**2011-2012 Residential and Graduate Student Fellows**

**Mark Alfano, University of Oregon**  
Research Project: “Factitious Virtue”

Mark Alfano specializes in moral psychology, a branch of philosophy that intersects with ethics, philosophy of mind, epistemology, social psychology, and behavioral economics.

Dr. Alfano has published over a dozen peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, with his articles appearing in such journals as *Erkenntnis, The Monist, Philosophical Quarterly*, and *Journal of Nietzsche Studies*. His current research focuses on ways to accommodate and co-opt empirical insights into human nature. These insights suggest that although we very much believe that people have such character traits as courage, honesty, and modesty, our actions are often better explained by appeal to seemingly trivial and morally irrelevant features of our situations, such as ambient sounds, ambient smells, the presence of bystanders, and our mood. His response to this research is forthcoming in *Character as Moral Fiction* (Cambridge University Press), which he is completing here at the Institute for Advanced Study. Alfano is a past recipient of the City University of New York’s Chancellor’s Fellowship and Writing Fellowship and will be a postdoctoral research associate at the Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School and Center for Human Values in 2012-2013. In the fall of 2013, he will join the University of Oregon department of philosophy as an assistant professor.

**Martin Dimitrov, Tulane University (fall semester 2011)**  

Martin Dimitrov is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Tulane University and also serves as a Research Fellow at the East Asian Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School and an Associate at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. He specializes in Chinese politics and has a special interest in the resilience of authoritarian regimes, the transition from communism to post-communism, and property rights.
He is the author of *Piracy and the State: The Politics of Intellectual Property Rights in China* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) and is currently working on two book projects: a monograph entitled *Dictatorship and Information: Autocratic Resilience in Communist Europe and China* and an edited volume entitled *Why Communism Didn’t Collapse: Understanding Regime Resilience in China, Vietnam, Laos, North Korea, and Cuba*. Professor Dimitrov has been awarded residential fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; the Hoover Institution (declined); the American Academy in Berlin; the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law at Stanford; the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard; and the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard.

**Erwin Feyersinger, University of Innsbruck**

Research Project: “Augmented Reality as Animation Beyond Cinema and Television Screens”

Erwin Feyersinger is an assistant professor at the University of Innsbruck in the Department of American Studies. His academic background comprises linguistics as well as film and literary theory. His research is concerned with film and animation studies and relies mainly on narratological, poetic, semiotic, and cognitive frameworks.

His essays focus on, amongst others, the narrative device metalepsis, conceptual blending, television crossovers, metareference in animation as well as the ambiguity of Jan Švankmajer’s surrealist films. He has published in the peer-reviewed journals *Animation: An Interdisciplinary Journal, Montage AV*, and *Poetica*, and he currently serves as a member of the editorial board of *Animation: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. For the completion of his doctoral dissertation, entitled *Metalepsis in Animation: Paradoxical Transgressions of Ontological Levels*, Professor Feyersinger received a fellowship from the Vice Rector for Research of the University of Innsbruck in 2009. For his dissertation, Professor Feyersinger was awarded the Award of Excellence 2010 from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research and the Roland-Faelske-Preis 2010 from the University of Hamburg and the Roland Faelske Foundation.

**Eugenia Gorogianni, University of Akron (spring semester 2012)**

Research Project: “Women’s Dress and Socio-Cultural Identity in Late Bronze Age Aegean”

Eugenia Gorogianni is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology and Classical Studies at the University of Akron. She specializes in Aegean archaeology, the archaeology of cultural contact, gender archaeology, as well as the intellectual history Greek Archaeology and her research focuses on issues of acculturation.
processes, cultural contact, gender, and redefinitions of identity, assessed through the lens of material culture of the Aegean islands during the Middle and Late Bronze Age. She has participated in numerous archaeological projects in both Greece and Albania and currently co-directs the Ayia Irini-Northern Sector Archaeological Project.

