

ANNUAL REPORT | JUL 07 - DEC 08
PETER WALL INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

studies activities
important university
potential excellence
researchers disciplines
innovative peter wall intellectual
fundamental significantly
initiatives knowledge
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interdisciplinary basic
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Professor Alain Berthoz at the Collège de France, Paris



Brett Finlay and Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffmann at the fireside chat, Peter Wall Institute

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. Dianne Newell

Since its founding 18 years ago, the mission of the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies has been to create collaborative, interdisciplinary, basic research programs for scholars at all stages of their career. It is one of only 24 similar institutions worldwide, based on the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton and devoted to the free pursuit of learning and research at the highest levels. The Institute's achievements include the creation of a significant community of scholars – more than 350 Faculty Associates in total – at the University of British Columbia



– and an even wider global community. The years since 1991 have seen a progressively higher profile for the Institute and its programs at home and abroad.

The Institute has been extremely active on several fronts in 2007 and 2008. Physically, we have undertaken a \$1.3 million facility renovation. The top floor of the former residential annex has been stunningly transformed to comprise offices for staff, distinguished visiting scholars, Major Thematic Grant investigators, and meeting space. The annex has with Board of Governors approval been renamed The Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies.

Two particular Institute programs will benefit greatly from this new dedicated space for projects, visitors, and administration. First, we have revived the three-year, \$500K Major Thematic Grant program, with one new project for 2008 and another for 2009. Second, the dedicated distinguished visitors office will not only house invited Wall Distinguished Professors such as Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffmann, who visited in 2008, and Professor Alain Berthoz, Collège de France, who will be in residence in September 2009, it will also accommodate top visiting researchers from international partner institutes or as external collaborators on major grant projects.

The renovation also enabled us to upgrade our IT capacity. A specially equipped server room will be completed in April 2009, and the increased computing resources will enable us to redesign and enrich our Institute website. Since

January 2008, most of the Faculty Associates forums and special events have been downloadable as audio podcasts and have proved surprisingly popular, so in future we plan to add images. Another IT initiative is the co-funding and-developing with the UBC Office of Research Services of a fully online award application system. This system will serve all Institute awards, beginning October 2009, and all UBC internal awards. Another intra-university partnership was developed in 2008 between the Institute and a large and interdisciplinary research operation, the Institute for Computing, Information, and Cognitive Systems (ICICS). Accordingly, ICICS will co-fund successful applications from any of its full members for several of the Wall Institute programs.

International scholars have established rich connections with Wall Institute Faculty Associates and programs. Over the past three years, several exciting opportunities have burgeoned from the Wall Summer Institute for Research and my own membership on the International Board of Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study, Technical University of Munich. Clearly, close institutional connections beyond these individual links are not only possible, but could yield extraordinarily rich and lasting value for scholars at UBC. With this in mind, along with our increased physical and IT capacity, we developed the Institute's first strategic planning document, for 2009-2011. International partnerships, internationally-held Wall Colloquia, and a public Downtown Vancouver Lecture Series topped the agenda. To that end, the Institute in the fall of 2008 signed a Convention with the Collège de France in Paris to engage in faculty exchange visits. Other conversations are ongoing with other interdisciplinary institutes. Several exchanges and a Wall Colloquium Abroad are being planned for 2010, as is the downtown lecture series.

It is a joy to be part of these initiatives and to see the great potential of this unique place blossom. It is intellectually rewarding to see the Institute facilitate research on such big questions as the future of agrarian societies, bridging the gap between abstract information and processing, and integrating of the sciences and the humanities. I am grateful for the strong financial position of the Institute even in the current global economic crisis. Our Board of Trustees, led by UBC President Stephen Toope, our staff, including Alfredo Santa Ana and Barbara Harrmann who joined us in 2008, and members of our committees have, as always, been dedicated, supportive, and innovative. Trustee Sonya Wall has graciously assisted in negotiating the renovation and partnerships projects, for which I am most appreciative. I look forward to highlighting in the Annual Report for 2009 the completion of a number of projects and our initiative to enhance the "look and feel" of the Institute that began in this extra-long reporting period, July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

The residential programs at the Peter Wall Institute bring together distinguished researchers from the University of British Columbia and other prestigious institutions to spend time in residence at the Institute. These residencies, ranging in term from one week to one year, encourage the interaction of scholars from a variety of disciplines as they explore new research directions.

By design, these programs are broadly interdisciplinary. The scholars are selected on the basis of their individual accomplishments, expertise, and interests. While there are planned activities and workshops intended to bring people together, there is no expectation of a particular end product, specific research topic, or common theme. The exception to this general framework is the Wall Summer Institute for Research.

PETER WALL DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

This endowed chair is intended to be held by a world-class UBC scholar who will have a major impact on broad areas of scholarly work at UBC. The endowment provides salary support for a renewable, without limit, five-year term. The program was established in 1994, originally as two endowed chairs, held by Dr. Raphael Amit, Sauder School of Business, and the late Dr. Michael Smith, 1993 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. In July 2002, UBC President Martha Piper appointed Dr. Brett Finlay as the new Peter Wall Distinguished Professor.



Brett Finlay
Professor
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology,
and Microbiology & Immunology

Dr. Finlay's Faculty Associates Forum talk, "Bugs R Us" is available as audio podcast "The Role of the Microbiota in Infectious Enteric Diseases" on the Institute's website.

Dr. Finlay, OC, OBC, FRSC, holds appointments at the Michael Smith Laboratories and in the Departments of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Microbiology & Immunology at UBC. The University recruited Dr. Finlay as an Assistant Professor in 1989 and appointed him Peter Wall Distinguished Professor in July 2002.

Dr. Finlay's areas of research interest and accomplishment include host-parasite interactions of pathogenic bacteria, especially enteric bacteria such as Salmonella and pathogenic E. coli. Research in his lab is focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms of bacterial pathogenesis from the perspective of the pathogen, the host, and the microbiota. Dr. Finlay is co-founder, VP for Research, and Chair of the Scientific and Medical Advisory Board of Inimex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., whose mission it is to develop new therapies for infectious diseases. He is also a recent co-founder of Indel Therapeutics, Inc., which is developing new strategies for antibiotic development.

In addition to chairing the Canadian SARS Research Consortium, Dr. Finlay continues in his role as Director of the \$2.6 million BC SARS Accelerated Vaccine Initiative (SAVI), whose mission since its founding in May 2003 has been to identify and develop a human SARS vaccine as rapidly as possible. The project has been immensely successful, demonstrating that rapid response research and emergency management could be applied to research problems. Dr. Finlay's interactions at the Peter Wall Institute have encouraged him to include the social sciences and humanities in forums about emerging infectious disease research at UBC. He also is the lead investigator on several emerging infectious diseases grants that include many UBC investigators. He is, for example, in year three of

his \$10M Gates Foundation grant (Gates Grand Challenge) for the project "Novel Therapeutics that Boost Innate Immunity to Treat Infectious Diseases", a project designed to develop new anti-infectives for developing countries.

Dr. Finlay is an active participant in Institute functions and meets regularly with the various Associates and Scholars in Residence and from time to time, with Early Career Scholars and visitors to the Institute. He founded the Wall Woodwind Quintet which is made up of Institute Faculty Associates. It holds regular rehearsals at the Institute and performs at various Associates' dinners. He works closely with Director Dianne Newell and the Peter Wall Advisory Committee, of which he is vice-chair, regarding various aspects of Institute programming. He also is an Official Observer at the Institute's Board of Trustees meetings. He represented the Institute at many national and international talks and meetings. He continues to win prestigious prizes, awards, and recognition, including the Distinguished Alumni award from the University of Alberta.

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE

This program was developed to bring to the Institute for one year outstanding, senior, tenure-track UBC faculty members with distinguished research records and commitment to interdisciplinary studies.

As of 2009, up to six scholars are selected each year, and the period of residency will be April 1 to March 30. The Senior Selection Committee chooses the Distinguished Scholars in Residence based primarily on the excellence of an applicant's research attainments, current projects, and proposed research and planned events for the year in residence. The committee also takes into account how well the research matches the mandate of the Institute to support work that is both basic and interdisciplinary.

The Distinguished Scholars in Residence selected for 2009 are Martin Barlow, Professor, Mathematics; Trevor Barnes, Professor, Geography; Michael Doebeli, Professor, Mathematics and Zoology; Leah Edelstein Keshet, Professor, Mathematics; Harvey Richer, Professor, Physics and Astronomy; and Stephen Sheppard, Professor, Forest Resources Management and Landscape Architecture.



William Benjamin
Professor
Music

Bill Benjamin specializes in musical composition and theory. His early work involved a technical analysis of 19th and 20th century music. He also produced a range of musical compositions that garnered a number of honours. More recently, his interests have shifted away from straight analysis to exploring the nature and function of musical memory, a concern that touches on an aspect of musical reality confronted by musicians and non-musicians alike. As a musical theorist, he is considered one of the most distinctive authorities in that field.

Dr. Benjamin holds a Bachelor of Music from McGill University, and MFA and PhD degrees in musical theory and composition from Princeton University. He came to UBC as an Associate Professor of Music in 1978, becoming Professor in 1983 and Director of the School in 1984.

Dr. Benjamin's Scholar in Residence talk, "Reproducing Music in Silence: What Musicality Is and How We Cultivate It," is available as an audio podcast on the Institute's website.

At the Institute, Dr. Benjamin is examining underlying philosophical questions about musicality and musical behaviour. This work has drawn him into the interdisciplinary area of aesthetics, psychology, and musicology. He is working toward an alternative approach to music aesthetics that emphasizes the role of the listener as an active participant, as having access to a real internal record of the music. Dr. Benjamin has collected qualitative and quantitative data for his new book to be titled *Music Heard and Imagined*.



Margery Fee has shaped national understanding of Canadian literature, culture, and regional and national forms of Canadian English usage. She has also become an influential figure within global indiginous and postcolonial studies, as measured in her numerous publications, research grants, editorships, and plenary addresses.

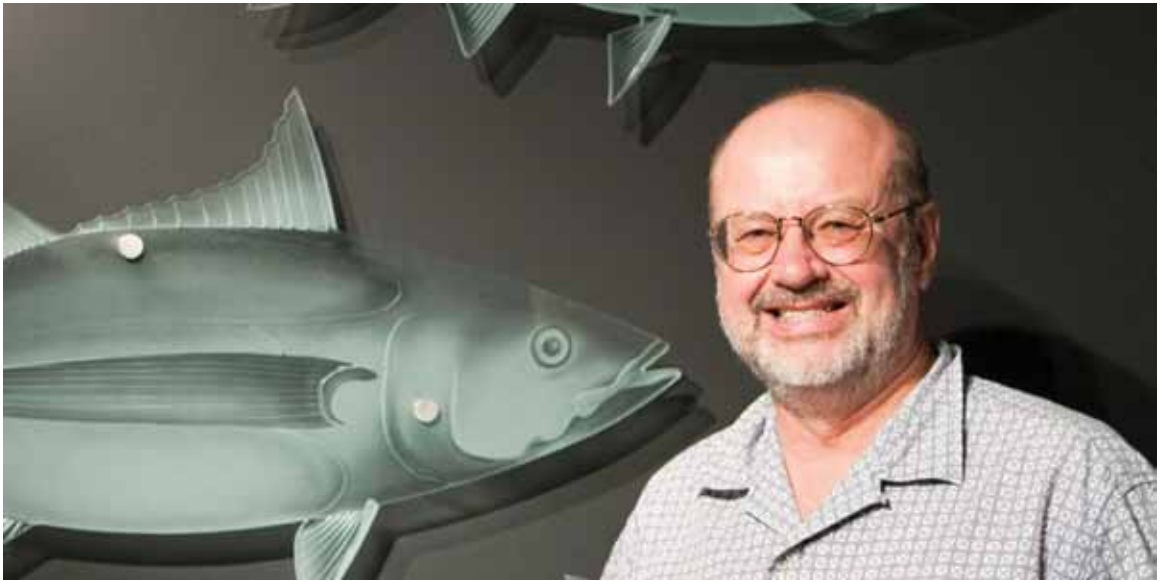
Dr. Fee completed her doctorate in English at the University of Toronto in 1981. Since taking up her position at UBC as an Associate Professor in 1993, she has held a number of prominent administrative positions in the Faculty of Arts at the same time as maintaining her role as a highly productive and innovative scholar.

Dr. Fee's longstanding interest in Aboriginal issues, postcolonial studies, narrative, and racialization merged in her recent article, "Racializing Narratives: Obesity, Diabetes and the 'Aboriginal' Thrifty Genotype," in *Social Science and Medicine* (2006). This study set her on a path that led to her year at the Peter Wall Institute, where she has forged new networks and generated a considerable number of papers as well as two grant applications.

Dr. Fee is planning a Scholar in Residence Workshop to be held in October 2009.

Margery Fee
Professor
English

Dr. Fee's Scholar in Residence talk, "What Can the Humanities Offer Science in Understanding Genetics and Social 'Race'?" is available as an audio podcast on the Institute's website.



Anthony Pitcher
Professor
Fisheries Centre

Tony Pitcher is a distinguished fisheries biologist, with an outstanding scholarly record and a worldwide reputation in fisheries research, much of it interdisciplinary. He received his MA and DPhil in Zoology from Oxford University in 1970. He was appointed as Professor and founding Director of the UBC Fisheries Centre in 1993. In 2003, Dr. Pitcher received the Beverton Medal from the Fisheries Society of the British Isles for his lifetime contributions to fisheries science.

Dr. Pitcher has made major contributions as a research scientist in two particular areas. The first area was fish schooling behaviour. More recently, he has been working on ecosystem assessment and modeling. In his pioneering “back to the future” approach, he uses past ecosystems to set viable future policy goals. This contemporary interest in the sustainability of benefits for humans from marine ecosystems is his research area at the Institute.

Dr. Pitcher’s Scholar in Residence talk, “The Sea Ahead: Learning from the Past,” is available as an audio podcast on the Institute’s website.

