

2008-2009 Annual Report

In our 1st year of the "Arts and Everyday Life" initiative, CESA's three research collectives each hosted a major event, and our goal is to duplicate this ambitious schedule in 2009-10. "Critical Food Studies" provides an exceptional contribution to the campus's sustainability programs and, in spring 2010, we will co-sponsor a conference on food, law, and society. "Identities and Technoculture" plans a spring 2010 symposium on video gaming and identity, and we hope to include a major figure from the gaming industry. "Women of Color in Popular Culture" is proud of its successful national faculty publication workshops and plans in the coming year to refocus its energies on workshops exclusively for UI faculty.

In 2008-09, our conferences and workshops: (1) mentored junior faculty from UI and across the country working on "women of color in popular culture;" (2) provided a forum for UI faculty and graduate students to share research-in-progress in food studies; and (3) allied with a major professional association to host a national conference on "identities and technoculture."

While CESA's topics may not always announce "ethnicity" and "the arts" in obvious ways, CESA's mission to develop and encourage relationships between ethnicity and the arts is strongly at the forefront of each research collective's activities. In this regard, we are delighted at the accomplishments of CESA's faculty fellows, advisory board members, and participants – both for the new research by those specializing in ethnicity and the arts and for the ways CESA has fueled everyone to examine ethnicity more fully in their work, no matter what the subject.

More people than ever participated in CESA's cross-disciplinary research programs. UI faculty and graduate students who worked together this year came from:

- American Studies
- Anthropology
- Cinema and Comparative Literature
- Communication Studies
- English
- Geography
- History
- Library and Information Sciences
- Non-Fiction Writing
- Political Science
- Rhetoric
- Women's Studies

CESA conferences and workshops drew scholars as well from other colleges and universities. In 2008-09, CESA worked with faculty and graduate students from CIC schools: Minnesota, Illinois-Chicago, Michigan, and Purdue. CESA also hosted faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates from: Duke, UCLA, UC-Davis, Texas, Pratt, North Carolina, Williams, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Kansas, Auburn, Kansas State, Delaware, Central Arkansas, Case Western Reserve, South Florida, Drury, Truman State, Augustana, Grinnell, Carroll, and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.



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

2008-09 Accomplishments:

Book:

Aimee Carrillo-Rowe (Rhetoric), *Power Lines: On the Subject of Feminist Alliances*. Duke University Press, 2008.



Articles:

Mark Chiang (2007 CESA Fellow, University Illinois-Chicago), "Capitalizing Form: The Globalization of the Literary Field: A Response to David Palumbo-Liu," *American Literary History* 20, 4, Winter 2008.

On the workshop's session on "Publishing Your First Book:" "The acquisitions editor and manuscript reviewers informed me about what a press looks for, both in a proposal and in the author's response to the readers' reports. It was important to learn the issues a reviewer may have when evaluating a manuscript and to discuss the issues we should be aware of when negotiating our first contracts."

--Miriam Thaggert, Assistant Professor, English/African American Studies, UI, received a book contract for Images of the Black Modern

Abigail Markwyn (2008 CESA Fellow, Carroll College), "Economic Partner and Exotic Other: China and Japan at San Francisco's Panama-Pacific International Exposition," *The Western Historical Review* 39, 4, Winter 2008.

Kevin Mumford (History), "Black Global Metropolis: Sexual History," *Radical History Review*, 103, Winter 2009.

Tamiko Nimura (2007 CESA Fellow, Puget Sound), "Why Do We Always Have to Talk About Race? Teaching American Literature(s) in the Post-Affirmative Action Liberal Arts Environment," with Alison Tracey, in *Teaching Race in the 21st Century: College Teachers Talk about Their Fears, Risks, and Rewards*, Ed. Lisa Guerrero. Palgrave/McMillan, 2008.

Fellowship: Erin D. Chapman (Mississippi), 2009 Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship

Awards: Constance Berman (History) was named a 2009 Cmiel Research Semester Fellow at the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies. **Lauren Rabinovitz (American Studies/Cinema and Comparative Literature)** and **Doris Witt (English/Law)** were named co-directors of the 2009 Cmiel Research Semester at the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies.

