



The UNIVERSITY of CHICAGO

SOCIETY OF FELLOWS IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

HARPER & SCHMIDT FELLOWS

### Bernard Weissbourd Memorial Fund for the Society of Fellows

Bernard (Barney) Weissbourd enjoyed a life-long connection with the University of Chicago, beginning at age 15 when he received a full scholarship to attend the College. In these first years, Weissbourd was captivated by the University's intellectual life, his concentration in chemistry, and especially his study of the classics, a staple of the curriculum in the Hutchins era. When he graduated in 1941, he entered the law school. WWII interrupted his studies, but he remained at the University, having been assigned to work on the Manhattan Project, where he contributed to the discovery of an element. At the war's end, he returned to the law school and became an editor of the Law Review before graduating in 1948. He served the University as an active member of the Board of Trustees and as Trustee Emeritus until his death in 2000 at the age of 78.

Weissbourd was a scientist, attorney, urban planner, and a developer who had a dramatic impact on the skyline and the life of Chicago. He maintained a lifelong interest in civic affairs, working on issues ranging from race and poverty to nuclear arms. His interest in the relationship between human psychology and social institutions led him to found the Center for Psycho-Social Studies in the early 1970's. The Center became an important location for interdisciplinary dialogue, intellectual exploration, and the nurturing of promising young scholars.

The Bernard Weissbourd Memorial Fund for the Society of Fellows pays tribute to Barney Weissbourd's history of involvement with the University. The Fund reflects his abiding commitments to spirited inquiry, the excitement of learning, the power of discourse, and through all of these, the pursuit of a more just and humane society.

### Upcoming Society of Fellows Events

- Tuesday, Apr 27      Text Seminar: Dorothy Roberts (Northwestern University)
- Wednesday, May 5      SoF Meeting: Erin Fehskens
- Wednesday, May 12      Text Seminar: Namita Goswami (DePaul University)
- Wednesday, May 19      SoF Meeting: Nathan Bauer

This conference was made possible with the generous support of the Bernard Weissbourd Memorial Fund, the Norman Wait Harris Memorial Foundation Fund, and the Department of Music at the University of Chicago. Thank you to Leigh Claire La Berge, Nitzan Shoshan, Thomas Christensen, Elisabeth Clemens, John Boyer, and all the Junior and Senior Fellows of the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts at the University of Chicago

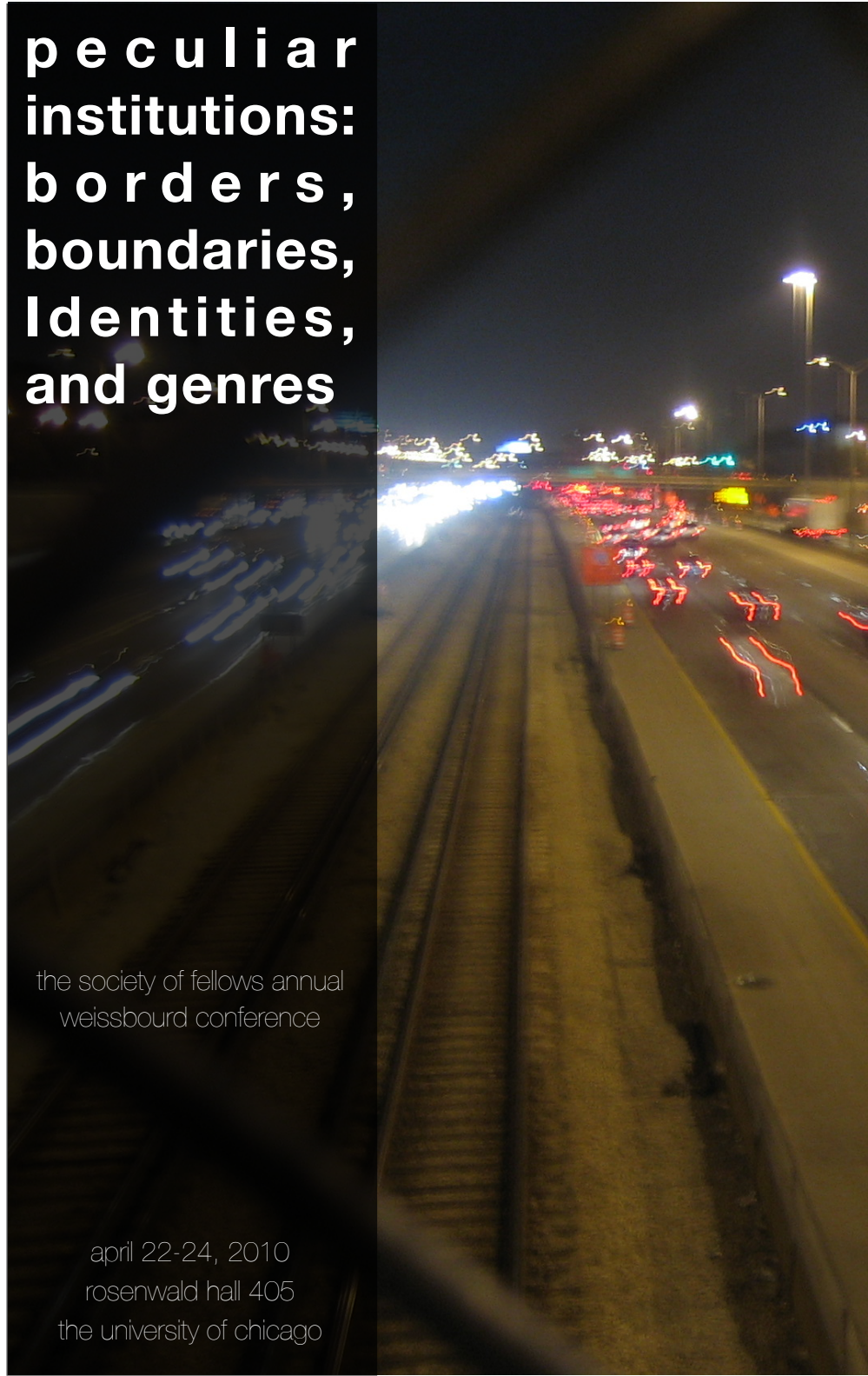
Above all, our deepest thanks to Julia Klein.

