SYMPOSIUM
9 am–4:30 pm
February 19, 2016
Geballe Room, 220 Stephens Hall

TOWNSEND CENTER
for the Humanities
UC Berkeley

PROGRAM

PANEL ONE
9–11 am

AMY HOLLYWOOD
Harvard Divinity School
‘O make me real!’: The Real, the True, and the Imagination in Clover Adams, Henry Adams, and Henry James

MARY ANN SMART
Music, UC Berkeley
Who’s Afraid of Imagination? The Case of Robert Schumann

ELLIO T WOLFSON
Religious Studies, UC Santa Barbara
Imagination, Theolatry, and the Compulsion to Worship the Invisible

CHARLES F. ALTIERI
English, UC Berkeley
Why a Robust Concept of Imagination Matters for Social Life

Respondent
ANTHONY LONG
Classics, UC Berkeley

BREAK
11–11:15 am

PANEL TWO
11:15 am–1 pm

DAVID BATES
Rhetoric, UC Berkeley
Imagination and Automation

PAULA VARSANO
East Asian Languages & Cultures, UC Berkeley
Imagination and Empathy in Classical Chinese Poetics

SANJAY SUBRAHMANYAM
History, UCLA
Imagination and Identity: On a Seventeenth-Century Mughal Author

Respondent
VICTORIA KAHN
English, Comparative Literature, UC Berkeley

LUNCH 1–2 pm

PANEL THREE
2–3:45 pm

JANE TAYLOR
Drama & Theater Studies, University of Leeds
The Varieties of Secular Experience: Wittgenstein, Magical Thinking, and Puppetry

ANAND PANDIAN
Anthropology, Johns Hopkins
Creative Imagination: Between Literature and (Tamil) Cinema

MARIA MAVROUDI
History, Classics, UC Berkeley
Histories of the Imagination in the Cultural Peripheries of the ‘Western’ World: What Can Be Gained from Engaging Them?

Respondent
ROBERT SHARF
Buddhist Studies, East Asian Languages & Cultures, UC Berkeley

BREAK 3:45–4 pm

FINAL RESPONSE
4–4:30 pm

DAVID SHULMAN
Asian Studies, Comparative Religion, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Comments

The Imagination
townsendcenter.berkeley.edu
PARTICIPANTS

Charles Altieri teaches in the Department of English at UC Berkeley. His most recent book is Reckoning with the Imagination.

David Bates teaches intellectual history in the Department of Rhetoric at UC Berkeley. He recently coedited (with Nima Bassiri) Plasticity and Pathology: On the Formation of the Neural Subject (Fordham University Press, 2016).


Maria Mavroudi is professor of History and Classics at UC Berkeley. Her research focuses on the interaction between Byzantium and the Arabs and the transmission of science (especially its occult variety) between these two medieval civilizations.

Anand Pandian teaches anthropology at Johns Hopkins University. His most recent book, Reel World: An Anthropology of Creation, was published by Duke University Press in 2015.

David Shulman, Renee Lang Professor of Humanistic Studies at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has written capaciously on Indian thought and religion, language, poetics, theater, and aesthetics. His most recent book is More than Real: A History of the Imagination in South India (Harvard University Press, 2012).

Mary Ann Smart teaches in the Department of Music at UC Berkeley. She is the author of Mimomania: Music and Gesture in Nineteenth-Century Opera. Her new book, Waiting for Verdi: Opera and Political Opinion in Italy, will be published by the University of California Press next spring.

Sanjay Subrahmanyan teaches history at UCLA and the Collège de France. His work focuses mainly on the period from 1400 to 1800, including two books authored jointly with David Shulman and V. Narayana Rao: Symbols of Substance and Textures of Time.

Jane Taylor works between creative and scholarly domains. Over the past several decades she has examined the illusionistic arts of puppetry and object theatre in relation to questions of agency, representation, and authenticity. Her current research draws upon her previous work on transition and transformation at the end of the Apartheid regime, in an enquiry into the aesthetics of disruption.

Paula Varsano teaches classical Chinese poetry and poetics at UC Berkeley. She is the author of Tracking the Banished Immortal: The Poetry of Li Bo and its Critical Reception (Hawaii, 2003), and is currently at work on a book tentatively titled Coming to Our Senses: Locating the Subject in Traditional Chinese Literary Writing.

Elliot Wolfson is the Marsha and Jay Glazer Endowed Chair of Jewish Studies at UC Santa Barbara. He specializes in Jewish mysticism and philosophy, with a particular interest in the psychoanalytic construction of gender and the body, hermeneutics, and the phenomenology of religion. His most recent books are A Dream Interpreted Within a Dream: Oniropoiesis and the Prism of Imagination (2011) and Giving Beyond the Gift: Apophasis and Overcoming Theomania (2014).