

# RADCLIFFE

SPECIAL  
ISSUE

## Native Like Me

INITIATIVE ON NATIVE AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The indigenous peoples who originally settled the Americas thousands of years ago are still here—and, despite the challenges they face, are thriving.





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**TOP:** Ross Gay, Sarah Howe, and Alice Lyons (L to R) spent their fellowship year at Radcliffe working on their individual poetry projects.

## An Ongoing Dedication to Excellence and Inquiry

At Radcliffe Day 2016—a sunny, celebratory, and cerebral occasion—I had the honor of sitting between our medalist, Federal Reserve Chair Janet L. Yellen, and our special guest Attorney General Loretta Lynch '81, JD '84, who turned to me as she surveyed the giant tent full of alumnae, alumni, Institute fellows, Harvard leaders, and supporters and said, “I am so glad that Radcliffe is still here.”

Is it ever! I see Radcliffe's dedication to excellence and inquiry throughout the Institute, including in the new class of 2016–2017 fellows, selected from more than 1,200 applicants. An artist from Cuba, a biomedical engineer from Australia, a civil rights historian from Harvard Law School, and dozens of other fellows will spend the year thinking and working across disciplines. They come from all fields and six continents, and you can learn more about them on our website, [www.radcliffe.harvard.edu](http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu).

We at Radcliffe are committed to furthering advanced study on issues that matter deeply to our Harvard community but transcend any one school or field. This year, we focused in particular on Native and indigenous peoples (see pages 13–27). With the strong support of the Office of the Provost, we worked closely with the Harvard University Native American Program and five schools across Harvard to bring a multidisci-

plinary approach to a subject with a long history and pressing significance at our University. Historians, artists, lawyers, doctors, and others worked together, united by the conviction that surmounting Native communities' challenges begins with deeper and broader understanding.

Radcliffe's dedication to scholarship and leadership culminates every year in the recognition of a Radcliffe Medalist who unites ideas and action. At Radcliffe Day in May, we honored Janet Yellen with a thought-provoking and lively event (see pages 40–43) that drew a huge crowd in Cambridge and online, along with extensive coverage in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, and other media outlets. You can read the articles and watch the videos on our website.

Loretta Lynch's heartfelt endorsement of Radcliffe spoke to that day as well as to the Institute's year-round programs. It's not too soon to think about being part of our events in the year ahead. The inside back cover lists the dates of conferences (which will be webcast live) exploring topics such as the deep historical ties between universities and slavery, our endangered oceans, exploding global urbanism, and sports and gender, along with a full slate of compelling lectures. We hope you can join us here or online, whenever the Radcliffe spirit moves you to seek out new and important ideas.

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# Around the Institute

RADCLIFFE  
MOMENT

12:35  
PM

Tuesday,  
February 16,  
2016

**ON THE HEELS OF THE THRILLING** announcement that scientists had observed gravitational waves 100 years after Einstein's prediction, the astronomers Raúl Jiménez RI '16 and Licia Verde RI '16—partners in both science and life—decided to host a pop-up seminar for their fellow fellows to explain the discovery. Over a light lunch of soup, salad, and wraps, more than 20 curious minds from across disciplines gathered to learn more about the phenomenon. With an animated and humor-filled delivery, Jiménez and Verde answered such questions as “You have two black holes colliding, and all you get is a little blip?” (from Robert Huber, a computational biologist and the 2015–2016 Helen Putnam Fellow) and “What does this have to do with time travel?” (from Joyce M. Bell, a sociologist and the 2015–2016 Maury Green Fellow). Verde is the Edward, Frances, and Shirley B. Daniels Fellow.





Cynthia Dwork

## More Talent Recruited to Harvard through Radcliffe Professorships

**IN A RECENT HARVARD GRIMSON** article about how the University attracts top talent, Judith D. Singer, the senior vice provost for faculty development and diversity, described Radcliffe Professorships as an academic “secret weapon.”

As more leading minds join the Harvard faculty as Radcliffe Professors, the secret is becoming an open one. Tenured Radcliffe Professors and tenure-track Radcliffe Assistant or Associate Professors are fellows at the Institute during their first years on the Harvard faculty. The opportunity to focus on independent research while benefiting from student researchers and interaction

with scholars, scientists, and artists across disciplines has recently brought three new and accomplished faculty members to Harvard as Radcliffe Professors.

The theoretical computer scientist Cynthia Dwork—who has made formative contributions in the fields of privacy, cryptography, and distributed computing—will become the Gordon McKay Professor of Computer Science at the John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. She will also hold a Radcliffe Alumnae Professorship at the Institute. Currently, she is a distinguished scientist at Microsoft Research in Silicon Valley.



Anthony Jack

Anthony (Tony) Jack recently earned a PhD in sociology from Harvard and will be a junior fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows before joining the Harvard Graduate School of Education and becoming a Shutzer Assistant Professor at the Institute. His focus is on undergraduates from underprivileged backgrounds at elite universities, comparing graduates of distressed public high schools with alumni of boarding, day, and preparatory high schools.

Myrto Kalouptsidi will join the Department of Econom-

ics at Harvard as an assistant professor and become the Stanley A. Marks and William H. Marks Assistant Professor at the Radcliffe Institute. She comes to Harvard from Princeton University, and her fields of concentration are applied microeconomics and international trade, especially protectionism in the shipping industry.

When all of these scholars arrive in Cambridge, they will bring the total number of Radcliffe Professors to 15 since the program's inception and will soon be joined by more.



Myrto  
Kalouptsidi



John Wang

## Harvard Undergrad Crafts Winning Garden Design in Salute to Radcliffe

**JOHN WANG '16 WON THE INSTITUTE'S** third public art contest with a unique design that will honor Radcliffe in a milestone year. A concentrator in the history of art and architecture at Harvard College, he was the first undergraduate to win the Radcliffe Institute Public Art Competition.

Wang's inventive design proposal was based on research he conducted at the Schlesinger Library. Titled *In Search of 100 Years at 73 Brattle*, it highlights the changing history of Brattle Street and Radcliffe's place in it. Granite blocks will echo the footprint of the Sawin Building, once a private home that then housed Radcliffe College classrooms before its demolition in 1932, and benches and writing (or drawing) surfaces will invite people to gather and exchange ideas in the Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Garden in Radcliffe Yard. The proposed use of the garden reflects the Radcliffe Institute's commitment to fostering exchanges across disciplines and with the public. Wang's installation will be constructed next summer and unveiled in the fall. Thus the grand opening will take place in 2017, the centennial of Radcliffe's ownership of 73 Brattle.

Wang says, "The creation of this gathering space aims to further the goal of today's Radcliffe, just as Sawin House once did by creating an enjoyable space for interactions and conversation."

The juried student competition supports the construction and installation of public art in the Wallach Garden, awarding a \$10,000 prize for that purpose. The jury selected Wang's design from more than 40 submissions.

# FROM FRESH FOOD TO MAGIC MUSHROOMS

Michael Pollan probes the medicinal uses of psychedelic drugs.

**IT IS DIFFERENT THIS TIME FOR** best-selling author Michael Pollan, and not just because his subject has changed. The people are different too. They're not farming or fermenting or cooking. This time, they're dying.

Pollan's books about food, diet, and industrial agriculture—especially *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (Penguin Press, 2006)—have made him an influential voice in America's food fight over obesity, nutrition, and diabetes. He is revered by those who believe that something is fundamentally wrong with how Americans mass produce and prepare their meals.

Yet Pollan says that his books have always been about learning and represent a journey of exploration for him as well as for his readers. He attributes his success and influence in part to his ability to take others along with him, in search of the answers to questions that intrigue him and that the rest of us may not have even known to ask.

Now a new subject has caught his eye.

## MORE THAN JUST A TRIP

Pollan is exploring a budding rebirth of interest in psychedelic drugs, all but banned since the 1960s. His latest work examines new research into the drugs' potential therapeutic use and the impact that clinical trials have had on subjects, including those facing death from cancer.

Despite the success he has already experienced, Pollan said in an interview, this work is forcing him to stretch as both a reporter and a writer. It's taking him places he's never before been—including on deep dives into others' pain. "This has been a different kind of reporting for me, interviewing people with cancer diagnoses—who are thinking about death—and talking about death with them," Pollan said. "I had a series of interviews . . . that wring you out emotionally."



Still the consummate advocate for food-related issues, Pollan is now investigating how psychedelic trips could help those facing cancer diagnoses.

In addition to the challenges in reporting the book, Pollan said, he's being forced to grow professionally to describe the study subjects' experiences ("trips") while on the drugs. Superficially, the flights of fancy can seem odd, he said, so the challenge is to describe them in a way that is meaningful to the reader and does justice to the depth of the subjects' experiences.

"I've tended to write about people in their capacity as professionals, whether a farmer or a scientist," Pollan said. "That's a very cool interview." But with this project, "I've had five or six interviews with people crying as they described these experiences. So I'm being stretched as a reporter and . . . as a writer,

which is great. That's one of the reasons I wanted to do something different."

## FINDING A PSYCHEDELIC LEGACY

This past academic year, Pollan was the Suzanne Young Murray Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute, working out of a corner office in Byerly Hall. Although he appeared at some venues, on campus and off, he mostly kept a low profile as he pursued his work.

"My goal in coming here was really to lay low and do less and focus," said Pollan, whose fellowship ran through the end of May. "I treated this a little bit more like a writer's retreat, or I tried to."



**“I’ve had five or six interviews with people crying as they described these experiences. So I’m being stretched as a reporter and being stretched as a writer, which is great.”**

His work progressed well over the months at Radcliffe and is about a third complete, said Pollan, who is also a journalism professor at the University of California, Berkeley. It didn’t hurt that Harvard is where the work of Timothy Leary and the Harvard Psilocybin Project grabbed national attention half a century ago, when psychedelic drugs such as LSD and psilocybin, the

active ingredient in psychedelic mushrooms, became widely known and created a backlash.

Pollan was disappointed that some of the archival material about that era remains sealed, but he recounted his delight in reading R. Gordon Wasson’s 1950s account, preserved in Harvard’s Botany Libraries, about taking hallucinogenic mushrooms in a Mexican Mazatec

religious ceremony: “His notebook records the first psilocybin trip ever taken by a Westerner,” Pollan said. “You can watch the handwriting disintegrate.”

Pollan’s book will tackle several topics, including the drugs’ history (the ’50s and ’60s saw a surprisingly large number of scientific studies), the natural history of psilocybin mushrooms, and the current investigations by New York University and Johns Hopkins University researchers into their use for palliative care. That work, in phase 2 trials, has demonstrated a dramatic impact on the psychological trauma that often comes with cancer diagnoses, alleviating patients’ depression, fear, and anxiety. The trials have also shown potential in treating addiction.

#### **STILL ADVOCATING FOR REAL FOOD**

Yet Pollan isn’t walking away from his past work. His years of exploring the food industry and the natural history of ingredients, diet, and cooking have made him an expert in the field and a consummate advocate for changes in consumer habits and the system overall.

“I’ve taken a role in this national conversation, and to simply stop speaking because I’ve gotten interested in something else seems borderline irresponsible,” Pollan said. “I can speak more as an expert, which is fine for the political arena, but for me is not so fine as a writer. I don’t want to write a manifesto.”

Pollan expects to continue to address food-related issues through television shows such as the recent Netflix miniseries *Cooked* (2016), via

his Twitter feed, and through speaking engagements. Messages promoting food industry reform and healthful eating must reach all aspects of society, he said.

Emily Broad Leib, an assistant clinical professor of law and the director of the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic, hosted Pollan in a private meeting with clinic students and in one of her classes afterward. Pollan answered questions and asked students about their food-related projects.

Broad Leib credits Pollan with helping to awaken the country to problems with the food system by explaining potentially dry topics such as the intricacies of the US farm bill in an easy-to-understand, engaging way. It’s telling, she says, that roughly three-fourths of student applicants to a Harvard food law summit last fall cited Pollan’s writing. “His influence has been enormous; it’s almost hard to overstate it,” Broad Leib said. “He has popularized the understanding and knowledge of these complicated topics.”

Richard Wrangham, the Ruth Moore Professor of Biological Anthropology, whose research on cooking’s importance to early humans has figured prominently in some of Pollan’s writing, appreciates that Pollan gets the science right. Wrangham hosted Pollan at a dinner with Currier House students in February. “He’s a very easy person,” said Wrangham, Currier’s faculty dean. “He very clearly has an inquiring mind. He’s interested in real answers.”

This article originally appeared in the *Harvard Gazette* and has been edited for *Radcliffe Magazine*.

To see a video excerpt from Pollan’s fellow’s presentation, visit [www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/video-and-audio](http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/video-and-audio)

# Clara Beyer's Gen(d)erations

Active during the New Deal era, one labor economist advocated for “women in development” into the 1970s.

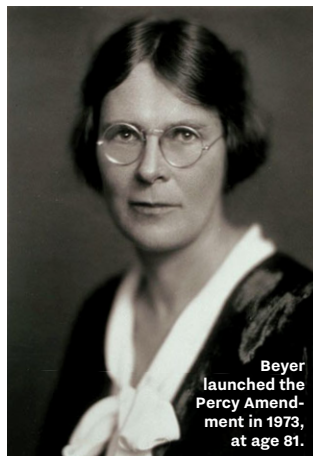
**DURING MY FELLOWSHIP YEAR AT** the Radcliffe Institute, I spent hours in the light-filled reading room of the Schlesinger Library, and there, amid the archival boxes, I pieced together the extraordinary career of a woman named Clara Beyer.

I first encountered Beyer years ago, while writing my dissertation on working women in the early 20th century. Beyer, I discovered then, was a labor economist who had advocated for a minimum wage for women. She began her career as an instructor at Bryn Mawr College in the 1910s, and then—after stints on the federal government’s War Labor Policies Board and the DC Minimum Wage Board—she went to work for the US Department of Labor and eventually rose to associate director of its Division of Labor Standards. During the New Deal, she worked closely with the first woman cabinet member, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, and socialized in the liberal circles of Eleanor Roosevelt and her friends.

Given her prominence in the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s, I was wholly surprised to find the name Clara Beyer while doing research on the 1970s.

I’m currently writing a history of US involvement in campaigns to fight global poverty in the 1970s and 1980s. A central theme of my project is how foreign-aid programs came to focus on the labor of women. In the course of my research, Beyer appeared as the person who suggested adding “something about women” to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1973. Within just a few months, her suggestion had made its way into law as the Percy Amendment, which mandated that US foreign aid support the “integration” of women into the national economies of countries receiving aid. Passage of the Percy Amendment eventually led to numerous foreign-aid projects that addressed women as workers (or, in 1970s lingo, “income generators”) and not just mothers.

Could the Clara Beyer who launched the Percy Amendment in 1973 be the same Clara Beyer who started her career early in the century? The answer was in the archives. The Schlesinger Library has not only an oral history of Beyer but also her manuscript collection. The main accession, consisting of 22 boxes, covers



the years from 1911 to 1965, but a second accession of 8 large cartons goes up to 1979. And in the online finding aid for the additional papers, I found multiple files under the heading “Percy Amendment.” At the age of 81, Beyer had played a significant role in the shifting politics of US foreign aid.

Beyer, I learned, had “retired” from the Department of Labor in 1958 but continued to work for the federal government in its key foreign-aid agencies. She joined the US Agency for International Development (USAID) at its founding, in 1961, and worked in its Office of Labor Affairs until she

finally retired for real in 1975. While at USAID, she not only suggested adding “something about women” to the Foreign Assistance Act but also promoted programs for women. In the early 1970s, she steered grant proposals in support of women’s labor through USAID’s lumbering bureaucracy. She found, for example, funds for an emerging women’s program in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

And when the Percy Amendment passed, she pushed the agency to take it seriously. When USAID officials began deliberations on how to implement the amendment, Beyer complained in a letter to the agency’s lawyer that “women’s groups within AID and in the private sector” had been shut out of the discussion. Women, she said, had “brought about the passage of the Amendment,” and she wanted them involved. The following month, the head of USAID appointed a committee—including Beyer and several other women—to draft an action plan that led to a “women in development” office within the agency.

