The Watcher Files Project: Re-Imagining the Past in Portland’s City Archives

Garrick Imatani, professor of art and studio head of foundations at Lewis & Clark, has been receiving recognition for his collaboration with local poet and professor at Portland State University, Kaia Sand, on a project commissioned by the Regional Arts & Culture Council. Combining artistic interpretation with archival research, this project takes shape in the form of a residency at the City of Portland Archives and Records Center. Their work is centered on an in-depth study of a collection of documents nicknamed “The Watcher Files.” The documents

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Kaia Sand and Garrick Imatani at work in the Portland City Archives

Tucson Alternative Spring Break: Ethnic Studies in Arizona

By Anna Daggett, senior history major

I dreamt up the idea for the Tucson Alternative Spring Break program when I was studying in Tucson with the Border Studies program, a semester focused on learning about the history, culture, and politics of the US–Mexico border. During my time there, I became immersed in ideas of education and captivated by the pedagogy of the Mexican-American Studies program, a grassroots effort started by teachers in the 1990s to address equity issues within the school system. This program was banned in 2010 for providing, in the words of the Arizona state legisla-

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are salvaged police surveillance reports from the 1960’s, 70’s, and 80’s, which describe the activities of over 300 different activist organizations in Portland. Using online and print publications, exhibitions, and performances, Imatani and Sand offer a multi-layered re-mapping of Portland’s public history. Here, Garrick discusses his own approach to the project, and the relevance of the project to understanding Portland today.

Footnotes: How did you get interested in this kind of work originally?

Garrick Imatani: I was really interested in the presence and history of the Black Panther Party in Portland. They used to operate a health clinic on N. Russell Street, between MLK and Williams, that is now a vacant lot. I started to think about how I might re-visualize or reconstitute it using a variety of archival photographs and records.

FN: How do you see yourself as someone who is working in both the field of history and art?

GI: I have a friend, another artist, Ariana Jacob, who talks about interdisciplinarity [by saying] that we’re all beholden to our own disciplines. For me as an artist, this means that I don’t necessarily have to cite everything. Not that this means I will go and play fast and loose with history—the point is that, because I’m not a historian, I don’t necessarily need to footnote everything that I’m looking at. I am free to make leaps of associative and symbolic thought between textual and visual information, and I can use a lot of materials and mediums to register connections that would be too difficult to do through language alone.

FN: Can you speak to the public nature of the project?

GI: The public art fund allows us to conduct this research residency, [in which] all of the work we do will ultimately become a part of the public collection. The residency itself is part of the public art project. The website is an extension (http://looseleafservices.us/), the book subscriptions, the exhibitions—all of it becomes portions of a whole. I like the idea of access, with works serving different purposes in the means of experiencing the objects. If I’m putting something online, I’m not necessarily emphasizing the materiality of these objects… However, you can go to an exhibition and see objects given to us by one of the people we’ve been working with, Lloyd Marbet, who was one of activists who was surveilled. You can go see a denim suit that was sewn by a friend of his for when he started to do these protests and become a self-anointed lawyer.

FN: Kaia Sand focuses her work on gender, and the role of women in the organizations that were surveilled. He’s taking on PGE and he’s a self-trained lawyer, wearing his friend’s homemade denim suit with floral lining, and it’s kind of an amazing object. It becomes not only historical object or a personal memento, but also something to contemplate in the scope of this project. That can’t really be represented online.

Kaia Sand: *She Had Her Own Reason for Participating*, 2014
Copper plates imprinted with steel type, sledgehammer, and alcohol-based ink. Language gathered from newspaper articles, activist materials, and surveillance reports all found in the files Portland Police kept on activists in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s.
surveilled. Can you speak to your particular area of interest within the project?

GI: I love history; all my work in the past few years has dealt with mining stories. In my previous work in the archives, I came across photographs that were doctored or staged. Coming out of an experience of performance art, I began to look at them as a kind of performance rather than strictly functioning as historical records. Now, going back into the archives and looking at these documents, they become this very one-sided history, my ability to see that helps to fill in what’s missing. This project entailed looking at not just the Portland Archives, but at multiple different archive files to find photographs of the Black Panthers’ clinic. Some of those photographs can be from police surveillance, because obviously they were a group that was under heavy surveillance. But it also dovetails with a lot of other things such as public utilities, commissioners doing reports to look at areas of blight or re-development, or Emmanuel Hospital’s own documentation of the area as part of their expansion plan. I got really interested in the idea of taking photographs from all of these different sources, and digitally collaging them and re-constituting the structure of the building from these perspectives. One can begin to see a re-forming of this building, but only through the filters of all of these different agencies, and bureaucracies that happened to photograph it at the time.

