

Kudos N° 5

January 2013

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

## Cultural Analysis & Theory

### About Us

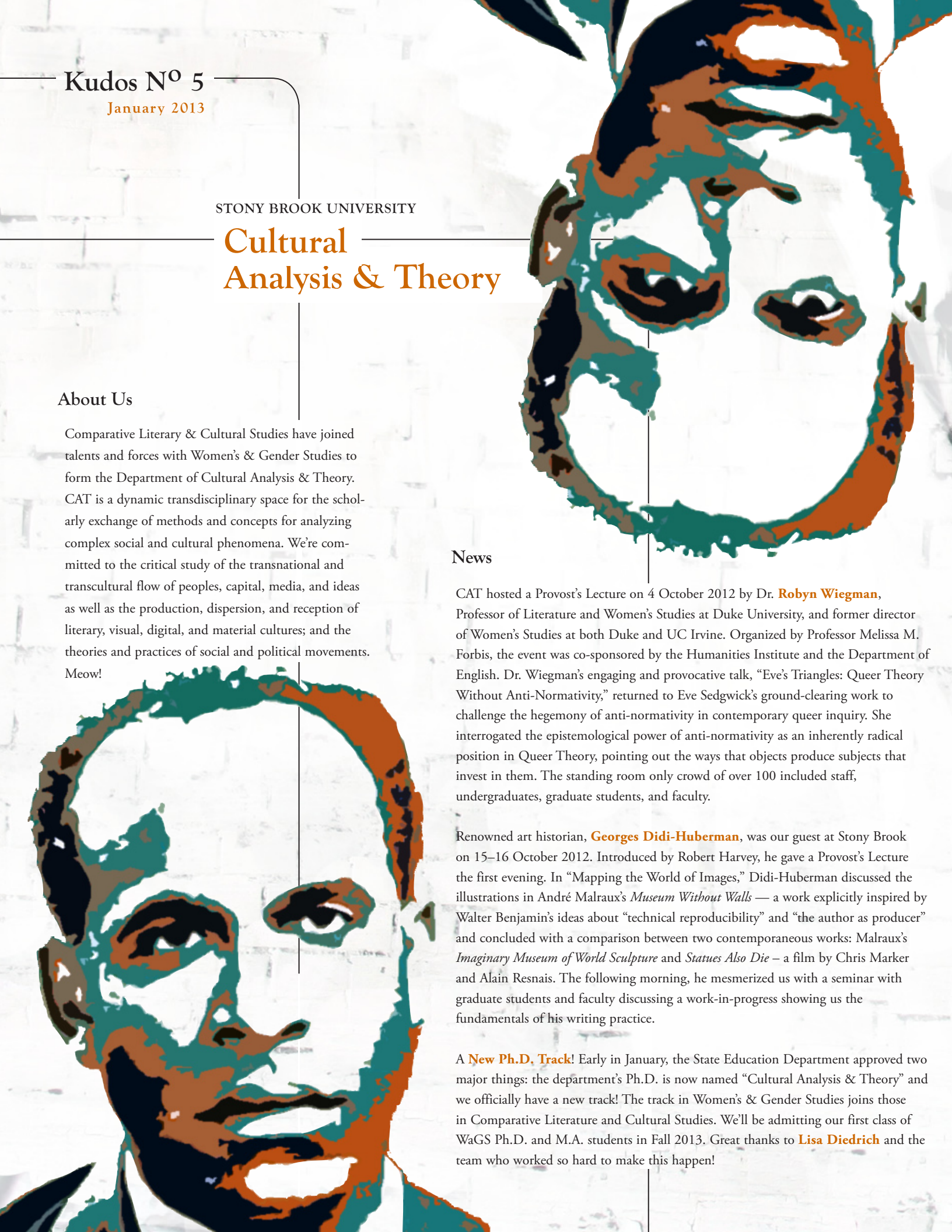
Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies have joined talents and forces with Women's & Gender Studies to form the Department of Cultural Analysis & Theory. CAT is a dynamic transdisciplinary space for the scholarly exchange of methods and concepts for analyzing complex social and cultural phenomena. We're committed to the critical study of the transnational and transcultural flow of peoples, capital, media, and ideas as well as the production, dispersion, and reception of literary, visual, digital, and material cultures; and the theories and practices of social and political movements. Meow!

