Dear Colleagues and Friends of IFUSS around the World:

Our best wishes to you in 2011 for a more peaceful and just world, and one that brings each of you great intellectual pleasures and scholarly connections with colleagues near and far. We continue to make those connections happen, through our sponsorship of visiting research residencies, colloquia, international conferences, and publications.

We try to communicate formally with you every year or so, and here is our latest newsletter, with information on our recent Faculty Fellows, Graduate Student affiliates, and (new this past year) pre-doctoral fellows from around the world. In addition we bring news of new publications and initiatives. And, we are excited to unveil our new IFUSS WEB SITE, newly posted on line, which will help us make more information available to partners, Fellows, and interested scholars around the world. Please do check it out at: http://ips.illinois.edu/ifuss. Let us know what you think and how we might improve the site to serve you better.

The last 18 months have been dreadful for public higher education in the U.S., (and elsewhere too of course), and the state of Illinois has been hit particularly hard. Thus, we have chosen to delay some new initiatives for a year or two until the current financial crisis eases, and yet we continue to find ways of creatively expanding even during a period of constrained finances. I know that many of you face similar challenges in your home institutions. Together I think we can continue to grow with innovative and collaborative strategies for connecting scholars around the globe. In fact, 2009-2010 resulted in our largest cohort of visiting Faculty Fellows ever, and you will find some interviews with them in the pages that follow.

One new creative initiative we are expanding here is our hosting of Sabbatical Fellows Residency Program. Not every university structure supports faculty sabbaticals, but many do, and two years ago we inaugurated a new Fellowship appointment in addition to our regular ones, to support the research of visiting faculty fellows who are on sabbatical support from their home institutions outside the U.S. Contact me if you are interested in hearing more about the possibility of spending your sabbatical here, and working in one of the top 10 academic libraries in the world. We have extraordinary resources here already, working along with a vibrant and large academic community, a perfect set up for pursuing research.

We continue to move forward on a number of new initiatives, including most recently starting to grow our emphasis on collaborations with scholars in the Middle East, marked by the signing of an agreement with the Center for American Studies and Research in the world. Thanks to these efforts and more, we have continued to serve as members of our International Advisory Board. Our counsel and support mean a lot, knowing that we can call on you for advice as we move forward into this new phase in our new home at the University of Illinois. We mark with sorrow the passing of distinguished literary scholar Dr. Emory Elliot, an early and sustained champion of “American Studies” across national borders, and a sage and generous supporter of IFUSS for more than a decade as a member of our Advisory Board. His unexpected and early death was a truly significant loss in the world-wide community of Americanists, and we miss him not only professionally but personally.

Finally, a thank you to those of you who have continued to serve as members of our International Advisory Board. Your counsel and support mean a lot, knowing that we can call on you for advice as we move forward into this new phase in our new home at the University of Illinois. We mark with sorrow the passing of distinguished literary scholar Dr. Emory Elliot, an early and sustained champion of “American Studies” across national borders, and a sage and generous supporter of IFUSS for more than a decade as a member of our Advisory Board. His unexpected and early death was a truly significant loss in the world-wide community of Americanists, and we miss him not only professionally but personally.

I continue in my second and final term now as President of the International American Studies Association (IASA www.iasaweb.org), a scholarly body incorporated in the Netherlands, and with an advisory board from 20 different countries. During my tenure of the last three years, I’ve been able to contribute some resources from our staff here at IFUSS to assist IASA, and want to cite especially the essential contributions of Ms. Anita Kaiser, our programming coordinator here at IFUSS, in those regards, as well as the assistance of our outstanding Research Assistant, Ms. Melinda Bernardo.

Co-founder Virginia Dominguez, and myself send you our very best wishes and invite you to send us your news. You can reach me directly at desmondj@illinois.edu, or contact Anita Kaiser at arkaiser@illinois.edu.

