Understanding of Hobbes changes as world changes

On the morning of Sept. 11, I was scheduled to teach a class on Hobbes’s *Leviathan*. When the class was finally held a couple of days later, we did talk about the assigned text, but with a new inflection, generated by a new understanding of Hobbes’s thought.

Although we were far removed from the events of the English Revolution, we now had an existential grasp of why Hobbes felt that nothing was a greater threat to peace than the fanatical certainty that one has private knowledge of what one is obliged to do in order to achieve salvation.

Weeks have passed, and I’m now writing in my still-new capacity as chair of the Comparative Literature Program, with words of greeting to alumni and friends.

But I find that even the way I think about this department, and my role in it, is affected by the events of Sept. 11.

I used to think of comparative literature as a kind of free space, a charmingly indefinable academic unit where the normal disciplinary rules did not apply.

But now I increasingly think of comparative literature in other terms, as a locus of diversity, a champion of tolerance and cosmopolitanism.

Indeed, when I see the eagerness with which colleagues in other departments express their desire to be affiliated with comparative literature, it becomes all the more evident that our attractiveness lies in something beyond a mere openness to innovative approaches or a mere absence of constraints. It lies in a complex of cultural values that bring us together and inform all our undertakings.

So it is as someone who is grateful for the opportunity to serve as chair of such a department that I send you my greetings.

— Oscar Kenshur

Special thanks to our associate instructors for their hard work in 2000–01:

- Michele Andrews
- Burcu Bakiouglu
- Theodore Bouabre
- Austin Busch
- David Kaplin
- Patrick Kingsman
- M onique LaRocque
- Mark Minster
- Sarah Mote
- Imed Nsiri
- Ioana Patuleanu
- Adam Rovner
- Adriana Varga
- Kevin West
- Matthias Westphal
Faculty activities

Eugene Eoyang was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce. He published an article titled "From the Imperial to the Empirical: Teaching English in Hong Kong" in Professe 2000.

Joan Hawkins received tenure with the IU Department of Communication and Culture and published her book, Cutting Edge: A R-H error and the Horrific Avant-Garde (University of Minnesota Press). Sumie Jones co-edited a special issue of the magazine Poetica on comparative literature for the International Journal of Linguistic-Literary Studies. In celebration of "50 years of Comparative Literature," Jones organized the graduate symposia "Reading Gender and Modernity: Japanese Literature, Film, and Music" (April 2000) and "Gender, Sexuality, and Visuality in the Arts" (December 2000). The latter was repeated at the Kinsey Institute (M arch 2001). She has published several articles, including "What Is 'Religion' and What Is 'Literature' in Japanese Culture in the End of the 20th Century?" in Religion and Literature in Japan (Kyoto International Research Center for Japanese Studies, 2000); "O vertext: Toward a Theory of Postmodernity in Early Modern Literature" (in Korean translation) in Critica, Journal of the Korean Association of Theory and Criticism (Seoul, 2000); and "The Mystery of Kitagawa U tamaro's 'Fishing under the Bridge'" in the newsletter of the M izuta Museum of Art (Sakado, Japan, No. 6, 2000).


Paul Losensky was promoted to associate professor, with tenure. At the international workshop "Patronage in Indian-Persian Culture" (Paris, March 21-23, 2001), he presented a paper titled "Building a Career: Architecture in the Life and Poetry of K alim K ashani." In April, he presented a revised version at a three-day seminar on Islamicate aesthetics in South Asia (Chapel H ill, N.C.). At the conference "Comparative Arts and Interdisciplinarity: What Was... What Is... What's Next?" (Bloomington, April 5-8), he presented "The Equal of H eaven's Vault: The Design, Ceremony, and Poetry of the Hasanabad Bridge in Isfahan." He is translation of three Persian ghazals appeared in the latest issue of Beasons The Journal of Literary Translation of the American Translators Association. Losensky was also appointed to the editorial board of the new journal Eurasian Studies.

Breon Mitchell edited the sixth annual issue of Beasons, the Journal of Literary Translation of the American Translators Association. He has been appointed director of the L ily Library.

