"We must provide new opportunities for interdisciplinary scholarship. Our distinction as a research university rests in no small measure on our ability to help our faculty and students make connections between fields of study and bring to bear the insights from many disciplines in seeking solutions to issues facing the global community."

OSU President Karen Holbrook
As The Ohio State University moves into the second five years of implementing its Academic Plan, three areas of priority focus have been identified, one of which is facilitating cutting-edge interdisciplinary research.

The Office of International Affairs established and provides support for several Clusters of Interdisciplinary Research on International Themes (CIRIT) in order to advance the goals of The Ohio State University Academic Plan.

The CIRIT program is an infrastructure to solve problems and coordinate efforts associated with working across disciplinary lines. This program coordinates two clusters:

**CLUSTER I: CLIMATE CHANGE**

Juan Jimenez is assessing the amount of soil carbon in Costa Rica as part of a collaborative project with EARTH

**CLUSTER II: IDENTITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD**

The two clusters are not only international topics of major significance that lend themselves to interdisciplinary scholarship, but they also build on existing strengths of expertise within the University. As such, each cluster enables the university to enhance, strengthen and highlight ongoing research, for which it has internationally recognized expertise, as well as to create the means for the theme to be approached across disciplinary boundaries. The following objectives guide the program:

- Facilitate interdisciplinary communication, dialogue and networking of faculty and students on the selected themes
- Enhance disciplinary and interdisciplinary research on the selected themes
- Promote the products of these endeavors through publications and other outlets

Join this network at www.cirit.osu.edu or write to: Dr. Esther E. Gottlieb: cirit@osu.edu

Phone: (614) 292-6392
Fax: (614) 292-4273

Andrea Wolfe is studying plant systematics and molecular evolution

Christopher Gough is studying forest carbon storage and prospects for mitigating climate change

Ileana Rodriguez is working on liberalism at its limits and the nature and possibilities of cross-cultural dialogues

Sally Kitch & Margaret Mills have launched a research program on Afghan Women’s Leadership which culminated in a conference on conflict mitigation and social reconstruction

Maurice Stevens is exploring critical trauma theories and practices
Numerous centers, departments and units at the University sponsor programs relevant to the CIRIT Clusters thematic foci, including research, instruction, and outreach programs. Cumulatively, all these scholarly activities are contributing to CIRIT becoming a major research coordinating effort with the potential for further development and dissemination. In the interests of developing this potential, the CIRIT office documents and posts these activities on bulletins and on the web, providing a tool for mapping out OSU research taking place across the disciplines. It disseminates this information both on and off campus with a view toward enhancing the recognition both of individual faculty accomplishments and of The Ohio State University as a site of international research and scholarly activities.

**CLUSTER I**

Heather Allen, Department of Chemistry  
Richard Herrmann, Department of Political Science  
Andy Keeler, School of Public Policy and Management  
Rattan Lal, School of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Carolyn Merry, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science  
Alan Randall, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics  
Frank Schwartz, Department of Geological Sciences  
C.K. Shum, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science  
Robert Tabita, Department of Microbiology  
Lonnie Thompson, Department of Geological Sciences  
Andrea Wolfe, Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology

**CLUSTER II**

C. Magbail Fyle, Department of African American and African Studies  
Donna Guy, Department of History  
Richard Herrmann, Department of Political Science  
J. Craig Jenkins, Department of Sociology  
Thomas P. Kasulis, Department of Comparative Studies  
Amy Shuman, Department of English and Center for Folklore Studies  
Halina Stephan, Department of Slavic & East European Languages & Literatures; Center for Slavic & East European Studies  
Hugh E. Urban, Department of Comparative Studies  
Margaret Wyszomirski, Department of Art Education  
Christian Zacher, Department of English; Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities

**CLUSTER I**

The School of Environmental and Natural Resources  
OSU Office of Research  
Office of International Affairs and the Office of International Programs in Agriculture  
Universidade de Sao Paulo: Centro de Energia Nuclear na Agricultura, Brazil  
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
The Nature Conservancy  
The International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas  
The International Center for Maize and Wheat Research  
Agricultural Research Service and Soil Drainage Research Unit of the USDA  
Centers for Slavic and East European Studies and Middle East Studies

**Collaborating Programs**

Byrd Polar Research Center  
The National Regulatory Research Institute  
The Mershon Center, Center for Mapping Environment Policy Initiative, Ohio Sea Grant Program  
The Glenn Institute of Public Policy  
The Center for Molecular and Environmental Health  
The Ohio Center for Wetland and River Restoration  
The Laboratory for Space Geodesy and Remote Sensing Research

**CLUSTER II**

Office of International Affairs  
OSU Office of Research  
College of Humanities and the College of the Arts  
Departments of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Comparative Studies  
Departments of Women’s Studies, Art, and English  
Centers for Middle East Studies, African Studies, East Asian Studies  
Latin American Studies, Slavic and East European Studies, Folklore Studies  
The Melton Center for Jewish Studies  
The Chinese Institute, The Japanese Institute, The Mershon Center  
Moritz College of Law Center for Interdisciplinary Law and Policy Studies  
The Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities  
The Kirwin Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity  
OSU Women in Development  
Iranian Cultural Association
CIRIT Cluster I is an interdisciplinary forum for scholarly interactions that has been active since 2001. This cluster is headed by Prof. Rattan Lal, Director of the Carbon Management and Sequestration Center (http://cmasc.osu.edu) at the School of Environmental and Natural Resources.

