WELCOME to the third annual Faculty Research Symposium at Luther College, designed to celebrate the wide range of creative and scholarly pursuits among Luther’s faculty and staff. Intended for a broad audience, this all-day event showcases the intellectual curiosity and cross-disciplinary dialogue that is at the heart of Luther’s liberal arts educational tradition. Modeled on the successful Student Research Symposium held each spring and supported by the Dean’s Office, the Faculty Research Symposium provides a forum for Luther faculty to share and discuss their research, projects and passions with the broader Decorah community as well as with Luther students and colleagues. Each panel is composed of presentations from multiple disciplines, covering a range of ideas and questions: from herd immunity to lamas in space, Argentina to Ukraine, Henrik Ibsen to Derrida’s cat, this event has it all! We hope today’s presentations and conversations will be challenging and enlightening, and we thank you for attending this event.

The Faculty Research Symposium Organizing Committee: Amy Weldon, Todd Pedlar, Aaron Lurth, Holly Moore, and Andy Hageman.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME
9:15 am
Valders 206
FRS Planning Committee Members

Presentations take place in Valders 206, Olin 102, and Jensen-Noble. Refreshments available throughout the day in Valders Concourse.
10:00-11:15 AM

**As the World Turns**
Valders 206

*Victoria Christman (History)*
Humanists on the Move: The Transfer of Ideas Between Wittenberg and Antwerp in the Early Reformation

*Tony Mutsume (Economics and Business)*
Appropriation of Investments and Innovation Benefits in U.S.-China Trade Relationship

*Micah Engelhardt (Political Science)*
Sky Wars: Air Power and the “Will to Fight”

**It’s the End of the World as We Know It, and I Feel Fine**
Olin 102

*Carly Foster (Political Science)*
Race, Ethnicity and State Discretion in Implementing the Affordable Care Act

*Craig Mosher (Social Work)*
Doing Death Differently: Ethical Choices at End-of-Life

*Kyle Fey (Mathematics)*
Dependence of Vaccination Thresholds for Herd Immunity on Population Network Structure and Disease Characteristics

12:30-1:45 PM

**People-Watching**
Olin 102

*Laura Mueller (Philosophy)*
Reinterpreting Kant: Animals, sensus communis, and Personhood

*Megan Strom (Spanish)*
and Emily Alcock ’17
Avoiding Blame: The Passive Voice in Immigration Reporting in the US Mainstream Media

*Maren Johnson (Nordic Studies)*
Castles in the Air: Henrik Ibsen and His Unattainable Quest

**LUNCH**

12:30-1:45 PM

**Forgive Them, for They Know Precisely What They Do**
Valders 206

*Amy Weldon (English)*
A Reading from Creature (novel-in-progress)

*Nancy Gates-Madsen (Spanish)*
Trauma, Taboo, and Truth-Telling: Listening to Silences in Post-Dictatorship Argentina

*Lindsey Row-Heyveld (English)*
Turning Blindness, Deafness, and Madness into Marriage: Women Feigning Disability in Early Modern English Drama

2:00-3:30 PM

**Liberal Arts Seismography**
Valders 206

*Beth Lynch (Biology)*
Cultural Landscapes Sustain Livelihoods and Biodiversity: A Model for the Driftless Area?

*Andy Hageman (English)*
Lamas in Space & Letters from Sturgeon: Two Tales from the Archives

*Maryna Basylevych (Anthropology & Women and Gender Studies)*
Demystifying Wellbeing and Health Threat: Categories of Risk Among Young People in Ukraine

**Beautiful Complexity, Sublime Complexity**
Jensen-Noble 123

*Peter Russella (French)*
Alas, Poor David: Analyzing Francis Kerline’s Translation of Infinite Jest by David Foster Wallace as L’infinie comédie

*Astri Snodgrass (Art)*
Traces of Touch: Immediacy and Tactility in Contemporary Drawing

*Thomas Johnson (Communication Studies)*
Ironhead

*Kathy Reed (Music)*
François Couperin’s 18th Ordre: A Case Study in the Performance of French Baroque Keyboard Music
Recital to follow at 4pm
PANEL ABSTRACTS

As the World Turns
Valders 206

Victoria Christman
Humanists on the Move: The Transfer of Ideas Between Wittenberg and Antwerp in the Early Reformation