Dr. Pitcher has received funding for a full-scale Exploratory Workshop titled “The Sea Before Us: Reconstructing the Strait of Georgia,” to be held at the Institute in May 2009. The aim of the Sea Before Us project is to develop and publish concepts, methods, and case studies establishing a restoration ecology for the oceans that is practical and grounded in theory.

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS' RESEARCH EVENTS

In addition to their regular award, Scholars in Residence have access to up to \$5,000 for organizing research events at the Institute.

Rhetoric and Knowledge-Making in Health and Medicine

Workshop organized by Judy Segal, Department of English and 2007 Distinguished Scholar in Residence
February 15-16, 2008

Papers and a public talk in the areas of humanities, social sciences, health sciences, and medicine filled day one, followed on day two by a small, closed meeting to plan the publication of a collection of papers on the theme of the workshop.

Privatization and Public Services: Towards a Critical Research Agenda

Workshop organized by Karen Bakker, Department of Geography and 2007 Distinguished Scholar in Residence
May 30, 2008

This one-day meeting, co-sponsored by the UBC Program on Water Governance, engaged a small number of invited UBC and external researchers in the fields of business studies, economics, education, geography, law, political science, and sociology who met to discuss current research on a set of common questions and themes. Public lectures were given at the end of the day.

The Sea Ahead: Using History to Plan the Future of Fisheries

Workshop organized by Tony Pitcher, Fisheries Centre and 2008 Distinguished Scholar in Residence
14-15 October, 2008

Signaling the importance of an historical approach to fisheries research have been several major, unpredicted, collapses in fish populations. Dr. Pitcher organized this workshop to gather together scholars from across UBC to discuss the possibilities of his interdisciplinary approach to ecosystem management called "The Sea Ahead," and also to plan an Exploratory Workshop application on the topic. The application was successful.

EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS

The Early Career Scholars program, active since 2000–2001, brings together outstanding tenure-track faculty from diverse disciplines at the early stages of their careers at UBC. As of 2009, there will be a single cohort made up of beginning untenured Assistant Professors and recently tenured and promoted Associate Professors.

The program is for one academic year, September to August. The scholars meet monthly.



**2007-2008
EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS**

The Institute Director led both overnight research retreats for the Assistant Professor and Associate Professor cohorts and their monthly dinner meetings on research throughout the school year. Scholars participated in a second set of research retreats, held mid-year on Bowen Island, and each cohort organized visits to UBC research facilities (dubbed “lab crawls”), at the end of the academic year. Highlighting the diversity of research facilities visited was the trip to UBC’s Malcolm Knapp Research Forest near Maple Ridge, BC, organized by Marwan Hassan.

Mark Beauchamp
Assistant Professor
School of Human Kinetics

Mark received his undergraduate degree from the University of Exeter (UK), a Master’s from Queen’s University (Canada) and his PhD in Sport and Exercise Psychology in 2002 from the University of Birmingham (UK). He came to UBC in 2006, following three years as Lecturer at the University of Leeds. Mark’s research has focused on the psychology of group dynamics as applied to exercise groups, sport teams, and management and medical teams. A chartered psychologist (British Psychological Society), Mark has published in international scholarly journals in the areas of health, social, and sport psychology such as *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, *Sport & Exercise Review*, *Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology*, *Journal of Health Psychology*, and *Group Dynamics*. He is co-editor of the textbook with Routledge/Psychology Press, *Group Dynamics Advances in Exercise and Sport Psychology: Contemporary Themes*.



Liz Dunn
Assistant Professor
Psychology

After receiving her BA at Harvard University and her PhD in 2004 from the University of Virginia, Liz spent a year in Sydney, Australia as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of New South Wales. She took up her position at UBC in 2005. Her primary research interests lie in happiness, as well as self-knowledge (including beliefs about oneself and others that people cannot or will not report). In her current research, Liz is investigating what makes people happy, what people think will make them happy, and why those two things are different. She also explores how people activate, inhibit, apply, and transmit social stereotypes. Her work has appeared in top-tier journals, including the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, and the *Annual Review of Psychology*.



Leonard Foster
Assistant Professor
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Leonard is the Canada Research Chair in Organelle Proteomics, a Michael Smith Foundation scholar, and one of the founding members of the UBC Centre for Proteome Biology. Leonard is originally from British Columbia. He earned a BSc at Simon Fraser University, then a PhD in 2004 in Biochemistry from the University of Toronto for his work on the regulation of vesicle traffic by insulin. Leonard worked on protein mass spectrometry as an Assistant Research Professor in the Center for Experimental Bioinformatics at the University of Southern Denmark before arriving at UBC in January 2005. His UBC research focuses on applying quantitative mass spectrometry to organelle dynamics and host-pathogen interactions. He has developed a method for simultaneously localizing hundreds or thousands of proteins to different areas of the cell. The other main area of experimental work in Leonard's group focuses on honeybees and the response of their immune system to pathogens.



Mona Gleason
Associate Professor
Educational Studies

Mona's research and teaching focus on various topics in the history of education and the history of children and youth. Her degrees from Western Ontario, Windsor, and Waterloo (PhD 1996) are in History. She held a SSHRC Postdoctoral fellowship, and then taught at Simon Fraser University, before joining UBC's Faculty of Education in 2000 as an Assistant Professor. Mona is author of *Normalizing the Ideal: Psychology, Schooling, and the Family in Postwar Canada* (University of Toronto Press), and co-editor of *Children, Teachers, and School in the History of British Columbia, 2nd Edition* (Detselig Enterprises) and *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women's History* (Oxford University Press). Mona publishes in a variety of journals, including *The History of Education Quarterly*, *Journal of the History of the Family*, *Canadian Historical Review*, and the *Journal of Canadian Studies*. Her recent project is a history of children's medical treatment in English-Canada over the twentieth century.



Dana Grecov
Assistant Professor
Mechanical Engineering

Dana received her BEng in Mechanical Engineering in 1988 from Universitatea POLITEHNICA din Bucuresti, Romania, and her PhD in Fluid Mechanics in 2000 from National Polytechnic Institute Grenoble, France. Between the years 2000 and 2005, when she joined UBC, Dana was a NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow, then an Associate Researcher, at McGill University. Dana has both expertise in fundamental research and industrial experience. Her expertise is in the areas of fluid mechanics and rheology, with applications to industrial processing flows, biofluid mechanics, and advanced materials. Dana has primary research interests in Non-Newtonian Fluid Mechanics. Her research focuses on viscoelastic fluids and liquids crystalline materials. The main current applications are related to the lubrication problem, multi-scale process modeling of liquid crystalline materials, design of new bio-inspired materials, industrial processing flows, and biofluid mechanics.



Steven Hallam
Assistant Professor
Microbiology & Immunology

Steven is Canada Research Chair in Environmental Genomics. He is also an Associate with UBC's Bioinformatics Centre and was appointed as a Scholar in the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research's (CIFAR) Integrated Microbial Biodiversity Program in 2007. Steven has a BA in Liberal Arts, focusing on Religion and Biology, and completed his PhD in 2000 at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he studied the molecular genetic mechanisms underlying synapse formation and remodeling in the model nematode *C. elegans*. Between 2000 and 2005, Steven held post-doctoral fellowships at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he studied various aspects of marine microbiology and functional genomics. In January 2006 Steven moved to his current position at UBC, where his lab investigates wild microbial metabolism. He has published as first author in top journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, *Applied Environmental Microbiology*, and *Nature Neuroscience*.



Amy Hanser
Assistant Professor
Sociology

Amy's research has focused upon social change in contemporary China, with special attention to questions related to employment and consumption, gender, and inequality more generally. With a BA in East Asian Studies from Princeton and MA and PhD in Sociology from University of California, Berkeley, Amy's work falls at the intersection between economic sociology and the sociology of culture. She won the American Sociological Association 2006 Best Dissertation Award. The book based on her Doctoral dissertation, *Service Encounters: Class, Gender, and the Market for Social Distinction in Urban China* (Stanford University Press), explores the emergence of new social inequalities in urban China and how service work is increasingly organized around the construction and communication of cultural boundaries that legitimate and reproduce these new inequalities. At UBC, which she joined in 2005, Amy is developing a new research program to explore, among other things, the "street economies" of urban China, where many make their living as newspaper sellers, food vendors, and small-scale peddlers.



Marwan Hassan
Associate Professor
Geography

Marwan earned a PhD at the Earth Sciences Institute (Physical Geography) in 1989 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His training was in geography, geology, geomorphology, and hydrology. After completing a post-doctoral project at the universities of London and St. Andrews, he spent two years at UBC in the Geography Department as a Killam Memorial Post-doctoral Fellow. He then taught in the geography departments at the University of Glasgow and Hebrew University. Marwan's research focuses on the routing of water and sediment and associated channel characteristics. It falls within the broad framework of environmental science and is relevant to important environmental management issues, everything from salmon bioturbation to mountain pine-beetle impacts. He has investigated a wide range of topics in fluvial geomorphology and hydrology, and has worked at experimental sites representing flow regimes ranging from arid land flashfloods in the Middle East and Africa to snowmelt events in Canada and the United States.



Joseph Henrich
Associate Professor
Psychology and Economics

Joe holds the Canada Research Chair in Culture, Cognition, and Evolution. His degrees are from Notre Dame (BA in Anthropology, BSc in Aerospace Engineering), and the University of California, Los Angeles (PhD in Anthropology 1999). Prior to coming to UBC in 2006, Joe was a faculty member in Anthropology at Emory University, and in 2001-2002, he was a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin, where he worked with an interdisciplinary group on Social Norms and Economic Behaviour. From 1999 to 2002, Joe was a fellow in the Society of Scholars, and Visiting Assistant Professor, at the University of Michigan Business School. As a theorist, experimentalist, and ethnographer, Joe's work spans Anthropology, Biology, Psychology, and Economics. He has conducted ethnographic and experimental research in Peru (Amazonia), Chile, and, most recently, in Fiji. His research interests include cultural learning, culture-gene co-evolution, the origins and psychology of human pro-sociality and prestige, and economic decision-making. He co-authored *Why Humans Cooperate* (Oxford University Press).



Patricia Janssen
Associate Professor
Health Care & Epidemiology

Patti holds a MPH in Epidemiology (Maternal and Child Health) and PhD in Epidemiology (2001) from the University of Washington. She is holds a Bachelor of Nursing Science. Patti's work focuses on maternal/newborn and women's health. She conducts clinical trials and population-based studies to determine the impact of exposures and interventions such as intimate partner perpetrated violence, birth at home, and methods of early labor management on prenatal outcomes. Patti is an Associate Faculty Member in the Department of Family Practice and the School of Nursing, and she is Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Women's Reproductive Health Research Training Program at UBC's Child & Family Research Institute. She currently holds a Michael Smith Foundation Scholar award and a New Investigator award from Canadian Institutes of Health Research.



Roman Krems
Assistant Professor
Chemistry

Roman was born in Kazakhstan (part of the Soviet Union at the time). He completed his undergraduate studies in chemistry in Russia at Moscow State University. Roman had to learn a considerable amount of quantum mechanics, basic math, and physics in order to complete his undergraduate research project and begin his PhD studies at Göteborgs Universitet, Sweden, in 1999. Roman received a Fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution that allowed him to continue his PhD research at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, MA. At Harvard, he was introduced to experimentalists working on the creation of ultra-cold matter that has become another passion of his. Completing his PhD in 2002, Roman stayed on at Harvard as a postdoctoral fellow until July 2005, when he took up his appointment at UBC. He was Principal Investigator of a highly successful Wall Exploratory Workshop in 2007: Coherent Control of Ultracold Molecular Processes.



Cynthia Nicol
Associate Professor
Curriculum Studies

Cynthia's research focuses in the areas of teacher education, mathematics education, Aboriginal education, and culturally responsive research ethics and practices. With degrees in Math, Physics, Science Education, and Curriculum Studies and Mathematics Education (PhD, 1997) from UBC, Cynthia held a postdoctoral research fellowship for one year before her appointment to the UBC Faculty of Education in 1998. At present she is principal investigator of a SSHRC grant that brings together teachers, community members, students, and parents to explore the nature of culturally responsive ways of teaching and learning mathematics in elementary and secondary schools. As collaborative action research this project partners with two rural northwest communities of Haida Nation and School District and Nisga'a Nation and School District, along with the Vancouver School Board. With a UBC Killam Memorial Faculty Research Fellowship, Cynthia is establishing an ambitious international network of researchers interested in mathematics, teacher, and Aboriginal education in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and Alaska.



Wendy Roth
Assistant Professor
Sociology

Wendy joined UBC in 2006. She received her PhD in Sociology and Social Policy at Harvard University, M.Phil. in Sociology at Oxford (Nuffield College), and BA from Yale. She was a Doctoral Fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program on Inequality and Social Policy at the Kennedy School of Government. Wendy's research focuses on how social processes such as immigration and intermarriage challenge racial boundaries and classification systems. Her recent work examines how migration to the mainland U.S. affects the racial identities of Dominicans and Puerto Ricans, two ethnic groups with considerable racial diversity. Wendy has also published on contemporary British immigration to the U.S. and is a co-author of *Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings* (Basic Books). Her future research will examine the impact of DNA ancestry testing on racial identities, attitudes, and interactions between racial groups.



Steven Shechter
Assistant Professor
Sauder School of Business

Steven grew up in the Chicago area and graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 1997 with a BS in Mathematics and a minor in Computer Science. From Loyola, he went on to Georgia Tech, receiving a MS in Operations Research in 1999. Operations research, also referred to as “The Science of Better,” is the discipline of applying analytical techniques to help make better decisions in a wide variety of contexts. In 2006, Steven received his PhD in Industrial Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh, where his dissertation focused on the application of operations research techniques to optimal therapy planning for HIV patients. His general research interests lie at the intersection of operations research and health care; in addition to his work in HIV modeling, he has collaborated with clinicians and health policy experts on models dealing with liver donation in the U.S. and emergency room scheduling. Together with Patti Janssen in the Senior Early Career Scholar cohort he submitted a successful letter of intent for a CIHR training grant on applying decisions to maternity care.



