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**Columbia University (Heyman Center for the Humanities)
(212) 854 - 4788
td2430@columbia.edu**

Edward W. Said Fellowship Award Winners

The Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities is pleased to announce the awarding of two inaugural Edward W. Said Fellowships for 2017-2018 to Claire Gallien and Anjuli Raza Kolb.

Literary critic and theorist, political analyst and activist, spokesman without peer for the Palestinian cause: Edward Said was one of the most influential intellectuals of his time. By both temperament and conviction a thorough cosmopolitan, Said was instrumental in expanding the intellectual landscape of the twentieth century, often crossing and sometimes redefining disciplinary borders. His restless, probing examination of the relationship between culture and politics is the hallmark of his work.

Named in his honor with funding from the Office of the Provost, the Edward W. Said Fellowship supports the research of promising scholars early in their careers that speaks across disciplinary boundaries, promotes humanistic inquiry in the service of intercultural communication and understanding, and engages the public. Grants are awarded to subsidize a short-term residency at Columbia, from one month to one semester.

The Said Fellowship represents a significant departure from more traditional humanities fellowships in that it enables talented intellectuals to apply their academic scholarship to pressing global issues in the public sphere. For Said, cultural criticism was an ethical imperative. He believed it was the responsibility of humanists in the academy not only to reveal the links between culture and power, but also to develop alternative modes of analysis to resist injustice.

Claire Gallien

Edward W. Said Fellow



Dr. Claire Gallien lectures in the English Department of the University Paul Valéry Montpellier 3 and is a member of the Research Institute on the Renaissance, the neo-Classical Age, and the Enlightenment for the National Center for Scientific Research. She works on Orientalism in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, as well as contemporary Arab literatures in English and in translation. Her first book, *L'Orient anglais* (Oxford, 2011), explores the interactions between popular and scholarly cultures of the East in eighteenth-century England. Her current book project focuses on Orientalist translations of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and

reconfigurations of Eastern literary traditions in Europe and the ideological discourses underpinning such projects. She uses these re-elaborations as points of entry into contemporary fiction in English and in translation and scrutinizes the ways in which writers grapple with Orientalism and tackle assumptions regarding the nation, language, and literature itself.

Anjuli Raza Kolb

Edward W. Said Fellow



Anjuli Fatima Raza Kolb is Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Williams College where she teaches postcolonial literature and theory. Her research areas include colonial science, medical history, the Gothic novel and horror, comparative literature, poetics, gender and sexuality studies, literary and critical theory, globalization and sovereignty, natural philosophy, and political Islam. Her current book project, “*Terror Epidemics: Islam, Insurgency, Colonialism, Disease,*” uncovers the history of a ubiquitous metaphor rooted in nineteenth-century colonial practice that figures Islamist terrorism as a twenty-first century epidemic. Concurrently with the Edward W. Said Fellowship, she will serve as an expert scholar in the Women’s Studies Program at City College New York in Fall 2017. Her work has recently appeared or is forthcoming in *Discourse*, *The Boston Review*, *Triple Canopy*, *BookForum*, *Public Books*, *The Bennington Review*, *Syndicate*, and *The Los Angeles Review of Books*.

