



HUMANITIES INSTITUTE AT STONY BROOK PRESENTS



DEAN'S LECTURE SERIES

UTOPIA/DYSTOPIA

Tuesdays, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., 1008 Humanities

Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 4:00 pm, 1008 Humanities

UTOPIAN HISTORIES AND POST-ANTHROPOCENE FUTURES: FROM THOMAS MORE TO THE WETLAND PROJECT

Bethany Wiggin, *University of Pennsylvania*

Focusing a long historical lens on the present brings the scope of human effects on the planetary present into sharper focus. This longer anthropocene history also reveals powerful critiques of global modernity. What are the utopian archives we might draw from as we collaborate to provide more forms of refuge?

Bethany Wiggin is Associate Professor and Graduate Chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the founding Director of the Penn Program in Environmental Humanities and Graduate Chair of German. Her present book project is *Germanopolis: Utopia Found, Lost, and Re-Imagined in Penn's Woods*. She holds a Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship for a project to make a hidden river's past, present, and future visible.



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Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 4:00 pm, 1008 Humanities

UTOPIA/DYSTOPIA: THE USES OF TIME TRAVEL

Constance Penley, *University of California at Santa Barbara*

Chris Marker's *La Jetée* (1963) teaches us how to think with time travel. How can we use time travel to imagine more utopian futures within a dystopian present? Two examples: Marker's 1984 film *2084* and the GALA Committee's *Melrose Place* collaboration (*TOTAL PROOF: The GALA Committee 1995-1997* <http://www.redbullstudiosnewyork.com/exhibition/total-proof-the-gala-committee/>).

Constance Penley is Professor of Film and Media Studies and Founding Director and Co-Director Emeritus of the Carsey-Wolf Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her books include *The Future of an Illusion: Film, Feminism, and Psychoanalysis*; *NASA/TREK: Popular Science and Sex in America*, and the forthcoming *Teaching Pornography*. Penley is a recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Digital Media and Learning Award and the Kenneth Burke Society Prize in Rhetorical Criticism.



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Lawrence K. Ho

Background Image: GALA Committee, TOTAL PROOF, computer-altered photographic image on foam core, 64x74 cm, c. 1996-1997 (Melrose Place, s4e27)

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The Humanities Institute at Stony Brook was established in 1987 to promote interdisciplinary research and collaboration across the university. Through conferences, lectures, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, film series, and performances, HISB draws on and stimulates new knowledge at the cutting edge of intellectual life.