Rashid Sumaila
Associate Professor
Fisheries Centre

Rashid gained his PhD in Economics at the University Bergen, Norway. His research is in the area of natural resource and environmental economics, with particular emphasis on fisheries. At UBC, which he joined in 2002 as an Assistant Professor, Rashid is deeply interested in how economics, through integration with ecology and other disciplines, can be used to help ensure that environmental resources are sustainably used and managed for the benefit of both current and future generations. Rashid seeks to explore new ideas and approaches as exemplified by his recent work on the long-term valuation of fisheries resources denoted “intergenerational discounting.” Rashid has authored/co-authored 50 journal articles, 8 edited books/volumes, over 20 book chapters, and over 80 other publications. His work has generated significant international interest, and has been cited by, among others, the *Economist*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Financial Times*, and *CBC News*. He recently briefed a United Nations gathering. Rashid became Director of the Fisheries Centre in 2008.



Joseph Tennis

Assistant Professor and
Honorary Early Career Scholar
University of Washington

Before he took up his 2007-2008 Early Career Scholar award, Joe moved from the UBC School of Library, Archival & Information Studies to a position at the University of Washington. However, he committed to fully participating in the ECS cohort as an honorary member. Joe studies the models of and discourse surrounding classification, metadata, and other information organization systems. His theoretical work generates a basic understanding of the diversity of these systems, and leads to evaluation and implementation rubrics for such systems. He serves on the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative's Usage Board – an international meta standards body that ensures metadata implementations can interoperate. With this Board appointment, Joe will help shape internationally recognized standards and the implementation of the Semantic Web. He received his Ph.D. in Information Science in 2005 from the University of Washington.



Gerry Veenstra

Associate Professor
Sociology

Gerry was educated at the University of Waterloo and McMaster University, where he received his PhD in 1999. He came to UBC as a Postdoctoral Fellow in 1999, becoming an Assistant Professor in 2000, and an Associate Professor in 2006. He is Chair of the Health & Society Minor program at UBC. He also holds a 'Senior Scholar' career investigator award (2007-2012) from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. Gerry's research interests are primarily located in the "social determinants of health" and "cultural consumption" discourses, pursued via use of statistical methods applied to survey data. In the field of cultural consumption, he has recently attempted to identify cultural tastes and practices – pertaining to sport, literature and art, for example – that intersect with various forms of capital to delineate social class boundaries.



Early Career Scholar retreat on Bowen Island, January 2008



Early Career Scholars at a monthly meeting, October 2008



2008-2009 EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS

In addition to the regular opening research retreat at the Institute, and visits to research facilities at the end of the academic year, for each cohort, the scholars participated in monthly dinner meetings on research that were extremely varied and productive. They engaged in everything from debating cross-disciplinary examinations of the narratives of terrorism and Mary Lynn Young's mini-workshop on how to prepare, and publish, newspaper opinion pieces, to group critiques of draft's of colleagues' papers in progress.

Richard Carpiano Assistant Professor Sociology

Richard received his PhD in Sociomedical Sciences (a combined sociology and public health program) from Columbia University in 2004, his MPH from Case Western Reserve University, and his MA and BA in Sociology from Baylor University. Since his appointment to UBC in 2006, Richard has become a Faculty Affiliate of the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) and in 2007 was the recipient of a six-year Career Investigator Award from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. Prior to his arrival at UBC, Richard was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholar at the University of Wisconsin–Madison from 2004 to 2006. Richard's research centres on the study of how social conditions impact the health of adults and youth. A substantial portion of this research examines how neighbourhood environments and social networks shape health and well-being in positive and negative ways.



Jennifer Chun
Assistant Professor
Sociology

Jennifer received her BA in History modified with Women's Studies from Dartmouth College and her MA and PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. She joined UBC in 2006. Her areas of research specialization include work and politics; development and globalization; the intersections of race, class, gender, and migration; and culture and inequality. Jennifer's book manuscript under contract with Cornell University Press compares how workers in two different national contexts – South Korea and the United States – are contesting low-paid and insecure forms of flexible employment in today's global economy. Her current fieldwork investigates the dynamics of labour and community organizing among immigrant workers in two major metropolitan areas (Vancouver and San Francisco).



Shafik Dharamsi
Assistant Professor
Family Practice

Shafik was recruited to UBC in 2004 after completing a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies at UBC in 2003. He spent three years in East Africa, implementing an innovative community-based development initiative in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda through the Aga Khan Development Network. He was appointed Assistant Professor in Family Practice in 2007. He also holds an appointment as Associate Director of the UBC Centre for International Health, College of Health Disciplines. Within the Faculty of Medicine, Shafik focuses on how medical education can best prepare students to make judgments that are not only technically correct but also ethically sound and socially considerate. Shafik recently won awards from the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities and the American Dental Association, and his work has been featured on a Canadian television documentary series, *The Global Villagers*, which follows Canadians who work to promote peace and meet the basic needs of developing countries.



Matthew Evenden
Associate Professor
Geography

With a PhD in History from York University in 1993, Matt specializes in the environmental history of Canada and the politics of large rivers. He is the author of *Fish versus Power: An Environmental History of the Fraser River* (Cambridge University Press, UK), which received the Clio Prize from the Canadian Historical Association, as well as a range of papers in Canadian environmental history. Matt took up his UBC appointment as an Assistant Professor in 2000, and became an Associate Professor in 2007. His current project, "Mobilizing Rivers," examines the development of hydro-electric power in Canada during the Second World War. Matt is co-director of the Canadian Water History Project/Projet sur l'histoire de l'eau au Canada, a founding member of the Network in Canadian History and Environment/Nouvelle initiative canadienne en histoire de l'environnement, and co-organizer of the Nature/History/Society speaker series at UBC's Green College.



Eric Lagally
Assistant Professor
Michael Smith Laboratories and
Chemical & Biological Engineering

Eric received his BS in Physics from Washington University in St. Louis and his PhD in Bioengineering from the Joint UC-Berkeley/UC-San Francisco Bioengineering Graduate Group, where he was the recipient of a Whitaker Foundation predoctoral fellowship. Prior to joining UBC in 2006, Eric undertook postdoctoral work at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and from July 2006 to July 2007 was a Visiting Scientist at the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle, Washington. Eric works in the area of integrated bioanalytical systems. His current research interests are in analytical biotechnology, particularly massively parallel microsystems for affinity reagent isolation and evolution, and integrated microsystems for detection of bacterial pathogens.



Larissa Lai
Assistant Professor
English

Larissa was born in La Jolla, California and grew up in Newfoundland. Her first novel, *When Fox Is a Thousand* (1995, 2004) was shortlisted for the Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel Award. Her second novel, *Salt Fish Girl* (2002), was shortlisted for the Sunburst Award, the Tiptree Award in science fiction, and the City of Calgary W. O. Mitchell Award. Larissa holds an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia and a PhD in English from the University of Calgary. In 2006 she was a Writer-in-Residence in English at Simon Fraser University and held a SSHRC Post-doctoral Fellowship in English at UBC. She then took up her current UBC post in Canadian Literature in 2007. Larissa's research addresses theories of subjectivity, strategies of anti-racist cultural production, futurity, Canadian literature, critical theory, globalization, race, gender, sexuality, contemporary poetics, and speculative fiction.



Ernest Mathijs
Assistant Professor
Theatre & Film

Ernest heads the Centre for Cinema Studies. His PhD in Media and Communication Studies (film), 2000, is from the interdisciplinary Research Center Leo Apostel of the Free University of Brussels. Prior to his appointment at UBC in 2006, Ernest was a Lecturer at Aberystwyth University in Wales. Ernest's research interest lies primarily in the international, cross-cultural reception of alternative cinema. His most recent publications include *The Cinema of David Cronenberg: From Baron of Blood to Cultural Hero* (2008), *The Cult Film Reader* (2007), and (as co-editor) *Watching the Lord of the Rings* (2008). He is also the co-editor of the book series "Cultographies," which explores the reception of cult cinema.



Anne Murphy
Assistant Professor
Asian Studies

A native of Ireland, Anne came to UBC in 2006 as Chair of Punjabi Language, Literature, and Sikh Studies. She received her PhD in Religion from Columbia University in 2005, and her MA in Asian Languages and Literature from the University of Washington. Anne previously taught in the departments of Religious Studies and Historical Studies at The New School in New York City. Her research interests focus on the historical formation of religious communities in Punjab and northern South Asia, with particular attention to the Sikh tradition. Anne's current book project focuses on the construction of Sikh memory and historical consciousness around material representations and religious sites from the eighteenth century to the present. Other interests concern the formation of selfhood around memory and history, and around social service, or "seva," within Sikh and other South Asian religious traditions.



Meeko Oishi
Assistant Professor
Electrical & Computer Engineering

Meeko received a PhD in Mechanical Engineering in 2004 from Stanford University, and a BSE in Mechanical Engineering from Princeton University. She joined UBC in 2006. Meeko's research interests include nonlinear dynamical systems, hybrid control theory, verification of human-automation interaction, and control-based modeling of biological systems. She investigates how verification and other control-based techniques can inform the information content of user-interfaces for safety-critical control systems, such as aircraft flight management systems. Recently, Meeko has begun to examine control-based modeling and classification of behavioral and brain dynamics in Parkinson's disease. Meeko, who received the Truman Postdoctoral Fellowship in National Security Science and Engineering (2005), has been a Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Academies, and a visiting researcher at NASA Ames Research Center and at the Honeywell Technology Center.



Benjamin Perrin
Assistant Professor
Faculty of Law

Ben joined UBC in 2007, where he is also a Faculty Associate at the Liu Institute for Global Issues. He holds a Juris Doctor (JD) from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law, and a Master of Laws (honours) from McGill University, where he was a Max Stern Fellow and Wainwright Scholar. Called to the Bar in Ontario, Ben completed his articles of clerkship at the Supreme Court of Canada. Ben has served as senior policy advisor to the Canadian Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and was executive director of a non-governmental organization that combats human trafficking. He was also the assistant director of the Special Court for Sierra Leone legal clinic, which assists the Trial and Appeals Chambers, and completed an internship at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. Ben's research interests include domestic and international criminal law, international humanitarian law, and human trafficking.



Kris Sigurdson
Assistant Professor
Physics & Astronomy

Dr. Kris Sigurdson received his BSc in Engineering Physics from Simon Fraser University, CASM in Theoretical Physics from the University of Cambridge, and PhD in Physics from the California Institute of Technology, where he was the recipient of the John Stager Stemple Memorial Prize in Physics in 2004. Before arriving at UBC in 2007, Kris was a postdoctoral Member of the School of Natural Sciences at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton, where he held a NASA Hubble Fellowship. A particle astrophysicist and cosmologist with research interests that span from the primeval to the present, Kris pursues research in the theoretical physics of dark matter, dark energy, and cosmological inflation, and experimental efforts to measure the cosmological properties of dark energy using radio waves arriving on Earth from the farthest reaches of the Universe.



Edward Slingerland
Associate Professor
Asian Studies

Ted was appointed to UBC in 2005 as Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Chinese Thought and Embodied Cognition. He received a BA from Stanford University in Asian Languages (Chinese), an MA from the University of California, Berkeley in East Asian Languages (classical Chinese), and, in 1998, a PhD in Religious Studies from Stanford. Ted's research specialties and teaching interests include cognitive linguistics (blending and metaphor theory), evolutionary psychology, cognitive science, methodologies for comparative religion and philosophy, virtue ethics, and the classical Chinese language. Ted's most recent monograph, entitled *What Science Offers the Humanities: Integrating Body and Culture* (2008), suggests what a new, embodied approach to the study of culture might look like. Ted was Co-Principal Investigator with Joe Henrich on a Peter Wall Exploratory Workshop in 2008: Integrating Science and the Humanities (see page 51 for details).



Sunera Thobani
Associate Professor
Centre for Women's & Gender Studies and
Women's Studies

Sunera holds two degrees in social sciences and a PhD in Sociology from Simon Fraser University in 1993. She served as President of Canada's National Action Committee on the Status of Women (1993–1996) and the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Professor at SFU before joining UBC as Assistant Professor in 2000. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 2007. Sunera's research interests include race and gender relations, globalization, immigration and citizenship, and media and the "war on terror." She is a founding member of Researchers and Academics of Colour for Equality (R.A.C.E.), a cross-Canada network. Her book, *Exalted Subjects: Studies in the Making of Race and Nation in Canada*, was published in 2008.



Colleen Varcoe
Associate Professor
School of Nursing

Colleen is a nurse with clinical experience in critical care and emergency nursing. She holds a BS in Nursing, Master's degrees in Education and in Nursing, and a PhD in Nursing from UBC. Most recently, prior to joining the School of Nursing at UBC as Associate Professor in 2005, she taught at the University of Victoria. Colleen's research focuses on women's health with emphasis on violence and inequity, and on the culture of health care with an emphasis on ethical practice. Colleen has particular interests in the health effects of violence, racism, and other forms of discrimination, and in fostering culturally safe health policy and practice. A participant in many large, funded projects, Colleen is currently engaged in a five-year longitudinal study of the health and economic effects of violence on women who leave abusive partners, and an analysis of health policy from an ethical perspective.



Jessica Ann Wang
Associate Professor
History

Jessica Wang, appointed to UBC as Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in U.S. History in 2006, received her PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Program in Science, Technology, and Society in 1995. She subsequently held postdoctoral fellowships at the (U.S.) National Air and Space Museum and the University of Minnesota, and then spent a decade on the History faculty at the University of California, Los Angeles. Jessica pursues a wide range of interests in the history of the United States, including political and intellectual history, the international history of the United States, and the history of science and technology. She wrote the well-known study, *American Science in an Age of Anxiety: Scientists, Anticommunism, and the Cold War* (University of North Carolina Press). Jessica is currently working on a study of the relationships between social science and state power during the New Deal period of the 1930s.



