

## 2007-2008 Annual Report

As CESA concludes our second successful year, we are happy to look back at recent accomplishments and ahead to new directions. In 2007-2008, we offered more programs that served UI faculty and students, and we made new alliances with eastern Iowa cultural organizations in our first regional event.

Our fall faculty development workshop on "Ethnic Identities in the Arts" drew together 12 participants from across the country [featured on page 2] and has already resulted in important networks and professional collaborations between University of Iowa faculty and those working in ethnic studies at other colleges and schools. Co-sponsored by the CIC, the workshop created new networks among minority scholars from those schools where there is not critical mass in these research areas. It provided mentoring and feedback on research-in-development and developed UI junior faculty as future leaders. Most interestingly, participants from African American studies and Asian American studies established new dialogue and alliances across these two areas.

Our April 3 "Food, Ethnic Identities, and Memory" Symposium [featured on page 3] brought to campus a historian, a philosopher, a folklorist, and an ethnographer who are all experts in food studies. Their talks drew audiences from UI students, faculty, and staff as well as interested community members from all across Iowa. A special highlight was the professional chef cooking competition (Hawkeye Chef) at the end of the day, an event that CESA collaborated on with several Iowa public and community organizations, including *Edible Iowa River Valley* and Cultural Corridor Alliance of Eastern Iowa. Special funding for this event came from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Harry Oster Folklore and Folk Music Memorial Fund

We also eagerly look ahead to 2008-2009 to the beginning of our *Arts in Everyday Life Initiative, 2008-2011*. Research clusters in: Women of Color in Popular Culture, Critical Food Studies, and Identities and Technoculture are based on current faculty interdisciplinary interests and enthusiasm. Research clusters will have their own advisory boards and develop their own events. Moving from a more generalist approach to the specific clusters will better serve faculty participants in supporting the development of their research. These areas capitalize on strengths at UI that cut across disciplines, signaling some cutting edge approaches associated with humanistic inquiry into the arts and popular culture. Yet, the emphasis on the vernacular and the everyday that seems to emphasize popular culture also includes the fine arts and the relationships among dance, theatre, music, and everyday practices.

Traditional research centers in the humanities have supported "monastic" spaces and resources for individual or small group collaborations. This is a new type of research center with a mission of creative force, dialogue and conversation among faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and the larger community for deepening research and developing awareness of cultural diversity.



Lauren Rabinovitz  
Director, Center for Ethnic Studies and the Arts  
Professor, American Studies and Cinema  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Collegiate Fellow

# CESA Junior Faculty Publications Workshop

## November 1-3, 2007

The first weekend in November 2007, twelve faculty members from colleges and universities around the country gathered in Iowa City for the UI Center for Ethnic Studies and the Arts first Junior Faculty Publications Workshop. The workshop was a resounding success. The nine junior fellows and three facilitators workshopped portions of manuscripts, heard a panel on "publishing your first book in the humanities," attended a lecture by Professor Kent Ono, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and networked over breaks. During the workshop, each fellow's manuscript was discussed in detail and advice, support and constructive critique given.

2007 Junior Faculty Publications Workshop Fellows included:

Assistant Professor Andre Brock, Library and Information Science and Project on the Rhetoric of Inquiry, University of Iowa. Paper title: "Kanye Speaks for the People."

Assistant Professor Mark Chiang, English, University of Illinois at Chicago. Paper title: "Asian American Culture and the Crisis of Political Legitimation."

Assistant Professor Shawn Christian, English and African American Studies, Wheaton College. Paper title: "Making Use of the Harlem Renaissance's Collaborative Impulse in *Brother to Brother*."

Assistant Professor Julie Moody Freeman, African and Black Diaspora Studies, DePaul University. Paper title: "Food for Thought: On Cannibalism, Piracy and the Commodification of the Caribbean."

Assistant Professor Tamiko Nimura, English, University of Puget Sound. Paper title: "Identity, Coalition, Healing and Agency in *The Salt Eaters*."

Assistant Professor Martin Joseph Ponce, English, Ohio State University. Paper title: "The Cross-cultural Musics of Jessica Hagedorn's Postmodernism."

Assistant Professor Miriam Thaggert, English and African American Studies, University of Iowa. Paper title: "Escape from Harlem: Josephine Baker and the Ziegfeld Follies."

Assistant Professor Grace Wang, American Studies, University of California, Davis. Paper title: "Interlopers in the Realm of 'High Culture': Constructing Asian and Asian American Identities through Western Classical Music."

