



# VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

USCDornsife



FALL 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

**USC VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE 2013-2014 LAUNCH**  
**THE ART OF CONTROVERSY**  
A conversation with  
**VICTOR NAVASKY** and  
**JON WIENER**

5:00-7:00pm | Doheny Intellectual Commons, DML 233



Join us for a conversation between **VICTOR NAVASKY**, former editor of *The Nation* and George T. Delacorte Professor in Magazine Journalism at the Columbia Journalism School, and **JON WIENER**, Professor of History at UC Irvine, contributing editor to *The Nation*, and author of *How We Forgot the Cold War: A Historical Journey Across America* (2012), about the power of political cartoons as described in Navasky's new book, *The Art of Controversy*.

Discussion from 5:00-6:30 with reception to follow.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

**EPHEMERALITY AND DURABILITY IN EARLY MODERN VISUAL AND MATERIAL CULTURE**  
**THE USC-HUNTINGTON EARLY MODERN STUDIES INSTITUTE (EMSI)**

Friday, Sept. 27 | 9:00am-5:00pm  
Saturday, Sept. 28 | 9:00am-5:00pm  
Academy for Polymathic Study,  
DML 241



Scholars have increasingly turned their attention to the "materiality" of early modern things, exploring not only what women and men expected from visual and material culture but also what sorts of demands the materiality of these things placed on their makers, users, and viewers. This conference will explore why some early modern things endure while others did not. Confirmed participants include Prof. Daniela Bleichmar (USC), Prof. Sean Roberts (USC), Prof. Melissa Calaresu (Cambridge), and Prof. Alexander Marr (Cambridge).

*This event is co-sponsored by the VSRI.*

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3**

**THE RISE AND FALL OF CARTOON PHYSICS**

**SCOTT BUKATMAN**,  
Professor of Art & Art History,  
Stanford University

12:30-2:00pm | SOS 250



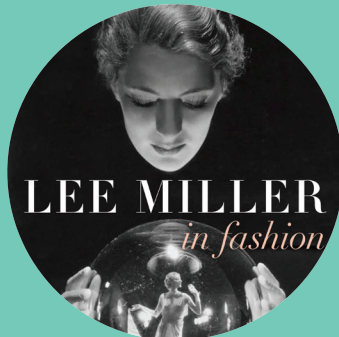
Anything can happen in a cartoon, as cartoon characters frequently remind us as they blithely ignore the fourth wall to address us directly. But Hollywood cartoons do not give us an entirely disordered universe of chaos and entropy. They give us a world that is ordered, but ordered differently. "Cartoon physics" describes a series of "laws" that would be recognized and accepted by anyone who'd ever spent their formative years watching cartoons. Cartoon physics has been with us for nearly as long as cartoons have existed, but it becomes important to write about now because its alternative universe of un-natural laws is threatened by the encroachments of the physics of the real world into the realm of animation in the digital age.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17**

**LEE MILLER IN FASHION**

**BECKY E. CONEKIN**, Senior  
Research Fellow, European Studies  
Council, The MacMillan Center for  
International & Area Studies, and  
Senior Lecturer in Modern British  
History, Yale University

12:30-2:00pm | SOS 250



Muse, surrealist and war photographer, Lee Miller was also one of the twentieth century's most important female fashion photographers – yet her work in the field of fashion remains little known. Professor Conekin's book is the first to redress the imbalance by exploring her unprecedented contributions as both model and fashion photographer to the century's leading fashion magazine, *Vogue*. From the late 1920s when her face graced its cover, to the 1940s and 1950s when her stunning photographs lit up its pages, *Vogue* was the outlet for Miller's daring creative vision. The story of Lee Miller in fashion is also the story of an amazing transatlantic creative community in New York, London and Paris as well as the changes that rocked the world in these glittering, then tumultuous decades.

*This event is co-sponsored by the VSRI and the USC Gender Studies Program.*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19**

**VSGC GRANT-WRITING WORKSHOP**

10:00am-5:00pm  
SOS 250



A one-day workshop designed to help advanced graduate students across diverse disciplines prepare effective applications for outside fellowships. Visiting scholars representing a range of disciplinary interests will join USC faculty to lead the workshop and comment on sample materials submitted in advance by graduate students. Our screeners this year will be **BECKY E. CONEKIN**, Senior Research Fellow, Yale University, **EDWARD DIMENDBERG**, Professor of Film & Media Studies, UC Irvine, **NANCY J. TROY**, Victoria and Roger Sant Professor in Art and Department Chair, Department of Art & Art History, Stanford University, and **VANESSA R. SCHWARTZ**, Professor of History and Art History, USC.

CV writing in the morning and fellowship screening in the afternoon. Participants in the afternoon will need to submit a four-page grant proposal draft to [vsri@usc.edu](mailto:vsri@usc.edu) by October 11.

**OCTOBER 23-26**

**EVIDENCE: THE NORTH AMERICAN VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

Pasadena Westin



The 2013 North American Victorian Studies Association Conference takes "Evidence" as its theme. The Victorians strenuously looked for evidence to support their assumptions, beliefs, and investigations, and this interdisciplinary occasion will explore texts, images, objects, and the built environment. Plenary speakers are John Plotz and Carla Yanni.

*This event is co-sponsored by the VSRI.*

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

**OBJECTS OF KNOWLEDGE: VISUAL STUDIES GRADUATE WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Tuesday, Nov. 5 | 5:00-6:30pm  
Academy for Polymathic Study,  
DML 241

Thursday, Nov. 21 | 5:00-6:30pm  
Herklotz Room, DML G 28



Objects of Knowledge, an ongoing VSRI series, offers a venue for advanced graduate students to present their research. Presenters and faculty respondents to be announced.

*Organized in association with the USC Academy for Polymathic Study.*