

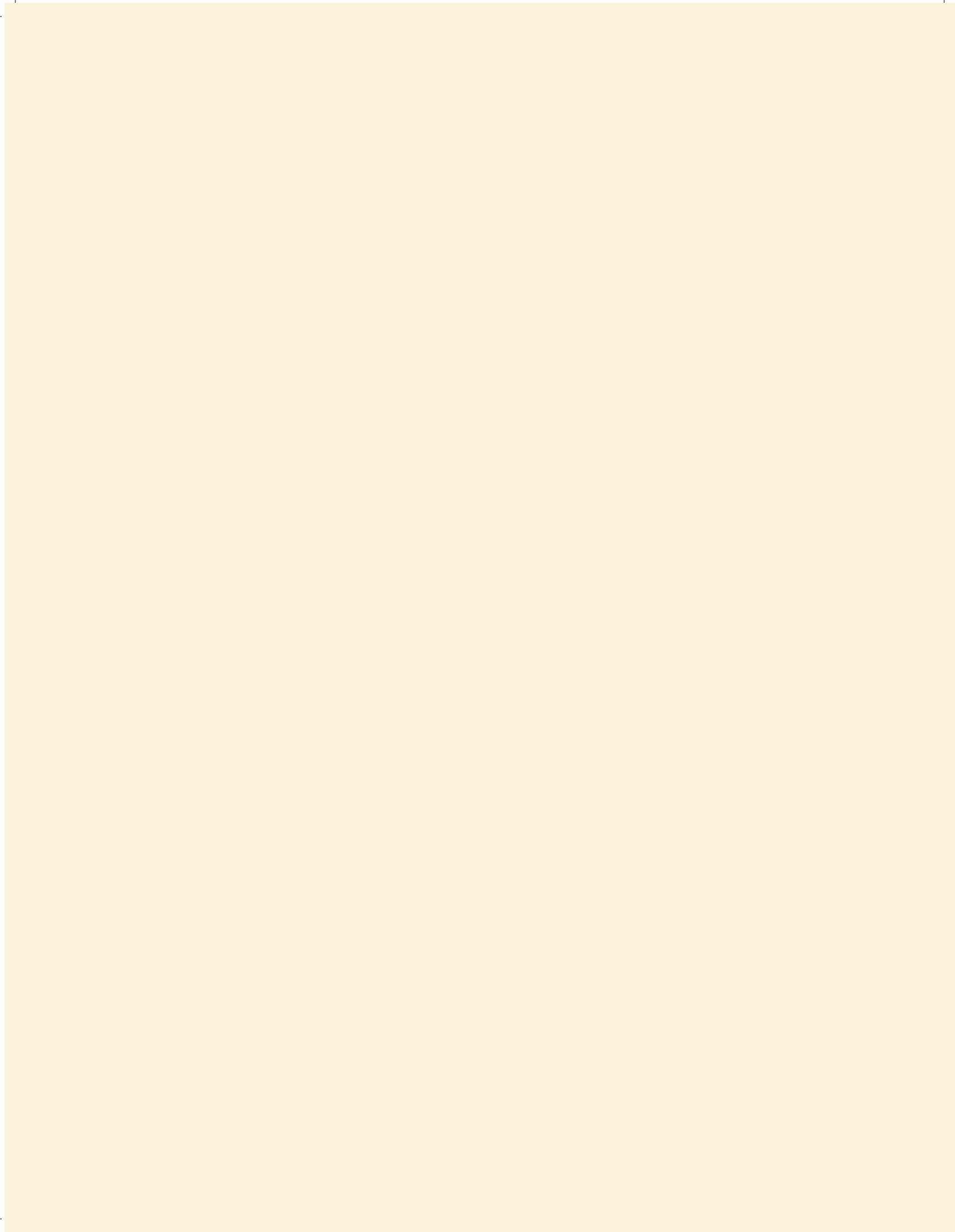


WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



# HUMANITIES CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



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Urban Studies & Planning

Cheryl Turski  
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Yunshuang Zhang  
Assistant Professor, CMLLC

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## ***Staff, 2022-2023***

Jaime Goodrich  
Director

Ariel Ferguson  
Administrative Assistant

Samyak Kabure  
Student Research Assistant

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# Mission Statement

The Humanities Center serves as a campus-wide hub for Wayne State faculty and students working in the humanities, arts, and related disciplines. Through its events and fellowships, the Center pursues three major goals: 1) to nurture scholarly and creative work in the humanities and allied fields; 2) to promote intellectual exchanges relevant to the humanities; 3) to facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration and community. The Center also aims to encourage public humanities initiatives that will allow Wayne State faculty and students to conduct innovative community-based work, especially in the Detroit metro area and Michigan. With its various programs, the Center brings together humanists of all kinds to showcase the centrality of the humanities to our contemporary moment.

Above:  
Ariel Ferguson (left)  
Jaime Goodrich (right)



# Year of Transition



Above:  
Dr. Walter Edwards (left)  
Jaime Goodrich (right)

On September 1, 2022, the Humanities Center entered a new era as Dr. Walter F. Edwards, its founding director, handed over the keys to his successor, Dr. Jaime Goodrich. Dr. Edwards served as the director for 28 years, transforming the fledgling Humanities Center into a mainstay of campus life for faculty in the humanities, social sciences, and arts. Not only did Dr. Edwards play an important role in the conception of the Center under President David Adamany, but he also ushered the Center through its initial chartering. The Center's signature programs were developed under Dr. Edwards's careful guidance, most notably the Brown Bag Colloquium Series, the Faculty Fellowships, the Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships, and the Williamson Fellowship. Legendary for both his unstinting bonhomie and his effusive introductions of speakers, Dr. Edwards also deserves recognition and gratitude for his work to establish and run the Center, which is now an essential piece of the university's research infrastructure in the humanities, social sciences, and arts. We thank him for his invaluable leadership and support for the humanities, and we wish him well as he returns to the classroom this fall!

# Director's Message



It is with a mixture of gratitude and pleasure that I write this report on my first year as the Director of the Humanities Center. I must begin by thanking Provost Mark Kornbluh for appointing me to this position. I am indebted to Dr. Walter F. Edwards, the Center's founding director, for his generosity and kindness in answering my many questions and for his work to create a Center that has become so important for the intellectual lives of faculty, students, and staff. I am very grateful to this year's Advisory Board members for their advice and help in rethinking the Center's operations and judging our fellowship competitions. Finally, I must thank Ariel Ferguson and Samyak Kabure, the Center's personnel. Without their important contributions, the Center would not be able to accomplish all that it does.

2022-23 marked the 29th year of the Center's existence, ushering in a period of reflection and transition. The Provost charged me with rechartering the Center, and I took a three-pronged approach to gathering data: 1) program research into 29 humanities centers at peer or aspirational universities; 2) a listening tour with university stakeholders; 3) an anonymous survey of humanities faculty.

