

CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES AT TUFTS

5th Anniversary



SPRING 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CHAT

Center for the Humanities At Tufts
Fung House- 48 Professors Row
Medford, MA 02155

<http://ase.tufts.edu/chat>

CHAT Center for the Humanities At Tufts

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**CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES AT TUFTS
(CHAT)**

**FUNG HOUSE- 48 PROFESSORS ROW
MEDFORD, MA 02155
(617) 627-3342
<http://ase.tufts.edu/chat>**

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TUESDAY SEMINARS

Brown Bag Lunch 12 pm-1 pm
Center for the Humanities
Fung House- 48 Professors Row

We are pleased to have ten Fellows from a variety of humanities disciplines joining us for the 2011-2012 academic year. Each fellow will deliver a talk on aspects of his or her research in a Tuesday Seminar.

October 11, 2011*: **Rebekah Ahrendt**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow
'Qui veut ouïr, qui veut sçavoir': Society and tradition in the *chanson à danser*

October 25, 2011*: **Rosemary R. Hicks**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow
Making Moderate Muslim Citizens a Decade after 9/11

November 15, 2011: **Radclani Clytus**, Faculty Fellow
Visualizing in Black Print: The Brooklyn Correspondence of William J. Wilson Aka Ethiop

December 6, 2011: **Erin Kappeler**, Dissertation Fellow
Out of the East: Philology, Ethnology, and the Struggle to Define Modern Poetry

January 24, 2012: **David Ekbladh**, Faculty Fellow
A Pavilion for Redemption: The League of Nations at the 1939 New York World's Fair

February 14, 2012*: **Natalie Marie Léger (Palmer)**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow
Re-thinking the Story of the Haitian Revolution

April 3, 2012: **Amahl Bishara**, Faculty Fellow
Forbidden Vegetables: The Politics and Pleasures of Smuggled Cauliflower in Jerusalem

April 17, 2012*: **Sasha Senderovich**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow
The Red Promised Land: Jewish Mobility in Soviet Culture

**Lunch is provided, courtesy of the Andrew F. Mellon Foundation*

FROM THE DIRECTOR

This semester CHAT celebrates its 5th anniversary. The Center was established to promote innovative, collaborative study in the humanities and arts, and encourage conversation and debate in an effort to reach beyond the borders of a given discipline. CHAT selects a theme each year and structures its fall semester programs around it. In the spring we bring attention to the humanities and the arts through public lectures, discussions, symposia and special programs. The Center is home to nine Fellows, three Faculty, four Mellon Post-Doctoral, and two Graduate. Each Fellow delivers a talk on aspects of his or her research in seminars held every month during the academic year.

After a renovation of the former Provost's House at 48 Professors Row, CHAT began in spring 2008 by hosting a symposium on "The Art and Ethics of Translation." Since then the center has endeavored to become a hub of intellectual activity and initiative on campus. Numerous scholars, public intellectuals, writers, filmmakers and artists have come to Tufts to present their work at CHAT. Our guests have included the Nobel Laureate Kenzaburo Oe, Pulitzer prizewinner Rita Dove, National Book Award winners Ha Jin and Stephen Greenblatt, MacArthur Fellows Lydia Davis, Peter Cole and Alex Ross together with such distinguished authors and academics as Jamaica Kincaid, Ian Buruma, Stephen Pinker, Rebecca Goldstein, Francisco Goldman, James Wood and Elaine Scarry.

All of CHAT's events are free and open to members of the Tufts community. In addition, some events are also open to the public. Through all of its programs, CHAT works to promote inter-departmental and cross-campus dialogue, to raise the profile of the humanities and arts at Tufts and in our surrounding communities, and to build support for scholarship and creative activity. We have been fortunate in our donors whose generosity has enabled us to expand and enhance our programming.

We hope that you will join us this semester at any or all of the events that we have planned. On April 19th, to conclude our semester long festival of word and image, we will hold an Open House to be followed by the first Provost's Lecture in the Humanities.

