

Cultural Studies Newsletter

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Letter from the Director

It has been a very busy year for Cultural Studies at IU! Already we have co-sponsored nine campus-wide events: an upcoming talk by former US Army Ranger turned war resister Rory Fanning, "Worth Fighting For: An Army Ranger's Journey Out of the Military and Across America"; the Queer Disorientations Film Series; graduate student conferences in Spanish and Portuguese (Diálogos XII) and English ("Breaking Futures: Imaginative (Re)visions of Time"); a visit from Ghanaian filmmaker Owusu; "Around La Dolce Vita," a film series organized by Richard Dyer; a panel discussion with actor George Chakiris and a related screening of *West Side Story*; a lecture by Amy Bentley, author of *Baby Food: Taste, Health, and the Industrialization of the American Diet*; and *Feminist Art as Self Help*, a four day event of film screenings, workshops, and a dance party.

Our graduate student minors continue to produce exciting work. This year's Brantlinger/Naremore Essay Prize went to Matthew Von Vogt (Communication and Culture) for his essay "Benjamin and the Nineteenth-Century Cultural Vernacular: An Investigation into Colportage." Second place was awarded to Elizabeth Kaszynski (Communication and Culture) for her essay "Feeding the Dream: The Sleep Cycle of Capitalism and Waking to a New World." Note that beginning this year, the Brantlinger/Naremore Prize will be awarded to essays written in a Cultural Studies course during the calendar year (Spring 2015 and Fall 2015) rather than the academic year, which allows for easier budgetary management and financial disbursement. Information about this year's prizes and grants can be found inside on page 8.

There is some important administrative news to share. Please join me in welcoming Elizabeth Elcessor (Communication and Culture) and Marvin Sterling (Anthropology), who both joined Ranu Samantrai (English) on the current Advisory Committee. I am deeply grateful to Patrick Dove (Spanish and Portuguese) and Radhika Parameswara (Journalism) for their service on the Advisory Committee the past two years. I'm also very pleased to introduce Whitney Sperrazza, our new graduate assistant. Whitney is completing a dissertation in the English Department on intimacy and perversion in early modern poetry and performance. She hit the ground running in her new position,

and it's a testament to her grace and skill that there was nary a bump in the daily functioning of the program during her transition. We also welcome three new affiliated faculty (learn more about them on page 7). And finally, special thanks goes to Purnima Bose (English) who will step in as Acting Director of the Cultural Studies Program in 2015-2016, while I am on research leave. Thank you, Purnima!

Many thanks to all of you who attended the 19th Annual Cultural Studies Conference this past October. This year we moved the conference from the spring to the fall semester, which increased interest and participation. The conference brought 11 outside speakers and 6 IU faculty together to consider the phenomenon of "Global Moral Panics": issues hyped in the media and public discourse that crystallize problems of geopolitical inequality, including human trafficking and sex work, tourism, immigration, piracy, epidemics, child soldiering, invasive species, climate change and more. Participants explored the symbolic strategies and social conditions behind these phenomena so as to expose, subvert, and redirect the disciplinary, policing approaches that have dominated crisis debates of late. Organized by Micol Seigel (American Studies/History), Courtney Mitchel (American Studies), and the Global Moral Panics Working Group at IU, the conference was a tremendous success. Special thanks are due to Carol Glaze in American Studies, who provided crucial logistical support. More information about the conference and the GMP Working Group can be found at <http://www.globalmoralpanics.com>.

I am looking forward to the 20th Annual Conference, which will take place October 23-24, 2015. Rebekah Sheldon (English) and Jeanne Vaccaro (Gender Studies) are co-organizing the event on the theme of "Child Matters." The conference is coordinated with the release of two special issues of the journals *Women's Studies Quarterly* and *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* on the topic of the child and reproduction in the cultural imaginary. A full description of the event can be found on page 6.

