

The Mellon Interdisciplinary  
Graduate Fellows Program Presents:

**zuckerman conference**  
at the mellon biennial



Co-Sponsored by: The Paul F. Lazarsfeld Center for the Social Sciences,  
the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy,  
and the Graduate Student Advisory Council

*ABOUT THE CONFERENCE: Two ideas motivate the Mellon Program Biennial. Extending the guiding intellectual animus of the program, we bring together Mellon Program alums to engage each other and current fellows in interdisciplinary conversations about their current research, and open these conversations to the wider Columbia community. The Zuckerman Conference is the focal point of this effort. The conference is also motivated by the importance and pleasure of social relationships in our professional lives.*

**APRIL 7:** Buell Hall (“Maison Française”)  
Ground Floor

**8:45 - 9 a.m.** — Welcome and Acknowledgements

*Peter Bearman, Department of Sociology & Paul F. Lazarsfeld Center*  
*William McAllister, ISERP & Paul F. Lazarsfeld Center*  
*Harriet Zuckerman, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation*

**9 - 10 a.m.** — Keynote

**“Soldier’s Dissent in Homer and Hobbes”**

*Elaine Scarry, Professor of English and American Literature and  
Language and Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the  
General Theory of Value at Harvard University*

**10:15 - 11:45 a.m.** — Panel 1: Socially Useful and  
Problematic Effects of Forgetting and Ambiguity

Immigrant forgetting in Romano-Egypt promotes identity formation;  
ambiguous Janus-like boundary objects help fund the new states of  
Israel and Ireland; and forgetting and misremembering scientific health  
research in early 20th century Africa cost lives.

**Anna Lucille Boozer**

*(Department of Archaeology/University of Reading)*  
*“Migration and Memory: Lessons from the Egyptian Desert”*

**Dan Lainer-Vos**

*(Department of Sociology/University of Southern California),*  
*“Between Gift-Giving and Market Exchange: The Pragmatic  
Organization of Economic Transactions”*

**Jennifer Tappan**

*(Department of History/Portland State University),*  
*“The True Fiasco: Efforts to Combat Protein Malnutrition in  
Uganda and the World, 1950-1974”*

Discussant: **Alvan Ikoku**, Department of English and  
Comparative Literature/Columbia University

## Noon - 1 p.m. — Panel 2: Democratic Political and Cultural Practices: Revolutionary Change and Deceptive Stasis

How elections in authoritarian regimes can cause those regimes to collapse (is current Egypt a case?); and how democratic anti-racist multi-culturalism in the U.S. helps maintain the political, economic, and ideological structures of neoliberal economic globalization.

### **Graeme Robertson**

*(Department of Political Science/University of North Carolina),  
"Elections, Revolutions and Political Change in the Post-Cold War Era"*

### **Jodi Melamed**

*(Department of English/Marquette University),  
"Rationalizing Violence in Neoliberal Multiculturalism"*

*Discussant: Felipe Gaitan-Amman,  
Department of Anthropology/Columbia University*

## Noon - 1 p.m. — Panel 3: How Modern Cultural Forms and Markets Emerge: Politics and Stories

Modernist art in South Asia arises from the secular state and individual; modern "European culture" is shaped by Nazi political aims; and modern markets for health therapy research develop from stories about what the future will look like.

### **Karin Zitzewitz**

*(Department of Anthropology/Michigan State University),  
"Art as Secular Practice: Modernist Art in Contemporary India"*

### **Benjamin Martin**

*(Department of History/San Francisco State University),  
"European Culture' as Soft Power: How Nazi Germany Rearranged the Assignment of Literary Capital"*

### **Sophie Muetzel**

*(Social Science Research Institut in Berlin/Germany),  
"Stories and the Emergence of a Market"*

*Discussant: Anderson Blanton, Department of Anthropology/  
Columbia University*

## Noon - 1 p.m. — Panel 4: How the Unimportant Becomes Important, And Vice Versa

The post-WW I city of Fiume and African-American Presidential campaigns are thought to be sidelights to their respective main events, but are they? On the other hand, why did successful privateering merchants of the 18th century allow themselves to disappear into the British Royal Navy?

