

List of Papers and Talks Hosted by CCI

2001-2006

Dr. Martina Kolb, Presentation on April 27, 2006.

Felix Culpa? Exile and Captivity in Dante and Kafka

Reflections on the literary topos of (dis)placement — rather less as a metaphor, and rather more as a literal condition — inscribed in Dante and Kafka's autobiographical compositions of psychic and physical torment.

Interpretative assessment of alternative expression as one consequence of a potentially fortunate fall — literarily (re)presented on the threshold of word, image and body — in this provocative duo of challenging writers.

Dr. Dennis Bryson, Presentation on Thursday, 2 March.

Toward a New Science of Man: Rockefeller Philanthropy and the Renovation of the Human Sciences in the United States.

"In my presentation, I will examine the manner in which Rockefeller philanthropy launched a series of initiatives aimed at the construction of knowledge of the micro-dimensions of human life. Both on the level of molecular biology (a term coined by Rockefeller executive Warren Weaver) and on the level of the micro-social practices of child-rearing, education, family and marital life, and social interaction within neighborhoods (the domain of what social scientists described as "personality and culture"), knowledge geared toward the rationalization and control of life was to be fostered. The goal was to create a "new science of man" which would be interdisciplinary in scope--encompassing the biological and the sociocultural--and promote the control of human behavior as well as a certain vision of human welfare."

Dr. Julie Park, Presentation on on May 4th

The University and Its Discontents: Lacan's Discourse Theory and the Academy Today

Seminar XVII, L'envers de la psychanalyse (1969-70), is the seminar in which Lacan formulated his "discourse theory." According to Lacan, discourse is a "social bond" that can be articulated in one of four ways: 1) the master's discourse, 2) the university discourse, 3) the hysteric's discourse, and 4) the analyst's discourse. Each of these structures is said to assume a symbolic network of intersubjective relations between an agent, an other, a product, and a truth.

In the absence of an English translation, a "standard reading" of Lacan's seminar has emerged, of a Lacan who is opposed to the project of the modern university and the entire scientific philosophical tradition on which he claims it is based. Many of the student radicals who attended Lacan's lectures in the aftermath of the events of May of 1968 literally understood the task at hand to be to blow up the university in order to destroy the cancer within.

I want to argue that the foregoing account is not only inadequate but that it also obscures important parts of Lacan's analysis. There is in the seminar a deep and genuine questioning of the role of the university discourse in modern life. Lacan's approach is critical and open-ended; he asks:

"Is it good or bad, this [university] discourse?"; "What has the university been good for?" What good has it served?

I want to develop a fuller account of the university discourse. In the process, I also hope to shed light on some of the issues facing the contemporary university, including what has been called the "crisis in the humanities" and the impossibility that has been said to characterize the profession of teaching.

Dr. Daren Hodson, Presentation on April 13th

Disoriented Orientalism: Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*

Most writing about Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* (1782) falls into two broad categories. Either the opera is viewed as part of the Orientalist turqueries fashionable throughout the eighteenth century or as an example of humanist cosmopolitanism in the vein of Lessing's *Nathan der Weise*. I believe there are reasons to argue against both readings. To do so, though, requires placing the opera within its historical context

Dr. Jason Harsin, American University of Paris, Dept. of International Communications, Presentation for Bilkent Seminar in Culture and Literature on Thursday March 16th

"The Rumor Bomb: American Mediated Politics as Pure War"

"Saddam Hussein has longstanding, direct and continuing ties to terrorist networks...Iraq has sent bomb-making and document forgery experts to work with al Qaeda. Iraq has also provided al Qaeda with chemical and biological weapons training." American president George W. Bush made this well-circulated statement on February 8, 2003. Over a year later, in June 2004, Chief Weapons Inspector David Kay stated, "We simply didn't find any evidence of extensive links with Al Qaeda, or for that matter any real links at all" (Kranish and Bender 2004). Yet the Bush administration continued to launch and the news media continued to circulate softer variations on Bush's original strong claim of "longstanding, direct and continuing ties." As recently as March 2005, polls showed that over half of all Americans still believed Saddam Hussein had WMD before the U.S. invasion of Iraq, while 60 percent still believed Hussein played a role in aiding Al Qaeda with 9/11.

