIDS, human rights, LGBT, and women's movements. In this way, political homophobia has divided social movements and fomented discord among activist organizations.

INTERLOCUTOR: EBENEZER OBADARE,

Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Kansas.

Dr. Obadare is a civil society scholar with specific interest in informal strategies of resistance under changing contexts of rule. The author of numerous essays across a range of top journals, Dr. Obadare is editor of *The Handbook of Civil Society in Africa* (2014) and co-editor of *Civic Agency in Africa: Arts of Resistance in the 21st Century* (2014), and five other books. His monograph, *Humor, Silence and Civil Society in Nigeria* was released in February 2016 by University of Rochester Press. Dr. Obadare's current research focuses on Pentecostal pastors, power, and politics in Africa. A recipient of numerous prestigious international awards and research grants, he sits on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Civil Society*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, and *Review of African Political Economy*.



RINA WILLIAMS,
Department of Political
Science

*Excluded, Mobilized, Incorporated:
Women and Religious Nationalist
Politics in India, 1915-2015*

The stunning victory of the religious nationalist Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP) in India's 2014 elections parallels the spread of religious nationalism globally. To understand the role of women in and under such movements, this project compares the role of women in the BJP in three different time periods. Williams argues the party excluded women in the early 1900s; mobilized them in the 1980s-90s; and has institutionally incorporated them into its structures and activities today. The BJP has attained growing political success in Indian democracy as it has learned how to bring women into the political sphere but without altering its 'traditional' gender ideologies of women and men as equal but with different roles to play in society.

INTERLOCUTOR: SUNITA PARIKH,

Associate Professor of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Parikh is the author of *The Politics of Preference* (1997), which examined the development of affirmative action in the United States and India. Her current projects include two book-length studies, one on the economic, political, and psychological factors that explain violent collective action in India and a second on the history of apex courts in India from the 18th through the 20th centuries.



ANDRÉS PÉREZ-SIMÓN,
Department of Romance
Languages & Literatures

*From Margin to Center:
Conceptualizing Lorca's Theatrical
Reform*

International scholars have traditionally considered Federico García Lorca's rural trilogy (*Blood Wedding*, *Verma*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*) as the ideal expression of his dramatic art. Pérez-Simón examines Lorca's relatively unknown puppet theater, as well as his "impossible" plays (*The Public*, *The Dream of Life*), as the root of an utopic theatrical reform. To explain Lorca's theatrical thought and praxis, Pérez-Simón examines material and ideological aspects of Lorca's works. From the perspective of its materiality, Pérez-Simón discusses the fragmentary nature of his drama, a result of Lorca's own writing technique as well as the consequence of multiple external factors affecting the transmission of his texts. The second aspect,

inscribed in an ideological plane, is Lorca's awareness of his role as producer of commodities in a theatrical industry dominated by impresarios catering to bourgeois taste.

INTERLOCUTOR: MELISSA DINVERNO,

Associate Professor of Spanish Literature and Culture, Indiana University.

Dr. Dinverno's research centers on Federico Garcia Lorca, the historical avant-garde, cultural memory, editorial theory, and gender/sex identities in 20th-century Spain. She is currently working on two book projects. The first analyzes Lorca as a contemporary icon that has mediated cultural, political, social and economic processes in Spain. The second deconstructs some of the most prevalent myths in literary and cultural criticism on Lorca and his work, and creates new paths of inquiry into understanding Lorca and the literary field of the 20s and 30s.



JEFFREY TIMBERLAKE,
Department of Sociology

Trends in the "Ecological Distance" of Minority Suburbanization in U.S. Metropolitan Areas, 1970 to 2010

Much scholarship has suggested that recent minority group suburbanization in the United

States has largely been confined to inner-ring suburbs. However, there has been little empirical investigation of this question or of the spatial and temporal patterning of minority suburbanization in general. This project codes all suburban places and county subdivisions in all U.S. metropolitan areas, then deploys multilevel modeling techniques to investigate patterns of white, black, Asian, and Latino suburbanization from 1970 to 2010. Inequality in each group and between different rings is examined.