Mary Lynn Young
Associate Professor
School of Journalism

Mary Lynn is the director of the UBC Graduate School of Journalism. An award-winning academic and university educator, Mary Lynn joined UBC as Assistant Professor in 2000. She completed her PhD from the Centre of Criminology at the University of Toronto in 2005, and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2007. Mary Lynn is a recognized authority on gender and the media, newsroom sociology, media credibility, representations of crime (including a new project on the media coverage of marijuana in Canada), media economics, and content analysis. She has worked as an editor, national business columnist, and senior crime reporter at major daily newspapers in Canada and the United States. Her list of awards includes the Rufus Z. Smith Award for the best article published in the *American Review of Canadian Studies* in 2006. In January 2007, Mary Lynn launched the FeministMediaProject.com website in partnership with other feminist academics.

PETER WALL DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR

In the Distinguished Visiting Professor program, from time to time a distinguished senior, renowned scholar with a reputation for interdisciplinary engagement spends time in residence at the Institute. It is expected that the Visiting Professor will pursue a specific scholarly agenda, participate in Institute programs and events, and organize a specific activity or activities intended to contribute to the intellectual life of the Institute and its affiliated scholars.

2008 Distinguished Visiting Professor

Roald Hoffmann, 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Frank H.T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters, Chemistry, Cornell University, and Writer.

Roald Hoffmann was born in 1937 in Zloczow, Poland. After the war, he came to the United States in 1949 and studied chemistry at Columbia and Harvard. Since 1965 he has taught at Cornell University. Dr. Hoffmann has received many of the honours of his profession, including the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry (shared with Kenichi Fukui).

“Applied theoretical chemistry” is how Dr. Hoffmann characterizes the particular blend of computations stimulated by experiment and the construction of generalized models that represent his contribution to chemistry. Notably, he engages the general public as an educator and writer. He presented a PBS television course about chemistry, titled “The World of Chemistry,” broadcast widely since 1990. In his essays and books, he has carved out a land between science, poetry, and philosophy. His works include *Chemistry Imagined*, with artist Vivian Torrence; *The Same and Not the Same* (translated into six languages); and *Old Wine, New Flasks: Reflections on Science and Jewish Tradition*, with Shira Leibowitz Schmidt.

Dr. Hoffmann is an accomplished poet and playwright. He began writing poetry in the mid-1970s, and his collections include *The Metamict State*, *Gaps and Verges*, *Memory Effects*, *Soliton*, and, in Spanish, *Catalista*. His first play *Oxygen*, co-written with fellow chemist Carl Djerassi, which debuted in 2001, was translated into ten languages and performed worldwide. His second play *Should've*, about the social responsibility of scientists and artists, debuted in 2007 at an international scientific congress in Turin, Italy.

The Vancouver premiere of *Should've* the week of March 3, 2008 at UBC's Fred-eric Wood Theatre created the occasion for the visit of Dr. Hoffmann to the Institute as 2008 Wall Distinguished Visiting Professor. Among other contribu-tions in the space of one extraordinary week, he attended the Institute re-ception and opening night of the play, participated in the talk-back session and gala reopening of the Department of Chemistry's heritage building that followed; gave a Wall Associates Forum lunch talk, "Chemistry's Essential Ten-sions: Different Views of Science" (see page 60 for details) and a lecture at the Department of Chemistry; and led a Wall Fireside Chat on topics that ranged from chemistry to poetry.



Dr. Hoffmann and Stephen Heatley in the talk-back session, *Should've*



Roald Hoffmann at the fireside chat, Peter Wall Institute

AUGUST
2007

Exploratory Workshop
Coherent Control of Ultracold Molecular Processes

Exploratory Workshop
Habituation

Exploratory Workshop
Close Relationships and Health

SEPTEMBER

Theme Development Workshop
Dressing Up Japanese History

Exploratory Workshop
Genealogies of Virtue

Early Career Scholar Reception

Faculty Associates Forum

David Speert, *Exploring Development of a Birth Cohort to Understand and Prevent Disease of Children*

Junior Early Career Scholar Retreat

Faculty Associates Forum

Judith Segal, *What is a Story of Breast Cancer*

Senior Early Career Scholar Retreat

OCTOBER

Faculty Associates Forum

Jon Beasley-Murray and Maxwell Cameron, *Left Turns*

Exploratory Workshop

Developing Sustainable Human-Natural Systems

Exploratory Workshop

Exploring Development of a Birth Cohort to Understand and Prevent Disease of Children

Faculty Associates Forum

Margaret Schabas, *Nature Does Nothing in Vain*

NOVEMBER

Faculty Associates Forum

Roman Krems and Moshe Shapiro, *Coherent Control of Ultracold Molecular Processes*

Exploratory Workshop

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Managing Human-Wildlife Interactions

Faculty Associates Forum

Patricia Baird, *Aging Well in B.C.*

DECEMBER

Holiday Reception

JANUARY
2008

Distinguished Scholars in Residence Welcome Lunch

Theme Development Workshop

Creation of a Network on the Governance of Biotechnology

Faculty Associates Forum

Daniel Hiebert, *Local Change in Global Context*

Distinguished Scholar in Residence Retreat

Faculty Associates Forum

Tony Pitcher, *The Sea Ahead*

FEBRUARY

Exploratory Workshop

Visual Analytics

Distinguished Scholar in Residence Alumni Dinner

Faculty Associates Forum

Anita DeLongis, *Close Relationships and Health*

Distinguished Scholar Research Event

Rhetoric and Knowledge-Making in Health and Medicine

Early Career Scholar Alumni Dinner

Theme Development Workshop

Childhood HIV-AIDS in Vancouver

Faculty Associates Forum

Rena Sharon, *The Art Song Anima*

MARCH

Opening Night Reception for *Should've* by Distinguished Visiting Professor Roald Hoffmann

Faculty Associates Forum

Roald Hoffmann, *Chemistry's Essential Tensions*

Fireside Chat with Roald Hoffmann

Theme Development Workshop

Cracking Capitalism

Faculty Associates Forum

Margery Fee, *What Can the Humanities Offer Science in Understanding Genetics and Social "Race"?*

APRIL

Faculty Associates Forum

Jon Beasley-Murray, *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Latin America*

Junior Early Career Scholar Lab Crawl

	Faculty Associates Forum William Benjamin, <i>Reproducing Music in Silence</i> Senior Early Career Scholar Lab Crawl
MAY	Faculty Associates Special Event Alain Berthoz, <i>Brain, Space, and Movement</i> Faculty Associates Forum Brett Finlay, <i>Bugs R Us</i> Faculty Associates Forum Ronald Rensink, <i>Visual Analytics</i> Distinguished Scholar Research Event <i>Privatization and Public Services</i>
JUNE	Book Launch Patricia Marchak, <i>No Easy Fix</i> Trustees Luncheon Wall Summer Institute for Research <i>The End of the Peasant?</i> Wall Summer Institute for Research Public Gala Event Jomo Kwame Sundaram, <i>Washington Rediscovered Agriculture</i> Wall Summer Institute for Research Public Gala Event Immanuel Wallerstein, <i>The Return of the Peasant</i> Wall Summer Institute for Research UBC Graduate Student Symposium <i>Urban Hegemony, Agrarian Societies, and Governance in the Global South</i>
JULY	Theme Development Workshop <i>Toward Developing a Coalition on the Health of Children with Rare Disorders</i> Exploratory Workshop <i>From Molecules to Societies</i>
AUGUST	Theme Development Workshop <i>Technologies of Memory</i> Theme Development Workshop <i>History, Society, and Social Change</i>
SEPTEMBER	Faculty Associates Forum Brett Gladman, <i>Swapping Rocks</i> Early Career Scholar Reception Theme Development Workshop <i>Translation and Authority</i> Colloquium <i>Official Inauguration of the National Core for Neuroethics</i> Senior Early Career Scholar Retreat Theme Development Workshop <i>Turning Ideas into Action</i> Junior Early Career Scholar Retreat Faculty Associates Forum Phil Austin, <i>The Art and Science of Climate Modeling</i> Exploratory Workshop <i>Integrating Science and the Humanities</i>
OCTOBER	Theme Development Workshop <i>Developing a Research Network on Public Pedagogy</i> Faculty Associates Forum Edith Chen and Gregory Miller, <i>From Molecules to Societies</i> Exploratory Workshop <i>Varieties of Empathy in Science, Art, and Culture</i> Distinguished Scholar Research Event <i>The Sea Ahead</i> Exploratory Workshop <i>Globalization and the Service Workplace</i>
NOVEMBER	Faculty Associates Forum Luciana Duranti, <i>The Future of Our Present</i> Faculty Associates Forum Holger Hoos, <i>Taming the Complexity Monster</i> Theme Development Workshop <i>Contemporary Mongolia</i> Faculty Associates Forum Sneja Gunew, <i>"I'm My Own Muse"</i> Holiday Reception
DECEMBER	Early Career Scholar Alumni Dinner

WALL SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH

Held from time to time, the Wall Summer Institute for Research (WSIR) is an intensive five-day workshop involving 12 or so outstanding interdisciplinary fellows in residence, invited from around the world, to debate, discuss, and push forward thinking on a cutting-edge research question, with select scholars from the University of British Columbia. Later on, we invite the participants to attend a follow-up weekend research retreat in another part of the world.

It is expected that a high-profile expert on the topic will present a gala public address.

WSIR 2007 Follow-Up

What Difference Does the Advent of Civil Society Mean to Global Health Governance?

October 6 - 7, 2007

Organizer: **Kelley Lee**, WHO Collaborating Centre on Global Change and Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

The Institute funded this two-day closed, invitational research retreat at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. A follow-up event to WSIR 2007 on “Civil Society and Global Health Governance,” the retreat brought together 18 junior and experienced scholars of global health governance from a variety of disciplines. The purpose was to offer a unique opportunity for new participants – graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who presented research papers – to meet with some of the participants from the WSIR 2007 Vancouver event and to build an international, interdisciplinary network of emerging and experienced scholars capable of advancing research in this field.

Several research collaborations and publications as well as an active web-based research network were direct outcomes of this London follow-up. This network will be maintained by the Centre on Global Change and Health.

Co-sponsoring this meeting with the Institute was the Centre on Global Change and Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at the University of London and the Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto.

WSIR 2008

The End of the Peasant?

Global Capitalism and the Future of Agrarian Society

June 23 - 27, 2008

Co-Directors: **Arif Dirlik**, Chair Professor of Chinese Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong and Wall Distinguished Visiting Professor 2005 and **Alexander Woodside**, Professor Emeritus, History, UBC

Convenor: **Dianne Newell**, History and Director, Peter Wall Institute

Official Scribe: **Ana Candela**, Graduate Student, History, University of California, Santa Cruz

The Wall Summer Institute for Research (WSIR 2008) invited 19 junior and senior scholars and scholar-activists from UBC and across the world to discuss the impact of globalized capitalism on agrarian societies. Eight UBC graduate students joined the meeting as official observers. The Co-Directors of WSIR 2008 sought to bring together a diverse group of individuals who are researching and working to understand the present predicament and future of agrarian societies within the Global South. A key purpose was to bring the local and regional dynamics of the agrarian crisis into comparative dialog. At WSIR 2008, these scholars engaged with and learned from one another in an intellectual atmosphere where the concerns of the Global North did not constrain the agenda. Another common aim of the discussions among the invited experts from East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Latin America was to learn about new social movements and strategies of resistance emerging from agricultural communities across the world and the new possibilities for imagining alternative forms of development that would not lead to the destruction of agrarian communities.

WSIR 2008, although conceived a year ahead, actually coincided with one of the worst periods of agricultural crisis and food riots in history. While the current situation prevented some invitees from attending, it also brought a deeper sense of present urgency to the discussions and sharpened the focus on the contemporary crisis.

A full report on the five-day workshop and related events, copies of the papers, and podcasts of the evening public gala talks are available on the Institute's website.

Gala Events

Two well-publicized, evening public gala events provided further participation opportunities for the wider Vancouver and UBC communities. At the Wall Centre in downtown Vancouver, Jomo Kwame Sundaram delivered the first gala talk on “Washington Rediscovered Agriculture: The Political Economy of the Agrarian Turn.” Immanuel Wallerstein delivered the second gala talk on “The Return of the Peasant: Possible? Desirable?” at UBC’s Frederic Wood Theatre. Both events attracted audiences of 400 and each ended with a reception to which everyone was invited to linger for further conversation.

Graduate Student Symposium

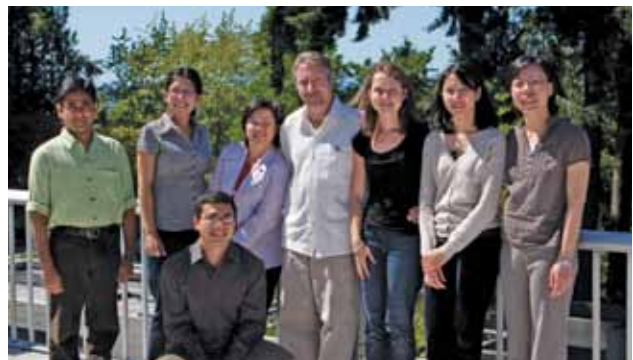
At the one-day graduate student symposium, titled “Urban Hegemony, Agrarian Societies, and Governance in the Global South,” That followed the workshop on June 28th, eight UBC graduate students from seven departments in four faculties presented their research. The student presentations were divided into three linked panels, each followed by a lively discussion with the audience. The panel topics were: “Technologies of Development,” “Development, Community, and Family,” and “Unofficial Approaches to New Urban Problems.”

Follow-Up Research Retreat

The key questions and themes raised at WSIR 2008 will serve as the basis of the follow-up research retreat in Hong Kong and Beijing in June 2009, to be hosted by the Institute and co-sponsored by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Renmin (People’s) University of China in Beijing. At this retreat, participants will finalize discussions of the revised papers for their publication in a collection to be edited by Dirlik and Woodside.



