American Studies (and CMCL) faculty member, Mary Gray, is a resident fellow this semester at a Microsoft think-tank. Matt Guterl asked her a few questions about her work, and life in the world of Microsoft.

MG: So what brings you to New England?

MG: You mean, aside from the amazing weather? I visited Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society last year to present my work on how rural queer and questioning youth in the United States cope with their often socially and technically compromised access to digital media. I also delivered a talk for Microsoft Research New England's (MSRNE) fabulous public lecture series while I was in town. Jennifer Chayes, a theoretical physicist and the Lab's Director, invited me to return as a Visiting Researcher and, as she put it, "play with MSRNE for awhile." How do you say no to an invitation like that?

MG: What are you working on?

MG: I am working with Microsoft Research New England's Social Media Collective, a team led by Danah Boyd, a MSRNE Senior Researcher, studying social uses of digital media. Most of the projects we're doing look at how young people use mobile social media—the mixture of hardware like cellphones or other wireless devices and software like Foursquare or Facebook—to create and negotiate visibility, privacy, and public participation for themselves and their peers. I am testing out a theoretical model that I developed in my last project, the notion of "boundary publics" as a framework for mapping the links between online and offline experience and the negotiation of social space. I am doing that by comparing how disenfranchised rural and inner city young adults, particularly young queer-identifying women, use mobile social media and digital media access and how locative practices—finding or placing each other or themselves through digital media—differ between rural and urban groups of youth.

MG: What is the Microsoft New England Research Center?

MG: Microsoft Research New England is one of the nine multidisciplinary think tanks and basic research labs funded by Microsoft around the globe. Like Xerox PARC or Bell Labs, MSRNE strives to bring together top researchers studying everything from game theory and economics to mathematical algorithms and social theory to think about the future and social potential of computer science. MSRNE has a group studying social uses of digital media, particularly what many dub "social media"—digitally networked applications and devices that link people through their social ties. Other researchers work on computational biology, cryptography and computer security, computer-supported cooperative work, and a host of other topics. The lab holds weekly meetings and myriad informal gatherings to bring together groups working on seemingly disparate topics to see how they can contribute to each other's work. It's an interdisciplinary smorgasbord—like, not one but twelve scholarly meetings happening at the same time and researchers constantly getting together in the hallways to translate what excites them about their work.

MG: Are you the only Fellow?

MG: I'm in great company. Two to three short-term visiting scholars come through just about every week. There are six other Visiting Fellows, like me, sticking around for anywhere from 3 months to a year. I am the only ethnographer of the lot so I feel like I'm awash in more math than I've had to juggle in a long, long time.

MG: How did you get this chance? I mean, where did you hear about this, and how did you get involved?

MG: Danah Boyd's work and our mutual interest in youth culture and digital media brought me to MSRNE. Meeting a few of their permanent research staff and talking with the Lab's Director Jennifer Chayes definitely sparked my interest in pursuing her invitation to apply as a Visiting Researcher. Like any academic residency fellowship, this is a unique opportunity to step back from the day to day of my research interests and draw on the collective expertise surrounding me to rethink what I'm asking and how I've gone about pursuing particular questions...they also have an expresso machine and snacks in the kitchen available to us anytime day or night. They make it hard to leave the office.

MG: I've seen you using an Apple.

MG: Truth be told: I am an Apple devotee. Thankfully, they don't ban Apple equipment from the building...but I think I'm paying for all those years I dismissed PCs in the past--my work PC and email haven't worked for me since day one. If you're trying to reach me at MSRNE give me a few more days to respond.
University of Minnesota

American Indian Studies

The Department of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota invites applications for a tenure-track appointment at the rank of assistant professor that will begin in the fall semester 2012 and will be preceded by a one-year appointment as a post-doctoral associate during academic year 2011/12. The position can be accessed through the online employment system at the University of Minnesota. To be considered for this position and subsequent faculty appointment, submit a letter of applications, a curriculum vitae, and 3 letters of recommendation. Please submit one article-length writing sample and evidence of teaching effectiveness to: Search Chair, Department of American Indian Studies, 19 Scott Hall, 72 Pleasant St. SE, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