Sincerely,

Jane

Jane Desmond

Director, International Forum for U.S. Studies
President, International American Studies Association (2007-2011)
Professor of Anthropology and Affiliated Faculty, Gender and Women’s Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

IFUSS Newsletter
International Forum for U.S. Studies

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Spring 2011

Inside this issue:

- Letter from the Director..................1
- 2009 - 2010 IFUSS Scholars and Pre-Doctoral Fellows..................2
- Current Initiatives.......................3
- Graduate Affiliates.....................4
- New Initiatives.......................4
- Interview with Ana Mauad............4
- Interview with Ana Luz Reulas........5
- New IFUSS Website.....................6
- New Book Series......................7
- IFUSS Advisory Board..................8
Dr. Jade Boyd
Fellowship Period: Fall 2009 (Post-doc supported by the Canadian Social Science Research Council)

Jade earned her PhD from the Centre for Women’s and Gender Studies, UBC, where she currently teaches “Feminist Qualitative Research Methods” and “Women and Literature: The Body.” Jade’s publications on the social and political implications of performance, social dance, embodiment, media and urban geography situates her as an emerging gender scholar within the scope of feminist performance studies. Her work has been supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and by the British Columbia Arts Council.

Dr. Guillermo Eduardo Ibarra Escobar
Sabbatical Fellow: August 2009 – May 2010

Dr. Ibarra is the founder and director of the graduate program in North American Studies at Facultad de Estudios Internacionales y Políticas Públicas, Universidad Autonoma de Sinaloa, in Culiacán, Mexico, where he is also a professor. His many publications focus on regional development, globalization, migration, the labor market, North American studies, and regional economic history.

Dr. Ana Mauad
Fellowship Period: January – February 2010

Dr. Mauad is an Associate Professor at Universidade Federal Fluminense. She received her PhD in History from the same institution. Her interests include the theory and methodology of history, cultural history, the history of images and memory, oral history, photography and film studies. Her current research project analyzes the relationship between twentieth century photographic experience and historical narrative both in Brazil and abroad. The project focus the trajectory of Brazilian, U.S. and European photojournalists, the images they have produced, the way they were published and their impact in the producing of historical meanings.

Dr. Maureen Montgomery
Fellowship Period: October-November 2010

Dr. Montgomery is a returning Fellow, and an Associate Professor in American Studies and Chair of the School of Culture, Literature & Society at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. She also served as the national President of the Association of University Staff in New Zealand. Her publications include Gilded Prostitution:” Money, Migration and Marriage, 1870-1914 and Displaying Women: Spectacles of Leisure in Edith Wharton’s New York (Routledge, 1998). Her current book project, Whiteness and Politeness: The Racialization of Civilization, 1880-1930, is another venture into the cultural history of the period and examines travel literature, etiquette manuals, and novels of manners as a way of understanding how the American bourgeois elite conceptualized national identity at a time of fraught racial tensions.

Dr. Ana Luz Ruelas
Sabbatical Fellow: August 2009 – May 2010

Dr. Ruelas is Professor of International Studies and Public Policy at the Universidad Autonoma de Sinaloa in Culiacán, Mexico. She is Co-Founder of the Master’s program in U.S.-Canadian Studies at her university and served as the President of Mexican Association for Canadian Studies from 2007 – 2009.

Her research and teaching interests relate to new information and communication technologies, including how Spanish-speaking migrants to the United States cope with the digital divide.

Dr. Moshe Shokeid
Fellowship Period: October - November 2010

Dr. Shokeid is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Tel Aviv University and Chair of M.A. Program in Immigration Studies at Ruppin Academic Center. Dr Shokeid conducted fieldwork in various locations, including with Israeli immigrants in the Borough of Queens and at in gay institutions in New York City. Dr. Shokeid has also been a DAAD Visiting Professor at Freie Universität Berlin, a Visiting Member at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University, an IFUSS Rockefeller Fellow at the University of Iowa, and a Dorot Visiting Professor at New York University.

