Letter from the Director

As we thaw out from a rough winter, the Cultural Studies Program is getting ready for an exciting spring! Already this year we have co-sponsored seven campus-wide events: “Digital Paradox: Piracy, Ownership, and the Constraints of African Screen Media” conference; a lecture, affiliated with Themester, by Professor Carlos Jáuregui (University of Notre Dame); the Queer Disorientations Film Series; Diálogos: The Eleventh Annual Graduate Student Research Conference in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese; the English Department Graduate Student Conference; “Expanded Cinema” performance and lecture by Luis Recoder, Sandra Gibson and Olivia Block; and the monumental Bourroughs Century, a five-day celebration commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of William S. Burroughs that brought IU together with the larger Bloomington community to explore avant-garde and experimental aesthetics.

There is also some important administrative news to report. Please welcome me in congratulating Ranu Samantrai (English), who was elected to the Cultural Studies Advisory Committee for a two-year term (2013-2015). She joins Patrick Dove (Spanish and Portuguese) and Radhika Parameswara (Journalism). And please join me in thanking Tracey Metivier for her dedication to the Program as our graduate assistant. Tracey has been working behind the scenes for the past two years to make sure that the Cultural Studies Program continues to flourish. Tracey helped me to transition into the position as Director and I will especially miss her as she completes her doctoral dissertation in the English Department. We will be looking later this semester to fill her position—see the job description inside on page 9.

Our graduate student minors continue to produce exciting work. Last year’s Brantlinger/Narremore Essay Prize went to Matthew Hale (Communication and Culture) for his essay “Cosplay: Intertextuality, Public Texts, and the Body Fantastic.” Second place was awarded to Christopher Miles (Communication and Culture) for “FILIAVIATION: On the Cultural and Technological Evolution of ‘Drones.’” We also awarded three Cultural Studies travel grants to John McGlothlin (English), Lynn Ramert (English), and Jennifer Jones (Communication and Culture). Information about this year’s prizes and grants can be found inside on page 9. Graduate students should also remember that as an institutional member of the Cultural Studies Association, we are permitted three complimentary student registrations for this year’s annual conference. Please contact me if you plan to attend!

Finally, I am extremely excited for the 18th Annual Cultural Studies Conference, which will be held April 18-19. Claudia Breger (Germanic Studies) and Benjamin Robinson (Germanic Studies) are co-organizing the event, “Engagements, Events, Energies: The Humanities Between Affirmation and Critique.” Five renowned speakers will deliver papers with responses from CS affiliates, and a roundtable of CS faculty will cap off the event by thinking through the implications of the theme for cultural studies as a field and specifically at IU. A full schedule is inside on page 7.

Shane Vogel, March 2014
Faculty and Student Spotlight

**Patrick Brantlinger**, James Rudy Professor of English (Emeritus), and one of the founders of the Cultural Studies Program, published *States of Emergency: Essays on Culture and Politics* (Indiana University Press, 2013). In his latest book, Brantlinger probes the state of contemporary America. He takes aim at neoliberal economists, the Tea Party movement, gun culture, immigration, waste value, surplus people, the war on terror, technological determinism, and globalization. An invigorating return to classic cultural studies with its concern for social justice and challenges to economic orthodoxy, *States of Emergency* is a delightful mix of journalism, satire, and theory that addresses many of the most pressing issues of our time.

