Historian Christina Snyder Joins AMST Faculty, Offers New Perspectives on Captivity in the Early Republic

Last year, Christina Snyder finished a two-year post as a Barra Postdoctoral Fellow at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies. The Center is housed at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, but Professor Snyder is no stranger to mid-sized college towns: she’s lived in Athens, Georgia (while earning a bachelor’s in Anthropology at the University of Georgia), and in Chapel Hill, North Carolina (while completing a PhD in History at UNC). So when she was offered a joint appointment in History and American Studies at IU, she welcomed the chance to experience the quality of life Bloomington has to offer. Snyder says that the “vibrant scholarly community and the interdisciplinary nature of this position”—and being surrounded by trails she can hike with her dog—also factored into her decision to come to Bloomington.

This semester Snyder is teaching A275, Native American and Indigenous Cultures. The class focuses on the Creek Indians, which Snyder describes as "one of the largest and most formidable Native groups during the colonial era." As students learn about the Native peoples of the deep Southern interior, they’ll consider archaeology, oral tradition, kinship, gender, politics, race, and sovereignty, discussing Native cultures within the context of colonialism and globalization.

Professor Snyder’s own scholarship also focuses on these issues; for instance, her recent chapter in <i>South Carolina Women: Their Lives and Times</i> (University of Georgia Press, 2009) centers on the Lady of Cofitachequi, a powerful female chief who met Hernando de Soto’s army in 1540. Snyder’s essay uses the archaeological record and documents from the de Soto expedition to explore the relationship between gender and political power in Native societies. And Snyder’s forthcoming book investigates bondage in the American South—but not in the tobacco fields of Virginia or on the rice plantations of the Carolina

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Archives Month: Documenting the Great Depression

Indiana University will sponsor a number of screenings, lectures, and performances in October as part of Archives and Special Collections month. Events address photography, personal narrative, and popular music during the Great Depression, including two weekly series that feature films from IU’s Black Film Center/Archive and the Farm Securities Administration. For details, see www.indiana.edu/~libevent/.

Right: Dorothea Lange, February 1936, California
Lowcountry. Instead, Slavery in Indian Country: The Changing Face of Captivity in Early America details how Native Americans in the Southeast practiced and understood captivity. “Captives in the region,” Snyder observes, “included whites, blacks, and Indians, and their fates ranged from death to adoption to slavery.” The book, to be published by Harvard University Press in 2010, begins in pre-Columbian times and traces how and why Native ideas about identity and community had changed by the 1830s.

Currently, Snyder is continuing her work on slavery and freedom in the form of an article called “Andrew Jackson's Indian Son: Native Captives in the Early Republic.” “American history,” she says, “is replete with captivity narratives from whites taken by Indians, but less well-known are the stories of Native people like Lyncoya, the adopted son of Andrew Jackson. In early America, thousands of Indians were held by whites in various states of captivity. This article focuses on captives like Lyncoya to interrogate notions of kinship and race during the early Republic.” She’s also exploring an “amazing archive” held on campus at the Glenn A. Black Laboratory. The Ohio Valley-Great Lakes Ethnohistory Archive, “a massive collection of documents dating from the 16th through the 20th centuries,” promises to be fruitful for Snyder’s own research. But American Studies and History undergraduates are also likely to benefit: Snyder hopes to develop a writing-intensive course that encourages students to use the collection.

> To submit newsletter content, please contact amstnews@indiana.edu.

## Latino Studies Professor Models Interdisciplinarity as She Explores Modernism, Gender, Nationalism

In August, Geneva M. Gano left busy Los Angeles for Bloomington’s limestone slopes, drawn by IU’s “great students, great faculty, great library, great community.” Formerly a lecturer in UCLA’s English department, Gano joined the IU faculty as a Visiting Assistant Professor of American Studies and Latino Studies. Her joint appointment in these fields, given her doctorate in English and Women’s Studies, is indicative of her commitment to interdisciplinarity and intellectual growth. These are the features she appreciates most about “doing” American Studies, and her teaching and research projects demonstrate how she works to fuse multiple critical perspectives.

In fall 2009, for instance, Gano is teaching a section of A100 (“What is America?”) that she’s organized around the question “Where is America?” The course systematically considers The American Century, looking at ten different sites that Gano has chosen to represent each decade of the 1900s. For example, Harlem is the focus for the 1920s, and the class is reading Claude McKay’s Home to Harlem and Langston Hughes’s “When the Negro was in Vogue.” Not all the “places” are cities, however: class members will look at “gayborhoods and wimmin’s land” as representative of the 1970s, and they’ll discuss prisons when they study the 1980s.

