



WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY



# Humanities Center

## Annual Report 2021-2022



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## Our Mission

The mission of the Humanities Center is to nurture interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary work in the humanities and arts through competitions, conferences, discussion groups, and other programs for Wayne State's humanities and arts faculty and students. The Center promotes excellence in research and creative endeavors through rigorous peer review of proposals submitted for funding. By sponsoring programs that involve community participants, we are supporting 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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# Message from the Director 2021- 2022



Walter F. Edwards

## Director's Message 2022,

I write this message with quite mixed feelings since it will be the last such message from me. After serving as Director of the Humanities Center for almost 30 years, I will be resigning from the position on August 31 and returning to my faculty position in the English Department after a year of administrative leave in 2022-23.

After the Provost's public announcement of my decision to step down, dozens of faculty and administrators sent me emails thanking me for my service, and several of them asked me why I stayed so long in the position. I will address that question later in this message but first, I want to give credit for creating the Center to the late David Adamany, who served as president of Wayne State University from 1983 to 1997. He envisioned a Humanities Center that bridges the divide between the traditional humanities and the social sciences and arts by promoting interdisciplinary connections among scholars and artists affiliated with these disciplines. Principally through Dr. Adamany's efforts, the Center was established in 1993 under the stewardship of Garrett Heberlein, who was at that time the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School. I was an associate dean in the Graduate School and was given the responsibility of setting up the Center's structure and leading it.

Right from its inception, the interdisciplinary character of the Center was reflected in the composition of its Advisory Board which comprised faculty and students from Art and Art History, History, Africana Studies, English, Nursing, Sociology, German and Slavic Languages, and the Law. I chaired the Board.

In 1994, we offered our first Faculty Fellowships Competition on the theme "Constructing Identity Above and Below: Urban, Transnational, and National Perspectives". That topic was chosen for its potential to attract proposals from a wide range of relevant disciplines, and so it did. We received some 40 proposals and funded 16 of them from faculty respectively affiliated with English, Sociology, History, Art and Art History, Romance Languages and Literatures, and Interdisciplinary Studies. Since then, we have had 28 such annual competitions through which we have funded 244 WSU faculty from every humanities, social science and arts department.

President Adamany also envisioned the Center as a physical entity on this campus. To this end, he provided an attractive suite of offices for the Center in the refurbished Old Main building into which the Center moved in 1998. That space allowed us to have a Resident Scholars' program and to initiate our Brown Bag and Working Groups programs. The Resident Scholars' program continued the Center's interdisciplinary focus. Accordingly, our first cohort of residents comprised faculty affiliated with Political Science, Criminal Justice, Romance Languages, Communication, History, Sociology, and Law. From that beginning, we have hosted 8-10 resident scholars yearly for a total of 241 faculty and doctoral students most of whose projects have been completed and published.

I can go on and on listing the programs the Center has since introduced and through which literally hundreds of WSU faculty and students have been funded and whose publications and exhibitions have made an enormous contribution to the academic reputation of WSU; but having given you a brief review of the Center's history and philosophy, I now wish to reveal why I stayed so long in the position. The answer is simply that being director of the Humanities Center has been the most satisfying administrative position I have held in my very long career in higher and secondary education. I have been a headmaster, a department chair, a program coordinator, an assistant dean, an associate dean, and an assistant provost, but none of those occupations has provided me with the sense of mission and worthwhile purpose as this one. My administrative assistants and I have continually faced challenges of running ambitious programs with perennially small budgets and minimal staff, and have had to deal with many difficult situations, but none of those challenges has diminished the gratification I derive from interacting with outstanding academics and artists daily as this position allows. As Humanities Center director, I have a central role in identifying, celebrating, and supporting excellent scholarship and creative expressions in the humanities through the programs the Center sponsors. As an example, I recall that in 1998 I was fascinated when I met and had conversations with the iconic feminist scholar, bell hooks whom we invited to deliver the keynote address at our interdisciplinary conference on "The Humanities and the Millennium: Beginnings and Endings". Approximately 400 people crowded into the McGregor conference Center to hear professor hooks. The title of her talk was "Ending Domination: Celebrating the Ethic of Love in the New Millennium." I marveled at the power of her ideas, and at her humility and quiet strength; but most of all I felt great pride that the Center was able to sponsor and organize an event that had such a positive impact on the WSU and Detroit Metropolitan communities. I have followed bell hooks's career since then and was very sad to learn of her passing a few months ago.

