



*From the Director of ICAS:* In September, ICAS welcomed its ninth "class" of fellows. Again, there is an impressive mix of disciplines and of international places of origin or home institution. Having

been a participant in the Friday seminars all those years, I have a sense of what makes them so stimulating to everyone at the table. The trick

is precisely the unusual combination of disciplines and the different personal paths to New York and ICAS taken by the fellows.

I am reminded of an observation by a great scientist, Joshua Lederberg, a biologist and Nobel Laureate. Asked to characterize New York City as a place for doing science, he turned, quite predictably, to an analogue from evolutionary theory. New York, he said, is like an archipelago, where one finds the "most rapid diversification of species." That natural creativity occurs

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## *The Authority Of Knowledge In A Global Age*

The Authority of Knowledge: Year Two

Timothy Mitchell

This fall the ICAS project on the Authority of knowledge in a Global Age began its second year of work. The three-year program brings together an international community of scholars whose research examines the production, circulation, and legitimation of social knowledge on a global scale.

The project is framed by a set of very broad questions about contemporary social knowledge in the university. We are interested in understanding what kinds of critical thinking the challenges of contemporary global politics call for and make possible. We want to better understand the possibilities and risks that arise from new interactions between governments and the academy and between university experts and the lay knowledge of activists and concerned groups. And we are exploring whether American social science continues largely to export its forms of thought to the world, or whether there are new ways to learn from the political and intellectual debates of other regions.

Each year of the project has a different focus. Our theme for the second year is "The Politics of the Unprivileged." The theme arises from the observation that for most of the world the

rules of constitutional politics remain, at most, a vague promise. Conventional theories of democracy describe the aspirations possible for only small groups of people with privileged access to elite institutions. On the actual terrain of politics, however, where local communities deal with diverse powers of government, people are inventing new ways to negotiate how they should be governed. Many scholars now study the politics of the unprivileged, but little of this work is known to orthodox social science. We are interested in what can be learned from these new political forms.

The main collective activity of the project is a seminar every Friday morning, at which the ICAS fellows, faculty and graduate students from NYU, and other participants from neighboring universities present their research-in-progress for discussion. The seminar is open to any NYU or New York-area scholars interested in the theme of the discussions.

At the first Friday seminar of this year the presenter was Partha Chatterjee, of the Center for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, and Columbia University. Chatterjee's recent work on "The Politics of the Governed"

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## The International Center for Advanced Studies

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because you "have islands that are not totally isolated from one another, but have sufficient isolation so that each can develop its distinctive flavor and sufficient communication so that there is some gene flow between them." That is roughly how ICAS works.

As always in this note, I want to thank Timothy Mitchell for his leadership of the project, and Jeryl Martin-Hannibal, our remarkable administrator, and her staff Amy Koteles and Calvin Nguyen.



Thomas Bender  
Director

### ICAS Advisory Committee

Michael Gilsenan, Middle East and Islamic Studies  
Harry Harootunian, East Asian Studies  
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Marilyn Young, History

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## The Cold War As Global Conflict Project Fellow's Achievements

From 2001 to 2004, ICAS ran a project on the Cold War as Global Conflict. The participants in the project have been active as scholars and public intellectuals during the project and since. Among the books recently published by fellows of the project are: Vania Markarian, *Left in Transformation: Uruguayan Exiles and the Latin American Human Rights Networks, 1967-1984* (Routledge, 2005); Elisabeth Wood, *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El*

*Salvador* (Cambridge, 2003); Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America and the Cold War* (Chicago, 2004), Michael Nest, *The Democratic Republic of Congo: Economic Dimensions of War and Peace* (Lynne Rienner, 2005); Evgeny Dobrenko, *Aesthetics of Alienation: Reassessment of Early Soviet Cultural Theories* (Northwestern, 2005); and Corey Robin, *Fear: The History of a Political Idea* (Oxford, 2004).

