

LARC 2013 Application: **HEROIC LOVE & LAUGHTER**

Faculty:

Sammy Basu
Politics,
American Ethnic
Studies



Team 1:
**Heroic Laughter
in Liberalism
and Nazism**

**Heroic
Laughter
and
Nazi Ethics**



Katherine Hamburg
1763505
Politics

**Nazism as
Romantic
Comedy**



Jonathan Saunders
2029458
Economics

**Nazism and the
Heroic Last
Laugh**

Huike Wen
Japanese/Chinese



Team 2:
**Heroic Love &
Romantic
Relationships
in Popular
Media**

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



Kerry Lee
1872389
International Studies

**A Hero that
Travels Through
Time**



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**

[I] 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:

Früchtl, Josef. 2009. *The Impertinent Self: A Heroic History of Modernity and Film*.

Kendrick, Gregory. 2010. *The Heroic Ideal: Western Archetypes from the Greeks to the Present*.

Luisa Passerini. 2012. *New Dangerous Liaisons: Discourses on Europe and Love in the Twentieth Century*.

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 x 6 = 480

Früchtl, Josef. 2009. *The Impertinent Self: A Heroic History of Modernity and Film*, 20
Kendrick, Gregory. 2010. *The Heroic Ideal: Western Archetypes from the Greeks to the Present*, 30
Passerini, Luisa. 2012. *New Dangerous Liaisons: Discourses on Europe and Love in the Twentieth Century*, 30

Team Budgets:

Basu-Hamburg-Saunders: 150 + 250 + 250 = 650

Collective readings \$50 x 3 = 150

Claudia Koonz. 2005. *The Nazi Conscience*, 25
George Mosse. 2003. *Nazi Culture: Intellectual, Cultural, and Social Life in the Third Reich*, 25

Hamburg \$125 x 2 = 250

Garden, Ian. 2012. *The Third Reich's Celluloid War: Propaganda in Nazi Feature Films, Documentaries and Television*, 25
Isenberg, Noah William (Ed.). 2009. *Weimar Cinema: An Essential Guide to Classic Films of the Era*, 25
Kracauer, Siegfried. 2004. *From Caligari to Hitler: A Psychological History of the German Film*, 25
O'Brien, Mary-Elizabeth. 2006. *Nazi Cinema as Enchantment: The Politics of Entertainment in the Third Reich*, 30
Tegel, Susan. 2007. *Nazis and the Cinema*, 20

Saunders \$125 x 2 = 250

Hackett, David. 1997. *The Buchenwald Report*, 25
Klee, Ernst, and Willi Dressen, Volker Riess. 1996. *The Good Old Days: The Holocaust as Seen by Its Perpetrators and Bystanders*, 20
Rhodes, Richard. 2003. *Masters of Death: The SS-Einsatzgruppen and the Invention of the Holocaust*, 15
Zizek, Slavoj. 2009. *The Essential Zizek* (4 books), 50
Zizek, Slavoj. 2008. *Violence: Six Sideways Reflections*, 15

Wen-Lee-Lyman: 300 + 230 + 220 = 750

Collective readings \$100 x 3 = 300

Giddens, Anthony. *The Transformation of Intimacy: Sexuality, Love, and Eroticism in Modern Societies*, 25

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 x 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

Wittenberg, David. 2012. *Time Travel: The Popular Philosophy of Narrative*, 30

Lyman \$110 x 2 = 220

Click, Melissa. *Bitten by Twilight: Youth Culture, Media & Vampire Franchise*, 30

Fingerioth, Danny. *Superman on the Couch: What Superheroes Really Tell Us About Ourselves and Our Society*, 25

Gray, Richard and Betty Kaklamanidou. *The 21st Century Superhero: Essays on Genre, Gender, and Globalization in Film*, 40

Stuller, Jennifer K. *Ink-Stained Amazons and Cinematic Warriors: Superwomen in Modern Mythology* 15