



Notre Dame Institute for  
**ADVANCED STUDY**

## **Templeton Colloquium at the NDIAS: The Invisible Aspects of Human Evolution**

**Monday, April 14, 2014, 9:00am**

**“The Origin of Language”**

### **Session Moderator:**



**Susan D. Blum** is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Notre Dame. Her areas of specialty are cultural, linguistic, and psychological anthropology; deception and truth; multilingualism; person and self; ethnicity, nationalism and identity; childhood and higher education; food; anthropological theory; and cross-cultural comparison. Her research focuses on the nature of the self and its relation to language, meaning, and society. Her publications on these subjects have included study of the context of ethnic and national identity in China, in *Portraits of “Primitives”: Ordering Human Kinds in the Chinese Nation* (2001), deception and truth in China and across cultures, in *Lies that Bind: Chinese Truth, Other Truths* (2007), a book for which she received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, and plagiarism among U.S. college students, in *My Word! Plagiarism and College Culture* (2009). Her two current projects are a cross-cultural comparison of higher education and *Learning Versus Schooling: A Professor’s Re-Education*. She is the editor of *Making Sense of Language: Readings in Culture and Communication*, now in its second edition, and *China Off-Center: Mapping the Margins of the Middle Kingdom* (co-edited with Lionel M. Jensen).

### **Session Rapporteur:**



**Christopher Ball** is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Notre Dame. He is a linguistic and sociocultural anthropologist with specialization in discourse and interaction, cultural symbolism, and the politics of communication. His fieldwork with the Wauja people, a group of roughly 350 speakers of an Arawak language from the Upper Xingu of Brazil, was funded by a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship. He is the author of a number of book chapters and articles in scholarly journals including the *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, *Language and Communication*, and *Language in Society*. His honors include the Robert A. and Catherine L. McKennan Postdoctoral Fellowship at Dartmouth College and serving as Christopher Smeall Summer Scholar Fellowship in Anthropological Linguistics at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He currently serves as a Faculty Fellow at the Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies at the University of Notre Dame.