I am pleased to say that our Humanities Center has many strengths. Its range of programs is on par with other centers nationwide (notably, faculty fellowships, a dissertation grant, and working groups). Our Brown Bag Series is particularly notable since few other centers sponsor regular talks by faculty, staff, and graduate students. The Center also enjoys a tremendous amount of support from faculty in the humanities and fine arts. Several key themes emerged in the listening tour and survey, including the Center's importance in funding humanities research, its role as an intellectual home for humanities scholars, and its ability to create interdisciplinary community spanning the university. I was inspired to see that so many of us share my conviction that the Humanities Center is essential to what we do as humanities scholars, and to the overall success of the university.

At the same time, my research identified a few areas that could be improved. Most centers nationwide award residential faculty fellowships rather than summer money. Unlike leading peer and aspirational centers, our Humanities Center does not have a signature public humanities initiative. In both the listening tour and the anonymous survey, faculty noted the relatively small pots of money available through the Center, the inadvertent restrictiveness of the Center's annual themes, the large number of Brown Bag talks, and the awkward timing of the dissertation award (Winter and Spring/Summer). Faculty repeatedly

expressed interest in ways that the Center could assist with grant writing, undergraduate recruitment, faculty collaboration, and community engagement. Respondents also shared their concerns about the amount and stability of the Center's funding.

Working closely with the Advisory Board, I updated the Center's mission statement (see page 1 of this report) and reworked our funding opportunities so that they better aligned with national models and the needs of our faculty and students. Beginning in academic year 2024-2025, the Center's Faculty Fellowships will be residential and provide recipients with office space and one course release per semester. The Marilyn Williamson Fellowship will provide two to four course releases, an office, and research money. The Doctoral Dissertation fellowship will likewise be residential, include tuition remission, and span the Fall and Winter semesters, allowing the recipient to participate in monthly meetings of our faculty fellows. We also look forward to offering a limited number of summer research fellowships for faculty and graduate students, and we have reduced the number of Working Groups so that each group has increased funding to spend on an event or other tangible outcome. Please note that the deadlines for most of these opportunities have been moved up to the fall semester.

To enhance the Center's role as a place of intellectual community, we will also be making some changes to our programming. In 2023-24, we will host fewer Brown Bag talks to make room for other events: Books in Dialogue, which brings together two or three authors of recently published books; the Humanities Coffee Hour program, which provides opportunities for open discussion of pressing issues in the humanities; and Humanities Center Open Houses, a new drop-in event for faculty and students. In addition, we launched a highly successful Writing Accountability Group this summer, with over 40 participants spread over 11 groups. This coming academic year, we plan to begin a Reading Group program for faculty and staff who would like logistical help in running reading groups. I look forward to evaluating and revising these new events and fellowship opportunities over the coming years.

Looking forward, my main priorities are: 1) to increase the Center's endowment; 2) to develop a major initiative in the public humanities. The Center was established with an endowment of \$3.5M, which has now grown to \$5M. Our annual operating budget is just under \$200K, about 3.8% of the endowment. I aim to double the Center's endowment by pursuing foundation grants for a major public humanities initiative, to be announced soon.

Next year, we will also celebrate the Center's 30th anniversary on February 2, 2024, with a half-day symposium on "Why the Humanities Matter" and a gala. I look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of the Center and its fellowship recipients.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or constructive criticism about the Center, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. I welcome your ideas and feedback.

Read on to learn more about the accomplishments of our fellowship recipients and to learn more about our plans for the next academic year!

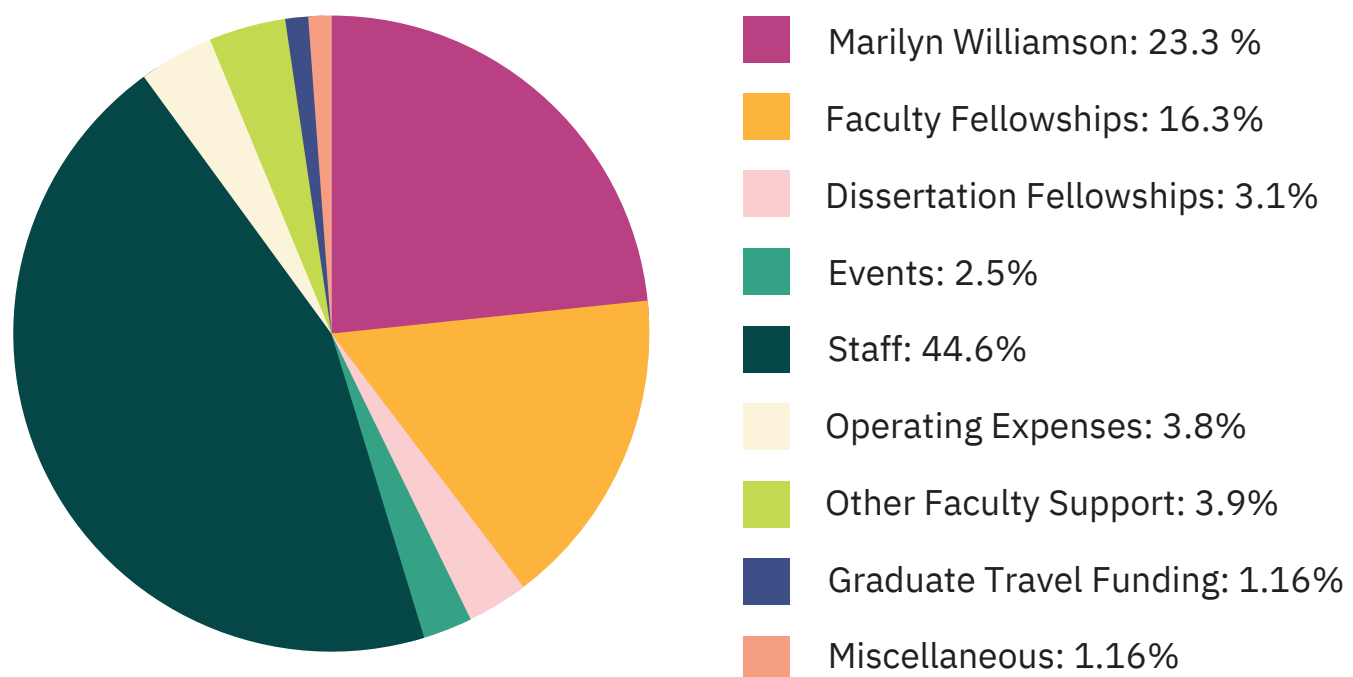


# Financial Overview

The Humanities Center is funded by two endowments. Its principal endowment (\$5 million) generates approximately \$199,000 in funds per year. Additionally, the Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship endowment generates approximately \$20,000 per year in awards that go directly to tenured faculty members.

The Center's spending for academic year 2022-23 was somewhat unusual in that it awarded three Williamson Fellowships. Normally, the Center spends approximately 35.5% of its budget on fellowships and events, 58% of its budget on personnel (including a portion of the director's salary and compensation for the administrative assistant and one student worker). The remaining 6.5% goes toward miscellaneous operational costs, such as telephones, the copier, and computers.

