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Oregon Humanities Center

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Spring 2014

NYU legal scholar draws upon Shakespeare to illuminate justice in today's world

Kenji Yoshino is a man of principle, with many passions and talents. As an undergraduate at Harvard, Yoshino (who graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in English literature) seriously considered pursuing a career as a writer or literature professor. He no doubt would have flourished in either pursuit—his literary analysis is astute, and his writing is both elegant and profound. Instead, however, Yoshino decided to attend law school at Yale to “acquire the language of power” in order to pursue his deep personal interests in civil rights and Constitutional law—that is, in “justice.” Happily, he ultimately found a way to wed the worlds of literature and the law—which, as he points out, are both about the stories people tell—by becoming a prolific writer as well as a law professor. After meeting with some initial resistance and skepticism from

his law professors and colleagues, Yoshino now offers annual courses on “Justice and Shakespeare” at NYU Law School, in which he draws upon the strengths and perspectives of the two disciplines to illuminate and enrich one other. Not surprisingly, these courses are oversubscribed by a ratio of six to one.

In his O’Fallon Lecture on Law and American Culture titled “**The Choice of the Three Castles: Law, Equity, and Mercy in *The Merchant of Venice***,” slated for **Friday, April 11th at 7:30 p.m.** in **175 Knight Law Center**, 1515 Agate St.,



Photo: Chris Macke

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Security guru Bruce Schneier to speak on “Internet, Security, and Power”

Do you ever have the feeling you are being “watched?” If not, perhaps you should. According to security expert **Bruce Schneier**, who recently teamed up with *The Guardian* to review the Snowden documents, NSA surveillance through the Internet is far more robust and

pervasive than most of us have ever imagined. In today’s hyper-connected society, with our ever-increasing dependence on the Internet, are we making ourselves increasingly more vulnerable? Or does our connectivity actually make us more secure? Who knows what about whom, and how is this information being used? Where does trust fit into this societal equation?

Schneier will explore these issues of power and security in his talk, “**Internet, Security, and Power**,” as this year’s **Kritikos Professor**. The **Eugene** lecture will take place on **Wednesday, May 28th at 7:30 p.m.** in the **EMU Ballroom**. Schneier will speak again in **Portland** on **Thursday, May 29th at 7:30 p.m.** at the **UO in Portland**, White Stag Block, 70 NW Couch St.



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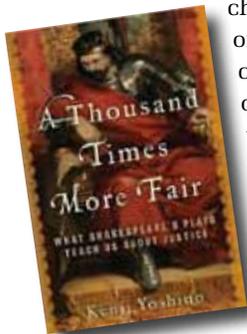
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Yoshino will unite his legal and literary skills to show how the study of Shakespeare can inform contemporary legal issues and questions. He will examine the famous scene from *The Merchant of Venice* in which potential suitors vie for Portia's hand by selecting the right casket from among three, and will show that this scene can be interpreted as "a choice about the kinds of justice individuals can dispense to each other." Yoshino argues that "Portia becomes a figure for the lawyer in her capacity to shape that choice through her extraordinary rhetorical gifts." He goes on to say "In doing so, she raises some of the most vexing questions about the legal profession, in both Shakespeare's time and our own."



Yoshino is currently the Chief Justice Earl Warren Professor of Constitutional Law at New York University School of Law. In addition to his most recent book, *A Thousand Times More Fair: What Shakespeare's Plays Teach Us About Justice* (2012), Yoshino is the author of the groundbreaking work,



"Portia from *The Merchant of Venice*" by Alexandre Cabanel, 1881.

Covering (2006), in which he blends his legal knowledge with autobiography to describe the ways in which each of us "covers" or bends to societal pressures to gain acceptance. His newest project, "Uncovering," continues this work by examining discrimination in the workplace and the many ways we cover up who we really are to avoid it. Yoshino is a frequent contributor to the *Harvard*

and *Stanford Law Reviews*, *The Yale Law Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Slate*. He appears regularly on Charlie Rose and NPR.