Historians today reject the “wave” model of the women’s movement. In that model, the suffrage movement of the early 20th century represented a crest, which was followed by a lengthy trough until the “second wave” of the 1960s and 1970s. Clara Beyer’s 60-year career is a reminder that the movement persisted in multiple incarnations through the middle of the 20th century. It shows that individual women bridged the seeming gaps, providing living links between circles of reformers, activists, and

feminists from different generations.

Her career also points to the internationalism of the 20th-century women's movement. The Schlesinger Library has a long-standing reputation as the foremost archival repository for US women's history. What is less well-known is that it also holds critical collections for historians studying women's participation in international organizations. The Clara Beyer Papers, for example, contain records on women's activism in the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Labor Organization, and the Organization of American States.

In 1974, USAID surprised Beyer with a celebration of her long years of service. In an article on the event in the agency's in-house paper, Beyer claimed that she was "no woman's libber." She had worked, she said, for "the benefit of men and women," noting that "all workers are in need of protection of their basic rights." (And indeed they are.) But even though Beyer refused the "libber" label, she spent decades, as her archival collection attests, working with women in behalf of women. To cap her career, she served, at the age of 85, as the oldest delegate to the 1977 National Women's Conference in Houston. A photo from the time shows her seated with her delegate's badge around her neck and an eye-catching "ERA YES" sticker affixed to her jacket.

Joanne Meyerowitz, the 2015–2016 Matina S. Horner Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Radcliffe Institute, is the Arthur Unobskey Professor of History and American Studies at Yale University. Her research focuses on 20th-century US history, with emphases on gender and sexuality.



While conducting research in the Pforzheimer Reading Room on campaigns against global poverty, Meyerowitz was surprised to find a familiar name.

# Just Call Me My Name

Exploring the problematic present of gender identity and language along with those living it

## OUR CULTURAL CONVERSATION

around gender and identity is moving faster than a tweet. We live at a time when the grammatical binary of “him” and “her” seems to many like a form of captivity—when the pronoun itself is a cultural battleground, and when questions of gender identity are affecting the language of social media, journalism, fiction, art, and personal exchanges.

“Ze,” “hir,” “xe,” and other attempts to give English a gender-neutral pronoun may soon come to an inbox near you. “What’s your pronoun?” may soon be the way to greet a new acquaintance.

Plainly, it was time for a conference at the Radcliffe Institute to explore a complicated issue at the heart of self-identification. “The evolution of both language and gender happens constantly,” said Lizabeth Cohen, a historian and the Institute’s dean, as the conference opened. “It’s happening now.”

“Ways with Words: Exploring Language and Gender,” held on March 3 and 4, invited actors, artists, cultural and literary critics, anthropologists, big-data experts, business owners, and at least one particle physicist to reflect on what is happening.



John Huth said that the difference in a pair of meetings—one dominated by women, the other by men—inspired him to help organize the conference.

With an audience of nearly 400 and online viewers from as far away as Turkey, experts pondered the English pronoun and the language’s seeming preference for the binary in all things gender. (Meanwhile, Facebook lists 56 gender-identification choices.) Conference experts considered how transgender issues add layers of complexity as the English language copes with proliferating terms of identity. They considered comedy as a neutral zone for such fraught discussions and laughter as an antidote. They pondered big data and explored how advertising and politics are

slow to acknowledge gender equality.

## Riffing on Language

Some of the experts concluded that technology may hold the key to revealing ourselves, whatever gender we are, as equally fascinating and free. It may “expand our sense of the available options,” said the University of Pennsylvania’s Kathleen Hall Jamieson.

A gathering of experts on language and gender may not have the immediate public-policy relevance of recent Radcliffe conferences on gender and violence or health disparities, reflected the event organizer (and particle

physicist) John Huth, a faculty codirector of the Institute’s science program and the Donner Professor of Science at Harvard. But, he added, language has great power and consequence “everywhere we look today” as our culture struggles with gender identity.

In her remarks, Cohen remembered David Bowie, who had just died, as “a bold, knowing, charismatic creature neither male nor female.” She cited a *New York Times* search for gender-neutral pronouns and noted that in January the American Dialect Society had chosen the singular “they” as its 2015 Word of the Year. Even the desire for a gender-neutral pronoun, she added, can be traced to Chaucer and Shakespeare.

The great Bard made an appearance in the event’s first hours, on a Thursday night, with a taste of Shakespeare rap: during “Plays with Words: Comedy, Language, and Gender,” ImprovBoston supplied some on-the-fly fake Shakespeare. But the seven players mostly riffed on what had been said only minutes before during a panel discussion moderated by the WBUR



Moderator Stephanie Burt had praise for the comic book *Jem*, which includes a trans character in one of its storylines.

Glenda Carpio, a Harvard professor of English and of African and African American studies, observed that comedy is a good way to get at serious things like gendered language. "People gather to ritualize all kinds of oppression," she said. The comedian Aparna Nancherla spoofed

Carpio said that a woman's performance of language and the physicality of her speech can lead to criticism. (Think of Hillary Clinton's being called out for "aggressive"—that is, manlike—debate an-

Rebecca Bigler, a University

The anthropologist Wesley Thomas, a professor of Diné cultural studies at Navajo Technical University, added a Native American perspective in which pronouns are not an issue and “two-spirit” gender identities are considered normal. Many tribes acknowledge five basic genders, he

WESLEY THOMAS



Janet Mock explained the concept of “realness” in the trans community.

said. (Thomas allowed that there may be more.) “Gender supersedes your sexual identity,” he said. “What you do as a man or a woman is more important than your biological makeup.”

The author, poet, and theater artist Bear Bergman, a trans man who prefers the pronouns “ze” and “hir,” snapped the conversation back to the “heteronormative and binary” pronouns of American English. “Trans and nonbinary people,” Bergman said, have been in place for millennia, yet alternative pronouns have emerged only in the past 75 years. There will be no language-wide solution soon, said Bergman, perhaps because this “is too important and too exciting to rush.”

Meanwhile, “Just call me my name—call me my pronouns,” said the trans woman, author, and cultural commentator Janet Mock in her keynote conversation with Moya Bailey, a Northeastern University postdoctoral fellow. There is an assumption simmering beneath the surface of the gender-language debate “that trans people are passing as something we are not,” said Mock. “I’m

not passing as anything. I’m being. Being myself.”

#### Gender Out in the World

A lot of people are being themselves, said experts on the “Big Data” panel. Lyle Ungar has Facebook posts from 70,000 people and 10 billion tweets to prove it—social media artifacts he is mining as a University of Pennsylvania professor of computer and information science. Men

and women communicate differently, he said, but such observations are “overweighted.” In the Internet age, our sense of gender may be flattening and blending.

The Fordham University ethnographer Alice E. Marwick acknowledges the socially important “conversation” that social media engenders. But she also sees “cyber mobs” reinforcing forms of gender oppression, “sexist and misogynist language” being normalized, and hashtags speeding gender backlash. She anticipates that some women may soon escape to gender-segregated online enclaves. The solution, said Marwick, is “Speak out against sexist language when you see it.”

On the “Public Discourse” panel, the advertising pioneer Mary Mills, who directs strategic intelligence for Saatchi & Saatchi, said that marketers are trying to listen to culture, be authentic, and target experiences instead of genders. They are not influencing gen-

der much—yet, she said—and for now, firms in Europe and Asia are better at listening to gender currents than those in North America.

In the political arena, women are 53 percent of US voters but hold only 25 percent of state offices and 19 percent of seats in Congress. In the struggle for political parity, “language plays a role,” said Christine Matthews, the president and cofounder of Bellwether Research & Consulting. For one thing, she said, “social media can be brutal, opening fast-moving launch points for sexist words and complaints about “loud” female voices or (in the case of Hillary Clinton) an unseemly “cackle,” which to others is just a hearty laugh.

What to do? Midway through the conference, an education graduate student stood, asking for advice. Bear Bergman suggested, “Be somebody flexible with your language.”

Corydon Ireland is a freelance writer.



An arts event, “Plays with Words: Comedy, Language, and Gender” kicked off the conference with a stand-up routine by Aparna Nancherla, a panel discussion, and a performance by ImprovBoston (pictured here).

# Native Like Me

**NATIVE AMERICANS WOULD LIKE** you to know that they're not figures from our distant past. In fact, they're still here. In this special section, we highlight those Native Americans who were on our campus this past academic year as part of the Initiative on Native and Indigenous Peoples, a partnership between the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and the Harvard University Native American Program (HUNAP). ■ The joint effort—which involves Radcliffe's three programs, HUNAP, and other units and schools across Harvard and beyond—has focused on the 2015–2016 academic year, although programming began earlier and will continue after. Through lectures, conferences, exhibitions, performances, fellowships, seminars, and archival research, the initiative is exploring the acquisition and expression of political power by Native and indigenous peoples.



Darkfeather, Eckos, and Bibliana  
Ancheta (Tulalip, Washington)

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# Native Peoples, Native Politics

## Daylong conference is capstone for Initiative on Native and Indigenous Peoples.

BY DEBORAH BLAGG

**WAMPANOAG TRIBAL COUNCILMAN** Jonathan Perry's opening blessing at the Radcliffe Institute's "Native Peoples, Native Politics" conference included a reminder that Harvard's nearly four-century presence on the banks of the Charles has been relatively short. "We thank you today for joining us on what is considered to be Wampanoag, Nipmuc, and Massachusetts territory," Perry said. "This has been a thoroughfare for our people, by sea and by land, for over 12,000 years."

Even though the conference took place amid the noise of the 2016 US presidential campaign, the focus was not the ballot box but the full range of activities that Native peoples have engaged in to "defend their sovereignty and dignity in the face of structural racism and massive dispossession," said Daniel Carpenter, a co-organizer of the event, the Allie S. Freed Professor of Government in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the faculty director of Radcliffe's social sciences program. Representing tribes from across the United States, presenters shed light on ways that Native peoples participate in politics—through legal action, treaty making, resistance, coalition building, the arts, and media.

The conference was sponsored by Radcliffe and the Harvard University Native American Program (HUNAP), led by its executive director, Shelly C. Lowe, a Navajo tribal member. It capped a year of scholarship and events inspired and/or led by Native and indigenous peoples, including Radcliffe fellows' academic and creative pursuits, Schlesinger Library research initiatives, and performing and visual arts events.

### Native Law and Legal Strategy

Maggie McKinley, a Fond du Lac Chippewa from Minnesota and a Harvard Law School fellow and lecturer, noted that Native Americans were barred from casting votes in federal elections until 1924, and in some state elections until as recently as 1964. Since the civil rights era, she said, tribal nations, like other disenfranchised US minority groups, have often turned to the courts to address issues that elections and legislatures failed to resolve.

While other minorities have taken what McKinley termed "a liberal, integrationist" approach to litigation with the aim of achieving and protecting constitutional rights, Native Americans have pursued sovereignty as the central issue in cases involving land, water, and decision-making rights. "Over time," she said, "the courts have become increasingly hostile to the concept of sovereignty and local self-governance, especially in cases where Native rights are in tension with the claims of

non-Indians on Indian land."

Calling Native Americans "perhaps the most highly regulated people on the planet," Richard Guest referenced centuries of court rulings that have chipped away at "the tribal strength of being on a reservation." A managing attorney for the Native American Rights Fund and the lead attorney on the Tribal Supreme Court Project, Guest cited two US Supreme Court rulings in 2000 that had a "devastating" impact. One denied tribes the authority to tax non-Indian businesses on reservations, and the other ruled that tribal courts lacked the jurisdiction to hear cases against non-Indians for harm done on reservations. In the wake of those decisions, Guest and others have been working to develop new litigation strategies and to coordinate legal resources for Supreme Court hearings.

Sounding a hopeful note, the panelist Diane J. Humetewa, a Hopi tribe member and the first Native American woman to serve as a federal judge, said the outcome of a pending Supreme Court case could be helpful in addressing the epidemic of domestic violence on reservations, which often involves non-Native perpetrators. Humetewa said that provisions of the recently reauthorized Violence Against Women Act could for the first time let federal prosecutors use prior tribal court convictions as a basis for federal charges in domestic violence cases.

With experience as a litigator in the US attorney's office in Arizona and as a judge in the Hopi Tribal Court of Appeals, Humetewa has a unique perspective on the judicial practices of both Native and federal courts. Tribal courts tap into the culture and values of their communities and usually try to distance themselves from non-Native judicial actions, she said. But with the growing number of cases in federal courts that "challenge what it even means to be an Indian," Humetewa believes that tribal leaders should more clearly address "the reach of the federal courts in their communities."

### Native Governance and Politics

Karen R. Diver, the special assistant to the president for Native American affairs at the White House, attributes increased national interest in Native American matters to tribes' economic progress, fueled by successes in the gaming industry. "It was easy to ignore Native communities when we were poor and dependent," said Diver, a former chair of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, for whom she oversaw a workforce of more than 2,200 people. "It's different when you become the biggest employer in a large swath of your state."



**SCENES FROM AN INITIATIVE**

Top row (L to R): Jonathan Perry delivers the opening blessing; Shelly Lowe, executive director of the Harvard University Native American Program; Community members take part in the 21st Annual Harvard University Pow Wow. Second row: Attendees enjoy lunch outside in Radcliffe Yard (L); Loris Taylor, president and CEO of Native Public Media (R). Third row (L to R): Adrienne Keene, the moderator of "Native Politics in Broadcast Media and Film," takes a selfie with panelists Irene Bedard and Migizi Pensoneau for social media; poet Luci Tapahonso meets with Radcliffe Institute fellows; Karen Diver, White House special assistant to the president for Native American Affairs. Bottom row (L to R): Sylvia McAdam, a cofounder of the grassroots movement Idle No More; Young conference attendees line up after the presentations to speak to panelists; Maggie McKinley (L), moderator of "Native Law and Legal Strategy," with panelists Richard Guest and Diane Humetewa.



Diver noted that with increased interactions between Natives and others, a growing number of “multi-jurisdictional problems” have emerged, related to issues such as the size and responsibilities of police departments and the delivery of social services. Diver uses her national office to articulate to non-Native stakeholders “why my citizens matter to them” and to convey to home-rule-oriented tribes “why ‘out there’ matters as much to us as ‘in here.’”

The keynote speaker, Robert Odawi Porter JD ’89, pointed out that even with casino gambling, poverty is still widespread on most reservations. A former president of the Seneca Nation and a lead attorney in conflicts involving Native sovereignty and treaty rights, Porter believes that the best way to help tribes is through economic empowerment.

“To help elders, children in distress, or to fully implement powers in the Violence Against Women Act, tribes need dollars,” he said. “When the government gets its regulators and taxmen out of our pockets . . . then we will find a way to create the jobs and businesses that will provide revenues to repair the mistakes and agendas that have been inflicted on us.”

### Being Heard

Spiritual repair was the theme of a presentation by the Sicangu Lakota hip-hop artist Frank Waln during a panel titled “Native Politics in Literature and Art.” “We come from communities with trauma and pain, and you need to acknowledge the pain to heal,” said Waln, currently an artist in residence at the University of Delaware. His performance of “Wild West,” a rap song about the complex realities of living on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, brought the Radcliffe audience to its feet. Waln wrote the song to convey “the things back home that will kill you and the things that will save your life.” (See page 26.)

The Golden Globe-winning actress and producer Irene Bedard shared news about *Two Old Women*, a project that is taking her home to her native Alaska. Bedard, who is Inupiaq, Yupik, and Métis Cree, said the film will revisit an ancient tale of two tribal elders. “It’s a little bit subversive,” she hinted. “It’s about waking the giant of the indigenous nature.”

Joining Bedard during the panel titled “Native Politics in Broadcast Media and Film” was the Hopi tribe member Loris Taylor, the president of Native Public Media. She underscored the importance of gaining media access, control, and ownership in order to amplify contemporary Native voices such as Bedard’s and Waln’s, both within tribal communities where only 25 percent or less of residents have broadband access and throughout the United States, where “we have a long road ahead to overcome invisibility.”

Looking to the future, Radcliffe Dean Lizabeth Cohen announced that the Institute will work closely with local tribes on a multiyear research agenda. Expressing the sentiments of many, Carpenter said he hoped the conversations that began at the conference would continue across Harvard “again and again.”