**Jason Baird Jackson** recently published *Yuchi Folklore: Cultural Expression in a Southeastern Native American Community* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2013). The result of twenty years of collaboration with Yuchi people and one of just a handful of works considering their experience, *Yuchi Folklore* brings Yuchi cultural expression to light. In describing oratory, food, architecture, and dance, Jackson visits and revisits the themes of cultural persistence and social interaction, initially between Yuchi and other peoples east of the Mississippi and now in northeastern Oklahoma. The Yuchi exist in a complex, shifting relationship with the federally recognized Muscogee (Creek) Nation, with which they were removed to Indian Territory in the 1830s. Jackson shows how Yuchi cultural forms, values, customs, and practices constantly combine as Yuchi people adapt to new circumstances and everyday life. To be Yuchi today is, for example, to successfully negotiate a world where commercial rap and country music coexist with Native-language hymns and doctoring songs. While centered on Yuchi community life, this volume of essays also illustrates the discipline of folklore studies and offers perspectives for advancing a broader understanding of Woodlands peoples across the breadth of the American South and East. In 2013, he also published "The Story of Colonialism, or Rethinking the Ox-Hide Purchase in Native North America and Beyond" in the *Journal of American Folklore*. 
Spotlight (continued)

Stephanie Kane attended an inspiring and trans-disciplinary conference about “Rivers of the Anthropocene” (Indianapolis, 23-25 January) sponsored by the IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute, Center for Earth and Environmental Science, and Public History Program. She presented a paper entitled: “Engineering an Island City-State: Singapore.” See: http://rivers.iupui.edu/cms/conference/

David McDonald published My Voice is My Weapon: Music, Nationalism, and the Poetics of Palestinian Resistance (Duke University Press, 2013) based on his independent field research in the Palestinian territories. In his monograph McDonald rethinks the conventional history of the Palestinian crisis through an ethnographic analysis of music and musicians, protest songs, and popular culture.

Charting a historical narrative that stretches from the late-Ottoman period through the end of the second Palestinian intifada, McDonald examines the shifting politics of music in its capacity to both reflect and shape fundamental aspects of national identity. He also published the edited volume: Palestinian Music and Song: Expression and Resistance since 1900 (Indiana University Press, 2013). From the perspective of scholars, performers, composers, and activists, Palestinian Music and Song examines the many ways in which music has been a force of representation, nation building, and social action. In addition, he had an article published last fall in the flagship journal for performance studies: “Imaginaries of Exile and Emergence in Israeli Jewish and Palestinian Hip-Hop.” The Drama Review 57.3 (2013): 69-87.

James Naremore published An Invention without a Future: Essays on Cinema (University of California Press, 2014). In 1895, Louis Lumière supposedly said that cinema is “an invention without a future.” Naremore uses this legendary remark as a starting point for a meditation on the so-called death of cinema in the digital age, and as a way of introducing a wide-ranging series of his essays on movies past and present. Important themes recur: the relations between modernity, modernism, and postmodernism; the changing mediascape and death of older technologies; and the need for robust critical writing in an era when print journalism is waning and the humanities are devalued. His short essay on Alfred Hitchcock’s Foreign Correspondent has been published in an illustrated booklet that accompanies the Criterion Collection of the film. Additionally, he has been awarded an Academy Scholar’s Fellowship by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for a proposed book on filmmaker Charles Burnett.

David McDonald’s My Voice is My Weapon: Music, Nationalism, and the Poetics of Palestinian Resistance

David McDonald’s Palestinian Music and Song: Expression and Resistance since 1900
Radhika Parameswaran is the new editor of Communication, Culture, and Critique, a journal that provides an international forum for critical, interpretive, and qualitative research that examines the role of communication and cultural criticism in today's world. Her book chapter "Globalization, beauty regimes, and mediascapes in the new India," was published in The Routledge Companion to Media and Gender (Routledge, 2014). She was an invited expert contributor to a roundtable discussion for a forthcoming special issue of Interactions: Studies in Communication and Culture, which focuses on the cultures of childhood in different national and transnational media and popular culture contexts. Her article "Watching Barkha Dutt: Turning On the News in Television Studies," was selected for reprinting as a book chapter in Television at Large in South Asia (Routledge, 2014).

