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Envisioning bodily difference: Refiguring fat and lesbian subjects in contemporary art and visual culture, 1968--2009

Author: Snider, Stefanie


Abstract: Envisioning Bodily Difference: Refiguring Fat and Lesbian Subjects in Contemporary Art and Visual Culture, 1968-2009 focuses on both lesbian and fat subjects in multiple forms of visual representation over the past forty years in the United States. Nearly all of the individuals imaged in the representations discussed here are self-identified as lesbians and/or queer women. Many of them are fat as well. Many of the representations discussed here were produced within lesbian and fat subcultures, made by those who identify with these communities and who planned to circulate the images within the subculture, whether through journals or newsletters, books, or art galleries. Each set of creators and objects or experiences chosen to be discussed in the subsections of the three chapters and conclusion of the dissertation in some way help to negotiate the ways in which fat women and lesbians or queer women have been visualized in the past several decades. More broadly, each has contributed to the ways in which mainstream and/or subcultural communities have reconceptualized norms about bodily comportment, gender, and sexual expression through visual representation. Along the historical timeline of this dissertation, beginning in 1968 and lasting through 2009, most of the subjects looked at here have been considered deviant or "non-normative" (i.e., female, non-white, disabled, fat, and lesbian subjects) in large part because of body-based identities. Moreover, many have been seen as monstrous, excessive, and dangerous—to themselves and others—because their physical and discursive identities have violated the boundaries of the cultural taste of their time. Embracing these
alleged slurs has been one way of disempowering dominant cultural ideology about fatness as a sign of moral weakness, physical laziness and illness, and aesthetic debasement. The key visual works and texts analyzed here are taken from and contextualized within feminist, lesbian, queer, and fat art making and viewing practices, cultural theories, and activism performed since the late 1960s. Stemming from the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, incipient feminist, lesbian and gay, and fat liberation movements marked a historical shift in which groups previously seen as holding a minority status in United States culture began to define their own objectives for equal rights and desire for recognition as important contributors to American culture. Issues of visual representation and empowerment, as they intersect with multiple marginalized identities are addressed in this dissertation: How do lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual female sexualities come to be represented in visual media, including fine art and documentary photography, journals, and performance, and how has this changed since the late 1960s? What is the role of feminist art and politics in the visualization of sexuality and sexual subjects? How are "non-normative" bodies used in such representations? What does the inclusion of lesbian and other female subjects in contemporary art and visual culture tell us about the politics of visibility in multiple forms of media? How and to whom do these varied visual media communicate resistance or conformity with heteronormative and/or thin body ideals? What is the importance of the differences in meaning produced by the different media and circulation of such imagery and how does each communicate in medium-specific ways?


Classification: 0377: Art history; 0453: Womens studies; 0492: GLBT Studies; 0641: Performing Arts; 0733: Gender studies
Choosing a path: A study of the theories of Christian conversion and Christian nurture in the "Confessions" of St. Augustine and in "Christian nurture" by Horace Bushnell

Author: Armstrong, Clark G.


Abstract: This dissertation is a comparative study of the phenomenon of Christian conversion with the praxis of Christian nurture in the thought of St. Augustine and Horace Bushnell. The primary sources of the investigation are St. Augustine's Confessions and Bushnell's Christian Nurture. Brief reviews of studies of the primary documents provide interpretations and set the historical context in which each person lived and worked. Augustine was a theologian in the early centuries of the post-New Testament church during the generation after the rule of Emperor Constantine and the legalization of Christianity. Bushnell was a congregational minister in New England during the 19th century of revivalism in America. There is a basic difference between Augustine's and Bushnell’s guiding theories of human nature. Bushnell wrote that a person who is born in a Christian family should never grow up knowing himself or herself as anything other than a Christian. But Augustine felt that each person needed to have an individual moment of conversion when that person finds their rest in God. Another difference is that the philosophy of nurture for Augustine is primarily tied in the Confessions to God, who seeks lost humankind and, in his other writings, to the church as an instructional agency for religious education on earth. Meanwhile, in Bushnell's theory of nurture, his main repository for all education including anything religious is the home; everything else is seen as assisting the parents. More intricate aspects of Augustine's and Bushnell's perspectives on human nature are explored and, in specific, a deeper analysis of their beliefs on conversion and nurture is investigated in this paper. The principles from this study should be applicable in most faiths or settings; although Christian educators in schools (parochial or private), home school families, parents, caretakers of children, and workers in churches and other Christian education settings may find it especially helpful and pertinent.

The Present Elsewhere: Theorizing an aesthetics of displacement in contemporary African American and postcolonial literatures

Author: Kirkpatrick, Mary Alice


Abstract: "The Present Elsewhere" investigates the aesthetic traits and political implications of displacement in contemporary African American, Caribbean, and Canadian works. Arguing that displacement resonates textually, I interrogate the degree to which artists purposely leave their works in states of flux. Framed through the lens of nomadic, transitional figures (including diasporic cultural orphans, child clairvoyants, and reincarnated ghosts), this project develops the notion of an aesthetics of displacement - that is to say, an aesthetics informed by political urgency. Writers such as Michael Ondaatje, Toni Cade Bambara, and Octavia Butler rearrange customary geographic and chronological placements, unsettle narrative lines, and challenge shared histories of oppression. Propelled into active engagement, readers are encouraged to adopt new roles as migrants and witnesses. The political significance of works that displace radiates externally, as readers are directed toward sites of change well beyond the confines of individual texts. By bringing together seemingly divergent traditions, "The Present Elsewhere" examines the specific historical conditions, cultural backgrounds, and geographic contexts that produce sites of displacement.
within the Caribbean island, U. S. South, African desert, New Orleans cityscape, and even architectural landscapes. While carefully upholding the distinction and integrity of individual experience, I demonstrate that this aesthetics of displacement, as a theoretical model that engages with literary aesthetics, politics, and ethics, generates new opportunities for comparativist scholarship within and between African American and postcolonial literatures.


Subject: Comparative literature; African American Studies; American literature

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Educational reconstruction: African American education in the urban south, 1865--1890

Author: Green, Hilary Nicole


Abstract: The central question that I ask in this dissertation is: how did African Americans and their supporters create, develop, and sustain a system of education during the transition from slavery to freedom in Richmond, Virginia and Mobile, Alabama? For newly freed African Americans, education served as a means for distancing themselves from
their slave past, for acquiring full access to the rights of American citizenship, and for economic mobility in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War. Unwilling to accept African Americans' claims of citizenship through education and new postwar realities, many local white elites and restored city governments in the urban South opposed African American education. These socioeconomic conditions forced African Americans to seek strategic alliances with both non-local groups supportive of educational attainment, such as the Freedmen's Bureau, Northern missionaries, as well as a few local, sympathetic whites. African Americans' process of building networks to yield education for the largely under and uneducated masses, I argue, amounted to Educational Reconstruction. These relationships were continually negotiated, accommodated, and resisted by all involved as each had a stake in the success and failure of African American education. As in any relationship, power struggles ensued and internal strife sometimes marred the networks. Even as African Americans witnessed a contested terrain concerning African American education globally, nationally, and locally to limit the growth of black education between 1865 and 1890, African Americans experienced educational triumph through two major developments in African American education—the Freedmen's Schools and state-funded public schools. As partners and circumstances changed, this dissertation argues that urban African Americans never lost sight of these aims in their struggle for educational access and legitimacy for the African American schoolhouse. Through Educational Reconstruction, African Americans successfully moved African American education from being a non-entity to a legitimate institution, established a professional class of African-American public school teachers, and ensured the continuation of this educated middle class for future generations.


Subject: African American Studies; American history; Education history

Classification: 0296: African American Studies; 0337: American history; 0520: Education history
Abstract: Since the middle of the twentieth century, American dance artists have presented complicated images of American identity to world audiences, as dance companies traveled abroad under the auspices of the US State Department. This dissertation uses oral history interviews, archival research, and performance analysis to investigate how dancers navigated their status as official American ambassadors in the Cold War and the years following the 2001 terrorist attacks in the US. Dance companies worked and performed in international sites, enacting messages of American democratic superiority, while individual dancers re-interpreted the contours of American identity through personal encounters with local artists and arts practices. The dancers' memories of government-sponsored tours re-insert the American artist into American diplomatic history, prompting a reconsideration of dancers not just as diplomatic tools working to persuade global audiences, but as creative thinkers re-imagining what it means to be American. This dissertation begins in the late 1950s, as the State Department began discussing appropriate dance companies to send to the Soviet Union, as part of the performing arts initiatives that began in 1954 under the direction of President Dwight Eisenhower. The dissertation concludes by examining more recent dance in diplomacy programs initiated in 2003, coinciding with the US invasion of Iraq. My analysis considers New York City Ballet's 1962 tour of the Soviet Union, where the company performed programs that included George Balanchine's Serenade (1934), Agon (1957), and Western Symphony (1954), and Jerome Robbins' Interplay (1945) during the heightened global anxieties of the Cuban Missile Crisis. My analysis of Ailey's 1967 tour of nine African countries focuses primarily on Revelations (1960), which closed every program on the tour. Moving into the twenty-first century, I analyze A Slipping Glimpse (2007), a collaboration between Margaret Jenkins Dance Company and Tansuree Shankar Dance Company, which began as a US State Department-sponsored 2003 residency in Kolkata. To explore each tour, I consider government goals documented in archived minutes from artist selection panels; dancers' memories of the tours, which I collected in personal interviews conducted between 2007 and 2009; and performance analysis of the pieces that traveled on each tour.
The Asian American avant-garde: Universalist aspirations in early Asian American literature

Author: Clark, Audrey Wu


Abstract: My project traces a genealogy of universalism in early Asian American literature that led to the panethnic formation of the Asian American literary canon in the 1960s and 1970s. I contribute to the recent criticisms of panethnicity as the organizing principle of the field by arguing that the panethnic paradigm, based solely on the anachronistically imposed alliance of excluded diverse Asian ethnic groups, did not structure early Asian American literature. Instead, I argue that the authors of these early texts represented the racial particularity of their "Asian American" protagonists as universal. The protagonists' performances of universalism exposed the doubleness of American universalism— that is, the failed universalism that excluded racial minorities and the promised inclusive universalism that is yet to come. My conceptualization of Asian American universalism fortifies the theoretical aspect of the sociological paradigm of panethnicity by offering a different and more historically specific approach than the deconstructive readings of political resistance and melancholic abjection that have very recently theorized panethnicity. Since Americanism was conceived through liberal universalism during the period of Asian exclusion (1882-1943), becoming "Asian American" for these authors and their protagonists impossibly and yet productively universalized their racial particularity to their predominantly white audiences. For some critics, Asian American subjectivity is imagined through only the
impossibility of Asian American universalism. By contrast, I argue that the Asian American is formed through the dialectic between racial particularity as an "alien ineligible to citizenship" and liberal universalism. The aim of the dialectic in each of the works I study is framed by the historical moment of each work's publication: In my first two chapters on Sui Sin Far's Mrs. Spring Fragrance and Sadakichi Hartmann's and Yone Noguchi's modernist haikus, I demonstrate that their protagonists and poetic personas attempt to claim space within the American literary imagination during the Progressive Era. In the latter two chapters, I examine the ways in which the protagonists of Dhan Gopal Mukerji's Caste and Outcast and Younghill Kang's East Goes West, and Carlos Bulosan's America Is in the Heart employ modernist forms of temporal nonlinearity to transcend the capitalist commodification of linear time during the Popular Front era. Through performances of American racial, gender, and class norms, all of the Asian American protagonists of my study not only reveal the exclusions and limitations of American universalism but also attempt to redeem it by articulating new sets of demands for racial, gender, and class equality. The empirical non-existence of Asian American universalism poses a baseline problem of invisibility and thus the demands of racial egalitarianism mobilized by the "not-yet" of Asian American universalism take the visible or more easily identifiable forms of modernist avant-gardism and progressive gender politics in all four of my chapters.


Subject: Modern literature; Asian American Studies; American literature

Classification: 0298: Modern literature; 0343: Asian American Studies; 0591: American literature

Perverse subjects: Drunks, gamblers, prostitutes, and murderers in antebellum America

Author: Renner, Karen J.


Abstract: Drunks, prostitutes, gamblers, and murderers were more than just fodder for the prurient curiosities of antebellum readers. They were "perverse subjects" against which the ideals of proper citizenship were defined. A careful study of a wide range of literary and non-literary antebellum texts, including medical treatises, trial pamphlets, reform tracts, board games, and popular fiction, reveals that these four figures were conceptualized according to strikingly consistent narrative patterns. By detailing the inevitable physical, mental, and financial decline that would result if certain moral standards were disregarded, these pervasive patterns naturalized ideologies central to white, middle-class, Northeastern Americans. These deviants were "perverse subjects" of another sort as well, unfit topics for literary attention unless their stories served a moral purpose. To authorize narratives that otherwise might be dismissed as indecent, popular novelists presented their texts as informed and politically sensitive studies of social problems that could contribute to a national project of reform. Such a purpose, I contend, resulted in three basic narrative forms. While prevention narratives warned readers to refrain from certain dangerous behaviors that would lead to a permanent downfall, rehabilitation narratives presented the fallen as unfortunate victims of circumstance who could redeem themselves if given sympathetic encouragement. Prohibition narratives dismissed the efficacy of both self-restraint and sympathy and instead advocated protective legal measures to control the greedy capitalists who profited off the poor and vulnerable. Each of these narrative patterns relied on divergent philosophies of human nature and made varying demands on characterization, plot, and narrative voice. Together, these literary and non-literary texts codified in narrative form a set of moral values believed to yield individual happiness and social order. Antebellum writers together constructed a new gospel for the developing nation by selecting for special attention behaviors antithetical to its needs and ideals and encapsulating them within narratives about certain supposedly disruptive social types. To study antebellum literature without considering its nonfictional counterparts is to overlook an influential body of material that literary writers directly engaged.

Subject: American studies; American history; American literature

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0337: American history; 0591: American literature

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"No rogue, no rascal, no thief": Black Africans and the making of early American literature, 1542-1701

Author: Smith, Cassander Lavon

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Abstract: This dissertation challenges two assumptions plaguing current studies of early American and African American literature. The first is the assumption that those of African descent were not relevant in the literature until the eighteenth century with the publication of the first slave narratives. The representations of black Africans prior to this date are largely discounted because they appear as minor figures in texts written by European explorers, missionaries, etc. The few approaches that do examine these representations are plagued by a second assumption: that the representations are too heavily mediated to be recovered. They read the mediated figures as no more than symbolic presences that European, and later Euro-American, writers created and manipulated to achieve particular rhetorical and discursive goals. This dissertation argues, instead, that African-descended people played a vital role in how the earliest narratives about the Americas took shape. Their representations are, indeed, mediated. However, that process involved not only European writers' imaginations but also involved the lived experiences of black Africans who participated in the New World as explorers, slaves, merchants, etc. Slaves, especially, found occasions to exercise an autonomy previously denied them. They actively approached the New World situations in which they found themselves, making it difficult for those coming from Europe to re-enact old world ideas of political and social dominance. That difficulty translated into early American narratives as writers struggled to not only interpret but subdue textually the actions of black Africans. The struggle manifests in the texts in the form of plot contradictions, ambiguities, and inconsistent characterizations.
How effective are public health education programs, unfettered farm markets and single sex schools?

Author: Fox, Jonathan Franklin


Abstract: My dissertation examines the effectiveness of three policy choices in meeting socio-economic goals. The first analyzes the impact of public health education and poverty relief on child mortality in the early twentieth century, when infant and child mortality rates in the United States were startlingly high. During the 1920s, the rates dropped significantly and only part of the declines can be attributed to major sanitation and water projects in cities. Using a fixed effects identification strategy and adjusting to 2007 dollars, about $29,000 in public health education spending and about $781,000 in poverty relief spending were each associated with an infant death avoided. In comparisons with many modern programs, these costs associated with saving infant lives in the early 1920s were low. After controlling for city-specific trends in mortality, the effect of public health education programs is attenuated. This potentially suggests that with public health education, it is the stock of knowledge that is important. The second
part of my dissertation examines the sensitivity of agricultural prices and output to local and non-local weather fluctuations in the United States prior to 1932, when markets were relatively open and largely unfettered by modern farm programs. The price sensitivity to these local and non-local weather fluctuations is estimated for the crops cotton and wheat, which have relatively low transport costs and are primarily exported to non-local markets, as well as for corn and hay, crops with high transport costs and used in local productive activities. For cotton and wheat, changes in local weather seem to have little effect on farm-gate prices, while changes in weather affecting the aggregate market play an important role. Corn and hay prices are much more sensitive to changes in state-level temperature, precipitation, and drought conditions. The third study examines the returns to education for women who attended a college with a predominantly female population. Using the program evaluation framework and matching techniques, I find that attending a female-dominated school yields positive labor market effects on the order of about 15 percent upon first entry into the labor market but that these effects seem to diminish over time.


Subject: Womens studies; Agricultural economics; Economic history; Economics; Adult education; Health education

Classification: 0453: Womens studies; 0503: Agricultural economics; 0509: Economic history; 0510: Economics; 0516: Adult education; 0680: Health education

Identifier / keyword: Education, Social sciences, Public health education, Farm markets, Single-sex

Title: How effective are public health education programs, unfettered farm markets and single sex schools?

Number of pages: 135
Toward a theory of Historically Black College and University (HBCU) distinctiveness: A case study of Norfolk State University

Author: Arroyo, Andrew Thomas
Abstract: Research into Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) tends to be repetitive, anecdotal, and derivative. A need exists for new lines of research into these institutions. One way to facilitate this is by using social scientific mechanisms to develop HBCU-specific theoretical models to describe, explain, and predict the full range of activities, behaviors, and, most importantly, possibilities of these institutions. This study offers a first step toward the emergence of such theories by generating a descriptive archetypal model of HBCU distinctiveness and conducting an initial validation of the model using a real-world case. A model is constructed, complicated, and nuanced using 35 years of HBCU empirical research so that the final product represents the generally anticipated form. Then the model is used to assess Norfolk State University, a 75-year-old HBCU located in Norfolk, Virginia. A triangulation of documents, interviews, and the researcher's participant observations constitute the data, which provide a holistic description of the institution and are analyzed by means of the model. This enables a simultaneous explanation of two phenomena: (a) the proposed distinctiveness model and (b) the alignment between Norfolk State University and the model. Results of the case study validation suggest the model contains promise as a useful research tool. Results also suggest Norfolk State University is in relatively high alignment with the model overall. Specific findings and implications for future research are presented and discussed.
Abstract: This dissertation proposes three interwoven arguments concerning Gertrude Stein's undergraduate education at Radcliffe College in the late 19th century. First, that Stein's Sophomore writing course in 1894-1895 - English 22, Daily Themes - played a larger role in the course of her writing life than has been understood in the fields of Modernism and American literature. Second, that the first women of Radcliffe College, and before Radcliffe's founding, of the Harvard Annex, were more integral to late 19th century growth in English and Composition at Harvard College than has been understood in the fields of Rhetoric and Composition. Finally, that we cannot understand the expansion of Harvard College to Harvard University, the implementation of the elective system, or the founding of Radcliffe without integrating the various roles of Special Students - of which Gertrude Stein was one - in the broadening mission of the Cambridge institution. Following these threads, and focusing on Stein as an emblematic - though idiosyncratic - student, I provide a history of Harvard-Radcliffe during the 1870s-1890s, a period of unprecedented change, the decades before and during Stein's attendance from 1893-1898. I examine the role of female students in the origins of English Composition, a history which has previously focused heavily on male education as it emanated from Harvard and reverberated throughout higher education into the 20th century. I focus on Stein as a student of the pedagogy of Daily Themes practiced by Barrett Wendell. In providing these institutional, historical, and pedagogical contexts, I aim to connect Stein, the student writer, to the adult innovator, to form a trajectory from her English 22 course into her adult writing life. My goal is for us to understand "The Making of Gertrude Stein" as a consequence, in part, of her reading and writing at Radcliffe. This is an educational history of one of America's great modernist writers embedded in the institutional history of her alma mater. In order to help further research on Gertrude Stein's undergraduate writing, my dissertation includes in its appendices the digitized images of Stein's Daily Themes for English 22 at Radcliffe and my annotated transcription of the Themes including professorial comments.
Subject: Modern literature; Womens studies; Education history; American literature

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Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses
Abstract: The study investigated the divergence in beginning reading methods between the United States (US) and England from 1998 to 2010. Researchers, policy makers, and publishers were interviewed to explore their knowledge and perceptions concerning how literacy policy was determined. The first three of twelve findings showed that despite the challenges inherent in the political sphere, both governments were driven by low literacy rates to seek greater involvement in literacy education. The intervention was determined by its structure: a central parliamentary system in England, and a federal system of state rights in the US. Three further research-related findings revealed the uneasy relationship existing between policy makers and researchers. Political expediency, the speed of decision making and ideology also helped shape literacy policy. Secondly, research is viewed differently in each nation. Peer-reviewed, scientifically-based research supporting systematic phonics prevailed in the US, whereas in England additional and more eclectic sources were also included. Thirdly, research showed that educator training in beginning reading was more pervasive and effective in England than the US. English stakeholders proved more knowledgeable about research in the US, whereas little is known about the synthetic phonics approach currently used in England. Two of the findings considered the differing role of mainstream or niche publishers. Though both are commercially based and politically engaged, the former are more business-oriented, while the latter support their chosen pedagogy. Finally it was found brain research was either
supported or rejected, depending on the stakeholders' personal beliefs concerning beginning reading pedagogy. The future livelihood and well-being of all children depends on reading ability. It is recommended that further research in reading be jointly undertaken by researchers in the US and England. The resulting shared knowledge and data would provide an improved basis for educator training, classroom pedagogy and literacy policy. Educators, researchers and their governments would then be better positioned to achieve their common goal of universal literacy.


Subject: Education Policy; Literacy; Reading instruction

Classification: 0458: Education Policy; 0535: Literacy; 0535: Reading instruction

Identifier / keyword: Education, Beginning reading, United States, England, Literacy policy, Synthetic phonics, International literacy

Title: Beginning reading: Influences on policy in the United States and England 1998--2010

Number of pages: 219

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

School code: 1483

Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States
Abstract: This dissertation examines the many contending voices of southern history and the ways in which these voices converge in the Southern Gothic mode of writing. By examining Edgar Allan Poe, Charles W. Chesnutt, Thomas Wolfe, William Faulkner, Richard Wright, and Carson McCullers, I explore how the Gothic mode discusses the surplus of fears and desires bound in racial, class, and regional discourse. My argument focuses on the ways in which these authors either failed or refused to resolve the tension their works create, thus compelling the reader to accommodate and begin to understand the legion of compounded and fracturing perspectives giving rise to social discord. Most crucially, this dissertation explores the potential of the Gothic mode for demonstrating reconstructions of social meaning. This project draws on
Exploring the conflicts foregrounded in key works of Southern Gothic writing, psychoanalytic theory provides the vocabulary for discussing the inarticulable surplus of Southern Gothic narratives. In Lacanian terms, the Southern Gothic embodies the traumatic "real-kernels" created by anxieties surrounding class, race, and sex within an unstable narrative framework. Marxist critiques of ideology, particularly those of Louis Althusser and Slavoj Žižek, reveal how these narrative instabilities minor the ideological instabilities of modern society. Applying Marx's crisis theory to moments of ideological slippage demonstrates the potential for reconstructing ideological meaning toward a better future.


Subject: Modern literature; Social psychology; American literature

Classification: 0298: Modern literature; 0451: Social psychology; 0591: American literature

Identifier / keyword: Psychology, Language, literature and linguistics, Southern Gothic, American Gothic, Southern literature, Gothic, Fiction

Title: Disturbing signs: Southern gothic fiction from Poe to McCullers

Number of pages: 220

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

School code: 0011

Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011

Place of publication: Ann Arbor
American extreme: An ethnography of astronautical visions and ecologies

Author: Olson, Valerie A.


Abstract: This dissertation is a coordinated ethnographic case study of environmental science, medicine, technology, and design in an American human spaceflight program. Its goal is to investigate how astronautics contributes to shaping "the environment" as an extensive contemporary category of knowledge, politics, and social action. Based on fieldwork conducted primarily at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Johnson Space Center in Houston Texas from 2005 -- 2008, the study argues that, in practical and meaningful ways, ecology and cosmology are co-constituting in American astronautics. Using participant observation and archival data, the study evaluates how astronautics
practitioners know and work with "the human environment" on a scope that includes vehicle habitats and the heliosphere and on scales ranging from the molecular to the cosmic. In this work, people shore up and break down unusual human/environment boundaries, making sense of what it means to do so in technoscientific as well as sociopolitical, symbolic, and transcendental terms. The four cases analyzed are: (1) how space analogue missions operate as simulations but also make arguments that extreme environments foster progress through confrontation with adversity, (2) how space biomedical subjecthood is fundamentally environmental rather than biological, (3) how "habitability" works as a key elaborating concept among space architects so that they can connect extraterrestrial and terrestrial habitation problems and solutions, and (4) how Near Earth comets and asteroids have moved from being obscure astronomical objects to objects of environmental policymaking that extends into the heliosphere and into the far future. The study's analysis brings social theory about the spatial politics of knowledge into dialogue with conceptual frameworks from the social studies of science, technology, and environment. As an ethnography of outer space as extreme environment rather than territorial frontier, the study highlights astronautics' connections to broader domains of environmental science and technology, and by discursive and practical extension, to a spectrum of American environmentalisms and engagements with extremity. In doing so, the study elaborates astronautics' role in making ecological knowledge, and attendant concepts like adaptation and evolution, cosmologically scalable.


Subject: Cultural anthropology; Ecology; Environmental science

Classification: 0326: Cultural anthropology; 0329: Ecology; 0768: Environmental science

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Social sciences, Biological sciences, Cultural anthropology, Environment, Astronautics,
Title: American extreme: An ethnography of astronautical visions and ecologies
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School code: 0187
Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011
Place of publication: Ann Arbor
Country of publication: United States
ISBN: 9781124201719
University/institution: Rice University
University location: United States -- Texas
Degree: Ph.D.
Source type: Dissertations & Theses
Language: English
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The governors' club: Examining gubernatorial power, influence, and policy-making in the context of statewide education reform in the South
Author: Stallings, Dallas T., III
Abstract: In a brief span of years in the early 1980s, Southern governors from Mississippi, Tennessee, North Carolina, Arkansas, Florida, and South Carolina spearheaded successful efforts to convince their states to adopt significant education reform. In so doing, they helped to establish the concept of the modern "education governor." This study considers two central questions related to these events: (1) What contributed to the development of Southern governors into education policy leaders during this critical period? and (2) What lessons from these reform efforts and institutional changes might be applicable to broader questions of gubernatorial power and governor-led policy reform? The study presents a more fully-realized picture of the integrated parts of an education governorship than exists in current scholarship. It also introduces the concept of the executive leadership moment as a lens for situating changes in executive leadership within a broader set of historical forces. Finally, it suggests that future analyses of gubernatorial power will benefit from a consideration of governors not as isolated and independent actors within state contexts who are beholden to prescribed formal powers but instead as networked actors who are able to change their political environments and operate in policy contexts that are not limited by state or regional boundaries.

Subject: Education Policy; Education history; Political science
Abstract: This dissertation examines rural, Southern culture's strained relationship with academia, specifically as it relates to the composition classroom, which is the place where students are formally introduced to academic discourse and standard, "public" literacy practices. Operating from John Dewey's principle of "warranted assertibility," I analyze the multiple ways in which the urban North has interpreted and defined the rural South in an effort to more accurately determine the population's cultural currency. Using Kenneth Burke's identification theory and George Herbert Mead's interactionist theory, I investigate historical, ethnographic and theoretical data in order to understand how American rhetorical identification with or dis-identification from rural, Southern populations influences the culture's treatment in academic circles. Using the work of W.J. Cash, Allen Batteau, Barbara Ching, Gerald Creed and others, I theorize how and why rural, Southern culture has become a national symbol of anti-intellectualism and thus a blind spot in most cultural studies efforts. This investigation also calls into question the ways in which academics designate marginalized "others." Academia has become so preoccupied with global cultures that many regional literacies have been left unexamined and at times, devalued as too familiar or local for serious academic consideration. Ralph Waldo Emerson's belief that the "near explains the far" grounds my argument that we should continually turn our attention to local as well as global cultures in the spirit of Berthoff's dialectical model. The rural, white, South has long been regarded as ideologically dominant when in fact it is one of the most economically, culturally, and academically marginalized populations in the U.S. I follow through the consequences of these associations for rural, Southern students as they consider and develop their academic identities in the university through the relation of personal experience and the ethnographic study of a former composition student who also hails from the rural South. Using a dialogic model, my ethnographic study operates as a kind of collaborative literacy narrative: the student and I speak from our own experiences as rural, Southern women at different stages in the academy. This form of scholarship is a new way for teachers to engage with students from a common background using sameness rather than difference as the impetus for research. Since geographic or home literacy values factor in to our classroom contexts, the denigration of the rural Southerner - or any unrecognized marginal group - can and
should inform the work we do as rhetoric and composition teachers. I argue that marginalized students are often intimately acquainted with "double-consciousness," what Paulo Freire calls conscientização, or critical consciousness, which if acknowledged and used, could help students who see themselves as culturally disadvantaged feel more competent and engaged in the composition classroom. Louise Rosenblatt's reader-response theory explains how a student's "experiential reservoir" affects not only her sense of self in the academy but her composing behaviors in the university as well. Currently, the rural South figures into our work minimally, perhaps as part of a cursory inclusion of regional texts. In this dissertation, I describe how we might take this population's literacies more seriously by examining the ways in which rural educators have engaged their students. In much the way feminist pedagogy begins from the premise of an alternative, feminine way of knowing, I argue that the literacies of rural, Southern populations can similarly ground our pedagogy through Paulo Freire's critical pedagogy. Freire's pedagogy, which can be traced to rural contexts, is often misinterpreted as revolutionary and impractical when in fact it was designed to address blind spots such as the marginalization of populations such as the rural, Southern university student. Myles Horton's Highlander Folk School serves as an example of critical pedagogy at work in contexts beyond Freire's Brazil. A rural Southerner, Horton used local knowledge and ways of knowing to more effectively engage and mobilize his students. From these examples, I articulate the possibility of a "rural" pedagogy in the composition classroom. Though philosophically defined by rural, Southern epistemologies and literacies, this pedagogical theory is designed to be re-made to address any classroom population.


Subject: Cultural anthropology; Pedagogy; Rhetoric

Classification: 0326: Cultural anthropology; 0456: Pedagogy; 0681: Rhetoric
Spiritualism and crime: Negotiating prophecy and police power at the turn of the twentieth century

Author: Dyson, Erika White


Abstract: This dissertation examines the perfect storm of factors motivating the formation of the National Spiritualists' Association in 1893, and the subsequent challenges that prompted NSA leaders over the next forty years to conform the religion to hegemonic conceptions of legitimate religion and social respectability. These challenges included several spectacular scandals that implicated Spiritualists (if not actually involving them); efforts by stage magicians to expose and discredit spirit mediums; and denunciation from pulpit and press. Most damaging, starting in the 1890s, Spiritualist mediums and ministers increasingly faced arrest as fortune-tellers for performing their most meaningful and central religious rite: delivering messages from the spirits of the dead to the living. The dissertation approaches this topic from two angles, institutional and legal. First, it examines how NSA leaders molded their traditionally anti-creedal and individualistic religion to accepted conceptions of religious practice, citizenship and respectability, particularly those understandings held by judges and legislators. NSA leaders argued that conformity was vital both to Spiritualism's survival, as well as to the defense of NSA members' religious freedoms, even as they framed this strategy in terms of church and state separation. As opposition to the religion intensified, the NSA implemented more rules for religious practice and its members' personal behavior, including the adoption of an internal penal code and the racial segregation of their churches - two innovations, which would have been anathema to their "insistently individualized" predecessors. Secondly, lawmakers, police and government officials responded to these scandals by targeting spirit mediums and other seers for arrest. Judges and magistrates justified the criminalization of Spiritualists' religious practices as legitimate exercises of police power, while continuing to present themselves as the protectors of Americans' religious liberties. I examine several appellate court cases in which judges weighed the government's duty to ensure public morality and peace, even if it meant curbing their religious practices, against Spiritualist defense of spirit mediumship on constitutional grounds. The dissertation therefore provides insight into early twentieth-century American religious jurisprudence as well as complicates the neat narratives of church and state separation advanced at the time.

Subject: Religious history; American history; Law; Spirituality

Classification: 0320: Religious history; 0337: American history; 0398: Law; 0647: Spirituality

Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology, Social sciences, Police power, Spiritualism, First Amendment, Stage magic, Legal history, Organization, National Spiritualists Association

Title: Spiritualism and crime: Negotiating prophecy and police power at the turn of the twentieth century

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Advisor: Balmer, Randall

University/institution: Columbia University

University location: United States -- New York

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses
Carl McIntire and his crusade against the Fairness Doctrine

Author: Farabaugh, Patrick


Abstract: This dissertation examines the role that fundamentalist radio commentator Carl McIntire and his station, WXUR, played in the demise of the Fairness Doctrine. McIntire's "crusade" against the Federal Communications Commission and the Fairness Doctrine brought national attention to the doctrine. This attention influenced the FCC, and in 1987, the Commission repealed this regulatory policy. WXUR is the only radio or television station in American history to be denied license renewal by the FCC as a direct result of Fairness Doctrine violations. This dissertation argues that McIntire and WXUR are underappreciated factors that contributed to the demise of the doctrine. Introduced in 1959 when Congress amended the 1934 Communications Act, the doctrine required radio and television stations to meet two requirements: (1) devote a reasonable percentage of broadcast time to discussions of issues of public importance within the community the licensee served, and (2) design and provide programs so that the public had a reasonable opportunity to hear different and opposing views and arguments on the public issues of interest within that community. In 1970, 17 years before the Fairness Doctrine's demise, McIntire and WXUR were denied license renewal by the FCC and forced off the air because the station, according to the Commission, did not make reasonable efforts to comply with the doctrine. Despite their historical significance with regards to the Fairness Doctrine, McIntire and WXUR have been largely ignored by media studies scholars. While volumes of research related to the Fairness
Doctrine have been produced by media studies scholars, few academics outside of religious studies have explored the fascinating career of Carl McIntire. And no one has provided a detailed account of McIntire and WXUR's role in the eventual repeal of the Fairness Doctrine. This dissertation addresses this oversight. McIntire and WXUR must be recognized for their role in the history of governmental regulation of speech in the United States. McIntire launched a national crusade against the Fairness Doctrine, using his radio station, WXUR—a station licensed by the FCC and obligated to meet the Commission's fairness requirements—as the primary tool in his campaign. His crusade against the doctrine influenced the opinions of lawmakers, policymakers, the courts and the American public regarding the FCC's fairness rules. In his campaign, which he conducted through the 1960s and early 1970s, McIntire wasted no opportunity to expose the problems he perceived with the Fairness Doctrine. He blazed a path for another campaign against the doctrine, one conducted by the Freedom of Expression Foundation during the 1980s. The Freedom of Expression Foundation employed strategies similar to those utilized by McIntire in an effort to press lawmakers and the FCC to re-examine the "fairness" of the Fairness Doctrine. Ultimately, the FCC abandoned this regulatory policy in 1987. McIntire's legacy in American broadcasting, however, did not end when the FCC suspended its fairness requirements. The Fairness Doctrine's demise has contributed to a resurgence of politically conservative commentary on America's radio airwaves in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Today, the nation's talk radio stations are dominated by politically conservative commentators, thanks, at least in part, to the path cleared by McIntire decades earlier. This dissertation seeks to increase our understanding of McIntire and WXUR and their underappreciated contribution in shaping not only communication policy in the United States, but also America's contemporary talk radio landscape. Research for the study draws from an online collection of radio broadcasts and sermons by McIntire; The Christian Beacon, a weekly publication McIntire launched in 1936 to complement his radio broadcasts; books McIntire authored; FCC records and various legal cases and related regulatory proceedings; and a number of contemporary periodicals.

