June 2018

Inside this Issue:

Highlights from our busy students and alum—we like to brag about their accomplishments.

Let us know what you have been up to—email jennifer_chutter@sfu.ca

Upcoming Summer Social—Friday, July 20th at 7pm in the GLS Library. Please join us in welcoming 2018 cohort.

New GLS Alumni!

On June 13, 2018, nine GLS students officially became GLS Alums. Congratulations go out to Arnt Woldmo, Andrea Terpenkas, Stuart Richardson, Cathy Collis, Judith Roche, Tammy Theis, Jenny Lee, and Alice Hartley. Missing from the photo is Helen-Paris Thompson.

Photo credit: Jennifer Chutter
Current Student News

Tri-University Colloquium
On April 28, 2018, current students Sara McIntyre, Sandra Lockwood and Jennifer Chutter presented papers at the Tri-University Colloquium at UVic. The annual colloquium is an opportunity for students and recent graduates to present papers on a variety of topics critically engaging with ideas of performance. Next year it will be hosted by SFU. Please look for a Call for Papers in January 2019. It is a great opportunity to present your work in a collegial and supportive environment.

Andrew Czink—GLS PhD Candidate
Andrew Czink is doing an event for SFU Institute for the Humanities on Saturday July 7, 7:00pm at the Western Front (an artist run space) at 303 E. 8th Ave. It’s a bit of a departure for the Institute in that in addition to speaking about music as an embodied sonorous practice, he will also present the premier of a new structured improvisation for solo piano called Torrent, Trickle, which will be followed by a comment/question period. Here’s the link the Humanities Department page for more information about the event: 

In August, Andrew has been accepted into the Copenhagen Summer School in Phenomenology and Philosophy of Mind hosted by the Centre for Subjectivity Research. This is very exciting for him as the Centre’s Director Dan Zahavi’s writings have been central in his PhD research as have those of Mark Rowlands who is a featured speaker there this summer. Here’s the link to the school: https://cfs.ku.dk/summer-school-2018/

Many congratulations, Andrew!
Alumni News

Ted Whittall 2009 Cohort

Ted Whittall recently published an article titled: “Performing Leftovers: on the ecology of performance’s remains.” Ted is currently finishing up his PhD at York University. The abstract from *Performance Research*—This article takes as its case Raul Ortega Ayala's *The Last Supper*, a theatrically staged “re-enactment” of the iconic Passover seder. In each iteration, Ortega Ayala cooks and serves a menu, derived from historical culinary research, to 12 volunteers in an art gallery setting. The meal is professionally documented, and witnessed by an audience. Following the performance, an edited video of the happening is played in a loop alongside the material remains of the meal, including the leftover food. Over time, the leftovers rot and the smell of the mould and fungi dominate the gallery.

A “hybrid” analytic framework for performative art practices that also exist in material forms focuses on the force of the interaction between artist and material rather than privileging either the object, document or the body of the artist. This frame considers the life of the art work over the cycle of production and consumption, and argues for the limits of material agency in the face of our deep investment in human consciousness — we “make” and “choose” in ways that things cannot. But in omitting the “post-consumption” of the event, processes of preservation, recycling, disposal and rot disappear from view.

Reading critical food studies of the post-consumption and waste cycles through Ortega Ayala's *The Last Supper*, I argue that performance relies on the perceptual magic of disappearance to purify our acts, relieving us of ethical considerations of human and artistic agency. I suggest that creating “leftovers” is part of a thoughtful performance cycle, an ecology that requires preservation and care for continued life. For full access to the article, click here: https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/ePCdbaPCkXDxFGrejiFt/full

Stay tuned for our upcoming newsletter featuring stories from the recent Travel Study course to Spain, and the paper presentations at Stanford Symposium.

---

Graduate Liberal Studies

Program

Simon Fraser University
#2403—515 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC, V6B 5K3
778-782-5152