FN: What has it been like to be working with this history that is still very much alive?

GI: People are surprised, and sometimes afraid to be associated with this [movement]. They do fear that their livelihood or their jobs could be threatened if they’re associated with collectivist organizations, activist organizations. I would also say that something can be live, and something can be relevant. There are many ways in which you can make obvious comparisons, such as spying and surveillance, but you can talk about these files in terms of relevance to things happening on the ground, to continued gentrification in North Portland. The history has never gone away, and in that way it remains tied to the present.

The Watcher Files Project is an ongoing and in-progress project. For more information, please visit the project’s website at http://looseleafservices.us/ where you will also find links to the subscription for their serial publication on the project as well as a list of related and upcoming events.

De-constructing the Prison Industrial Complex at L&C and CRCI

This past fall, Lewis & Clark successfully completed its second-ever course with the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program taught by one of the department’s American historians, Reiko Hillyer, at the Columbia River Correctional Institution. Lori Pompa created the first model for the course at Temple University in 1997, and it has since grown to include universities all over the country. The exchange brings together equal parts “outside” college students and “inside” students—incarcerated felons at a correctional facility—to meet inside of a prison and engage in a semester-long college course together. The subjects of the courses vary, but Hillyer’s class studied the political and social history of the criminal justice system in America, beginning in the colonial period and ending with an examination of the current “boom” in prison populations. She focused on the ethnic underpinnings of incarceration that carry over from convict labor systems in the New South, and encouraged

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Faculty and Course News

This year, the History Department is delighted to announce Professor of American History, Reiko Hill-yer, as the new tenure-track faculty member. She will continue teaching survey courses on the United States, as well as courses in African American history, and the construction of the American landscape. She is scheduled to teach the Inside-Out Prison Exchange course in the spring of 2015.

In addition, the Department is bidding farewell to Andrew Bernstein, Associate Professor of Japanese History, as well as Susan Glosser, Associate Professor of Chinese History, who will both be going on sabbatical for the 2014-2015 school term. In light of their departure, the Department welcomes several new faculty members not only to assume their responsibilities, but also to add depth and breadth to the course offerings.

Khalil Johnson, 2014-2015 Lewis & Clark Post-Doctoral Fellow in Native American History and History of the American West

Khalil’s primary research project, “Red, Black, & Brown: African American Educators in Indian Country after Brown v. Board of Education,” sits at the intersection of American Indian and African American history. This project chronicles the history of the hundreds of African Americans who taught in reservation schools across the western United States and Alaska. The linkages between black teachers, Native communities, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs leads to bigger questions. How does the United States government use race instrumentally? Can an alliance with state interests offer protection from discrimination or opportunities for equal citizenship? How do racialized groups understand their status in relation to one another, especially in the context of competing claims to the state for rights? And while the language and practices of civil rights struggles often spread across ethnic lines, are long-term alliances between racialized groups possible given the fractious nature of U.S. politics?

He hopes to explore many of those questions with LC students this fall when he teaches History and Culture of American Indians. The course will focus on American Indian nations whose homelands are located within the contemporary United States and will examine indigenous responses to colonialism and developments in U.S. Indian policies, complexity and change within American Indian societies, and creative adaptations to historical circumstances. He and the department are still formulating plans for the spring seminar; the proposals include a course that would trace a multi-ethnic history of the United States through popular music.

Tasha Feinstein, Visiting Professor of Latin American History

Tasha received her doctoral degree in history from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 2013. She specializes in twentieth century Latin American history, with a focus on political violence, human rights
and memory studies. Her current research illuminates the debilitating effects political violence had on
the Peruvian legal Left during the 1980s and 1990s by mapping the trajectory of the Left’s rise and de-
cline and by analyzing two emblematic human rights cases that occurred at the Left's zenith (the 1986
Lima prison massacres) and nadir (the 1992 assassination of Maria Elena Moyano.) Before starting the
PhD program at UW-Madison, she worked for over half a decade as a researcher at the National Security
Archive (NSA), a non-profit, non-governmental research institute that collects and publishes declassified
documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. At the NSA, she directed the Peru Docu-
mentation Project and also assisted on projects related to Guatemala, Vietnam, Mexico and Nazi War
Crimes. She holds a B.A. in Political Science and Peace & Conflict Studies from Wayne State University,
and an M.A. in International Affairs from the George Washington University.