# The Authority Of Knowledge In A Global Age

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represents one of the most widely noted contributions to the rethinking of our understanding of popular politics. Subsequent seminars have examined the dynamics of popular insurgencies in contemporary Peru; the politics of property rights in Egypt; the performance of justice and the production of human rights in Iran; the reworking of political subjectivity in black popular music in America; criminal deportees and civic life in the Dominican Republic; and bioaesthetics and the Irony of the Absurd among Russian artists at the End of Communism.

This year's seminar builds upon discussions of the preceding year, when our theme was "The Rule of Markets." We covered a wide variety of topics in the course of the year, many of which have led to papers submitted for publication or to the completion of book manuscripts. Several of our discussions concerned the role of orthodox economic theory in shaping the performance of economic relations. A number of the papers from these discussions will appear in a book entitled *Performing Economics: How Markets Are Constructed*, currently being prepared for publication.

Another set of discussions concerned the intellectual development and political organization of neo-liberalism, examining the strategies that enabled its translation from a marginal intellectual movement in post-war Europe into a powerful political orthodoxy, articulated not only in Europe and North America but among a considerable number of think tanks and policy makers in the global south. These discussions culminated in an international conference hosted by ICAS in April 2005, described elsewhere in this newsletter, on "How Neoliberalism Became a Transnational Movement." The papers from the conference are now being prepared for publication as a book.

We are already receiving inquiries and applications for next year's fellowships, for which the application deadline is January 6 (or December 15 for NYU dissertation fellows). We advertise the fellowships widely in Latin America, Asia, and other parts of the world, and we receive applications from every region in the world. The theme for year three is outlined below.

## Year 3 (2006-2007): Rethinking the Social

The possibility of something called "society" and its place as a dynamic element of human experience was once the founding problem of sociology. But the discipline came to take this object for granted as an underlying principle of intelligibility, and turned increasingly to study the numerous micro-sociologies, understood as manifestations of this underlying whole. Today, the social often appears only as the networks or strategies connecting individual agents, or as the "social capital" these individuals accumulate. In many fields of study, however, the concept of the social has been re-examined. In social studies of science, the separation between the social and the technical, or the human and non-human, is a problem to be explored, rather than a boundary given in advance. In ecological studies, human actions form part of a larger ecosystem, whose transformations reshape the social world. Among anthropologists and historians, new questions have been raised about the understanding of the non-secular: If social science is founded upon a commitment to the secular nature of social knowledge, what problems does this entail for understanding the majority of the world's populations, whose lives are experienced as interactions with the divine or other forms of supra-human agency? Must the boundaries of the social world coincide with the limits of the secular? In these and other ways, a variety of contemporary scholarships is re-examining the boundaries of the social asking how they are constituted, transgressed, and transformed.

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# *The Authority Of Knowledge In A Global Age*

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## **Project on the Authority of Knowledge in a Global Age**

Director	Timothy Mitchell, Politics
Advisory Committee	Frederick Cooper, History Faye Ginsburg, Anthropology Manu Goswami, History Walter Johnson, History Eric Klinenberg, Sociology Fred Myers, Anthropology Mary Poovey, English Mary Louise Pratt, Spanish & Portuguese Language & Lit Debraj Ray, Economics Xudong Zhang, East Asian Studies

### **THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS**

ICAS fellowships provide a stipend of \$35,000, on an academic year basis, plus travel expenses. Fellows are eligible for NYU faculty housing.

**Center Fellowships:** Scholars and intellectuals at all career stages who hold a Ph.D. degree or equivalent professional experience are invited to apply for appointments as Center Fellows. The fellowship is for a full academic year, from September 1 through May 15, although on occasion semester fellowships are available.

**Postdoctoral Fellowships:** Scholars who have completed the Ph.D. degree within the previous three years are invited to apply as ICAS Postdoctoral Fellows. Postdoctoral Fellows are expected to teach one course during their residency. The fellowship is for a full academic year.

The Center generally invites several Visiting Scholars, usually as short-term visitors.