Regardless of the veracity of claims, belief persists. The relationship between tenuous claims, their circulation, and the appearance and persistence of belief points to a common strategy in contemporary American political practice, "the rumor bomb." In this paper I will examine several key transformations in mediated American political discourse that encourage the use of rumor as a privileged communication strategy and that promise its efficacy. Changing institutional news values, communication technologies, and political public relations (PR) strategies have converged to produce a profoundly vexing relationship between rumor and verification, which is exploited by politicians with anti-deliberative aims of managing belief. Furthermore, I argue that these developments are usefully viewed through Paul Virilio's theory of *Pure War*, in which rumor can be seen as part of a larger propaganda strategy to persuade a civilian population.

Dr. Rachel Jones, Dept. of Philosophy, Dundee University: "Time, Natality, and the Self: the relational ontologies of Cavareto and Battersby"; June 2nd, 2004

Dr. Rachel Bowlby, Department of English, University of York: "Fifty-fifty: Freud, Female Subjectivity and the Danaids"; May 10th, 2004

- Dr. Robin Ostle**, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford: "Excellence in Modern Arabic Literature"; April 15th, 2004
- Dr. Barry Stocker**, Department of Philosophy, Yeditepe University: "Philosophy of Literary Form: Lukács and Benjamin"; April 1st, 2004
- Dr. Richard Bourke**, Department of History, Queen Mary College, University of London: "Sociability and Antagonism in Enlightenment Political Thought"; March 25th, 2004
- Devrim Kiliçer**, Ankara University: "9/11: New York City as Wasteland"; March 5th, 2004
- Dr. Banu Helvacıoğlu**, Bilkent University Department of Political Science: "The Turning Point in History from the Point of View of Rescue Dogs"; March 5th, 2004
- Dr. Şerif Mardin**, Sabancı University: "Turkish Exceptionalism"; March 5th, 2004
- Dr. Mustafa Nakeeb**, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Anachronism and History in Plato's *Gorgias*: On the philosophical timelessness and historical timeliness of the Platonic dialogue"; March 5th, 2004
- Dr. Laurent Mignon**, Dept. of Turkish Literature, Bilkent University: "History Beyond Prose and Poetry: Ali Kemal and the Ottoman historiographical tradition"; March 5th, 2004
- Fatih Bayram**, Dept. of History, Bilkent University: "Perception of Alexander the Great in the Ottoman Empire"; March 5th, 2004
- Dr. Yusuf Eradam**, Dept. of American Culture and Literature, Ankara University: "Nylon Rupture Zone: The repository of notices for continuity to stand mortality"; March 6th, 2004
- Dr. Dennis Bryson**, Dept. of American Culture and Literature, Bilkent University: "John Dewey and the Eclipse of the Public"; March 6th, 2004
- Dr. Duncan Chesney**, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Proust and Persistence"; March 6th, 2004
- Fulya Ertem**, Dept. of Graphic Design, Bilkent University: "The Pose in Early Photography: Questioning the attempts of appropriating the past"; March 6th, 2004
- Dilek Kaya Mutlu**, Dept. of Graphic Design, Bilkent University: "(Re)constructing Ayastefanos: The origination of Turkish cinema"; March 6th, 2004
- Dr. Trevor Hope**, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Mummies in the Archive: or, The National Imaginary Unwrapped"; March 6th, 2004
- Dr. Meltem Ahıska**, Dept. of Sociology, Boğaziçi University: "Occidentalism and Registers of Truth: Politics of Archives in Turkey"; March 6th, 2004
- Dr. Thomas Zimmerman**, Dept. of Archaeology, Bilkent University: "Time and the Phenomenon of Timekeeping Amongst Prehistoric and Early Historical Societies"; March 6th, 2004