She accepted invitations to join the editorial boards of Critical Studies in Media Communication, Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies, and the Asian Journal of Communication. She served as a research expert for the second time at a junior faculty mentoring workshop in the Department of Communication at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She delivered paper and panel presentations at the annual Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in Washington, DC and the interdisciplinary "Framing the Global" Conference at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Spotlight (continued)

Jon Simons published some work from his research project on Israeli peace imagery: “Promoting Peace: Peace Now as a graphic peace movement, 1987-1993," in a special issue on "Israelis and Palestinians seeking, building and acting peace," of the journal Quest: Issues in Contemporary Jewish History 5 (2013), available online at:

http://www.quest-cdecjournal.it/focus.php?id=330

Some reflections on his recent field work in Israel/Palestine, presented in the Department of Communication & Culture with the title “A Stony Field, An Olive Grove, An Iron Dome: Researching Peace in Israel/Palestine at a Time of War," are available in video form at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9P3L20RWpk

He also presented “Performing and Projecting Peace: A Comparison of Combatants for Peace and Ta’ayush” at the Association for Israel Studies, UCLA, June 24-26, 2013. In addition, less formal renditions of his research appears on his blog, Picturing Peace: Israeli Images of Peace (http://israelipeaceimages.com/) as well as some online curating of activist video footage, “Partnering in Peace, Documenting Occupation,” on The Vision Machine: Media – War – Peace

http://thevisionmachine.com/

Spotlight (continued)

Michiko Suzuki was awarded the 2013 Florence Howe Award in Foreign Languages and Literatures for an outstanding essay by a feminist scholar by the Women’s Caucus for the Modern Languages. She received this award for her article, “The Husband’s Chastity: Progress, Equality and Difference in 1930s Japan” published in Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 38 (2013): 327-52. She also guest edited a special issue for the U.S.-Japan Women’s Journal, titled “Women’s Voices, Bodies and the Nation in 1930s-40s Wartime Literature.” This issue includes her article, “Fat, Disease and Health: Female Body and Nation in Okamoto Kanoko’s ‘Nikutai no shinkyoku,’” U.S.-Japan Women’s Journal 45 (2013): 33-49. In 2013, she gave an invited talk titled “The Science of Sexual Difference: Havelock Ellis, Ogura Seizaburo and Early Twentieth Century Japanese Feminism” at Dartmouth College. She also received an East Asian Studies Center travel grant to present a paper for the European Association for Japanese Studies Japan Conference, and gave invited talks at Kyoto University and Nihon University. She has received the College Arts and Humanities Institute Travel Grant for her project titled “Representing Repatriation: Narrating War and Gender in the ‘Autobiographical’ Fiction of Miyao Tomiko” to conduct archival research in Kochi, Japan, in summer 2014. She will also be conducting research on representations of kimono in 1950s-60s film in Tokyo at Waseda University, through the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs Short-Term Faculty Exchange Program.

Shane Vogel delivered the keynote address at the Queer Nightlife conference at Northwestern University and the keynote address at the Second Annual Black Queer Sexualities Graduate Student Conference at Princeton University.

Brantlinger/Narremore Essay Prize:

Matthew Hale (Communication and Culture) for his essay “Cosplay: Intertextuality, Public Texts, and the Body Fantastic.”

Second Place: Christopher Miles (Communication and Culture) for his essay “FILIAVIATION: On the Cultural and Technological Evolution of ‘Drones.’”

Cultural Studies Travel Grants:

Lynn Ramert (English)

Jennifer Jones (Communication and Culture)

John McGlothlin (English).

John presented papers at both the Cultural Studies Association and American Studies Association. In addition to receiving the Cultural Studies travel grant he also received a College of Arts and Sciences Conference Travel Award.

Cultural Studies Graduate Students:

The formation of ‘Cultural Studies’ under this title in the later decades of the 20th century drew on diverging traditions and impulses. Continental European critical theory, including the debates between Sartre and Adorno on the meaning of “committed literature,” were joined – as well as contested – by the project of Marxist British Cultural Studies. In and since the 1980s, new historicism as well as a range of adaptations of deconstructivist criticism by feminist, postcolonial, critical race and queer studies scholars were hotly debated. In the 1990s, many hoped – or feared – that these various approaches loosely grouped together as Cultural Studies had acquired relative hegemony, and were in the process of lastingly reconfiguring humanities scholarship within – and beyond – the traditional fields of literature and art criticism.