Archaeology of the recent past at Kalawao: Landscape, place, and power in a Hawaiian Hansen's disease settlement

Author: Flexner, James Lindsey


Abstract: Historical archaeology often focuses on the study of dispossessed, subaltern, or marginalized groups in the modern world. One such group is the community of the Hansen's disease (leprosy) settlement at Kalawao, Moloka'i, which was established by the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1865. The first people diagnosed by the state with Hansen's disease arrived in Kalawao in 1866, and around 1900 settlement shifted to the other side of Kalaupapa peninsula. Hawaii would not end its quarantine policy until 1969. Archaeological research on Kalawao's recent past draws from the theoretical frameworks of the archaeology of colonialism, which focuses on the study of unequal power relations in situations of intercultural interaction, and the archaeology of total institutions, which focuses on the lives of inmates and staff in socially bounded places of isolation, such as prisons, almshouses, and insane asylums. Archaeology can be used to reveal patterns that are often not apparent in the written record, providing valuable insights into the everyday lives of people living in colonial and institutional situations. These insights in turn can inform different interpretations of the nature of power and its use by individuals coping with stigma and isolation, and living in created communities. A multiscalar archaeological research project provided some valuable data about the community at Kalawao, focusing primarily on the period from 1866-1900, but also drawing on archaeological evidence from earlier and later periods. Landscape and settlement pattern analyses revealed that the spatial ordering of the settlement followed the form of a Hawaiian village site, rather than that of a typical total institution. Pre-existing Hawaiian ritual sites remain scattered throughout the late-19th century landscape. Detailed study, including excavations, of archaeological house sites in Kalawao revealed continuity as well as change in architectural forms, including the use of traditional Hawaiian domestic architecture through the end of the 19th century. Excavations also revealed the richness and variability of domestic assemblages. Artifact analysis of surface collected and excavated materials yielded evidence for the use of brightly colored ceramics, and the production and use of worked bottle glass tools for cutting and scraping. Glass bottles found in Kalawao provide evidence for continued human activity after what is historically considered the time of abandonment of the settlement. Archaeological patterns at all scales suggest that material in the settlement follows Hawaiian patterns of...
daily life throughout the modern period. Ultimately, this research challenges the antisocial stigma associated with Hansen's disease, by showing the extent to which people worked to create a community in Kalawao. Material culture played a crucial role in this process, as goods and objects served to create social bonds. The evidence for the creation, maintenance, and transformation of social structures in Kalawao also provides valuable material for considering the ways that communities form in situations of long-term incarceration. Where the state was able to create a quarantine settlement and to establish rules, the community in the settlement actually determined the form of everyday life in Kalawao, and set about essentially creating a Hawaiian village. This suggests that in institutions that are relatively decentralized, with over-arching rules and standards set by an external power but little day-to-day regulations, people will form communities that make sense in terms of their preexisting ideas about social organization, and their social habits.


Subject: Archaeology; History; Pacific Rim Studies

Classification: 0324: Archaeology; 0332: History; 0561: Pacific Rim Studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Hansen's disease, Hawaii, Historical archaeology, Institutions, Kalaupapa, Polynesia

Title: Archaeology of the recent past at Kalawao: Landscape, place, and power in a Hawaiian Hansen's disease settlement

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Degree date: 2010
Governing poverty amidst plenty: Philanthropic investments and the California dream

Author: Kohl, Erica L.

Abstract: Described as the 'New Appalachia,' California's Central Valley ranks number one on the Brookings Institution's American poverty list. In the past two years newspapers ranging from the Los Angeles Times to the Washington Post ran headline stories featuring the Central Valley's dependence on large-scale agriculture and its resulting income stagnation, 'brain drain', and deepening poverty and insecurity in isolated migrant farmworker settlements across the region. This dissertation is a historical study of philanthropic interventions into migrant farmworker poverty across California's Central Valley from the 1960's Farm Worker Movement to the present. It explores the ways in which foundation driven programs to address migrant poverty amidst great agricultural wealth manage or 'govern' the work of farmworker organizers and institutions across the region. Over the past ten years an unprecedented number of private foundation grants have been made to farmworker organizations across California's Central Valley. While philanthropic investments in migrant institutions have not significantly altered the terrain of farmworker organizing, they have promoted institutional arrangements and theoretical frameworks that contain the work of farmworker organizations and advocates. In this dissertation I specifically interrogate how processes of professionalization and 'participatory' ideas promoted through foundations such as self-help, community development, immigrant integration, civic participation, and asset-based community development are negotiated by institutional 'grantees,' and ultimately structure the ways in which historic farm worker movement organizations build institutions and organizing strategies. Through an analysis of archival data and interviews with historic movement leaders and current foundation and nonprofit staff, this dissertation shows how, while philanthropic investments in farmworker communities are greater than ever, regional program managers are more reluctant to address the problems faced by farmworkers such as pesticides poisoning, low wages, and substandard health and housing conditions. The specific 'win-win' asset based approach popular with the most recent foundation initiatives facilitates processes that identify the places where growers and workers can work together, avoiding problem-based causes where growers' economic interests may be challenged. Operating under the 'win-win' model, at a time when growers and workers alike are suffering from the financial crisis and drought, advocates find themselves further away from addressing the structural issues of a farm labor system that relies on constant streams of migrant workers from poor pueblos in Mexico. This dissertation contributes to the emerging body of scholarship on philanthropy and social change by complicating arguments that either promote foundations as positive agents of social progress or critique them as monolithic imperialist institutions with clear agendas of co-optation and control. In complicating theories of social control and cooptation, my intention is not to defend private grant making foundations as effective agents of social movements or even to disagree with the ultimate dilution of organizing agendas that foundation grants often initiate. My aim is to encourage scholars and activists to confront the current paradigm where foundations are viewed as unified institutions of power with clearly articulated political agendas of which we have little understanding and therefore no ability to change. Throughout the dissertation, I do this by showing how decisions made between funders and movement leaders are, while not without consequences, often multi-layered
and contingent, as opposed to being driven by a single political agenda of cooptation and repression as is now commonly argued. This is the first scholarly work on California foundations, and their relationship to farmworker institutions.


Subject: American studies; Social research; Labor relations

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0344: Social research; 0629: Labor relations

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, California, Civil society, Farm workers, Nonprofit organizations, Philanthropy, Social movements

Title: Governing poverty amidst plenty: Philanthropic investments and the California dream

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Advisor: Shaiken, Harley
Self-governance among Manhattan banks, 1840--1980

Author: Yue, Qingyuan (Lori)


Abstract: Intensive government regulation over the banking industry did not begin in the United States until the founding of the Federal Reserve in 1914. Before that, commercial banks run a set of community-based self-governance, called the clearing house, throughout the country. The clearing house organized collective action and facilitated mutual assistance during financial crises; it imposed self-discipline and urged prudent operations during regular time. This set of self-governance was deeply embedded in the American ideology of anti-centralization and the political institutions of a weak state. The anti-branching restriction enacted by the National Banking Act in 1864 ruled out a market solution of financial crises through geographical diversification, and called for a collective solution. The clearing house emerged as a
community-based coalition through which banks weathered financial turmoil with their peers. The community-based collective action relied on the cooperation among local banking elites. At the end of 19th century, when the scope of economy went beyond local communities, the clearing house became inadequate to dampen financial crises. The first national wide financial crisis, the Panic of 1907, amid the state-building movement championed by progressivists and populists, triggered a request for a public solution that necessitates government intervention. The founding of the Federal Reserve embarked on a new era of government regulation. Moreover, the failure of government regulation in preventing the biggest financial crisis in history, the Great Depression, did not result in the resurgence of private solutions, but further strengthened the state control. I conduct the empirical testing of the efficacy of private and public regulations using the population of commercial banks in Manhattan from 1840 to 1980. I investigate the effectiveness of the New York Clearing House Association, the oldest and also the largest clearing house in the country, in constraining its members' behaviors. I find that the overall bank failure rate is lower during the clearing house period than during the free-market period or the government regulation period. What contributes to the lower overall failure rates during the clearing house period is that banks that participated in the NYCHA had a significantly lower failure rate. Moreover, the effectiveness of the self-governance hinged on its nature as a city-based coalition that included a relatively small number of densely-connected banks. Especially, elite bankers' affiliations with elite clubs in New York constituted a network that enabled the self-governance to be effective. The density of elite bankers' network had a significant moderating effect on the effectiveness of the NYCHA in reducing member banks' failure rates and their operational risks. This self-governance lost its efficacy after the government actively intervened with the governance of banking. But the government's safety-nets introduced a moral hazard problem, in that banks that participated in government institutions tended to be more risk-taking. By showing the efficacy of private institutions in solving the problems of commons, my dissertation helps to shatter pessimistic convictions based on the free-rider problem. Specially, by emphasizing the structure of the community in which a private institution is embedded, my dissertation reveals a scope condition in affecting the effectiveness of private institutions. A close-knit community facilitates information transfer, nurtures trust and social interactions, and thus helps to solve the free-riding problem that plagues some private institutions. Thus, identifying whether a private institution is embedded within the right social structure helps to reconcile the conflicting empirical results regarding the efficacy of private institutions, and sheds light on the question why private institutions are neither rare nor ubiquitous. The community-based institutions are decentralized, localized, and embedded within social relations. The community-based institutions are an organic form of initiatives that local actors reply on mutual aid societies and self-organized associations to solve their commons problems, and an intermediary between the extremes of the market and the state. In recent decades, sociologists have repeatedly called into our attention the increasing atomization, the loss of social capital, and the demise of civic groups. These problems can be at least partially attributed to the over focus on the market or the state instead of the community. At one end, the free competition ideology popularized
by neoliberalism delegitimizes cooperation among industrial peers, and hence their social interactions. At the other end, the reply on the state as one major supplier of institutions have similarly displaced local arrangements and weakened social relations. Nurturing vibrant community-based institutions are an effective instrument to defeat the taboo against cooperation, to cultivate local associations that turn strangers to trusting neighbors, and to advance diversity and innovations rather than homogenization or centralization. This is because the community-based institutions are glue, the operation of which depends on social coordination instead of atomized transactions or impersonal bureaucracies. (Abstract shortened by UMI.)


Subject: Management; Banking; Studies; History

Classification: 0454: Management; 0770: Banking

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Self-governance, Manhattan, Banks, New York City, Elite networks, Financial regulation, Private institution

Title: Self-governance among Manhattan banks, 1840--1980

Pages: n/a

Number of pages: 99

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

School code: 0054

Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States
Abstract: Gatlinburg, Tennessee, once an obscure Appalachian village, became an iconic tourist destination after the opening of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Locals found themselves living in the midst of an ever-expanding tourism economy that seemed to know no limit. Today, however, they engage in day-to-day struggles with the ills of mass-scale tourism: low-wage jobs, housing crises, and negative opinions that characterize their hometown as crowded, tacky, and low-brow. The result is a new type of poverty not usually associated with Appalachia, where abandoned amusement parks sit decaying and lifeless and once-prosperous motels become halfway houses for Gatlinburg's severely underpaid
workforce. Based on fieldwork as a service worker in Gatlinburg's tourism industry, this dissertation focuses on the ways tourism industries perpetuate, re-shape, fragment, and even destroy a community's "sense of place." Taking the perspective that tourism is essentially a form of placemaking, I analyze how this industry forges new relationships to place that are unique to the tourism context. I examine the ways "local" identity is defined, contested, and performed, noting how class, gender, and ethnicity intersect to create a range of "localness." I also look at the other side of tourism: the way tourism industries impact the identities of tourists. Tourism has become a way of generating "place" as a commodity for tourist consumption. I examine debates about how Gatlinburg should be marketed for an audience of consumers. Gatlinburg continues to be considered a middle class tourist resort, though community leaders want to "up class" Gatlinburg by attracting wealthier consumers. Studying how a "sense of place" is created in Gatlinburg through both personal identity and savvy marketing techniques brings an understanding of how class operates in the context of placemaking, how places shape class identities and, conversely, how class shapes place-based identities. I focus on the agency of local people as I describe their experiences in Gatlinburg, viewing tourism as a series of decisions and actions embedded in social and political contexts. As I illustrate the stories of people living and working in Gatlinburg, I explore life in this resort town as a sensual, emotional landscape shaped by the flux and flow of a seasonal tourism economy.


Subject: American studies; Cultural anthropology; Social structure; Recreation

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0326: Cultural anthropology; 0700: Social structure; 0814: Recreation

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Tourism, Tennessee, Placemaking, Local identity
Abstract: This dissertation examines and elevates the life and work of Era Bell Thompson, an obscure 20th century black American writer and journalist. Significant research in the archives of Chicago's Carter G. Woodson Regional Library's Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection unveiled the Era Bell Thompson papers. After spending years retrieving and examining over 100 boxes of material in the archives, the contributions of this important writer and intellectual to American women's literature and history will finally be fully recognized. An integral part of the Chicago Renaissance movement (1930-1960s), Thompson differed culturally from the collective group of African American migrants from the South. She also worked in a traditionally male profession. Both circumstances contributed to her obscurity, but they also enhanced her point of view. Thompson, raised in North Dakota at the beginning of the century by her ex-slave father, offers a unique perspective as one who speaks from both inside and outside the American mainstream. As the first and only woman editor and writer at Johnson Publishing Company, she established a writing career as a foreign correspondent for Ebony magazine at a time when women and blacks were not traditionally found in such positions. A textual analysis of her autobiography, American Daughter (1946), travel narrative, Africa, Land of My Fathers (1954) that includes a comparison to Richard Wright's Black Power (1954), and various articles published in Ebony and Negro Digest between 1947 and 1974 found Thompson to be a significant African American woman writer, comparable to Zora Neale Hurston. Era Bell Thompson is best known for her use of humor and understatement as a way to critique many issues, including sexism, racism, and class-ism. She also uses humor as a radical means to shift the language of thinking about race. This is evident in her national and international writing, as Thompson framed African Americans worldwide positively, and provided readers with a broader perspective.


The "bad" Black consumer: A study of African-American consumer culture in Washington, D.C., 1910s-1930s

Author: Heard, Sandra Rena


Abstract: My dissertation is a social and cultural history of African-American consumption in the nation's capital during the interwar period. It argues that commodity culture fashioned a black consumer class that willingly and unintentionally stigmatized the Race during the rise of Jim Crow. This project specifically explores how members of the capital city's black elite worked to delimit the mobility of their constituency when they reproduced the idea that African Americans who conspicuously consumed were villainous or disreputable. It also looks at the role that mass culture played in distracting poor and middle-class black Washingtonians from addressing the structural forces that systematically disenfranchised peoples of African descent. Instead of collaborating to remedy the inequities that were responsible for creating a large black servant class, a number of African Americans within D.C. turned to the market to style themselves in ways that were in line with popular images of success. In so doing, they helped to preserve the reigning racial and class ideology of the era, which prefigured the white consumer as the ideal citizen and the black consumer as a potential criminal and threat to the existing social order. I focus on Washington, D.C. because it did not have a large black industrial working class in the early twentieth century. The absence of an organized black proletariat partially contributed to the emergence and dominance of a black consumer class, which reinforced the supremacy of the bourgeoisie instead of cultivating a blue-collar racial identity that countered middle-class "white" cultural norms. As this project maintains, black Washingtonians participated in marginalizing their community when they bought into mainstream ideas of what constituted status or propriety and publicly linked African-American consumption patterns with deviance. That is, commodity culture united various classes of the District's African-American residents to the dominant white society while undermining their ability to fully participate in collective action to resist the vagaries of racism or gain equality between WWI and WWII.

Subject: African American Studies; Black history; American history

Classification: 0296: African American Studies; 0328: Black history; 0337: American history

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Consumer culture, Cultural history, Cultural theory, Racial and class formations, Social history, Urban history

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Advisor: Heap, Chad

Committee member: McAlister, Melani, Miller, James, Osman, Suleiman, McQuirter, Marya

University/institution: The George Washington University

Department: American Studies
NFL Films and the re-production of pro football

Author: Johnson, Thomas C.


Abstract: The choreographed work of NFL Films in their first documentary, They Call It Pro Football (1966), offers a fitting case study in which to examine the construction and promotion of pro football in the 1960s. Using techniques of textual analysis and social/cultural historiography, I investigate the representational dynamics of pro football in this film. In order to explicate the ideological, sociological, historical, and cultural significance of the film before, during, and after its release, I describe the emergence in the twentieth century of pro football and television, proffer the view that televisual texts perform cultural and political work and are open to multitudinous readings, apply the theory that gender is socially constructed and performed, and draw upon the concept of "emotional branding."

Title: NFL Films and the re-production of pro football

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Advisor: Schiappa, Edward

Committee member: Hartmann, Douglas, Ouellette, Laurie, Vavrus, Mary

University/institution: University of Minnesota

Department: Communication Studies

University location: United States -- Minnesota

Degree: Ph.D.
Racial and spatial politics of education in St. Louis, Missouri, 1950--1968

Author: Weathersby, Claude


Abstract: During and after World War II, large numbers of African Americans from the South migrated to St. Louis, Missouri, the state's premier city. Despite Missouri's de jure segregation laws, African Americans perceived the St. Louis area as having more opportunities for African Americans to improve the quality of life for their families than were available in the Deep South. The pace of this migration placed a strain on the St. Louis Public Schools and its state-mandated dual school system prior to May 17, 1954 to provide school building facilities to accommodate the rise in African American school age children. This issue was further illuminated after the symbolic Brown v. Board of Education decision that rendered segregated public schools in Missouri and sixteen other states illegal. The St. Louis Public Schools district responded to the facilities shortage in the 1950s and 1960s by (1) utilizing trailers as temporary classrooms, (2) constructing what school officials termed as "Rooms of Eight" branch school buildings, (3) constructing school annexes, and (4) constructing larger elementary schools to ease overcrowding at the elementary schools that provided educational services for African American children. This study analyzed site selection and architecture of new African American elementary schools in north central St. Louis, Missouri, and their role, in
maintaining a segregated school system. This dissertation also examined the social and political context of the City of St. Louis to more richly explore the racism that guided construction policies of the St. Louis Board of Education.


Subject: Education history; Social studies education; Ethnic studies
Classification: 0520: Education history; 0534: Social studies education; 0631: Ethnic studies
Identifier / keyword: Education, Social sciences, Missouri, Critical race theory, Segregation, St. Louis public schools, The Great Migration
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School code: 0481
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Country of publication: United States
ISBN: 9781124129488
Advisor: Davis, Matthew
"Doubly foreign": British consuls and slavery in the Antebellum South, 1830 - 1860

Author: Kinney, Michele Anders


Abstract: Upon ending their slavery in the British West Indies in 1833, Great Britain became known as the "Great Emancipator." Britain immediately began an official foreign policy campaign to end the slave trade and slavery wherever it existed. In the United States slavery continued to be deeply rooted in the culture of the Antebellum South, causing Britain to give the region a great deal of attention based upon British ethical, moral, and ideological concerns over slavery and the trade. Between 1833 and 1860, activities associated with southern slavery created unique moral and ethical challenges for the Foreign Office and British consuls sent to represent the official Foreign Policies against slavery and the trade in several port cities including Norfolk,
Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, and New Orleans. Because no such list of who these men were exists, the researcher created Appendix A which includes a comprehensive list of the British consuls sent to the South from 1830 to 1860 and which may be helpful for future researchers. On one hand, the Foreign Office not only had to placate but also to seek trade alliances with the South for the all-important King Cotton for British factories; on the other hand, the Foreign Office continually attempted to promote Britain's abolitionist principles and ideology. This dissertation shows that the British Consuls, who were the foot soldiers on the ground in the South, were ethically and morally challenged because of what they encountered on a daily basis. Furthermore, the consuls were honor-bound to remain loyal to the British government, its laws, and foreign policy issues. On the other hand, the consuls were in essence exiled persons far away from home surrounded by slavery and slavery economics. However, the details of the private lifestyles they led, the businesses they operated, and the ideologies they espoused during their tenure in office often remained unknown to the Foreign Office because of the great distance between the London home office and the consuls' duty stations. By examining how these individuals, who lived on the empire's periphery, interacted with the slaveholding communities in which they found themselves living and working within reveals how far they were ethically and morally tested. Investigating British consuls sent to the South from 1830 to 1860 is vitally important to understanding the difficulties and challenges of Britain's foreign policy position as the "Great Emancipator" in the Atlantic World.


Subject: Latin American history; American history; World History

Classification: 0336: Latin American history; 0337: American history; 0506: World History

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Antebellum South, Abolition, Atlantic world history, Diplomatic history, Slavery studies
Aaron Copland & Leonard Bernstein: Twentieth-century music through the eyes of masters

Author: Kirk, Erin P.


Abstract: During the twentieth century, composers Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein wrote and lectured extensively about various aspects of contemporary music, the works of other contemporary composers, and their own compositions, thereby emphasizing the significance of contemporary music. Consummate musicians, these men made a point of involving themselves with major trends in twentieth-century music in a manner completely original and innovative. Prolific as composers, authors, conductors and performers, Copland and Bernstein were able to communicate from a unique vantage point. They attained prominent social status and were key figures in the codification of a characteristic "American" sound. Therefore, to fully understand the development and significance of twentieth-century music, a complete and thorough understanding of Copland and Bernstein's contributions is imperative. This study will investigate what both of these composers thought about music and, most importantly, how their writings and principles influenced music during the twentieth century. Frequently, Copland and Bernstein discussed other composers, both past and contemporary. This study, first, will show the importance of their predecessors--composers of previous eras who were integral in establishing a twentieth-century approach to music. Next, an exploration of the twentieth-century masters of composition, including the trends they set forth and how Copland and Bernstein interacted with them, will be undertaken. The development of an American sound is a popular topic in writings on twentieth-century music, and will be thoroughly examined here, using eyewitness accounts of Copland and Bernstein, who were on the forefront of this development. Their specific contributions to twentieth-century music will be discussed from the standpoint of their influences on other composers and trends throughout the period. In the dissertation, it will be made clear not only that both composers were proponents for new music, but that both credited other composers, conductors, and teachers with being such advocates as well. Finally, an interdisciplinary connection will be established among the disciplines of music, poetry, language, and film to round out this comprehensive study of Copland and Bernstein's combined influence during the twentieth century.

Abstract: The atrocities of World War II and the lingering racial segregation in the United States ignited the field of intergroup relations. With a fierce sense of responsibility and purpose, social psychologists sought to unite theory and action, in order to better understand the potential extremes of intergroup hostility. Much of this research, conducted at the time in the spirit of democracy, was lost to the anti-communist hysteria. The rest was shadowed overtime by the canonization of Gordon Allport's Contact Hypothesis (1954). This dissertation begins with an analysis of the history of the social psychological study of contact. It follows the theoretical legacy established by early contact scholars that prioritized the disruption of dominant ideologies, relational and naturalistic research designs, the connection between research and action, participatory methods, and an engagement (rather than tolerance) of difference. The historical analysis is then joined by a longitudinal study of a real-world enactment of contact in the form of an intergenerational research and performance project called Echoes of Brown that documented the history of segregation and integration in public schools and contemporary educational injustice in the United States. Created as a contact zone (Pratt, 1992) Echoes brought together thirteen radically diverse young people, scholars, community elders, spoken word artists, dancers, and a choreographer in the final phase of a participatory action research project. The findings from Echoes analyzed in the context of the early contact research of Benedict and Weltfish (1943), Williams (1947), Watson (1947), Dubois (1943, 1950), and Dubois and Li (1955), as well as post-colonial (Pratt, 1992) and borderland (Anzaldúa, 1992, 2002) theories, suggests a revision of Allport's optimal conditions of contact: shifting equal group status to an explicit engagement of history, power, and privilege; common goals to shared collectively determined goals; cooperation to participation with negotiated conditions of collaboration; and support of authorities to collectively determined solidarity. They further demonstrate how
engaging history, power, and improvisation can foster individual and collective development and the production of knowledge, making the argument that contact should not only be engaged in social psychology as a subject, but as a critical epistemology.


Subject: Social psychology; Social studies education; Science history

Classification: 0451: Social psychology; 0534: Social studies education; 0585: Science history

Identifier / keyword: Education, Social sciences, Psychology, Arts, Borderland theory, Contact zones, Intergroup contact, Participatory action research, Social justice, Enactments, Social psychology

Title: The history and enactments of contact in social psychology

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Advisor: Fine, Michelle
Vibrant environments: The feel of color from the white whale to the red wheelbarrow

Author: Gaskill, Nicholas


Abstract: In the closing decades of the nineteenth century, a host of color media technologies combined with new theories of embodied perception to alter both the types of color experiences commonly available and the general understanding of their significance. Synthetic colors brightened all manner of manufactured goods, from textiles and tin can labels to candy and oil paints, and these colored materials sparked a flurry of interest in the sensory and affective impact of cultural environments. This dissertation argues that the discourses and practices of modern color in the U.S. guided literary writers in experimenting with the effects of textual "environments" on readers and in demonstrating,
through these investigations, the role of aesthetic experience in the extra-artistic realms of commerce, political reform, and education. At issue in each of these areas is the formation of individual subjects--and the groups they might create--through interactions with an arranged material environment. Color, more so than other sensory qualities, proved especially useful in tracking and intervening in these processes because it so readily slides among sensory, linguistic, and cultural domains, all functioning within a complex act of perception. I contend that late-nineteenth-century writers such as Hamlin Garland, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Stephen Crane, Charles Chesnutt, and L. Frank Baum--and later authors such as Nella Larsen and Claude McKay--embraced color both as a model for literary practice (of how texts might affect readers) and as a technique for dramatizing the ways in which social identities emerge from a historical network of material and cultural practices. In the end, these two functions prove inseparable, and my account of how color launched literary realism into modernism doubles as an argument for the role of the aesthetic in our daily lives.


Subject: American literature

Classification: 0591: American literature

Identifier / keyword: Language, literature and linguistics, Aesthetic, Affect, American literature, Color, Perception, Sensation

Title: Vibrant environments: The feel of color from the white whale to the red wheelbarrow

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Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010
Flights of the imagination: Black American travelers journey toward Africa in Ghana and Bahia, Brazil

Author: Commander, Michelle Denise

Abstract: This dissertation is a study of travel accounts produced by Black Americans as they journey toward imagined "Africas" to satiate a longing for origins through cultural roots tourism in and emigration to Ghana, West Africa, and Bahia, Brazil. The examination poses significant questions about Black American travel: Where is Africa? Is return feasible? What transpires when diasporans make identifications with and craft new lives in what they feel are authentic African homelands? Along the coastlines of Ghana and Bahia sit physical remnants of major embarkation points from which human cargo were distributed during the transatlantic slave trade; these artifacts, coupled with myriad cultural elements throughout each region, have become prominent tourist attractions, drawing thousands of Black American travelers each year. While it is clear that there are historical reasons for these flows, little attention has been placed on why Black Americans in the post-civil rights era view these particular sites as ones of unusual promise and what larger forces--social, economic, and/or imagined--compel them to move toward Africa. Utilizing the narrative arc of travel, a central trope of Black American existence, I examine the ways in which they practice identification in order to realize their desire for home. I employ a multi-method approach for this project--one that is grounded in years of interviews and participant-observation of events including tour groups and expatriate organization meetings, and also relies on textual analyses of literary and historical material to understand the imaginary that underwrites these circuits. By exploring the under-studied narrative progression from tourist to expatriate--that is, how Black Americans grapple with what they presume they have lost and believe is recoverable through flight to Ghana and Bahia, I locate what lingers in roots tourists' imaginations that induces repeat travel and permanent relocation.

Subject: African American Studies; American studies; American literature
The speculative ethics of modern comedic work: Mark Twain, Italo Svevo, Charlie Chaplin and Lenny Bruce

Author: Rachmuth, Moshe Shai


Abstract: This study conjectures a mode of comedy that, by means of exposing the immoral dimension of laughter, advances ethical self-encounter. Historically, scholarship has understood laughter as the sign of the subject's superiority over the object of laughter and consequently as a collective tool to mildly punish those who do not adapt to the demands of society. This understanding, productive as it may be, is grounded in a world-view that foregrounds violence, conspiracy and conformism—a world-view that in itself deserves to be ridiculed and thus corrected. This dissertation examines the works of Mark Twain, Charlie Chaplin, Italo Svevo and Lenny Bruce—comedians and comic writers who evoked an ethical laughter that would encourage their audience to transcend the need to feel superior. Furthermore, this study means to correct the misreading that comes from Emmanuel Levinas's assumption that ethics cannot be introduced without traumatizing the subject. As a medium, comedy is uniquely suited to introducing ethical obligations without the intimidation that occurs when these obligations are promulgated through religion or philosophy. My intention here is twofold: to show how Levinas's theory may benefit from what I call "the speculative ethics of modern comedy" and to demonstrate how Levinas's work can answer a basic problem of the comedian. Lenny Bruce once claimed that comedians with a social goal, including himself, were hypocrites because "[t]he purity they do profess a need for, they just feed upon." In other words, comedians sustain themselves economically and socially from the very evils they supposedly resist. Levinas's answer to Bruce would be that if there were only two people in the world then comedy would have been unethical: the I would have infinite responsibility for the other and would have worked to correct injustices rather than make them into jokes. Once there are more than two, however, the infinite responsibility of the I for the other is limited by his responsibility for the third person. This limitation on responsibility is what necessitates the creation of the "said" (" le dit ")—law, language, philosophy and comedy.

Scientific methods: American fiction and the professionalization of medicine, 1880--1940

Author: Hall, Deidre Dallas


Abstract: During the second half of the nineteenth century, the medical profession in America began to transform itself from a motley group of practitioners--registering remarkably disparate levels of education, expertise, and credibility--into a cohesive and exclusive body, enjoying ever-increasing status and income and solidifying what social historians have termed their "professional sovereignty" within the larger culture. The concomitant appearance of numerous novels and stories preoccupied with the figure and the business of the doctor suggests that these texts from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries not only documented but also intervened in the professionalization of medicine. Scientific Methods juxtaposes literary texts with non-literary documents and with material culture in order to determine the nature and the extent of these interventions and to delineate competing narratives within the history of medicine. By interrogating a range of professional performances represented in American fiction between 1880 and 1940, Scientific Methods establishes a complementary narrative to accounts of medical professionalization constructed by social historians. Although social historians have managed to destabilize the master narratives of scientific progress elaborated by the physician-historians of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, their investigations into the history of professionalization still center on physicians in conflict with each
other and in thrall to science and technology, neglecting public perceptions of the professionalization process. Literary representations of this process, on the other hand, chart the ways in which popular understandings of the figure and the business of the physician arose and circulated, elucidating points of accord and disparity between professional ideologies and lived experience and exposing the dynamics of power between doctors and patients. These fictions of medical professionalization both reflected and produced beliefs; thus they stand as essential tools for understanding the consolidation of authority around doctors. In addition, I utilize a diverse range of archival materials—from hospital records to WPA posters—to complicate my readings of these fictional engagements with the professionalization process and to illuminate the relationship of literature to other cultural domains. I argue that this textual sequence recasts the pursuit of professionalism and the gradual consolidation of cultural authority around doctors as a constant tension between the discipline of self—as the popularity of nineteenth-century "conduct books" for physicians demonstrates—and the discipline of Others. Lacking pervasive cultural authority at the end of the nineteenth century, doctors concentrated upon cultivating professional identity through professional "pantomimes" that simultaneously demonstrated their mastery of specialized knowledge and of middle-class social norms. Eventually, these professional "pantomimes" migrated from the stage of community practice to the arena of eminently consumable, ubiquitous popular entertainments such as radio programs and public art. This movement coordinates with an increasing amount of cultural authority and a decreasing need for individual self-discipline within the profession, and with doctors—a group overwhelmingly white, middle-class, and male—feeling freer than ever to visit spectacular and invasive violence upon the raced, class, and gendered bodies of Others. These disciplinary measures include the exclusion or removal of nonwhite male and white female practitioners from the medical profession, elaborated in Frank Norris's McTeague; human experimentation by the single-minded "microbe hunters" on southern populations during the interwar period, romanticized in Sinclair Lewis's Arrowsmith; and eugenic pressure exerted on poor women by the Depression-era discourses of public health, critiqued by Tillie Olsen's Yonnondio and Meridel LeSueur's The Girl. Yet far from reflecting an idealized vision of the medical professional, replete with cultural authority, these narrations of disciplinary events reveal doctors threatened by incursions by nonwhite and female practitioners, defeated by their own experimental protocols, and agitated by the unlimited reproduction of the working class.

Flying under the radar with the Royal Chicano Air Force: The ongoing politics of space and ethnic identity

Author: Diaz, Ella M.


Abstract: This dissertation explores the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF), a Chicano/a arts collective that produced numerous murals in Sacramento, CA, for over forty years. Grounded in Mexican and US aesthetic traditions, their murals reflect cultural hybridity and re-imagine US history through a Chicano/a perspective. Many of their works were and are located in Sacramento's Chicano/a barrios, while others occupy interethnic, public space in the vicinity of the State Capitol. By encoding hidden Chicano/a iconographies within each mural, the RCAF offers what scholar Alicia Gaspar de Alba calls "alter-Native" narratives of American history because they posit "Other" views of local history, which trouble larger frameworks of US history. The exposition begins by exploring the RCAF's origin's-story--or, how the group emerged in the 1960s and '70s Civil Rights Movement, and also in relation to events of the early twentieth century. Both the Mexican Revolution of 1910 and the 1942 Bracero Program in the US impacted Mexican Americans in meaningful ways that resonate in the memories and biographies of the RCAF. After locating the group's historical antecedents, Chapter Two examines the rise of public art in the wake of the 1960s and '70s civil rights era, which reflected ethno-political activism as well as ethnic self-actualization. Chapter Three explores issues of gender in the RCAF, since most of the artists that comprise the group are male. Chapter Four provides a historical overview of their murals, all of which convey messages and themes of historical inclusion and intervention. Chapter Five proposes a theoretical framework on the notion of 'remapping' and
how it's been used in American Studies, Literary Studies and related intellectual fields. Finally, Chapter Six enacts a remapping by rethinking Sacramento's history according to the murals and historic spaces of the RCAF. As a conclusion, this chapter also charts the RCAF and Chicano/a art's movement into institutional space, both literally--through museum and library collections--and figuratively--in perceptions and paradigms of US art history.


Subject: American studies; Art history; Hispanic American studies

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0377: Art history; 0737: Hispanic American studies

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Social sciences, Royal Chicano Air Force, Ethnic identity, Chicana/o, Civil rights, Murals

Title: Flying under the radar with the Royal Chicano Air Force: The ongoing politics of space and ethnic identity

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Native American elements in piano repertoire by the Indianist and present-day Native American composers

Author: Thomas, Lisa Cheryl


Abstract: My paper defines and analyzes the use of Native American elements in classical piano repertoire that has been composed based on Native American tribal melodies, rhythms, and motifs. First, a historical background and survey of scholarly transcriptions of many tribal melodies, in chapter 1, explains the interest generated in American indigenous music by music scholars and composers. Chapter 2 defines and illustrates prominent Native American musical elements. Chapter 3 outlines the timing of seven factors that led to the beginning of a truly American concert idiom, music based on its own indigenous folk material. Chapter 4 analyzes examples of Native American inspired piano repertoire by the "Indianist" composers between 1890-1920 and other composers known primarily as "mainstream" composers. Chapter 5 proves that the interest
in Native American elements as compositional material did not die out with the end of the "Indianist" movement around 1920, but has enjoyed a new creative activity in the area called "Classical Native" by current day Native American composers. The findings are that the creative interest and source of inspiration for the earlier "Indianist" compositions was thought to have waned in the face of so many other American musical interests after 1920, but the tradition has recently taken a new direction with the success of many new Native American composers who have an intrinsic commitment to see it succeed as a category of classical repertoire. Native American musical elements have been misunderstood for many years due to differences in systems of notation and cultural barriers. The ethnographers and Indianist composers, though criticized for creating a paradox, in reality are the ones who saved the original tribal melodies and created the perpetual interest in Native American music as a thematic resource for classical music repertoire, in particular piano repertoire.


Subject: Music; Performing Arts; Native American studies

Classification: 0413: Music; 0641: Performing Arts; 0740: Native American studies

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Social sciences, Piano repertoire, Native American composers

Title: Native American elements in piano repertoire by the Indianist and present-day Native American composers

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Keep on keeping on: The NAACP and the implementation of Brown v. Board of Education in Virginia

Author: Daugherity, Brian James


Abstract: On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court handed down one of its most important decisions in the twentieth century. Brown v. Board of Education ordered twenty-one U.S. states, including Virginia,
end racial segregation in their public schools. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a nationally-known African American civil rights organization, had led the legal campaign to bring about the Brown decision. After its victory, the organization focused on how to bring about the implementation of the decision in the South in order to effectuate school desegregation. In the later 1950s, the NAACP filed lawsuits in many southern states, including Virginia, where school boards had been unable, or unwilling, to comply. As the possibility of school desegregation grew, white southerners bitterly attacked the NAACP and proponents of integration. In Virginia this led to state-sanctioned investigations of the organization, among other things. Utilizing legislation passed by the state legislature, the governor of Virginia also closed public schools in several Virginia communities in the fall of 1958 to avoid desegregation. The following January, state and federal courts overturned the state's school closing laws, and in February 1959 initial school desegregation began in Virginia. Afterward, the state allowed token, or minimal, school desegregation in an attempt to both avoid judicial scrutiny but also maintain as much segregation as possible. In the 1960s the federal government demonstrated a renewed commitment to school desegregation, and both legislative and executive action pressured the southern states, including Virginia, to increase the amount of school desegregation taking place within their borders. In the late 1960s, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a series of new school desegregation decisions, starting with Green v. New Kent County (Virginia) in 1968, which sped up the desegregation process in the South. This dissertation examines the NAACP, Virginia's political leaders, white liberals and moderates, and segregationists during this tumultuous time in Virginia's history. Outside of the desegregation of public education, the manuscript also considers the desegregation of higher education, public transportation and accommodations, the expansion of black voting rights and political activity, racial violence, and related civil rights issues. Blending social, legal, political, and African-American history, this dissertation seeks to shed new light on the Civil Rights Movement and white resistance to civil rights in Virginia and the South.


