

SENIOR SABBATICAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDS 2013/2014

The H. Axel Schupf '57 Fund for Intellectual Life supports the Senior Sabbatical Fellowship Program, which increases tenured faculty members' salaries for one semester of leave from 80 to 100 percent. The fellowships are competitive, and they are awarded by the Dean of the Faculty and the Committee of Six once their recommendations are approved by the President and the Trustees. The following are summaries of the 2013-2014 Fellowship recipients' research projects.

Rowland Abiodun

Professor of the History of Art/ Black Studies

Professor Abiodun is spending his fall 2013 sabbatical leave completing work on his book manuscript, "Yoruba Art and Language: Seeking the African in African Art," which will be published by Cambridge University Press and released in late-spring/early-summer 2014. See an early announcement for the book on the [publisher's web site](#).

Michele Barale

Professor of English/Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies

Professor Barale wants to show writer Willa Cather's ability to construct a public persona through photographer Edward Steichen's portrait as part of something much larger in terms of self-making and literary production. As a managing editor of *McClure's*, Cather examined both the illustrations and the half-tone photography that made the reproduction of images wonderfully affordable. As opera and theatre reviewer, she regularly saw what the American stage could perform as well as what the best of Paris, London, and Dublin produced. She read newspapers, certainly, and magazines, as well, both of them filled with images of her contemporary world as news and as advertisement. Moreover, a number of the artists who begin their careers in the commercial world—Steichen, but also Arthur Dove, W. C. Wyeth, and Gustave Baumann, among dozens of others—turned to the art of high culture: the boundary between the commercial and the aesthetic image blurs. In such a rich visual environment, the permeability of boundaries separating image and word, picture and narrative and—this seems of special importance—self and object allows unimpeded interplay. Professor Barale wants to show—at least begin to trace the visual world's entry into Cather's understanding of herself as artist. When writing that last sentence, she had to think for a while about whether or not she should better say "as author." Her decision not to do so derives from her desire to posit a continuity among these visual artists and Cather as an author whose own writing is visually tropic, and even as an author who tried her own hand at self-illustration. Cather may dwell in the "Kingdom of Art," but she was also happy to place her fiction in popular magazines, make use of celebrated photographers and artists, both European and American, whose work was valued for their interest in high and low cultural subjects. Cather's writing is abundantly concerned with art – its making and makers; its meaning and worth; with the artist and the audience and even the patrons. Great artists, minor ones, and hack copyists, successful artists or otherwise, whether newly or long dead or still alive. Artists of voice, stage, sculpture, and oil on canvas; of the land and of architecture; of reproductive plenitude; of other people's narratives. By the time Cather sat for Steichen's famous portrait, she already knew herself as artist and as subject. Professor Barale is not, therefore, at all certain that the Steichen portrait taught her something about herself that she did not know, and is fairly certain that she controlled a great deal of what any formal image would reveal of her. Her full-front gaze at us in the Steichen *Vanity Fair* portrait—nothing to hide here, folks—is belied in another photograph from that same photo shoot: In this one her arms are crossed upon her chest. She gives only as much as she wants.

Robert Benedetto

Associate Professor of Mathematics

A dynamical system is a quantity or collection of objects that constantly changes its state according to some rule or law. For example, weather patterns and the atmospheric rules that govern them form a dynamical system; the motion of the planets of our solar system, and the gravitational laws that guide them, form another. Professor Benedetto studies an abstract kind of dynamical system where the objects are numbers, and the rule governing how they change is given by a polynomial or, more generally, by a rational function. In this research project, he plans to continue his study of such systems when the numbers are drawn from an algebraic number system known as a non-Archimedean field. While very different from the physical systems mentioned above, these more abstract dynamical systems still can exhibit both order (like the motion of planets around the sun) and chaos (like the always unpredictable weather). Over the past fifteen years, the research community's understanding of non-Archimedean dynamics has grown substantially, and a number of threads have emerged as significant open questions in the area. During the fall 2013 semester, Professor Benedetto will attack several of these open questions, especially those related to the study of a certain delicate phenomenon known as a wandering domain. In addition, he will continue his work on a longer-term project: writing a textbook on the broader mathematical theory of non-Archimedean dynamical systems.