Application forms and further information are available on the Center website at [www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/icas](http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/icas), or by contacting ICAS at the address on the back of this brochure.

## *How Neoliberalism became a Transnational Movement April 28, 2005*

### **ICAS Conference on the Making of Neoliberalism**

On April 27-28, 2005, ICAS convened an international conference on "How Neoliberalism Became a Transnational Movement." Funded in part by the Humanities Council at NYU, the conference investigated the local roots, intellectual histories, and transnational organization of the neoliberal movement. Two ICAS Fellows, Dieter Plehwe (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung) and Philip Mirowski (Economics, University of Notre Dame) organized the meeting. The papers from the conference are now being prepared for publication in a volume edited by the organizers.

The aim of the conference was to better understand how neoliberalism, from its origins in the Mont Pèlerin Society and the University of Chicago in the late 1940s, developed into one of the most successful transnational intellectual movements of second half of twentieth century. It is astounding just how meager is the understanding of the rise of neoliberal hegemony in the postwar world.

Very few studies offer a critical (as opposed to hagiographic) narrative, or combine a cartography of intellectual cross-currents with close attention to the structural and institutional innovations that supported the movement in several different parts of the world.

In an era in which neoliberal concepts are so ubiquitous that they have become second nature, the conference presentations emphasized the point that the neoliberal project was neither a 'natural' nor an 'organic' growth. It was not the mere projection of the self-interested political imperatives of a single nation (like the United States); nor was it simply the promulgation of a single abstract 'economic logic' across the cultural landscape. Rather, what is now known as neoliberalism was the result of the clash of a number of strains of pre-war conservative and libertarian thought, refined in the fires of controlled debate and selective expulsion, and then repackaged and promulgated across borders by carefully conceived strategies from within purpose-built institutions.

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When regarded as an elaborate and ambitious project, one can begin to appreciate the sheer amount of work that went into the making of neoliberal hegemony. By better understanding this work, we can analyze the weakness of current efforts to counter them.

The project brought together for the first time researchers from different European countries and from the U.S. Much of the intensive empirical research whose results were presented at the conference was based on previously untapped archival sources on the history of neoliberalism in Germany, France, Austria, and Switzerland, and the United States. Furthermore, English language accounts have mostly neglected the European work. There was a conscious attempt to replicate the transatlantic bridge building of neoliberal scholars in order to better understand the neoliberal migrations of scholars, organizers, institutions, and ideas.

The conference papers covered three main aspects of the topic:

- \* A comparative discussion of local origins of Neoliberalism in Europe (Germany, France, and to a lesser extent Austria, the UK, and Italy) and the United States (Chicago, Virginia);
- \* A thematic analysis of the evolution of neoliberal discourses in and around the Mont Pèlerin Society, on subjects such as the theory of trade unions, anti-trust, public choice, economic development, and the philosophy of science;
- \* A comparative analysis of neoliberalism-in-practice involving organizations such as partisan think tanks closely linked to the Mont Pèlerin network of intellectuals (the East West Dialogue organized by CESES in Italy, property rights as instrument to fight poverty in Peru, and the influence of neoliberalism before, during and after the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile).

Several of the participants are now planning to continue their collaboration by forming a research network for the study of neoliberalism.

### **Conference Presenters**

*Bernhard Walpen*, Sociology and Economics, Romero-Haus, Luzern, Switzerland

*Steven Lukes*, Sociology, New York University

*Francois Denord*, CNRS/CLERSE, Université de Lille 1, France

*Sonia Amadae*, Political Science, New School University

*Bruce Caldwell*, Economics, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

*Jürgen Nordmann*, Political Science, Marburg Philipps University, Germany

*Dieter Plehwe*, Sociology, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, Germany, and ICAS

*Yves Steiner*, Centre d'études Interdisciplinaires, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland

