

THE DEPARTMENT OF POPULAR CULTURE NEWSLETTER FALL 2009 EDITION JANUARY 27, 2010

Layout: Nicholas Porter

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS:

Welcome to our first departmental newsletter for the 2009-2010 academic year! In this issue the focus is on our faculty; the next issue (Spring 2010) will contain more information about our students. On October 22, 2009 the founder of our department, Ray B. Browne, passed away at the age of 87. We in the Department of Popular Culture mourn his loss, and we are proud to be continuing his struggle to legitimize the serious, scholarly study of popular culture as a crucial window into the actual everyday lives of ordinary people everywhere.

ASIAN POPULAR CULTURE SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD AT BGSU, APRIL 15 & 16, 2010

Asian Popular Culture Symposium

Bowen-Thompson Student Union, 3rd Floor

Day One: April 15, 2010

Popular Culture Colloquium Series, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Speaker: Satomi Saito
(German, Russian, and East
Asian Languages, BGSU)
Title to be announced.

Opening Remarks, 1:00 - 1:15 PM

Kristen Rudisill and Jeremy
Wallach (Symposium Co-
Organizers)

Visual Culture Session, 1:15 - 3:15 PM

Speaker: Ian Condry

(Japanese Cultural Studies,
MIT)

Discussant: Larissa Heinrich
(Comparative Literature,
UCSD)

Music Session, 3:30 - 5:30

PM

Speaker: Paul D. Greene
(Ethnomusicology and Inte-
grative Arts, Penn State)

Discussant: Sarah Morelli
(Ethnomusicology, U. of
Denver)

Day Two: April 16, 2010

Narrative Session, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Speaker: Brenda Beck
(Sophia Hilton Foundation,
Ontario, Canada)

Discussant: Deeksha Nagar
(Mathers Museum of World
Cultures)

Performance Session, 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Speaker: Jennifer Robertson

(Anthropology, U. of
Michigan)

Discussant: Jennifer
Prough (Humanities and
East Asian Studies, Valpa-
raiso U.)

Panel Discussion, 4:00 - 6:00 PM Topic: The Future of Asian Popular Culture Studies

*Invited Symposium Partici-
pants, POPC Department,
other members of the BGSU
Faculty*

Performance/Film Screen- ing, 7:30 - 11:00 PM

Featuring BGSU's own
G.A.M.E. Others TBA.

LATEST NEWS FROM POPULAR CULTURE:

- **Eleven MA students were admitted in Fall 2009**
- **We have implemented a twitter feed! Go to
[http://
twitter.com/
PopCultureBGSU](http://twitter.com/PopCultureBGSU)**

DR. CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS IS THE CENTER FOR POPULAR CULTURE STUDIES FELLOW, ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-2010

This year's Visiting Fellow, Dr. Christopher Alan Williams, is joining us to research Indian film music, particularly during its "Golden Era" of 1945-1965. In recent years, he has guest taught for Department of Popular Culture faculty on the topics of Bollywood and the history of American musical theater. Dr. Williams earned his BA, *summa cum laude*, from Yale University and received his MA and PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. In addition to working as an adjunct professor in the Departments of Music History and GREAL at BGSU, he has taught in the Joint Program of Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Institute of Music, the University of Alberta, SUNY-New Paltz, and the Universität Salzburg (the last on the subject of American musical theater). His interest in Indian film music dates from 2006, when he was asked by his editor at *Fanfare* magazine to review Bollywood soundtracks; this request coincided fortuitously with his

teaching of the Introduction to World Music (MuCT125).

Dr. Williams brings a wide range of teaching and research experiences and interests to his current role. His dissertation, written under the direction of Richard Taruskin, examined Gustav Mahler's impact on the music of Arnold Schoenberg. In addition to turning that manuscript into a soon-to-be-published book, he has also written and published on issues ranging from popular Darwinism in turn-of-the-century Vienna; "tonal modernism" in the world of post-1945 classical music; contemporary opera; the culture, ideology and style of music in Germany's Weimar Republic (1918-1933); and baseball of the "dead ball" era. His published article "Of Canons and Context" probed assumptions behind the teaching of 20th-century music history and has been cited a model of "incisive" criticism in numerous musicalogical publications. In November, he presented two papers at the national conference of the American

Musicological Society in Philadelphia: "Tristan für Anfänger: Ironic Self-Parody in Wagner's Opera *Die Meistersinger*" and "Bernd Alois Zimmermann's Soldaten, Temporal Pluralism, and the Politics of Resistance: Re-Voicing Lenz, Büchner, Berg."