Lisa Brooks

Associate Professor of English/American Studies

During her sabbatical, Professor Brooks will be completing her second book project, titled "The Word Came With the Wind: Re-envisioning the Landscape of King Philip's War," which will be published by Yale University Press in its new Henry Rowe Cloud Series on American Indians and Modernity. This reinterpretation of King Philip's War re-envision the lens through which most people "read" early America, inviting readers to see the well-known captivity narrative of Mary Rowlandson within an indigenous landscape, emerging from the Native American social and geographical networks into which its author was drawn.

Francis Couvares

Professor of History/American Studies

Professor Couvares will work first on two articles that are already in process. One is called "'The Menace:' Catholics, Anti-Catholics and the Free Speech League," which focuses on the unknown story of the Free Speech League's defense in the early twentieth-century of anti-Catholics whose publications and speeches faced considerable censorship, often instigated by the Catholic church or Catholic lay groups. The second article, titled, "Saving Children, Censoring Movies," focuses on the campaign launched in the 1910s through the 1930s to "save" children from the influences of "immoral" films. Professor Couvares's research has shown that, despite the publicity given to social scientists who asserted that movies were powerfully baneful, a strong counter-movement existed among other social scientists, and also among librarians, especially female members of both professions. These professionals argued that children were not simply victims of movies but processors and interpreters; that they had inner lives that were filled with and required fantasies, even unpleasant ones; and that movies, therefore, should not be censored in the ways so many of their fellow-professionals were proposing. Professor Couvares hopes also to begin drafting chapters of a book, tentatively titled "Freedom and Censorship: An American Social History." This ambitious project, which will survey two hundred years of history, requires the collaboration of Prof. Brett Gary of NYU's Department of Communications, whose research centers on the mid-to-late twentieth-century history of civil liberties, while Professor Couvares focuses on the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. Both collaborators are skeptical of theories that assert the hegemonic power of media over minds (young and old); more importantly, both have found in the historical documents too much evidence that individuals and groups react in unpredictable ways to what they consume within a pluralistic and democratic, if raucous and sometimes dismaying popular culture. Though much has been written on the history of free speech and censorship, no author has put the whole story together. Professors Couvares and Gary hope to write a history that shows, despite the enormous power of press barons and advertisers, of conventional prejudices and social inequalities, and of the national security state, and notwithstanding the inclination of many citizens to use free speech to belabor and exploit one another, that free speech has empowered ordinary citizens and inspired democratic change over many years.

Professor David Cox
Professor of Mathematics

Professor Cox's sabbatical in spring 2014 will be devoted to preparing the fourth edition of the book "Ideals, Varieties and Algorithms," written with John Little of the College of the Holy Cross and Don O'Shea of the New College of Florida. This book, written for advanced undergraduates, was first published in 1992 with the goal of introducing students to algebraic geometry from a computational point of view. Algebraic geometry studies geometric objects defined by algebraic equations, and by manipulating the equations by hand or by a computer, one can get insight into the corresponding geometric object. A fourth edition is needed for several reasons. This is a fast-moving field, so there are new proofs they want to incorporate and new references they want to add. Software is changing even faster, so they need to update what they say about the computer algebra programs that can be used in conjunction with the book. Finally, the book has an appendix on student projects which is unchanged from the first edition in 1992. Some of the projects will be removed (they are outdated), while others (such as a cool way to solve Sudoku puzzles) will be added.

Amy Demorest
Professor of Psychology

In her past work, Professor Demorest has focused on the role of emotion scripts in personality and psychopathology. Emotion scripts are implicit beliefs that individuals derive from personally significant experiences in order to understand and cope with similar experiences in the future. As such, they are meant to be adaptive, helping the individual learn from the past how to promote positive emotional experiences and mitigate negative emotional experiences. However, her past research has shown that many individuals form some maladaptive scripts that exacerbate rather than alleviate stressful experiences. Because these scripts are implicit rather than explicit, they can be hard to identify, and because they were derived from past meaningful experiences they can be hard to change. During her sabbatical, Professor Demorest intends to develop a method of intervention for uncovering and modifying problematic emotion scripts.