Subject: African American Studies; Black history; American history; Education history

Classification: 0296: African American Studies; 0328: Black history; 0337: American history; 0520: Education history


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Extramusical elements in selected viola music of Libby Larsen:
Representation, suggestion, and abstraction

Author: Lewis, Katherine Jean


Abstract: Throughout her career, American composer Libby Larsen has drawn on a wide variety of extramusical influences in both her texted and non-texted compositions. This thesis focuses on the manner in which Larsen has incorporated these extramusical influences into selected chamber works with viola. It traces the progression from representational and programmatic works written at the beginning of Larsen's career through a middle period of "suggestive" compositions (roughly coinciding with an important residency with the Minnesota Orchestra in the mid 1980's), to abstract compositions written in recent years. Additionally, it illustrates that while the way in which Larsen has incorporated outside sources in her works has changed, her compositional interests continue to be heavily drawn from American musics, the rhythm and pitch contour of American English, and American landscapes. To demonstrate this progression, four works from Larsen's catalog, Black Roller (1981), Cajun Set (1980), Black Birds, Red Hills (1987/1996), and the Viola Sonata (2001) have been identified and analyzed with reference to her use of extramusical elements. General features of Larsen's style are highlighted and compositional connections are drawn between these works and other chamber pieces by Larsen. Additionally Larsen's compositional philosophy and influences are outlined along with relevant biographical information, as each work is presented within the framework of Larsen's career. Appendices containing errors in the published scores and selected viola fingerings used by James Dunham in the premiere of the Viola Sonata are also included as a resource for musicians interested in performing these works.


Subject: Music

Classification: 0413: Music

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Larsen, Libby, Chamber music, Viola

Title: Extramusical elements in selected viola music of Libby Larsen: Representation, suggestion, and abstraction

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A new eros: Sexuality in women's art before the feminist art movement

Author: Middleman, Rachel


Abstract: While the 1970s are known for the rise of feminism and female sexual imagery, my research shows that women were already creating a wide range of sexually themed art in the 1960s. Even before the formation of the first women artists' group, Women Artists in Revolution, signaled the beginning of a collaborative feminist art movement in 1969, female artists working in a variety of media---including filmmaker Carolee Schneemann, painter Marjorie Strider, sculptor Hannah Wilke, and collagist Anita Steckel---began redefining the boundaries of contemporary art through their sexually explicit works. My dissertation argues that erotic art made by women artists was central to the radical changes that took place in American art and politics during this period—from the crumbling of modernist aesthetics to the expanding field of art practice to the emergence of the feminist art movement. In the midst of a male-dominated contemporary art world, the public display of sexual content by female artists challenged the paradigm of formalism and laid the groundwork for a discussion of gender and sexuality in representation. These artists' battles with censorship and discrimination attest to the considerable challenge their work posed not only to the rules of art but also to accepted social standards for women.
Abstract: Although the myth persists that figurative painting in New York did not exist after the age of Abstract Expressionism, many artists in fact worked with a painterly, representational vocabulary during this period and throughout the 1960s and 1970s. This dissertation is the first survey of a group of painters working in this mode, all born around the 1920s and living in New York. Several, though not all, were students of Hans Hofmann; most knew one another; some were close friends or colleagues as art teachers. I highlight nine artists: Rosemarie Beck (1923-2003), Leland Bell (1922-1991), Nell Blaine (1922-1996), Robert De Niro (1922-1993), Paul Georges (1923-2002), Albert Kresch (b. 1922), Mercedes Matter (1913-2001), Louisa Matthiasdottir (1917-2000), and Paul Resika (b. 1928). This group of artists has been marginalized in standard art historical surveys and accounts of the period. In general, this is because figurative painting of this period does not fit into a teleological reading of art history, with abstraction perceived as the ultimate progression and goal of painting. As Pop Art, Minimalism, and Conceptualism gained force, the figurative painters were increasingly marginalized in the art world. The aim of this dissertation is to re-contextualize these artists into the New York art world of their time by discussing their training as abstractionists, their aesthetic theory, their teaching, their critical reception, and their careers. I focus particularly on the ways in which they reconciled the principles of abstraction with representational content. Although abstraction and representation were increasingly polarized in the art world, the painters themselves, and several critics and writers on their work were able to see the possibilities for a more dialectical synthesis of the two.
Subject: Art history

Classification: 0377: Art history

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, New York City, Blaine, Nell, Figurative painting, Matthiasdottir, Louisa, Painting in New York, Representational painting, Resika, Paul

Title: Painterly representation in New York, 1945--1975

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Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011

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Advisor: Mainardi, Patricia

Committee member: Manthorne, Katherine, Long, Rose-Carol W., Sawin, Martica

University/institution: City University of New York

Department: Art History

University location: United States -- New York

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses
Horror and reenchantment: A supernatural genre in a secular age

Author: Preston, Scott


Abstract: This dissertation investigates a body of films belonging to the contemporary horror genre of the American cinema in terms of the way these respond to and seek to resolve the complex conditions of belief in our secular age. In my reading of horror, it is not just one genre among many in contemporary popular culture. Rather, it is a privileged literary and aesthetic discourse with roots traceable to the cultural moments associated with the beginning of the Modern Era in the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution. From this perspective, horror's unique position in modern culture comes from its insistence on the centrality of mystery, wonder and the supernatural in the face of the overwhelming disenchantment characteristic of modern life. Film theory tells us that close reading of popular texts can provide valuable insights into a society's collective attitudes, assumptions, hopes, and fears. My discussion of recent horror films, drawing upon extensive knowledge of the genre's history and imagery, reveals how the popularity of the supernatural in the mass media today relates to the cross-purposes of life in the secular age identified in the work of Charles Taylor. After building a unique interdisciplinary framework that fuses ideas from sociology, religious studies, philosophy, film genre theory, myth criticism, and cultural studies, I turn to the ambivalence that characterizes modern life. A great number of secular people desperately want to just believe in something, but all of the momentum around them is in the direction of doubt. Their imaginations may be in a state of rebellion against the dominance of materialist skepticism into which they
are born but they cannot escape the feeling that to simply believe would start them on a slippery slope to fundamentalism, or madness. Under such conditions, the reenchanting function of supernatural horror films plays an important role. For example, narratives of conversion from skeptic to believer offer compelling resolutions. Serial killer films, on the other hand, present dark meditations on the reality of evil. Both entertain the existence of something greater than or beyond the everyday world. Horror takes great pleasure in rubbing reason up against the irrational, and setting the supernatural loose in the mundane reality of the natural. Detectives investigate paranormal activities, prove and disprove local myths and legends, and FBI special agents hunt monstrous multiple murderers who may or may not be evil personified. These characters and others bring to life a small part of the struggle to find the meaning of life in a secular age, and to reenchant this disenchanted world.


Subject: Religion; Mass communications; Film studies
Classification: 0318: Religion; 0708: Mass communications; 0900: Film studies
Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology, Communication and the arts, Horror genre, Secular, Modern Era, Enlightenment, Industrial Revolution
Title: Horror and reenchantment: A supernatural genre in a secular age
Number of pages: 258
Publication year: 2010
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School code: 0267
Contemporary grotesqueries: The multifaceted grotesque as an aesthetic and political strategy of resistance 1968-2008

Author: Jauregui, Gabriela


The vocal pedagogy of Frederic Woodman Root

Author: Grogan, David Christopher


Abstract: Frederic Woodman Root was a vocal pedagogue and writer of the late nineteenth century. He wrote over eighteen books on vocal pedagogy, and numerous articles on singing. Since his death, most of his works have fallen into obscurity. The purpose of this document was to codify the vocal pedagogy of Frederic Woodman Root, discussing his particularly thorough methodology, and to bring his methods back into the public eye. His method is broken down into the various components of basic musicianship, the General Principle, the Three Vowel Forms, registers, breathing, and agility. Examples from Root's exercises are included and discussed.
Subject: Music; Pedagogy; Music education

Classification: 0413: Music; 0456: Pedagogy; 0522: Music education

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Education, Root, Frederic Woodman, Vocal pedagogy, Singing

Title: The vocal pedagogy of Frederic Woodman Root

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Advisor: Snider, Jeffrey

University/institution: University of North Texas

University location: United States -- Texas

Degree: D.M.A.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

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Dissertation/thesis number: 3417750

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The uses of literature: Gilles Deleuze's American rhizome

Author: Koerner, Michelle Renae


Abstract: "The Uses of Literature: Gilles Deleuze's American Rhizome" puts four writers --Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, George Jackson and William S. Burroughs--in conjunction with four concepts --becoming-democratic, belief in the world, the line of flight, and finally, control societies. The aim of this study is to elaborate and expand on Gilles Deleuze's extensive use of American literature and to examine possible conjunctions of his philosophy with contemporary American literary criticism and American Studies. I argue that Deleuze's interest in American writing not only productively complicates recent historical accounts of "French Theory's" incursion into American academia, but also provides a compelling way think about the relationship between literature and history, language and experience, and the categories of minor and major that organize national literary traditions. Beginning with the concept of the "American rhizome" this dissertation approaches the question of rhizomatic thought as a constructivist methodology for engaging the relationship between literary texts and broader social movements. Following an introduction laying out the basic coordinates of such an approach, and their historical relevance with respect to the reception of "French Theory" in the United States, the subsequent chapters each take an experimental approach with respect to a single American writer invoked in Deleuze's work and a concept that resonates with the literary text under consideration. In foregrounding the question of the use of literature this dissertation explores the ways literature has been appropriated, set to work, or dismissed in various historical and institutional arrangements, but also seeks to suggest the possibility of creating conditions in which literature can be said to take on a life of its own.

The dark sublime in American poetry: From Poe to the bomb

Author: Brickey, Russell W.

Publication info: Purdue University, ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing, 2010. 3413732.

Abstract: This project traces a strain of the sublime in American poetry from the poetry of E. A. Poe, through the eras of Modernism, Confessional Poetry, and the atomic bomb. On American soil, the sublime turns toward the grotesque and Dark Romantic, generating a number of variations on the orthodox Romantic experience of sublimity as initially defined by Kant. Thomas Weiskel's seminal definition of three stages in the orthodox Romantic sublime process provides a template for the several formulations of sublimity examined in this project. Rob Wilson and John Gery are also important theorists of American poetry. Prominent poets include Kenneth Rexroth, Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, Sharon Olds, Lorine Niedecker, William Stafford, and Ai.

Admission as submission: Richard Rodriguez's autobiographies as an epistemology of penetration

Author: Rivera, Christopher


Abstract: My dissertation is a study and contextualization of the three ethnic autobiographies of Chicano public intellectual Richard Rodriguez: Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez (1982); Days of Obligation: An Argument with My Mexican Father (1992); and Brown: The Last Discovery of America (2002). Since the publication of Hunger of Memory, Rodriguez is identified as being against such political programs as Affirmative Action and as being a "poster boy" for right-wing politics. I argue for a more critical approach to Rodriguez's controversial role in Chican/a and Latina/o literature and culture. I explore Rodriguez's evolution as an assimilated, American character and author and highlight how his struggles are exemplary of postcolonial subjects' negotiating their Americanization. Assimilation produces discourses that I analyze as particular to a colonized subject's identity that is at once typically American and that is yet always outside the definition of what it means to be "authentically American." Building on Octavio Paz's "penetration paradigm" and expanding the implicitly queer reading of la chingada and el rajado, metaphors defined in Laberinto de la soledad (1950), in my project I articulate how the concepts of penetration, rejection, and ambivalence have become strategies of resistance that postcolonial subjects manipulate in pursuit of (in)authentic Americanism. Spanning the U.S.-Mexican border, Rodriguez discusses the role that the impure, brown subject assumes in historical and contemporary narratives of nation formation. He presents a colonized American subject who openly defends and explores various ambiguous processes of acculturation and assimilation. Instead of adhering to Paz's
notion of an impervious national masculinity, Rodriguez narrates his experiences as prototypical of the life of a culturally mixed, deviant and dark subject who acknowledges the benefits and losses of openly admitting to inhabiting an ambiguous space in American society. Recognizing the ambivalent relationship that nations and individuals have in regards to penetration and rejection becomes crucial in the epistemology of penetration that interprets admission as submission. Through a close reading of Rodriguez's autobiographies, I identify a subtext of desire: a desire for memory and for the creation of alternative narratives and alternative spaces for postcolonial American life and subjectivity.


Subject: Comparative literature
Classification: 0295: Comparative literature
Identifier / keyword: Language, literature and linguistics, Rodriguez, Richard, Postcolonialism, Queer, Autobiography, Latino/a & Chicana/o literature, Penetration, Ambivalence
Title: Admission as submission: Richard Rodriguez's autobiographies as an epistemology of penetration
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Degree date: 2010
School code: 0190
Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011
Place of publication: Ann Arbor
Knowledge and power: The relevance of scientific doctrine and psychiatric evaluation to the American eugenics movement

Author: Simonsen, Judith


Abstract: This dissertation examines the relevance of scientific theory and psychiatric evaluation to the American eugenics movement. It does so using the two states which conducted the most involuntary sterilizations: California and Virginia, two states with very different histories and populations. As a new state, and a frontier state, California was a state
where Progressive theory flourished, and where the scientific doctrines preached by the eugenics movement were well received. Virginia, for historical and cultural reasons, was much less welcoming to a movement such as progressivism, and to the doctrines of science it espoused. In each state the role of the psychiatrist was significant, however, both in eugenic implementation and in practice. Furthermore, in both states the data shows a broad institutionalization of eugenic practices, rather than simply the aberrant practices of a few psychiatrists. The conclusion of this dissertation is that science and psychiatry played a critical role in the eugenics movement, providing it with both authority and credibility, and facilitating the whole process of labeling and institutionalization necessary for involuntary sterilization. They were also key in allowing states within the eugenics movement to focus on the control of individuals judged deviant as opposed to addressing the broad social issues that those individuals represented.


Subject: American studies; Mental health; Medical Ethics

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0347: Mental health; 0497: Medical Ethics

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Social sciences, Scientific doctrine, Psychiatric evaluation, California, Eugenics, Medical ethics, Progressive movement, Psychiatry, Virginia

Title: Knowledge and power: The relevance of scientific doctrine and psychiatric evaluation to the American eugenics movement

Number of pages: 240

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010
Writing the devouring neon: Celebrity and audience in American literature 1973--2003

Author: Luter, Matthew Jonathan

Abstract: This project argues that contemporary American authors, rather than rejecting altogether mass media celebrity culture as a threat to literary culture, instead comment on the idea of fame and specific celebrity images through their depictions of audiences within their texts. Mob-like crowds in which audience members bear no individuality or agency signal a reading of celebrity as destructive. Where audiences are depicted as more active and occasionally resistant, celebrity becomes a neutral or even positive force. Additionally, writers who find celebrity a useful conceptual category in their work need not limit the scope of their cultural commentary to media matters alone. Some writers find that their characters' interactions with famous figures provide useful starting points for broader meditations on issues of national identity, race, gender, and both public and private history. By considering literary responses to celebrity culture that range from bitingly critical to cautiously optimistic to sympathetic and positive, this dissertation argues that no single type of response to the centrality of fame in contemporary culture dominates the American literary scene. Fame as a cultural signifier, then, should be neither dismissed entirely nor embraced fully. Furthermore, since authors frequently indicate their own attitudes toward celebrity via their representations of audiences within literary texts, these authors as a group emphasize the power that individuals have to interpret and subsequently accept or reject any message mediated by a corporation, a media outlet, or any other seat of cultural power. By conveying how crucial it is for audiences to act independently, these writers argue that good citizens must first be good readers. Primary texts include fiction, essays, and plays by Don DeLillo, Bret Easton Ellis, David Foster Wallace, Tom Carson, Adrienne Kennedy, and Bobbie Ann Mason.


Subject: Modern literature; American literature

Classification: 0298: Modern literature; 0591: American literature
Aspirations and opportunity: The architecture of Hoit, Price & Barnes and Kansas City (1901-1941)

Author: Goudy, Gayle L.


Abstract: The architecture of Hoit, Price & Barnes defined mainstream architecture in Kansas City during the peak of the city's resources and aspirations. This study examines their work within the context of the city's social history and early twentieth century American architecture by looking at drawings and sketches, contemporary sources, and the buildings in situ. In 1901, Van Brunt & Howe recruited Henry F. Hoit and William Cutler to work on the Varied Industries Palace for the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition. After the fair under the partnership of Howe, Hoit & Cutler, they designed the city's most prestigious ecclesiastical buildings, including B'nai Jehudah Synagogue and Linwood Boulevard Christian Church. Within the residential enclaves of the city's progressive parks and boulevards system, the firm designed domiciles ranging from multi-family apartments to the city's most prestigious houses. Hoit opened the spaces in the plans of modest houses and later designed the Braley and Nelson residences. Howe, Hoit & Cutler began an architect-patron relationship with industrialist Robert Alexander Long, who aspired toward monumental architecture. They designed the R. A. Long Building, the downtown headquarters of the Long-Bell Company and Long's church's new building, the Independence Boulevard Christian Church. After the deaths of his partners, Henry F. Hoit designed Long's personal residences---Corinthian Hall and Longview Farm. Demonstrating the boldness of Long's ambitions, Hoit designed a complex of buildings for the Christian Church Hospital and the city square of Long's planned community of Longview, Washington; both projects were truncated. After World War I, Henry Hoit added two young partners, Edwin Price and Alfred Barnes, and Hoit, Price & Barnes thrived amidst the powerful Pendergast machine and its rule over the construction industry and Missouri politics. During this era of corporate consolidation, the firm distinguished the city's skyline with the Southwestern Bell Telephone Building, the Fidelity Bank Building, and the Kansas City Power & Light Building. During the 1930s, they secured work on the Municipal Auditorium, which Architectural Record lauded as "one of the 10 best buildings of the world" in 1936. The Municipal Auditorium was their last major building before the firm dissolved in 1941.
Subject: American history; Art history; Architecture

Classification: 0337: American history; 0377: Art history; 0729: Architecture


Title: Aspirations and opportunity: The architecture of Hoit, Price & Barnes and Kansas City (1901-1941)

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Advisor: Roth, Leland M.

University/institution: University of Oregon

University location: United States -- Oregon

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses
The art of self-making: American modernist fiction and the performances of identity and authorship

Author: Camacho, Kenneth Michael

Abstract: This project argues for the relatedness of the authorial desire for textual self-representation visible in many works of American modernist fiction and the modern myth of the self-made man. I contend that the historical and cultural forces which shaped both phenomena in the latter half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries are not incidental but integral to the modern understanding of America. I also contend that these phenomena are the products of a particular historical anxiety about male gender identity and its relation to biological futurity. Specifically, American authors are wrestling with the implications of male-centered views of cultural reproduction, including the myth of the "self-made" man, by using their fiction to seek out an exclusively-male model for how creativity and textual authority function. The failures which haunt these attempts in American modernist fiction—the persistent failures of American fathers, the destructive and deformed portraits of male-female gender relations, the legacy of dead and unborn children—all stem from and gesture back towards an irreconcilable, phallogocentric vision of American fiction.
Subject: American studies; American literature; Gender studies

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0591: American literature; 0733: Gender studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Modernist, Authorship, Barnes, Djuna, Fatherhood, Hemingway, Ernest, Masculinity, Self-made man, Toomer, Jean

Title: The art of self-making: American modernist fiction and the performances of identity and authorship

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ISBN: 9781124135519

Advisor: Brinkmeyer, Robert H., Jr., Glavey, Brian

Committee member: Whitted, Qiana, Ivory, Yvonne

University/institution: University of South Carolina

Department: English

University location: United States -- South Carolina
Of merchants and missions: A historical study of the impact of British colonialism on American Methodism in Singapore from 1885 to 1910

Author: Peh, Andrew Swee Kian


Abstract: Colonialism and Christian mission have often been accused of collusion and complicity. While there have been an increasing number of researches pertaining to mission in a colonial context, interestingly most these are derived from the African, Indian or South Pacific contexts. This research deals with the specific case of interaction of American Methodism with British colonialism in Singapore at the close of the 19th century. It seeks to investigate if Christianity (American Methodism, in this case) came to Singapore under the coattails of the British colonial administration. It is evident that British colonialism provided the necessary context for Methodist mission in Singapore. It may also be said that Methodism and British colonialism had a symbiotic relationship which enabled the colony to be administered with minimal cost and yet with maximum efficiency, especially in regard to education. With a preoccupation on commerce and trade, the colony was administered in an atypical laissez faire context which worked to the advantage of the Methodist mission, as it very quickly embarked on a pluriform mission, reaching different ethnic groups with the different means of presentation of the Gospel. The research yielded archival documentation that in
regards to efforts at evangelism and church planting, education mission as well as matters involving ethics and Christian witness, the Methodist missionaries were constantly appealing against colonial administrative policies and praxes. Despite the implications of the Pangkor Treaty, the Methodists continued to minister to the local indigenous people and migrant population, through mission and evangelism. Despite the paltry grants they received from the colonial administration and prohibition against proselytism, the Methodists went ahead and established an effective Christian academic institution that till this day continues to be at the forefront of education in Singapore. Despite the nonchalance of a colonial administration against such social malaise as opium addiction, prostitution and poverty, the Methodists penetrated different levels of society to work for the benefit of those affected. Despite the colonial emphasis on economic profitability for a free port such as Singapore, the Methodist laboured instead to free the people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The conclusion arrived through research of historical documents and various archival records, both secular and ecclesiastical, is that the charge of complicity of mission and colonialism is a generalization that is tenuous in the case of Methodism's advent and march in Singapore.


Subject: Religious history; History

Classification: 0320: Religious history; 0332: History

Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology, Social sciences, Missions, Colonialism, Methodism, Singapore, British Empire, Oldham, William

Title: Of merchants and missions: A historical study of the impact of British colonialism on American Methodism in Singapore from 1885 to 1910

Number of pages: 356
Returning Lipan Apache women's laws, lands, & power in El Calaboz Rancheria, Texas-Mexico border

Author: Tamez, Margo

Abstract: "Nádasi'né' nde' isdzáné begoz'aahi' shimaa shini' gokal go
goshjaa ha'"aná'idili texas-nakaiyé godesdzog," [Translation: Returning
Lipan Apache Women's Laws, Lands, & Power in El Calaboz Ranchería, Texas-
Mexico Border], documents nineteen generations (1546-2009) of Ndé (Lipan
Apache), Tlaxcalteca, Nahuatl Noble, and Basque colonials in the
Indigenous-Texas-Mexico borderlands. Indigenous women's genealogies are
traced, exposing the intersections of colonization, governmentality,
legal challenges, slavery, exploitative labor, militarization and
resistances. This dissertation re-imagines a critical interdisciplinary
dialogue between Native American Studies, Indigenous Studies, American
Studies, History, Critical Legal Studies, Gender Studies, and Border
Studies. In 2007, Indigenous peoples in El Calaboz Ranchería challenged
the U.S. border wall along the Texas-Mexico border as a violation of
human rights and constitutional law. The community's resistance to the
state's will to dispossess them of ancestral lands, owned communally
through aboriginal and Crown Land Grant title, inspired the
investigations by Indigenous women to untangle their community's legal,
social, economic and political histories in land-tenure along the Lower
Rio Grande Valley. Their challenges to the state's use of sovereignty and
militarization exposed how the government naturalized the border wall
within the discourse of development. However, their legal investigation
unburied centuries of legal disputations between Indigenous peoples and
more than one sovereign. Indigenous women's analysis of the border wall
excavated a longer history of sovereignty and state violence as
interlocking tools to normalize dispossession. Drawing from colonial
archives, genealogical records, community documents, photographs,
government documents, and interviews of El Calaboz Ranchería, from the
clans of Lipan Apaches and their kinship relationships, this dissertation
recovers Indigenous perspectives and principles related to dispossession
and genocide resistance against four governments, across five centuries:
Spain, Mexico, Texas and the U.S. This project is both historical and
critical memory recovery which challenge normative conceptions of Native
American and Indigenous genocide history.

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01&rft.volume=&rft.issue=&rft.spage=&rft.isbn=9781124215198&rft.btitle=&r
Carl Andre, Richard Serra, the problem of materials, and the picture of matter

Author: Neil, Jonathan T. D.


Abstract: Carl Andre and Richard Serra are major figures within the history of twentieth-century art, largely for their contribution to a newly won understanding of sculpture after modernism. This study argues, however, that we must look outside the discourse of modernism, and thus of Minimalism and Postminimalism, in order not only to understand just how deep Andre and Serra's contributions run, but also to reconsider just what we believe those contributions to be in the first place. To that end, this study exchanges the categories of "art" in general and "sculpture" in particular for the concepts of "matter" and "material" as a means to look differently at the history of advanced art-making in New York circa 1968, the years of Andre's "rugs" and Serra's "props." By tracking an underground strain of physicalist thinking in the historical discourse of Minimalism, and by tracing the shifts in the scientific and philosophical understanding of the concept of matter in the wake of particle physics and the new atomic sciences of the middle of the twentieth century, this study seeks to answer how matter could come to be conceived of as a "readymade." At the same time, through parallels to contemporaneous upheavals in the philosophy of science—in both its theories and practices—this study makes a case for understanding Andre and Serra's contributions to the history of twentieth-century art according to a dialectic of reduction and emergence, and so offers a different set of concepts with which to tell the narrative of the art that comes after that which we call Modern.


Form and ideology: Human interest journalism and the U.S. print media's coverage of U.S. military deaths in the Iraq War, 2003--2007

Author: Walker, Denice Corinne


Abstract: Within the body of mass media research seeking to examine the news media as a site of ideology, the preferred objects of study are overwhelmingly drawn from what is conventionally understood to be hard news. Far less often is soft news, and human interest news in particular, studied for its political or ideological content. In this dissertation I seek to redress the overreliance on hard news by engaging in a critical assessment of the human interest news story. Specifically, I examine these stories as they are used to cover the deaths of U.S. military personnel killed in the war on Iraq and reported in local and national U.S. newspapers. This study examines stories drawn from selected months for the years 2003, 2005, and 2007. Informed by the theory and methodology of Marxist literary critic Fredric Jameson (1980) and guided by Mike Wayne's (2003) application of Jameson's interpretive model, I consider the human interest story in terms of the way in which the form works to promote a particular way of understanding the world. I then examine the content of these stories by applying the first two interpretive levels of Jameson's model. In this way I demonstrate that the conventions of the human interest story form, as typically applied by journalists, work ideologically to suggest a particular way of viewing both the war on Iraq and the deaths of U.S. military personnel killed in the war. Specifically, this preferred view is informed by the ideology of U.S. exceptionalism and by the Bush administration's National Security Strategy for the U.S., both strongly promoted by President Bush in his major political speeches about the war. Both the form and the content of human interest stories, as demonstrated in coverage of U.S. military deaths in Iraq, work to provide a specific framework within which readers are encouraged to understand both the war itself and these deaths in particular, while foreclosing on other interpretations of these events. In this way, the human interest stories prove to be as much a site of ideological work as are the more commonly examined hard news stories.
Title: Form and ideology: Human interest journalism and the U.S. print media's coverage of U.S. military deaths in the Iraq War, 2003--2007

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ISBN: 9781124194813

Advisor: Peck, Janice

Committee member: Calabrese, Andrew, Schofield Clark, Lynn, Doss, Erika, Klages, Mary, Skewes, Elizabeth
Coolie democracy: U.S.-China political and literary exchange, 1925-1955

Author: So, Richard Jean


Abstract: In the 1930s and 1940s, a group of American and Chinese writers traversed the Pacific in search of an alternative model of Western democracy. A diverse group of intellectuals – white and Asian, male and female, Black and Chinese-American – encountered each other in America and China and worked together to create new forms of politics and literature. A community was born through such reciprocal encounters. In New York City, Pearl Buck and Lin Yutang invented new aesthetic forms, such as "synthetic realism," to generate a vision of "equality" as harmonized across American and Chinese contexts. In Shanghai, Langston Hughes and Lu Xun co-authored a series of manifestos to redefine "democracy" as an international, rather than purely nation-based, concept. The outcome of such migrations and meetings was a radical new vision of collectivity and human freedom: what Buck dubbed, "coolie democracy." Specifically, this group of writers valorized the degraded
figure of "the coolie," or Chinese laborer, to re-define U.S. democracy at its threshold. They argued that the coolie, in its distance from Western modernity, unexpectedly revealed a potentially more "natural" state of agency, despite its subjected status. Moreover, they linked this figure to "democracy" in order to criticize American society's inability to absorb such marginal subjects. In its triple subjection - economic, racial, imperial - the "coolie" articulated a timely critique of American democracy by linking it to East Asian colonialism. This dissertation examines this idea of coolie democracy to explore interactions between U.S. and Chinese literary systems during the interwar years. Drawing on two years of archival research in China and America and bilingual close readings, I argue that coolie democracy does not model a form of "core-periphery" cultural exchange, but rather, it engendered an intermediate space between American and Chinese cultures that enabled intellectual reciprocity. Collaboration at the interstices of nations provoked new political and aesthetic concepts, which I argue, served to foment the mutual transformation of post-war American and Chinese cultural systems.


Subject: Comparative literature; Modern literature; Asian literature; History; American history; American literature; International law

Classification: 0295: Comparative literature; 0298: Modern literature; 0305: Asian literature; 0332: History; 0337: American history; 0591: American literature; 0616: International law

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Buck, Pearl S., Smedley, Agnes, Lin, Yutang, Trans-Pacific, Lao, She, Coolie, United States, China

Title: Coolie democracy: U.S.-China political and literary exchange, 1925-1955

Number of pages: 290
What and how will we teach; for what shall we teach and why? Aims-talk in the "Journal of Negro Education" 1932--1953

Author: Ketcham, Christopher Haviland

Abstract: This is a study of educational aims discourses (aims-talk) in the Journal of Negro Education between 1932 and 1953. In this era of segregation, economic depression, and war, educators and other champions of education for African Americans struggled to define and then develop objectives, goals, and curricula for African American students in secondary schools and colleges. This study considers the different aims discourses, how they evolved, and how they were affected by economic depression and war. Using literary analysis, this historical analysis considers the influence of philanthropy, The Cardinal Principles, segregation, the American social order, democracy, and the "peculiar" needs of African Americans as themes within the disparate discourse. This study uses the taxonomy of critical race theory to inform the discourse and supplement the theory of whiteness as property with the related theory that education is also property. The study's analysis is informed by Nel Noddings' theoretical position that aims can be used as a critique of society. Finally, this study adds empirical evidence to support Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.'s theory of nation language. The conditions of segregation significantly influenced the discourse of the 100 authors and the 137 articles considered by the study. The conditions of segregation did not change during the period of this study but the economy improved and war provided more job opportunities for African Americans. While there was a heightened call for the elimination of segregation and resetting of the social order during World War II in the Journal of Negro Education, the educational condition of the African American as reported by these researchers did not significantly evolve over the same period. However, a new discourse developed in which both philanthropists and African-American educators recognized the need for some combination of industrial and academic education for their students. The period examined in this study begins with the publication of the first issue of the Journal of Negro Education in 1932 and ends on the eve of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision in 1953.


Subject: Black history; Curriculum development; Education philosophy
An historical analysis of rule and policy changes in the Texas University Interscholastic League One-Act Play Contest, 1986-2006, and the results of those changes: Administrator and teacher perceptions

Author: Stevens, David Todd


Abstract: The University Interscholastic League (UIL) One-Act Play Contest is a competition where similarly sized Texas schools present an 18-40 minute play usually adjudicated by a single judge. At each level of competition the judge awards individual acting awards as well as selecting two productions to advance to the next level of competition. After the awards are announced the judge gives an oral critique to each of the schools. Because of the wide participation and diversity of plays produced, certain rules and guidelines have been adopted to ensure safety, allow for equity, satisfy legal standards, and make the running of the contest practical. These rules can be modified to achieve positive outcomes and improved educational results. Changes in the rules of a UIL contest are in accordance with stated educational objectives of the UIL. Occasionally, however, modifications in procedures raise questions. The problem of this study was to determine, from the perceptions of administrators and teachers, whether significant modifications in the rules and policies for the UIL One-Act Play Contest over a time span of 20 years have had impacts on the goals and procedures of the contest. The study utilized a qualitative approach through historical analysis and a survey to answer two research questions. Historical analysis identified the six modifications in the UIL OAP over the years 1986-2006. The survey instrument determined the impact of these changes on the goals and procedures of the contest. Based on the responses of the survey the competition experience has been enhanced by recent changes.

Historical review of teacher and student diversity in an urban Kentucky school district

Author: Francis, James L.


Abstract: Drawing on court records, state archival information, and local school district reports, this project examined student diversity and teacher diversity over more than five decades in an urban school district established in 1974 by court mandate. This study especially focused on the impact of a ratio set by the federal court regarding the high school levels in this district. This ratio guided the district's staffing patterns for more than 30 years, but was abandoned in 2007. Teacher diversity remained relatively constant, despite district recruitment and retention efforts, while student diversity increased during this period. Through interviews and surveys of current high school principals, the study offers recommendations for securing faculties more reflective of the ethnic composition of the student population.
Tough on hate? Addressing hate crimes in a post-difference society

Author: Lewis, Clara S.


Abstract: In Tough on Hate ?, I analyze the cultural politics of hate crimes across a range of social fields, primarily news media production and national politics, and to a lesser extent law making, advocacy, and academia. Counterintuitively, I observe that mainstream discursive performances about hate crimes tend to undercut the salience of contemporary minority and civil rights concerns. These widely distributed depictions not only narrowly define bigotry as a law enforcement problem, they also create opportunities to celebrate American exceptionalism and tolerance, further stigmatize the white underclass, and give voice to members of minority groups who actively disavow identity politics. In each of these three areas, individuals and organizations that are defined by their recognition of ascriptive differences—including both white supremacists and minority rights advocates—are marginalized through demonization, criminalization or, more subtly, invisibility. In grappling with the significance of these findings, I develop the construct post-difference ideology. Post-difference ideology describes the cultural tendency to condemn hate crimes in terms that disavow the continued significance of ascriptive differences. The saturation of post-difference ideology within mainstream representation of hate crimes has implications for how hate crimes are understood as a policy field, political issue, news theme, and site of minority and civil rights activism. I surmise that anti-hate crimes legislation functions as a sound criminal justice practice while representations of hate crimes share the same damning consequences for minorities as other expressions of color-blind racism, new homophobia, and Anti-Arab/Muslim sentiment. The dualistic cultural tendency to condemn hate crimes while ignoring these crimes' social and historical imbrications indicates that the ideological pattern termed "new racism" has come to characterize, not only racial thinking, but also other forms of identity-based difference and even mainstream efforts to combat bigotry. The result being that the bigotry manifest in hate crimes is unequivocally defined as criminal, while the differences that initiated these crimes in the first place are
rendered moot. Bigotry appears deviant, while the status of being in a minority group is viewed as either neutral or irrelevant. The myth of the color-blind society transmogrifies within these narratives into the myth of the post-difference society. As a transdisciplinary endeavor, Tough on Hate? contributes to ongoing conversations within scholarship on the post-civil rights era, race-class-gender studies, and hate crimes studies. Beyond academia, my dissertation speaks to minority and civil rights advocates interested in cultural futures for anti-hate crimes policy. Ultimately, this dissertation generates new theory on the role of political discourse and cultural production in reifying the post-civil rights era's identity-based social harms.