Antwerp, in modern-day Belgium, was one of the earliest centers of religious unrest at the beginning of the sixteenth century. It was also one of the busiest centers of publishing and trade in this period, and a stream of merchants, humanists, and writers moved in and out of the city daily. Likewise, the royal court in Mechelen (until 1531) and Brussels (thereafter) was home to artists of the highest caliber. Many of the artist and humanists who visited Antwerp were not, however, religiously neutral, and some of them brought with them reforming agendas that were influenced by contacts elsewhere in Europe. This presentation focuses on two such controversial visits to the city of Antwerp, both involving men with close ties to Wittenberg: the first by the renowned artist Albrecht Dürer, and the second by the Spanish humanist and Bible translator Francisco de Enzinas. During their visits, both of these men were involved in the transmission of heterodox material between the city and the Empire. This presentation asks what was the role of thinkers such as these in the development of networks of dissent between these two locations in the first decades of the Reformation.

Tony Mutsune
Appropriation of Investments and Innovation Benefits in U.S.-China Trade Relationship

China’s swift rise from one of the poorest countries in the world to the second-largest economy is the subject of much discussion and inquiry across a broad dispersion that extends from the more absorbed academic and media spheres to the occasionally interested observer. There is an acceptance that the 1978 market-oriented economic reforms set the stage for China’s phenomenal growth. While the reforms were carried out in two phases, each with specific programs and timelines, this study’s inquiry mostly features the opening up of the country to foreign investment, privatization and contracting out of state-owned industry, and the lifting of protectionist policies, all of which have aided the flow of knowledge and skills into China. Such flows have been known to help deepen human capital which results in productivity increases when combined with improvements in physical capital and resources. It is supposable that these advantages are primarily channeled through international commerce, with investment and innovation choices affecting the nature of productivity increases in close trading relationships. In our case, we examine the U.S.-China trade experience with the aim of identifying how such choices by U.S. firms may be impacting innovation productivity increases among China’s firms.

Michael Engelhardt
Sky Wars: Air Power and the “Will to Fight”

Critics of President Obama’s policy in Iraq blame a lack of sufficient effort for lack of progress in the war against ISIS. The administration points to a lack of will to fight on the part of the Iraqi Army. This paper examines past military campaigns in which the United States and its allies used air power while leaving ground fighting to local allies. Specifically, the cases of Bosnia in 1995, Kosovo in 1999, Afghanistan in 2001 and Libya in 2011 are discussed. Air support is found to be effective even when friendly ground forces are fairly weak, but also crucial were the willingness or unwillingness of the U.S. and its adversary to negotiate and U.S./allied willingness to escalate to ground fighting if air power failed. Advice to this and future administrations: when you begin to use military force, be prepared for anything!

It’s the End of the World as We Know It, and I Feel Fine
Olin 102

Carly Foster
Race, Ethnicity and State Discretion in Implementing the Affordable Care Act

As originally passed by Congress, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) would have expanded Medicaid eligibility to everyone with incomes under 138% of the poverty level, with only a few exceptions. The June 2012 Supreme Court decision in the National Federation of Independent Businesses v Sebelius case introduced an unintended level of state discretion into the implementation process of the ACA, allowing states to opt out of the Medicaid expansion provision without penalty. Many states with substantial African American populations have subsequently opted not to expand Medicaid to those with incomes under 138% of the poverty level. This research explores the role of state racial demographics as a predictor of
state decisions to extend Medicaid eligibility, and explores the impact of state Medicaid expansion decisions on various racial and ethnic groups. State decisions to expand Medicaid eligibility have been disproportionately likely to benefit whites and Hispanics. State decisions to reject Medicaid expansion have had a disproportionately negative impact on African Americans.

Craig Mosher  
**Doing Death Differently: Ethical Choices at End-of-Life**

As the time of death approaches, individuals and families are often faced with difficult personal and ethical decisions that seem to pit quality of life against longevity. Should they move to hospice care and seek a peaceful death at home with loved ones? Or should they risk another treatment, surgery, or drug with the possibility of dying in the ICU, hooked up to machines?

This presentation will consider: hospice care and/or further medical treatment; advance directives and powers of attorney; death with dignity laws that allow doctors to prescribe lethal medications to terminal patients; planning for home deaths, visitations, and funerals; green burials; and green cemeteries.

