Leon Levy Center for Biography Announces 2012-2013 Biography Fellows

The Leon Levy Center for Biography at the CUNY Graduate Center is pleased to announce its four 2012-2013 Biography Fellows: Susan Bernofsky, for a biography of the Swiss-German writer Robert Walser; Langdon Hammer, for a biography of the poet James Merrill; Siobhan Roberts, for a biography of the mathematician John Horton Conway; and Damion Searls, for a biography of the Swiss psychologist Hermann Rorschach. Each fellow receives a generous grant, writing space and library privileges, and participates in seminars and the events and intellectual life of the CUNY Graduate Center.

Susan Bernofsky has translated 18 books, including six by the Swiss-German modernist author Robert Walser, and novels by Jenny Erpenbeck, Yoko Tawada, Gregor von Rezzori, and others. She is Chair of the PEN Translation Committee and sits on the PEN board. She received the 2006 Helen and Kurt Wolff Translation Prize and the 2012 Calwer Hermann Hesse Translation Prize, as well as awards and fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the PEN Translation Fund, the NEA, the NEH, and the Lannan Foundation. She has a PhD in Comparative Literature from Princeton, and an MFA in Fiction Writing from Washington University. She is also the author of Foreign Words: Translator-Authors in the Age of Goethe.

Langdon Hammer, Professor of English and American Studies at Yale University, earned his BA and PhD from Yale. He is the author of Hart Crane and Allen Tate: Janus-Faced Modernism, and editor of O My Land, My Friends: The Selected Letters of Hart Crane, the Library of America’s Hart Crane: Complete Poems and Selected Letters, and the forthcoming Library of America edition of May Swenson’s poems. A former Guggenheim Fellow, he is currently at work on a biography of the poet James Merrill. His reviews of new poetry and literary criticism have appeared in The New York Times Book Review, Raritan, and The Yale Review, among other magazines, and he is poetry editor of The American Scholar.

Siobhan Roberts is a Toronto journalist and author whose work focuses on mathematics and science. Her first book, King of Infinite Space: Donald Coxeter, The Man Who Saved Geometry, won the Mathematical Association of America’s 2009 Euler Prize for expanding the public’s view of mathematics. She wrote and produced a documentary, The Man Who Saved Geometry, which aired on TVOntario’s The View From Here. Her second book, Wind Wizard: Alan Davenport and the Art of Wind Engineering, will be published by Princeton, and she is currently a visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study. She has written for The Globe and Mail, The Walrus, Canadian Geographic, The Mathematical Intelligencer, Leonardo, The New York Times, Smithsonian, and other publications.

Damion Searls is the author of Everything You Say Is True, a travelogue, and What We Were Doing and Where We Were Going, a collection of stories. He has written for Harper’s, The Believer, n+1, The Paris Review, Bookforum, Brick, and others, and is the editor of Thoreau’s The Journal: 1837-1861. He is an award-winning translator from German, French, Dutch, and Norwegian, including books by Proust, Rilke, Ingeborg Bachmann, Hans Keilson, and Nescio, as well as biographies of Anne Frank’s family and of Martin Kippenberger. His forthcoming translations include a collection of stories by Robert Walser, the last novel by
Christa Wolf, and a new translation of Hermann Hesse's *Demian*.

The **Leon Levy Center for Biography**, established with a generous gift from the **Leon Levy Foundation**, aims to identify, support, and foster excellence and innovation in biography. It seeks to build connections between independent and university-affiliated biographers working across disciplines, to raise the profile of biography within the academy, and to cultivate discussion about the craft of biography in our time. A hub for writers, scholars, students, teachers, and readers of the genre, it hosts many public programs including an annual conference, an annual lecture, and sponsors a fellowship competition to fund the research and writing of outstanding biographies. The Leon Levy Center for Biography is under the leadership of Gary Giddins, Executive Director. For more information, email **biography@gc.cuny.edu** or call 212.817.2008. [www.leonlevycenterforbiography.org](http://www.leonlevycenterforbiography.org)

**The Graduate Center** is the doctorate-granting institution of the **City University of New York (CUNY)**. An internationally-recognized center for advanced studies and a national model for public doctoral education, the school offers more than 30 doctoral programs and many master’s programs. Much of its faculty are among the world’s leading scholars in their fields, and alumni hold major positions in industry and government, as well as in academia. The Graduate Center is home to 29 interdisciplinary research centers and institutes focused on compelling social, civic, cultural, and scientific concerns. Located in a landmark Fifth Avenue building, the CUNY Graduate Center is a vital part of New York City’s intellectual and cultural life, featuring an extensive array of public lectures, exhibitions, concerts, and theatrical events. Further information about the Graduate Center can be found at [http://www.gc.cuny.edu](http://www.gc.cuny.edu)

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