# Documenting Native America

Matika Wilbur  
pushes back against  
stereotypes.

BY DEBORAH BLAGG

**AN ACCLAIMED PHOTOGRAPHER**, writer, and social documentarian, Matika Wilbur creates art that's a strenuous counterpoint to mass media stereotypes of Native Americans. Through exhibits, social media, and lectures in the United States, Canada, and Europe, she offers a complex vision of contemporary Native American lives that has nothing in common with prevailing images that, in Wilbur's words, "show us as people of the past: leathered, feathered, and disappearing fast."

At Radcliffe this past spring, as part of the Initiative on Native and Indigenous Peoples, Wilbur spoke about a central challenge her art poses to non-Native audiences. "If you want our beauty," she said, "you must also take our struggle."

Since 2012, Wilbur, a member of the Swinomish and Tulalip tribes in Washington state, has been engaged in Project 562, an ambitious effort to photograph members of every federally recognized tribe in the United States and then make the images widely available. The project came to her while she was teaching visual arts to teenagers at Tulalip Heritage High School. "My students would ask me what a Cherokee or Seminole looked like, and the only photos I could find were damaging, inaccurate, or antiquated," she recalled.

"I realized that we need images to inspire one another," Wilbur said. In particular, she is concerned by the reported 67 percent Native American high-school graduation rate—the lowest of any racial or ethnic group. "We need images that will help us reconnect with our strengths."

At the opening of the Radcliffe exhibition *Seeds of Culture: The Portraits and Stories of Native American Women*, which included some of Project 562's photos, Yukio Lippit, Radcliffe's Johnson-Kulukundis Family Faculty Director of the Arts and a Harvard professor of art history and architecture, described the "virtuoso

Dr. Mary Evelyn Belgarde  
(Pueblo of Isleta and Ohkay  
Owingeh, New Mexico)

technique and consummate craftsmanship” of Wilbur’s portraits. Text narratives and audio recordings of Wilbur’s interviews with the women accompanied the photos, amplifying, Lippit said, “the sadness and trauma of genocide and colonization, but also hope, determination, joy, and humor.”

### People of the Tide

By April, Wilbur had traveled more than 150,000 miles for Project 562, crisscrossing the country by car, RV, train, plane, boat, horseback, and foot to photograph tribal members in contexts that were meaningful to them. Noting Wilbur’s Kickstarter funding, large online community, and custom of sharing food, prayers, stories, songs, and aspirations with the people she photographs, Lippit said she has “a remarkable way of being an artist in the contemporary world.”

But when asked to elaborate on her identity as an artist, Wilbur instead spoke about her grandmother’s successful fight to preserve Native fishing rights in Washington state. “I think of myself first as a person of the tides,” Wilbur said. “I never introduce myself as a photographer; I say that I am my grandmother’s granddaughter.” She explained, “I became a teacher because my elders asked me to take on that role. I take pictures of our people because our children need new narratives.”

Wilbur referred to historical trauma that manifests itself in contemporary social problems such as domestic and sexual abuse, addiction, and suicide in Native American communities. “Many of us never get healthy enough to advocate for the wellness and stewardship of our people and land,” she said. “But in my travels I meet inspiring community organizers, linguists, grandmothers, basket makers, scholars, entrepreneurs, and spiritual leaders who are determined to protect our culture and keep it from disappearing.”

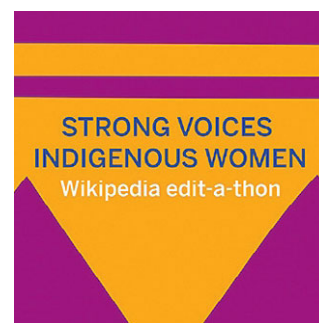
“I want our children to know that they can grow up to be like those people,” she added. “That’s what my work is about.”

Wilbur embarked on Project 562—named after the number of federally recognized tribes in the United States at the time—in December 2012. (The US government now recognizes 567 tribes.) Since then, she’s visited nearly half of those tribes and taken thousands of photographs. Wilbur believes her project offers “authentic images and stories from within Native America,” she says in her blog.



Matika Wilbur’s exhibition opening, which took place in the Johnson-Kulkundis Family Gallery, drew conference participants and people from across New England.

KEVIN GRADY



## Correcting the Record

**PUTTING INDIGENOUS WOMEN  
BACK INTO HISTORY**

While America's indigenous population at large is underrepresented in politics and popular culture, Native women are even more marginalized. Two events hosted by the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America called attention to this absence, and one allowed participants to take steps to rectify it.

In a lecture titled "A Company of These Women: Digital Methods of Silence in the Archives of Native Women's History," Maeve Kane, an assistant professor of history at the University at Albany, discussed how digital methods can be used to learn from archival records in which indigenous women are absent.

The Schlesinger also devoted a Wikipedia edit-a-thon to Native women. "Strong Voices, Indigenous Women" invited members of the Harvard community and beyond—no previous experience required—to write new Wikipedia entries or supplement existing ones to increase the volume of accurate information online about indigenous women. Research librarians and Wikipedia experts were on hand to assist newbies with possible subjects, reference materials, and online resources. In this way, the library helped address an information imbalance.

**"I became a teacher because my elders asked me to take on that role. I take pictures of our people because our children need new narratives."**

MATIKA WILBUR

# Reducing Binge Drinking with Tribal Traditions

Experts tackle the cultural causes of alcohol-use disorders with indigenous treatments—from sweat lodges and smudging to storytelling.

BY DEBORAH BLAGG



**IN ANY DEMOGRAPHIC**, binge drinking—defined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as consuming five or more alcoholic drinks on the same occasion—is a troubling aspect of alcohol use with links to a long list of devastating physical, psychiatric, and social outcomes. In American Indian and Alaskan Native communities, the practice is of particular concern. Contrary to well-worn stereotypes, SAMHSA studies indicate that monthly alcohol consumption varies across American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) cultures and overall is actually less than national averages. But when it comes to binge drinking, the percentage of incidents in these populations far exceeds nationwide figures.

“Family dysfunction and upheaval, trauma that goes back generations, loss of hope, isolation from

positive role models, racism, and the erosion of tribal languages, education, and traditions are important causal factors in binge drinking among AI/AN populations,” says the Harvard Medical School professor John A. Fromson, vice chair for Community Psychiatry at Boston’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital and chief of psychiatry at Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital. In the search for effective treatments, Fromson notes, researchers and addiction counselors in the United States and Canada are increasingly targeting these cultural causes with therapies that use tribal traditions and beliefs to counter binge substance use.

Last fall, Fromson and the Harvard Medical School student Erica Rose Kiemele MD ’17 co-chaired a Radcliffe Exploratory Seminar titled “American Indian/Alaska Native Binge Drinking:



Reviewing Treatment and Developing Collaborative Methodologies to Measure Outcomes.” “Professionals in this field have known for a long time that tribal beliefs and practices can be important to binge drinkers in recovery,” says Kiemele, who plans to use her medical skills to provide emergency health care to Native populations. “But there hasn’t been a lot of cross-talk about how practitioners in different places are using these culturally based therapies or trying to measure the impact they may be having. That’s what we wanted to explore.”

US and Canadian experts in addiction psychiatry, public health, and education, along with AI/AN tribal leaders and healers, traveled to Cambridge for the gathering. “It was a chance for someone doing policy work at a health consortium in Anchorage, Alaska, for instance, to get to know a colleague who

works one-on-one with youth at a wellness center in Arizona or a tribal liaison with a health department in Presque Isle, Maine,” Fromson says.

“Overcoming that geographical and functional separation is important—and not just for knowledge sharing,” he says. “The daily realities in this field are intense. In Native populations, binge drinking’s toll, in terms of alcohol-related deaths, suicides, accidental injuries, fetal alcohol syndrome, STDs, and other comorbidities, is significant. It’s encouraging to meet colleagues who understand your challenges.”

#### **Creation Stories or Smudging?**

There was widespread agreement at the seminar that, as Kiemele puts it, “There isn’t a ‘best way’ to apply Native practices to this problem, because

**A vintage 1950s Chevy truck sits on the prairie plains on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.**

**►To learn more about the seminar participants, who represented a variety of Native American tribes and services, visit our website.**

each population is different.” In general, AI/AN tribal beliefs and practices are used in tandem with familiar addiction recovery approaches such as 12-step programs, counseling, and drug and alcohol education. “The intention is to use indigenous knowledge to help restore physical, emotional, and spiritual balance,” explains Kiemele, whose heritage is Blackfoot, Métis Nation (Canadians with mixed American Indian and European ancestry), and Taiwanese. “But traditions aren’t shared globally and don’t have universal meaning.”

For those in recovery who have spent time on tribal reservations, ceremonial customs and songs, talking circles, sessions with traditional healers, sweat lodges, or smudging (purifying a room with the smoke of sacred herbs) may have deep meaning and be tremendously beneficial. “But around 60 percent of Native people in Canada live in the city and have no ties to these kinds of traditions,” Kiemele stresses. “For them, being introduced to creation stories or to certain traditional foods might be more helpful.”

A police officer (below) removes an open bottle of whiskey while searching for drugs on a traffic stop on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation near New Town, ND

**“In Western medicine, pathology guides treatment.... Native approaches turn this paradigm on its head by recognizing culture as treatment; by emphasizing cultural identity, you’re tapping the healing power of the patient’s inner strengths.”**

JOHN A. FROMSON



Differences aside, Fromson underscores an important distinction that indigenous treatment approaches have in common. “In Western medicine, pathology guides treatment,” he notes. “You’re looking at the patient through the deficit or the problem. Native approaches turn this paradigm on its head by recognizing culture as treatment; by emphasizing cultural identity, you’re tapping the healing power of the patient’s inner strengths.”

### Culturally Competent Research

Measuring the efficacy of blended tribal and scientific treatment for AI/AN binge drinking is challenging. “You need to apply culturally competent research methodologies,” explains Fromson, “which means not just tracking outcomes, but also gathering information about how well the approaches honor the strengths and needs of individuals during their healing.”

Two seminar participants—Colleen Dell, a professor and research chair in substance abuse at the University of Saskatchewan, and Carol Hopkins, executive director of the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation in Bothwell, Ontario—are leaders in the field of addiction treatment for indigenous populations in Canada. At the Radcliffe seminar, they shared their progress toward the development of a reliable research protocol to ascertain the effects of interventions on wellness.

Based on data gathered at 12 Canadian addiction treatment centers as part of a project called Honoring Our Strengths: Culture as Intervention in Addiction Treatment, Dell’s and Hopkins’s ongoing work has given rise to a Native Wellness Assessment Tool, a groundbreaking survey for addiction clients that may lead to an evidence base for the effectiveness of indigenous culture in addressing substance use and promoting overall wellness.

“Dell and Hopkins are very prominent in this field,” says Kiemele. “Learning more about the details of their survey was a high point for me, and I think for others at the seminar. We don’t have a culturally based tool like that in the United States, and seeing the specific questions they asked really furthered my understanding and appreciation of what they’re doing more than just searching the literature did.”

Currently working with Kiemele, Dell, and others on a coauthored paper—titled “Reconciling America’s Research Response to Binge Drinking among American Indians and Alaskan Natives”—based on presentations at the meeting, Fromson credits the Exploratory Seminar format with evincing new possibilities in scholarship and practice. “I’d love to do something like this again in the future, maybe with behavioral specialists from the US Indian Health Services,” he ventures. “There’s so much value in having scholars and researchers in the same room with seasoned clinicians in their field. No matter where you are in your career, the intellectual chemistry at this kind of event is powerful.”

Deborah Blagg is a freelance writer.

Luci Tapahonso (Navajo)  
met with Harvard  
students over lunch on  
the day of her reading.



# The Navajo Nation's Inaugural Poet Laureate Shares Words and Wisdom

## Luci Tapahonso uses her inimitable storytelling to connect with students, fellows, and the public.

BY PAT HARRISON

**AT MOST POETRY READINGS**, the audience maintains a solemn silence between poems, digesting the writer's words. But when Luci Tapahonso read her work at the Radcliffe Institute this past spring, the crowd enthusiastically clapped after each poem.

To introduce the poet, Kristiana Kahakauwila—the 2015–2016 Lisa Goldberg Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute and an assistant professor of creative writing at Western Washington University—explained Tapahonso's effect on people. She said she had discovered Tapahonso while researching communal storytelling. “The act of reading—usually done individually, silently—felt with Luci's work to be communal and raucous, as if the entire household of relatives were there speaking, and I was in the hogan with them,” Kahakauwila said.

The inaugural poet laureate of the Navajo Nation from 2013 to 2015, Tapahonso is a professor of English and the director of the creative writing

program at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Some of the poems she read at Radcliffe were about her family—including her mother, her father, and a granddaughter who attended the reading with her. Family is extremely important to Tapahonso, who proudly declared that she and her husband have five children and nine grandchildren.

Tapahonso also read work about her hometown, the Navajo reservation of Shiprock, New Mexico, before ending with a prayerlike poem: “We must always remember the worlds our ancestors traveled. Always wear the songs they gave us. Remember, we are made of prayers. Now we leave, wrapped in old blankets of love and wisdom.” Each poem, its topic deceptively simple, conveyed profound meaning.

Before her reading, Tapahonso met with students over lunch and described her path to becoming a poet and a professor. She grew up in a rural household with 11 siblings and a lot of relatives

►To watch videos of the “Native Peoples, Native Politics” conference, Luci Tapahonso's reading, and Kristiana Kahakauwila's fellow's presentation—as well as to see a full listing of events associated with the Initiative on Native and Indigenous Peoples—visit [www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/academic-ventures/research-initiatives/native-and-indigenous-peoples](http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/academic-ventures/research-initiatives/native-and-indigenous-peoples).

►Tapahonso's reading was part of the Roosevelt Poetry Readings—made possible by a gift that helps bring poets of recognized stature to the Radcliffe Institute—and was cosponsored by the Harvard University Native American Program.

around. English was their second language. At the Methodist boarding school she attended in Farmington, New Mexico, she and her classmates weren't allowed to speak Navajo. Only at recess and in the evenings could they speak their native language with one another. Unaccustomed to Christian ideas, Tapahonso told the students, she was fascinated by the notions of heaven and hell—"that if you thought a bad thought or did a bad thing, you could go to hell." Returning home to Shiprock one Thanksgiving, she warned her brother that he would go to hell for eating with his mouth open. Her parents explained to her that such ideas were for school, for her life around white people.

After attending high school in Shiprock, Tapahonso went to the University of New Mexico, where she gravitated to writing and met her mentor, Leslie Marmon Silko, in a poetry class. Tapahonso published her first book of poetry, *One More Shiprock Night* (Tejas Art Press) in 1981, a year after she graduated.

After earning a master's in creative writing, Tapahonso taught at the University of Kansas and the University of Arizona. She has written three children's books and four more books of poetry, including *Blue Horses Rush In* (University of Arizona Press, 1997), which received the Mountains and Plains Independent Booksellers Association's 1998 Award for Best Poetry.

Today, Tapahonso lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with her husband, Robert G. Martin, a Cherokee from Oklahoma who directs the Institute of American Indian Arts. She drives to Albuquerque two or three times a week to teach at UNM, a journey the reader can join her on through her poem "Prayer."

## Prayer

By Luci Tapahonso

This winter  
I have spent many hours driving  
the road between Santa Fe and Albuquerque  
early morning late afternoon

It must be tiring, people say  
about 100 miles a day  
nothing much on that road

But I enjoy it  
that road had a lot  
of good poems and songs  
discovered while driving  
through softly curving hills  
dotted with tufts of piñon and tumbleweeds.  
I even left some thoughts musing,  
lingering around a small white cross  
beside the northbound lane  
and I say:

    bless me hills  
    this clear golden morning  
    for I am passing through again.

I can easily sing  
for this time is mine  
and these ragged red cliffs  
flowing hills and wind echoes  
    are only extensions  
    of a never-ending prayer.

From *Seasonal Woman*,  
by Luci Tapahonso, Tooth  
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sion of the author.



