Mission Statement
The Center for Religion and Media seeks to develop interdisciplinary, cross-cultural knowledge of how religious ideas and practices are shaped and spread through a variety of media. The Center, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, is a collaborative project of the Religious Studies Program; the Center for Media, Culture and History; and the Department of Journalism, providing a space for scholarly endeavor, a stage for public educational events, and an electronic interface with media specialists and the public through its innovative web magazine, The Revealer: A Daily Review of Religion and the Press (www.therevealer.org).

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From the Directors

Founded in 2003 through generous funding from The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Center for Religion and Media has now completed four years of research, public programming, outreach and conversation at the nexus of religious life and media engagements. This newsletter marks a moment of transition, moving into a second phase of CRM life as we successfully inaugurate our “stand alone” status, with the support of an endowment from NYU. But first, news of the past year’s achievements!

2006-07

Last year’s theme, “Secularism, media and the globalization of religion,” focused on the tensions between secular and religious claims to moral and political authority, tensions that shaped the waning years of the 20th century and which have been stunningly clear since 9/11. Media in their many forms are implicated in this process and contribute to the increasing sense of instability felt around the globe, from the everyday violence of impoverishment and incarceration, to the “global war on terror.” These issues were central to our year-end three-day conference “Signs of Crisis: Religious Conflict, Human Rights, and the New Documentary Film in Southern Asia” (see p.6).

The Center’s structure of three working groups that meet independently, and whose members all gather several times each semester for Bridging Semesters, continues to satisfy our dual need for specific, focused research and broad interdisciplinary discussion.

The group on Secularism, Religious Authority, and the Mediation of Knowledge convened by Fred Myers, (Anthropology) and co-director of CRM, Angela Zito, examined the range of challenges to “secularism” emerging in contemporary forms of religious community and identity. Battles over the authority of “scientific” knowledge, over the role of the state in relation to the religious were especially noted. Highlights included work on Evangelical faith-based activism, the pornography debates in post-Suharto Indonesia, the control and mediation of aboriginal religious and cultural knowledge, and the political imagination and Muslims on the internet.

Gods Elect?: Elections, Region, and the Media, convened by Diana Taylor (Performance Studies), considered how religion and the media currently inform political races and elections in the Americas. They addressed how politicians perform their beliefs in political campaigns and how media frame a country or community through the lens of religion, both through seminars as well as in the film series, God’s Elect (see p.3).

The Center’s most enduring working group Jews/Media/Religion convened by Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, (Performance Studies & Hebrew /Judaic Studies) and Jeffrey Shandler, (Jewish Studies, Rutgers) continued their lively presence. They combine interest in the uses of new media with an historical perspective on how a Jewish diaspora, over two millennia, has used media like the book, rabbinical correspondence, etc. to constitute, sustain, and mobilize itself across wide geographic areas. Their annual spring conference focused on Jewish photography (see “Looking Jewish” p.5).

Upcoming

The Center builds on the strong base created with the generous support of The Pew Charitable Trust Centers of Excellence Program. We are grateful for this foundation that has given us a strong institution dedicated to conversation and collaboration between scholars, both local and visiting, media makers, artists, critics, and a deeply engaged audience of students, faculty and members of the public. A generous endowment from NYU allows us to continue our work on religion and media.

We look forward to continued collaboration with former fellow Dr. Patricia Spyer’s through her anticipated appointment as Global Distinguished Professor at NYU and the Center for Religion and Media (visit http://www.nyu.edu/fas/Faculty/Global/). NYU Global Distinguished Professors spend six to eight weeks with an FAS department or program, becoming part of NYU’s extended permanent faculty. Dr. Spyer, Chair and Professor of Anthropology at Leiden University, The Netherlands, was the Center’s Senior Research Scholar last year. Famous for her work on religion, violence, conflict resolution, and media, she focuses on Indonesia and Southern Asia. Professor Spyer will spend several weeks in the coming year in residence at the Center, collaborating in programming and teaching. She brings with her valuable expertise in both Christian and Islamic Indonesian communities.

