Science Fiction in the Americas
Featuring Junot Díaz

Pulitzer Prize-winning author JUNOT DÍAZ visited Bloomington April 8th and gave a public reading of his work, the headline event for the workshop on Science Fiction in the Americas.

Díaz was born in the Dominican Republic, raised in New Jersey, and graduated from Rutgers University. He is the author of the critically acclaimed Drown; The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, which won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award; and This Is How You Lose Her, a New York Times bestseller and National Book Award finalist.

The Science Fiction in the Americas workshop, organized by the Department of American Studies and the Latino Studies Program included an academic panel discussion with M. Elizabeth Ginway, Associate Professor of Portuguese, University of Florida; Emily Maguire, Associate Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Northwestern University; and De Witt Kilgore, Associate Professor of English, IU Bloomington. This workshop, held at 1:00 p.m. in the Frangipani Room of the IMU, offered perspectives on how science fiction operates in a transnational context, focusing in particular on how authors and filmmakers throughout the Americas use the genre to engage with questions of power.

The public reading given by Díaz took place at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater on Kirkwood Avenue at 8:00 p.m. drawing a crowd of 429 people.

(See Photos on pp. 10-11)

Micol Seigel—Down Under

Micol Seigel spent her sabbatical spring in Australia as a fellow at the University of Sydney’s United States Studies Centre. Most of her time has been devoted to drafting chapters for a book on U.S. policing during the Cold War. She has shared portions of that research in talks at the U.S. Studies Centre, Sydney Uni’s History Department, the University of Western Australia in Perth, Melbourne University, and Monash University, also in Melbourne. Micol also gave a paper in the University of Sydney’s Anthropology Seminar Series, a version of which came out in April as “Convict Race: Racialization in the Era of Hyperincarceration,” Social Justice 39, no. 4 (April 2014): 31-51. With a colleague from Perth, Micol organized a panel on new work on crime and punishment.

Comments by colleagues and students: who attended the public reading:
“easily, the best event I have attended all academic year.”
“a dream come true.”

(“Micol Seigel Down Under,” cont. on page 2)

Lepselter (AMST & CMCL), advanced to Associate Professor. Her research explores the poetics of both popular media and everyday life in contemporary American culture, focusing particularly on captivity narratives, themes of gender and class, and discourses of memory and trauma in American social life.

McGraw, jointly-appointed faculty in the Departments of American Studies and History, was promoted to Associate Professor. He has taught the large format American Studies gateway course “What is America?” In fall 2011, his “Zombies” course was all the rave!

Who’s New?

**AMST Core Faculty**

Paul Anderson will join the AMST faculty as associate professor in January of 2015. He comes to us from the University of Michigan.

AMST Undergraduate Advisor

Heather Elkins, recently began her career as undergraduate advisor for American Studies, Sociology, Gender Studies, and Comparative Literature. Her office is located in BH 749.

Adjunct Faculty

**Jeff Gould,** Rudy Professor, Department of History

**Stephen Katz,** Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

**Rasul Mowatt,** Associate Professor, Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies, School of Public Health

**Maisha Wester,** Associate Professor, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies

**Jakobi Williams,** Associate Professor, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies

**Visiting Assistant Professor**

Myrna Garcia has accepted a one-year appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor with American Studies and Latino Studies. She previously taught comparative American studies at Oberlin College.
Kudos!

AWARDS

Cara Caddoo (American Studies) was awarded an NEH Faculty Fellowship. This yearlong fellowship will allow her to focus on her project, “The History of Early African American Cinema,” in which she researches early black cinema in the Americas.

Leslie Frazier (AMST / GNDR) received an Individual Research Award for $3,000 from the Institute of Advanced Study. Frazier has also been awarded a course development grant to develop a course for the Fall 2015 Themester: @Work: The Nature of Labor on a Changing Planet.

Karen Inouye (American Studies) received $5,000 of funding support for her new research project, “A Study of the Legal and Political Actions of Vietnamese Immigrants in Boston,” from the 2014 Faculty Seed Grant competition sponsored by the IU Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society. She presented some of the early findings for her project at the annual American Studies Association Conference in 2013.