At Lewis & Clark, she will be teaching the introductory history survey on Modern Latin America. She
also plans to teach an intermediate (200-level) course on Human Rights and Political Violence in Latin
America, and an upper (300-level) course on the Cold War in Latin America.

Zachary Poppel, Visiting Professor of African History

Zack is broadly interested in histories of agriculture, education and empire. In Spring 2015, he will teach three courses in the Department: a survey of the history of modern Africa; an environmental history of West Africa; and one on empire and international development in Africa. His research looks at postcolonial higher education in Sierra Leone, competing agendas for international development, and efforts to disrupt and cope with Anglo-American empire in West Africa. This will be his first time in Oregon, and he looks forward to getting to know the Lewis & Clark community.

Craig Colbeck, Visiting Professor of East Asian History

An alumnus of East Asian Studies, ’02, Craig will be returning to Lewis & Clark to spend a year teaching on East Asian history with a focus on modern Japanese history. Craig received his PhD in History & East Asian Languages from Harvard in 2012, and has been teaching East Asian Studies and World History at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL. His research investigates how male sexuality was described in Japanese debates over prostitution at the turn of the twentieth century. His dissertation, “From the Brothel to the Body: Male Sexuality in Japan’s Prostitution Debates, 1870-1920” argued that it was in this period that Japanese came to see male sexual desire as instinctual; beforehand they had seen it as something that only arose when a man visited a brothel. Drawing on this, his teaching over the next year will include a class on the history of prostitution in East Asia.

He will also teach on the history of the Atomic age, from the discovery of radioactive elements to the on-
going nuclear-power-plant disaster in Fukushima, Japan. Next semester he will be teaching an introduc-
tory course on premodern East Asia (Hist 110) and on Japan’s role in World War Two (HIST 209).
Reiko Hillyer, Designing Dixie: Tourism, Memory, and Urban Space in the New South

Reiko Hillyer, professor of American history at Lewis & Clark, is well-known for her ability to place the built environment at the center of conversations on history. Her class, Constructing the American Landscape, inspires gestalt shifts among her students, who may never again be able to look at another gas station or government building without seeing the underlying social forces that created them. It does not come as a complete surprise, then, that her new book, Designing Dixie: Tourism, Memory, and Urban Space in the New South, will combine her interests in landscape history, cultural history, and political economy. In it, Hillyer draws out the relationships between cultural and political power, and their connections to physical space.

The creation of the New South, Hillyer argues, was anything but natural. Rather, Southern cities in the Post-Civil War era were deliberately fashioned to downplay their “moonlight and magnolias” plantation nostalgia, opting instead for a new image that would be an entreaty to Northern capitalist investment, as well as Northern tourism. Situating her study on the tourist economies of three cities—St. Augustine, Florida; Richmond, Virginia; Atlanta Georgia—Hillyer explained that she was drawn to the ways in which tourism served as a vehicle for sectional reconciliation between North and South.

“What I’m trying to do,” said Hillyer, “is link the history of public memory in the South with the history of political economy. Usually those are looked at in two very separate ways… I’m looking at trying to bridge those two, and seeing how memory could serve the interest of the political economy of the New South.”

The idea for the book was originally meant to be a dissertation on tourism to Florida. “I thought that would be really fascinating, as a kind of frontier state that re-makes itself from a jungle to the American Mediterranean,” recalls Hillyer. However, during her preliminary research, she found herself more drawn to the imagery and rhetorical motifs in guidebooks about Florida, and became more interested in examining what it meant politically for a Southern State, like Florida—which was a confederate state, and the third to secede—to call itself Mediterranean rather than Southern. Hillyer wisely counsels her students to be willing to re-orient themselves in their writing projects if they find themselves uninspired by their source material. “You might need to do a different kind of history,” says Hillyer. “We need to find the type
of work that speaks to our skills and sensibilities."

*Designing Dixie* will be forthcoming from University of Virginia Press.

Elliott Young, *Alien Nation: Chinese Migration in the Americas from the Coolie Era through World War II*

Elliott Young, department chair and historian of Latin America, Borderlands and Transnational Studies, celebrates the impending release of his new book, *Alien Nation: Chinese Migration in the Americas from the Coolie Era to World War II*. Spanning a century and the majority of the globe,

“The importance of the story,” says Young, “has a lot to do with the present-day continued migration of people, not only from Mexico and Central America across the U.S. Mexico border and Canadian border, but really from all around the world. Just [recently], there was a story on NPR about the U.S.-Mexico border talking about Ethiopians and people from Eastern Europe on the border crossing illegally, so I think the idea that these networks of clandestine migration continue to this day shows the importance of understanding the origins of that system.”