**"When you're an American trained lawyer, you're largely not taught that there's an entire other legal system that you have to be respectful of and that you have to deal with. And frankly if you're taking your ethical obligation seriously, you have to give life to that legal foundation, the tribal legal foundation, as much as you do the American legal foundation."**

Robert Odawi Porter, a Harvard-educated attorney and the 67th president of the Seneca Nation, in his keynote speech on the sometimes-competing interests of federal and tribal law

TONY RINALDO

# On the Trail of the Haudenosaunee

## Radcliffe fellow Alyssa Mt. Pleasant is uncovering the history of Buffalo Creek.

BY SARAH SWEENEY

**GROWING UP IN SYRACUSE**, New York, Alyssa Mt. Pleasant was always cognizant of her hometown's location within the traditional homelands of the Onondaga Nation. Mt. Pleasant is Tuscarora on her father's side, and that, coupled with a love of history, led her to Barnard College's History Department, where she was in the right place at the right time.

An ethnic studies movement was taking place within the academy, and Mt. Pleasant recalled feeling like she could "be the change that I wanted to see," which meant becoming a professor and "teaching, researching, and writing about American Indian history and offering the types of courses and books that I wished I had access to."

As a Radcliffe Institute fellow, Mt. Pleasant has immersed herself in researching and writing her first book, a chronicle of the Buffalo Creek Reservation between 1780 and 1825. Widely glossed over

in literature about indigenous Americans, Buffalo Creek was an important settlement within the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) confederacy and its political center during this time. It was a key place to conduct diplomatic negotiations, as well as internal confederacy business.

"My focus is the ways in which Haudenosaunee people worked to maintain this particular reservation as a distinct Haudenosaunee place in the tumultuous post-Revolutionary War years and the early American republic," said Mt. Pleasant.

Today, there are eight Haudenosaunee reservation territories in New York State. And while the common trope about American Indians in popular culture and popular histories is declension, or decline, Mt. Pleasant seeks to showcase "the work that the Haudenosaunee undertook, the challenges they faced in this uncertain time, and the ways in



Mt. Pleasant at Houghton Library, Harvard University, where she conducted much of her research on the history of Buffalo Creek Reservation

which they managed to maintain their territory, and maintain their social, political, economic, and spiritual practices in the midst of growing pressures from this neighboring settler colonial nation.” One of those pressures included the presence of missionaries, which the Haudenosaunee allowed to live among them as teachers.

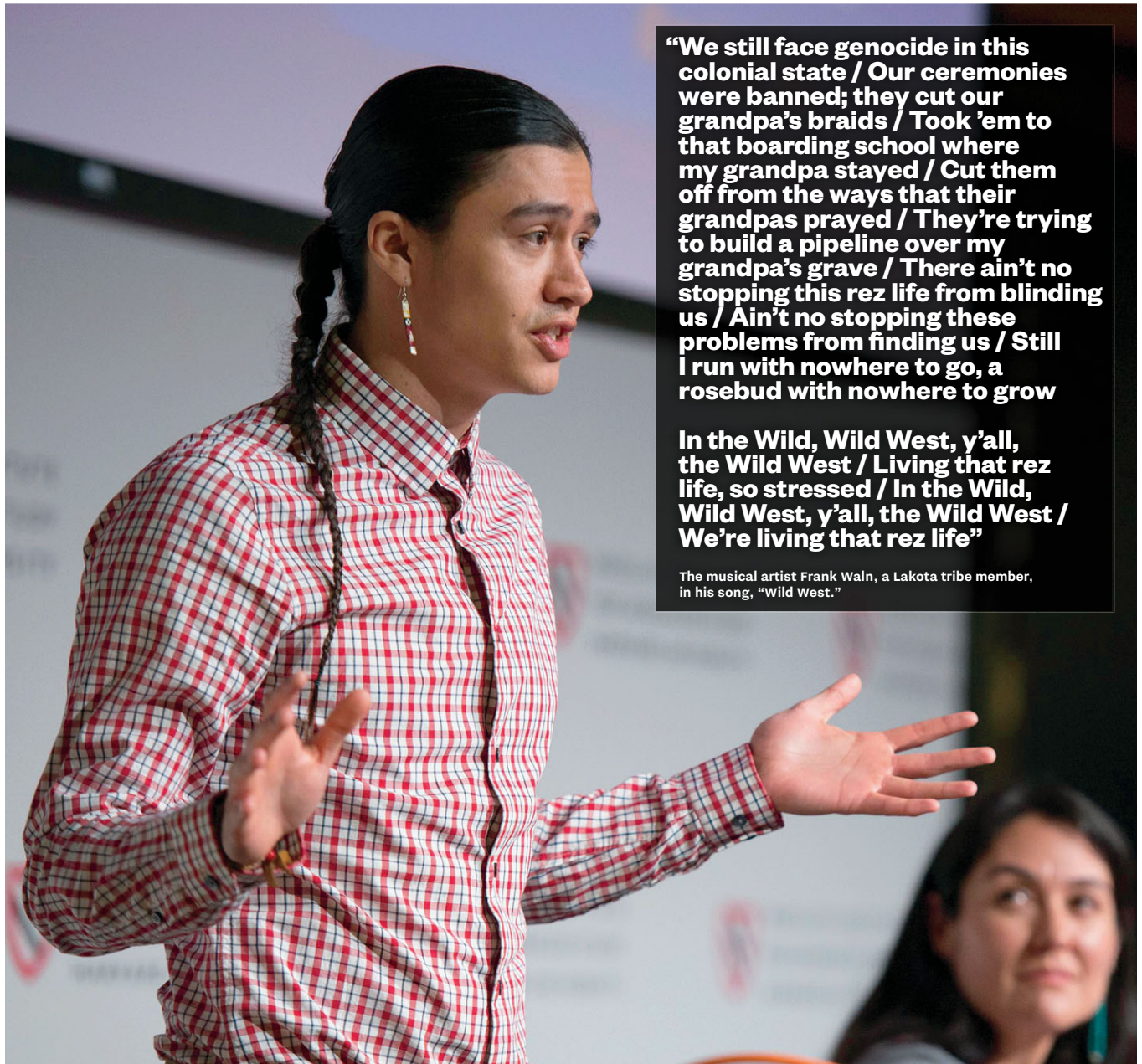
Mt. Pleasant’s two Radcliffe Research Partners—Soraya Shockley ’19 and Dara McDougall ’14—proved invaluable to her project. Shockley mined newspapers and uncovered articles on the first Christian wedding on the territory, while McDougall gained special access to the Peabody Museum’s collection of Haudenosaunee material culture.

“This Christian marriage is something that shows up in records that the missionaries created,

but it was also widely publicized as an achievement, a milestone in the missionaries’ work in ‘civilizing’ these native peoples,” said Mt. Pleasant. “The so-called civilization project is a major concern of mine, so it was exciting to see Soraya uncover this additional level of documentation.”

While many history books can be dryly academic, Mt. Pleasant is writing an engaging book for a general, crossover audience.

“I’m pushing back against that declension narrative, which not only dominates general perception but also continues to influence historical scholarship,” she said. “I’ve often taught ‘Indians 101’ to my fellow fellows. And that has helped me think about the ways I need to tell this story for a smart, interested general audience.”



**“We still face genocide in this colonial state / Our ceremonies were banned; they cut our grandpa’s braids / Took ‘em to that boarding school where my grandpa stayed / Cut them off from the ways that their grandpas prayed / They’re trying to build a pipeline over my grandpa’s grave / There ain’t no stopping this rez life from blinding us / Ain’t no stopping these problems from finding us / Still I run with nowhere to go, a rosebud with nowhere to grow**

**In the Wild, Wild West, y’all, the Wild West / Living that rez life, so stressed / In the Wild, Wild West, y’all, the Wild West / We’re living that rez life”**

The musical artist Frank Waln, a Lakota tribe member, in his song, “Wild West.”

# Back to the Island

In her new novel, Radcliffe fellow Kristiana Kahakauwila examines heritage—and water—in Hawaii.

BY SARAH SWEENEY

**TO MAKE POI, THAT SMOOTH**, sticky staple of Hawaiian cuisine, taro root is first pounded and then mixed with water. But what if water—for drinking and irrigating the taro patch—is rapidly disappearing?

During a trip to Maui in 2010, Kristiana Kahakauwila RI '16 read about the lawsuit that would inspire her current novel in progress, "To Weave With Water."

Born in Long Beach, California, the *hapa* (mixed) daughter of a Hawaiian father and a mother of German-Norwegian descent, Kahakauwila was schooled in both sides of her heritage. But the archipelago and its culture captivated her, and after earning an MFA from the University of Michigan, Kahakauwila moved to Honolulu, where she worked multiple jobs and found a "lived perspective," she says.

That perspective informed her first book, *This Is Paradise: Stories* (Hogarth, 2013), a collection exploring the complexities of contemporary Hawaii,

a place where the old and the new conspicuously collide. But her latest work will go further.

Inspired by the story of a cadre of local taro farmers who sued the state, county, and others over a network of ditches that were diverting millions of gallons of water from their wetland farms to an arid side of the island, home to acres of sugar plantations, Kahakauwila began researching how the ditches came to be. She dug deep into what she calls a "rabbit hole" of plantation colonialism and capitalism. But the story is also personal for her.

"The whole reason for doing this is to tell one story of Hawaii, a story that comes from a place on Maui where my ancestors are from," she says.

Known as the East Maui Irrigation System, the ditches were built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, primarily by Japanese workers. Nearly a century later, the resulting water loss threatened not only the ecosystem and the food supply, but the very fabric of Hawaiian culture.

"In Hawaii, we say that taro is our older brother," Kahakauwila says.

Hawaiian cosmology posits that the first taro plant sprouted from the grave of the stillborn child of Earth father Wākea and his daughter Ho'ohōkūkalani. Their second child was the first Hawaiian.

"One of the things that's so moving to me in this narrative is that in a moment of profound grief and loss emerges something new and sustainable," says Kahakauwila. "This group of taro farmers inspires me in part because their story echoes this origin narrative of the Hawaiian people. They're taking from more than a century of loss and creating something new and sustainable for future generations."

"To Weave With Water" will serve as a bridge for these narratives—a multigenerational tale spanning the period from the conception of the ditches to modern-day Hawaii. But the ambitious historical novel she is writing has often felt unwieldy, Kahakauwila readily admits. While she was at Radcliffe as the Lisa Goldberg Fellow, Kahakauwila drafted most of the novel. She also received the help of three Radcliffe Research Partners—Mira Hayward '17, Kaipo Matsumoto '17, and Christina Qiu '19. This "dream team," she says, met once a week to pore over research and translations and the ethical issues surrounding "using stories from a culture that's often had its narratives stolen or manipulated."

"What I want to do feels beyond my grasp," says Kahakauwila, "and that's terrifying. But it's thrilling, too, and it tells me I'm on the right track."

Sarah Sweeney is a writer and a poet.



# A D I F F E R E N T W A Y O F

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AFTER STUDYING CRIME AND GANG VIOLENCE IN CHICAGO, **LAURENCE RALPH**—THE JOHN L. LOEB ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY—TURNS A CRITICAL EYE ON SYSTEMIC POLICE BRUTALITY.

✦ JULIA HANNA    📺 JONATHAN KOZOWYK

A full-page photograph of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark fedora-style hat and a light blue button-down shirt with rolled-up sleeves. He is also wearing blue jeans and a dark belt. He is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression, and his hands are clasped in front of him. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and buildings.

SEEING

# As an undergraduate

co-op student at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Laurence Ralph RI '16 was hired by the Ford Motor Company to work at one of its plants. But his assignment changed at the last minute: Ford had donated computers to an underserved school across the street from the Georgia Tech campus; Ralph would work on building the school's technology network instead. That took about a month. For the rest of the semester, he served as a tutor and mentor.

Until that point, Ralph—a history, technology, and society major—had been uncertain about whether to opt for a practical career and pursue computer engineering. His co-op experience clarified things. “I realized I was more interested in the students, families, and community than installing the computer grid,” he recalls. “The school was poor, but the kids were so smart. They took advantage of every opportunity presented to them and engaged in a way that inspired me.”

Ralph went directly to the University of Chicago for graduate school, driven by his interest in the factors contributing to youth crime, violence, and mass incarceration. His first order of business, however, was finding an apartment. “When you arrive, people tell you, ‘Don’t live across the Midway—it’s dangerous across the Midway,’” he says of the thoroughfare dividing the University of Chicago campus from the city’s South Side. Ralph chose to live on the “wrong” side of the Midway. “You can look in one direction and see a pristine environment,” he says. “When you look the other way it’s like you’re in a different country. I was curious about that.”

To take a break from the demands of grad school, Ralph started volunteering for antiviolence programs in his new neighborhood. “I was interested in how the community was dealing with its own social problems,” he says. Yet when he considered possible topics for doctoral research, he somehow imagined his work taking place outside Chicago. During his third year of graduate school, he began to describe his interest in assembling a project on youth, crime, and violence, mentioning that he’d probably do his fieldwork elsewhere.

“Everyone said, ‘You want to study youth, crime, and violence, and you’re *leaving* Chicago?’” Ralph says. “That’s when I started thinking seriously about staying, and what that would look like.”

## Not Just a Researcher—a Neighbor

The (anonymous) community he chose on the city’s West Side harbored the full constellation of institutions he wished to study: churches, police stations,

a rehab center, and an incarceration facility—along with the headquarters of a large gang that had existed more than 50 years. The connections Ralph had made as a volunteer brokered introductions to community members across town, but he sensed a deep fatigue in the people he met, due to the many researchers who had come and gone before him. So he moved into the area, notorious for its high rate of violent crime.

“It helps when people can see you in different roles,” Ralph says. “You’re not just a researcher; you’re a neighbor.” A longtime skeptic of the sound bites used to characterize urban African American communities, Ralph spent four years living alongside the people of “Eastwood”—its gang members, pastors, grandmothers, community activists, people with HIV, teenagers, and wannabe rappers. The book he wrote as a result of his experiences, *Renegade Dreams: Living through Injury in Gangland Chicago* (University of Chicago Press, 2014), portrays them as complex, hopeful individuals who imagine a different future for themselves despite the physical and social injuries they’ve experienced.

## A Full Immersion

Ralph’s book provides a full immersion in community dynamics, in sharp contrast to the stereotypical snapshots of urban poverty and violence often shown in popular media. Readers learn, for example, how a seemingly benign effort at community redevelopment by a church-affiliated nonprofit could inspire resentment rather than appreciation—and could, in fact, be considered a form of injury as a result of its disregard of residents’ analyses of the neighborhood’s needs. Ralph also introduces Tamara Anderson, a 40-something business owner who hoped to restore Eastwood’s reputation by creating a museum dedicated to the area’s activist past. She reached out to Otis Ball, one of the local gang’s oldest living members, because he kept in his basement an unofficial archive of neighborhood affairs over 50 years. In the book, Ball recalls the gang as a constructive institution years ago, and Anderson agrees: “I’ve come to realize we have to meet people where they’re at—not where we want them to be,” she says. “You can be a different *kind* of gang member . . . one that has a positive change on your peers and on your community.”

In order to gain the level of access that leads to such honest and revealing insights, Ralph spent time listening and observing. “A lot of my process involves writing down initial impressions, then adding the layer of my conversations with people, then another layer in putting those interactions into dialogue with scholarship and history,” Ralph says.

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**“The contradiction of the title lies in the fact that an organization charged with protecting and serving its citizens is contributing to violent deaths.”**

Laurence Ralph on his book in progress, “The Contradiction: Policing, Race, and the Limits of Democracy in the 21st Century”

## Beyond Bad Apples

As a 2015–2016 Joy Foundation Fellow at Radcliffe, Ralph turned his focus to a forthcoming book, “The Contradiction: Policing, Race, and the Limits of Democracy in the 21st Century.” Also centered on Chicago, the book will weave his interviews and observations with media accounts and court transcripts of cases of police brutality in Chicago since the 1980s.