In future years, our aim is to reduce personnel costs to under 50% of the budget (ideally, 45% or less) so that we can increase spending on research support for faculty and graduate students.



**2022-23 EXPENSES (\$257,600)**

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# Fellowship & Funding Opportunities

# Faculty Fellows

Each year, the Humanities Center hosts a Faculty Fellowship competition that provides full-time faculty with summer funding to help pay for expenses related to research projects.

## Fear and Fragility in the Covid-19 Era

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.





## Lauren Duquette-Rury

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**Associate Professor, Sociology**

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*"Naturalizing under Threat: Citizenship in the Age of Immigration Enforcement"*

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This book project explores why some of the 9.3 million lawful permanent residents in the US delay or forego citizenship despite being eligible for naturalization. While previous studies have looked at the material and symbolic resources that affect naturalization, this project focuses on the motivation dimension, specifically sociopolitical threats from restrictive immigration legislation, anti-immigrant rhetoric, and enforcement at the local, state, and national level. Using qualitative interviews with Latino/a/x and Arab-origin immigrants in California, New Mexico, Texas, and Michigan, the project examines how citizenship has become more critical as a form of protection and security in the current age of enforcement.



## Lauren Kalman

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**Associate Professor, Fine Art**

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*"To Have or To Hold..."*

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To Have or To Hold... is a visual artwork that is a meditation on building, control, and destruction. The desire to hold close. The ability to smother. To Have or to Hold... is derived from the marriage vows "...to have and to hold... until death do us part..." I produce wheel thrown ceramic vessels that I distort through holding or compressing in the negative spaces of my body. The ceramic vessels are derived from historic or archetypal vessels used to hold materials related to the body, water, food, and ashes for example. The carefully controlled form of the vessel is lost with the imprint of the body leaving both a permanent distortion of the original form and the lasting imprint of the absent body.



## Shirin Montazer

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**Associate Professor, Sociology**

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*"Fear in the Time of COVID-19: The Effect of the Pandemic on the Mental Health of Employed Adults in the U.S."*

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The COVID-19 pandemic caused major negative economic and work conditions globally, leading to structural changes in the labor market and within task characteristics of occupations. Measures put in place to control the pandemic led to financial fallout and job loss for many individuals in the United States, resulting in heightened psychological health problems among many who remained employed. This research aims to analyze whether perceived work-related demands associated with social change in the context of the pandemic relate to psychological distress among employed adults in dual-earning relationships living in the US. Findings suggest that the pandemic's negative impact on the employed occurred through its translation into more negative proximal opportunity structures in the context of work.





Jessica Moorman

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**Assistant Professor, Communication**

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*"Living Singlehood: The Values & Strategies Sustaining Black Women in Contemporary Singlehood"*

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Black women in the US have a high rate of single status, but there is little research on how they define singlehood for themselves. This creates a gap in understanding the lives of single Black women, and popular discourse often reinforces negative stereotypes. To address this gap, 51 semi-structured interviews were conducted with single, cisgender Black women living in Detroit. Participants enacted a range of strategies in unmarried life, including strategic singlehood. Findings suggest that singlehood is socialized through scripting and gendered racial socialization processes, influenced by media, family advice, and shifting gender roles for women. This research suggests new directions for policy and further research.



Pradeep Sopory

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**Professor, Communication**

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*"Discourse of Violence, Anger, Fear, and Fragility: Mapping Metaphor Use at the Intersection of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Elections in India"*

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This study analyzes how metaphors are used in political discourse during India's Covid-19 pandemic elections to influence public opinion. Metaphors such as "fighting a war" link with violence, anger, and fear to create a reasoning structure for political claims of fragility and authenticity. This metaphorical scaffold supports arguments of stigmatization, religious division, and dissent suppression, making them appear reasonable and widely accepted in the electorate. The study reveals how a set of metaphors work together to create a coherent web of implied meanings in political discourse and contributes to metaphor research, offering a better understanding of the cognitive and social dimensions of India's current political discourse.



Sarah Swider

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**Associate Professor, Sociology**

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*"Love's story: Legitimizing, Legislating and Liminal-love among Unmarried Binational Relationships during a Global Pandemic"*

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This is a study of love during the pandemic. It is a case study of those in unmarried/unregistered cross-national relationships. Lockdowns and mobility restrictions threatened these relationships because the people in these relationships could not traverse borders to be together. Unlike marriages and registered partnerships, which are state-sanctioned or recognized, couples couldn't unite because it was not considered "essential travel." Facing this threat, couples who were separated by travel bans formed a social movement. Their digital organizing and social actions successfully convinced some countries that their travel should be considered essential.



# Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

The Humanities Center and The Graduate School continued their collaboration on funding for our Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. This fellowship awards \$15,000 to a humanities or arts doctoral candidate in the final stages of writing their dissertation. This fellowship also provides smaller awards of up to \$3,000 for runners-up. Recipients are already in the process of writing their dissertation and must complete the final defense by the end of the Spring/Summer semester or shortly after.

Below:

Jorge Chinaea, Eric Ash, Erik Noren, Karen Marrero, and Krysta Ryzewski at Dr. Noren's defense





## Recipient: Erik Noren

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### History

Advisor: Dr. Eric Ash

*Antiguan Elite Culture: Planter Identity Formation from 1750-1840*

My dissertation explores one of the most transformative eras of Antigua's colonial history through a close examination of the dominating planter class, relying on a variety of interdisciplinary methodologies in addition to the traditional documentary evidence gathered and utilized by historians. This project provides an analysis of Antiguan Creole planter culture during a formative period that interprets planter identity and society in terms of race, gender, and class to explore how this singular group of people came to be and how they fit within the British Empire. The first chapter begins with an assessment of the geopolitical environment of Antigua and explores how the island colony was a crucial hub within the British imperial maritime economy and naval sphere of influence in the West Indies. In subsequent chapters the dissertation explores key subjects such as the roles that elite planters held in managing plantation economies while also being owners and managers of enslaved people. This leads to further study of the nuances of race-based hierarchies imbedded within plantation society and the overtly masculinized practices of the colonial elite in their interactions with indigenous peoples. The dissertation's final chapter examines how the planter class responded to the slavery debate and how they wrestled with the major challenges present to their way of life in the last decades leading up to abolition



## Honorable Mention: Caitlin Cassady

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### Social Work and Anthropology

Advisors: Dr. Andrea Sankar and Dr. Faith Hopp

*Medical Aid in Dying: Physician Beliefs, Practices, and Respect for Autonomy*

Medical aid in dying (MAiD), where people with a terminal prognosis receive a legal, lethal dose of medication from a physician with the purpose of ending their life, is now legal in ten states and Washington, D.C. Little is known about how MAiD is practiced, the ethical issues physicians face, and the contexts in which they develop ideas and beliefs about practice. The goal of this project is to develop empirical knowledge of debates, practices, physician beliefs, ethical stances and manifestations of respect for autonomy in the practice of MAiD and the contexts in which these form. Using serial interviews and participant observation, this study will contribute new insights into medical practice at the end of life and death experiences that can be used to improve training and care.