Other visitors in the coming year will include Scott Dalby, PhD candidate from the Free University, The Netherlands, working on the mediation of Falun gong in international diaspora, Kristin Sands of Sarah Lawrence who continues her work on Falun gong in international diaspora, and Alexandra Boutros, who will be visiting Adjunct Professor teaching “Religion and Media” in Fall 2008.

The Center plans to follow up on the many conversational threads begun during the past four years through lectures, screenings and panels. We are, as always, grateful to our many engaged members and to the public that continues to fill our screenings and join us in discussion. We look forward to another wonderful year!

Faye Ginsburg and Angela Zito
Fellows 2006-2007

Senior Research Scholar Patricia Spyer (Leiden University) spent her year at CRM working on her book, *Orphaned Landscapes*, based on ethnographic research in Indonesia on the religiously defined conflict that broke out in Ambon city, the Moluccas, in 1999 and the postconflict situation since 2002. The book is shaped by a number of related concerns, including the impact of mass and alternative media in the sedimentation of violence and the creation of the grounds for reconciliation and peace, the rhetorics and politics of the mediations of violence and postviolence, and the transformations in religious sensibility during and since the war.

During her time as Senior Fellow, Spyer gave invited lectures at NYU’s Anthropology Department and the Kevorkian Center, the New School Social for Social Science Research, Yale University, the University of Michigan, Harvard University, and Johns Hopkins University. Spyer also completed several article manuscripts, including “Blind Faith: Painting Christianity in Post-conflict Ambon, Indonesia” (under review), and “Christ at Large: Iconography and Territoriality in Postwar Ambon, Indonesia,” which will appear in *Religion: Beyond a Concept*, edited by Hent de Vries (2007, Fordham University Press).

With colleagues from CRM, NYU’s Anthropology Department, NYU School of Law, and others, Spyer helped organize and curate CRM’s annual conference, *Signs of Crisis: Religious Conflict, Human Rights and the New Documentary Film in Southern Asia* (May 17-19). She also helped organize and curate two follow-ups to this event: *Circulating Culture: New Works from Indonesia and India*, held on May 20th at New York’s Asia Society, and *Transparansi: New Documentary Films from Indonesia*, held from May 22-23 at Harvard University’s Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts.

Post-doctoral Fellow Rafael Sánchez (Amsterdam School of Social Science Research) made considerable progress revising the manuscript of his first book, *Dancing Jacobins: A Genealogy of Latin American Populism (Venezuela)*, currently under advanced contract with Stanford University Press. Focused on Venezuela, Sánchez’s book traces the genealogy of the present Latin American predicament through a historical/anthropological analysis of what he calls “monumental governmentality,” or the form of government corresponding to populism as an experience constitutive of Latin American modernity. Addressing these populist traditions of government, which draw on a Jacobin Political Theology while relying on intensely mediatized forms of publicity, is crucial for understanding Latin America today, where such populist traditions are instantiated albeit in highly globalized contexts that modify the tradition by exposing it to novel circumstances.

Sánchez also wrote an essay entitled “Seized by the Spirit: The Mystical Foundation of Squatting Among Pentecostals in Caracas (Venezuela) Today,” based on fieldwork conducted in Caracas under the present Chavez regime, and he completed a book-length essay on “populism and the status of the community today.”

While a Fellow, Sánchez gave invited lectures in the anthropology departments of New York University, Columbia University (Franz Boas Seminar), and John Hopkins University, as well as the Graduate Workshop of Anthropology of Latin America and the Caribbean (WALAC) at the University of Chicago. Sánchez participated as an invited speaker in the conference *Living Together* organized by Fordham University Press, in celebration of the launching of several new publications, including the collection *Political Theologies*, which contains an essay by him. He was also a panelist for a screening of the documentary film, *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* (see next page).