Since the new century, however, the energies of these various critical approaches have been perceived to wane; some have proclaimed the end of the era of Cultural Studies as such (see critically Hegeman, The Cultural Return). Against the backdrop of widespread calls for a return to the canon and a recentering of literary and art criticism around questions of aesthetics or poetics, the contours of a politically engaged “cultural studies” may in fact seem threatened – which, obviously, concerns the future of our distinguished program by that name. However, emerging twenty-first century approaches offer a host of different, more or less immediately resonant, paradigms that we hope to bring into timely dialogues with the aforementioned older paradigms. Thus, the returns to aesthetics and poetics are, upon closer investigation, highly heterogeneous; many of their proponents argue for complex interpenetrations of aesthetics and politics through revised historicist approaches or the methodologies of ‘surface reading’ & co. Simultaneously, new paradigms of explicitly political, often (by intention) radical scholarship have found broader resonance in contemporary academia, ranging from Badiouian epistemologies of the revolutionary event to the presumably subversive energy flows of affect studies and “new materialism.” While these new approaches are often programmatically opposed to twentieth-century models of engaged scholarship (with their sociological, ideology-critical, discourse-analytical etc. affiliations), we hope to begin a dialogue that moves beyond these frontlines, and opens new perspectives for contemporary articulations of the complex relations between aesthetics and politics, culture, art and worldmaking for twenty-first century Cultural Studies in the curricular as well as broader sense. Specifically, we hope to reflect on the history, legacy and future of Cultural Studies as a project and curricular formation in the context of broader debates in the humanities today, against the backdrop of 20th century traditions of ‘engaged’ or ‘political’ scholarship and twenty-first century turns ‘beyond’ these formations. As a result of these conference discussions, we aim to edit a volume drawing together a selection of the most important contributions presented at the event.
ENGAGEMENTS, EVENTS, ENERGIES:
THE HUMANITIES BETWEEN AFFIRMATION AND CRITIQUE

Conference Schedule

Distinguished invited speakers will present 30-minute papers with a formal 15-minute response from a CS faculty member. There will also be a roundtable discussion following these featured speakers made up of CS faculty that will discuss the issues raised and think through the implications of the theme for Cultural Studies as a field and, more specifically, Cultural Studies at IU.

Co-sponsors at this time include American Studies, Communication and Culture, English, and College Arts and Humanities Institute (CAHI)

Friday, April 18th (IMU, Frangipani Room)

1pm
Welcome remarks: Shane Vogel, Claudia Breger, Ben Robinson

1:15-2:30pm
Rita Felski, Kennan Professor of English, University of Virginia: “Critical and Postcritical Reading”
Response: Oana Panaite, Associate Professor of French

2:45-4pm
Susan Hegeman, Professor of English, University of Florida: “We Have Always Been Critical; or, the Humanities Inside and Out”
Response: John Lucaites, Associate Dean of Arts & Humanities

Coffee break

4:30-6:30pm  Roundtable I (IU faculty):
Claudia Breger, Professor of German and Chair, Gender Studies
Ranu Samantrai, Associate Professor of English
Jon Simons, Associate Professor of Communication and Culture
Shane Vogel, Director, Cultural Studies Program and Associate Professor of English

Saturday, April 19th (IMU, Oak Room)

10-11:15am
Lee Medovoi, Professor of English, University of Arizona: “Biopolitics Reconsidered: Interiority, Abstraction, Environmentality”
Response: Christoph Irmischer, Provost Professor of English

11:30am-12:45pm
Nicholas Brown, Associate Professor of English, University of Illinois at Chicago: “What’s on TV?”
Response: Brenda Weber, Associate Professor of Gender Studies

Lunch break (everyone on their own).

