Global Humanities
Executive Summary

The humanities are born global. Our mission is to teach and research the languages, literature, music, art, ideas, and beliefs of the world, and to understand how globalization affects not just markets and networks but also culture and everyday life.

The Global Humanities projects aim to make our teaching and research global in both form and content. Students and faculty become global by learning languages; by collaborating with thinkers from around the world; and by experiencing the linguistic and cultural diversity that exists within as well as across locales, nations, and regions.

Global Humanities Projects

- The Clarice Factor
- Reframing Gendered Violence
- Precision Medicine
- Columbia-PSL Collaboration
- What Is Comparative Media?
- Global Digital Humanities
- What Is Journal Work?
- Global Language Justice
- Programming, Research, and Faculty Support
- Program in World Philology
The Clarice Factor: Aesthetics, Gender, and Diaspora in Brazil

In July 2014, participants of the Brazil as Global Crossroads project, under the leadership of Dean Sharon Marcus (Faculty of Arts & Sciences and English and Comparative Literature), visited Rio de Janeiro to conduct research at the Instituto Moreira Salles (IMS) and other institutions.

That December, the preliminary results of research done in the IMS archives were presented at a conference in Rio de Janeiro: Brazil as Global Crossroads: Modernities, Networks, and Representations. This conference featured papers by Columbia and Barnard professors Alexander Alberro, Ana Paulina Lee, Graciela Montaldo, Jose Moya, and Ana Maria Ochoa. Professor Barry Bergdoll (Art History and Archaeology) presented remotely. Brazilian professors from São Paulo University (USP), the Catholic University in Rio (PUC-Rio), and Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) also presented research results and propositions for collaborations with Columbia faculty.

One of those collaborations came to fruition this March, with The Clarice Factor: Aesthetics, Gender, and Diaspora in Brazil, a conference organized by Ana Paulina Lee and Graciela Montaldo, held at Columbia.
Lee and Montaldo, along with Flavio Pinheiro (IMS) and Elvia Bezerra (IMS), organized this multi-day event as a collaboration between the Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures at Columbia, the Instituto Moreira Salles in Rio de Janeiro, and the Columbia Global Centers | Rio de Janeiro.

The conference brought together the world’s most prominent scholars of Clarice Lispector, including Vilma Arêas (UNICAMP), Bruno Carvalho (Princeton), Katrina Dodson (translator of Lispector’s *The Complete Stories*), Gabriel Giorgi (NYU), Marília Librandi-Rocha (Stanford University), Marta Peixoto (NYU), Yudith Rosenbaum (Universidade de São Paulo), and Carlos Mendes de Sousa (Universidade do Minho, Portugal).

This group of interdisciplinary scholars, based in the United States, Brazil, and Portugal, allowed the Casa Hispánica to become a temporary center for Clarice Lispector studies, where students, faculty, and Lispector readers were invited to engage in rich dialogue about the works of the Brazilian author. Among the attendees were undergraduate students from Columbia and Barnard, as well as doctoral students from UC Berkeley, Brown University, Princeton University, New York University, and Columbia. New York based artists, actors, and directors who have produced and interpreted Clarice Lispector’s works also attended.

The invited scholars interpreted Lispector’s artistic production from the perspective of a wide range of fields, including literary criticism, global studies, urban planning, art history, music and aural studies, biopolitics, translation studies, and affect theory. Professors Bruno Carvalho and Marta Peixoto were the keynote speakers. The colloquium enabled interdisciplinary dialogues and connected scholars to artists across several national borders.

The program included a performance/installation of *edge of nothing*, based on works by Clarice Lispector and produced and performed by alumni of the Columbia School of the Arts. It also included a translation workshop led by Susan Bernofsky (Columbia School of the Arts), Minna Proctor (*The Literary Review*), and Katrina Dodson. LAIC graduate students were involved as moderators and commentators of the panels.

**Other Participants:**

Vilma Arêas  
*Professor of Literary Theory in the Institute of Language Studies, UNICAMP*

Elvia Bezerra  
*Chair of the Literature Section, Instituto Moreira Salles*

Bruno Carvalho  
*Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Cultures, Princeton University*

Katrina Dodson  
*Translator of Lispector’s The Complete Stories*

Gabriel Giorgi  
*Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures, New York University*

Marília Librandi-Rocha  
*Assistant Professor of Brazilian Literature and Culture, Stanford University*

Marta Peixoto  
*Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures, NYU*

Flavio Pinheiro  
*Director of the Instituto Moreira Salles*

Minna Proctor  
*Editor of The Literary Review*

Yudith Rosenbaum  
*Professor of Brazilian Literature, Universidade de São Paulo*

Carlos Mendes de Sousa  
*Professor of Portuguese and Lusophone Studies, Universidade do Minho*
Audience members for this multi-day event totaled approximately 150 people.

The event’s co-sponsors included the Columbia University Office of the President; the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities; the Institute for Latin American Studies; the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality; Columbia University School of the Arts; the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race; the Center for Ethnomusicology of the Department of Music; and the Latin American and Iberian Cultures Department.

