



GREETINGS FROM KEITH WAILOO, DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Center for Race and Ethnicity, a vehicle for promoting collaboration and conversation on the complex span of issues surrounding race and ethnicity across the globe, regionally, and locally.

We thought it appropriate to start the year with an event celebrating new scholarship by Rutgers faculty from the past year – books and articles representing new scholarship in law, public policy, history, sociology, anthropology, literary studies, and too many other disciplines to list. (In keeping with our agenda to encourage conversation across academic centers across the university, the reception was organized in collaboration with the Rutgers University Press and new books from the Press were also on display.)

Looking over the new publications, we noticed clusters of themes reflecting the scholarly breadth and diversity of Rutgers. We invite you to read more about the scholarship advancing these topics of study in this newsletter. Also, be sure to read about our new programming initiatives, and meet our new graduate assistants, listed on page 2.

Keith Wailoo
Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of History

CENTER FOR RACE AND ETHNICITY

New Rutgers University Scholarship on Race and Ethnicity

Featuring books and articles published over the last year in fields ranging from law, public policy and psychology to geography, sociology and media studies

Our Fall Welcome Reception, held on September 18, advanced the Center's commitment to fostering interdisciplinary exchange within the Rutgers community. Faculty and press books and articles fell into five themes.



RACIALIZED SPACE AND URBAN AESTHETICS

With works ranging from policy analyses of housing's role in racial exploitation to sociological studies of reggaeton in the context of urban racial division, an attention to race and space was one of the most noteworthy trends in recent Rutgers scholarship. These studies consider topics as diverse as the history of the Black Panther movement in Oakland, California; Brazilian youth in Newark, New Jersey; Muslim immigration in Berlin, Germany; and public housing in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

STEREOTYPES AND IDENTITIES

A fascinating range of books and articles moved the study of race and ethnicity towards the shaping of identity and the politics of stereotypes.

Spanning the fields of social psychology, history, political science and gender studies,

this literature explores diverse socio-historical contexts (the transnational garment industry to the new middle class formations in India) that are producing emerging identities across the globe. Scholarship on subjects from republican Rome to the Orientalized terrorist body to the Implicit Association Test elucidates the persistence and flexibility of stereotypes in identity formation.

CULTURAL TEXTS AND PERFORMANCE

Whatever the genre or form (short stories, memoirs, music or film, a variety of Rutgers and RU Press authors approached cultural texts as powerful lenses through which race and identity are negotiated and remade. This group includes critical studies on the life and works of John Coltrane and Toni Cade Bambara, media analysis of Iraq war propaganda, fictional portraits of contemporary Mexican American masculinity, and creative reflections on the role of Jewish American food traditions in shaping ethnic identity.

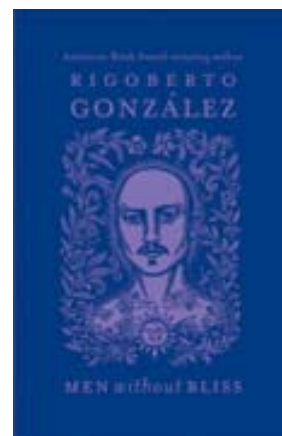
CITIZENSHIP, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND THE LAW

How do social institutions (the courts, government agencies, the justice system) and regulatory discourse intersect with questions of ethnicity, define citizenship rights, and promote or alleviate disenfranchisement?

Scholarship from criminology, law, sociology and political science tackled this question—examining disparities in incarceration and the judiciary system in the U.S. and abroad, and analyzing the rise of social justice movements that coalesce even as laws continue to enable racial injustice.

PERSONALITY, PERCEPTION AND HEALTH

Rutgers faculty focused on the ways in which ethnic and racial dynamics manifest as differences in health, personality and perception. New titles in anthropology, public health and history move liberally across geographic and intellectual boundaries—from the assessment of domestic violence in South Asian communities to anthropological perspectives on depression among Latino immigrants to North America.



KEEP US INFORMED OF EMERGING AND NEW SCHOLARSHIP

We welcome you to peruse the full list of recent titles on race and ethnicity available at our website. Many of these texts will also be housed in the Center's new library, dedicated to documenting new contributions to the study of race and ethnicity at Rutgers. We also encourage faculty from across Rutgers campuses and schools to keep us informed of new and forthcoming books and articles that we might add to our shelves. Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty, are welcome to visit the Center, meet with our staff, and browse our growing collection of titles.

CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVES

Here at the Center, our efforts to bring faculty together in cross-disciplinary colloquy have produced several new initiatives, including a teaching and research initiative on criminal justice, ethnicity, and race organized by Lisa Miller and Paul Hirschfield. In Spring 2009, the two will teach an undergraduate course on the topic, a collaboration that stemmed in part from a roundtable discussion sponsored by the Center last year – which you can read about in V.1, Issue 2 of our [Bulletin](#). Part of the initiative also includes an informal working group, which will meet periodically for discussion as well as a possible larger project. The first meeting of this working group will take place Friday, Oct. 17 at 12 noon at the Center.

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As an outgrowth of another roundtable, the Center is also organizing a mini-conference building on another 2007 roundtable to focus on new work on New Jersey and its disparities. Read more about this conference on page 3.