The Resident Scholars program creates a community of humanities and art faculty from different disciplines working in the same physical space at roughly the same time. This arrangement has facilitated the formation of valuable research networks and promoted interdisciplinary collaborations. Resident Scholars meet once a month to share progress, experiences, and emerging conclusions.

# Resident Scholars





## Joan Beaudoin

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**Associate Professor, School of Information Sciences**

### **Documenting Detroit's Murals**

Participating in the Humanities Center's Resident Scholars program during the 2022-2023 academic year was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had while at the University. Through the Humanities Center I found the support, camaraderie, and exchange of ideas that for me are the hallmarks of scholarly excellence at an institution. The project focused on documenting Detroit's rich mural and graffiti arts. Visual documentation consisted of site visits to photograph the walls. Images were assessed for quality and the best of these were processed using Photoshop Elements. The intellectual documentation of the walls consisted of performing research to collect information about the artists, the subject matter of the walls, the varied patterns of support and sponsorship, the techniques employed for image-making, and the historical contexts of the walls' locations. Simultaneously a bibliography was developed on the topic of contemporary mural arts with a focus on the impact of these works on their communities. Some of the work completed while in residence in the Humanities Center was presented through a tour of the murals in the Eastern Market area as a part of the Humanities Center's Faculty Fellowship Conference in April.



## Cassandra Davis

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**Assistant Professor, Marketing and Supply Chain Management**

### **Investigating how Overweight Consumers Respond to Marketing Cues that Emphasize a Weight-Neutral Health Evaluation**

I appreciated my time as a 2022-2023 Resident Scholar and the fellowship I experienced within the group and within the humanities as a whole. There are several benefits that I could highlight but I'll try to focus on the benefits to me as a person and a scholar. First, I appreciated the opportunity to learn and engage with people outside my discipline. My primary reasons for entering academia were my curiosity and pleasure in learning new things. My time with the other fellows was spent learning about the people in the group and their research interests, which were varied and fascinating. As an assistant professor, I have had to primarily focus on reading and learning within my discipline and within my own research stream. So, it was wonderful to interact with brilliant people working on interesting research. Second, the fellowship helped me move my research forward quite a bit. While a scholar, I had the opportunity to revise and resubmit a manuscript and submit two additional manuscripts to respected journals in my field. I attribute a portion of my success to the intellectual stimulation I received from our monthly meetings. As scholars, we often spend our time reading within our own disciplines and niches, but this fellowship provided me the opportunity to appreciate interdisciplinary knowledge exchange.



## Michael Fuhlhage

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**Associate Professor, Communication**

**Investigating the Ways Journalists Characterize Mexicans and Mexican Americans in Their Newswriting for Periodicals and Exploring the Ways Dime Fiction Authors Characterize Mexicans and Mexican Americans**

My position as a Humanities Center Resident Scholar helped me keep grounded in the campus community during my sabbatical in fall 2022. The eclectic cohort of scholars at our monthly meetings kept me in touch with the variety of approaches to research in the humanities and gave me a sounding board for my project on news organizations' apologies for their role in systemic racism. I'm thankful to Dr. Jaime Goodrich for the atmosphere of good humor and curiosity that she has sustained in the Humanities Center's transition from Dr. Walter Edwards' leadership.



## Sharon Lean

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**Associate Professor and Chair, Political Science**

**Institutionalizing Accountability: Oversight Institutions and the Challenger of Democratic Governance in Latin America**

Highlights of my residency as a Humanities Center scholar this year include the Detroit mural tour, participating in the new dissertation support group, and my summer writing accountability group. I also got a good deal more research done than I would normally be able to in any given academic year, because the center provided me with the time and space to stay focused. In the fall, I completed and published one article, and in winter term I made significant progress on a second. The first, "Asserting Integrity in Mexico's Civic Sector," was published in *Public Administration and Development* in January 2023. Throughout the fall my co-author, graduate student Evan Bitzarakis, and I used the main conference table in the Humanities Center to work together on this piece, and we greatly benefitted from the quiet workspace and plenty of room to collaborate. I shared a draft of the second article, "Unpacking social accountability: autonomous public agencies and their civic defenders in Mexico," with the resident scholars' group in April. Feedback and questions from the group were incredibly helpful, particularly since I am using a content analysis method. My fellow resident scholars from Communications were able to help me clarify my methods and the group also solved the challenge of naming one of my coding categories. Humanities Center support helped me to stay on track with this second piece during a busy semester and as a result, I was ready to present it at the Latin American Studies Association Annual Meeting at the end of May 2023. Revisions are in progress! Finally, research funding from the Humanities Center associated with the resident scholar position allowed me to hire a graduate research assistant over the summer to help with data collection to finalize the second paper, and to resume data collection for a third paper.





## Rahul Mitra

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**Associate Professor, Communication**

**Detroit Water Stories: Grassroots Organizing for Water Security**

I am grateful to the Humanities Center for hosting me as a Resident Scholar during the 2022-2023 academic year. During this time, I was able to produce a detailed plan for my in-progress monograph, and was able to receive some critical feedback from the other Resident Scholars. I appreciated the fellowship that this program facilitates among interdisciplinary scholars and loved being able to discuss our work with each other and forge meaningful connections. I applied for and obtained a university-wide Career Development Chair Award for 2023-2024, to continue working on my monograph, and the insights from the Humanities Center residency helped me immensely. I was also introduced to incoming faculty in the departments of Anthropology and History through my colleagues at the Center. I collaborated on a grant proposal with one of these contacts, along with Center Director Dr. Jaime Goodrich, and was asked to deliver a talk on my research at a symposium at the University of Berkeley California. During the 2023 summer semester, I will be writing that talk into a research paper that will be published in a special issue of the journal *Advances in Global Health* (University of California Press). Finally, I deeply appreciate the office space and work facilities made available to Resident Scholars by the Humanities Center. In my office at 2226 FAB, not only did I work on my monograph, I also did much of the prep-work required for an international teaching opportunity in Shanghai, China scheduled for June 2023, and also gathered my graduate student coauthors to work with me on a journal article to be submitted in August 2023.



## Anita Mixon

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**Assistant Professor, Communication**

**The Political Frontier is Urban & Black: The Rhetoric of Black Womanhood as Agents of Change and Life and Death: Black Motherhood in Crisis**

This summary report outlines work completed while in residence with the Humanities Center. My residency centered on my book project. I revamped the book and framed it based on feedback from the residence in scholar group. I rewrote two chapters, "Policing and Community Safety: An Unequal Balancing Act" and "Black Womanhood and Mothering." I also attended the Rhetoric Society of America's (RSA) biennial conference, May 25 – May 27, 2023, as a part of RSA Supersessions to discuss the framing of my book and to workshop the chapters. In sum, the Humanities Center residency provided an opportunity for me to advance the work on my book project and to present tangible work at my discipline's national conference. I am hoping to use the remaining time this summer to send out the updated chapters as a part of a new proposal.