An event that also brought me enormous satisfaction was the Center's Fall 2014 Symposium on "Re-the City", organized by sociologist and Advisory Board Member David Merolla. The symposium attracted dozens of proposals allowing us to have 24 sessions divided between two rooms in the McGregor Conference Center. We had sessions on re-inventing, renewing, re-telling, re-building, re-imagining, repairing, and re-envisioning Detroit. Our keynoter was Harvard Professor William Julius Wilson, an internationally renowned sociologist. That symposium provided a wealth of ideas that showed the way forward for our city. I was proud that the Center was able to sponsor such a momentous event.

I was very pleased, also, when in 2021 the Center held a virtual conference on "Creative Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic". The conference was the culmination of a competition the Center organized in 2020, at the height of the pandemic, to demonstrate that as humanists we would not allow the pandemic to overpower our creative and scholarly impulses. I was proud that the deans of the colleges of Education, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Fine Performing and Communication Arts, Social Work, Honors and Law co-sponsored the competition by contributing funds to reward the recipients. The competition invited proposals from students and part-time faculty and received 22 proposals from which the Advisory Board selected 10 recipients. Subsequently, on February 27, 2021, the Center held a public conference over Zoom at which the recipients presented papers and gave performances that shared the art, poetry, music, fiction and essays they created during the pandemic. I am gratified that the Center has remained an active, productive, and inspiring presence on our campus throughout the pandemic.

But I didn't need public events and iconic scholars to derive fulfillment from my job, because every day I have had opportunities to experience the brilliance and professional earnestness of our faculty and students. Whether it was a brown bag talk, a working group meeting, a round-table session of the resident scholars, a lecture, or a meeting of our Advisory Board, I have had the privilege of engaging outstanding faculty and students from across the humanities, arts and social sciences.

My job has also given me the opportunity to get to know some exceptional WSU citizens who are generous with their time, wisdom, and resources. An example of the latter is history Professor Sandra Vanburkleo who in 2001, to commemorate the memory of her late husband Edward Wise, began annually donating \$12,000 to the Center to initiate and sustain our Edward Wise Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for 10 years. Professor Wise was a resident scholar in the Center in 2000 when he unexpectedly passed away. The late Marilyn Williamson, former WSU provost from 1991 to 1995, is another example of the generosity I

experienced. Professor Williamson, a distinguished professor and notable Shakespeare scholar, left in her estate over \$800,000 to endow the Humanities Center's Marilyn Williamson Distinguished Faculty Fellowship. This endowment was a tangible expression of Provost Williamson's endorsement of the Center's work and also established the Center's most prestigious program.

My job has also allowed me to witness, and to take avuncular pleasure in, the upward professional trajectories of some of WSU's finest minds. I recall 25 years ago in the men's locker room of Fitness Works Gym in the New Center area, I saw a youngster looking lost as if he had become inadvertently separated from his dad. It turned out to be a youthful John Corvino who had just been hired in the Philosophy Department as a lecturer. I took an instant liking to the young man and was pleased when he soon began to involve himself in the Center's programs. Since then, I have enjoyed seeing John rise through the ranks to his present status as Dean of the Honors College, and a highly respected public intellectual. I have also smilingly witnessed the progress of several other young faculty who took advantage of the Center's funding and collaborative opportunities to develop and publish their work and have been rewarded with tenure, promotion, and related advancements, including department chairs and deanships. And how else, would I have met and enjoyed the friendship of such outstanding colleagues as Marion Jackson, Matt Seeger, Dennis Tini, Chris Collins, Guy Stern, Daphne Ntiri, Norah Duncan, Holly-Feen-Calligan, Alfred Cobbs, Melba Boyd, Bill Harris, Todd Duncan, Tam Perry, Mary Anderson, and others, but through my job as the Director of the Humanities Center?