Finally, Sanchez was recently appointed to the position of Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow at The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Post-doctoral Fellow Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi (Princeton University) continued to develop his research project investigating imageries, motivations, and justifications associated with the anti-Muslim violence that broke out in the Indian state of Gujarat in 2002. He completed three articles that have been submitted for publication: “About Prayer: Abjection and Repetition in an American Holiness Church;” “The Gujarat Pogrom: Sacrifice, Ahimsa, and Vegetarianism;” and “The Hyperbolic Vegetarian: Notes on a Fragile Subject in Gujarat.” In addition, Ghassem-Fachandi produced a photo-essay entitled “Word and Image in the Mimesis of Violence: Transgression and Circulation in Anti-Muslim violence.” While a Fellow, Ghassem-Fachandi was also offered, and accepted, a tenure-track position in Anthropology at Rutgers University.
Screening Series

Gods Elect? Religion, Media and Elections in the Americas
Co-sponsored by the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, Performance Studies, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

September 15, 2006
The Revolution Will Not Be Televised
Kim Barley and Donnacha O’Briain, 2002
Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was forcibly removed from office on April 11, 2002. Two filmmakers were inside the presidential palace and documented the event as well as his return to power 48 hours later. James Fernández (Director, King Juan Carlos Center) introduced the screening. Discussion led by Rafael Sánchez (CRM) and Diana Taylor (NYU)
For information: www.chavezthefilm.com.

October 6, 2006
Our Brand is Crisis
Rachel Boynton, 2005
In 2002, as Bolivia faced an economic crisis, hired American political consultants, including James Carville, reintroduced Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada (“Goni”)—a wealthy businessman and former president who privatized Bolivia’s economy in the 1990s—as an appealing brand in an effort to win an election whose aftermath is devastating. Discussion led by Thomas Abercrombie (NYU) and filmmaker Rachel Boynton. For information: www.ourbrandiscrisis.net.

October 27, 2006
State of Fear
Pamela Yates, Paco de Onís, and Peter Kinoy, 2005
Based on the findings of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the film tells the story of escalating violence in Peru and how the fear of terror undermined democracy. Discussion led by Jeff Himpele (NYU) and filmmakers Pam Yates, Paco de Onís, and Peter Kinoy.

November 3, 2006
Fall of Fujimori
Ellen Perry, 2005
In 1990, Alberto Fujimori rode a wave of popular support to become the president of Peru. He fought an all-out war against the guerrilla organization Shining Path, and won. Ten years later, accused of kidnapping, murder and corruption, he fled Peru to his native Japan. In this film, he granted an unprecedented, in-depth interview, resulting in an intimate, chilling portrait. Discussion led by Diana Taylor (NYU) and Deborah Poole (Johns Hopkins U).
For information: www.falloffujimori.com.

3rd Reel China Biennial Documentary Festival
September 29-30 and October 6, 2006
Organized by the REC Foundation and co-sponsored by Cinema Studies (NYU) and the Center for Culture, History and Media.
More than a decade after the emergence of the new documentary movement in Beijing, dynamic and vital documentary-making has proliferated in China, especially with the advent of digital technology and the profound transformations of social life in the wake of economic reform. Reel China showcased several films, with topics ranging from disability, unemployment, gay and lesbian lives, to the examination hell faced by millions of high school seniors. For information: http://reelchina.net.
Premiere Screenings
Doctor Zhang
Huang Ruxiang, 2005
A candid view of one man’s life after the Cultural Revolution, and his struggles to come to grips with his fate.

A House on a Plain
Li Qiang, 2006
Lao Li is the last farmer on land being fed to factories that provide bricks to build the new cities.
The premieres were followed by a panel discussion featuring Andrew Ross (NYU), Angela Zito (NYU), and Zhang Zhen (NYU).

Visiting Scholars

Alexandra Boutros conducted field research for a postdoctoral project (funded by Le fonds Québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture) on the religious appropriation of seemingly secular technologies. This on-going research examines tensions generated around what gets to count as religious knowledge and practice as religious groups mediate ritual, identity and transcendence through new media technologies and techno-scientific practices. She also worked to complete a book manuscript, Altered States: Travel, Transcendence and Technology in Contemporary Vodou (under consideration).

Jonathan Boyarin (U Kansas) completed his book manuscript, Jewishness and the Human Dimension, which addresses the intersection of media, representations of collective identity, and the imagination of possible human futures. He also made his first ventures into the criticism of visual art, with presentations on Rafael Goldchain’s Familial Ground at the Canney Conference on Jewish Art in Madison and at the CRM colloquium, Looking Jewish.