"The workshop was quite transformative. We bonded as scholars, kept in touch, organized conference panels, and created lasting networks. My interactions with Asian American Studies scholars were particularly important because this brought something additional to the UI scholarly community."

--Deborah Whaley, Assistant Professor, American Studies/African American Studies

Conferences:

Panel: "Theorizing Race, Gender, and Sexuality at the Crossroads of the Popular and the Profane," American Studies Association, Albuquerque, NM, October 16, 2008: **Martin (Joe) Ponce (2007 CESA Fellow, Ohio State)**, "Dream Jungle, Apocalypse Now, and the Politics of Comparisons." **Grace Wang (2007 CESA Fellow, UC-Davis)**, "A Shot at Half-Exposure: Asian Americans and Reality TV." **Deborah Whaley (2007-08 CESA Fellow, Iowa-American Studies/African American Studies)**, "Rustle Your Bones, Honey Lambs: Torchy Brown Comics, Popular-Front Politics, and Hip-Hop Feminists' Revenge." **Bridget Tsemo-Harris (2008 CESA Fellow, Iowa-Rhetoric/African American Studies)**, Panel chair and commentator.

André Brock (2007 CESA Fellow, Iowa-SLIS/POROI), "When Keeping it Real Goes Wrong: *Resident Evil 5*, Racial Representation, and Gamers." Race and Ethnic Studies Institute, College Station, TX, April 30, 2009.

André Brock, "What is Africa to Me: Race and Ethnicity in *Resident Evil 5* and *Far Cry 2*," Games+Learning+Society Conference 5.0, Madison, WI, June 10, 2009.

Marcia Chatelain (2008 CESA Fellow, Oklahoma-Norman), "Women of Color: Theory, Scholarship, and Activism," National Women's Studies Association Jr. Faculty Institute, Atlanta, GA, June 15, 2009.

Philip Deslippe (American Studies), "Cooking Karma: The Restaurants of Religious Cults in America," Association for the Study of Food and Society, State College, PA, May 28, 2009.

"The CESA workshop provided very helpful feedback for revising the last chapter of my book. It was a great experience overall."

--Mark Chiang, Associate Professor, English, University Illinois-Chicago, author of The Cultural Capital of Asian American Studies (forthcoming NYU Press, fall 2009)



Philip Deslippe (American Studies), "Cooking Karma: The Restaurants of Religious Cults in America," Royal Geographical Society, Manchester, UK, August 26, 2009.

Naomi Greyser (2008 CESA Fellow, Iowa-Rhetoric/English), "On Sympathetic Grounds: The Critical Limits of Sentiment in the Speeches of Maria W. Stewart (1831-33)," American Comparative Literature Association, Cambridge, MA, March 26, 2009.

Brandi Janssen (Anthropology), "Local Food and Local Engagement: Community Supported Agriculture in Eastern Iowa," Society for Applied Anthropology, Santa Fe, NM, March 17, 2009.

Abigail Markwyn (2008 CESA Fellow, Carroll College), "Sexuality, Race and Asian American Women at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition," Women's Studies Consortium 2009, Madison, WI, April 3, 2009.

Vanessa Nakoski (American Studies), "A Sweet Surprise: The High Fructose Corn Syrup Debate," James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference, Iowa City, IA, March 27, 2009.

Tamiko Nimura (2007 CESA Fellow, Puget Sound), "Reimagining the Literature of Cross-racial Coalition and Empowerment: Or, My Crush on Nina Revoyr's *Southland*," MELUS Conference, Spokane, WA, April 2, 2009.

Doris Witt (English/Law), "Law's Larder," Tasting Histories Conference, Davis, CA, February 27, 2009.