Assistant Professor Deborah Whaley, American Studies and African American Studies, University of Iowa. Paper title: "Black Cat Got Your Tongue?: Making Space for Race, Gender and Sexualities in DC Comics' *Catwoman*."

Three co-facilitators also participated: Associate Professor Aimee Carrillo Rowe, Rhetoric and the Project on the Rhetoric of Inquiry, University of Iowa; Professor Kent Ono, Asian American Studies and Institute of Communication Research, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Professor and Chair of American Studies Lauren Rabinovitz, American Studies and Cinema, Director of

Center for Ethnic Studies and the Arts.

Two national conference panels and two public talks resulted from the connections made at the workshop. Junior Fellow Deborah Whaley organized a panel for the October 2008 American Studies Association Annual Meeting with other junior fellows Grace Wang and Martin Joseph Ponce entitled "Theorizing Race, Gender and Sexuality at the Crossroads of the Popular and the Profane." Senior fellow Aimee Carrillo Rowe and junior fellows Martin Joseph Ponce and Julie Moody-Freeman organized a panel for the March 2008 conference of the Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS) called "Reading 'Race' in Visual Popular Culture." Additionally, a version of junior fellow Tamiko Nimuro's publication workshop essay, "Different Dark Colors: Multiracial Coalitions, Multicultural Literatures" has been accepted for publication in *Brown on Brown: Mobilizing Interethnic Coalition Against Empire*, edited by Shannon Gibney and forthcoming from South End Press.

The Junior Faculty Publications Workshop was funded through the generosity of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), the Midwest academic consortium of teaching and research universities; as well as the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Graduate College and Office of the Provost.

### 07-08 Advisory Board

Aimee Carrillo-Rowe (Rhetoric)  
 Claire Fox (English/Latin American Studies Program)  
 Rebekah Kowal (Dance)  
 John Rapson (Music)  
 Laura Rigal (English/American Studies)  
 Bridget Tsemo (Rhetoric/African American Studies)  
 Omar Valerio-Jimenez (History)

### **CESA Graduate Assistants for 2007-08:**

**Cinda Nofziger**, American Studies  
 Events Planning  
**Jennifer Ambrose**, American Studies  
*Food in America Cookbook* Editorial Assistant  
**Sara Shreve**, American Studies  
*Food in America Cookbook* Production Manager

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## Food, Ethnic Identities and Memory: A Symposium and The Hawkeye Chef Cook-off

CESA sponsored a symposium on “Food, Ethnic Identities and Memory,” which included an exciting event—the Hawkeye Chef Cook-off. The symposium consisted of four lectures by food scholars from around the country. We began the day with a lecture by Professor Lisa Heldke, Philosophy, Gustavus Adolphus, called “Staying Home for Dinner: Ruminations on Local Foods in Cosmopolitan Society.” She addressed ethical and moral issues surrounding eating at the contemporary moment. Professor of History at the University of Minnesota, Jeffrey Pilcher took the audience back in time in his lecture on the politics of selling food in public places, “Who Chased out the Chili ‘Queens’?: Food, Race and Gender in San Antonio, Texas, 1880-1940.” After a light buffet lunch, Riki Saltzman, Iowa State Folklorist with the Iowa Arts Council provided a tour of Iowa foodways, as she described certain uniquely local foods, their methods of production and the story and meaning behind them for Iowans. Assistant Professor Psyche Williams-Forsen, American Studies, University of Maryland, College Park, related cross-cultural food connections in her own and others’ lives in “Culinary Polygamy: Food, Place and Memory in an African and African American Household.”

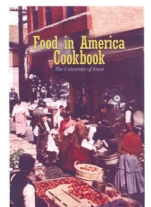
The lecture audience then adjourned to the Iowa Memorial Union Ballroom for what has been termed the “Hawkeye Chef Cook-off,” modeled on television’s Iron Chef. Armed with fundamental kitchen utensils, butane burners and a pantry stocked with basic ingredients and locally produced foods, teams of three chefs from the Iowa Memorial Union, Zins restaurant in Cedar Rapids, and the New Pioneer Co-op received a handful of surprise ingredients and had fifteen minutes to decide on a menu. In one short hour, they had to create their masterpieces. Guest judges included UI President Sally Mason; her husband, UI lecturer Ken Mason; Joe Jennison, the Executive Director of Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance; Beth Bewley-Randall, Executive Director of the Englert Theater and President of Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance; and Wendy Wasserman, Publisher of *Edible Iowa River Valley*. As the chefs prepared their food, guest commentators—Floyd Atkins, Senior Director for Development, UI Foundation; Riki Saltzman, Iowa State Folklorist, Iowa Arts Council; and Michael Knock, Iowa City *Press-Citizen* food columnist—kept the large audience aware of what the chefs were making.