Penn State Harrisburg

American and Ethnic Studies

Penn State Harrisburg, School of Humanities invites applications for a tenure-track position as Assistant or Associate Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies. The program offers the B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in American Studies, and has an active public outreach component. The School seeks candidates working in areas of American Studies including ethnicity, gender, race, and/or religion. Ph.D. in American Studies preferred; degree must be in hand by the application deadline. Degrees in fields other than American Studies may be considered if candidates demonstrate experience in American Studies education. The review of applications will begin on October 15, 2010. Please submit, a cover letter explaining experience, three reference letters, evidence of teaching effectiveness (e.g., syllabi, course evaluations, peer observations), and CV to American Studies Search Committee, PO Box H-Net 32980, c/o Mrs. Dorothy J. Guy, Director of Human Resources, Penn State Harrisburg, 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898. For more information on the American Studies Program, please visit: http://www.hbg.psu.edu/hum/amst.

Indiana University, Bloomington

Open School of Ethnography and Anthropology (OSEA)

OSEA seeks program assistants, TA/AI, and research coordinators for 2011 Summer Field School. Candidates should be highly motivated, mature, professional, with qualifications and/or experience in a variety of areas. Work period includes pre-program activities from December up to on-site start date in mid-May at quarter time and full time during the program and immediate post program. The ideal person will be a graduate student or recent Ph.D. who works in cultural anthropology with a focus on ethnography. Compensation includes on-site expenses of lodging and food, travel, and stipend according to qualifications. To apply, send a cover letter, letters of recommendation, and vita to OSEA. Please visit http://www.osea-cite.org/apply/2011_positions_open.php for details on job responsibilities and application procedures. You may also contact quetzil@osea-cite.org or qcastane@indiana.edu.

Northwest Missouri State University

American History/American Studies

The Department of History, Humanities, Philosophy, and Political Science at Northwest Missouri State University has been authorized to hire a tenure-track Assistant Professor in American History/American Studies to begin in the Fall of 2011. Candidates should possess a Ph.D. in History/American Studies, and experience teaching at the college level. Applicants should submit a letter describing teaching experience and suitability for the position, a current resume, official transcripts and three letters of reference including telephone numbers and e-mail addresses to contact. Applications should be sent to Dr. Michael Steiner, Chair, Department of History, Humanities, Philosophy and Political Science, Northwest Missouri State University, 800 University Drive, Maryville, MO 64468, msteine@nwmissouri.edu.

To submit newsletter content, please contact cglaze@indiana.edu
Upcoming Events

February 18-19—Ethnic Studies Research Workshop
9am—5pm
College Arts & Humanities Institute (CAHI), 1211 E. Atwater Avenue
Asian American Studies in collaboration with American Studies, NAIS, Latino Studies and Cultural Studies will host a 2 day graduate workshop on ethnic studies research work in progress.

April—Scholarship at the Nexus of Art and Action Workshop
TBD
The Workshop will be designed to bring together humanities scholars, artists and activists working to oppose carceral systems. Workshop participants will map landscapes of artistic and academic work on prisons and carceralit within specific disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields, the better to cross-polinate activist scholarship and art. The IU community will be invited to this open forum.

Accolades

Matt Guterl is the recipient of the 2010 Mary C. Turpie Award for "outstanding achievement in American Studies teaching, advising, and program development."

AMST faculty member Micol Seigel and two colleagues, Khalil Muhammad of History and Michelle Brown of the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institution are the recipients of the College Arts and Humanities Institute (CAHI) workshop grant. Seigel, Muhammad and Brown will organize a workshop this April entitled “Scholarship at the Nexus of Art and Action”.