-Shane Vogel, March 2015

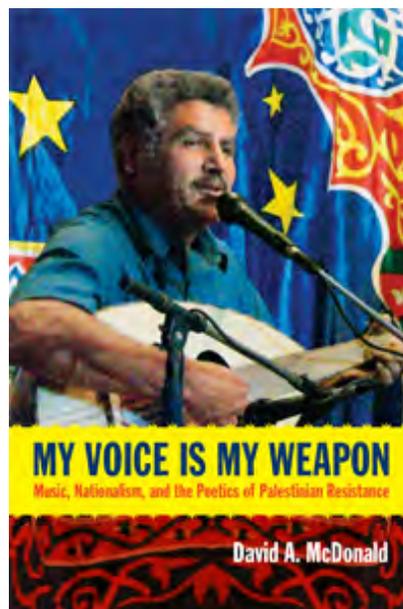
Faculty and Student Spotlight

Marissa Moorman received a CAHI fellowship to be taken in Spring 2016 for her project "Powerful Frequencies: Radio, State Power, and the Cold War in Angola, 1933-2002." In December 2014 she published "Anatomy of Kuduro: Articulating the Angolan Body Politic after the War," *African Studies Review*, 57 (3), December 2014: 21-40. And her co-authored chapter with Anne Pitcher, "City Building in Post-Conflict, Post-Socialist Luanda: Burying the Past with Phantasmagorias of the Future," came out in Ntone Edjabe and Edgar Pieterse, eds., *African Cities Reader III: Land, Property, & Value* (Johannesburg: Chimurenga, December 2014 online, in print 2015).

David McDonald received two major research awards: His book, *My Voice is My Weapon: Music, Nationalism, and the Poetics of Palestinian Resistance*, was awarded the prestigious Chicago Folklore Prize by the American Folklore Society. This annual prize recognizes the most significant work of Folklore scholarship for the year. He was also awarded the Jaap Kunst Prize by the Society for Ethnomusicology, for his article titled, "Imaginariness of Exile and Emergence in Israeli Jewish and Palestinian Hip-Hop." The Jaap Kunst prize recognizes the best article in the field of ethnomusicology (2014).

Purnima Bose presented her paper, "Canine Rescue, Civilian Casualties, and the War on Terror," at the Annual Conference on South Asia last October in Madison, Wisconsin. In the same month, she also gave a paper on "The Capitalist-Rescue Narrative, Afghanistan, and the War on Terror" at the Sawyer Seminar Conference on "Imagining Alternative Modernities: Interventions from the Balkans and South Asia" at Ohio State University. She delivered a co-authored paper with Laura E. Lyons, "The Educating Mission: Soft Power and Iraq," at the ACL(X) Otherwise Annual Conference on the State of Comparative Literature at the University of South Carolina in February. Bose's article, "Without Osama: Tere Bin Laden and the War on Terror," was recently published in Susan Jeffords and Fahad Yahya Al-Sumait's volume *Covering Bin Laden: Global Media and the World's Most Wanted Man*. A special issue of *Biography on Corporate Personhood*, co-edited with Laura E. Lyons, appeared last fall.