Because of my job, I was able to enjoy the professional partnership of some wonderfully dedicated staff, most notably Jennifer Leonard who served the Center for 12 years first as my secretary and then as my Administrative Assistant. For many years, it was generally understood that Jennifer was the engine that drove the Center. She was simply marvelous; and much of the Center's good reputation was due to her dedication and all-around clerical, technical and administrative talents. It has taken the Center three years since she left in 2019 to hire an Administrative Assistant of her caliber; but fortunately, we now have Ariel Ferguson who joined us six months ago and has been performing excellently in the role. I also enjoyed working with Shamira Tellis who served the Center continuously for six years as a college-work study student assistant but who was a paragon of professional behavior for such a young person. She did a fantastic job of promoting all the Center's programs. I was absolutely delighted when she graduated two years ago with her bachelor's degree in the health field and was recently admitted to a prestigious nursing program, on her way to the fulfillment of her lifelong dream of becoming a nurse.

So, my friends, I have had a good run. I have enjoyed my work as Director of the Humanities Center. But it is now time for me return full-time to the joys of teaching and research. I have several projects that have been on hold for many years while I dedicated myself to the affairs of the Center. I chose this time to step away because I sense that Provost Kornbluh will take good care of the Center, no matter what direction he and the new Director chose to take it. I also believe that under Provost Kornbluh's guidance the Center will be given resources to hire needed staff.

I wish to conclude this final message by sharing this poignant professional memory. In 2005, I attended a meeting of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes at Stanford University where Dr. John Hennessy, Stanford's president at the time, gave a welcoming address to the group. He pointed to the fact that Stanford's modern, well-staffed and equipped Humanities Center was in the physical center of the campus. President Hennessy said that the Center's location is intentional since in his view the Humanities is the heart and soul of a university education. That statement had a profound, uplifting effect on the scores of Humanities Center directors and scholars in attendance. His statement was particularly noteworthy since he is a distinguished computer scientist. I have kept John Hennessy's words in my heart all these years because I believe them to be true; and I have worked as hard as I could these last 29 years to position the humanities disciplines centrally in the academic culture of WSU. Thus, if I had to choose a legacy statement for my directorship, it would be that I tried my best to make the Humanities Center an important partner with departments and colleges in recognizing the value of the humanities to a quality university education and in providing the resources for humanities scholars and artists to produce and publish their work.

I am composing this message in mid-June 2022, a fortnight after the university held an elegant in-

person tribute reception for me on June 7 at the McGregor Conference Center at which scores of humanities faculty and staff came together to wish me well as I transition back to the faculty. My thanks to Provost Kornbluh for generously funding the joyful fete, and to English Department Chair Caroline Maun for being its principal organizer. I felt deeply honored.

My friends, this university, and every university, needs a well-supported and valued Humanities Center because a humanities center is a conduit through which flows the stories, art, philosophies, poetry, and music that nurture our humanity; express our joys; alleviate our sorrows; celebrate our cultures; inspire our loftiest thoughts; and give us hope, resilience and courage in times of distress. So, I thank the WSU community for giving me the opportunity to serve this important Center for so many years. I wish it well and will do all I can to support it in my resumed role as a professor of linguistics in the English Department. I hope you will all do the same.

Au revoir!

Walter Edwards. D.Phil.  
Director  
Humanities Center

# SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS 2021-2022

**BROWN BAG Colloquium Series:** 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. *During the 2021-2022 academic year, we hosted 45 talks via Zoom.* Brown Bag Talks are free and open to the public.

**DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP:** The Humanities Center and the Graduate School continued their collaboration in funding the 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. *Our 2021-2022 fellow is Silviya Gancheva and our awardee is Jon Bulat, both from Political Science.*

**FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS:** The Faculty Fellowship competition is based on an annual theme. The Humanities Center's Advisory Board selects the theme and prepares a Call for Proposals (COP) for the 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 "*Fear and Fragility in the Covid-19 Era*". *The 2022-2023 theme will be "Reckoning with Ecological Peril and Possibility".*

**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 internal recipients, the Center invites a distinguished keynoter who is an expert in the area addressed by the theme. *The 2021-2022 conference theme was "Transition" and was held virtually on April 29, 2022. The keynote speaker was Harvard Professor, Xiaofei Tian.*

**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 round table meetings allow our scholars 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, equipment expenses, or to pay for research assistance. *The Humanities Center hosted eight Resident Scholars from five disciplines during the 2021 -2022 academic year.*

**GRADUATE TRAVEL AWARD:** 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 is funded up to \$300 for travel to conferences or exhibitions held nationally or internationally between September 1, 2021, and August 16, 2022. This program was significantly interrupted by the pandemic. *One award was given this year.*

**VIRTUAL BOOK LAUNCH:** The Virtual Book Launch is one of the Humanities Center's newest initiatives. Its purpose is to contribute to conversations in the Humanities and to celebrate the scholarship of Wayne State University faculty members. The Center supports two book launches a semester. This endeavor has been spearheaded by our Advisory Board member and Event Chair, Elizabeth D. Lublin, either solely or in collaboration with presses and departments. Each author recruits an external scholar who is an expert in the field to serve as moderator of the launch. All faculty in the Humanities, regardless of rank, who had published a book since May 2020 were eligible to submit self-nominations for the book launches. *This academic year the Center sponsored four book launches.*

# 2021-2022 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: English, Communication, Social Work, CMLLC and Theatre and Dance. Residencies were all remote and monthly round table meetings were held via Zoom. Below, each resident scholar provides a summary of their project and experience in the Center this year.



Elizabeth Evans  
Associate Professor, English  
*"Gender and Literary Geography"*

The difference between men's and women's relationships with public space has long shaped literature, scholarship, and social life. It has structured narrative plots and character development and has been integral in the development of feminist theory, gender studies, and critical race theory. Current social movements from MeToo to Black Lives Matter attest to the continuing, urgent relevance of the ways in which cultural identities delimit and define access to physical space.

"Gender and Literary Geography," a book I am writing with a collaborator, examines the relationship between gender and geography in over 20,000 volumes of fiction published in Britain between 1800 and 2009. It corrects widespread assumptions about the role of gender in the geographic imagination, identifies how literary geography has changed and remained consistent over time, and provides vital contexts for enriching our understanding of individual works of fiction. Previous studies of gender and literary geography were restricted, by necessity, to individual books or small groups of texts. While this work has enriched our understanding of the relationship between gender, space, and narrative, it lacks the scope to identify persistent patterns, or to investigate the veracity of "common knowledge" narratives about literary geography. This book marries computational methods and humanistic analysis to examine how gender interacts with the geographic imagination of 21,347 digitized volumes of fiction published in Britain over two centuries and held by the Hathi Trust Digital Library. With a collaborator, I extracted information about each text's specifically named locations and generic spaces. We matched that geographic and spatial data with library metadata, such as volume length and date of publication, and with other extracted textual features including the nominal genders of the texts' authors and characters. Two of our most consequential findings are that we have overestimated historical progress toward gender parity, as measured by geographic mobility, and underestimated women's ties to metropolitan space.

