

# The Independent Scholar

The Newsletter of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars

Vol. 25, No. 3 (August 2012)

## In this Issue

President's Letter

Thirty Years of San Diego Independent Scholars

A Conversation: Richard Robbins, President of The Institute for Historical Study and Sam Gusman, President of San Diego Independent Scholars

New Press Founded

Reviews, Websites, Apps, and more

Contact *The Independent Scholar* at [tis@ncis.org](mailto:tis@ncis.org).

*The Independent Scholar* is published four times a year by the National Coalition of Independent Scholars. ©2012 The National Coalition of Independent Scholars. All rights reserved.



Geisel Library at the University of California, San Diego, 2008. Photography by Ben Lunsford. Used under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.

## Thirty Years of San Diego Independent Scholars

By Gerry Horwitz

San Diego Independent Scholars originated in 1982 when Joy Frieman, leaving behind a faculty position at George Washington University, moved to Southern California. Desirous of a forum where those engaged in serious research could interact with fellow scholars outside academia, and aware of two organizations which had achieved such a community, the Princeton Research Forum and San Francisco's Institute for Historical Study, Frieman met Mary Stroll, who shared her aim to build such an organization. The two enlisted a few other interested individuals, and after many discussions, settled on a basic structure and a monthly meeting schedule and began issuing a monthly newsletter.

Qualifications, they decided, should include serious interest in research in

## Thirty Years of SDIS

any discipline, but no degree requirement. After their initial meeting place became unavailable, a conference room on the University of California at San Diego campus was secured, thus beginning a lasting relationship with UCSD. The outcome of a long discussion process with the UCSD library system is the equivalent of graduate library privileges (minus interlibrary loan) granted to SDIS members who are willing to partially pay for them; the organization assumes half the fee.

Brown bag lunches on the patio of a local bookstore were weekly occasions where the founders discussed not only their own work but also how to transform the group of independent scholars into a viable organization. To gain greater visibility, the ambitious group sponsored a conference on the national independent scholar movement in early 1983. Realizing that tax-exempt status was a necessary goal for their growing organization, the local scholars accomplished incorporation by the state of California and classification by the IRS as a non-profit group in early 1984, after writing a constitution, drawing up by-laws and filing for this advantageous status.

SDIS began its official existence offering two types of membership; one could become a scholar member with full privileges or an associate member, interested but not necessarily a scholar, with partial privileges. However, after much discussion, a by-Laws change in the mid '90s resulted in only one class of membership with identical privileges for all.

The early brown bag lunches continued, no longer as planning sessions but as monthly opportunities for members to become better acquainted and to meet prospective scholar members, until the hospitable bookstore owner relocated and the patio was no longer available.

Notices have always been sent to local city and neighborhood newspapers announcing meetings held eight months each year, September through May. They are free and open to the public, featuring

speakers on topics both contemporary and historical. December has always been the occasion for a social event rather than a business meeting, and June or July for years featured a pot-luck picnic at one of San Diego's many beaches and parks. When the latter became a tired idea, the notion of a book exchange gathering was adopted; members come together at the home of a member who has offered her garden and hospitality, bringing a worthwhile book as an offering and leaving with someone else's volume. Members are urged to invite interested friends to both winter and summer social events.

As attendance at monthly meetings increased, with numerous non-members present, the original rationale for the organization remained, leading to the formation of the first sub-group, Works In Progress. Interested members meet periodically in a small group to discuss their works in progress, with one scholar presenting research in less than final form-an intended written work or oral presentation or sometimes simply an idea-to other members for their reactions and suggestions.

A second sub-group took root in '94 when a few members came together to study literary theory. After

## Thirty Years of SDIS

exhausting that subject, they began applying various theories to works of literature, and soon left theory behind and concentrated on literature. The third sub-group (they are now called Study Groups) originated in '98 and focuses on science, principally on the brain. A fourth, called Colloquy Café, was born in '06. Participants consider concepts such as justice, childhood, identity, reality and (yes) prostitution, not to arrive at a jointly agreed –upon definition but to share and learn from differing perceptions. A film group started in '10; its adherents meet to view and discuss principally foreign films. Culture, as affected by language and ethics, is studied by a group which began in '10, and its success stimulated another cluster of members, called Culture II, who came together during the past year.

The size of the Study Groups is limited only by the capacities of the homes in which they gather and the maximum number of persons that facilitates effective discussion. Several have waiting lists. Most have regularly scheduled meeting dates.

Accomplishments through the years include a 1986 conference of West Coast independent scholars, which incidentally led to the formation of NCIS. It was during this meeting that a committee to investigate the possibility of a national organization of independent scholars was formed. In '87 SDIS held a manuscript contest for California independent scholars, in '89 a conference on the varieties of independent scholarship and in '95 a public seminar on “Publishing Today”. The tenth anniversary celebration in '92 featured a public lecture, and the 25th included an address on “The Importance of Independent Scholarship” by a longtime friend of SDIS who, still an academic, has been both an Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Arts and Humanities at UCSD and for three years was Provost of the University of Pennsylvania.



Helen Hawkins, an  
early member of SDIS

Total membership hovers around 70. In addition to the monthly newsletter, now issued to most members by e-mail, SDIS has a website ([www.sdscholars.org](http://www.sdscholars.org)). The organization has been fortunate in the generosity of several donors, resulting in the Helen Hawkins Fund and the Jane Ford Fund, both commemorating influential and active early members. The former is a grant fund, used for annual awards to further members' research. The latter is used to donate books (newly published by individuals during their membership) to the UCSD library system and to the San Diego Public Library system.

The emphasis on its original aim has shifted during the thirty years of the organization's existence. This defining statement now appears in every newsletter: “San Diego Independent Scholars supports unaffiliated writers and researchers and welcomes everyone who appreciates creative and intellectual activities in the humanities, science, and the arts.” Two characteristics, however, have remained: change, and constant discussion.

NCIS Affiliates: send your news, photos, and information including upcoming events for future issues of *The Independent Scholar* to [tis@ncis.org](mailto:tis@ncis.org).

# President's Letter

Dear members,

It is that time again – time for our membership to step up to the challenge of leadership and consider joining in the effort to continue the progress we have made recently. In the past two years, we have experienced some advances and made some missteps, but overall the organization is moving forward and offering even more benefits to our members. We have continued our affiliation with Foundation Center and offer access to their Grants to Individuals online database to all our members. Our benefits committee, most particularly Piri Halasz, worked hard to provide a database to libraries in almost every state that grant privileges to independent scholars. Our newsletter, The Independent Scholar is now available to any visitor to our website, providing public access to our member writing and accomplishments.

In the very near future, shortly after the publication of this issue of TIS, all our members will have access to FREE personal websites on the www.ncis.org website. You can also order business cards and other materials that carry the NCIS logo. I hand my own cards out with pride, and you can as well. We are working diligently to find new ways of serving our members and we need your help!

Our nominating committee is asking any member who has an interest in developing leadership skills, in helping the organization become a stronger, more effective advocate for independent scholars, to step forward and make themselves known. Several positions on the board of directors, as well as two positions on the executive committee are open and elections are coming soon.

I am looking forward with great anticipation to see what other ideas our new members will bring to the table. And, if you aren't interested in holding elected office but would like to volunteer on one of our committees or have ideas for benefits we may be able to incorporate, drop me a note and tell me what interests you. We need to hear from you if you have ideas for more benefit or services you would like to see offered. Our members are our greatest assets, our greatest source of ideas for the future, and our most important partners in this organization.

