

# Young Scholar Alumni

## **Sarah Barringer Gordon**

Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania Law School

Papers Discussed November 11-13, 1997: "The Second American Disestablishment: Blasphemy, Polygamy and Church-State; " Relations in the Nineteenth Century He Must Monopolize Power, Property and Privilege: Anti-Polygamy, Competition, and the Marital Economy

Comments: "My participation in the Young Scholars weekend in Ithaca in 1996 was one of the highlights of the long process of writing a book that will be published this fall. In addition to providing a meaningful deadline for finishing drafts, the YS weekend gave me the opportunity to learn from senior scholars. The generous and pointed critique of both Chris Tomkins and Bob Gordon pushed me to refine my argument, and take risks. Sandy Levinson and Will Kymlicka, commentators for the other presenter that weekend, also entered into my project with enthusiasm and excellent advice. Henry Shue and Kathy Abrams were superb hosts. The program gave me new confidence as well as a chance to learn from the best in the field. I remain indebted to the program, and hope that it will continue to flourish. Please count me among the "friends of EPL."

## **Hawley Fogg-Davis**

Department of Political Science, University Of Wisconsin-Madison

Papers Discussed April 15, 2000: "Navigating Race in Transracial Adoption;" " Navigating Race in the Market for Human Gametes"

Comments: "My Young Scholar weekend was an exhilarating intellectual experience. I am extremely grateful to the diverse seminar participants who took the time to critically engage my ideas in a serious and supportive way. It is rare to be given this attention at such an early point in one's career. The format of an entire day devoted to one's work can seem daunting, but I found that the sustained discussion allowed me to absorb and contemplate the comments made by thoughtful seminar participants, all of whom had read the papers in advance. We continued our conversations over lunch and dinner in a relaxed mode. I have stayed in touch with many of the participants, and have benefited from their advice on matters related to research and teaching. I am pleased to report that the two papers I presented during the YS weekend-- "Navigating Race in Adoption" and "Navigating Race in the Market for Human Gametes"-- have yielded publications. My book *The Ethics of Transracial Adoption* is forthcoming from Cornell University Press in December 2001. A chapter from the book will appear in the anthology *The View From Home: Philosophical and Feminist Issues in Adoption*, edited by Sally Haslanger and Charlotte Witt, forthcoming from Westview Press. And the article, "Navigating Race in the Market for Human Gametes" will be published in the *Hastings Center Report* 31, no. 3 (July/August 2001). These works reflect the intense work we collectively accomplished last spring. Next year (2001-2002), I will be at the University of Chicago on a Ford Postdoctoral Fellowship, working with Iris Young—who served as one of the commentators during my YS weekend."

## **Kok-Chor Tan**

Queen's University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Papers Discussed April 27-29, 2001: "The Concept of Justice: Global and Cosmopolitan;" "Cosmopolitanism and Compatriotism: Finding an Equilibrium"

Comments: "I benefitted enormously from the thorough and extensive written comments on my papers from two established experts in my field (Professors Charles Beitz and Marilyn Friedman). In addition to the invited commentators, other experts from Cornell University and elsewhere were on hand to offer further critical comments and suggestions during the discussion sessions. These discussions were rigorous but amiable throughout, and the informal and friendly format allowed for frank and open intellectual exchanges and joint explorations of various issues and questions. The criticisms and suggestions I received are not only of direct relevance to the two papers I presented; they are also helping me clarify and sharpen the focus of my larger ongoing research project on cosmopolitan justice, a project that I will be continuing to pursue next year (2001-02) at the Center for Ethics and the Professions, Harvard. Finally, on a more social level, it was a real privilege for me to meet personally (in many cases for the first time) and to get to know other scholars working in similar areas. The Young Scholar Weekend is one of the most productive as well as enjoyable academic weekend that I have experienced. Thanks once again for this special opportunity."