*Quinn Slobodian*, History, New York University

*Rob Van Horn*, Economics, University of Notre Dame

*Philip Mirowski*, Economics, University of Notre Dame, and ICAS

*Johanna Bockman*, Global Affairs and Sociology, George Mason University

*Timothy Mitchell*, Politics, New York University, and ICAS



# Seminar and Conference Schedule for 2004-2005

## September 10

Introductory Meeting

## September 17

Seminar Readings

*Richard Hull*, "The Great Lie: Markets, Freedom and Knowledge"

*Johanna Bockman*, "Eastern Europe as a Laboratory for Economic Knowledge: The Transnational Roots of Neoliberalism"

*Sarah Babb*, "Neoliberalism and the Rise of the New Money Doctors: The Globalization of Economic Expertise in Mexico"

## September 21

Panel Discussion: "Critique and the Responsibility of Intellectuals"

Panelists:

*Frederick Cooper*, History

*Manu Goswami*, History and East Asian Studies

*Vincent Lepinay*, ICAS Fellow

*Philip Mirowski*, ICAS Fellow

*Mary Poovey*, English and Institute for the History of the Production of Knowledge

Moderated by *Thomas Bender*, ICAS and History

## September 24

Introductory Readings

## October 1

Friday Seminar

*Sheri Fink*, Visiting Scholar

"Injecting Controversy: The Power of Local Knowledge and the Humanitarian Marketplace to reduce HIV/AIDS Incidence Linked to the Illicit Drug Market"

## October 8

Friday Seminar

*Philip Mirowski*, ICAS Fellow

"Markets Made Flesh: Callon, Performativity, and a Crisis in Science Studies, Augmented With Consideration of the FCC Auctions"

"The Scientific Dimensions of Social Knowledge and their Distant Echoes in 20th Century American Philosophy of Science"

## October 15

Friday Seminar

*Caitlin Zaloom*, ICAS Fellow

"Materials of the Market: City, Buildings, and the Chicago Board of Trade"

## October 22

Friday Seminar

*Andrew Barry*, ICAS Visiting Scholar

"Public Knowledge and Demonstration: Politics and the Pipeline"

## October 29

Friday Seminar

*Vincent Lepinay*, ICAS Fellow

"Markets-in-law: Legal *outeractionism* in securities markets"

## November 5

Friday Seminar

*Dieter Plehwe*, ICAS Fellow

"Epistemic Communities, Discourse Communities, and Transnational Advocacy Coalitions, but where do those larger ideas come from? Theoretical Reflections on 'Knowledge Actors' and a brief introduction to a (transnational neoliberal) Meta-Discourse Community ('Weltanschauungsgemeinschaft'): the Mont Pelerin Society"

## November 19

Friday Seminar

*Peter Levin*, Barnard College

"Information, Prices, and Sensemaking in Financial Futures Trading"

## November 26

Thanksgiving, no seminar

## December 3

Friday Seminar

*Allison Truitt*, ICAS Fellow

"The Limits of Neoliberalism: Dollarization in Vietnam"

## December 10

Friday Seminar

*Koray Caliskan*

"How does a Global Market Work? Commodities, Prices and their Circulation"

# Seminar and Conference Schedule for 2004-2005

## January 21

Friday Seminar

*LaDawn Haglund*, ICAS Fellow

"Ties that Collide: Embeddedness under Democratization and Neo-liberalization"

## January 28

Friday Seminar

*Timothy Mitchell*, ICAS Director

"Economy and Culture"

## February 4

Friday Seminar

*Chia Yin Hsu*, ICAS Fellow

"Looking to the 'Far East': Railroad Colonialism, the 'National Economy', and Territorializing Russianness in Manchuria, 1896-1903"

## February 11

Friday Seminar

*Susanna Rosenbaum*, ICAS Fellow

"'I Count': Campaigning to make Mothers' Work Visible and Valued"

## February 18

Friday Seminar

*Thomas Bender*, ICAS Director

"Social Sciences and a Social Economy"