Sincerely Yours,  
Lisa Perry

## **A Conversation: Richard Robbins, President of The Institute for Historical Study and Sam Gusman, President of San Diego Independent Scholars**

Richard Robbins: Dear Sam,

When we met in San Francisco in June, we agreed to start a conversation about our organizations and what we are doing to strengthen them, expand them and keep them relevant. Here is my contribution. I hope we can continue this over time and get other Independent Scholar groups to join in.

After we spoke, I reflected on the ways The Institute for Historical Study and San Diego Independent Scholars appear to differ in their nature and operations. SDIS is a more open organization in that it tries to include many different kinds of scholarship: history, literature, social and hard sciences. TIHS is focused on history, but we try to embrace it in the broadest sense, so we have members working on everything from biography to botany. Yes, we look to the past. But as Carl Becker noted long ago, “the present” is a “specious” concept, it exists fleetingly at the edge of an unknowable future—a sort of Higgs boson. So all we really have is the past, and its study can encompass almost everything. Maybe our two organizations are not so different after all!

## A Conversation

One advantage SDIS has over TIHS is greater cohesion. I admire the fact that you can have a regular monthly meeting with an invited speaker, sometimes a member, sometimes not. That is something that would be hard for us to duplicate, in large part because of geography. Getting places in the Bay Area is complicated and our membership is spread out. Pulling them together monthly at one convenient place would be next to impossible, I fear. We do have regular Works in Progress sessions, open to all members, and we encourage everyone to come, but attendance is usually fairly small. We also have an annual membership meeting and an annual dinner. The most vital parts of TIHS are its sub-groups: Biography Writers, Medieval Studies, History Play Readers, and California Round Table. These meet regularly at different members' homes throughout the Bay Area. I'm not sure how (or if) we should try to change this. What are your thoughts?

Although we are historians, TIHS recently has been giving serious thought to the future. We have been a successful organization for over 30 years, but our membership is aging and declining in numbers. At its peak, TIHS had about 150 members; now our number hovers around 90. Not too bad, but can we sustain this over time? How can we renew our membership? Who or what should be our target demographic? At our last annual membership meeting in February, some people expressed serious concerns about these questions and we put together an Outreach Committee to come up with ideas. In late June our Board and the Outreach Committee met with Carla Silver, the Executive Director of the Santa Fe Leadership Center. She led us in a general review of our history, purpose, and direction. We concentrated on the questions: Whom do we serve now? Whom do we want to serve going forward? By the end we reached a number of important but fairly obvious conclusions:

1. We are not (exactly) what we used to be. TIHS was founded in the late 1970s by women and men who were coming out of graduate school and could not find regular employment in academe. They were seeking connection, camaraderie, and ways to continue involvement in the field they loved, including outreach to the larger public. Later other members were drawn in. TIHS continues to meet the desires of existing members, BUT
2. Although there is an academic jobs crisis today every bit as severe and the one faced in the late 70's, today's un/or under-employed former graduate students have other means of connection and camaraderie, so that for them an organization like TIHS may not really be needed or desired (i.e. do they want to hook up with graying folks from another generation?)
3. We should target people 50+ who are in history related fields (librarians, archivists, staff workers of local museums and historical societies), academics who have retired or are about to, especially those who have moved to the area and are seeking to connect with other historians, serious family and local historians (not buffs).
4. The big question is, of course, HOW? Word of mouth probably remains the most effective recruitment tool; an attractive website is a good thing and we are going to work on improving ours, but how do you get people to log on? One of the things we are planning in the near future is a public workshop/roundtable featuring some of the archivists in the Bay Area to discuss the archives they work in, their holdings and new acquisitions. It would stimulate research and be a corrective to the fallacy that "everything is on the web."

# A Conversation

OK. I've run on too long. I look forward to getting your thoughts. Hope others will join us.

Regards,  
Richard (Rob) Robbins  
President, TIHS

Sam Gusman: Dear Rob,

In many respects, as you nicely point out, the apparent differences between our organizations may mask underlying basic commonalities. Accepting differences, I see many areas in which this conversation has potential for mutual learning, possibly even mutual action.

Much has changed in the social environment since The Institute for Historical Study (TIHS) and San Diego Independent Scholars (SDIS) were founded about three decades ago. Both organizations outwardly seem to continue apace, and in many ways they have, yet you and I appear to share an angst that something may be amiss; membership is getting older and perhaps we are somehow insufficiently in tune with the ways of today's world. Actually, this understates the urgency of my concern.

You describe sub-groups—Biography Writers, Medieval Studies, and more—as the most vital parts of TIHS. I believe most SDIS members would agree that study groups are already a vital part of SDIS. I expect they will continue to grow in importance. I characterize SDIS study groups as a kind of shared inquiry and intellectual exploration of specific issues, ideas or texts.

Does this suggest an organizing principle? I believe it does, tied to the word “participatory.” Members’ active participation in an intellectual conversation for their mutual enlightenment can foster a sense of “being an integral part” of a process of discovery. Actually, I mean something quite strong, akin to the sense of joint ownership you can feel for something you, together with others, have discovered or devised. This principle is my bedrock reason for encouraging new SDIS activities ranging from new small groups of various kinds to building interactivity into the redesign of our website.

In the first SDIS newsletter (the September 2010 issue of the *Scholar's Notebook*) after I became President, I wrote:

Some members attend SDIS Saturday lectures and discussions; some do not. Some regularly participate in study groups; some do not. SDIS offers a variety of venues. I suggest that these are all variations on a common theme: a home-base for sharing varied flavors of reasoned inquiry, for learning from and with each other.

I expanded on this theme in the September, 2011 *Scholar's Notebook*:

Everywhere in the media, and generally in public exchanges, one sees examples of destructive interpersonal process rather than intellectually deep mutual search to illuminate the issues at hand in ways which expand knowledge and clarity of thought.

Let's explore the implications of the following hypothesis: A low general quality of public discourse increases

## A Conversation

the perceived relative value of specific venues within which a higher quality of discourse prevails. TIS and SDIS are examples of small enclaves outside academia within which higher standards of discourse are the norm. I suggest that adherence to a high quality of discourse is a core strength of our organizations and deserves specific attention when reaching out to prospective new members.

As an aside, for me personally, the pleasure of inquiry and discovery is paramount; learning from and with others in thoughtful and reasoned conversation is a special joy. It is also a practice which, in idealistic moments and against the tide, I would like to see promoted as a cultural core value. It is an attribute of SDIS which contributes strongly to my sense that participating in its management is an inherently worthy activity.

Your comment that today's un/or under-employed former graduate students have other means of connection and camaraderie. While I agree that this generalization is apt, there are those few whose friendships and individual scholarly interests lead them to the doorsteps of our organizations. They are most welcome, but experience demonstrates that their number is insufficient to sustain membership at a viable level.

I suggest an opposite generalization applicable to a different, very large, and somewhat older demographic just now starting to reach retirement age. I have in mind the "baby boomer" generation, especially:

- Those whose work-based intellectual lives took them into narrow areas of specialization and who choose now to explore outside their earlier areas of specific expertise;
- Those for whom important work-based intellectual affiliations have been lost as a direct result of retirement; and
- Those whose careers had veered away from intellectually stimulating pathways and who see retirement as an opportune time to begin scholarly explorations.