Jeffrey Shandler (Rutgers U) has continued to serve as co-convener (with Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett) of the working group on Jews/Media/Religion at CRM. While on sabbatical from Rutgers in 2006-07, he has been completing a book manuscript examining the impact of new media on the religious life of American Jews during the twentieth century. He presented some of his work on this project at the Jews and Performance Seminar at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and at the Jewish Music Forum at the Center for Jewish History. An article based on his presentation on “Queer Yiddishkeit” at the CRM conference in 2006 has been published in Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies.
Distinguished Lectures

October 26, 2006
Judith Butler, University of California, Berkeley
“Torture, Photography, and the Limits of the Secular”

February 1, 2007
Saba Mahmood, University of California, Berkeley
“Feminism, Democracy, and Empire: Islam and the War of Terror”

Colloquia

Co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology

September 14, 2006
Patricia Spyer, University of Leiden; CRM Senior Scholar
“Blind Faith: Painting Christianity in Postconflict Ambon”

October 19, 2006
Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi, Princeton University; CRM Post-doctoral Fellow
“The Gujarat Pogrom: Sacrifice, Anger, and Vegetarianism”

November 2, 2006
Rafael Sanchez, Amsterdam School of Social Science Research; CRM Post-doctoral Fellow
“Seized by the Spirit: The Mystical Foundation of Squatting among Pentecostals in Caracas, Venezuela”

February 15, 2007
John Bowen, Washington University
“Shaping Islam to France (and Vice-Versa?): Schools, Debates, and Sacrifice”

March 29, 2007
Deborah Kapchan, New York University
“Giving Soul to Global Music: Morocco’s Fes Festival Redefining World Religions”

Workshop

March 30, 2007
Drawing the Line: The Cartoon Controversies and the Limits of Religious Tolerance
CRM’s working group on Secularism, Religious Authority and the Mediation of Knowledge joined Jews/Media/Religion to discuss responses to the 2005 Danish newspaper jyllands-posten’s editorial cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad. Analyzing popular and state-driven responses in Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen, they focused on the “cascade effect,” i.e., how senses of offense were reflected and produced in different locations through mediation and re-mediation, such as the fighting of cartoons with cartoons. Panelists included Shiva Balaghi (NYU), Judith Goldstein (Vassar), Bernard Haykel (NYU), Eddie Portnoy (JTS), Jeffrey Shandler (Rutgers U), and Annabelle Srebeny (SOAS). The discussion was chaired by Fred Myers (NYU) and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (NYU).

Film Screenings

October 5, 2006 / Sacco and Vanzetti
Peter Miller, 2006
Tells the story of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, Italian immigrants and anarchists accused of a murder and executed in 1927 after a notoriously prejudiced trial. John Turturro and Tony Shalhoub read Sacco and Vanzetti’s prison writings, joining commentators such as Howard Zinn, Arlo Guthrie and Studs Terkel in revealing the resonances of this timely tale of official injustice and human resilience. Discussion followed with Nunzio Pernicone (Drexel U), Pellegrino D’Acierno (Columbia U), and filmmaker Peter Miller. For information: www.saccoandvanzettifilm.com. Co-sponsored by Tamiment Library and Casa Italiana.

December 8, 2006 / The Tailenders
Adele Horne, 2005
Explores the history, techniques and philosophy of a remarkable organization that has recorded Bible stories in over 5,500 of the world’s 8,000-plus languages and dialects, and made those recordings available in the most remote regions through inventive, ultra-low technology. A panel discussion featured filmmaker Adele Horne, Cynthia Lopez (Vice President of the PBS series P.O.V.), Bambi Schieffelin (NYU), and Elizabeth Castelli (Barnard). For information: www.adelehorne.net.

February 7, 2007 / Natural Family Values
Frank Feldman and Troy Williams, 2007
Explores a small town in Utah that divides over a resolution defining “the natural family,” as a group of “unnatural” families rise up in defiance. Screening was followed by discussion led by the filmmakers and Ann Pellegrini (CRM). Co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality. For information: www.powerlinefilms.org.

