

Final Program
Race & Ethnic Studies
Institute Symposium:
Race, Ethnicity, and (New)
Media
April 30-May 2, 2009
Texas A&M University,
College Station, TX

Thursday, 30 April

***Bus from hotel will depart for campus at 7:00 p.m.**

Welcome: Sarah N. Gatson, Interim Director, Race & Ethnic Studies Institute, Texas A&M University

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS I: Lisa Nakamura, University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana: "*Don't Hate the Player, Hate the Game: The Racialization of Virtual Labor in Virtual Worlds.*" (Introduction: Jennifer L. Davis, TAMU Sociology) Donald L. Houston Center, Texas A&M University, 200 Discovery, College Station, TX 77843-4460

9:00 - 11:00 p.m. Reception with Cash Bar; Donald L. Houston Center Lobby
(Bus to hotel will depart 11:00 p.m.)

Friday, 1 May

***Buses from hotel will depart for campus at 9:30 a.m.**

10:00 - 10:25 a.m. Coffee and Opening Remarks, Rudder Tower, Room 301

10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Rudder Tower, Room 301 – **Multicultural Media Representations**

Chair: Srividya Ramasubramanian, TAMU Communication

“American-Muslim Identity: Advertising, Mass Media + New Media,” Michael Hastings-Black (Desedo Films, New York, NY) **[Digital film presentation]**

“Media Representations of Multiculturalism in the 1990s: Declining Salience and Shifting Semantics,” Dennis J. Downey (Sociology, California State University, Channel Islands) and Jonathan H. Westover (Sociology, University of Utah)

“YouTube: Black Existentialism and Network Participation,” Aymar Jean Christian (University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg School of Communication)

Discussant: Antonio La Pastina, TAMU Communication

12:15 - 2:00 p.m. **Lunch (Box lunch provided with registration), Rudder Tower, Room 302**

2:15 - 3:45 p.m. Rudder Tower, Room 301 – **Race and Fandom**

Chair: Ashley Currier, TAMU Sociology

“‘Harshin Ur Squeeze’: Visual Rhetorics of Anti-Racist Work in LiveJournal Fandoms,” Robin Anne Reid (Literature and Languages, Texas A&M University-Commerce)

“Racism and Unreal Reality: A look at the Shetty-Goody episode,” Anirban Mukhopadhyay (Communication Studies, University of Iowa)

Discussant: Patrick Burkart, TAMU Communication

3:45 - 4:00 p.m. Afternoon Break: Coffee, Tea and Soda Rudder Tower, Room 302

4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Rudder Tower, Room 301 – **Race and Gaming**

Chair: Janie Filoteo, TAMU Sociology/Lone Star College Sociology

“When Keeping it Real Goes Wrong”: Resident Evil 5, Racial Representation, and Gamers,” André Brock (School of Library & Information Science, University of Iowa)

"Gaming Manhood in African American Culture," Betsy James DiSalvo and Amy Bruckman (Electronic Learning Communities Lab, School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology)

"Ewww - You Got Your Social Justice in My Video Game!" Latoya Peterson (racialicious.com)

Discussant: Rosalind Chou, TAMU Sociology

5:45 - 7:30 p.m. Dinner on your own (**Bus leaves MSC at 5:45 p.m. to return to hotel; bus leaves hotel at 7:45 to return to campus for keynote address**)

8:00 - 9:30 p.m. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS III: Henry Bial**, University of Kansas: "*Jew Media: Performance and Technology in the 58th Century.*" (**Introduction: Giovanna Del Negro, TAMU English**) Rudder Tower, Room 301

9:30 - 11:00 p.m. Reception with Cash Bar, Stark Galleries, Memorial Student Center

(For those attending the reception only, a bus will leave the hotel for campus at 9:00 p.m.; for those not attending the reception, a bus will leave for the hotel at 9:30 p.m.; after the reception, a bus will leave for the hotel at 11:00 p.m.)

Saturday, 2 May

***Bus from hotel will depart for campus at 8:00 a.m.**

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Morning Coffee Rudder Tower, Room 302

9:00 - 10:15 a.m. Rudder Tower, Room 301

KEYNOTE ADDRESS IV: Latoya Peterson, Racialicious.com: "Talking About Race in Digital Space" (Introduction: Aaron Pinnick, TAMU Sociology)

10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break, Rudder Tower, Room 302

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Rudder Tower, Room 301 – **Asian and Asian American Representations Online**

Chair: Rosalind Chou, TAMU Sociology "A Japanese Social Network Site mixi and the Imagined Boundary of "Japan," Ryuta Komaki (Institute of Communications Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