Robert Doran
Professor of Religion

During his Senior Sabbatical Fellowship, Professor Doran is beginning a new project that arose out of his teaching a course on the parables of Jesus. As he worked through the parables, he became increasingly suspicious of the methodologies used and the presuppositions behind the way scholars approached the parables of Jesus. To his astonishment, he found that many well-known interpreters of parables did not really ask the fundamental question of what kind of a story is being told, and how this kind of story obliquely commented on the social situation, either positively or negatively, in which Jesus was said to have delivered them. He also hopes to explore the trajectory of interpretation of the parables. The soundings he has already made have uncovered an intriguing difference between the interpretative trends in Western and Syriac Christianity.

John Drabinski
Professor of Black Studies

Over his sabbatical year at Harvard's W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Professor Drabinski plans to draft a book-length study of James Baldwin tentatively titled "Fragment Home: Baldwin and the Black Atlantic." The aim of the project is to read Baldwin as a philosopher—someone whose claims about identity and home draw upon an extensive, systematic set of concepts: time, race, memory, history, language, justice, and the nature of collectivity. Baldwin's work has long been appreciated as part of literary history and the history of public intellectual work. But, Professor Drabinski claims, Baldwin's unique philosophical voice has not been given full treatment. In writing such a treatment, Professor Drabinski will put Baldwin's work in critical conversation with African-American thinkers such as Delany, Du Bois, Locke, and after, as well as black Atlantic theorists from Senghor and Césaire to Glissant and Gilroy. According to Professor Drabinski, those conversations reveal how deeply and uniquely Baldwin has engaged the philosophical foundations of the black intellectual tradition, as well as his relevance to contemporary debates about language, memory, and history.

Vanessa Fong

Associate Professor of Anthropology

Professor Fong will use her sabbatical time to travel to China to collect data for her longitudinal study of Chinese childrearing. This research will be part of a larger longitudinal project that follows 2,273 people born under China's one-child policy between 1979 and 1986 from ages thirteen to twenty (in 1999) through ages twenty-eight to thirty-five (in 2014). She will invite previous participants in her longitudinal study and their spouses and children to meals, at which she will conduct participant observation and semi-structured and unstructured interviews among them and ask them to complete her surveys. She will also conduct structured, audio recorded interviews with some of these respondents and conduct participant observation and video recorded observations. Professor Fong will examine how the parenting, gender socialization, educational experiences, socioeconomic conditions, academic achievement, and academic interests they had as adolescents shape these individuals' decisions and experiences now that they are young adults, especially with regard to work, higher education, childbearing, childrearing, health, and study abroad. Data from this study will be used as material for Professor Fong's classes about China as well as for her future publications, many of which she hopes to co-author with Amherst College students and faculty colleagues.

Frederick Griffiths

Professor of Greek (Classics)/ Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies

During his leave, Professor Griffiths will work to complete a long-term project on geopolitical mythmaking at the court of the Ptolemies, about a half-century after Alexander of Macedon brought Egypt and Libya under Greek rule. The Ptolemies spent lavishly to establish Alexandria as the cultural center of the Greek-speaking world, mostly famously in establishing the great Library and Museum. As librarian and royal tutor, Apollonius figured importantly in that renaissance and produced what is now the only epic to survive between the Homeric *Iliad* and *Odyssey* (8th cent. BCE) and Virgil's *Aeneid* (before 19 BCE). The voyage of Jason and the Argonauts around the three continents of the known world (Europe, Asia, Libya [=Africa]) established, in Apollonius' telling, the future territorial claims of Greek colonization as the sailors left a trail of altars, place names, rites, and graves. That was a timely project for the far-flung Hellenistic culture that followed Alexander's conquests. However, scholars have been puzzled that Apollonius apparently did so little to gratify the political needs and historical vanity of his Ptolemaic patrons, even though his fellow court-poets in Alexandria were lavish in their praises and prophecies. Though Apollonius at the end of his epic marched his Argonauts through a destined part of the Ptolemaic territory, Libya, in the (future) footsteps of Alexander, it was still wild, full of miracles and mirages, and inhabited only by indigenous gods. Griffiths argues that Apollonius had good reason for indirection, including the need both to evoke Alexander's triumphal trek through Libya and, on the other hand, to keep the glamorous and self-destructive young hero from overshadowing his Ptolemaic successors—better managers than generals, who held on to Egypt until the time of Cleopatra. To describe the Argonauts in Libya, Apollonius moved the narrative back to “strong time”—the time of creation, before cities and civilization, in order to constitute Libya as a third continent to rival Europe and Asia, but beyond their eternal strife (e.g., the mythic Trojan War, the Persian invasions of Greece in 490 and 480 BCE). This Libya was not barbarian, but pre-cultural and generative of gods, cults, snakes, springs, trees, islands, and born-again heroes. The evidence for this mythmaking—all of it allusive, elliptical, and polyvalent—is copious and has never been organized in print. Griffiths argues that what Apollonius offered his patrons was less a form of encomium—inappropriate within the Homeric tradition—than an extension of their own mythmaking as they legitimized and popularized their rule by creating new cults and deities.