Subject: American studies; Criminology; Hate crimes; Society

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0627: Criminology

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Media, Hate crime, Media studies, Post-Civil Rights Era, Race-class-gender studies

Title: Tough on hate? Addressing hate crimes in a post-difference society

Pages: n/a

Number of pages: 205

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

School code: 0075

Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011

Place of publication: Ann Arbor
A history of Neo-Futurism

Author: Milkovich, Erica Anne


Abstract: "A History of Neo-Futurism" describes the theories and practices of the Chicago-based theater company called the Neo-Futurists. Though they have been regularly performing their signature work (Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind) for over twenty years, have a
satellite company in New York City, and are one of the most successful experimental theater companies in the United States, no other critical explorations of the ensemble are currently available. Further, the company, which has consisted of hundreds of performers, keeps no official archive and proposes no clear, cohesive theory. Therefore, this history is an unconventional one that seeks to position the Neo-Futurists and Neo-Futurism within several larger spheres: postmodernism, archival theory, and performance theory. The purpose of this positioning is to put forward an aesthetic theory of Neo-Futurism that simultaneously encompasses available documentation, performance practices, and various opinions expressed by different Neo-Futurists. Ultimately, Neo-Futurism is positioned as an aesthetic that thrives in the boundaries between the modern and the postmodern, between theory and practice, and between text and embodiment. Concluding this study are several appendices assembled specifically for this dissertation, including a chronology of Neo-Futurism, a list of all current and former Neo-Futurists, a comprehensive Neo-Futurist production history, a compendium of Neo-Futurist publications, and a collection of anecdotes as related by several current and former Neo-Futurists.


Subject: Theater; Performing Arts; Theater History

Classification: 0465: Theater; 0641: Performing Arts; 0644: Theater History

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Neo-Futurism, Chicago Theater, Allen, Greg, Experimental theater, Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind, Illinois

Title: A history of Neo-Futurism

Number of pages: 251

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010
Saving the Southern sister: Tracing the survivor narrative in Southern women's modern and contemporary novels and plays

Author: Thompson, Elizabeth Rose


Abstract: The Southern United States is often linked in popular culture and the media with backward, degrading, violent, nepotistic, and depraved
activities. The most pervasive of these connections is the incest stigma that has a particular attachment to the South. While Southern writers like William Faulkner, Erskine Caldwell, and Walker Percy have contributed to incest as a theme in the Southern literary genre, modern and contemporary Southern women writers and dramatists, such as Dorothy Allison, Kaye Gibbons, Gayl Jones, Alice Walker, Marsha Norman, Paula Vogel, Carson McCullers, Naomi Wallace, Toni Morrison, and Lydia Diamond, have delved further into the often darker reality of incest and sexual abuse in Southern families. This project traces the various depictions of incest in the South as it has been linked in film, television, crude humor, new documentaries, and finally, in Southern women's writing, which works not from a double-victimizing stance of blaming or shaming the victim of incest abuse; instead, these writers create narratives from the victims' perspectives. They invalidate the oft-argued point that incest books could only create salacious dialogue rather than useful feminist revisioning by creating both private (novel) depictions of incest and public (theater) depictions. Though each work uses incest in either a literal or figurative manifestation to depict a myriad of meanings, e.g., cultural xenophobia, fear of foreign takeover, patriarchal control, and self-love/hate, the unifying theme that connects all of these pieces is the constant notion of change versus stasis. If incest is the ultimate embodiment of stagnation, then these survivors' narratives overcome the debilitating effects of their abuse to create change and feminist revisioning. Included in this project are interviews I conducted with writers Dorothy Allison, Naomi Wallace, Marsha Norman, and Lydia Diamond.


Subject: Modern literature; Womens studies; Theater; American literature

Classification: 0298: Modern literature; 0453: Womens studies; 0465: Theater; 0591: American literature

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Southern, Survivor narrative, Novels, Plays, Women writers
Title: Saving the Southern sister: Tracing the survivor narrative in Southern women's modern and contemporary novels and plays

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Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

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Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781124158747

Advisor: Plunka, Gene

University/institution: The University of Memphis

University location: United States -- Tennessee

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

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Document 61 of 100

Reading with a critical global perspective: A study of children's and adolescent's literature on South Asia, 1989--2009

Author: Lakshmanan, Manika Subi
Abstract: This study examines how children's and adolescent's literature promotes global awareness, cross-cultural understanding and cosmopolitanism. It proposes an alternative critical global perspective in the teaching of complex narratives dealing with socio-economic and political transformations in the developing world, with specific reference to South Asian societies. Reframing how transcultural literature is read, a critical global perspective combines global perspectives distilled from theories of development, human rights and international relations, Michel Foucault's notion of discourse and critical analyses, and textual and visual analyses (Stephens, 1992; Kress and van Leeuwen, 1996). This multidimensional approach contributed 20 questions that explored the gap between cultural traditions and modernity, child and family rights, religious worldviews and secularism, humanitarianism and war. These questions were applied to 18 award-winning North American books, published from 1989 to 2009, to facilitate analysis of how texts, images, teaching guides and scholarly commentaries influence global education. Comparative analyses of the 18 texts reveal that while authors differ in their interpretations of societal transformation, education and educators are unanimously regarded as enablers of development, human rights and global peace. Nevertheless, first-person narrative devices, which are used to draw readers' engagement into the global context, impede the potential of transcultural literature to equitably mediate cultural and political differences. Paradoxically, while some authors offer more nuanced narratives, the publisher's teaching guide often perpetuates notions of an idealized American way of life. In the case of picture books, these guides neglect to integrate how visuals provide more nuanced religious, cultural, and socio-economic realities. The study concludes that these limitations are inadvertently fostered by the emphasis on text-self connections and reader relevance in the writing and teaching of literature (Keene and Zimmerman, 1997). These findings validate the need for a critical global perspective that strengthens text-world connections, which engender the desired outcome of a cosmopolitan global education.

Cindy Sheehan and the peace movement: Networks of care and rhetorical exploits

Author: Pason, Amy


Abstract: Cindy Sheehan became the "face" of the peace movement during the Iraq War by camping outside of President Bush's Crawford Ranch in August 2005. This project explores the possibilities for resistance in the first US war of the Internet Age, specifically analyzing Sheehan's rhetorical acts (an open letter, camping, and her autobiography). Utilizing Galloway's and Thacker's network theory as social ontology and heuristic, resistance is defined through the concept of exploit, where, like computer viruses, movements use rhetorical forms to exploit norms of dominant systems to gain access, "recode" norms, or disrupt systems. Movements, employing distributed structures, work to "write code" or build new systems through a politics of the act. Sheehan's work is an extension of other women's peace movements that have employed networks and rhetorical acts to exploit otherwise exclusionary publics or build new systems. Tracing historical practices of rhetorical forms for their exploitive possibilities, Sheehan's rhetoric is analyzed against State constituted norms post-9/11, and following Butler and Faludi, I argue dominant discourse constructed norms of heightened patriotism, traditional gender (mother) roles, and fear after 9/11. Although Sheehan's open letter on the internet did not constitute a public tribunal as other women's letters, Sheehan's Camp Casey, initiated by the question of "What noble cause?", spoke through post-9/11 norms while developing a peace movement network constituted through an ethics of care. Camp Casey posed a threat to State order by building a new system operating under care protocols that shifted power away from the State. Resistance and possibility for social change are rooted in changing affective relations, and Sheehan was attacked by Right-wing networks to question her motives and undermine care protocols. Sheehan uses her autobiography to combat the netwar waged by the Right in an attempt to
maintain the peace movement. The current peace movement was strongest
during Camp Casey where it fully utilized a distributed form, was
constituted through an ethics of care, and gained popular support against
a sovereign unable to respond or care for the public. Movements should
consciously employ network logics, and understand affective dimensions of
social change.

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Subject: Womens studies; Peace Studies; Rhetoric

Classification: 0453: Womens studies; 0563: Peace Studies; 0681: Rhetoric

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Language, literature and
linguistics, Peace movement, Rhetorical exploits, Sheehan, Cindy, Iraq
War, Network theory, Public sphere, Rhetoric, Social movements

Title: Cindy Sheehan and the peace movement: Networks of care and
rhetorical exploits

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Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781124166179
Inassimilable remains: Trauma, nation, and the politics of forgetting in the Asian/American Pacific

Author: Cho, Jennifer


Abstract: This dissertation examines the linked experiences of Japan, the Korean peninsula, and the U.S. during World War II and the Cold War. In particular, I argue that memories of the traumatic 20th century histories of the Asia Pacific continue to flare up in the 21st century due to their original unassimilability into official U.S. discourse. Because these Asian histories cannot be discussed without implicating the U.S. and calling into question its exceptional values, their recollection might be willfully avoided. I claim that a return to the traumatic histories of the Asia Pacific region - particularly to the colonial,
neocolonial, and wartime periods of South Korea—generates productive
disruptions on two levels. First, it challenges dominant understandings
of the U.S. as a liberator of Asian nations and the U.S.'s discursive
power in narrating their histories. Second, these traumatic histories
also incite a reevaluation of Asian American identity formation, in that
they represent for Asian immigrants and their descendants a melancholic
past, which remains incompatible with the post-racial future of the U.S.
nation. Under the model minority paradigm, Asians and Asian Americans are
expected to heal from the hurts of their homelands and from any racial
inflictions experienced in the domestic nation. However, I suggest that
the U.S.'s capacity to rescue and rehabilitate both Asian nations and its
immigrant populations is subversively challenged in my chosen texts:
Alain Resnais and Marguerite Duras's Hiroshima Mon Amour, Theresa Hak
Kyung Cha's, Dictée, Chang-rae Lee's A Gesture Life, and Paul Yoon's Once the
Shore.

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+forgetting+in+the+Asian%2FAmerican+Pacific&rft.issn=

Subject: American history; Asian Studies; Pacific Rim Studies; American
literature

Classification: 0337: American history; 0342: Asian Studies; 0561: Pacific Rim Studies; 0591: American literature

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Language, literature and
linguistics, Japan, Neocolonialism, Trauma, Politics of forgetting,
American neocolonialism, Japanese colonialism, Korean-American,
Nationalist history,; Temporality, Trauma and memory

Title: Inassimilable remains: Trauma, nation, and the politics of
forgetting in the Asian/American Pacific

Number of pages: 179

Publication year: 2010
Manifest mercenaries: Mercenary narratives in American popular culture, 1850—1990

Author: Fox, Charity

Abstract: This dissertation examines American mercenary narratives in television series, novels, memoirs, and other mass-media cultural products to compose a literary and cultural history of American mercenaries in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Using literary, visual, and cultural analysis, I examine the cultural work performed in William Walker's memoir The War in Nicaragua (1860); Richard Harding Davis' mercenary romance novels Soldiers of Fortune (1897) and Captain Macklin (1902); early Cold War television series Soldiers of Fortune (1955-1957) and Have Gun, Will Travel (1957-1963), as well as Ernest K. Gann's novel Soldier of Fortune (1954) and film adaptation (1955); and late Cold War television series The A-Team (1983-1987) and Airwolf (1983-1986; 1987). Mercenary narratives appear in popular discourse during times of contested social changes and international interaction, roughly parallel to times of war, crises in white patriarchal masculinity, redefinitions of American Exceptionalism, and revisions of Manifest Destiny. Within the fun, action, and romance that attract consumers, mass-media mercenary narratives communicate narratives of social control, order, and hierarchy. They offer a glimpse into historicized structures of feelings and understandings of the possible, thinkable, idealized, and heroic as presented from the assumed dominant point(s) of view, and provide a way to examine contemporary understandings of race, gender, and class relations constructed through a lens of benevolent dominance and control. Ritualistically consuming mass-media mercenary narratives creates collective prosthetic memories and heuristics for understanding (fictional and factional) American mercenaries and private military contractors. As paramilitary patriots, these mercenaries believe in the American project – life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, etc. – and project a benevolent, ambitious American spirit, but they enforce these beliefs through violent means or threats of violence made from outside the authority of the state apparatus. As a popular culture form, mercenary narratives provide a hegemonic and ritualistic guide for contemporary popular culture consumers traversing liminal periods. The American mercenary is always simultaneously a domestic and a transnational figure, one that enforces conservative understandings of acceptable race, gender, and class hierarchies in "other" and "foreign" spaces, such as other nations, borderlands, and liminal spaces within the United States where identities are flexible.

Subject: Modern literature; American studies; American history; American literature

Classification: 0298: Modern literature; 0323: American studies; 0337: American history; 0591: American literature

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Cultural studies, Masculinity, Mass media, Mercenary, Popular culture, Television

Title: Manifest mercenaries: Mercenary narratives in American popular culture, 1850--1990

Number of pages: 283

Publication year: 2010

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ISBN: 9781124149639

Advisor: Wald, Gayle

Committee member: Guglielmo, Thomas, Lopez, Antonio, Miller, James A., Knight, Melinda

University/institution: The George Washington University

Department: American Studies

University location: United States -- District of Columbia

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English
Mystery and possibility: Spiritualists in the nineteenth-century South

Author: Schoonmaker, Nancy Gray


Abstract: Spiritualism, the belief that people could communicate with the spirits of the dead, swept through the United States and western Europe in the 1850s. Rooted in mankind's timeless yearning to understand what becomes of the human spirit after death, it was complicated by the mid-nineteenth century's urge to explain the world rationally and scientifically. The rage for scientific explanation was complicating the need to understand life and death within the comforting tenets of unquestioned Christian faith. Spiritualism promised what traditional religion could not: By asking questions of the dead through a medium, people sought proof that the spirits of departed loved ones--and personal immortality--awaited them in heaven. This dissertation examines the interpretation of this phenomenon, long thought by scholars to have been unattractive to southerners because of its association with northeastern reform movements, by individuals in the South. It explores and explains the extent to which white southerners incorporated Spiritualism into their folk, cultural and religious belief systems. It sketches a map of how Spiritualism spread through the South along networks of commerce, community and kinship. Perhaps most significantly, this project brings to light the social, geographic and racial diversity of southerners who took an active interest in parting the veil between this world and the unknown. Did it matter, does it now? Beyond denominational monographs, the history of the South must include studies of southerners' examination, construction, modification and uses of belief if we are to understand what being human meant to them and in turn see more clearly how the South was a part of the national discourse. At the same time, while their northern counterparts were linking Spiritualism with
abolition and a host of other reforms, most southerners who communed with spirits seem to have believed that—whatever might be said to the contrary—doing so was every bit as orthodox as evangelical Christianity.


Subject: American history

Classification: 0337: American history

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Ferguson, Jesse Babcock, Methodism, Watson, Samuel, South, Spiritualism

Title: Mystery and possibility: Spiritualists in the nineteenth-century South

Number of pages: 723

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

School code: 0153

Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781124172958

Advisor: Mathews, Donald G.

Committee member: Brundage, W. Fitzhugh, Ferris, William, Lowery, Malinda Maynor, Watson, Harry L.
Abstract: The goal of this dissertation is to develop a connection between poetry and teacher education. I am motivated to undertake this project because poetry is an underappreciated resource, one that has a good deal to teach teachers. Specifically, I believe that poetry can teach teachers about how to creatively and democratically respond to problems of misunderstanding that arise in the classroom. In order to show how this is the case, I focus on the work Robert Frost. An experienced teacher and teacher educator, Frost devotes significant attention—in his poetry and prose—to problems of misunderstanding. North of Boston, his second volume, explores—through vivid descriptions of individuals caught in conflicts—what it means to work against misunderstanding, and what it takes to create conditions that make understanding possible. Using my readings of North of Boston as a
starting point, I work to show their explicit educational significance by developing Frost's educational philosophy. I do this by expanding my attention to include Frost's prose, and by contextualizing Frost's work within a pragmatist tradition that originates with Ralph Waldo Emerson. I show that Frost's philosophy of education is--despite surface differences that are immediately apparent--closely related to the work of John Dewey, and I argue that comparing the two thinkers creates a bridge between Frost's poetry and the world of educational research. After this bridge is established, I focus on the practical implications of Frost's work for teachers and teacher educators.


Subject: Teacher education; American literature; Education philosophy

Classification: 0530: Teacher education; 0591: American literature; 0998: Education philosophy

Identifier / keyword: Education, Language, literature and linguistics, Democracy, Teacher education, Frost, Robert, Poetry

Title: Robert Frost: Democracy, teaching, and teacher education

Number of pages: 140

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

School code: 0054

Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States
Abstract: This dissertation examines the development of journalism as a writing profession in late nineteenth-century America, paying particular attention to the reporters and correspondents who composed the bulk of the newspaper's news content. Journalism was becoming a viable profession in this period and writing, the journalist's primary occupational duty, became an important and contested component in articulations of journalists' professional identities. Such articulations form a discourse of professionalism that shaped both the identity of the journalist as well as the value of his writing. I examine this discourse through nonfiction and literary texts including journalism textbooks, speeches by prominent editors and publishers, trade journals published by and for
journalists, and fiction by former journalists. In this corpus, I identify three representations of journalistic professionalism circulating in this period: representations of the journalist as a literary apprentice, as an entrepreneur, and as a knowledge worker. Each manifests a different way of conceptualizing authorship, the nature of writing, and the writer's relation to the text. For example, dual conceptions of writing as both a learnable craft and an expressive art shape the representation of journalism as a form of literary apprenticeship. Aspiring literary writers were encouraged to apprentice in journalism in order to develop their technical skills, yet cautioned against staying too long lest their expressive faculties become too blunted to create art. The entrepreneurial model conceptualized the journalist as a businessperson profiting from his highly marketable writing skills. While the representation of journalism as a form of knowledge work also positioned journalists as purveyors of a valuable commodity, writing in this model was viewed as a transparent vehicle for the transmission of information, separating form and content and subordinating writing skill to information gathering ability. Representations of journalistic professionalism are shaped by multiple, sometimes competing, conceptions of writing, which, in turn, are subject to the shaping influence of social and cultural forces like emerging technologies and educational regimes. All of the representations I identify existed simultaneously; collectively, they represent the raw materials from which journalists forged their professional identities in this period and which continue to influence conceptions of journalistic professionalism today.


Subject: Journalism

Classification: 0391: Journalism

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Journalistic professionalism
The founding of the New Jersey College for Women: The struggle for women's access during the Progressive Era (1870--1930)
Abstract: This study examined the founding of the New Jersey College for Women as an exemplary case that illustrates important social and political issues regarding women's access and acceptance to higher education during the Progressive Era. The New Jersey College for Women was founded as a public women's college that was affiliated with the state's all-male, public land-grant institution (Rutgers). This research explored how the founding of the New Jersey College for Women accommodated public pressures for gender equality, yet retained a separate, privileged higher education system reserved for men only. The study sought to address three primary questions. How did the founding of the New Jersey College for Women illustrate both expanding access for women, as well as resistance to coeducation? What were the experiences of the women students in the new college? And what types of careers and life choices did the women students make following graduation? These questions were addressed through the use of two conceptual frameworks: organizational saga and institution building. Key findings pertained to women's agency and the strategy of separatism, which allowed women to gain voice within their own institution. The path to coeducation was blocked by the patriarchal structure of New Jersey higher education. Therefore, the most expedient path to gain access to a four-year college education was through the creation of a new, separate institution for women. The New Jersey College for Women operated as a separate institution with its own budget, leadership, curriculum, and degree offerings. On the other hand, the affiliation with Rutgers, to a certain extent, opened an existing all-male institution to women. Through the New Jersey College for Women, women students were able to gain access to Rutgers faculty and some of the intellectual resources of that campus. Separate, however, was not equal. The new college struggled to obtain resources, and remained subject to patriarchal leaders at Rutgers who could have intervened at any time in the functioning of the college. Therefore, this case represents a delicate balance between opening an existing, all-male institution, and pursuing a strategy of a separate women's college.
Solidarity, violence, and the political imagination: Chicana literary imaginings of the Central American civil wars, 1981--2005

Author: Esparza, Araceli


Abstract: In Solidarity, Violence, and the Political Imagination: Chicana Literary Imaginings of the Central American Civil Wars, 1981-2005, I examine Chicana literary representations of political violence in the United States and Central America. I draw on literary works by Helena María Viramontes, Cherríe Moraga, Graciela Limón, and Ana Castillo as well as their personal papers in order to ask and answer the question: how and for what purposes did Chicana creative writers imagine the Central American civil wars? In answering this question, I trace these authors' changing imaginaries of hemispheric solidarity in the context of political violence. Taking an international and transnational focus allows me to mark the multiple shifts in Chicana feminist epistemology through the complex solidarities represented in my primary texts. Contrary to readings that find that Chicana creative writing forges transnational solidarity and Latina/o community, I argue that while my primary texts underscore these authors' commitments to working for social justice they do so without guaranteeing unity or mutual recognition between Chicanas and Central Americans. My project contributes to interventions that focus on literature and culture as central to theory making, political protest, and solidarity building within several interdisciplinary frameworks, including Chicana/o studies, Latin American studies, hemispheric American studies, feminist theory, and literary theory. I draw on and contribute to these fields by focusing on the themes of solidarity, disappearance, motherhood, and torture.

Subject: American studies; American literature; Ethnic studies; Gender studies; Hispanic American studies

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0591: American literature; 0631: Ethnic studies; 0733: Gender studies; 0737: Hispanic American studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Chicana, Civil wars, Viramontes, Helena Maria, Moraga, Cherrie, Limon, Graciela, Castillo, Ana, Central America, Chicana feminism, Chicana/o; literature, Motherhood, Political imagination, Solidarity

Title: Solidarity, violence, and the political imagination: Chicana literary imaginings of the Central American civil wars, 1981--2005

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Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781124160245

Advisor: Wilson Gilmore, Ruth, McKenna, Teresa

Committee member: Rowe, John Carlos, Gomez-Barris, Macarena, Tongson, Karen
"A more perfect Indian wisdom": Transcultural exchange in the writings of Henry D. Thoreau

Author: Bray, Jessie N.


Abstract: "A More Perfect Indian Wisdom" radically re-envisioned the work of Henry D. Thoreau while also examining additional nineteenth-century authors to investigate the relationship between cultural performance, exploration, and literature in the United States during the antebellum period. In a nation simultaneously freeing itself from colonial influence yet perpetuating similar nationalistic tendencies in order to territorialishe the uncharted West, revolutionary authors such as Herman Melville, Susan Fenimore Cooper and Margaret Fuller construct narratives that overturn hegemonic paradigms and participate in a culture of dissent that reconsiders U.S. American identity in a cosmopolitan sense. Henry D. Thoreau function as a central figure in this culture of dissent because he most effectively transcends the cultural paradigms of oppression.
holistically, calibrating his sense of ethical rectitude via sympathy with his human and non-human neighbors. In the first chapter, "Finding the 'Points of Compass': The Performance of Mapping in Typee and Walden" I show that Melville and Thoreau put emphasis on qualitative as opposed to quantitative metrics for evaluating their subject; as a result, each author appreciates the specificity of location and how it impacts the cultural history of a region. As a product of this understanding, both authors interpret their respective landscape performatively, via their passage through and survey of it, engaging in participant-observation science as a result. In addition, by publicizing this personal relationship with their subject, they suggest a revised model for culture that embraces biocultural ecology and a revised sense of history. Chapter Two, "Human History as Natural History: Cooper, Fuller, Thoreau and Nineteenth-century Exploration" traces the relationship between science and culture and how this relationship shaped the U.S. frontier, comparing how Rural Hours, Summer On The Lakes, and Wild Fruits initiate social and environmental reform through re-envisioning the relationship between humans and nature. Cooper's agrarian pastoral, while a progressive domestic narrative, becomes mired in the dogma of tradition, which Fuller escapes from. Although Fuller seems to point the way down this path toward cultural commensuration and hybridity, Thoreau's Wild Fruits seems to step further toward a cosmopolitan sense of exploration and, by representing a broader confluence of social and biological intersections, succeeds to a greater degree than Cooper or Fuller in subverting the imperial objectives of exploration. Chapter Three, "Nature, Language and Myth: The Archetypal Hero in Thoreau's The Maine Woods" examines how these writings transform North America's past into U.S. national myths. I compare the contributions to the national narrative offered by James Fenimore Cooper's Last of the Mohicans (1826) and Ralph Waldo Emerson's Representative Men (1850) to Thoreau's the re-envisioning of the American heroic archetype in The Maine Woods. In doing so, I contend that Thoreau is engaged in a historicizing process that rejects the appropriation of Indians in the formation of an American archetype, deconstructing the mythology of Manifest Destiny. Chapter Four, "A Fact Flowered into Truth: Thoreau's Indian Books," demonstrates how these factbooks behave as a kind of ethnographic survey similar to the topographic survey Thoreau engaged in with Walden, bringing less quantifiable aspects Amerindian culture (religion, social relationships, etc.) into concert with more obviously quantifiable elements of history and their survival. Thoreau attempts to create a multifarious representation of Amerindians that is truer to life than popular representations--both positive and negative--that orientalized Indians for their non-Western attributes. In this process, Thoreau's Indian Books show not only an evolution of Thoreau as author and thinker but also how his views on Native Americans took shape over various literary and chronological epochs of his life. Additionally, the Indian Books offer a productive view into alternative models for constructing histories and ethnographies in the nineteenth century.

Subject: American studies; American literature; Native American studies

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0591: American literature; 0740: Native American studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Transcultural exchange, Thoreau, Henry David, Melville, Herman, Hybridity, Indians, Fuller, Margaret, Cooper, Susan Fenimore

Title: "A more perfect Indian wisdom": Transcultural exchange in the writings of Henry D. Thoreau

Number of pages: 238

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

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Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781124135496

Advisor: Dassow Walls, Laura

Committee member: Myerson, Joel, Jarrells, Anthony, Harrison, Carol

University/institution: University of South Carolina

Department: English

University location: United States -- South Carolina

Degree: Ph.D.
Second nature: Literature, capital and the built environment, 1848--1938

Author: Sipley, Tristan Hardy


Abstract: This dissertation examines transatlantic, and especially American, literary responses to urban and industrial change from the 1840s through the 1930s. It combines cultural materialist theory with environmental history in order to investigate the interrelationship of literature, economy, and biophysical systems. In lieu of a traditional ecocritical focus on wilderness preservation and the accompanying literary mode of nature writing, I bring attention to reforms of the "built environment" and to the related category of social problem fiction, including narratives of documentary realism, urban naturalism, and politically-oriented utopianism. The novels and short stories of Charles Dickens, Herman Melville, Rebecca Harding Davis, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Upton Sinclair, and Mike Gold offer an alternative history of environmental writing, one that foregrounds the interaction between nature and labor. Through a strategy of "literal reading" I connect the representation of particular environments in the work of these authors to the historical situation of actual spaces, including the western Massachusetts forest of Melville's "Tartarus of Maids," the Virginia factory town of Davis's Iron Mills, the Midwestern hinterland of Sinclair's The Jungle, and the New York City ghetto of Gold's Jews without Money. Even as these texts foreground the class basis of environmental hazard, they simultaneously display an ambivalence toward
the physical world, wavering between pastoral celebrations and gothic vilifications of nature, and condemning ecological destruction even as they naturalize the very socio-economic forces responsible for such calamity. Following Raymond Williams, I argue that these contradictory treatments of nature have a basis in the historical relationship between capitalist society and the material world. Fiction struggles to contain or resolve its implication in the very culture that destroys the land base it celebrates. Thus, the formal fissures and the anxious eruptions of nature in fiction relate dialectically to the contradictory position of the ecosystem itself within the regime of industrial capital. However, for all of this ambivalence, transatlantic social reform fiction of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century provides a model for an environmentally-oriented critical realist aesthetic, an aesthetic that retains suspicion toward representational transparency, and yet simultaneously asserts the didactic, ethical, and political functions of literature.


Subject: Modern literature; Environmental Studies; American literature; British and Irish literature

Classification: 0298: Modern literature; 0477: Environmental Studies; 0591: American literature; 0593: British and Irish literature

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Capital, Built environment, Ecocriticism, Marxism, Realism and naturalism, Fiction, Urban space, Transatlantic studies

Title: Second nature: Literature, capital and the built environment, 1848--1938

Number of pages: 266

Publication year: 2010
Building a movement: Filipino American union and community organizing in Seattle in the 1970s

Author: Domingo, Ligaya Rene


Abstract: The Asian American Movement emerged in the late 1960s and early 1970s inspired by the Civil Rights Movement, Antiwar Movement, Black Liberation Movement, and struggles for liberation in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. Activists, including college students and community members throughout the United States, used "mass line" tactics to raise political awareness, build organizations, address community concerns, and ultimately to serve their communities. While the history of the Asian American Movement has been chronicled, the scholarship has been analytically and theoretically insufficient - and in some cases nonexistent - in terms of local struggles, how the movement unfolded, and the role of Filipino Americans. This dissertation focuses on one, untold story of the Asian American Movement: the role of activists in Seattle, Washington who were concerned with regional injustices affecting Filipino Americans. I argue that this local struggle in the Pacific Northwest not only demonstrates the diversity of action and strategy within the Asian American Movement but also deepens our understanding of the broader movement as both local and transnational - unique in its local strategies yet closely aligned with the goals of the era’s social movements. Based on both historical and qualitative data, this dissertation uses a Gramscian framework to explore the possibilities and limitations of using civil society as instruments for social change. Specifically, I examine the efforts by a group of local activists in the 1970s to seek redress for the exclusion, discrimination and social dislocation experienced by Filipino Americans. I explore two local Asian American Movement case studies in which activists worked within two preexisting organizational formations of civil society, the Alaska Cannery Worker's Union and the Filipino Community of Seattle, to achieve their goals. This dissertation sheds light on the evolution of their organizing strategies and tactics with regard to broader processes of community and identity formation, as well as to their aims of bringing about revolutionary change. My research explored the following questions about attempts to serve and support the Filipino American community in Seattle in the 1970s: First, how do processes of community, identity, and ideological formation shape social movement organizing strategies? And second, how have changing patterns of immigration, institutional community formation, and international movement ideology shaped the strategies used by activists organizing on behalf of the Filipino American community in Seattle, Washington? I argue that the efforts to organize in support of the Seattle Filipino American community in the 1970s unfolded in two phases. In the first phase, the activists were influenced and guided by the Civil Rights Movement and the ideas of the larger Asian American Movement. These movements provided activists with a framework from which to understand their grievances and activists started organizing using a Civil Rights and equity-based framework to address grievances and achieve social reforms. However, the declaration of martial law in the Philippines in 1972 coincided with a fracture within the Filipino American community in Seattle because one group of activists experienced an ideological shift to a more radical viewpoint. This schism amongst the activists and within the larger Filipino American community was complicated by differences based on time of immigration, class, and generation and was manifested in political questions regarding the mission, goals, and use of both the Filipino Community of Seattle and the Cannery Worker's Union. In the second phase of organizing, the radical activists were no longer intent on just reforming these local organizations; they also had a broader political
agenda, and their organizing strategies changed to reflect this ideological shift. I argue that the strategy of the activists in this second phase was what Gramsci calls a "War of Position," meaning that the activists tried to use civil society institutions - a non-profit and community organization and a union - as a means to build a social movement and as a way to wage an attack on the state. Ultimately, the findings of this study challenge previous claims that the Asian American Movement was either reformist or radical. In this case study of Filipino American activists in Seattle, the data demonstrates that they were agents for social reform and also revolutionaries, not one or the other. The findings of this study point to the need for more nuanced and complex frameworks for understanding social change processes and organizing strategies.


Subject: Asian American Studies; Ethnic studies; Social structure

Classification: 0343: Asian American Studies; 0631: Ethnic studies; 0700: Social structure

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Asian-American movement, Civil society, Filipino-American, Labor, Organizing, Social movement, Washington

Title: Building a movement: Filipino American union and community organizing in Seattle in the 1970s

Number of pages: 144

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

School code: 0028
Gibson Grove gone but not forgotten: The archaeology of an African American church

Author: Jones, Alexandra


Abstract: The history of the African American community in Cabin John, Maryland has never been fully explored until the community's oldest church burned down. From the ashes, came the story of a resilient community which began in the 1880s and still exists today. Gibson Grove A.M.E. Zion Church Archaeological Project began as a project to help a church rebuild its structure after a terrible fire. Utilizing a collaborative approach the project became a community archaeology project. This resulted in integrating various segments of a community that had previously limited contact with each other. The archaeology did not yield the initial research goal results, but the information which was revealed was far more informative. The information lead to new research queries which in turn changed the direction of the project. The information obtained also gave a voice to the previously silenced African American community in Cabin John, thus illuminating their contributions to the development of Cabin John.


Subject: African American Studies; Archaeology; Black history; Religious history

Classification: 0296: African American Studies; 0324: Archaeology; 0328: Black history; 0330: Religious history

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Gibson Grove African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Maryland, AME Zion Church, Archaeology, Fraternal organization

Title: Gibson Grove gone but not forgotten: The archaeology of an African American church

Number of pages: 83

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010
The man-midwife's tale: Re-reading male-authored midwifery guides in Britain and America, 1750--1820

Author: Nichols, Marcia D.

Abstract: In Generating Bodies and Gendered Selves, Eve Keller seeks to locate the emergence of the masculinist "modern, liberal self" in seventeenth century embryology through the close-reading of a wide array of texts invested in articulating embryological theories. In doing so, she points out "the value of reading [medical texts] not a straightforward registers of historical practice but primarily as rhetorical constructs, as public performances offered for commercial consumption, intended not so much to instruct as to promulgate certain images and identities of the practitioners." My dissertation, "The Man-Midwife's Tale: Re-reading Male-Authoried Midwifery Guides in Britain and America, 1750-1820," builds upon on recent work in gender relation, sexuality and the history of medicine to elucidate a nuanced history of the rhetorical constructions of masculinist self-hood and the sexed female body in midwifery manuals. My contribution is a comparative analysis of the material texts themselves that enriches the current scholarly understanding of obstetrics, gender and sex. Much of my research has been to compare and contrast multiple editions and iterations of the same titles across the long eighteenth century, titles that range from the Aristotle texts to William Smellie' acclaimed treatise and the first full-length American midwifery manual by Dr. Samuel Bard. Such comparisons shed new light on the interactions of authors, publishers and readers and exposes the ways in which ideas about gender and sex were formed, transformed and entrenched over time. The construction of women as "the Sex" emerged gradually, in correlation with the perceived authority of man-midwifery. The profession's authority derived in great measure from the successful deployment of the trope of what I will call the "hero-accoucheur." Applying literary techniques to medical texts reveals the rhetorical strategies and fictions of medicine. My project seeks to understand midwifery guides as texts --as reading material, written for and consumed by, a public interested and in childbirth and generation.

Subject: Modern literature; Medicine; Womens studies; Science history; American literature; British and Irish literature

Classification: 0298: Modern literature; 0380: Medicine; 0453: Womens studies; 0585: Science history; 0591: American literature; 0593: British and Irish literature

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Midwifery, Obstetrics-gynecology, Professionalization, Rhetorical, Sensibility, Smellie, William, Midwifery; guides, Britain, America

Title: The man-midwife's tale: Re-reading male-authored midwifery guides in Britain and America, 1750--1820

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Advisor: Shields, David S.

Committee member: Walls, Laura D., Jarrells, Anthony, Kross, Jessica

University/institution: University of South Carolina

Department: English

University location: United States -- South Carolina

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 3413233

ProQuest document ID: 746168956
Abstract: Maryland in the mid-nineteenth century was a state trying to balance its regional ties to both an agrarian culture based on the institution of slavery and an industrializing, urban culture. Caught in between two warring societies, Marylanders themselves were unsure of their identity given the rapid changes of the late antebellum decades. This study argues Maryland's cultural identity shifted from being a "southern" state in 1861 to being a "northern" state by 1865 in the minds of its own citizens as well as in the minds of politicians, soldiers, and civilians from other parts of the nation. This transition was the result of economic, political, and social changes that took place in the state during the late antebellum period, although cultural and ideological recognition of this shift did not occur until the war brought Maryland's dual identities into focus and compelled state citizens to choose a side in the conflict. A minority of citizens contested the state's "northern" identity both during and after the war, but the new cultural identity remained dominant largely because northern industrial, urban, and demographic patterns were already well-established and Union military policies directed most Marylanders' political and economic behavior towards a loyal and northern-looking orientation by the end of the war. Understanding these cultural dynamics in a border state like Maryland helps to clarify our vision of complicated and competing ideologies in mid-nineteenth century America.
Subject: American history; Social psychology; Economic history; Political science

Classification: 0337: American history; 0451: Social psychology; 0509: Economic history; 0615: Political science

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Psychology, Maryland, Civil War, Cultural identity

Title: Lincoln's divided backyard: Maryland in the Civil War era

Number of pages: 300

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

School code: 0187

Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781124206806

Advisor: Boles, John B.

