

WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY



# Humanities Center

## Annual Report 2020-2021



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## REBUILDING THE CITY

“The Road to Normalcy”

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## Our Mission

The mission of the Humanities Center is to nurture interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and interdisciplinary work in the humanities and arts through competitions, conferences, discussion groups, and other programs for Wayne State's humanities and arts faculty and students, and for visiting scholars and artists.

The Center promotes excellence in research and creative endeavors through rigorous peer review of proposals submitted to it for funding. By sponsoring programs that involve community participants, the Center supports the university's urban mission. Through its various programs, the Center brings humanists of diverse talents and interests together for conversation and collaboration and fosters innovation and creativity across humanistic disciplines.

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# A Message from the Director 2020 - 2021 Overview



Walter F. Edwards

## Director's message 2021

In the 2020-21 academic year, the Humanities Center, with the rest of the world, continued to face the challenge of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. In September 2020, the world did not yet have vaccines and the virus was sickening thousands of people across the US and the rest world. People were anxious and depressed.

In these circumstances, the conservative approach to managing the Center would have been to scale down our operations while waiting out the pandemic. Instead, with the support of the Center's Advisory Board, I decided to run all the Center's normal programs remotely, some via Zoom and others electronically. My vision was to make the Center a beacon of humanistic resilience by providing a space for WSU's humanities scholars and artists, even in the face of this scourge, to continue to share their research and art, to have intellectual fellowship, and to compete for funds to support their projects. Specific Covid-19 projects included the following:

1. We titled our annual 2019-20 report "Resilience and Change" with the maxim "To Fight for Change Tomorrow, We Must Build Resilience Today". Throughout the report we inserted pictures of Detroit-area and national buildings, activities, and people which all show that we Americans are resilient and thus will recover from the pandemic and learn from it.
2. Creating a mini-grant program with the following title and description:

### CREATIVE RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC MINI-GRANTS

Deadline: October 15, 2020

Wayne State University's Humanities Center is sponsoring a one-time mini-grant program to invite graduate and undergraduate students and part-time faculty in the humanities, arts, and social science to reflect in creative ways, via humanistic expressions, on the COVID- 19 pandemic and its outcomes. The competition attracted 24 applications from which the Advisory Board selected 11 for funding. The project was financially supported by the deans of CLAS, Honors, Education, FPCA, Social Work, and Law. The results of this competition can be seen here:

<https://research2.wayne.edu/hum/Covid-19MiniGrant/Covid-19MiniGrant.html>

### 3. CONFERENCE ON CREATIVE RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Ten of the recipients of the Center's COVID-19 mini-grant competition were presenters at a virtual conference sponsored by the Center. They shared the results of their projects with a virtual audience on February 27, 2021. Presenters were affiliated with a range of disciplines, including English, History, Communication, Art and Art History, and Music. This was a wonderful afternoon of music, dance, poetry, stories, and demonstrations to show that our students and faculty are warriors against the virus and are optimistic that we will overcome it. I consider

this small conference one of the highlights of our 2020-21 season. We recorded the conference and posted the video on YouTube. The video can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPjRUdq9V5o>.

4. The Center published on our website a statement on the role of the humanities in times of crisis that appeared on the website of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), to which our Humanities Center is affiliated. <https://chcinenetwork.org/ideas/a-statement-on-the-role-of-humanities-research-and-education-in-times-of-crisis>

The purpose of the statement is to assert the importance of the humanities in providing ideas and skills needed to assist universities and colleges in times of crisis like the current pandemic. The statement also reminded readers of the inherent value of the humanities and arts to human civilizations. I received favorable reactions about the statement from faculty and administrators in the humanities and arts.

In the fall of 2020, the University and the country were still pulsing from the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd by a police officer. In response to the national protests against racism and police brutality, WSU president Roy Wilson issued an eloquent and unambiguous declaration of support for the Black Lives Matter movement and organized a town hall meeting on the topic. Additionally, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, which reports to the provost, held at least three university-wide meetings to engage university citizens on the subject of police behavior and social inequities that negatively affect African Americans.

I felt that the Humanities Center should have a response to this policeman's horrible, inhumane behavior. To that end, with the assistance of the Center's Advisory Board members, I sought out faculty who are experts in the field of police behavior towards African Americans to recruit them to give Brown Bag talks on the subject early in the fall 2020 semester. As a result, we identified sociology professor, David Merolla and his student Jason Smith who volunteered to speak on September 22, 2020, on the topic "Black, blue and blow: the effect of race and criminal history on perceptions of police violence".

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the social unrest in our country around the issue of social justice for African Americans and other minorities, the Humanities Center had a good year in 2020-21. We can be proud of the fact that we hosted a total of 47 Brown Bag talks remotely during the academic year. These talks are interdisciplinary events that draw together scholars and artists from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. The audiences for these talks were boosted numerically by the virtual format that allowed national and international attendance.

I am particularly proud of the resilience demonstrated by the participants in the Center's Resident Scholars' Program. A vital feature of the program was the monthly "roundtable" meetings. When they come together to discuss the work of one of the scholars, all residents provided "tough love" to help that scholar improve the project and absorb the interdisciplinary input of colleagues. Undaunted by the virtual nature of these meetings, the resident scholars assembled over Zoom each month and delivered scholarly evaluations of each other's work and some developed collaborative projects. The attached Annual Report documented the success of these conversations and the virtual residencies.

The body of the attached 2020-21 Annual Report also reveals the successes of our Working Groups program, the Marilyn Williamson Distinguished Faculty Fellowships Competition, the Humanities Center Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, the Faculty Fellowships Competition on "Transitions" and the Faculty Fellows Conference on "The Future of Failure." Held virtually on April 9, 2021, the latter conference was keynoted by Harvard Professor Robert Putnam and his co-author Shaylyn Garrett. They had collaborated on the very influential 2020 book *The Upswing: How America came together a century ago and how we can do it again.* (Simon and Schuster). The book and their talk provided evidence and arguments that propose that by moving from an individualistic to community-oriented ideology, Americans can become a stronger and more unified society just as we did a century ago after the gilded age when the emphasis was on "I" rather than "we."

Also described in our Annual Report is a new initiative, our Virtual Book Launch Program, that debuted in January 2021 and modeled on similar programs at some major universities. The Program was brought to the Advisory Board's attention by board member Elizabeth Lublin and was enthusiastically adopted in November

2020. Here's a link to the Call for Proposals and the promotional flyer:

<https://research2.wayne.edu/hum/Programs/brownbag/flyers/20-21/Virtual%20Book%20Launch%20Flyer.pdf>

I am happy to say that the Center had two very successful and well-attended launches of new books by William Lynch (History) and Stephen Chrisomalis

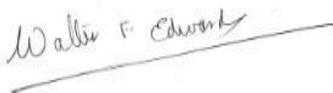
(Anthropology), respectively. By July 2021, there had already been submissions from faculty requesting that the Center launch their new books in the fall 2021 semester. This augur well for the program in 2021-22.

In general, the 2020-21 academic year was a challenging one for the Humanities Center and for me as its director. However, we were able to be successful in our work mainly through the dedication of my very small staff: Tiffin Carter, (our Administrative Assistant), Kennedy Cockrell (part-time student assistant, Brown Bag coordinator) and Jiayun Zhou (part-time student assistant, webmaster); the support of key personnel in the Provost's office, particularly Sharon Almeranti and Nicole Johnson; and the assistance and support of the Center's Advisory Board.

In July 2021 the university happily welcomed a new provost, Dr. Mark Kornbluh. He comes to Wayne highly recommended and has already been impressive in meetings and through his written communications. The Center reports to his office so I am looking forward to working with him and using the Center to help him accomplish his agenda in the university.

As always, it is an honor and privilege to serve as the Director of the Humanities Center.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter F. Edwards". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a thin, horizontal line that extends to the right.

Walter F. Edwards,  
D. Phil Professor, English  
Director, Humanities

# SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

## 2020-2021

**BROWN BAG TALKS:** Since the inception of the weekly Brown Bag Colloquium Series, hundreds of Wayne State faculty and students in the humanities and arts have participated either as speakers or as members of the audience. Each new year brings an increase in the number of faculty volunteering to present talks. As a result, the Center now regularly hosts between 50 and 60 talks each academic year. During the 2020-21 academic year, the talks were held mainly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. *This year, 47 talks were held, all of them were via Zoom.* Brown Bag Talks are free and open to the public.

**HUMANITIES CENTER DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP:** The Humanities Center and the Graduate School continued their collaboration on funding a Humanities Center Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. This annual fellowship awards \$15,000 to a humanities or arts doctoral candidate in the final stages of writing their dissertation. The applicant must already be in the process of writing the dissertation and must complete all requirements, including the final defense, by the end of the Spring/Summer Semester or shortly thereafter. Up to three smaller awards of \$500 each can be made at the discretion of the Center. The fellowship award is dispensed as monthly stipends between January and August. *The 2020-2021 fellow was Andrés Romero from Anthropology and the awardee was Graeme Cave from Philosophy.*

**FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS:** The Faculty Fellowship competition is based on an annual theme. The Humanities Center's Advisory Board selects the theme and prepares an explication for our Faculty Fellowship Competition. Awarded Fellowships now average \$6,000 and recipients are expected to participate in the annual Faculty Fellows Conference held in the spring of the following year. This year's theme was "Transitions". *The 2021-2022 theme will be "Fear & Fragility in the COVID-19 Era".*

**FACULTY FELLOWS CONFERENCE:** The Faculty Fellows Conference is held in the winter semester. Internal Faculty Fellows Conference speakers are the recipients of fellowships in the previous year. The conference allows the fellowship recipients to present the results of their funded work and to receive feedback from the audience. In addition to fellowship recipients from WSU, the Center invites a distinguished keynoter who is an expert in the area addressed by the theme. *The 2019-2020 conference theme was "Future of Failure "Because of the persistence of the pandemic, the conference was held virtually on April 19, 2021." The Keynoters were Harvard Professor Robert Putnam and his co-author Shaylyn Garrett, a Harvard alum.*

**CREATIVE RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: MINI-GRANT COMPETITION:** As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center sought and received co-sponsorship from six WSU college deans to fund a one-time competition open to students and part-time faculty that invited creative proposals that expressed through poetry, plays, essays, music and other humanistic writings their experiences during the pandemic. The competition attracted 24 proposals from humanities, arts, and social sciences scholars. From that number, 11 proposals were funded at \$600 each.

**CONFERENCE ON CREATIVE RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:** Ten recipients of the Center's COVID-19 mini-grant competition participated in a virtual conference sponsored by the center and shared the results of their projects with a virtual audience on February 27, 2021. Presenters were affiliated with a range of disciplines including English, History, Communication, Art and Art History, Music, and Theatre and Dance.

**MARILYN WILLIAMSON ENDOWED DISTINGUISHED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP:** Thanks to a generous endowment provided by former WSU Provost Marilyn L. Williamson, the Humanities Center offers an annual Distinguished Faculty Fellowship to tenured faculty (associate and full professors) in the humanities, social issues, and arts. The award of this single \$20,000 fellowship is based on the merits of the research project proposed; on the exceptional contribution the proposed project will make to the humanities and its potential for scholarly publication, exhibition, or performance; and on two external recommendations in support of the project. The endowment provides funds to

offer two fellowships every third year. Consistent with the mission of the Humanities Center, interdisciplinary proposals are particularly encouraged, although all projects in the humanities are fully considered. The fellowship recipient is asked to share results of the funded research in a public lecture organized during the year of (or following) the fellowship term. *The 2020-2021 recipient was Ewa Golebiowska, Professor of Political Science.*

**RESIDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM:** One of the Center's oldest programs, the Resident Scholars Program is open to all full-time faculty in the humanities, arts, and related disciplines. This program provides office space, basic office equipment, and administrative support from the Center's staff. Additionally, monthly "roundtable" meetings allow our residents to discuss their current research or creative projects in an engaging interdisciplinary environment. Resident Scholars are also eligible for up to \$800 in support for travel and equipment expenses, or to pay for research assistance. *The Humanities Center hosted eight Resident Scholars from six disciplines during the 2020 -2021 year.*

**TRAVEL AWARD PROGRAM FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:** The Center budgets up to \$3,000 a year to support this program. To spread this funding across the full academic year, the Center budgets \$1,200 for the Fall Semester, \$1,200 for the Winter Semester and \$600 for the Spring/Summer Semester. Each award recipient was funded up to \$300 for travel to conferences or exhibitions held nationally or internationally between September 1, 2020, and August 16, 2021. *This program was significantly interrupted by the pandemic because the University suspended funded travel until further notice. No awards were made this year.*

**WORKING GROUPS IN THE HUMANITIES AND ARTS:** The Working Groups program is designed to promote collaborative and innovative research among WSU humanities and arts faculty and students. Groups typically include faculty from different fields as well as graduate students. Working Groups meet regularly for discussion, exchange, and planning for events such as guest lectures and colloquia. Each group is provided with up to \$800 for speakers, supplies, and other needs. *This year the Center supported four groups.*

**VIRTUAL BOOK LAUNCH:** The Humanities Center embarked on a new initiative to contribute to conversation in the Humanities and to celebrate the scholarship of Wayne State University faculty. This endeavor spearheaded by Advisory Board member and Event Chair Elizabeth D. Lublin, involved sponsorship of virtual book launches, either solely or in collaboration with presses and departments. All faculty in the Humanities regardless of rank who published a book since May 2020 were eligible to submit self-nominations for the first two launches, which were both held in April 2021. *This year the Center sponsored two book launches which were both held in April 2021.*



The Humanities Center has several college work study students that support the programs by delivering flyers across campus and through various social media networks.



Above: Wayne State University Student Towers: Photo Credit ([crainsdetroit.com](http://crainsdetroit.com))

# 2020-2021 RESIDENT SCHOLARS

*The Humanities Center's annual competition for Resident Scholars attracted applications from across the University. Residents this year were affiliated with the following disciplines: History, Communication, Latin/ Latino American Studies, CMLLC, and Sociology, Theatre and Dance. This year the residencies were all remote and the monthly roundtable meeting were held via Zoom. Below, each resident scholar provides a summary of his/her experience in the Center this year.*



Stine Eckert

Associate Professor, Department of History  
Director of Undergraduate Studies

“#MeToo as news framing? Academic sexual misconduct in US media coverage”

The Wayne State University Humanities Center 2020-2021 Resident Scholars Program provided the necessary resources for me to work on my project with great focus and concentration. For my project I have researched how U.S. news media cover academic sexual misconduct in the United States when university employees are the alleged perpetrators. For this study, I have led a team of three doctoral students and one master's student in my department to analyze how the hashtag #metoo was used as a reference frame, or not, in publicly reported news stories about cases of academic sexual misconduct between October 2017, when the hashtag went viral online for the first time, and October 2019, to create a two-year sample. Our longitudinal = analysis focused on coding each case for #metoo mentions and type of news medium which broke the story. The result of this work has led to submitting a full conference paper to the annual conference of the 2021 Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC). The funds provided by the Humanities Center were used to acquire several books for background information on issues of digital feminism, shifts in journalism, and gender and media, as well as for an honorarium for each of my graduate student team members. These funds helped to propel the project forward, along with the supportive atmosphere provided by the Humanities Center. The virtual talk on my project gave me the opportunity to check in with fellow resident scholars and provided useful feedback to further hone the paper before submission to the conference. Thank you, Dr. Edwards, and Humanities Center staff for all your support.



Janine Lanza

Associate Professor, Department of History

“Chopped: A Cultural History of the Guillotine”

This year was my second as a Humanities Center Fellow. While last year I was able to spend time in the office on a regular basis, this year was spent fully remote. Although I was unsure about how my role as a fellow would change this year, and how the Center would be part of my research work, I found that having the support of my cohort was even more crucial than before. Our regular meetings to discuss work in progress provided a note of normalcy and camaraderie that I was not experiencing in my daily work as a faculty

member. For me, being a fellow kept me from simply putting aside my research altogether as I navigated the pandemic. I am very grateful for that support. I also formed a strong bond with one of the other fellows – Nicole Trujillo-Pagan – and we texted and emailed each other regularly to report on our progress. Those weekly check-ins made possible by our connection in the Humanities Center – also proved a lifeline as far as keeping up writing and research despite the stresses of the past year.

