



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY

## POYNTER CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ETHICS AND AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS

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## Poynter Center Roundtable: Lisa Sideris on Rachel Carson

The Poynter Center is hosting a new series, the Poynter Center Roundtable, to highlight creative work and research by IU Bloomington faculty in ethics and democratic life and culture. For Fall 2008, the Poynter Center hosted three presentations.

The inaugural presentation on October 10, 2008 was by Lisa Sideris, Department of Religious Studies, who spoke on "Fact and Fiction, Fear and Wonder: The Legacy of Rachel Carson."

Sideris contextualized Rachel Carson's famous publication, *Silent Spring*, within Carson's wider corpus and the cultural reception of her work. Sideris noted how the interweaving of fact and fiction in Carson's writing express (and elicit) fear and wonder, two important "registers" in our experience of the natural world. Sideris then connected Carson's ideas with recent accounts of the moral and psychological aspects of the emotions and their motivational connections to morality, especially in

relation to our engagement with the wider environment.

Sideris, who received her Ph. D. from IU in 2000, noted, "In the broadest sense, I am interested in the value and ethical significance of natural processes. Much of my recent research focuses on the intersection of religion, science and environmental ethics."

Sideris has recently co-edited a book with Kathleen Dean Moore, *Rachel Carson: Legacy and Challenge*.

For information on the faculty Roundtable presentations on Vietnam, see page 3.



## Teaching Research Ethics, May 12-15

The Sixteenth Teaching Research Ethics Workshop, directed by Ken Pimple and coordinated by Glenda Murray, will be May 12-15, 2009 at the Indiana Memorial Union on the IU Bloomington campus.

Sponsored by the IU Poynter Center and 13 universities, the workshop provides faculty with training on how

to teach research ethics and provides staff who work in research offices an understanding of ethical principles and methods of helping faculty and staff think in terms of responsible conduct of research.

See the Poynter Center web site, <http://poynter.indiana.edu/tre/>, for details and registration information.

## Ethics Bowl Team Places Second in Regional Competition

The Poynter Center Ethics Bowl team placed second in the regional competition on November 1, 2008 at Marian College, Indianapolis. The team expects to compete in the national competition March 5, 2009 in Cincinnati.

The team this year includes:

- Devin Carpenter, a junior majoring in Philosophy, Religious Studies and Political Science
- Laura Goins, a sophomore majoring in Math and Philosophy
- Rachel Morris, a sophomore majoring in Interdepartmental Political Science and Philosophy
- Dylan Pittman, a sophomore majoring in Political Science,



Back row: Poynter Center director Richard Miller, Dylan Pittman, Neil Shah, Rachel Morris. Front row: Laura Goins, faculty sponsor Sandra Shapshay from Philosophy, Devin Carpenter, and coach Shana Bergen.

- Neil Shah, a senior majoring in Mathematics, Finance, and Economics. Neil has competed as a member of the Poynter Center team for four years.

The team fielded questions about cases on topics such as the ethics of

biofuels from food sources, poverty tours in poor countries, slow medicine, the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act, illegal immigrants attending colleges and universities, and child custody issues for National Guard members stationed in Iraq.

## Archaeology Workshop Looks at Ethical Principles

On October 1-4, 2008 the Poynter Center hosted twelve archaeologists of diverse backgrounds and experience, whose purpose was to revisit the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Principles of Ethics. The project was proposed and led by Sonya Atalay in the IU Department of Anthropology.

The workshop was funded by the IU New Frontiers Program, First

Nations Educational and Cultural Center, and the Office of Multicultural Initiatives. The Poynter Center hosted the workshop as its contribution to the project.

The group concluded their discussion and review by adopting an Open Letter to the SAA Membership, with the hope that a dialogue among the membership will follow on issues raised in the public

presentation October 1 and in the workshop that followed.

The public program, "Re-examining Ethics in Archaeology: Considering Native Americans & Indigenous People," included three panelists, Alison Wylie of the University of Washington, Dorothy Lippert of the National Museum of Natural History, and Paula Lazrus of St. John's University.

## Staff and Building Changes

Director Richard Miller returned from his 2007-08 sabbatical with new ideas and new publications. We thank Brian Schrag, Executive Secretary of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, for ably serving as acting director in 2007-08.

Cameron Buckner, who served as the first book room assistant for

the APPE (coordinating the book room at the annual meeting), is writing his dissertation this year. He was succeeded by Mary Ulmet, who previously worked for the Association as an assistant.

Mark Wilson, who worked as a research assistant and an Ethics Bowl coach, completed his Ph. D. and is now teaching at Villanova.

For a decade the Poynter Center has been located at 618 East Third Street in a wonderful 100 year-old house. The IU Physical plant did some waterproofing in the basement this spring, and this fall we received a long-awaited new roof and chimney tuck-pointing. We thank IU for all the building improvements this year.