Turning now to a different kind of dynamic, you use a historical perspective to describe the present as at the edge of an unknowable future. I can easily articulate different points of view leading to the same conclusion. Yet, foolish and fruitless as it sometimes is, I see a common human trait to "plan ahead," to have intentions and goals. Within the context of organizational development, it is this orientation toward the future which captures my attention. It also captures my practical sense that, as people who lead organizations, you and I can each fairly be called upon to answer questions such as: "What is your mission? What are your goals? Your plans?"

In sum, these comments lead in two directions. The first starts with identification of organizational core strengths and seeks to identify a demographic which will benefit most from what we have to offer. The second starts with identification of appropriate goals and plans in keeping with a stated mission.

TIS is always looking for members interested in reviewing books, writing short articles, and contributing in other ways to the publication. If you're interested, please send a short sample of your work (1,000 words or less) to the TIS editor at [tis@ncis.org](mailto:tis@ncis.org).

My tendency is stay at the intersection of these two themes. Pragmatically, outreach needs to focus on what potential new members will view as benefits of membership. As new members join the organization, their input, taken together with input from older members, will shape and reshape the organization's strengths, goals

## A Conversation

and plans, on and on through the years and decades.

The net result is ongoing recalibration of what the organization uniquely has to offer. I see it as a dynamic process which leads to honoring who we are coupled with openness to ongoing adaptive change.

With great interest I look forward to receiving your next comments. As you say, perhaps others will join in too.

With all good wishes,  
Sam Gusman, President  
San Diego Independent Scholars

*The Independent Scholar* invites responses and comments from readers on this debate for publication in the November 2012 issue. The deadline for sending responses is October 15; please address all correspondence to [tis@ncis.org](mailto:tis@ncis.org).

## Call for Election Nominees

Dear Fellow NCIS Members,

We write to you as members of the 2012 Nominating Committee of NCIS and ask you to read this message.

As NCIS works to serve the independent scholar community, we need to pursue a new set of goals that will strengthen and expand our organization in order to provide enhanced services and benefits that our members require. The 2011 Member Survey responses form the basis for the board's short- and long-range planning to realize those goals.

Most of us understand that the key to any successful organization—for profit or nonprofit—is the leadership team. In President Lisa Perry and the current board we have dedicated members who are responsible for a range of services including membership, benefits and communication. It is the leadership team who will implement the goals to meet the challenges ahead.

The vision of our NCIS board and the role it plays in the world of independent scholarship is very much the vision of the organization's founders. While that vision remains with us, the methods by which independent scholars now must operate in our increasingly competitive and technological world have changed in the more than two decades since NCIS was founded. The most important role NCIS can play is to provide tools with which our members can flourish in the new multifaceted and complex world of scholarship.

We have several vacancies on the board, and we ask members who may be interested in participating on our leadership team to make themselves known to the nominating committee. Board elections will be held in mid-October.

What is required of a board member? In order to stand for election, a member must be in good standing and

# Call for Nominees

current in payment of his/her dues.

The board operates as follows:

- 1) There are regularly scheduled board meetings via SKYPE conference call of about one hour in duration in which the entire board participates. Attendance at board meetings is mandatory.
- 2) All board members are appointed to a specific assignment related to the workings of the organization. Other than officer positions, board member job descriptions are developed by the president in discussion with the board member.
- 3) Assignments are reasonable in scope and do not require large amounts of time. Conservatively speaking, four to six hours per month would be the norm; in some cases, even less.
- 4) Terms are two years in length. A board member may serve three successive two- year terms for a total of six years before he/she terms out.

The duties and powers of officers are included in the Bylaws that are available at [www.ncis.org](http://www.ncis.org). In addition to the board openings, executive committee positions of Vice-President and Treasurer are also open.

Please feel free to contact any one of the nominating committee members before September 10 to express your interest. We look forward to hearing from you.

With warm regards,

Katalin Kádár Lynn  
Chair: Nominating Committee  
Interim Treasurer  
Life Member NCIS  
[katalin100@gmail.com](mailto:katalin100@gmail.com)

Janet Wasserman  
Past President  
Life Member NCIS  
[Mae08ben02x@aol.com](mailto:Mae08ben02x@aol.com)

David Sonenschein  
Book Review Editor: TIS  
Founding Member NCIS  
[dsncis@gmail.com](mailto:dsncis@gmail.com)

## New Press Founded by Katalin Kádár Lynn

A scholar of Hungarian history, long-time NCIS member and current treasurer Katalin Kádár Lynn has published several books of her own and was awarded the Gold Cross of Merit from the President of the Hungarian Republic in 2011 for her work supporting graduate students in the discipline through her foundation Modern Minerva Alapítvány. Last year, Kádár Lynn began work on yet another project established to aid researchers and writers working on topics Central and East European history. Recognizing a need for a new publisher focusing on this area, she founded the Helena History Press, bringing on board distinguished scholars from the United States, Canada, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, including Tibor Frank, Anna Mazurkiewicz, Robert Austin, Judith Kesserú Némethy, Béla Várdy, Agnes Huszar Várdy, John K. Cox, Mark

## New Press

Stout, Francis Raska, and Peter Pastor.

Helena History Press currently has two books scheduled for publication in 2013: *The Artist Proletariat and the Rise of Modernism: The Case of Hungary* by Jeffrey Taylor, and a collection of essays, *The Inauguration of Organized Political Warfare: Cold War Organizations Sponsored by the National Committee for a Free Europe*, edited by Kádár Lynn and including contributions from leading historians from Denmark, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Poland, and the United States.

Helena History Press is accepting proposals in Central and East European History. For full details, visit the Press's website at <http://www.helenahistorypress.com/authors.html>. The Press will also be an exhibitor at the upcoming Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) conference in New Orleans from November 15-18, 2012, and Kádár Lynn will be speaking at the conference in the session "Boundaries: the Challenges for Independent Scholars in Slavic and East European Studies" on November 15. The session was organized by our NCIS board secretary Quinn Dombrowski.

## Five Useful Websites for Independent Scholars

New Faculty Majority, <http://www.newfacultymajority.info/equity/>

If you're an adjunct or other non-tenure track employee teaching at a college or university, you're part of what people are calling the New Faculty Majority. The NFM is a membership organization modeled on the American Association of University Professors and MoveOn.org, and works with adjuncts and other NTT teachers to promote "economic justice and academic equity for all college faculty" and to create "stable, equitable, sustainable, non-exploitative academic environments that promote more effective teaching, learning, and research." You can become a member of the NFM for free and add your voice to those working to secure better rights, pay, and benefits for adjuncts. Visit the website to join, sign up for news alerts, or simply become more familiar with the facts surrounding NTT labor in academia.

ProfHacker, <http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/>

While sometimes focused on teaching and academia, ProfHacker is also a great blog for independent scholars, offering advice and reviews on research, publishing, tech, grants, and more. Frequent guest posts include those by grads, independent scholars and those working in alt-ac (alternate academic) careers, such as publishing, museum studies, think tanks, etc. Topics have included creating a free, simple, professional website for promoting your work to career options in and outside of academia, reading for scholars and researchers, and managing workflow.