INTERLOCUTOR: RACHEL DWYER,

Associate Professor of Sociology, Ohio State University.

Widely published on U.S. economic inequality, Dr. Dwyer's research has appeared in top academic outlets including the *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Social Science Research*, *Gender & Society*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, and *Social Problems*. Organizations such as

the National Science Foundation, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, and the National Endowment for Financial Education have supported her work.



VALERIE WEINSTEIN,
Department of German Studies

Anti-Semitism and Film Comedy in Nazi Germany

This project analyzes implicit and explicit expressions of anti-Semitism in comedies made in Nazi Germany. Although more restrained than blatant propaganda, ostensibly apolitical comedies performed the Third Reich's political work by subtly influencing audience attitudes and preferences, and coaching the marginalization and policing of those who did not conform to nationalistic ideals. Reinforcement of nationalistic ideas may be found in even the most innocuous aspects of movies, such as pace and use of humor, reflecting the racism of a genocidal regime. This project troubles notions of entertainment by deepening understanding of anti-Semitism and how it functions.

INTERLOCUTOR: ERIC RENTSCHLER,

Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and Chair of Film and Visual Studies, Harvard University.

Dr. Rentschler is the director of the annual Berlin Film Program offered by the Harvard Summer School (in cooperation with the Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin), an editor of *New German Critique*, and co-director of the German Film Institute held every second summer at the University of Michigan. His most recent book is *The Use and Abuse of Cinema: German Legacies from the Weimar Era to the Present* (Columbia UP, 2015).





Annual Research Symposium Keynote:
Posthuman Feminism

Rosi Braidotti, Philosopher and Distinguished University Professor and Director of the Centre for Humanities at Utrecht University, was our distinguished speaker for Women's History Month, and also the keynote address for the 11th annual Research Symposium. A pioneer in European Women's Studies, Dr. Braidotti is the founding professor of Gender Studies in the Humanities at Utrecht University and the first scientific director of the Netherlands Research School of Women's Studies. Professor Braidotti is an established scholar in the field of continental philosophy and epistemology, feminist and gender theories and post-structuralist thought. Her work rests at the intersection of social and political theory, cultural politics, gender, feminist theory and ethnicity studies. The core of her interdisciplinary work consists of four interconnected monographs on the constitution of contemporary subjectivity, with special emphasis on the concept of difference within the history of European philosophy and political theory.

Dr. Braidotti's talk, titled *Post-Human Feminism*, examined the idea of "posthuman feminist theory" as marking the emergence of a new type of discourse that is not merely a culmination of these two strands of thought (posthumanism and feminism) but a qualitative leap in a new and more complex direction. In her talk, Dr. Braidotti outlined the shifts of perspective taking place in the contemporary critical debates and how they differ from the explicit antihumanism supported by post-structuralist theories since the 1980s. We are, according to Braidotti, currently experiencing an array of different post-humanist feminist perspectives that are neither linear nor sequential. The idea of a post-human/inhuman/ non-human/ anti-human discursive field and the convergence between the post-human and an anti-anthropocentrism were explored, where the term "antihumanism" focuses on the critique of the humanist ideal of "Man" as the universal representative of the human and the idea of "anti-anthropocentrism" criticizes species hierarchy and advances ecological justice.

Braidotti is also known for polyglot fashion of writing, where the language of her text changes between English, Italian, and French as she engages different dialectical fields. These different forms of writing comes from Braidotti's unique background. The Italian-born professor grew up in Australia. She attended the Australian National University in Canberra in 1977 and received first-class honors degrees. She was also awarded the University Medal in Philosophy and the University Tillyard Prize (the oldest and most prestigious prize awarded to an undergraduate student at ANU). Braidotti then enrolled at Sorbonne University, in Paris, for her graduate work, and she graduated with a doctorate in philosophy in 1981.