- Plamena Tsoneva**, Varna Summer International Music Festival: "Festivals between Past and Modernity"; March 6th, 2004
- Dr. Anthony Lake**, Dept. of English Language and Literature, Bilkent University: "Looking at Girls: Aesthetics and ethics in E.M. Forster's Italian novels"; February 24th, 2004
- Dr. Nicola Liscutin**, School of Languages, Linguistics, and Culture, Birbeck College, University of London: "Forever After? *Madame Butterfly* and its Western and Japanese legacies"; February 12th, 2004
- Dr. Sabry Hafez**, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London: "Occidentalism: Arab perceptions of the West"; February 11th, 2004
- Dr. Don Randall**, Dept. of English Language and Literature, Bilkent University: "Some Further Being: Postcoloniality and alterity in David Malouf's fiction"; December 23rd, 2003
- Dr. Andrea Rehberg**, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Towards a Life of Alterity"; December 10th, 2003
- Dr. Duncan Chesney**, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Proust and Film, or Visconti's Search"; October 14th, 2003
- Dr. Trevor Hope**, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "The Nation that Could Not Swallow: Disincorporated polities, unremembered alterities"; October 2nd, 2003
- Dr. Murat Karamuftuoğlu**, Dept. of Communication and Design, Bilkent University: "How Relevant is Critical Theory for Understanding Information Systems?"; April 24th, 2003
- Dr. Zafer Aracagök**, Dept. of Graphic Design, Bilkent University: "On Rhythm, Resonance and Distortion"; April 8th, 2003
- Dr. Lewis Johnson**, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sabancı University: "Re. locating vision: The art of Jenny Holzer and Hans Haacke"; March 27th, 2003
- Dr. Jennifer Terni**, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Fashion: the fabric of a new social economy (Paris 1820-1848)"; March 11th, 2003
- Drs. Zuhul Ulusoy and Asuman Türkün-Erendil**, Dept. of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, Bilkent University: "Ankara Citidel: encounter of the modernity project with the historical context"; February 21st, 2003
- Şeyda Başlı**, Dept. of Turkish Literature, Bilkent University: "Akabi Hikayisi and Felatun Bey ve Rakım Efendi: A comparative approach to the Ottoman modernization process"; February 21st, 2003
- Dr. Laurent Mignon**, Dept. of Turkish Literature, Bilkent University: "Lost Voices: Religious minorities and the lost canon"; February 21st, 2003

Dr. Mahmut Mutman, Department of Communication and Design, Bilkent University: "Re-writinh: The Canon and the Other"; February 21st, 2003

Dr. Asuman Suner, Department of Communication and Design, Bilkent University: "Home is Where the Heart Isn't: (Dis)placing Turkish film studies"; February 21st, 2003

Çağlar Enneli, Ankara University: "Watching Television and Consuming Messages: Social anthropological study of the identity conflicts in the case of a television program, Turkish Big Brother"; February 21, 2003

Mustafa Şahiner and **Sinan Akıllı**, Hacettepe University: "Redrawing the Boundaries of Native Cultural Territory through Border-Crossings in Classroom"; February 22, 2003

Dr. Don Randall, Dept. of English Language and Literature, Bilkent University: "David Malouf's Australia: Placing and displacing subjectivity and nationhood"; February 22, 2003

Dr. Lawrence Raw, Department of British Language and Culture, Başkent University: "Turkish Departments of Foreign Literature and/or Cultures: What Now?"; February 22, 2003

Dr. Meyda Yeğenoğlu, Dept. of Sociology, Middle East Technical University: "Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism in a Globalized World"; February 22, 2003

Dr. Halil Nalçaoğlu, Faculty of Communication, Ankara University: "Apocalyptic Dreams of Modernity: Time Capsules"; February 22, 2003

Mustafa Gürbüz, Bilkent University: "Constructing a "Conversational Encounter" in a Globalized World"; February 22, 2003

Dr. Trevor Hope, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Antigone: More (or less) than kinship, less (or more) than kind"; February 22, 2003

Dr. Phillipe Rosenberg, Dept. of History, Emory University: "A 'Pythagorean' in the seventeenth century: Thomas Tryon's attack on slavery"; December 19th, 2002

Dr. C. Louise Barry, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Versailles and the Production of Social Space"; November 12th, 2002

Dr. Geoff Bowe, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "The Platonic Metaphysical Heirarchy"; October 3rd, 2002

Dr. Sita Schutt, Dept. of English Literature, Bilkent University: "'Close-up from a distance': London and Englishness in Ford Madox Ford, Conan Doyle and Bram Stoker"; October 15th, 2002

Dr. Trevor Hope, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Modernity's Pockets: The Perverse polities of Radclyffe Hall"; May 16th, 2002

Dr. Ralph Shain, Stanford University: "Situating Derrida Between Kierkegaard and Hegel"; March 5th, 2002

Dr. Costantino Costantini, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Waiting for Nothing: On Kant's Laughter"; March 28th, 2002

Dr. Dror Abend-David, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Shylock's Mother- the translation of a silent film"; February 5th, 2002

Dr. Mustafa Nakeeb, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Hellenistic Historiography and the Appropriation of Platonic Philosophy"; December 5th, 2001

Dr. Matthew Gumpert, CCI Program, Bilkent University: "Urban Bar as Sacred Precinct"; November 5th, 2001