2008-09 Events

The Women of Color in Popular Culture hosted a Jr. Faculty Publication Workshop, September 18-20, 2008. During the workshop, each CESA Fellow's article or book chapter-in-progress was discussed in detail, and peers and senior faculty provided feedback. Fellows also attended a public session on publishing a first book, led by University of Iowa Press editor **Holly Carver**, UI Associate Professor **Corey Creekmur** and CESA Director and Professor **Lauren Rabinovitz**, as well as a keynote lecture by UI Assistant Professor of English and African American Studies **Miriam Thaggert** entitled: "Escape from Harlem: Josephine Baker and the Ziegfeld Follies." Fellows gathered for an American Studies dinner at Lauren Rabinovitz's house and for a French dinner at Simone's Plain and Simple, a farm in Wellman, Iowa.

2008 Junior Faculty Publications Workshop Fellows included:

- **Assistant Professor Maria Elena Cepeda**, Latina/o Studies, Williams College. Paper title: "Latina Digital Beauty: Collective Aesthetics, Commerce, and Cultural Citizenship on the Internet."
- **Assistant Professor Erin D. Chapman**, History and African American Studies, The University of Mississippi. Paper title: "Consuming the New Negro: Popular Culture and the Sex-Race Marketplace."
- **Assistant Professor Marcia Chatelain**, Honors and African American Studies, University of Oklahoma-Norman Honors College. Paper title: "Catherine Hardwicke's *Thirteen*: Race, Place and the Teenage Female Body."
- **Dr. Cerise L. Glenn**, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Purdue University, Department of Communication. Paper title: "Sleeping with the Enemy: African American Women with African American Men on 'the Down Low.'"
- **Assistant Professor Naomi Greysier**, English and Rhetoric, University of Iowa. Paper title: "On Sympathetic Grounds....: Race, Rights and Empire in the Rhetoric of Maria W. Steward and Elizabeth Cady Stanton."
- **Assistant Professor Lena Hill**, English and African American Studies, University of Iowa. Paper title: "Mona Lisa Smiles: composing New Portraits of Black Women during the Harlem Renaissance."
- **Assistant Professor Kimberly Lamm**, English, Critical, and Visual Studies, Pratt Institute. Paper title: "The Work of Art in the Age of Racial Reproduction: Nella Larsen's *Quicksand* (1928) and Harlem Renaissance Portraiture."
- **Assistant Professor Abigail Markwyn**, History, Carroll College. Paper title: "Beyond 'dainty celestials' and 'dusky damsels': Asian Pacific Islander Women at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition."
- **Assistant Professor Jesse J. Scott**, English and African American Studies, The University of Mississippi. Paper title: "Black Matriarchy and the Road Between Reparations and Independence in *The Wiz* and Black Popular Music."
- **Associate Fellow Assistant Professor Bridget Tsemo-Harris**, Rhetoric and African American Studies, University of Iowa.

The workshop was co-directed by: **Professor and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Collegiate Fellow Lauren Rabinovitz**, American Studies and Cinema and Comparative Literature; **Associate Professor Aimee Carrillo-Rowe**, Rhetoric; **Associate Professor Corey Creekmur**, English and Cinema and Comparative Literature; **CESA Senior Fellow Assistant Professor Miriam Thaggert**, English and African American Studies; **CESA Senior Fellow Assistant Professor Deborah Whaley**, American Studies and African American Studies.

Funding for this event was generously provided by: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Graduate College, and the Office of the Provost.

On December 6, 2008, **Critical Food Studies** ran a day-long workshop directed by **Associate Professor Doris Witt** (English/Law). UI faculty and graduate students, along with faculty from regional colleges, discussed, shared, and got feedback on food studies research-in-progress across a range of disciplines. The morning session, which focused on Entertainment in the Arts, included the panels "Literary Canons/Culinary Canons" and "Pop Culture/Cross Culture." The afternoon session highlighted Technology, Risk and Resistance and included panels entitled: "Middle Age Modernities," "Technofood and Its Discontents," and "Enacting Alternatives." Panel participants included: **Lisa Angelella** (English), **Connie Berman** (History), **Philip Deslippe** (American Studies), **Kendra Greene** (Non-Fiction Writing), **Brandi Janssen** (Anthropology), **Julia Matney** (Geography/English), **Vanessa Nakoski** (American Studies), **Melissa Schomers** (English), **Jillian Walker** (English), **Lacey Worth** (English), and **Hsin-I Sydney Yueh** (Communications Studies). Graduate student participants found the informal atmosphere, feedback, and constructive critiques by peers and faculty key for readying essays for submission to national and even international conferences [See 08-09 Accomplishments].