"Desi Webs: South Asian America, Online Cultures and the Politics of Race," Madhavi Mallapragada (Dept. of Radio-TV-Film, University of Texas-Austin)

Discussant: Aaron Pinnick, TAMU Sociology

12:15 - 1:15 p.m. **Lunch (Box lunch provided with registration), Rudder Tower, Room 302**

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Rudder Tower, Room 301 – **Global Race and Digital Media I**

Chair: Nicole Castor, TAMU Anthropology

"(Con)Testing Identities: Haitian and Indian Women's Use of Social Networking Platforms," Manoucheka Celeste, Phil Howard, & Tabitha Hart (Communication, University of Washington)

"Be(com)ing cyber Moco's: Digital media, migration and glocalized youth cultures," Koen Leurs (Research Institute for Culture and History, Utrecht University, the Netherlands)

Discussant: Jennifer L. Davis, TAMU Sociology

Closing – Sarah N. Gatson Rudder Tower, Room 301

2:45 - 3:30 p.m. Coffee Break, Rudder Tower, Room 302

***Bus leaves for hotel at 3:45 p.m.**

CANCELLED PRESENTATIONS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS II: Darnell Hunt, University of California-Los Angeles:
"Challenges to Diversity in 'Old Media.'"

"We Don't Look Like That': Young Black Women's Responses to Images of Black Femininity in Rap Music Videos," Adia Harvey Wingfield and Melinda Mills (Sociology Georgia State University)

"Can the Displaced Speak?: Destabilizing the Hegemonic Racialized Gendered Representation of the Refugee as Victim," Óscar F. Gil-García (Sociology, University of California at Santa Barbara)

"The Shift from Web 1.0 to Web 2.0 in Migrant Communities: Migrants' matrimonial web," Dana Diminescu, Matthieu Renault, and Mathieu Jacomy (Research Program on the Uses of Information and Communication Technologies in Migrations, Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, France)

Co-Sponsored by The Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, The Department of Sociology, The Department of Performance Studies, and The Department of English

Participant Biographies

Henry Bial is an assistant professor of Theatre and Film at University of Kansas. Dr. Bial is the author of *Acting Jewish: Negotiating Ethnicity on the American Stage and Screen* (University of Michigan Press, 2005), the editor of *The Performance Studies Reader* (Routledge, 2004; *Second Edition*, 2007), and the co-editor (with Carol Martin) of *Brecht Sourcebook* (Routledge, 2000). He has published articles in *Theatre Topics* and *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, and reviews in *TDR*, *American Jewish History*, *Theatre Journal*, *Theatre Research International*, and *The Journal of American Ethnic History*. He serves on the editorial boards of *Theatre Topics*, *The Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, and *The Baylor Journal of Theatre and Performance*.

André Brock is an assistant professor at the School of Library & Information Science, University of Iowa. Dr. Brock studies the complex interactions between race, gender, and technology. His most recent project is a rhetorical study of blogs in the aftermath of Katrina. In this work, he explores the ways African American bloggers engaged media representations of race in the days following the hurricane in New Orleans. His publications include, "'A belief in colored men is a belief in humanity': African American philosophy and the digital divide," *Journal of Computer-mediated Communication*, 11 (1): 357-374 (2005); "Race Matters: African Americans on the Web following Hurricane Katrina," in *Proceedings of Cultural Attitudes Towards Communication and Technology*, eds. F. Sudweeks, H. Hrachovec, and C. Ess, 91-105 (2008); and "Life on *The Wire*: Deconstructing race on the Internet," *Information, Communication, and Society* (in press).



Amy Bruckman is an associate professor at the School of Interactive Computing, and member of the Electronic Learning Communities Lab, at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Her publications include, "Community Support for Constructionist Learning." *Computer Supported Collaborative Work: The Journal of Collaborative Computing* 7: 47-86 (1998); "Teaching Students to Study Online Communities Ethically." *Journal of Information Ethics* 15:2, 82-98 (2006); Zagal, José and Amy Bruckman, "Novices, Gamers, and Scholars: Exploring the Challenges of Teaching About Games." *Game Studies* 8(2) (2009); and Forte, Andrea and Amy Bruckman, "Decentralization in Wikipedia Governance," *Journal of Management of Information Systems* (forthcoming).

Manoucheka Celeste is doctoral student in the University of Washington's Department of Communication. She earned a B.S. in Journalism and M.A. in Mass Communication from the University of Florida. She is interested media representations of race, class, gender, and citizenship with focus on the Caribbean including Haiti, Latin America and the U.S. She is particularly interested in the relationship between (re)presentation and material realities. She is a co-founder of the Women of Color Collective at UW and is organizing the "Dialoguing Difference: Women of Color in Academia Conference" to be held in June 2009.