IFUSS also sponsored the following International Predoctoral Fellows:

Manlio Della Marca
Fellowship Period: January – May 2010

Manlio is a graduate student completing his PhD in the English-Language Literature Department at the University Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. While at IFUSS he focused on the question of why there are so many specters in postmodern American literature, as well as the kinds of ideological and cultural work do all these ghosts perform, by examining the work of writers like Stephen King, Don DeLillo, Toni Morrison and T. Coraghessan Boyle.
Arianna Mancini
Fellowship Period: November - December 2010
Arianna is a graduate student in the English-Language Literature
Department at the University Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.
While at IFUSS she conducted dissertation research on docu-
mentary film making by Native Americans.

Hongxin Wang
Fellowship Period: September 2009 – May 2010
Hongxin was a pre-doctoral fellow at IFUSS. Her academic inter-
est lies mainly in American intellectual history, comparative cul-
tural studies and American literature. She has just completed the
translation of Robert B. Westbrook’s monumental book on John
Dewey – John Dewey and American Democracy. Her disserta-
tion focuses on feminist social thought of Jane Addams.

IFUSS also sponsored the following
UIUC Graduate Affiliates:

Jennifer L. Baldwin
Fellowship Period: September 2009 – May 2010, Clinton Institute
IFUSS Fellowship, Dublin
Jennifer is a graduate student in the Department of Anthropol-
y and is simultaneously pursuing her M.D. at the University of
Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research focuses on the
meanings associated with soldiering for veterans of the Iraq and
Afghanistan conflicts. By applying trauma theory to these rep-
resentations, she seeks to capture both the experience of such
injuries as it is lived by the soldier, as well as broader attempts to
represent and mediate the experiences of a nation at war.

Kim O’Neill
Fellowship Period: September 2009 – May 2010, Clinton Institute
IFUSS Fellowship, Dublin
Kimberly O’Neill is a PhD Candidate in the English Department
at the University of Illinois. She is currently completing her dis-
sertation project, which studies the political and cultural relation-
ship between the U.S. and Latin America in the twentieth century.
She argues that American journalists, authors, filmmakers, and
policymakers alike fixate on political violence in Latin America.
Her research examines conflicts such as the Mexican Revolu-
tion, Cuban Revolution, and Central American Crisis and debate
about the role of U.S. power in the future of the hemisphere.

Joel Zovar
Fellowship Period: September – May 2001, Clinton Institute IF-
USS Fellowship, Dublin
Joel is pursuing his PhD in Cultural Anthropology at the Univer-
sity of Illinois. Although his current research is on whiteness and
tourism, Joel has an abiding interest in Indigenous museums and
eco-tours, especially where these sites intersect with struggles
over cultural patrimony, intellectual property, and the politics of
representation.

Current Initiatives
Upcoming Conference:
The Presence of “America” in India

We are pleased to announce our Spring 2012 conference,
The Presence of “America” in India: Where and How Does
“America” Appear and What are the Effects? The goal of this
conference to develop substantial and sophisticated academic
understandings of the role of the United States in the develop-
ment of economic, cultural, technological, political, military, and
conceptual power in India, and the ways that these influences
have been received, rejected, transformed, or used for domestic
purposes in India.

The position of the U.S. and India as the world’s two largest de-
mocracies, U.S. President Obama’s high profile visit to India, the
recent surge in immigration to the U.S. by South Asians, and the
significant presence of South Asians on the UIUC campus, make
this an especially compelling moment to examine the presence/
transformations/ and effects of ideas, commodities, cultural prac-
tices, and cultural products perceived as coming from the U.S.
and gaining traction in India. We understand this process as a
dialectical one, where India is not merely a “receiving” region,
but rather a complex set of national and subnational cultural and
political groups actively involved in articulating relationships to
“America” through modes of transforming American-derived or
associated products, practices, and political presences.