## PC Roundtable Presentations on Vietnam

The second and third presentations in the Poynter Center Roundtable series this fall were related to the Vietnam War.

On October 17, 2008 Jeffrey Wolin, the Ruth N. Halls Professor of Photography at the School of Fine Arts, spoke and showed photos of veterans he has interviewed and photographed. The original research involved Vietnam veterans from across the United States who served in a variety of positions during the war.

The expanded project includes South Vietnamese (ARVN) and North Vietnamese (PAVN) veterans. Wolin has made one trip to Vietnam and has planned a second trip to meet and interview former Vietnamese soldiers.

Called "Inconvenient Stories: Veterans of the Vietnam War/Veterans of the American War," the resulting presentations point to the long-term cultural and psychic effects of the war on combatants on all sides.



Jeffrey Wolin, right, discusses his photos and presentation with participants on October 17. Ken Pimple (at the left of the screen) looks on.

Wolin's work reflects how creative work and aesthetic sensibilities can engage democratic public culture and memory. His presentation drew students, IU faculty, and local veterans of the Vietnam War.

Ron Osgood, from the Department of Telecommunications, has taken a different approach in his docu-

mentary, "My Vietnam Your Iraq." Osgood presented excerpts from the documentary on November 14, 2008. Osgood selected nine families from across the United States in which a parent served in Vietnam and a child served in Iraq. Osgood, a Vietnam vet-

eran himself, found that many of the parents he interviewed had never talked with their families very much about the Vietnam War, and the interviews allowed family members to discuss issues they would not have raised otherwise.

Check the web site for information about the Poynter Center Roundtables for Spring 2009.

## Healthcare Ethics Seminars

Robert Crouch, who coordinates the Healthcare Ethics Seminars, has selected a variety of speakers for the fall series.

Jennifer Girod, who was a Poynter Center research associate in 2004-05 and who is a nurse, an attorney, and a Ph. D. in Religious Studies, spoke September 25, 2008 about "The Ethics of Xenotransplantation Clinical Trials." Girod addressed ethical and medical concerns about transplantation across species but also noted the severe shortages of human organs that are available for transplant. One of her goals is to identify the questions that need to

be answered for xenotransplantation to be ethical and for people to become more comfortable with the idea.

Dr. Richard Gunderman, from the IU School of Medicine, spoke October 23, 2008 about "Freedom and Generosity" in medicine. As his starting point, Dr. Gunderman noted the low morale currently existing in medicine and the frustrations with the system as it now exists. Dr. Gunderman based his presentation in philosophy and focused on ways that physicians can appreciate and practice freedom and generosity in our flawed systems.

Dr. Greg Sachs will speak on "Pediatrics and Geriatrics: Ethics Across the Life Course" on November 20, 2008. Dr. Alexia Torke has titled her December 11 presentation "Towards a New Ethical Model for Surrogate Decision-Making." Both presenters teach at the IU School of Medicine and conduct research at the IU Center for Aging Research at the Regenstrief Institute.

See the Poynter Center web site, <http://poynter.indiana.edu/medethics.shtml> for information about the spring Healthcare Ethics Seminars.



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## Research Ethics for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows

Ken Pimple, the Poynter Center's Director of Teaching Research Ethics Programs, has been busier around campus than usual. He just completed teaching the third semester of a one-hour graduate course, G601-Research Ethics: Responsibilities to Society, Science, and Self. The course is offered through the University Graduate School with financial support from the Graduate School and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research.

"It's a small seminar, with ten or fewer students per semester," Pimple said. "They've come from a variety of disciplines – mostly biology, but also linguistics, education, psychology, and others." He says that the course has gone well so far and is expected to continue as long as there is a demand.

Pimple was also asked by Maxine Watson, of IU's Biology Department, to offer a series of workshops in the responsible conduct of research for postdoctoral fellows. Watson is establishing an office for postdoctoral support, and she secured a small grant from the National Postdoctoral Association to support six workshops. Pimple led three 90-minute workshops late in the spring semester and is cycling through the same three now. The topics are "Collaboration and authorship," "Data ownership, access, and sharing," and "Integrity and misconduct."

"The course and the workshops overlap to some extent, but obviously in the course we have more time to go into issues in depth, and we cover many more topics," Pimple said.

Pimple was featured in an article entitled "Teaching Research Ethics" in *Teaching & Learning* (Fall/Winter 2008), a publication of IU's Office of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculties. The article is available at <http://www.indiana.edu/~tandlpub/>.

Pimple previously made the pages of *Research & Creative Activity* (Spring 2006), a publication of IU's Office of the Vice Provost for Research, in an article called "The Science of Doing It Right."

More information on the course, the workshops, and the articles can be found on Pimple's web page, <http://mypage.iu.edu/~pimple>.

Information about the Teaching Research Ethics Workshop May 12-15, 2009 is on the Poynter Center website.