## The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

and the

Institute on Violence and Culture

Conversations
with Fellows
Spring 2000

vfh

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ach semester, Fellows at Lithe Virginia Foundation present their research to the University community and the public. Please join us as this semester's Fellows in Residence discuss their work - the work is incredibly varied and exciting. Fellows' topics include religious beliefs and institutions in 18th century Virginia, narratives of the partition of the Indian subcontinent into India and Pakistan, origins of racial and ethnic stereotypes in the New World, the siege of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, and more.



# The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

### Institute on Violence and Culture

Slippery Driveways, Unsure Directions:

"Heterogeneity" and "Multiculturalism" in Latin America and the United States

Ileana Rodriguez, Professor of Spanish, Ohio State University, Rockefeller Fellow

Ms. Rodriguez will discuss "multiculturalism" and "heterogeneity" as two distinct manners of thinking about and describing "difference," one common in the US (multiculturalism), and the other in Latin America (heterogeneity). She will analyze the work of relevant theoreticians from both geographical areas to point out alternative ways of arguing about and understanding the origins and meanings of cultural differences in a society.

#### Return to Vietnam

Daniel Reeves, Independent Filmmaker, Poet, and Artist, Glasgow, Scotland, Rockefeller Fellow

Daniel Reeves returned to Vietnam this winter after more than thirty years. A soldier in the Vietnam War, Mr. Reeves has devoted his art and work to understanding the nature and power of war and violence. Daniel Reeves will discuss how he is addressing the experience of his return in his visual work and poetry.

#### Surviving Violence: Trauma and Post-Partition Memory in the Indian Subcontinent

Priya Kumar, Independent Scholar, Rockefeller Fellow

Ms. Kumar uses history, ethics, ethnography, and literary theory to explore questions about the experience and memory of violence. She studies violence in the particular context of the 1947 partition of the Indian subcontinent. The Partition was the largest exchange of populations in history and resulted in the death of at least one million people. Kumar examines Partition as not only the subcontinent's most shattering example of religious violence, but also the founding trauma of the subcontinental nationalism that is still at issue today.

#### Christianizing the South:

Anglican Establishment, Dissenting Faiths, and Planter Power in Virginia, 1740-1820

Jewel Spangler, Assistant Professor of History, University of Calgary, Canada

Ms. Spangler is chronicling the dramatic expansion of Christian adherence under the Anglican Church in Virginia, and how the Presbyterian and Baptist revivals, and later Methodism, reshaped the nature of worship. Spangler's account recaptures a critical moment in the process by which the Old Dominion became distinctly "southern" and profoundly Christian as Virginians developed a conservative ideology in support of planter rule and slavery.

Siege: Nathaniel Howell and Lessons in Leadership from the Siege of U.S. Embassy Kuwait

Ambassador W. Nathaniel Howell, Director, Institute for Global Policy Research, University of Virginia Roberta A. Culbertson, Associate Director, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

Howell and Culbertson have collaborated on a book describing lessons in crisis leadership learned during the one hundred and ten day siege of the American Embassy in Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion of that country. They will discuss the siege itself, and how Ambassador Howell managed to turn a group of strangers into a community able to withstand several months surrounded by troops, and without fresh water or electricity.

#### Edward Coles, Personal Abolition

Virginia Moran, Associate Professor of English, Fisk University

Edward Coles, a wealthy son of Virginia, knew Jefferson and Monroe and served as a secretary to James Madison. But Coles was a serious abolitionist; he sold his land in Virginia and moved with sixteen slaves to Illinois, a state that was to remain a free state. There he freed his slaves and gave each head of household 160 acres of farmland. Ms. Moran is writing about the issues of slave-owning and slave-freeing in a novel about Coles.

## All presentations are at 4:00 P.M. at the VFH Conference Center, 145 Ednam Drive, Charlottesville

(In the Boar's Head Inn Complex - 250 West to the Boar's Head Inn sign, left at the light, and left at the first turn.)

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