About Us

Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies have joined talents and forces with Women’s & Gender Studies to form the Department of Cultural Analysis & Theory. CAT is a dynamic transdisciplinary space for the scholarly exchange of methods and concepts for analyzing complex social and cultural phenomena. We’re committed to the critical study of the transnational and transcultural flow of peoples, capital, media, and ideas as well as the production, dispersion, and reception of literary, visual, digital, and material cultures; and the theories and practices of social and political movements. Meow!

News

Both E.K. Tan and Victoria Hesford were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, since our last issue, and now have permanent appointments with the University. That means tenure! In E.K.’s case we might add “finally” — his well-deserved promotion had taken effect months ago. (What a bureaucratic slog!) Kudos to E.K. and Victoria!

As we go to press (finally), CAT is conducting two searches for tenure-track assistant professors: one in Visual Culture & Digital Media; the other in Comparative Literature. By the time Kudos nº 8 appears, we will be able to announce these new faculty members by name!


As she enters the dissertation home stretch, Anne Cunningham got an article published too “‘Get on or Get Out’: Failure and Negative Femininity in Jean Rhys’s *The Voyage in the Dark*.” *Modern Fiction Studies* 59, no. 2 (June 2013): 373-94 and garnered a $500 travel grant to attend the Modernist Studies Association meeting.

Two articles by ACLC New Faculty Fellow, Brooke Belisle have been published: “The Dimensional Image: Overlaps in Stereoscopic, Cinematic, and Digital Depth,” *Film Criticism* (special issue on 3D Cinema) 37, no. 3 (Spring/Fall 2013): 117-37 and “Picturing Networks: Railroads and Photographs,” *Amodern* special issue on Network Archeology vol. 2 (October 2013) http://amodern.net/article/picturing-nineteenth-century-networks/


Laine Nooney’s “A Pedestal, A Table, A Love Letter: Archaeologies of Gender in VideoGame History” appeared in the December 2013 issue of *Game Studies* gamestudies.org/1302/articles/nooney
Alumni News

Xiaoning Lu (Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 2008) was recently tenured as Lecturer in Modern Chinese Language and Culture at SOAS, University of London. She has also been awarded two terms’ sabbatical in which she is completing her book manuscript, *The Forces of Spectacle: Cinema and Chinese Modernity 1949-1966*. At SOAS, Xiaoning teaches Modern Chinese literature, Modern Film from Taiwan and the Chinese diaspora, and is currently involved in curricular design for SOAS-Birkbeck’s joint bachelor’s program Global Cinema. She has also served as Ph.D. examiner at both SOAS and Goldsmiths, University of London, and as academic reviewer for the Leverhulme Trust. Since 2011, Xiaoning has been a member of a group research project entitled “Compilation and Research of Overseas Life-Writing on Modern Chinese People,” funded by China National Social Science Major Grant (1.6 million RMB). In the meantime, she continues to conduct research on Chinese cinema and was recently awarded a small research grant by the Universities China Committee in London (UCCL) for her project, “The Marvel of Technology in Chinese Socialist Film Culture.” Outside academia, Xiaoning had the honor of serving as translator for the Nobel literature laureate, Mo Yan, at the 2012 London Book Fair.

Former Fulbright scholar in the department, Agnès Vannouvong has just published her first novel, to great acclaim: *Après l’amour* (Paris: Mercure de France).

CAT Junior

Blake Xavier Clinton, born 22 November 2013.

Here is Sophia, Xiaoning Lu and Jens Grabenstein’s daughter, dressed in a seasonal suit.

Sponsored Events Kudos!

CAT faculty and/or doctoral students were involved in the planning & implementation of the following events, to which we furthermore made budgetary contributions of various magnitudes:

“Situating Moral Justification: Rethinking the Mission of Moral Epistemology” — a Provost’s Lecture by Alison Jaggar organized by CAT affiliate, Serene Khader.

“From Sorrow to Indifference” – a Provost’s Lecture on 22 October 2013 by Catherine Malabou, followed the next day by a seminar entitled “What Should We Do With Our Brain?”


Tinker Grants for Research out of the Latin American & Caribbean Center

Marcus Brock, “Post-Blackness,” at a half-day conference co-sponsored with the Department of Africana Studies in Spring 2014.

Graduate English Society Conference Planning Committee (Spring 2014) for their conference entitled “Bonds”


A screening of the film, “Fixed,” followed by a discussion. Spring again, in conjunction with the Ph.D. Program in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

“Marvels & Monsters: Unmasking Asian Images in Comics and Graphic Novels” Symposium (Spring 2014)

“ƒ(glitch)” [i.e. the function of glitch] – a series of events (symposium, performances, exhibits) organized by cDACT

Xiaoning Lu

Après l’amour

Agnès Vannouvong has just published her first novel, to great acclaim: *Après l’amour* (Paris: Mercure de France).