External Fellows

Erika Boeckeler is Assistant Professor of English at Northeastern University and she received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Harvard University. While at the Newhouse Center she will be working on a book project titled *Playful Letters: The Dramatization of the Alphabet in the Renaissance*, which argues that artistic experimentation with the alphabet had a sweeping impact on the intellectual and social history of the early modern period.

Eugenie Brinkema is Assistant Professor of Contemporary Literature and Media at MIT, and she received her Ph.D. in Modern Culture and Media at Brown University. Her research in film and media studies focuses on violence, affect, sexuality, aesthetics, and ethics in texts ranging from the horror film to the body of films dubbed “New European Extremism” to the visual and temporal forms of terrorism. The title of her project is *If Horror is a Problem of Line*.

Nancy Cott is the Jonathan Trumbull Professor of History at Harvard University; Director, Pforzheimer Foundation; Director, Schlesinger Library and Director, Charles Warren Center. She will reside in the Newhouse Center for the fall semester as the Cornille Distinguished Professor in the Humanities and will continue as a fellow for the spring term. Her current project, *Entitled to the World: Cosmopolitan Americans Between the Wars*, aims to paint a collective portrait of half a dozen Americans who came of age in the 1920’s in their quest for self-definition though cosmopolitan exposure and exchange.

Patricia Melzer is Assistant Professor of German and Women’s Studies at Temple University and her Ph.D. from Clark University is in Women’s Studies. Her project, ‘*Death in the Shape of a Young Girl*: Gender and Political Violence in West German Terrorism’, is a critical analysis of women’s participation in political violence and its implications for feminist theories of violence in particular as well as for our understanding of terrorism in general.

Jessie Morgan-Owens is Assistant Professor of English at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and she earned her Ph.D. at New York University in American Literature. Her project, *Letters of Light: Photographic Writing in the Literature of Abolition*, examines the influence of photography, its new and rapidly emerging representational authority, on American anti-slavery literature. In addition to her academic work in photography, Jessie shoots professionally for travel magazines.

Kristel Smentek is the Class of 1958 Career Development Professor and an Assistant Professor of Art History at MIT. She received her PhD in art history at University of Delaware. While at the Newhouse during the fall semester, she will work on a cross-disciplinary project, *Objects of Encounter: Collecting Across Cultures in Eighteenth-Century France*, which aims to link the collecting and appropriation of foreign objects to
eighteenth-century artistic practice, aesthetic theory, and Enlightenment debates about human unity and diversity.

**Internal Fellows**

**Claire Fontijn** holds the Barbara Morris Casperson Associate Professorship in Music at Wellesley College and she earned a Ph.D. in Musicology from Duke University. While at the Newhouse Center, she'll be working on her book *Music and Intrigue in the Baroque Courts: The Career of Francesco Corbetta*, which brings together biographical research about the celebrated guitarist and traveller Corbetta (Pavia 1614–Paris 1681), from primary sources in European archives, rare book collections in the U.S., and ample secondary source material. She will be in residence at the Newhouse Center for the spring semester.

**Laura Grattan** is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Wellesley College and she received her Ph.D. from Duke University in Political Science. Her project, *Imagining Democracy, Democratizing Imagination: Populist Politics in America*, argues that populist politics demonstrate vividly how the resistant and productive powers of imagination combine to enable certain expressions of the people and democracy, while immobilizing others.

**David Olsen** is an Assistant Professor in the Art Department at Wellesley College, specializing in New Media Visual Art. With the use of live action video footage (created entirely from a five-camera syncing harness), glass sculpture, and 3D animation, his goal is to ultimately create and recreate profound experiences in a multimedia interactive installation.

**Mellon Postdoctoral Fellows**

**Nikki Greene** received her Ph.D. in Art History from the University of Delaware in 2009. She most recently served as adjunct lecturer at Rutgers University at Camden and Temple University in Philadelphia. As the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Art History and Africana Studies, she will work on her book project titled *The Rhythm of Glue, Grease and Grime: Indexicality in the Works of Romare Bearden, David Hammons, and Renee Stout*.

**Alexander Orquiza** will receive his Ph.D. in History from The Johns Hopkins University in April 2012 and the title of his dissertation is *A Pacific Palate: Exchanges in Food, Nutritional Science and Culinary Culture between the United States and the Philippines, 1898-1946*. He is a Mellon Postdoctoral fellow in American Studies.

**Yasmine Ramadan** will earn her Ph.D. in April 2012 from the Columbia University Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies Departments, specializing in Modern Arabic Literature and Culture. Her dissertation title is *Representing the Nation: Spatial Poetics in the Literature of the Sixties Generation in Egypt*. She is a Mellon Postdoctoral fellow in Middle Eastern Studies.