The mission is to develop world-class research and academic programs, prioritize and address current issues pertinent to the climate and environmental change, establish linkages with national and international programs, and develop interdisciplinary academic curricula. More specifically, Climate Change scientists are addressing the current issues related to the accelerated greenhouse effect; establishing a database of climate change indicators; studying carbon sequestration, researching surface chemistry and other technological options to mitigate the greenhouse effect; assessing economic and environmental impact; and studying the human dimensions. This mission is achieved through establishing cooperative linkages with other programs, developing research and academic programs that address current issues, and sponsoring campus-wide forums that provide opportunities for activities across disciplinary lines.

Program Activities: The program builds on existing strengths at OSU in climate and environmental science, engineering, soil science and the human dimensions of climate change. To date this cluster has brought together faculty from several OSU colleges and has linked with industrial partners and institutions overseas which resulted in several interdisciplinary, internationally-funded network building workshops and the establishment of the Latin American Soil Carbon Network (LASCAnet). It has sponsored monthly seminars, conferences and workshops and has led to the development of two undergraduate courses. There have been several publications including “Climate Change and Global Food Security” published by CRC Press in 2005 and based on the proceedings of the 2003 international workshop.

AWARDS

Lonnie Thompson, Professor of geological sciences at OSU, is one of two scientists to win the 2005 Tyler Prize, an award regarded by some in the field as equivalent to a Nobel Prize.

For the past three decades, Thompson, along with his wife and research partner Ellen Mosley-Thompson, have argued that the first real evidence of an increase in global temperatures will come with the melting of tropical ice caps and glaciers.

Rattan Lal, Professor of natural resources at OSU and internationally recognized soil scientist was one of two recipients of the 2005 Norman Borlaug Award presented on March 16, during the Centenary celebrations of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in New Delhi, India.


OSU President Karen Holbrook presenting Sandor with a Distinguished Lecture Award.

Robert J. Andres (University of North Dakota), A Partial Description of Fossil Fuel Carbon Dioxide Emission in the Context of Global Change Studies
Christina Behr-Andres (Los Alamos National Laboratory), Student Opportunities with the Earth Environmental Sciences Division at Los Alamos National Laboratory
Michael H. Ebinger (Los Alamos National Laboratory), Advanced Carbon Measurement and Land Management for Terrestrial Sequestration
Dennis Garrity (World Agroforestry Centre), What Chance for the Rural Poor in Africa?
John Litynski (National Energy Technology Laboratory), The Carbon Sequestration Technology Area at the DOE NETL
Mac Post (Oak Ridge National Laboratory), Carbon Sequestration in U.S. Soils: A Framework for Integrated Evaluation
Richard Sandor (Chicago Climate Exchange), Creating a Market Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading
Darshan Singh (Punjab Agricultural University), Punjab Agriculture: Past Accomplishments, Future Challenges

Virginie Bouchard, Wetland Mitigation in Ohio: Are We Losing Diversity and Does it Matter?
Andrew Keeler, Sequestration Rental Policies and the Price of Path of Carbon
William Mitsch, Restoring and Creating Wetlands in Coastal Louisiana (Post-Katrina), The Mississippi River Basin, and Mesopotamia - What Needs to be Done
Harold Walker, Climate Change and Drinking Water: Technology for Increasing the Quantity and Quality of Water We Drink
Andrea Wolfe, Botanical Research in a Biodiversity Hotspot: The Cape Floral Kingdom
C.K. Shum helps glaciologists measure changes in ice flow more accurately. GRACE, twin satellites launched in March 2002, are making detailed measurements of Earth’s gravity field which will lead to discoveries about gravity and Earth’s natural systems. These discoveries could have far-reaching benefits to society and the world’s population. “We have reason to believe that GRACE data is more accurate because the other models are based on substantially less data,” Shum said. “So we think that people who incorporate our GRACE data into their own data are going to get better results.”

