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## Center for the Humanities at Tufts

March 27, 2017

Welcome to the Center for the Humanities newsletter! Explore our Spring events, including the Mellon Sawyer Seminar and the Humanities Reading Group.

### This Week



**Wednesday, March 29, 2017**

**4:30 - 6:30 pm**

**Alumnae Lounge, Aidekman Arts Center**

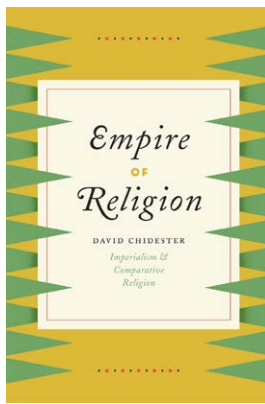
**40 Talbot Avenue**

**"Religion's Imperial Pasts, Global Futures"**

[David Chidester](#)

Professor of Comparative Religion, University of Cape Town

This public lecture explores three formations of religion—colonial, imperial, and global—by examining a shipwreck, a war dance, and an alien abduction in South Africa. These cases reveal the historical contingency of the basic category, religion, and its circulation through intercultural contacts, colonizing appropriations, and globalizing exchanges.



Professor Chidester will also conduct a seminar session on [Tuesday, March 28, 3:00 - 4:30 pm](#) at CHAT (48 Professors Row), on the genealogy of comparative religion.

## Next Week



**Monday, April 3, 2017**

**5:30 - 7:00 pm**

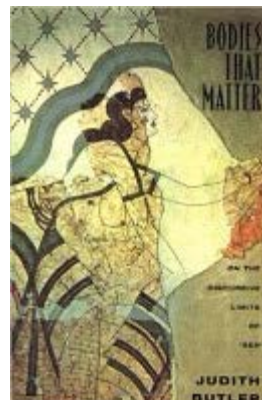
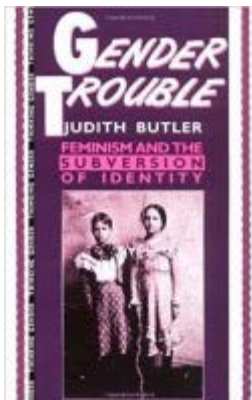
**Alumnae Lounge, Aidekman Arts Center  
40 Talbot Avenue**

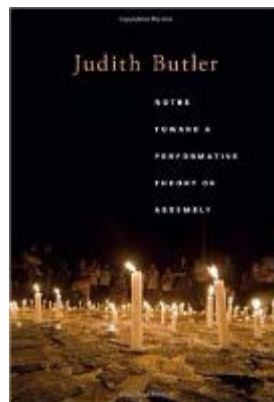
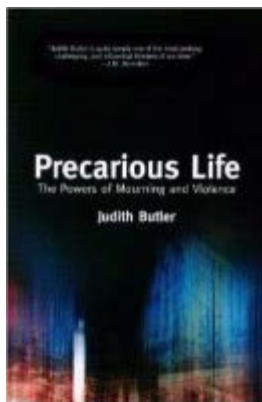
**"The Politics of Human Rights"**

[Judith Butler](#)

Maxine Elliot Professor of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature,  
UC Berkeley

This lecture considers the importance of human rights in critical legal studies, political thought, and postcolonial theory, with consideration of situated struggles in various global locations. It investigates the genealogy of human rights, from European theories of natural man and natural rights, to contemporary practices of international law, humanitarianism and social movements for justice, with consideration of the speaker's recent work on precarity, grievability, speech and assembly.





[More About the Mellon Sawyer Seminar](#)

## Humanities Reading Group



Faculty from across the arts and humanities departments meet several times a semester to discuss readings on the role of the humanities in public life. Contact [John Lurz](#) if interested.

### [Wednesday, March 29, 5 - 6 pm](#)

Our second meeting of the Spring semester will focus Paul Beatty's 2016 Booker Prize-winning novel *The Sellout*, a fictional text that supplements the critical reading on the value of the humanities. Its focus on race relations, inflammatory media jockeying, and the evacuation of the promise of liberal democracy seems especially relevant to our current social and political landscape.

[More Events](#)



Center for  
the Humanities

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