“The contradiction of the title lies in the fact that an organization charged with protecting and serving its citizens is contributing to violent deaths,” says Ralph, adding that the overriding impression members of the public might draw from recent cases such as that of Laquan McDonald is that an officer was simply a bad apple. It’s an easy mindset to fall into, Ralph says, yet one that completely overlooks a decades-long, recurring pattern of systemic misconduct and violence. He hopes “The Contradiction” will be part of a growing conversation about new ways of approaching criminal justice and mass incarceration reform. He cites as a potential model the efforts of Chicago activists who in 2014 traveled to the United Nations in Geneva to seek accountability for police violence as a human rights issue.

“International laws give people a different language to talk about systemic racism and the fact that African Americans are disproportionately impacted by police violence,” says Ralph. “The work of these activists is important in the sense that going to the UN opens up a space to imagine how the law can be more expansive.” In other words, it creates a way to see how the case of Andrew Wilson, a murder suspect who in 1982 was beaten, electrocuted, violated, and burned by three Chicago police officers, could be equated to instances of government-sanctioned torture, child soldiers, and other human rights violations recognized by international criminal courts.

“My hope is that creative solutions can be imagined to solve the problem,” says Ralph. “I don’t know what those solutions will be yet.” What is clear, he argues, is that reform won’t come from the publication of yet another official report or firing police department higher-ups. But maybe, just maybe, it will come from a different way of seeing. That’s something Ralph contributes to every day, through the simple, radical act of doing research and writing.

Julia Hanna is an associate editor at the *HBS Alumni Bulletin*.



Once poised for a career in computer engineering, Ralph changed course after a co-op job led to his tutoring and mentoring students from an underserved school.

WRITERS OFTEN SAY THAT THEIR CRAFT IS A COMPULSION: THEY WRITE BECAUSE THEY MUST. BUT WHEN PUTTING PEN TO PAPER, WHAT IS IT THAT INSPIRES SOME TO COMMUNICATE IN VERSE? THE THREE POETS IN THE 2015–2016 FELLOWSHIP CLASS DIG DEEP TO TELL US WHAT DRIVES THEM. PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANA SMITH

# Why I Write Poetry

## Ross Gay

2015–2016 Walter Jackson Bate Fellow

One of the reasons I write poems (there are many that I know of, and probably many more that I don't) is because my life is made of questions, and some of those questions seem most answerable by the thinking poems let me do. Which is thinking in music and associations and pictures; but equally, or more, thinking with my tongue, my mouth, my throat, my breath, my feet, my hips, my heart (yup, I said it, and I meant it: heart heart heart)—which is all to say, thinking with and by the truth of my body, which is fading away as we speak. Thinking with the truth of the fading, I'm saying. Which is also the truth of my wanting, in some real way, at least a little bit, to fade into you. To be taken in by your breath, your body—maybe, even, a little bit, to die there, which is what sound does when it leaves the body, unless, settling into the body of another, it becomes something else. It becomes, if we are lucky, another kind of music.

## Becoming a Horse

It was dragging my hands along its belly,  
loosing the bit and wiping the spit  
from its mouth made me  
a snatch of grass in the thing's maw,  
a fly tasting its ear. It was  
touching my nose to his made me know  
the clover's bloom, my wet eye to his  
made me know the long field's secrets.  
But it was putting my heart to the horse's  
that made me know  
the sorrow of horses. The sorrow  
of a brook creasing a field. The maggot  
turning in its corpse. Made me  
forsake my thumbs for the sheen of  
unshod hooves.  
And in this way drop my torches.  
And in this way drop my knives.  
Feel the small song in my chest  
swell and my coat glisten and twitch.  
And my face grow long.  
And these words cast off, at last,  
for the slow honest tongue of horses.



## Alice Lyons

My initiation into language and poetry was split-level, like the ranch houses on our cul-de-sac in a suburb of Paterson, New Jersey. Upstairs, among first- and second-generation white European immigrant families, our native languages and accents were being thrown off like so many dirty schmattas that might betray our newcomer—and formerly working-class—status. I was mutely aware of the giant invisible hole into which the old ways of speech were swallowed. Couldn't everybody feel that vacuum in our midst sucking the sweetness from our words? All-purpose words—great, cool, neat—were used for all purposes. Language lacked the flavor and subtlety of varietals. You asked a question and got a one-word answer, which was helpful. But also sort of lonely.

Meanwhile, in the cigar-scented basement, we kids played amid Dad's bar, golf trophies, and the taxidermic sailfish with the walleye he caught in Florida. On the wall. My friend Mo's wavy blond ponytail was fastened with what looked like two shiny gumballs on elastic. We giggled at nonsense ditties, stuff we made up, Dr. Seuss. A few lines from *I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew* sent us into spasms of giggles every time we read it, a cause-and-effect behaviorist experiment that never failed us:

a very fresh, green-headed Quilligan  
Quail  
sneaked up from behind and went  
after my tail!

Poetry returns me to that basement, that vivid state in which language can be felt on the tongue as a substance, a dear birthright, a food we can play with, together. It's a way to swim in the communal ocean of language that we're plunked into at birth, so mysterious and alien. The "upstairs" language seems such a tiny current in that vast sea.

## Developers

Greed got in the way. We built a fake estate.  
Levinas said to see ourselves we need each other yet

doorbells, rows of them, glow in the night village  
a string of lit invitations no elbow has leaned into

(both arms embracing messages). Unanswered  
the doors are rotting from the bottom up.

It's another perplexing pothole in our road, loves.  
Hard core from the quarry might make it level,

hard core and cunning speculation into matters  
concerning love and doubt, concerning want and plenty.

O the places where pavement runs out and ragwort  
springs up, where Lindenwood ends but doesn't abut

anywhere neatly, a petered-out plot of Tayto  
tumbleweeds, bin bags, rebar, roof slates, offcuts,

guttering, drain grilles, doodads, infill, gravel!  
A not-as-yet nice establishment, possessing potential

where we have no authorized voice but are oddly fitted  
out for the pain it takes to build bit by bit.

When the last contractions brought us to the brink  
of our new predicament, we became developers.



## Sarah Howe

2015–2016 Frieda L. Miller Fellow

I want to write poems people return to for mystery and nourishment. I like the idea of them lodged in the mind, where they subtly screw with the wiring. At school, I picked an old edition of T.S. Eliot's *Prufrock* off the library shelf, not really knowing what it was: "I have heard the mermaids singing, each to each." I wanted desperately to be able to make something like that, singing just beyond sense.

When I was 21, I moved to America, to study at Harvard for a year. There was something about being in an unfamiliar place, feeling foreign again—my family emigrated from Hong Kong to England when I was seven—that pushed me into writing poems with a commitment and need I hadn't really felt as a jotting teenager.

A summary of my first collection, *Loop of Jade* (Chatto & Windus, 2015), would probably call it a poetic meditation on my mixed Chinese-English heritage. A string of poems tells the story of my Chinese mother, who was an unwanted girl adopted as a baby, growing up in Hong Kong in poor and precarious circumstances. In some ways, the poems try to make sense of the difference between my life and hers. That strand is a strong one in the book, but a lot of the poems are weirder and consciously less placeable than that summary would imply. In fact, troubling at labels and categories is a large part of their conceptual and emotional work.

I had hoped to write a book that would offer up certain pleasures on a first reading, but also an experience that would shift and deepen on later encounters. I'm aware that's a lot to ask of busy readers. But then again, if a book of poems gives you permission to slow down, to contemplate and savor, maybe that's not the worst thing.

## A Painting

I watched the turquoise pastel  
melt between your fingerpads;  
how later you flayed

the waxen surface back  
to the sunflower patch  
of a forethought, your

instrument an upturned  
brush, flaked to the grain —  
the fusty sugar paper buckled.

You upended everything,  
always careless of things:  
finest sables splayed

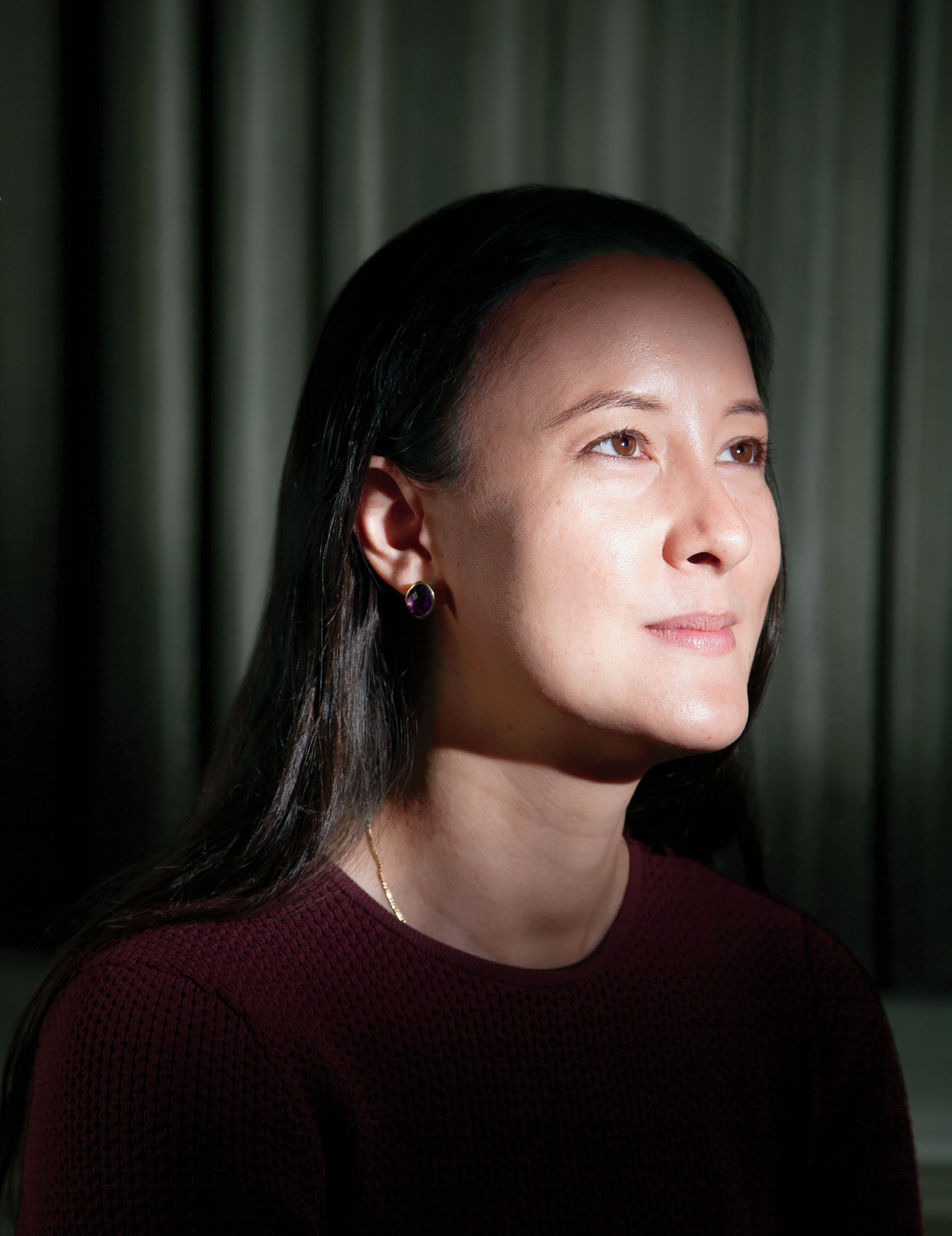
under their own weight,  
weeks forgotten — to emerge  
gunged, from the silted

floor of a chemical jamjar.  
I tidied, like a verger  
or prefect, purging

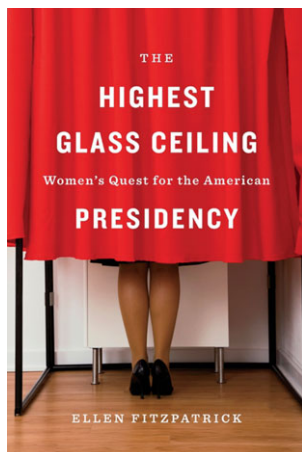
with the stream from the oil-  
fingered tap. Stop,  
you said, printing

my elbow with a rusty index,  
pointing past an ancient  
meal's craquelured dish

to the oyster-crust  
at the edge of an unscraped palette —  
chewy rainbow, blistered jewels.



# Women Running to Win



## The Highest Glass Ceiling: Women's Quest for the American Presidency

By Ellen Fitzpatrick  
RI '09  
Harvard University Press,  
336 pp.

**I'LL ADMIT IT RIGHT NOW.** I'm for Hillary and always have been—even when she was running against Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination in 2008. I've harbored hopes ever since she was clearly the smartest of the Clintons to move into the White House back in 1993. I mourned when she was pulled off the job of health care reform. I wanted Hillary to have her turn.

Hoping for Hillary isn't particularly remarkable for a woman of my generation; the polls predict it. What is remarkable is that this time my hope is not merely quixotic. There is every reason to believe that a woman can win the White House in November 2016, just four years shy of the centennial of women's suffrage in America.

Ellen Fitzpatrick's timely *The Highest Glass Ceiling* reminds us how far we've come to get here—and how easy it would be for Hillary's likely chance to slip away. With the possible exception of Victoria Woodhull—the

spiritualist healer, Wall Street broker, and free-love advocate who ran for president on the Equal Rights Party ticket in 1872—the female politicians Fitzpatrick profiles in *The Highest Glass Ceiling* seem like reasonable candidates for the nation's highest office, particularly when compared with 2016's field of fractious men. But of course, Woodhull, Margaret Chase Smith, and Shirley Chisholm never had a chance. They were women.

A gifted storyteller as well as a thoroughgoing scholar, Fitzpatrick gives piquant and surprisingly suspenseful biographies of each of those three women. We know the outcome, yet how did each woman come as close as she did? At a time when no woman could vote for her, Woodhull still had the imagination, influence, and media contacts to wage a campaign. Smith, a three-term Republican senator who had taken a bold stance against Senator Joseph McCarthy's red-baiting, was thought too old at 66 to run—and, of course, too female—but succeeded in having her name placed in nomination at her party's convention in 1964, a historic first. Chisholm faced double-barreled prejudice, despite two terms as the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives, when she campaigned through primary season and all the way to the Democratic convention in 1972, 100 years after Woodhull's failed bid. Forty-four years on, 11 presidential terms later, are we ready for Hillary? Reading Fitzpatrick's chronicle won't calm your nerves, or even steady them—but in this election season, what can?



## Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe

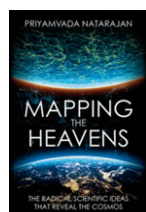
By Dawn Tripp '90  
Random House, 336 pp.

The past year has seen a veritable flood of bio-fiction, with the publication of novels starring M.F.K. Fisher, John Lennon, and Ronald Reagan, to name a few. Some writers have taken historical duos as their subjects: Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo, Vanessa Bell and Virginia Woolf, Edouard Manet and his "model-muse" Victorine Meurent.

Although Dawn Tripp titles her novel *Georgia*, hers is also a pairing of historical figures: the years in Georgia O'Keeffe's life given over to her formative affair with Alfred Stieglitz take center stage. Yet while Stieglitz—the imperious art dealer who "discovered" O'Keeffe, photographed her so memorably, and gave her, early on, the space and connections to establish herself as a painter—is portrayed in sharp detail, we see him always from Georgia's point of view. This is the story of O'Keeffe's unfolding as an artist and as a woman in love.

What is gained by an imaginative retelling of a life story readily available in numerous biographies? Some novelists argue that deeper truths are revealed in historically informed fiction than can be reached in accounts relying strictly on available evidence. Biographer and novelist alike seek to resurrect the subject

of their fascination; we can thank this recent turn away from contemporary realism in our fiction writers for a novel that lives and breathes like *Georgia*.



### Mapping the Heavens: The Radical Scientific Ideas That Reveal the Cosmos

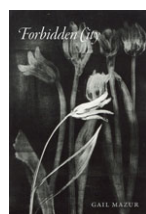
by Priyamvada Natarajan RI '09  
Yale University Press, 288 pp.