As far as what I produced this year, I was able to finish an essay soon to appear in an edited volume. I also wrote two draft book chapters. As I mentioned above, I am certain that I would not have maintained a writing and research program through the stress of the pandemic without the support of the Fellows and the Humanities Center program. For that I am incredibly grateful.



Nicole Coleman, Ph.D. (*she/her/hers*)

Assistant Professor of German  
Area Head of Asian, German and Slavic Studies  
Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

“The Right to Difference & Pluralism in German Children’s Literature: Characters with Disabilities”

During the 2020-2021 academic year, I wasn’t able to use my office in the Humanities Center, but I consciously blocked writing time that I would have spent at the Center. This allowed me to be more productive because I felt accountable – something that was missing from the unusual schedule during the Covid-19 pandemic. I completed the copyedits to my book manuscript “The Right to Difference: Interculturality and Human Rights in Contemporary German Literature” that is now in press with University of Michigan Press and worked on a couple of related articles on German refugee art and literature as well as disability in children’s literature. I will present on the latter in late July at an international conference. I workshopped a proposal for the University Research Grant (Wayne State internal grant) during my roundtable meeting and just heard recently that I was awarded the grant. I am grateful for the community and the interdisciplinary group of scholars that I can collaborate with and learn from at these roundtables. The resident scholars program gave me structure during this academic year that was otherwise overwhelming due to Covid, the different way to teach and meet, and the ways in which childcare options were severely limited. I don’t think I would have managed to write if it hadn’t been for the support of the other members and the writing time I blocked.



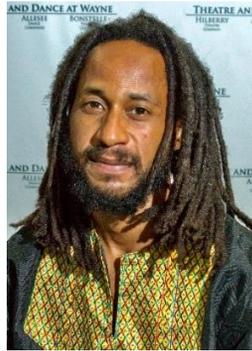
Nicole Trujillo-Pagan

Associate Professor, Sociology

“American Dreams, Latino Realities”

During the 2020-2021 Humanities Center Resident Scholar Program I:

1. Attended almost all Zoom calls to engage in the work of providing feedback on other scholar's work. This required reading and commenting on each scholar's work. I provided feedback by email to the one scholar's call that I could not make.
2. Completed four (4) chapters of my six (7) chapter book. This has undoubtedly been a record year in my scholarly production. Not even in the years before I came up for tenure have I worked so hard and produced so much writing.
3. I used my program funds to hire an editor to review those (4) chapters. The feedback was invaluable in identifying what a reader would understand from my writing. I am very pleased to report the editor found my writing clear. She understood my main and supporting arguments. She provided little feedback on restructuring. In other words, what I have done so far is of high quality. The remaining feedback pointed to ways that I could develop the manuscript to make it more engaging for the reader and in order to improve coherence between chapters.
4. As a direct result of engagement with scholars in the program, I have developed greater understanding of how my arguments compare to faculty fellows in music and history. We have begun working collaboratively through email and are considering the potential of developing a working group.



Dr. RAS Mikey (Michael) Courtney

Assistant Professor, Theatre and Dance

“Movement as Cultural Knowledge: *Yebuna Alem/A Coffee World* (Case Study)”

It was an honor to be a resident scholar for the Wayne State University Humanities Center as it provided me with the space engage with the theories and practice of other faculty from the various programs across campus. My main discipline is Dance and I approach this topic with an interdisciplinary lens. The structure of this resident program, directed by Dr. Walter Edwards, reinforced my perspective of the interdisciplinary nature of ‘dance’, as my perception of my research was broadened by the discussions with my diverse cohort. As a tenure track faculty member, by sharing the progress of my own research and receiving feedback from the other residents, has helped me to shape how I will go forward with producing my written research for publication.

The themed focus of my tenure-track research is ‘movement as cultural knowledge’ which stems from my intercultural movement practice, Ethio-Modern Dance. So, in writing this research article, *Movement as Cultural Knowledge: Yebuna Alem/A Coffee World (Case Study)*, I aimed to examine my understanding of this theoretical concept in relation to one of my past choreographic productions. As an Ethnochoreologist, I use the work of Deidra Sklar’s *Five Premises for a Culturally Sensitive Approach to Dance* (1997), to help frame an understanding of how cultural knowledge or identity is reflected in how we move and how we interpret movement. After my roundtable with other Humanities Resident Scholars, I was encouraged to restructure this one writing into three separate articles, which I now aim to do for later journal submissions. I had aimed to use my Humanities Center Resident Scholar Funding to assist with conference fees, but due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, I hope to now use these funds for my annual memberships to arts organizations.



Dr. Jacek Blaszkiewicz

Assistant Professor of Music History

“Fanfare for a City: Music and the Urban Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Paris”

During the 2020-21 academic year, I drafted a substantial portion of my book, *Fanfare for a City: Music and the Urban Imagination in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Paris*. During the fall semester, I drafted a new chapter and revised another chapter. During the winter semester, I revised an additional two chapters. I presented portions of my book project during the Humanities Center Resident Scholar roundtable (February) as well as at the Midwest Chapter of the American Musicological Society (April). I used the \$800 of funds allotted to me to acquire secondary resources for my book.



Krista Brumley

Associate Professor in Sociology

“Work, Family, and Relationships”

This was my second year in the Resident Scholar program. I focused on two streams of research as part of the Work-Family Research Team (the interdisciplinary team of WSU researchers).

First, I worked on my NSF grant, of which I am the principal investigator (PI). The purpose of the *Couples Study* is to examine work, family, and social well-being among dual-income couples, within the context of COVID-19. Over the course of the past year, the following tasks were completed:

1. Administered surveys to both members of couples at three points in time.
2. We also completed interviews with the couples after they completed Time 1 survey.
3. Analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data has also begun.
4. Presented findings from our interviews at the Southern Sociological Society annual meetings (virtually) in April 2021. Title: “It’s Like Living at Work”: Gendered Consequences of Work and Family within the Context of COVID-19.
5. Submitted an abstract for presentation at the Society for the Study of Social Problems; the abstract was accepted, and we will present (virtually) in August 2021. Title: “He said, she said”: Working couples' division of household and caregiving labor in the time of COVID-19.

Second, I continued to focus on the *Work, Family, and Relationships* project. This study includes both survey and interview data. Over the past year, the following tasks were accomplished:

1. Administered a follow-up survey to all participants.
2. Conducted follow-up interviews with individuals.
3. Resubmitted a manuscript, which was accepted for publication in *Sociological Focus*. “The Paradox of Time: Work, family, conflict, and the social construction of time.”

Third, I focused on a third dataset that involves in-depth interviews with managers and professionals who work in the auto industry in Southeast Michigan. The purpose of this study is to examine work-family conflict and career advancement of mothers and fathers. The following tasks were accomplished:

1. Submission of a journal article on flexible work arrangements. Title: Rules of Engagement: Employee perceptions and enactment of flexplace.
2. Presentation at the Work Family Researchers Network (virtually) in January 2021. Title: Beyond drop-off and pick-up: The gendered consequences of the project manager.
3. A full draft of the manuscript for Beyond Drop-off and Pick-up was presented at the monthly roundtables. I am finalizing the manuscript and expect to send it out for review in the next few weeks

As always, I am very appreciative of the work of the Humanities Center which brings together a diverse group of scholars to dialogue and share ideas. This year was obviously different in that we were not in person, but the monthly virtual meetings were just as energizing. The discussion was rich, and the brainstorming was inspiring. The built-in structure has allowed me to continue to develop relationships with my colleges in other departments and has provided invaluable insights on my research. This type of collaborative engagement enriches professional development and scholarship. This year I was able to advance my scholarship towards my ultimate goal of full professor.



José Cuello

Associate Professor of History and Latino Studies

“Sacred Fire: The Ideology of Independent Native Identity in the North of Colonial Mexico, 1550-1750”

As a Resident Scholar in 2020-2021, the Humanities Center provided me with the intellectual space to advance the writing of two books that will crystallize new perspectives in the study of Indigenous Peoples, Colonial Latin America, and World Civilizations. The intellectual space at the Center consists of a complementary set of additional programs - the Brown Bag series, Faculty Fellowships, Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships, Faculty and Grad Working Groups, Thematic Conferences, Travel Awards, and the Marilyn Williamson Distinguished Faculty Fellowship - that integrate a total environment designed to promote research and scholarly exchanges beyond the disciplinary boundaries of our departmental specializations. I congratulate Dr. Walter Edwards for founding and guiding, for almost thirty years, a multi-faceted engine of scholarship whose model should be adopted by every university. What I did this past year was to sharpen my definition of each of my two distinct research projects, and to unite them conceptually as micro and macro versions of each other.

Cosmic War in the Desert: The Ideological Conflict Between Western Civilization and the Nomadic Nations of Northern Mexico, 1540-1750 challenges the colonizing paradigm that dominates the modern historiography of colonial Mexico. I reconstruct the Conquest Christianity that permeated the minds of Spanish civilians, missionaries, military, and government officials who saw the nomadic bands of Arid America as misguided, devil-worshipping savages dancing wildly around hellish bonfires. I apply an interdisciplinary approach to re-interpret the European vision and document that the nomads' Sacred Fire Ceremonial Complex was a manifestation of the Primal Religion practiced by all human social groups before state-controlled civilized societies created the Great Religions. The nomads' world view was based on the universal core of all religions, the ritual opening of the Axis Mundi, the portal to the Spirit World, to communicate with gods, ancestors, and other intermediaries. The nomads' ideological unity allowed them to construct a complex social organization based on the Principle of Reciprocity that governed human social relations and human relations with Nature. The ideology empowered the nomads to wage guerrilla war against the Spanish Colonial State that fit the strategies recommended by Ché Guevara 400 years later.

Human Imperatives, Earthly Consequences: A Unified Theory of the Rise and Fall of Civilizations explains how our species created a global ecological crisis. The theory consists of the dynamic internal and external interaction of five complementary sets of concepts that reflect the universal patterns of human thought and behavior that create and destroy all civilizations. The core set is composed of Five Toxic Forces: Unleashed Individuals, Liberated Capitalisms, Conquest Ideologies, Predatory States, and Misapplied Technologies. A Sixth Force, "We the People" struggles to free itself from a Babylonian Captivity to the ruling civilizers. The Five Forces create the Five Economic Factors of Production, the Five Hierarchies of Power, and the Five Social Classes that organize all civilized societies. The interworking of these four sets of forces and factors are crystallized into different combinations by the fifth set of concepts, Wolf's Modes of Production transformed into

Paradigms of Economic and Social Production. The Cosmic War between European invaders and Amerindian nomads becomes a clash of paradigms between a Tributary Mode empire and the Kinship Mode wilderness survivor nations, rather than a question of right and wrong, superior, and inferior ways of life. The study recommends a return to the Principle of Reciprocity for the Common Good and the nurturing of the environment to bring us back from the brink of the Sixth Extinction.



Images By: [c134a146c8c858ad5adf680387729e40.jpg](http://c134a146c8c858ad5adf680387729e40.jpg) (800×403) (pinimg.com)



Above: **Virtual Resident Scholars March Roundtable - featuring Professor Stine Eckert**, Mar 26, 2021  
 (Pictured left to right: Dr. Walter Edwards, Kennedy Cockrel (coordinator), Jacek Blaszkiewicz, Stine Eckert, Dr. Ras Mikey Courtney, Krista Brumley, José Cuello, Nicole Coleman, Nicole Trujillo-Pagan. (Not pictured: Janine Lanza)

Below: **Virtual Resident Scholars March Roundtable - featuring Dr. Ras Mikey Courtney**, April 8, 2021



# Marilyn Williamson

## Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship

Thanks to a generous endowment provided by the former Provost Marilyn L. Williamson, the Humanities Center offers an annual Distinguished Faculty Fellowship to tenured faculty in the humanities. The fellow is requested to present the results of his/her funded work at a special lecture the following year. This year's fellowship recipient is Professor Ewa Golebiowska of the Political Science Department.



Ewa Golebiowska  
Professor, Political Science  
2021 Fellow

Project title: *“Membership in a stigmatized religious minority and political support: Nonbelievers running for office in the United States”*

### Abstract

Nonbelievers, variously termed “atheists,” “agnostics,” “religiously unaffiliated,” “nones,” and “religion’s other” are a fast-growing religious minority in the United States. Even though their ranks have been growing, prejudice toward them continues to be higher than toward almost any other religious minority in the country. Research using the survey design suggests that anti-atheist prejudice is linked with perceptions of atheists as immoral and untrustworthy. Some nascent experimental research explores how atheists are evaluated when they run for political office. In contrast, we do not know how other types of nonbelievers are evaluated when they run for political office and under what circumstances they earn political support.

In this project, I examine how nonbelievers – atheists and their fellow travelers – are evaluated when they run for political office in the United States. Specifically, I experimentally examine several questions that build on existing scholarship. First, I investigate how the label used to describe a candidate’s lack of religious beliefs is linked with political evaluation. Second, given that one’s religious beliefs are generally invisible to the social perceiver, I examine how the timing and manner of disclosure of a candidate’s religious identity influence voters’ responses to her or him. Third, I investigate how the impact of a candidate’s membership in a stigmatized religious minority and the timing and manner of its disclosure might depend on whether voters face the candidate in a primary election – when they typically share their party identification with candidates on the ballot – or a general election – when voters face the candidates from across the partisan spectrum. Finally, I consider how voters’ own religiosity, partisanship, right-wing authoritarianism, and egalitarianism condition all these effects.

# Marilyn Williamson

## Endowed Distinguished Faculty

### Lecture

One unhappy consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic is that it forced the cancellation of the Center's annual Marilyn Williamson lecture which is usually held in January. The lectures are given by the recipient(s) from the previous year. Because the pandemic was raging in the USA in January 2021, the lectures were cancelled, and the fellows agreed to present their findings to date in Brown Bag talks in the fall of 2021. Below are the 2020 recipients and the abstracts of their projects.

2020 Fellow



Ljiljana Progovac

Professor, English

Title: "Language Evolution, Self-Domestication, and Verbal Aggression"

Over the past twelve years I have been developing a theory of language evolution, focusing on grammar (syntax). My work on the reconstruction of proto-grammar has been published in several journal articles, as well as two single-authored books (Evolutionary Syntax, Oxford University Press, 2015, and A Critical Introduction to Language Evolution, Springer Expert Briefs, 2019). This work leads to a surprising hypothesis that the reconstructed early grammars were especially suitable for the expression of colorful derogatory language, i.e., insult. This finding led to the cross-fertilization with Dr. Benítez-Burraco's work, which considers cognitive disorders in the light of the self-domestication hypothesis of human origins. This cross-fertilization brings together verbal aggression of my proposal, and the gradual reduction in (reactive) physical aggression in humans, taken to be the hallmark of self-domestication.

Dr. Benítez-Burraco and I are now working on several joint papers and projects, including co-editing a special journal issue of Philosophical Transactions of Royal Society B on the theme of Reconstructing Prehistoric Languages. We have also been invited to contribute a chapter on the biology of language for the Cambridge Handbook on Minimalism. Last year I gave thirteen lectures on the topic of language evolution, including at MIT; Harvard; Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan; Poznań, Poland; Crete, Greece; Pavia, Italy; Leipzig, Germany. My goal is to further influence the trajectory of developments in this fast-moving field, ultimately contributing to a better understanding of language and cognitive disorders, as well as of what made us human in the process of evolution.