March 2, 2007 / With God on Our Side:
George W. Bush and the Rise of the Religious Right
David Van Taylor and Calvin Skaggs, 1996

March 9, 2007 / Amongst White Clouds
Edward Burger, 2005
A journey into the hidden tradition of China’s Buddhist hermit monks living in scattered retreats dotting the Zhongnan Mountain range. The film raises questions about their former marginalization, and current rediscovery, as religious practices revive in the People’s Republic. A conversation between filmmaker Edward Burger and Angela Zito (CRM) followed the screening. For information: www.amongstclouds.com.
Since shortly after its invention in the 1830s, photography has been a fixture of Jewish life around the world. While photographs of Jews have received considerable attention for the visual information they provide about their subjects, and Jewish photographers’ work has been scrutinized for its artistry, relatively little attention has been paid to photography as a Jewish social practice. The colloquium, **Looking Jewish**, presented by CRM’s working group on Jews/Media/Religion, focused on portraiture and its role in memorializing the “vanished world” of East European Jewry before the Holocaust. Our discussions also delved into a wide array of social practices of photography—from the visual arts to the printing of images on mugs, t-shirts, and even prayer shawls—as fertile ground for exploring technology’s place in spiritual engagement.

The colloquium began with an introductory session entitled **Beyond the Image: Photography as a Jewish Social Practice**, led by working group co-conveners Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (NYU) and Jeffrey Shandler (Rutgers U). This was followed by three substantive sessions, each including a featured paper presentation and panel discussion.

The first session featured a presentation by Maya Benton (Courtauld Institute of Art) entitled **Shuttered Memories of a Vanishing World: The Deliberate Photography of Roman Vishniac**. Her paper was followed by commentaries from Max Kozloff (Critic/Photographer), Sadia Shepard (Documentary Filmmaker/Photographer/Writer), David Shneer (U Denver), Wendy Steiner (U Pennsylvania), Leah Strigler (American Jewish Historical Society), Aviva Weintraub (The Jewish Museum), and Carol Zemel (York U). The panel was chaired by Olga Gershenson (U Mass-Amherst).

The second session, **The Life and Afterlife of Rebbe Portraits in Habad Visual Culture, 1798-2006**, opened with a presentation by Maya Balakirsky-Katz (Lander College for Women), followed by a panel discussion featuring Samuel Heilman (CUNY), Jenna Weissman Joselit (Princeton U), Vivian Mann (The Jewish Museum), and CRM co-Director Angela Zito. The panel was chaired by Henry Goldschmidt (Wesleyan U).

The third and final session was centered around an “autobiographical photographic installation” entitled **Familial Ground**, by photographer Rafael Goldchain (Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning). The installation includes digitally altered self-portrait photographs in which the artist creates “detailed reenactments of ancestral figures” that are meant to be understood as “acts of ‘naming’ linked to mourning and remembrance.” The panel discussion included Jonathan Boyarin (U Kansas), Susan Chevlowe (Jewish Theological Seminary), CRM co-Director Faye Ginsburg, Marianne Hirsch (Columbia U), Shelley Hornstein (York U), and Laura Levitt (Temple U). The panel was chaired by Andrew Ingall (The Jewish Museum).

Signs of Crisis brought together documentary filmmakers from Indonesia and India with legal scholars, anthropologists, NGO workers and others working on issues of human rights and representation. By examining the relationship between human rights activism and documentary film-making, the three-day conference stimulated dialogue and knowledge across many relevant communities. Documentaries and the law parallel one another in that both rely on case studies, the use of narratives and testimonies, and the creation of memory and history—particularly in circumstances shaped by religious violence and conflicts between secular and religious orders. Screenings and panels explored the role film plays in producing human rights consciousness as it generates evidence of violations and provides legally acceptable documentation. In so doing, film can create a changed cultural climate that might move forward claims to justice as well as reconciliation.