David Hall

Professor of Physics

Professor Hall will continue his work with Bose-Einstein condensates, a form of matter existing at temperatures tens of billionths of a degree above absolute zero. At such extremely low temperatures the collective properties of the atoms become important; in particular, they lead to the phenomenon of superfluidity, or frictionless fluid flow. In his experiments, Professor Hall will be exploring microscopic structures that exist within the superfluid, such as interacting quantized vortices (miniature tornadoes of circulating fluid) and an elusive

particle known as the Dirac monopole. In addition to the support provided through the fellowship, this research is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and will take place in his laboratories in the Merrill Science Center.

Robert Hayashi

Associate Professor of American Studies

During his leave, Professor Hayashi will be working on his current book, “Yinz Got Game? Sports and Identity in Western Pennsylvania.” This book considers how sports, amateur and professional, have operated to shape identity within the greater Pittsburgh region from roughly the turn of the nineteenth century to the present. By examining how sports have been a public forum to shape, express, contest and elide identities, Hayashi demonstrates how individuals and groups have responded to the changing economic, cultural, and political conditions in the Pittsburgh vicinity. During his sabbatical, Professor Hayashi will focus on researching the region’s Jewish community and its interactions, in particular, with other ethnic communities to demonstrate how sports have operated as both a site of intra and interethnic cooperation and contestation. He will also resume work on the book’s penultimate chapter, in which he analyzes how the Pittsburgh Steelers became the area’s most visible vehicle for the display of symbolic white working-class identity during the 1970s.

Jerome Himmelstein

Professor of Sociology

Professor Himmelstein’s long-term project is studying how the national conversation about marijuana has changed over the last four decades. During his sabbatical, he is focusing on the last decade. The questions he is asking include: How have reform organizations affected the national conversation? How have successful legalizations in Washington and Colorado affected that conversation? How have reform organizations responded to success? In particular what role have they played in the implementation of legalization in those two states?

Nasser Hussain

Professor of Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought

The purpose of Professor Hussain’s project is to transform the way the category of colonial war is understood by academics and policy makers. While the term *colonial war* is more readily associated with archaic “bush wars,” the category, in fact, entails some of the signal strategies of modern conflict and violence: racialized surveillance, concentration camps, winning hearts and minds, strategic aerial bombing, and the daily policing techniques associated with the rise of the surveillance state. In the politically charged space of the colonies, there was an implicit recognition that simmering unrest and periodic rebellion produced a state somewhere between war and peace, which called for a distinct *blend* of policing and combat known as imperial policing. In the space opened up by this confusion, there existed no clear demarcations between wartime and peacetime, between military necessity, humanitarianism, and policing, between the control of populations and the destruction of enemies. Professor Hussain’s book examines colonial war as a whole and explores its constitutive blurring of war, policing and population control, which make the category so valuable in developing a fresh perspective on contemporary conflicts and modern forms of surveillance and control.