My time as a Resident Scholar was tremendously helpful to my work on this project. Monthly meetings, in addition to the Center's frequent Brown Bags, provided a spur to productivity and allowed me to forge interdisciplinary connections on campus. I enjoyed and learned a lot from reading and discussing my colleagues' work in progress. At the same time, sharing my work with scholars with diverse training, interests, and perspectives helped me to think more deliberately about the main contributions of my work and to better communicate to an audience beyond my own discipline. While our meetings were of necessity conducted entirely online, they were unfailingly both rigorous and convivial. Finally, I wish to note that observing Professor Edwards formulate generous yet incisive comments, questions, and suggestions was an enriching lesson of its own.





Michael Fuhlhage  
Associate Professor, Communication  
*"Reckoning with the Historical Roots  
of the Othering of Mexicans in the  
American Press"*

In this strange second year of the pandemic, I have been thankful for the camaraderie of my fellow resident scholars at the WSU Humanities Center. Director Walter Edwards and the rest of the group have given me insights for my research and teaching, but they have also inspired me with the breadth and creativity of their approaches to engaging with the humanities. My main research project as a resident scholar this year has been racism in the news media. I assumed at the start of the year that my activities at the Humanities Center would center mainly on the scholarly volume I am editing, the *Routledge Companion to American Journalism History*. But the more I immersed myself in this work, the more I recognized I could build a significant opportunity for my journalism history students in COM 5080 History of American Journalism and Media to engage with the history of racism in media at a local level. I directed a group project that constituted the students' final paper in which they picked a watershed event in U.S. history with a significant racial component and researched how the Detroit Free Press covered people from social identity groups associated with that event. I came out of this project inspired to reach out to scholars at other institutions to scale this up to include analysis of news coverage in other cities. I expect to discuss this project at a conference this fall. The book includes two chapters. One provides an overview of journalistic representation of Mexicans and Mexican Americans in nineteenth-century that laid the foundations for current stereotypes of Latinos. The second is an examination of news organizations' apologies for complicity in racism in their coverage of community institutions and events scarred by discrimination based on color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and other aspects of social identity. A version of this chapter has been accepted for presentation at the AEJMC convention this summer.



Juliane Borosch  
Visiting Scholar of Classical and  
Modern Languages, Literatures and  
Cultures  
*"Jazzing Up the (Post) Industrial City"*

After decades of decline and extensive processes of structural change many (post)industrial cities of the North-Atlantic sphere are working to recover and revitalize along the buzzwords of culture and creativity frequently treated as universal fix-alls. While there are innovative ideas out there to bring about positive change in postindustrial cities, there are also fixes that just offer flashy, generic, and temporary or outright unsustainable patches that either do not last or bring with them a plethora of problems along the lines of displacement, gentrification, and cooptation among others. It is not only important to take the specificities and histories of a place into account when working to recover (post)industrial cities, but it is also important to find a way and an analytic tool of talking about the ambiguities present in such planning processes.

In my research I analyze landmarks of the former industrial city as anchor points of (post)industrial (re-)development efforts. My project as part of my PhD thesis focuses on the process and method of how (post)industrial landmarks and landscapes are refigured and try to define a means of talking about it. I term this process "Jazzing Up". Jazzing up is the active or gerund form of the US slang term "to jazz up" meaning "to enliven; to render more interesting, exciting, or vibrant" (OED). In addressing aspects of performance, temporarily as well as social and racial awareness, this term lends itself to accounting for both the creative transgressions of (post)industrial refigurations but can also be employed to highlight the cooptation of such projects that can possibly perpetuate gentrification, discrimination, and injustice.