# Marilyn Williamson

## Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship

2020 Fellow



Nicole Trujillo-Pagan

Associate Professor, Sociology

Title: “American Dreams, Latina/o/x Realities: Remapping the Relationship between Space, Race, and Opportunity.”

We take space for granted. We rely on the natural sciences to define the concept for us. What most often fail to consider is that both space and borders are cause and consequence of the social. In particular, borders are continually challenged and re-asserted as groups struggle to control or, alternately, access, and use space.

This project is focused on Latina/o/x youth, many of whom live in Southwest Detroit, who struggle to cross to cross a variety of socio-spatial border that impede their mobility. These struggles underscore how a local neighborhood is shaped in relation to regional, national, and international actors. I rely on a variety of ethnographic, administrative, and archival data to demonstrate how their struggles are mapped beyond abstractions like social mobility. I argue border struggles are fundamentally about how we think about and use space.



## Humanities Center's Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

*The Humanities Center and the Graduate School continued their collaboration on funding the Humanities Center's Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. This annual fellowship awards \$15,000 to a humanities or arts doctoral candidate in the final stages of writing his/her dissertation. The fellowship also provides one or two smaller awards totaling \$1,000. The applicant must already be in the process of writing the dissertation and must complete the dissertation, including the final defense, by the end of the Spring/Summer Semester 2021 or shortly thereafter. Up to three smaller awards of \$500 each could be made at the discretion of the Center. This year the Center selected one fellow and one awardee: Fellow Andrés Romero (Anthropology) and awardee Graeme Cave (Philosophy). Below are the abstracts of their dissertations.*

### Recipients



**Andrés Romero**  
Anthropology- Fellow

*"La Olla Y Los Patios: An Ethnography of Place, Selfhood, Violence, and Rehabilitation in Bogotá"*

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Todd Meyers

**Abstract:** In the early hours of **May 28, 2016**, the mayor of Bogotá, along with the Colombian military and special forces, seized the biggest *olla* or drug market in Colombia at the time. The *olla* known as “El Bronx” was a three-block area downtown where over 2,000 people found shelter under the authority of paramilitary affiliated crime bands controlling the city’s drug trade. What ensued was a mass expulsion of people who lived on the street, many of whom were taken coercively into the city’s *patios*, or rehabilitation centers.

Set in the aftermath of rampant militarization and humanitarian intervention, my dissertation, “*La Olla Y Los Patios: An Ethnography of Place, Selfhood, Violence, and Rehabilitation in Bogotá*,” attends to the drug war and armed conflict in Bogotá, Colombia. It does so through a person-centered approach on one of the drug war’s local manifestations, the *ollas*. Moving across time and place, between the city’s rehabilitation centers and the streets with the people formerly living in El Bronx, the dissertation retrieves state-administered historical elisions of other similarly destroyed *ollas* in the city, from which people had also been uprooted, as well as charts how historical memory comes to be felt, and reenacted by people on the streets. This project draws on photography, fieldnote drawings, audio-visual recordings, performance, and cartography alongside oral history and participant-observation to understand the lived complexities of people who are homeless and caught amid the drug war.

# Humanities Center's Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship



**Graeme Cave**  
Philosophy- Awardee

*"Redistribution, Freedom, and Rights: A Libertarian Defense of Universal Coverage"*

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Eun-Jung Katherine Kim

**Abstract:** When it comes to health care, the United States is a glaring outlier in the developed world. The United States spends more on health care than any other developed country. Yet, for all the money it spends, it is one of the only developed countries where millions of its citizens lack health care coverage. And without coverage, these citizens are less able to afford the health care they need, making them more likely to suffer and even die from otherwise preventable or treatable illnesses, injuries, and disabilities. This has led many to ask: should the United States join the rest of the developed world and guarantee universal coverage? Numerous Americans, including philosophers, answer yes. But one group seemingly continues to answer no: libertarians. Libertarians, it is said, are prone to oppose state-guaranteed universal coverage, because of their hardline stances on redistribution, freedom, and individual rights. For my dissertation, I aim to take a deeper look at the relationship between universal coverage and these hardline stances. And I conclude that—taking their stances seriously—libertarians can and should support state-guaranteed universal coverage too.

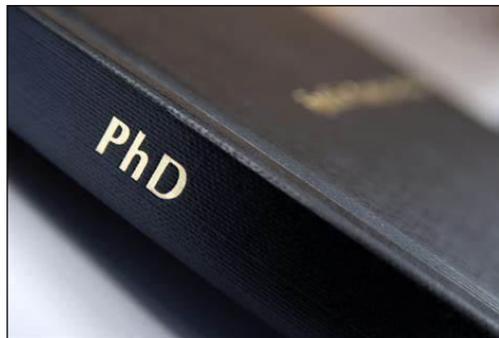
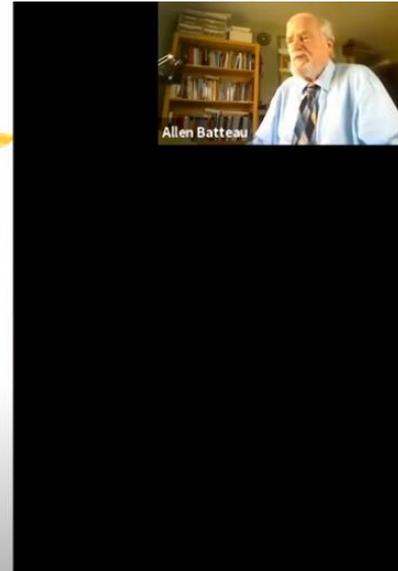


Image by: Google

## Brown Bag Colloquium Series 2020-2021

### Theoretical Foundation (2): A Critical Perspective on Technology

- A modernist formation, associated with the Industrial Revolution
- New commons:
  - Airspace
  - RF spectrum
  - Attention
  - ...
- Instrumental values +
  - Perfection of form
  - Condensation of meaning
  - Translation of space, time, information
  - Magic
- The cosmology of a technological society



Above: Virtual Brown Bag Talk: **Allen Batteau, Professor (Emeritus), Anthropology** “Technology and the Common Good in a Democratic Society”- November 10, 2020.



Brown Bag Talks are excellent opportunities for a meaningful discussions amongst colleagues!

This year, our iconic Brown Bag series was held virtually over Zoom. Nonetheless, the talks attracted good attendance, which was boosted by national, and sometimes international, participants who were able to join the Zoom calls from remote locations. Below is the schedule for the 2020-21 academic year. This year marked the 24<sup>th</sup> continuous year that the series was held.

## FALL 2020 BROWN BAG COLLOQUIUM SERIES

*The Brown Bag Colloquium Series is one of the Humanities Center's most successful and visible programs. This year the series comprised 47 talks given mainly by Wayne State University faculty members*

**September 9th** Liette Gidlow, Associate Professor, History

Addie Hunton, Undercover: Race and Resistance in the Post-Nineteenth Amendment South

**September 15th** Brad R. Roth, Professor, Political Science & Law

Legitimacy in the International Order: The Continuing Relevance of Sovereign States

**September 16th** Steve Winter, Distinguished Professor, Law

Who" or "What" Is the Rule of Law?



*Above: Distinguished Professor Melba Joyce Boyd (top left) and Jazz Musician, Marion Hayden (bottom right) with Director Walter Edwards (bottom left) and Program Coordinator, Kennedy Cockrel (top right) chat after their Brown Bag talk entitled "Poetry and Jazz: Sound and Sensibility in Composition and Performance"*

**September 22nd** David M. Merolla, Associate Professor, Sociology and Jason P. Smith, Student Black, Blue, and Blow: The Effect of Race and Criminal History on Perceptions of Police Violence

**September 23rd** Joseph Fitzgerald, Professor Emeritus, Psychology

Many Americas: A model for Social Context and its Impact on Deaths of Despair

**September 29th** Leisa Kauffmann, Associate Professor, CMLLC

Were the Toltecas (also) Chichimecas? The view from the histories of Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl and the Annals of Cuauhtitlan

**September 30th** Suzette Bristol, Graduate Teaching Assistant, English

Reflection in Practice: Evaluating Ourselves and Our Teaching Moments in the Classroom

**October 1st** Elizabeth Stoycheff, Associate Professor, Communication

Deterring democracy: How government mass surveillance chills freedom of expression

**October 7th** Kelly Polasek, Graduate Teaching Assistant, English, Ph.D. Candidate

Literary Extrapolation, the Refugee-Terrorist-Revolutionary, and American War in the Anthropocene

**October 13th** José Cuello, Associate Professor, History and Latino and Latin American Studies  
Why Democracy Cannot Exist Without Capitalism; Why Capitalism Destroys Democracy

**October 14th** Alisa Moldavanova, Associate Professor, Political Science and Nathaniel Wright, Assistant Professor, Political Science

Organizational Social Connectedness and Arts and Culture Nonprofits' Engagement in Local Sustainable Development

**October 20th** Haiyong Liu, Professor, CMLLC/Linguistics

The Opposite of Many Is Not Few

**October 21st** Yunshuang Zhang, Assistant Professor, CMLLC

A Shift of Values: How Did a Virtuous Minister of 7th Century BCE Become a Licentious Man in 11th Century China?

**October 27th** Clay Walker, Senior Lecturer, English  
Cognitive Linguistics and Literacy Studies: Finding Common Ground

**October 28th** Barry Lyons, Associate Professor, Anthropology

Film Presentation: VIRGINIA'S CALLING

**November 4th** Valerie (Efua) Sweeney Prince, Associate Professor, African American Studies

Washboards and Waterbearers: Laundry and the Work of Black Women

**November 10th** Allen Batteau, Professor (Emeritus), Anthropology

Technology and the Common Good in a Democratic Society

**November 11th** Russell Miller, Associate Professor, Music

The Music of Matt Michaels: A Guided Tour Through the Recording Process

**November 17th** Anne E. Duggan, Professor, French, Adrien Dula, PhD in French, and Julie Koehler, Interim Director of FLTC and German Lecturer

Women Writing Wonder

## FALL 2020 BROWN BAG COLLOQUIUM SERIES

**November 18th** Alisa Moldavanova, Holly Feen-Calligan and Arash Javanbakht, Artsconnect Working Group

ArtsConnect: Forging Links and Bridging Divides

**December 1st** Shooshan Danagoulian, Assistant Professor, Economics, Allen Goodman, Professor, Economics, Janet Hankin, Professor, Sociology and David Jaeger, Professor, Economics

Coping with Covid-19: Preliminary Results from Student Survey

**December 2nd** Andrew Newman, Associate Professor, Anthropology

Empire's Garden: Anthropology and the racialization of vision in 19th century Paris

**December 8th** Khari Brown, Associate Professor, Sociology

Race, Religion, and Environmental Activism

**December 9th** Dora Apel, Professor Emerita, Modern and Contemporary Art History

Why We Need A National Lynching Memorial

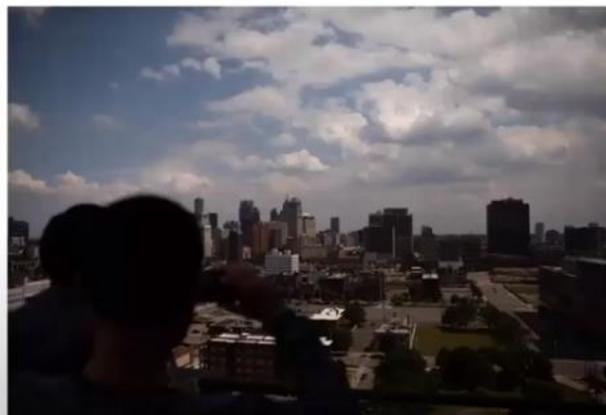
**December 16th** Beth Fowler, Irvin D. Reid Honors College, Senior Lecturer

Teach Me to Twist': Black Music in White Dominated Spaces, 1960-1964

*The Brown Bag Colloquium Series provides speakers with feedback from scholars within and outside of the speakers' disciplines. This interdisciplinary interaction is a valued feature of this series.*



## Visit of the Old Chinatowns in Detroit



Above: Virtual Brown Bag Talk: **Haiyong Liu, Professor, CMLLC-Linguistics**, "Interdisciplinary Collaboration: from Furniture to Space"-April 14, 2021.

## WINTER 2021 BROWN BAG COLLOQUIUM SERIES

*The Brown Bag Colloquium Series provides speakers with feedback from scholars within and outside of the speakers' disciplines. This interdisciplinary interaction is a valued feature of this series.*

**January 19th Boris Baltes, Professor, Psychology**  
Examining the Role of Coping Behaviors in Reducing Work Family Conflict

**January 20th Matt Seeger, Professor, Communication/ Dean of the College of Fine Performing and Communications Arts**  
Communication, Organization and COVID-19

**January 26th Noa Ofen, Associate Professor, Psychology/ IOG**

Development of Memory Systems in the Brain

**January 27th Kristin Taylor, Associate Professor, Political Science**

Do All Failures Lead to Change?

**February 2nd Melba Joyce Boyd, Distinguished Professor, African American Studies, Marion Hayden, Jazz Musician**

Poetry and Jazz: Sound and Sensibility in Composition and Performance

**February 9th Joshua Duchan, Associate Professor, Music**

Community Singing in the Age of Coronavirus: The Case of Collegiate A Cappella

**February 17th Samuele Zilioli, Assistant Professor, Psychology & Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences**

Socioeconomic Status Health Disparities: Empirical Evidence from a Biopsychosocial Perspective

**February 23rd Howard Lupovitch, Associate Professor, History/Judaic Studies**

Jewish Immigrants, and Refugees: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Lessons

**February 24th Soraya (Layla) Saatchi, Instructor, Irvin D. Reid Honors College**

Intra-religious reasonable peer disagreement: Debunking 'the True Islam

**March 2nd Patrick Cooper-McCann, Assistant Professor, Urban Studies and Planning**

The Shrinking City in Historical Perspective: Detroit, 1920-2020

**March 3rd Jorgelina Corbatta, Emerita Full Professor CMLLC**

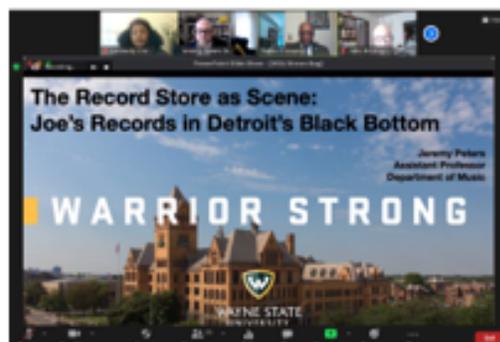
Some Reflections About the World We Are Living In. Entries from my diary 2/2020-2/2021

**March 9th Allison Laskey: Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, Social Work, Erin Stanley: MSW, MA, Doctoral Student, Social Work and Anthropology Program (SWAN)**

Re-imagining Resilience as multi-disciplinary, multi-level, and interconnected

**March 10th Jeremy Peters, Assistant Professor, Music**

The Record Store as Scene: Joe's Records in Detroit's Black Bottom



*Above Jeremy Peters, Assistant Professor, Music pictured giving a talk entitled "The Record Store as Scene: Joe's Records in Detroit's Black Bottom"*

**March 23rd Caroline Maun, Associate Professor and Chair English**

Writing and Resilience: Thinking Transdisciplinarily about Writing and Pain

**March 24th Marc Kruman, Distinguished Service Professor, Director, Center for the Study of Citizenship, Professor, History**  
Citizenship for Health

**March 30th Jennifer Hart, Associate Professor, History and Michael Fuhlhage, Associate Professor, Communication**

Infusing Historical Consciousness into the News: Bringing the Lessons of the Past into Public

**March 31st renée c. hoogland, Professor, English, Vice Chair, Academic Senate**

Time is Over and the World Has Ended: Khalik Allah's Street Photographs as Energy Charts

**April 6th Tam Perry Associate Professor and Brian Doucet, Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair in Cities, University of Waterloo**

Understanding Changing Landscapes in Urban Contexts

**April 7th Ty Partridge, Associate Professor Director, Research Analysis & Design Unit Psychology**  
The Role of Developmental Science in Promoting Social Justice

**April 13th Billicia Charnelle Hines and Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney, Associate Professor of Theatre/ Co-Artistic Director of the Black Theatre and Dance Collective, Department of Theatre and Dance**  
Equitable Value within Performing Arts Education

**April 14th Haiyong Liu, Professor, CMLLC-Linguistics, Marilyn Zimmerwoman, Emerita**

## WINTER 2021 BROWN BAG COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Professor, Art and Art History-CFPCA, Min Yu,  
Assistant Professor, Social Studies Education, and  
Yunshuang Zhang, Assistant  
Professor, CMLLC

Interdisciplinary Collaboration: from Furniture to Space  
**April 21st** Natalia Rakhlin, Associate Professor,  
English/Linguistics  
Global Linguistic Diversity: The Tragedy and Hope

*Abstracts for talks will be posted on the Center's Web site and can be accessed at*  
<https://research2.wayne.edu/hum/Programs/brownbag/20-21.html>

# KHALIK ALLAH'S PHOTOGRAPHIC ENERGY CHARTS "TIME IS OVER AND THE WORLD HAS ENDED"



renee c. hoogland//Wayne State University

Above: Virtual Brown Bag Talk: **renee c. hoogland, Professor, Professor, English**, "Time is Over and the World Has Ended: Khalik Allah's Street Photographs as Energy Charts"- March 31, 2021.