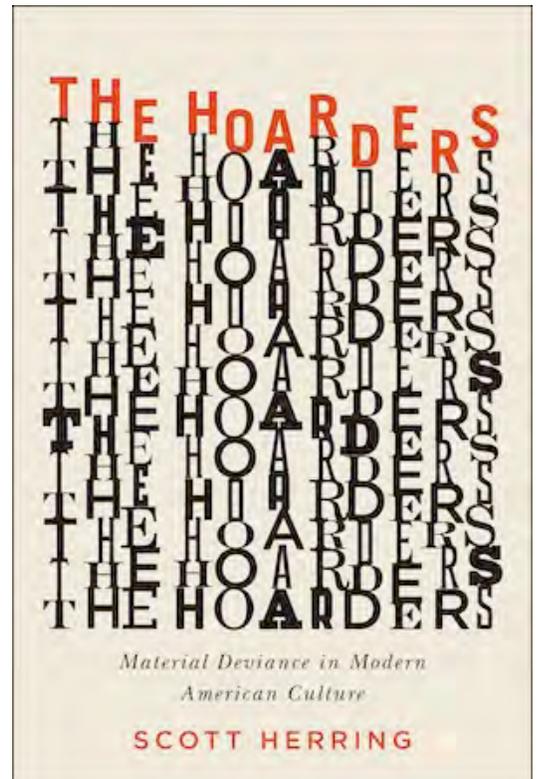
Shane Vogel received a 2015-2016 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship and a 2015-2016 American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship for his current research project, "Stolen Time: Black Fad Performance and the Calypso Craze." He published essays in *Signs: Journal of Women and Culture in Society*, *Social Text*, and Blackwell's forthcoming *Companion to the Harlem Renaissance*. He also gave talks at Yale University, New York University, and Washington University in St. Louis.



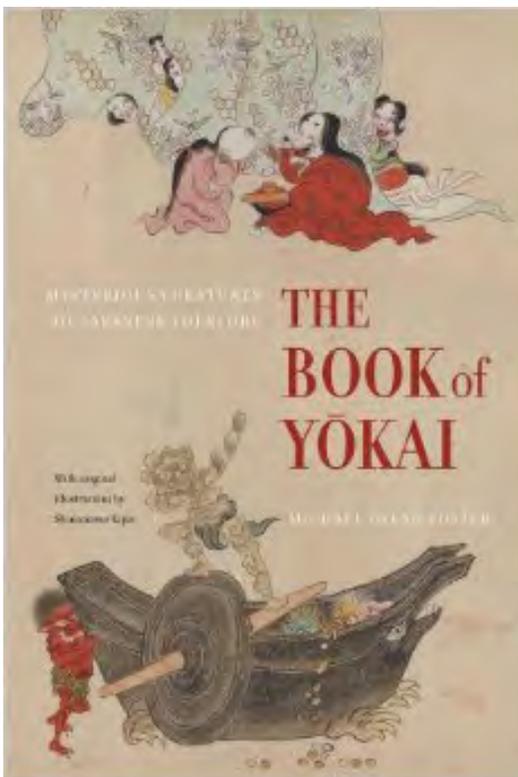
David McDonald's *My Voice is My Weapon: Music, Nationalism, and the Poetics of Palestinian Resistance*

Spotlight (continued)

Scott Herring published a new book, *The Hoarders: Material Deviance in Modern American Culture*, with University of Chicago Press that was favorably reviewed in *The New Yorker* and was featured in *The Boston Globe* and *Times Higher Education*. A forthcoming edited collection, *The Cambridge Companion to American Gay and Lesbian Literature* is set for release in late spring of 2015 from Cambridge University Press. Articles appeared in *GLQ* in a special double issue on "Queering the Middle" as well as *PMLA*. He also gave talks at the Seventh Annual DC Queer Studies Symposium on "Queer Intimacies," the "New Matters and Queer Life" symposium at Yale University, and a series of lectures and workshops at the University of Sydney that culminated with a public lecture at Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.



Scott Herring's *The Hoarders: Material Deviance in Modern American Culture*



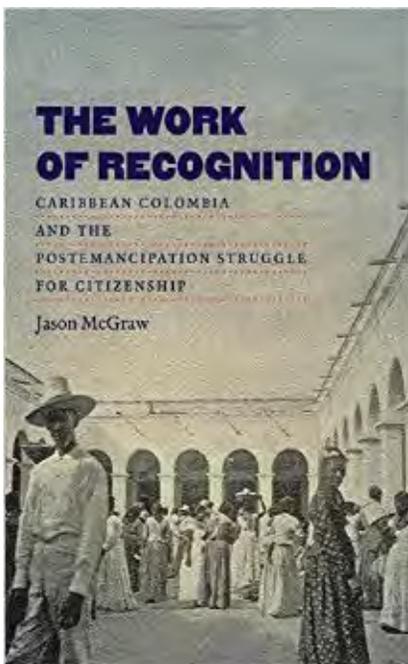
Michael Dylan Foster's *The Book of Yōkai: Mysterious Creatures of Japanese Folklore*