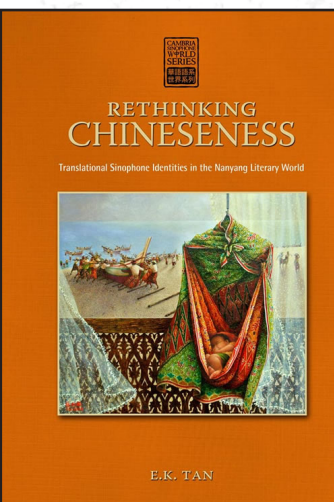
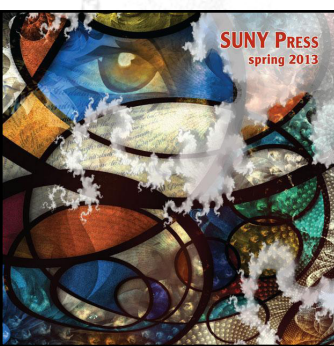
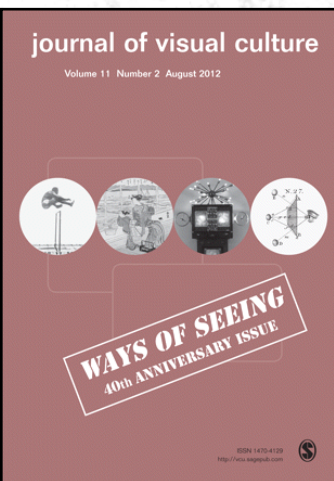
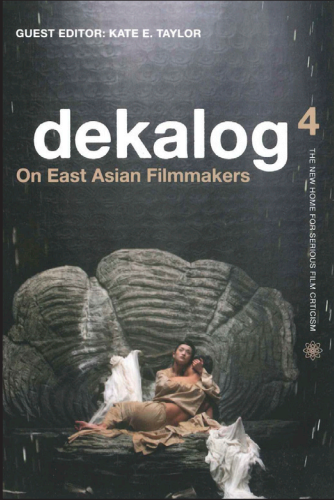
### News

CAT hosted a Provost's Lecture on 4 October 2012 by Dr. **Robyn Wiegman**, Professor of Literature and Women's Studies at Duke University, and former director of Women's Studies at both Duke and UC Irvine. Organized by Professor Melissa M. Forbis, the event was co-sponsored by the Humanities Institute and the Department of English. Dr. Wiegman's engaging and provocative talk, "Eve's Triangles: Queer Theory Without Anti-Normativity," returned to Eve Sedgwick's ground-clearing work to challenge the hegemony of anti-normativity in contemporary queer inquiry. She interrogated the epistemological power of anti-normativity as an inherently radical position in Queer Theory, pointing out the ways that objects produce subjects that invest in them. The standing room only crowd of over 100 included staff, undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty.

Renowned art historian, **Georges Didi-Huberman**, was our guest at Stony Brook on 15–16 October 2012. Introduced by Robert Harvey, he gave a Provost's Lecture the first evening. In "Mapping the World of Images," Didi-Huberman discussed the illustrations in André Malraux's *Museum Without Walls* — a work explicitly inspired by Walter Benjamin's ideas about "technical reproducibility" and "the author as producer" and concluded with a comparison between two contemporaneous works: Malraux's *Imaginary Museum of World Sculpture* and *Statues Also Die* — a film by Chris Marker and Alain Resnais. The following morning, he mesmerized us with a seminar with graduate students and faculty discussing a work-in-progress showing us the fundamentals of his writing practice.

A **New Ph.D. Track!** Early in January, the State Education Department approved two major things: the department's Ph.D. is now named "Cultural Analysis & Theory" and we officially have a new track! The track in Women's & Gender Studies joins those in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies. We'll be admitting our first class of WaGS Ph.D. and M.A. students in Fall 2013. Great thanks to **Lisa Diedrich** and the team who worked so hard to make this happen!