Dianne Newell, Director, and Akbar Lalani, Trustee



Participants, Graduate Student Symposium



Shaoguang Wang, Wen Tiejun, Arif Dirlik, and Dong Zhenghua



Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Washington Rediscovered Agriculture: The Political Economy of the Agrarian Turn. A public gala event talk by Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development in the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), formerly Professor, Applied Economics Department, University of Malaya
June 23, 2008

This presentation analyzed the contemporary global food crisis and examined the role of U.S.-led global governance institutions in relation to the crisis. Dr. Jomo argued that the recent food crisis was not the result of a lack of food, but of long-term ecological challenges and more recent policy trends that have negatively impacted agriculture and food security within developing countries. He pointed to the World Bank and developed nations, particularly the United States, as the initiators of agricultural trade liberalization policies that have had disastrous consequences for the developing world since the 1980s.

Educated in Penang and at Yale and Harvard, Jomo has authored over 35 monographs, edited over 50 books, and translated 12 volumes. He won the 2007 Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought.



Immanuel Wallerstein

The Return of the Peasant: Possible? Desirable? A public gala event talk by Immanuel Wallerstein, Senior Research Scholar, Yale University, formerly Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Binghamton University (SUNY)
June 25, 2008

Dr. Wallerstein began by outlining the history of capitalism in relation to its impact on rural society from the 16th century to the present. He demonstrated that de-ruralization and de-peasantization were key features of capitalism and discussed certain aspects of the functioning of capitalism that help to explain this dynamic. The result, he observed, has been a steady de-ruralization of the world. As for the contemporary situation, he considered it to be a structural crisis within the capitalist world-system that signals the end of the existing system. The contemporary structural crisis also marks a moment of total agency, he suggested: it is up to all of us to work to shape the kind of world-system we would like to have in the future.

Dr. Wallerstein, with degrees from Columbia University, has authored or co-authored 45 books, and edited or coordinated over 20 books. His "Modern World System" concept is his seminal contribution to contemporary knowledge.

Invited to WSIR 2008

Ana Candela, Graduate Student, History, University of California, Santa Cruz ■ **Alex Day**, History, Wayne State University ■ **Arif Dirlík**, Centre for Chinese Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong ■ **Dong Zhenghua**, Centre for Studies of World Modernization Process, Peking University ■ **Greg Guldin**, Anthropology, Pacific Lutheran University ■ **Ashok Kotwal**, Economics and Director, Centre for India & South Asia Research, Institute of Asian Research, University of British Columbia ■ **Abidin Kusno**, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Institute of Asian Research, University of British Columbia ■ **Melody Chia-Wen Lu**, Research Fellow, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University ■ **Lu Xinyu**, Journalism, Fudan University, Shanghai ■ **Utsa Patnaik**, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi ■ **Pitman Potter**, Institute of Asian Research and Professor of Law, University of British Columbia ■ **Alejandro Rojas**, Senior Instructor, Faculty of Land & Food Systems, University of British Columbia ■ **Jomo Kwame Sundaram**, Professor and Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department of Economic & Social Affairs, United Nations ■ **Wen Tiejun**, School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, Renmin University of China ■ **Immanuel Wallerstein**, Senior Research Scholar, Yale University ■ **Shaoguang Wang**, Government and Public Administration, Chinese University of Hong Kong ■ **Alex Woodside**, History, University of British Columbia

Official Observers

Roxann Prazniak, History, University of Oregon ■ **To Xuan Phuc**, Asian Institute, University of Toronto

UBC Graduate Student Symposium Participants

Dan Badulescu, Land and Food Systems ■ **Fabio Cabarcas**, Department of Health Care & Epidemiology ■ **Wenhui Fan**, Department of Economics ■ **Kathryn Hill**, Department of Geography ■ **Geraldina Polanco**, Department of Sociology ■ **Sanjeev Routray**, Department of Sociology ■ **Leslie Shieh**, School of Community & Regional Planning ■ **Sirijit Sunanta**, Center for Women's & Gender Studies



Members of the WSIR 2008 meeting

THEMATIC PROGRAMS

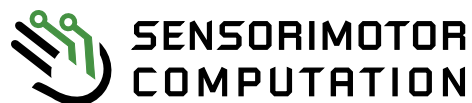
Thematic Programs establish an overall research theme in which scholars with related expertise are gathered together for interdisciplinary collaboration.

MAJOR THEMATIC GRANT

The Major Thematic Grant program was introduced in 1994 and the application process revised in 2005 to include a Letter of Intent stage. There have been seven awards to date.

The Major Thematic Grant provides funding of up to \$500,000 over a three- to five-year period to interdisciplinary teams of UBC and external scholars to research a new area. It is expected that UBC will become a centre for research on the topic. Applicants for a Major Thematic Grant must first hold an Exploratory Workshop.

The Major Thematic Grant project, Sensorimotor Computation, Dinesh Pai, Computer Science, Principal Investigator, was awarded for 2008-2010. A new Major Thematic Grant has been awarded for 2009-2011 for the project, Ultracold Coherent Chemistry, Moshe Shapiro, Chemistry and Physics & Astronomy, Principal Investigator.



A Peter Wall Major Thematic Grant, 2008 - 2010

Principal Investigator: Dinesh K. Pai, Computer Science. Co-investigators: Antony Hodgson, Mechanical Engineering; J. Timothy Inglis, Human Kinetics; Alan K. Mackworth, Computer Science; Martin J. McKeown, Neurology; John D. Steeves, International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD).

External Collaborators: Andrea d'Avella, Santa Lucia Foundation, Rome; Kathleen Cullen, Physiology, McGill University; Joseph Demer, Jules Stein Eye Institute, University of California, Los Angeles; Yoky Matsuka, Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington; Joel Miller, Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Center, San Francisco; Mitsunori Tada, Digital Human Research Center, Tokyo.

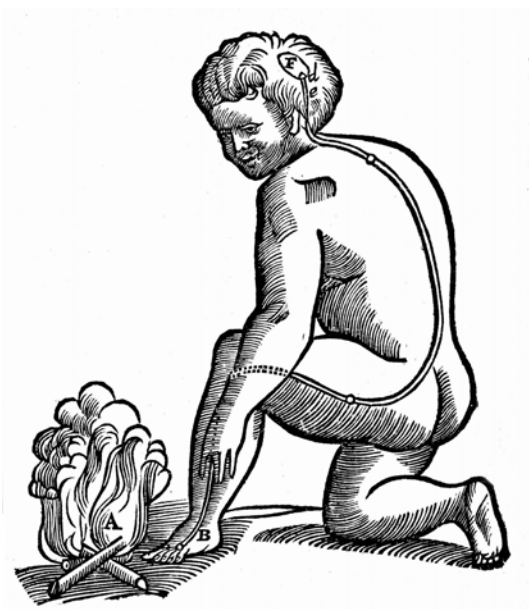
Sensorimotor computation forms the bridge between abstract information processing in the human brain and the concrete reality of the physical world. It studies how the brain perceives the state of its external environment (using exteroceptive sensors such as vision and touch) and the state of its own body (using proprioceptive sensors such as muscle spindles and the vestibular organs), and takes action by controlling muscles. Human sensorimotor systems normally perform so flawlessly that it is easy to overlook the extraordinary sophistication behind ordinary actions such as looking at an object with our eyes and picking it up with our hand. The sophistication only becomes apparent when we try to reproduce these "ordinary" skills in robots, or when we observe the development of these skills in childhood and their loss in the elderly.

The scientific goal of this interdisciplinary three-year project is to model the complex computations, sensing, and motor actions that are required to control our eyes and hand when we look at or reach out for an object of interest. Specifically, investigators are constructing computational models of how the eyes and head are moved to direct gaze to objects of interest in the environment, and how the hand manipulates objects. These models are firmly based on neurobiological measurements of how humans actually perform these tasks.

The Sensorimotor Computation project builds on the momentum generated by a highly successful Peter Wall Exploratory Workshop held in February 2007 that helped to identify and refine the themes of this project.

In 2008 the project made rapid progress in its first year towards achieving its main goals.

A Seminar Series was launched to develop awareness of the breadth of scientific challenges in this area and to build an interdisciplinary community. Nine seminars were held in 2008,

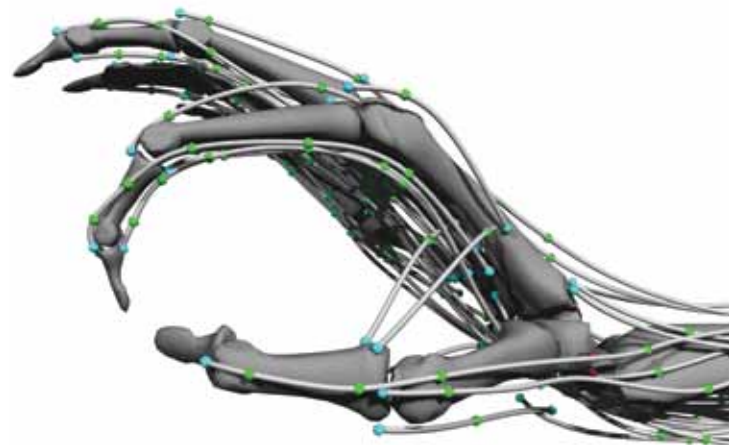


with seven international speakers from France, Japan, USA, and the UK. Interactions were encouraged between students and faculty from several academic units on campus. Details of the seminars are available on the project website www.sensorimotor.pwias.ubc.ca. Notable was the visit by Professor Alain Berthoz, Collège de France, who presented two lectures and a talk at a special Wall Faculty Associates Dinner Event, see page 65 for details, and Institute home page for access to the podcast.

New research collaborations were initiated within UBC and with the external collaborators.

At UBC, Tony Hodgson and Dinesh Pai began collaborating to build a human-like robotic eye to study human eye movement. Also, Dinesh Pai, Tim Inglis, and John Steeves initiated a new, non-invasive measurement system for assessing hand function in both clinical and research settings. The UBC-based investigators participated in a Canada Foundation for Innovation proposal submitted by ICICS (UBC's Institute for Computing, Information and Cognitive Systems), with Pai leading the theme on Human Sensorimotor Systems.

External collaborations included one with Andrea d'Avella, with whom Pai began a new project designed to understand the computational architecture the brain may use to simplify the control of movement. This collaboration received a prestigious program grant from the international Human Frontier Science Program. Mitsunori Tada visited UBC for one month to participate in a project to construct a computational model of the human finger. And external collaborators Joseph Demer and Joel Miller have provided the project with excellent data on the human eye (both MRI and histology) with which to build biomechanical models of the eye.



Project findings are already attracting international interest. Scientifically, one fundamental goal is to develop software for biomechanical simulation that is well-suited for modeling the thin muscles and tendons of the eye and hand. A PhD student with the project, Shinjiro Sueda, has made significant progress on this front, presenting a technical paper describing how this could be used for simulating hands at SIGGRAPH. *The New Scientist* and *Science Daily* covered this finding, and Sueda was invited to visit the Digital Human Research Center at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology in Tokyo for three months. In Tokyo, Sueda worked with an external collaborator Mitsunori Tada and also Toshiyasu Nakamura, Keio University, on a novel hardware and software system for CT imaging of cadaveric human hands with different mechanical inputs, an initiative which will provide novel data on the functional biomechanics of the hand.

Another goal of Sensorimotor Computation is to fit these models to individual human subjects. For the human eye, a parameterized bio-

mechanical model of the human eye has been built with MRI data provided by Demer and Miller.

For the human hand and arm, a post-doc Benjamin Gilles, and a PhD student David Levin, are constructing subject-specific biomechanical models directly from MRI data. To measure the activity of hand muscles during movement, Kees van den Doel, Uri Ascher, and Pai are developing a new technique called Computed Myography (CMG) for reconstructing detailed muscle activity from electrical measurements on the surface. Surface measurements have been acquired with the help of Martin McKeown's laboratory and the evaluation with human subjects has been planned with Steeves and others at ICORD.

A paper based on this new work was presented at the 2008 IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology conference in August, and a paper on the computational aspects of the study has been published in the journal *Inverse Problems*. Much lies ahead for 2009.



John Steeves, Timothy Inglis, Antony Hodgson, Dinesh Pai, Martin McKeown, and Alan Mackworth

EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP GRANT

Through Exploratory Workshops that provide up to \$20,000 in funding, the Institute brings together researchers from a wide range of disciplines at UBC and invites them, along with distinguished experts from outside the University, to jointly assess research progress and possibilities on significant topics.

Typically, the workshop entails a meeting of 30 to 50 scholars over the course of several days at the Peter Wall Institute, with guests staying at the Institute's residence rooms and elsewhere on campus. Advance planning ensures that a core group of interdisciplinary UBC researchers will actively participate along with invited external scholars. Some aspect of the workshop, such as a keynote address or distinguished panel, should be open to the public.

Coherent Control of Ultracold Molecular Processes

Principal Investigators: Roman Krems, Chemistry and 2007-2008 Early Career Scholar and Moshe Shapiro, Chemistry and Physics & Astronomy
August 1 - 4, 2007

The key problem uniting the 57 invited participants in the workshop was “the integration of coherent control methods with the experiments on ultracold molecular matter, which will result in a burst of novel research directions that may lead to problems and results not yet anticipated by researchers within the respective fields of coherent control and ultracold molecules.” At least three research groups emerged that will employ coherent control schemes discussed at the workshop in the experiments on the efficient production of ultracold molecular matter. Also, a team of UBC key participants have been invited to join, as an external collaborator, the European Network on Ultracold Research, the only non-European team to participate. The workshop organizers and others applied for, and in 2008 received, a three-year Peter Wall Major Thematic Grant.

Additional support for the workshop was received from the Institute for Theoretical Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics, Harvard, and the UBC departments of Physics & Astronomy and Chemistry.

Habituation: The Foundation of Learning and Attention

Principal Investigator: Catherine Rankin, Psychology and 2006 Peter Wall Distinguished Scholar in Residence
August 16 - 18, 2007

The simplest form of learning is habituation, whereby an organism learns to ignore stimuli that have no meaning, that do not indicate that anything (good or bad) will happen, such as the sound of a babbling brook or the touch of the rim of our glasses. Habituation has been seen in all organisms, from single-celled paramecium to humans. Despite its apparent simplicity and its importance for survival, remarkably little is known about the mechanisms of this process. We do know that several human disorders are accompanied by altered habituation; these include schizophrenia and migraine headaches.