### **Dominique Kirchner Reill**

*(History Department/University of Miami),  
"Rebel City: Fiume's Challenge To Wilson's Europe, 1919-1920"*

### **Christina M. Greer**

*(Department of Political Science/Fordham University),  
"Symbolic Candidacies and the Significance of Alternative Parties: A Historic Analysis of African Americans Seeking Executive Office, 1872-2008"*

### **Henning Hillman**

*and Christina Gathmann  
(Department of Sociology/University of Mannheim),  
"Overseas Trade and the Decline of Privateering"*

*Discussant: Natan Dotan,  
Department of Sociology/Columbia University*

**APRIL 8:** Room 301, Philosophy Hall  
**9 - 10 a.m.** — Panel 5: What Constitutes Work?:  
Social and Individual Welfare

*Public assistance for poor families in the U.S. has moved from a language of welfare-support to that of work-support, yet what should we think constitutes work that is socially just and acceptable?*

**Chauncy Lennon**

*(Economic Fairness Initiative/Ford Foundation),  
"The End of Welfare As We Know It?: The Fall of Cash Welfare  
and The Rise of Work Supports."*

**Julia Maskivker**

*(Department of Political Science/Rollins College),  
"Self-Realization and Justice: A Liberal-Perfectionist Defense of  
the Right to Freedom from Employment"*

*Discussant: Jeffrey Lenowitz, Political Science/Columbia University*

**10:15 - 11:45 a.m.** — Panel 6: Violence, Identity & Control

*How violence and responses to it form British and South Asian identities in 19th century India; white Southerner and African-American identity in 19th and 20th century U.S.; and how to think about the epistemological bases of identity formation.*

**Elizabeth Kolsky**

*(Department of History/Villanova University),  
"Empire and Terror in South Asia: A History of the Northwest  
Frontier of British India"*

**Mattias Smångs**

*(Department of Sociology & Anthropology/Fordham University),  
"Whiteness from Violence: Lynching and White Identity in the  
U.S. South, 1882-1915"*

**Emily Erikson**

*(Department of Sociology/Yale University.),  
"Formalist and Relationalist Theory in Social Network Analysis"*

*Discussant: Jessica Hammer,  
Department of Cognitive Studies in Education/Teachers College*

**Noon - 1 p.m.** — Conversation

*Elaine Scarry  
Peter Bearman  
William McAllister*

*visit <http://iserpfellows.org> to learn more*

**ABOUT ELAINE SCARRY**

*We are very happy to have Professor Elaine Scarry as our keynote speaker, as she brings learning from diverse disciplines to investigate questions that arise in widely different fields. Elaine Scarry is a professor of English and American Literature and Language at Harvard University, holding the Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value chair. Among her many research interests have been theories of representation, the language of physical pain, the structure of verbal and material making in art, science and the law.*

*Academically, Professor Scarry was initially known for her work *The Body in Pain*, a searing, definitive study of pain and its infliction. In this life-changing book, she argues that physical pain leads to destruction and the unmaking of the human world, and contrasts this with human creation, which leads to the making of the world. She is perhaps most widely known for her New York Review of Books articles, which argue that fairly common electromagnetic interference may have been responsible for the devastating crashes ten years ago of TWA 800 and EgyptAir 990 rather than the more singular explanations that are usually given.*

*The titles of Professor Scarry's books convey the range and depth of her interests and intellect. She has written *Resisting Representation*, *On Beauty and Being Just*, *Dreaming by the Book*, *Rule of Law*, *Misrule of Men* and, most recently, *Thinking in an Emergency*. This last work explores how modern democratic governments have undermined democracy by invoking the idea of emergency to eschew thinking in order to bypass constitutional provisions concerning civilian surveillance, presidential succession, the use of torture and the declaration of war. Drawing on the work of philosophers, neuroscientists, and artists, Professor Scarry shows how thinking and rapid action are compatible, that practices we dismiss as mere habit and protocol represent rigorous, effective modes of thought that are crucial in times of crisis.*

*Professor Scarry received her Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut and her A.B. from Chatham College.*