## February 25

Friday Seminar

*Ozlem Altan*, ICAS Fellow

"Apolitics of Power: Mapping Elite Capitals in the Middle East"

## March 4

Friday Seminar

*Michel Callon*, ICAS Visiting Scholar

"Why Virtualism Paves the Wave to Political Impotence. A Reply to Daniel Miller's Critique of *The Laws of The Markets*"

## March 11

Friday Seminar

*Zuhre Aksoy*, ICAS Fellow

"The Market and Crop Genetic Diversity: The Case of Turkey"

## March 18 [Spring Break]

## March 25

Friday Seminar

*Neil Brenner*, ICAS Fellow

"The Neoliberalization of Urban Governance in Western Europe: Comparative Perspectives"

## April 1

Friday Seminar

*Elliott Colla*, Brown University

"The Artifaction of the Memnon Head: Egyptian Antiquities Collection in the Early 19th Century"

## April 8

Friday Seminar

*Philip Mirowski*, ICAS Fellow

"Rethinking the Commercialization of Science: The Laboratory"

## April 15

Friday Seminar

*Vincent Lepinay*, ICAS Fellow

"The Promise of Stem Cells"

## April 22

Friday Seminar

*Andrew Barry*, ICAS Visiting Scholar

"Cracks in the Oil Economy"

*Peter Shulman*,

"Petroleum Politics: National Security and the Legacy of Teapot Dome"

## April 28-30

ICAS Workshop

"How Neoliberalism became a Transnational Movement"

## May 24

Friday Seminar

*Michel Callon*, ICAS Visiting Scholar

"What does it mean to say that economics is performative?"

# FELLOWS 2005-2006: *The Politics of the Unprivileged*

## Center Fellows and Post-Doctoral Fellows

*Jangam Chinnaiah*, (History)

University of London, India

"Whose Nation? Nationalism and Dalits in Telugu Country 1900-1950"

*Valdimar Tryggvi Hafstein*, (Folklore)

University of Iceland, Iceland

"Social Creativity and Intellectual Property: Traditional Knowledge, Authorship, and the Right to Copy"

*Natasha Iskander*, (Management)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Egypt & U.S.

"Protesting to Innovate: Migrant Labor Mobilization and State-Society Practices of Knowledge Production in Mexico and Morocco"

*Nivedita Menon*, (Political Science)

Delhi University, India

"Feminist Subjectivity in a Post-Gender World: A Study of Counter-heteronormative Movements in India"

*Arzoo Osanloo*, (Anthropology),

University of Washington

"At the Juncture of Islam and Republic: Women, Rights and Subjectivity in Iran"

*Alexei Yurchak*, (Anthropology)

University of California, Berkeley

"The Politics of Irony After Communism: Artistic Displacements of Markets Ideologies in Russia"

## Faculty Fellows

*Tavia Nyong'o*, (Performance Studies)

"Tough On Black Asses: Black Performers and the Political Economy of Jim Crow"

*Sinclair Thomson*, (History)

"Indian Politics in the Insurgent Andes: Internal Colonialism, Nationalism, and Subaltern Struggle in Historical Perspective"

## Dissertation Fellows

*Munir Fakher Eldin*, (Middle East Studies & History)

"Colonizing the Beisan Valley: Property, Sovereignty, and Spatial Hegemony in Palestine, 1882-1948"

*Forrest Hylton*, (History)

"Insurgent Community Federalism and 'Race War': Political Representation and Territorial Sovereignty in Late-Nineteenth-Century Bolivia"

*Nina Siulc*, (Anthropology)

"Unwelcome Citizens: Criminal Deportees and Civic Life in the Dominican Republic"

*Leshu Torchin*, (Cinema Studies)

"The Burden of Witnessing: Visual Media and Mobilization in the Age of Genocide"

## Visiting Fellows

*Margaret Somers*, United States

*Anouk de Koning*, The Netherlands

*Michel Callon*, France



WINTER 2005-2006

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