– Jennifer Palmer & Andrew Dilts  
Conference Co-Organizers

peculiar  
institutions:  
borders,  
boundaries,  
Identities,  
and genres

the society of fellows annual  
weissbourd conference

april 22-24, 2010  
rosenwald hall 405  
the university of chicago



# Peculiar Institutions: Borders, Boundaries, Identities, and Genres

## Society of Fellows Annual Weissbourd Conference

April 22-24, 2010

all events in Rosenwald Hall Room 405 unless otherwise noted

### Thursday April 22nd

#### 5:00-7:30 Film Screening (Society of Fellows Faculty Lounge, Gates-Blake Hall 313)

*Martín (Hache)*

Directed by Adolfo Aristarain (Argentina)

### Friday April 23rd

#### 1:00-2:30 Keynote Lecture

"Peculiar Subjects and Queer Objects: Metaphors of Exile and Estrangement"

Professor Amy Kaminsky, University of Minnesota

*Amy Kaminsky is professor of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies and of Global Studies at the University of Minnesota. Trained in Spanish and Latin American literature, she now thinks of herself as an interdisciplinary feminist scholar with roots deep in textual analysis working on issues of representation, identity, sexuality, gender, race, and ethnicity in Latin America. Her books include Reading the Body Politic (1992) which both engages in feminist criticism of Latin American women's writing and questions the limits of northern theory in the global south; After Exile: Writing the Latin American Diaspora (1999), a study of belonging, estrangement, and national identity in the context of exile and its aftermath in Latin America's Southern Cone; and Argentina: Stories for a Nation (2009), which examines the place of Argentina in the global imaginary—not only what Argentina conjures up, but why the rest of the world is interested in the first place. Her current research deals with Jews, gender, and modernity in Argentina.*

#### 2:30-3:00 Reception

#### 3:00-4:35 Panel 1: Without Borders

- Greg Beckett (Society of Fellows, Social Sciences), "Haiti Inside-Out and Outside-In"
- Andrew Dilts (Society of Fellows, Social Sciences), "Citizens *Sans Frontières*?"
- Elizabeth Heath (Society of Fellows, Social Sciences), "Forget the Siamese Cats: Lady and the Tramp and the Articulation of a New World Order"
- Chris Warren (Society of Fellows, Humanities), "The Skins of Beasts: On the Law of Nations in Paradise Lost"
- Chair: Patchen Markell (Political Science)