This workshop invited 15 researchers from around the world who use a diverse range of approaches and a wide variety of organisms in order to develop a synthesis of what is known about habituation (the “state of the art”) and where habituation research should go next. Dr. Richard Thompson, University of Southern California, and co-author of the seminal 1966 paper on habituation, gave the keynote address.

Additional support for this workshop was provided by the Peter Wall Distinguished Scholar in Residence program, the Department of Psychology as a “UBC Psychology Summer Symposium,” and by the UBC Institute of Mental Health Research and the Brain Research Centre.

**Close Relationships and Health:
Developing an Interactive Approach
to Research and Theory**

Principal Investigators: Anita DeLongis, Psychology, and Dan Pearlman, Social Work & Family Studies, August 22 - 24, 2007

Despite recent advances in knowledge and research in the area of close relationships and health, many questions remain about the processes of couples and families coping with stress and adversity, the effects of such adversity on health, and therapeutic means to aid those affected. In the workshop, participants examined in-depth recent theoretical perspectives and cutting edge research on how couples coped with various forms of stress – acute and chronic stress, stresses within and outside the family, and stress caused by physical and mental illness – and how such stressors impacted on the health and well-being of both the dyad and the larger social units in which they were embedded. Research scientists from Canada, USA, Europe, and Australia, representing a range of research traditions in the social sciences and medicine, discussed their research and formed new collaborations. Workshop findings have been presented at various international conferences and on a website on dyadic coping research hosted by the UBC Department of Psychology.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada contributed additional funding.

Genealogies of Virtue

Principal Investigator: Anand Pandian, Anthropology, Institute of Asian Research, and 2006-2007 Early Career Scholar
September 6 - 8, 2007

Recent scholarship in numerous fields has renewed attention to the subject of ethics, understood as a concrete practice of self-fashioning rather than a simple collection of moral rules or abstract judgments. These traditions of virtuous practice have been celebrated in South Asian nationalist writings as the mirror opposite of Western modernity, yet easily derided in scholarly prose as idioms of religious or political ideology and social oppression. A serious interdisciplinary engagement with the many textual, historical, and everyday answers to the question “How ought one to live?” in South Asia is missing.

Numerous leading international scholars from the fields of social and cultural history, cultural anthropology, historical sociology, literary history, religious studies, and political philosophy participated in this workshop. Examined were the moral and ethical traditions of South Asia in all their historical diversity, contemporary vitality, and uneven resonance with those of the West. A volume of select papers from this meeting is scheduled to appear with the University of Indiana Press.

The Peter Wall Early Career Scholar program and the UBC Centre for India and South Asia Research provided additional funding.

Developing Sustainable Human–Natural Systems: The Greater Serengeti Ecosystem as a Case Study

Principal Investigator: Anthony Sinclair, Zoology and Centre for Biodiversity Research, and 2007 Distinguished Scholar in Residence
October 19 - 21, 2007

The Serengeti National Park is a classic protected area and ecotourism destination; the adjacent Ngorongoro Conservation Area permits Maasai pastoralism, while game reserves (Maswa, Grumeti and Ikorongo) and game controlled areas (Loliondo) permit controlled off-take of trophy species. Village lands outside of these areas are used intensively by people involved in pastoralism and agriculture. These different conservation areas directly interface with different land uses by humans from several ethnic groups. This unique and timely workshop brought together a multi-disciplinary array of ecologists and social scientists, which included social anthropologists, economists, modelers, applied wildlife biologists, and ecosystem ecologists. The key outcome of the workshop was the development of an outline of a major forthcoming book, *Serengeti IV: Sustaining Biodiversity in a Coupled Human–Nature System*.

Three UBC public lectures were held in conjunction with the workshop: by Andrew Dobson, Princeton; Craig Packer, University of Minnesota; and Han Olff, Groningen University.

The Peter Wall Scholar in Residence fund and various home universities of the external participants provided additional financial support.

Exploring Development of a Birth Cohort to Understand and Prevent Disease of Children in the Developing World

Principal Investigator: David Speert, Pediatrics
October 22 - 25, 2007

In many parts of the developing world, more than 70% of childhood deaths occur in the first year of life, and annually 10.6 million children die before the age of five years. Many of these deaths are preventable and are due to poverty, lack of access to health care, and a very high rate of transmissible infectious diseases. Although social factors play a major role in the high mortality of the developing world, many illnesses occur for no obvious reason and are therefore very hard to predict and prevent. The goal of the proposed workshop for a birth cohort study was to identify the factors, both genetic and environmental, which predispose to potentially fatal disease in childhood.

Forty researchers from Canada, South Africa, Sweden, and the United States participated in this four-day workshop to further develop plans for a large-scale birth cohort to be undertaken in Paarl, Western Cape, SA. A small two-day pre-exploratory workshop co-hosted by the Wall Institute and the University of Cape Town was held in Cape Town, July 16-17, 2007.

The UBC departments of Pediatrics, Division of Infectious & Immunological Diseases, and Microbiology & Immunology provided additional funding.

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Managing Human–Wildlife Interactions

Principal Investigator: David Fraser, Land & Food Systems and Centre for Applied Ethics
November 16 - 19, 2007

People have devastating effects on the non-human inhabitants of the planet. For example, human actions have put thousands of species of vertebrates in danger of extinction; many billions of rodents are killed every year by farming practices; and human-made structures account for hundreds of millions of animal deaths each year in North America alone. These effects include what we traditionally call “conservation” problems such as extinction of species and impoverishment of ecological systems, and “animal welfare” problems such as pain, suffering, and ill health among animals. Scientists have responded to these problems by creating two separate fields: “conservation biology” and “animal welfare science.” In reality, most of the problems are both conservation problems and animal welfare problems.

This workshop explored the interaction and possible means by which to resolve conflicts between the two approaches, and how to pursue both goals together. The specific objectives were to produce a lasting collection of papers for a special issue of *Animal Welfare* to launch this field and to create the personal linkages that will allow collaborative research to develop.

Larry Dill, Professor, Simon Fraser University, gave a public keynote address, funded as the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada’s annual Peter Stratton Lecture.

Visual Analytics: Science and Application

Principal Investigators: Ronald Rensink, Psychology and Computer Science and 2002-2003 Early Career Scholar, and Brian Fisher, Associate Director, Media and Graphics Interdisciplinary Centre, UBC, and Simon Fraser University
February 2 - 5, 2008

The goal of Visual Analytics (VA) is to design interactive visual interfaces that can allow our innate “visual intelligence” to find meaningful patterns in datasets. The scientific challenge is to build an understanding of how to create fluent human information discourse with perceptually meaningful representations at varying levels of abstraction, at multiple scales, and within multiple contexts. Much like statistics or programming, VA is both a general tool and an intellectual area. It also has a wide-ranging set of applications in scientific research and in “real world” applications. Agreements and research funding programs currently underway raise the possibility of Canadian participation on VA projects of international scope. This workshop raised awareness of visual analytics as a science and as a technical focus in key application areas.

Additional support was provided by Defence R&D Canada Centre for Security Science, the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program supported by Industry Canada, the Canadian Design Research Network, and Simon Fraser University.

From Molecules to Societies: The Psychobiological Determinants of Health and Well-Being

Principal Investigators: Edith Chen, Psychology and 2004-2005 Early Career Scholar and Gregory Miller, Psychology
July 28 - 30, 2008

In recent decades, scientific evidence has taught us what we intuitively believed: that certain thoughts and feelings can be toxic for health. Nevertheless, little is known about the responsible underlying mechanisms of the mind–body connection, or how thoughts and feelings “get under the skin” to affect health. The principal objectives of this interdisciplinary workshop were to (a) synthesize existing knowledge on the mechanistic underpinnings of mind–body connections; (b) facilitate interactions among scholars from the broad array of disciplines that study this problem, including the behavioural sciences, public health, the biological sciences, and clinical medicine; and (c) generate an inventory of critical research questions that need to be answered in the coming decade. In the final day, the workshop participants launched a number of collaborative research projects and grant applications.

Additional support was provided by the UBC Department of Psychology.



Integrating Science and the Humanities

Principal Investigators: Edward Slingerland, Asian Studies and 2008-2009 Early Career Scholar and Joe Henrich, Psychology and Economics and 2007-2008 Early Career Scholar
September 26 - 29, 2008

Although intuitively appealing, the sort of mind–body dualism that informs the sharp divide between the the natural sciences and the humanities is no longer plausible in light of recent discoveries about human cognition. It is time to focus more attention on bridging the increasingly untenable gap between these cultures, recognizing that the more complex human structures typically studied by scholars in the humanities – such as religion, culture, ethics, literature, and aesthetics – can now in theory be incorporated into a vertically integrated understanding of humanity. This workshop asked: How practically and concretely would adopting such an approach change the way humanists go about their work? And more importantly, in what respects could this adoption be seen as progress? Twenty international leaders in the vertical integration movement attended the workshop. The hall was packed for the public keynote panel of distinguished speakers: Steven Pinker, Harvard University; Richard Shweder, University of Chicago; and Stephen Stich, Rutgers University. Video recordings of these and other talks are available on the workshop’s website: www.sci-hum.pwias.ubc.ca.

The UBC Faculty of Arts, Brain Research Centre, Cognitive Systems, and departments of Psychology, Philosophy, Classical, Near Eastern, & Religious Studies, and Anthropology provided additional funding.

Varieties of Empathy in Science, Art and Culture: An Interdisciplinary Workshop

Principal Investigator: Robert Brain, History
October 10 - 12, 2008

How do we know the emotions and expressions, thoughts, and intentions of others? Over the last twenty years two streams of research, one rooted in the neurosciences, another in the humanities, initially separate but increasingly joined, have cast dramatic new light on our capacity to mentally identify ourselves with persons or objects of contemplation. This workshop sought a complex answer to the question, “What is empathy, and how has it been conceptualized?” by mapping a genealogy of empathy and its investigation over the course of the past century. Participants examined the concept of empathy from a variety of disciplinary angles to ascertain how historical notions coincide and diverge from current ones. It provided an exceptional opportunity to form a bridge across the historical and scientific divide by fostering dialogue between historians of science, medicine and art, and scientists who are examining the nature of empathy in research and clinical practice. Jean Decety, University of Chicago, gave the public keynote lecture, “Empathy Neutralized.”

The Canadian network, Situating Science Cluster (SSHRC), and the departments of History and Philosophy provided additional funding.

Globalization and the Service Workplace

Principal Investigators: Danielle van Jaarsveld, Sauder School of Business and Daniyal Zuberi, Sociology, both 2006-2007 Early Career Scholars
October 17 - 19, 2008

This workshop aimed to develop a deeper understanding of how global competition is reorganizing different types of service work by generating debate across national boundaries, disciplinary lines, and industries within the service sector. It considered the ability of employment, labour, and social policies to regulate service work and shape outcomes for the service workforce. It also evaluated how traditional forms of collective representation, such as unions, are responding to globalization. The meeting attracted scholars from North America, Europe, and Asia. The keynote speaker, Ron Hira, Rochester Institute of Technology, in his talk, "White Collar Offshoring: Trends, US Politics, and Policy," introduced the main themes for the workshop and highlighted some of the major debates about offshore outsourcing. One public session featured trade union leaders from Vancouver and the UK who provided valuable insights to scholars about the implications of globalization for union members. A closing plenary featured Steve Frenkel, University of New South Wales, and Rafiq Dossani, Stanford University.

Additional funding provided by the Peter Wall Early Career Scholar program, the Inter-University Research Centre on Globalization and Work, and the UBC Sauder School of Business.



Danielle van Jaarsveld and Daniyal Zuberi



Ron Hira

THEME DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS AND COLLOQUIA

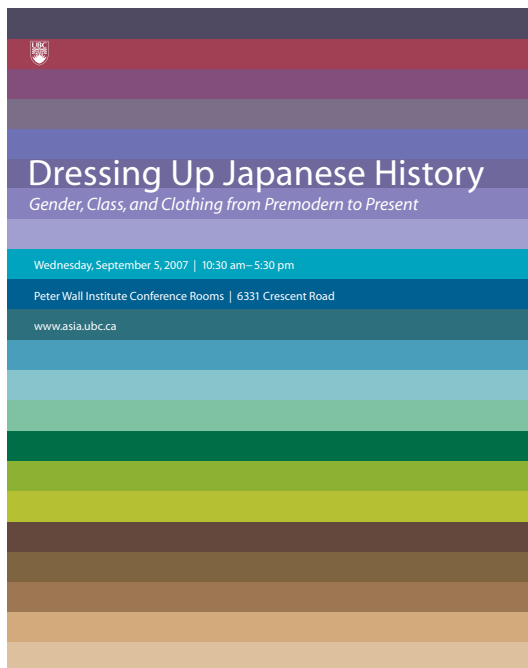
Theme Development Workshops enable researchers from a variety of disciplines at UBC to get together informally at the Institute for part of a day to share ideas on researching a particular theme. The venue and budget for food are provided. These workshops are typically closed meetings that often serve as a first step to preparing an Exploratory Workshop. Applications to this program can be made to the Institute's Director at any time.

Colloquia are public talks usually held during the lunch hour in the Institute's conference rooms. The Institute provides short-term accommodation for a distinguished visiting speaker whose topic will be of interest to the UBC colleagues in a range of disciplines, a pre-talk luncheon for a small group of invited guests, and a meeting room and publicity for the public talk. Faculties, departments, and other academic units may apply to hold a colloquium at any time.

Dressing Up Japanese History: Gender, Class, and Clothing from Premodern to Present

Workshop organized by Christina Laffin, Asian Studies and 2006-2007 Early Career Scholar
September 5, 2007

Co-sponsored with the Early Career Scholar program, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, the Commemorative Organization for the Japan World Exposition '70, the UBC Centre for Japanese Research, and the UBC Centre for Women's Studies, this workshop included papers from UBC scholars and from researchers from the University of Alberta, Josai International University, the Kyoto Costume Institute, Osaka University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo International University, the University of Toronto, and the University of Victoria.