University/institution: Rice University

University location: United States -- Texas

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 3421215
Imagining the dam: The visual rhetoric of Hoover (Boulder) Dam in popular and public print media, 1920-1975

Author: Arrigo, Anthony F.

Abstract: Since its conception, Hoover Dam has been hyper-visualized through thousands of images (artistic renderings, cartoons, photographs, advertisements, and so forth) appearing in hundreds of print publications. These images form a centerpiece of what we might term a rhetoric of the dam. A contribution to the developing fields of visual-cultural studies and visual rhetoric, this study investigates Hoover Dam imagery in early to mid-twentieth century popular print media. It identifies and analyzes the arguments advanced in the complex nexus of visual and visual-verbal discourses surrounding the dam project. Critical to the analysis is a discussion of how images were deployed to shape (and exploit) public perception of and attitudes towards the dam project, and how those images worked to influence the public "image" of the dam, that is, to fix it in the American social imaginary. This study traces how visual images of the dam evolved from promissory, imaginative, artist renderings of the pre-construction period (1920-1929) to photographic documentation of the phases of building (1930-1935), and then considers the ways in which images of the dam were (re)deployed in the decades following the project's completion (1935-1975) in the service of various promotional and consumerist purposes. The analysis honors the complexity of the human, political, social, and environmental stories behind each phase of this major public works project, and juxtaposes the utopian visual narrative of economic prosperity, efficiency, and technological sublimity with an ideological counter-narrative of the domination of human laborers and the natural environment.

Playing fair: The rhetorical limits of liberalism in women's sport at the University of Texas, 1927--1992

Author: Bagley, Meredith M.


Abstract: This dissertation situates the emergence of women's intercollegiate sport at the University of Texas from 1927-1992 within the inherent tensions within liberal feminism regarding difference and equality. Specifically, it examines how the rhetoric of fair play functions as a resource for both resistance and social control. The rhetoric of fair play refers to a set of debates and discussions over the structure and meaning of competitive sport. The project proposes three tensions within fair play rhetoric: Discipline or Freedom, Rules as Control or Transformation, and the Universal or Political Athlete. Drawing upon the theoretical resources of liberal, radical and materialist feminism, as well as the cultural theory of Michel Foucault and Raymond Williams, the project argues that values of fairness and meritocracy within sport function dialectically to both empower demands for social change and to extend preexisting hierarchies. A number of questions guided this project: What social norms are at stake during sport competitions? How does fair play rhetoric uphold or challenge these norms? On what basis does fair play rhetoric challenge status quo social conditions? On what basis does it uphold them? And finally, how do the assumptions behind various usages of fair play rhetoric enable and limit their effects on society? Three case studies demonstrate how consecutive
women's sport administrators at Texas used claims to fair play to negotiate the dialectic tension of transcendent claims to sport identity and particular attachments to gender within women's involvement in sport. Rhetorical tactics shifted from an invocation of sport's public welfare benefits to political activism on behalf of women's right to compete at sport. The project sets these varied tactics of sport advocacy within broader contexts of first wave feminism, interwar period Progressivism, social transformations of World War II, Civil Rights activism, and second wave feminism of the 1970s, culminating in the passage of Title IX. The dissertation concludes that the rhetoric of fair play exists within sport, and beyond, as a powerful form of discourse that can be wielded for social control or challenge. What is considered "playing fair" may change with time and perspective but the stakes remain high and thus merit scholarly attention.


Subject: Womens studies; Education history; Rhetoric; Recreation

Classification: 0453: Womens studies; 0520: Education history; 0681: Rhetoric; 0814: Recreation

Identifier / keyword: Education, Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Rhetorical, Liberalism, Sport, University of Texas, Women athletes, Title IX, Fair play, Texas

Title: Playing fair: The rhetorical limits of liberalism in women's sport at the University of Texas, 1927--1992

Number of pages: 261

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

School code: 0227
Running After Jesus

Author: Jefferis, Sarah


Abstract: Running After Jesus tells the story of an eight-year affair between a teenage girl and an Episcopal priest twenty years her senior. It is set in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia with a character whose marriage is already broken: an emotionally paralyzed man, frozen at the moment when his son was still-born. This priest needs someone to save-
project—and turns his attentions to the narrator, his daughter's babysitter. In his own words, he believes: "I am the knight in shining armor; I am the man on the horse, the man sent from above to save you." Accustomed to holding secrets, the narrator walks the line between being a seductress and a victim as she is empowered by the affair and gladly accepts the affections of a surrogate father. She sees the affair as a way to escape an increasingly paralyzing existence in Virginia, and it is: the relationship first introduces her to the priest's world of literature and liberation theology, through Hollins University, and it abruptly ends when she returns from a teaching position in Chiba City, Japan. The priest simultaneously erases the narrator's voice, reducing her to a sexual function even as he helps her articulate her own intellectual heritage. He provides the narrator with financial resources that allow her to leave her parents house, to travel, to work through multiple degrees. He is the one who first called her a writer; he introduced her to Auden, Eliot, Marquez, Donne, Dickinson. He raised up the gifts of poetry, as highly and as sacredly as wine and bread. They were their own intimate forms of communion. Running After Jesus is a bildungsroman, a coming of age memoir, one in which the narrator's education is grounded in her body, and grounded in a form or forms of the divine, and yet these liturgical lessons repeatedly decapitate her from her own flesh while offering her the fleshly worlds and words of other poets. Poetry saves her; it becomes her lover, her mother, her father, her God, herself. Poetry is what the narrator comes out for and comes out to. Poetry calls her out. Out of her family's house and eventually out of the arms of the priest.


Subject: Womens studies; American literature

Classification: 0453: Womens studies; 0591: American literature

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Queer studies, Women's memoir, Running After Jesus, Original writing, Bildungsroman, Queer

Title: Running After Jesus
The historical development of the public school system in Waxahachie, Texas: Exploring a local dialect in the grammar of schooling
Abstract: The history of the Waxahachie public schools from 1884 to 1970 reveals not only the development of the school system itself, and the local, regional, and national trends which influenced public education, but also serves as a case study of what David Tyack and Larry Cuban describe as the grammar of schooling, the inherent and implicit rules for bringing about a "real school" as perceived by its stakeholders. The study provides insights into the effects of local concerns vis a vis the larger movements and events in American history upon the development of this particular local school system. The origins and the subsequent development of the public school system in Waxahachie, a small north-central Texas community located approximately thirty miles south of the Dallas, Texas, is the focus of this dissertation. The chronological history of the Waxahachie public school system, as an early independent school system is examined from its preceding influences, through its tumultuous inception, to its consequent periods of stability, professionalization, and growth. The study encompasses three major superintendencies, equating them to regimes by virtue of their length of tenure, and as a touchstone for depicting the societal trends with which they contended or reflected. Influences of race and religion are examined as primary and secondary animating themes. The manner in which educational philosophies as described by Watras, including Scholar Academic, Social Efficiency, and Learner-Centered, are examined in relation to the historical periods during which each superintendent held office. A detailed history is presented about each superintendent's term of office, exploring such topics as meeting the needs of a growing school district, accounting for curricular trends and forces at the local, regional, and national level, and navigating the societal terrain in the establishment and maintenance of a "real" school.
Abstract: This dissertation follows transportation corridors to trace the formation of the Northern Rockies states of Idaho and Montana into a distinct region within the United States. I focus on the linear spaces of roads and trails—zones of passage across the landscape rather than places of dwelling—because they cut through and across naturalized maps, thus bringing attention to the constructed and relational qualities of regional enclosures and boundaries. In this focus on routes, temporary sojourns are as important as acts of permanent settlement. The corridor stories I follow are about travelers in this geographical periphery who are themselves marginal subjects, located precariously with regard to American citizenship. I examine contemporary re-enactments of Lewis and Clark's journey, commemorations of the Nez Perce flight across the Bitterroot Mountains, and a current highway widening project that prioritizes safe crossings for wildlife on the Flathead Reservation. I follow the routes of nineteenth-century African-American and Chinese travelers to call attention to the ways in which popular memory often functions to normalize the demographic and political dominance of Euro-Americans. Three meanings of the term "right-of-way" serve as tropes and guides. Rights of way are transportation corridors, public zones of travel and transit that are central to how regions define themselves and create categories of belonging and exclusion. "Right-of-way" also connotes legal relationships between persons traveling along routes. I expand on this concept by looking at who has control over roadways, who decides to build them or block them, and most of all, what kinds of political structures and agendas allow some people passage and residency while denying the same to others. Lastly, "rights of way" phonetically plays on "rites," i.e. collective performances that take place along routes, and that define how spaces are being claimed in the present through practices of remembering or commemorating certain elements of the past. This project addresses and takes part in contemporary political struggles about who counts as a historical subject, whose histories are remembered, and who gets to decide these questions.
Gaps, flows, and networks: Social space and the cultural work of communication theory in social science, sci-fi, and political movements, 1937--1980

Author: Lierow, Lars


Abstract: This dissertation examines the disparate theories of mass communication produced and circulated by social scientists, through films and the popular press, and political activist movements between the late 1930s and the end of the 1970s. It analyzes communication theory as a cultural practice, not limited to academic scholarship, that helps imagine and create different kinds of social spaces to support state and oppositional politics. I basically argue that the theoretical concern with media effects rested on visions of the social spaces audiences inhabited. This construction of different models of this social space was a cultural practice that accompanied propaganda politics, media reform discourse, and the strategies of political movements and thus extended beyond academic institutions into popular culture, the media professions, and movement politics. Communication theories were mobilized to interpret particular social groups (the national populace, African American activists, second wave feminists) and their relationship to the mass media of the United States. I outline the imaginative mappings of social spaces that were at the center of communication research in the 1940s and 1950s about the impact of commercial media. This work relied on ideas about the passage of mass communication through space in order to negotiate between the worries about propaganda and the hope of preserving democratic discourse. The dissertation then traces the construction of a global communication space in early Cold War science fiction films; and
it shows that these films engaged concerns about communication technologies and propaganda and that the cinematic interpretations resonated strongly with academic theories. In the second part, the dissertation juxtaposes these official theories with the theories articulated within political movements, namely the Black Arts movement of the late 1960s and second wave feminism in the 1970s as the liberal mainstream magazine Ms. represented it. In their critiques of commercial media, the Black Arts activists and the feminists of Ms. analyzed media hegemony and mapped social spaces that functioned as sites for oppositional media practices. Their takes on the underlying problem of a functioning public sphere provided the ferment for the turn in media scholarship toward Cultural Studies and Marxism in the 1980s.


Subject: African American Studies; American studies; Black history; Social research; Womens studies; Political science; Mass communications; Film studies

Classification: 0296: African American Studies; 0323: American studies; 0328: Black history; 0344: Social research; 0453: Womens studies; 0615: Political science; 0708: Mass communications; 0900: Film studies

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Social sciences, Social space, Science fiction, Black Arts movement, Communication theory, Feminism, Media activism, Propaganda, Science fiction films

Title: Gaps, flows, and networks: Social space and the cultural work of communication theory in social science, sci-fi, and political movements, 1937--1980

Number of pages: 293

Publication year: 2010
"Passionate detachment": Technologies of vision and violence in American cinema, 1967--1974

Author: Rust, Amy Leigh
Abstract: My dissertation explores the emergence of graphic, corporeal violence in American films of the late 1960s and early 1970s in order to ground an approach for seeing cinematic brutality today. In particular, I turn to three technologies--multiple-speed montage, squibs and artificial blood, and freeze frames--that make possible the iterative, explicit, and protracted spectacles of violence for which Hollywood filmmaking after the Production Code is known. Doing so, I move the form and logic of screen violence to the center of my investigation. An evident orientation, perhaps, but one surprisingly overlooked by the leading literature, which frequently appeals to narrative structure or authorial intent to lend significance to what it otherwise deems senseless, sadistic excesses. Refuting these claims, my project uncovers the unremarked logics and complex pleasures that inhere in the formal construction of violence itself. More than mere tools, I argue, the aforementioned technologies also function as figures that speak to the era's broader preoccupation with demonstrative violence. This is the age of Civil Rights, Vietnam, and Watergate, after all, events that stoked public distrust for perceptible appearances and found Americans across the political spectrum demanding, however, paradoxically, visual--and increasingly violent--demonstrations of more authentic realities. Multiple-speed montage, squibs and artificial blood, and freeze frames crystallize this passion, leaning on cinema's indexical capacity for documentation to upend everyday visibility with evidentiary force. As figures, these technologies not only give shape to fantasies of authenticity that characterize this moment, but also permit one to trace the violent political blind spots that unwittingly obstruct these visions. For this reason, I contend, my approach to multiple-speed montage, squibs and artificial blood, and freeze frames affords a heretofore unacknowledged critical position. Marked by what I call "passionate detachment," this position appreciates the fervor for disclosure that animates these visions of violence at the same time that it recognizes the frequently gendered and racialized relations of power from which their promises of authenticity derive. In all, the project unites cinematic and sociocultural histories of film violence to rethink both conventional accounts of cinematic indexicality and the place of sadism in theories of spectatorial pleasure.
Title: "Passionate detachment": Technologies of vision and violence in American cinema, 1967--1974

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Committee member: Clover, Carol J., Jay, Martin

University/institution: University of California, Berkeley

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Document type: Dissertation/Thesis
"Listen to the stories, hear it in the songs": Musical theatre as queer historiography

Author: Dvoskin, Michelle Gail


Abstract: This dissertation takes musical theatre seriously as a historiographic practice, and considers six musicals that take the past as their subject matter in order to interrogate how these works craft their historical narratives. While there have been studies of historical drama and performance, musicals have generally been left out of that conversation, despite (or perhaps because of) their immense popularity. This project argues that not only can musicals "do" history, they offer an excellent genre for theorizing what I call "queer historiography." While sexuality remains one category of analysis, I use "queer" to signify opposition, not simply to heterosexuality, but to heteronormativity, and normativity more broadly. Musicals' queer historiography, then, is a way of engaging past events that challenges normativity in form as well as content; a way of productively challenging not only what we think we know about the past, but how we come to know it. Each chapter uses a different theoretical lens to guide close readings of a pair of thematically linked musicals. The first chapter considers 1776 (1969) and Assassins (1991, 2004) as challenges to official narratives of United States history. My primary lens in this chapter is form, as I analyze how musicals' structures influence their queer historiographic potential. Chapter 2 examines two musicals that offer histories of U.S. popular culture, Gypsy (1959) and Hairspray (2002), considering how the placement of divas at the center of each show enables a historiography that is feminist as well as queer, challenging ideas about gender and sexuality while making women central to the histories they represent. In the third chapter I look to two musicals, Falsettos (1992) and Elegies: A Song Cycle (2003), which present histories of trauma while featuring overtly gay, lesbian, and queer
characters. I use these two texts to theorize how musicals might not simply present history as it "really" was, but also as it might have been, thereby offering what Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick terms a "reparative reading" of history. In examining each of my six case studies, I analyze specific performances as well as written texts whenever possible.


Subject: Theater; GLBT Studies

Classification: 0465: Theater; 0492: GLBT Studies

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Social sciences, Musical theatre, Queer, Historiography

Title: "Listen to the stories, hear it in the songs": Musical theatre as queer historiography

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Advisor: Canning, Charlotte, Wolf, Stacy
The contextual analysis of pre-1856 Eastern Woodlands quillwork dyes through identification by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry

Author: Cole, Christina Lynn


Abstract: This is a technical study of pre-1856 Eastern Woodlands quillwork dyes, prompted by the observation that discussions of Native North American dyestuffs have been ancillary to larger or "western" anthropological studies, which has perpetuated the categorization and distinctly different historical treatment of ethnographic versus fine art by scholars. Using existing literature reports for guidance during method development, an analysis method based on fiber optic reflectance spectroscopy (FORS), X-ray fluorescence (XRF), and liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) was developed for the identification of probable dyes used within the Eastern Woodlands culture area. By developing a blotter swab approach to sample acquisition, LC-MS analysis of museum collections was possible without requiring the physical removal of a sample from the object, thus permitting scientific examination of the quillwork in accordance with the objectives and preferred analysis modes identified by Native communities, museums, and scholars. Fifty-
three objects housed by three major North American ethnographic museums were analyzed, with a total number of 126 samples of eight colors of quillwork. For the first time, an objective evaluation of the body of Eastern Woodlands quillwork dye literature has been undertaken. Based on the findings of this study, the persistent characterization of Native North American dye technology as primitive or otherwise inferior to contemporary Euroamerican technology has been challenged. Colorants identified on quillwork analyzed suggest that Native North American dye technology from Contact to 1856 was instead based on a sophisticated understanding of natural dye chemistry. Further, the persistence of indigenous North American colorants and general lack of colorants associated with European dyes throughout the approximately 250 years of quillwork considered in this study is evidence of an uninterrupted material culture tradition that is at odds with the sense of acculturation implied by the dye literature.


Subject: Archaeology; Art history; Cultural Resources Management; Analytical chemistry; Museum studies; Native American studies

Classification: 0324: Archaeology; 0377: Art history; 0436: Cultural Resources Management; 0486: Analytical chemistry; 0730: Museum studies; 0740: Native American studies

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Social sciences, Pure sciences, Eastern Woodlands, Dyes, Liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry, Art conservation, FORS, LC-MS, Native American, Quillwork, XRF

Title: The contextual analysis of pre-1856 Eastern Woodlands quillwork dyes through identification by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry

Number of pages: 275
On the other side of hyperactivity: An anthropology of ADHD

Author: Goodwin, Marc Andrew
Abstract: This dissertation, On the Other Side of Hyperactivity: an Anthropology of ADHD, provides a meta-historical and cultural perspective on the emergence and proliferation of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in the United States over the last three decades. Through in-depth multi-sited ethnography (15 months in the San Francisco Bay Area) with doctors, educators, parents, and children as well as detailed archival research into the disorder's antecedents, my research explores how ADHD operates as both a psychiatric category and social imaginary that links together in its operation the domains of education, biomedicine, and family life in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. More broadly, by examining the relationship between consumption and time, my analysis pushes the study of ADHD into new territory showing how ADHD's symptoms--hyperactivity and impulsivity--operate both through the body and its exterior milieus creating a new architecture of experience in contemporary American life. Toward this end, my analysis here develops a renewed concept of hyperactivity that differs from the term's everyday use. Hyperactivity comes from the Greek [Special characters omitted.] , "over, beyond, above" and the Latin activus related to the noun actus, a "driving" or "impulse." In both its broadest sense as a concept and its specific meanings as a medical category, hyperactivity as a condition marks a threshold. On the one hand, the challenge of this dissertation is to locate this threshold by attending both ethnographically and historically to the ways that hyperactivity has been marked as a significant problem in the world: for example, when and where does hyperactivity emerge as a target of psychiatric intervention? Why does its diagnosis and treatment remain controversial today? How do scientific and medical approaches to hyperactivity challenge commonsense ideas about personal responsibility and accountability? More importantly, the challenge is to think life on the other side of this threshold, on the other side of hyperactivity. This means thinking hyperactivity not simply as a medical category or oppressive label, but as an active and dynamic force. It also means thinking hyperactivity not only in the negative sense of the limits it sets on life--how do the categories, labels, modes of treatment and diagnosis of the condition constrain and confine, etc.--but also in the positive powers of creativity, novelty, and difference. Therefore the task, I argue, and what my dissertation attempts to do, is to show through sustained empirical attention and conceptual reflection the singular way hyperactivity articulates things like neurological deficit, rituals of self-stimulation, habits of consumption, and modes of identification and belonging that before had no direct connection, and thus to appreciate what is new and different about hyperactivity in the world today.

Probability and statistics curricula at Yale University and Columbia University, 1880--1950

Author: Garrett, Kelly Nicole


Abstract: The way in which probability and statistics emerged as a standard part of the curriculum in American higher education is not well understood. While few colleges and universities offered probability and statistics during the early 1900s, both Yale University and Columbia University showed evidence of these courses. This dissertation highlighted curricular changes at both institutions from 1880 until 1950. Some researchers suggest that the two world wars had a significant effect on statistical offerings in postsecondary institutions; others view the wars as simply serving to accelerate trends already apparent. This dissertation sees the latter view as more tenable. Resources for the study were course descriptions, correspondence, and other materials found in the archives of Yale and Columbia. At Columbia, the search focused on Columbia College and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. At Yale, both Yale College and the Sheffield Scientific School, which housed Yale's undergraduate courses, as well as the Graduate School of Arts and Science were investigated. As early as the 1880s, both Yale and Columbia offered probability and statistics. Before World War I, Columbia focused on both applications and mathematical derivations; Yale, however, emphasized practical problems. Although the trend continued during the war (1914-1918), the interwar years saw changes at both institutions. By 1920 at Yale, students could study the research applications of statistical methods and the mathematics of statistics. Columbia, too,
offered the derivations of statistical procedures, but increased the number of such courses after World War I. By 1945, Columbia had added a Department of Mathematical Statistics, which created opportunities for students to study a greater variety of topics in significantly greater depths. Yale added classes for health science majors which concentrated on the applications of statistics to clinical medicine. While changes occurred during the post World War II years, the changes were not cataclysmic but were, rather, an acceleration of trends which had already been underway.


Subject: Mathematics education; American history; Education history

Classification: 0280: Mathematics education; 0337: American history; 0520: Education history

Identifier / keyword: Education, Social sciences, Probability and statistics curricula, Yale University, Columbia University, Mathematics education, Connecticut, New York City

Title: Probability and statistics curricula at Yale University and Columbia University, 1880--1950

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There's no place for home: The modern displacement of local discourse

Author: Oman, Patricia


Abstract: Although regionalism might seem uncomplicated, a further look reveals both historical and cultural complexity, especially in the paradoxical nonregion called the Midwest, which comes to represent the heartland of the United States. Main Street and the rural farm seem to stand for the nation as a whole. By defining regionalism along two separate but related modes—a space dialectic that considers the differentiation between urban and rural landscapes and a place dialectic that considers the relationship between local communities and the imagined nation—this project disentangles many of the terms that are commonly used in discussions of regionalism to make visible the
displacement of local discourse, that is, the lost sense of place, in the twentieth-century Midwest. Although regionalism might seem to belong to the nineteenth century as a minor subset of realist literature, an analysis of a wide variety of Midwest novels and films along both modes of regionalism demonstrates a clear twentieth-century narrative of regionalism. Novels such as L. Frank Baum's The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (1900), Willa Cather's The Professor's House (1925), F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby (1929), Toni Morrison's Beloved (1987), and Richard Powers's Prisoner's Dilemma (1988) demonstrate the rise and dominance of local color, a specific type of regionalism that mediates between national and local discourses. Films such as The Wizard of Oz (1939), Show Boat (1936, 1951), Night of the Hunter (1956), Field of Dreams (1988), and War of the Worlds (2005) indicate not only that the local color tradition continues throughout the twentieth century (and farther) in film but also that it displaces local discourse and leads to the loss of place. By the end of the century, figurative representations of the Midwest as local color are more real in popular imagination than the actual communities they claim to reference and are thus transformed into what Jean Baudrillard calls simulacra, a phenomenon demonstrated perfectly in the Main Street section of Disneyland.


Subject: American studies; American literature; Film studies

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0591: American literature; 0900: Film studies

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Displacement, Local discourse, Regionalism, Midwest, 20th century

Title: There's no place for home: The modern displacement of local discourse

Number of pages: 296
Advertising stigmata: The evolution of advertising in American poetic culture

Author: Spies, Elizabeth Jean

Abstract: In my dissertation, I outline the ways that technological developments in twentieth century advertising have infiltrated, altered, and affected American Poetics. Beginning in late nineteenth century, I discuss the expansion and maturation of twentieth century advertising and marketing techniques and how poetry fashioned new techniques of appropriating such advertising advancements within their critical discourse. Through the interweaving of historical turning points, technological developments, and the rhetorically motivated appropriation of advertising techniques, I show how the modernist poets, the Cold War poets Sylvia Plath, Allen Ginsberg, and postmodern poet Amy Gerstler develop new doctrine within semantic and cognitive poetics which in turn affect a new understanding of twentieth century aesthetics. In the first chapter, "Advertising Stigmatas: The Evolution of Advertising in 20th Century Poetry," I examine how the modernist poets incorporated advertising through the appropriation of war advertising, through the development of multi-medium collage poetry, and through avant garde marketing strategies. In chapter 2, I discuss Sylvia Plath's internalization of suburban culture as she peppers her poetic work with advertisements for household products and even suburban architecture as a national symbol of cold war domestic politics. In chapter 3, I begin with the poetry of Allen Ginsberg, whose promotion of marginalized figures began through the re-use and de-coding of mainstream advertising. Called "subvertising," Ginsberg's poetics engendered a new aesthetics with which to market his own poetic celebrity. And lastly, through the postmodern poetry of Amy Gerstler, I discuss poetry in terms of traditional semantic understandings of mainstream media exposes cognitive pattern creation, social stereotyping, ad imagery and popular semantic stimuli within popular advertising. In the broader sense, each of the aforementioned poets admit a dimension of complicity within a mainstream advertising system, either in their use of advertising imagery or through their employment of marketing strategies to publicize their poetic images. However, at its very core, poetry and aesthetics have been embedded with how we perceive and cognitively translate our individual sensory perceptions, our emotional milieu, and our contemporaneous intellectual forum. If poetic aesthetics can be understood as a perceptual, critical reflection on culture, nature and philosophy, my work shows that in the field of mass advertising culture, cognitive studies and poetics there lies dormant a new, unacknowledged social standard of beauty.
Subject: American literature

Classification: 0591: American literature

Identifier / keyword: Language, literature and linguistics, Ginsberg, Allen, Plath, Sylvia, Gerstler, Amy, Advertising, American studies, Cognitive studies, Cold War, Modernism, Poetry

Title: Advertising stigmatas: The evolution of advertising in American poetic culture

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Imagined islands: American empire and identity in the postcolonial Pacific

Author: Solar, Valerie Chihiro


Abstract: In this dissertation, I analyze literature from Hawai'i, the Philippines, Guam and Samoa, in order to examine some of the individualized effects of American empire in the Pacific on identity. I choose works from these areas because they each represent a variation of legal entanglement with the United States: a former sovereign nation incorporated as a state, a colony that is now an independent nation, an unincorporated territory, and a nation split into two because of U.S. claims to half of it. I primarily utilize the lens of Asian American studies but also employ feminist and postcolonial theory in order to study some of the linkages between self and nation, subjectivity and migration, place and personhood. I analyze the novels of Nora Okja Keller from Hawai'i to examine the entanglements between Asia, the U.S. and the Pacific in the theater of war. Jessica Hagedorn's novels afford a glimpse into the after-life of colonialism in the Philippines, the Chamoru poetry of Craig Santos Perez and Chris Perez Howard's biography of his mother demonstrate differing perspectives on the continuing American occupation of Guam, and the narratives of Sia Figiel and Albert Wendt of Samoa display some of the layered effects of multiple colonizations upon the disenfranchised of the islands. A secondary goal of this project is to push the boundaries of Asian American studies to see if and how Pacific Islander studies can be fruitfully combined with the discipline. Although Asian American studies has primarily been focused on citizenship within the United States, Pacific Islander studies also concentrates on issues surrounding indigeneity and sovereignty struggles in locales outside of the mainland U.S. By broadening the focus of Asian American studies, it is possible to point the way for further, nuanced studies of the relationships between U.S. and non-U.S. imperialisms and the "minor
transnationalisms" that surpass the binaries of cultural formation that dominate discussions of postcolonialism and nationalism.


Subject: Asian American Studies; Literature of Oceania; Pacific Rim Studies; American literature

Classification: 0343: Asian American Studies; 0356: Literature of Oceania; 0561: Pacific Rim Studies; 0591: American literature

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Hawaii, Philippines, Guam, American Samoa, American empire, Asian American studies, Imperialism, Literature, Pacific Islander studies,; Postcolonialism

Title: Imagined islands: American empire and identity in the postcolonial Pacific

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Advisor: Yamamoto, Traise
Cy Twombly and the ethics of painting

Author: Neely, Evan


Abstract: Cy Twombly and the Ethics of Painting investigates the formal and thematic relationships of Twombly's painting to Abstract Expressionist painters like Jackson Pollock, Franz Kline, and Willem De Kooning. The scholarship on Twombly focused mainly on his differences from these artists and tends to deny any self-expressive purpose in his work, basing the claim on an underestimation of the complexities of self-expression and a mistaken understanding of the painterly forms which enable it. This dissertation analyzes the historical development of these forms, and compares them to various theories of selfhood from the earlier part of the twentieth century, to gauge the different possibilities of painterly and verbal media for self-reflection. Theorists as diverse as
John Dewey, Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Alfred North Whitehead, who reacted to the prevailing idealism of the previous century's thought, came to the conclusions that the self was only truly knowable when seen in its various social and environmental engagements. The central thesis of the dissertation is that Twombly's work, as well as his artistic forebears', was predicated on such an idea—that only in the interaction between viewer and work could the individuality of the artistic self be made visible, because only in its products was it truly knowable. My work takes its cues from an observation made by Aristotle in the first chapter of his Nicomachean Ethics. Here he noted that there was an intimate connection between the Greek words "ethos," or moral excellence, and "ithiki," or habit, such that a person's habits of behavior demonstrated his or her characteristic virtues. This idea is the basis of what is commonly called "Abstract Expressionist" painting, or what I will call "gestural abstraction," to distinguish it from color field painting. The way Aristotle's insight can be used to explain this idiom, and Twombly's work in particular, is the subject of my first chapter. Gestural abstractionists sought to compose their paintings so that their characteristic ways of applying paint, the product of a lifetime of artistic education so fully absorbed that it became second nature, would be directly present to the viewer. They removed intermediary forms like pictures or shapes, which would prevent the gesture's immediacy by submitting it to a larger compositional function. It was presumed that, in the course of the recipients' reconstruction of the paintings, they would recognize their own ideas about the relationship between product and agent. The second chapter discusses the problems faced by the second generation of gestural abstractionists. The younger artists had to discover new methods of self-expression within a field that had fewer capacities for formal novelty and seemed progressively academic in aspiration. The initial problem, to discover means for the painterly expression of a personal ethos, was reframed as the problem of revealing a private experience through public forms. Twombly succeeded where other artists failed by abandoning the more valorous gestures of artists like de Kooning and Pollock, instead manipulating established compositional structures to accommodate more public signs like place names, geometrical shapes, and a style of gesture and script that Arthur Danto has aptly called "demotic writing." He would use a modified version of Pollock's "allover composition," placing a variety of discrete marks in seemingly haphazard arrangements, thus breaking the syntactical connections that would ordinarily make the explicit reason for the choice and relation among these elements intelligible. This compositional order served to render his personal reasons inexplicable while simultaneously revealing the many connections of his work to its artistic forebears. However, the level of Twombly's success is also a main reason why his work is so often dissociated from its artistic forebears. So, in addition to the aforementioned revisions to the project of self-expressive painting, the second chapter explains the peculiar hermeneutic problems this work poses, surveys the variety of models of agency and selfhood developed in the earlier twentieth century, and argues that a misconception of these has often led to gestural abstraction's critical dismissal and historiographical misapprehension. The idea of form defended by Clement Greenberg has separated it decisively from content, so the earlier understanding of gestural abstraction has fallen by the wayside, resulting in the failure to see
its significance for later artists. Harold Rosenberg saw it as a kind of self-expression, but did not account for the means it used for this purpose, instead ending his influential article by enjoining its critics to develop a new language for its explication. The result of this kind of critical inattention is that the idiom's main innovation, the allover composition, is not seen as a device for enabling the project of self-presentation. (Abstract shortened by UMI.)


Subject: Art history; Ethics
Classification: 0377: Art history; 0394: Ethics
Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology, Communication and the arts, Ethics, Painting, Twombly, Cy, Abstract Expressionism, Modernism, Postwar art
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Advisor: Freedberg, David
I once was lost, but now am found...politically.: Conversion narratives as deliberative forms in American public discourse

Author: Waisanen, Don J.


Abstract: This study undertakes a rhetorical analysis of political conversion narratives over nearly fifty years of American public discourse. Three intertextual autobiographies are examined: Whittaker Chambers's Witness (1952), Norman Podhoretz's Breaking Ranks (1979), and David Horowitz's Radical Son (1997). This dissertation explores the theories of public deliberation operating in these texts, as forms of influence connecting religion and politics, identities and movements, and as exemplars of how autobiographical media ecologies operate in contemporary political discourse. Threading together a communication criticism with public responses to the narratives, my analysis demonstrates that political conversion narratives are fundamentally antideliberative forms of rhetoric. As a whole, the case studies all combine the conversion form (a public proclamation of fundamental, bifurcated identity change from an old to a new life) with various rhetorical resources and themes to produce a seemingly reflexive yet
totalizing type of public argument. The deep, underlying structure of the
conversion form functions to control several resources and themes in each
autobiography, creating an antideliberative text whose sum is greater
than its parts. This thesis distinguishes the inherently antideliberative
dimensions of the conversion narrative from other, less totalizing
communicative practices that also involve the use of testimony,
experience, and autobiographical forms of public argument. Individually,
each case study presents a political conversion narrative in a different
antideliberative guise. Responding to particular exigencies in the
postwar period, the texts share many features, but also punctuate their
trajectory of influence with three different types of conversion that
generally corroborate with three particular options for religious thought
in the modern world. I argue that Chambers largely uses a fundamentalist,
deductive conversion, Podhoretz uses an intellectual, reductive
conversion, and Horowitz uses an experiential, inductive conversion, in
ways that are equally antideliberative. I further argue that rhetors
import the conversion form into politics as a civil-religious rhetorical
strategy that draws from and negotiates the tenuous church-state
relationship in America's fragmenting, postwar context. Collectively, the
case studies employ civil-religious rhetoric as a response to their
overall postwar context. Yet individually, each autobiography also
incarnates its own era's ethos by emphasizing religion and secularity in
different ways. These religious and secular differences demonstrate how
contextual shifts within the postwar period called for conversion texts
under varying deliberative guises. Lastly, I find that Witness, Breaking
Ranks, and Radical Son are intertextual works demonstrating how
conversion discourse can evolve and adapt over time, connecting social
movements with public identity claims. As such, there is a vital temporal
dimension to political conversion narratives. These writers each draw
from past political conversion discourses, apply and adapt them to the
present, and hurl them into the future—constructing deliberative visions
that illustrate how critical parts of contemporary American conservatism
have been formed. I summarize the deliberative standards constructed
across these conversion narratives, presenting some final implications
about the cumulative effect of these case studies and what their
rhetorics portend for public communication. The study's limitations are
discussed, and new lines of research charted.

Abstract: This study considers how the burgeoning popular music industry of Ghana becomes particularly vulnerable after Kwame Nkrumah's administration is deposed in 1966. Situated in the breach between the succeeding military regimes' occlusion of western businesses and tourists and the post-Rawlings civil governments' appeal to transnational financiers to invest in "modern" nation building, this project interrogates how Ghanaian musicians acquire pursuits of happiness outside the state, particularly in encounters with African American tourists for widespread distribution of music, tour bookings and access to sophisticated sound technologies. Throughout these political shifts, the lives and work of highlife and hiplife artists remain fraught with unstable wages, payola to radio DJs and conflicts with the Copyright Office over music piracy. Alliances between African American tourists and Ghanaian musicians are persistently negotiated through the transfer of a desirable "home"--in Ghana through a reclamation of racial and cultural identity in heritage performance events, sites and objects and in the U.S. and U.K. with sustainable wages through entry in the international music market. From 2009-2010, I conducted over seven months of field research including more than 70 audio- and video-taped interviews with musicians, music producers, radio and television deejays, music union representatives, tour operators and government officials. I consider how the compelling and elusive quality of Black sound and music performance is imprinted with the peculiar and enduring mechanisms of slavery and colonization, dispossession and disfranchisement, myth and mayhem. I interweave the concepts of grooves, Afro-feelings and Black markets through the wounded natal condition of African diasporic being and the spectacular production of music in the capture/the captives/the captivating: (1) capture, a persistent historical force that dispossesses Black subjects by turning them into (2) captives, confined or restrained persons, enslaved by another against their will and the (3) captivating, how the enchanting and compelling properties of Black music
and racial kinship have been used to resist and reinterpret such repressive agencies while remarkably sustaining life in the midst of it all.