Professor Gorogianni is currently preparing two co-authored monographs: “Ayia Irini: Northern Sector: Stratigraphy and Architecture” and “Ayia Irini. Textile Tools and Textile Production.” She is the author or co-author of seven articles and scholarly writings, including “Something Old, Something New: Non-local Brides as Catalysts for Cultural Exchange at Ayia Irini, Kea?” (forthcoming), “The Goddess, Lost Ancestors, and Dolls: A Cultural Biography of the Ayia Irini Terracotta Statues” (forthcoming), and “Potsherds from the Edge: Defining the Limits of Minoanized Areas of the Aegean” (2008). Her awards include the Isabel and Mary Neff Scholarship, the Louise Taft Semple Fellowship, and the Marion Rawson Fellowship. Her fieldwork projects have been funded by the Institute of Aegean Prehistory and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Jessica Hellmann, University of Notre Dame
Research Project: “Adapting to Climate Change: Managing Ecosystems in an Era of Human Culpability”

Jessica Hellmann is Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame. Her research spans several fields, including ecology, conservation biology, genomic biology, environmental policy, and scientific literacy.

She is the author of more than 35 scholarly journal articles and her research on the ecological impacts of climate change and her ideas about management strategies for biodiversity under climate change have been published in leading scientific journals, including the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Conservation Biology*, and *Ecology*. She is an active interdisciplinary collaborator and works currently with computer scientists, legal scholars, political scientists, and sociologists. Recently, she convened an international group of scholars, funded by private foundations and the National Science Foundation (NSF), to make policy recommendations on a new conservation strategy called managed relocation. She also was recently awarded a $1.5 million grant from the NSF to establish an interdisciplinary research program on this topic, one of three grants she has received from the National Science Foundation (NSF). She is the recipient of numerous grants for her research on climate change from other prestigious organizations and agencies including the U.S. Department of the Interior, The National Park Service, The Cedar Tree Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Professor Hellman was the recipient of a Career Enhancement Award from the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation in 2006. Most recently, she was elected as a Fellow to the Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values at the University of Notre Dame (2010) and was appointed as an Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow for mid-career environmental scientists (2011).
**Slavica Jakelić, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia (fall semester 2011)**

Research Project: “The Practice of Religious and Secular Humanisms”

Slavica Jakelić is a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture and the Director of its project on “Secularism in the Late Modern Age.”

Professor Jakelić has written for academic and broader audiences on the subjects of religion and identity, theories of religion and modernity, religion and politics, religion and conflict, and secularization and secularism. She is co-editor of two volumes, *The Future of the Study of Religion* (Brill N.V., 2004) and *Crossing Boundaries: From Syria to Slovakia* (2003) and co-editor of *The Hedgehog Review* issue “After Secularization” (2006). Her most recent work is *Collectivistic Religions: Religion, Choice, and Identity in Late Modernity* (Ashgate, 2010). Professor Jakelić is currently working on a book entitled *The Practice of Religious and Secular Humanisms*. She has worked at or been a fellow at a number of interdisciplinary institutes in Europe and in the U.S., including the Erasmus Institute for the Culture of Democracy in Croatia; the Institute for the Study of Economic Culture at Boston University; the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen in Vienna, Austria; the Erasmus Institute at the University of Notre Dame; and the Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago.

**David Lantigua, University of Notre Dame**


David Lantigua is a Ph.D. candidate in Moral Theology and Christian Ethics at the University of Notre Dame. His research focuses on the legal theory of toleration that emerged in the context of New World debates concerning Amerindian religious customs and cultural practices.