## Recent Publications & Awards **Kudos!**

CAT made out like bandits in the latest round of **FAHSS** (Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences) Awards from their Interdisciplinary Initiatives Fund:

A team led by **Liz Montegary**, with **Victoria Hesford**, **Melissa Forbis** and Nerissa Balce garnered \$6,000 for “Sporting Matters: Sexualities, Race, and Gender in the 21st Century.” This initiative will bring two well-known speakers on sports to campus in Spring 2012 and will include a workshop for students, athletes, coaches, faculty, and fans on homophobia and racism in sports.

**Melissa Forbis** also got \$3,000 to participate in “Territorialities: Nature, Technologies and Desire,” at the Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational History of the Americas in Mexico last summer with “Guerrilla Movements and Gender: A Comparative Study of the EZLN and Naxal Movements.”

**Nancy Hiemstra** was awarded \$2,940 for her project, “Examining the Internal Economies of Migrant Detention Facilities: A Pilot Study.”

And **Greg Ruf** got \$3,000 to help defray costs for a research trip to China last Fall, as he works to complete his book, entitled *Barking at the Sun: An Ethnographic Sojourn between Town and Countryside in Rural Sichuan*.

**Mary Jo Bona** is now editor of SUNY Press's series in Multiethnic Literature.

On 14 November 2012, **Laine Nooney** delivered one of the coveted Graduate Student Lectures hosted by the Provost, entitled “How We Compute History: Women, Computers and Gaming in the 1980s Household.” Nooney also received a *National Meeting Travel Grant* for \$700 to present her work at the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Jacqueline Reich** was honored by Provost Dennis Assanis at the University Faculty Achievements Dinner, which she attended with Robert Harvey, for her 2011-2012 Howard Fellowship.

**Raiford Guins** edited the “*Ways of Seeing* 40th Anniversary Issue” — a specially themed issue of the Journal of Visual Culture 11, n° 2, (August 2012). Guins also co-organized “The History of Games International Conference: Working with, Building, and Telling History” with Espen Aarseth, Henry Lowood, and Carl Therrien, held in Montréal in June 2013.

**Elena d'Amelio** published “Romantico Rinascimento: Rossellini, Stendhal, e il melodramma in *Vanina Vanini*”. In Fulvio Orsitto, ed. *Cinema e Risorgimento: Visioni e Revisioni*, Vecchiarelli, Rome, pp. 129-138.

*Fairy Tales Framed: Early Forewords, Afterwords, and Critical Words*, edited by **Ruth B. Bottigheimer**, has been named a 2012 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title.

A special issue of the review, *Geopolitics* 17, n° 2 (2012), on “Migration, Mobility and Geopolitics” published **Nancy Hiemstra**'s “Geopolitical Reverberations of U.S. Migrant Detention and Deportation: The View from Ecuador,” p. 293-311. Nancy also coedited, with Emily Billo, “Mediating Messiness: (Re)writing the Proposal in the Field,” in *Gender, Place, and Culture* which is available on-line.

**Sofia Varino** has produced and performed in the film *Mar Português*, which premiered at the InShadow 4th International Festival of Media, Performance and Technologies. Here are a couple of stills from the film. More information about the project is available online at [chronocorpus.com](http://chronocorpus.com).

**EK Tan**'s book, *Rethinking Chineseeness: Translational Sinophone Identities in the Nanyang Literary World* in Cambria Press's new “Sinophone World Series.” Among the scholars praising this work for its contribution to Sinophone studies is Professor Shu-mei Shih of UCLA. Shih has written that Tan's book is “conceptually innovative and flawlessly written.” EK also saw “Recuperating Displacement: The Search for Alternative Narratives in Malaysian-Chinese Director Tsai Ming-liang's *The Hole* and *What Time is it There?*” published in *Dekalog: On East Asian Filmmakers 4* (May 2012): 93-106.

## Alumni News

**Ariane M. Tabatabai**, who graduated in 2008 with a majors in Cinema & Cultural Studies and Political Science is now a Ph.D. Candidate at the Centre for Science and Security Studies in the Department of War Studies at King's College, London.