Michael Dylan Foster recently published *The Book of Yōkai: Mysterious Creatures of Japanese Folklore* (University of California Press 2015). The book has been receiving a lot of attention, with an excerpt in the *Huffington Post*, a feature article in the *Japan Times*, and an upcoming feature in the *Sunday New York Times*. Foster has given several presentations based on his current ethnographic project, including one in early March at Columbia University entitled "Surveillance Ritual: Seeing Gods on a Japanese Island." He is also currently editor of the *Journal of Folklore Research* and encourages scholars of cultural studies to read the journal and consider submitting article manuscripts for consideration.

Spotlight (continued)

Rakesh Solomon published a new book, *Globalization, Nationalism and the Text of 'Kichaka-Vadha.'* It offers the first English translation of a landmark Indian play and is accompanied by an extended historical analysis of the rise of a hybrid anticolonial theatre that interwove European melodrama and diverse local performance genres during the British raj. *Globalization* has been hailed as "highly significant contribution to the history and politics of early modern anticolonial theatre" in its field reviews.

Stephanie C. Kane co-authored an article, "Infrastructural Drift in Seismic Cities: Chile, Pacific Rim," with E. Medina and D.M. Michler, published this past year in *Social Text*. She also published an article titled "Gringo/a as a



Jason McGraw's *The Work of Recognition: Caribbean Colombia and the Postemancipation Struggle for Citizenship*

Sociolinguistic Fractal" in *Ethnologies*, co-authored with H. Klein. Her chapter, "Armed Robbery and Ethnographic Connection on in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil," is included in *Reflexivity in Criminological Research: Experiences with the Powerless and the Powerful*, published in 2014 with Palgrave/Macmillan. Kane is also contributing to several public humanities projects and digital forums, including *The Ice Law Project* based at Durham University and *Anthropology News*. She presented papers at the Center for the Study of Global Change at IU, the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington, DC, and the Institute of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Winnipeg. Also in the past year, she was invited to participate on several panels—the Durham Ice Law Workshop; Infrastructural Worlds: A Workshop on Ethnographic Studies of the Build Environment, a symposium at Duke University; and Rivers of the Anthropocene: Workshop/Symposium at IUPUI.

Jason McGraw published a book, *The Work of Recognition: Caribbean Colombia and the Postemancipation Struggle for Citizenship* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014). The book recently received the Book Prize in Citizenship Studies from the Center for Citizenship Studies. In March 2015, he was invited to the Citizenship Studies conference at Wayne State University to give a talk in conjunction with receiving the prize. He is currently at work on an international history of Jamaican music from the 1940s to the 1970s.

Our congratulations to the following graduate students with minors in Cultural Studies:

Joshua Carney

(Communication and Culture) had a paper published in December (available at <http://ejts.revues.org/5050>). Several other publications (a review, a chapter, and a number of non-academic pieces) were released earlier in 2014 as well, all accessible via his Academia page (<https://iub.academia.edu/JoshCarney>). He also presented at a conference in Paris in October: "Conspiracy's Howl: Valley of the Wolves and the conspiracy genre in Turkey."

Gabriel Huddleston

(Curriculum Studies) defended his dissertation, "Critical Ethnography of Neoliberal Education Reforms and Teachers in a Full-Service Community School," and graduated in August 2014. He was recently offered and accepted a position at Texas Christian University as Assistant Professor of Curriculum Studies.

Leticia C. Liggett

(English) defended her dissertation, "The Animal Trials of Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* and *King Lear*: Law and Ethics," in November 2014. Her committee was comprised of Judith H. Anderson (chair), Oscar Kenshur, Joan Pong Linton, and Nick Williams.