-Jonathan Wilson
Director

SPRING 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Book Into Film and Documentary Film Week

March 5, Tom Perrotta and Albert Berger

March 7, Yael Hersonski, Amahl Bishara, and Nidal Al-Azraq

March 8, Robin Hessman

Distinguished Writers Series

February 28, Martin Amis

March 27, Zadie Smith

March 30, Gary Shteyngart

New Russian-American Writing, Panel Discussion

March 29, David Bezmozgis, Anya Ulinich, and Lara Vapnyar

Religion and Politics in the USA , March 29

Hishaam Aidi, *Columbia University*

Juliane Hammer, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Laura Levitt, *Temple University*

Darnell L. Moore, *New York University and Global Justice Institute*

Josef Sorett, *Columbia University*

David Harrington Watt, *Temple University*

Points East

March 7, Richard Davis

April 4, Erin Hyde Nolan

April 17, Sayed Kashua

CHAT Open House, April 18 *followed by*
Provost's Lecture in the Humanities, Lee Edelman

Cover Photo: "Lady with a Dog", © 2012 Gabriel Wilson

CHAT OPEN HOUSE PROVOST'S LECTURE

Wednesday, April 18

Music, Poetry, and Refreshments 4 - 7pm

The Center for the Humanities at Tufts (CHAT) is celebrating its 5th anniversary with an afternoon of music, poetry, and refreshments. Our Open House will allow you to meet our accomplished faculty and staff, and explore how our Center promotes innovative, collaborative study in the humanities and arts.



Provost's Lecture 7 pm

*Occupy Wall Street: Bartleby and
the (In)Humanities*

Professor Lee Edelman

Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall

Q&A and Reception to follow

Professor Edelman's talk will read Melville's text in relation to the culture of the Humanities at the beginning of the 21st century, focusing in particular on the logical connection between the concept of corporations as people and the current corporate vision of the Humanities.

Lee Edelman began his academic career as a scholar of twentieth-century American poetry. His current work explores the intersections of sexuality, rhetorical theory, cultural politics, and film. He holds an appointment as the Fletcher Professor of English Literature and he is a former Chair of the English Department.

Points East

Events Co-Sponsored by the
Center for the Humanities at Tufts (CHAT)



Wednesday, March 7 at 4:30 pm

Rabb Room, Lincoln Filene Center

A Mixture of Pure Waters: Thoreau Reads the Gita at Walden Pond

Richard Davis

Bard College, Professor and Chair of Religion and Asian Studies



Wednesday, April 4 at 12 pm

Center for the Humanities

Fung House– 48 Professors Row

The Ottoman Self-Image: Multi-Culturalism and the Photograph in Les Costumes Populaires de la Turquie en 1873

Erin Hyde Nolan

*Boston University, History of Photography
Tufts Alumna*



Tuesday, April 17 at 6 pm

The Granoff Family Hillel Center, Room 002
220 Packard Ave

Second Person Singular, an Evening with

Sayed Kashua

Author and Journalist

Co-Sponsored by CHAT, The Diversity Fund, Fares Center, GRALL, Tufts Hillel, Hebrew Program, International Relations Program, Judaic Studies Program, and Middle Eastern Studies Program

DISTINGUISHED WRITERS SERIES

Martin Amis



Tuesday, February 28 at 5:30 pm

Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall

Q&A and Reception to follow

Martin Amis is the author of more than twenty books including the novels *Money* (1984), *London Fields* (1989), *The Information* (1995) and, most recently, *The Pregnant Widow* (2010), an autobiography *Experience* (2000), three collections of short stories, three books of essays and a meditation on Stalin *Koba the Dread: Laughter and the Twenty Million* (2002). His writing has been translated into more than thirty languages. He is one of the most admired, influential, and significant writers of his generation.