Dr. Williams has taught Introduction to World Music, music theory, numerous seminars on music history that take an interdisciplinary approach, and Contemporary Germany. He enjoys sharing his knowledge with students and is available for consultation and conversation.



2009-2010 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Our 2009-2010 Colloquium Series includes POPC faculty and students and several presentations by faculty and graduate students in other areas, including Music, GREAL, Communications, and ACS. These have been very well attended by students and faculty from many departments and programs. WBGU has asked to videotape the Colloquium presentations next term to show on one of their cable stations.

9/17/2009

Dr. Esther Clinton

"Interdisciplinary Collaborations, or, How a Popular Culture Scholar Got Published in a Medical Journal"

10/15/2009

Dr. Michael Butterworth (Communication)

"Sport, the Myth of Meritocracy, and the Election of Barack Obama"

11/19/2009

Mr. Mark Bernard (ACS Doctoral Student)

"The Golden Avenger and the Dark Knight: Superheroes and National Security Cinema"

12/10/2009

Dr. Katherine Meizel (College of Musical Arts)

"California Dreamin': *American Idol*, Hollywood, and the Apotheosis of the American Dream"

1/21/2010

Dr. Jeremy Wallach

"Of Remixes and Robots: Analytical Approaches to Asian Popular Culture"

11AM BTSU 207

2/18/2010

Dr. Christopher Williams

"Homeland, Authenticity, and Liberation: Vocal Style, Song Construction, and Edification in 1950s Hindi Film."

11AM BTSU 201A

3/18/2010

Popular Culture Master's Students Thesis Presentations

11AM BTSU 207

4/15/2010

Dr. Satomi Saito (German, Russian, and East Asian Languages)

TBA - Asian Popular Culture Symposium Kick-Off

11am BTSU 207



A picture taken at last year's Comic Book in Popular Culture conference of the 2008 Theory and Methodology Class. Photo taken by Dr. Charles Coletta.

MEET THE INTERIM CHAIR

Dr. Marilyn Motz joined the Department of Popular Culture in 1980 and received her doctorate in American Culture from the University of Michigan in 1981. Her research interests include creative practices in everyday life, civilian experiences and subjectivity during the Civil War, and the emergence of popular culture as a cultural category and academic field. One of the best known of Dr. Motz's numerous essays is the oft-anthologized "Seen Through Rose-Tinted Glasses": The Barbie Doll in American Society." Dr. Motz continues to give presentations on this topic, most recently on January 20, 2010 at the BGSU Women's Center.

FACULTY NEWS

POPC Faculty accomplishments this issue include multiple invitations overseas (including a yearlong appointment at the Sorbonne!), articles published in a remarkably wide variety of academic journals (from medicine to musical theater to sports, in addition to the usual popular culture suspects), multiple interdisciplinary collaborations, several community outreach appearances, and a junior faculty prize.

Dr. Jeffrey Brown was interviewed for an upcoming documentary about black comic books and the publishing industry. He has been working on final book revisions and copyright clearance for images for his next book titled *Dangerous Curves: Gender, Fetishism and Action Heroines in Modern Popular Culture*, (forthcoming, University of Mississippi Press). Dr. Brown has also been working on two academic articles: one about fandom and ethnography for an edited collection on comics scholarship, the other on "girl spies" in contemporary young adult books.