## Bryan Parkhurst

**Associate Professor of Music Theory and Aural Skills  
Oberlin College**

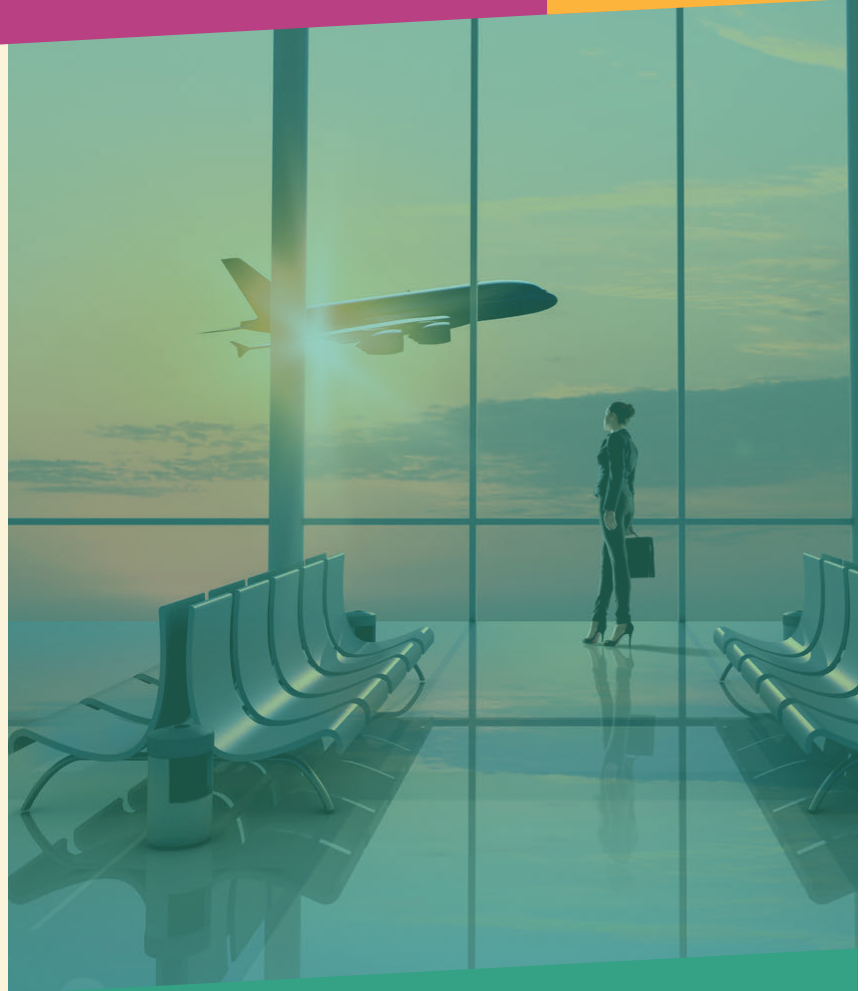
### **Music, Marxism, and Meaning-Making**

I'm so grateful that I got to spend the spring semester of 2023, my tenure sabbatical term, as a Humanities Center Visiting Resident Scholar at Wayne State. The Humanities Center provided a comfortable, peaceful place for me to get my writing done, and I made a lot of progress on various projects. I completed and delivered two new talks and three new articles, and also finished the final edits for a book that will be coming out in August. It was lovely to be able to walk down the hall to attend talks in the Brown Bag Series, and the roundtable discussions I attended were stimulating and collegial. I wish we had a resource like the Humanities Center at my home institution! Many thanks to Jaime Goodrich, Ariel Ferguson, and everyone else for the hospitality.



# Graduate Travel

The Humanities Center budgets up to \$3,000 to encourage graduate students in the humanities and the arts to present their research or artistic work at national conferences and exhibitions. Graduate students outside the humanities are also free to apply if their talks are of particular interest to scholars in the humanities and the arts. The Center offered \$300 in travel assistance to 10 graduate students during this academic year.



# Awardees

## Fall 2022

**Fatima Albrehi, Communication**

National Communication Association 108th Annual Convention: Honoring  
PLACE: People, Liberation, Advocacy, Communication and Environment