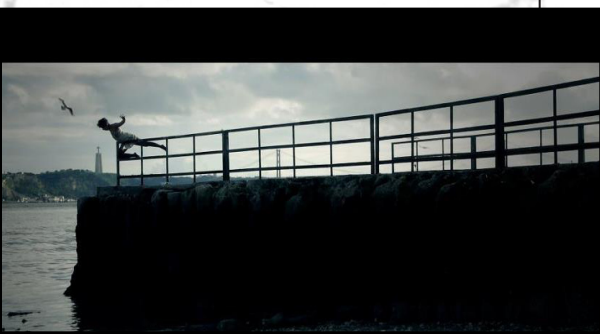
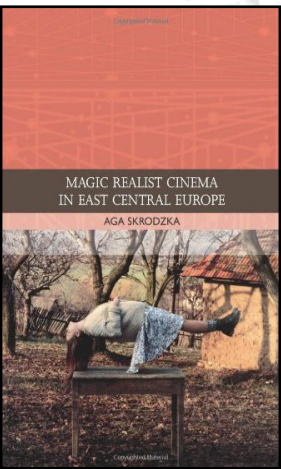
**Debashree Dattaray**, now a Lecturer in the Department of Comparative Literature at Jadavpur University in Kolkata and who spent a year with us in the late 2000s on a Fulbright, has been named to the principal panel of scholars recommended for the 2013–2014 Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Lecturer Fellowship.

**Aga Skrodzka**, who earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from us in 2007, has just published *Magic Realist Cinema in East Central Europe* in Edinburgh University Press's "Traditions in World Cinema" series. Here's what's been said about the book:

*"Magic Realist Cinema in East Central Europe* explores the interlocking complexities of two liminal concepts: magic realism and East Central Europe. Each is a fascinating hybrid that resonates with dominant currents in contemporary thought on transnationalism, globalization and regionalism.

In this critical and comprehensive survey, Aga Skrodzka moves the current debate over magic realism's political impact from literary studies to film studies. Her close textual analysis of films by directors such as Jan Švankmajer, Jan Jakub Kolski, Martin Šulík, Ivo Trajkov, Dorota Kedzierzawska, Ildikó Enyedi, Béla Tarr and Emir Kusturica is accompanied by an investigation of the socio-economic and political context in order to both study and popularise an important and unique tradition in world cinema. The directors' artistic achievements illuminate the connections between a particular aesthetics and the social structure of East Central Europe at a precise moment of contemporary history."

*Mar Português*, 2012



## CAT Junior

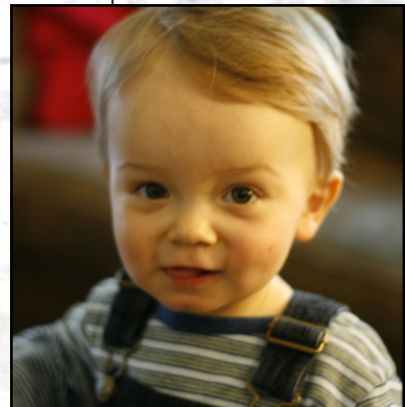
*Heriresh Ankhmetrer Cromer Bediako (pictured with big brother Jahmosi) was born on 2 December 2012 to Meter Unnerta and Françoise Cromer.*



*Luca Thomas Mueller, born on 21 September 2012 to parents Jens Mueller and Elena d'Amelio.*



*Oscar Thomas French, Aga Skrodzka's son, is now eighteen months old — perfect age for him to watch his Mom get tenure at Clemson!*



*Violet Pérez Flesler, born on 12 June 2012 to parents Adrián Pérez Melgosa and Daniela Flesler*



## Sponsored Events **Kudos!**

- a workshop series: "Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality," with the Department of Sociology, 20 September 2012.
- the CAT graduate student conference: "Global Lives," 13 October 2012.
- a departmentally-sponsored lecture: "Who Claims Modernity? 'Afro-Indigeneity and the Changing Same'" by Catherine A. John (University of Oklahoma), 6 November 2012.
- a lecture: "Race and Representation: The Black Body in Media, Literature, and the Arts" by CAT Affiliate, Tracey Walters (Department of Africana Studies), 13 February 2013.
- an art conference: "Soundscapes and Territories," with the Department of Philosophy, 29–30 March 2013.