This event was one of the most popular lectures of the year. The center hosted an over-capacity crowd of 120 people for this event.

TAFTco-labs

The co-labs initiative is a partnership and event accelerator, offering seed or matching funds for collaborative events between community leaders, private organizations, and public institutions. This program was designed with the intention of helping to generate civic engagement, public conversation, and debate in humanistic inquiry. Since the launch of the **TAFTco-labs** in the Fall of 2013, the Taft Research Center has come to be recognized as a regional leader in public humanities, bridging the gap between the University of Cincinnati and the greater Cincinnati community.

TAFTco-lab events continue to leverage the Taft Memorial Fund toward broad interest and shared cost support. This year, the program supported four major events: Eco-Judaism: New Jewish Approaches to the Environment, the Louder Than a Bomb youth Spoken Word contest, the fifth annual International Feminist Journal of Politics Conference, and the International Žižek Studies Association conference: Materialism and Materiality.

While some have claimed that Judaism promotes human entitlement to environmental exploitation based upon Genesis 1:28, for example, others have argued in support of an ideology of responsibility for the earth based on Genesis 2:15, Deuteronomy 20:19-20, and a number of rabbinic texts. The Eco-Judaism lectures featured a number of talks on Jewish faith and environmentalism, rabbinic responses to drought and environmental crisis, and zionism and the environment. These lectures considered contemporary Jewish approaches to environmental challenges with presentations on innovative readings of Jewish texts related to environmental ethics, cutting-edge attempts to connect Jews and nature, and current efforts to enlist environmentalism to solve contemporary Jewish challenges.

Louder Than a Bomb extended its first year success to involve 20 local schools and after-school programs. More than 120 students participated. The finals hosted a crowd of over 600 on April 9, at the Corbett Theater, located in the School for Creative and Performing Arts in Downtown Cincinnati. The event was co-hosted by Dhani Jones and Malcolm London. The University of Cincinnati Research

Institute's Metrolab also contributed to LTABcincy by creating art pieces from the students' poetry. These art pieces were on exhibit at Cincinnati's Contemporary Arts Center, and former UC President Santa Ono attended and spoke at the opening of the exhibit.

The IFJP conference is a unique cross-cultural and international forum for discussing the intersection of international relations, politics, and women's studies. This year's conference, titled *Decolonizing Knowledges in Feminist World Politics*, featured keynote speaker Dr. Zillah Eisenstein, of Ithaca College. Dr. Eisenstein, one of the world's foremost political theorists and activists of our time, spoke on *BEING PRESENT 2016: seeking new feminisms against empire*. The audience included over 90 registrants from the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe. A special thanks is owed to IFJP cofounder, charter board member, and Associate Editor, Anne Sisson Runyan, for her efforts in organizing this conference and welcoming Taft. Dr. Runyan is also a professor in UC's departments of political science and women's, gender, and sexuality studies.

Lastly, the International Žižek Studies Association conference, an internationally well-recognized and attended conference, featured addresses by Slavoj Žižek himself, Greg Harman, and Frances Restuccia, among others. Each of the keynote speakers is an recognized expert in his/her field. A special thanks needs to be given to Kristopher Holland, assistant professor and Director of Art Education Licensure for DAAP, and to Antonio Garcia, an independent scholar and former professor of critical theory and pedagogy at the Global Center for Advanced Studies, for their efforts in organizing this event.

This year has been an amazingly successful year for the **TAFTco-labs** and the Center already has events planned for next year. That includes working with the Contemporary Arts Center - Cincinnati on a Black History Month project and collaborating with DAAP, the Romance Languages and Literatures department, the department of journalism and other partners, outside of UC, on a Frida Kahlo photo exhibit at the Niehoff Urban Studio in Downtown Cincinnati.

OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS

Crossing Boundaries: Exploring Disciplinary Frameworks for Collaborative Health Research & Practical Matters in Cross-Disciplinary Research in Health and Medicine

Jeffrey Weeks, Freelance Geometer
The Shape of Space
Visualizing Four Dimensions

Michelle McGowan, Pennsylvania State University
Precarity in the Context of Breast Cancer Genomics

Gayle Fritz, Washington University in St. Louis
Feeding Cahokia: Ancient Agriculture in the American Bottom Region

Amy Stone, Trinity University
Something Queer at the Archives

Mo Asumang, Filmmaker, Actress, and TV Presenter, Germany
A Discussion with German Filmmaker Mo Asumang
Screening of the Aryans (2014) with director Mo Asumang

Global Migration Crisis Panel Discussion

Elizabeth Frierson, History department

Ivan Ivanov, Political Science

Sunnie Rucker-Chang, German studies

Evan Torner, German Studies

Yolanda Vázquez, UC College of Law

Moderated by:

Anne Sisson Runyan, Political Science & Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Rebecca Sanders, Political Science

Jessica Vasquez-Tokos, University of Oregon

Saying 'I Do' with Eyes Wide Open to Race: Latinos, Marriage Choices, and Color Lines

Larry Goldstein, University of Southern California
Adventures in Mathematical Consulting

Christine Hastorf, University of California, Berkeley
The South-Central Andean Religion of Early Settled Communities: The Fecund Female as a Long-Lived Deity

Chris Pincock, Ohio State University
Explaining with Idealized Causal Models

Berliner Republik: Reflections on/of German Unification

Kevin Quashie, Smith College
Breath, Violence, Quiet: Some Thoughts on Blackness

Gudrun Maurer, Prado Museum, Madrid
Francisco de Goya. Beauty and Recondite

Amir Dembo, Stanford University
Physics, Information and Computation

Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Arizona State University
Jewish Environmentalism: Faith, Scholarship, and Activism.

Justin Wolfers, University of Michigan, Peterson Institute for International Economics
Economics and Happiness

Daniel Kelly, Purdue University
Responsibility from the Outside In: Shaping the Moral Ecology Around Implicit Bias

John McNeill, Georgetown University
The Anthropocene: Are We There Yet?
A Global Environmental History of the Industrial Revolution, 1780-1920: Work in Prospect

Rita Kiki Edozie, Michigan State University
Malcolm "Omwale" (Re) Turns to Africa: Pan Africanism and the Black Studies Agenda in a Global Era

Sylvie Tissot, Université de Vincennes-Saint Denis-Paris VIII
Good Neighbors: A Case Study of Gentrification in Boston

Julia Watts Belser, Georgetown University
Fasting, Prayer, and Protest: Rabbinic Responses to Drought and Environmental Crisis

Deanna Grimstead, Ohio State University
Isotopic Evidence for Long-Distance Mammal Procurement, Chaco Canyon, NM

Matej Makarovič, School of Advanced Social Studies in Nova Gorica
Political Change and Continuity in Central and Eastern Europe

Dina Iordanova, University of St. Andrews
The Cinemas of Paris: Navigating the Abundance

Maurice Manning, Transylvania University; **Dr. Lee Martin**, Ohio State University.
Literary Nonfiction Reading

Yedida Eisenstat, York University
Against the Law: Rabbinic Law in Rashi's Torah Commentary

Graciela Cabana, University of Tennessee
Genetic Ancestry, Race, and National Belonging in Argentina

Marian Marzynski, Holocaust survivor and filmmaker
Never Forget to Lie: Unique Challenges and Opportunities in Making Holocaust Testimonial Films

Sara Pugach, California State University, Los Angeles
Counterpublics after German Reunification

Fukunari Kimura, Keio University, Japan
The Impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) for Japan & East Asia

Ander Monson, University of Arizona
A Literary Nonfiction Reading

Karen Dawisha, Miami University, Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies
Putin's Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia?