Ronald Lembo

Professor of Sociology

Professor Lembo’s Senior Sabbatical Fellowship project develops a new approach to the sociological and trans-disciplinary study of culture. Current versions of cultural sociology share a longstanding presumption of disciplinary thinking: namely, that culture is distinct from power. To the extent it is acknowledged, power is typically understood as social structural, institutional, or group-based, working from the outside in to limit, shape, and influence culture while remaining, in the sociologist’s eyes, separate from it. This project draws from the work of Michel Foucault to address shortcomings in the sociological study of culture. Basically, Foucault rejects the premise that culture is distinct from power, and instead develops a theory of modern power as something that works as much from the inside-out as it does from the outside-in, thereby challenging the

truth claims of cultural sociology, new and old versions alike. While Foucault is certainly well-recognized as an important philosopher and social theorist, his work has been unevenly incorporated into sociology: influential in the fields of sexuality studies and theory, but ignored by others, including cultural sociology. In this project, Professor Lembo draws upon concepts presented in Foucault's recently published (in English) lectures at the Collège de France (*Psychiatric Power, Abnormal, Society Must be Defended, Security, Territory, Population*, etc.), in conjunction with already published work (notably, *The Order of Things, Discipline and Punish*, and *The History of Sexuality, Volume I*), to identify conceptual "building blocks" of an implicit theory of culture which, by not presuming culture to be distinct from power, can explain the workings of both in ways sociology, at present, cannot.

William Loinaz

Professor of Physics

During his leave, Professor Loinaz will work on projects related to theoretical high-energy physics. The goal of the field of particle physics is to discover the most fundamental constituents of matter, those degrees of freedom that are active at the shortest distance and highest energy scales, and to determine the nature of the interactions among them. It has been a tremendously exciting time for the discipline. The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, the world's highest-energy particle accelerator, was turned on three years ago and ushered in a new age for particle physics. The machine was built with the promise of finding the last missing piece of the Standard Model of particle physics, the Higgs boson, and it did so spectacularly. The discovery of the Higgs boson will help provide an answer a question that has dogged particle physicists for the past forty years: What is the origin of the masses of the elementary particles? However, it's probably fair to say that most particle physicists are interested not in completing the Standard Model but want instead to probe deeper, to shorter distances and higher energies, to see what lies beyond it. Over the next fifteen years it is expected the LHC will be able to do just that. Physicists also grappling with other Big Questions, which are connected to the question of what is beyond the Standard Model: It appears that 96 percent of the matter of the universe is NOT described by the Standard Model, but is in fact some sort of other entirely mysterious stuff—dark matter and dark energy—what are these? The more gravity is studied, the more baffling it seems—is it like the other forces, and if not, what is it? Do we live in more than three space and one time dimension, and if not, why not? Is the universe stable, or is it one cosmic ray away from a catastrophic phase transition? Professor Loinaz has worked on all of these questions, and will continue this work during his leave.

Joseph Moore

Professor of Philosophy

During his leave, Professor Moore will pursue two projects in environmental philosophy. The first is an aesthetic interpretation of Aldo Leopold's famous land ethic. The second is a novel solution to the "non-identity problem" that threatens to undermine our sense of the obligations we have to future generations. Towards a Land Aesthetic: Since its publication over sixty years ago, "The Land Ethic" by Aldo Leopold (1867-1948) has become a seminal articulation of the "eco-holist" view that we should attribute value to large-scale ecological structures, such as forests, watersheds, mountains, ecosystems or what Leopold simply called "the land". The essay is justly famous: Leopold articulates a form of eco-holism that is clear and compelling. And instead of excluding us from the land, he urges us to live within it as "plain citizens". But Leopold's land ethic confronts several strong objections. First, by attributing value to larger structures, it seems to have worrying "eco-fascist" consequences. Surely the land would be better off—or at least closer to the way it once was—if there were many fewer humans on the planet. So, the view seems to advocate a significant reduction in our own population. Second, the view assumes that it's sensible to talk of well-defined ecosystems moving towards stable equilibria. But Leopold's implicit mid-century picture of nature is seriously challenged by contemporary ecology, with its emphasis on disturbance regimes and the methodological individualism inherent in population biology. Philosophical discussion of Leopold's view often focuses on his prominent claim that a "thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." (A Sand County Almanac, (New York: Ballantine Books, 1966), p. 262) "Things" in Leopold's formulation are generally interpreted to be actions, and "right"/"wrong" are given ethical readings. Moore's alternative reading of Leopold brings out the ways in which Leopold focused on aesthetic notions of value, and the ways in which he simply ran together the aesthetic and the ethical. The suggestion is that "right" and