CHE IS thread, <http://chronicle.com/forums/index.php/topic,56873.105.html>

The Chronicle of Higher Education sponsors a thriving discussion forum, including a thread just for independent scholars. ISs frequently post questions and offer advice to others throughout the CHE Forum, located at <http://chronicle.com/forums/>, and can post on topics specific to IS work and life at the Independent Scholars Support Thread. You must register to post new comments, but can post pseudonymously. You do not need a CHE subscription to use the Forum.

## Websites for ISs

Academia.edu, <http://www.academia.edu/>

Academia.edu is a kind of Facebook for scholars, regardless of whether they're affiliated with an institution. You can sign up as an independent scholar and post copies of your articles, conference talks, c.v., and more, giving viewers as much or as little access to your materials as you like. Academia.edu members can follow others in their fields and receive updates on conferences, forthcoming publications, and other activities. Use of the site is entirely free and user-friendly.

Humanities Journal Wiki, [http://humanitiesjournals.wikia.com/wiki/Humanities\\_Journals\\_Wiki](http://humanitiesjournals.wikia.com/wiki/Humanities_Journals_Wiki)

The Humanities Journal Wiki is a user-updated and supported site with information on journals in the humanities and social sciences. Users can provide data on how long a particular journal took to review an article, what a journal's reputation is, what its acceptance rate is, how to contact the editor and more. Users, who remain anonymous, are encouraged to provide feedback about their experiences with journals found on the wiki and to enter information on journals not already listed.

## Free Productivity Apps

Productivity apps and programs abound: list-makers, citation managers, data organizers. Here are some of the very best free apps for researchers and scholars.

- LibreOffice (<http://www.libreoffice.org/>) With the acquisition of OpenOffice by Apache, original OpenOffice developers took their code and established LibreOffice, a free, open-source suite of programs including a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation builder, database builder, and more. LibreOffice looks a lot like Microsoft's Office Suite did before the advent of the MS "Ribbon"—it's clean, easy to use, and fully compatible with all other major office suite programs, which means that you can save your files in a multitude of formats that users of other programs can still open and read without problems.
- Zotero ([www.zotero.org](http://www.zotero.org)) Zotero is a citation manager that you can use in your browser window or as a stand-alone on your computer's desktop. Create reference databases for projects, enter books and articles via ISBN, ISSN, or DOI, add notes, attach PDFs, photos, or other files, and use the Zotero add-in for Word and LibreOffice to have the program instantly format your citations in one of over 150 styles including Chicago Manual of Style, APA, and MLA. You can share your databases with other scholars or keep them private, and sync your files to the web so that you can access your databases securely from any computer. Zotero is available for PCs, Macs, and Linux-based systems, and the support forums and help from the developers are excellent.
- Wunderlist ([www.wunderlist.com](http://www.wunderlist.com)) is a to-do list that lives in your browser. Create multiple lists, link tasks, share tasks with others, and set alarms and deadlines for your projects. Another great free to-do list is Remember the Milk (<http://www.rememberthemilk.com/>), which does the same things and can email you when you're nearing a deadline.
- If you use the Pomodoro Technique or a similar time-based writing approach in which you write without interruption for timed 25 (or other amount) minute chunks, there are several free timers available. E.ggtimer (<http://e.ggtimer.com/>) will count down for you in stand-alone segments or groups of time blocks. Online Stopwatch (<http://www.online-stopwatch.com/countdown-timer/>) can count down for writing sessions or up for when you need to time a paper for a presentation. Cool Timer ([http://download.cnet.com/Cool-](http://download.cnet.com/Cool-11)

## Free Apps

Timer/3000-2350\_4-10062255.html) can be set for up to 99 hours and offers a myriad of custom settings, including helping you remember why you set the timer in the first place.

*TIS invites your reviews of apps, programs, devices, and other products for scholars. Send us your opinion of a product you've used recently at [tis@ncis.org](mailto:tis@ncis.org) for possible inclusion in a future issue of The Independent Scholar.*

## What Do You Take to an Archive?



Photo from the Open Clip Art Library. Used under a Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication.

Whether it's your first time working in an archive or your twentieth, you'll want to take along these basic items to make your research easier and your time more productive.

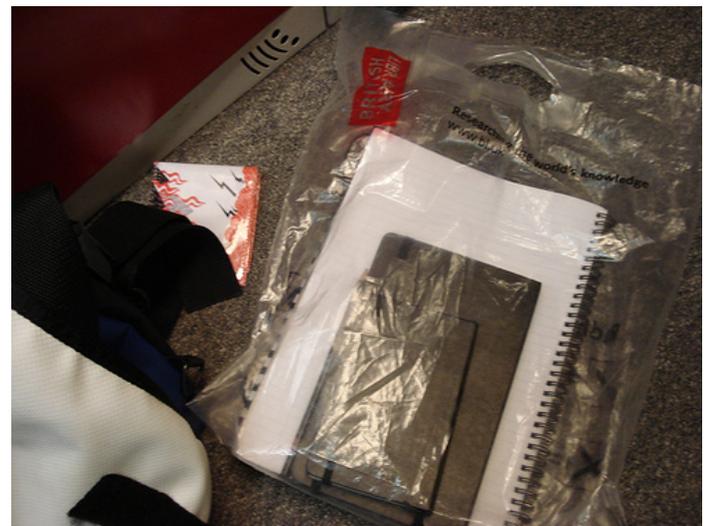
- Two mechanical pencils and an eraser. Request slips are filled out by hand, and some archives don't allow pens. If you take handwritten notes or are checking documents off on a list, go with graphite.

- Notebook or pad of paper. Even if you use a laptop or other digital device, having scrap paper around is useful for marking a place in a book, writing down call numbers and shelfmarks, or taking a quick note that doesn't need to go into your database.

- A digital camera. Many libraries now allow researchers to take photographs of documents and other materials as long as they don't use the flash. Ask before you go by phoning or emailing the librarian in charge of the collection you'll be working with if their camera policy allows scholars to shoot their own materials.

- Extra batteries and memory cards/flash drives for your laptop or other device and digital camera. Back up your work at least twice an hour to a flash drive, memory card, or cloud storage. Having extra camera batteries means you can charge one while you use the other to take photos.

- A clear plastic bag. Many archives don't let you take in your own bags, which means you have to carry everything in your arms or in a clear plastic bag. Some libraries, like the British Library and the Folger Shakespeare Library, give out these bags, but other



At many libraries, you must carry any belongings into the reading rooms in a clear plastic bag, like this one from the British Library. Photo from

Wikimedia Commons. Used under a Creative Commons CC0 1.0

Universal Public Domain Declaration.

## Archives

places don't. Choose a bag that can be easily seen through by archive guards and can carry your device, wallet, power cords, camera, notepads, pencils, and anything else you take in with you. Ziplock bags are also great for organizing your power cords, batteries, pencils, and other tools.

- Business cards. When you meet other scholars, have your business card ready so that you can stay in touch. Be sure to include your name, an email address you check regularly, and a website url, if you have one. You can get NCIS business cards through the website.
- Coins and single dollar bills. Some archives have copiers that take credit cards or institute-specific copy cards, but others require cash, so have some on hand for making quick copies.
- A sweater or shawl. Archives can be cold. Even in the middle of a hotter-than-hot Washington, D. C. summer, you can find scholars at the Library of Congress wrapped up indoors.

Next issue: Conference Kits.

Send TIS your list of scholarly and networking must-haves for conferences and we'll include it in the November 2012 issue!