There are groups in Iowa and other states that are assisting people who want to die at home with hospice support and have their body cared for by family and friends. Options include a simple casket or shroud and burial on the family's land or in a green cemetery. Professional and lay services may, of course, be combined.

The work of the Doing Death Differently group in Decorah will be described. The group is studying these alternative ways of dealing with death, in order to help make these options available to families.

Kyle Fey  
**Dependence of Vaccination Thresholds for Herd Immunity on Population Network Structure and Disease Characteristics**

For several diseases that were once common, vaccinations have been developed. When an individual is vaccinated, he or she receives a direct benefit, viz. immunity to the disease. Unvaccinated individuals in the community also benefit indirectly from others' vaccinations, since vaccinated individuals interrupt possible transmission routes for the disease. Because of this indirect benefit, outbreaks can be prevented even without vaccinating the entire population. This effect is known as “herd immunity.” Using a mathematical model, we explore how the structure of population (how many contacts individuals have, how clustered those contacts are) and disease characteristics (length of infection, probability of an infected individual spreading the disease to a contact) influence the proportion of individuals that need to be vaccinated in order for the population to acquire herd immunity.

Forgive Them, for They Know Precisely What They Do  
**Valders 206**

Amy Weldon  
**A Reading from Creature (novel-in-progress)**

I will read from my novel-in-progress, *Creature*, which is based on the life of Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein* (1818).

Nancy Gates-Madsen  
**Trauma, Taboo, and Truth-Telling: Listening to Silences in Post-Dictatorship Argentina**

On the 25th anniversary of the coup that ushered in the period of repression known as the “Dirty War” in Argentina, a commemorative act was held in the Memory Park in Buenos Aires. At the close of the event, the names of 110 disappeared victims were read, followed by a minute of silence. The moment of silence is a powerful and almost ubiquitous element of commemorations to past trauma, yet such commemorative events seem one of the few places where silence is welcome. Since the return to democracy, human rights groups, victims, and academics have emphasized the importance of breaking the silences left in the wake of the military dictatorship. Nevertheless, the cultural landscape of post-dictatorship Argentina remains marked by silence and silencing: by unasked, unanswered, or unanswerable questions, and by taboo topics surrounding the legacy of torture and disappearance. My presentation explores Eduardo Pavlovsky’s controversial torture play *Pas de Deux* and asks the following question: In a context of oppression, can silence be a form of resistance? I argue that the overt silence within the torture chamber (the victim’s refusal to speak) points to a covert silence in the broader society regarding which tales of torture can be told, and which remain taboo.

Lindsey Row-Heyveld  
**Turning Blindness, Deafness, and Madness into Marriage: Women Feigning Disability in Early Modern English Drama**

Emerging out of my current book project, which examines performances of fraudulent disability in early modern English drama, my presentation will discuss a subset of these plays where women pretend to be disabled. Male characters who put on the disguise of disability usually do so in order to rob
someone, are subsequently punished for their actions, and the narrative acts
to discourage individual almsgiving by implying that all persons with dis-
abilities might be similarly deceptive. However, female characters that fake
disability almost never get punished for their transgression; instead, they’re
often rewarded with successful marriages, which were the object of their
counterfeiting in the first place. I argue that the reason for this disparity is
the mutually constitutive relationship between disability and femininity in
the English Renaissance, specifically the way in which performances of dis-
ability were simultaneously performances of femininity. I argue that this dual
performance mode granted female feigners a freedom from suspicion not
available to men who enacted the non-standard body. It also allowed them
a unique opportunity to reshape their own feminine identities by exposing
both femininity and disability as constructs.

People-Watching
Olin 102

Laura Mueller
Reinterpreting Kant: Animals, sensus communis, and Personhood

In The Animal That Therefore I Am, Derrida relates to us a charming anecdote
of an interaction between him and his cat: Derrida steps from the shower,
his cat sees him naked, and he feels ashamed. Why, he wonders, does he feel
such shame? This specific cat, he claims, refuses to be conceptualized; this
cat is a person. Derrida certainly is not the only philosopher to claim that
persons cannot be conceptualized; Kant’s argues for the same in the first,
second, and third Critiques. It is true that, in Kant’s works, only persons are
worthy of moral respect, and animals fall short of this “elevated” standing;
to them, we owe only indirect duties. However, Kant’s overall discussion of
personality in general is one that could provide an interesting framework for
a re-evaluation of a Kantian-style discussion on the moral status of animals.
In this paper, I will discuss a Kantian account of persons drawing not from
rationality or cognitive ability, but instead from sensus communis and mutual
recognition of purposes to explain why Derrida’s cat, and other animals, can
be considered persons with moral standing, rather than “things” to which we
owe indirect duties.