The Iowa Memorial Union team won the event. They offered seared lamb with mushroom polenta, tomato chutney and a watercress salad with seared chicken breast and fruit salad. The top team took home a plaque. The *Edible Iowa River Valley* magazine published the winning recipes in its Spring 2008 edition.

As they watched the exciting event, the audience sampled food from recipes from the new *Food in America Cookbook* published by CESA. Created by Professor Lauren Rabinovitz’s Food in America honors seminar in Fall 2007, folks could pick up their own copy of the cookbook at the event. [To order your own *Food in America Cookbook*, see the box below.]

The “Food, Ethnic Identities and Memory” symposium brought the university together with other community groups in the region. Funding for the event was provided through a generous grant from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Harry Oster Folklore and Folk Music Memorial Fund. Additional funding was provided by the Graduate College and the Office of the Provost. The *Edible Iowa River Valley*, Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance and IMU Food Services lent support for the Hawkeye Chef competition. Chef Barry Greenberg from IMU Food Services provided invaluable guidance in staging the competition.

To order your copy of CESA’s *Food in America Cookbook*, please send a check for \$17 (\$15 for the cookbook; \$2 for shipping) payable to Department of American Studies to the UI Center for Ethnic Studies and the Arts, 715 Jefferson Building, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242 or visit our website, [www.uiowa.edu/~cesa](http://www.uiowa.edu/~cesa) for an order form.



September 2007:

Faculty-graduate student book discussion on Wendy Brown’s *Regulating Aversion: Tolerance in the Age of Identity and Empire* (Princeton, 2006). This is the second time we have organized a reading and discussion session for a new book of considerable importance across disciplines in the humanities. Participants were from: American Studies, Art and Art History, Cinema and Comparative Literature, Communication Studies, English, History, Rhetoric, and Spanish-Portuguese.

## 2008-2009 Arts in Everyday Life Initiative

**RESEARCH CLUSTER 1: WOMEN OF COLOR IN POPULAR CULTURE** *Supports research on representation, production, and reception of race, gender, sexualities, and class in popular culture; encourages breadth of approaches including comparatist, feminist and womanist, and body politics.*

### September 18-20, 2008: Junior Faculty Publication Workshop

CESA has named 10 junior fellows from UI and from Williams College, University of Mississippi, Purdue, Pratt Institute, Carroll College, and University of Oklahoma to a 2 ½ day mentoring workshop on research-in-progress and professional development. Iowa Junior Fellows participating are: Naomi Greyser (Rhetoric/English), Lena Hill (English/African American Studies), Bridget Harris-Tsemo (Rhetoric/African American Studies). Senior fellows and facilitators are: Aimee Carrillo-Rowe (Rhetoric/POROI), Corey Creekmur (English/Cinema and Comparative Lit.), Miriam Thaggert (English/African American Studies), Deborah Whaley (American Studies/African American Studies). Sessions on publishing strategies and a lecture by Senior Fellow Miriam Thaggert will be open to the UI community.

### Advisory Board:

Associate Professor Aimee Carrillo-Rowe (Rhetoric/POROI), Assistant Professor Miriam Thaggert (English/African American Studies), Assistant Professor Deborah Whaley (American Studies/African American Studies)

**RESEARCH CLUSTER 2: CRITICAL FOOD STUDIES** *Supports research on cultural studies and other interdisciplinary approaches to food in contemporary and historical contexts, local and international.*

### Saturday, December 6, 2008: UI Food Studies Workshop

A day-long intensive workshop for UI faculty and graduate students to discuss, share and get feedback on food studies research-in-progress. Call for papers will go out in October. Directed by: Doris Witt.

### Advisory Board:

Associate Professor Doris Witt (English), Assistant Professor Margaret Beck (Anthropology/American Indian and Native Studies)

**RESEARCH CLUSTER 3: IDENTITIES AND TECHNOCULTURE** *Supports research on how ethnicity, race, gender, sexuality, and class affect questions regarding the individual and relationships to new social arrangements fostered by new technologies.*

### Friday-Saturday, April 3-4, 2009: Conference on Identities and Technoculture

Call for papers will appear in early October.

Keynote Speaker: Associate Professor Carolyn de la Pena, Chair of American Studies, and Director of the Davis Humanities Institute, University of California-Davis.

### Advisory Board:

Associate Professor Kembrew McLeod (Communication Studies), Assistant Professor André Brock (SLIS/POROI), Assistant Professor Deborah Whaley (American Studies/African American Studies)