“The Global Legacy of World War I”: CSHM’s New Initiative

In collaboration with the School of Global and International Studies (SGIS), the CSHM has assembled a working group of interested faculty to develop a multi-year initiative of events that explore the many changes wrought by the First World War.

World War I launched the template of the twentieth century. Seldom discussed today and pushed from public view by the catastrophic events of the 1940s, “The Great War” completely remade the politics and culture of its time. It presented humanity with the spectacle of mass slaughter and upset the political order of the entire globe. National borders were redrawn in Europe and the Middle East; international relations were profoundly remodeled by the League of Nations. Nationalist challenges to colonial rule emerged in Asia and Africa. Arguments over the use of colonial armies and women in war foregrounded controversies over racialized and gendered conceptions of citizenship. In defeated nations fascist leaders won support to go to war again. Writers and filmmakers in many nations eagerly took up the global project to reimagine human suffering and the costs of war itself.

After the first meeting of the group, a number of events were suggested and are being pursued by various groups of faculty:

1. **FILM SERIES**: Claudia Breger (Gender Studies; Germanic Studies) and Bill Rasch (Germanic Studies) have indicated they
would be willing to pull together a film series on World War I. This probably will take place over several semesters and focus on films from a number of nations. Other faculty members who are interested in helping on this project should contact Claudia or Bill.

2. **FELLOWSHIPS:** The Center for the Study of History and Memory and the School of Global and International Studies have already announced a competition for faculty fellowships to support research on the “Global Legacy of World War I.” **See the article below for details on the 2013-14 fellowship competition.**

3. **CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP:** Several individuals have suggested the importance of World War I to the history of Asia—especially the Middle East and India—and to Africa. Interested faculty include John Bodnar (History), Sumit Ganguly (Center for American & Global Security; Political Science), Feisal Istrabadi (Middle Eastern Studies), Bill Rasch, and others. Please contact Professor Bodnar if you would like to participate in developing this event.

Dr. Barbara Truesdell, assistant director of the Center for the Study of History and Memory, is coordinating the faculty fellowship competition and will continue to meet and consult with various faculty members regarding the above suggestions as they move forward, and will work to coordinate the promotion of various events. The center may seek help in setting up a website for the initiative with the SGIS or the College to promote the events. If you are interested in participating in the World War I initiative, please contact Professor Bodnar or Dr. Truesdell.

**IUB Faculty Fellowships for 2013-14**

The Center for the Study of History and Memory, in collaboration with the School of Global and International Studies (SGIS), is pleased to announce the winners of the 2013-14 faculty fellowship on the topic, **“The Global Legacy of World War I.”** Each award is for $2000. Faculty fellows will present papers on their topics at a spring semester program to observe the centennial of the First World War. This is the second year the CSHM has awarded faculty fellowships. See the next article about our 2012-2013 fellows. This year’s winners are:

Roberta Pergher, Assistant Professor in the Department of History, was awarded a fellowship for research on
her topic, “Roped into Combat: Alpine Soldiers and Chronicles of the First World War.” Professor Pergher is currently working on a cultural and social history of World War I in the Alps. Her study will analyze the war amidst Alpine cliffs and glaciers and its meaning for the soldiers as well as for the people living in the valleys below. Tentatively titled The Battle for the High Ground: Nationalism, Technology, and Nature on the Alpine Front in World War I, the book will build on memoirs, military sources, photographs, and on-site visits.

Julia Roos, Associate Professor in the Department of History, was awarded a fellowship for her project on “Debates about Propaganda: The Campaign against the ‘Black Horror on the Rhine,’” a racist campaign against the stationing of French colonial soldiers from Africa in the German Rhineland after World War I. She is a historian of modern Europe with a special focus on twentieth-century Germany, gender, and sexuality. She has already published a book on the history of prostitution in the Weimar Republic (1919-1933) that explores how shifts in established gender relations and sexual mores after the First World War affected the stability of Germany’s first experiment in liberal-democratic government.