## LESSONS FROM AMERICA'S LAST UPSWING

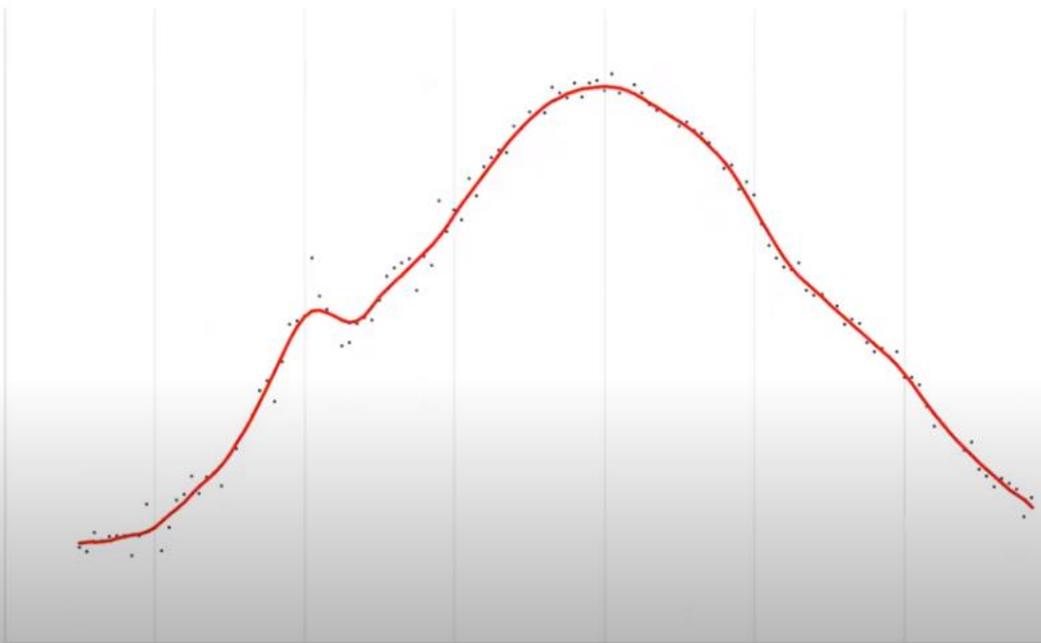
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- Economic Equality Lagged
- Moral and Cultural Shift Led
- Driven by Youth
- Association as End and Means
- Grassroots Innovation Led
- Charismatic Leadership Lagged
- “We” Not Inclusive Enough



Above: **Robert D. Putnam, Professor, Harvard University** and **Shaylyn Romney Garrett, Author, Alumna of Harvard University** presenting “The Upswing: How American Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again” at the 2021 Faculty Fellowship Conference “Future of Failure” on April 19, 2021.

Community vs. Individualism, 1890-2020  
Economics, Politics, Society, Culture



Above: **Robert D. Putnam, Professor, Harvard University** and **Shaylyn Romney Garrett, Author, Alumna of Harvard University** presenting “The Upswing: How American Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again” at the 2021 Faculty Fellowship Conference “Future of Failure” on April 19, 2021.

# Reframing the Shrinking City

Patrick Cooper-McCann  
Wayne State University

April 9, 2021



Above: **Patrick Cooper-McCann, Assistant Professor, Urban Planning** presenting “Reframing the Shrinking City” at the 2021 Faculty Fellowship Conference “Future of Failure” on April 19, 2021.

## What do we think of when we think of policy failure?

- Failure and success are fairly subjective concepts
  - Claims of failure (Howlett 2012)
    - Goal not achieved
    - Negative impact
    - Failure to act
    - Opposition from key groups
- Types of policy failure
  - Failure of the program to achieve its goals
  - Failure of how the policy was formulated
  - Failure of politics to address a public problem



Above: **Kristin Taylor, Associate Professor, Political Science** presenting “Policy Learning and Failure After Disaster” at the 2021 Faculty Fellowship Conference “Future of Failure” on April 19, 2021.



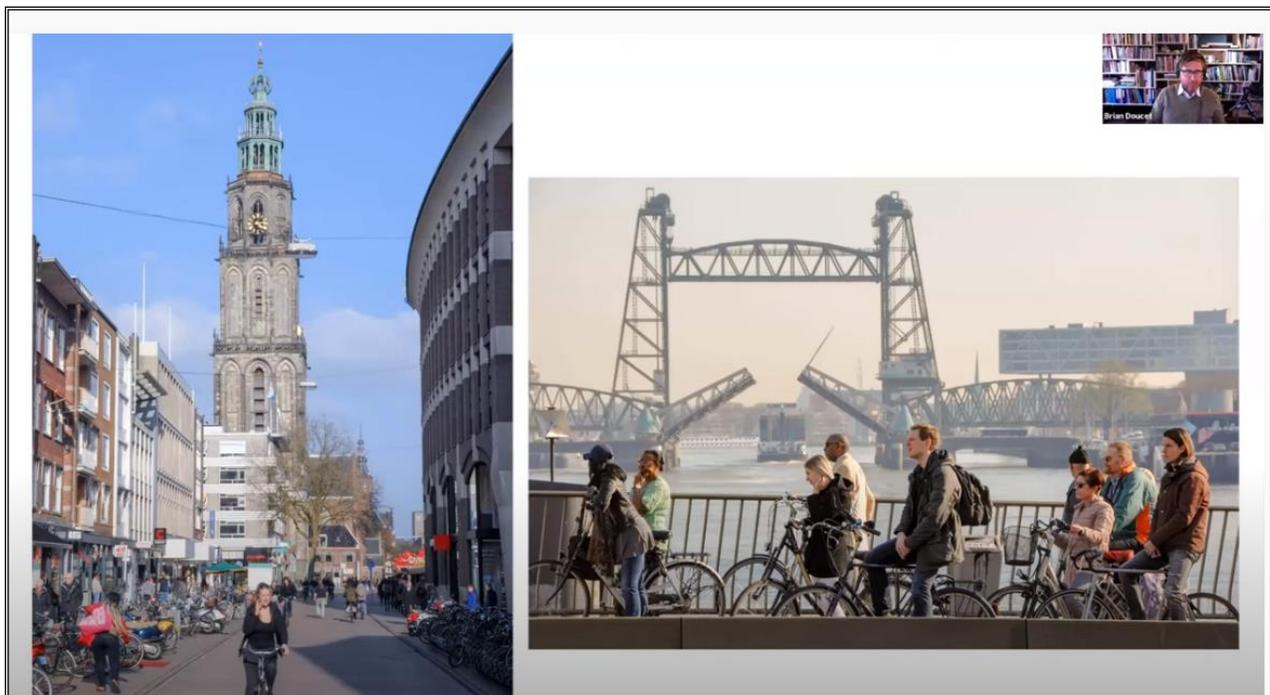
Above: **Brad A. Roth, Professor, Political Science & Law,** "Legitimacy in the International Order: The Continuing Relevance of Sovereign States", Brown Bag Talk on September 15, 2020.



Above: **Suzette Bristol, Graduate Teaching Assistant, English,** "Reflection in Practice: Evaluating Ourselves and Our Teaching Moments in the Classroom", Brown Bag Talk on September 30, 2020.



Above: Dr. Edwards introducing *Natalia V. Rakhlin*, Associate Professor, Linguistics, Brown Bag Talk on April 21, 2021



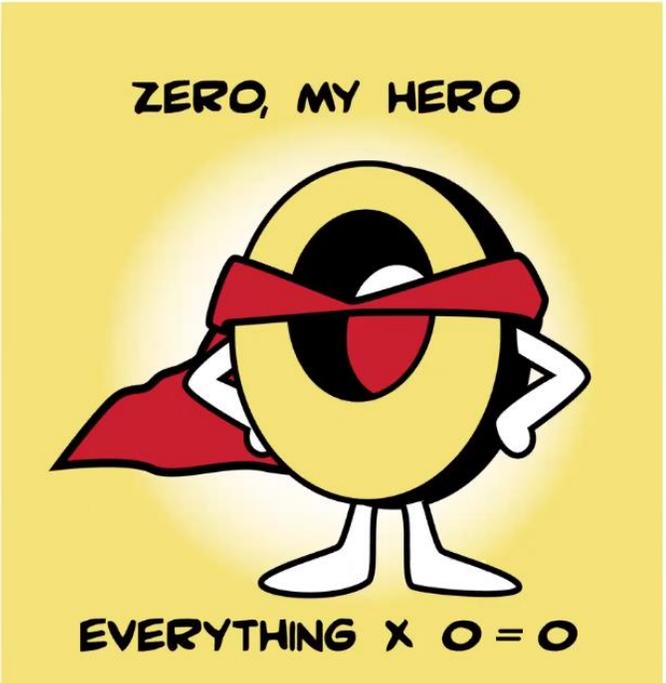
Above: Slides from the talk by *Brian Doucet*, Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair in Cities, University of Waterloo, on “Understanding Changing Landscapes in Urban Contexts”, Brown Bag Talk on April 6, 2021



*Above: Professor Janine Lanza speaking during a Resident Scholar Roundtable session on January 29, 2021.*



*Above: Professor Stine Eckert speaking during a Resident Scholar Roundtable session on March 26, 2021.*



**ZERO, MY HERO**

**EVERYTHING  $\times$  0 = 0**



Stephen Chrisomalis

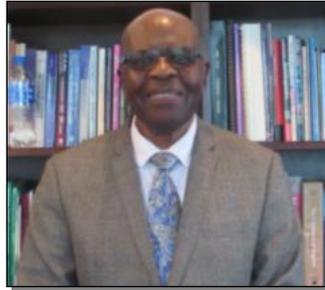
If the evolution of written numeration converges, it is mainly because place-value coding is the best available notation. So many of its characteristics can be praised: its compactness, the few symbols it requires, the ease with which it can be learned, the speed with which it can be read or written, the simplicity of the calculation algorithms it supports. All justify its universal adoption. Indeed, it is hard to see what new invention could ever improve on it. (Dehaene 1997: 101)

*Above: Associate Professor Stephen Chrisomalis speaking during the Virtual Book Launch session on April 19, 2021.*

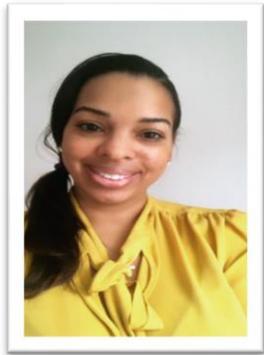


*Above: Associate Professor William T. Lynch speaking during the Virtual Book Launch session on April 1, 2021.*

## Our Staff



*Dr. Walter F. Edwards, Director*



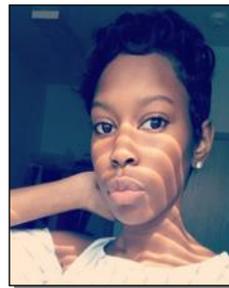
*Tiffin Carter Administrative Assistant.*



*Kennedy Cockrel Brown Bag and Resident Scholar Coordinator*



*Bohan Xiao, Webmaster*



*Keaira Pulliam, Student Assistant*

 <p><b>Farjana Rahman</b> Student Assistant Farjana Rahman joined the Humanities Center in 2020. She is studying to earn a Bachelor on Psychology and Public Health. She did an internship at Henry Ford Hospital and currently working at Beaumont Hospital.</p>	 <p><b>Tanni Dev</b> Student Assistant Tanni Dev joined The Humanities Center in 2020. She's studying to earn a bachelor's in computer science and public health.</p>	 <p><b>Renee Mohamed</b> Student Assistant Renee Mohamed is studying public health honors and biology. Renee Mohamed also works as a president of a local nonprofit serving southeast Michigan, and work as a research assistant for Dream of Detroit.</p>
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*Above: New to our staff, Farjana Rahman, Tanni Dev, and Renee Mohamed as Student Assistants.*

*March 2021: Preparing to return to Normalcy*



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Images by: [Students\\_at\\_Work-572f8e113df78c038e6ae89d.jpg \(768×513\) \(thoughtco.com\)](#)



Images by: [merlin\\_181698156\\_bf5509a0-77d0-4f53-aba7-248f74b878c1-facebook](https://www.facebook.com/merlin.181698156)Jumbo.jpg (1050×550) (nyt.com)



Images by: [vax-sign-news-e1622599946515-1000x500.jpg](https://www.monashhealth.org/news/vax-sign-news-e1622599946515-1000x500.jpg) (200×200) (monashhealth.org)

# Working Groups in the Humanities & Arts

*The Working Groups program is designed to promote collaborative and innovative research among WSU humanities and arts faculty and students. This year the Center funded four groups. All groups conducted their work remotely and still achieved commendable results despite the COVID 19 pandemic. The following are their reports.*

## **Arts Connect: Forging Links and Bridging Divides through the Transformative Power of Arts and Humanities Research**

*Core Members include:*

*Alisa Moldavanova, Associate Professor, Political Science Holly*

*Feen-Calligan, Associate Professor, College of Education*

*Samantha Noel, Assistant Professor, Department of Art & Art History*

*Arash Javanbakht, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences*

This working group was created with the purpose of facilitating inter- and cross-disciplinary collaborations among arts and culture researchers from across Wayne State University's campus. Since its inception, the group has been providing a forum that has facilitated research exchange and discussions about possible collaborative projects, as well as an opportunity to connect and get to know each other in a less formal setting to scholars from different campus units.

Both faculty and graduate students became active participants of this group, and its membership continued to grow despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the campus move to fully online instruction and activities in early March 2020. Currently, the group has 23 members (30% growth from year 1), who represent diverse campus divisions, including College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Education, College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts, School of Social Work, School of Medicine, and the Center for Urban Studies. Mary Anderson, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Theater and Dance, has joined the Arts Connect leadership team starting in 2020.

In the second year of the group's work, we hosted several research presentations and co-sponsored four Humanities Center brownbag talks, and focused on developing research collaborations and gaining further visibility on campus. All these activities were held virtually.

In Fall 2020, we sponsored two Humanities Center brownbag talks and hosted one research meeting:

- The brownbag talk was a collaboration by Holly Feen-Calligan, Lana Grasser, Arash Javanbakht, and Alisa Moldavanova to present insights from the Arts Connect research showcase held on September 11, 2020. The research showcase event featured two panels comprising six presentations. Rochelle Riley, the Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Detroit served as the keynote speaker. In addition to presenting research insights, the session included an arts practicum facilitated by Holly Feen-Calligan.
- The second brownbag talk sponsored by the group was a research presentation by Alisa Moldavanova and Nathaniel Wright who discussed findings from their national survey on the arts and culture nonprofits' contributions to community sustainability.
- The Fall 2020 research meeting showcased a research presentation by one of the group's new members Jacek Blazkiewicz, Assistant Professor of Music. He spoke about his book project, "Fanfare for a City: Music and the Urban Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Paris."