## Review

Tricia Cusack, *Riverscapes and National Identities*, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2010, 238 pp., 40 b/w illustrations, works cited. Retail price \$29.95 (9.25 x 6.25 in.) ISBN 978-0-8156-3211-5.

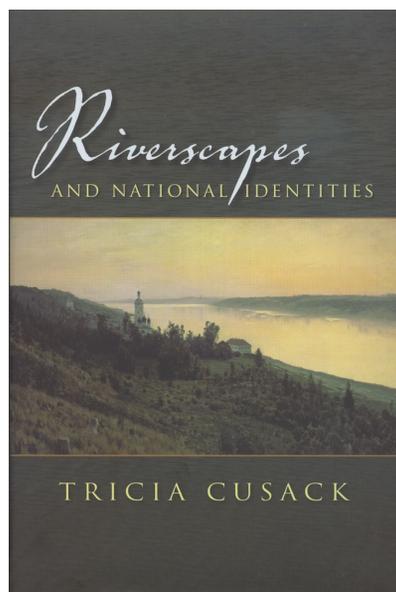
Reviewed by Ann Lee Morgan

Tricia Cusack's thought-provoking *Riverscapes and National Identities* surveys the cultural meanings of five rivers that are each closely associated with the countries through which they flow. Situating her work within the context of nationalism studies, she wonders how the visual imagery of rivers assisted in fashioning allegiance to five modern states.

Why are rivers suitable for this purpose in the first place? As Cusack points out, they may be considered natural symbols. Commonly linked with the inexorable flow of time and with ideas of fertility and regeneration, rivers have long figured in myth and in religious imagery. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries—to which Cusack devotes her particular attention—rivers in addition came to embody specific symbolic functions as nations wrestled with political and cultural distinctiveness.

In England, although the Thames had long held a place in London's iconography, the river took on heightened

## Review



symbolic meaning during the nineteenth century, as it “increasingly became also a national symbol signaling both the nation’s history and its rapidly changing present” (p. 59). Cusack associates the Thames with discourses about “an ethnocultural ‘Englishness’ and a modern imperial ‘Britishness’” (p. 60). The upper Thames represented an idyllic, rural England and implied the cherished freedoms of its citizenry. The lower Thames, on the other hand, as it flowed through London, represented British power and ambition, reinforced by the monarchy and the church. As London’s Thames became increasingly polluted, criticism of this condition led eventually to rectification through public projects that brought modern order and efficiency to its commercial and transport purposes. To support her argument, Cusack invokes artistic responses of a wide range of observers, from Richard Wilson, who embraced an idealizing approach to the rural Thames as early as the mid-eighteenth century, to James Tissot, creator of a dystopian London representation from the 1870s.

In France, the Seine served to bolster national identity in the period after the Franco-Prussian War and Commune by offering a setting for bourgeois leisure. In paintings that stress the pleasures of modern life, riverscapes by Manet, Monet, and Renoir, as well as others who contributed to Impressionism, memorably visualized an unproblematic ethos. Generally eliding conflicts, distress, and memories of the war, this new art created an orderly Republican setting serving the interests of the elite and the dominant middle class alike. Traditional grand narratives and devotional imagery thus yielded to secular and scientific modernity promoted by the State.

For Russia, incorporating within its huge land mass both East and West, and home to many ethnic subdivisions, the Volga served as a symbol of authentic Russianess, rooted in the Orthodox Church. During the nineteenth century, as national consciousness increased, sharp debates arose between Westernizers drawn to a European model of modernization and nostalgic Slavophiles romanticizing the Russian soul. Slavophiles, wishing to “regenerate Russian culture through traditional Orthodox teaching and by means of literature and art” (p. 136), consciously embarked on a program of cultural nationalism. Long revered as an “embodiment of Russia” (p. 142), Mother Volga served to emblemize a newly energized commitment to the homeland. Painters Ilya Repin and Isaak Levitan stood at the forefront of those who gave visual expression to the river’s holy meaning within Christianized Russian culture.

Within a context of revived nationalism in the late nineteenth century, Ireland’s Shannon River demarcated the nation’s West. This region appealed to sentiment as the repository of true Gaelic culture because the English domination of the island had remained principally to the east. As an Irish revival took shape, scholars began to rediscover and re-sacralize sites of earlier spirituality along the Shannon, most particularly at Clonmacnoise. After the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922, “the new state assumed the mantle of Catholicism and Gaelicism” (p. 161). But it also used the Shannon for a major modernization scheme, the building of the Ardnacrusha dam to provide electricity to the region. Not surprisingly, given the symbolic and historical associations already linked to the Shannon, the electrification project was greeted with ambivalence. Some saw

## Review

it as a necessary ingredient of Ireland's future success, while others regarded it as a desecration of traditional Irish ways. Cusack centers her analysis of this dispute on Séan Keating's series of paintings commissioned by the electrification authority to record the construction project. Despite the official nature of these paintings, she identifies within them elements of disquiet regarding the meaning of the dam.

As for the United States, Cusack's chapter on the role of the Hudson River during the nineteenth century "focuses on the religious-ethnic and gender contexts of national identity formation in this period, and on the figure of the pioneer, and suggests how some of the iconic paintings of the Hudson River School contributed to the construction of an exclusive national identity" (p. 19). Centering her discussion on the work of Thomas Cole and landscape specialists who followed his lead in the late 1820s and afterward, she notes their popularity in early nineteenth-century New York, by then already the nation's commercial center. Cusack astutely differentiates topographical and leisure-oriented scenes, which focus on present realities, from exalted Hudson River School visions. Noting an association of Hudson River School painting with a "Christian ethos" (p. 26), she posits the painters' vision of "God's handiwork" (p. 29) as signifying to Americans that they were a divinely chosen people. Thus, Hudson River School paintings give visual expression to spiritually inflected ideals that would lead the United States into an inevitably triumphant future—by implication, belonging to the white man.

Of the five river-oriented chapters, this, regarding the Hudson, seems the least original and the least well-reasoned. Certain topics—notably spiritualizing interpretations of the physical landscape and Euro-American vilification of indigenous peoples—have been so thoroughly investigated by earlier scholars that her extended examination of these historical phenomena may be longer than necessary. Moreover—and more importantly—in each of the other chapters, the respective rivers are convincingly shown to have contributed to clearly voiced debates, while the Hudson River discussion offers a perplexingly totalizing reading of national identity. By failing to recognize opposing voices, Cusack compromises the validity of her thesis.

If there is a truly "American" river, it must be the Mississippi. Nevertheless, for the purposes of argument regarding the early nineteenth century, the Hudson suits Cusack's project. Still, it is useful to recall that the United States had acquired much of the trans-Mississippi West in 1803. (Western lands all the way to the Pacific Ocean would be secured in the 1840s.) Even by the 1820s explorers had returned with reports that piqued widespread interest, and artists soon followed.

Cusack herself acknowledges that the "process of national identity formation is always complex, and particularly in nineteenth-century America," (p. 19). Granted, the Hudson River School can be associated with the identity of a relatively educated commercial and cultural elite centered in New York City in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. But a national identity? I'm not so sure. What of slave-holding Southerners? Throughout the nineteenth century, even after Emancipation, they held on to a distinctive and often oppositional culture. Or New Englanders and immigrants on the move? As they headed into the Middle West, they may indeed have appreciated nature's sublimity, but they were a lot more interested in practical uses of the land for agricultural or commercial purposes. (Chicago and St. Louis, after all, were booming settlements by the 1830s.) In fact, these westward-faring people, in search of better futures for themselves, exemplified a characteristically American drive toward what was yet to come. Yet, Cusack's notion of American national identity was largely backward-looking. It recycled the spiritual goals of earlier English arrivals for an eastern

## Review

elite that yearned for the lost world of a more uncomplicated day. Thus, her “national identity” might better be identified as a regionally specific set of beliefs that later played itself out in aspects of hegemonic “Manifest Destiny.”

