Social Media History and Poetics

Introduced by Hendrik A. Hartog, Chair, American Studies; Hosted by Judy Malloy

PANELISTS:

David Bellos
Professor of French and Comparative Literature
“Georges Perec’s Imaginary Computer”

Judith Donath
Faculty Fellow, Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University
“Data Portraits”

Judy Malloy
Anschutz Distinguished Fellow in American Studies
“Social Media Poetics: The Female Narrator”

Jeff Nunokawa
Professor of English
“How To Do Things With Facebook: Social Media as Forum For Art”

Jim Rosenberg
“Writing in Open Space: Free-Combining Feral Word Objects”

Monday, December 2, 2013
4:30 p.m. • 222 Bowen Hall
Free and open to the public

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Judith Donath synthesizes knowledge from urban design, evolutionary biology and cognitive science to design innovative interfaces for on-line communities and virtual identities. A Harvard Berkman Faculty Fellow and formerly director of the Sociable Media Group at the MIT Media Lab, she is known internationally for her writing on identity, interface design, and social communication. She created several of the earliest social applications for the web, including the original postcard service and the first interactive juried art show; her work with the Sociable Media Group has been shown in museums and galleries worldwide. Her current research focuses on how we signal identity in both mediated and face-to-face interactions and she is working on a book about how the economics of honesty shape our world. She received her doctoral and master’s degrees in Media Arts and Sciences from MIT and her bachelor’s degree in History from Yale University. Her recent book *The Social Machine: Designs for Living Online* (MIT Press) will be available in May 2014.

Judy Malloy is a new media poet and critic. A pioneer on the Internet and in electronic literature, she followed a vision of hypertextual narrative that she began in the 1970s with experimental artist books created in card catalog and electro-mechanical structures. In the 27 years since she first wrote the online hypertext *Uncle Roger* on Art Com Electronic Network in 1986, she has composed an innovative body of electronic literature, including the generative hypertext *its name was Penelope* (Eastgate, 1993) and a series of social media-based narratives created in the Computer Science Laboratory at Xerox PARC. Her work has been exhibited and published internationally. Malloy has also been active in documenting new media and is the host of *Authoring Software*, a resource for teachers and students. As an arts writer, she has worked most notably as Editor of The New York Foundation for the Arts *NYFA Current*, (formerly *Arts Wire Current*) an Internet-based national journal on the arts and culture, and as editor of the MIT Press book, *Women, Art & Technology*. Her papers are archived as *The Judy Malloy Papers* at the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Duke University. She is currently teaching a course entitled "Social Media: History, Poetics, and Practice" in the Program in American Studies.

Jeff Nunokawa specializes in English literature from about 1830 till about 1900. His first book, *The Afterlife of Property*, studies how the novels of Dickens and Eliot labor to preserve the idea of secure possession by overseeing its transfer from the sphere of a cold and uncertain economy to a happier realm of romance. *Tame Passions of Wilde: Styles of Manageable of Desire* excavates the aspiration to imagine a form of desire as intense as those that compel us, but as light as the daydream or thought experiment safely under our control. He has also written a bunch of articles about this and that aspect of nineteenth century literature. His current project is a book whose working title is something like "Eros and Isolation: Getting Away from Others in Nineteenth Century Literature". This book brings a range of social theory to bear on writers like Austen, C. Bronté, Thackeray, Dickens and Eliot to figure out why it’s so hard to break free, even for a little while, from the groups that surround and define us. Most generally, he is interested in the ways that various ideas of society clash and collaborate with one another. Before his day is done, he hopes to write a book about Henry James. Jeff Nunokawa has been writing literary notes and essays on Facebook since 2005.

Jim Rosenberg is a poet, born in 1947. His work has included a wide variety of forms including linear work, works for multiple voices both live and on magnetic tape, and word environments constructed in San Francisco and New York. He began a life-long concern with non-linear poetic forms in 1966, with a series of polylinear poems called *Word Nets*. By 1968 this concern had evolved to an ongoing series of Diagram Poems, which continues to the present. This body of work includes *Diagrams Series 3* and *Diagrams Series 4*. Since 1988 his work has consisted of interactive poems, beginning with *Integrams*, followed by *Diffractions through: Thirst weep ransack* (frazzily) veer tide elegy, *The Barrier Frames: Finality crystal shunt curl chant quickening giveaway stare*, *Diagrams Series 5*, and *Diagrams Series 6*, available on the World Wide Web at [http://www.well.com/ user/jer/inter_works.html](http://www.well.com/user/jer/inter_works.html). He is the author of numerous essays and papers, a collection of which, *Word Space Multiplicities, Openings, Andings: Collected Essays and Papers in Digital Poetics, Hypertext, and New Media*, is forthcoming from University of West Virginia Press.