2008-09 CESA ADVISORY BOARDS

Women of Color in Popular Culture

Aimee Carrillo-Rowe (Rhetoric)
Miriam Thaggert (English/African American Studies)
Deborah Whaley (American Studies/African American Studies)

Critical Food Studies

Doris Witt (English/Law)
Margaret Beck (Anthropology/American Indian and Native Studies)

Identities and Technoculture

André Brock (Library and Information Sciences/POROI)
Kembrew McLeod (Communication Studies)
Deborah Whaley (American Studies/African American Studies)

2008-09 CESA GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Cinda Nofziger, American Studies
 George Toth, American Studies
 Alexis Stevens, American Studies
 Webmaster: Matt Thomas, American Studies

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Identities & Technoculture

On April 3-4, 2009, CESA and the Mid-America American Studies Association (MAASA) co-hosted the “**Identities and Technoculture Conference**.” Sessions examined contemporary and historical relationships among individuals, technology and society – spanning from new medical technologies to 18th century arts instruments to photography to hip hop to Facebook.

Conference highlights included “**The Technology and Cultural Dynamics of Horse and Buggy Transport**,” an on-site demonstration at Wyndtree Farm facilitated by Professor Kim Marra (Theatre Arts/ American Studies), Teresa Mulhausen and Fred the horse!

Associate Professor Carolyn de la Peña (American Studies, UC-Davis) delivered the keynote address, “**From Consumption to Production to Ecology: Tracing Pasts and Futures of American Techno-Identities**.”

De la Peña argued for a new “ecological” approach, filtering the study of technology through socio-historical context as well as scholarship across the humanities and the sciences. She illustrated her “call” by previewing her upcoming book on the history of artificial sweetener. She showed how the history of gender roles, nutrition science, agribusiness development and economics in the 1920s-1930s, chemists and research science, and women’s beauty culture must be interwoven to understand the cultural importance of a “simple” food technology.



Participants were also treated to the movie premiere of *Copyright Criminals: This is a Sampling Sport* (2009), a documentary by **Associate Professor Kembrew McLeod** (Communication Studies) and Iowa alum **Benjamin Franzen** on hip hop sampling and copyright piracy issues.



Many papers discussed the ways that individuals and groups have politicized existing technologies and managed them for group identification and expression. Case studies

examined everything from graffiti artists, amateur photographers, inventors, and video artists to Internet

discussions about racial politics and Barack Obama. Other papers zeroed in instead on how the politics of individual technological instances have dealt a differential impact based on ethnic and other markers of difference. In this regard, papers examined such modern medical developments as birth control pills, African American DNA ancestry testing, surrogacy, and pharmaceuticals and hyperactivity. The conference drew scholars whose interests in technology and the individual centered not only on medical examples but on the arts, automobile transportation and, of course, the application of contemporary computer technologies for social networking.



“**Identities and Technoculture**” was made possible with support from: The Mid-America American Studies Association, The University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Office of the Provost, Graduate College, and Department of American Studies.

From Top-Bottom: 1) Professor Kim Marra (Iowa), Teresa Mulhausen and Fred the horse demonstrate the dynamics of buggy transport. 2) Conference participants Kim Marra (Iowa), George Toth (Iowa), Deborah Whaley (Iowa), Kimberly Lamm (Pratt), keynote speaker Carolyn de la Peña (UC-Davis), and Silvio Gaggi (South Florida) are obviously enjoying themselves at the conference wrap-up session. 3) Mark Mattes (Iowa) and keynote speaker Carolyn de la Peña (UC-Davis) at the conference reception. 4) From l. to r., Michael Krysko (Kansas State), Sherrie Tucker (Kansas), Deborah Whaley (Iowa), Lauren Rabinovitz (Director, CESA), and Cheryl Lester (Kansas).