Cosmology is hot these days, especially since the thrilling announcement in February 2016 that a “tweet from the universe” (as the scientific publisher Elsevier characterized it) had been detected by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, confirming an almost impossibly distant collision of two black holes. Natarajan, an astrophysicist and an expert on the dark side of the heavens—dark matter, dark energy, black holes—writes forcefully and for a wide readership, as she aims for more than an explanation of what’s out there. Starting with the ancients, who surveyed the stars with their naked eyes, Natarajan narrates a succession of astrophysical breakthroughs that have been as disturbing as they were exhilarating: “The acceptance of new ideas is not linear or instantaneous and is always contested.”

Mapping—and remapping—the heavens also means locating ourselves within them, and it is Natarajan’s aim to “show how cosmologists have coped with these

frequent shifts and reconfigured their knowledge maps by creatively harnessing the power of curiosity and wonder.”

When confronting newness, there is comfort in knowing others have been there before; Natarajan’s historical perspective gives consolation as we gaze, aided now by the most sophisticated of instruments, into the vastness that holds the secret of our origins.



### Forbidden City

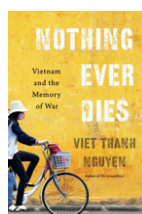
by Gail Mazur BI '97, RI '09  
University of Chicago Press, 72 pp.

Elizabeth Bishop, one of Gail Mazur’s evident literary influences, believed that poems were of “two kinds”: that which is “at rest, and that which is in action, within itself.” Bishop became a master of the second kind, and Mazur, too, has schooled herself in the poem of the mind—or spirit—in action. “Poetry is a way of thinking with one’s feelings,” Bishop is also known to have said, and Mazur achieves a particular kind of grace as she thinks her way through a dark spectrum of feelings—grief prime among them—and arrives at a place of accommodation, even revelation.

Among my favorites in *Forbidden City* is the prelapsarian “We Swam to an Island of Bees,” a plangent recollection of a summer day early in her marriage to the artist Michael Mazur, whose recent death is mourned in

many of these stunning new poems, concluding:

*The bees hummed and investigated  
our sun-warmed skin as we lay  
not moving, just resting, nothing  
to harm us there, nothing in that  
first chapter of our life that stung.*



### Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War

by Viet Thanh Nguyen RI '09  
Harvard University Press, 384 pp.

While Viet Thanh Nguyen’s stirring argument for a new ethics of war and remembrance relies on his extensive exploration of the relevant literature (a 20-page bibliography offers an excellent reading list), this book’s power derives from Nguyen’s own eloquent testimony as a witness to the effects of the war Americans call “Vietnam” and the Vietnamese call “the American War.” Nguyen describes how both names are reductive, leaving out the many other nations involved in and affected by the conflict and ignoring the century-long lead-up to what by the 1960s had become an inevitable result of “the steady drone of a war machine’s ever-ongoing preparations.”

It is past time for a new pacifism, more nuanced and wiser than “Make love, not war” or “Out now! Out now!” yet with the same insistence on an end to killing and destruction in the name of world peace or regional stability. *Nothing Ever Dies* could be the bible of this new movement.



### The Violet Hour: Great Writers at the End

By Katie Roiphe '90  
The Dial Press, 320 pp.

A book that brings readers close to the lives of six estimable writers of the 20th century—Sigmund Freud, James Salter, Maurice Sendak, Susan Sontag, Dylan Thomas, and John Updike—couldn’t go too far wrong. Roiphe chooses instead to bring us close to these writers’ deaths and gives us far more than a set of finely drawn capsule biographies.

She begins by telling of her own brush with death from pneumonia in childhood and her lingering fascination with that final portal through which she’d nearly passed much too soon. How do these six writers, her personal icons, handle the end when it comes? She begins with Sontag, who lived several decades past a grim 1975 cancer diagnosis, “gleaming with survivorship,” in her own words. It had seemed Sontag was immortal; but that could not be. Roiphe charts precisely the final months, the treatments, the negotiations, the indignities and dignity at the last. She is able to find something gleaming in all the deaths that finally overtake her subjects—something “strangely reassuring . . . about the compression of the final moments, the way everything comes rushing in, the intensity, that is beautiful even though the death is not.”



## Radcliffe Day 2016

Radcliffe Day honors Janet Yellen, chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

**MAY 29 WAS A DAY** of superlatives, including the largest crowd in the tent and the greatest number of online viewers yet for Radcliffe Day events—this time, in honor of Radcliffe Medalist Janet Yellen, chair of the Federal Reserve. Those in attendance in Cambridge and online—watching the webcast from six continents—were rewarded with anecdotes, insights, and inspiration. Both the audience and the markets rallied in response.

Videos of the panel discussion and the lunch, as well as extensive media coverage of the event, are online at [www.radcliffe.harvard.edu](http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu).

Gregory Mankiw, the  
Robert M. Beren Professor  
of Economics at Harvard  
University, and Janet Yellen  
in conversation under the  
tent in Radcliffe Yard





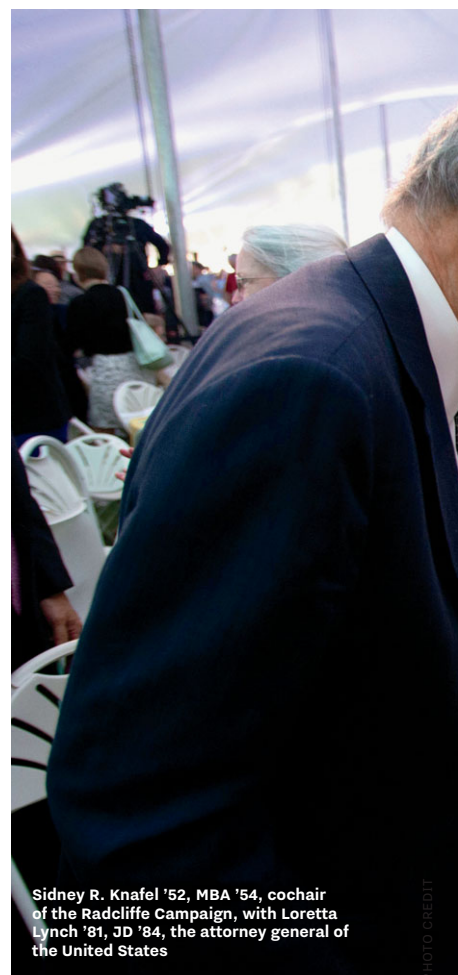
Dean Lizbeth Cohen presented the Radcliffe Medal to Yellen with "the deepest admiration for a lifetime of visionary and principled service."



In his introduction, Ben S. Bernanke '75, a distinguished fellow in residence in the economic studies program at the Brookings Institution and a former chair of the Federal Reserve, praised his colleague for her prescience and cautious temperament.



David Autor AM '94, PhD '99, Louise Sheiner '82, AM '89, PhD '93, Cecilia Rouse '86, PhD '92, Claudia Goldin RI '06, and Douglas W. Elmendorf AM '85, PhD '89 (L to R) participated in the panel discussion "Building an Economy for Prosperity and Equality."



Sidney R. Knafel '52, MBA '54, cochair of the Radcliffe Campaign, with Loretta Lynch '81, JD '84, the attorney general of the United States



Ethel Jackson '66 and David A. Jackson '64, a member of the Dean's Advisory Council, with Jane Kamensky, the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Director of the Schlesinger Library



Yellen and Dean Cohen flanking Drew Gilpin Faust, president of Harvard University

**“I saw that monetary and fiscal policy were tools that could be used to address unemployment and improve people’s lives, and that attracted me, and it’s continued to be my motivation.”**

RADCLIFFE MEDALIST JANET L. YELLEN

All videos are online at [www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/video-and-audio](http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/video-and-audio).



## Meditations, Translations, and Calligraphy

In this portrait concert of Felipe Lara RI '16—who has been described by the *New York Times* as “a gifted Brazilian-American modernist”—the featured works, performed by such musicians as the JACK Quartet and members of the International Contemporary Ensemble, span more than a decade of the composer’s career.



## How Much Is One American Worth? Public Opinion toward Globalization

In the 2015–2016 Kim and Judy Davis Lecture in the Social Sciences, Diana C. Mutz examines the psychological, political, economic, and philosophical underpinnings of American attitudes toward policies such as international trade and outsourcing. Mutz is the Samuel A. Stouffer Professor of Political Science and Communication at the Annenberg School for Communication and in the Department of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania.



## Tiling the Genome: Naming the Parts of Your Genome That Make You You

Alexander (Sasha) Wait Zaranek—the chief scientist at Curoverse Inc. and the director of informatics at the Harvard Personal Genome Project—suggests that someday soon, doctors may use the information from individuals’ own DNA to realize precision medicine. The lecture was part of the DNA Lecture Series.



# Newsmakers



## Debut Novel Wins Pulitzer

*The Sympathizer* (Grove Press, 2015), by Viet Thanh Nguyen RI '09, scored the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction—not a bad outcome for a first novel. Described by the prize committee as a “layered immigrant tale told in the wry, confessional voice of a ‘man of two minds’—and two countries, Vietnam and the United States,” the novel follows a double agent after the Vietnam War: a South Vietnamese captain who had attended college in the United States but returned to his homeland to fight for the communist cause. The novel also won the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction and was a finalist for the 2016 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. ■ Hours after winning the Pulitzer, Nguyen gave a reading at the Harvard Book Store, which had been scheduled to coincide with the release of the paperback edition. “No one is more surprised than I am,” said Nguyen of his win. ■ An associate professor of English and American studies and ethnicity at the University of Southern California, Nguyen also recently published *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War* (Harvard University Press, 2016). He researched that book (see page 39 for a review) at the Radcliffe Institute, where he was a Suzanne Young Murray Fellow.

## Honor Roll

The American Academy in Berlin named **Molly Antopol RI '16** the recipient of its 2016–2017 Berlin Prize, which comes with a semester-long fellowship. Much like a Radcliffe fellowship, the Berlin Prize gives recipients time away from their obligations to work on individual projects. Antopol will use the opportunity to continue work on her novel in progress, “The After Party.”

**Nancy S. Wexler '67** recently received the inaugural Hermann J. Muller Award for Contributions to Our Understanding of Genes and Society. President of the Hereditary Disease Foundation and the Higgins Professor of Neuropsychology in the Departments of Neurology and Psychiatry at Columbia University, Wexler earned the award in recognition of her work in genetics, specifically for advancing understanding of Huntington’s disease and other brain disorders. In conjunction with the award, she delivered a lecture titled “Mendel, Muller, Morgan, Mom, and Me: An Ever-Expanding Voyage of Discovery,” which is archived at <http://broadcast.iu.edu/events/muller-lecture-wexler.html>.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation recently announced its 2016 fellows, who include **Jericho Brown RI '10**; **Wendy Hui Kyong Chun RI '03**; **Catherine Clinton '73**; **Roxanne L. Euben RI '05**; **Ellen Harvey '89**; **Mitchell B. Merback RI '08**; **Feryal Özel PhD '02, RI '13**; **Carla L. Peterson '65**; **Betty Shamieh '96, RI '06**; **Anna Deavere Smith BI '92**; **Sarah Payne Stuart '73**; and **Jing Tsu PhD '01, RI '09**.

**Jonathan Lazar RI '13** picked up the 2016 Social Impact Award from SIGCHI, an organization for academics and students engaged in the field of human-computer interaction. A professor of computer and information sciences at Towson University and the director of its undergraduate program in information systems, Lazar focused his Radcliffe fellowship on how web-based interfaces can discriminate against people with disabilities.

The American Historical Association awarded its Joan Kelly Memorial Prize to **Susan S. Lanser RI '05** for her book *The Sexuality of History: Modernity and the Sapphic, 1565–1830* (University of Chicago Press, 2014). Developed during Lanser's Radcliffe fellowship, the book was also a finalist for the 2015 Lambda Literary Award in LGBT Studies. She is a professor of comparative literature, English, and women's, gender, and sexuality studies at Brandeis University.

Claremont Graduate University named **Ross Gay '16** the winner of the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, which carries with it a \$100,000 prize. His latest collection, *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2015), scored the National Book Critics Circle Award for poetry and was a finalist for the National Book Award and the NAACP Image Award. The *Los Angeles Times* featured the writer in "Poet Ross Gay Is on a Roll: He Talks Gardens and Gratitude," and this past spring, the *New York Times Magazine* published his metaphoric "Ode to the Flute." For more about the poet, see page 32.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences has announced its 2016 fellows, who include **Andrea Louise Campbell RI '13**; **Rey Chow RI '06**; **Tom C. Conley AM '95**, **RI '12**; **Mathea Falco '65**; **Marianne Hirsch BI '85**; **Bryna R. Kra '88**; **Kelsey C. Martin '79**; **Susan G. Pederson '81**, **AM '83**, **PhD '89**, **BI '95**, **RI '03**; and **Tal D. Rabin '84**. **Tamar Flash RI '13** is among the foreign honorary members.

Thomson Reuters named **Licia Verde RI '16** to its Highly Cited Researchers 2015. The annual list, which in 2015 focused on contemporary research achievement, recognizes leading researchers in the sciences and social sciences from around the world. For more about Verde, see page 2.

Four former Radcliffe Institute fellows were among the 11 Harvard faculty members who received 2016 Walter Channing Cabot Fellowships in recognition of their publications: **Suzanne Preston Blier AM**



## A Long-Deserved Triumph

The pastry chef **Joanne Chang '91**, owner of Flour Bakery in Boston and Cambridge, triumphed in May by capturing the 2016 Outstanding Baker Award from the James Beard Foundation after several prior bids. "Chang was on her way to becoming the Susan Lucci of the Beards—she was nominated for Outstanding Pastry Chef in 2011 and 2012, Best Chef Northeast in 2013 and 2014, and Outstanding Baker in 2015," wrote the *Boston Globe's* Devra First. "When she appeared again on this year's list of semifinalists, I wrote, 'Prediction: Chang will be named every year until she wins.'"

Chang—who with her husband, Christopher Myers, is also co-owner of the Myers + Chang eatery, in Boston's South End—studied applied mathematics and economics at the College and worked as a management consultant before beginning her culinary career. She launched Flour in 2000 after stints at several critically acclaimed restaurants in the Boston area and New York City.

'93, **RI '03**, the Allen Whitehill Clowes Professor of Fine Arts and of African and African American Studies, for *Art and Risk in Ancient Yoruba: Ife History, Power, and Identity c. 1300* (Cambridge University Press, 2015); **Marla Frederick AM '10**, **RI '09**, a professor of African and African American studies and of religion, for *Colored Television: American Religion Gone Global* (Stanford University Press, 2015); **Tamar Herzog AM '13**, **RI '16**, the Monroe Gutman Professor of Latin American Affairs and a Radcliffe Alumnae Professor, for *Frontiers of Possession:*

*Spain and Portugal in Europe and the Americas* (Harvard University Press, 2015); and **Nicholas Watson AM '01**, **RI '09**, the Henry B. and Anne M. Cabot Professor of English Literature, for *John of Morigny's Liber florum celestis doctrine: An Edition and Commentary*, with Claire Fanger (Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 2015).

**Sheila ffolliott BI '90** picked up the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women. She serves as the president of the American Friends of Attingham and is a professor emerita of art history at George Mason University and a trustee of the Medici Archive Project.

## Inklings

In a recent article, "What a Shrimp Can Teach a Submarine: The Benefits of Strange Science," for *Phys.org*, **Sheila N. Patek '94**, **RI '09** defended the discovery-based research she performs in her lab investigating the physics and evolution of mantis shrimp. Her laboratory's research was cited in US Representative Jeff Flake's report "Wastebank: The Farce Awakens," which criticizes some federally sponsored research projects. Patek's article highlighted practical applications of her research. She is an associate professor in Duke University's biology department.

In a *Wall Street Journal* article, "The World Turned Upside Down," **Jane Kamensky BI '97**, **RI '07** reviewed Edith Gelles's book *Abigail Adams: Letters* (Library of America, 2016). Kamensky is a professor of history at Harvard University and the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library.

**Jill Abramson '76**, the former executive editor of the *New York Times* and a visiting lecturer in Harvard's Department of English, is now writing for the *Guardian* a fortnightly political column that analyzes key issues in American politics and society.