During the Winter 2021 semester, the group hosted one research talk and sponsored two Humanities Center brownbag presentations:

- Lana Grasser has presented her research on virtual arts and movement therapies in the era of COVID-19, and she has also facilitated an art experiential for all the attendees.
- The two sponsored brown bags included: the talk by Billicia Hines, Associate Professor, Department of Theater and Dance, on equitable value within performing arts education, and the talk by Caroline Maun, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of English, on writing and resilience.

Importantly, the group leaders and members have co-authored one of the WSU Bold Moves proposals that was competitively selected to proceed to the next stage of this program. The proposal is titled, “ArtsHUB Detroit: Leveraging the Power of Arts and Music to Empower Detroit Children, Families and Communities.” It seeks to improve access to high quality and affordable arts-based interventions that address health disparities in Detroit communities and research the impact of these interventions on a variety of individual and community outcomes. Specifically, the project aims to create a network of community arts and music centers in Detroit neighborhoods by uniting and strengthening existing programs and resources, and by offering additional programming to fill the gaps.

This proposal involves collaborating with a variety of community partners, and its development took nearly 6 months, during which the team of investigators held regular planning and writing meetings via Zoom. The following five members of the ArtsConnect group serve as the Co-PIs on this initiative (and the proposal also included several group members in the advisory capacity):

- Carolyn J. Dayton, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, and the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute.
- Mary Anderson, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Theater and Dance.
- Holly Feen-Calligan, Associate Professor and Coordinator, Art Therapy Program, College of Education.
- Arash Javanbakht – Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, School of Medicine.
- Alisa Moldavanova – Associate Professor and Coordinator, Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management, Department of Political Science.

The group has not yet used its second-year funding (\$600), however, that funding will be used to support the creation of the ArtsConnect web site on the WSU platform. We believe that using Humanities Center funds in such a way will increase the group’s visibility and help highlight the arts and humanities research on WSU campus, stimulating further collaborations. We thank the Humanities Center for supporting the groups’ work during its first two years. This support has really been instrumental to forging the links and connections among the group members and the wider community.



Images by: [bridging\\_gap.jpg \(4077×4077\) \(windows.net\)](#)



Images by: Google Images

## Antiracist Language and Literacy Practices

*Core Members include:*

*Adrienne Jankens, Assistant Professor, English*

*Linda Jimenez, Senior Lecturer, Education*

*Mariel Krupansky, Graduate Assistant, English*

*Anna Linder, Lecturer, Communication*

*Anita Mixon, Assistant Professor, Communication*

*Nicole Trujillo-Pagan, Associate Professor, Sociology*

*Nicole Guinot Varty, Senior Lecturer, English*

*Clay Walker, Senior Lecturer, English*

Across the 2020-2021 academic year, the Humanities Center Working Group in Antiracist Language and Literacy Practices has met almost weekly to accomplish the tasks we initially proposed and to further develop a research agenda that will extend our working group's engagement into the coming years. Our first goal, to read deeply in scholarship in antiracist language and literacy practices, social justice, linguistic justice, and critical language awareness, has been met through our reading and discussion of texts from Rhetoric and Composition, Education, Sociolinguistics, and other disciplines (a bibliography of the texts we have read and discussed in meetings is attached, as Appendix A). We continue to work with these texts in our research and have been re-reading specific texts to prepare to engage with our pilot study.

The pilot study, our second proposed task, is presently in the analysis stage. In this IRB-reviewed (exempt) study, we have surveyed both students enrolled in writing-intensive (WI) courses in Winter 2021 and instructors teaching these sections, and we have held focus groups and interviews with several students and instructors. In the final two weeks of the semester, we are holding several coding meetings to work through initial analysis of the survey, focus group, and interview data. The outcomes of this pilot study are many; in addition to laying the foundation for a second-stage study conducted by the team in AY 2021-2022, this pilot study will lead to the publication of an article-length manuscript co-authored by members of the research team and presentation of findings at a national conference.

The values statement drafted by the working group outlines our practices and mission moving forward (see Appendix B). Our working group is driven by values of equity, inclusion, and change, specifically related to both how we research language and literacy instruction and practices *and* how we work to integrate support for instructors on these topics.

In AY 2021-2022, the ALLP Working Group will present these pilot study findings at our HC Brown Bag talk, will collaborate on an NEH grant for a third phase of our study, and will continue to develop our research and reading practices with an aim toward publication, presentation, and instructional interventions.

### **Appendix A: Antiracist Language and Literacy Practices Working Group, Reading List for AY 2020-21 Bi-Weekly Discussions (selected)**

Baker-Bell, A. (2020). *Linguistic Justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity and Pedagogy*. Routledge.

CCCC Position Statement on Black Linguistic Justice. (2020). *This Ain't Another Statement! This is a DEMAND for Black Linguistic Justice!*

Davila, B. (2016). The inevitability of “standard” English: Discursive constructions of standard language ideologies. *Written Communication*, 32(2), pp. 127-148.

Gere, A. R., Swofford, S. C., Silver, N., & Pugh, M. (2015). Interrogating disciplines/disciplinarity in WAC/WID: An institutional study. *College Composition and Communication*, 67(2), pp. 243-266.

Green, N. S., & Condon, F. (2020). Chapter 15. Letters on Moving from Ally to Accomplice: Anti-Racism and the Teaching of Writing. In Lesley Erin Bartlett, Sandra L Tarabochia, Andrea R Olinger, & Margaret J Marshall (Eds.), *Diverse Approaches to Teaching, Learning, and Writing Across the Curriculum: IWAC at 25* (pp. 277-292).

Inoue, A. B. (2015). *Antiracist writing assessment ecologies: Teaching and assessing writing for a socially just future*. Parlor Press LLC.

Kynard, C. “[Literacy/Literacies Studies and the Still-Dominant White Center](#)” *Literacy in Composition Studies*. 1.1 (2013)

Poe, M. (2013). Reframing Race in Teaching Writing Across the Curriculum. *Across the Disciplines*, 10(3), 2013.

Rosa, J., and N. Flores. (2017). “Unsettling Race and Language: Toward a Raciolinguistic Perspective.” *Language in Society* 46.5.

Shelton, C. (2020). “Shifting Out of Neutral: Centering Difference, Bias, and Social Justice in a Business Writing Course.” *Technical Communication Quarterly*, 29(1), pp. 18-32, doi: 10.1080/10572252.2019.1640287.

Slinkard, J. and J. Gevers. (2020). “Confronting Internalized Language Ideologies in the Writing Classroom: Three Pedagogical Examples.” *Composition Forum*, vol. 44.

Young, V. A. (2010). Should Writers Use They Own English? *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, 12(1), 110-11

## **Appendix B: Antiracist Language and Literacy Practices Working Group, Values and Practices Statement [5.8.21 draft, (living Document)]**

The Antiracist Language and Literacy Practices research team is an interdisciplinary team rooted in the humanities and the social sciences and dedicated to the empirical study of language and literacy practices in higher education undergraduate curricula across the disciplines. This collaboration is an effort to accomplish the university's mission, specifically that "Wayne State will be a pre-eminent, public, urban research university known for academic and research excellence, success across a diverse student body, and meaningful engagement in its urban community."

Three core values underscore our collaboration and our research agenda: equity, inclusivity, and change (e.g., to access, education, social power, etc. through language)

Equity drives our research agenda in the following ways: First and foremost, our research agenda is driven by the following goals related to **equity**: 1) ensuring all students' language and literacy practices are acknowledged, valued, and welcomed in university classrooms, and 2) identifying and interrogating white supremacist literacy and language systems inherent to institutions of higher learning and current configurations of "academic English" as the language of higher learning. With these goals in mind, we work to identify the language attitudes and practices of WSU students and faculty, to understand and assess the impact of antiracist language and literacy practices, and to foster more equitable teaching and assessment practices across the disciplines. For our collaborative work as a team, **equity** means sharing both the responsibility and merit of research and publication. Equity also means intentional collegiality, not only between members of the team, but between research team members and the community participants with whom we engage.

Thus, equity is not achieved without **inclusion**. Through the iterations of our research work, we aim to include the perspectives of all members of the WSU community. We design our research to include both qualitative and quantitative methods and to adopt ethical standards that are sensitive to situational contexts across disciplines, classroom spaces, and literacy and language practices. For our collaborative work as a team, **inclusion** means inviting and engaging the perspectives of research-oriented faculty (contingent, non-tenure track faculty and tenure-track faculty) and graduate students across the disciplines informing the project (e.g., Communication, Education, Rhetoric and Composition, Sociology, etc.) Inclusive membership ensures the interdisciplinary conditions under which critical scholarship thrives and allows the team to provide learning opportunities to graduate students and undergraduate students across programs. Inclusion also means intentional listening to community members outside of the research team--it means that we seek out the perspectives of those whose experiences inform and impact our work.

Finally, our work aims to provide members of our community with **change**--including access to education, social power, and other resources that allow individuals and communities to enact antiracist literacy and language practices at every level of institutional hierarchy. While our understanding of what change, access, and resources look like will evolve as our research develops, we aim to provide concrete, actionable deliverables that go beyond values statements or educational and social theories and enact antiracist literacy and language practices in the real world. If we understand the purpose of our research as supporting foundational change, we also understand how we are responsible to our participants and to the community. Our research agenda is about not only studying language and literacy practices in an institution, but to also turn that research recursively into action that can affect curriculum, pedagogy, student experiences, and the ways that our university works in concert with the broader community.

## **Relating Folk and Fairy tales to Current Crises: Epidemics, Nasty Women, Race, and Conspiracy Theories**

*Core Members include:*

*Anne E. Duggan, Professor, CMLLC (French)*

*Dr. Adrion Dula, Part-Time Faculty, CMLLC (French)*

*Silvia Giorgini-Althoen, Senior Lecturer, CMLLC (German)*

*Donald Haase, Professor emeritus, CMLLC (German)*

*Dr. Julie Koehler, Lecturer, CMLLC (German)*

*Beatriz Lara, PhD student, CMLLC (French)*

*Claudia Schwabe, Associate Professor, Utah State University*

*Yunshuang Zhang, Assistant Professor, CMLLC (Asian Studies)*

On Friday, September 11, 2020, we launched a new academic year with a session on the use of fairy tales to talk about COVID and epidemics. We continued this line of inquiry in AY2020-2021, relating fairy tales to recent political, global health, and race crises.

Each meeting entailed several mini-PowerPoint presentations dealing with American, Caribbean, Chinese, French, German, Italian, and/or North African tale traditions as the aligned with our themes of the day.

**Friday October 2nd:** Nasty women

**Friday November 6th:** Tourism and Fairy Tales Part I: presentation by Claudia Schwabe, Associate Professor, Utah State University

**Friday December 4th:** Tourism and Fairy Tales Part II

**Friday January 15th:** Trickster Women

**Friday February 5th:** Feminicide and Fairy Tales

**Friday March 26th:** Race and Fairy Tales Part I

**Friday April 23rd:** Race and Fairy Tales Part II

## **Interdisciplinary Approaches to Social Problems the SWAN Model**



*Core Members include:*

*Andrea Sankar, Professor, Anthropology*

*Poco Kernsmith, Professor, Social Work*

The Social Work and Anthropology (SWAN) doctoral program received a 2020-2021 Humanities Center Working Group award. Its original goal was to critically reflect upon and extend accumulating experiences of the SWAN students, faculty supervisors, and interested members of the university community in the creation of this synthetic doctoral training program. Before COVID we had planned to use a series of monthly lunches with SWAN faculty and students to envision next steps in this innovative doctoral program. While the theoretical models, methods, and research goals of Anthropology and Social Work are complementary, they represent distinct disciplinary orientations to knowledge creation. Integrating these disciplines opens exciting and rich creative spaces; however, the productive use of these spaces remains to be executed. While creating opportunities for new research questions and their methodological execution, the process of this implementation is a work in progress. Thus, it was exactly the kind of project that we believed would benefit from a Humanities Center Working Group.

COVID Revision. Due to the cancelation of all face-to-face meetings on campus, we revised our plan. Our revised goal was to advance the ability of SWAN students to think and write in an interdisciplinary fashion for the purposes of their dissertations and for publications derived from that dissertation research. To that end, we hired a well-known science editor to guide the students in manuscript preparation. Six SWAN students submitted manuscripts in various stages of preparation to the editor. They received two sets of comments: One the formal standard set of comments typically sent by an editorial office, the second was a detailed analysis of the arguments and rationales students used in support of their interdisciplinary research. Faculty and students had two zoom group meetings with the editor to review the process of manuscript preparation, submission, and revision along with detailed analyses of individual manuscripts.

Students who submitted manuscripts and those who did not but who participated in the group meetings, found these experiences extremely helpful. The editor provided them with instructive, professional criticism and prepared them for the level of expectation and types of queries that a journal editorial office would have when these manuscripts were submitted for review.

**HUMANITIES CENTER  
FACULTY FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION 2019–2020**

**Deadline:  
Friday, April 10, 2020**

# THE FUTURE OF FAILURE



*Photo: a bridge failure.  
Image and Flyer  
designed by  
Professor Danielle  
Aubert*

At first glance, it might be tempting to think of "Failure" in purely negative terms—it does typically connote a lack or defeat of some kind—but failure can also be the first step to success. From Oprah Winfrey to Henry Ford, many leaders and innovators note the necessity of failure in their own trajectories moving forward. But what does it mean to fail?

For the 2019-2020 Faculty Fellowships Competition, the Humanities Center solicits research proposals that explore the full spectrum of failure, understood in the broadest sense. From the failure of political, economic, or religious groups to how "failure" has been utilized as a buzzword of 21st-century trendsetters, how might we begin to conceptualize and theorize failure? Research questions might center on

the historical legacies of failure, personal failures versus public ones, the subjectivity of failure, or failure as a strategic choice or a source of opportunity. We also encourage proposals that center on ideas related to academic failure: what are the gaps, problems, or dead-ends of particular disciplinary methods or academia more generally? How do we learn from failure, and how is it incorporated into our classrooms and our research? Finally, what are the creative possibilities of failure? How is failure a routine part of scientific, humanistic, and artistic practice?

We welcome proposals that examine failure from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.

*All WSU full-time faculty in the humanities, arts, and related disciplines are eligible to submit proposals, except those who received a Faculty Fellowship Award from the Center within the last two years. The submission guidelines for this competition and the cover page are available on our website at <http://research2.wayne.edu/hum/>.*

*The Center will fund about eight proposals with up to \$6,000 each. Results of the competition will be announced within a month of the closing date. Recipients will be expected to present their findings to date at a Faculty Fellows Conference to be scheduled in April 2021.*

***Please Apply Online at:***

***[forms.wayne.edu/Sdb2f287e0592/](https://forms.wayne.edu/Sdb2f287e0592/)***



**WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
Humanities Center

# THE FUTURE OF FAILURE

Humanities Center's Virtual Faculty Fellows Conference

Friday, April 9, 2021

12:00 PM- 4:00 PM Eastern Time (US & Canada)

**Zoom Meeting ID:** 955-1355-3505

Passcode: 310602

<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/95513553505?pwd=QTFLejdJQW8zc0pwSnBIMklnYVY4UT09>

~Keynoters~

**Robert D. Putnam**



**Shaylyn Romney Garrett**



Harvard Professor Putnam has written fifteen books, including *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Italy* and *Bowline Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, both among the most Cited Social science works in the last half the century.