See at www-ceg.eng.ohio-state.edu/faculty/shum/

This workshop opened with presentations on: "Principal biomass of Central Asia (climate, soil and vegetation) by E. De-Pauw; "Ecosystems and carbon sequestration challenges" by M. Suleimenov and R. Thomas; "Economic indicators and climate change" by A. Lines, P. Elmuratov and R. Islam; and "Forestry in Central Asia" by M. Turdieva. Other sessions focused on Soil Management and Carbon Dynamics; Forest Management and Carbon Dynamics; Water Management; Rangeland Management Measurements and Economics; and Conservation Tillage and Economic Evaluation. The University Distinguished Lecture was delivered by Dr. Raj Paroda Head CGIAR Program for CAC, and Regional Coordinator ICARDA, in Uzbekistan, who discussed the challenges of agriculture in Central Asia. Several major natural resource management issues in Central Asia were addressed. This Annual Climate Change Workshop will serve to establish another Soil Carbon Network similar to LASCANet established in 2004 following the workshop in Brazil (see below). See program at http://cirit.osu.edu/pdfs/clusterI/nov05/ProgramFin.pdf

**CASCA Net**

The Central Asia Soil Carbon Network will bring together scientists, research institutions, government agencies and policy makers to improve soil quality and reduce the rate of atmospheric concentration of CO2. The CASCA Net working group identified five policy options that will need to be successfully implemented by the Central Asian governments of that region in order to realize its carbon sequestration potential of removing up to 20% of excess CO2 from our atmosphere by 2050:

a) Land Tenure Policy, b) Water Conservation Policy, c) Commodity Marketing, d) Research Land-Use Planning Linkages and e) Education and Public Awareness. To join this network write to Patricia Drillien at drillien.1@osu.edu.

**LASCANet**

CIRIT Climate Change, led by Rattan Lal has established an International Soil Carbon Networks in Latin America following the international workshop in Brazil. The LASCANet is developing a research, extension, outreach and training program, on soil carbon sequestration to improve soil quality, increase agronomic productivity, decrease non-point source pollution, and reduce the rate of atmospheric concentration of CO2. LASCANet participants are organized into twelve Soil Ecoregions with a contact in each. Sponsors: U.S. Department of State, Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Energy, NETL, The Nature Conservancy, Universidade de São Paulo / Centro de Energia Nuclear na Agricultura, and Institut de Recherche pour le Développement. For more information see http://cirit.osu.edu/clusterone/LASCANET/index.html
CIRIT Cluster II is a university-wide interdisciplinary cluster of projects, drawing on research that crosses the boundaries dividing colleges, departments and research centers. It provides an infrastructure that accommodates ongoing faculty research and provides a virtual map to encourage networking among all related projects and activities on the chosen topic.

The CIRIT Cluster II goal is to facilitate interdisciplinary communication, dialog and networking among faculty and students. Its main objective is to assemble a comprehensive picture of faculty research conducted at OSU on this topic, and to facilitate new and international collaborations. It seeks to engage with faculty researchers who:

- Highlight our understanding of the causes of and solutions to ethnic, religion and cultural conflicts
- Research how self, social, and political identities operate, how they are changing, and how they are intertwined in ethnic, religious, and cultural conflicts, in both historical and contemporary societies
- Study the interrelatedness of identities with gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and culture
- Research how identities are embedded in different societal systems and practices around the globe.

In 2005, three sub-clusters/working groups were active: Cultural Conflict & the Media; Gender & Ethnic Conflicts; and Culture, Heritage & Religion.

### Cultural Conflict & the Media

**Fundamentalism and the Media: Wars on Culture – Struggles in Culture – Conflicts between Cultures** an Interdisciplinary Lecture Series was organized by John E. Davidson (Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures). Among the speakers were:

- Andrew Chesnut (University of Houston), Faith in Marketing: Pentecostal Prosperity in Latin America's New Religious Economy
- Thomas P. Kasulis (OSU), Shinto: Naturalism or Nationalism?

- Akbar Mahdi (Ohio Wesleyan University) & Douglas A. Davis (Haverford College), Iran, Revolution, and the Media: A Panel Discussion

- Linda Kintz (University of Oregon) Commoditying the Phobic Real: Literalism, God, and Reactionary Politics
- R. Scott Appleby (Notre Dame University) Natural Allies: Fundamentalism and the Media

### Gender & Ethnic Conflicts

This faculty group operates on the premise that beneath the level of ethnic, religious, and political conflicts all over the world there exist gender inequities that create divisiveness and promote the perpetuation of instability. This group is convened by Donna Guy (Department of History), Sally Kitch (Department of Women’s Studies), Cathy Rakowski (Department of Human and Community Resource Development and Women’s Studies), and Ileana Rodriguez (Department of Spanish and Portuguese).

The Third Annual Symposium on Gender & Ethnic Conflicts was devoted to **Critical Theories of Trauma: International Reflections on Theory and Practice** and organized by Maurice Stevens (Department of Comparative Studies). It brought together researchers and practitioners working on trauma theories, race, gendered and ethnic meaning and practice of how and who is defined as ‘traumatized.’