BOOK INTO FILM AND DOCUMENTARY FILM WEEK
MONDAY, MARCH 5—THURSDAY, MARCH 8

Monday, March 5 at 6 pm

Cabot Intercultural Center Auditorium

Tom Perrotta and Albert Berger
Moderated by Professor Julie Dobrow

Wednesday, March 7 at 5:30 pm

Tisch Library, Room 304

Documenting the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Moderated by Professor Jonathan Wilson

A Visual Clash

Yael Hersonski

Degrees of Incarceration

Amahl Bishara and Nidal Al-Azraq

Thursday, March 8 at 7 pm

Barnum Hall, Room 104

My Perestroika

Robin Hessman



RELIGION AND POLITICS IN THE USA

Thursday, March 29 at 4 pm

Alumnae Lounge, Aidekman Arts Center

This two-hour panel discussion features experts on evangelicals in office, American-Israeli politics, State Department outreach programs to Muslims abroad, and the internal politics within American Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities over gender, sexuality, and foreign policy. Moderated by Rosemary Hicks, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow. *Q&A and Reception to follow.*



Hishaam Aidi

Lecturer in Discipline of International and Public Affairs
Columbia University

Juliane Hammer

Assistant Professor, Kenan Rifai Fellow in Islamic Studies
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Laura Levitt

Professor of Religion, Jewish Studies and Gender
Temple University

Darnell L. Moore

Visiting Scholar
New York University, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality
Global Justice Institute

Josef Sorett

Assistant Professor of Religion and African-American Studies
Columbia University

David Harrington Watt

Associate Professor of History
Temple University

DISTINGUISHED WRITERS SERIES

Gary Shteyngart



Friday, March 30 at 5 pm

Cabot Auditorium, Cabot Intercultural Center

Introduction by Sasha Senderovich, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow

Q&A and Reception to follow

Gary Shteyngart is the author of *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* (2002), *Absurdistan* (2006), and *Super Sad True Love Story* (2010). His writing has been featured in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Granta*, and *Slate*. He is the winner of the Stephen Crane Award for First Fiction, the Book-of-the-Month Club First Fiction Award, the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction, and the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Literature. Shteyngart teaches in the graduate writing program at Columbia University.

BOOK INTO FILM AND DOCUMENTARY FILM WEEK

Tom Perrotta



Joined by special guest, film producer and Tufts alumnus

Albert Berger

Monday, March 5 at 6 pm

Cabot Intercultural Center Auditorium

Q&A and Reception to follow

Tom Perrotta is the author of seven novels, including *Election* and *Little Children* both of which were made into critically acclaimed, Academy Award® nominated films. Perrotta co-wrote the screenplay for the 2006 film version of *Little Children* with Todd Field, for which he received an Academy Award® nomination for Best Adapted Screenplay. His most recent novel is *The Leftovers*.

BOOK INTO FILM AND DOCUMENTARY FILM

Yael Hersonski



Joined by special guests, filmmakers
Amahl Bishara and Nidal Al-Azraq

Wednesday, March 7 at 5:30 pm

Tisch Library, Room 304

Moderated by Professor Jonathan Wilson

Q&A and Reception to follow

Yael Hersonski is an Israeli director and editor. Her documentary *A Film Unfinished* (2009) which critically examines a 1942 Nazi propaganda film shot in the Warsaw ghetto, won the best international feature award at the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival and went on to win the World Cinema Documentary Editing Award at Sundance. Her documentary in progress, *A Visual Clash*, uses archival material relating to the March 2012 Gaza Freedom Flotilla to explore the gap between the unrepeatable event itself and the virtual media event that followed.

NEW RUSSIAN-AMERICAN WRITING

A THREE DAY SYMPOSIUM IN CONJUNCTION WITH WELLESLEY COLLEGE

David Bezmozgis's stories have appeared in numerous publications including *Harpers* and *The New Yorker*. His first book, *Natasha and Other Stories* (2004), has been translated into fifteen languages. His first feature film, *Victoria Day* (2006), premiered at Sundance in 2009, and received a Genie Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay. His first novel, *The Free World*, was published in April 2011.