Harvard Alumna Shaylyn Romney Garrett's work includes the uniquely revealing portraits of religious communities across the United States in *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*.

~ Recent Book ~

"The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again"

12:00-12:05	Call to Order: <b>Walter F. Edwards</b> , Director, Humanities Center
12:05-12:10	Welcoming Remarks: <b>Stephanie W. Hartwell</b> - Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
12:10-12:15	Moderator- <b>Alisa Moldavanova</b> , Associate Professor, Political Science, WSU
12:15-12:45	<b>Patrick Cooper McCann</b> , (Assistant Professor, Urban Studies & Planning, WSU)-"Reframing The Shrinking City"
12:45-1:15	<b>Kristin Taylor</b> , (Associate Professor, Political Science, WSU)-"Do All Failures Lead to Change? A Comparative Analysis Of Policy Failure And Learning After Natural Disasters And Infrastructure Crises"
1:15-1:45	<b>Natalie Bakopoulos</b> , (Associate Professor, English, WSU) -"A Little History Had To Intervene"
1:45-2:15	<b>Billicia Hines</b> , (Associate Professor, Theatre & Dance, WSU) & <b>Dr. Ras Mikey Courtney</b> , (Assistant Professor, Dance, WSU)- "Decolonization Of The Arts: An Altered Perception Of Failure"
2:15-2:30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
2:30-2:35	<b>Break</b>
2:35-2:40	Moderator- <b>Alisa Moldavanova</b> , Associate Professor, Political Science
2:40-3:40	Keynote Address- <b>Robert D. Putnam</b> , (Malkin Research Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University) with <b>Shaylyn Romney Garrett</b> , (Writer, Alumna of Harvard University) "The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again"
3:45-4:00	<b>Q&amp;A</b>

# Faculty Fellowships Competition

## Transition

### 2020 - 2021

*Each year the Humanities Center sponsors a Faculty Fellowship Competition on a specific theme. This year's theme was "Transition". Fellowships provide Wayne State University faculty with funding to help pay for expenses related to their proposed research projects. Fellowship recipients are expected to participate in the annual Faculty Fellows' Conference held the following spring. Below is the explication of the theme and a list of the six faculty who were awarded 2021 Faculty Fellowships. They will present their findings at the Faculty Fellowship Conference in April 2022.*

## 2021 Faculty Fellowships Competition

### Explication of Theme

Them: "Transition"

The COVID19 pandemic has taught us to pivot from human ecosystems that depended crucially on close interpersonal interactions to societies that mandate social distancing, and then to transition cautiously back to (new) normalcy. That experience invites academic deliberations on the concept of transition. Transition is inherently a process, and although we may not know where that process might lead, one thing that all transitions have in common is the moment of uncertainty, and the idea of change. Therefore, explaining, predicting, and theorizing about transition is an important scholarly task. Transition/s capture change when it comes to historical periods and daily routines. From societies to institutions, from collectives to individuals, from global governance to local government, transition/s could be subtle or direct, fast paced, or slow, externally imposed or internally conditioned, they could lead to progress or decline, and this inherent duality makes the study of transition/s even more valuable. Moreover, as the pace of our society is increasing, so does the propensity for transition as well as the danger of falling behind.

Transitions in film and graphic novels are the gaps between frames. They carry meaning, invisible content, and silences. Transitions in literary history offer points of convergence and contradiction where different genres exist alongside simultaneously, respond to, and challenge each other. Furthermore, in cultural production transitions are about how we talk about issues, such as violence of the past, or whether we talk about them at all.

Humanities scholars are uniquely positioned to contribute to our understanding of the idea of transition, as they often attempt to understand the process itself paying attention to its inner workings, as opposed to focusing primarily on outcomes or results change. And this focus on process – whether it is described as ‘muddling through’ or ‘reaching for the stars’ – is uniquely valuable for understanding the human condition itself and the broader societal and cultural fabrics in which it unfolds.

The theme of 'Transition' applies to the study of institutions, states, cities, cultures and their products, practices and perspectives, societies, organizations, and informal groups. We invite a wide range of submissions that interrogate the idea of transition broadly defined, especially welcoming proposals investigating the process of transition and the dynamics of change that it produces or fails to produce

## 2021 Recipients



**Lisa O'Donnell**, Assistant Professor, Social Work

*“A Feasibility Pilot Study: Assessing Attitudes Among Stakeholders of a Technology-Delivered Work Intervention for Ind with Mood and Anxiety Disorders Transitioning Towards Employment”*



**Margaret Hull**, Assistant Professor, Art & Art History

*“Cottagecorps: Chintz and Persistence through a Decolonial Lens”*



**Yunshuang Zhang**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages,  
Literatures and Cultures (CMLLC)

*“Spatial and Cultural Transitions: The Rise of the Private Studio”*



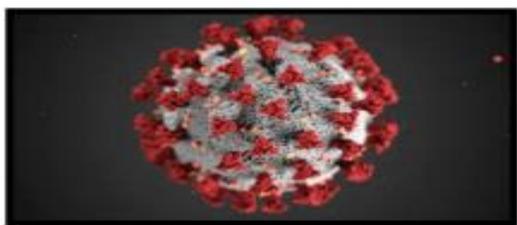
**Alina Cherry**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages,  
Literatures and Cultures

*“Beyond Catastrophe: Transitioning through Pictures and Words in Laurent Mauvignier’s Around the World”*

\*\*\*The above recipients will give a presentation at our conference to be held Spring 2022\*\*\*

### *Creative Response to COVID-19 Pandemic Competition*

The coronavirus invaded our nation in February 2020. Soon after, the world was in the throes of a full-blown pandemic. As a response to this scourge, the Humanities Center wanted to invite WSU students and faculty in the humanities to record in a variety of creative ways what they experienced, observed, and imagined about COVID-19's impact on them, their country, environment and the world. To this end the Center, following the lead of other Humanities Centers in the US, sponsored a mini grant and invited students and part-time faculty to submit proposals. The competition was co-sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Fine, Performing and Communication Arts; The Honors College, College of Education; The Law School; and School of Social Work. The competition attracted 24 proposals from which 11 projects were selected for funding. Below is the Call for Proposals.



Wayne State University's Humanities Center is sponsoring a one-time mini-grant program to invite students and part time faculty in the humanities, arts, and social science to reflect in creative and ways, via humanistic expressions, on the COVID 19 pandemic and its outcomes.

COVID 19 has killed, sickened, and frightened hundreds of thousands of people, disrupting human societies and cultures worldwide. The virus has also disproportionately impacted populations already suffering from the effects of systematic racism, ageism and poverty. However, this

pandemic has also revealed our intrinsic humanity and our resilience, generosity, compassion, and courage in the face of the catastrophe. The mini-grant program is intended to provide an outlet for human emotions, observations, art, behaviors, innovations, and other sharable responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We invite submissions of a wide range of projects which might portray but are not limited to the pandemic's impact on and responses from disproportionately affected people and vulnerable groups, including racial and ethnic minorities; the elderly; essential workers; and socioeconomically disadvantaged members of our community. Projects may include, but are not limited to the following:

**film, photography, drawings, paintings, diaries, poetry, plays, performances, musical compositions, short essays, short stories, and observations of the natural world.**

*The Center will fund up to 10 proposals at \$400 each*

*All WSU graduate and undergraduate students, as well as part-time and contingent faculty are eligible to apply.*

Applicants should submit a 1-2-page proposal, which includes a brief project narrative, justification, timeline, budget (if applicable), and the description of outcomes. Proposals must be submitted electronically to the Center's Director at [walter.edwards@wayne.edu](mailto:walter.edwards@wayne.edu) and will be reviewed by a panel from the Center's Advisory Board. Application link: <https://forms.wayne.edu/5f1108ab553901/>.

The proposals are due by October 15, 2020. Decisions will be made by November 15, 2020 and the recipients will be expected to talk briefly about their projects at a virtual meeting to be organized by the Center early in the Winter 2021 semester.

Successful projects will be posted on the Center's website and could possibly be published in booklet form.

#### **Special thanks to our co-sponsors:**



For more information about the Humanities Center, call (313) 577-5471 or visit <https://research2.wayne.edu/hum/>

## *The Covid-19 Mini-Grant Conference*

The recipients of the Covid-19 mini-grants participated in a virtual conference sponsored by the Center on April 9, 2021. Below are the participants, the titles of their projects, and the link to the conference video.

Conference Video Links: [Humanities Center Creative Responses to Covid-19 Pandemic - YouTube](#)

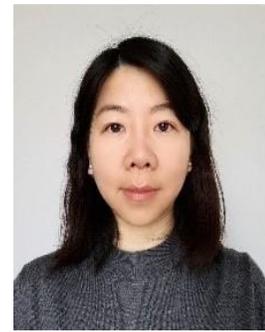
### Participants:



K. Natasha Foreman  
Title: "Corona Butoh"



Stanislav Kozadayev, Communication  
Title: "19: A Sonic Memorial"



Yan Zhang, Art & Art History  
Title: "Freedom of Speech in Specimen Bottles"



Megan Jones, English  
Title: "Raising Voices: Building Global (Comm)unity in Covid-19"



Joseph Mattar, Theatre & Dance  
Title: "How to Move"



Elise Martin, Art & Art History  
Title: "Fragile Forms of Comfort"



Caitlin Lynch, Music



AJ White, Music

Title: "Song Portraits"



Isaac Pickell, English  
Title: "Uncommissioned Elegies"



Sylvia Taschka, History  
Title: "Pandemic Poetry"



Parvinder Mehta, English  
Title: "Pandemonia Poems"



Leith Campbell, Music  
Title: "Fanfare and Procession: Subtitle: An atonal electronic symphony exploring the notion of personal and community spaces in an age of social distancing."



*Above: Joseph Mattar presented a video presentation called "How to Move" as his expression during the pandemic.*



## "Pandemonia Poems"

Parvinder Mehta

Selected poems read at Covid-19 Creative Response Virtual Conference 2021

The Humanities Center, Wayne State University

### **When we come out of this...**

Will we be wiser or simply resume our privileges?

Will we be kinder or simply defend our selfism?

Will we be thoughtful or simply forget our helplessness?

Will we be grateful or simply brag our survival?

Will we be compassionate or simply assign fate to the unfortunate?

Will we be ethical in choices or simply drench with entitlement?

Will we accept our common vulnerabilities or simply blame with hate-mongering?

Will we learn to persist with humility to help others or simply demand callous liberation to serve our enabled egos?

Will we come out of this or simply languish in philosophy or poetry?

# New Program: Virtual Book Launch Program



## Humanities Center

Bringing Humanists Together for Collaborative Research

### VIRTUAL BOOK LAUNCH A NEW INITIATIVE FROM THE HUMANITIES CENTER

In the winter semester of 2021, the Humanities Center is embarking on a new initiative to contribute to conversation in the Humanities and to celebrate the scholarship of Wayne State University faculty. This endeavor will involve sponsorship of virtual book launches, either solely or in collaboration with presses and departments. *All faculty in the Humanities regardless of rank who have published a book since May 2020 are eligible to submit self-nominations for the first two launches, to be held in March and April 2021 respectively.* Calls for future terms will follow.

If you are interested in participating in this initiative, please submit the information listed below to Elizabeth Lublin ([elublin@wayne.edu](mailto:elublin@wayne.edu)) and Walter Edwards ([walter.edwards@wayne.edu](mailto:walter.edwards@wayne.edu)) by **January 22:**



- Your name, University position, Department affiliation, and email address
- The title of your book, the name of the publisher, and the date of publication
- A one-paragraph synopsis of the book for advertising purposes
- The name and contact information for your marketing contact at your press, if you have one
- The name and contact information for your Department chair if co-sponsoring the launch

Decisions will be made by February 5, and the two faculty members selected for the initial virtual book launches will thereafter be asked to suggest possible moderators who are specialists in their field along with listservs and other outlets through which the Humanities Center can advertise the event. The day and time for the launch will be set in consultation, and the Humanities Center will handle other logistics as needed.

For more info about the Humanities Center, call (313) 577-5471 or visit <https://research2.wayne.edu/hum/>

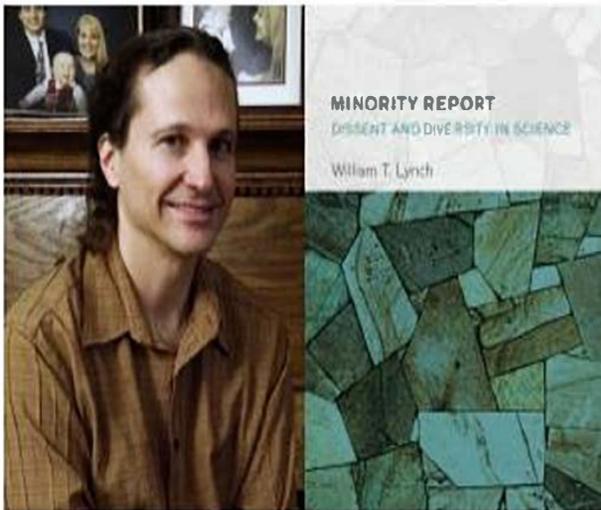
# Virtual Book Launch

## A New Initiative from The Humanities Center

### 2020-2021

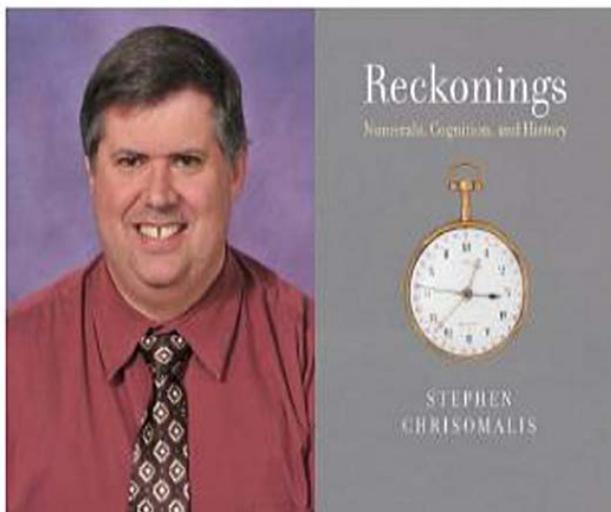
In the winter semester of 2021, the Humanities Center embarked on a new initiative to contribute to conversation in the Humanities and to celebrate the scholarship of Wayne State University faculty. This endeavor spearheaded by Event Chair Elizabeth D. Lublin, involved sponsorship of virtual book launches, either solely or in collaboration with presses and departments. All faculty in the Humanities regardless of rank who published a book since May 2020 were eligible to submit self-nominations for the first two launches, which were both held in April 2021

#### *Virtual Book Launch Featured Authors:*



**William T. Lynch**  
Associate Professor  
Department of History  
Wayne State University

Author William T. Lynch and moderator Steve Fuller had a conversation on *Minority Report: Dissent and Diversity in Science*, a book that analyzes the support that should be given to minority views, reconsiders classic debates in Science and Technology Studies and examines numerous case studies.



**Stephen Chrisomalis**  
Associate Professor and  
Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of Anthropology  
Wayne State University

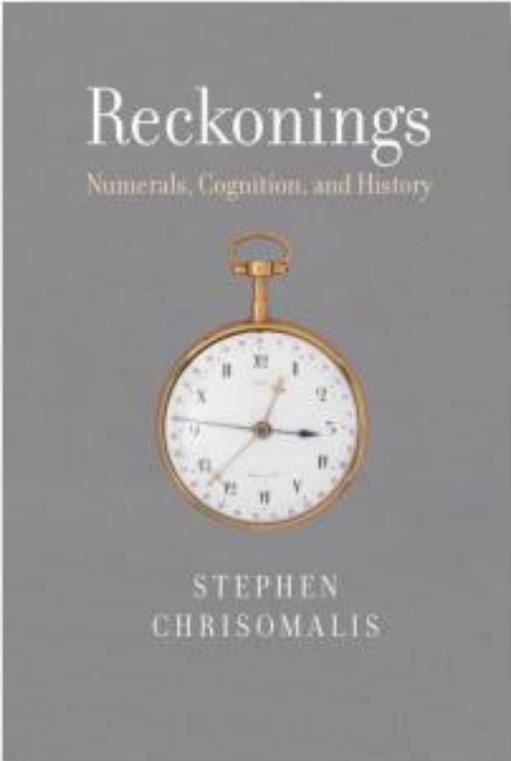
Author Stephen Chrisomalis and moderator Stephen Houston facilitated a conversation on the book *Reckonings: Numerals, Cognition, and History*. In *Reckonings*, Stephen Chrisomalis considers how humans past and present have used numerals, reinterpreting historical and archaeological representations of numerical notation and exploring the implications of why we write numbers with figures rather than words.