Jake Lasser (SoA ’12) and Ana C. Ribeiro (SoA ’15) perform *edge of nothing*, written by Dara Malina (SoA ’15), during The Clarice Factor.
Reframing Gendered Violence

Reframing Gendered Violence opens up a critical global conversation among scholars and practitioners that recasts the problem of violence against women as it is currently discussed in a wide range of fields, both academic and policy-oriented, including human rights, public health, journalism, law, feminist studies, literature, sociology, religious studies, anthropology, and history.

Working Groups: Throughout the year, the Steering Committee met to organize working groups to develop collaborative research and public programs to concentrate on particular aspects of gendered violence. The groups began their explorations by considering whether focusing on the urban, on political violence and humanitarian reason, on “different” bodies, and on religion in the framing of violence against women might be productive.

Istanbul Workshops: From February to May 2017, Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul hosted a series of workshops for 22 graduate and senior undergraduate students in history, anthropology, sociology, literature, and political science from schools including Boğaziçi University, City University of New York, İstanbul University, Koç University, Sabancı University, University of Osnabrück, Yıldız Teknik University, Mimar Sinan University, Middle East Technical University, Ankara University, and University of Gaziantep.

These workshops brought together academics and students working on themes related to gender based violence in Turkey and in the MENA region and aimed to create a dialogue and facilitate exchange of knowledge at the global level.

Leaders of these workshops included Feyza Akınerdem (Boğaziçi University), Ayşe Gül Altunay (Sabancı University), Fatmagül Berktay (İstanbul University), Bikem Ekberzade (Turkish journalist and photojournalist), Tuğçe Ellialtı (University of Pennsylvania), Zeynep Gambetti (Boğaziçi University), and Işın Önol (Turkish curator). Columbia’s Lila Abu-Lughod (Anthropology), Marianne Hirsch (English and Comparative Literature), and Jean Howard (English and Comparative Literature) joined via video conference.

Steering Committee:

Lila Abu-Lughod
Joseph L. Buttenwieser Professor of Social Science, Columbia University

Rachel Adams
Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Director of the Center for the Study of Social Difference, Columbia University

Marianne Hirsch
William Peterfield Trent Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

Jean Howard
George Delacorte Professor in the Humanities, Columbia University
Discussion Series: Events throughout 2016-17 featured roundtable discussions, open to the public, followed by closed workshops in which issues were discussed in greater depth. All events were live-streamed and recorded, and are now available at socialdifference.columbia.edu.

Events in the discussion series included:

Is Gender Violence Governable? International Feminist Regulation
October 13, 2016
Dubravka Žarkov
Rema Hammami
Associate Professor of Women’s Studies, Birzeit University, Birzeit, OPT. “Follow the Numbers: Global Governmentality and the Domestic Violence Agenda”
Discussant: Janet Halley
Royall Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

Framing Religion and Gender Violence: Beyond the Muslim Question
November 3, 2016
Dina Siddiqi
Professor of Anthropology, BRAC University, Dhaka. “Child Marriage in the Feminist Imagination”
Nacira Guénif-Souilamas
Professor of Education Sciences, University of Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis. “Race, Religion, and Masculinity: Europe’s Obsessions”

Refugees and Gender Violence: Vulnerability and Resistance
February 10, 2017
Wendy Vogt
Professor of Anthropology, Indiana University/Purdue University Indianapolis. “Rape Trees, State Security, and the Politics of Sexual Violence on Migrant Routes in Mexico”
Chloe Howe Haralambous
Graduate Student in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University. “Suppliants and Deviants: Gendering the Refugee/Migrant Debate on the EU Border”
Işın Önlü
Curator, Vienna and Istanbul. “When Home Won’t Let You Stay: A Collective Deliberation on Taking Refuge”
Diana Taylor
University Professor in Performance Studies and Founding Director of the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, NYU. “Migrants and a New Mothers’ Movement”

Refugees and Gender Violence: Media and the Arts
March 30, 2017
Bikem Ekberzade
Susan Meiselas
Photographer, Magnum Photos. "A Room of Their Own"
Sarah Stillman
Director, Global Migration Project, Columbia School of Journalism and The New Yorker. “Global Migration Project”
Precision Medicine: Ethics, Politics, and Culture

Precision Medicine - an emerging approach to disease treatment and prevention that takes into account such individual sources of variability as genes, environment, and lifestyle - raises a myriad of cultural, political, and historical questions that the humanities are uniquely positioned to address. As part of its overall Precision Medicine Initiative, Columbia is initiating a broad-based exploration of questions that precision medicine raises in law, the social sciences, and the humanities, which will establish the University as the center for scholarship relating to precision medicine and society.

Through a series of workshops and lectures, the Precision Medicine: Ethics, Politics, and Culture (PMEPC) project brings Columbia faculty from the humanities, social sciences, law, and medicine into a dialogue with leading scholars from the United States and abroad to discuss how humanistic methods might enhance our understanding of precision medicine research. This engagement will also serve to inform humanists about evidence, evaluation, and research outcomes with the goal of developing new interdisciplinary scholarship that engages with this nascent medical field. PMEPC seeks to put Columbia on the map as the first university to explore the implications of precision medicine from the perspectives of the humanities and social sciences. The project’s findings have the potential to impact the clinical practice and research agendas of precision medicine across the globe.