### Geneva M. Gano, AMST and Latino Studies

Professor Gano’s teaching in Latino Studies is informed by her current book project, “We Believe in Mexico: The Mexican Revolution and U.S. Modernism,” which investigates how the Mexican Revolution influenced U.S. writers and artists. She’s also finishing an essay on the queer modern painter and cultural phenomenon Rex Slinkard; it’s slated for an exhibition catalogue produced by Stanford University’s Cantor Arts Center. Her most recent publication is “Nationalist Ideologies and New Deal Regionalism in The Day of the Locust,” published in the spring 2009 issue of Modern Fiction Studies.

Gano combines her many interests and a sharp wit with a love of sweeter things: given four hours with no other demands, she told me, “First I’d pick about 5 lbs of boysenberries with my family. Then I’d put on my favorite CD—Sonic Youth’s Daydream Nation—and make boysenberry pie. After telling ten of my closest friends that the pie was in the oven, I’d get started on homemade vanilla ice cream. Then, while the ice cream was freezing, I’d knit a sweater and read some of Djuana Barnes’s newspaper articles.” Pie, ice cream, and leisurely conversation round out the imagined afternoon—which we can only hope will become a reality during Gano’s tenure in Bloomington; come July, she’ll have easy access to locally grown black raspberries and blueberries, if not boysenberries.
**U of Michigan**  
**American Culture/Digital Environments**

The University of Michigan invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professorship in “Digital Environments.” Scholars examining all aspects of digital media are encouraged to apply. The Program in American Culture is interested in how new technologies and information cultures intersect with questions of migration, immigration, class, community, identity, political democracy, social networking, race, gender, projections of American power, and/or citizenship. By Oct. 15, send letter of application, CV, writing sample, and at least 3 letters of recommendation in addition to a statement of teaching philosophy and experience, evidence of teaching excellence, and a statement of research plans. Address applications to Chair, Digital Environments Search Committee, c/o Mary Freiman, Program in American Culture, 505 S. State Street, 3727 Haven Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1045.

**U of Oklahoma**  
**Museum/Liberal Studies**

The College of Liberal Studies at the University of Oklahoma welcomes applicants for a renewable term professorship. Duties will include teaching (online) graduate museum studies courses, undergraduate and graduate liberal studies courses, and conducting and directing research in museum studies.

Preference will be given to applicants with an interdisciplinary background and promise of pedagogical and scholarly excellence. By Oct. 15, send a cover letter, CV, transcript, teaching portfolio, 3 letters of reference, and a chapter-length writing sample to Dr. Trent E. Gabert, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Studies, 1610 Asp Avenue, Suite 108, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK 73072-6405. Details: www.ou.edu/cls/

**Colgate University**  
**Latin American History**

Colgate University seeks a tenure-track Latin American historian at the Assistant Professor level to complement existing strengths in Caribbean and Atlantic History. Successful candidate will teach five courses in Latin American history, the university’s Core Curriculum, and related interdisciplinary programs (such as Africana and Latin American Studies or Native American Studies). By Oct. 15, send letter of application, CV, and letters of recommendation to Chair, Department of History, Colgate University, 13 Oak Drive, Hamilton, NY 13346. Details: www.colgate.edu

**Southwestern University**  
**Cultural Anthropology**

Southwestern seeks a teacher-scholar whose research and teaching is focused on Latin America, Mexico, the U.S.-Mexico borderlands and/or Latinos in the U.S. Successful candidate will teach courses including Introduction to Anthropology, upper-level electives, and ethnographic methods. By Oct. 19, send application letter, CV, brief statements of teaching philosophy and research program, and contact information for three references to: Kelly Lessard, Faculty Secretary, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Southwestern University, P.O. Box 770, Georgetown, TX 78627-0770. Details: www.southwestern.edu

**U of Illinois, Chicago**  
**Gender Studies**

UIC invites applications for a tenure-track position in Gender, Sexuality and Popular Culture. The ideal candidate will have an intersectional perspective, teach core courses in GWS, and contribute to the new joint PhD program (with the Departments of Latin American and Latino Studies and African American Studies). By Oct. 31, submit a cover letter, CV, writing sample and 3 letters of reference to GWS Search Committee, c/o Ms. Geri James, University of Illinois at Chicago, Gender and Women’s Studies Program, 601 S. Morgan, M/C 360, Chicago, IL 60607.