Even as the Hudson River School was gaining a toehold in the New York art world, the trans-Mississippi West was already attracting the attention of other artists. In 1832 George Catlin traveled widely in the West, faithfully and respectfully recording Indians, their way of life, and the landscape they inhabited. By the late 1850s the Hudson River School’s classic moment had come and gone. In the New York art world, such work would soon be regarded as old-fashioned. Thus, although Cusack claims that it is “clear that over the course of the nineteenth century a powerful ideology of nationalism, allied to a peculiar sense of divine purpose, was consolidated in America” (p. 19), the Hudson River School cannot be invoked with respect to this consolidation much past mid-century, at best. Cusack does not note that Frederick Church, Cole’s only direct pupil, went on to make his fame by traveling widely and adapting his Hudson River heritage not only to new lands but to a new sensibility. In 1853, he headed to South America, and before the end of the decade, his scientifically detailed paintings of dramatic scenery gained wide acclaim in New York. Nor does Cusack mention Albert Bierstadt, who journeyed to the Rocky Mountains in 1859. His theatrical paintings of that region created a sensation in New York in the early 1860s. Both, among others, steered American landscape painting toward new interests, some incompatible with those of the Hudson River School.

Seeing the identity supported by the Hudson River School as exclusionary—indeed, she mentions that national identity formation often involves the practice of shutting out, or even exterminating, some groups—Cusack emphasizes the absence of Native Americans. No one can today defend most nineteenth-century American government policies toward these people. But Catlin was not alone in his fascination with indigenous inhabitants and sympathies for their culture. Indeed, concurrently with the Hudson River School, there existed a countercurrent that romanticized the “Noble Savage” for his closeness to nature, physical prowess, and spiritual authenticity. Perhaps the near absence of women might be expected (as pretty commonly throughout the western world). But in giving no attention to the erasure of African-American faces, Cusack skirts one of the most contentious issues of American national identity.

These reservations about Cusack’s characterization of identity formation in the United States do little to detract overall from an intriguing and informative book. The author offers many original insights within a relatively compressed argument—which could, I think, be augmented with further discussion. It’s a pity that the reproductions are too few and of relatively poor quality. (Not Cusack’s decision, I’d guess, but the publisher’s.) Better visual material would have strengthened and clarified her intentions.

*Riverscapes* may be only the beginning. What of other European rivers? The Danube, the Rhine, the Tiber? And what would cross-cultural investigations reveal? The Nile, the Amazon, and the Yangtze await.

NCIS members: Have a book you'd like reviewed? Contact Book Review Editor David Sonenschein at [dsncis@gmail.com](mailto:dsncis@gmail.com) for information on submitting your work for review.

## Member News

**Tisa M. Anders** coordinated the session and presented a paper, “The Western Nebraska Beet Fields across Space and Time through the Eyes of Art,” at the Agricultural History Society's Annual Meeting in Manhattan, Kansas, June 2012. This topic, based on a mural by Carlos Hernandez Chavez about his parents' and extended family's sugar beet field work in Western Nebraska, also will be shared in a second presentation, “Impact of the Western Nebraska Beet Fields through the Eyes of Art,” at the Western History Association's conference in Denver, Colorado, October 2012.

**Susmita Barua** was a Presenter for NCIS in January AHA Conference. She will be a panelist for “Teaching Dharma in New Lands” at the 2nd International Association of Buddhist Universities Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

**Toni Carey** gave a paper at a Scottish Enlightenment conference in Columbia, SC in April on collegiality within five 18th-century Scottish universities, and between universities and learned societies there. She will also give a paper called “Scotland and Harvard Yard” on September 6th in Princeton at the Center for the Study of Scottish Philosophy.

**Bonnie Clause's** book, *Edward Hopper in Vermont*, is coming out in early October from the University Press of New England.

**Stephanie Harp** presented “Inheriting Home: Race, History, and Family Memory” at “Identity-Memory-Testimony,” the Spring Academic Conference of the Maine Women Writers Collection/Maine Women's Studies Consortium/New England Women's Studies Association in Portland, Maine, in March. She will present “‘Whiter Than Snow’: Southern Baptist Hymnody in the 1920s and a Lynching in Little Rock” at the Without Sanctuary Conference at the Center for the Study of the New South, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, in October. Her recent article about the 1927 lynching of John Carter in Little Rock, Arkansas, has been published by America's Black Holocaust Museum. (<http://www.abhmuseum.org/2012/08/the-lynching-of-john-carter/>) A personal narrative about the event is forthcoming on the same site. She maintains a website <http://stephanieharp.com/> about all of her work, and a blog about her history research and writing <http://www.stephanieharp.com/inheritance/>.

**Katalin Kádár Lynn's** newest book is *Photography by Margaret Bourke-White: Hungary 1938: Through an American Lens* (East European Monographs, 2011).

**Susan Lanzoni** has two publications coming out this September in the journal *Science in Context*. She co-edited the special issue, selected the cover image, wrote the introduction to the issue, and contributed her own research article, “Introduction: Emotion and the Sciences: Varieties of Empathy in Science, Art, and History” and “Empathy in Translation: Movement and Image in the Psychological Laboratory.”

**Kelly M. McDonald's** chapter “‘A Reputation for Accomplishment’: Marianne Dashwood and Emma Woodhouse as Artistic Performers,” has been accepted for publication in *Elegance, Propriety, Harmony: Jane Austen and the Arts*, edited by Natasha Duquette and Elisabeth Lenckos by Lehigh University Press. Kelly's interest in the education of young ladies during England's Regency period, specifically Emma Smith (born

## Member News

1801), who married into the Austen family in 1829. Kelly's ongoing research into the lives of Emma Smith and her sister-in-law Mary Gosling is the topic of her blog [SmithandGosling.wordpress.com](http://SmithandGosling.wordpress.com)

**Nicole Salomone** has received a lectureship at Thomas Jefferson University in their newly developed History of Medicine Program. Her first presentation will be on the London Plague of 1603. She has also been accepted as a presenter for the Fall 2013 Conference of the Medical Historical Society of New Jersey, where she will speak about Mary Edwards Walker. In addition, she has been highlighted as a transcriber of note, and my historical blurb linked to on the Papers of the War Department site: <http://www.wardepartmentpapers.org/blog/> (July 10, 2012 entry).