“wrong” in the formulation might better be read aesthetically. This is supported not only by Leopold’s listing beauty as one of the values we should preserve, but more importantly by the cast of his many other writings. Moore’s project is, first, to develop this alternative aesthetic reading of Leopold’s view, and second, to show that the resulting view avoids the philosophical worries that beset the main-stream ethical interpretation. A New Solution to the Problem of Non-Identity: A number of environmental problems—most notably, climate change—are regarded as problematic because of our moral obligation to the well-being of future generations. (Of course, it’s not just environmental problems that have this dimension. In one of last year’s presidential debates, Mitt Romney called the national debt a moral problem because of the burdens it places on future generations.) But obligations to future generations are philosophically complicated in two central ways. First, there is the question of what (if any) sort of moral “discount rate” we should adopt in weighing the interests of the present generation against those of future people. The second, more fundamental problem, is to say how we have any such obligations at all, since in many cases, no particular future human will be made worse off by our current actions. This is because, in many cases, our present actions will affect not only future living conditions, but also which particular people are brought into existence.

Consider the problem of climate change. It’s not unreasonable to think that if we take dramatic action to mitigate global warming the people who will exist in 100 years will be numerically distinct from those people who will exist if we do nothing. This is because an individual human life is “fragile” in the sense that the particular combination of genetic material (egg and sperm) that biologically—and presumably, metaphysically—distinguishes one individual from another is highly sensitive to the circumstances in which conception takes place. Temperature differences will affect not only global weather patterns but exactly who reproduces with whom, and when. So, a person born 100 years from now into the hot world resulting from our inaction would seem to have no grounds for complaint: in all likelihood, she wouldn’t have come into being if it weren’t for our inaction.

This is a troubling conclusion, and there have been many attempts to respond to it. But there’s no easy solution: it seems that any response pushes up against one or another seemingly non-negotiable aspect of our moral thought. It’s for this reason that many philosophers consider this “non-identity” problem foundational. Moore will pursue a response which also seems to push against common sense—specifically, against the claim that the future individual in the hot world is, in the relevant sense, “distinct from” the future individual in the temperate world. He won’t take on the metaphysical claim that our biological origins are essential to us, but rather argue that, in moral thinking, we don’t really deploy the metaphysical relation of identity when we make cross-scenario comparisons of harm. His thesis is that, in our assessments of harm, we properly consider the welfare of “specific” people by comparing the welfare of potentially distinct individuals who would play the same “functional role” in the compared scenarios. He hopes to ground this possible response to the problem of non-identity in a general view of “individuating vagueness” he has defended in other work, and to argue that it is more compelling than other solutions to the problem.

Susan Niditch

Professor of Religion

During her sabbatical, Professor Niditch will complete work on a major project dealing with personal religion and self-representation in late biblical literature of the neo-Babylonian and Persian periods. Professor Niditch applies a methodological framework developed by contemporary sociologists of religion such as Robert Orsi and Meredith McGuire to a range of biblical texts dealing with embodiment, personal responsibility, confession, self-reflection, and other matters pertaining to the self. In the process, she explores the ways in which Jews of the traumatic period during and after the Babylonian conquest define themselves culturally and personally, individuating and personalizing the religion of Israel. Important threads in her work include the relevance of material culture in the construction of religious identity and the interplay between literary convention and individual innovation. Professor Niditch focuses on literature from the Psalms, the prophets, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Deutero-Isaiah, Zechariah, and Jonah and the books of Ruth, Job, and Ecclesiastes.

Christian Rogowski

Professor of German

During the spring of 2014, Professor Rogowski plans to conduct research, primarily in Berlin, on the controversy surrounding German-Jewish film maker Ludwig Berger's little known historical comedy, *Der Meister von Nürnberg* (*The Master of Nuremberg*, 1927). Like Richard Wagner's famous opera, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (1868), the film focuses on the conflict between a (fictional) aristocrat, Walther von Stolzing, and a (real) Renaissance-era shoemaker-poet, Hans Sachs, over the nature of art in general, and over the hand of Eva, the lord mayor's daughter. Berger's film transforms Wagner's sometimes heavy-handed paean to the supremacy of Teutonic art ("die heil'ge deutsche Kunst") into a light-hearted comedy of social acceptance and forgiveness. The film was produced to coincide with the opening of a sumptuous new picture palace in Nuremberg, yet even before it came out, right-wing media launched a virulent attack against Berger's film, accusing the director of defiling Wagner and his artistic legacy by turning a national classic into the subject of trivial comedy. The controversy over Berger's film, which had no obviously "Jewish" dimension (other than the "ethnicity" of the film maker), is a test case of increasingly vicious racialized paranoia in the Weimar Republic.