Geoffrey Parker, Ohio State University
Incest, Blind Faith, and Conquest: the Spanish Habsburg and their enemies, 1516-1700
Global Crisis: War, Climate Change, and Catastrophe in the Seventeenth Century

Alice Conklin, Ohio State University
When Knowledge Meets Power: French Anthropologists in the Age of Total War
11th Annual Research Symposium

Scot Brown, University of California at Los Angeles
Funk: Hip Hop's Parents — Dayton, Ohio from the Ohio Players to Roger Troutman/Zapp

Susanne Zwingel, Florida International University
Localizing International Women's Rights: Implementing CEDAW Around the World

Zoe Sherinian, University of Oklahoma
Religious Empowerment through Tamil Dalit Parai (Outcaste) Drumming

Haim Rechnitzer, Hebrew Union College
Songs of the Third Exile: The Theological Underpinning of Modern Hebrew Poetry

Brad Lackey, National Security Agency and University of Maryland
Danger of Failure in Post-Quantum Key Agreements

Tsuyoshi Takagi, The Institute of Mathematics for Industry (IMI), Kyushu University
Lattice Reduction and Lattice Cryptology

David A. Baldwin, Princeton University
Power Analysis and International Relations

Brent Luvaas, Drexel University
Wearing Whatever: Observations from Four Years of Street Style Photography

Stephen Siff and **Ringo Jones**, Miami University
American Media and the Psychedelic Experience

36th Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures

Dorothy Roberts, University of Pennsylvania
The New Biopolitics of Race, Genes, and Justice

Daniel Smith-Tone, University of Louisville, National Institute of Standard of Technology
Symmetry in Differential of MPKCs
Louder Than a Bomb - Youth Poetry & Spoken Word Competition

Nur Amali Ibrahim, Indiana University
Experimental Muslims: Piety in Times of Upheaval

Jeff Halper, Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions
Israel, the Palestinians and Global Pacification

International Feminist Journal of Politics Conference

Zillah Eisenstein, Ithaca College
BEING PRESENT 2016: seeking new feminisms against empire

International Žižek Studies Conference

Slavoj Žižek, University of Ljubljana
Is God Dead, Unconscious, Evil, Impotent, Stupid...or Just Counterfactual?

Graham Harman, American University
Slavoj Žižek and Objects

Frances Restuccia, Boston College
Is the Gaze a State of Exception

BUDGET OVERVIEW

FACULTY AWARDS: 34.8%

Faculty awards consist of travel, center fellowships, summer fellowships, release fellowships, research supplements, research support, departmental allocated research support, publications, and collections.

STUDENT AWARDS: 36.9%

Student awards consists of graduate travel, graduate enhancements, dissertation fellowships, graduate & undergraduate summer fellowships, graduate and undergraduate enrichment, and undergraduate research awards. Student awards remains the largest budget category, though the reduction of dissertation fellowships for 2015/2016 and beyond should shift this accolade to faculty awards.

FACULTY & STUDENT AWARDS: 8.3%

Faculty & Student awards consists of conferences, competitive and departmental lectures, and research seminars

CENTER AWARDS: 5.4%

Center-based programing consist of commemorative events, **TAFT** talks, **TAFT** co-labs, humanities **NOW** graduate conference, annual research symposium, research groups, and CHCI membership and conference attendance.