Organized by the Center for Religion and Media and the Center for Media, Culture and History at NYU in collaboration with the Harvard-Leiden “Signs of Crisis” Research Program, the Law and Society Program/Center for Human Rights and Global Justice of the NYU School of Law, the Asian Cultural Council, and the Harvard-Leiden “Signs of Crisis” Research Program.

Organizing Committee: Barbara Abrash (Director of Public Programs, CRM), Tejaswini Ganti (NYU), Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi (CRM), Faye Ginsburg (Co-Director, CRM), Sally Merry (NYU), Patricia Spyer (CRM), Mary Steedly (Harvard U), and Tinuk Yampolsky (Indonesian Cultural Activist).

Invited filmmakers included (from India) Sonia Jabbar, Amar Kanwar, Anand Patwardhan, and Rakesh Sharma; and (from Indonesia) Aryo Danusiri, Dian Herdiany, Garin Nugroho, and Lexy Junior Rambadeta.

Day 1: Documentary, Human Rights, and Questions of Evidence

Opening remarks: Patricia Spyer (CRM).

Keynote Lecture: Philip Alston (Co-Director, Center for Human Rights & Global Justice, NYU).

Screenings: Garin Nugroho’s The Poet (Unconcealed Poetry) (2002) is a reconstruction of the mass killings of 1965-66 in which poet Abrahim Kadir plays himself in a camp where members of the Indonesian Communist Party and alleged communists were imprisoned. Anand Patwardhan’s In the Name of God (1992) focuses on the campaign of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) to destroy a 16th-century mosque in Ayodhya said to have been built by the first Mughal Emperor of India. The films were followed by Q&A led by Patricia Spyer and Tejaswini Ganti.

Panel: The filmmakers in conversation with Benedict Kingsbury (Director, Institute for International Law and Justice, NYU), Meg Satterthwaite (Co-Director, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice) and Tinuk Yampolsky.

Day 2: Secularism, Religious Violence and Retrospective Accountings

Screenings: Lexy Junior Rambadeta’s Mass Grave (2001) records the exhumation of a mass grave in Wonosobo, Java, and the attempts by relatives of those murdered by anti-communist groups and survivors of the 1965-66 massacres to rebury the remains of their loved ones. Rakesh Sharma’s Final Solution (2004) is about the aftermath of deadly violence that followed the burning of 58 Hindus on the Sabramati Express train at Godhra in February 2002. Amar Kanwar’s short silent film To Remember (2003) is an homage to Mahatma Gandhi and all the visitors to Birla House in Delhi, who are a living testimony to the spirit of his pacifist teachings, especially against the backdrop of militant Hindu nationalism and the historical turn from nonviolence to nuclear armament. Tinuk Yampolsky and Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi led Q&A sessions.

Panel: The filmmakers in conversation with Smita Narula, Sam Gregory (WITNESS), and moderator Sally Merry.

Evening Screenings: Anand Patwardhan’s We are Not Your Monkeys (1998) is a five-minute music video that reworks the epic Ramayana story to critique the caste and gender oppression implicit in it. Sung by Sambhaji Bhagat and composed by Anand and the late Daya Pawar, the video opposes the negation of human rights in the name of religion and mythology. War and Peace (2002), also by Patwardhan, was filmed over three years in India, Pakistan, Japan, and the US, following nuclear tests in the Indian sub-continent. Triggered by macabre scenes of jubilation that greeted nuclear testing and framed by the murder of Gandhi, the film is a documentary journey of peace activism against global militarism and war.

Garin Nugroho’s Serambi (2005) was filmed in the wake of the tsunami that hit the Indonesian province of Aceh in 2004, killing almost 100,000 people and leaving tens of thousands with
nothing. Nugroho’s docudrama follows the spiritual journey of the Acehnese people through the visualization of three separate tales against a landscape of ruins, including corpses that continue to be found and painful memories that punctuate even the simple habits of daily life.