Christina Snyder was awarded a CAHI fellowship for Fall 2011 to pursue her next book project “The Indian Gentlemen of Choctaw Academy: Status and Sovereignty in Antebellum America”.

Forthcoming Publications


Call for Proposals for scholarly and creative submissions for an International Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference entitled “Collections and Collaborations” to be held at Indiana University - Bloomington from March 24th—26th, 2011 (hosted by the graduate students of the IU Department of English).

New media-most notably Web 2.0 (and now 3.0)-have challenged us to think about our artistic creations, social spaces, and most deeply cherished beliefs along increasingly decentered, collectivist lines. Do such technologies push our creative and critical work in more collaborative directions? And given that ideas of collective fictions and culture, collaborations, adaptations, and translations exist in folk traditions, national legends, and the emergence of the bourgeois public sphere, is there anything new about collectivity or collaboration?

This conference seeks to investigate the notion of collections and collaborations from a wide array of angles. We hope to receive papers from a variety of disciplines, employing any number of methodologies and considering any time period.

We encourage proposals for individual papers as well as panel proposals organized by topic. In the past, this conference has bridged the "critical" and "creative," and we intend to host both critical and creative panels. Please submit (both as an attachment AND in the body of the email) an abstract of no more than 250 words along with a few personal details (name, institutional affiliation, degree level, email, and phone number) by January 15th, 2011 to: iugradconference@gmail.com.

Support American Studies

Your charitable contributions will help develop resources necessary for a vibrant intellectual community and environment by adding books to our resource library, developing programs to encourage and support student research, creating a student travel grant, and implementing program activities and events.

Please support American Studies, if only with a very small donation. This is as easy as going to our program’s website (http://www.iub.edu/~amst/), clicking on the “Give Now” button in the bottom left hand corner, and following the steps on the IU Foundation’s webpage. All donations are tax deductible.

No gift is too small

Call for Papers

7th Annual Indigenous and American Studies Storyteller’s Conference
deadline: 1 February 2011

As an Indigenous intellectual John Mohawk was deeply rooted in Haudenosaunee traditions and culture. Over the years he published extensively on Native wisdom, traditional philosophy and legal systems, economic and sovereign rights, human relations with the natural world, and Indigenous rights, all the while reminding us of the importance of the traditional foods and the Three Sisters (corn, beans, squash) to sustain the people.

Keeping the legacy of John Mohawk and his work in mind, the 7th Annual Indigenous and American Studies Storyteller’s Conference will focus on the theme of Indigenous knowledge and research in the wider American and international context. We invite researchers, teachers and community members from the fields of Indigenous and American Studies to contribute work on all aspects of Indigenous and American knowledge, language and culture.

We welcome interpretations of the conference theme and works which engage with Indigenous and American culture. We also encourage presentations from the traditional to the non-traditional, and invite submissions from all disciplines within the humanities and the arts. Please submit a 250 word abstract/proposal.

13th Annual Conference on Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics
Constructing Spaces in Literature, Linguistics and Culture
deadline: 1 April 2011

May 6th—7th, 2011

Space as a multidimensional concept has been constructed by humans through languages, arts, politics, and history. Our realities are a result of our interpretation of the space of which we are part. Such spaces are cultural, emotional, and sacred in nature, among others. It also creates limits and boundaries that need to be challenged.

Individual presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes. Abstracts and panel proposals must be at most 250 words. The body of the e-mail should contain the following information: title of the paper/panel proposal, area of specialization, name, e-mail, and affiliation of the author(s). The subject of the email should be "Abstract UCSB 2011." Please submit the abstract/proposals to: ucsbgradconference@yahoo.com

American Studies Program
Dr. Matthew Pratt Guterl, Director
Dr. Deborah Cohn, Associate Director
1020 E. Kirkwood Avenue | Ballantine Hall 521
Indiana University | Bloomington, IN 47405
Phone: (812) 855-7718 | Fax: (812) 855-0001
Email: amst@indiana.edu