Karen was also selected by the College of Arts and Sciences to receive the 2014 Trustees Teaching Award.

Michael T. Martin and Brian Graney (Black Film Center/Archive) were awarded a grant of $4,300 by the College of Arts and Humanities Institute. The funding will help offset costs for a screening of Naked Acts: Image Making and Black Female Sexuality, a Jorgensen lecture with film director Bridgett M. Davis and artist, photographer Renée Cox, a conversation with Cox and Professor Phoebe Wolkskill (AAADS), and a book signing and conversation with Davis and Professor Jacinda Townsend (ENG) that will take place Sept. 29-30.


Micol Seigel (AMST / HIST) has been selected for funding of $5,000 for her upcoming conference on Global Moral Panics from the 2014 Ostrom Grants Program. The conference is scheduled to be held October 10-11, 2014.

PUBLICATIONS AND LECTURES


Stephanie Kane (International Studies)


Ed Linenthal (History and Editor of the Journal of American History) was invited to meet with colleagues working on memorial plans to commemorate the July 22, 2011, terrorist attacks in Norway. In July, 2014, Ed will co-direct a Gilder Lehrman teacher’s seminar at the National September 11 Memorial Museum in New York City, “9/11 and American Memory.”

Alex Lichtenstein (History) has co-edited a special issue of Radical History Review on the history of the global anti-apartheid movement, which was just published this June. Meanwhile, his curated photo exhibit “Margaret Bourke-White and the Dawn of Apartheid” opened in Durban, South Africa. Alex is a fellow this summer at Humboldt University’s International Research Center on Work & the Lifecycle in Global History in Berlin.


In late 2013, Maisha was invited to speak at the University of Lausanne, Geneva, Switzerland. She gave two presentations; 1) “Beloved as Gothic Text”; and 2) “The Racial History of the Zombie.”
CARA CADDOO
Assistant Professor in American Studies

Envisioning Freedom:
Cinema and the Building of Modern Black Life

Cara’s new book published by Harvard University Press will be released on September 15, 2014.

Editorial Review on Amazon.com

Matt Guterl author of Josephine Baker and the Rainbow Tribe writes, “This is a big bold book and an easy, seductive read. Caddoo, a talented historian, traces the lost plotlines of mass culture, political struggle, and public space in the age of Jim Crow, plotlines that have been buried for too long beneath more familiar legal dramas and movement histories.”

MARLON M. BAILEY
Associate Professor in American Studies & Gender Studies

Butch Queens Up in Pumps: Gender, Performance, and Ballroom Culture in Detroit

Published by University of Michigan Press, 2013.

Description by Dwight McBride, Northwestern University

“At once revelatory and heartbreaking, Bailey’s ethnographic details leap off the page, putting the reader dead center inside the kaleidoscopic world that is ballroom. Beyond his wonderful storytelling, however, Bailey’s research is undergirded by the very ‘ethics of care’ practiced by the members of the ball houses he studies, as well as a nuanced theorizing that sacrifices none of the material implications of the political economy of racialized spaces—specifically the ballroom scene in Detroit.”

("Authors’ Shelf” cont. on page 5)
ELLEN WU
Associate Professor in History

The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority

Published by Princeton University Press, 2014.

Professor Wu writes, “My first book, The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority, tells of the astonishing makeover of Asians in the United States from the “yellow peril” to “model minorities” (i.e., culturally wired to succeed”) in the middle decades of the twentieth century. It charts the emergence of the model minority stereotype in the dual contexts of the United States’ global rise and the black freedom movement between the 1940s-60s. The Color of Success reveals that this far-reaching, politically charged process continues to have profound implications for how Americans understand race, opportunity, and nationhood.”

EDWARD T. LINENTHAL
Professor in History

The Landscapes of 9/11: A Photographer’s Journey

Published by University of Texas Press, 2013

Edited by Edward T. Linenthal, Jonathan Hyman & Christiane Gruber.