In August, **Dr. Esther Clinton** saw the publication of her coauthored article "The Air Got to It": Exploring a Belief About Surgery for Lung Cancer" in the *Journal of the National Medical Association* (vol. 101, no. 8, Aug 2009, 765-771). On September 17th Dr. Clinton discussed the interdisciplinary collaborations involved in the writing and publication of this study. Dr. Clinton also presented "Proppian Charac-

ter Roles in Elite and Popular Literature and Wonder Tales" in October at the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society in Boise, Idaho and "Proppian Character Roles in Wonder Tales and Fantasy, Science Fiction and Young Adult Literature" at MPCA in Detroit. Her dissertation, *Tales Online: Lessons for the Field of Folklore*, is the basis for a book now under contract with Edwin Mellen Press.

On December 8, **Dr. Becca Cragin** served as the keynote speaker for the conference "American Culture: The Second Conference of the American Language Institute" at the University of Toledo, giving a talk titled "American Culture as a Work in Progress." Dr. Cragin had two journal articles and one book review published or accepted: "Beyond the Feminine: Intersectionality and Hybridity in Talk Shows" (*Women's Studies in Communication* [forthcoming 2010]); "Noirish Inversions: Investigation and Victimization in *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Basic Instinct*" (*Americana: The Journal of American Popular Culture*, vol. 8, no. 2); Review of *Interrogating Postfeminism: Gender and the Politics of Popular Culture*, ed. Yvonne Tasker and Diane Negra (in *The Journal of Gender Studies*, vol. 18, no. 1, 90-92), and has two articles currently under review and two others in progress. Dr. Cragin also serves on the Steering Committee of the Women's Studies Program.

Dr. Matthew Donahue published a postcard book and an accompanying 30-minute documentary featuring his art cars and art car experiences titled *Taking It to the Streets: An Art Car Experience*. Dr. Donahue had a book signing for the postcard book on September 5th at Borders Books in Toledo's Westfield Shopping Mall. The art car documentary was featured on November 15 at the Art Car Drive-In Film Festival in Houston, Texas sponsored by the Orange Show Foundation. His art car *Car Power* was featured at the juried art exhibit *Houston Art Car Parade* May 6 and the *Red White and Blue Jackson Pollocktik* art car was featured at the King Wamba Parade in Toledo on May 31 and Spacewalk Detroit on June 15. Dr. Donahue exhibited a film titled *Record Car Creation* at the annual juried Toledo Area Artists Exhibition at the Toledo Museum of Art from July 9-August 23. *Motörhead Matters*, his documentary on the heavy metal band Motörhead, was the Grand Prize Winner in the SPV Records Superfan contest. He was also invited to speak to youth at the Toledo charter school Imagine School for the Arts on popular culture and the arts on September 18, 2009 (see photos).



Dr. Montana Miller recently published “Vernacular Abstinence: Teenagers, Purity Rings, and Rites of (Blocked) Passage,” in a special issue of the journal *Practical Matters* focused on youth and religion (see http://www.practicalmattersjournal.org/issue_toc/2/). Two of her articles are scheduled to come out soon: Krane, Vikki; Ross, Sally; Miller, Montana. “Power and Focus: Self-Representation of Female College Athletes” (*Journal of Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise* [in press, Spring 2010]); and Miller, Montana. “Taking a New Spotlight to the Prom: Youth Culture and Its Emerging Video Archive” (*The Journal of American Culture*, Vol. 33, No. 1 [March 2010]). Dr. Miller has been involved in significant community outreach, including serving as guest speaker at the Way Public Library, Perrysburg, Ohio. Her talk was titled “Fear of Facebook: How Do We Negotiate Power and Privacy in Relationships, in a Social Networking World?” and took place December 15, 2009. She will also be speaking on a panel for the community at Perrysburg High School, on February 22, on teenagers and new media (including social networking and “sexting”).