His story, as is fitting, draws upon sources from all over the world—the British Parliamentary Papers, Spanish Archives in Madrid, the U.S. National Archives in Washington, we well as archives from Cuba, Canada, and Mexico—and consciously spans the century between the 1840s to the 1940s to fill in the historiographical gap often left by historians focusing either on the life of the Chinese contract laborers in the early development of the coolie trade or on the history of the Chinese Exclusion Act from 1882 and beyond. His heroes? The undocumented migrants themselves, those who may end up in courts or detention centers, but who evade the state immigration authorities and transit clandestinely throughout the Americas via underground migrant networks, those who manage to bamboozle immigration authorities and leave bureaucracies and legislation efforts scrambling for control in their wake.

Young is intrigued by the ways in which the original concept of free migration in the 16th century had almost completely disappeared by the end of...
the 19th century, and how nations came to assert their rights to limit migration across their national boundaries. “That system that seems so natural to us now,” he points out, “is actually a very recent phenomenon.” Indeed, the United States’ Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first major legislation to restrict migration, and was duly followed by countries like Canada, Cuba, and Mexico, first excluding Chinese and later other groups and nationalities. Young’s book takes on the ambitious challenge of tracing the emergence of today’s system of controlled and monitored migration, and explores the way in which the idea of the alien as the non-citizen subject, in Young’s own words, “gives power to the rights of citizenship, by the very nature of contrasting what aliens don’t have and the violence that they are subject to.”

This book does not have one chapter on the Chinese in Mexico, another in Peru, another in Hong Kong and so on, but is instead truly about this “alien nation.” Rather, the source materials reveal nation states in conversation with one another, collectively attempting to puzzle out the right way to address the migrations of Chinese workers. In this way, Young attempts to shift the conversation away from descriptions of unassimilated migrants as “pathological” or “deviants,” which sociologists have adopted throughout the 20th century. Rather, Young views the Chinese as having power and creating community within their diasporic networks. Ultimately, he attempts to portray them “from their own perspective, how they’re actually tied into transnational communities of merchants, smuggling networks, Chinese secret societies. They’re not alienated from that world,” he states. “We just don’t see that because they’re not visible by the state authorities—they’re missing that.”

Professor Young leaves Footnotes readers with this parting piece of wisdom—“Go out, find a border, and cross it.”

Look for this book to be coming out in the fall of 2014 from the University of North Carolina Press. For more information visit, http://sites.google.com/a/lclark.edu/eyoung/home.

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students to imagine a better, more humane system of rehabilitation and redress for the future. Additionally, this was the first year that Inside-Out students at the prison were able to receive college credit for their coursework.

This class is not the only indication that Lewis & Clark is turning its attention to the problems associated with a skyrocketing incarceration rate and the shocking expansion of the prison-industrial complex. This past year’s Ray Warren Symposium changed its name from the Multicultural Symposium to the Symposium on Race and Ethnic Studies, and hosted scholars, activists, and professionals whose work deals with the theme of “Police States and Prison Nations.” Keynote speaker, Dylan Rodriguez, of UC Irvine’s Ethnic Studies graduate program, gave a presentation titled “Inhabiting the Impasse: Incarceration, Insurgencies, and the Logic of Racial Genocide” that articulated the underlying endeavors of both the symposium and the Inside-Out course. He spoke about the importance of collective and strategic thought, of collaborative problem solving, and the need for raising awareness about the subtle discourses of power that we receive through mass media. Both the Inside-Out course and the Symposium advocated for a re-examination of the criminal justice system, and encouraged students to educate themselves about America’s booming prison population and the actions that they can take to combat its expansion.
ture, “instruction of any courses or classes . . . that promote resentment toward a race or class of people[,] . . . are designed primarily for pupils of a particular ethnic group[,] . . . [or] advocate ethnic solidarity instead of the treatment of pupils as individuals.” The rhetoric used by the Arizona state legislature echoes attacks on many other multicultural and bilingual education programs that have been criticized for promoting group solidarity and ethnic separatism.