Spotlight (continued)

Marianne Kielian-Gilbert presented a paper on Benjamin Britten's late works *Death in Venice* and *Phaedra* at the joint national conference of the Society for Music Theory and American Musicological Society in 2014: "Compassion with the Abyss": Sensory Estrangement in Britten's Late Works *Death in Venice* Op. 88 and *Phaedra* Op. 93." She received an IU Grant in Aid of Research for her chapter, "Dissonant Bells: The Rite's 'Sacrificial Dance' 1913/2013," included in *The Rite at 100, 1913/2013*, edited by Severine Neff, Maureen Carr, and Gretchen Horlacher, Indiana University Press (in press). Her essay, "Listening in Film: Music/Film Temporality, Materiality and Memory," from *The Oxford Handbook of Film Music Studies* edited by David Neumeyer, was published in *Oxford Handbooks Online*, and the collection has recently been issued in paperback edition.

Radhika Parameswaran was the keynote speaker for a fall 2014 conference on race and media, which was held at University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was a plenary speaker at the International Association for Mass Communication Research conference, which was held in Hyderabad, India, in July 2014. She served as a faculty judge for the national Peabody awards for electronic journalism in early Spring 2015. Her paper "Animalizing India: Emerging signs of an unruly market" has been accepted for publication in the journal *Consumption Markets & Culture*, and her book chapter "Globalization, beauty regimes, and the new mediascape in India" was published in the 2014 *Routledge Companion to Media and Gender*. She continues to serve as the editor of the journal *Communication, Culture, and Critique*, which is a flagship journal of the International Communication Association.

Jon Simons edited a special supplement of the journal *Theory & Event* (18:1) about "Israel's War on Gaza, 2014," which included an essay by him: "Divine Violence, Divine Peace: Gaza 2014." He presented versions of this essay at the American Political Science Association annual meeting in Washington D.C. and as a featured presenter at the Sixth Annual International Crime, Media & Popular Culture Studies conference at Indiana State University.

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/theory_and_event/toc/tae.18.1S.html

He also published an essay titled "The People Demand Social Justice" in the *Association of Jewish Studies Perspectives* in fall 2014. With Ariel Katz, Jon created and produced "Walk the Peace Talk: Israeli-Palestinian Peace Fashion and Dance," which was performed at the International Žižek Studies conference, at the University of Cincinnati, some of which can be viewed at the website below.

<http://peaceofassfashion.tumblr.com/>

The *European Journal of Political Thought* published his essay "Benjamin's communist Idea: Aestheticized Politics, Technology, and the Rehearsal of Revolution." His entries on "Ernesto Laclau" and "Hegemony" appeared in Blackwell's *Encyclopedia of Political Thought*. Jon continues his role as editor-in-chief of *Culture, Theory, and Critique*, and continues to write on his blog: *Picturing Peace: Israeli Images of Peace*.

<http://israelipeaceimages.com/>

He is also a regularly contributing member to the blog *The Vision Machine: Media – War – Peace*.

<http://thevisionmachine.com/2015/01/documentation-and-donations-btselems-cameras/>

Child Matters

October 23-24
2015

The theme of the 20th Annual Cultural Studies Conference is "Child Matters." Why the child matters now and how that mattering becomes variegated across transnational, class, and racial contexts will serve as the framing questions for this conference. That it takes until the 21st-century for the child to emerge as a key figure in queer and feminist cultural studies is an interesting problem in its own right and the background against which our framing questions come into relief. In many ways, the child was central to the conceptual architecture of gender and queer theory from the outset. In *History of Sexuality*, vol. 1, the

child is one of Foucault's four key figures of the modern episteme alongside "the hysterical woman ...the Malthusian couple, and the perverse adult." From these figures unfurls biopolitical governance, but it is the child that secures each of its termini. The child is the promise made to the hysterical woman and the issue tracked in the Malthusian couple, the unresolved psychic source of perversion and the subject most in need of protection from the pervert. Origin and telos, a natural-born alien, the child offers a paradox that is really a kind of narrative device to distinguish cause from effect. Through the child, the future is marshaled under the jurisdiction of the present, which, in Edelman's landmark formulation, is then made to endlessly serve the future. For Edelman, the child is primarily conservative. Promising the future, the child instead generates perpetual sameness. Yet the child is a queer thing, as Kathryn Bond Stockton reminds us. Even as Edelman was writing, the child was changing, jolting into new configurations by the apprehension of an insurgent future.