Dr. Miller, who has served on BGSU’s Human Subjects Review Board since 2006, this year was invited to serve on the faculty of the national PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research) “Advancing Ethical Research Conference,” held in Nashville, TN on November 14-16, 2009. She spoke on the plenary panel titled “Bytes, Bots, and Avatars: Social/Behavioral Research and Technology,”

and led two didactic sessions titled “Consent of the Avatars: Virtual Human Subjects Research and Review” and “Issues for the IRB to Consider When Reviewing Qualitative Research, Oral History, Ethnography, and More.” Dr. Miller’s work on the PRIM&R faculty has led to further presentations: in October 2009, she attended the 10th Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers, “Internet Research 10.0—Internet: Critical,” in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she was invited to present her work at a special workshop, “Critical Issues and Perspectives in Internet Research Methods and Ethics.” In addition, Dr. Miller will be the keynote speaker for the AERA (American Educational Research Association) conference, division on Online Teaching and Learning, in May 2010, where she will give a talk entitled “Assent of the Avatars: Challenges of Ethical Ethnographic Research (and IRB Review) on the Internet.”

Dr. Miller also gave presentations on other topics concerning youth culture and new media at four national academic research conferences in 2009. She continues to serve as the Area Chair for Internet Culture for the Popular Culture Association, which meets this year in St. Louis, MO from March 31-April 3, 2010.

Dr. Angela Nelson is on leave AY 2009-2010. She is working on a book manuscript on the subject of Black popular culture.

Dr. Kristen Rudisill was one of sixteen applicants selected to participate in the 2009 American Institute for Indian Studies Book Workshop held in Madison, WI in October. Dr. Rudisill was also one of eight invited speakers at the Tamil Performance Conference held in November at the University of California, Berkeley. Her presentation was titled “Distinctive Tastes: The Aesthetics of *Sabha Drama*.” In addition, Dr. Rudisill will present “Moving off the Page: Spoken Tamil Strategies for Non-Heritage Learners,” an invited paper for the National Workshop for Tamil Instructors to Draw

Common Strategies in Tamil Curriculum: Spoken Tamil, to be held at the University of Texas at Austin, March 12-13, 2010. Dr. Rudisill also recently published the following articles: “A Traditional Tamil Brahmin Marriage in Washington, DC: Performance of Culture and the Ideal Self” (*In South Asian Popular Culture*. (Vol. 7, No. 2, July 2009): 141-152); “Mohammad bin Tughlaq: A Fourteenth Century Muslim Sultan in 1960s South India” (*In Text and Presentation*, Stratos E. Constantinidis, ed. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland, 2008, 155-168); and “My School Rocks! Dancing Disney’s High School Musical in India” (*Studies in Musical Theatre* Vol. 3, No. 3, forthcoming, 2010). She also had reviews of two books published: *Harbingers of Global Change: Indian Techno-Immigrants in the United States* by Roli Varma. (*In Ethnic and Third World Literature Journal*, Vol. 9 [Spring 2009]: 41-42); and *Bombay Cinema: An Archive of the City* by Ranjini Mazumdar. (*In The Journal of American Culture*, Vol. 42, Issue 1 [February 2009]: 199-201).

Dr. Rudisill was also invited by Professor Pramod Nayar to be keynote speaker at the University of Hyderabad in Hyderabad, India for a conference/workshop on using popular culture to interest Indian students in American Studies. The event will take place this August. Stay tuned for more details!

Some late-breaking, exciting news: **Professor Jack Santino** has been awarded the Fulbright-Alexis de Toqueville Distinguished Chair at the Sorbonne in Paris and will be Distinguished Professor in American Studies at France's leading university during AY 2010-2011. Last year Professor Santino was an invited guest at the Kemerovo State University in Siberia, Russia, October 5-9. Dr. Santino delivered lectures to several groups of students on the topics of “Ritual, Festival and Celebration,” “All Around the Year: Holidays and Celebrations in the United States” with an emphasis on Halloween, and “Contested Celebratory Display in Northern Ireland.” In addition, he addressed university faculty on his current research interest, “The Ritualesque.” He has been invited back to deliver a

keynote address at a conference titled "Concept and Culture," in April 2010, and he hopes to convene his annual conference on Holidays, Ritual, Festival, Celebration, and Public Display then as well. Dr. Santino's essay, "Performing Ireland: A Performative Approach to the Study of Irish Culture" is the lead article in the new collection *Crossroads: Performance Studies and Irish Culture*, edited by Sara Brady and Fintan Walsh (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009). In their introduction, the editors write, "Jack Santino's research has been especially influential in linking performance and Irish Studies."

