



2009 American Studies
Symposium

Interrogating *-isms*:
Issues of Power from the
Streets to Academia

April 16th-18th
West Lafayette, IN

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

Thursday, April 16, 2009

6:00 p.m., Stewart Center, Room 202

Dr. John Stauffer, Harvard University

**“Insiders and Outsiders:
Dilemmas of Activism in the Civil War Era”**



Dr. Stauffer is Chair of the History of American Civilization and Professor of English and African and African American Studies at Harvard University. Among the leading scholars of the Civil War era, antislavery, and interracial alliances, he is the author or editor of seven books and more than 50 articles. His most recent book, *GIANTS: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln* (2008), has been a *Boston Globe* and *Amazon.com* bestseller and was

featured on the *Diane Rehm Show* and *Book TV with Susan Swain*. His book *The Black Hearts of Men: Radical Abolitionists and the Transformation of Race* (2002), a collective biography of two black and two white abolitionists who forged bonds of alliance that were unprecedented in the nineteenth century, won four major awards, including the Frederick Douglass Book Prize, the Avery Craven Book Prize, and the Lincoln Prize runner-up. Stauffer received his M.A. from Purdue University in 1993, his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1999, and has been selected to receive a 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue. He lives in Cambridge, MA with his wife, Deborah Cunningham, and their son, Erik Isaiah Stauffer.

(<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~amciv/faculty/stauffer.shtml>)

**Saturday, April 18, 2009—
Black Cultural Center**

**GRADUATE STUDENT BREAKFAST AND
DISCUSSION HOUR:**

9:30 a.m., BCC, Formal Lounge

**“Student-Activist Dynamics”
(Breakfast sponsored by A.S.G.S.O.)**

GRADUATE STUDENT PANEL:

11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

**Session 7: Breaking In and Breaking Down:
Examining the (De)Legitimizing Space of
Academia**

BCC, Multipurpose Room A

Neelu Chawla (Purdue University) – “‘Muhammad was a Punk Rocker’: And Other Intersections of Muslim and American Identity”

Kendra Unruh (Purdue University) – “Swingin’ Out White: Changes in the Cultural Ownership of the Lindy Hop”

MODERATOR AND RESPONDENT: TBA

The Symposium Committee would like to thank the following people and groups for their assistance with this year’s symposium: Delayne Graham, Dr. Kristina Bross, Karen Salt, Erik Wade, EARG, ASGSO, the Black Cultural Center, and all others who helped make this year’s symposium a success

**Friday, April 17, 2009 (continued) —
Black Cultural Center**

**SPECIAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:
“Activism and Academia: Negotiating Politics and Power
Inside and Outside of the Classroom”
5:00 p.m., Multipurpose Room A**

PARTICIPANTS:

Dr. Harry Targ, Professor of Political Science and American Studies
Dr. Berenice Carroll, Professor of Political Science and Women’s Studies
Kevin Brooks, Ph.D. Student, African American Studies
Sameerah Ahmad, President of POLE (Purdue Organization for Labor Equality)

**AWARDS DINNER:
6:30 p.m.
Purdue Memorial Union, East Faculty Lounge**

Presentation of the Chester E. Eisinger Prize and Research Awards

*All presentations will be made by Dr. Bill Mullen,
Director of American Studies.*

**REGISTRATION: 8:30 a.m.—9:00 a.m.
Black Cultural Center, lobby**

**PLENARY ADDRESS:
Friday, April 17, 2009
9:00 a.m., Black Cultural Center,
Multipurpose Room A**

Dr. Sean X Goudie, Pennsylvania State University

**“Beyond ‘the white dream of her there’: Imagining the
Empress Josephine in Caribbean American Regionalism”**



Dr. Goudie is Associate Professor of English and a member of the Advisory Board for the Center for American Literary Studies at Penn State. His book, *Creole America: the West Indies and the Formation of Literature and Culture in the New Republic* (U Penn Press, 2006), was awarded the 2007 Modern Language Association Prize for a First Book. Goudie’s research and teaching

seek to devise new paradigms for understanding American literature and culture across the centuries, challenging bounded “national” estimations of the field in favor of “hemispheric” and “transnational” approaches. With particular emphasis on North American and Caribbean relations—historic, political, economic, and cultural—Goudie’s scholarship has been supported by grants and fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, and Vanderbilt University’s Center for the Americas. Goudie’s current book project examines the ways in which the Caribbean region becomes a primary locus for U. S. empire building in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by treating artistic and literary proponents of such expansionism as well as its detractors both in North America and the West Indies.