Faculty Working Group: The Global Humanities project supported a working group on the ethical, political, and cultural dimensions of precision medicine that may be the first of its kind in the United States, or even the world. This group, which brings together Columbia’s world-class faculty from English and Comparative Literature, Health Sciences, Philosophy, Public Health, and Sociology, provides an excellent opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary discussion, networking, and other work related to recent developments and the future of precision medicine and society.

Rachel Adams
Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Director of the Center for the Study of Social Difference, Columbia University

Roy Nissim Alcalay
Florence Irving Assistant Professor of Neurology (in the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer’s Disease and the Aging Brain), CUMC

Christopher Baswell
Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Anne Whitney Olin Professor of English, Barnard College

Sayantani DasGupta
Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, CUMC

Gil Eyal
Professor and Chair of Sociology, Columbia University

Rishi Goyal
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, CUMC and Director of the Medicine, Literature, and Society major at ICLS, Columbia University

Marsha Hurst
Lecturer in Narrative Medicine, Columbia University

Adam Reich
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Columbia University
Lecture series: The faculty working group invited five eminent scholars to discuss the ways in which their work might contribute to a growing dialogue between scholars of humanities and precision medicine. Each of these public lectures was followed by a smaller working group in which participants read pre-circulated essays and engaged in intensive discussion with the invited speaker. In line with Columbia’s broad Precision Medicine Initiative and its leadership in this realm of inquiry, whenever possible, colleagues from Columbia’s Global Centers and other campuses in the New York region were invited to participate virtually.

Events in the lecture series included:

**Collins’ Cohort: The Path from The Human Genome Project to the Precision Medicine Initiative**

James Tabery  
Adjunct Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, and Philosophy, University of Utah  
September 15, 2016

**Cultivated Cures: Ethnographic Encounters with Contentious Stem Cell Regenerations in India**

Aditya Bharadwaj  
Research Professor at The Graduate Institute, Geneva  
October 13, 2016

**Can the Subaltern Genome Code? Reimagining Innovation and Equity in the Era of Precision Medicine**

Ruha Benjamin  
Assistant Professor of Sociology and African American Studies, Princeton University  
November 10, 2016

**Precision Medicine, Embodiment, Self, and Disability**

Jackie Leach Scully  
Professor of Social Ethics and Bioethics and Executive Director of the Policy, Ethics, and Life Sciences Research Centre, Newcastle University, UK  
March 9, 2017

**Will Precision Medicine Be for “All of Us?” The “Good Citizen” in an Age of Disparity**

Sandra Soo-Jin Lee  
Senior Research Scholar at the Center for Biomedical Ethics, Stanford University  
April 20, 2017
Columbia-PSL Collaboration

Columbia University and the Université de Recherche Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL) have been collaborating on a variety of projects and exchanges, including research, seminars, and conferences in both Paris and New York, and short-term visits by faculty and students. The Columbia-PSL Collaboration brings Columbia faculty into contact with some of France’s most prestigious and internationally respected academic and research institutions, including the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS), and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS).

Individual events within the collaborations include:

The Sources of Perceptual Awareness
New York, November 2016 & Paris, July 2017

Professor Uriah Kriegel, from the Institut Jean Nicod (IJN), recently visited Columbia to deliver a series of talks and to meet with Columbia graduate students. Kriegel delivered four separate presentations during his visit. Three lectures were given to classes taught by Professor John Morrison (Philosophy) and other selected groups: a lecture on the perception-cognition border, delivered to Morrison’s 4000-level graduate seminar; a discussion of Kriegel’s book The Sources of Intentionality with Morrison’s 9000-level graduate seminar; and a three-hour workshop on the work of Brentano, an influential German philosopher who wrote about intentionality. Kriegel also led an open colloquium on the distinction between “belief-that” and “belief-in.”

This July, Morrison will in turn visit IJN to give a public lecture and to continue research with Kriegel and Anna Giustina (graduate student, IJN). He will also speak at Perceptual Awareness, a conference taking place from July 10-13, which he co-organized with Kriegel.

Participants: Anya Farennikova (Bristol), Anna Giustina (IJN), Gabriel Greenberg (UCLA), Uriah Kriegel (IJN), Geoff Lee (Berkeley), Adam Pautz (Brown), Susanna Schellenberg (Rutgers), Nicholas Silins (Cornell)

Organizers: Uriah Kriegel (IJN), John Morrison (Columbia)
Norms, Beliefs, and Truth
Paris, December 2016

Achieving a correct understanding of the relations between norms, belief, and truth constitutes one of the most fundamental tasks for philosophy. The issue is of significance both for particular domains, and at a more general level.

Three presenters spoke at Norms, Beliefs, and Truth, a seminar held this past December in Paris. Columbia’s Professor Christopher Peacocke (Philosophy) discussed the special case of logic, norms, and truth. Jérôme Dokic (EHESS) addressed the issue of norms and truth with special attention to the distinction between intuitive and reflective or deliberate beliefs, and discussed the relevance of dual-system or dual-process models of cognitive architecture. Pascal Engel (EHESS) presented a unified account of belief as governed by a norm of knowledge, which distinguishes the core of judgmental belief from the other doxastic attitudes and quasi beliefs. Finally, Peacocke spoke again, proposing a new account of the limits of intelligibility in metaphysics, drawing on a conception of the relations between norms, beliefs, and truth.

