LARC 2013 Application: HEROIC LOVE & LAUGHTER

Faculty:
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Politics,
American Ethnic Studies

Students:
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Politics

Nazism as
Romantic Comedy

Team 1:
Heroic Laughter
in Liberalism
and Nazism

Heroic
Laughter
and
Nazi Ethics

Jonathan Saunders
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Economics

Nazism and the
Heroic Last laugh

Huike Wen
Japanese/Chinese

Kerry Lee
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International Studies

A Hero that
Travels Through
Time

Team 2:
Heroic Love &
Romantic
Relationships
in Popular
Media

Time-Travel TV
dramas,
Romantic
Relationship &
Gender
Representation
in Chinese media

Natalie Lyman
1875595
English

Cinematic
Superheroes and
Ideals of Love

[ 1 ] Research Community (RC) on Heroic Love and Laughter
[ 2 ] Faculty Proposals
[ 3 ] Student Proposals
[ 4 ] Letters of Faculty Reference for Students – sent separately
[ 5 ] Budget
**Research Community (RC) on Heroic Love and Laughter**

The hero who undertakes great trials and hardships, while wrestling semi-divinely or at least super-dutifully with the limits of his own affective fulfillment, figures in various forms and idioms in social and literary imaginations across eras and cultures. Arguably, the function or effect of the given heroic character appearing in shared cultural and artistic representations is to recommend a particular form of active time-transcending subjectivity and morality. Moreover, typically, the invariably masculine hero, to be himself, must interact with or act upon some non-heroic and perhaps even demonic Other. This RC proposes to focus on (1) the ways in which what and how the hero (rendered male) feels, loves, and laughs are conveyed through and constituted by cultural inter-mediations about duty, honor, romance, etc., circulating in society; (2) the implications of this heroic subjectivity for the Other; and (3) the extent to which both the feeling subject who emulates the heroic and these cultural exemplars themselves develop and function in ways that complement and are constrained by the political. It consists of two teams: ‘Heroic Laughter in Liberalism and Nazism,’ which dwells on contrasting 20thc. German (Weimar and Nazi) constructions of the romantic hero and Jewish/alien Other, and ‘Heroic Love and Romantic Relationships in Media,’ which focuses on depictions of heroic romance relationships in Chinese, Japanese, Korean (time-travel), and American (superhero) popular media, with women and villains sharing the role of the Other. Beyond the hero, the foci shared by the two teams include:

- **Affectivity**
- **Ethics**
- **Pleasure**
- **Consumerism**
- **Hollywood**
- **Sacrifice**
- **Desire**
- **Honor**
- **Subjectivity**
- **Duty**
- **Masculinity**
- **Temporality**
- **Emotions**
- **Nostalgia**
- **Violence**
**Plan of Work**

We, as faculty and students, are very keen to learn from one another. We will be bringing to bear not only distinct disciplinary and methodological approaches, including communication studies, literary studies, media studies, and political theory, but also engaging comparatively and cross-culturally.

In the case of each team, the students have robust academic and vocational interests in their own project, and a nascent if not already established relationship with the faculty member. Our collective work will be oriented around a series of scheduled meetings of the full retinue of RC faculty and students:

Our RC projected schedule of meetings is as follows:

April 12 – organizational meeting
May 8
June 5 – discuss shared readings and theory:
   Kendrick, Gregory. 2010. *The Heroic Ideal: Western Archetypes from the Greeks to the Present.*

July 3 – digital meeting
July 24 – updates, sharing and discussion
July 31 – updates, sharing and discussion
Aug 7 – updates, sharing and discussion
Aug 14 – deadline for student paper final draft

Each of us has a distinct guiding research question, and for all of us the intended product is an individual research paper.
[ 5 ] Budget

**Total for Books:** \(480 + 650 + 750 = $1880\)

**Subtotals:**

**RC collective readings:** \(80 \times 6 = 480\)
Kendrick, Gregory. 2010. *The Heroic Ideal: Western Archetypes from the Greeks to the Present*, 30

**Team Budgets:**

**Basu-Hamburg-Saunders:** \(150 + 250 + 250 = 650\)

**Collective readings** \(50 \times 3 = 150\)

**Hamburg** \(125 \times 2 = 250\)
Kracaer, Siegfried. 2004. *From Caligari to Hitler: A Psychological History of the German Film*, 25
Tegel, Susan. 2007. *Nazis and the Cinema*, 20

**Saunders** \(125 \times 2 = 250\)
**Wen-Lee-Lyman: 300 + 230 + 220 = 750**

**Collective readings  $100 \times 3 = 300**
Luhmann, Niklas. *Love as Passion: The Codification of Intimacy* 25  
Merskin, Debra. *Critical Thinking about Sex, Love, and Romance in the Mass Media*, 50

**Lee $115 \times 2 = 230**
Kim, Youna. *Women, Television and Everyday Life in Korea: Journeys of Hope*, 45  
Ames, Melissa *Time in Television Narrative: Exploring Temporality in Twenty-First-Century Programming*, 40  

**Lyman $110 \times 2 = 220**
Click, Melissa, *Bitten by Twilight: Youth Culture, Media & Vampire Franchise*, 30  
Stuller, Jennifer K. *Ink-Stained Amazons and Cinematic Warriors: Superwomen in Modern Mythology*, 15