**Stephen Satkiewicz** presented "Big History and the Religious Perspective" at the first International Big History Association conference, "Teaching and Researching Big History: Exploring a New Scholarly Field," at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

## Scholarly Calendar

### Calls for Papers

**CFP:** For the Fall 2012 issue, Zeteo, the open-access journal of the Liberal Studies Program at the CUNY Graduate Center, is now accepting submissions of intellectual essays and research papers that offer the fruits and challenges of interdisciplinary scholarship to our well-educated, reflective readers. Complete texts, proposals for essays or papers, or more informal queries should be sent to the Zeteo Editorial Collective at [zeteojournal@gmail.com](mailto:zeteojournal@gmail.com) or may be sent to NCIS member William Eaton at [eaton0824@gmail.com](mailto:eaton0824@gmail.com). Deadline is September 30, 2012. (With your submission, please provide: contact information, a brief bio, and a short paragraph summarizing or introducing your piece. Maximum length is approximately 20 pages double-spaced.) Fields of particular interest are those covered by the CUNY Liberal Studies Program, including African studies, American studies; archaeology of the classical, late antique, and Islamic worlds; bioethics, science and society; biography, autobiography and memoir; digital humanities; fashion studies; film studies; international studies; Latin American, Caribbean and Latino studies; law and society; New York studies; psychology of work and family; science and technology, urban education; Western intellectual traditions; and women's, gender and sexuality studies.

**CFP:** The Journal of Alternative Perspectives in the Social Sciences is currently calling for papers for its November Issue. JAPSS is the flagship Journal of the Guild of Independent Scholars. As a peer reviewed publication, the Journal is published both electronically and in traditional print. JAPSS is catalogued and indexed by EBSCOhost, WilsonNet, and many other prestigious databases. Contact: [journalalternative@hotmail.com](mailto:journalalternative@hotmail.com) or visit <http://www.japss.org>.

**CFP:** The International Journal of Radical Critique (<http://www.radicalcritique.org>) is a peer-reviewed, transdisciplinary, open-access e-journal edited by international academics and independent intellectuals. IJRC is currently seeking manuscripts from scholars of the arts, humanities and social sciences for its inaugural issue. Potential contributors should review the guidelines at: <http://www.radicalcritique.org/p/guidelines.html>.

## Scholarly Calendar

**CFP:** Material Culture Review (MCR) solicits articles for publication. MCR a peer-reviewed journal published twice a year under the auspices of Cape Breton University Press. MCR publishes original articles in English and French that encompass a wide range of approaches to interpreting culture through an analysis of people's relationships to their material world. The journal also publishes research reports and notes, and critical reviews of books, exhibitions, and historic sites (see page counts below). MCR invites submission of new research from the field of material culture, including cultural history, public history, art history, geography, archaeology, anthropology, architecture and intangible cultural heritage. The editors encourage submissions from graduate students and scholars at any phase of their professional career, professionals and historians from the art and museum world, and from independent scholars with an interest in material culture. The next deadline for complete manuscripts is November 15, 2012. Please visit our website for complete submission details: <http://culture.cbu.ca/mcr/>. We also invite potential guest editors to suggest special themes for future issues of MCR. Submit manuscripts or questions, or suggest future special topics to [mcr\\_rcm@cbu.ca](mailto:mcr_rcm@cbu.ca).

**CFP:** Performing Humanity is an independent academic website that exploring the blurred categories of human and animal during the Renaissance. Weekly content takes the form of interviews, book reviews, and informative posts that educate readers about Renaissance vocabularies of humanness, their historical origins, and their persistence in shaping attitudes today. Performing Humanity invites proposals for book reviews and post content for the academic year 2012-2013. For more information, please contact the editor or visit the Submission Guidelines at <http://performinghumanity.wordpress.com/submission-guidelines/>.

**CFP:** Warscapes is an independent online magazine that provides a lens into current conflicts across the world. Warscapes publishes fiction, non-fiction, poetry, interviews, book and film reviews, photo-essays and retrospectives of war literature from the past fifty years. It is being read in 170 countries! Apart from showcasing great writing from war-torn areas, the magazine is a tool for understanding complex political crises in various regions and serves as an alternative to compromised representations of those issues. [www.warscapes.com](http://www.warscapes.com). We are actively calling for submissions in all areas. Film and book reviewers would be particularly welcome. Please write to [submissions@warscapes.com](mailto:submissions@warscapes.com).

### **Calls for Conference Proposals**

**CFP:** Countering Contingency: Teaching, Scholarship, and Creativity in the Age of the Adjunct  
Pittsburgh, PA, April 5-7, 2013. Inspired by the Non-Tenure-Track (NTT or adjunct) conversation sparked by Web sites like the New Faculty Majority and the Adjunct Project, a push to improve NTT working conditions by the MLA, and the effort to organize by NTT Faculty at Duquesne University, this conference offers an opportunity to think more deeply about the state of contingent, non-tenure-stream faculty. We invite proposals for papers, panels, workshops, roundtables, and creative presentations highlighting, critiquing, and theorizing how the unstable and unsustainable working conditions of NTT faculty impact intellectual work; narrating or analyzing the logistical challenges of serving as NTT teachers, scholars, and artists; discussing the working conditions that call for revision. Contingent labor constitutes the majority of faculty, yet NTT faculty are the lowest paid and most overburdened workers. We represent the foundation of academic experiences at the undergraduate level and offer irreplaceable interactions with students. We are artists, scholars, researchers, and examples of inspired teaching. This conference is an invitation to imagine the answers to crucial questions

## Scholarly Calendar

raised by our tenuous position: How can we use what we know to create a more sustainable and equitable labor and educational system, one that will benefit everyone at the university? What change is most needed? What does it mean to constitute the new faculty majority at your college or university? Proposals for papers, panels, or roundtables are invited on the following topics:

- maintaining a scholarly or creative life in an era of non-tenured faculty invisibility
- documenting the institutional experiences of contingent faculty and their students
- comparative analyses of salary, contracts, and other aspects of employment
- histories of academic labor struggles
- best practices for contingent faculty
- unionization for contingent faculty
- the proletarianization of the professoriate
- links between this labor struggle and others past and present (especially in the Pittsburgh area)
- any topic related to these concerns

Proposals for non-traditional modes of participation are welcome as well. Some formats for these might include:

- art and creative writing panels (framed by your experience of creating this work under NTT working conditions or about the experiences of NTT faculty)
- interactive workshops that seek audience participation in ways that help us all to analyze and think reflexively about higher education institutions, funding, or any aspect of academic labor and life
- short performance pieces or multimedia presentations
- any other ideas you have for participation, just give us the details

Please email [nttconference@gmail.com](mailto:nttconference@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating in, helping to plan, or attending the conference. For paper proposals, please send a 250-word abstract and short bio paragraph. For panels and roundtables, please send a 250-word panel description, plus 250-word abstracts of all papers/comments and bio paragraphs for all participants. For non-traditional ideas for participation or workshops, please send a 250- to 500-word description of your idea and a short bio paragraph for each participant. The deadline for submission of all proposals is September 15, 2012. Participants will hear back from the planning committee around October 15 at the latest, but please send your materials early and let us know if you need an early decision in order to facilitate travel funding requests at your institution. Informal inquiries before sending formal proposals are welcomed and encouraged for non-traditional presentations and workshops. Proposals from workers and scholars in the Pittsburgh region will be given priority.

**CFP:** Georgia Association of Historians Annual Meeting: February 7-9, 2013, St. Simon's Island, GA (King and Prince Hotel). The Georgia Association of Historians invites proposals from academic and public historians, independent scholars, and graduate students in all areas and subfields of history for its 2013 Conference to be held in St. Simon's Island, Georgia. The GAH welcomes proposals from all areas and subfields of history, including African, North American, Asian, European, and Latin American history, global history, public history, historic preservation, and regional studies, as well as proposals focused on resource or archival management and historical pedagogy. Proposals for full sessions will be given priority although individual papers will be considered. Papers are to be original works of scholarship. The deadline for proposal

# Scholarly Calendar

submission is October 5, 2012. To submit a panel or paper proposal or for more information, go to <http://gaassociationhistorians.org/>.