Participants: Jérôme Dokic (EHESS), Pascal Engel (EHESS)

Organizers: Jérôme Dokic (EHESS), Pascal Engel (EHESS), Christopher Peacocke (Columbia)

The Global South: An Epistemological Challenge
New York, February 2017

Guests at The Global South: An Epistemological Challenge gathered for a series of panel discussions to discuss epistemological questions in relationship to the Global South as approached within a variety of disciplines, ranging from history and anthropology to literary studies and philosophy. The event brought together scholars from Columbia University, PSL, and the Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal.

Participants: Salim Abdelmadjid (post-doctoral student, EHESS), Alban Bouvier (IJN and ENS), Dominique Combe (ENS), Gloria Origgi (CNRS and ENS), Hady Pa (Université Cheikh Anta Diop)

Organizer: Souleymane Bachir Diagne (Columbia)
La vie des objets & La vie des images
Paris, May 2017 and New York, September 2017

From the Departments of Archaeology and Classics, Professors Francesco de Angelis and John Ma have collaborated on an interdisciplinary exchange program which has supported a schedule of events in ancient studies, involving faculty and graduate students from Classics, the interdepartmental program in Classical Studies, History, Art History and Archaeology, and EALAC.

In May, seven faculty members and three graduate students travelled to Paris for La vie des objets, a series of discussions focused on the general theme of how to “read” scriptures, images, and objects. A meeting between doctoral students from the two institutions focused on Image, Clothing, and Social Order in Antiquity.

Three important trends emerged out of that conference’s papers and high-level interdisciplinary discussions: The first is the interconnectedness of three ways of reading: philological (the detailed constitution of the objects of the scholarly gaze), hermeneutical (the critical interpretation of meaning in a variety of contexts and with awareness of genre), and media-aware (the study of how meaning and interpretations are shaped by media). The second is the obsessive presence of these problems across disciplines: the conversations, formal and informal, about documents, readings, text, and viewing between specialists of Classics and of East Asian Studies were one of
the major contributions of the May event. The third is the different results given by close reading and broad, general readings, which problematize the whole notion of “reading” images or artifacts.

This September, members of PLS will travel to New York for La vie des images, to further pursue the questions already raised and bring the various threads together. Publication options are currently being discussed. The outcomes of the collaboration have already been intellectually fruitful, and priceless personal contacts and conversations across disciplines have been initiated.

**Participiants:** Claude Calame (EHESS), Cléo Carastro (EHESS), Christophe Goddard (CNRS), Ludovic Laugier (Louvre), David Lurie (EALAC), François Queyrel (EPHE), Camille Rambourg (ENS), Andréas Stauder (EPHE), Olivier Venture (EPHE), Stéphane Verger (EPHE)

**Organizers:** Francesco de Angelis (Columbia), John Ma (Columbia)

**Music and Sound Studies: Intersections, Boundaries, Opportunities**

New York, September 2017

Over the last few years, sound studies has emerged as an academic discipline. Books, journals, readers, courses, and conferences have consolidated this historically transdisciplinary and dispersed field. This increasing attention to sound raises historical and epistemological issues and invites further consideration of the interaction between sound studies and musical disciplines.

This fall’s conference, **Music and Sound Studies: Intersections, Boundaries, Opportunities**, seeks to explore the relation between musical disciplines and sound studies through three key sites: sounds of the city and the historically problematic notion of soundscape; music, soundscapes, and the political; and the relationships among acoustics and neuroscience. An evening concert of recent compositions will display the current range of work in “sound art,” a richly interdisciplinary creative field.

**Participants:** Esteban Buch (EHESS), Rémy Campos (HEM-HES-SO Genève), Tristan Labouret (Conservatoire de Paris), Violeta Nigro-Giunta (EHESS)

**Organizers:** Esteban Buch (EHESS), Walter Frisch (Columbia), Ana María Ochoa (Columbia)
What Is Comparative Media?

What does it mean to study the history and future of media? We are in the midst of a digital media revolution that reaches across the globe. Data mining, the internet, and social media transform literature, art, politics, and our notions of the public. But these changes have varying histories and evolve differently across diverse languages, geographies, and markets.

The Comparative Media Initiative critically examines how the same technologies work in radically different ways across the globe, juxtaposing media practices in Africa, Latin America, and Asia, as well as in Western centers. This approach also compares emerging, dominant, and residual media, which always exist side by side. Both modes of comparison aim to decenter dominant modes of media historiography by highlighting the reciprocal exchange between aesthetic forms and technological innovations as they take place in specific contexts that range from state socialism to advanced commodity cultures to Islamic theocracies.

In order to pursue this approach to the theory and history of media, What Is Comparative Media? assembled scholars from literary studies, art history, anthropology, architecture, film, music, and other related fields.

This conference was co-sponsored by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the University Seminar on the Theory and History of Media, and the Heyman Center for the Humanities.