### **Ward Thomas**

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

Papers Discussed April 27-29, 2000: Aerial Bombing Since 1945: A Norm Revived;" "Stigma and Arms Control: A Theoretical Survey"

Comments: "Being a Young Scholar in the Program on Ethics & Public Life was a tremendous experience. The sessions were intellectually invigorating, and the feedback I received was terrific – serious, insightful, and challenging while always supportive and sympathetic. To be able to sit down with such an impressive and diverse group of people and discuss one's work so intensively is, surely, a unique opportunity for a junior scholar. Moreover, the weekend as a whole was as enjoyable as it was professionally valuable. I can't recommend the Young Scholar Program highly enough."

### **Meira Levinson**

D. Phil in Politics, Oxford University; Boston Public School Teacher; Author of the book *The Demands of Liberal Education*

Papers Discussed March 28-30, 2003: "Separate but Equal? Segregated Schools and the Fragmentation of Civic Narrative;" "Kurt Cobain vx. Master P: A critical Taxonomy of Multicultural Education"

Comments: "I am extraordinarily grateful to the Program in Ethics and Public Life for inviting me to present my work as a Young Scholar in March 2003. It is a rare and wonderful opportunity to have twenty or thirty scholars from a range of disciplines engage deeply and carefully with one's ideas — and from breakfast through dinner, no less! I received comprehensive feedback on early drafts of two chapters of the new book I'm writing; in the months since the Young Scholar weekend, I have used participants' comments not only to revise those two chapters in particular, but also to focus the structure and rhetorical style of the rest of the book. In this respect, I found the interdisciplinary nature of the workshops especially helpful; I'm trying to reach a wide audience in this book, and it was extremely useful to discover what approaches did and did not resonate among the group as a whole. Fielding questions and criticisms of one's work over the course of two three-hour seminars plus meals could have been a daunting experience. But EPL director Michele Moody-Adams, Senior Scholars Robert Fullinwider and Lawrence Blum, who were the official commentators, and the other participants set a sympathetically and supportively critical tone that was both encouraging and invigorating. I would not have changed the weekend in any way: it is a perfect model for intense intellectual engagement with and support of young scholars. All in all, the Young Scholar weekend stands as an intellectual highlight of my time in academia, and I

expect it will remain so for some time to come. Many thanks to Cornell University, the Program in Ethics and Public Life, Michele Moody-Adams, and Margaret Nichols for organizing and hosting a terrific and immensely productive weekend!"

### **Corey Brettschneider**

Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, Brown University

Papers Discussed April 29-30, 2004: "Democratic Rights: The Substance of Self-Government;" "Public Justification and the Right to Private Property: A Defense of Guaranteed Ownership and Welfare Rights as Compensation for Exclusion"

Comments: "I am extremely grateful to Michele Moody-Adams, Henry Shue, Burke Hendrix, and Margaret Nichols for organizing the Young Scholar weekend. The conference is certainly one of the best academic experiences I have ever had. The comments from the presenters and the participants demonstrated both a deep understanding of my project and were constructive in pushing me to clarify and strengthen arguments. A year after the weekend I am still reaping its benefits as I publish articles related to the papers I presented and work towards the completion of my manuscript. Thanks again!"

### **Sharon Dolovich**

UCLA Law School

Papers Discussed April 29-30, 2005: "State Punishment and Private Prisons;" "'Expressive' Meaning in Public Policy Debate"

COMMENTS: "I am extremely grateful to have been selected as a Young Scholar by the Program on Ethics and Public Life. At the conference itself, the participants and especially the commentators (Michele Moody-Adams, Steve Garvey and Trevor Morrison) really dug in and engaged fully with my work, and the feedback I received continues to shape my thinking in central ways. The generosity of all who attended that workshop still amazes me. But the Young Scholar program also provided an unexpected and extremely welcome benefit long before the conference itself, one which revealed itself as I worked on the papers I was to present during the YS weekend: it offered the promise of an audience that would engage with my work and take it seriously. So often for junior scholars, it can feel as if we are writing into a void. Will anyone listen to what we have to say? Will anyone care? The commitment of the YS program to listen to and care about what I had to say gave me a feeling of confidence and relevance at a very difficult (pre-tenure) stage for which I will be forever grateful.