Why does the child matter now?

"Child Matters" has its genesis in the coincident production of special issues from two leading cultural studies journals—*Women's Studies Quarterly* and *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* (co-edited by conference organizer Rebekah Sheldon)—to be released in the spring of 2016. Building on and diverging from Lee Edelman's *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive* and Kathryn Bond Stockton's *The Queer Child: Or, Growing Sideways in the Twentieth-Century*, as well as the 2007 special issue of *GLQ* "Theorizing Queer Temporalities," these dual publications mark the full emergence of the child as a topic of interest beyond the field of childhood studies. Despite the characterization of the 20th-century as "The Century of the Child," both "The Child Now" (*GLQ*) and "Child" (*WSQ*) focalize the contemporary moment as particularly rich and urgent.

This conference asks what the child now can tell us about the unexpected future in which we find ourselves. Six invited speakers drawn from the special issues and an interdisciplinary roster of Indiana University faculty and graduate students will come together for a two-day conference. Combining the longstanding focus of cultural analysis on subjectivity with emergent transdisciplinary paradigms that shift to the ecological, embodied, and affective, contributors will attend to questions that include: Over what narrative sequence does the child preside after the announcement of the Anthropocene? In this age of somatechnics, what becomes of "proper" childhood development? How does homonationalism contour the presumed heteronormativity of reproductive futurism? In what racialized and securitized circuits of labor and death does the child's body appreciate as valuable or expendable life? Coming from a variety of perspectives, participants at this conference will have the opportunity to build an account of the child's continued centrality to the new techniques of power in the 21st-century from within which the child is made to speak, and the queer, sideways deformations the child always also enacts.

A full schedule will be available on the Cultural Studies website by mid-summer.

Announcements

New Affiliated Faculty

John Arthos is an associate professor in the Department of Communication and Culture (moving over to the English Department next year). He has authored three books on the relationship between rhetoric and hermeneutics, and many articles on the role of dialogue, ethics, and power in human communication. He has taught Latin in magnet schools, and American literature in a women's prison. Prior to his Ph.D., he produced documentaries on race and education with titles such as "The Breeding of Impotence" and "Are We Different?," and has devoted much of his life to justice issues, trying always to bring his teaching into line with those commitments. He has an extensive background in film and video production, as well as art photography. His current work explores the relationship between critical hermeneutics and political culture, as well as the relationship of rhetoric to education. Arthos has created or taught over thirty different college courses in three different institutions, including *Rhetoric & Social Movements*, *Propaganda*, *Rhetoric of Film*, and *Critical Methods*, and is scheduled to teach several new courses in the coming semesters, with titles such as *The Symbolism of Evil*, *Rhetorical Judgment*, and *Visual Rhetoric*.

Rebekah Sheldon is assistant professor in the Department of English, and uses transdisciplinary methods and objects of inquiry to get at the aesthetic, theoretical, and cultural consequences of the Anthropocene and its amplification of nature's vibrant matters. Her work in feminist science studies and new materialism, queer theories of childhood, and slipstream fictions, films, and television (e.g. science and speculative fiction, metafiction and postmodernism, steampunk and the new weird) inform her first book project, *Future Harm: Catastrophe and the Figure of the Child in Contemporary America*. She also has current or forthcoming articles in *Ada: Journal of Gender, New Media, and Technology*, *Rhizomes: Cultural Studies in Emerging Knowledges*, and the *Journal of American Studies* and book chapters in *The Nonhuman Turn* (UMinnesota) and *The Cambridge Companion to American Science Fiction*. Alongside Kathryn Bond Stockton and Julian Gill Peterson, she is co-editing a special issue of *GLQ* on "The Child Now" due out in 2016.