Below is a copy of the flyers created to promote the Virtual Book Launch events. The Virtual Book launch Program will continue into to 2021-22 academic year, and if interest persists it will become a regular annual feature of the Center.



## Humanities Center

Bringing Humanists Together for Collaborative Research



MIT Press, 2020

### Virtual Book Launch & Presentation

**Monday, April 19, 2021**  
**1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m. EST**

Click the link below to register:  
<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsf-GuqjgtHtaoPM9II5zc0gev6MwKh0D>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you have any questions, please email us at [walter.edwards@wayne.edu](mailto:walter.edwards@wayne.edu).

Join author Stephen Chrisomalis and moderator Stephen Houston for a conversation about *Reckonings: Numerals, Cognition, and History*. In *Reckonings*, Stephen Chrisomalis considers how humans past and present have used numerals, reinterpreting historical and archaeological representations of numerical notation and exploring the implications of why we write numbers with figures rather than words.



**Moderator:**  
**Dr. Stephen Houston**  
Dupee Family Professor of Social Science,  
Professor of Anthropology, Professor of Art and Architecture,  
Director of Early Cultures,  
Brown University



**Stephen Chrisomalis**  
Associate Professor and  
Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of Anthropology  
Wayne State University

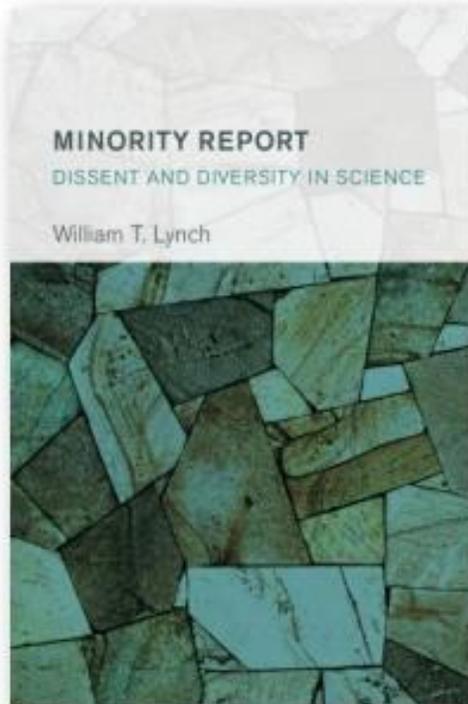
**BOOK AVAILABLE NOW!!**  
Click link below for ordering the book:  
<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/reckonings>

**Event Chair:**  
Elizabeth D. Lublin Associate Professor,  
Department of History, Wayne State University



## Humanities Center

Bringing Humanists Together for Collaborative Research



Rowman and Littlefield, 2021



**Moderator:**

**Steve Fuller**

Auguste Comte Chair in Social Epistemology  
Department of Sociology  
University of Warwick



**William T. Lynch**

Associate Professor  
Department of History  
Wayne State University

**Event Chair:**

Elizabeth D. Lublin Associate Professor,  
Department of History, Wayne State University

### Virtual Book Launch & Presentation

Thursday, April 1, 2021

1 p.m. EST

Join us on Zoom at:

<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/94502303155?pwd=QXlUZlJxLy9XeEhkemg3MkFVVlJSdz09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 945 - 0230 - 3155

Password: 076775

Join author William T. Lynch and moderator Steve Fuller for a conversation about *Minority Report: Dissent and Diversity in Science*, a book that analyzes the support that should be given to minority views, reconsiders classic debates in Science and Technology Studies and examines numerous case studies.

**BOOK AVAILABLE NOW!!**

Click link below for ordering the book directly through the publisher and for a 30% discount code for all formats:

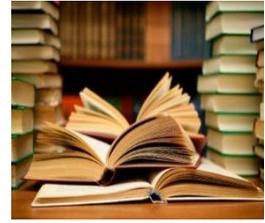
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781786612390/Minority-Report-Dissent-and-Diversity-in-Science>

Discount Code: RLFANDF30

William T. Lynch presented his book on April 1, 2021

# A Look Ahead: 2021 - 2022 Activities

*Resident Scholars Program*



*Brown Bag Series*



*Book Launch*



*Faculty Fellowship Competition*



*Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship*



*Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship*



*Travel Award Program*



*Faculty Fellowship Conference*



*Working Groups Program*





## Resident Scholars Program 2021 - 2022

**DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021**

The Humanities Center of Wayne State University announces the continuation of its Resident Scholars Program. The aim is to create a community of humanities and arts faculty from different disciplines working in the same physical space at roughly the same time. Such an arrangement could facilitate the formation of valuable research networks and promote interdisciplinary collaborations and joint grant applications. Resident Scholars meet periodically to share progress, experiences, and emerging conclusions from their research or creative work. Resident Scholars will also be expected to keep office hours at the Center, making research collaboration possible. The program should be attractive to all full-time faculty, but faculty on sabbatical leave should find it particularly appealing. Each office is equipped with a personal computer, and office furniture. Additionally, resident scholars have access to a network printer, the Internet, a photocopier, and a fax machine. The Center also has a conference area.

### Eligibility and Funding

Each resident scholar will be eligible to apply for up to \$800 to support his or her approved project. The resident scholar may use this money for travel to conferences to report on his or her approved project, or for payment for research assistance. This amount will be prorated for residents who are appointed for periods shorter than one full academic year.

### Conditions and Application

Each Resident Scholar must agree to:

1. Establish office hours at least twice a week for a minimum of three hours per session; or three times per week for two hours per session. This is the central requirement of the program since it provides the opportunity for residents to interact frequently and, thus to influence each other's work and develop collaborative projects.
2. Spend his/her office hours working on his/her research project, or interacting with other resident scholars having office hours.
3. Participate in roundtable sessions with other residents when these are arranged.

Applicants should submit one (1) copy of a proposal with the following content no later than July 30, 2021 to: [walter.edwards@wayne.edu](mailto:walter.edwards@wayne.edu)

1. A description of the project that the applicant would be working on during the period of his or her residency.
2. A statement indicating how the residency would enhance the professional career of the applicant.
3. A commitment to keep regular office hours throughout the residency.



2019-2020 Resident Scholars (seated from left to right: Shida Han (Chinese & Dance), Nicole Coleman (CML), Michael Pappas (Care Management), Josh Castle (History), Walter Edwards (Director), Nicole Fugle-Pappas (Technology), Justin Lane (History), Kyla Hunter (Technology) and Steve Ebers (Communication).

### Testimonial

*"Having an office dedicated for writing proved wonders for my productivity. I completed the revisions to my book manuscript 'The Right to Difference: Interculturality and Human Rights in Contemporary German Literature' that is now forthcoming from the University of Michigan Press, and worked on a couple of related articles on German refugee art and literature as well as disability in children's literature. A break-through moment for the revisions was when I cut up my entire introduction and laid it out on the floor of my Humanities Center office. There is just no other place where I could have done such an effective process of restructuring. Not only was the space indispensable for a productive year leading up to tenure, the conversations we had within our group of resident scholars were invigorating and constructive. After the roundtables, I was always motivated to continue thinking and writing and looking at the many different interdisciplinary angles at work for each of us."*

**Nicole Coleman, Assistant Professor, Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures (CML) 2020-2021 Resident Scholar.**

The Humanities Center

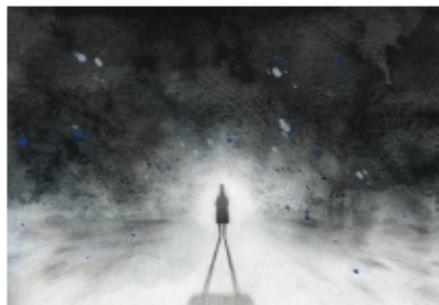
Walter F. Edwards, Director  
2226 Faculty/Administration Building  
Wayne State University  
Detroit MI 48202

(313) 577-5471 | Fax: (313) 577-2833 | [www.research2.wayne.edu/hum/](http://www.research2.wayne.edu/hum/)

Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/WSUHumanities](http://www.facebook.com/WSUHumanities) OR Follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/WSUHumCenter](http://www.twitter.com/WSUHumCenter)

# HUMANITIES CENTER FACULTY FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION 2021 - 2022

## Fear and Fragility in the COVID-19 Era



Artwork by Maggie Chiang

The world as we know it today seems more developed and advanced than the world we knew a century ago. However, this world harbors many fears and fragilities, some of which have shaped our collective reality in new and previously unthought ways. We are living through a COVID-19 pandemic and the augmented reality it has created; there is elevated social distress that yields social uprisings and instability along with political polarization. Anxiety grows while we wait for the definition of what will be the "new normal".

The virus causes panic among many, and disdain among others, and while masks become a cry for war, more than 600,000 people are buried in lonely graves. The crisis mirrors the results of misinformation campaigns and rushed vaccines seen during the Great Influenza of 1918-1920, and makes it abundantly clear in Detroit and elsewhere that one hundred years of technological advances were not matched by the equivalent progress in social justice.

In our present context we see multiple examples of fear and fragility: politically inflamed rhetoric polarizes the country; Islam is feared while domestic terrorists brandish guns, plot the kidnapping of Michigan's governor and storm the capitol wearing horned hats and professing faith in QAnon; racial diversity leads to sharp schisms between whites and blacks/browns and there is reciprocal distrust among all racial and ethnic segments of our population. Additionally, women demand their well-deserved and past due respect and challenge the position of overpaid men. Both sexes feel fragilized in times when heteronormative rules are challenged by fluid gender identities.

In times of confinement, generations clash as never before: "boomers" criticize "those lazy millennials"; emotionally detached GenXers try to get along with neighbors, while mildly concerned with their seemingly gender-neutral and entitled Gen Z children, already born holding cell phones in their hands. Clearly, the promised beauty of a more diverse and equalitarian society does not come free from confusion and angst. This "today" is marked by discord and a general feeling of fear and fragility rarely seen so clearly in ruling majorities, but certainly shared by the challenging minorities. Society at large seems to have lost its most elevated search for meaning. Alas, "in chaos nobody is a citizen"<sup>1</sup> and the world belongs to those who "damn the torpedoes"<sup>2</sup> and go full speed ahead – even if in fear of their own accomplishments.

Engaging in our own fear and sense of fragility breaks us down to our most vulnerable core, exposes our deepest societal truths and eliminates our trusted defenses. Dissecting this age through interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary lenses including anthropologic, artistic, economic, historic, linguistic, psychologic, political, legal, sociologic, or technological viewpoints will lead to a greater understanding of these truths, turning them into the action of transforming fear and fragility into hope and growth.

The Humanities Center invites proposals that address all fears and fragilities discernible in this COVID era, including those exemplified above. All full-time faculty in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences are eligible to apply, except those faculty who received this fellowship within the last two years.

Please apply online at: <https://forms.wayne.edu/5db2f287e0592/>

1. Herbert Vianna in the 2002 song "The Calibre"  
2. Attributed to Admiral David Farragut (1801-1870)

## Deadline:

Friday, March 25, 2022

All WSU full-time faculty in the humanities, arts, and related disciplines are eligible to submit proposals, except those who received a Faculty Fellowship Award from the Center within the last two years

The submission guidelines for this competition and the cover page are available on our website at <https://research2.wayne.edu/hu/m/>

The Center will fund about eight proposals with up to \$6,000 each. Results of the competition will be announced within a month of the closing date. Recipients will be expected to present their findings to date at a Faculty Fellows Conference to be scheduled in April 2023.

The Center will fund about eight proposals with up to \$6,000 each. Results of the competition will be announced within a month of the closing date. Recipients will be expected to present their findings to date at a Faculty Fellows Conference to be scheduled in April 2023.

For more info about the Humanities Center, call (313) 577-5471 or visit <https://research2.wayne.edu/hum/>



# Travel Support for Graduate Students

## Application Guidelines 2021-2022



### PURPOSE

The Humanities Center wishes to encourage graduate students in the Humanities and the Arts to present their research or artistic work at national conferences and exhibitions.

### ELIGIBILITY

All graduate students in the humanities, arts, or related disciplines. Students outside of the traditional humanities should demonstrate that their proposed presentations have significant humanistic or artistic content. The applicant must be the sole presenter, or the principal presenter in a group presentation. In the latter case, only one student will be funded from the group. Only one student per department will be funded to go to a particular conference. We do not fund students participating in graduate student conferences. Graduate students can only receive one award per year.

### FUNDING

The Center will budget up to \$3,000 in the 2020-2021 academic year to support this program. In an effort to spread this funding across the full academic year, the Center will now budget \$1,200 for the Fall Semester, \$1,200 for the Winter Semester and \$600 for the Spring/Summer Semester. Each award recipient will be funded up to \$300 for travel to conferences or exhibitions held nationally or internationally between September 6, 2021 and August 13, 2022.

### GUIDELINES

There is no application form. Each applicant must submit the following before attending the conference:

1. A cover letter including the student's department affiliation, a mailing address and e-mail address, the name and location of the conference to be attended and the dates on which he/she will travel.
2. Evidence that his or her paper/artwork has been accepted by the conference or exhibition. This should take the form of a letter or e-mail to the student from the conference/organizers.
3. An abstract of the paper to be presented or description of the work to be exhibited.
4. A short personal statement indicating the significance of this presentation to the student's future professional career.
5. An itemized estimated budget including, if applicable, financial support from other units.
6. A letter from the student's advisor in support of his/her application

DEADLINES: September 12, 2021 for Fall 2021

December 06, 2021 for Winter 2022

April 9, 2022 for Spring/Summer 2022

### REVIEW

Applications will be reviewed by a committee from the Humanities Center. Decisions will be communicated promptly to applicants.

Please email applications to:

Dr. Walter Edwards: [walter.edwards@wayne.edu](mailto:walter.edwards@wayne.edu)



Humanities Center

Bringing Humanists Together for Collaborative Research

# Humanities Center Brown Bag Colloquium Series 2021-2022



\*Join us on Zoom/ In-person Tues and Weds from 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 919 - 6046 - 0512

Password: 923905

Link: [https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/91960460512?](https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/91960460512?pwd=TkhRV3grMXJaWW12QzY4eTNmNSlWdz09)

[pwd=TkhRV3grMXJaWW12QzY4eTNmNSlWdz09](https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/91960460512?pwd=TkhRV3grMXJaWW12QzY4eTNmNSlWdz09)

\* Because of the COVID 19 pandemic all Fall 2021 Brown Bag talks will be virtual. Depending on the status of the pandemic, speakers may be allowed to choose between virtual and/or on campus talks for the Winter 2022 semester.