Participants: Zeynep Çelik Alexander (Associate Professor at the Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, University of Toronto), Weihong Bao (Associate Professor of Film and Media and East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of California, Berkeley), Tadeu Capistrano (Professor of Media, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), Peter Geimer (Professor of Art History, Freie Universität, Berlin), Tom Gunning (Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman

Columbia University Faculty Participants:

Stefan Andriopoulos
Professor of Germanic Languages, Columbia University

Noam Elcott
Assistant Professor of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University

Jane Gaines
Professor of Film Studies, Columbia School of the Arts

Brian Larkin
Associate Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University

Reinhold Martin
Professor of Architecture in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Columbia University

Rosalind Morris
Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University

Debashree Mukherjee
Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Columbia University
Ana Maria Ochoa  
Associate Professor of Music, Columbia University

Ying Qian  
Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages, Columbia University

Dennis Tenen  
Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

Distinguished Service Professor in Art History, University of Chicago), Miyako Inoue (Associate Professor of Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University), Kajri Jain (Associate Professor of Indian Visual Culture and Contemporary Art, University of Toronto, Mississauga), Mara Mills (Associate Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University), Gavin Steingo (Assistant Professor of Music, Princeton University), Jonathan Sterne (Professor and James McGill Chair in Culture and Technology, McGill University), Ravi Sundaram (Professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi)
Global Digital Humanities

Global Digital Humanities Speaker Series

The Global Digital Humanities Speaker Series, organized by the Dean of Humanities in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and co-sponsored by the Office of the President, Columbia University Libraries, and the Heyman Center for the Humanities, invited one lecturer per semester to speak at the Studio@Butler on topics of digital scholarship and the humanities.

Events in the series included:

Slavery Online: Three Projects from History Design Studio
Vincent Brown
Professor of History and African and African-American Studies, Harvard University
September 19, 2016

New media scholarship invites reconsideration of how history has been, could be, and should be represented. By wrestling with the difficult interpretive problems presented by social history of slavery, we inspire new conversations about history’s most painful subjects. Professor Vincent Brown (Harvard) considered three graphic histories of slavery: a cartographic narrative of the Jamaican slave revolt of 1760-61, a web-based archive of enslaved family lineages in Jamaica and Virginia, and a short video conversation on the relationship between the legacy of slavery and mass incarceration in the United States. Together they illustrate some of the significant virtues and limitations of doing history online.

The Various Tagore: The Making Of A Database
Sukanta Chaudhuri
Founder-Director of the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University
March 6, 2017

Rabindranath Tagore’s works in Bengali and English run to 36 volumes. He revised them extensively before and after publication, yielding as many as a dozen versions of each work. Professor Sukanta Chaudhuri (Jadavpur University) discussed the challenges faced in
turning Tagore’s work into the database Bichitra, the Online Variorum of the works of Rabindranath Tagore. Bichitra contains images of virtually all of Tagore’s manuscripts (47,500+ pages) and major print editions (91,500+ pages), with transcriptions, reading texts, a hyperbibliography, a search engine-cum-hyperconcordance, and a novel three-tier collation program. Bichitra provides a rich test case for many of the challenges of creating a large textual database.

**The Global Book Review**

*October 21, 2016*

Despite a decade of upheaval in the publishing industry, book reviews and little magazines continue to flourish worldwide. How have different publications adapted to meet the habits of far-flung digital readers? Has the international success of writers like Ferrante, Knausgaard, and Piketty spurred book reviews to pay more attention to foreign writers and works in translation? For book critics, is reaching a global audience possible - or desirable?

Writers, editors, and critics from around the world gathered for The Global Book Review, a half-day conference about the future of cultural journalism, to discuss these and other questions and to explore how the internet has - and has not - created a global readership.

This event was co-sponsored by Public Books, the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies, and the Office of the President, Columbia University.

**In the Same Boats: Toward an Afro-Atlantic Visual Cartography**

This ongoing digital mapping project, directed by Professor Kaiama Glover (French and Africana Studies, Barnard College), consists of a series of interactive maps that trace the movement of seminal intellectuals of Africa, the Caribbean, and the wider Americas throughout the Atlantic world, and aims to develop an easily accessible, visually impactful, and intellectually generative resource for twenty-first century humanities research concerning Afro-diasporic figures across space and over time.

---

**Other Participants:**

Laura Bennett  
*Culture Editor at Slate*

Sébastien Biay  
*Resident in Medieval Art at the National Institute of History of Art*

Frédéric Billiet  
*Professor of Medieval and Renaissance Music, Paris-Sorbonne*

Vincent Brown  
*Professor of History and African and African-American Studies, Harvard University*

Sukanta Chaudhuri  
*Founder-Director of the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University*
In the Same Boats will chart the extent to which these figures have had opportunities to be in conversation with one another: attending the same conferences, publishing in the same journals and presses, active in the same political groups, perhaps even elbow-to-elbow in the same Parisian cafés and on the same transatlantic crossings – literally and metaphorically in the same boats – as they circulate throughout the diverse spaces of the Americas, Africa, and Europe.

The project has been conceived as an ongoing collaborative venture to provide scholars with the opportunity both to participate in the development of a unique platform and to imagine research projects and pedagogical initiatives that cross the geo-political borders separating the various nations of Africa and the Americas.