**Global Dialogues: Gender & Ethnicity Across Divides, Can they Break Down Disciplinary Protocols and Influence Policy** an Interdisciplinary Seminar and Lecture Series was organized by Ileana Rodriguez (Department of Spanish & Portuguese) and explored the fundamental questions regarding the intersection of gender and ethnicity. Among the speakers were:

- Astrid Uloa Cubillos (Institute of Anthropology and History-Icanh, Bogota, Colombia), The Children of Mother Nature: Images and Representations of Indigenous Peoples within Global Environmental Discourses
- Maria Gabriela Nouzeilles (Princeton University), The Uses of Difference: Race, Gender and Primitivist Longing
- Ana Rebeca Prada (Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, La Paz, Bolivia), Our Dreams are your Nightmares: Mujeres Creando and Autonomous Feminism in Bolivia
- Maria Josefina Saldaña-Portillo (Brown University), National Allegory in the Era of Neoliberalism in y tu mamá tambien
- Marcia Stephenson (Purdue University), The French Connection: Engaging Questions of Race and Gender Through the Nineteenth-Century International Trade in Alpacas, Llamas, and Vicuñas

- Renata Salecl (Professor and Senior Researcher, Institute for Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana) spoke on Tyranny of Choice: Why Societies without Limits Bring More Dissatisfaction (see paper at http://cirit.osu.edu/clustertwo/global/papers.htm)
This CIRIT working group on Cultural Circulation & Cultural Collaboration examines the renewed intensification of local cultural practices and cultural border-crossings that defy political impediments to the circulation of culture. This group’s conveners are Amy Shuman (Department of English and Center for Folklore Studies), Margaret Wyszomirski (Department of Art Education; Director, Arts Policy and Administration Program).

Amy Shuman organized an international conference Cultural Circulations: The Movement of People, Goods, and Ideas. The project was designed to provide a powerful counter-narrative to claims and predictions for the erosion of local culture. The participants examined cultural border crossings across divides of race, class, gender, and the uses of technology to subvert governmental constraints on the circulation of people, goods, or ideas, and the strategic uses of folk heritage culture in public policy.

In addition to the guest speakers, Nancy Campbell, Norma Mendoza-Denton & Mourad Mjahed, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Raquel Romberg, and James Early, the conference also featured OSU Professors Georgios Anagnostou, Amy Horowitz, Gabriella Modan and Amy Shuman. The abstracts and papers are at http://cirit.osu.edu/clustertwo/culturalcirc/abstracts.htm. The generous support of the Research Office and the College of Arts and the Department of Art enabled CIRIT to exhibit, as part of the conference, a mixed media installation by Mieke Bal and Shahram Entekhabi who also presented their paper on Glub and the Aesthetics of Everyday Life.

---

**glub © A mixed media installation** by Mieke Bal & Shahram Entekhabi

January 28, 2005, Mershon Center; January 31 - February 5, 2005, 443 Hopkins Hall

Glub© a mixed media installation, that aims to give a positive, joyful image of migration as an aesthetic phenomenon in contemporary Berlin integrates academic and artistic work. Conceived as primarily performative, the installation integrates media and sense experiences. GLUB is a North African word for “hearts,” a word used for edible roasted and salted seeds, a low-cost appetizer. Taking as a starting point the many meanings of the seeds – sunflower, pumpkin, and all kinds of other seeds – traditionally eaten in many non-European societies, the installation uses video to not only offer a positive image, but also encourage and enable visitors to construct such an image for themselves and immerse themselves in it.

---

**RELATED FACULTY BOOKS**

**Ara Wilson**
*The Intimate Economies of Bangkok: Tomboys, Tycoons, and Avon Ladies in the Global City*
University of California Press, 2004

**Ileana Rodríguez**
*Transatlantic Topographies: Islands, Highlands, Jungles*
University of Minnesota Press, 2004

**Laura Podalsky**
*Specular City: Transforming Culture, Consumption, and Space in Buenos Aires, 1955-1973*
Temple University Press, 2004

**Sarah Iles Johnston**
*Religions of the Ancient World: A Guide*
Harvard University Press, 2004

**Amy Shuman**
*Other People’s Stories: Entitlement Claims and the Critique of Empathy*
University of Illinois Press, 2005

**Cynthia Burack**
*Healing Identities: Black Feminist Thought and the Politics of Groups*
Cornell University Press, 2004

**Frederick Luis Aldama**
*Brown on Brown: Chicano/a Representations of Gender, Sexuality and Ethnicity*
University of Texas Press, 2005

**Wendy S. Hesford**
*Just Advocacy?: Women’s Human Rights, Transnational Feminisms & the Politics of Representation*
Rutgers University Press, 2005