Description:

“In The Landscapes of 9/11, Hyman offers readers a representative sampling of his photographs and also relates his own story in a clear and detailed narrative. He is joined by a diverse group of scholars and museum professionals, including editors Edward Linenthal and Christiane Gruber, who use the Hyman collection to investigate the cultural functions of memorial practices in the United States and beyond, including Northern Ireland, the Palestinian West Bank, and Iran.”
Kudos! (cont. from page 3)

FELLOWSHIPS

Josh Vasquez, AMST PhD minor student (major in Communication and Culture), received a Dissertation Year Fellowship for 2014-2015.

Lindsey Campbell-Badger, a doctoral student in Communication and Culture (AMST PhD minor student). She was selected as the 2013-2014 Herman B Wells Graduate Fellowship for Leadership Abilities, Academic Excellence Character, Social Consciousness and Generosity of Spirit, for $33,000. Lindsey won the 2013-2014 Communication Civic Engagement and Pedagogy Award from the Department of Communication & Culture. Finally, she was named a 2013-2014 Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) Service Learning Graduate Fellow.

Courtney Mitchell, AMST PhD student, was chosen to receive a College of Arts and Sciences Travel Award in the amount of $500. She traveled to New York University in March and delivered her paper “Remember Death/Be Ugly/Know Beauty/It is Complicated: Internet Art, Digital Embodiment, and Queer-of-Color Relationality,” which was part of the seminar call “Performances on the Periphery.”

Holly Schreiber, a doctoral student in Comparative Literature, received a Graduate Student Conference Travel Award from the College Arts & Humanities Institute for $600. In Paris, France, at the IALJS Ninth International May conference for Literary Journalism Studies, Holly delivered her paper “Incarceration-Vacations’ and the Criminalization of Poverty in the Railroad Narratives of Ted Conover, Jack London, and Josiah Flynt.”

GUNDERSON AWARD

Professor Robert G. Gunderson, founding director of the IU American Studies Program, established the Gunderson award in memory of Virginia La Follette in 1985; it has recognized outstanding graduate student essays since 1986. This year, Jessica George, a doctoral student in English, won the American Studies Gunderson prize ($1,000) for her essay “The Art of Contingency in Kate Chopin’s Fiction: A Bioregional Approach to American Regionalism.” Jessica explains that her paper “examines Chopin’s post-October 1893 fiction At Chênière Caminada, and several other fictional works representative of Chopin’s primary bioregional affinities: the southeast coast of Louisiana and Natchitoches Parish.”

PUBLICATIONS


Nzingha Kendall, AMST PhD student, curated the Roots/Routes: Contemporary Caribbean Film Series this spring. It was co-sponsored by the Black Film Center/Archive, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Minority Languages and Cultures Program, and Indiana University Cinema. In conjunction with the series, the BFC/A hosted Guadeloupean director Mariette Monpierre to present her award-winning film Le Bonheur d’Elza (link to film on the IU Cinema website: http://www.cinema.indiana.edu/?post_type=series&p=6269).

Kendall published a commentary in Black Camera (Fall 2013) “Haunting in Akosua Adoma Owusu’s Short Experimental Films” that was part of a special Close-Up on Afro Surrealism guest edited by Terri Francis.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Alex Chambers, AMST PhD student, was selected by the College Arts & Humanities Institute to receive a Graduate Student Conference Travel award for $350. Alex journeyed to Rutgers University for the After 400 ppm conference in March of this year. Where he gave a paper, “On Inhabitability, After Man.”

Jordache Ellapan, AMST PhD student, was selected by the College Arts & Humanities Institute to receive a Travel Award for $300 to present at the Queer Places, Practices, and Lives II conference at the Ohio State University. The title of his paper is “Beyond the Black/White Binary: Towards a Queer Diasporic Framework.”