Mr. Lantigua has taught a course on comparative religious ethics and lectured on Catholic moral theology and world religions. He is co-author with Darrell Fasching and Dell deChant of *Comparative Religious Ethics: A Narrative Approach to Global Ethics, 2nd Edition* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011). He is also contributor to *Hispanic American Religious Cultures* (ABC-CLIO, 2009) and has published in *Aporia: A Student Journal of Philosophy*. He currently moderates a Notre Dame Blog on sixteenth-century Spanish political theology called The School of Salamanca. Mr. Lantigua is a past recipient of the Diversity Fellowship at the University of Notre Dame and, for the Spring semester of 2011, he was awarded two grants to conduct dissertation research in Spain by Notre Dame’s Kellogg Institute for International
Studies and the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts. He currently serves as a member of The Society of Christian Ethics and the American Academy of Religion.

**Sabine G. MacCormack, University of Notre Dame (spring semester 2012)**

Research Project: “Natural Philosophy, History and Theology in the Writings of José de Acosta, S.J. (1540-1600)”

Sabine MacCormack is the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. Professor of Arts and Letters at the University of Notre Dame, with a joint appointment in the Departments of History and Classics. She is an historian and specializes in religion and culture in Roman society and colonial Latin America.


Her numerous honors include fellowships and awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Wilson Center, the Pew Trust, and the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities. Professor MacCormack was selected as a Getty Scholar by The Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities (1990-1991), elected to membership in the American Philosophical Society (1997), selected as a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America (2000), and elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2007). In 2003 she was honored with the prestigious Distinguished Achievement Award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

**Elisabeth Mégier, Independent Scholar (fall semester 2011)**

Research Project: “What is salvation history? An inquiry into historiographical and exegetical texts of the Latin Church, from the Fathers to the middle of the 12th century”

Elisabeth Mégier is an independent scholar with a research focus on leading figures of medieval historiography, including Hugh of Fleury, Orderic Vitalis, and Otto of Freising. Her research has also included the examination of general questions of biblical hermeneutics, such as the respective roles and characteristics of the literal and the spiritual
sense of Scripture.

Dr. Mégier has published articles on historical writing and biblical exegesis in the Latin Middle Ages (from the Patristic foundations until approximately 1150), with special attention to the relationship between the understanding of history and the understanding of the Bible. Her articles have appeared in numerous journals, including Cahiers de Civilisation Médiévale, Mediaevistik, Miscellanea Medievalia, Revue Mabillon, Revue Bénédictine, Atti della XIVa Settimana internazionale di studio, Studi Medievali, Sacris Erudiri, the Journal of Ecclesiastical History, Millennio Medievale, and Corpus Victorinum. A large number of her articles were republished in Christliche Weltgeschichte im 12. Jahrhundert: Themen, Variationen und Kontraste. Untersuchungen zu Hugo von Fleury, Ordericus Vitalis und Otto von Freising (2010). She is also the author of a number of book reviews, mostly for the journal Mediaevistik, and she has organized sessions at the medieval congresses in Kalamazoo and in Leeds. She is the recipient of several awards and fellowships including membership at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton in 2002-2003.

Adriana Méndez Rodenas, University of Iowa (spring semester 2012)
Research Project: “From Paradise to Diaspora: Natural History in the Americas”

Adriana Méndez Rodenas is a professor of Latin American and Caribbean literature at the University of Iowa. Her research focuses on travel writing, gender, and transatlantic studies; her current project engages ecocriticism in the Caribbean across historical lines and genres.


In the area of Latino/a literature, Professor Méndez Rodenas’s essays on contemporary Cuban-American narrative have appeared in Negotiating Identities in Art and Literature: Cuban Americans and American Culture (2007) and Cuba—Idea of a Nation Displaced (2007).

Atalia Omer, Kroc Institute for Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame (fall semester 2011)

Research Project: “The Rhetoric of ‘No-Place’: Symbolic Diasporas and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict As a Trope”

Atalia Omer is Assistant Professor of Religion, Conflict, and Peace Studies at the Kroc Institute for Peace Studies and serves as a faculty affiliate of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society at the University of Notre Dame. Her research interests include the theoretical study of the interrelation between religion and nationalism; religion, nationalism, and peacebuilding; the role of national, religious, and ethnic diasporas in the dynamics of conflict transformation and peace; multiculturalism as a framework for conflict transformation and as a theory of justice; the role of subaltern narratives in reimagining questions of peace and justice; intra-group dialogue and the contestation of citizenship in ethno-religious national contexts; and the symbolic appropriation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in other zones of conflict.