The lecture is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a book sale and signing. For disability accommodations (which must be made by April 4th), please call (541) 346-3934.

Schneier *continued from page 1*

As Schneier puts it, "the Internet affects power, and power affects the Internet." And, he goes on to say, "While we first thought that the Internet would empower the powerless, the reality is much more complicated. Both government and corporate power dominate today's Internet even as distributed groups gain in power." The bottom line, says Schneier, is that "the Internet has become essential to our lives, and it has been subverted into a gi-



gantic surveillance platform." Schneier argues that the solutions are political ones, and that the best approach to Internet security is to accept, as users, that there is a certain amount of risk involved.

Schneier will examine the various ways power manifests itself through the Internet, and explain how security allows the powerful to remain so, while at the same time permitting the powerless to thrive. On the Internet, data equals power, and the dynamic between the various forces is the fundamental societal issue of the Information Age.

Bruce Schneier is an internationally renowned cryptologist and security technologist, called a "security guru" by *The Economist*. He is the author of 12 books—including

Liars and Outliers: Enabling the Trust Society Needs to Survive (2012)—as well as hundreds of articles, essays, and academic papers. His influential newsletter "Crypto-Gram" and blog "Schneier on Security" are read by over 250,000 people. Schneier is a fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School, a program fellow at the New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute, a board member of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and an Advisory Board member of the Electronic Privacy Information Center. He is also the Chief Technology Officer of Co3 Systems, Inc.

Both lectures are free and open to the public. The Eugene lecture will be followed by a book sale and signing. For more information, or for disability accommodations (which must be made by May 21), please call (541) 346-3934.

OHC announces 2014–15 fellowship awards

The Oregon Humanities Center supports exciting and innovative research by faculty and graduate students. Humanities scholars expand and illuminate our understanding of human experience through the exploration and interpretation of a wide range of cultural questions.

Faculty Research Fellowships

provide a term free of teaching to pursue research full time as part of a community of scholars

Mark Alfano, Philosophy: “Nietzsche’s Socio-Moral Psychology” (Fall) *RIGE Completion Fellowship*

Frederick Colby, Religious Studies: “Spanish Muslim Visions of Heaven and Hell in the 13th Century CE” (Spring) **Ernest G. Moll Research Fellowship in Literary Studies**

Maram Epstein, East Asian Languages and Literatures: “Orthodox Passions: Narratives of Filial Piety in Eighteenth-Century China” (Fall) *Provost’s Senior Humanist Fellowship*

Evelyn Gould, Romance Languages: “Salons and Cénacles in Fin de siècle Paris” (Winter) *Ernest G. Moll Research Fellowship in Literary Studies*

Colin Koopman, Philosophy: “Infopolitics: Transformation of the Public and the Private” (Fall)

Katie Meehan, Geography: “When the Rain Fall: Water Supply Alternatives in the Neoliberal Era” (Fall) *RIGE Completion Fellowship*

Gordon M. Sayre, English: “Climate, Species, and Extinction in Early America” (Winter) *Provost’s Senior Humanist Fellowship*

Elizabeth Wheeler, English: “HandiLand: Disability in U.S. Young Adult and Children’s Literature” (Fall)

Kristin Yarris, International Studies: “Absences, Remittances, and Moral Economies of Care in Nicaraguan Transnational Families” (Fall) *RIGE Completion Fellowship*

Alternate

Arafaat A. Valiani, History: “Infrastructures of Consumption: The Arenas of Commerce Created by Urban Planning, Builders and Shopkeepers in Postcolonial Western India”

Faculty Teaching Fellowship

provides a summer stipend for course development plus course enrichment funds

Daniel Wojcik, English: FLR 410/510 Visionary Experiences & Otherworldly Encounters: Traditions, Theories, and Contexts (Spring) *Coleman-Guitteau Teaching Professorship*