We use the term “America” advisedly as it does not presume to
reference all of the Americas but rather to capture the sense of the
U.S. as both a geo-political entity and a cultural imaginary,
that is, as not only a political actor, mediating between Pakistan
and India, but also a cultural influence in many of the contem-
porary changes in Indian daily life and institutional structures.
These include shifting practices of food consumption, modes of
fashion, notions of secular democratic politics, the restructuring of
Indian higher education institutions, the emphasis on “American” accents in English speech, employment in U.S. corporation
customer service “call centers,” the impact of the presence of the
US business corporations (IBM, GE, among others), new devel-
opments in Indian agriculture, engineering, the migration of hip
hop style dancing into Bollywood musicals, the much contested
“brain drain” to America, and so on.
We expect to have fifty scholars participate in this conference, including several speakers from India, along with scholars from the U.S. and from the University of Illinois. The work presented will have a multi-disciplinary focus, including work on economics, engineering, business, agriculture, politics, religion, cultural studies, linguistics, and the arts. UIUC Professor Rajeswarthi Pandharipande will co-chair.

New Initiatives
Sabbatical Fellows Program

Through this initiative, IFUSS hosts exceptional scholars who are on sabbatical leave from their home institutions, providing office space, and library access for those interested in an extended stay. If you are interested in spending your sabbatical at IFUSS, please contact us for further information.

Interview with Dr. Ana Mauad, Professor of History at Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil (IFUSS Fellow 2010): On Doing Visual History

IFUSS: As a historian, you work with both oral histories and visual documents like photographs. What are some of the challenges and possibilities with each of those forms that are different than the types of evidence that some other historians draw on, like archives of written documents?

Ana Mauad: I worked with written documents for many years before discovering the visual and oral sources as important evidence for history, and I think all kinds of documents have their own challenge. For instance, if you work with 16th century evidence you must know paleography to read the texts, or if you work with documents produced during the dictatorship in Brazil, you have to deal with the difficulties of accessing the documents that are still under censorship. All historical evidence has limitations and challenges for the researcher to overcome. In terms of visual and oral documents the challenges relate to the type of methodology you apply and also to the kind of problematic that leads the development of your subject.

The idea of using oral sources as a substitute for written evidence sometimes works, but not always. You have to deal with the kind of subjectivity related to the oral discourse, which is the typical situation in an interview. Despite the fact that all documents have a certain amount of subjectivity, it is important to understand that when you are dealing with oral accounts you must integrate them in your subject matter. They need to become part on your own narrative.

The same happens with visual historical sources. At different points in history humans have dealt with the visual representation of the world in different ways. The development of the regimes of visuality changes over time and relates to the development of material instruments (e.g. glasses, cameras, microscopes), which reveal the world and also illustrate it to other people. When you elaborate a problematic related to visual evidence this problematic must take into account the ways people saw the world in a particular epoch. Otherwise, you aren’t incorporating the visual evidence in the subject matter, but are using them only as accessories for something that you have already acknowledged by other means. So I can conclude by saying that these kinds of evidence open great possibility for new understandings of the past.

IFUSS: Tell us about your current project, which compares the representations of Brazil produced by two photographers from the U.S. at two very distinct time periods in the twentieth century. What drew you to the work of each of these photographers? What can we understand more deeply by seeing their work in comparison to each other?

AM: I discovered Genevieve’s Naylor photographs while studying the World War II-era “Good Neighbor Policy” between Brazil and the U.S. I really became fascinated by the way she depicted a multicultural Brazil in her photos, which were taken between 1941-42. She was bold and talented to overcome the rules and strict protocols of Vargas dictatorship and produce a sensitive portrait of Brazil at that time. She has traveled around and visited different regions of Brazil, from the seaside to the hinterland, and produced a collection of more than a thousand photographs.

What really impressed me was the fact that her pictures, which were taken almost 60 years ago, were so similar to the pictures taken by the famous Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado during the 1980s. I developed a problematic that sought to engage both photographers in the same visual tradition and raised the hypothesis that authorship has to do with the commitment one has to a cause. Both of them were committed to social causes and to a photographic tradition. From this starting point I developed my analysis based upon the idea that similar places, visual traditions and commitments to a social cause can produce photographs of the same kind despite belonging to different times.

IFUSS: Like most academic researchers, you write articles and books, but you also produce visual records of your research in the form of videos. Can you describe your latest video project using the documentary photos described above? What can you do with your video work that your regular scholarly work doesn’t allow you to accomplish?