Twelve LC students, and History professor Elliott Young, will be traveling to Tucson for Spring Break to explore the ethnic studies ban and the current fight for educational equity in Tucson. We will be visiting and volunteering in innovative schools and collaborating with Tucson school board members and professors from the Mexican-American Studies program to host a panel open to the community regarding this issue. We will also be visiting Nogales on the border and discussing the criminalization of undocumented people and of Latin@ youth. Gloria Anzalúa wrote in her book Borderlands/ La Frontera, “The US/Mexico border es una herida abierta where the Third World grates against the First and bleeds… It’s not a comfortable place to live in, this place of contradictions.” The borderlands force us to come to grips with the inconsistencies in our political system. I hope that experiencing the borderlands firsthand will be a source of fuel for participants to fight the injustices occurring there and to spread the fight elsewhere, where the inconsistencies may not be so visible.

A Dinner with Greg Grandin: Q&A at Lewis & Clark

Greg Grandin, professor of history at New York University, delivered the 51st Annual Throckmorton Lecture on February 17. His lecture, “Who Aint a Slave: Slavery in Fact and Melville’s Fiction,” was based on his newest book, Empire of Necessity.

Click through to YouTube to watch a Q&A session with Lewis & Clark faculty and students at the post-lecture dinner.
Freudian Psychoanalysis Team Wins 2013 Project Runway, Historical Edition

The History Department’s second annual Historical Project Runway is a competition that serves as a means for style-savvy historians and non-majors alike to see who has what it takes to make it in the world of fashion history. This year’s themes ranged far and wide, from the Silk Road and Mexican Revolutionary artwork to the Bandung Conference and the Federal Highway Act of 1956. Two history majors, Caleb Diehl (’16) and Olivia Rose Davis (’16), and biology major Caitlin Morrish (’16), won the competition with their haute couture interpretation of Freudian Psychoanalysis.

Top: The panel of judges critiques contestants at the end of the catwalk. From left to right: Dean of Students Anna Gonzalez, Professor of European History, Maureen Healy, Professor of Latin America and Borderlands History Elliott Young, Professor of Theater Stepan Simek, Professor of British Imperial History and South Asia David Campion, Professor of Japanese History Andy Bernstein/Tim Gunn, and Professor of American History Reiko Hillyer/Heidi Klum.

Above: Professor Andy Bernstein, acting as Tim Gunn, gives one team pointers on their fashion-interpretation of the Silk Road.

Right: The winning team’s model, Caitlin Morris, struts “Freudian Psychoanalysis” down the runway.
Graduate Acceptances

Congratulations to the History Alumi who have been accepted to graduate programs for the fall of 2014!

Sharon Almonte ’14, Loyola University in Chicago
Ella Antell, Harvard University
Maelia Dubois, UC Berkeley
Dima Hurlburt ’14, Boston University
Ramya Ramesh, Georgetown University

Library Acquisition Fund

Lewis & Clark faculty, alumni and friends are building a History Department Library Acquisition Fund in order to provide supplemental funds for the purchase of vital books and materials. History faculty have pledged $300. The fund is currently endowed at more than $100,000; when it reaches $200,000, it will generate $9,000 a year for purchase of library materials.

Make your gift online at go.lclark.edu/history/fund, call us at 800.753.9292, or send your check payable to Lewis & Clark, with History Library Endowment Fund written in the memo section, to Lewis & Clark, MSC 57, 0615 SW Palatine Hill Road, Portland, Oregon, 97219.

In Memoriam: Natasha Priess

Natasha (Tasha) Priess ’12 passed away on April 5, 2014 due to unknown causes. Having read the Declaration of Independence with her father every fourth of July as a young child, and having once painted a portrait of herself as Thomas Jefferson, it stands to reason that she would obtain a degree in political science and history from Lewis & Clark College. Tasha had just recently been accepted to a master’s program in History at Fordham University in New York City, where she intended to pursue her academic dreams. In 2009, she published a book of historical fiction, On the Verge of Darkness, about the story of Dietrich Eckhart in Hitler’s army.

One of her LC professors remembers her as quiet and bashful, with a wicked sense of humor. Tasha’s mother wrote that Tasha “spoke and thought about deep—and sometimes terrible—subjects like genocide, the history of war, the inequities in our educational and justice systems with vigor and care.” This vigor and care came through in Tasha’s senior thesis in history, in which she explored the decline of educational programs in U.S prisons. Tasha did her best to uncover the voices of the incarcerated to explore how they experienced the evisceration of educational opportunities. Tasha never lost sight of the human beings that were at the center of her study. As professors, we are grateful to have had the gift of encountering Tasha just at the moment she was engaged in the process of discovery—about her, the world, and her place in it, and we are devastated at her loss.

Footnotes 2014
Elliott Young, department chair
Musa Ahmed, Daniela Jiménez, Lydia Simmons, editors

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