## **CFP:** Bowling Green State University Presents the 8th Annual Battleground States Conference

Title: Crossing Boundaries, Revealing Connections: Experiments in Interdisciplinary Studies

February 22– 24, 2013. Culture is mercurial and fluid. Thus research must create, but also dispute yet engage, a transformational and reflective understanding of our subjects. The examination of knowledge and epistemologies from varying perspectives reveals the interconnections of vastly varying subjects. But to find these connections we first need to explore and experiment. This year's Battleground States Conference invites participants to facilitate creative, experimental, and exploratory standpoints that expand their own area of knowledge from unique and multifarious perspectives. In the nature of Interdisciplinary Studies, we seek to cross and analyze intellectual boundaries from multiple perspectives and synthesize diverging epistemologies. We encourage participants to take risks and embrace the possibilities. We also encourage participants to present on topics and areas of research they have yet to fully develop or have always desired to present. More so we endorse unconventional forms of presentation that move beyond the standard paper reading (although paper presentations will be accepted). This conference will open dialogues and modes of thinking that truly traverse and test the boundaries of intellectual work. The purpose of this conference is to develop new knowledge and to do so, we ask scholars to embrace epistemological innovation. Abstracts of 300 words should be sent to [battlegroundstates@gmail.com](mailto:battlegroundstates@gmail.com) and must be submitted no later than January 8, 2013. Submissions should include media equipment requests and any special presentation requests. Panel, performance, and artistic display proposals are welcome and should include a 300-word abstract and contact information for all participants. Please visit our website for information about The Culture Club and Battleground States: [www.battlegroundstates.org](http://www.battlegroundstates.org). All other inquiries should be directed to Elisabeth Woronzoff, Culture Club President, [eworonz@bgsu.edu](mailto:eworonz@bgsu.edu).

## **Fellowships**

**Fellowship:** The Smithsonian American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery invite applications for research fellowships in art and visual culture of the United States. A variety of predoctoral, postdoctoral, and senior fellowships are available. Fellowships are residential and support independent and dissertation research. The stipend for a one-year fellowship is \$30,000 for predoctoral fellows or \$45,000 for senior and postdoctoral fellows, plus generous research and travel allowances. The standard term of residency is twelve months, but shorter terms will be considered; stipends are prorated for periods of less than twelve months. Deadline: January 15, 2013. Contact: Fellowship Office, American Art Museum, (202) 633-8353, [AmericanArtFellowships@si.edu](mailto:AmericanArtFellowships@si.edu). For information and an application, visit [www.AmericanArt.si.edu/fellowships](http://www.AmericanArt.si.edu/fellowships).

**Fellowship:** The American Philosophical Society Library offers short-term residential fellowships for conducting research in its collections. We are a leading international center for research in the history of American science and technology and its European roots, as well as early American history and culture. The fellowships, funded by generous benefactors, are open to both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals. Applicants may be: Holders of the Ph.D. or its equivalent; Ph.D. candidates who have passed their preliminary

## Scholarly Calendar

examinations; degreed independent scholars. Applicants in any relevant field of scholarship may apply. Candidates who live 75 or more miles from Philadelphia receive some preference. A stipend of \$2,500 per month is awarded for a minimum of one month and a maximum of three months. The duration of award is requested by the candidate, but the final decision is made by the Fellowship Committee. Fellowships may be taken any time beginning 1 June 2013 and must be completed by 31 May 2014. Fellows are required to be in residence at the Library for four to twelve consecutive weeks, depending upon the length of the award. Deadline and Notification: 1 March 2013. Complete information and access to the application are available at [www.amphilsoc.org/grants/resident](http://www.amphilsoc.org/grants/resident).

**Fellowship:** The Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program at the Washington, DC–based National Endowment for Democracy invites applications for fellowships in 2013–2014. This federally funded program enables democracy activists, practitioners, scholars, and journalists from around the world to deepen their understanding of democracy and enhance their ability to promote democratic change. Dedicated to international exchange, this five-month residential program offers a collegial environment for fellows to reflect on their experiences; consider best practices and lessons learned; conduct independent research and writing; engage with counterparts; and develop professional relationships within a global network of democracy advocates. The program is intended primarily to support practitioners, scholars, and journalists from developing and aspiring democracies; distinguished scholars from established democracies may also apply. All fellows devote full time to their fellowship projects and receive a monthly fellowship payment, health insurance, travel assistance at the beginning and end of their fellowship, and research support. Awardees may not receive concurrent funding from the Endowment or its family of institutes during the fellowship period. The program does not fund professional training, fieldwork, or students working towards a degree. The program will host two five-month fellowship sessions in 2013–2014: Fall 2013 (October 1, 2013–February 28, 2014), and Spring 2014 (March 1–July 31, 2014). Deadline: Monday, October 15, 2012. For more information and application instructions, visit <http://www.ned.org/fellowships/reagan-fascell-democracy-fellows-program>. Applications will be accepted through our online application system at: <http://fellowships.ned.org>.

### Events

**Symposium:** The Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York and the New School Archives and Special Collections are sponsoring a symposium to bring together a diverse group of archivists, activists, students, and theorists with the aim of facilitating discussion of their respective concerns. Among its proposed topics, the symposium will address potential roles that archivists may engage in as activists, as well as how archivists can assume a greater role in documenting and contributing toward social and political change. The Round Table will take place Friday, October 12, 2012, at the Theresa Lang Community and Student Center, The New School. For full information, visit <http://www.nycarchivists.org>.

**Symposium:** Networked Humanities: From Within and Without the University: A Digital Humanities Symposium, February 15-16, 2013, The University of Kentucky, Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Media Program. For full information, visit <http://network.as.uky.edu/>. Keynote Speakers: Kathleen Stewart, Professor of Anthropology, University of Texas, and Malcolm McCullough, Professor of Architecture, University of Michigan. Of all the topics of interest to the digital humanities, the network has received little attention among

## Scholarly Calendar

digital humanities proponents. Yet, we live in a networked society: texts, sound, ideas, people, movements, consumerism, protest movements, politics, entertainment, academia, and other items circulate in networks that come together and break apart at various moments. While there exist networked spaces of interaction for digital humanities work – such as HASTAC or specific university centers – we still must consider how networks affect traditional and future goals of humanities work. Have the humanities sufficiently addressed the ways their work, as networks, affect other networks, within and outside of the humanities? What might be a networked digital humanities or what is it currently if it does, indeed, exist? Can an understanding of the humanities as a series of networks affect – positively or negatively – the ways the public perceive its research, pedagogy, and mission?

Looking for discipline- or topic-specific conferences or calls for contributions? Visit H-Net's Announcements page at <http://www.h-net.org/announce/> and search for your field or interest. Other great sites for CFPs include those hosted by Penn (<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/>) and CFPList (<http://www.cfplist.com/>).

The deadline for all materials for the November 2012 Newsletter is  
October 15, 2012.

Send us your member news, calls for papers, and short articles of interest to your  
fellow independent scholars.



The National Coalition of  
Independent Scholars  
PO Box 19302  
Jonesboro, AR 72403  
[www.ncis.org](http://www.ncis.org)