**Faculty Fellowships for 2012-13: “Memory and Civic Contention”**

The first year of the IUB faculty fellowships presented by the Center for the Study of History and Memory was on the theme “Memory and Civic Contention.” Anger and incivility permeate many societies. While there can be disagreements over the causes of this contention, the notion that things have "gotten worse"--in terms of our ability to articulate and address collective changes without losing our way in bitterness and personal invective--seems to be one of the few propositions that unites partisans across the spectrum of political, social, and cultural differences. Have public anger and uncivil discourse increased over time? Do narratives of decline create an imagined past in which civility reigned? And how do constructions of such a past color our diagnosis of current dilemmas?
In Fall 2012, our CSHM Visiting Faculty Fellow was Sebastian Carassai, Research Associate at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He teaches Modern and Contemporary Philosophy at School of Social Sciences in the University of Buenos Aires. His recent works on political theory and Argentine cultural history have been published in the *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies, The Americas, the Journal for Cultural Research, Prisma Jurídico*, and *América Latina Hoy*. He has contributed chapters to several books published in Argentina and Chile. His dissertation, *The Argentine Silent Majority: Middle Classes, Violence, Political Culture, and Memory (1969-1982)*, recently won the Esther Kinsley Ph.D. Dissertation Award for 2011-2012 and will be published by Duke University Press in 2013. His lecture was held in IMU Persimmon Room, and was entitled: "The Dark Side of Social Desire: Representations of Violence in Argentina (1969-1975)." The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Our IUB Faculty Fellows were Robert Schneider (History) and Oana Panaite (French & Italian). Both the winning topics examined aspects of French history. Robert Schneider’s paper was entitled: “Remembering and Forgetting: The Legacy of the Wars of Religion in Seventeenth-Century France.” Oana Panaite’s paper was entitled: “From Memory Wars to Anger Consensus: French Algeria Fifty Years Later.”

They presented their papers in February 2013 in the Faculty Room of the University Club in the Indiana Memorial Union with a welcome by CSHM co-director John Bodnar. Commentary on the papers was provided by Rebecca Spang of the Department of History.
American Folklore Society Consultancy to Arkansas State University

Arkansas State University’s Heritage Studies Program received funding from the American Folklore Society to bring Dr. Barbara Truesdell and Doug Boyd (Director, Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries) in September 2013 to the Jonesboro campus to conduct sessions on oral history, digital technology, and relationships with the ASU institutional review board (IRB). Gregory Hansen, ASU faculty member and IU Folklore alumnus took Dr. Truesdell for a tour of ASU-managed historic sites: the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum in Tyronza, the Hemingway-Pfeiffer house in Piggott, and Johnny Cash’s boyhood home in Dyess. Through ASU’s work in Second Life, they were also able to “visit” Lakeport Plantation. Dr. Truesdell’s written report on her visit will help Dr. Hansen and the ASU Heritage Studies Program evaluate next steps in developing their program and their historic sites.

Scholar in Residence

Radhika Parameswaran, faculty member in the IU Journalism Department, received a 2012-13 Collaborative Research and Creative Activity grant to work with the CSHM archival collection of oral histories as part of her research topic, “Covering the New India: Media Portraits of a Nation in Transition.” She will be using the four projects we conducted from 1999 to 2002 on Indian American communities in Indiana, which interviewed immigrants from India as well as their American-born adult children about the immigrant experience and their ongoing relationship with India.

Internships at the Center for the Study of History and Memory

The CSHM provides opportunities for graduate student internships to do research or to work in the archive. In Spring 2012, folklore student Kip Hutchins arranged for an independent study through the center, conducting a research project on the West African community in Bloomington. In Fall
2013, Library Sciences graduate student Steve Heinen arranged to work at the center’s archive for the fall semester to gain experience in archival processes for our oral history collections. The center is exploring ways to increase internship opportunities to students.

