



MEMORANDUM

To: Academic Deans, Faculty and Staff

From: Elizabeth Garrett
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: May 6, 2014

Subject: **USC Provost's Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities**

The Provost's Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities is designed to foster strength in a broad array of humanities disciplines across the university. The six exceptional scholars who will join us in the coming fall semester are a diverse group of accomplished thinkers who will invigorate discussion within and across many fields.

Our incoming class of scholars was selected from more than 930 applicants from thirteen fields in the humanities. I would like to thank our colleagues who spent many hours reviewing applications and recommending candidates to the selection committee. I am also grateful for the expertise of the selection committee – Professors Lisa Bitel, Natania Meeker, Viet Nguyen, Mark Schroeder, and David Treuer – and their willingness to carefully consider the recommended candidates and make difficult decisions to arrive at the final rankings. Members of the new cohort will arrive on campus in mid-August 2014.

I am pleased to report that postdoctoral scholars from our current cohorts have been successful in earning new career and scholarly opportunities. **Gaoheng Zhang** (French and Italian) recently accepted a two-year position as an Assistant Professor of Italian Cinema and Literature at the University of Toronto. Zhang is joining the largest and one of the most prestigious Italian Studies departments outside of Italy. **Julianne Werlin** (English) spent time in Germany over the summer as a visiting fellow at Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. **Sean Nye** (Musicology) created and taught the first course on Electronic Dance Music at USC.

Please join me in congratulating them and in welcoming the new Postdoctoral Scholars in the Humanities to our academic community.

cc: C. L. Max Nikias
Robert Abeles
Al Checcio
Todd Dickey
Thomas Jackiewicz
Thomas S. Sayles
Michael Quick
Mark Todd

**USC Provost's Postdoctoral Scholars in the Humanities
Incoming Cohort for Fall 2014**

Simeon Man (American Studies and Ethnicity) received his Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University, and was an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in American Studies and Asian American Studies at Northwestern University. His research and teaching interests include Asian American history, comparative ethnic studies, and the United States in the Pacific world, with an emphasis on the politics of race and empire in the twentieth century. His book-in-progress, "Soldiering Through Empire: Race and the Making of the Decolonizing Pacific" (under contract with the University of California Press), is a history of Asian soldiers and military workers who labored for the U.S. military in Asia after World War II. The book situates these postcolonial subjects and their racial formation at the intersections of U.S. militarism and global decolonization, and broadly inquires about the imperial politics of soldiering in the second half of the twentieth century.

Gina Greene (History) received her Ph.D. in Architectural History from Princeton University. Her research focuses on late nineteenth- and early twentieth- century European and American architecture, urbanism, and visual culture, and their intersection with histories of medicine and technology, particularly as such intersections are complicated by cultural attitudes towards race and gender. During her time at USC, she plans to transform her dissertation, *Children in Glass in Houses: Toward a Hygienic, Eugenic Architecture for Children during the Third Republic in France (1870-1940)*, which examined French medical culture as a determinative force in shaping architecture and urban design around the turn of the century, into a book manuscript.

Thomas Pashby (Philosophy) recently completed his PhD at the University of Pittsburgh, in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science. His interests lie in the philosophy of physics, of science, and metaphysics. His dissertation, *Time and the Foundations of Quantum Mechanics*, argues for a novel account of temporal processes in quantum theory that supports an ontology of events for matter, and a relational theory of time. He plans to spell out the implications of this account of quantum theory for problems that arise in interpreting the standard formulation of quantum mechanics, including the infamous measurement problem. He also intends to extend the account to relativistic quantum theory to provide a new perspective on issues concerning locality.

Anna Rosensweig (French & Italian) will receive her Ph.D. in French from the University of Minnesota in June 2014. She specializes in early modern literature and culture, the intersections of literature and political theory, and performance studies. Her dissertation argues that early modern drama extends a political debate that begins during the French Wars of Religion (1562-98). As a Provost's Postdoctoral Scholar, Rosensweig plans to turn her dissertation into a book tentatively titled, *Tragic Opposition: Rights of Resistance on the Early Modern Stage*. Although her primary research focuses on the early modern period, she is also interested in more contemporary questions of human rights and literature.

James Thomas (Art History) recently completed his Ph.D. in Art History at Stanford, and is currently the Chester Dale Predoctoral Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art. His current project is a study of the intersection of abstract art, experimental architecture, and radical design of the 1960s and 1970s, as related to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). A study of artistic, institutional, and political spaces during a so-called "Space Age," his research explores the links between avant-garde aesthetics and the manned spaceflight program. Thomas was previously the Guggenheim Fellow at the National Air and Space Museum. He is currently preparing an exhibition about artist Robert Rauschenberg's "Stoned Moon" (1969), a series of lithographic prints commissioned by NASA to document the historic Apollo XI mission.

Jessica Rosenberg (English) received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research, *Botanical Publics and English Textual Cultures, 1557-1667*, argues that widespread botanical figures – practical and metaphorical, medicinal and mythological – fundamentally shaped English understandings of the printed word and the natural world, conceiving both as composites of small forms, ready for a future of appropriation and use at the hands of a new reading public. During her time at USC, she plans to expand this argument to show how these connections between books and plants generated a sense of a reading public over the course of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, one predicated on specifically botanical understandings of circulation, reproduction, and common property.