Creating a Network on the Governance of Biotechnology

Workshop organized by Yves Tiberghien, Political Science and 2003-2004 Early Career Scholar
January 11, 2008

This informal meeting over lunch, co-sponsored with UBC's Liu Institute for Global Issues, focused on the need to examine the governance of scientific innovation, especially in biotechnology, and to understand the role and responsibilities of universities in this field.

Cracking Capitalism

Workshop organized by Jon Beasley-Murray, French, Hispanic & Italian Studies and 2006-2007 Early Career Scholar
March 14, 2008

This mid-day workshop, co-sponsored with the Early Career Scholar program and the Department of Political Science, was organized around informal discussions with visiting speaker Jon Holloway, who is a sociologist and political theorist based in Mexico and author of *Zapatista!: Reinventing Revolution in Mexico* and the much-discussed *Change the World Without Taking Power*.

Toward Developing a Coalition on the Health of Children with Rare Disorders

Workshop organized by Cornelius (Neal) Boerkoel, Medical Genetics
July 2, 2008

The goal of this gathering of researchers in medicine and other sciences, social sciences, and humanities, together with representatives of the community, was to discuss how to build a community of affected families and develop a translational care model for rare disorders.

History, Society, and Social Change: Children and Young People in Global Contexts

Workshop organized by Mona Gleason, Educational Studies and 2007-2008 Early Career Scholar
August 28, 2008

Participants in this small workshop, co-funded by the Early Career Scholar program, discussed collective aims around research on children and youth. Ideas for ways to widen the “circle of influence” on this topic were mapped out.

Technologies of Memory: Latin Literature and the Preservation of the Past

Workshop organized by C.W. (Toph) Marshall, Classical, Near Eastern & Religious Studies and 2003-2004 Early Career Scholar
August 26 - 29, 2008

The Institute supported one day of this three-day workshop. The meeting dealt with the intersection of Latin literature – ancient and modern – and the mechanics of literary production and reception, broadly conceived.

Translation and Authority

Workshop organized by Susanna Braund, Classical, Near Eastern & Religious Studies
September 11, 2008

This luncheon workshop was held for the UBC members of the Translation and Authority mailing list, in anticipation of Dr. Braund’s Translation and Authority Exploratory Workshop to be held in the spring of 2009. The purpose was instil in participants a sense of support and purpose for the research events to follow.

Inauguration Event for the National Core for Neuroethics at UBC

Colloquium organized by Judy Illes, Neurology and Director, National Core for Neuroethics and Peter Reiner, Pyschiatry and National Core for Neuroethics
September 11, 2008

This prestigious, well-publicized inauguration and speaker's line-up brought together a community of neuroethicists from across Canada and abroad to share and exchange ideas and initiatives and to begin work on a strategic vision for neuroethics in Canada.

Turning Ideas into Action

Workshop organized by Penny Gurstein, Centre for Human Settlements
September 19, 2008

This all-day meeting of leading urban scholars was held to conceptualize the research and learning components of the project, "Turning Ideas into Action." The project will be a web-based curated virtual archive, a tool that will provide global information on urbanization. Researchers developed a conceptual framework for the archives.

Developing a Research Network on Public Pedagogy

Workshop organized by Pilar Riaño-Alcalá, School of Social Work & Family Studies and 2005-2006 Early Career Scholar
October 3, 2008

A small working group of UBC scholars from Education, Law, Graduate Studies, and Arts met for the morning and over lunch to discuss their common interest in community-based research and the notion of public pedagogy. They identified research needs and terms of reference for future collaborations on the topic.

Contemporary Mongolia: Transitions, Development, and Social Transformations

Workshop organized by Julian Dierkes, Institute of Asian Research and 2003-2004 Early Career Scholar
November 14 - 17, 2008

This workshop, for which the Institute provided in-kind funding for one day, featured 30 speakers from 11 different countries and an audience of 70. It was the largest international gathering ever on the topic. Three themes emerged: the revival of Buddhism, mobile pastoralism, and the impact of mining on social relations.

ASSOCIATES FORUM

This program of monthly lunches and dinners that feature talks by Institute Faculty Associates provides the key interdisciplinary gathering on campus. It is a regular opportunity for Associates and guests to exchange ideas and knowledge across UBC and to get to know other researchers at different stages of their careers. These forums also give Distinguished Scholars in Residence the venue for their Institute talk and Exploratory Workshop Principal Investigators a place to report on research accomplishments. All Associates are invited to attend.

Since the beginning of 2008, most talks are available as audio podcasts on the Institute's website.

September 12, 2007

David Speert, Pediatrics and Infectious Diseases
“Exploring Development of a Birth Cohort to Understand and Prevent Disease of Children in the Developing World”

Dr. Speert discussed the pre-workshop meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa and the Wall Exploratory Workshop to follow on the topic on October 22-25, 2007.

(See page 48 for workshop details.)

September 26, 2007

Judith Segal, English and 2007 Wall Distinguished Scholar in Residence
“What is a Story of Breast Cancer?”

Dr. Segal’s talk explored questions of the permissible and impermissible in breast cancer narratives. Turning on examples of conventional and unconventional stories, she argued that the genre of the personal narrative may perform a regulatory function in public discourse on breast cancer. The talk was inspired by an idea introduced into science studies by Londa Shiebinger and Robert Proctor – the idea of agnotology, the cultural production of ignorance.

October 10, 2007

Jon Beasley-Murray, French, Hispanic & Italian Studies and Early Career Scholar 2006-2007 and Maxwell Cameron, Political Science
“Left Turns? Progressive Parties, Insurgent Movements, and Policy Alternatives in Contemporary Latin America”

The speakers, who were co-investigators for a Wall Exploratory Workshop on the subject, May 24-28, 2007, highlighted the issues and insights

gained at this international gathering.

(See 2006-2007 Annual Report for workshop details.)

October 24, 2007

Margaret Schabas, Philosophy

“Nature Does Nothing in Vain: Self-Reflexivity as an Adaptive Trait”

When Ernst Haeckel in 1866 coined the term “Oekologie” (ecology) to replace the longstanding term “oecology of nature,” he took us on a path that has tended to treat the natural and the social as separate spheres. Dr. Schabas argued that the natural and social realms were much more closely conjoined in scientific and philosophical discourse in the 18th century. Since the boundary between the natural and the social has a history that possesses a range of meanings, the distinction between us as objects and as agents must be negotiated. It is not self-evident. Dr. Schabas proposed that if we can “step out of nature” and alter the rate of biodiversity, the motivation for this will come from our understanding of a separate social realm, and self-reflexivity more specifically.



Margaret Schabas

November 14, 2007

Roman Krems, Chemistry and 2007-2008 Wall Early Career Scholar and Moshe Shapiro, Chemistry and Physics & Astronomy
"Coherent Control of Ultracold Molecular Processes"

Drs. Krems and Shapiro reviewed the topic and issues in connection with their Wall Exploratory Workshop held August 1-4, 2007.
(See page 46 for workshop details.)

November 28, 2007

Patricia Baird, Medical Genetics
"Aging Well in BC"

Dr. Baird was appointed by the Premier of British Columbia as chair of a council to make recommendations on what is needed for our society to adjust successfully to rapidly changing demographics and an older population. Over the course of a year's work, the BC Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues learned from people and organizations, from experts, and from published research about the lives of older adults in the province. She outlined the picture that



Patricia Baird

emerged and discussed the recommendations that the Council made to government in December 2006.

January 16, 2008

Daniel Hiebert, Geography and Liu Institute for Global Issues

"Local Change in Global Context: Vancouver's Recent Transformation through Immigration"

International migration is already an important process, and indications suggest that it will gain in significance in the coming years. This is due to a combination of declining fertility in the "Global North" and underemployment in the "Global South." Canada, through its policies, has one of the highest population growth rates in the Global North despite low fertility. Locally, three-quarters of metropolitan Vancouver's population growth is the result of immigration, and we are rapidly moving to a situation where "all" of the net growth in the labour force will be generated by immigration. The talk outlined the basic dynamics of immigration to Vancouver, linking it to international and national regulatory systems, discussed the "on the ground" changes that are happening in Vancouver and which are transformative in nature, and asked: "For whom is this working?"

January 30, 2008

Tony Pitcher, Fisheries Centre, Zoology and 2008 Wall Distinguished Scholar in Residence
"The Sea Ahead: Learning from the Past"

The living ocean is in a parlous state: Dr. Pitcher described how massive depletions of large fish and alarming reductions in marine biodiversity have resulted from fishing through ecological,

economic, and cognitive ratchet-like processes. What may be done to reverse such perverse trends? Dr. Pitcher examined some recent, interdisciplinary advances in the historical reconstruction of past marine ecosystems, showed how simulation modeling may be used to explore quantitative restoration goals for the future, and discussed how this task might be tackled in the face of climate change and the need for trade-offs among conservation, economic, and nutritional benefits.

February 13, 2008

Anita DeLongis, Psychology

“Close Relationships and Health: Developing an Interactive Approach to Research and Theory”

Dr. DeLongis shared with Associates her insights from this Wall Exploratory Workshop, held August 22-24, 2007.

(See page 47 for workshop details.)

February 27, 2008

Rena Sharon, School of Music

“The Art Song Anima”

What’s in a song? Dr. Sharon offered a guided stroll into the restless Romantic realm of “Kenst du das Land?” [Do You Know the Land?], Goethe’s iconic poem whose enigmatic question and protagonist “Mignon” inspired a century of compelling compositions and attendant speculations. Opera singers were on hand to perform the poem’s emergent, mutable, and layered meanings in musical settings by Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, and Hugo Wolf. The contrasting sounds offered glimpses into the symbolic interface of perception, language, and music in each composer’s imagina-

tion. It was, as she noted, “a good after-dinner story, though its visceral musicalizations of existential longing may catalyze insomniac wanderings late into the night.” Dr. Sharon held a Wall Exploratory Workshop on the topic of the art song anima, June 20-23, 2007.

(See the 2006-2007 Annual Report for workshop details.)

March 5, 2008

Roald Hoffmann, Chemistry, Cornell University, Nobel Laureate and 2008 Wall Distinguished Visiting Professor

“Chemistry’s Essential Tensions: Different Views of a Science”

In this lavishly illustrated talk, Dr. Hoffmann presented several views of chemistry, stressing its psychological dimension and its ties to the arts. First of all, chemistry is, as it has always



Roald Hoffmann

been, the art, craft, and business of substances and their transformations. It is now also the science of microscopic molecules, both simple and complex. And then there are people’s percep-

tions of chemistry – alternating between seeing the healing and hurting aspects of this truly anthropic science. The talk explored the underlying psychological tensions, as well as the strong element of creation or synthesis, in chemistry, which brings chemistry close to the arts.

March 26, 2008

Margery Fee, English and 2008 Wall Distinguished Scholar in Residence

“What Can the Humanities Offer Science in Understanding Genetics and Social ‘Race’?”

Humanities scholars can help untangle some of the confusions caused by what geneticist Richard Lewontin calls “bad metaphor.” Existing conceptual frames or narratives may lead to bad science, or they may lead to misunderstanding when scientific findings are communicated to a wider public.

April 9, 2008

Jon Beasley-Murray, French, Hispanic & Italian Studies and 2006-2007 Wall Early Career Scholar
“Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Latin America, But Were Afraid to Ask Zorro”

This presentation examined Hollywood’s particular fascination with Latin America and asked: “What can we reasonably learn from cinematic portrayals of otherness?” Zorro was the cinema’s first superhero, directly inspiring similarly doubled figures such as Clark Kent a.k.a. Superman. But he is also a specifically Californian figure, whose story is set at a time when Los Angeles was still part of the Spanish Main. So he invites an exploration of Hollywood’s often unacknowledged Latin roots, its place within a postcolonial Spanish America. Zorro’s



Jon Beasley-Murray

ambivalent position in an ill-defined gray zone between Anglo and Latin America, simultaneously establishment and subversion, challenges our preconceptions of where Latin America ends and begins.

April 23, 2008

William Benjamin, Music and 2008 Wall Distinguished Scholar in Residence

“Reproducing Music in Silence: What Musicality Is and How We Cultivate It”

If musicality is a species trait, it cannot be the ability to put together original utterances. This is because the constituents of music – its little note-fragments – lack the stable grammatical identities that words or phrases tend to have. Moreover, a musical object’s meaning changes depending on rhythmic placement. All this makes music too complicated to improvise without devoting oneself to the task, and for the same reason, impossible to parse unequivocally. Thus, many take musicality in non-professionals as the ability to feel the music’s emotions. But this conclusion fails to distinguish between our readings of music and of other forms of emo-

tional expression. Dr. Benjamin argued that musicality is the ability to reproduce music: he calls this ability Ordinary Musical Memory (OMM). In this talk, he suggested that music may have been selected in evolution as a mnemonic for, or driver of, complex synchronized behaviour; that OMM developed as its necessary rehearsal technique; and that both remain as sources of pleasure.

May 14, 2008

Brett Finlay, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and Microbiology & Immunology, Wall Distinguished Professor
"Bugs R Us"

The number of microbes in and on us outnumber our human cells by a factor of ten. One gram of feces contains more bacteria than the number of humans in the world. Despite this, we have only recently begun to explore the human microbiome and its effects on us. There is strong preliminary evidence that the normal flora impacts on obesity, metabolism, inflammatory bowel diseases, asthma, and infectious diseases. The role of the microbiota in these diseases were overviewed, and some results presented from an infection biology point of view.

May 28, 2008

Ronald Rensink, Psychology and Computer Science and 2002-2003 Early Career Scholar
"Visual Analytics"

Dr. Rensink discussed the state of the art in visual analytics and shared the insights gained in his Wall Exploratory Workshop on the topic, held February 2-5, 2008
(See page 49 for workshop details.)