ADMINISTRATION: 14.6%

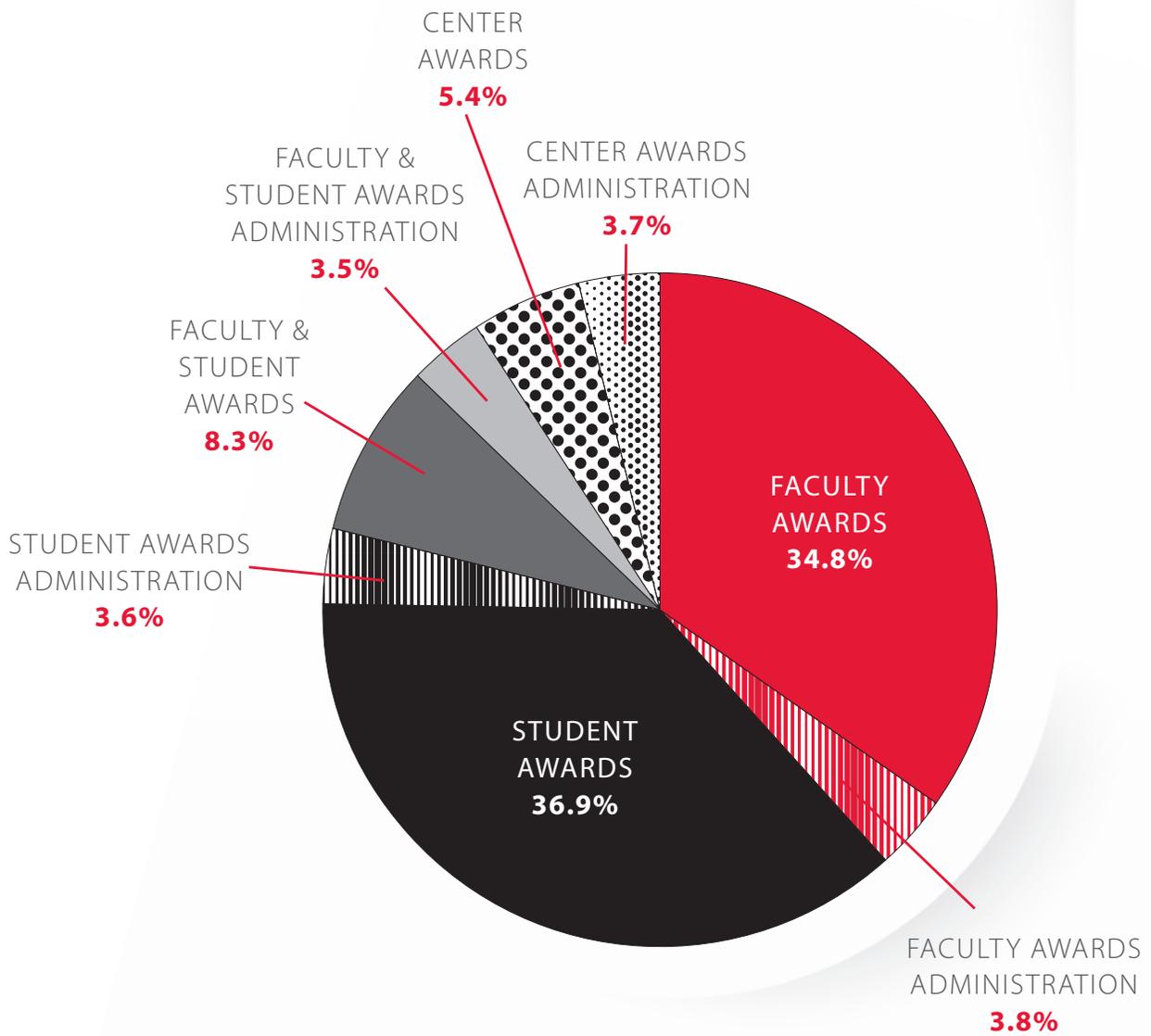
Administration costs of faculty programs, student programs, combined faculty & student programs, and center programs comprises just over 14% of the total budget. The breakdown of this category is as follows:

FACULTY AWARDS ADMINISTRATION: **3.8%**

STUDENT AWARDS ADMINISTRATION: **3.6%**

FACULTY & STUDENT AWARDS ADMINISTRATION: **3.5%**

CENTER AWARDS ADMINISTRATION: **3.7%**





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