## Fall 2021

**September 14: Norah Duncan, Department Chair, Professor Music**

"Give Me Jesus", A Discussion of a collection of Spirituals written during the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter Movement

**September 15: John Corvino, Professor and Dean, Philosophy and Irvin D. Reid Honors College**

TBA

**September 21: Fred Vultee, Associate Professor, Communication**

Seven Things You Won't Believe About This Title: How Media Routines Change and How Audiences Respond

**September 22: Aaron Retish, Associate Professor, History**

TBA

**September 28: Peter Staroverov, Associate Professor, English, Program in Linguistics**

**September 29: Lance Gable, Associate Professor, Law**

Assessing Legal Responses to COVID-19

**October 5: David Goldberg, Associate Professor, African American Studies**  
General Baker Jr: The Evolution of a Revolutionary

**October 6: Suzette Bristol, Graduate Teaching Assistant, English**

Learning the Learner: Labor-Based Grading as a Pathway to Understanding Our Students

**October 12: José Cuello, Associate Professor, History and Latino and Latin American Studies, America's Five Original Sins: Racism, Sexism, Classism, Ageism and a Wild Card Category**

**October 13: Zachary Brewster, Associate Professor, Sociology**

Face Masks and the Color Red: Restaurant Tipping Behaviors During the Pandemic

**October 19: Ljiljana Progovac, Professor, English, Marilyn L. Williamson Distinguished Faculty Fellow**

Language Evolution, Self-Domestication, and Verbal Aggression

**October 20: Nicole Trujillo-Pagan, Associate Professor, Center for Latino/a Studies, Sociology, Marilyn L. Williamson Distinguished Faculty Fellow**

Bordering and Crossing Practices: The Production of Two (New?) Detroit

**October 26: Jonathan Flatley, Professor, English**

TBA

**October 27: R. Khari Brown, Associate Professor, Sociology**

Religion and Black Lives Matter

**November 2: Olivienne Skinner, Assistant Professor, Psychology, Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute**

TBA

**November 3: Fred Pearson and Layton Mandle, Professor and PhD Graduate Student Political Science/Peace and Conflict Studies**

Latest Trends in International Arms Trade and Transfers

**November 9: Bruce Russell, Professor, Philosophy**

Some Thoughts on Reparations and Conscientious Exceptions

**November 10: Hannah Schacter, Assistant Professor, Psychology**

Why Peer Relationships Matter for Adolescent Health

**November 16: Marsha Music, Writer, Cultural Historian, and Former Labor Organizer**

TBA

**November 17: Kyu-Nahm Jun, Associate Professor, Political Science**

Fiscal Crisis, Austerity, and the Prospects of Participatory Governance: Evidence from U.S. Municipalities

**November 30: Antiracist Language and Literacy Practices Working Group**

Faculty and Student Attitudes and Experiences with Diverse Language and Literacy Practices: Findings from a Pilot Study

**December 1: Francis Shor, Professor Emeritus, History**

Passages of Rebellion

**December 7: Stine Eckert, Associate Professor, Communication**

TBA

**December 8: Simone Chess, Director of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies**

TBA

**December 14: Jaime Goodrich, Professor, English**

The Experiences of Transgender Patients and Physician Willingness to Provide Health Care

**January 12: John Wolf, Full Theatre and Dance and CFPCA**

Building a Performing Arts Center - The Process, the Challenges, the Joy

**January 18: M. L. Liebler, Senior Lecturer, English**

Hound Dog: Rock, Revolution & Redemption: A Poet's Memoir

**January 19: Mark A. Jackson, Director, APEX Scholars**

Ready (or not) For College? A Discussion of Structured Support by the APEX Scholars Program

**January 25: Kypros Markou, Professor, Music**

Interpreting Music: Challenges, Methods, Possibilities

**January 26: Adrienne Jankens, Assistant Professor English & Clay Walker, Senior Lecturer, English**

Collaborative Research in the Humanities

**February 1: Elizabeth Evans, Associate Professor, English**

TBA

**February 2: Ewa Golebiowska, Professor, Political Science**

Membership in a stigmatized religious minority and political support: Nonbelievers running for office in the United States

**February 8: Jennifer Mendez, Faculty, Administrator, School of Medicine, Grace Serra, Art Curator/Coordinator, University Art Collection and Holly Feen-Calligan, Associate Professor, Coordinator of Art Therapy**

Using Visual Thinking Strategies to Enhance Observation Skills Through Art and Imaging

**February 9: Rahul Mitra, Associate Professor, Communication**

TBA

**February 15: Ronald Aronson, Emeritus Professor, History**

TBA

**February 16: Victor Figueroa, Professor, CMLLC**

TBA

**February 22: renee c. hoogland, Professor, English**

TBA

**February 23: Alisa Moldavanova, Associate Professor, Political Science**

The Boundaries of Art and Society: Sustainability Lessons from the Performing Arts

**March 2: Anne E. Duggan, Professor, CMLLC**

TBA

**March 8: Isaac Pickell, PhD Candidate, English**

TBA

**March 9: Elizabeth D. Lublin, Associate Professor, History**

Tobacco: A Monopoly Case Study from Meiji Japan

**March 22: Shelby Cadwell, PhD Candidate, English**

NeoAfrofuturist Ecologies

**March 23: Holly Caligan, Associate Professor, Education**

Using Visual Thinking Strategies to Enhance Observation Skills Through Art and Imaging

**March 30: Glenn Weisfeld, Professor Emeritus, Psychology**

Your Emotions and Why You Have Them

**March 31: Janet Hankin, Professor, Sociology**

Impact of the Pandemic on America's Health Care System

**April 5: Ty Partridge, Associate Professor, Psychology**

TBA



**April 6: renee c. hoogland, Professor, English, Vice Chair, Academic Senate**

TBA

**April 12: Mark Satta, Assistant Professor, Philosophy**

Hostility to Religion: A Case Study of Conceptual Ethics in Supreme Court Jurisprudence

**April 13: Damecia Donahue, Librarian III, University Libraries**

Using Narrative Inquiry to Explore EDI in Libraries

**April 19: Elia Hoehauser-Thatcher, PhD Student, English**

My Story, Your Story, Counterstory: Teaching Critical Race Theory in Basic Writing (ENG 1010)

**April 20: Caitlin Cassidy, PhD Candidate, Anthropology**

Physician Experiences of Medical Aid in Dying: What Do We Know and Where Do We Go From Here?

**April 26: Walter Lucken IV, Graduate Teaching Assistant, English**

Carceral Chronotopes: The Abolitionist Horizon in Rhetoric and Writing Studies

# WORKING GROUPS



Application Deadline: September 10, 2021

## DESCRIPTION

The Humanities Center announces the continuation of its program for working groups in the arts and humanities. The purpose of the program is to bring together faculty and advanced graduate students to explore shared scholarly or creative interests. Groups will meet regularly to share work in progress, to read and discuss texts, and otherwise address issues that arise in their own work or in the increasingly interdisciplinary humanistic and creative fields. Group members must be drawn from at least two humanities or arts departments. To participate in this program, three or more core faculty members should submit a proposal following the guidelines below.

A typical working group would consist of several faculty, or faculty and graduate students, organized around a topic or theme chosen by the core members. Topics or themes could reflect any humanities or artistic interest, but those that have an interdisciplinary scope are particularly encouraged. **Each funded working group would be expected to submit a brief year-end report and give a public Brown Bag presentation sponsored by the Humanities Center.**



## ELIGIBILITY

Groups of three or more Wayne State University faculty, or faculty and advanced graduate students, in the humanities, arts, and related disciplines willing to commit to regular meetings throughout the academic year are encouraged to submit proposals. The Center will give favorable consideration to newly formed working groups.

## FUNDING

In 2021-2022 the Humanities Center will fund up to five working groups by making available a maximum of \$800.00 each for three new groups and \$600.00 each for two continuing groups. Funded working groups will be able to use their grants for photocopying, inviting speakers, and other organizational expenses. The Center will give preference to new working groups. The Center is willing to help groups find meeting places in the Faculty/Administration Building.

## GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals for new working groups should consist of:

1. A brief (1-2 page) summary of the issues or theme the group proposes to address, the relevance of that theme to the humanistic and/or artistic fields, and ways in which the group intends to address that issue or theme.
2. The names, departmental affiliations, and contact information for core members of the proposed group and names of potential participants.
3. An estimated budget, listing any planned projects and expenses.

Proposals for continuing groups should consist of a 1-2 page summary of the group's progress in the previous year and the direction in which the group wishes to proceed; as well as items (2) and (3) listed above. Preference will be given to proposals for new groups.

**Proposals should be submitted no later than September 10, 2021 for consideration for the 2021-2022 academic year. Proposals should be sent to Walter F. Edwards, [walter.edwards@wayne.edu](mailto:walter.edwards@wayne.edu)**



656 Reuther Mall #2226  
Phone: 313-577-5471  
Fax: 313-577-2843

*Bringing Humanists  
Together for  
Collaborative Research*

Working Groups  
currently  
supported by  
the Humanities  
Center

**Arts Connect: Forging Links and Bridging Divides through the Transformative Power of Arts and Humanities Research Detroit, Reimagined**

**Historical Consciousness in Journalism**

**Photographic Representation of Detroit**

**Group for Early Modern Studies (GEMS)**

**Writing and Resilience**

**Embodying Liberation: An exploration of political resistance through the performing arts**

## The Humanities Center Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

The Humanities Center and the Graduate School are happy to announce the continuation of their collaboration on funding the **Humanities Center Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for the 2021-2022 Academic Year**. This annual fellowship will award **\$15,000** to a humanities or arts doctoral candidate in the final stages of writing his/her dissertation. The applicant must already be in the process of writing the dissertation and must complete all requirements, including the final defense, by the end of the **Spring/Summer semester** or shortly thereafter. The fellowship award will be dispensed as biweekly stipends between January and August.

Up to **three smaller awards of \$500** each could be made to other applicants at the discretion of the sponsors.

Applicants for this fellowship must be doctoral candidates preparing dissertations in the humanities, arts, or related disciplines. These disciplines include philosophy, languages, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, the arts, those aspects of social sciences that have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods, and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment.

To be eligible for the Humanities Center dissertation fellowship, an applicant must be enrolled in good standing as a PhD candidate in a humanities, social science or arts discipline at WSU; must have the dissertation topic, outline, and prospectus approved by his/her dissertation committee, and by the Graduate School by the application deadline; and must have completed all requirements for the PhD, except the dissertation. The recipient of the fellowship cannot hold a teaching position or have other major employment during the tenure of the fellowship.

Applications may be downloaded in PDF format from the Humanities Center Website at [www.research2.wayne.edu/hum](http://www.research2.wayne.edu/hum), or picked up from the Humanities Center at 2226 Faculty/Administration Building. For more information, contact the Humanities Center by email: Dr. Walter Edwards, Director at [walter.edwards@wayne.edu](mailto:walter.edwards@wayne.edu).



**Apply by:  
October 15, 2021**

*Jointly sponsored by the  
Humanities Center and the  
Graduate School*

Humanities Center  
2226 Faculty Administration Bldg.  
Detroit, MI 48202  
Phone (313) 577-5471  
Fax (313) 577-2843





## HUMANITIES CENTER 2021-2022 VIRTUAL BOOK LAUNCH

In the winter semester of 2021, the Humanities Center embarked on a new initiative to contribute to conversation in the Humanities and to celebrate the scholarship of Wayne State University faculty by sponsoring two virtual book launches. Thanks to the success of those, the Humanities Center is continuing this program during the 2021-2022 academic year. All faculty in the Humanities regardless of rank who have published a book since November 2020 are eligible to submit self-nominations for the next two launches, to be held in October and November 2021 respectively. A call for winter term launches will follow in December.

If you are interested in participating in this initiative, please submit the information listed below to Elizabeth Lublin ([elublin@wayne.edu](mailto:elublin@wayne.edu)) and Walter Edwards ([walter.edwards@wayne.edu](mailto:walter.edwards@wayne.edu)) by **September 7th**:

- Your name, University position, Department affiliation, and email address
- The title of your book, the name of the publisher, and the date of publication
- A one-paragraph synopsis of the book for advertising purposes
- The name and contact information for your marketing contact at your press, if you have one
- The name and contact information for your Department chair if co-sponsoring the launch



Decisions will be made by **September 17th**, and the two faculty members selected for the virtual book launches will thereafter be asked to arrange for moderators who are specialists in their field and to help the Humanities Center in promoting the events through professional listservs, blogs, and other social media on which they participate. The day and time for the launch will be set in consultation, and the Humanities Center will handle other logistics as needed.

# Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship

**Deadline: February 18, 2022**

Thanks to a generous endowment provided by former Provost Marilyn L. Williamson, the Humanities Center offers an annual Distinguished Faculty Fellowship to tenured faculty (associate and full professors) in the humanities as defined by the NEH, the arts and related disciplines. The award of this single \$20,000 fellowship is based on the merit of the individual research project proposed for the fellowship term; on the exceptional contribution the proposed project will make to the humanities and its potential for scholarly recognition and publication, exhibition or performance; and on two external recommendations in support of the project. The endowment provides funds to offer two fellowships every third year. Consistent with the mission of the Humanities Center, interdisciplinary proposals are particularly encouraged, although all distinguished projects in the humanities will be fully considered. The fellowship recipient will be asked to share results of the funded research in an award lecture to be organized during the year of (or following) the fellowship term.

## Funding

The Center will fund one proposal annually, but with the intention every third year to open the competition to two such awards. Applicants should limit their total budgets to \$20,000, and should prepare a budget statement which includes expenses related to a specific research project, e.g. travel, research assistance, salary and fringe benefits.

## Conditions

1. All tenured W SU full-time faculty in the humanities as defined by the NEH, the arts and related disciplines are eligible to submit proposals, except faculty who received a research award, whether external or internal, of \$20,000 or more in the previous two years.
2. A faculty member may submit one proposal for which he or she is the sole applicant.
3. Approved projects must be completed within three years, and a complimentary copy of the final product (book, article, exhibition catalog, video, etc.) must be submitted to the Humanities Center.
4. Requests for course buyouts and summer salary supplements must be approved by the recipient's college and follow college guidelines.
5. The fellowship recipient will be asked to share results of the funded research in an award lecture to be organized during the year of (or following) the fellowship term.
6. Recipients must submit bi-annual interim reports on their approved projects to the Humanities Center through the project's completion.
7. Recipients are encouraged to participate in activities sponsored by the Humanities Center.

## Guidelines for proposals

Each proposal must consist of a narrative of not more than twelve double-spaced pages (excluding the application cover page), a detailed budget (explaining the budget information requested on the application cover page), and the professional record of the applicant.

The body of the proposal must include the following elements:

1. A completed application cover page with all required signatures (not part of the twelve-page limit).  
*Note: in the case that a department head is applying for a fellowship, he or she should obtain the signature of his or her dean.*
2. The applicant's name, and his or her discipline corresponding to the project.
3. A project narrative of no more than twelve pages, which includes:
  - statement of purpose
  - description of the preliminary hypotheses
  - theoretical framework
  - research methodology
  - possible outcomes of the project, with publication and future research plans, if follow-up studies are anticipated
  - contribution that the project will make to the profession and to the applicant's career
4. A bibliography or list of relevant sources, not to exceed one page (included in the twelve-page limit).
5. A detailed budget and justification by category (in addition to the budget summary on the application cover page). Summer salary, if requested, and fringe benefits costs for all relevant employees must also be included in the total budget request.
6. A list of awards and fellowships received over the last five years
7. The professional record and contact information of the applicant.
8. Two external letters of recommendation in support of the project proposed for the fellowship. The letters must arrive by the deadline.

Fourteen (14) copies of the application and professional record should be submitted to the Director, Humanities Center, by 5:00 PM on **February 18, 2022**. Each application must have an application coversheet. The application cover sheet is available online: <https://research2.wayne.edu/hum/>

The Humanities Center  
Attn: Walter F. Edwards, Director  
2226 Faculty/Administration  
Building



Wayne State University  
(Photo: [WSUOaklandclosing2.jpg \(1200×752\) \(candgnews.com\)](#))

# HUMANITIES CENTER



## **Bringing Humanists Together for Collaborative Research**

The Humanities Center 2020-2021 Annual Report Designed and Formatted By:

Tiffin Carter and Kennedy Cockrel

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