(http://english.la.psu.edu/facultystaff/Bio_Goudie.htm)

(Dr. Goudie’s plenary address is sponsored by Dr. Kristina Bross and the Early American Reading Group, E.A.R.G.)

Friday, April 17, 2009—
Black Cultural Center
GRADUATE STUDENT PANELS:

10:45 a.m. – 12 noon (Panel Sessions 1 and 2)

Panel Session 1: Power in Defining: (De)Constructing Gender and Race Narratives

BCC, Multipurpose Room A

Brett Werenski (Purdue University) – “Race and Sexuality in Nativist Modernism”

Jen Lindquist (Purdue University) – “Labeling a White Feminist Theory”

Mark Bousquet (Purdue University) – “‘Beings Apparently Human’: The Negotiation of Race by Whalemens in the Nineteenth Century South Pacific”

Christian Remse (Bowling Green State University) – “Vodou Art: The Gaze Through Critical Race Theories”

MODERATOR AND RESPONDENT: Dr. Ryan Schneider

Panel Session 2: What or *Who* is in the Details?: Activism and the Renegotiation of Identity

BCC, Multipurpose Room B

Joy A J. Howard (Purdue University) – “Representation of Evil, Jonathan Edwards, and the Legacy of the Mahican Indians”

David G. Latimore (Duke University Divinity School) – “Barack or Barabbas”

MODERATOR AND RESPONDENT: Dr. Jennifer Bay

LUNCH (on your own), 12 noon

1: 30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Panel Sessions 3 and 4)

Panel Session 3: Ready or Not, Here I Come, You Can't Hide: Interrogating Federal Policies and 'Corporate' Hierarchies

BCC, Multipurpose Room A

Rachel Smederovac (Purdue University) – “Examining the Rhetoric of Renewable Energy: Wind Power and the United States”

John Schultz (Purdue University) – “U.S. Federal Policy Towards Indigenous Groups: Considering the Reactions to (and Consequences of) the Use of Law”

Michael Anderson (Purdue University) – “Personification of the Corporation: A Transnational Perspective”

MODERATOR AND RESPONDENT: Dr. Harry Targ

Panel Session 4: The Space I Locate: Power Dynamics or the Role of the Researcher and Community Organizer

BCC, Multipurpose Room B

Jaelyn M. Wells (Purdue University) – “Community Literacy Programs and the Role of the Graduate Student Researcher”

Joshua Prenosil (Purdue University) – “Orality and Literacy in Nonviolent Resistance”

MODERATOR AND RESPONDENT: TBA

3:15 p.m.—4:45 p.m. (Panel Sessions 5 and 6)

Panel Session 5: The Story Images Tell or What Movements are Made of: Liberatory Potentials from the Stage to the Canvas

BCC, Multipurpose Room A

Duygun Gokturk (Purdue University) – “Pedagogy of Art: Critical Pedagogy within the Muralist Movement”

Jamie Hickner (Purdue University) – “Lumumba on Stage and Screen: Competing Constructions of Black Masculinity and the Radical Revolutionary”

Jaе Truesdell (Purdue University) – “Photogen(d)ic(k): Articulating Transness Autobiographically and Photographically” (*presentation contains nude images*)

MODERATOR AND RESPONDENT: Dr. Christopher Lukasik

Panel Session 6: Social Memory and Creating Archives: Questions of Provenance and the Politics of Authentication

BCC, Multipurpose Room B

Abby Stephens (Purdue) – “The Unusual Archive: Orlando Itin’s Sports Memorabilia Collection”

David S. Weir (Purdue) – “The Origins of Memory: Moses, Archives, and Justice”

MODERATOR AND RESPONDENT: Dr. Susan Curtis