MEET THE CENTER'S FACULTY AND STAFF

The activity of the Center would not be possible without key people who conceptualize the program, organize the events, compose and edit our bulletins, and give coherence to our program.



(l-r: Keith Wiloo, Director; Mia Bay, Assoc. Director, Mia Kissil, Sr. Program Coordinator)

MEET OUR CURRENT GRADUATE FELLOWS

The Center also thrives because of an array of extraordinary and talented graduate students who – in addition to keeping the Center running – also comprise an active research group at the Center – bringing their own professional work, conference papers, grant applications, and dissertation chapters into a regular discussion. They are:

Isra Ali – Journalism and Media Studies;

Anantha Sudhakar – English;

Shakti Jaising – English;

Jeff Dowd – Sociology;

Dora Vargha – History;

Bridget Gurtler – History;

Fatimah Williams-Castro, Anthropology

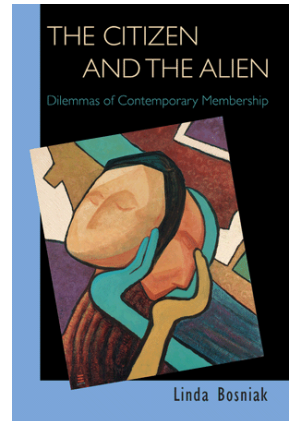
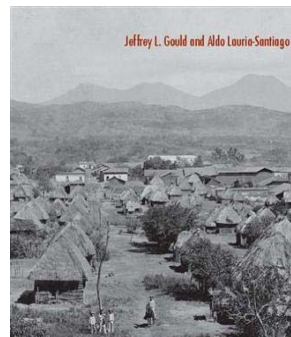
Dana Brown, Political Science



(l-r: B. Gurtler, I. Ali, D. Brown, F. Williams-Castro)

WORK WITH US ON FUTURE INITIATIVES

The Center is a work in progress. We respond to, and develop programs that are driven by faculty interests, ideas, passions, and suggestions. We invite your suggestions for future roundtable discussions (among a few in the works are, a session on ethnicity and religion, and another on the dynamic and changing relationship between language and ethnic identity.) We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please save the date for the following events, which represent a highlighted selection of roundtables and forums from our Fall programming calendar:

- **Running Against Stereotype: Race, Gender, Age and Politics 2008**

Friday, October 3, 12:30 pm, Pane Room, Alexander Library.

Join us for a cross-disciplinary roundtable exploring the effect of stereotypes and images on this year's national election. Participants Ruth Mandel (Eagleton Institute of Politics), Nikol Alexander-Floyd (Women's and Gender Studies), David Greenberg (History/Journalism and Media Studies), Lee Jussim (Psychology), and Jane Junn (Political Science/Eagleton Institute) will discuss how candidates have been running not only against one another, but also against public ideas about women, men, age and race. Lunch will be served.

- **Gender, Race and Ethnicity: Global Perspectives**

Friday, October 10, 8:30 am – 1:00 pm, Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, Douglass Campus, 161 Ryders Lane.

This one-day faculty forum brings Rutgers faculty together to discuss their research interests as they relate to the construction and interplay of gender, race and ethnicity in different global contexts. This event is part of a joint initiative between the CRE and the Institute for Research on Women (IRW). Presentations will begin at 9 am, with light morning refreshments and lunch provided. For more information, visit the CRE website.

- **Between Privilege and Poverty: Perspectives on New Jersey Disparities**

Friday, October 24, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Multipurpose Room, Rutgers Student Center, College Avenue Campus.

Invited participants in this one-day conference include: **Joel Cantor**, Center for State Health Policy/ Bloustein School for Planning and Public Policy) **Nancy DiTomaso**, Rutgers Business School **Howard Gillette**, RU-Camden, Departments of History/ Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities **Peter Guarnaccia**, Institute for Health, Health Policy and Aging Research

(cont. next column)



Wolfram Hoefler, Department of Landscape Architecture, SEBS
Robin Leichenko, Department of Geography
Lisa Miller, Department of Political Science
Kathe Newman, Bloustein School for Planning and Public Policy
Sharon Ryan, Graduate School of Education
David Troutt, School of Law, Rutgers-Newark



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- Facilitating research and enriching education on matters of race and ethnicity in contemporary life in America, in New Jersey, and the world
- Promoting collaborations and fostering cross-disciplinary seminars and discussions on topics from immigration and work, to ethnic politics and racial classification, from preservation of cultural identity to its transformation, and including questions of poverty, discrimination, advancement, integration, and privilege

Identifying critical areas for future research and supporting race and ethnicity research and policy development.

- **Fall 2008 Graduate Forum**

Saturday, November 22, College Avenue Campus Graduate Lounge

Enjoy the rare opportunity to meet with Rutgers graduate students across campuses and disciplines, and discuss your works-in-progress in an informal and supportive environment. You will also benefit from job market insights from faculty and advanced graduate students. Lunch, refreshments and a casual dinner and wine reception will be provided to all attendees. Graduate students who wish to present 5-minute descriptions of their work in cross-disciplinary panels are asked to send a 150-250 word abstract of your project along with your contact information to CREgradforum@gmail.com by October 24, 2008.