This spring, the US Treasury announced that Harriet Tubman's image will replace

Andrew Jackson's on the \$20 bill, starting in 2020. Commenting in the *New York Times* earlier this year on the movement to put a woman's likeness on US paper currency, US Treasurer **Rosie Rios '87** said, "It took us all by surprise just how much interest there really was." Tubman was the preferred choice of **Christine Desan AM '98, RI '16**, a Harvard Law School professor who worked on the book "Designing Money in Early America: Experiments in Political Economy (1680–1775)" during her fellowship. In a *Harvard Gazette* article last year, Desan said, "We could hardly find a better symbol of somebody who worked for liberty and worked with compassion and worked without recognition."

An April issue of the *New Yorker* carried a piece by **Henri Cole RI '15**, "My John Berryman: A Poet of Deep Unease," which explores what drew Cole some 35 years ago to the American poet's "baffling book" *77 Dream Songs*. A few months earlier, the magazine carried the Cole piece "Swimming with Oliver Sacks," about a favorite pastime of the late neurologist and writer. "I swam with Oliver in the Adirondacks in a cold green lake where he had swum for several decades," Cole wrote. "Age disappears when one is swimming, so it didn't matter that I was twenty-five years younger."

**Susan Faludi '81, RI '09** weighed in on the link (or lack thereof) between feminism and young women's electoral choices in a *New York Times* article "Not Their Mother's Candidate."

In a *Boston Globe* review, "At Radcliffe, a Child's Eye View of Art, and Vice Versa," Cate McQuaid called a spring installation of works by **Valérie Massadian RI '16** "the coziest show I have ever experienced." It "seeks to honor the wide open, roaming consciousness of the very young."

The *Connecticut Law Tribune* featured **Reginald Dwayne Betts RI '12** in "Ex-Inmate, Activist, and Author Thrives as Yale Law Student." In addition to earning a law degree this spring, Betts recently gave a poetry reading at the University of Connecticut. Said the *Daily Campus*,

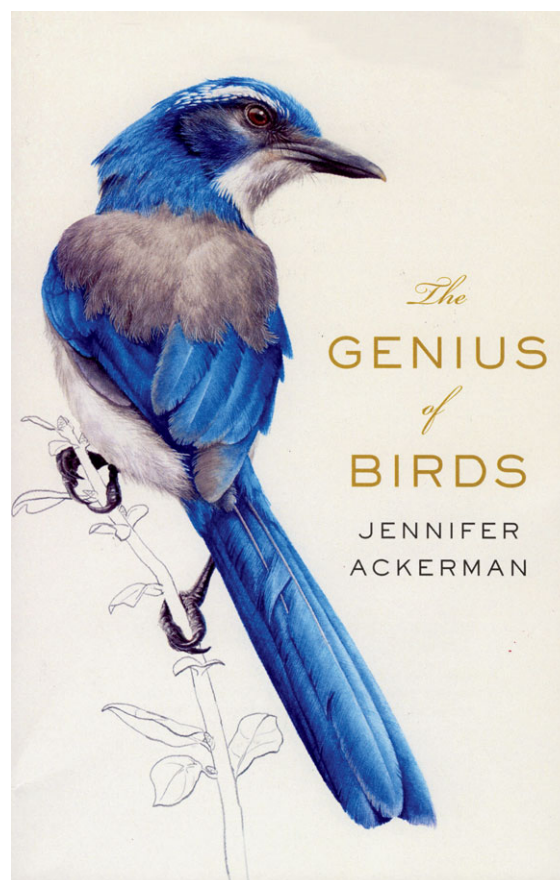
"Betts explored the deep capacity of the human condition and our ability to wade through the experiences we have, what to make of them when they happen, and how to reflect on them later on."

Traveling cross-country by train on an Amtrak literary residency, the writer **Farai Chideya '90** traversed landscapes both physical and cultural. She wrote about her trip for the *New York Times*, reflecting on the Great Migration, segregation, and zydeco in "Viewing Los Angeles through a Creole Lens." Chideya's new book, *The Episodic Career: How to Thrive at Work in the Age of Disruption* (Atria, 2016), was deemed by *Publishers Weekly* a "smart and savvy" take on "how to forge the best and most fulfilling career path" in the "ever-changing American workplace."

The *New Yorker* article "How We Learn Fairness" showcased the research of **Felix Warneken RI '15** and other psychol-

## Unlocking Admiration for the Bird- Brained

*The Genius of Birds* (Penguin Press, 2015) is the latest investigation by the award-winning science writer **Jennifer Ackerman BI '98**. The *Wall Street Journal* said it is "important not only for what it says about birds, but also about the human ingenuity entailed in unraveling the mysteries of the avian brain."



ogists in their attempts to home in on the rather thorny issue of how humans approach privilege. "It seems likely that our aversion to being disadvantaged is innate, because we share it with other animals," Maria Konikova wrote for the magazine. "The question for psychologists is whether our aversion to *bene-fitting* from inequality is innate, too—or, alternatively, if it's learned through some form of socialization." Warneken is the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard.

**Perri Klass '78, MD '86** wrote about the parasitic hookworm, whose life cycle, she said, "takes full advantage of human biology, human behavior, and human poverty," in the *New Yorker* article "War of the Worms."

In "Chronicling Women's History, Writers Celebrate Their Own," the *Boston Sunday Globe* featured a group of local women biographers that includes **Joyce Antler '78, Fran Malino BI '80, and Megan Marshall '77, RI '07**. The group, which numbers six in total, has been active for 30 years, while its members have published 33 books. "It's not commercial success, academic advancement, or awards that have kept them going," the *Globe* correspondent Hattie Bernstein wrote. "No matter how many books they publish or awards they win, the going would be more lonely, the ups and downs more difficult, and the joys less sweet without the group."

## Shelf Life

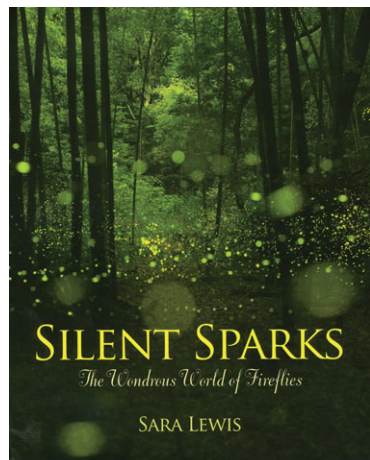
**Katherine Ozment '90** has published *Grace without God: The Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Belonging in a Secular Age* (Harper Wave, 2016), which examines what the trend of not affiliating with a religion means for America. The *Freakonomics* author and economist Steven D. Levitt says, "*Grace without God* fundamentally changed the way I will raise my children."

Upon publication, "*Most Blessed of the Patriarchs*": Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination (W. W. Norton,

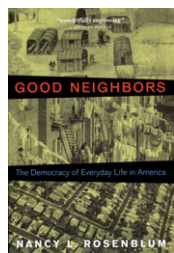
2016), a new biography by **Annette Gordon-Reed JD '84, RI '16** and Peter S. Onuf, debuted on the *New York Times* hardcover best seller list at number 16. "Gordon-Reed and Onuf employ their considerable historical and literary skills to collage an unconventional portrait of Jefferson," the *Chicago Tribune* wrote, and the *New York Times* called the coauthors a "scholarly 'dream team.'"

In *Good Neighbors: The Democracy of Everyday Life in America* (Princeton University Press, 2016), **Nancy L. Rosenblum '69, PhD '73, BI '88** argues that neighborly interactions exert a powerful influence on the quality of Americans' quotidian existence. Rosenblum recently retired from her post as the Senator Joseph Clark Professor of Ethics in Politics and Government at Harvard. "Her innovative inquiry into neighborliness derives from her humanistic interest in literature and other narrative forms for the interpretation of everyday experience," writes **Homi K. Bhabha RI '05**, also a Harvard professor.

The newest nonfiction book of **Jill Lepore BI '00** is *Joe Gould's Teeth* (Knopf, 2016). Called "ever curious and intrepid" by *Publishers Weekly*, Lepore presents a true-life detective story, digging into the past of a Greenwich Village eccentric who may (or may not) have been writing a book called *The Oral History of Our Time*.



The biologist **Sara Lewis '75, BI '90** has published a book focused on her area of expertise: *Silent Sparks: The Wondrous World of Fireflies* (Princeton



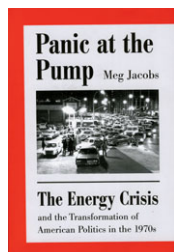
University Press, 2016). "In prose that is plenty accessible for younger readers, the author doesn't skimp on the details as she divulges 'some of fireflies' most deeply held secrets," said *Kirkus* of the illustrated book.

A professor of history at the University at Buffalo, **Tamara Plakins Thornton '79** has penned *Nathaniel Bowditch and the Power of Numbers: How a Nineteenth-Century Man of Business, Science, and the Sea Changed American Life* (University of North Carolina Press, 2016). "This recommended biography rediscovers an eccentric who was key in improving several emerging industries," *Library Journal* wrote.

**Martha Collins BI '83** has come out with a poetry anthology, *Admit One: An American Scrapbook* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2016). A *Washington Post* review called it a "strikingly original collection that combines brilliant storytelling and compelling commentary on ethics and race." Collins founded the creative writing program at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

**Bonnie Quint Kaplan '74**, under the nom de plume Y. I. Cooke, has published *Easy Cooking for Tired People* (Quint Publications, 2016). "It is a plea for home cooking, be it ever so humble, with recipes and attitude," wrote Kaplan. She is also the author of *Barnett Baff and the Everlasting Murder Case* (Quint Publications, 2014), the true story of the events surrounding the very public slaying of poultry businessman Barnett Baff in the early 1900s.

**Meg Jacobs RI '09** examines domestic and foreign policy during the OPEC oil embargo in *Panic at the Pump: The Energy Crisis and the Transformation of American Politics in the 1970s* (Hill and Wang, 2016), which she worked on during her Radcliffe fellowship. *Booklist* noted that the "well-written account faithfully re-creates the period's turmoil and demonstrates how governmental missteps more than 40 years ago still affect our energy policies today."



**Peter Behrens RI '16** published *Carry Me: A Novel* (Pantheon, 2016), a story stretching across two generations, two continents, and two world wars. "Behrens is a beautiful, lyric writer," said Jason Sheehan on NPR, noting that the author ably narrated early-20th-century scenes. "His understanding of the age and command of it, moment to moment, is impressive." In February, *Vogue* named the work one of the best new novels.

*The Two-Family House* (St. Martin's Press, 2016) is the debut novel of **Lynda Cohen Loigman '90**, a fact the Associated Press found "hard to believe," calling it a "richly textured, complex, yet entirely believable story."

**Wendy Mnookin '68** has authored a new collection of poetry titled *Dinner with Emerson* (Tiger Bark Press, 2016). A former National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship recipient in creative writing, Mnookin has published four previous collections.

*When Bunnies Go Bad: A Pru Marlowe Pet Noir* (Poisoned Pen, 2016) is the sixth mystery in a series by **Clea Simon '83** in which the main character is an animal behaviorist and psychic. "This quirky series has a devoted following among the Animal Planet crowd, and the unique premise has its own appeal," *Booklist* said.

A new essay collection, *The Big Move: Life between the Turning Points* (Indiana University Press, 2016), includes a contribution from **Anne M. Wyatt-Brown '61** and an afterword by **Margaret Morgan-roth Gullette '62, PhD '75, BI '87**. "The Big Move is a fascinating attempt to marry personal experience with academic analysis to help us all reconceive of one option for later-life living," said the *Huffington Post*.

In *Vagrant Nation: Police Power, Constitutional Change, and the Making of the 1960s* (Oxford University Press, 2016), **Risa Goluboff '93** examines how anti-vagrancy laws were often invoked to arrest diverse groups of "others," from Beats and civil rights activists to war protesters and gays, until a 1972 Supreme

Court ruling against a Jacksonville, Florida, ordinance.

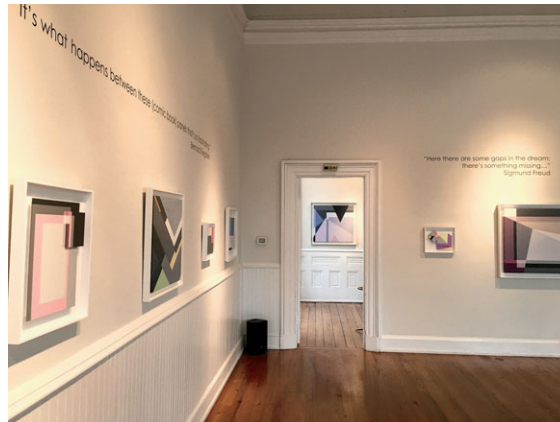
**Armine Kotin Mortimer '64** has translated *Casanova l'admirable*, by Philippe Sollers, for the publication of *Casanova the Irresistible* (University of Illinois Press, 2016). Since retiring from the University of Illinois as a professor of French literature, Mortimer has been translating contemporary French novels, including another Sollers work, which resulted in *Mysterious Mozart* (University of Illinois Press, 2010).

The latest from **Gail Lumet Buckley '59** is *The Black Calhouns: From Civil War to Civil Rights with One African American Family* (Atlantic Monthly Press, 2016). "Buckley charts the generational branches of black Calhouns painstakingly, as though making up for the lost stories of so many other African-Americans left on the cutting room floor," said the *New York Times Book Review*.

**Bracha Goetz '77** has published her 30th Jewish picture book. *I Lost Someone Special* (Judaica Press, 2015) puts the loss of a loved one in perspective by explaining that mourners can still connect to a person who has passed away through acts of Jewish devotion.

*Unspeakable Things: A Novel* (Knopf, 2016), which tells the story of a refugee family fleeing Europe during the final year of World War II, is a new work by seasoned author **Kathleen Spivack BI '71**. Calling the book "brilliant, vivid, entertaining, and often quite frightening," a *Washington Times* review said, "Spivack's poetic skills are evident in the precision and evocative language, her control of the tone—which is a harmony of darkness and wit—and her steadiness of focus on her characters."

**Lesley Lee Francis '52** has written a second book about her grandfather, the poet Robert Frost. *Booklist* described *You Come Too: My Journey with Robert Frost* (University of Virginia Press, 2015) as "altogether extraordinary, an insider's view of a great family that constantly but hardly deliberately reminds us that



## Filling In the Gaps

The Athenaeum Gallery of Alexandria, Virginia, recently featured abstract geometric oil paintings by **Judith Seligson '72** in *A Gap Frame of Mind*. The installation focused on her Gap project of 20 years, which takes cues from quotes from science, pop culture, and literature. "Just as a neurotransmitter fires across a synaptic gap between brain cells, so our minds make sense of things by filling in gaps," Seligson told the gallery.

it is personal" and deemed it an editors' choice for 2015 adult books.

**Sophie Cook '59** has published *Anna & Elizabeth: A Novel* (Lumen Editions, 2015). Set in Hungary in 1880–1944, it tells the story of an unlikely friendship between a country Baptist woman and her onetime Jewish employer.

A recent memoir by **Elise Rosenhaupt '68**, *Climbing Back: A Family's Journey Through Brain Injury* (Peninsula Road Press, 2015), follows the traumatic brain injury and subsequent recovery of her son, Patrick T. Noble '01, after a car hit him on Memorial Drive during his sophomore year at Harvard.

*The Sculpture of Tullio Lombardo* (Brepols Publishers, 2014), concerning a famed Venetian marble carver of the Renaissance and penned by **Anne Markham Schulz '59**, landed on the short list for *Apollo* magazine's book of the year in 2015.

*Commonwealth* (Harper, 2016) is the newest novel by **Ann Patchett BI '94**, who is the owner of the independent bookstore Parnassus Books in Nashville, Tennessee.

Although the book won't land until September, *Publishers Weekly* has already declared in a starred review that Patchett is "at her peak in humor, humanity, and understanding people in challenging situations."

## On Stage and Screen

The brainchild of **Michael Pollan RI '16**, *Cooked* is a four-part video documentary series about the declining art of cooking that premiered on Netflix earlier this year. Late last year Pollan's program *In Defense of Food* aired on PBS. Despite his food advocacy, Pollan told the *Guardian*, "I'm uncomfortable with the foodie label." For more about the new project he researched while at Radcliffe, see page 6.