Anya Royce is a Chancellor's Professor of anthropology and received a Boglasko Foundation Fellowship for a writers’ residency program in Liguria, Italy, for fall 2002.

Suzanne Stetkeyxch was on sabbatical for 2001. She spent the first six months in Cairo and Alexandria on an NEH-funded research grant from the American Research Center in Egypt for her project, "From Text to Talisman: Manuscript, Print, and Performance Traditions of al-Busiri's M antle Ode." In January, she presented "Renunciation and Gratification: Caliphal Authority and the Poetics of Gender" at the American University in Cairo. In May, she presented "From Text to Talisman: al-Busiri's M antle Ode in Praise of the Prophet" at a seminar of the American Research Center in Egypt. While in Cairo she also served as Islamist-in-residence at ARCE. Her monograph, The Poetics of Islamic Legitimacy: M yth, Gender, and Ceremony in the Classical Arabic Ode, is forthcoming with the IUPress. She continues to serve as editor of the Journal of Arabic Literature (L eiden, E. J. Brill; php.indiana.edu/~jal).

Gilbert Chaitin was appointed resident director of the Wisconsin-Michigan-Indiana Academic Year in Aix-en-Provence program for 2002-03.

Eileen Julien participated in a conference "Africa After Gender? An Exploration of New Epistemologies for African Studies" at University of California at Santa Barbara in spring 2001. She presented "M odernity and M ultiple Imaginaries in L iterature and the Arts: The Example of Senegal" at an African studies seminar at the University of Iowa and also at the Taft lecture at the annual Cincinnati conference on Romance Languages and Literatures. At the annual African Literature Association meeting in Richmond, Va., she gave a paper on fieldwork and literature and presented the Fonlon-Nichols Award to Somali writer Nuruddin Farah.

New and visiting faculty

We welcome the following professors to the Department of Comparative Literature as adjunct faculty members:

• Ov-Be r Kerler, Dr. Alice Field Cohn Chair in Yiddish studies at the Department of Germanic Studies and the Borns Jewish Studies Program;

• Michel Chaouli, assistant professor of Germanic studies;

• Rosemary Lloyd, Rudy Professor of French and Italian studies;

• Deborah Cohn, assistant professor of Spanish and Portuguese;

• Edith Sarra, associate professor of East Asian languages and cultures and adjunct in gender studies; and

• Purnima Bose, whose research interests include differential nationalisms (with an emphasis on South Asia and Ireland); post-colonial studies; feminism; and cultural studies.

Maria Lourdes Cancio-Martins joined the department for fall 2001 as a visiting lecturer from the University of Lisbon, Portugal. She taught a graduate seminar titled "Utopia: History and Structure." She also presented the lecture "Paths and Detours of Utopia" in October.

This year we are pleased to have two additional visiting scholars, Young-Soon Lee from Pae Chai University in Korea and He Ping from Sichuan University in China.

Faculty honors

Professor Angela Pao, who accepted the position of director of undergraduate studies, received an award from the overseas conference fund from the Office of International Programs to support her travel to the 2001 annual international conference of the International Federation for Theatre Research, "Trans-actions: Culture and Performance." Professors Eileen Julien and Il india Zarifopol-Johnston were awarded the President's Arts and Humanities Initiative in the 2000-01 competition. Julien received the award for her book project, M odernity and M ultiple Imaginaries in L iterature and the Arts. Zarifopol-Johnston’s project is a book titled E.M. Cioran: Portrait of the Philosopher as a Young Man.

Professor Paul Losensky was given the College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Recognition Award for the 2000-01 academic year.
Student activities

Last summer, PhD student Austin Busch presented his paper titled “Livy’s Ethical and Ethnographical Reversals: The Romans and the Gauls in Ab urbe condita 5” at the American Classical League Institute, held at IU Bloomington. He also read another paper called “Statius’ Silvae 2.1 and Flavian Family Values” at the conference of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, held this year in Provo, Utah.