Subject: Black studies; Cultural anthropology; Music

Classification: 0325: Black studies; 0326: Cultural anthropology; 0413: Music

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Social sciences, Afro-feelings, Black markets, Ghana, African music, American studies, Cultural performance, Diaspora, Kinship, Transnationalism

Title: Sensing the sonic and mnemonic: Digging through grooves, Afro-feelings and Black markets in Ghana, 1966--present

Number of pages: 285

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

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ISBN: 9781124161563

Advisor: Marez, Curtis
Representational conquest: Tourism, display, and public memory in "America's Finest City"

Author: Salazar, Margaret Nicole


Abstract: Representational Conquest: Tourism, Display, and Public Memory in "America's Finest City" examines the centrality of representation in the formation of Southern California during the twentieth century. Popularly defined, conquest refers to the defeat, mastery or subjugation of peoples and territory through war, violence, and military force. While multiple historians signal the end of U.S. conquest with the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, I argue that conquest has not ended--it has merely changed shape. Twentieth-century tourism in San Diego features a new form of conquest that extends the legacy of military conquest. This dissertation develops an alternative way of understanding conquest that
not only considers the terror of psychic and physical violence, but also charts how visual and material symbols and images in San Diego's tourist economy operate as ongoing, continual processes of representational conquest. These discursive formations both continue and are mutually constitute of earlier projects of domination and control—i.e., military invasion and the mission system. As the first contemporary investigation of representational conquest in Southern California, my project is driven by the following questions: What is the relationship between tourism and conquest in a particular region? How do processes of conquest change over time? How do these processes influence the racial and political landscape of Southern California and more particularly the global city in the twentieth century? I investigate these crucial inquiries by focusing on a geopolitical area where conquest is arguably most concentrated: the bordered space between nations. Specifically, I look to the San Diego, California border region as a case study. Self-proclaimed as "America's Finest City," San Diego has established global economic prominence through its large military complex, free-trade manufacturing, and international tourism industries. As a global city, San Diego provides compelling examples of military, territorial, racial, and discursive conflicts, which continually work to define U.S. national identity in a turbulent, bordered space. The abundant array of tourist representations mythologizing the Western U.S. borderland region have functioned as conquest. I have chosen four different examples that provide productive lenses through which to understand representational conquest—namely: "Ramonamania" in early twentieth-century Old Town State Historic Park, which established public memory and a patriotic Anglo version of San Diego's past; post-War architecture in the city's Shelter Island, where physical structures do the work of conquest; the city's 200th birthday flop, which became a financial disaster in 1969's tense political and racial climate; and the installation of giant pandas at the San Diego Zoo following U.S.-China rapprochement, where East meets West by way of internationally sanctioned biopower in the 1980s and 1990s.


Subject: American studies; American history; Ethnic studies; Recreation
Title: Representational conquest: Tourism, display, and public memory in "America's Finest City"

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Advisor: Sanchez, George, Banet-Weiser, Sarah

Committee member: Iwamura, Jane, Kun, Josh, Tongson, Karen

University/institution: University of Southern California

Department: American Studies and Ethnicity

University location: United States -- California

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

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Dissertation/thesis number: 3418161

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Copyright: Copyright ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing 2010
A comparative study of Robert Lewis, Lee Strasberg, Stella Adler and Sanford Meisner in the context of current research about the Stanislavsky System

Author: Darvas, Ruthel Honey


Abstract: Decades of interpretation based on incorrect and incomplete information regarding Stanislavsky and his System have erroneously guided the advent of modern acting theory in the United States. This study, using current research about the Stanislavsky System, examines four notable acting teachers—Robert Lewis, Lee Strasberg, Stella Adler and Sanford Meisner— to determine whose philosophy most accurately reflects the Stanislavsky System as it is now understood. The concepts of action, imagination, bits, tasks, emotion memory and active analysis are each explored independently. Each concept is examined as it relates to the System and then compared to the concepts as interpreted and put into practice by Lewis, Strasberg, Adler and Meisner. This study suggests that it is Lewis who had the most comprehensive understanding of the System and was closest in practice to Stanislavsky.


"Brooding reflection": Redefining the literary impression in Henry James and Kate Chopin

Author: Bayer, Ellen M.

Publication info: Purdue University, ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing, 2010. 3413729.

Abstract: My dissertation examines the representation and function of the literary impression in selected texts of Henry James and Kate Chopin. While past scholarship on the literary impression has been comparative, analyzing it in relation to Impressionism in painting, or phenomenological, using it to explore the processing of impressions in the consciousness, my project considers the literary impression as a literary technique in itself. Examining the impression within its original context provides new insights into the dynamics of how these texts function, in terms of both the workings of plot and in the effect on readers. I argue, in short, that the impression in literature should be examined specifically in literary terms in order to understand its textual roles. Grounded in this approach, my project reveals that the literary impression is central to the formation of the plots of these texts. By eschewing from previous methodologies, my project shifts the discussion of the literary impression away from comparative models, and instead opts for close readings of the impression within its original context. While past scholarship has removed the literary impression from that context, my project posits the impression as being at the heart of the structure of these texts, and thus better analyzes exactly how the impression functions within the text. I argue that when we turn to the work of authors like James and Chopin, we encounter texts that demand more than an understanding of how the eye and mind work. These authors privilege depth; they demand that the characters, objects, and events in their writing be penetrated beyond the surface in order fully to be understood. I argue that the impression functions differently in literature than it does in other mediums, and thus a methodology unique to literature is required for such investigations. In Chapter One I propose a new methodology and demonstrate how this new approach reveals how the impression functions and is represented in literature. My project reveals that the literary impression serves as a focal point in the works of authors such as James and Chopin; in each text, a character's
impression of other characters, objects, or memories serves as a revealing moment and hinge point in the text. The literary impression also serves in each of these texts as a marker for growth; as characters learn to read and understand the impressions they receive they learn more about themselves and their relationships to other characters: they attain awareness. Readers, too, learn to read the impressions they receive from the novel and become active participants in the creation of meaning by applying to their own reading experience the lessons learned by the characters. I put my new methodology into practice in the two author-centered chapters that follow, and use it to offer new readings of James' The Portrait of a Lady and Chopin's The Awakening through this refocused lens. In my conclusion, I briefly examine Edith Wharton's The House of Mirth and suggest how my new methodology might be used to open up dimensions of many other novels, most especially novels of manners.


Subject: American literature; British and Irish literature

Classification: 0591: American literature; 0593: British and Irish literature

Identifier / keyword: Language, literature and linguistics, Chopin, Kate, James. Henry, Literary impression, Literary Impressionism, Nineteenth-century American literature, Novel of manners

Title: "Brooding reflection": Redefining the literary impression in Henry James and Kate Chopin

Number of pages: 290

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School code: 0183
Border-crossing laughter: Humor in the short fiction of Mark Twain, Mikhail Naimy, Edgar Allan Poe, and Emile Habiby

Author: Chelala, Rania


Abstract: This comparative literature project traces humor strategies in the short fiction of two American writers: Mark Twain (1835-1910) and Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849), and two Arab writers: Mikhail Naimy (1889-1988) and Emile Habiby (1922-1996). The humor in the selected stories transcends the limitations of time, literary traditions, and culturally-grounded notions of what is funny. I examine key elements of humor that are structural and translatable. The four writers use comparable humor strategies such as incongruities, multiple or third person deadpan narrators, humorous repetition, reciprocal interference, metanarrative disruptions and diffuse disjunctions. Humor in these literary texts is not only about the presence of lighthearted jokes; serious texts that deal with incongruities causing laughter are also humorous. The reader's reactions to these stories vary from laughter to a placid smile or laughter through tears. These physical reactions to humor are one criterion for humor in the stories, and their variety challenges the reader's notion of the funny. This inductive close reading of the stories is supported by mini-theories drawn from humor and translation studies to better understand the stories. The first chapter introduces the comparative and humor grounds of this dissertation and the choice of writers. In the second chapter, I reread five short stories from the canon of Mark Twain and discuss the humor strategies that he shares with the other three writers as well as the unique humor methods that Twain uses and that are relevant to the discussion of the stories. In the third chapter, I uncover the humor in four short stories written by Lebanese writer Mikhail Naimy, and in discussing the humor strategies I also focus on questions of translatability in humor. The fourth chapter focuses on three humorous stories by Edgar Allan Poe. Taking into consideration Poe's horror writing, I argue that his humor strategies transcend limits of time and culture. In the fifth chapter, I study four stories by the Palestinian writer, Emile Habiby from his last tale drawing on comparable and unique humor strategies. The final chapter focuses on the broader implications and recommendations for this new approach to a comparative humor study.

crossing+laughter%3A+Humor+in+the+short+fiction+of+Mark+Twain%2C+Mikhail+Naimy%2C+Edgar+Allan+Poe%2C+and+Emile+Habiby&rft.issn=

Subject: Comparative literature; Middle Eastern literature; American literature

Classification: 0295: Comparative literature; 0315: Middle Eastern literature; 0591: American literature

Identifier / keyword: Language, literature and linguistics, American literature, Arabic literature, Comparative humor studies, Humor, Short fiction, Twain, Mark, Naimy, Mikhail, Poe, Edgar Allan, Habiby, Emile, Lebanon.; Palestine

Title: Border-crossing laughter: Humor in the short fiction of Mark Twain, Mikhail Naimy, Edgar Allan Poe, and Emile Habiby

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Advisor: Wagner-Martin, Linda

Committee member: Leonard, Diane, Flora, Joseph, Marr, Timothy, Yaqub, Nadia

University/institution: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Department: Comparative Literature

University location: United States -- North Carolina

Degree: Ph.D.

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Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 3418495
Collecting intensities: The arrival of French theory in America, 1970s

Author: Demers, Jason


Abstract: My dissertation is an exploration of the ways in which French thinkers and American cultural and political radicalisms mixed during the late 1960s and through the 1970s. I establish that terms such as "French theory" and Post-structuralism" are an effect of translation, and that the latter in particular is an effect of the predominance of a narrative in the history of literary theory that posits the arrival of French theory in the United States at the Johns Hopkins conference on "The Languages of Criticism and the Sciences of Man." I mark the turn of the seventies as a period when the university was in crisis, and theorists were forced to answer difficult questions regarding the relationship between the university and the larger society that resided outside university walls. Whereas French concepts were imported as academic capital, particularly in the field of literary studies as it searched for a replacement paradigm for the New Criticism, I argue that these concepts were often born of extra-academic investments in the women's and gay liberation, prison, and worker's movements. If narratives are constructed according to the privileging and arrangement of particular sets of events, my dissertation displaces the narrative trajectory which features the Johns Hopkins conference by focusing instead upon the French and American events of 1968 and the Schizo-Culture conference organized by Semiotext(e) in 1975. In the process of reconstructing this history I take note of figures (Jean-Jacques Lebel, Sylvère Lotringer) and projects (the Underground Press Syndicate, Semiotext(e)) that maintained and fostered relationships with French thinkers and American cultural and political radicals during this time. Drawing upon Bruno Latour's work on assemblage theory, I argue that what American and French icons represent are ideas and acts that are in circulation, and that they are assembled, embodied, and dispersed by intermediary figures and publications. In this way, I complicate oversimplified notions of influence, entry, and contact. Drawing upon archives and alternative presses, my dissertation
locates points at which French intellectuals like Michel Foucault, Felix Guattari, and Gilles Deleuze entered America extra-academically, providing alternative contexts for the study and use of "French theory" in America.


Subject: Comparative literature; Romance literature; American studies

Classification: 0295: Comparative literature; 0313: Romance literature; 0323: American studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, French theory, Post-structuralism, New Criticism

Title: Collecting intensities: The arrival of French theory in America, 1970s

Number of pages: 340

Publication year: 2009

Degree date: 2009

School code: 0267

Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011

Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9780494648889

University/institution: York University (Canada)
Abstract: My dissertation explores two critical points in understanding John Updike's recent career. First, I examine him from a perspective outside the heavily-studied Rabbit tetralogy. Focusing on Updike's novel Terrorist, I attempt to counter the misperception that he offers little beyond the chronicling of middle-class, suburban America. Instead, this work digs for a deeper understanding of Updike. Next, I consider Updike's role as an artist, professional writer, and celebrity to draw out a sense of the writer's life in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Using him as a case study enables the analysis to include his changing role as a literary writer who also had major bestsellers, as well as his standing as a celebrity and public intellectual. Rather than dismiss these cultural influences, I explore how they intersect with audiences, readers, and critics. Piecing together his commentary regarding fame and celebrity creates a model of the public Updike for scholars to examine. The central task of this dissertation is a close examination of Terrorist, including the themes Updike addressed and literary techniques he employed to advance those ideas. From this textual analysis, Updike's vision of America and the world in the twenty first century emerges. By
reassessing Updike's evolution as a writer, both in subject matter and literary technique, one realizes how his work reflects an increasing preoccupation with global issues, from American imperialism to terrorism. This study broadens the general conceptualization critics and scholars hold regarding Updike's work by exploring the themes and literary devices he used to portray the broader world. Focusing on Updike the writer and Terrorist, his final standalone novel, this dissertation helps Updike scholars and critics address a central point that may well define his historical reputation: Is there an Updike beyond the Rabbit novels and is there an Updike beyond suburban nostalgia? I argue that Terrorist reveals a great American writer at his full powers as the world around him undergoes a watershed moment.


Subject: Modern literature; American studies; American literature

Classification: 0298: Modern literature; 0323: American studies; 0591: American literature

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Language, literature and linguistics, Updike, John, Literature, Symbolic interactionism, Writer, Terrorist, Popular culture

Title: Running toward the apocalypse: John Updike's new America

Number of pages: 176

Publication year: 2009

Degree date: 2009

School code: 0206

Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011
The Florida Education Finance Program from 1981 to 2009: A historical review and equity analysis

Author: Bowden, Curtis Todd

Abstract: In 1973, the state of Florida implemented the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). The program was developed to distribute available funds to public school districts in a more equitable manner than the Minimum Foundation Plan it replaced. Almost immediately, the Florida Education Finance Program came under attack as less equitable and unnecessarily complex. The Florida Education Finance Program provides funding to local school districts based on the number students and the
types of educational programs in which they are enrolled. Through a system of program cost factors and district cost differentials the Florida Education Finance Program adjusts for the type of students and the economic environment the district serves. But does it distribute funds equitably? This study was designed to answer one central research question: "Does the Florida Education Finance Program equitably distribute available funding to public school districts in the state?" In order to answer this question, a three phase method was implemented. In the first phase a chronological development of Florida's school finance plan was developed. The second phase employed research based statistical tools to gauge the distributional equity of Florida's mechanism for distributing available funds for Florida public school districts. The final phase used Pearson product-moment correlations to gauge the fiscal neutrality of the system. The study is patterned after a similar study completed in 1982 that called into question the distributional equity of the Florida Education Finance Program. The coefficient of variation, federal range ratio, McLoone index, Verstegen index, and Gini coefficient are all research based measures of distributional equity that are resistant to inflationary pressure. Each of these measures of distributional equity yielded the same results. They showed a high level of equity in the distribution of available funding to Florida's public school districts through the Florida Education Finance Program. This study left open the questions of adequacy and the role of the state in funding public education in the state of Florida to future study.


Subject: Education finance; School administration; Public administration

Classification: 0277: Education finance; 0514: School administration; 0617: Public administration

Identifier / keyword: Education, Social sciences, State, School, Funding, Distribution, Public, Public education, State funding, Florida, School districts
Title: The Florida Education Finance Program from 1981 to 2009: A historical review and equity analysis

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University location: United States -- Florida

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"People's diplomacy": The diplomatic front of North Vietnam during the war against the United States, 1965-1972

Author: Mehta, Harish C.
Abstract: This doctoral dissertation investigates how the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV, or North Vietnam), under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh, created a "diplomatic front" to implement "people's diplomacy." The main focus is on the period from 1965-1972 when the DRV needed these strategies to win worldwide support and sympathy for the Vietnamese Revolution. The diplomatic front consisted of Vietnamese writers, cartoonists, workers, women, students, artistic performers, filmmakers, architects, medical doctors and nurses, academics, lawyers, and sportspersons. Research in Vietnamese, American, and Canadian archives reveals that the front forged important links with antiwar activists abroad, thus lending greater credibility to their efforts to portray North Vietnam in a positive light. People's diplomacy made it difficult for the United States to prolong the war because the North Vietnamese, together with the peace movement abroad, brought popular pressure on U.S. President Lyndon Johnson to end the war. People's diplomacy was much more effective than traditional DRV diplomacy in gaining the support and sympathy of Westerners who were averse to communism. People's diplomacy damaged the reputation of the United States by exposing U.S. war crimes and casting North Vietnam as a victim of American imperialism. As a result, many of America's Western allies did not send troops or provide aid to South Vietnam. People's diplomacy also helped North Vietnam gain crucial economic, military, and diplomatic support from the Soviet Union, China, Eastern Europe, Cuba and North Korea.
Classification: 0332: History; 0337: American history; 0509: Economic history

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Diplomatic front, Vietnam, United States

Title: "People's diplomacy": The diplomatic front of North Vietnam during the war against the United States, 1965-1972

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30. Providing for our communities, protecting our race, proving ourselves: African American activism and protest in Depression Era New Orleans

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32. Unbound by law: Association and autonomy in the early American republic

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35. Forced conversion: Civil-military relations and national security policy in the Carter administration, 1977--1981

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44. Row house city: Unbuilding residential Baltimore, 1940--1980

45. Presidential war power in the deliberative moment: An integrated traditional and empirical legal study

46. Black politics in the age of Jim Crow: Memphis, Tennessee, 1865 to 1954

47. "People's diplomacy": The diplomatic front of North Vietnam during the war against the United States, 1965-1972

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Romilly and rush: The parallel paths of penal reform in Britain and America, 1780 - 1830

Author: Hunnicutt, Wendell Allen


Abstract: After the end of the American Revolution, efforts were made in both American and in Britain to alter the penal code in order to reduce the number of offenses that carried the death penalty and to replace capital punishment with incarceration in a penitentiary. In Pennsylvania, Dr. Benjamin Rush achieved apparent success in this matter since, by the time of his death, the local jail was well on its way to being transformed into the total penal institution recognizable in the nineteenth-century penitentiary. Sir Samuel Romilly, on the other hand, faced relentless opposition in Parliament in his efforts to repeal the numerous statutes that constituted England's "Bloody Code." The revolutionary spirit in America allowed for the alteration in the penal code and the experimentation with less severe forms of punishment. In Britain, the spirit of revolution seemed too real and threatening to the entrenched elites and therefore efforts to alleviate the law's harshness came to naught as long as Napoleon Bonaparte remained in power. By the 1820s American interests had changed and penal reform slowed; in Britain, the absence of revolutionary threat allowed Britons to establish a police force and to relax their harsh laws.
Cities of comrades: Urban disasters and the formation of the North American progressive state

Author: Remes, Jacob Aaron Carliner


Abstract: A fire in Salem, Mass., in 1914 and an explosion in Halifax, N.S., in 1917 provide an opportunity to explore working-class institutions and organizations in the United States- Canada borderlands. In a historical moment in which the state greatly expanded its responsibility to give protection and rescue to its citizens, after these two disasters ordinary survivors preferred to depend on their friends, neighbors, and family members. This dissertation examines which institutions--including formal organizations like unions and fraternal societies as well as informal groups like families and neighborhoods--were most relevant and useful to working-class survivors. Families, neighbors, friends, and coworkers had patterns and traditions of self-help, informal order, and solidarity that they developed before crisis hit their cities. Those traditions were put to unusual purposes and extreme stress when the disasters happened. They were also challenged by new agents of the state, who were given extraordinary powers in the wake of the disasters. This dissertation describes how the working-class
people who most directly experienced the disasters understood them and their cities starkly differently than the professionalized relief authorities. Using a wide array of sources—including government documents, published accounts, archived ephemeral, oral histories, photographs, newspapers in two languages, and the case files of the Halifax Relief Commission—the dissertation describes how elites imposed a progressive state on what they imagined to be a fractured and chaotic social landscape. It argues that "the people" for whom reformers claimed to speak had their own durable, alternative modes of support and rescue that they quickly and effectively mobilized in times of crisis, but which remained illegible to elites. By demonstrating the personal, ideological, political, and practical ties between New England and Nova Scotia and Quebec, it also emphasizes the importance of studying American and Canadian history together, not only comparatively but as a transnational, North American whole.


Subject: Canadian history; American history; French Canadian Culture

Classification: 0334: Canadian history; 0337: American history; 0482: French Canadian Culture

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Massachusetts, Urban disasters, Cities, Disasters, Halifax, Labor, Progressive Era, Salem

Title: Cities of comrades: Urban disasters and the formation of the North American progressive state

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School code: 0066
A mountain of politics: The struggle for "dzil nchaa si'an" (Mount Graham), 1871-2002

Author: Helfrich, Joel T.


The Supreme Court in the early Progressive era

Author: Walker, Kevin


Abstract: Between 1890 and 1937, prior to the full effect of the New Deal, the Supreme Court was compelled to review many state laws aimed at regulating local industrial life. Those laws were passed under the authority of state "police power" legislation, or the authority of local governments to regulate "health, safety and morals." Now, however, police power included not only working conditions and union activities, but aspects of industry that seemed to violate the basic principles of republicanism embodied in all American constitutions. Those principles were no longer assumed, but were made explicit in the new Fourteenth Amendment, and its guarantee that no one would be deprived of "life, liberty or property without due process of law." Many business interests claimed that this guarantee protected "liberty of contract," or the right of employers and employees to join for their mutual interests, no matter how unfair it might appear to reform-minded lawmakers. This dissertation challenges the conventional history of that conflict as it occurred in
the early "Lochner Era" Court, from 1870-1912. That story holds that the justices merely sided with the industrialists because of their own laissez-faire ideology against popular and necessary forms of local legislation. I propose, however, that the Supreme Court was in fact seeking a constitutional basis for economic regulation - one that sought to allow for reform without depriving the Constitution of its inner republican principles. Based on cases and other legal literature of that era, I will show how the Court sought to reconcile nineteenth century Madisonian "neutrality" with the need to recover basic fairness in industrial life. At the same time, they sought to preserve the other Madisonian precept: the need to protect the pursuit of property, the fundamental basis for any free government.


Subject: Law; Economic history; Political science; Social structure

Classification: 0398: Law; 0509: Economic history; 0615: Political science; 0700: Social structure

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, United States Supreme Court

Title: The Supreme Court in the early Progressive era

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Country of publication: United States
The darling strangers and English appetites: Technology transfer and European cultural barriers in the early modern Atlantic World

Author: Lyon, Elva Kathleen


Abstract: The English had the opportunity to serve an apprenticeship for technologies they desired in the early modern period on both sides of the Atlantic. In places such as London or Norwich highly mobile stranger artisans from northern continental Europe created the items for which the English had an appetite, whether sugar or clothes, saw mills or city docks. In the colonies the "darlings" who possessed the skills that the English envied were principally in New Netherland, records showing that they were from the same cultural group of northern continental Europeans who resided as guild strangers in English cities. Family reconstitution revealed the mobility of these skilled artisans in the Atlantic World. North American colonial documents provide a window through which to view
when, how, or if, the English managed to acquire the skilled knowledge of cultural outsiders to produce what they coveted. Every examined case of an English appetite for a product or its means of production proved to possess features unique to the circumstances of the interaction between the English and those of another European culture practicing the skill. In most cases deep cultural differences limited the colonial English to hiring foreign experts, buying their products, or finding culturally acceptable sources of information such as the Scots. Occasionally artisans were hired directly from the continent of Europe using colonial middlemen. English citizenship was easier to obtain in the colonies than in England, offering a colonial back door to foreign craft practice that could re-cross the Atlantic to an English town or city. The problems that made England's apprenticeship so difficult became apparent when examining Atlantic World technology transfer and its barriers. There were distinct, deep cultural differences between the English and the northern continental Europeans in mobility, kinship systems, naming practices, family, language, inheritance patterns, views of women, craft practice and values, attitudes toward machines, and concepts of urban life. These acted as barriers to the transfer of technologies including higher craft skills, saw mills, and city building.


Subject: Cultural anthropology; European history; Modern history

Classification: 0326: Cultural anthropology; 0335: European history; 0582: Modern history

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Technology transfer, Cultural barriers, England, Colonial America, Kinship and family, Global history, Atlantic world

Title: The darling strangers and English appetites: Technology transfer and European cultural barriers in the early modern Atlantic World
The political thought of Richard John Neuhaus

Author: Waller, Scott A.

Abstract: The aim of this dissertation was to examine the relevance of arguments made by Richard John Neuhaus in terms of the contemporary debate involving American church-state relations. Central to Neuhaus's work was his thesis regarding the implications of a completely secular public square in which particularist religion was excluded explicitly from public affairs- "the naked public square." Neuhaus believed that a naked public square could not be maintained either in theory- given the essential connection between religion and politics- or in practice- because the vacuum created by the absence of traditional religion would be filled by an ersatz religion which ultimately was a recipe for totalitarianism in which the state became all-in-all. In such a condition, the very tenets of democracy such as freedom, civility, and tolerance lacked any substantive foundation. Neuhaus's solution to the naked public square entailed a first-principle re-examination of the role of religion in American public life. What was needed was the re-instantiation of a theonomous civil public square inclusive of a substantive religious voice that was (1) transcendentally-based, (2) ecumenical in nature, and (3) grounded in natural moral law. Only this kind of voice could reassert itself as the value-bearing aspect of culture. The primary conduit through which the public square was becoming "naked," according to Neuhaus, was the judiciary whose jurisprudence had denuded religion's public influence as well as divorced the law from it proper mooring (a morality grounded in biblical religion). By 1996, Neuhaus's dissatisfaction with the courts culminated in a movement calling into question the viability of the American regime. Thus, what started in the 1980s as a movement to re-establish American democratic liberalism to its proper religious footings by the 1990s had evolved to openly questioning whether the democratic experiment itself had failed. In assessing the relative success of Neuhaus's project, the conclusion reached was that while Neuhaus seemed to have had an influence within elite levels (of academic thought and to some extent within government), his project was largely unsuccessful in harnessing a popularly-based insurgency movement given that the characteristics of the "incorrigibly-religious" populace he counted upon undermined his efforts.

Religion, race, and resistance: White evangelicals and the dilemma of integration in South Carolina, 1950-1975

Author: Hawkins, J. Russell


Abstract: This dissertation contends that religion played a critical role in explaining why and how white South Carolinians decided to resist changes in the racial caste system of their society during the middle decades of the last century. As early as 1950 with the first stirrings of desegregation occurring in their state, white evangelicals in the Palmetto State began making appeals to both the Bible and the natural world to derive a theology that emphasized the divine mandate for racial segregation. In touting this "segregationist folk theology," religious white southerners proved willing and able participants in the political massive resistance movement that attempted to thwart racial reforms initiated by civil rights demonstrations, court rulings, and federal legislation in the South from the mid 1950s to the mid 1960s. Just as political massive resistance moved from explicitly racist language to coded appeals to racial prejudice in the period after 1965, however, so too was transformed resistance that drew upon religious sources for its inspiration. During the period from the mid 1960s to the mid 1970s white evangelicals largely abandoned the biblical proof-texts that ostensibly revealed divine favor for racial segregation and turned instead to a rhetoric of individualism and colorblindness to fight against attempts to desegregate southern churches and schools. Tracking how white evangelicals' biblical defense of segregation changed over time to a rhetoric of colorblind individualism and examining the particular ways this transition affected southern religion and society by the mid 1970s is this dissertation's central focus.
"A dog in that fight": The United States and the Yugoslav wars of succession, 1991-1999

Author: DePalma, James M.


Abstract: American leadership proved indispensable in resolving the Yugoslav wars of succession. Yet it would take time for the United States to accept the responsibilities of leadership. In 1991, the dissolution of Yugoslavia precipitated the wars of succession. The George H.W. Bush Administration permitted the European Community and the United Nations to direct international negotiations for the purpose of resolving the crisis. The Bush Administration's rationale was pragmatic in nature, represented by Secretary of State James Baker's infamous remark that the United States did not have "a dog in that fight." The Yugoslav wars of succession did not threaten vital American interests. The Administration also feared entanglement in a potential Balkan quagmire and doubted Congress and the American public's willingness to accept casualties in the endeavor. Furthermore, the United States was then preoccupied with developments elsewhere, particularly in the Soviet Union and the Middle East. Since the Europeans desired more responsibility for their own security after the Cold War, the Bush Administration was more than willing to oblige them in the former Yugoslavia. Despite rhetoric to the contrary, the William Jefferson Clinton Administration initially adopted a policy similar to that of its predecessor regarding the Yugoslav wars for comparable reasons. Although the Clinton Administration continued to defer leadership, it failed to remove itself completely from the negotiating process. Consequently, the Administration's rhetoric and actions undermined the international negotiators' efforts to achieve a resolution. It was only after the Administration's perception of the threat to its interests changed in 1994 and 1995 with regards to fighting in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia that the United States assumed leadership of the negotiations, which ultimately resulted in the Dayton Peace Accords. The Clinton Administration had belatedly found its "dog in that fight." In comparison to the Yugoslav wars of the first-half of the 1990s, the Bush and Clinton Administrations consistently maintained that the United States had "a dog" in the Kosovo crisis. When the unstable
situation in the province turned increasingly violent in 1997 and 1998, the Clinton Administration assumed a prominent role in negotiations. Once the negotiations collapsed, it directed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's air campaign in 1999 to compel Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's compliance with prior UN Security Council resolutions, thus restoring the sovereignty of the province. American leadership, although in this case controversial, helped restore peace in Kosovo. The Yugoslav wars of succession provide a compelling case to analyze America's quest to determine its post-Cold War international role. The United States emerged from the Cold War as the lone superpower. Its unique position meant that other countries and institutions would place demands on the United States to participate, if not to lead, initiatives to resolve international crises. Both the Bush and Clinton Administrations emphasized that the United States could not and would not act as the world's policeman; therefore, each Administration had to make difficult decisions concerning possible interventions. If an Administration decided against intervention, then it had to resist the temptation of interfering as others sought to find a resolution. Similarly, an Administration had to avoid making promises that it was unwilling to fulfill. To do otherwise threatened to undermine America's international credibility. In general, if the United States desired a leadership role, it had to accept the responsibilities of leadership. Concurrently, a dilemma existed that focused on the predominance of American power after the Cold War. If the United States intervened in a crisis, other countries and institutions might feel threatened even if they agreed with the appropriateness of the intervention. This concern predated the presidency of George Walker Bush and American foreign policy after September 11, 2001. It was evident in the international response to American actions during the Yugoslav wars, particularly concerning Kosovo. Thus, the developments of the 1990s and the experiences of the Clinton Administration highlight the need for the United States to act whenever possible in a multilateral manner through international or regional organizations. While some might still consider an American intervention illegal, as was the case in Kosovo, acting multilaterally would help American actions retain much international legitimacy.

The geometry of racial politics: The role of policy entrepreneurs in fostering triangulation among U.S. racial and ethnic groups,

Author: King, Athena M.


Abstract: Several versions of racial and ethnic triangulation among different groups in the United States are examined. Racial triangulation is a form of racial or ethnic stratification advanced by Kim (1999) that occurs when a least favored group is juxtaposed to a most favored group, with a third group being "triangulated" between the two. I argue this triangulation can include specific ethnic groups as well. Stratification occurs when the most favored group seeks to retain an economic advantage over the others; the triangulated relationship is established (and enforced) when public policies pit the third group against the least favored group while retaining economic dominance for the favored group. I also examine the role of policy entrepreneurs ("PEs") in the creation of said triangulated relationships. PEs serve as active proponents of racial and ethnic policies which favor the most advantaged group; as members of this group, they have a vested interest in maintaining its economic advantage. Using a Model of Racial/Ethnic Policy I developed, I examine (a) initial racial/ethnic triangulation at Time A, (b) the actions of policy entrepreneurs in facilitating new (or maintaining existing) triangulated relationships via policy promulgation in the State of California, (c) descriptive outcomes of PE activity, (d) regimes produced as a consequence of policy promulgation and the new phenomenon, and (e) the triangulated relationship created at Time B in the wake of three phenomenon: (1) the emancipation of Native Americans in 1867 via passage of the Federal Anti-Peonage Act, (2) passage of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, and (3) creation of the 1942 Bracero program.

Trajectories of social role occupancy and health: An intra-individual analysis of role enhancement, strain, and context

Author: Sautter, Jessica Marie


Abstract: This study examines whether trajectories of multiple social role occupancy, measured by level and dynamics of spouse, parent, and worker roles, are associated with mortality and concurrent trajectories of depressive symptoms and self-rated health. I frame hypotheses with role strain, role enhancement, role context, stress process, and life course theories to examine both within-person changes over age and between-person predictors of health status. I use data from the Americans' Changing Lives Study, a nationally representative accelerated cohort panel study of U.S. adults interviewed in 1986, 1989, 1994, and 2001/2 with mortality tracking through 2006. I use latent class analysis to estimate disaggregated trajectories of role occupancy, role strain, role satisfaction, depressive symptoms, and self-rated health across the adult life course. I then use multinomial and logistic regression analyses to examine associations between role trajectories and health outcomes. I find that (1) there is significant heterogeneity in trajectories of role occupancy and characteristics across the adult life course; (2) higher levels of social role occupancy are associated with better depressive symptom and mortality outcomes; (3) lower levels of role strain and higher levels of role satisfaction are associated with better depressive symptom outcomes, and (4); the association between role occupancy and health is robust to the inclusion of role characteristics. Thus, I find support for the role enhancement hypothesis in that higher levels of role occupancy are associated with better health outcomes irrespective of reward and strain associated with those roles.
Subject: Health sciences; Psychology; Individual & family studies

Classification: 0566: Health sciences; 0621: Psychology; 0628: Individual & family studies

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Social sciences, Psychology, Health, Latent class analysis, Life course, Social roles, Stress process

Title: Trajectories of social role occupancy and health: An intra-individual analysis of role enhancement, strain, and context

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Country of publication: United States

ISBN: 9781124154657

Advisor: George, Linda K., Land, Kenneth C.

Committee member: Gold, Deborah T., Lin, Nan, O'Rand, Angela M.
Preservation ethics in the case of Nebraska's nationally registered historic places

Author: Adams, Darren M.


Abstract: This dissertation focuses on the National Register of Historic Places and considers the geographical implications of valuing particular historic sites over others. Certain historical sites will either gain or lose desirability from one era to the next, this dissertation identifies and explains three unique preservation ethical eras, and it maps the sites which were selected during those eras. These eras are the Settlement Era (1966 - 1975), the Commercial Architecture Era (1976 - 1991), and the Progressive Planning Era (1992 - 2010). The findings show that transformations in the program included an early phase when state authorities listed historical resources pertaining to the settlement of the state, and also to Native American village archeological sites. At that time, authorities viewed road and bridge construction projects as threats to historic sites. After the passage of the 1976 Tax Reform Act,
common citizens gained considerable site selection power. Motivated by tax advantages, such citizens favored commercial architecture, changing the geography of the National Register. In addition, in 1992 authorities wrote the Highway Bridges in Nebraska 1870–1942 documentation, and laid out plans for the selection of bridges, roads, and for the renovation of entire sections of decaying inner-cities. As part of the dissertation research, data were gathered using the National Park Service’s national register information system database, and were acquired during personal interviews with state historic preservation employees. Information was also noted while directly in the field. In order to examine how minorities are being represented at sites, a field study was conducted which involved visiting thirty-two minority sites (twenty-two Native American, and ten African American sites). Lewis’ (1979) and Meinig’s (1979) landscape analysis approaches informed the field study, and the researcher used the versatile narrative-descriptive approach (as recommended by Mink [1987] and by Tuan [1991]) to analyze and describe the general datum trends. This dissertation serves decision-makers by providing an evaluation of past trends in historic site selection processes and consequently assists them in discerning historical significance and cultural value. It concludes with prognostication about future patterns in historic preservation and recommends research into areas including the fifty-year rule, and nationally-scaled preservation ethics.


Subject: American history; Geography; Cultural Resources Management

Classification: 0337: American history; 0366: Geography; 0436: Cultural Resources Management

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Title: Preservation ethics in the case of Nebraska's nationally registered historic places

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Advisor: Wishart, David

Committee member: Archer, John C., Knutson, Cody, Scholz, Gordon

University/institution: The University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Department: Geography

University location: United States -- Nebraska

Degree: Ph.D.

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Document 12 of 47
The affairs of Boston in the North Carolina backcountry during the American Revolution

Author: Stewart, Cory Joe


Abstract: The purpose of this body of work is to explain the development of revolutionary ideology at the regional level, utilizing the backcountry counties of North Carolina from the earliest migration of white settlers through the ratification of the Federal Constitution in 1788. The North Carolina backcountry offers an important case study for the regional development of Revolutionary activity and ideology for a number of reasons. The backcountry was a region in its political, social, and economic infancy. As the region developed, so did the Revolution itself. This work will not define a single political ideology or theme, rather it traces the day to day interactions that backcountry inhabitants of all ethnicities had with those in power at the local, colonial, and later federal level. This work concludes that what pushed inhabitants to support, or oppose the Revolution, was grounded in local issues regarding land ownership, and political and social control within the region itself. The North Carolina backcountry began building a society that worked for their interests in the 1760’s and that goal was achieved in the establishment of the Federal Government in 1788.