**Kate Hoin, CMLLC**

2023 Modern Language Association Annual Convention

**Amber Kelly, Sociology**

Gerontological Society of America 2022 Scientific Meeting

**Christine Nyawaga, Communication**

National Communication Association conference

## Winter 2023

**Ahmed Ahmed, Political Science**

80th Annual Midwest Political Science Association

**Colleen Linn, Anthropology**

2023 Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology

**Kelly Plante, English**

2023 British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

**Ariel Seay-Howard, Communication**

Southern State Communication Conference

## Spring/Summer 2023

**Carly Braxton, English**

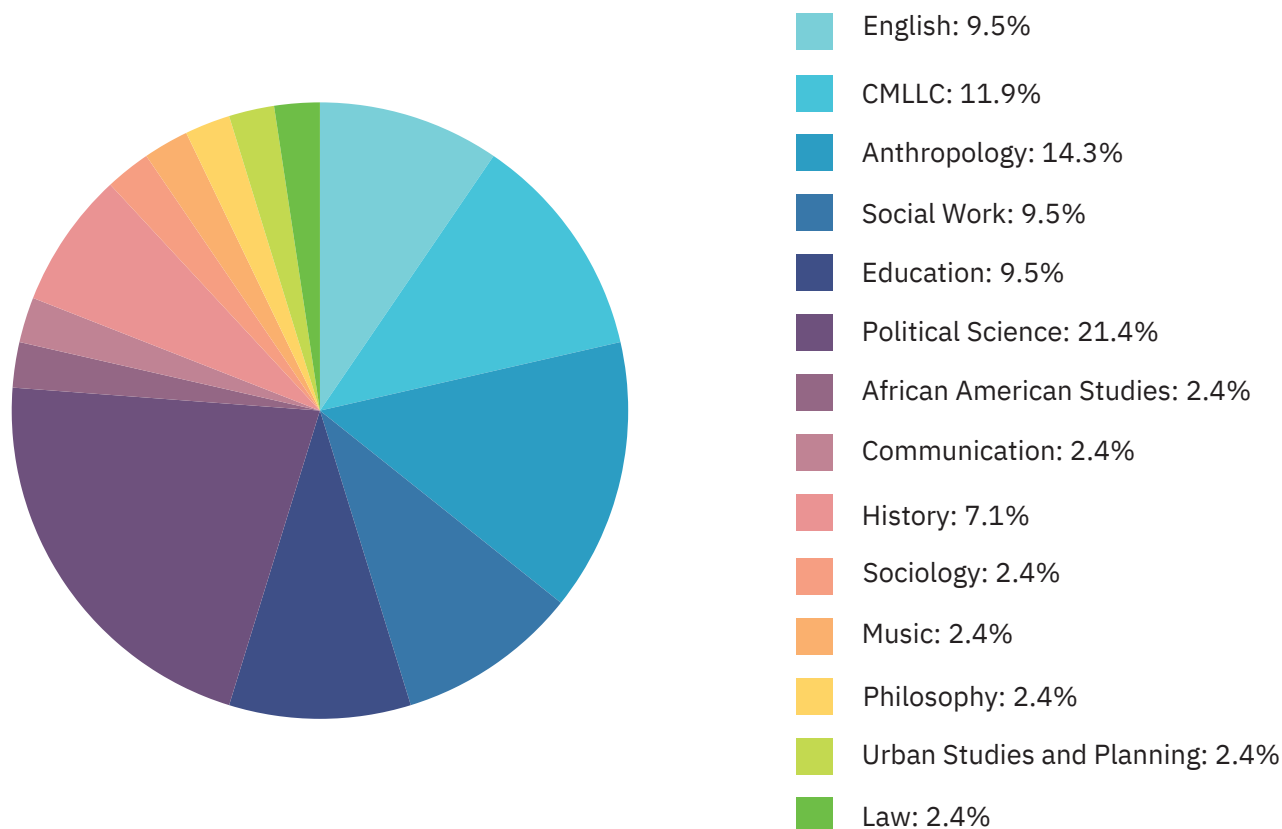
Rhetoric Society of America Institute

**Colleen Hart, English**

Rhetoric Society of America Institute

# Summer Writing Accountability Groups

2023 marked the inauguration of this new program designed to encourage and support the production of scholarly research during the summer months. The Center provided meeting space, refreshments, and logistical assistance for 11 groups, made up of 42 faculty members and advanced graduate students from 14 different disciplines.



**Breakdown of Participants by Department**

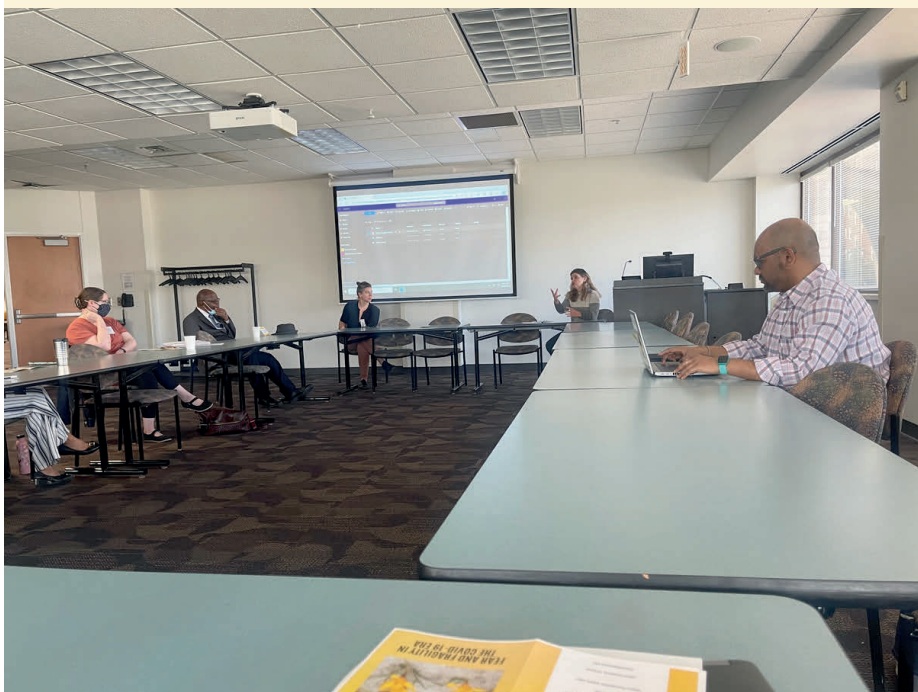


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Events

# Faculty Fellowship Conference

We held our Faculty Fellowship Conference on April 14, 2023. After the speakers' presentations, the group enjoyed a stimulating roundtable discussion exploring the connections between papers, most notably how the fragility of identity and human community leads to fear, on both personal and societal levels.





# Eastern Market Mural Tour

As an addition to our 2023 Faculty Fellowship conference, the Center hosted a Mural Tour given by Dr. Joan Beaudoin (Associate Professor, School of Information Sciences). A 2022-23 Humanities Center Resident Scholar, Professor Beaudoin has been working to document murals around the city of Detroit. Professor Beaudoin led the group on a fascinating tour of murals at Eastern Market, where she delved into the history, composition, and materiality of these important artworks, with special attention to the fragility of murals as an art form.



# Humanities Coffee Hour Series

One of the Humanities Center's newest programs, this series provides faculty, staff, and students with the opportunity to discuss relevant topics of interest within the humanities and adjacent fields. Rather than presenting a paper, the facilitators of these conversations share brief comments intended to open up a free-wheeling conversation about subjects that are timely, provocative, and urgent.

## 2023 Topics:

- AI in Academic Writing
- Dissertation Support Group
- The Humanities and the Battle over DEI
- What to Know before Starting Your Dissertation





# Co-Sponsored Events

## **2022-2023 Co-Sponsored Events**

- Anthropology: *Student Graduate Organization's 10th Annual Transformations Conference on Accessibility*
- African American Studies: *The Artist Must Take Sides, featuring Boots Riley & Tongo Eisen-Martin*
- History: *Society for French Historical Studies Conference*
- Academy of Scholars: *Lecture in Arts and Humanities*

The Humanities Center sets aside a portion of its budget each academic year to support humanities programs and conferences hosted by other units at Wayne State.





# Virtual Book Launch

The Virtual Book Launch initiative was created during the pandemic to contribute to conversations in the humanities and to celebrate scholarship of Wayne State faculty. All faculty in the Humanities, regardless of rank, who published a book between 2020-2023 were eligible to submit their work for this program. In Fall 2022, the Center hosted two Virtual Book Launches.





**October 26, 2022**

Beth Fowler  
Associate Professor of Teaching  
Irvin D. Reid Honors College

*Rock and Roll, Desegregation  
Movements, and Racism in the Post-Civil  
Rights Era: An "Integrated Effort"*

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**November 18, 2022**

Fred Vultee  
Associate Professor, Journalism  
Department of Communication

*A Media Framing Approach to  
Securitization: Storytelling in  
Conflict, Crises and Threat*

# Books in Dialogue



In Winter 2023, we inaugurated our revised book launch program: Books in Dialogue. This program celebrates groups of related publications in both traditional humanities disciplines and humanities-adjacent fields. Sessions are organized around theme or discipline. By bringing together groups of authors, this series aims to foster scholarly conversations across the university.