Megan Strom and Emily Alcock ’17
Avoiding Blame: The Passive Voice in Immigration Reporting in the
US Mainstream Media

The mainstream media frequently present majority groups positively and mi-
noritized groups negatively, thereby reinforcing ideologies that support the
dominant position of the majority group and the subordinate position of mi-
oritized groups (cf. van Dijk, 1991, 2000). These previous studies have fo-
cused exclusively on adult immigrants, with the exception of Teo (2000) and
Chavez (2001). Considering the arrival of approximately 90,000 unaccompa-
nied Latin@ children immigrants to the United States between Fall 2013 and
Summer 2014 (U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2014), it is imperative
to understand how the mass media represent this group so as to advocate for
its ethical and humane treatment.

In our study, we follow a critical discourse studies framework to analyze the
ideological implications of the passive voice in 87 news articles covering the
immigration of Latin@ children to the United States published between Jan-
uary 2014 and December 2014 in the New York Times and the Los Angeles
Times. Our data demonstrate how these newspapers use the passive voice to
hide the negative actions of Border Patrol and government officials against
Latin@ immigrant children and thus reinforce the traditional ideology of the
blameless powerful group and the helpless minoritized group.

Maren Johnson
Castles in the Air: Henrik Ibsen and His Unattainable Quest

Playwright Henrik Ibsen was Norway’s most preeminent author in the nine-
teenth century, and yet today, arguably no one has yet to surpass him as the
representative of greatness in Norwegian literature. Often labeled a literary
genius, Ibsen is admired for his ability to “see” into the human soul (Koht 27)
and promote strong individualism. Ibsen’s life, however, was plagued by doubt
and insecurity about himself, and especially his relationships with women. In
two of his later works, Hedda Gabler and The Master Builder, the young female
protagonists approach the older male protagonists asking for “castles in the
air.” In this presentation, I will explore the implications and significance of
this recurring symbol in relationship to Ibsen’s biography. I will propose that
this symbol represents Ibsen’s fear of his own mortality and struggle to main-
tain relevance for himself and his works.
Beth Lynch
Cultural Landscapes Sustain Livelihoods and Biodiversity: A Model for the Driftless Area?

In many parts of the world, traditional agricultural landscapes provide important habitats and ecological services that disappear once land uses change in response to the economic forces of globalization, including increased urbanization and abandonment of small-scale agricultural production. Environmental and agricultural policies in the EU recognize the value of traditional agricultural landscapes and seek to protect them. In contrast, US policies focus on protecting remote wilderness areas while promoting industrial-scale agricultural practices in other areas. I examine the characteristics and conservation values of traditional agricultural landscapes and the cultural values that sustain them. Using the recently created Sibillini National Park in Italy as a model, I imagine how the Driftless Area, including northeastern Iowa, could protect the environment, promote socially and economically sustainable development, and provide a park for everyone.

Andy Hageman
Lamas in Space & Letters from Sturgeon: Two Tales from the Archives

This presentation emerges from two recent archival research endeavors in the field of science fiction studies. “Lamas in Space” refers to my exploration of Tibetans, in particular of Tibetan Buddhists, as they have functioned in human-alien contact narratives. When I contacted the archive-holding Institute that continues the work done by a renowned scholar who studied alien abduction culture, I received via email a conference transcript relevant to my Tibetan Buddhism focus. I was later informed that I could not use specific material from the document. In this talk I will describe the situation and the challenges this presents to continuing my research. “Letters from Sturgeon” refers to work I’ve done in the Theodore Sturgeon collection at the Kansas University archives. Sturgeon is one of the most influential American science fiction writers. For my project, tentatively titled “Generic Correspondences,” I pulled a number of letters to and from Sturgeon and other significant people in SF: Kurt Vonnegut, Gene Roddenberry, and Ray Bradbury, to name but three. I will share insights I’ve gleaned from these major figures discussing genre, form, contents, and shifts across media. This archival work is ongoing, and I plan to develop it into student-faculty research collaboration opportunities in the very near future.
Beautiful Complexity, Sublime Complexity
Jensen Noble 123