Ronald Rensink

September 10, 2008

Brett Gladman, Physics & Astronomy
"Swapping Rocks: Natural Interplanetary Material Exchange and Implications for Planetary Protection"

Planets are often thought of as being isolated islands in the vastness of interplanetary space, but recovered meteorites show that there are natural processes that blast intact rocks off of Mars and the Moon and drop them on Earth. Dr. Gladman explained how this process gives us interesting samples of other bodies for free, but also poses policy, scientific, and ethical questions about the origins of life and how spacecraft missions should operate.

September 24, 2008

Phil Austin, Earth & Ocean Sciences
"The Art and Science of Climate Modeling"

How will the Earth respond as humanity continues to transform the atmosphere? While climate models agree on the broad outlines of future warming, there were striking differences among the 23 models that were the subject of

the most recent international assessment. Dr. Austin addressed the strengths and weaknesses of those climate simulations, with a particular focus on how we evaluate the largest uncertainties and feedbacks in the Canadian climate model.

October 8, 2008

Edith Chen, Psychology and Gregory Miller, Psychology

“From Molecules to Societies: The Psychobiological Determinants of Health and Well-Being”

Professors Chen and Miller reviewed the topic and the deliberations of their Wall Exploratory Workshop on the subject held July 28-30, 2008. (See page 50 for workshop details.)

October 22, 2008

Luciana Duranti, Library, Archival & Information Studies

“The Future of Our Present: Keeping Records in a World Gone Digital”

Digital records are a challenge for all of us, individuals and organizations. They are vulnerable to manipulation, tampering, corruption, accidental loss, and technological obsolescence, and they are difficult to maintain in terms of trustworthiness or to preserve over time. The InterPARES project she heads has issued – among several other research products – guidelines for individuals and small communities of practice on how to create digital records that are accurate and reliable and how to maintain their authenticity and accessibility over the long term. Dr. Duranti’s talk presented the salient points of the InterPARES guidelines and demonstrated through case studies examples of problems we



Luciana Duranti

might encounter if we did not take proper care of our digital records.

November 12, 2008

Holger Hoos, Computer Science

“Taming the Complexity Monster: On Computational Complexity and Ways of Dealing With It”

As individuals and as members of various communities and organizations we face many challenges, ranging from climate change to resource limitations, from market risks and uncertainties to complex diseases. These challenges often arise from the complexity of the systems we are dealing with and from the problems that arise from understanding, modeling, and controlling these systems. In this talk, Dr. Hoos focused on a type of complexity that is of central interest in many areas within computing science and its applications – namely, computational complexity and, in particular, NP-hardness. He argued that the area of empirical algorithmics holds the key to solving computationally challenging problems more effectively than many would think possible, while at the same time producing interesting scientific insights.

November 26, 2008

Sneja Gunew, English and Women's Studies

"I'm My Own Muse': Mediating the Personal in Contemporary Women's Art"

The importance of "the personal" has for several decades been a liberating concept for women in that it helped articulate women's differences as part of generating second-wave feminism. However, Dr. Gunew argued that it has also functioned to trap women by reducing them to the personal and the domestic, at the expense of their participation in the public realm. In her talk, Dr. Gunew looked at the distinctive ways in which two contemporary women artists interpret the personal. British artist Tracey Emin's work embraces the autobiographical as intertwined with the sexual, whereas Australian artist Tracey Moffatt's emphasis on formalism keeps at bay those critics who attempt to essentialize her as an Aboriginal artist.



Sneja Gunew

SPECIAL EVENTS

Childhood HIV-AIDS in Vancouver

Workshop organized by Jane Schaller, Visiting Scholar in Pediatrics and Executive Director, International Pediatrics Association
February 24 - 26, 2008

This international think-tank, for which the Institute provided support for one day, focussed on childhood HIV-AIDS as a neglected problem worldwide with regard to everything from testing and treatment to prevention. Possible ways of addressing and overcoming this neglect were explored.

Brain, Space, and Movement

Alain Berthoz, Collège de France
Special Faculty Associates dinner talk co-sponsored by the Sensorimotor Computation, a Wall Major Thematic Grant project
May 12, 2008

Dr. Berthoz, a distinguished neuroscientist, is Professor of Physiology and Director of the Laboratory of Physiology of Perception and Action at the Collège de France. The podcast of Dr. Berthoz's talk is available on the Institute's website. He will return to the Institute for September 2009 as Distinguished Visiting Professor.



Alain Berthoz

Book Launch for *No Easy Fix: Global Responses to Internal Wars and Crimes Against Humanity* (McGill-Queen's Press, 2008) by Patricia Marchak, Sociology, and 2000 Distinguished Scholar in Residence.

June 2, 2008

Dianne Newell, as Director of the Peter Wall Institute, offered words of welcome and introduced speakers for the other co-sponsors of the event: Neil Guppy, Sociology; Erin Baines, Liu Institute for the Study of Global Issues; and Philip Cercone, Director of McGill-Queen's University Press. Dr. Marchak spoke briefly on the barriers the international community faces when attempting to perform its "responsibility to protect" as promised by the United Nations. Over 70 individuals joined in celebrating the publication of *No Easy Fix*.

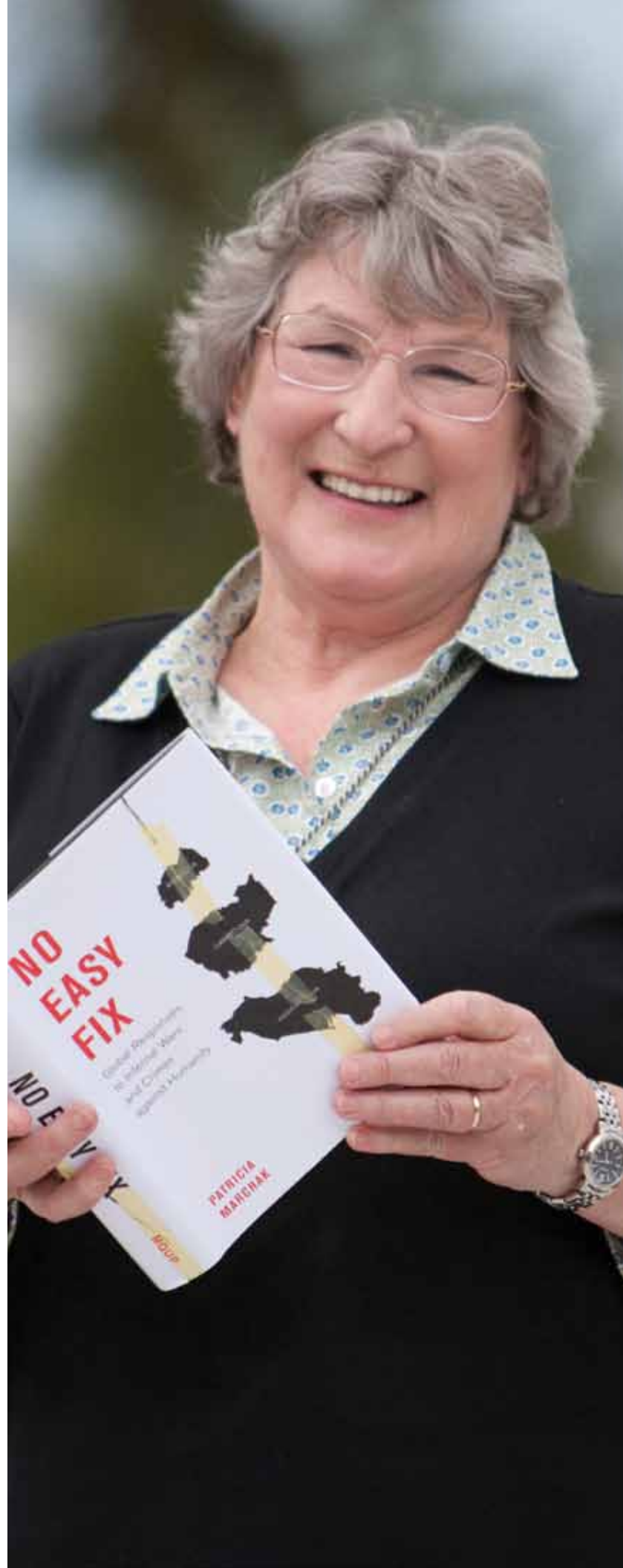
Annual Trustees' Appreciation Luncheon

June 18, 2008

The Trustees and Official Observers of the Wall Institute Board of Trustees joined Institute Director Dianne Newell and UBC President Stephen Toope, Chair of the Board of Trustees, for the second annual Trustees' Appreciation Luncheon. It was held following the spring meeting of the Trustees. The Distinguished Scholars in Residence participated as special guests. Following the lunch, Dr. Dinesh Pai, Computer Science, briefed the Trustees on the subject of the Wall Major Thematic Grant he leads, Sensorimotor Computation.



Front: UBC President Stephen Toope, Sonya Wall, and Brett Finlay
Background: Robert Lee





FUNDING

Funding for the Institute comes from two endowments. The Peter Wall Endowment comprises Peter Wall's original gift of 6.5 million Wall Financial Corporation shares valued at the time at \$15 million. The dividends from these shares support the residential programs and a major portion of the Institute's administration. Interest from the Hampton Endowment, a \$10 million fund dedicated to the Institute in 1994, supports the Thematic Programs and the balance of the administration costs.

The Institute leases one section of its facilities – the University Centre's east wing - from UBC at an annual rate of \$90,000 for a five-year term, which began in March 2006.

GOVERNANCE

The governing body of the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies is the Board of Trustees, as specified under the "Deed of Trust for the Establishment of the Peter Wall Endowment, 1991." Since January 1, 2005 the Institute has for routine matters reported to the Office of the Vice-President for Research.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has overall responsibilities for policies, programs, and finances of the Institute. The Board meets with the Institute Director twice yearly. The five Trustees are the UBC President, two UBC-appointed Trustees, and two donor-appointed Trustees. As of December 31, 2008, they are:

Akbar Lalani, MD, Royal Columbian Hospital ■ **Robert H. Lee**, Prospero International Realty Inc. ■ **Leslie R. Peterson**, QC, Boughton Peterson Yang Anderson ■ **Stephen J. Toope**, UBC President (Chair) ■ **Sonya Wall**, Donor Family

Official Observers of the Board (as of December 31, 2008):

David Farrar, Provost and VP Academic ■ **Brett Finlay**, Peter Wall Distinguished Professor ■ **John Hepburn**, UBC VP Research ■ **Dianne Newell**, Director, Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies ■ **Wesley Pue**, Vice Provost and AVP Academic Resources ■ **Bruno Wall**, Wall Financial Corporation

DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Dianne Newell, Director. Dr. Newell is an historian of technology who has spent her career examining the diffusion of knowledge in disciplines across the social sciences and humanities. She has held numerous leadership positions internationally and at UBC. Dr. Newell was named Acting Director in 2003 and appointed Director January 1, 2007. In this role, she has led the Institute's strategic direction, which has focused on creating scholarly partnerships among the international network of advanced studies institutes to create research with lasting value and impact. Under her leadership, the Institute has expanded its facilities, programs, and information technology to heighten its reputation as an inspiring location for high-risk research and discussions at the highest level, involving outstanding scholars at UBC and abroad.



Barbara Harrmann, Assistant to the Director. Barbara was appointed Administrator in November 2008 to replace Jenny McKay, who took up a new position in the Dean of Medicine's office. Barbara has a Master's degree in History and Journalism from Leipzig University. At the Institute, Barbara is responsible for the overall office management, including finance, human resources, and event management.



Markus Pickartz, IT Manager. Markus manages all systems, including computer networks and audio-visual systems in addition to web and print publishing. He had major responsibility for designing and implementing the online grant application system co-sponsored by the Institute and the UBC Office of Research Services. Markus has a BA in Theatre (Directing) from Arizona State University and a diverse and extensive background in IT systems.



Alfredo Santa Ana, Facilities Reservations & Office Clerk. Alfredo has served in this new half-time position since February 2008. He has worked in a temporary capacity for over five years at several departments across UBC. In addition to booking and administering the Institute's conference and guest facilities, Alfredo also undertakes the day-to-day financial transactions of the Institute. He is completing his doctoral degree in music (composition) at UBC.



Program Officer. At the end of the reporting period, the staffing of a senior secretary position to coordinate all programs assist with the Institute's Board of Trustee meetings is in progress.

FACILITIES

The Institute occupies the top floor of the Thea and Leon Koerner University Centre and the two-storey east wing. With completion of the renovations to the top floor of the east wing in April 2009, the space will include the office of the Administrator, the IT Manager, a reception desk, a Project Office for Major Thematic Grants, a staff room, storage room, and an open plan meeting room.

The east half of the top floor of the University Centre houses the office of the Director, the research offices of the Distinguished Professor and Scholars in Residence, the Peter Wall Boardroom, and a lounge and kitchenette for the use of Scholars in Residence.

Conference Rooms

The Institute operates two conference rooms in the west side of the top floor of the University Centre. The large and small rooms can be used separately or combined for meetings, talks, and meals. Both rooms open onto a large terrace with a sweeping view of the sea and mountains. Capacity for each room varies according to room set-up, to a combined maximum of 80 occupants. The conference rooms are wheelchair accessible. When not in use by the Institute for program events, the conference rooms can be rented by individuals and groups affiliated with the University or for University-sponsored events. Priority in booking the Institute facilities is given to research-related activities open to the University community.

Income from the rental of the conference rooms is used to offset the operating costs of the facilities.

Guest Rooms

The Institute's six non-smoking guest rooms will reopen once the renovations to the east wing are completed in April 2009. When reopened, the rooms will be available only for participants in Institute programs.

studies
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basic
distinguished
research
advanced
outstanding
institute
community
life
together
scholars

Founded in 1991, the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies is the senior research institute at the University of British Columbia. It supports basic research through collaborative, interdisciplinary initiatives that have the potential to make important advances in knowledge. The Institute brings together scholars from UBC with distinguished researchers and experts from around the world to investigate fundamental research drawing upon and contributing to a wide range of diverse disciplines. Of overriding concern for all Institute activities is excellence in research characterized by being fundamental, interdisciplinary, innovative, and unique.

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