Photo by Nzingha Kendall, left to right: Alexandra Toledo (graduate student SPEA/CLACS), Mariette Monpierre, and Melissa Britton (Associate Director, CLACS)
New Beginnings

INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENTS

PhD
Giselle Cunanan—San Francisco State University
M.A., Ethnic Studies

Khadijah Edwards—Hofstra University
M.F.A., Documentary Studies and Production

Jezy Gray—University of North Texas
M.A., Department of English

Dual PhD
Alyssa Bossenger—Indiana University, Bloomington
M.A., Dept. of Comm. and Culture

Combined PhD
Joshua Robinson—Columbia University
M.A., American Studies

Special Non-Degree
Felix Grohe—Free University of Berlin, Germany
Malte Muehle—Free University of Berlin, Germany

MOVING ON!

Sarah Dees, doctoral student in Religious Studies (AMST PhD minor student), received a research grant from the American Philosophical Society’s Phillips Fund for Native American Research. In July, she will be attending a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Virginia. Starting this fall, she will be a lecturer in American religions at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Susan Eckelmann, Combined PhD student in American Studies and History, has accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga starting this fall.

Jennifer Heusel, Combined PhD student with Comparative Literature, is assistant professor at Coker College, SC, beginning fall 2014.

Cara Kinnally, Combined PhD student in Spanish and Portuguese, accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor of Spanish in the School of Languages and Cultures at Purdue University beginning this fall.

AMERICAN STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENT UNCONFERENCE—APRIL 25, 2014

Writing from Within

10:00 a.m.  Discussion: Navigating Qualifying Exams
Holly Mayne, Graduate Student, AMST
Jordache Ellapan, Graduate Student, AMST

11:00 a.m.  Keynote Presentation
Dr. Marlon M. Bailey
Associate Professor (AMST and Gender Studies)

12:00 p.m.  Mentorship Lunch

1:00 p.m.  Lightning Talks
Dr. Susan Lepselter
Associate Professor (AMST and CMCL)
Carrie Fudickar, Alexander Ashkin, Jedediah Kuhn,
Yari Cruz Rios, and Caitlin Reynolds

2:00 p.m.  Roundtable Discussion
Moderated by Cara Caddoo
Assistant Professor (AMST)
Undergrad WWOOFing in Europe

Stone Irr, a junior majoring in American Studies, is traveling with his friend Brian to Europe for ten weeks to participate within the WWOOF Program—World Wide Opportunities On Organic Farms. The WWOOF Program links volunteers with organic farms and growers to work in exchange for food and shelter. Stone and Brian chose farms in the Netherlands and Finland. During the first four weeks, they worked for a macrobiotic market distributor Peaceplanet Netherlands located in Castricum, Netherlands filling bags with grains and making pies with no sugar. Castricum is a small town located approximately 35 minutes north of Amsterdam. Then, after a two-week hiatus in Paris and London, it’s off to Korpilahti, Finland to work on a bee farm.

Before arriving in the Netherlands, Stone and Brian had a three-day layover in Reykjavik, Iceland, where they rented a car, and took a “Soul Searching Road Trip.” If you would like to follow Stone and Brian through the rest of their trip, you can find their blog at http://bystoneandbrian.wordpress.com/.

Stone won two awards from the College of Arts and Sciences for 2014-15 based on his outstanding academic record and his accomplishments: 1) the Stephen F. Cohen and Katrina Vanden Heuvel Scholarship for $3,000; and 2) the William G. Bray Memorial Scholarship for $1,000.
**MAJORS**

Desiree Dixon  
*Double Major: AMST / POLS*

Amanda Klenk  
*Double Major: AMST / HIST*

Michael Mohler  
*Double Major: AMST / HIST*

Alyssa Speichert  
*Double Major: AMST / CJUS*

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**MINORS**

Carley Cruz  

Stephanie Evans  

Paige Roehr  

Bradley Schmitt  

Jeneva Sumner (NAIS)

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Left to Right: Michael Mohler, Amanda Klenk, Alyssa Speichert

Michael Mohler accepted a full-scholarship offer from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers School of Law.