**FAB-Musiconis (French-American Bridge for Medieval Musical Iconography)**

FAB-Musiconis is a project of Columbia University and Paris-Sorbonne University, led by Professors Susan Boynton (Music) and Frédéric Billiet (Paris-Sorbonne).

This three-year project centers on training graduate students in digital humanities approaches to the analysis and description of medieval images related to music, with a focus on the Musiconis database. Beginning in 2016, five graduate student medievalists from each of the two partner universities were selected to participate in a program of activities every fall, including two-week intensive exchanges in Paris and New York. The project gives graduate students in several disciplines of the humanities a well-rounded foundation in digital humanities approaches to the analysis and description of medieval images of music (which appear in media including manuscript illumination, sculpture, stained glass, wall painting, and Gothic ivories), with a focus on the Sorbonne’s Musiconis metabase. The multidisciplinary group includes musicologists, art historians, and computer scientists whose collaborative research for this and other projects focuses particularly on the development of new methods for cataloguing images and on applications of ontologies and linked data to the classification of musical iconography.

Co-sponsors and institutional partners include Columbia’s Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), the Columbia University Libraries (CUL), the Institut de Recherche en Musicologie (IREmus), the Institut national d’histoire de l’art (INHA), and the Columbia Global Centers | Paris.
What Is Journal Work?

In September of 2016, a conference was held to celebrate twenty years of the Small Axe Project and the fiftieth issue of the print journal *Small Axe*, a Caribbean journal of criticism. **What Is Journal Work?** invited editors (or founders) of notable international journal platforms to consider the distinctive work of journals in intellectual and artistic innovation and intervention. What is the function of journal work in the present? What is the relation between journal work and “fields” or “disciplines” of intellectual, political, and aesthetic practice? Are journals really necessary for intellectual and artistic production and circulation? Is journal work itself an intellectual and artistic exercise? What is the relation between journals and their publishers or, indeed, between journals and their editors? What is the relation between a journal and its audience? What are the appropriate issues to navigate around the question of print versus digital format for doing journal work?

This event was co-sponsored by *Small Axe*, the Heyman Center for the Humanities, and the Department of Anthropology.

**Participants:** Hazel Carby (Professor of African American Studies and American Studies, Yale University), Kuan-Hsing Chen (Professor at the Institute for Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Chiao Tung University), Louis Chude-Sokei (Professor of English, University of Washington), Nijah Cunningham (Assistant Professor of English, City University of New York), Lowell Fiet (Professor of English, Theater, and Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras), Sean Jacobs (Associate Professor of International Affairs, The New School of Public Engagement), Kelly Baker Josephs (Associate Professor of English, City University of New York), Vanessa Pérez-Rosario (Associate Professor and Deputy Chairperson of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, City University of New York), Patricia Saunders (Associate Professor of English, University of Miami), Ashwani Sharma (Principal Lecturer in Media and Cultural Studies, University of East London), Silvio Torres-Saillant (Dean’s Professor in the Humanities, Syracuse University), Yolanda Wood (Professor of History of Caribbean Art, University of Havana)
The National Science Foundation recently issued a warning that at least 3,000 of the world’s 6,000-7,000 languages are at risk of disappearing. This may be correlated to the decline of biodiversity monitored and studied by scientists. There is a new sense of urgency to explore the simultaneity of the rapid dwindling of linguistic diversity and endangered biodiversity.

**Global Language Justice** is an initiative to build a new cross-disciplinary field of studies at the intersection of linguistic survival as a problem of justice and ecological devastation. Taking language justice as the humanistic equivalent of environmental justice, the initiative aims to initiate a cutting-edge program of research and pedagogical innovation at the interface of science, humanities, and big data to address a range of questions that are typically kept separate and compartmentalized: the global impact of English monolingualism; the relationship of language and technology; the problem of translation (including machine translation) across disciplinary divides; and new possibilities for revivifying language communities at the interface of arts activism, legal redress, and digital technologies.

The introduction of this pioneering field of study will amplify Columbia’s leadership role in the reinvention of the humanities for the twenty-first century. By taking up the pressing issue of language justice, Global Language Justice will create a unique and lasting legacy, germinating graduate and undergraduate courses and developing new research directions for the humanities and social sciences.
What has Africa lost due to the disuse of African languages in education? What is the relevance of African languages in knowledge production and sharing? What has been achieved so far toward the development of African languages and indigenous knowledge? What are the future prospects for African languages? How can African languages contribute in the construction of knowledge through literature, translation, poetry, and fiction? And what is the role of African language writers, translators, researchers, and teachers?

The first conference of the Northeast Consortium for Programs in African Languages, African Languages, Agency, and the Production of Knowledge, was held at Columbia University to answer these and other questions. Scholars from diverse disciplines assembled to engage in dialogue on the current status of African languages as conveyors of knowledge, their relevance in knowledge production and sharing, and their role in the future of knowledge construction.

Keynote lectures were delivered by Professors Ghirmai Negash (Ohio University), speaking on “Becoming Better Eagles: Lessons for the Postcolonial Unconscious of African Languages,” and Fallou Ngom (Boston University), speaking on “The African Library, the Europhone, and the Non-Europhone Intellectuals.”