**Willamette University**  
**Art History**

Willamette seeks an Assistant Professor of Modern, Contemporary, or American Art History. By Oct. 31, submit cover letter, statement of teaching philosophy, CV, graduate & undergraduate transcripts, 3 letters of recommendation and writing/research sample to arthistorysearch@willamette.edu. Material that cannot be sent electronically may be mailed to: Search Committee Chair, Dept. of Art & Art History. For complete details, see www.willamette.edu/go/jobs

**West Virginia U**  
**Latino/a American Literature**

The Department of English at WVU seeks an Assistant Professor of Latino/a Literatures committed to developing curriculum and interdisciplinary programming in hemispheric studies, Atlantic world studies, adolescent culture studies, and/or gender/sexuality studies. By Nov. 1, submit letter of application and CV, a 20-page sample of research, and at least 3 letters of recommendation to Search Committee: Latino/a American Literature, Department of English, Box 6296, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506-6296.

**U of Nebraska, Lincoln**  
**African American Studies**

The Institute for Ethnic Studies at UNL invites applications for a tenure-track position in Africana/African American Studies. Areas of specialization could include diasporic literatures or cultures, or the Atlantic World. By Nov. 2, complete the Faculty/Administrative Information Form at http://employment.unl.edu, requisition #090520, and send letter of application and CV to: Dr. Kwakiuti Drehcr, Committee Chair, The Institute for Ethnic Studies, 303 Seaton Hall, P.O. Box 880685, Lincoln, NE 68588-0685.

**Loyola Marymount**  
**Chicana/o Studies**

The Department of Chicana/o Studies at Loyola Marymount University seeks humanities candidates with interests in cultural production, media and representation, critical race theory, or postcolonial theory. By Nov. 13, interested applicants should send a letter of application, CV, statement of teaching philosophy and research interests, 3 letters of reference, and writing sample to Dr. Karen Mary Davalos, Chair, Chicana/o Studies Department, Loyola Marymount University, One LMU Drive, Suite 4400, Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659
In September, Professor Judith A. Allen (Gender Studies and History) published *The Feminism of Charlotte Perkins Gilman: Sexualities, Histories, Progressivism* with the University of Chicago Press. Drawing on Gilman’s letters, speeches, and publications, the book investigates how Gilman’s theories informed her activism.

Undergraduate Eva Helene D’Ambrosio (Double Major, American Studies) spent the spring 2009 semester in Barcelona, Spain, where she took a course entitled “Migration in a Globalized World” (SOC-S 305) and received AMST credit.

During the summer of 2009, Elizabeth A. Burbach (Folklore and Anthropology) conducted preliminary dissertation research on baseball in the Dominican Republic. Her fieldwork was funded by a Mendel/CLACS Summer Research Grant, a Tinker/CLACS Field Research Grant, and a SKOMP Field Research Grant through the Department of Anthropology.

The University of Pennsylvania Press recently published *In My Power: Letter Writing and Communications in Early America*. In it, Professor Konstantin Dierks (History) examines how everyday letter writing served both to consolidate and to disguise the power of the white middle class in the eighteenth-century British Atlantic world.

Tanisha Ford (History) received a Visiting Dissertation Fellowship with the University of London’s Institute for the Study of the Americas (ISA) and is completing archival research in London this semester. On November 17, as part of the ISA’s fall lecture series, she will present a lecture titled “The Natural Soul: Black Women’s Hair Politics and the Global Black Liberation Movement.”

This fall, Professor Jason Baird Jackson began serving a term as chair of the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Among other projects, in 2010-2011 he and Danille Elise Christensen (Folklore) will participate in a working group funded by the Teagle Foundation. Eleven scholars of vernacular culture from across the U.S. will produce course materials intended to help college students explore the relationships of lay and expert knowledge in a complex world.

This November Cara Kinnally (Spanish and Portuguese) will be presenting at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature (MACHL). A longer version of the paper she’ll present there, entitled “Between the Old World and the New: Eusebio Chacón’s El hijo de la tempestad and Tras la tormenta la calma,” won the AMST Gunderson Award in spring 2009.