Aymar Jean Christian is a doctoral student in the Annenberg School for Communication at University of Pennsylvania, focusing on issues of new media and culture, specifically on how individuals express themselves through practices like vlogging (YouTube). He is also pursuing a certificate in cinema studies, focusing on contemporary American film. For more information, please visit his website at www.ajchristian.org.



Dana Diminescu leads the Research Program on the Uses of Information and Communication Technologies in Migrations at the Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, in Paris, France. This research program is one of the FMSH's thematic research programs. It explores the impact of new technologies on the migrant world (occupation of digital territories by diasporas, policies on the digital management of migrants, fresh epistemological perspectives in the analysis of migrations in the age of ICT). This program was developed in response to an observation and a need: since the 1980s, the world of migrants has undergone a major change with the rise of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). We are no longer in the age of the uprooted migrant and have entered the age of the connected migrant. On a larger scale, migrant communities are experiencing new forms of cohesiveness through acting in and occupying digital territories. The "ICT-Migrations" research program was thus created with the goal of exploring new research fields and topics that explore the impact of new technologies on the migrant world.

Betsy James DiSalvo is a Ph.D. student at Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Interactive Computing. As a member of Dr. Amy Bruckman's Electronic Learning Communities Lab, DiSalvo's research is concerned with issues around Broadening Participation in Computing. Her current focuses is on leveraging young African American men's passion for video games into

interest in computing. Prior to coming to Georgia Tech, DiSalvo was a research associate at the Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC) at the University of Pittsburgh. While at LRDC she worked on a number of programs to increase interest in science and technology with underrepresented groups including Robot 250, a community art and robotics program, and Click! Urban Adventure game, a mixed reality game for middle school girls.



Dennis J. Downey is an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Program at California State University, Channel Islands. His research focuses on issues of diversity and social change, principally from social movements perspectives. He is currently working on a monograph chronicling the history of the Orange County Human Relations Commission, and its role in guiding the dramatic social and demographic transformations in that county since the early 1970s.

Óscar F. Gil-García is a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology at the University of California at Santa Barbara. His publications include "Migration Politics and Human Rights: Redefining the Camera as Collaborative Technology in Transnational Forced Migrant Communities," *The International Journal of Technology, Knowledge and Society*, vol. 2, issue 7 (2007) pp. 189-206.

Tabitha Hart is a doctoral candidate in Communication at the University of Washington. She is interested in intercultural communication, the transfer of cultural products across national boundaries, globalization, call centers, and the ways in which the creation, perception, and use of internet-based technologies are mediated by culture. She has a B.A. in Communication from the University of California, San Diego and an M.A. in Communication Studies from California State University, Sacramento. Her master's thesis examined the transfer of Starbucks' customer service practices to its cafes in Berlin, Germany, and their reception by the baristas there.

Michael Hastings-Black is the co-founder of Desedo Films, a New York City production company that specializes in new media and minority markets.

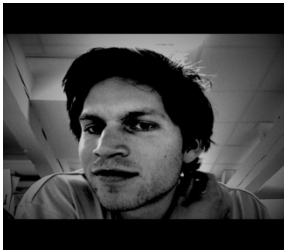
Phil Howard is an assistant professor of Communication at the University of Washington. His publications include, "Deep Democracy, Thin Citizenship: The Impact of Digital Media in Political Campaign Strategy." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 597, no. 1 (2005): 153-70; "Network Ethnography and the Hypermedia Organization: New Media, New Organizations, New Methods." *New Media & Society* 4, no. 4 (2002): 550-74; and *New Media Campaigns and the Managed Citizen* (Cambridge, 2006).

Darnell Hunt is a professor of sociology at University of California-Los Angeles, and Director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies. His publications include, *Screening the Los Angeles "Riots": Race, Seeing, and Resistance* (Cambridge University Press, 1997); *O.J. Simpson*

Facts and Fictions: News Rituals in the Construction of Reality (Cambridge University Press, 1999); *Representing "Los Angeles:" Media, Space, and Place*. In Michael Dear, Editor, *From Chicago to L.A.: Making Sense of Urban Theory* (Sage, 2001); and *Channeling Blackness: Studies on Television and Race in America* (Oxford, 2005).

Ryuta Komaki is a doctoral student in the Institute of Communications Research at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research interests are in the internet and mobile phone use in East Asia, Japanese and Okinawan diaspora, and racial/ethnic minorities in Japan.

Koen Leurs is a PhD candidate at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. He is a team member of Wired Up, a research project focusing on digital media as innovative socialization practices for migrant youth. Koen examines the gendered and ethnic interfacing of digital technologies, migration, and (global) youth cultures. Koen conducted his earlier studies at Utrecht University and the National University of Singapore.