PhD student Naomi Uechi presented a paper titled “Frank Lloyd Wright’s Transcendental Reconciliation Between Nature and Culture” at the Comparative Arts and Interdisciplinarity Conference (IU, April 2001) and another paper titled “Walt Whitman’s ‘Song of the Universal’ and Frank Lloyd Wright’s Tales in West, Arizona,” at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference (Northern Arizona University, June 2001).

In March 2001, Nikita Nankov published a book (in Bulgarian) called In the Hall of Mirrors, a collection of seven long essays on Bulgarian and European modernism in comparative perspective. Nankov’s book won a grant from the Swiss foundation for culture Pro Helvetia, Réseaux Est-Ouest.

Last October, Patrick Kinsman presented a paper titled “Godard: Postmodern Modernist?” as a part of a panel discussion at the Modernist Studies Association meeting in Philadelphia. In March, he read a paper called “John Howard Lawson and Blockade” at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association regional meeting in Albuquerque, N.M.

MA student Tracy Lassiter spent part of last summer (May-June) helping establish a library in Bungoma, Kenya.

PhD student Paul Nelson presented a paper titled “Two Medieval Tales of Mother-Son Incest: Alfonso X’s Cantigas XVII and Don Juan Manuel’s Exemplum XXXVI: Evolution of a Social Conscience?” at the annual meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (San Francisco, July 6-9, 2001).

Student awards

Undergraduate

Jennifer Holt and Joe Pusateri received the Outstanding Senior Award for academic achievement and scholarly potential.

Erik Gibson and Oliver Hildebrandt received the Ann Geduld Award, which recognizes the most outstanding comparative literature undergraduate in film and interarts studies.

Gina Zambori received the Mary E. Campbell Award, which is granted every four years to an exceptional student in the humanities.

Jennifer Holt was elected to membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

Oliver Hildebrandt was selected for induction into Gamma Kappa Alpha, the national honor society for college students of Italian.

Graduate

The U.S. Department of Education awarded both Thomas Cooper and Adriana Varga the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship for the 2001-02 academic year to do research in Hungary. Varga will spend half of the year in Romania.

MA student Tracy Lassiter won a Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for the study of Xhosa for 2001-02.

Distinguished Teaching Awards were presented to MA student Sarah Mote and PhD student Adriana Varga.

The Gilbert V. Tutungu Award for best master’s project was awarded to Joanne Quimby.

MA student Kristin Matosian won the Newton P. Stallknecht M emorial Award for best essay.

Degree recipients

The following students were awarded degrees in 2001:

**MAs awarded**
- Michele Andrews — October
- Hui Luo — March
- Sarah Mote — October
- Kristin Matosian — October
- Susanna Shelton, MAT — September

**PhDs awarded**
- Katrina Boyd — June
- Ahmed Alami Idrissi — November
- Monique Lacroque — August
- Neeja M Jamal — June
- Eric Metzler — April

Encompass

This newsletter is published annually by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Comparative Literature Program and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For information on membership or activities, call (800) 824-3044 or e-mail iualumni@indiana.edu.

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Visit the IU Department of Comparative Literature on the Web at www.indiana.edu/~complit/
1960s
Larry A. Goldberg, M.A.’65, was selected by the students at the University of North Carolina to receive a 2001 student undergraduate teaching award of $5,000. He joined the UNC English department in 1997. He lives in Chapel Hill, N.C.

1970s
Eugene C. Eoyang, PhD’71, chair and professor of English at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, also is a professor of comparative literature and East Asian languages and cultures at Indiana University. In March, he was a featured speaker at the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce’s “World Speak” conference in London. His e-mail is eoyang@ln.edu.hk.

Bonnie A. Beckett, MA’72, PhD’77, MA ’79, is senior aviation analyst at the U.S. General Accounting Office in Washington, D.C. She specializes in writing reports and testifying about aviation safety for Congress. She is still keeping her hand in teaching, most recently by designing a class for aviation safety inspectors. She lives in Arlington, Va., and can be reached at bonnie_beckett@hotmail.com.

D. Rodger Cunningham, MA’72, PhD ’80, won the 1987 Weatherford Award in Appalachian studies for “Apples on the Flood: Minority Discourse and Appalachia.” He continues to publish in the field and has four articles in the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Appalachia. He is a professor of humanities at Sue Bennett College in London, Ky. He can be reached at brorges@earthlink.net.