Ryan Powell is assistant professor of Film Studies in the Department of Communication and Culture, and is also affiliated faculty with the Department of Gender Studies and the Department of American Studies. His research and teaching interests span film and video historiography, minor and microcinemas, and audio and visual media in socio-sexual culture. His current research is focused on questions of film and video historiography, with specific interests in areas such as the relationship between 'gay cinema' and gay movement politics in the post world-war II years; non- and anti-metropolitan elaborations of queer space; the use of film exhibition in the formation of publics and counterpublics; and the use of cinematic sound in facilitating historically-specific modes of affective experience. He is currently working on a book that explores how models of gay life were elaborated through gay cinema, as a new kind of cultural form, between the late 1960s and the late 1970s.

Cultural Studies Advisory Committee

Thank you to our faculty serving on the 2014-2015 Cultural Studies Program Advisory Committee:

2013-2015 **Ranu Samantrai** (English)
2014-2016 **Elizabeth Ilcessor** (CMCL)
2014-2016 **Marvin Sterling** (Anthropology)

We also thank **Patrick Dove** (Spanish and Portuguese) and **Radhika Parameswaran** (Journalism) who have completed their terms as Advisory Committee members. We are very grateful for their longstanding service to the Cultural Studies Program.

Announcements

Brantlinger-Naremore Essay Prize

Open to Cultural Studies minors, the Brantlinger-Naremore Prize recognizes essays written by a graduate student that offer 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. First prize consists of a \$300 award, and a second prize consists of a \$200 award.

This year, the Brantlinger/Naremore Prize will be awarded to essays written in a Cultural Studies course during the calendar year (Spring 2015 and Fall 2015). Keep this prize in mind as you complete your seminar papers this year, and look out for the submission deadline in December on the CS listserv.

Congratulations to last year's winners!

Matthew Von Vogt (CMCL): "Benjamin and the Nineteenth-Century Cultural Vernacular: An Investigation into Colportage"

Elizabeth Kaszynski (CMCL): "Feeding the Dream: The Sleep Cycle of Capitalism and Waking to a New World"

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 2014-2015 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; and
- confirmation that the paper has been accepted for presentation.

The deadline for travel grants is April 15, 2015. Materials should be sent to Shane Vogel at shvogel@indiana.edu.

Reminder: IU is an Institutional Member of the CSA

Since 2013, Indiana University has been an Institutional Member of the Cultural Studies Association. Founded in 2003, the CSA is largest network of Cultural Studies scholars, educators and practitioners in the United States. Its primary objectives are to create and promote an effective community of cultural studies practitioners and scholars; to represent the discipline and its committed practitioners everywhere; and to advance cultural studies knowledges, projects, approaches, and methodologies throughout the world. For more information, check out their website at: <http://www.culturalstudiesassociation.org>.

A reminder to Cultural Studies graduate minors: as an Institutional Member, the Cultural Studies Program may sponsor up to **three complementary conference registrations** for graduate students attending the annual Cultural Studies Association meeting. The meeting theme this year is "Another University Is Possible: Praxis, Activism, and the Promise of Critical Pedagogy." It will be held at the Riverside Convention Center in Los Angeles, CA from May 21-24, 2015.

If you are presenting at the conference or interested in attending the conference and would like to be considered for one of the Program's three complementary registrations, please send a letter of consideration to Shane Vogel (shvogel@indiana.edu) that (1) outlines your Cultural Studies coursework thus far; (2) describes your dissertation topic and progress on it (if applicable); and (3) an abstract for the paper you will present at the CSA conference (if applicable). Preference will be given to students presenting papers. If more than three eligible applicants, the CS Advisory Committee will select the students.