Geoffrey Sanborn

Professor of English

During his leave, Professor Sanborn will complete a book project. Titled "Plagiarama! William Wells Brown and the Aesthetic of Attractions," the book's starting point is Professor Sanborn's demonstration that William Wells Brown, a major black abolitionist and the author of the first published African American novel, *Clotel*, plagiarized at least 80,000 words from at least 268 sources over the course of his career. Only a handful of Brown's plagiarisms had been known of before this year, when Sanborn showed, in an article published in *African American Review*, that Brown plagiarized at least twenty-two percent of *Clotel* from at least fifty different sources. In "Plagiarama!," he will present, and pursue the implications of, the entire spectrum of Brown's plagiarisms, which began slowly in the 1840s, took off in the early 1850s, and continued unabated to the end of his life. Professor Sanborn will be embracing the amusement-park or variety-show aspects of Brown's compositional practices, which seem to him to offer an extraordinary opportunity for recasting our understanding of early African American literature and, potentially, nineteenth-century literature as a whole. Without in any way diminishing the importance of Brown's abolitionist commitments, Professor Sanborn will argue that Brown's understanding of books as analogues of pop-cultural performance spaces opens another avenue of cultural intervention, in which the aim is to create and hold open spaces in which a variety of subjects can appear and disappear. The point of Professor Sanborn's study is to continue that effort, to communicate, even promote, an interest in writing that extravagantly leaps away from ordinary discourse and prolongs the opening that it creates.

Eric Sawyer

Associate Professor of Music

During the coming year, Professor Sawyer plans to complete a triple concerto for the Boston-based piano trio Triple Helix and the Concord Orchestra, Richard Pittman, music director for performance on the orchestra's 2013-14 season. They have discussed a work connected to the American Transcendentalist writers centered in Concord, MA during the 1830s to 1850s, in commemoration of the orchestra's sixtieth anniversary. The piano trio soloists will loosely represent a conversation of figures from the transcendentalist movement, with the violin associated with Margaret Fuller, the cello with Bronson Alcott, and the piano with Ralph Waldo Emerson. Any concerto places the soloist(s) in conversation with the orchestra, sometimes cooperatively and sometimes in opposition. The orchestra in this concerto sometimes serves an extension of the ruminations and conversations of the trio, and sometimes opposes the trio as a sort of unsympathetic public with its own mundane concerns. Professor Sawyer has made good initial progress in the composition of the concerto, and it is quite possible that the work will be completed before the previously anticipated date of spring 2014, leaving room for other compositional and recording projects.

Robert Sweeney

Professor of Art

This project has two distinct aspects: First is the development of large paintings abstracted from smaller on site paintings of Boston completed over the last year and a half. These large paintings will attempt to synthesize qualities of space, form, light and color which have driven his work painted directly from the Boston city-scape. The second aspect is a reprise of his Tuscan painting campaign with a trip to Italy in early May. Here, Professor Sweeney will focus on a series of small on site paintings in Cortona, San Gimignano, Montepulciano, Arezzo and Orvieto.

Ethan Temeles

Professor of Biology

A major goal of ecology is to understand how interactions between species shape evolutionary patterns within and between species. Over the past fifteen years, ecologists have made major advances in evolutionary ecology by measuring natural selection resulting from interactions between predators and prey, parasites and hosts, competitors, and mutualists. What has rarely been done, however, is to measure natural selection on food resources that results from competition between the species that consume them. Mathematical models suggest that competition between pollinators can contribute to divergence in their floral resources in characters such as color and flower size. Three testable predictions stemming from these models are that (1) variability in floral traits leads to resource partitioning based on differences in competitive abilities when pollinators compete for resources; (2) resource partitioning by pollinators increases assortative mating within plant phenotypes; and (3) resource partitioning and assortative mating increase fitness within floral phenotypes and lead to floral divergence. Professor Temeles will use his sabbatical leave to conduct manipulative experiments of hummingbird pollinators and their food plants to test these predictions in a large, enclosed garden mimicking a natural system on the island of Dominica, West Indies. The experiments provide a significant and transformative contribution to population and community ecology by examining the mechanisms by which competition between pollinators affects competition and divergence between their food plants, and have the added attraction of linking field experiments to natural selection and species divergence in natural populations.