Subject: American history

Classification: 0337: American history
Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Backcountry, Cherokee, Frontier, North Carolina, Revolutionary War, Tennessee, American Revolution

Title: The affairs of Boston in the North Carolina backcountry during the American Revolution

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Advisor: Calhoon, Robert M.

Committee member: Hunter, Phyllis W., Jennison, Watson, Whittenburg, James P.

University/institution: The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Department: College of Arts & Sciences: History

University location: United States -- North Carolina

Degree: Ph.D.

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The geographic polarization of American politics

Author: Hopkins, David Allen


Abstract: This project addresses the question of whether American elections became more geographically polarized between 1972 and 2008. It finds that variation in partisan voting increased substantially over that time at both the state and regional levels. In particular, the Northeast and Pacific Coast became more strongly Democratic after the 1980s in both presidential and congressional elections, while the South and interior West remained solidly Republican. I employ quantitative analysis of survey data to demonstrate that this trend can be largely explained by the increasing electoral salience of social and cultural issues, which divide Americans along regional lines to a greater extent than economic issues. The growing association of the national Republican Party with social conservatism has produced an electoral advantage in most of the South bolstered by an increasing edge over the opposition Democrats in aggregate party identification within "red" America. In more socially liberal regions of the United States, the Republican electoral position weakened substantially after the 1970s and 1980s, with Democratic identifiers becoming much less likely to defect to Republican presidential candidates in 1992 and thereafter. I argue that these trends have significant consequences for American parties and the operation of Congress. Specifically, the growth of Democratic electoral strength outside the South has greatly reduced the number of moderate Republicans in both the Senate and House of Representatives, while centrists--elected mostly from the South and rural West--continue to constitute a sizable proportion of the congressional Democratic Party. This ideological asymmetry, though not often noted by previous studies of party polarization, suggests that the congressional parties do not operate as mirror images but instead maintain distinct strategic positions, with Republican congressional leaders able to command a higher degree of ideological unity among their members than their Democratic counterparts. The challenge faced by the Obama administration in pursuing an ambitious legislative agenda in 2009-2010, including reform of the American health care system, was a visible consequence of this distinction between the congressional parties: the presence of a large moderate bloc on the Democratic side complicated efforts to enact liberal initiatives despite large nominal Democratic majorities in Congress, while the lack of a significant number of moderate Republican officeholders largely frustrated the new president's attempts to gain bipartisan support for his proposals.

Subject: Geography; Political science

Classification: 0366: Geography; 0615: Political science

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Geographic polarization, Politics, American, Congress, Geography, Parties, Polarization

Title: The geographic polarization of American politics

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Place of publication: Ann Arbor

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Advisor: Schickler, Eric

Committee member: Shanks, Merrill, Stoker, Laura, Van Houweling, Robert P., Ellwood, John W.

University/institution: University of California, Berkeley

Department: Political Science

University location: United States -- California

Degree: Ph.D.
The natural and social production of a lake shore environment: The case of Erie and Presque Isle, Pennsylvania

Author: Schaney, Christopher R.


Abstract: The objective of this research has been to combine geographic traditions of physical and human geography to investigate the role each play in the conceptualization of place utilizing the City of Erie and Presque Isle as a case study. From its inception, the economic structure associated with the City of Erie has been primarily centered on the presence of Presque Isle. Early industry focused on shipbuilding, shipping related to heavy industry. By 1907, the shipping industry at Erie was third largest on the Great Lakes, behind only Buffalo and Chicago. When the shipping industry began to wane in the mid to late 20th Century, Presque Isle became a major recreation destination in Pennsylvania, hosting up to four million visitors each year. Throughout Erie's history, the unique natural presence of Presque Isle has fostered and continues to create economic opportunity. For this research, a narrative incorporating historic economic exploitation, from the incorporation of Erie, through the most recent economic transition from an industrial focus, which took place in the late 1970s and early 1980s, to one centered on a recreation driven service economy has been constructed in order to emphasize the inter-connectivity of physical forces acting out on a land form and geomorphic influences on urban infrastructure and economic activity. In order to achieve this goal, this
research has examined each of these phenomenon dependently in order to
gain a more complete understanding of what constitutes place.
Latino migration and the new global cities: Transnationalism, race, and urban crisis in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1945--2000

Author: Barber, Llana


Abstract: Drawing on urban history methodologies that re-frame "white flight" as a racialized struggle over metropolitan space and resources, this dissertation examines the transition of Lawrence, Massachusetts to New England's first Latino-majority city between 1945 and 2000. Although the population of this small, struggling mill city has never exceeded 100,000, it is not unique in its changing demographics; low-tier cities have become important nodal points in transnational networks in recent decades, as racialized patterns of urban disinvestment and gentrification encouraged a growing dispersal of Latinos from large cities like New York. While Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Cubans gradually began to arrive in Lawrence in the 1960s, tens of thousands of white residents were already leaving the city, moving (along with Lawrence's industrial and retail establishments) out to the suburbs. As a result of this flight, the city was suffering from substantial economic decline by the time Latino settlement accelerated in the 1980s. Not all of Lawrence's white population fled, however. Instead, many white Lawrencians fought to maintain control in the city and to discourage Latino settlement. I focus
on two nights of rioting between white and Latino residents in 1984, as a spectacular example of the racialized contestations that accompanied the city's social and economic transformations. Although the political power and public presence of Latinos dramatically increased in the years after the riots, half a century of uneven metropolitan development had left Lawrence without the resources or political clout to successfully confront the city's pervasive poverty. Lawrence's history demonstrates the expansion of urban crisis during the 1980s, and its impact on Latino communities in the Northeast. The building of a Latino majority in Lawrence was not simply a demographic shift; rather it was an uphill struggle against a devastated economy and a resistant white population. The transformation of Lawrence in spite of these obstacles highlights the energy and commitment that Latinos have brought to U.S. cities in crisis during the second half of the twentieth century.


Subject: American history; Hispanic American studies

Classification: 0337: American history; 0737: Hispanic American studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Immigration, Latino, Lawrence, Massachusetts, Migration, New England, Urban history

Title: Latino migration and the new global cities: Transnationalism, race, and urban crisis in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1945--2000

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Dreams conferred on a distant land: The Indian immigrant experience in greater Chicago, 1965-1995

Author: Bhattacharyya, Hira

Publication info: Purdue University, ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing, 2010. 3413920.

Abstract: This project, bridging a contemporary historical and sociological approach, creates an interpretive model about the lives of first-generation Indian immigrants in Greater Chicago between 1965 and 1995. My methods have been to join oral history with textual evidence, both scholarly and popular. The study begins with the Hart-Cellar Act of 1965, which changed the course of immigration patterns in the United States perhaps more forcefully than any other legislation in the twentieth century. The dissertation assesses the degree of assimilation of Indian immigrants to the socio-economic milieu of the U.S. after 1965 through such categories as citizenship, family, children, workplace, neighborhood and religion. The findings establish that first-generation immigrants came and prospered in Greater Chicago over thirty years. In this process, they constantly encountered the dual forces of tradition and adaptation, and it was their innate sense and conceptualization of 'Indian-ness' which dictated these encounters. Having found a fit in American society, they continued to maintain a strong sense of tradition and culture from home. That remained their standard and point of reference. When they had to, they improvised upon tradition and culture. But, being relentlessly confident about their place and future in American society, they were able to create a definite ethnic niche in Greater Chicago. In charting this community, the work considers the intersections between ethnicity and gender and socio-economic status. It also contributes a vital dimension to the history of migration by examining the evolution of the second-generation within the Indian immigrant community, as well as the role of 'Indian-ness' in their relationship with the first-generation. By employing materials from the immigrant press, the study also ties individual immigrant experiences to the wider community. While ethnicity thrived in their lives, the immigrants also maintained their commitment to civilian duties like taking part in the American political process. Thus, their identity remained fluid within a world where the local and the global connected intermittently. A rich array of anecdotes accompanied by relevant narrative form the crux of this work and contributes to understanding the creation of a dynamic 'India' in a distant land.

Subject: American history; Ethnic studies

Classification: 0337: American history; 0631: Ethnic studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences

Title: Dreams conferred on a distant land: The Indian immigrant experience in greater Chicago, 1965-1995

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Advisor: Smith, Michael G.

Committee member: Mork, Gordon R., de la Fuente, Ariel E., Subramaniam, Mangala

University/institution: Purdue University

Department: History

University location: United States -- Indiana

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The thin green line: Geographies of ecoterrorism in the United States

Author: Webb, Jennifer Jean


Abstract: While many Americans tend to believe that the biggest threat we face as a nation is international terrorism carried out by religious fundamentalists or "radicals", the truth is that in recent years we face a burgeoning threat of domestic or homegrown terrorism. Today terrorism has taken on a new form in the United States with an increase in both the frequency and intensity of attacks perpetrated by radical environmental and animal rights groups. This dissertation documents the changing geographies, strategies, and methods of attack among radical environmental and animal rights groups in the United States. The specific questions asked are: (1) To what extent does ecoterrorism vary in geography, strategies and methods of attack in the United States? ; (2) What prompted this change in strategy and targets of ecoterrorist groups in the United States and how has this change influenced the method of attack employed by these groups?; and (3) Is there a distinct spatiotemporal clustering of ecoterrorist incidents in the United States throughout the time period of interest (1970-2008)? To answer these questions, a Comprehensive Ecoterrorism Database (CED) was constructed and the incidents were mapped in a Geographic Information System (GIS). A retrospective space-time permutation scan statistic was employed in SaTScan to determine where terrorism is clustered in both time and space. The majority of ecoterrorist incidents perpetrated in the United States showed a relatively stable, slowly increasing trend over time, with peaks in the 1990s and 2000s when the most actions took place. In terms of the spatial distribution of ecoterrorism, while larger numbers of events were perpetrated in urban centers like New York, it by no means implies that all ecoterrorist activity is focused in those areas. In fact, we see an array of ecoterrorism with very complex, unique geographies, with pockets of activity in the Southwest, Northeast, and Midwest. Furthermore, actions seem to indicate a trend towards targeting everyday places of business like banks, restaurants, and department stores. Using the space-time permutation model three separate analyses were carried out for the designated time period (1970-2008) to assess the sensitivity of parameters related to the spatial window. Overall, spatiotemporal clusters of ecoterrorist incidents were detected in places like Central California, South Florida, Central Arizona, Northwestern Oregon, the Mid-Atlantic, and Midwestern United States. In some cases, incidents contained within these clusters were carried out exclusively by a single
group, employed a single attack type, and corresponding weapon type against a single target type. It was not surprising that a complex pattern of ecoterrorist activity emerged both temporally and spatially. Patterns of pervasive, sporadic, and isolated activity are discernible. This research furthers geographic analyses of terrorism and hazards research to date, by serving as a first step to understanding the behavior and motivations of terrorist groups, who these groups are targeting, and where in geographic space.


Subject: Geography; Environmental Studies; Criminology; Terrorism

Classification: 0366: Geography; 0477: Environmental Studies; 0627: Criminology

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Social sciences, Ecoterrorism, Terrorism, Animal rights groups, Environmental groups, Radical

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Place of publication: Ann Arbor
The spectacle of citizenship: Halftones, print media, and constructing Americanness, 1880--1940

Author: Grunder, Sarah Lucinda


Abstract: Advances in photography and conceptions of national identity proceeded side by side during the nineteenth century. The introduction of halftone reproductions marks the beginning of an information revolution and is an important moment not only in media history, but in studies of
nineteenth and twentieth century cultural history and studies of national identity. Visual representation of differences between people and places was one means by which people identified and validated Americans' belonging because photographs were infused with authority: they seemed to be truthful, to provide infallible evidence of events and of people. As the nineteenth century gave way to the twentieth, and technological advances made the halftone process quick and inexpensive, men and women of the Gilded Age, Progressive Era, Jazz Age, and the Great Depression used photographs for visual storytelling in the pages of newspapers, books, journals, and magazines. Editors embraced the seeming realism of photography in their publications; halftones in print helped Americans see each other in new ways and themselves for the first time on a regular, mass-circulating basis. "The Spectacle of Citizenship" examines how three publications and their strong-willed editors used halftones to display and distribute their views of nationhood and belonging in a period when the United States was undergoing significant changes as a consequence of industrialization, immigration, urbanization, and international military and economic crisis. Paul Kellogg, editor of "Charities and the Commons," and his brood of social justice progressives used halftones to display and include/exclude immigrants, racial minorities, and workers belying reform-minded middle class Americans claims of sympathy, understanding, and acceptance and instead riddling the journal with images that construct a sense of belonging for white, middle class Americans by explicitly identifying who did and did not belong. Joseph Medill Patterson, blue-blooded founder the "Daily News," took a British idea for photograph-based newspapers aimed at the working class and reinvented it as the nation's first tabloid. The newspaper captured Jazz Age New York City with splashy photographs emphasizing crime, scandal, celebrity, politics, and world events and invented a vision of America rooted in popular culture, patriotism, and American "values". Patterson's newspaper reinforced the hegemony of white, upper and middle class Americans, but it did so with an acceptance of rapidly changing social and cultural values in the country and the recognition of the importance of the urban working class population. C.K. McClatchy, long-time editor and publisher of the "Sacramento Bee," used photographs to reinforce the suffering and make morally-loaded pleas for federal help during the Great Depression, to demonstrate the success of New Deal Programs, and to recast almost all Californians, regardless of their origin, as representative of America and Americans. Yet McClatchy's inclusive vision was problematic: he remained fervently anticommunist; he continued to believe Asian Americans, particularly Japanese Americans, could not be assimilated; and he virtually ignored the plight of Mexican Americans in the pages of the "Sacramento Bee" during the Great Depression, despite the fact that they were a significant part of the state's population. "The Spectacle of Citizenship" is a study of the interplay of technology, society, and culture that offers a new understanding of how notions of national identity were understood, produced, and disseminated and consumed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This study analyzes the importance innovative editors placed on visual representations while at the same time demonstrating the necessity of contemporary scholars' understanding those images.
Subject: American studies; American history; Journalism

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0337: American history; 0391: Journalism

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Social sciences, Citizenship, Halftones, Print media, Americanness, McClatchy, C. K., Great Depression, Patterson, Joseph Medill, Kellogg, Paul, Gilded Age and; Progressive Era, Photojournalism

Title: The spectacle of citizenship: Halftones, print media, and constructing Americanness, 1880--1940

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Advisor: Nelson, Scott Reynolds, Knight, Arthur

University/institution: The College of William and Mary

University location: United States -- Virginia
The battleground state: Conceptualizing geographic contestation in American presidential elections, 1960--2004

Author: Goux, Darshan June


Abstract: The battleground state is ubiquitous in the discourse and scholarship surrounding American presidential campaigns, but the concept remains poorly understood, measured, and operationalized. The nature of presidential geographic targeting carries potentially significant consequences for the nation's issue agenda, political institutions, and voter behavior, and this dissertation details the need to re-conceptualize the battleground state as both an explanatory and dependent variable if these consequences are to be better understood. Beginning with the 1960 presidential election, I use an original archival data set collected at the nation's presidential libraries to confront the myths that exist in both popular coverage and much of the existing political science literature about battleground states, and I work to correct the record. Media content analysis establishes the significant increase in attention paid to battleground strategies over time in the press. A conceptual analysis highlights both the stability and the evolution of the battleground state concept. The archival records reveal the presidential campaigns' multiple goals, the various geographic strategies adopted to meet those goals, and the elements campaigns use to prioritize
geographic areas. The findings challenge many leading assumptions and expose misconceptions made about battleground strategies, and I suggest ways to improve our understanding of the concept. Next, a constitutive analysis using multiplicative interaction models explores the preconditions that guide campaign classification and campaign resource allocation patterns in presidential elections. This analysis demonstrates a fundamental shift in the factors that predict state battleground status and offers more evidence of why it is necessary to more rigorously conceptualize the battleground state. Finally, a causal analysis of the effects of the battleground state on voter evaluations of the candidates reveals the critical link between conceptualization and measurement validity. I demonstrate that different levels of measurement tell us very different stories about the causal processes of campaign effects, and I argue for the increased use of a categorical dummy variable to measure battleground status. Finally, using a block recursive model, I demonstrate that the inclusion of multiple campaign mechanisms and campaign classifications of the states in battleground effects models clarifies the direct effects of different strategies on voter behavior. In presenting these and other findings, I improve our understanding of the battleground concept and enhance its usefulness as a tool for future research.


Subject: Political science

Classification: 0615: Political science

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Battleground state, Geographic contestation, Presidential elections, Elections, Political communication, Presidency, United States, Voting behavior

Title: The battleground state: Conceptualizing geographic contestation in American presidential elections, 1960--2004

Number of pages: 158
Necessary illusions: Putative intersubjective beliefs during detente, 1969--1972

Author: Grynaviski, Eric
Abstract: Between 1972 and 1979, the United States and the Soviet Union entered into one of the most cooperative phases of the Cold War. During détente, the superpowers reached more than 150 agreements, established consultative committees, regularly held summit meetings, and engaged in crisis management. The turn from enmity to rivalry was so deep that many commentators predicted the Cold War's end. Richard Nixon summarized it as a historic shift, from an "era of confrontation" to an "era of negotiation". Why did U.S.-Soviet relations change so significantly during détente, moving from confrontation to cooperation? Many International Relations (IR) scholars argue that increased information, common norms, or culture explain cooperation. Misperception causes conflict while mutual understanding contributes to peace. Against this received wisdom, the central claim of this dissertation is that cooperation can be enhanced when actors believe that intersubjectivity or common knowledge exists, even when they are wrong. This inaccurate belief that intersubjectivity is shared, which I term putative intersubjective beliefs (PIBs), is in many cases crucial to cooperation. A theory of PIBs provides a novel and understudied route to cooperation. This dissertation is interested in cases of imagined intersubjectivity (one of three types of PIBs). Imagined intersubjectivity occurs when actors inaccurately believe that they know what another will do, and also inaccurately believe they know why another will do it. It is necessary for cooperation in cases in which revelations of either the future behavior or the reasons for an action in the present would undermine cooperation. The dissertation tests a theory of PIBs against liberal institutionalist and constructivist arguments. The test operates at two levels. First, I analyze the macro changes in the U.S.-Soviet relationship during detente, testing a theory of PIBs against Wendt's cultural theory of cooperation. The rules of rivalry during detente were not intersubjective. The superpowers held different principles concerning their relations; Brezhnev believed that the United States had accepted Soviet political parity, while Nixon and Kissinger believed that the superpowers were entering a period of competition for supremacy. This had consequences for their expectations of the behavior of the other. The Nixon administration believed detente meant issue-linkage; the superpowers would exert pressure to obtain dominance, and when negotiations failed, would resort to military threats. The Politburo did not share this prediction; they believed that the era of linkages and threats was over and that the United States accepted Soviet influence in the Third World. Through a structured, focused comparison, I show that these misperceptions promoted cooperation. To show that imagined intersubjectivity plays a role at the micro level, I test imagined intersubjectivity against liberal institutionalism through an analysis of the ABM Treaty negotiations. Using process-tracing and counter-factual analysis, I argue that at three moments of the negotiations--Kissinger's decision to offer to negotiate ABMs, the May 20th, and Nixon's decision meeting with Brezhnev during an escalation in Vietnam--concessions were made because of a lack of mutual understanding. Only because of these mistakes was the ABM Treaty reached.
Revitalization and its discontents: The political and symbolic economy of post-anthracite Scranton, PA (1945--2010)

Author: Schmidt, Robert J.


Abstract: With uneven success, leaders of the greater Scranton, PA, area have experimented in every way possible to pull their city up by its proverbial bootstraps, pooling public resources and local talent behind a concerted effort to transform an economically depleted city into a viable site of capital investment. Unable to secure sufficient industrial and post-industrial economic activity to prop up the region's insolvent economy, area leaders turned to public subsidies and counter-cyclical, environmentally destructive and nuisance enterprises, including casinos, prisons, landfills and junk yards, among other industries that detract quality of life. This study considers the cultural, political and social adaptations to industrial abandonment as it charts the way residents and leaders have participated in revitalization efforts credited with retarding the city's decline. Matching rigorous academic inquiry with scathing critical assessment of a region burdened by corruption as much as unemployment, this academic exegesis indicts a kaleidoscope of forces, including federal retrenchment, inter-urban competition, entrepreneurial city-building schemes and self-serving political corruption, as the cause of Scranton's post-anthracite malaise. Crafted as a series of episodes meant to invoke the complexity and multifaceted nature of the region's
decline, this study considers various registers and viewpoints as it examines the way a myriad of problems resulting from economic decline have been conceptualized, redefined and (mis)managed.


Classification: 0615: Political science; 0700: Social structure

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Corruption, Neoliberalism, Political culture, Urban decline, Pennsylvania

Title: Revitalization and its discontents: The political and symbolic economy of post-anthracite Scranton, PA (1945--2010)

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Advisor: Martin, William G.

Committee member: Deyo, Fred, Kansteiner, Wulf, Murray, Martin
Christianity, the Enlightenment, and primary education: American children's textbooks and schooling, 1700--1810

Author: Schnorbus, Stephanie Dawn


Abstract: This dissertation explores the relationship between the history of education and the history of religion in early America with a particular focus on primary school learning. In the eighteenth century, Christian principles continued to infuse early education, but Enlightenment pedagogical concepts became increasingly influential. This dissertation studies changes in primary schooling through the examination of textbooks and schools before and after the American Revolution. How much did Enlightenment ideas change American education and did they necessitate secularization? Did the American Revolution spark important educational change? Through a thorough examination of British America's most printed textbook, The New England Primer, this dissertation reevaluates how the Calvinist tradition hoped to mold young minds and gauge the influence of Enlightenment ideas of pedagogy on established
methods of education. Additionally, this dissertation examines the importance of theology, pedagogy, and identity in German language primers, Mohawk language primers, and English primers and spelling books. John Locke's epistemological and pedagogical ideas influenced the number of pictures and positive examples given, but religious ideas remained central to reading textbooks before and after the Revolution. The diversity of early American schooling can be seen quite well in the multi-ethnic, multi-denominational population of Berks County, Pennsylvania. This dissertation provides a case study of the impetus for colonial rural school establishment, and concludes that denominational competition, rather than Atlantic World pedagogical or philosophical trends, encouraged Moravians, German Lutheran and Reformed, Catholics, Anglicans, and Quakers to support rural schools. The Anglican-run German Charity Schools failed partly because the trustees discounted this motivation. The Revolution did little to change the pattern of denominational schooling, but prompted American intellectuals like Benjamin Rush and Thomas Jefferson to think about who should be taught, what they should be taught, and how to provide schools. Entrants to the American Philosophical Society's essay contest and contemporary essayists were especially concerned with educating the republic's poor children. Overall, however, Enlightenment ideas and early national patriotism did not supplant Christian doctrines and desires for denominational identities in textbooks and schools, but rather supplemented them.


Subject: Religious history; American history; Education history

Classification: 0320: Religious history; 0337: American history; 0520: Education history

Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology, Education, Social sciences, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Education, Schools, Secularization, Textbooks, Christianity, Enlightenment, Primary education
Chintz applique albums: Memory and meaning in mid-nineteenth century quilts of the Delaware River Valley

Author: Ducey, Carolyn K.


Abstract: This study examined two sub-sets of a unique style of chintz appliqué album quilt that developed in the 1840s in Delaware River Valley, specifically Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Trenton, New Jersey. The two groups provide examples of two distinct roles that the album quilts played in the lives of their makers: one acting as a literal record of familial ties, serving to preserve memory and reinforce family structure and the other representing the work of the members of the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia, providing a vehicle to recognize and appreciate dedicated service and playing a role in encouraging interest and support for international missions. Historical and genealogical research of the inscribed details substantiated the connection between each group of quilts and provided an opportunity to uncover rich details of the economic position and societal roles of the individuals whose names are inscribed on the quilts, and offered a means to better understand the cultural environment in which they were made. Research of the sub-sets, now identified as the Fish/Perrine Album quilts (a group of three quilts) and the First Baptist Church Album Quilts, (a group of five quilts and a sixth non-extant quilt known through written sources) has advanced the study of quilt history by placing the quilts in the larger context of American quiltmaking; women's history, through investigation of expectations placed on women by the emergence of the American middle class, urbanization, and the expansion of the American consumer culture, and social history, which revealed the importance for nineteenth century individuals, of maintaining family connections and preserving memory. The quiltmaking activities of these individuals served to solidify their roles as wives and mothers and as productive citizens of their communities and the world.

"Preserving an era and a place": Memory painters of the Plains and Prairies

Author: Kelley, Suzzanne


Abstract: Memory artists are people who paint from memory, for memory. They paint to preserve an era now gone, when farming in the Plains and Prairies was a family enterprise not yet subsumed by modernity. Their generational cohort saw the old ways of diversified family farming become obsolete, transformed by automation, feedlots, and insecticide-laden cash crops. The artists assuaged angst about their loss by painting memory pictures; they became the caretakers of living memory, keeping the rural and agricultural story alive by preserving an era and place in imagery. The memory painters are unschooled in the ways of fine art, yet they communicate a story through their paintings that resonates with their audience. The artists never met one another and emerge from different cultures, yet the images they portray consistently illustrate the commonalities of their rural and agricultural settings. Their oeuvre commemorates people at work and at play in the early twentieth century. The memory painters illustrate the convergence of human development and historical event, made more interesting by the powerful constructs of memory and collective memory. The biographical narratives of the five memory artists presented here reveal sensual attentiveness to environment, insightful perspectives of the agricultural experience that shaped their identities, and the historical context that informs their painted recollections. Memory artists are defined by three characteristics: they document regional identity and history; they commemorate an era and a place; and they all share psychological aspects of human development, specifically, the formation and recollection of memory, collective memory, and generativity. The soul-searching period of generativity often results in tasks that display a mindset that says I care about my culture and wish to regenerate what I know. Imposing human development theory upon the historical study of memory artists of the Great Plains reveals that age and identity have everything to do with the authenticity and significance of the memory artists' oeuvre. The memory
artists are not to be studied solely on the merits of their art, but rather as philosophers of rural and agricultural living, preserving an era and a place from memory, for memory.


Subject: Biographies; Canadian history; American history; Art history; Modern history; Developmental psychology

Classification: 0304: Biographies; 0334: Canadian history; 0337: American history; 0377: Art history; 0582: Modern history; 0620: Developmental psychology

Identifier / keyword: Communication and the arts, Social sciences, Psychology, Memory painters, Great Plains, Painting, Metcalfe, Augusta, Lunde, Emily, Sapp, Allen, Kelly, H. O. "Cowboy", Kurelek, William

Title: "Preserving an era and a place": Memory painters of the Plains and Prairies

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A grassroots war on poverty: Community action and urban politics in Houston, 1964-1976

Author: Phelps, Wesley G.


Abstract: Grassroots studies of the implementation of the federal antipoverty initiatives of the 1960s and 1970s are showing that the War on Poverty did not operate in a vacuum; rather, it was profoundly shaped by a multifarious group of local actors that included public officials, local elites, grassroots antipoverty activists, program administrators, federal volunteers, civil rights activists, and poor people themselves. In Houston, grassroots activists created a local context in which to implement the War on Poverty that was much more diverse in its intellectual and political influences than the rather narrow confines of New Deal-Great Society liberalism. The moderate liberalism that motivated the architects of the federal War on Poverty certainly helped galvanize local antipoverty activists in Houston, but even more prominent in their antipoverty philosophy were Prophetic Christianity, radical civil right
activism, and the vision of participatory democracy and community organizing espoused by members of the New Left and iconoclastic figures like Saul Alinsky. This local context created a favorable environment for these activists to use the War on Poverty to advance an agenda of social change by empowering the poor and helping them engage in confrontations with the city's elite. By the same token, the diversity of ideas that fueled the implementation of the War on Poverty in Houston—and especially the small victories that grassroots activists were able to achieve in their quest to empower the city's poor—provoked a swift and powerful backlash from local public officials and conservative defenders of the status quo. In Houston, therefore, local political conditions and contests, even more than federal politics, determined how the War on Poverty was fought, and the interaction between the federal antipoverty program and a broad range of local ideas gave the War on Poverty a distinctive flavor in Houston that both created opportunities for grassroots activists to bring about social change and set limits on what those activists could accomplish.


Subject: Religion; American history; Public administration; Public policy; Urban planning

Classification: 0318: Religion; 0337: American history; 0617: Public administration; 0630: Public policy; 0999: Urban planning

Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology, Social sciences, War on Poverty, Houston, 1960s, Texas, Activism, Social change

Title: A grassroots war on poverty: Community action and urban politics in Houston, 1964-1976

Number of pages: 335

Publication year: 2010
The Vietnam War dissent of Ernest Gruening and Wayne Morse, 1964-1968

Author: Beggs, A. Dwayne


Abstract: On 2 August 1964, while patrolling in the Gulf of Tonkin, the U.S.S. Maddox was attacked by the North Vietnamese Navy. Then on 4 August
both the U.S.S. Maddox and the U.S.S. C. Turner Joy were also allegedly attacked. These events were used by President Lyndon B. Johnson to secure authority from the United States Congress to take actions he deemed necessary to protect United States military personnel, national security interests, and United States allies. The Tonkin Gulf Resolution was approved unanimously in the House of Representatives and by a vote of 88-2 in the Senate. In this dissertation the Gulf of Tonkin incidents will be summarized, the ensuing Senate debates analyzed with a specific focus on the dissenting position of Senators Ernest Gruening (Democrat-Alaska) and Wayne Morse (Democrat-Oregon), the only members of Congress to vote against the resolution, their ceaseless effort to extricate the United States from Vietnam and finally their impact on their Senatorial colleagues. There has been much written about the Gulf of Tonkin incident and the Congressional debate; however, there has been little focus on the continued arguments of these two senators from 1964-1968, their attempts to bring equilibrium back to the Senate's relationship with president and the impact they had on their Senate colleagues. This continuing debate over Vietnam deeply divided the Senate into three main groups who each held distinct opinions on the support they should give Johnson. One group compromised of Hawks believed that the president should be given full support in taking whatever action he deemed necessary, even if it led to war. A strong response after all would discourage other enemies from attacking the United States. Once war came, they strongly supported it. A second group believed that the president needed to be supported at this time, especially since the United States had been attacked. They also held the view that the United States foreign policy needed to be re-evaluated once the conflict was resolved. How far could the United States extend itself before it became spread too thin and thus ineffective? After the U.S. went to war, many in this group opposed it. The third group, originally comprised of just Gruening and Morse, did not believe that the United States should be involved in Vietnam at all. Rationale for this position was not merely based on their belief that the United States had no real business meddling in the affairs of Vietnam, it was also rooted within a concern over the manner in which America had been led to war by President Johnson. Requesting and being granted the resolution according to these two senators gave the president a blank check and did two things. First, it altered the governance structure established by the Founding Fathers which was codified in the Constitution. Those who had written and ratified this document intended that Congress declare war and the Chief Executive guide the military once the country had become involved in one. Second, it altered the balance of power in favor of the president allowing him to take whatever actions he deemed necessary and provided Congress with little recourse to stop him. While the Senate finally supported the president's request for the resolution and continued to fund the war once it had become Americanized, it was those who opposed the resolution and were overruled who made the most valid argument. The balance of power was altered and re-establishing that balance was extremely difficult to achieve.

Subject: American history; Modern history; Military studies

Classification: 0337: American history; 0582: Modern history; 0750: Military studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Vietnam War, Tonkin Gulf Resolution, Ernest Gruening, Wayne Morse

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Degree: Ph.D.
Source type: Dissertations & Theses
Language: English
Memorializing motherhood: Anna Jarvis and the struggle for control of Mother's Day

Author: Antolini, Katharine Lane


Abstract: Few people outside the state of West Virginia recognize the name Anna Jarvis or know of the lovely church that stands as a shrine to her accomplishments. Yet, on every second Sunday in May, we mail the cards, buy the flowers, place the long distant phone calls, or make the brunch reservation to honor our mothers because of her. Anna Jarvis was the founder of Mother's Day. She organized the first official Mother's Day celebration in 1908 and then spent four decades promoting the holiday and defending it from commercialization and ideological exploitation. Jarvis designed her Mother's Day celebration based on a sentimental view of motherhood and domesticity; thus she envisioned a day venerating the daily services and sacrifices of mothers within the home. This sentimental design reflected her intimate view of motherhood as a daughter wishing to honor the memory of her own mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis. After President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day a national holiday in 1914, however, other organizations sought to alter the day's sentimental observance to meet the changing perceptions of modern motherhood and the realities of women's lives in the twentieth century. Instead of restricting a mother's service and influence solely to the domestic sphere, they emphasized the power of mothers both within their homes and throughout their communities. Yet Jarvis refused to accept the holiday's changing interpretation and public observance, claiming both intellectual and legal ownership of Mother's Day. Her obsession with protecting the purity of her sentimental vision sustained a war of verbal and legal assaults against rival holiday promoters, patriotic women's organizations, charitable foundations, public health reformers, and the
Franklin D. Roosevelt administration. The struggle for control of Mother's Day ultimately threatened Jarvis' livelihood, physical health, and emotional stability. Jarvis successfully restricted the holiday's cultural legacy by failing to promote and celebrate the private and public facets of women's maternal identities. Therefore, "Memorializing Motherhood" also explores the complex social understanding of motherhood in American culture. Since the nineteenth century, the idea of a day honoring the role of "Mother" has provided a platform for a cultural debate over the intrinsic value of motherhood and the boundaries of the maternal role in society. "Memorializing Motherhood" traces the varied conceptualizations of motherhood embedded within the history of Mother's Day—from the first promotions of a maternal memorial day in the nineteenth century to the competing Mother's Day celebrations of the early twentieth century.


Subject: American history; Womens studies

Classification: 0337: American history; 0453: Womens studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Motherhood, Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis, National holidays

Title: Memorializing motherhood: Anna Jarvis and the struggle for control of Mother's Day

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The Mormon image in the American mind: Shaping public perception of Latter-day Saints, 1968--2008

Author: Haws, John Ben


Abstract: As unlikely as it would have seemed a century earlier, a Mormon--George Romney--was a leading contender for the 1968 Republican presidential nomination. Forty years later, and by one of those coincidences of history that cannot help but prompt comparisons, George Romney's son Mitt threw his hat into the ring of presidential politics. Despite these father-son parallels, during Mitt Romney's campaign it
quickly became apparent that being a Mormon in the public eye meant something far different in 2008 than it did in 1968. This study seeks to understand what had changed, and why. Why, for example, was attention to George Romney's Mormon faith relatively muted when compared to the recent media coverage of Mitt Romney? Why were the theology of the Latter-day Saints and their status as "Christians" mostly nonissues in 1968, but such hotly-contested matters in 2008? What do these shifts in public perception say about changes in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, its membership, and the various segments of American society with which Mormons interact? These two seasons of intense publicity for the father and son candidates—and, more importantly, for their church—become the opening and closing benchmarks in a study that seeks to measure and interpret changes in public perception of Latter-day Saints by focusing on a series of similar news-making "Mormon moments" in the four decades between the Romney campaigns. These moments lend themselves to interrogation regarding not only the evolution of Mormonism's public image, but also the public dialogue, with all of its various interlocutors, that has produced and continues to produce that image. While Mormons have undoubtedly made gains in terms of name recognition, their increased visibility has accentuated a perception paradox. A survey of the past forty years reveals a growing tension inherent in the public's views of this body of religious people and the public's views of the religion that inspires that body. This disconnect between admiration for Mormons as individuals—often described as friendly, hard-working, family-oriented—and ambivalence for Mormonism as an institution—secretive, authoritarian, deceptive—is a gap that represents perhaps the most dominant trend in the recent history of the LDS image.


Subject: Religion; Religious history; American history

Classification: 0318: Religion; 0320: Religious history; 0337: American history
Enlightenment and authority: The Committee on Social Thought and the ideology of postwar conservatism (1927--1950)

Author: Thomas, Robert S.