William F. VanWert, MA ’72, PhD ’75, received Temple University’s Faculty Award for Creative Achievement for 2000–01. He teaches English, creative writing, and film at Temple and lives in Philadelphia, Pa.

1980s
Margaret J. Warner, BA’86, is a librarian at the University of Maryland’s University College in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany. Her e-mail is mwarner@aug.de.

1990s
Daniel Simon, M.A.’94, PhD ’00, began as the acquisitions editor for literary studies and paperbacks at the University of Oklahoma Press in September 2000. He won the 2000 A. Owen Aldridge Prize from the American Comparative Literature Association and the journal Comparative Literature Studies for the best graduate student essay of the year. He lives in Norman, Okla., and can be reached at dsimon@ou.edu.

Liedeke Plate, PhD’95, is an assistant professor at Utrecht University’s department of literary studies in the Netherlands. She can be reached at Liedeke.Plate@let.uu.nl, and has a Web site at www.let.uu.nl/~Liedeke.Plate/personal/.

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Alumni
(continued from page 4)

Paula Willoquet, PhD’99, was appointed assistant professor of film studies in the communication department of the School of Communication and Arts at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. She edited a book, Peter Greenaway’s Postmodern/ Poststructuralist Cinema (due out in July 2001 from Scarecrow Press). She is also editing a book of interviews with Pedro Almodóvar titled Pedro Almodóvar: Interviews for the University Press of Mississippi.

2000s

The dissertation of Aiko MacPhail-Okamoto, PhD’00, was named runner-up and awarded honorable mention in the competition for the first Bernheimer Prize of the American Comparative Literature Association. She is currently a visiting professor at the University of Illinois in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.

Jeffrey Di Leo, PhD’00, was given the Phoenix Award for Significant Editorial Achievement by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals. He has two books coming out this year: Morality Matters: Race, Class, and Gender in Applied Ethics and Affiliation: Politics, Prestige, and the Academy. He and his wife, Nina Vandervoort, MA’97, are the parents of a baby boy. Congratulations!

Lynne Dahmen, PhD’00, has been a visiting lecturer in the department. She taught a course, Introduction to Popular Culture: Genres and Modes, for the fall 2001 semester. She recently was asked by the Peter Lang Publishing Co. to submit her dissertation manuscript, “The Roman de Silence and the Narrative Traditions of the 13th Century,” for publication.

Monique LaRocque, PhD’01, defended her dissertation, “Decadent Desire: The Dream of Disembodiment in A Rebours, THe Picture of Dorian Gray, and L’Eve Future” in June. Upon receiving her PhD, LaRocque was offered a teaching and administrative position at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind. She is an assistant professor in university studies and the associate director of Winter Term in academic affairs.

Eric Metzler, PhD’01, completed his dissertation, “The Miracle of the Pregnant Abbess: A Medieval Tale of Sexuality, Spirituality, and Authority” in April. He began working as an instructional consultant for the Kelley School of Business in July 2000. On Nov. 1, 2000, he accepted a promotion to associate director of instructional consulting at the school. He is also teaching part time for the Liberal Arts and Management Program and is involved in several campuswide initiatives for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, as well as part of the Woodrow Wilson initiative for re-envisioning the PhD.

Katrina Boyd, PhD’01, works in the University Division at IUB. Neepa Majumdar, PhD’01, is a visiting lecturer in the Department of Communication and Culture at IUB.

In memoriam — Fondly remember Joan Parsons Wang, who died last July. She taught at I U from 1964 to 1991. Her memorial service was held at Beck Chapel at Indiana University in October 2001. She was a dear friend and a consistent supporter of the Department of Comparative Literature.

Best wishes to our newlyweds

Aymen El-Haj, who is working on his PhD dissertation in comparative literature, was married last summer in France, where he and his wife, Isabelle, now live.

Honor Roll of Donors

Many thanks to those who contributed to the Department of Comparative Literature this year.

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