Sarah Turgeon

Professor of Psychology (Neuroscience)

The psychotomimetic drug phencyclidine (PCP) has been used to model schizophrenia-like behavior in laboratory animals with the hope of developing a better understanding the neural correlates of the disease. Recently, Professor Turgeon's laboratory has focused on investigations of sex- and age-dependent variations in PCP-induced schizophrenia-like behavior in rats that may parallel developmental and gender specific patterns of symptoms in human schizophrenia. In particular, the team's current research will focus on sex- and age-dependent effects of PCP on disruption of latent inhibition, a model for attention deficits seen in schizophrenia.

Jonathan Vogel

Professor of Philosophy

During his sabbatical, Professor Vogel will pursue topics in epistemology. He has been invited to contribute articles to two publications, which he will work on during his leave. One is for a volume on the "Gettier Problem" to be published by Oxford University Press (OUP). The other is a paper for an invited symposium in the journal *Philosophical Studies*. The latter will deal with the status of a fundamental principle about the connection between logic and knowledge: Roughly, if you know A, and you know B follows from A, must you be in a position to know B as well as A? Professor Vogel's major, ongoing project is to write a book (or two!) about the problem of skepticism about the external world. The problem, he notes, is the classic one that, apparently, all of your sensory experience could be nothing more than an extended dream. How are we to exclude such a possibility? But if we can't, how can we know anything about the world at all? He has a contract with OUP to write a book on this topic and related issues, entitled *Skepticism and Knowledge of the External World*. In this work, he will: (a) examine and pin down exactly what the threat to knowledge is; (b) discuss and criticize leading contemporary approaches to the problem; and (c) advance a solution of his own.

Patrick Williamson

Professor of Biology

Professor Williamson plans to spend the academic year 2013-2014 in the laboratory of Dr. Titia Sixma of the Netherlands Cancer Institute. Along with Dr. Anastassis Perrakis, Dr. Sixma leads the structural biology section at the NKI. Structural biology is the field devoted to understanding the molecular basis of biological function. All biological activity depends on the chemical properties of very large molecules, usually either proteins or nucleic acids such as RNA. The most important chemical properties, in turn, result from how the atoms in these molecules are arranged in three-dimensional space. Structural biology is the science of determining these atomic arrangements, and it is a field that has been rapidly expanding and changing. The expansion is reflected in the number of structures that have been determined: twenty years ago, there were a little under nine-hundred determined structures; now there are about 85,000. The changes in the field have been more wide-ranging, beginning with the widespread use of synchrotrons as a source of X-rays, but including new techniques for structure determination, systemization of approaches to major technical obstacles such as crystal formation and phase determination, and changes in analysis software. Professor Williamson studies membrane proteins that transport phospholipids. These studies have become sufficiently detailed and specific that information about the three dimensional structure of the transporter has become a key objective. In the end, both experimental and computational studies are likely to be required to obtain this information. The year in Dr. Sixma's laboratory will provide Professor Williamson with training in the techniques used to crystallize proteins and subject them to x-ray analysis, including strategies for finding crystallization conditions, methods for handling and mounting crystals, forms and methods of data acquisition, and analysis, including an introduction to software used for all these purposes. In collaboration with members of the Sixma laboratory who have completed such experiments, Professor Williamson will also gain experience with the subsequent stages that exploit the crystals, including both experimental methods and an introduction to the software tools and methods that are used for data analysis. In addition to its value for his research, Professor Williamson will use the experience to develop materials for an Amherst course in structural biology, including syllabus sections on the practical issues and methods in the field and data-based exercises that can introduce students to the key computational and analytical issues encountered by practitioners in the field.