Dr. Santino's other work this year includes "The Ritualesque: Folklore, Politics, and Popular Culture" (Archer Taylor Memorial Address, *Western Folklore*, 68:1 [Winter 2009]: 9-26). He was invited to give the keynote address, titled "Spontaneous Shrines, Memorialization, and the Public Ritualesque" March 14, 2009 at Reitsumakan University in Kyoto, Japan. The article is forthcoming in *Japanese Cultural Studies*; in May 2009 he gave the Capstone Address for the Celebrations in America conference, May 2009 at Central High School, in Islan, Long Island; June 6 – 20, 2009 he was Academic Advisor and Instructor, Irish Folklore for the Celtic Studies Program at Irish International College in Sligo, Ireland.

Dr. Dan Shoemaker was recently nominated for BGSU's Master Teacher Award, a nomination that was initiated by his students. Dr. Shoemaker's article "Return of the Patriarchs: Authority, Gender, and Reason in Post-9/11 American Cinema" was published in the special 20th Anniversary edition of *Popular Culture Review*. On September 12, he appeared at the Stately Raven bookstore in Findlay, Ohio and gave a talk titled "The Love You Make: The Enduring Legacy of The Beatles." This past June, Dr. Shoemaker presented a paper titled "An Aristocracy of Everyone? The Discourse of Leadership and the Assault on Democracy and Education" at the AAUP Conference in Washington, D.C. and in March presented the paper "The Erasure of Liberal Humanism in Recent Science Fiction Film Remakes" at the Far

West PCA in Las Vegas.

On September 10, **Dr. Jeremy Wallach** gave a class lecture on his Indonesia research and then a colloquium talk titled "Popular Music Genres in Democratic Indonesia, 1998-2009" at the Conservatory of Music at Oberlin College. Also in September 2009, Dr. Wallach was elected to the Society for Ethnomusicology Council, a governing body of that academic society; in addition, he is the incoming president of the Midwestern Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology (MIDSEM). At the SEM annual meeting in Mexico City held November 19-22, Dr. Wallach was awarded the 2009 Richard Waterman Junior Scholar Prize for his 2008 article (published in the journal *Ethnomusicology*) titled "Living the Punk Lifestyle in Jakarta." Since January 2009, Dr. Wallach has had one recording review and one book review published and has given three conference presentations, including, in October, a co-presented paper (with Brian Hickam, University of Toledo) at the first-ever "Heavy Metal and Gender" conference in Cologne, Germany. He also gave two invited lectures in Colorado in March and is currently at work on three book projects. Dr. Wallach is most pleased to report that in its October 2009 issue, the flagship journal *Indonesia* published a lengthy and strongly positive review by anthropologist Brent Luvaas of Wallach's 2008 book, *Modern Noise, Fluid Genres: Popular Music in Indonesia, 1997-2001*.



A scene from Dr. Wallach's first "The Dinosaur in Popular Culture" class, January 2010.

SOME OF THE MASS MEDIA OUTLETS THAT QUOTED POPC. FACULTY IN AY 2009-2010 (SO FAR):

ABCNews.com
Associated Press
Bowling Green Sentinel-Tribune
Canada.com
CNN.com
Columbus Dispatch
Courier Post (New Jersey)
Daily Orange (Syracuse)
Dallas Morning News
Detroit News
Fremont News-Messenger

JakartaBeat.net
Jakarta Post
Los Angeles Times
Memphis Daily News
NorthJersey.com
Slate.com
Thaidy.com
The Scotsman (Edinburgh)
Time Out New York
Toledo Blade
TV Guide



Ray B. Browne at the Comic Book in Popular Culture Conference at BGSU, October 2008.

"Popular culture is the voice of democracy, democracy speaking and acting, the seedbed in which democracy grows. It is the everyday world around us: the mass media, entertainments and diversions. It is our heroes, icons, rituals, everyday actions, psychology and religion — our total life picture. It is the way of living we inherit, practice and modify as we please, and how we do it. It is the dreams we dream while asleep."

--Ray B. Browne, 2002