Peter Russell
Alias, Poor David: Analyzing Francis Kerline’s Translation of Infinite Jest by David Foster Wallace as L’infinie comédie

It is easy to think that languages are simply different versions of one another and that translators are faced with black and white decisions for each passage they come across. In truth, the field of translation studies centers on the challenges and choices translators face when turning a text over to a new language. The difficulties of adapting foreign cultural references, idioms, and humor are numerous, and translators often work without a net when it comes to appropriately representing the source text in the target language. This presentation will shine a light on the translation of these metatextual and transtextual elements, an often overlooked area of translation studies. I will demonstrate many of the metatextual and transtextual elements at play in the first French translation of David Foster Wallace's 1996 novel Infinite Jest, translated by Francis Kerline and released in late August, 2015. Titled L’infinie comédie in French (a title closer to Infinite Play than Infinite Jest), this translation ignores an important Shakespearean allusion that is central to Wallace's original work. By way of analyzing the translation of Infinite Jest, I will also examine the techniques used to analyze literary translations, the common pitfalls of translation, and whether or not it matters if francophone readers know or care about Shakespeare's Hamlet and Yorick.

Astri Snodgrass
Traces of Touch: Immediacy and Tactility in Contemporary Drawing

While it’s difficult and perhaps impossible to define such a fluid concept as contemporary drawing, for many artists it is related to the qualities of immediacy and tactility. Drawing fits into my own practice as an immediate translation of a gesture of the body into a mark on or of a particular material. I balance immediate, physical mark making with an indirect process that allows for surprise. Explorations in collage, photography, and video projection all comprise aspects of my practice. These projects all share a strong sense of physicality. I am interested in the relationship between the visual and the tactile: light as warmth, texture as something that is both felt and seen. Diverse artists working in process art, automatic drawing, and contemporary artists who ground their practices in drawing have also explored this relationship. Through the lens of historical precedent and contemporary influences, I will situate my practice and teaching within the conversation of the changing face of contemporary drawing. I will present this research in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania this October at the 2015 Southeastern College Art Conference, a national conference that promotes the study and practice of visual arts in higher education.

Thomas Johnson
Ironhead

Ironhead, a 9-minute documentary film, chronicles the creative work of ironmonger Kelly Ludeking and the happenings at his Down on the Farm Iron Pour, a yearly communal gathering of local and national artists collaborating to make cast iron art at the Ludeking family farm in Decorah, Iowa. The film is produced by Thomas C. Johnson, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, and Neal Abbott (‘15), with color by Aaron Lurth (‘08), Director of Visual Media, and music by Brooke Joyce, Associate Professor of Music and Composer-In-Residence. In this presentation, I will outline the processes of producing this work. Then, I will screen Ironhead. Finally, I will deconstruct its key technical and aesthetic elements.

Kathy Reed
François Couperin’s 18th Ordre: A Case Study in the Performance of French Baroque Keyboard Music

17th and 18th-century French music is known to be particularly opaque to interpret. Highly ornate, detailed, and stylistically idiosyncratic, it does not lend itself naturally to the technique of modern instruments, nor to the approaches that we are used to for the more widely-known music of German Baroque composers like Handel and Bach. That’s why harpsichordists love the music of François Couperin (1668-1733). Here is music of superlative quality that plays to the mechanism, touch, and note-by-note expressive palette of the harpsichord. It essentially “teaches” us how to play the instrument, as the instrument helps us to understand the music. The musical score requires patience and careful study to crack its “code,” but Couperin himself provided much of the necessary information in his 1716 treatise L’Art de toucher le clavecin (“The Art of Playing the Harpsichord”), and performers and scholars look there and to other contemporary treatises with the reward of rediscovering an “old” tradition and bringing it to life.

Based on my research of the historical treatises and modern performance practice scholarship, I have prepared a performance of Couperin's 18th suite (or ordre) of harpsichord pieces. In my presentation I will highlight some of the interpretive issues involved, demonstrating with examples at the keyboard.
NOTES/QUESTIONS
THANK YOU

The organizers of the Faculty Research Symposium would like to thank Marilyn Roverud and the Dean's Office for their support, as well as our student moderators for their assistance. We are grateful for our colleagues’ presentations of their work and for the thoughtful participation of the other colleagues, staff, students, and community members in attendance. We look forward to the fourth annual Faculty Research Symposium next fall!