Co-sponsors included the Office of the University Provost; the Office of the Dean of Social Science, Faculty of Arts and Sciences; the Middle East Institute; the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies; the Department of Africana Studies, Barnard College; the Department of French and Romance Philology; the Language Resource Center; the Department of Anthropology; and the Institute for African Studies.
A Tribute to John Berger, Featuring Teju Cole & Geoff Dyer  
March 30-31, 2017

This two-day conference was organized in tribute to John Berger, the public intellectual and man of letters, who died on January 2, 2017, at the age of 90. Keynote lectures were delivered by writers Teju Cole and Geoff Dyer. Other events included a screening of The Seasons at Quincy, a 2016 documentary film about Berger, directed by Tilda Swinton and others, and a series of panel presentations and conversations.

Co-sponsors for A Tribute to John Berger included Public Books, Columbia University's Office of the President, Columbia School of the Arts, the Department of Art History and Archaeology, and the 20/21 Colloquium in the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

Media Practices in India and China  
Summer 2017

Led by Columbia film scholars Debashree Mukherjee (MESAAS) and Ying Qian (EALAC), Media Practices in India and China will take students to Mumbai and Beijing to investigate contemporary media practices in India and China. Through visits to sites of media production, exhibition, and consumption, as well as meetings with a wide array of media practitioners, including independent documentary filmmakers, minority media activists, media corporations, and state institutions for media regulation and creation, students will discuss media in relation to (post)colonial conditions, authoritarianism, oppositional politics, urbanization, and globalization. The class is supported with the help of Columbia Global Centers | Mumbai and Columbia Global Centers | Beijing.

This program is part of Columbia's Global Scholars Program, run by the Weatherhead East Asian Institute and the Office of Global Programs.
Reading in French Now
Fall 2017

The wide-ranging changes in the production, marketing, and delivery of books that are currently transforming the publishing industry are global in scope, yet there are important regional and linguistic differences in the impact to France and French-speaking regions. Shifts in the modalities of print capitalism as well as the technologies of writing and reading present both challenges and opportunities to producers, retailers, and readers. Notably, in nations where there has been a limited history of publishing and book commerce, the arrival of new forms of access to literary material is creating opportunities to expand readership and foster literary culture.

Organized by Professor Madeleine Dobie (French and Romance Philology), with the help of Columbia Global Centers | Paris, Reading in French Now will feature two public conversations focusing on contemporary publishing, circulation, and reading in the francophone world. In the first, representatives of prominent and dynamic presses based in France, Algeria, Canada, and the United States will discuss the evolution of French-language publishing. The second conversation will focus on changing modes of distribution and circulation of literature, including digital open source and book sharing initiatives, new modes of piracy, and the return of book fairs and salons as forums for the circulation of books. These conversations will also connect with a Center for French and Francophone Studies initiative to respond to the current decline in the teaching of foreign languages.
Undead Texts: Grand Narratives and the History of the Human Sciences
November 1-2, 2018

“Undead texts” refer to works that were once widely taught and cited and, though now considered out-of-date, remain avidly read by undergraduates and the general public. Though specialists have refuted them, these texts refuse to die. They have never gone out of print, continue to be translated into various languages, and appear on undergraduate course syllabi. These works, often encyclopaedic in scope, persist because no new narrative of comparative sweep and power has replaced them, and because pedagogy thrives on grand narratives. Examples include Simone de Beauvoir’s The Second Sex, Erving Goffman’s The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life, and Eric Williams’s Capitalism and Slavery.

Undead Texts: Grand Narratives and the History of the Human Sciences is devoted to these texts in diverse disciplines across the human sciences. The premise of the conference is that there is something to be learned by reflecting on each of these texts in its own right and by thinking about them together as a historical phenomenon. What can be said about any discipline-spanning similarities among these texts and the contexts that spawned them? What made and makes these texts so magnetic? What keys do they hold to understanding the history of 20th-century knowledge and ideas? What conditions of education and publication gave rise to these works and contributed to their far-reaching influence, and what conditions have replaced them? What has been lost and gained by moving away from this kind of scholarship, and might academics ever want to promote a return to it?

Organized by Columbia’s Dean Sharon Marcus (Faculty of Arts & Sciences and English and Comparative Literature) and Professor Lorraine Daston of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin.

Other Participants:

Susan Alcock
Professor of Classics and Classical Archaeology, University of Michigan

Jan Assmann
Honorary Professor of Cultural Studies, University of Konstanz

Simone Browne
Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin

Roderick Campbell
Assistant Professor of East Asian Archaeology and History, ISAW

Teju Cole
Writer

James Conant
Chester D. Tripp Professor of Humanities, University of Chicago

Margaret Conkey
Professor of Anthropology, UC Berkeley

Ayça Çubukçu
Assistant Professor in Human Rights, London School of Economics

Lorraine Daston
Executive Director of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

Shannon Dawdy
Associate Professor of Anthropology and of Social Sciences, University of Chicago

Siddhartha Deb
Associate Professor of Literary Studies, The New School

Laurent Dubois
Professor of Romance Studies, Duke University

Geoff Dyer
Writer
Multiple Antiquities: Archaeology, the Global Present, and the Remote Past  
Fall 2018

Organized by Professor Francesco de Angelis (Art History and Archaeology), Multiple Antiquities: Archaeology, the Global Present, and the Remote Past will tackle the question of the relevance of the “ancient” in the contemporary world. What counts as archaeological antiquity today and how is this notion defined in different contexts? What cultural traditions, disciplinary practices, and political conditions contribute to its definition? And ultimately: What is the point of studying ancient pasts through archaeology today?