**Workshop on Indian Diaspora in Africa**
The CSHM is funding a workshop of papers presented by visiting scholars from the US and abroad on the Indian diaspora in Africa. In exploring the Indian diaspora in Africa, the workshop seeks to ask new questions about the particular social, cultural, economic and political dynamics that shaped the interrelation between India and Africa. The workshop will be held September 27, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Distinguished Alumni Room in the Indiana Memorial Union, and is directed by Alex Lichtenstein and Pedro Machado, both faculty members in the Department of History. Invited panelists are James Brennan (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Margret Frenz (University of Oxford), Uma Dhupelia-Methystrie (University of the Western Cape), Nafisa Sheik (University of Johannesburg), Dan Ojwang (University of Witswatersrand), Gaurav Desai (Tulane University), Antoinette Burton (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Jon Soske (McGill University), and Sana Aiyar (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). The evening keynote address in the IMU Dogwood Room at 5:30 p.m. will be given by M. G. Vassanji on the topic, “Not Just Right? Being African Indian.”

**Immigration and Ethnic History Society Award**
The Center for the Study of History and Memory is working with the Immigration and Ethnic History Society on its first annual award for an outstanding dissertation in the field of immigration and ethnic history. The IEHS will confer the award at its annual meeting in the spring of 2014. To be considered, dissertations must focus on some aspect of North American immigration and/or ethnicity, be successfully defended between September 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013, and be submitted to the award committee by November 15, 2013. All submissions must be accompanied by a letter of support from the dissertation director. One copy of the dissertation--either electronic or hard copy--should be sent to each member of the award committee. The award carries a cash gift of $1,500. Award committee members for 2014 are:
Media Preservation Project
The CSHM is an active partner with the Archives of Traditional Music (ATM) and other archives/research centers on campus to create a digitization and preservation “hub” for audio materials. The Office of the Vice President for Research has supported that initiative and is now setting up a permanent hub in the Main Library, designing space and seeking private partnership from a preservation organization to work with new IU staff. A percentage of the staff time in that hub will be committed to the collections of each of the project’s partners according to the size of their collections. In the meantime, the ATM is doing preparatory work with our center to digitize a certain number of open-reel tapes of early oral history interviews in our collection. This will help them fine tune the digitization process and the time it requires, as well as starting the preservation process for our analog tapes. Dr. Truesdell worked with Jason Groth and Patrick Feaster of the ATM to prioritize all the projects in our archive in preparation for digitization.

Online Oral History Training Workshop
Dr. Truesdell continues her work with Elizabeth Boling, associate dean of graduate studies and professor in Instructional Systems Technology in the School of Education, and Miguel Lara of the Center for Instructional Teaching and Learning (CITL) to complete an online, interactive tutorial on oral history methodology. The workshop will complete the website by the end of spring semester and do beta testing in the summer in preparation for release in Fall 2013. The self-directed tutorial will be made available for a fee.

Oral History Class
Spring 2013 was the second year Dr. Truesdell taught a graduate class in the Department of Information and Library Science in the School of Informatics
and Computing on oral history theory and methodology. Many libraries and archives are the home of oral history projects, so the class provides hands-on training and skills to students in the archival specialization as well as adding new interviews to our archival collection. The class will become a summer offering for ILS graduate students in 2014.

“Oral History and IRBs” workshop at the 2013 Oral History Association Meeting
At the Oral History Association’s annual meeting in October 2013 in Oklahoma City, Dr. Truesdell will conduct the first half-day workshop on “Oral History and IRBs.” Dealing with an institution’s IRB for an oral history project can be confusing and frustrating. When the federal Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) ruled that oral history did not meet the federal definition of research and was therefore exempt from institutional review board (IRB) oversight, the final decision on how to handle oral history research still remained with individual institutions. The result is that IRBs’ approach to oral history varies widely. However, there are underlying consistencies in IRBs which can demystify the bureaucracy and help a researcher shepherd a project through it. This workshop will provide researchers with the knowledge and strategies to successfully navigate the human subjects approval process.

CSHM Contact Information

Co-Directors: John Bodnar, Daniel James
Assistant Director: Barbara Truesdell
Advisory Committee: Jeffrey Gould (History), Jeffrey Veidlinger (Jewish Studies), Keith Barton (Education), Eric Sandweiss (History), John McDowell (Folklore), Anne Pyburn (Anthropology), John Lucaites (COAS), Edward Linenthal (History)

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