

2018-2019 ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTORS' NOTES

CYNTHIA FRANKLIN

In 2018, I spent the first few months of the spring semester in India. While there, in addition to continuing my ongoing work with graduate students, and as coeditor of Biography and editorial board member of American Quarterly, I delivered several invited talks. These talks allowed me to develop my current book project, tentatively entitled “Narrative Humanity, Uncivil States, and Contemporary Life Writing.” I delivered the talk “The Making of the Future Life of Oscar Grant: Ryan Coogler’s Fruitvale Station and #BlackLivesMatter” at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, at IIT Madras (as one of the keynote speakers for the Annual Graduate Conference), and at the English and Foreign Languages University in Hyderabad. At Delhi University’s Center for Studies in Violence, Memory, and Trauma, I gave a talk entitled “Zionist Repression and Palestinian Resistance: The Steven Salaita Case and Inter/Nationalism” and with S. Shankar at Osmania University in Hyderabad, I gave a talk, “Life Writing as Archives for Justice: Occupied Palestine and Caste in India.”

In March and April of 2018, I spent a few weeks in residency at Al-Quds University in Occupied East Jerusalem working with English Department students and faculty, and published an article on that experience in Truthout—“A Firsthand Account of Israel’s Siege on a Palestinian University.” As part of this residency, I gave a talk, “#BlackLivesMatter and Narrative Humanity.” The residency led to the development of a \$100,000+ grant for a partnership between UH and Al-Quds to build soft skills among Al-Quds students that will begin this spring.

I returned from travels in time to participate in dissertation defenses for Nikki Rabin, Ida Yoshinaga, Madoka Nagado and Yohei Sekiguchi (American Studies); and on Margo Steines’s honor’s thesis committee.

In Fall 2018, I gave talks at a few conferences: “States of Emergence: How Liberalism Becomes Radicalism in Zionist America,” at the American Studies Association in Atlanta, as part of a panel I organized on “Internationalism and Palestine”; then, “Dancing Dabke with the Drone: Using New Media to Remap Gaza,” at the (Re)Mapping Indigenous and Settler Geographies in the Pacific Conference, in Honolulu. As well, I participated at the ASA on American Quarterly Publishing Workshop, and gave talks at UHM for the International Cultural Studies Certificate Program, and for the English Department Colloquium series. I also have done work in preparation for the 2019 ASA that will take place in Honolulu; I am a member of the ASA Site Visit Committee and am cochairing the ASA Academic and Community Activism Caucus.

Miscellaneous work includes publishing a letter to the MLA for the Critical Inquiry blog; reviewing a manuscript for Temple University Press; continuing my ongoing work as a member of the USACBI Organizing Collective; organizing a four-day visit by writer Ramzy Baroud; appearing twice as a guest on the television show Island Connections to discuss Palestine solidarity work; serving on the screening committee for a Palestinian film festival for Doris Duke and then

introducing films for the films our committee chose. I also continued to serve as faculty advisor for the group UH-Students and Faculty for Justice in Palestine.

JOHN GAGNON

John Gagnon's co-authored essay "Research as Care: A Shared Ownership Approach to Rhetorical Research in Trauma Communities," published in *Reflections: A Journal of Community-Engaged Writing and Rhetoric*, was selected for inclusion as a reprint in the *Best of the Journals in Rhetoric and Composition*, which will be published by Parlor Press in 2019 in digital and print formats. The *Best Of* series recognizes "innovative and transformative scholarship" that is occurring throughout the field's journals and provides a current snapshot of exigent themes, trends, and ideas within Rhetoric and Writing Studies. During the year, John also worked on a variety of other writing projects, which are at various stages of the review and publication process. He has forthcoming work on weaponized rhetoric, constellational autoethnography, rhetorical liminality in anti-trafficking campaigns, and teaching rhetorical segmentation in the composition classroom.

In Spring 2018, John presented a paper at the Conference on College Composition and Communication titled "Minerva Rising: The Military's Weaponization of Rhetorical Knowledge." At the Cultural Rhetorics Conference, he participated in a faculty roundtable on Cultural Rhetorics and Professional Writing, and also presented "Mapping Our Stories: Decolonizing Cartography in the Composition Classroom." In addition to his conference presentations, John was invited to speak and facilitate writing workshops at universities and government organizations throughout the United States.

In Fall 2018, John entered into the role of interim Writing Center Director and has worked with student staff on a variety of projects to expand services and community awareness about the center's offerings as well as increasing emphasis on professionalization. Additionally, during 2018 John has served on the Policy Committee, Graduate Program Committee, Composition & Rhetoric Committee, and the Assessment Committee.

KARYL GARLAND

Karyl Garland's article "Into the Woods" (The calabash collection of Michael Horikawa), published in *HILuxury* magazine, volume 11, issue 5, is credited for helping establish the journalistic merit that brought Oahu Publications the winning Eddie Award for City & Regional, South West 2018. For more than 20 years, the Eddie and Ozzie Awards have recognized excellence in magazine editorial and design across all sectors of the industry. Over 350 magazine media executives gathered in late October of 2018 to celebrate the very best in uncompromising journalism with the Eddie Award and stunning design with the Ozzie Award. A panel of industry judges narrowed more than 2,500 entries into a pool of roughly 800 finalists. In total, 263 awards were given out across 33 categories. Garland's article was considered as contributing to that excellence in journalism that led to the 2018 Eddie Award.

JONATHAN MORSE

Jonathan is serving as an outside examiner for a dissertation in American literature which is scheduled for defense this spring at the Université Côte d'Azur (until this year named the Université de Nice).

S. SHANKAR

I spent the Spring 2018 term on a Senior Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship in India. During that time, I worked on a variety of projects—translations of the iconoclastic Tamil intellectual Periyar, a short story in the genre of climate fiction, a scholarly article on free speech debates in India and the US. While in India I delivered two keynote addresses--“Poor Stories: Poverty, the Humanities and Yash Chopra’s *Deewaar*” at a graduate student conference at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras and ““Broke People (What’s Up with That?): Labor, Migration, and Postcoloniality” at the annual literature conference at Stella Maris College in Chennai, India. I organized and participated in the panel “Imagining Others: Writing Fiction in English about non-English Speaking Communities” for the 2018 Association of Writers and Writing Programs held in March in Florida. I also had my play *The Library of No Books* performed in Chennai. I am currently exploring opportunities to stage the play in Bangalore and Honolulu. In 2018, I was awarded the Senior Excellence in Research Award in the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literatures. I have continued working on the projects begun in India and hope to bring them to fruition in the near future.

On my return, I became Chair of the Department in August 2018 and have since been fulfilling the duties associated with that position. In other service to the profession, I served my final year of my three-year term on the program committee for the Annual Convention of the Modern Language Association.