Lisa Nakamura is an associate professor at the Institute of Communication Research and in Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana. Her publications include, *Visual Cultures of the Internet* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007); *Cybertypes: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity on the Internet* (Routledge, 2002); *Race In Cyberspace*. [co-edited with Beth Kolko and Gilbert Rodman] (Routledge, 2000); "Neoliberal Space and Race in Virtual Worlds," *Velvet Light Trap* (forthcoming 2009); "Alllookslike? Mediating Visual Cultures of Race on the Web," *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, 2002, pp. 73-84; "Head Hunting in Cyberspace: Identity Tourism, Asian (?) Avatars, and Racial Passing in Web-Based Chatspaces," *Women's Review of Books*, February 2001; and "Race In/For Cyberspace: Identity Tourism and Racial Passing on the Internet," *Works and Days: Essays in the Socio-Historical Dimensions of Literature & the Arts*, 25/26 (Fall 1995, Winter 1996), pp. 181-193.

Madhavi Mallapragada is an assistant professor of Radio-TV-Film at the University of Texas-Austin. Her publications include, "Home, homeland, homepage: belonging and the Indian-American web," *New Media & Society*, 8 (2): 207-227 (2006); and "The Indian Diaspora in the USA and Around the Web," in *Web.Studies: Rewiring Media Studies for the Digital Age* (Oxford, 2001) edited by David Gauntlett.

Melinda Mills is a doctoral candidate in Sociology at Georgia State University. Her publications include, "Tainted Love?: Exploring the Contours of Interracial Romance and Resistance to Interracial Intimacy," in *Sex Matters: The Sexuality and Society Reader*, Second Edition, edited by Mindy Stompler, Dawn M. Baunauch, Elisabeth O. Burgess, Denise Donnelly, Wendy Simonds (Allyn & Bacon, 2007).

Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a doctoral candidate in media studies in the Communication Studies Department at the University of Iowa.

Latoya Peterson is editrix at racialicious.com. Her work has included doing content development and blogging for www.entersoundbooth.com, a hip-hop culture blog, maintaining a blog on news and politics - waxpolitical.blogspot.com, and a blog on human emotion and relationships—lovelustlogic.blogspot.com. She writes regularly for *Bitch* magazine, and has written for *Cerise*, the online magazine for girl gamers (<http://cerise.theirisnetwork.org/?p=26>). Her work may also be found at AlterEgoManiacs (<http://www.alteregomaniacs.com/articles.html>).

Robin Anne Reid is a professor in Literature and Languages, at Texas A&M- Commerce. Her teaching areas include creative writing, critical theory (critical race feminism, gender/queer theories, and sociolinguistics), and new media, with a specific focus in fan studies. Her most recent publication is the *Encyclopedia of Women in Science Fiction and Fantasy* (Greenwood 2009). She has published essays on *The Lord of the Rings* (novel and/or film) and fan fiction. Her current books in progress include a vampire novel (in third draft stage), two co-edited anthologies (one on queerness and fantasy, another on fan fiction and fan production), and a monograph tentatively titled *Slashing the Fathers: Female Writers Crossing the Borders of Male Texts*, which is a queer reading of how women writers have created homoerotic male pairings in work ranging from fanfiction to media tie-in novels to original fantasy. She will be co-editing a special issue of the *Journal of Transformative Works and Culture*, focusing on Race and Fandom, with Sarah N. Gatson.

Matthieu Renault is the Research Attaché at the Research Program on the Uses of Information and Communication Technologies in Migrations at the Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, in Paris, France.

Jonathan H. Westover is a doctoral candidate in Sociology at the University of Utah. His research interests fall in the areas of comparative international sociology and organizational sociology, and his current research examines cross-national comparisons of work quality characteristics and determinants of job satisfaction. Additionally, he received his Master of Public Administration degree (emphasis in human resource management and organizational behavior) from Brigham Young University. His publications include a book review of Steven Gregory's *The Devil Behind the Mirror: Globalization and Politics in the Dominican Republic*, in *Sociological Research Online* (<http://www.socresonline.org.uk/12/5/reviews/westover.html>).

Adia Harvey Wingfield is an assistant professor in the sociology department at Georgia State University. Most of her research focuses on the ways intersections of race, gender, and class impact various groups' experiences in different occupations. Recent projects have examined black men nurses, minority teachers at independent schools, and black women entrepreneurs. Her research has appeared in *Gender & Society*, *Sociological Spectrum*, and *Race, Gender, and Class*. She is the author of *Doing Business with Beauty: Black Women, Hair Salons, and the Racial Enclave Economy*, available from Rowman and Littlefield.