Day 3:: Narrative, Testimony, Meaning

**Screenings:** Arjo Danusir’s *The Village Goat Takes a Beating* (2000), records allegations of human rights abuses perpetrated by the Indonesian army in the province of Aceh during the 1990s through lengthy interviews with victims or relatives of deceased victims, and partial re-enactments. Sonia Jabbar’s *Autumn’s Final Country* (2003), produced for the South Asia Court of Women, explores the testimonials of four women who have suffered displacement in the conflict-ridden state of Kashmir. The unfolding of the testimonials against the backdrop of the Kashmir landscape highlights the stark contrast between the violence perpetrated against the women and the serene beauty of the place. Q&A led by Mary Steedly and Tejaswini Ganti.

**Panel:** The filmmakers in conversation with Joseph Saunders (Asia Director, Human Rights Watch), Jael Silliman (Ford Foundation), and moderator Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi.

**Screenings:** Dian Herdiany’s *Video Diary* (2006), produced by the Kampung Halaman video collective and shot by Acehnese children in camps, focuses on child survivors of the 2004 tsunami. Lexy Junior Rambadeta’s *Garuda’s Deadly Upgrade* (2005) is an investigation of the murder of Munir Said Thalib, an Indonesian human rights activist who repeatedly accused Indonesia’s generals of “killing people and hiding behind those in power.” *A Night of Prophecy* (2002) by Amar Kanwar was filmed in several regions of India (Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Kashmir) and features music and poetry of tragedy and protest performed by regional artists. The sources of anger and sorrow vary from inescapable, caste-bound poverty to the loss of loved ones as a consequence of religious and tribal conflict. Q&A led by Patricia Spyer and Tejaswini Gant.

**Closing Panel, Documentary, Human Rights and Transitional Justice:** The filmmakers in conversation with Mary Steedly and Joseph Saunders, followed by open discussion with the audience led by Sally Merry and CRM co-Director Faye Ginsburg.

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**CRM in the News**

Several CRM working group members have appeared in the news media over the past year. Here’s a sample: Alexandra Boutros (CRM Visiting Scholar) was interviewed on the radio show, “Interfaith Voices,” on the subject of Creationism in Canada, which she also wrote about for *The Revealer*. . . Jonathan Boyarin (U Kansas; CRM Visiting Scholar) was featured in an October article in the *Lawrence Journal-World* on the resurgence of Yiddish language use and scholarship. . . Alyshia Galvez (NYU) was quoted at length in articles in *The New York Times* and *El Diario La Prensa* about a birth-weight project among Mexican immigrants in New York. She also gave interviews for television and documentary film about Mexican immigrants and immigration rights mobilization . . . Kristen Zahra Sands (Sarah Lawrence) wrote an Op-Ed for the *Christian Science Monitor* entitled “Teaching Islamic Studies Post-9/11,” and was also quoted in a *New York Times* article on problems faced by Muslim prison inmates with regard to Islamic dietary restrictions (*halal*).

**The Revealer**

*The Revealer* received 280,000 visits this year, and nearly twice as many page views. Journalists, scholars, media makers and researchers continue to join our subscriber list, which includes representatives from every major American media organization and many more from around the world, as well as scholars from hundreds of colleges and universities.

*The Revealer* published commentaries by several scholars, including CRM Co-Director Angela Zito, Ann Pellegrini (NYU), Anthea Butler (U Rochester), Diane Winston (USC) and many more, as well as graduate students at NYU and the University of Southern California. Also, *Revealer* contributors have had their work appear in major newspapers and magazines. Former managing editor Kate Hawley wrote a feature for the *Chicago Reader* and has since moved to the *Chicago Tribune*, while longtime managing editor Kathryn Joyce produced two features for *The Nation*, and collaborated with *Revealer* editor Jeffrey Sharlet under a Nation Institute Grant for an upcoming story on Hillary Clinton and religion to appear in *Mother Jones*.

Editor Jeff Sharlet developed his work from the site into features and reviews for *Harper’s*, *Rolling Stone*, *Nerve*, and *New Statesman*, and represented *The Revealer* and CRM on numerous radio programs, including WNYC’s “On the Media,” WBUR’s “Here and Now” and “Open Source Radio with Christopher Lydon,” “KERA’s “Think,” Radio France, and BBC Four, and Air America’s “Majority Report,” “Rachel Maddow Show,” “State of Belief,” and “Ring of Fire.”