AM: I work collaboratively with other scholars from the Laboratory of Oral History and Imaging at the Universidade Federal Fluminense (LABHOI - UFF). First, I write the article, which condenses the historical argument. We then chose the images to visualize the historical argument presented in the article. The way we try to build the visual historical argument varies and depends upon the
other evidence we also want to use, such as music or text. For instance, in the video with the photos from Naylor and Salgado, we decided to use contemporary music in order to express the point of view of the researcher. None of the evidence included in these types of videos was chosen randomly. They all have a place in this new narrative, which we call a “videographic narrative.” These narratives are a mixture of historiography and video, and function as a way of expressing historical argument. They reach a larger audience, while simultaneously valorizing the visual evidence in all its potentiality.

IFUSS: Your interest in the study of the U.S. has taken you to conferences in many parts of the world, including International American Studies conferences in Lisbon, Ottawa, and Beijing. How would you describe the interests and goals of your Brazilian academic colleagues who do at least some of their work on the U.S. or on Brazil-U.S. histories and relations? Does it share similarities with some of that being produced elsewhere? Are the concerns and approaches unique to Brazil?

AM: Nowadays in a worldwide community of intellectuals and researchers it is often more difficult to defend a unique approach for a specific place. But on the other hand, over the last 20 years, Brazilian historiography has been developing new approaches for different historical subject matter. In my opinion it has to do with two important aspects: first, increased access to documents in the archives, due to the improved organization and opening of previously restricted archives, and second, the development of the graduate programs and access to funds for local and international research. Both of these aspects have contributed to the development of original approaches to the relationship between Brazil and the U.S., but also to Brazil and the U.S. as members of an American community.

IFUSS: You’ll be hosting the next IASA World Congress in Rio in July of 2011. How will the location and its histories shape the flavor of the conference?

AM: Yes, we have big expectations for IASA 2011 in Rio! We will have the opportunity to bring together colleagues from different countries and areas of interest around a common issue – American Studies. Actually, it will be an interesting challenge for us in Brazil where American Studies is viewed as an interdisciplinary approach, rather than part of geographic area studies. We expect to deal with new and different perspectives when preparing together with the IASA organizing committee. We hope to produce a very interesting and diverse program that reflects a variety of different interests.

Interview with Dr. Ana Luz Ruelas, Professor of Sociology at the Universidad Autonoma de Sinaloa, Mexico.

IFUSS: Some of your previous work has focused on the experiences of people migrating from the Sinaloa region of Mexico to the Los Angeles area seeking work, and now you are focusing on Internet access and the “digital divide.” What drew you to studying the digital divide on both sides of the border? Have you found anyone else doing a similar type of U.S./Mexico comparisons in terms of digital access?

Ana Luz Ruelas: In my first research project, in 2001, which was about Mexican immigrants and labor insertion in Los Angeles, a group of professors from The Autonomous University of Sinaloa discovered that Mexican migrants not only encountered many difficulties entering the labor market and accessing health and education services, but also encountered serious difficulties accessing communications technologies, such as telephone service.

In May 2003, I conducted a telephone survey that focused on Mexican non-documented immigrants in the Los Angeles area in order to get a sense of how this very vulnerable group accesses communication technologies, for example landline telephones, cellular phones, personal computers, cable televisions. The survey yielded some very revealing information – even the migrants with the lowest level of access to these technologies, i.e. those on the lowest step of the digital divide, managed to sustain continuous communication with their families in Mexico. Supported by their network of family and friends, they maintained contact via public phones and prepaid phone cards. Despite their limited access to technology, these migrants constructed their own world in the United States. These individuals experienced the digital divide on both sides of the border. Many of the Mexican migrants did not have a telephone in their houses in Mexico; when they came to U.S. they encountered a similar situation.