**Sean Graney RI '14** once again put his own spin on Gilbert and Sullivan when he directed the duo's musical comedy *The Yeomen of the Guard* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Jefferson Public Radio called it "a raucous hootenanny that turns the Thomas Theatre into a safe but squirmy mosh pit." Graney also recently premiered *A Ring Never Ends*, his adaptation of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (*The Ring of the Nibelung*), at the University at Buffalo, where he served as the 2015–2016 WBFO Eileen Silvers Visiting Professor. In June, he codirected a new Shakespeare adaptation, *Midsummer Dream*, presented by the Hypocrites at the Pivot Arts Festival.

## Art Aware

The photography and film of **Sharon Lockhart RI '08** is on display through mid-August at the Arts Club of Chicago, in an exhibition titled *Sharon Lockhart: Rudzienko*. The *New York Times* ran a lengthy article, "An Artist Explores the Lives of Girls Labeled Difficult," about Lockhart and her work, including the 40-minute film *Rudzienko*. The film will also be incorporated in an exhibition launching in September at the Artist's Institute in New York. Last winter the Gladstone Gallery in New York presented a related exhibition, *Milena, Milena*.

**Abigail DeVille RI '15** recently staged an ambitious multiroom installation, *Only When It's Dark Enough Can You See The Stars*, that was organized by The Contemporary in Baltimore and presented at the Peale Museum. Her work *Intersection* (2014) is included in the inaugural exhibition, *Revolution in the Making: Abstract Sculpture by Women, 1947–2016*, of Hauser Wirth & Schimmel in Los Angeles, running through September; the *New Republic* reviewed the show in “Can Feminist Sculpture Redeem LA’s Gentrifying Arts District?”

**Elise Adibi RI '14** brought her essential oil-infused paintings to Full Haus in Los Angeles, where they were featured in the exhibition *Respiration Paintings*. For the show, she also installed scented viewing benches (with hints of bergamot, cedar, jasmine, lavender, lemon, and orange) inspired by fragrant local vegetation.

“Leslie Hewitt Dives Deep into the Civil Rights Movement” was the title of a *New York Times* piece in its spring gallery guide, when **Leslie Hewitt RI '10** exhibited three works at SculptureCenter in the Queens neighborhood of Long Island City. Her show included *Untitled (Structures)*, a new two-channel film commissioned by the Menil Collection in Houston, Texas, and made with the cinematographer Bradford Young. Hewitt also displayed work in the group show *Signal to Noise* at Manhattan’s Simon Preston Gallery.

The Islip Art Museum, in New York, showed several new works of **Anne Seelbach BI '90** in its spring exhibition *Poison Play*, which explored “tainted ecosystems” and works “born[e] from destruction,” according to the museum. Seelbach’s work focuses on the threatened waters and marine life of New York’s Long Island.

Work by **Jessica Ferguson '71** appeared in the exhibition *Cyanotypes: Photography’s Blue Period* at the Worcester Art Museum earlier this year. The show is the first-ever survey of handmade blueprints and includes examples from the 19th century to the present day.



## Finding Meaning in a Contested Land

**Shimon Attie RI '07** staged a solo exhibition, *Facts on the Ground*, his sixth at the Jack Shainman Gallery in New York City. The show featured the artist’s series of the same name, which “captures the artist’s poetic interventions at meaningful public spaces across Israel and Palestine,” according to the gallery.



Rachel Uffner Gallery presented a two-artist booth displaying works of **Pam Lins RI '14** and Leonhard Hurlzmeier at the Frieze New York art fair in late spring. Lins, a New York-based artist, showed a project she conceived during her fellowship year that combines Enzo Mari tables from his open-source manual *Autoprogettazione 1974* with ceramic sculptures re-created from photos of a classroom at Vkhutemas, a Moscow school of art, architecture, and design.

In the spring, the filmmakers **Lucien Castaing-Taylor RI '10** and **Véréna Paravel RI '13** and the anthropology lecturer Ernst Karel collaborated on a weeklong

large-scale video installation. It was projected outside the Harvard Science Center, with sound emanating from four audio channels. Taking in smartphone footage of the 2011 nuclear disaster in Fukushima and other imagery, *Ah humanity!* reflected on human vulnerability.

## Grace Notes

In May, **Reiko Yamada RI '16**, a composer, had the world premiere of her interactive concert work for women’s voices and percussion at the Boston Conservatory. *Mask Your Sonic Story* was performed by the Lorelei Ensemble and the Boston Percussion Group. A video of excerpts from the performance of the experimental opera at Radcliffe can be found on our website.

The UK premiere of the symphonic piece *Hipnosis mariposa*, by Venezuelan composer **Paul Desenne RI '11**, is set for September 4 at the BBC Prom 67 in Royal Albert Hall. Desenne composed it

during his fellowship year. This year, the BBC Proms celebrate the music of Latin America.

The Brazilian composer **Felipe Lara RI '16**, whose work includes electroacoustic solos and chamber music, was the subject of a portrait concert at the Americas Society featuring musicians from the International Contemporary Ensemble, the JACK Quartet, and guest violist Elizabeth Weisser. Earlier this year, Lara debuted two pieces composed at the Radcliffe Institute: *The Ensemble InterContemporain*, conducted by Ilan Volkov, premiered his piece *Fringes*, for 22 musicians, at the Philharmonie de Paris 2. The Ogni Suono duo premiered his *Vocalise 2*, for amplified alto and tenor saxophones, at the University of California, Riverside, before performing it at a concert at San Francisco's Center for New Music.

## Public Life

**Anne Whitehouse '76** won a *Prairie Home Companion* competition for "poems of gratitude." Garrison Keillor read her piece, "One Summer Day on the Number One Train," on his May 21 broadcast. Another poem by Whitehouse, "Calligraphies," won the 2016 Songs of Eretz Poetry Award.

**Ayesha Chaudhry RI '16** delivered the 15th Annual Prophetic Voices Lecture at Boston College's Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life in April. "Who Gets to Be a Prophet? Miracles, Privileges, and the Discourse of Meritocracy" was the title of her talk.

Three of five Harvard College Professors named this spring were Radcliffe fellows: **Marla Frederick RI '09**, a professor of African and African American studies and the study of religion; **Ann Pearson RI '10**, the Murray and Martha Ross Professor of Environmental Sciences; and **Salil Vadhan '95, RI '04**, the Vicky Joseph Professor of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics. Each year the University recognizes selected faculty members for their excellence in undergraduate teaching, along with their research activities.

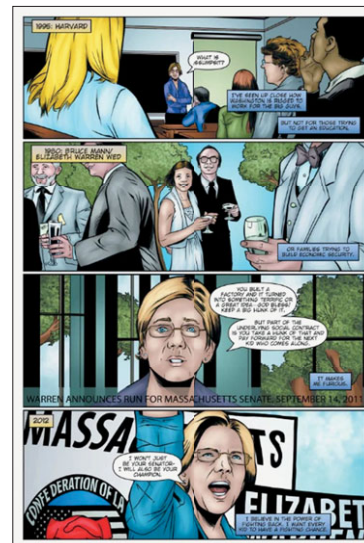
The geneticist **Itai Yanai RI '15** recently became the inaugural director of NYU Langone Medical Center's new Institute for Computational Medicine, which aims to apply computational biology to medical challenges. In his research, Yanai, also a professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at NYU School of Medicine, investigates how embryos develop. He is a coauthor of *The Society of Genes* (Harvard University Press, 2016).

The 2016 Harvard History Faculty Book Tour featured three Radcliffe-affiliated professors: **Jill Lepore BI '00**, the author of *Joe Gould's Teeth* (Knopf, 2016); **Lisa McGirr AM '07, RI '13**, the author of *The War on Alcohol: Prohibition and the Rise of the American State* (W. W. Norton, 2016); and **Intisar A. Rabb AM '13, RI '16**, a Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at Radcliffe and the author of *Doubt in Islamic Law: A History of Legal Maxims, Interpretation, and Islamic Criminal Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).

The MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences designated the philosopher **Agustín Rayo RI '10** as its associate dean. Dubbed the "mathy philosopher" by the school, Rayo strives to make mind-blowing ideas accessible. He spelled out his ideas on language and logic in his book *The Construction of Logical Space* (Oxford University Press, 2013).

**David Levine AM '05, RI '14** recently rejoined the Harvard fold as a professor of the practice in the Department of English and in Theater, Dance & Media. He also serves as a professor of art and director of studio and performing arts at Bard College Berlin. This spring, the actress Laura Beckner performed his piece *The Best New Work (1): Avant-Garde and Kitsch* at the Princeton University Art Museum. Levine is also a 2016 recipient of a performance art and theater grant from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

**Alessandra Buonanno RI '12** is one of the principal investigators of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, which recently observed gravitational waves. Her work



## Senator Illustrated

Coming to a bookstore near you: a 24-page comic book account of the adventures of Senator Elizabeth Warren AM '93, RI '02. *Female Force: Elizabeth Warren* (Storm Entertainment, 2016) tells the story of the Midwesterner's evolution into a US senator for Massachusetts. No word yet on whether her Radcliffe Institute fellowship made it into the comic, which is written by Michael Frizell and illustrated by Vincenzo Sansone. **Caroline Kennedy '80** and **Sheryl Sandberg '91, MBA '95** also have comics in the series.

at Radcliffe was on the modeling of gravitational waves from binary black holes. She has co-lead an effort to determine whether the signal detected by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (from which the collaboration takes its name) matches the predictions of Einstein's theory of general relativity. So far, it does. Buonanno is a director at the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics in Germany.

In late winter, **Claire Messud RI '05**, a novelist and senior lecturer in Harvard's Department of English, appeared in conversation with Colm Tóibín, the author of *Brooklyn* (Viking, 2009) and *The Master* (Picador, 2004). The event was part of the Mahindra Humanities Center's Writers Speak series.

Have you done something extraordinary? SHARE IT! E-mail us at [magazine@radcliffe.harvard.edu](mailto:magazine@radcliffe.harvard.edu).

## Striving to Become Slightly More Human

Elliott Colla, the 2015–2016 William Bentinck-Smith Fellow and an associate professor of Arabic and Islamic studies at Georgetown University, lived in Egypt for many years. His project at Radcliffe explored the links between literature and revolutionary politics. For this, he studied not only published material—poems, memoirs, and novels—but also performance-based production such as the gestures and slogans used by activists during demonstrations. The result of his research? Two books: a novel and a scholarly monograph.

### Describe yourself in six words or fewer.

6 AM tea. Milk and sugar.

### What is your most treasured possession?

*The Arabian Nights* (*Alf Laylah wa-Laylah*), *From Its Earliest Known Sources* (Leiden, 1984), edited by Muhsin Mahdi. Back in the 1970s, Harvard's Muhsin Mahdi took a break from working on Islamic philosophy to edit the earliest manuscript of this classic. What he did is an amazing achievement. The book has been out of print for many years—but everyone should own a copy of it.

### What inspires you?

People who work to make the world more just and beautiful and do it with grace and generosity.

### What aspect of your work do you most enjoy?

I like working on topics that do not emanate from my own life and don't necessarily intersect with who I am or how I live my days. When work is like that, it draws you out from yourself. It pulls you toward the experience of

others. You can't help but be changed by work like that—it expands you, and if you're lucky, it makes you slightly more human.

### What drew you to Egypt's protest culture?

Even if protest culture was marginal in Egypt before 2011, it was the folk culture of many, many Egyptians. As chance would have it, this was the poetry and song my closest friends loved most. I absorbed a lot of it simply by living in Egypt at different times over the past 30 years.

### What do you hope to highlight about Egyptian political slogans and protest chants?

The Egyptian case shows that these slogans are poetic compositions meant to be sung by large groups of people in a moment of great risk and beauty. They are part of fleeting cultural and political performances—partly orchestrated, partly improvised, sometimes successful, sometimes not. Now that the revolutionary moment of 2011 is definitively over, we risk forgetting the richness of that moment, what it meant to the people making it. Or we risk overwriting the experience of that moment with hindsight.



**“Even if protest culture was marginal in Egypt before 2011, it was the folk culture of many, many Egyptians.”**

### Can you share with us a chant or slogan you found particularly powerful?

The most famous slogan, *al-sha'b yurid isqat al-nizam* (“The people” wants to topple the regime) was a powerful one for many reasons. One activist told me that a good slogan is one that seems like you always knew it when you hear it for the first time. It's got to be fresh but familiar. This is a great example: it takes a line of poetry from the 1930s that any educated Arab would know by heart and changes it.

### What is the biggest hurdle to studying the culture of a revolution even as it's occurring?

It is very difficult to capture the sense of the ongoing events and the fullness of what they meant to people in the moment. And this is why revolutions are mostly studied from the perspective of the aftermath—when all the promises of revolution have failed to come true. This view colors so much of what we know of them as events and gives them such a tragic aura.

► The answers to this questionnaire have been edited for space. Read Colla's complete answers on our website.



|              |                         |                                                                                                                                |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2016</b>  |                         |                                                                                                                                |
| September 28 | <u>LECTURE</u>          | <b>Carol J. Oja</b> , Historical Musicologist and 2016–2017 Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute <b>HUBWEEK LECTURE</b>           |
| October 13   | <u>PANEL DISCUSSION</u> | <b>Families in Flight</b> : Today's International Refugee Crisis <b>MEHTA PANEL DISCUSSION</b>                                 |
| October 17   | <u>PANEL DISCUSSION</u> | <b>Righting the Record</b> : Conservatism in the Archives                                                                      |
| October 20   | <u>LECTURE</u>          | <b>Bruno Latour</b> , Anthropologist and Philosopher                                                                           |
| October 28   | <u>SYMPOSIUM</u>        | <b>From Sea to Changing Sea*</b> <b>LINDA N. CABOT SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM ABOUT OCEANS</b>                                          |
| November 15  | <u>LECTURE</u>          | <b>Garth Risk Hallberg</b> , Novelist <b>DAVIS LECTURE</b>                                                                     |
| December 1   | <u>LECTURE</u>          | <b>Jacob S. Hacker</b> , Political Scientist                                                                                   |
| <b>2017</b>  |                         |                                                                                                                                |
| February 9   | <u>LECTURE</u>          | <b>Brian Greene</b> , Physicist <b>DAVIS LECTURE</b>                                                                           |
| February 16  | <u>LECTURE</u>          | <b>Jennifer Finney Boylan</b> , Author and Activist                                                                            |
| March 3      | <u>CONFERENCE</u>       | <b>Bound by History</b> : Universities and Slavery*                                                                            |
| March 7      | <u>LECTURE</u>          | <b>Jeremy Eichler</b> , Classical Music Critic and 2016–2017 Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute <b>PHELPS LECTURE</b>           |
| March 23     | <u>LECTURE</u>          | <b>Jane Kamensky</b> , Historian and the Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute |
| April 6–7    | <u>CONFERENCE</u>       | <b>Game Changers</b> : Sports, Gender, and Society*                                                                            |
| April 10     | <u>LECTURE</u>          | <b>Zoe Leonard</b> , Artist                                                                                                    |
| April 13     | <u>LECTURE</u>          | <b>Dava Sobel</b> , Science Writer <b>DAVIS LECTURE</b>                                                                        |
| April 28     | <u>CONFERENCE</u>       | <b>Intersections</b> : Understanding Urbanism in the Global Age*                                                               |
| May 26       | <u>CELEBRATION</u>      | <b>Radcliffe Day 2017*</b> <b>THIS EVENT TAKES PLACE IN GREENLEAF YARD AND RADCLIFFE YARD</b>                                  |

► All of these events will be available online after they take place. \*Events will be webcast. Learn more about these and other events, including exhibitions, on our website: [www.radcliffe.harvard.edu](http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu).



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# FAMILIES IN FLIGHT

## Today's International Refugee Crisis

Thursday, October 13, 2016  
First Day of College Fall Reunions



Please join us for a panel discussion about refugee families forced to move within and beyond borders. The speakers are a professor of international law, a doctor caring for refugees, a United Nations special advisor, and an independent photographer. They will share their experiences with Syrian refugees, explore how and why millions of people are uprooted from their homes and lands around the world, and offer their views about how to combat such international crises in the future.

This event is free and open to the public.  
Please register and join us: [www.radcliffe.harvard.edu](http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu)