

Visiting Scholars Program



Eight promising scholars, representing institutions in five states and the District of Columbia, have been awarded Visiting Scholar fellowships at the American Academy for the 2005 – 2006 academic year. They represent the fields of anthropology, history, English and comparative literature, American literature and culture, art history, social policy, and international relations. The Academy's Visiting Scholars Program (VSP) supports promising postdoctoral fellows and untenured junior faculty in the humanities, the social sciences, and policy studies.

During their year in residence in Cambridge, the scholars combine their independent research with participation in varied Academy activities, including lectures and panel presentations on a variety of subjects, and Friday Forums, which bring together members of the surrounding academic and cultural community for discussion of timely issues. At monthly seminars, the scholars present their research to colleagues in the program and to senior members in their own and related fields. Visiting Scholars also attend conferences and contribute

their ideas and perspectives to ongoing Academy projects. As the Chair of the Visiting Scholars Program, James Carroll, has noted: "The ability to interact with Academy Fellows, who bring an unparalleled wealth of knowledge from diverse scholarly and professional backgrounds, provides a unique intergenerational opportunity for Visiting Scholars."

The Harvard Humanities Center, led by Director Homi Bhabha (Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of English and American Literature and Languages) and Executive Director, Steven Biel (Senior Lecturer and Director of Studies in History and Literature), graciously provides access to Harvard's libraries and research facilities and works with the Academy to plan joint programs.

The program is funded, in large part, by a group of forty-eight colleges and universities that have become "University Affiliates" of the Academy. Their support sustains the work of an emerging generation of scholars as well as Academy studies on higher education and learning. Gifts and grants have also been received from the Annenberg Foun-

ation, the Cabot Family Charitable Trust, the Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation, the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation, the Charles and Suzanne Haar Fund, the Esther Haar Scholar Exchange Program, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

Visiting Scholars, 2005 – 2006

Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh – Ph.D., Indiana University. B.A., University of Arizona. *The Advance of American Archaeology and Resurgence of Native America*. A study of the shifting moral landscape of professional archaeology, focusing on the discipline's complex social and intellectual relationship with Native America.

Jenny Davidson – Assistant Professor, Columbia University. Ph.D., Yale University. B.A., Harvard University. *Breeding: Nature and Nurture Before Biology*. An investigation

*Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in research projects, studies, lectures, and publications do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Front (left to right): Chief Executive Officer Leslie Berlowitz, Academy President Patricia Meyer Spacks, and Chair of the VSP James Carroll;
Middle (left to right): Sarah Song, Jennifer Marshall, Jenny Davidson, Director of the VSP Alexandra Oleson, Jason Puskar, Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, and Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh;
Back (left to right): Sharon Weiner and Elizabeth Lyman

of modern British debates about human nature before the coinage of modern scientific terms like biology and genetics that traces eighteenth-century writers' use of the term "breeding" to negotiate questions about education and inheritance in relation to the physical workings of people, plants, and animals.

Elizabeth Lyman – Assistant Professor, Harvard University. Ph.D., University of Virginia. A.B., Stanford University. *Performing Visual Information: Stage Directions Past, Present, and Future*. A study of notation that draws attention to emerging forms of performance notation and to the unrecognized interpretive influence of graphic elements in scripts ranging from punctuation and typography, to diagrams, symbols, and abstract and representational drawings.

Jennifer Marshall – Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles. B.A., University of Arizona, Tucson. *The Stuff of Modern Life: Formalism and Pragmatism in Interwar American Aesthetics*. An examination of the crucial role that ordinary things played in the formation of American modernism during the interwar decades, focused on the Machine Art Exhibit held at the Museum of Modern Art in 1934.

Jason Puskar – Assistant Professor (visiting, 2004 – 2005), Boston College. Ph.D., Harvard University. M.Phil., University of Oxford. B.A. and B.S.J., Ohio University. *Underwriting the Accident: Narratives of American Chance, 1871 – 1936*. An analysis of the ways that changes in thinking about chance and accident influenced American literature and culture from Reconstruction to the New Deal, particularly the new opportunities that American ideas about social and economic uncertainty created for narrative and the novel.

Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen – Assistant Professor, University of Miami. Ph.D., Brandeis University. B.A., University of Rochester. *Neither Rock nor Refuge: A History of Nietzsche in America*. An account of the influence of Friedrich Nietzsche's ideas and image on twentieth-century American society, including the American appropriation

of Nietzsche's *Übermensch* (Superman), his claims for the death of God, and his critique of Christianity and democracy.

Sarah Song – Assistant Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Ph.D., Yale University. M.Phil., Oxford University. B.A., Harvard University. *Culture, Gender, and Equality*. An examination of a variety of contemporary conflicts between minority group rights and women's rights that draws upon political theory, history, and law to explore how such conflicts might be resolved by democracies that seek both equal justice for minority groups and equal justice for women.

Sharon Weiner – Assistant Professor, School of International Service, American University. Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology. M.A., University of Lancaster. B.A., Truman State University. *Our Own Worst Enemy? U.S. Bureaucracies, Nonproliferation Policy, and the Former Soviet Union*. A critique of the United States' recent funding of efforts to reduce the risk that scientists from the former Soviet Union's weapons of mass destruction complex will sell their knowledge to proliferant states or subnational groups.

Chair of the Visiting Scholars Program

James Carroll – Historian and columnist for *The Boston Globe*. Books include *An American Requiem*, *Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews – A History*, and, most recently, *Crusade: Chronicles of an Unjust War*, a collection of his *Boston Globe* columns since 9/11. Carroll is working on a history of the Pentagon, *House of War*, to be published in May 2006.

The Academy is grateful to the individuals who served as reviewers and offered guidance for the program over the past year:

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