In terms of thinking about other work on digital access, I didn’t find similar studies about the U.S./Mexico case. There are different studies here in U.S. that identify the importance of community technology centers (CTC) for Mexican migrants. Sandra J. Ball-Rokeach also conducted research on how CTCS are integral components of larger communication systems and the ways in which they help overcome the inequalities of digital access. She stresses that CTCS are essential to civic participation and empowerment.

IFUSS: In your paper at the IFUSS symposium in January 2010, you brought up very interesting differences in the way that access to the Internet is being provided to under-served communities in the U.S. and in Mexico. Do you think the intervention of governmental and civic groups in funding public spaces of access in the U.S. is a good choice for U.S. populations? Or, do you think that a more entrepreneurial approach, like that developing with the many small cyber-cafes in Mexico, would also be a good way to go in the U.S.?

ALR: Yes, I think government and civic group participation in expanding public technology access is an appropriate choice for the U.S. It is a way to address the needs of people who have
been segregated from information and communication technologies (ICTs). The community technology centers that operate here in U.S. are a wonderful choice for people who do not have Internet access at home. In addition to providing valuable access to ICTs, many CTCs provide reading spaces and access to skilled staff members who can assist patrons with computer and software questions.

In fact, here in U.S. the cyber cafés operate similarly to those in other countries, relying on a regular entrepreneurial model. They provide public fee-based services, with wireless Internet access, printing, faxing, leisure internet surfing, and a cafe atmosphere. I see cyber cafés in U.S. as a good complement to the offering public technology services, but, on their own, they do not solve the problem of digital access.

The digital divide is a resilient phenomenon; it is a constantly renewing phenomenon that takes different forms as time pass and new technological innovation are developed. The digital divide mutates, resulting in new forms of digital exclusion, often for the same groups that experienced the previous incarnations of the digital divide.

IFUSS: Many sites outside the U.S. often combine academic programs into “North American Studies” or “U.S./Canadian Studies.” You have served as the President of the Canadian Studies Association in Mexico. Has your own work in Canadian studies influenced how you approach your work in and on the U.S.? What do you think we could all learn from comparing Canada and the U.S.?

ALR: As a past President of Mexican Association of Canadian Studies (April 2007-April 2009), and as a co-founder of the Master’s Program in U.S.-Canadian Studies (1997) at the Autonomous University of Sinaloa, I have had the opportunity to promote, within Mexico, the study of the cultural, economic and social realities that can be illustrated by looking at the relationships between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

What can we learn from the study of Canada? Canada is a more conservative society than the U.S. and Mexico. We understand that if we are interested in the survival of Canadian Studies in our countries we have to tie it to U.S. studies. Additionally, from Canada we learned how to both manage the United States and to treat it seriously. From analyzing the cautious and complicated patterns of Canada’s relationship to the U.S., Mexicans have learned to understand that our relationship with the U.S. should be one of convenience.

In terms of comparing Canada and the U.S., there are many points of connection, with their being neighbors and their sharing of the longest frontier in the world. Canada is the second most important provider of oil to U.S., before Mexico, which is the third. They often compete in the main indicators of information and communication technologies (ICTs). In the most recent Global Competitiveness Report 2009-2010 of the World Economic Forum, both countries held top ten ranking for pillars of technological readiness, which include disposition of broadband, household main telephone lines, Internet at schools, Internet users, and personal computers per 100 inhabitants.

But also, studying both countries’ realities provides excellent points of contrast, particularly by focusing on their cultures. In some of my research about Canada, I found that the cultural approach is one of the points of contrast in studying access and uses of ICT in Canada in comparison with U.S.

IFUSS: How does your own training as a lawyer and legal scholar shape your research on the U.S. and on U.S.-Mexican relations and social issues?

ALR: I studied the process of deregulation of the telecommunications industry in U.S. and the disintegration of AT&T in the early 1980s as an antecedent to the world-wide liberalization and privatization of telecommunications. At the same time I studied the process of deregulation and privatization of telecommunications in Mexico from 1989 to 1995. I found that privatization in Mexico was strongly influenced by the movement of liberalization in the world pushed by the United States and the United Kingdom, and rooted in the North American Free Trade Agreement of Free Trade (NAFTA), which was signed by the U.S., Mexico and Canada in 1992.

The privatization of Mexico’s main telephone company in 1989, Telefonos de Mexico, led to a great concentration of economic power and dominance in the telecommunications market. As a consequence of that, and other factors, Mexico has one of the deepest digital divides in Latin America, with only 19.1% (2009) of households having a fixed (landline) telephone, only 25.7% of household having a personal computer (2008), and only 17.5% of households having Internet access (2008). Those conclusions peaked my interest in how the U.S. addresses the digital divide, and further, what governmental and civic responses to this situation have been.

IFUSS: What’s next? After you complete your current research projects on the internet in both countries, is another project on the horizon yet?

ALR: There are some great projects on the horizon. After I complete my current research about cyber cafes, the Internet, and social development in the northern region of Mexico, I plan to be involved in a long-term project about the access to and consequences of the Internet for young people in the Americas. I would like to research “native” digital technology users and how more technologically developed countries, like United States, can cooperate.

IFUSS NEW MEDIA
IFUSS is pleased to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website, http://ips.illinois.edu/ifuss/index.html. The updated site provides easier navigation, enhanced information on our initiatives and Fellows, a list of opportunities, and additional resources for scholars of the U.S. Please check it out!


NEW IFUSS BOOK SERIES ANNOUNCED!

Global Studies of the United States

IFUSS is pleased to announce its upcoming book series, in partnership with The University of Illinois Press, edited by Jane Desmond and Virginia Dominguez, co-Founders of IFUSS and current Director and Consulting Director, respectively. The series will feature the work of exceptional scholars from around the world, with a focus on transnational dimensions of U.S. topics. All books will be written in English, making the valuable scholarship of our international colleagues available to an English-speaking audience, in the U.S. and elsewhere. By building on the reputation of IFUSS as a leader of the “transnational turn” in American Studies in the U.S., the series seeks to deepen the engagement between U.S. and internationally-based scholars who study “the Americas,” broadly conceived.

If you have a completed or nearly completed manuscript that you would like considered for the series, please contact the Director, Jane Desmond at desmondj@illinois.edu, with a brief description of your project.

SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUE PUBLISHED

Looking North: U.S. Studies in Latin American Perspective

We are pleased to announce the 2010 publication of “Looking North: U.S. Studies in Latin American Perspective,” a special issue of Transit Circle: The Brazilian Journal of American Studies, co-edited by Sonia Torres and Jane Desmond, and published by Contra Capa Press in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This issue grew out of conversations at a week-long working conference co-sponsored by IFUSS and the Universidade Federal Fluminense. The conference brought together many IFUSS Fellows, IFUSS advisory board members, and other invited guests from Brazil and abroad.

We took as our starting point the presumption that academic knowledge, like other types of knowledge, is produced from somewhere, by scholars situated in complex webs of local, national, and transnational paradigms, embedded in the specifics of national intellectual and political histories, and the exigencies of economic formations, we posited that location, in its multiple referents, makes a difference. We then questioned how we might approach the issues related to the production of knowledge about the U.S. from academic locations within Latin America. Drawing from these points, this volume offers a set of thoughtful and critical ruminations across national borders.

Articles are paired with commentaries from scholars around the world, with an eye toward understanding how specific geopolitical histories have had an impact on how we constitute our objects of knowledge. For more information, contact Sonia Torres at sonia.torres@terra.com.br, or Anita Kaiser at arkaiser@illinois.edu

In Memoriam - Dr. Emory Elliott

We note with great regret the unexpected passing of Dr. Emory Elliott of the University of California at Riverside in 2009. Emory was a long-time friend of IFUSS and served on our advisory board from our very beginning. The loss of this outstanding and extremely generous scholar is felt by scholars of the U.S. around the world.
IFUSS Advisory Board

Dr. Robert C. Allen
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA

Dr. Ien Ang
University of Western Sidney, Australia

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Northwestern University, USA

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East-West Center & University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, USA

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