Professor David Paul Nord (Journalism) is an editor of the latest volume of *History of the Book in America*, a joint project of the American Antiquarian Society and the University of North Carolina Press. Four IU professors contributed to Volume 5, *The Enduring Book*, including AMST affiliate faculty member Paul C. Gutjahr (English), whose chapter is called “The Perseverance of Print-Bound Saints: Protestant Book Publishing.” Marshall Leaffer (Law) and Carol Polsgrove (Journalism, emerita) contributed chapters on copyright law and magazine authorship since 1945. With
John V. Richardson, Jr., Nord also authored the chapter “U.S. Government Publishing in the Postwar Era.”

The Native American Journalists Association awarded Professor Steve Russell (Criminal Justice) first place in the 2009 competition for Best Daily/Weekly Column. Russell’s winning column in Indian Country Today is called “Confessions of a Presumed Terrorist.” His book of poetry, Wicked Dew, won a First Book Award from the Native Writers Circle of the Americas, and Carolina Academic Press will publish his Sequoyah Rising: Problems in Post-Colonial Tribal Governance later this year.

The Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has selected Professor Darlene J. Sadlier (Spanish and Portuguese) as the winner of its international competition for best monograph on the writer Graciliano Ramos. Sadlier’s work, “Reading Graciliano Ramos in the United States,” will be published in both English and Portuguese; in addition, Sadlier will receive a $20,000 cash prize at a ceremony held in the government capital of Brasilia. Sadlier also edited Latin American Melodrama: Passion, Pathos and Entertainment, published this year by the University of Illinois Press; she wrote the introductory chapter as well as a chapter on Nelson Pereira dos Santos’s homage to melodrama, Cinema de lágrimas.

Undergraduate American Studies major Charles Siegel spent the 2008-2009 academic year in Buenos Aires, Argentina; he received AMST credit for several courses he completed while studying abroad.

Professor Beverly J. Stoeltje (Anthropology and Folklore) spent the summer in Istanbul, where she taught a course on Ritual, the State, and Public Culture at Bogazici University, an English-speaking university founded in 1863 by a New England Protestant group. Working with Turkish colleague Meltem Turkoz, she also conducted fieldwork at a festival in Aksehir that celebrates Nasreddin Hoca, a Sufi mystic whose wit and wisdom is known throughout the Islamic world.

Professor Shane Vogel’s essay “Lena Horne’s Impersona” was awarded the 2009 Outstanding Essay Award by the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE). Vogel (English) also received the 2009 Gerald Kahan Scholar’s Prize, Honorable Mention, for the essay. The prize was awarded by the American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR).

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Spring/Summer 2009


Naomi Uechi (CMLT): “Frank Lloyd Wright’s Transcendental Renaissance”

Sarah Lash (FOLK): “Singing the Dream: The Bardic Arts of the Society for Creative Anachronism”

Mohammad Salahuddin (FOLK/CJUS): “Patterns of Intergroup Conflict and the Predicament of Justice in South Africa”

Fall 2008
Matthew Bradley (FOLK): “A Journey against the Tides: Documentary Film Production as Pedagogical Practice and Counterstory.”

Kathleen McConnell (CMCL): “Inventing Pluralistic Education: Compulsory Schooling as a Technique of Democratic Dissertation”


Recent PhDs
Prove It Is Possible to Finish One’s Degree

The following graduate students in American Studies earned their doctorates between August 2008 and August 2009. We commend their diligent efforts and encourage current students to keep Paula Cotner (cotner@indiana.edu) updated with regard to your dissertation titles, graduation dates, employment after graduation, and long-term contact information.

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Contributions of any amount are appreciated. Please make checks payable to American Studies Foundation Account and send to: IU Foundation, Showalter House, State Road 46 and the Bypass, Bloomington, IN 47405.

Fall 2009 Events Calendar


Oct. 2: Exhibit opening: “In the Shadow of Cortés: From Veracruz to Mexico City.” Mathers Museum of World Cultures, 416 N. Indiana Ave, 5 pm.

Oct. 5: Artist Scott McCloud, “A Lecture All about Comics, So Good It’ll Make Your Head Explode!” Whittenberger Auditorium, IMU, 7 pm.

Oct. 5: Jacobs School of Music panel discussion, “Popular Music during the Depression.” Monroe County Public Library Auditorium, 7 pm.


Oct. 15: Luis Fuentes-Rohwer (IUB Maurer School of Law), “An Interpretive History of the Voting Rights Act.” Law School Faculty Conference Room (Room 335), 4 pm.


Nov. 5: Diane Taylor (Tisch School of Performing Arts), Annual Baum Lecture. Location TBD, 12 pm.


A new exhibit opens at IU’s Mathers Museum on October 2.