Abstract: This dissertation addresses a conundrum of progressive historiography -- What is the intellectual birthplace of American postwar conservatism? It traces the answer to the 1930s "Chicago Fight" between philosophers Mortimer Adler and John Dewey and to the ensuing discussions that led to the creation of the University of Chicago's Committee on Social Thought. Launched during World War II, the Committee was among the country's first interdisciplinary graduate programs. The narrative that follows is an intellectual and institutional history of its founding and early years. It examines the intellectual development of the Committee's three founders -- economist Frank II. Knight, economic historian John U. Nef and anthropologist Robert Redfield -- and shows why each thought a new approach to education was necessary. Grappling with the crises of the 1930s, the Committee's founders sought a middle way between the progressive Dewey's "scientific" approach to social problems and the traditionalist Adler's "philosophical" alternative. Drawing upon trans-Atlantic sources -- including Tocqueville, Bergson, Max and Alfred Weber, Jacques Maritain and T.S. Eliot -- they hoped to train intellectual elites who might oppose the progressive-liberal tradition that Dewey had established within higher education, while remaining committed to liberalism's core principle, pluralism. Through the 1940s, the Committee's founders remained divided. Like Chicago president Robert M. Hutchins and Adler, Nef emphasized Great Books instruction hoping to produce a passionate Christian-humanist elite immersed in western moral traditions. Knight and Redfield, by contrast, advocated comparative social-scientific study hoping to create a cosmopolitan elite that understood how traditions legitimated political leadership in all societies. Initially, Nef prevailed and used his Committee position to help create the institutions of postwar social-conservatism. Knight, meanwhile, worked outside the Committee to do the same for libertarianism. During the McCarthy era, the Committee's second generation bridged the Committee's rival positions. Building upon the Bergsonian concept of "intuition" common to both social conservatives and libertarians, sociologist Edward Shils and philosopher Michael Polanyi reconciled the Committee's humanities and social-scientific factions and reformed its curriculum. This dissertation concludes that intellectuals associated with the Committee and the "conservative-liberal" synthesis that emerged there have substantially influenced mainstream American conservative movements, providing a common ideological orientation.
Subject: American history; Social research; Higher education

Classification: 0337: American history; 0344: Social research; 0745: Higher education

Identifier / keyword: Education, Social sciences, Authority, Committee on Social Thought, Ideology, Postwar, Conservatism, Strauss, Leo, Higher education, Hutchins, Robert M., Crisis of liberalism, Illinois

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Advisor: Blake, Casey Nelson

University/institution: Columbia University

University location: United States -- New York
Providing for our communities, protecting our race, proving ourselves: African American activism and protest in Depression Era New Orleans

Author: Coffey, Michele Grigsby


Abstract: On February 10, 1930, Charles Guerand, a white police officer, killed a fourteen-year-old African American girl named Hattie McCray in a New Orleans restaurant when she refused to consent to a sexual relationship after repeated coercion. In response, three African American organizations, the New Orleans branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Federation of Civics Leagues and the black newspaper, the Louisiana Weekly, formed a coalition to hire a special prosecutor in Guerand's trial. As they sought contributions, McCray became a symbol of black womanhood in need of protection from bestial white men, spurring donations from hundreds of individuals from various religious, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. The organizers emphasized McCray's respectability and attempted to appeal to black men in particular to donate as a means to prove that they would protect the virtue of all African American women. The rhetoric and imagery utilized by the McCray Fund were frequently employed by the coalition organizations during this period. Calls to action utilizing images of respectable, middle-class manhood and womanhood were central to the NAACP's campaigns. Despite near-debilitating declines in membership and internal power struggles, these conceptions enabled the branch to rally
periodically around specific causes, challenging police brutality, lynching, segregation and disenfranchisement. Similarly, the civic leagues employed a gendered rhetoric of protection and provision to secure advances in voter registration, education and segregated public spaces as well as to demand justice in criminal cases involving interracial rape, murder and police brutality. The city's black newspaper, the Louisiana Weekly, also used the desires of individuals to demonstrate and safeguard middle-class respectability and to protect black women and children from white abuses. The paper garnered support from a broad range of individuals to call for changes in language, segregation policies, white business practices and the justice system to reflect the status of those men and women who held themselves to high standards of behavior. Through an analysis of these mechanisms for mobilization, this work demonstrates the power of these middle-class ideals to unite African American men and women to overcome extreme financial difficulty as well as social divisions to demand justice and equality.


Subject: African American Studies; Black history; American history; Gender studies

Classification: 0296: African American Studies; 0328: Black history; 0337: American history; 0733: Gender studies

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Activism, Louisiana, African-American, Civil rights, Great Depression, New Orleans, Respectability

Title: Providing for our communities, protecting our race, proving ourselves: African American activism and protest in Depression Era New Orleans

Number of pages: 243
Pragmatic Quakerism in U.S. imperialism: The Lake Mohonk Conference, the Philippines and Puerto Rico in American political thought and policy development, 1898--1917
Abstract: In 1904, the Lake Mohonk Conference of Friends of the Indian and Other Dependent Peoples (LMC) expanded its non-governmental institutional scope from discussing U.S. Indian relations, and briefly the Negro problem, to dealing with U.S. insular territorial policies toward the Philippines and Puerto Rico. LMC founder Hicksite Quaker Albert K. Smiley and other pragmatic Quakers associated with the LMC placed U.S. insular territorial policy debates under the racialized category "Other Dependent Peoples." In this study, I explore the institutional, ideological, and historical impact of the Quaker LMC in U.S. national political life by situating it within three contexts: U.S. Quaker and social gospel movements, progressive reform politics, and the development of modern U.S. imperialism in the years between 1898 and 1917. I show how the Quaker LMC accomplished its ecumenical and political objectives by relying on what I call a pragmatic Quakerism approach to managing nonwhite peoples that drew from deep rooted Quaker testimonies, methods, and values; its own non-governmental institutional characteristics; and the practical lived experiences of elite members. Through original archival research, historical analysis and textual exegesis, I also demonstrate the extent to which the LMC served a mediating role in national debates over U.S. territorial relations with the Philippines and Puerto Rico in the early 20th century. Thus, I argue the LMC relied on Quaker beliefs and methods, pragmatism and evolutionary racist assumptions to guide U.S. political discourses on insular territorial policies (citizenship and self-government) while settling seemingly irreconcilable ideological tensions between liberal democratic ideals and illiberal non-democratic actions. Some scholars have more recently begun to include religion and race, although often treated separately, in their accounts of early 20th century U.S. imperialist state development. Yet, these few scholars who have taken seriously the role of religion or religious beliefs in American political life, most often do so by emphasizing the Protestant-Catholic historical dynamic. Placing their accounts within this familiar framework undervalues the importance of Quakerism or Quaker beliefs, practices and methods in American political thought and policy development. The exclusion of Quakerism in the political science literature on citizenship and U.S. - territorial relations ignores how Quakers' reliance on "Inner Light" spirituality and its traditional testimonies fueled pragmatic and humanitarian political action, influencing U.S. public discourses and policymaking since the late 18th century. Moreover, ignoring the work of pragmatic Quakers at the LMC in early 20th century U.S. political development also overlooks how religious beliefs and racial thought are intertwined in the politics over insular territorial race relations, suggesting a broader white-nonwhite context beyond the more familiar black-white framework. The study contributes to scholarly and policy debates over immigration, citizenship, and territorial sovereignty that are premised in moral-religious-racial grounds. Studying the
interventions of the Quaker LMC into U.S. insular territorial policies affords the opportunity to understand the depth and breadth of how U.S. national leaders often engage the politics of "dependent peoples" and the subsequent extension of citizenship, and self-government. Thus, I hope to follow recent work that takes seriously the role of race, religion and institutional politics in American political thought and policy development.


Subject: Religion; American studies; Political science

Classification: 0318: Religion; 0323: American studies; 0615: Political science

Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology, Social sciences, Imperialism, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Policy development, American political development, Lake Mohonk Conference, Non-governmental institutions, Quakerism, Race, Religion

Title: Pragmatic Quakerism in U.S. imperialism: The Lake Mohonk Conference, the Philippines and Puerto Rico in American political thought and policy development, 1898--1917

Number of pages: 267

Publication year: 2010

Degree date: 2010

School code: 1430

Source: DAI-A 71/09, Mar 2011
Unbound by law: Association and autonomy in the early American republic

Author: Butterfield, Kevin Charles


Abstract: This dissertation examines how the concept of voluntary membership evolved between the 1780s and the 1830s, a period in which men and women created thousands of groups seeking everything from fraternity
to profit to social reform. Before observers foreign and domestic would begin to identify the voluntary association as a defining characteristic of post-Revolutionary American culture, Americans who organized and joined such groups had struggled for decades to determine what membership ought to look like, what rights and duties the act of joining should entail. By the time Alexis de Tocqueville famously noted in 1831 that Americans were "forever forming associations," they had come to some answers. A revolutionary idea evolved unsteadily through the practical, day-to-day experiences of membership, as men and women began to insist upon basic principles of procedural fairness: the idea that people carried rights into every social relationship. Historians have yet to examine these debates over the norms of belonging, largely owing to the long-lasting influence of Tocqueville's rosy picture of spontaneous cooperation and, more recently, Jürgen Habermas's theory of associations in the public sphere. But Americans of the post-Revolutionary generations were anxious and uncertain about private governing power and the potential abuses of even voluntary commitments. In groups as diverse as women's literary societies, men's political fraternities, business corporations, and mutual benefit societies, Americans responded to the challenges they perceived by erecting procedural protections for members and by embracing a legalistic rather than an affective understanding of what it meant to belong. For they were anxious, too, about how they could make these groups work, how they could make collective action a reality in an age when even the survival of the new republic appeared tenuous. Innovation born of conflict within the groups—especially, efforts to forestall and to resolve disputes over the meanings, burdens, and benefits of voluntary membership, many of which wound up in court—shaped the post-Revolutionary associational landscape. While there continued to be encomia about the natural sociability of man and the tender ties of affection, in practice the American joiners that Tocqueville described had embraced a wholly different model of associated action. The rules by which the joiners organized themselves evinced a trend toward greater precision and an increasing emphasis on legalistic formalities. What is more, law-making and judicial institutions became comfortable assuming a role as superintendent over the actions within private societies, holding them to broad standards of justice and resolving the conflicts that arose within them, such as contested expulsions, and thereby setting the furthest limits of private governing authority. They created a substructure for Americans' efforts at collective action, one that evinced a pervasive liberalism, in that it was grounded in an individualistic common law, legal guarantees of the rights of individual members, and a reliance on adversarial legalism and procedural formalities to reconcile conflict, even in these ostensibly private, wholly voluntary groups. The conflict-driven process of defining voluntary membership had a second effect: Americans of this period came to accept the pluralist makeup of their society, in which myriad groups pursued divergent ends rather than a singular, public good. They could do so because, internally, most of these groups had begun to look the same, and those few associations that did appear to threaten the autonomy of their members, such as the Freemasons, came to stand out in ways they had not just a generation before. By about 1840, certain conceptions of voluntary membership had become so generally accepted that the judicial superintendence of private associations would become less direct, resting on broad schema of procedural expectations.
This is not a cotton picker's dream: Race, regions, and conservative politics in the United States, 1954-1975

Author: Howison, Jeffrey D.


Abstract: This project explores the relationship between the backlash against the civil rights movement, broadly conceived, and the shaping of conservative political organizations and ideology taking place at the margins of the southern United States, in three of the border states: Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland. One of the primary contributions of this regional framework is an implicit criticism of "southern exceptionalism" idea, which has been central to various aspects of the historically-oriented scholarship on social and political change in the United States. After a review of the scholarship and an overview of the historical development of the border states in relation to U.S. regionalism, this project utilizes a variety of primary sources in three additional research chapters. The first offers an analysis of the reapportionment conflict through the lens of the National Commission on Constitutional Government, an organization that was headquartered in Jefferson City, Missouri, between 1964 and 1966. The second concerns
racial violence in two Maryland cities, Cambridge (1967) and Baltimore (1968), and argues that these events were central to the ideological orientation of Spiro Agnew, the state's governor who would popularize the conservative commitment to "law and order" while serving as Vice President in the Nixon administration. The final research chapter illustrates the limitations of the law and order ideology among border state conservatives through a discussion of the suburban riots in Louisville, Kentucky, which occurred during the first weeks of the 1975-76 school year, on the heels of the merging of the Jefferson County and Louisville school districts and subsequent debates about "forced busing".


Subject: American history; Social structure

Classification: 0337: American history; 0700: Social structure

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Conservative politics, Political organizations

Title: This is not a cotton picker's dream: Race, regions, and conservative politics in the United States, 1954-1975

Number of pages: 221

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Place of publication: Ann Arbor

Country of publication: United States
Rhetoric of representation: Planning Los Angeles' civic space, 1909--2009

Author: Drake Reitan, Meredith


Abstract: This project is about the visual practices of urban planners. It applies methods associated with visual rhetoric and social semiotics to the theories of Henri Lefebvre, Lisa Peattie and Donald Schön and focuses on the production, the nature and the reception of images in planning. The approach is grounded in an historical study of images created by planners for an administrative and cultural center in Los Angeles and explores what these images can tell us about the profession
and the production of civic space in the United States during the twentieth century. While the dissertation's theoretical framework is eclectic, at the core of the study is a pragmatic focus on planning practice as an example of an embedded social activity and an understanding of the rhetorical power of the profession's visual representations. Specifically, the "Rhetoric of Representation" seeks to understand how the images created by planners communicate a kind of tacit knowledge about the Los Angeles Civic Center as a political landscape. The resulting narrative is not a history of the built environment per se, nor is it a history of the built environment in pictures. Rather the dissertation is an analysis of the visual tools and techniques used by planners to persuade public officials and the public at large to act. Three themes emerge in the following chapters. First, a detailed study of the images from Los Angeles challenges the conventionally-understood historical periodization of the planning profession. Second, an analysis of planning images suggests that the relationship between viewer and represented object is more complex than has previously been argued. Rather than the more critically discussed aerial view, the subjects of planning images are often represented head on and at eye-level, suggesting more engagement than the profession is usually given credit for. Furthermore, the power relations embedded in these images are not always clear. The images in planning must be understood as contributors to a negotiated practice where power is shared among many individuals and institutions. Third, while not specifically an ideological critique, the analysis of images in these chapters brings the values and purposes embedded in the design of the Los Angeles Civic Center to the fore. Whether arguing for the development of a pleasing entrance for visitors to the city, establishing boundaries between the civic center and the communities that surrounded it or creating places of relaxation in the heart of the city, planners across time have unfortunately relied on a particularly narrow view of the civic ideal. These findings expand our understanding of the planning profession. The rhetoric of representation plays a significant role in practice through the use of culturally established conventions that influence the selection and arrangement of elements in an image. The viewpoint, focus and layout of planning images all combine to produce a particular message and because these messages emphasize certain perspectives over others, they have political consequences. As these chapters will show, using conventionally derived rhetorical devices, planners attempted to literally produce the social environment in their image.
Forced conversion: Civil-military relations and national security policy in the Carter administration, 1977--1981

Author: Mini, John D.


Abstract: President Jimmy Carter took the helm as commander-in-chief at an important juncture in American civil-military relations. Civil-military conflict prevailed throughout most of Carter's term primarily because of the president's attempt to exclude Congress from any role in defense policy and budget formulation. Although differing with Carter on many issues, the Joint Chiefs of Staff still proved willing to compromise with their commander-in-chief as well as most of their civilian superiors in the Pentagon. Unanimous support from the Joint Chiefs for the SALT II treaty provided one of the best examples of this willingness to support their civilian superiors. Despite such instances of cooperation between Carter and his military advisors, a military-congressional alliance formed over his four-year term in which key members of the legislature sought to overturn the president on many issues relevant to national defense. Encouraged by frank testimony from the Joint Chiefs expressing their views of weaknesses in Carter's policies and budgets, this military-congressional alliance largely blocked the administration's plans to limit global commitments and economize in national defense. In defeating Carter's plans through a series of end-runs, this military-congressional alliance set the stage for one of the largest peacetime military buildups in the nation's history. Jimmy Carter's bold plans to change national defense policy were defeated and only the most modest of reforms took place. This dissertation details the course of this relationship between the Pentagon, White House, and Congress in a topical chronology that examines three interrelated themes: the civil-military dialogue surrounding the annual defense budget process, how civil-military relations affected and were influenced by the making of national security policy, and finally how specific events requiring close civil-military contact influenced the relationship.
Subject: American history; Military history

Classification: 0337: American history; 0722: Military history

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Carter administration, Civil-military relations, Defense budget, Defense policy, Carter, Jimmy, National security

Title: Forced conversion: Civil-military relations and national security policy in the Carter administration, 1977--1981

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Advisor: Kohn, Richard H.

Committee member: Glatthaar, Joseph T., Lee, Wayne E., Brundage, William F., Feaver, Peter D.
Non-battle injury & non-battle psychiatric illness in deployed Air Force members

Author: Eaton, Melinda


Abstract: With the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, researchers have developed studies to examine combat injuries and posttraumatic stress disorder. However, there are few published studies examining non-battle injuries and non-battle psychiatric illness for deployed United States Air Force members. This study examines the relationship between component status (Active Duty, Guard, or Reserve) and all non-battle injuries in a deployed environment. Additionally, the study examines the association between non-battle psychiatric illness and operational phases (buildup, invasion, and two stabilization phases) in all deployed Air Force members. A historical prospective cohort study of approximately 480,000 individual Air Force deployments in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom from 11 September 2001 through 31 October 2006 was conducted. Data regarding illness and injuries diagnosed during clinical
visits was obtained through the Global Expeditionary Medical System. Total deployment time was obtained from the Defense Manpower Data Center. Poisson regression was utilized to compare incidence rate ratios. The overall unadjusted incidence rate of non-battle injuries in deployed members for the study period (2001-2006) was 93.49 non-battle injuries per 1,000 person-years deployed. The most common non-battle injuries were sprains and strains (53.0%) followed by open wounds (27.3%). The youngest age group (17-24 years) had the highest rate of non-battle injury and higher ranking personnel had the lowest rate of non-battle injuries. Guard and Reserve members had a lower rate of orthopedic and superficial non-battle injuries than Active Duty members when incidence rate ratios were adjusted for age and occupation. The overall incidence of non-battle non-drug psychiatric illness in deployed Air Force members was 7.76 non-battle non-drug psychiatric illnesses per 1,000 person-years deployed. The incidence of non-battle non-drug psychiatric illness increased as the operations progressed with the invasion phase and both stabilization phases having a higher incidence rate than the buildup phase. Higher incidence rates were also seen in females, junior officers, and the Reserve members. Results from this study are intended to facilitate the development of proper training and prevention programs to maximize operational efficiency as well as to reduce non-battle injuries and non-battle psychiatric illnesses in a deployed environment.


Subject: Mental health; Clinical psychology; Military studies

Classification: 0347: Mental health; 0622: Clinical psychology; 0750: Military studies

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Social sciences, Psychology, Air Force, Injuries, Military, Psychiatric illness

Title: Non-battle injury & non-battle psychiatric illness in deployed Air Force members
Freedom road: Black refugee settlements in northwestern Pennsylvania, 1820-1870
Abstract: In the first half of the nineteenth century many blacks fled from slave states looking to escape the oppression of bondage. These people largely fell into two categories; the first group fled the oppression of bondage, and readily sought freedom by taking flight, while the latter group already free, sought to avoid the possibility of legal codes forcing them back into bondage. Between 1820 and 1870, two groups of black settlers arrived in Mercer County, Pennsylvania looking for a refuge from chattel slavery. Although each group arrived under different circumstances, they shared a common refugee experience. The historiography of black resettlement efforts in the North has focused on qualifying these efforts as either successes or failures. In doing so the studies of black resettlements usually views the settlements over a relatively brief period, depending upon the measure of success they met with. At the same time, the historiography has attempted to affix credit or blame for the relative successes and/or failures of the resettlement efforts. Furthermore, this approach at least portrays black refugees and their communities as passive victims and at most inept and unqualified to establish themselves socially and economically within the broader American community. The duration of the physical settlements is less indicative of success or failure but rather the degree of usefulness and their ability to continue providing a refuge from slavery and self-determination. This work suggests that, not only is a more prolonged study needed, it is a necessity to better understand the black refugee experience. Only in studying these communities as a series of processes or steps in the refugee experience can historians better understand the black resettlement efforts of the early and mid 19th century. Although many blacks sought refuge in northern states like Pennsylvania, and frequently within white antislavery communities, they found themselves not always welcomed and sometimes struggled to adapt within the host communities. This dissertation then, explores the ebb and flow of optimism and disillusionment. It is also about the story of the formation, dissolution, and re-formation of rural black communities and the black refugee experience in the North.

Impact of the 1997 Balanced Budget Act on utilization and outcomes of home health care

Author: Lu, Weibo


Abstract: The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 limited reimbursement for home health care agencies and changed reimbursement from retrospective to prospective payment. The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of the Balanced Budget Act on changes in utilization and outcomes for patients discharged from home health care, specifically. This cross-sectional design study employed a secondary data analysis of data from the National Home and Hospice Care Survey. The population was comprised of 3,043 patients who had been discharged from home health agencies in years 1996 and 2000. Seven research questions were developed to determine the impact of the Balanced Budget Act on changes of patient characteristics, agency characteristics, utilization of services and patient outcomes. Bivariate analysis, multivariable regression analysis, Cox survival regression and two-stage analysis were used. Results suggest that with the new changes in the reimburse system, utilization of home care services decreased, there were much shorter lengths of stay in home health care and fewer types of skilled services delivered. The decrease in length of stay after the Balanced Budget Act was mainly in Medicare and private insurance patients. When controlling other covariates in constant, the Balanced Budget Act was one predictor decreasing length of stay and decreasing total types of skilled services. From 1996 to 2000, patient outcomes were improved with less adverse events indicated by less patients deceased/died and fewer patients discharged to nursing homes. When controlling other covariates in constant, the Balanced Budget Act was one predictor decreasing probability of having adverse events. However, under Cox survival model, the Balanced Budget Act had a negative effect on Medicare patients' outcomes with more likelihood of adverse events. After controlling for the endogeneity of utilization, we found that Balanced Budget Act was not a key predictor directly associated with the incidence of adverse events, but rather the impact of Balanced Budget Act was indirectly through shortened length of stay. This result provides
additional knowledge to current studies with contradictory results of both negative and positive (or no difference) impacts of BBA on patient outcomes.


Subject: Nursing; Public health; Health care management

Classification: 0569: Nursing; 0573: Public health; 0769: Health care management

Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences, Patient characteristics, Agent characteristics, Service utilization, Reimbursement, Patient outcomes, Balanced Budget Act, Home health care

Title: Impact of the 1997 Balanced Budget Act on utilization and outcomes of home health care

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Advisor: Ellenbecker, Carol
Dunmore's new world: Political culture in the British Empire, 1745--1796

Abstract: Despite his participation in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745, John Murray, fourth earl of Dunmore, eventually became royal governor of New York (1770–1771), Virginia (1771–1783), and the Bahama Islands (1787–1796). His life in the British Empire exposed him to an extraordinary range of political experience, including border disputes, land speculation, frontier warfare and diplomacy, sexual scandal, slave emancipation, naval combat, loyalist advocacy, Amerindian slavery, and trans-imperial filibusters, to say nothing of his proximity to the Haitian Revolution or his role in the defense of the British West Indies during the French Revolutionary Wars. Quick to break with convention on behalf of the system that ensured his privilege, Dunmore was an usually transgressive imperialist whose career can be used to explore the boundaries of what was possible in the political cultures of the Anglo-Atlantic world at the end of the eighteenth century. Remarkably, Lord Dunmore has not been the subject of a book-length study in more than seventy years. With a few exceptions (the work of African American
historians notable among them), modern scholars have dismissed him as a
greedy incompetent. While challenging this characterization, the
dissertation makes several arguments about the weakness of royal
authority in pre-Revolutionary New York and Virginia, the prominent and
problematic role of the land grant as a mechanism of political consent,
the importance of Dunmore's proclamation of emancipation, and the
endurance of British ambition in North America after 1783. It seeks to
make a methodological contribution as well. By positioning Dunmore as the
epicenter of a web of interrelations, one reflected in a variety of
historical texts and involving people at all levels of the imperial
social structure, the dissertation suffuses a host of elements and actors
within a single biographical narrative. This integrated approach can
serve to counter the excessive compartmentalization that has marked some
academic history in recent decades.

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Subject: Biographies; Black history; American history

Classification: 0304: Biographies; 0328: Black history; 0337: American
history

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences, Political culture, British Empire,
Dunmore, John Murray, Earl of, Slavery, American Revolution, Scot,
Jacobite

Title: Dunmore's new world: Political culture in the British Empire,
1745--1796

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Degree date: 2010

School code: 0261
"An evil empire": The rhetorical rearmament of Ronald Reagan

Author: Peterson, Jon Richard


Abstract: This project examines the origins, drafting, and effects of Ronald Reagan's Evil Empire speech. My dissertation introduces this important address by exploring Reagan's political ideology during his pre-presidential years. His ideological polemics coexisted with his pragmatic governing style. I subsequently explain how ending the foreign
policy of détente with the Soviet Union led to the rise of the Nuclear
Freeze movement, a broadbased, bipartisan, interfaith, international
peace group. The dissertation centers on the reaction by peace activists,
evangelical Christians, the Kremlin, and the mainstream news media to
rhetorical rearmament, Reagan's Manichean and moralistic characterization
of his foreign policy ideology. My project concludes by studying the
political phenomenon of "evil empire" over the past quarter century. The
importance of the study derives from the political mobilization of the
White House against this incarnation of the peace movement among
religious voters, in the news media, and from the bully pulpit. My
dissertation examines the varying levels of support the Nuclear Freeze
movement received from peace activists, the mainstream news media, and
religious organizations. The president needed to counteract the
movement's popularity by creating a favorable national discourse on
behalf of his military rearmament. Instead, Reagan's oratory exacerbated
the Cold War tensions by deeming the Soviet Union "an evil empire" and
"the focus of evil in the modern world." The president found himself
counted between his desire for nuclear arms reductions and his unyielding
belief in the inherent evil of Soviet Communism. Throughout his
presidency, Reagan alternated between ideological and pragmatic
approaches toward the Soviet Union. The Evil Empire speech was the height
of ideology. Yet, soon after the address the president came to favor
pragmatism than ideology. He embraced Mikhail Gorbachev and created the
conditions necessary to end the Cold War. Rhetorical rearmament had the
unintended consequences of galvanizing the Nuclear Freeze movement,
hindering U.S.-Soviet diplomacy, and contributing to the end of the Cold
War.

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Subject: American history; Political science; Rhetoric
Classification: 0337: American history; 0615: Political science; 0681: Rhetoric
Evidence and beliefs used in congressional hearings to influence federal child welfare policy making

Author: Edwards, Heather R.


Abstract: This study expands the evidence base informing policy practice through an empirical inquiry of federal child welfare policy making. To do so, the study identifies the espoused beliefs of congressional hearings witnesses, notes the types of evidence used to support beliefs, explores the association between evidence and beliefs, and determines the relationship between the political context in which policy making occurs and the types of evidence and beliefs present. The study also introduces the Context, Beliefs, and Evidence (CBE) Framework in a random sample of 150 congressional child welfare hearings testimonies from the 10-year period covered by the 106th to the 110th sessions of the U.S. Congress (1999-2008). This research used a content analysis to examine variables related to (a) witness affiliation; (b) witness level of influence; (c) the committee to which testimony was submitted; (c) the Congress in which testimony was submitted; (e) witness beliefs about whether child welfare should be under federal or state control, (f) the preferred permanency options for maltreated children, and (g) the desired target of policy intervention; and the evidence. Factorial ANOVAs and a logistic regression were the primary statistical analyses used to examine these positions. The study found that there were significant differences in the use of evidence based on beliefs. In addition, the study uncovered that the committee to which testimonies were submitted was a significant predictor of belief use. Affiliation is only partially a significant predictor of belief use, with consumers as the only significant predictor group. On the other hand, Congress and influence were not significant predictors of belief use. With regard to political context and evidence use, the same political context factors (affiliation and committee) were significant predictors. This research concludes with implications for social work education, practice, and research.

Evidence and beliefs used in congressional hearings to influence federal child welfare policy making

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Advisor: Abu-Bader, Soleman, Bent-Goodley, Tricia

Committee member: Nebbitt, Sr., Von E., Lashley, Marilyn, Sharpe, Tanya L.

University/institution: Howard University

Department: Social Work

University location: United States -- District of Columbia

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English
Abstract: Phoenix Rising is an ideological and institutional study of the development of conservative politics and the Republican Party in Arizona from the late-1940s through the 1980s. Over that time, conservative Republicanism replaced the New Deal regime as the dominant political power in the state. During the same period, two distinct strands of conservatism developed in the Southwestern Sunbelt state, competing within the Republican Party for institutional and ideological dominance. One strand emerged from the mid-century municipal reform movement in the capital city of Phoenix. Championed by Barry Goldwater and his allies, this political philosophy was anti-statist and value-driven in rejection of the New Deal transactional liberalism that dominated both major parties at the time. It led the Arizona Republican Party to pursue a secular and strategic assault on the dominant Democratic Party. An alternate conservatism rooted in evangelical Christianity and an ideological approach to political activism arose within the Arizona Republican Party in the early 1960s, challenging the secular, strategic conservatives on the role of Christianity in politics and the importance of ideological purity. The conflict between these competing strands of conservative thought shaped the local success of conservative politicians, contributed to the national development of the modern conservative movement, and prefigured ongoing divides within the Republican Party of today. This study challenges the notion of either race or virulent anti-communism as the nucleus of modern conservatism by tracing its roots instead to a progressive-style urban reform movement and particular religious worldviews. It argues that the development of
modern Republican conservatism involved multidimensional intra-party contests in addition to conservative-liberal conflicts between the major parties. While the internal contradictions of the New Deal may have laid the foundation for its eventual demise, several strands of conservative thought and political practice vied with one another to emerge as the dominant alternative. In principle, these strands shared in common the proposition, expressed often by Barry Goldwater, that the foundation of liberty was man's creation by God as a free individual, and that all government action must be measured against that standard. Conflicting interpretations of this conservative principle, however, generated divisions within the Arizona Republican Party that continue to reverberate nationally.
The New Left at California State College, Fullerton: A case study of the radical New Left in a conservative, state college community during the 1960s & early 1970s

Author: Thornburg, Barry S.


Abstract: This dissertation examines the impact and significance of the New Left on the conservative campus and community of California State College, Fullerton (CSF) during the 1960s and early 1970s. Built to meet
the demands of the Baby Boom after World War II, CSF became the latest in a series of California State campus expansions in 1959-1960. Fullerton, situated in Orange County, California, was one of the most politically conservative areas in the United States. Yet, during the mid-1960s and early 1970s, CSF exhibited a series of events just as radical as many other New Left activities across the U.S. CSF had its Vietnam "teach-in," its campus "riot," and its campus building "takeover." This dissertation not only documents the New Left's activities on this campus, but also compares and contrasts it with the actions of SDS nationally. It also examines New Left events at other colleges and universities across the U.S. in the same light. The sources for this case study are the CSF Administrative Archives, a series of participant Oral Interviews, several publications by CSF alumni, a pictorial publication from the era and a variety of other sources. While a number of New Left events gained national attention during the 1960s and early 1970s, little has been written about such activities at smaller state colleges. It is my contention that the New Left activists at CSF were not only influenced by the Black Civil Rights Movement and SDS, but that they were just as disorganized and amorphous as SDS and other New Left activists. This case study is one of a number of new histories documenting the effects of the New Left, which occurred not just in a few isolated, nationally reported locations, but all across the U.S. These effects, for good or ill, contributed significantly to our current social, cultural, economic, political and educational conditions in America - and they continue to do so. Consequently, it is important to understand these events and ideals which have shaped our way of life, in order to know why we think, act and believe as we do today.


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Abstract: This thesis analyzes the shrinking scope of urban policy in postwar Baltimore, and alongside it the shrinking scope of ideas about what the city was and should be. It traces the history of local and national urban policies and their impact in Baltimore and explains how the troubled city we know today came to be. The thesis discusses local redevelopment initiatives such as the Baltimore Plan, Charles Center, interstate highways, the city Vacant Housing Program, the Inner Harbor, and the Urban Homesteading Program.
Presidential war power in the deliberative moment: An integrated traditional and empirical legal study

Author: Tsai, Chi-Ting

Abstract: This dissertation examines how congressional deliberation over the constitutionality of a use of force affects the war power relationship between the president and Congress. In particular, it presents empirical data on whether and how Congress exerts its attempts to control presidential war power through deliberation, on the limits of congressional ability to regulate a war, on historical patterns of the presidential unilateral use of force, and on the institutional conditions for good congressional deliberation. My main argument is that congressional deliberation over the constitutionality of a use of force is a primary influence on Congress's ability to exert its will through the passage of legislation to check the president's use of force. I focus on congressional floor debates recorded in the Congressional Record (1989-2009) over different use of force events occurring from 1989 to 2003. These incidents are collected from the Correlates of War Project Dataset. I cluster 229 congressional deliberations on the constitutionality of the use of force and bills thereof into 14 military events according to the war timeline depicted by the Correlates of War Project Dataset. In response to the main research question, I present three empirical models. The first empirical model demonstrates that a higher level of congressional deliberation over a use of force influences Congress to impose a higher level of control over presidential war power. The second model demonstrates that as long as Congress imposes control over a military deployment, the president systematically resists that control. Although the second model demonstrates that congressional attempts to check presidential war power cannot prevent the president from taking unilateral military action, I argue that this result suggests that it is even more important for Congress to have better deliberation and to try to impose a check on the president, which can create an unequivocal legal and political accountability for the president. Therefore, I present the third empirical model to demonstrate that congressional rule-setting, including referral of a bill to committee, an adoption of open-rule floor debate, and deliberation over a non-annual budget bill, is the primary factor determining the quality of congressional deliberation.

Black politics in the age of Jim Crow: Memphis, Tennessee, 1865 to 1954

Author: Gritter, Elizabeth


Abstract: Because the vast majority of black southerners were disenfranchised, most historians have ignored those who engaged in formal political activities from the late nineteenth century through the 1950s. This study is the first to focus on their efforts during this time. In contrast to narratives of the Jim Crow era that portray southern blacks as having little influence on electoral and party politics, this dissertation reveals that they had a significant impact. Using Memphis as a case study, it explores how black men and women maneuvered for political access and negotiated with white elites, especially with machine boss Edward H. Crump. It focuses in particular on Robert R. Church, Jr., who interacted with Crump, mobilized black Memphians, and emerged as the country's most prominent black Republican in the 1920s. Church and other black Republicans carved out a space for themselves in party politics and opened up doors for blacks in the process. This study argues that formal black political mobilization constituted a major prong of the black freedom struggle during the Jim Crow era in the South. In the face of the segregation, disfranchisement, violence, and economic exploitation in the region, a small but significant number of black southerners used politics to fight these injustices. They secured improved public services and other benefits that improved their living conditions as well as achieved leadership positions that challenged stereotypes of black inferiority. They not only ensured that the Republican Party allowed their political participation and took stands for black civil rights, but they also helped change the Democratic Party from a party that embraced white supremacy to one that pushed for civil rights. This study concludes that the political activities of black southerners ultimately helped end legal segregation and laid the groundwork for the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of black voters and black public officials in the South and eventually the election of the nation's first black president.

"People's diplomacy": The diplomatic front of North Vietnam during the war against the United States, 1965-1972

Author: Mehta, Harish C.


Abstract: This doctoral dissertation investigates how the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV, or North Vietnam), under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh, created a "diplomatic front" to implement "people's diplomacy." The main focus is on the period from 1965-1972 when the DRV needed these strategies to win worldwide support and sympathy for the Vietnamese Revolution. The diplomatic front consisted of Vietnamese writers, cartoonists, workers, women, students, artistic performers, filmmakers, architects, medical doctors and nurses, academics, lawyers, and sportspersons. Research in Vietnamese, American, and Canadian archives reveals that the front forged important links with antiwar activists abroad, thus lending greater credibility to their efforts to portray North Vietnam in a positive light. People's diplomacy made it difficult for the United States to prolong the war because the North Vietnamese, together with the peace movement abroad, brought popular pressure on U.S. President Lyndon Johnson to end the war. People's diplomacy was much more effective than traditional DRV diplomacy in gaining the support and sympathy of Westerners who were averse to communism. People's diplomacy damaged the reputation of the United States by exposing U.S. war crimes and casting North Vietnam as a victim of American imperialism. As a result, many of America's Western allies did not send troops or provide aid to South Vietnam. People's diplomacy also
helped North Vietnam gain crucial economic, military, and diplomatic support from the Soviet Union, China, Eastern Europe, Cuba and North Korea.


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