## Theme: Detroit



Alan Schenk  
Distinguished Professor  
Law

- *Detroit's Wayne State University Law School: Future Leaders in the Legal Community* (WSU Press, 2022)



Francis Shor  
Professor Emeritus  
History

- *Soupy Sales and the Detroit Experience: Manufacturing a Television Personality* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2021)
- 

## Theme: Linguistics



Ljiljana Progovac  
Professor of Linguistics  
English and Linguistics

- *A Critical Introduction to Language Evolution: Current Controversies and Future Prospects* (Springer, 2019)



Margaret Winters & Geoffrey Nathan  
Professor Emeritus  
English and Linguistics

- *Cognitive Linguistics for Linguists* (Springer, 2020)



# Theme: Gender, Space, and Genre Across Time



Anne Duggan  
Professor  
French

- General editor of *A Cultural History of Fairy Tales*, 6 vols (Bloomsbury, 2021)
- Co-editor of *Women Writing Wonder: An Anthology of Subversive Nineteenth-Century British, French, and German Fairy Tales* (WSU Press, 2021)



Elizabeth Evans  
Associate Professor  
English

- *Threshold Modernism: New Public Women and the Literary Spaces of Imperial London* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)





# Brown Bag Colloquium Series

The Brown Bag Colloquium Series continued in 2022-2023 with virtual, hybrid, and in-person sessions. We held over 20 talks on an array of relevant topics from faculty and staff. This years Brown Bag Series attracted a total audience of 393, with an average audience of 17 per talk.

# Fall 2022 Brown Bags

## October 12, 2022

Theodoto Ressa,  
Assistant Professor, Teacher Education

*"Disability Culture and Barriers and Opportunities in Higher Education"*

## October 18, 2022

Muhammad al-Sharkawi,  
Associate Professor, CMLLC

*"Emergence of Classical Arabic: A Case for Language Contact"*

## November 9, 2022

Carly Overfelt,  
Program Coordinator, Office of Teaching and Learning

*"Honest to Goodness American Speech": Early Linguistics and the Myth of the Midwest Radio English"*

## November 16, 2022

Evan Pavka,  
Assistant Professor, Art and Art History

*"Nonmonogamous Interiors: Doubles, Doppelgangers and Open Relation"*

## November 30, 2022

John Brender, Director,  
International Programs

*"Millennial Expats in China: Experiences and Observations"*

## December 7, 2022

Kathleen Hanlon Lundberg,  
PTF, Anthropology & Public Health

*"Rising Maternal Mortality in the US: Naturalized Technologies and Embodied Inequalities"*





# Winter 2023 Brown Bags

## January 11, 2023

Jose Cuello  
Associate Professor, Emeritus, History

*"Greening our Universities to Survive the Global Ecological Crisis"*

## January 18, 2023

Walter Lucken IV, GTA, English

*"We Are Here to Stay: Lampedusa in Hamburg and the Oceanic Rhetorics"*

## January 25, 2023

Sarah Swider  
Associate Professor, Sociology

*"Love During the Pandemic: The Politics of Intimacy and Belonging"*

## February 1, 2023

Eun-Jung Katherine Kim  
Associate Professor, Philosophy

*"Protest as an Exit Strategy From a Partial State of Nature"*

## February 8, 2023

Kurt Troutman  
ASO III, Education

*"Cultural Humility: The Hunt for an Evaluation Framework"*

## February 15, 2023

Lawrence Lombard  
Professor, Philosophy

*"What is Metaphysics, and How is it Possible?"*

## February 18, 2023

Emily Spunaugle  
Doctoral Candidate, English

*"For the Benefit of: British Women's Benevolent Publication in the Long Eighteenth Century"*

## March 1, 2023

Layla Saatchi  
Assistant Professor of Teaching, Honors College

*"The Islamic Republic of Iran is neither Islamic nor a Republic; it's just Iran"*

## March 8, 2023

Adrienne Jankens, Assistant Professor, English & Clay Walker, Lecturer, University of Michigan

*"Collaborative Research in the Humanities"*

## March 22, 2023

Steven Winter  
Professor, Law

*"The Made and the Made-Up"*

## March 29, 2023

Ty Partridge  
Associate Professor, Psychology

*"The Role of School-based Health Centers in Addressing the Adolescent Mental Health Crisis"*

## April 5, 2023

Haiyong Liu  
Professor, CMLLC

*"The Effect of Animacy on Mandarin Chinese"*

## April 12, 2023

Joshua Wilburn  
Associate Professor, Philosophy

*"Nice White People and the Epistemology of Ignorance in Langston Hughes"*

## April 19, 2023

Lance Gable  
Professor, Law

*"The Future of Wastewater Monitoring for the Public Health"*

## April 26, 2023

Barrett Watten  
Professor, English

*"Can We Still Teach the Beats?: Holism, Antagonism, Poetics, and Pedagogy"*



The background features a complex abstract design. On the left, a large orange semi-circle is positioned above a magenta area. To the right, a teal rectangle sits above a yellow area. A large, dark teal semi-circle is situated on the right side, overlapping the yellow area. The text is centered in the magenta section.

# Looking Ahead to 2023-24

# Fellowship Recipients

## Marilyn Williamson Recipients

### Lauren Duquette-Rury

**Associate Professor, Sociology**

*"Naturalizing Under Threat: Citizenship in the Age of Immigration Enforcement"*

### Kirsten Carlson

**Professor, Law**

*Indigenizing Outcomes: Improving Impact Measurement for Indian Legal Services*

### Andrew Newman

**Associate Professor, Cultural Anthropology**

*Empire's Garden: Anthropology and the Racialization of Vision in Fin-de-Siecle Paris*

## Faculty Fellowship Recipients

### Ariel Helfer

**Assistant Professor, Political Science**

*The Forgotten Rhetorical Teaching of Isocrates: Human Nature and Civic Responsibility*

### Beth Fowler

**Associate Professor of Teaching, Honors College**

*"Frances Williams Preston and Gender Politics in Popular Country Music, 1958-1986"*

### Layla Saatchi

**Assistant Professor of Teaching, Honors College**

*"Epistemic Fragility and Color-Blind Reasoning"*

### Valerie Sweeney Prince

**Associate Professor, African American Studies**

*"Laundry: How Dirt, Water, and Cleaning Clothes Became the Real Work of America"*

### Mark Satta

**Assistant Professor, Philosophy**

*"Orwell and Philosophy"*

### Michelle Jacobs

**Assistant Professor, Sociology**

*"Detroit Reentry Photovoice"*

### renée hoogland

**Professor, English**

*"The Other Side of Nowhere"*

### Stephen Chrisomalis

**Professor, Anthropology**

*"Dorothy Demetracopoulou Lee: Language, Values, and Freedom in Detroit and Beyond"*

# 2023-24 Program Deadlines

## **Fall Graduate Travel Friday, September 22**

Two awards of \$500 each to support presentations at scholarly conferences.  
Eligibility: graduate students in the humanities or related disciplines.

## **Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Friday, October 6**

Residential fellowship for Winter and Spring/Summer 2024, with \$15,000 stipend.  
Eligibility: ABD doctoral students in the humanities or related disciplines.