2:30-3:45pm
Pheng Cheah, Professor of Rhetoric, University of California Berkeley: “Postcolonial Literature as World Literature: World Heritage: Preservation and the Unworlding of the Subaltern World”
Response: Jonathan Elmer, Professor of English, Director, College Arts & Humanities Institute

4-6pm  Roundtable II (IU faculty):
Stephanie DeBoer, Assistant Professor of Communication and Culture
Eileen Julien, Professor of French and Comparative Literature, Director, Institute of Advanced Study at IU
Ben Robinson, Associate Professor of German
Rebekkah Sheldon, Assistant Professor of English

Followed by a reception at the home of Shane Vogel
New Affiliated Faculty

LaMonda Horton-Stallings is Associate Professor of Gender Studies. Her research interests include African American literature and culture, sexuality studies, and folklore. Her book, *Mutha is Half a Word!: Intersections of Folklore, Vernacular, Myth, and Queerness in Black Female Culture* (2007), critically engages folklore and vernacular theory, black cultural studies, and queer theory to examine the representation of sexual desire in fiction, poetry, stand-up comedy, neo-soul, and hip-hop created by black women. She is also co-editor and contributing author to *Word Hustle: Critical Essays and Reflections on the Works of Donald Goines* (2011), which offers a critical analysis of street literature and its most prolific author. She has also published numerous articles and essays on gender and sexuality in black literature and culture.

Elizabeth Ellcessor is an assistant professor in Communication and Culture. Her work combines a background in media and cultural studies with the emerging field of disability studies, asking how attending to embodied differences may result in new understandings of media technologies, content, and audiences. Her current book project, *Restricted Access: Disability, Digital Media, and Participation*, provides a history and critique of digital media accessibility for people with disabilities while intervening in current debates about participation, neoliberalism, and the nature of the public in a digital world. She teaches courses on contemporary television and digital media, media industries, and television history.

Stephen Selka is a cultural anthropologist who earned his PhD from the University at Albany, SUNY in 2003. His research focuses on religion, politics and cultural heritage tourism in Afro-Brazilian communities in northeastern Brazil, where he has conducted ethnographic research since 1999. His first book, *Religion and the Politics of Ethnic Identity in Bahia*, Brazil (University Press of Florida, 2007) explores the various ways that Afro-Brazilians in both Christian and African-derived religious communities construct their ethnic identities and struggle against racism. His current research focuses on Afro-Catholic religious practice and African American tourism to Brazil. This research is the basis for a manuscript in process that examines processes of diasporic identification that take place through encounters and dialogues between Afro-Brazilians and African Americans. It also explores the ongoing transformations of Afro-Brazilian religious practice resulting from the state of Bahia’s increasing investment in its Afro-Brazilian cultural heritage and the growth of tourism focusing on Afro-Brazilian culture. In addition, it addresses critical concerns about the political and commercial appropriation of Afro-Brazilian culture that have emerged in response to these developments.
Brantlinger-Naremore Essay Prize

The Cultural Studies Program is pleased to accept submissions for the Brantlinger-Naremore Prize for best graduate essay in Cultural Studies, written in the Fall 2013 semester.

The Brantlinger-Naremore Prize recognizes an essay written by a graduate student that offers a serious engagement with issues in the field of Cultural Studies either at the theoretical level or by modeling analyses of cultural artifacts and processes. Essays written for graduate classes during the Fall 2013 semester, either joint-listed within the program or in other departments (provided they have some Cultural Studies content), are eligible for submission. Winners will be announced by the end of June. First prize consists of a $300 award, and a second prize consists of a $200 award. Please send submissions to Shane Vogel, Ballantine Hall 442. Submissions must be received by May 19, 2014.