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**Recent PhDs**

**Dustin Abnet**, PhD in Communication and Culture (minor: American Studies), dissertation title:

*Royalty: Automation, and the Coming of Post-Industrial America*

**David Church**, PhD in Communication and Culture (minor: American Studies), dissertation title:

*Retrospeletion: Cultural Memory, Home Video, and Contemporary Experiences of Exploitation Film Fandom*

**Lauren Cordes Tate**, PhD in Art History (minor: American Studies), dissertation title:

*Pioneering Identity on the Frontier: Slaves, Soldiers, and Settlers in the American West*

**William Gillis**, PhD in Journalism (minor: American Studies), dissertation title:

*Say No to the Liberal Media: Conservatives and Criticism of the News Media in the 1970s.*

**Jacob Hardesty**, PhD in Education (minor: Native American and Indigenous Studies), dissertation title:

*“The Jazz Problem!” The Victorian-Modern Tension in 1920s Secondary and Tertiary Schools*

**Michael Lahey**, PhD in Communication and Culture (minor: American Studies), dissertation title:

*Soft Control: Television's Relationship to Digital Micromedia*

**Elizabeth McGoey**, PhD in Fine Arts (minor: American Studies), dissertation title:

*Staging Modern Domesticity: Art and Constructed Interior Displays in America, 1925-1940*
Alums Stay Connected

**Jordan Berty**, graduate of American Studies and Political Science in 2012, a student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, prevailed (along with her teammate, Rebecca Kennedy), in the final round of Pitt Law’s 34th annual Murray S. Love Trial Moot Court Competition. The guest judge for the final round was the Honorable Mark R. Hornak of the United States District Court.

**Kate Lemay**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Fine Arts, Auburn University at Montgomery, published “Gratitude, Trauma and Repression: D-Day in French Memory” in the book *D-Day in History and Memory: Comparative Perspectives*. Eds. Sam Edwards, John Buckley and Michael Dolski. Denton, TX: The University of North Texas Press, 2014.

Kate finished her doctorate in 2011 as a Combined PhD student in American Studies and Fine Arts.

Pictured from left to right is Patty Love Anouchi, widow of Murray S. Love, Jordan Berty, and Rebecca Kennedy.

**Mohammad Salahuddin** (PhD 2009, CJUS and FOLK) is Assistant Professor and Graduate Studies Coordinator in the Department of Criminal Justice, Philosophy, and Political Science at Chicago State University. Writes as Salahuddin Ayub, Mohammad has this past month presented a paper *The South African Security Police and the Truth Commission* at the 16th JSA annual conference (Baltimore May 29-31, 2014). Author of five books (published in Bengali) including the translation of an 18th-century text (edited by Willem van Schendel) *Francis Buchanan in Southeast Bengal, 1798* (ICBS Monographs Series 5: University of Dhaka 1994), Mohammad’s recent publications and research include: *Nåde: Bjørnstad’s Buddhist Novel on Bangladesh* (The Daily Star 9 (May 2014): 38-39; *Human Rights and the Marikana Massacre in South Africa* (The Education Charter 3, no. 4 (2013): 40-45; *Henry Glassie and his “Neoinductive” Methodology of “the Science of Tradition”* (under review); *Was There a Militia Movement in the Mid-1990s?* (under review); Ketil Bjørnstad’s *Nade: Violence, Marginality, and the Question of Identity in Contemporary Bangladesh* (under review); *Captain Dirk Coetzee at the TRC: Reassessing the South African Security Police* (under review). Mohammad will be presenting a paper on South Africa and human rights violations at the forthcoming MCJA annual meeting in Chicago (Sept. 25-27, 2014).

**Robert Ivie** retired from the Departments of AMST and CMCL in 2013 but manages a ‘Day in the sun’. He was named a Distinguished Scholar by the National Communication Association. The NCA generally recognizes 3-4 scholars each ear “for a lifetime of scholarly achievement in the study of human communication.” Ivie’s research often has focused on rhetoric as a mode of political critique and cultural production, with particular emphasis on democracy and the problem of war. “The National Communication Association is the field’s largest academic organization and, as a member of the American Council of Learned Societies, a key force in advancing scholarship on the process and consequence of human communication in its diverse forms,” Ivie said. “Membership in this community of scholars has been instrumental to my efforts to analyze and critique the rhetorical constituents of war culture.”