#### 4:40-5:50 Panel 2: Shaping Personal and Political Institutions

- Spencer Leonard (Society of Fellows, Social Sciences), "The East India Company Election of 1764 as the Birth of the Second British Empire"
- Shalini Satkunanandan (Society of Fellows, Social Sciences), "Speaking Faith to Modern Law"
- Mara Marin (Society of Fellows, Social Sciences), "What is the Problem with Consent Theory?"
- Chair: Bruce Lincoln (Divinity School)

#### 5:55-7:00 Panel 3: Visuality and Affect

- Leigh Claire Le Barge (Society of Fellows, Humanities), "Personal Banking and Depersonalization in *White Noise*"
- Noa Vaisman (Human Rights Program), "Remembering the Past: Imagination and Documentary Filmmaking in Argentina"
- Megan Luke (Society of Fellows, Art History), "Otherwise than Identity: Collaboration and Alterity in *Mex*"
- Chair: David Bevington (English & Comparative Literature)

Saturday April 24th

#### 9:00-10:10 Panel 4: Neoliberal (Dis)Enchantments: the De-politicization of Theory, Publics, and Subjects

- Anita Chari (Society of Fellows, Social Sciences), "Neoliberal Reification"
- Reha Kadakal (Society of Fellows, Social Sciences), "Neo-Liberalism à la Turca, or What is 'Political' in Political Islam?"
- Nitzan Shoshan (Society of Fellows, Social Sciences), "Facing the Facts: Secretive Remedies for Hazardous Hopes"
- Chair: Bernard Harcourt (Law School & Political Science)

#### 10:15-11:45 Panel 5: Peculiar Institutions of Early Modern Europe

- Katie Chenoweth (Society of Fellows, Humanities), "The Unspeaking Funnel: Language and Institution in Montaigne's 'Of the Education of Children'"
- Laura Regan (Northwestern University, Political Science), "What does the Poetics of *Leviathan* Tell Us about the Commonwealth as a Peculiar Institution?"
- Brian Sandberg (Northern Illinois University, History), "'Accompanying These Hardships with a Great Number of Baton Blows': The Peculiar Institution of Mediterranean Slavery"
- Respondent: Rebecca Zorach (Art History)
- Chair: Bertram Cohler (Psychology)

#### 11:45-1:00 Lunch

#### 1:00-2:00 Panel 6: The Peculiar Institution of Criticism

- Timothy Michael (Society of Fellows, Humanities), "The Coleridge-Johnson *Agon*"
- Emily Steinlight (Society of Fellows, Humanities), "The Work of Art in the Age of Sexual Reproduction"
- Chair: Richard Strier (English & Divinity School)

#### 2:05-3:15 Panel 7: Colonialism and Space

- Jennifer Palmer (Society of Fellows, Social Sciences), "Peculiar Institutions, Peculiar Landscapes: Representing Colonies in the Eighteenth Century"
- Nima Padipaty (Society of Fellows, Social Sciences), "'Not Measure but a Man': Anthropology, Tribes, and Contractual Space"
- Erin Fehskens (Society of Fellows, Humanities), "The Dis-education of Caryl Philips"
- Chair: Jennifer Pitts (Political Science)

#### 3:20-4:50 Panel 8: Sound Subjects, Sound Legislators: Music as Political Pedagogy in the Modern Age

- Dina Gusejnova (Society of Fellows, Social Sciences), "Plato's Nightmares: Discipline, Transgression and the Spirit of Musical Laws"
- Mi Zhou (University College London, Mellon Programme), "Docile Bodies: The Making of a Pianist"
- Hilary Demske (Utah Valley University, Music), "The search for a global scale: Uniting hemispheres, changing politics"
- Federico Celestini (Graz Music University, Austria), "Nietzsche's Music: the Aesthetics of De-Identification"
- Chair: Lawrence Zbikowski (Music)

#### 5:15-6:00 Piano Recital (Fulton Recital Hall)

Performance by Hilary Demske (Utah Valley University, Music)

*First prize winner of the "Citta di Barletta" International Piano Competition, Hilary Demske, holds a Doctorate in performance from the University of Michigan, a Master of Music from The Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Music degree from The Peabody Conservatory of Music, where her awards include the Van Cliburn, Alice Shaw Farber, and Marie Dring scholarships. She also studied at the Hochschule für Musik in Munich, Germany (the Munich Conservatory), where she won the highest graduate honor, the Meisterklasse Diploma in performance.*