Professor Omer is the author of *When Peace is Not Enough: How the Israeli Peace Camp Thinks about Religion, Nationalism, and Justice* (forthcoming, University of Chicago Press), a work that examines how the Israeli peace camp addresses interrelationships between religion, ethnicity, and nationality and how it interprets justice vis-à-vis the Palestinian conflict. Professor Omer is also the author of *Religious Nationalism Handbook* (forthcoming ABC-CLIO), and co-editor (with Scott Appleby and David Little) of the *Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding* (Oxford University Press). She has published articles in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *The Journal of Political Theology*, and in *The Study of Nationalism and Ethnicity*. Her current book project, *Rethinking “Home” Abroad: Religion and the Reinterpretation of National Boundaries in the Diasporas*, explores why divergences in conceptions of national identity between “homeland” and “diasporas” could facilitate the proliferation of loci of analysis and foci of peacebuilding efforts which are yet under-explored both in Peace Studies and specific scholarship addressing the relations between diasporas and conflict. Her numerous awards and fellowships include a doctoral fellowship at the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University (2002-2004), a Harvard University Merit Fellowship (2006), serving as a Graduate Associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University (2006-2008), and a Charlotte W. Newcombe’s Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (2007).
Gabriel Paquette, Johns Hopkins University (spring semester 2012)
Research Project: “Cycles of Renewal and Collapse: Portugal and Brazil, c. 1780-1845”

Gabriel Paquette is Assistant Professor of History at The Johns Hopkins University. He specializes in European and Latin American history, chiefly in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Much of his research is dedicated to the revival and subsequent dissolution of the Portuguese and Spanish empires (c. 1750-1830), with a particular interest in the history of political thought.

Professor Paquette is the author of Enlightenment, Governance, and Reform in Spain and its Empire, c. 1759-1808 (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008) and editor of Enlightened Reform in Southern Europe and its Atlantic Colonies, c. 1750-1830 (Ashgate Publishing, 2009) and a forthcoming work (with Matthew Brown), Connections after Colonialism: The Reconfiguration of Relations between Europe and Latin America in the 1820s (spring 2012). Professor Paquette is the author of a number of scholarly articles that have appeared in European History Quarterly, the Historical Journal, the Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History, and the Journal of Latin American Studies, and he is a regular contributor to the Times Literary Supplement. Professor Paquette has received numerous awards and fellowships, including a George Mitchell Scholarship (2000-2001), a Fulbright Scholarship (2004-2005), a Junior Research Fellowship at Trinity College, University of Cambridge (2006-2008), and a research grant from the British Academy for his work on Brazil and Portugal (2008-2009).

Laura Rominger Porter, University of Notre Dame

Laura Rominger Porter is a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Notre Dame and currently a Graduate Fellow at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study. Her dissertation, “From Sin to Crime: Evangelicals, Politics, and Public Moral Order in the Nineteenth-Century Upper South,” examines links between evangelical church discipline, civil jurisprudence, and the politics of moral regulation in the nineteenth-century upper South, and how these interconnections related to theological debates over church jurisdiction and prerogative in the slaveholding states.
Ms. Porter has taught in the sub-fields of western civilization, United States history, religious history and Southern history. She has presented her research at conferences in the areas of religious history and political history, including meetings of the Filson Historical Society and The American Society of Church History. Ms. Porter has published three articles, the first titled “The Bible, Commonsense, and Interpretive Context: A Case Study in the Antebellum Debate over Slavery,” *Fides et Historia* 38.2 (Winter 2006): 35-54. A third invited article, “Church Government and the Body Politic: The Religious Logic of Secession in Tennessee,” is forthcoming in the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*.