The goal is to critically address the issue of the multiplicity of archaeological pasts by investigating the epistemological, historical, and political assumptions on which they are based from a global perspective. The key to success is to draw archaeologists from different world regions to discuss these topics as global phenomena. Another key point of the conference is to re-envision a world of archaeology that combines the essential inquiries of both humanities and social science.

Film and Labor: Techniques, Technologies, Bodies  
Spring 2018

Professor Debashree Mukherjee (MESAAS) will organize a workshop on Film and Labor: Techniques, Technologies, Bodies, to be held in Mumbai next spring. This workshop will be created in partnership with the Columbia Global Centers | Mumbai.

On Violence  
Spring 2018

Professor Shamus Khan (Sociology) is organizing On Violence, a conference which will gather scholars of the humanities and the humanistic social sciences to give papers on violence, from its micro-foundations in interpersonal violence, to inter-state conflict. International scholars from the Indian sub-continent, Africa, and South America will participate. The issues engaged with will include global conflicts, as well as perspectives on inter-personal violence from non-Western scholars. The proceedings will be published in a special issue of the scholarly journal Public Culture.
Indian Painting and Poetry & Indian Regional History
Spring 2018 & Fall 2019

Professor Allison Busch (MESAAS) will organize two loosely related upcoming events on Indian regional, literary, and cultural history. These meetings are planned to take place in New York, Philadelphia, and various other locations throughout the area.

Recent scholarship in the fields of Indian painting and poetry points toward the need to think in more complex ways about the relationship across these arts. Many Indian paintings from the 16th to 19th centuries originally had bands of writing across the top; in earlier generations, collectors removed these bands and sold the paintings denuded of their text. Clearly, however, text and image had a close relationship at the moment these artifacts were produced.

The disciplinary configurations of today’s universities make it rare for a poetry scholar to know anything about painting, and vice versa. In the spring of 2018, Busch will organize a workshop, Indian Painting and Poetry, to bring together scholars from the worlds of poetry and painting to present on text-image relationships, and to produce a specially edited journal volume that will demonstrate the value of considering intermedial relationships across the arts.

The scholars involved in this project will be interacting with collections throughout the New York City area, as well as at Philadelphia’s Museum of Art; individual events will be scheduled in multiple locations, allowing for access to archives and artifacts.

This conference will be co-sponsored and organized in collaboration with Art History Conservation Archaeology at the Institute of Fine Arts, NYU.

In 2019, Busch will follow up the event on Indian historical poetry and art with a second conference on the topic of Indian Regional History.

The field of Indian History has begun to recognize the importance of looking beyond mainstream writings in Persian to understand the precolonial past. Recent research is in fact beginning to investigate and theorize with far more precision the historiographical diversity of the Subcontinent.
This conference will bring together scholars working in diverse regional and historical traditions to foster new research about historiographical subcultures.

Papers from this event will be published in a special issue of *South Asian History and Culture* or another journal.
Columbia’s Program in World Philology (PWP) places philology at the center of the humanities. Philology, defined over the course of its history as everything from text criticism to “slow reading” to “all erudition in language,” is at base the discipline of making sense of texts. Under this description, philology is almost as old as the production of written texts themselves. Over time it has proven to be as central to knowledge as mathematics or philosophy, and its methods, like theirs, have similarly been adopted in other disciplines.

PWP aims to unite Columbia scholars across departments and schools around the discipline-based study of texts, as well as to enlist the world’s best scholars to translate and annotate texts from the African, Hebrew, Arabic, Chinese, European, Japanese, Persian, and Indian traditions. The program hosted a lecture series with the goal of exploring globally diverse practices for understanding texts.

This series was co-sponsored by the Society of Fellows and the Heyman Center for the Humanities.

Speakers in the lecture series included:

*Traditions of Exegesis: What Audiences Do with Oral and Written Texts in Africa*
Karin Barber
*Professor of African Cultural Anthropology, University of Birmingham*
October 27, 2015

*Glossing and Other Traces of Vernacular Reading*
John Whitman
*Professor of Linguistics, Cornell University*
November 19, 2015
Co-sponsored by the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture
Sounding Off: Murmurs, Quotes, Cries, and Cackles in Maya Glyphs
Stephen D. Houston
Dupee Family Professor of Social Science, Brown University
February 26, 2016

Christianity and Philology: Blood Wedding?
Anthony Grafton
Henry Putnam University Professor of History, Princeton University
April 18, 2016

Timbuktu and the Best Friends of the Philologist
Shamil Jeppie
Associate Professor in the Department of Historical Studies, University of Cape Town
November 14, 2016

Renewing a Dynamic Cognitive Philology of Numerals
Stephen Chrisomalis
Associate Professor of Linguistics, Wayne State University
February 24, 2017

Philology and Linguistic Awareness at the Dawn of Writing
Christopher Woods
Associate Professor of Sumerology, University of Chicago
April 3, 2017