Graduate Dissertation Fellowships

provide one term free of teaching to allow full-time work on the dissertation (awarded in partnership with the UO Graduate School)

Matthew N. Hannah, English: “Networks of Modernism” (Winter)

Alan Preston Reynolds, Philosophy: “Liberalism, Pluralism, and Property” (Winter)

Mi Zhao, History: “From Singing Girl to Revolutionary Artist: Reconstructing China’s Socialist Past in the Post-socialist Era (1945-the present)” (Fall)

Alternate

Erin Moberg, Romance Languages: “Bridging a Critical Gap: An Inclusive Approach to Chicana Theater and Dramatists in the U.S.”

Graduate Research Support Fellowships

provide up to \$1000 in dissertation support during the fellowship year

Joshua Jacob Fitzgerald, History: “Unholy Pedagogy: Catholic Instruction, Indigenous Intermediaries, and Lessons in Popular Colonial Education”

Hannah Godwin, English: “American Modernism’s Gothic Children”

Brandon Rigby, Romance Languages: “Polysemy of the Space Between: Diaspora and Power Differentials in Transatlantic Self-translated Poetry”

Paul Peppis named director of OHC

Please join us in congratulating Paul Peppis on his recent appointment as Director of the Oregon Humanities Center, starting September 16, 2014. A member of the English Department faculty, Peppis has been serving as Interim Director of the OHC since September 2013. Peppis is a modernist who specializes in early 20th-century British literature, though his intellectual interests are wide-ranging. His second book, *Sciences of Modernism: Ethnography, Sexology, and Psychology* (due out from Cambridge University Press in 2014), examines key points of contact between British literature and the human sciences of ethnography, sexology, and psychology at the dawn of the twentieth century. Peppis is also an award-winning teacher, and is highly sought after by graduate and undergraduate students alike. We are delighted to have him as our new Director, and trust that his enthusiasm, dedication, and vision will serve the OHC well in the years ahead. Welcome, Paul!



2014–15 theme
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Reimagining sovereignty of American Indians and First Nations

On May 8th and 9th, scholars representing a diverse range of academic disciplines will gather at the UO to examine American Indian and First Nations sovereignty in all of its manifestations in



Kirby Brown



Burke Hendrix

a conference titled **“Alternative Sovereignities: Decolonization Through Indigenous Vision and Struggle.”** Organizers Kirby Brown, assistant professor, English, and Burke Hendrix, assistant professor, Political Science, plan to position Native peoples at the center of the discussion, and hope the conference will build intellectual and institutional relationships throughout the broader Pacific Northwest. Participants will include tribal leaders, attorneys, educators, activists, artists, and other members of American Indian and First Nations communities in Oregon and the region.

The conference, which is being co-sponsored by the Oregon Humanities Center, is being held in cooperation with indigenous studies programs at the University of Victoria, the University of British

Columbia, and the University of California at Davis.

“Alternative Sovereignities” kicks off with a salmon and deer dinner and keynote panel at the Many Nations Longhouse, 1630 Columbia St., on Thursday, May 8. On Friday, May 9 numerous panels will be held at the EMU. The conference adjourns to the UO’s 46th annual Mother’s Day Pow Wow on Saturday, May 10th. For more information go to blogs.uoregon.edu/alternativesovereignities



Clockwise from top: Qwo-Li Driskill, Oregon State University: “Re-Storying Justice: Beyond Circle Courts”; Val Napoleon, University of Victoria, member of keynote panel: “Indigenous Critical Theory, Educational Institutions, and Political Movement”; Vince Rinehart, tribal nationalist: “Self-Constructing Tlingit Sovereignty”

When you make a gift to the OHC and a subsequent matching gift to the **Oregon Cultural Trust**, you will be eligible to receive a 100% tax credit on your gift to the Trust. Find out more at culturaltrust.org or (503) 986-0088.