Cultural Studies Travel Grants

The Cultural Studies Program is pleased to accept applications for modest travel grants to assist graduate students in presenting their scholarship at significant scholarly conferences in the 2013-2014 academic year. Eligible Cultural Studies minors should submit the following:

- a cover letter describing your current research, a description of the conference (including its location), and your progress towards completing the Cultural Studies minor
- an abstract of the paper to be presented (or already presented)
- confirmation that the paper has been accepted for presentation.

The deadline for travel grants is April 30, 2014. Materials should be sent to Shane Vogel, Ballantine Hall 442.

Job Posting: Graduate Student Assistant for the Cultural Studies Program

[Fall 2014/Spring 2015]

The Cultural Studies Program seeks a graduate assistant to begin August 1, 2014.

The graduate assistant will work closely with the Director of Cultural Studies in managing the day-to-day operation of the program. Responsibilities include:

- working with Registrar and scheduling officers from affiliated departments to joint-list classes with Cultural Studies
- working on the annual newsletter
- helping to organize the annual Cultural Studies Conference
- monitoring email
- communicating pertinent information through the Program's electronic mailing lists
- additional administrative tasks as necessary

Compensation: The position begins on August 1, 2014 and is configured as a 10hr/week position through May 31, 2015. The stipend is $7500. In most cases you will still be able to teach your normal teaching assignments.

Qualifications: This is a work-study position and the assistant will need to apply and be eligible for Federal Work Study funding. The ideal candidate should be comfortable working both independently and collaboratively. Strong time management, problem-solving and communication skills as well as a positive attitude are a must. Familiarity with HTML highly desired.

How to Apply: Please send a cover letter expressing interest and qualifications to Shane Vogel, Director, at cstudies@indiana.edu by April 30, 2014. Direct any questions regarding the position to Shane Vogel at shvogel@indiana.edu.
Next year, the 19th Annual Cultural Studies Conference, “Global Moral Panics,” will take place in the Fall Semester (September 26-27, 2014).

The concept of a “moral panic” has been enormously useful to students of social life across the disciplines. Moral panics are instances in which agents of social control, particularly the police, but also the media and other agents of government and the private sector, amplify a given deviance in the public imagination. Moral panics are not completely made up; they have concrete phenomena behind them. In identifying targets of collective anxiety, however, they are wonderfully diagnostic of prevailing fears, values and hopes.

A strong candidate for a consequential moral panic in our day is the question of human trafficking. The hype abounds with fury for the evil of the pimps and coyotes, sympathy for the innocent victims, often pictured as nubile and young, and fiery resolution to rescue. Hugely exaggerated numbers elevate the decibel level of outrage. From mainstream media representations, one would think that the vast majority of human trafficking is sex trafficking. The focus on sex work rouses prudish outrage and eclipses the view of laborers who cross borders to survive, performing non-sexual work that is as or more difficult, dangerous, and degrading than sex work, and much more poorly paid. Absent is any analysis of the global inequalities that send some part of the world’s poor into motion to find work. Few voices take the least bit notice of the inherent coercions of capitalism to force people to sell their labor anywhere, ensuring poor working conditions for many laborers native to a given country. Few observe how neoliberal capitalism pushes people harder and further to the world’s archipelago of margins. Within the discussion of sex trafficking itself, there is little to no sense of the structures of patriarchy and male privilege that make sex work tactical for women and young people of all genders, and of the fetishizing and exoticizing charge of orientalism that makes it more profitable for people from certain regions when they travel to labor in others.

This conference will examine global moral panics as the world’s dispossessed in motion, and consider the range of state, market, and cultural forces that shape their acts of border crossing. Applying conceptual tools from cultural analysis such as discourse and representation to critique the reformist models that dominate law and social science, the presentations in this two-day conference will offer alternate framings of human trafficking, migration, disease transmission, and criminality. They will introduce analyses of self and other, space and place, citizen and criminal, and national and foreigner into discussions of global moral panics. Presenters will interrogate how conventional framings of crises support specific governance projects by upholding particular visions of social order and global “security” that serve the needs of transnational capital.