## **Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Friday, October 6**

Residential fellowship for academic year 2024-25, with two to four course releases and additional research funding.  
Eligibility: tenured faculty in the humanities as defined by the NEH.

## **Faculty Fellowships Friday, November 3**

Residential fellowship for academic year 2024-25, with two course releases.  
Eligibility: full-time faculty in the humanities or related disciplines.

## **Winter Graduate Travel Friday, December 1**

Three awards of \$500 each to support presentations at scholarly conferences.  
Eligibility: graduate students in the humanities or related disciplines.

## **Books in Dialogue Friday, December 8**

Themed book launches, to be held in 2024.  
Eligibility: faculty and staff in the humanities or related disciplines who published books in 2022 or 2023.

## **Summer Faculty Fellowship Friday, January 26**

Three awards of \$5000 each for summer salary and/or research expenses.  
Eligibility: full-time faculty in the humanities or related disciplines.

## **Summer Graduate Fellowship Friday, February 16**

Two awards of \$1000 each to defray research expenses.  
Eligibility: graduate students in terminal degree programs within the humanities or related disciplines.

## **Spring/Summer Graduate Travel Friday, April 5**

One award of \$500 to support a presentation at a scholarly conference.

Eligibility: graduate students in the humanities or related disciplines.

## **Brown Bag Colloquium Series Friday, May 17**

Presentations of works-in-progress during academic year 2024-25.

Eligibility: faculty, staff, ABD doctoral students, and graduate students in the final year of a terminal degree program, working in the humanities or related disciplines.

## **Working Groups Friday, June 7**

Two awards of \$2,000 each to support interdisciplinary groups planning an event or another tangible outcome. Eligibility: faculty and graduate students in the humanities or related disciplines.

## **Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2024-25 Friday, March 1**

Residential fellowship for academic year 2024-25, with \$15,000 stipend and tuition remission.





# 30th Anniversary Celebration

The Humanities Center is celebrating 30 years service this year! We will host a ruby-themed gala and invite scholars to speak about their experiences and publications that have come from funding.

## 30th Anniversary Events

- "Why the Humanities Matter," a half-day symposium
  - Keynote speaker: Stephen Best (Professor of English, University of California, Berkeley)
- Celebratory gala



## Stephen Best

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Professor & Director, Townsend Center for the Humanities  
University of California, Berkeley

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Best is the author of two books: *The Fugitive's Properties: Law and the Poetics of Possession* (University of Chicago, 2004), a study of property, poetics, and legal hermeneutics in nineteenth-century American literary and legal culture; and, most recently, *None Like Us: Blackness, Belonging, Aesthetic Life* (Duke University Press, 2018). His work has been supported by the Mellon Foundation, the Hellman Foundation, the Humanities Research Institute (University of California), and the Ford Foundation.

# Humanities Clinic Partnership

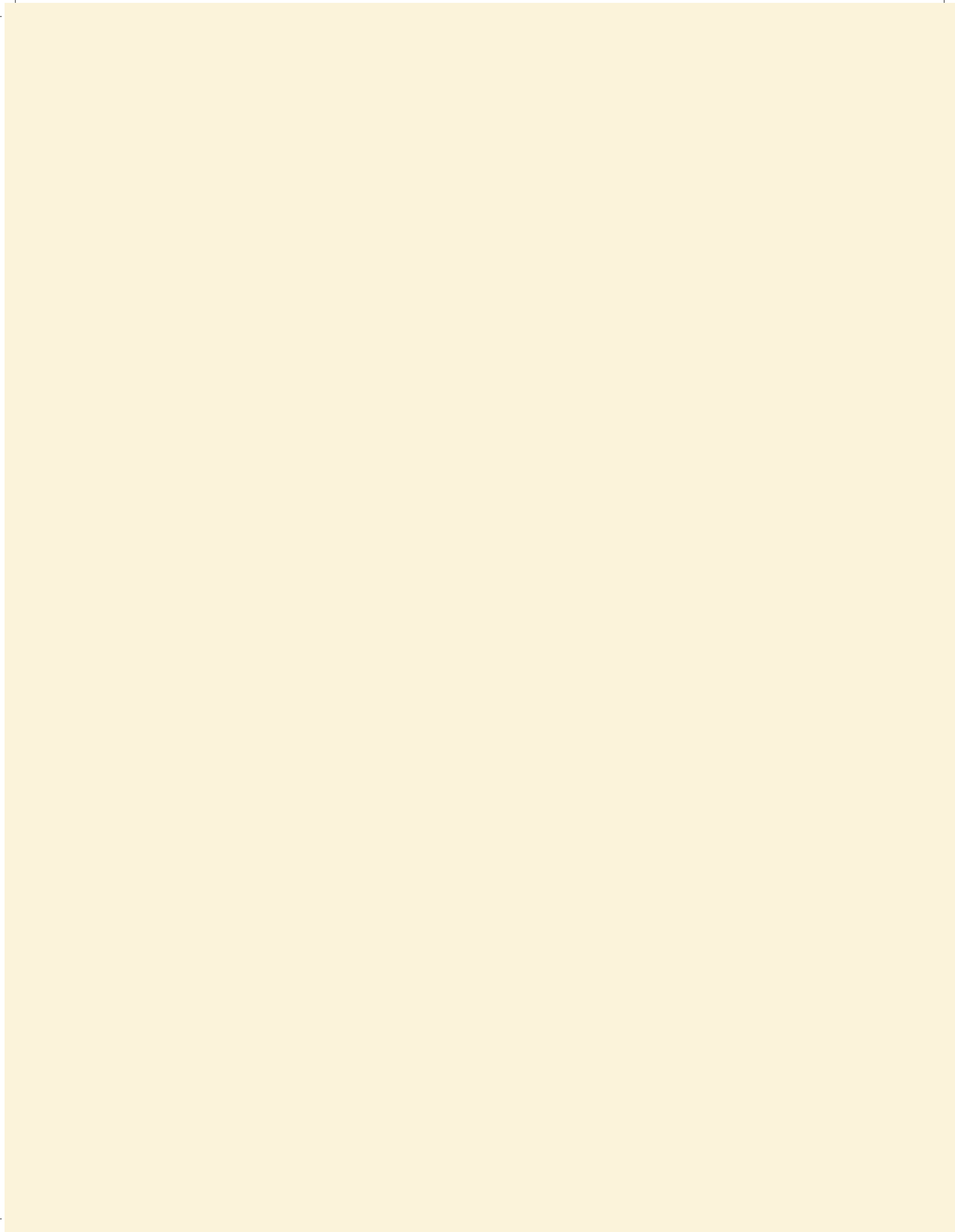
The Humanities Center partnered with The Humanities Clinic in June 2023. We brought in two interns to assist with archiving and cataloging the rich history of The Humanities Center



Above: Sarah Henry-Boggs



Above: Denisa Molnar





"A HUMANITIES HUB FOR WAYNE STATE AND BEYOND"

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