Ms. Porter has received numerous grants in support of her research, including awards from The Kentucky Historical Society, The Filson Historical Society, The Southern Baptist Historical Culture and Archives, The Zahm Research Travel Fund, and The Institute for the Study of Liberal Arts. She was also a finalist for the 2011-2012 Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship.

**Vasileios Syros, Finnish Centre of Political Thought & Conceptual Change (spring semester 2012)**

“Giovanni Botero and the Beginnings of Comparative Politics in the West”

Vasileios Syros is a Docent at the Finnish Centre of Political Thought & Conceptual Change and at the University of Helsinki. His research focuses on the interaction among Christian, Islamic, and Jewish traditions of political thought as well as on cross-cultural encounters in the late medieval and early modern periods. A further focus of his work is the comparative study of European states and early modern Islamic empires and ideas on imperial ascendency and decline.

Professor Syros is the author of *Die Rezeption der aristotelischen politischen Philosophie bei Marsilius von Padua: Eine Untersuchung zur ersten Diktion des Defensor pacis* (Brill, 2007). He recently published an edited collection of essays entitled *Well Begun is Only Half Done: Tracing Aristotle’s Political Ideas in Medieval Arabic, Syriac, Byzantine, and Jewish Sources* (ACMRS, 2011). His current publication projects include *Marsilus of Padua at the Intersection of Ancient and Medieval Cultures and Traditions of Learning* (University of Toronto Press, 2012); and *The Protean Art of Politics: Early Modern Jewish Political Thought and Skepticism*. He has published in a number of international peer-reviewed journals, including *Bulletin de philosophie médiévale*, *History of Political Thought*, *Journal of Early Modern History*, *Journal of World History*, *Medieval Encounters*, *Philosophy East & West*, *Revue des Études Juives*, and *Viator*. In 2009 he was appointed editor-in-chief by the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies for the series *Medieval Confluences: Studies in the Intellectual History and Comparative History of Ideas of the Medieval World*.

He has held research appointments at several prestigious institutions, including the Academy of Finland, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study. He has taught at The John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought at The University of Chicago, the École Pratique des Hautes Études, and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. He also served as visiting professor at the University of São Paulo, Charles University in Prague, University of Beijing, and Eötvös Loránd University. He was recently awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship for Experienced Researchers by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and a position as Erik Allardt Fellow at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (Uppsala).

Joseph Wawrykow, University of Notre Dame (fall semester 2011)
Research Project: “Jesus the ‘true human’: Grace and Virtue in the Christology of Thomas Aquinas”

Joseph Wawrykow is an associate professor in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. He specializes in medieval theology. Much of his research is dedicated to the study of Thomas Aquinas and his scholastic contemporaries.

Professor Wawrykow is the author of God’s Grace and Human Action: ‘Merit’ in the Theology of Thomas Aquinas (University of Notre Dame Press, 1995) and of The Westminster Handbook to Thomas Aquinas (Westminster John Knox Press, 2005). He is also co-editor (with Kent Emery) of Christ among the Medieval Dominicans (University of Notre Dame Press, 1999) and (with Rik Van Nieuwenhove) The Theology of Thomas Aquinas (University of Notre Dame Press, 2005). He has published on a wide variety of medieval theological topics, in such journals as Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte, Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, and The Thomist. He is on the editorial board of The Westminster Collection of Sources of Christian Theology (Westminster John Knox Press) and is the area editor for the History of Christianity for Religious Studies Review. He is currently at work, as co-editor, on the Cambridge History of Later Medieval Theology. He was formerly on the editorial board of the University of Notre Dame Press.

Among his awards and fellowships are a Charlotte W. Newcombe dissertation fellowship (1984-1985), a Whiting Prize Fellowship (1985-1986), and a Lilly Research Fellowship (Association of Theological Schools, 1998-1999). He was awarded a Kaneb teaching award for undergraduate teaching (2002), and was designated by the University of Notre Dame as a Master Mentor (1999) for his work with doctoral students.