Anya Ulinich is the author of *Petropolis* (2008). She was awarded the Goldberg Prize for Emerging Writers of Jewish Fiction (2008), named a finalist for the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature Finalist (2008), and included in the National Book Foundation's "5 under 35" (2007).



Lara Vapnyar emigrated from Russia to New York in 1994. She is the critically-acclaimed author of the novel *Memoirs of a Muse* (2006). And two short-story collections, *Broccoli and Other Tales of Food and Love* (2008), and *There Are Jews in My House* (2004). She teaches creative writing at New York University.



DISCUSSANTS AND MODERATORS

Sasha Senderovich, *Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Tufts University*

Professor Julia Vaingurt, *University of Illinois at Chicago*

Professor Adrian J. Wanner, *Pennsylvania State University*

Professor Anna Wexler-Katsnelson, *Princeton University*

NEW RUSSIAN-AMERICAN WRITING

A THREE DAY SYMPOSIUM IN CONJUNCTION WITH WELLESLEY COLLEGE

Reading at Wellesley College

Anya Ulinich and Lara Vapnyar

Wednesday, March 28 at 4:30 pm

Newhouse Center, Green Hall

Panel and Discussion at Tufts University

David Bezmozgis, Anya Ulinich, and Lara Vapnyar

Thursday, March 29 at 4 pm

Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall

Q&A and Reception to follow

Readings at Tufts University

David Bezmozgis

Thursday, March 29 at 6:30 pm

Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall

Gary Shteyngart

Friday, March 30 at 5 pm

Cabot Auditorium, Cabot Intercultural Center

Q&A and Reception to follow

BOOK INTO FILM AND DOCUMENTARY FILM WEEK

Robin Hessman



Thursday, March 8 at 7 pm

Barnum Hall, Room 104

Q&A and Reception to follow

Robin Hessman holds a graduate degree in film directing from the All-Russian State Institute of Cinematography (VGIK) in Moscow. She received an Academy Award® in 1994 – with co-director James Longley – for their student film, *Portrait of Boy with Dog*. Her feature-length documentary directing debut, *My Perestroika*, which focuses on five young Russians coming of age in the shifting political landscape of Soviet and post-Soviet Russia, premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival as part of the US Documentary competition and was screened in New York as part of the prestigious film series, *New Directors/New Films*, curated by MoMA and the Film Society of Lincoln Center.

BOOK INTO FILM AND DOCUMENTARY FILM WEEK

Albert Berger

Albert Berger produced the Academy Award® nominated films *Little Miss Sunshine* (2006) and *Little Children* (2006). His film credits also include *King of the Hill* (1993), *Election* (1999), *The Wood* (1999), *Cold Mountain* (2003), and the award-winning documentary *Crumb* (1994). He is a Tufts alumnus, class of 1979.



Amahl Bishara and Nidal Al-Azraq

Amahl Bishara is an assistant professor of anthropology at Tufts University, and her husband Nidal Al-Azraq teaches Arabic in Boston and is a long-time activist with youth in Aida Refugee Camp, Bethlehem. Their documentary, *Degrees of Incarceration*, examines how Palestinian refugees manage the heavy toll political prison takes on young and old under Israeli occupation. Through observational footage and interviews filmed over six years in Aida Refugee Camp, *Degrees of Incarceration* introduces a community of Palestinians – mothers, teens, children, community leaders – as they strive to support each other in the enduring shadow of political prison.



DISTINGUISHED WRITERS SERIES

Zadie Smith



Tuesday, March 27 at 5:30 pm

Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall

Co-Sponsored by the Toupin-Bolwell Fund and the Diversity Fund

Q&A and Reception to follow

Zadie Smith is the author of three novels, *White Teeth* (2000), which won the Guardian First Book Award, the Whitbread First Novel Award, the Commonwealth Writers Prize, and the Orange Prize for Fiction; *The Autograph Man* (2002); and *On Beauty* (2005). Her essays, collected in *Changing My Mind: Occasional Essays* (2009), have appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Harpers*, and *The Believer*. She is one of the most celebrated and prolific British writers.