Michael Liebler  
Senior Lecturer, English  
*"Heaven Was Detroit: Essays on Detroit  
Music from Jazz to Hip Hop"*

I had another successful year as a Resident Scholar in spite of the Covid factor. The pandemic kept us from fully engaging in person in this program as during “normal” times. This was my third time over the past 22 years, so I have seen the pre and post covid academic environments. While we were not in our offices working on a regular basis and while our Roundtables shifted to zoom, I still found this year’s residency to be helpful, engaging, and beneficial to my work and research. It helped me greatly to work through the second draft of my memoir. I was able to work in the office on occasion, but I tried to keep myself focused on my project in my home office. Over this school year and residency, I was able to workshop two chapters with the Roundtable, and I thought their comments were helpful and insightful. Even though they were from very different academic fields, I felt their keen observations brought a whole new set of eyes and ideas to my project. I have already implemented many of their suggestions, especially their points about including more clear explanation about each musical artist in each chapter. I felt this school year was a success for my project and work. While it was a significantly different format than my past two experiences, it was still very good. I am honored to have been included with these scholars. I have enjoyed all our Roundtables, and the Brown Bag talks were diverse in ideas and helpful to my work. I am grateful to have had my three experience and successful residencies under Dr. Walter Edwards’ fantastic direction. He has done a wonderful job creating and directing this necessary division in CLAS and at WSU. The Humanities Center does a wonderful service to our university, our whole community, and the Metro Area overall. The zoom method has allowed many more people around the world to attend and share original ideas and discourse. I cannot say enough about how helpful and important this Resident Scholars’ program has been in both my academic and personal life. I have marveled at this program and the positive impact and many contributions it has made to the Wayne State community over past 30 plus year.





Julie Novak  
Associate Professor,  
Communication  
*"Older Children Communicating with  
Even Older Parents: Listening to our  
Heart and the Knowledge of Others"*

During the 2021-2022 academic year, I was a resident scholar in WSU's Humanities Center. Although the adjective "resident" may be a bit misleading (given the lingering risks of Covid-19), I greatly benefited from the dedicated time and reflective space facilitated by the opportunity as well as the discussions with my colleagues during the monthly Zoom roundtables. The multi-disciplinary perspectives of my colleagues and their comments provided some important guiding insights as I considered different organizational formats and wondered about the transferability of my written, personal experience to that of others. Over the year, I wrote an initial draft of my first book with working title: "Communicating Nonverbal Compassion(ate) Care: Adult Children of Old Parents during their Final Years." The book examines interactions and relationship among older children and parents during the parents' end-of-life years. Each chapter focuses on a type of nonverbal communication (examples include touch, personal space, environment, interspecies, music, etc...) through personal narrative with snippets of social-science empirical knowledge. I look forward to moving the draft forward in the writing process. Ultimately, I think the book will contribute meaningful and actionable insights to all interested in understanding and extending compassion to older parents navigating their final years.



Anita Mixon Associate  
Professor,  
Communication  
*"The Political Frontier is Urban &  
Black: The Rhetoric of Black  
Womxhood as Agents of Change"*

This summary report outlines work completed while in residence with the Humanities Center. My residency centered on my book project. I created a seventy-three-page annotated bibliography, developed an organizing system for digital speeches, mayoral websites, and press releases, met with editors of academic presses to gauge interest, and drafted a book proposal for submission (summer 2022). I also attended the Rhetoric Society of America's (RSA) biennial conference, May 26-- May 29, 2022, as a part of RSA Supersessions to discuss a chapter of my book project and to workshop my book proposal with academic presses. Dedicated time in the office allowed a quiet space for uninterrupted work and the roundtable discussions helped to remind me to write for diverse audiences. I began remote office hours following the birth of my son, Drew. To collate materials, scan documents, and preserve images, I used the stipend to purchase an iPad. Having a small portable device to take to repositories, instead of my work laptop, helped me minimize the number of items taken into the centers and provided a separate, secure place for my research. 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.



Tam E. Perry  
Associate Professor, Social  
Work  
*"Navigating Time and Space:  
Experiences of Aging and  
Hemophilia otherwise known as  
'Project Survivor'"*

My project examined the lived experiences of those aging with hemophilia. For the first time in human history, individuals with hemophilia are living beyond their 30s and 40s. Aging persons with hemophilia (APWH) have witnessed unprecedented treatment changes including factor concentrate availability for home infusion (1970s) and synthetic factor (mid-1990s) to counter dependency on a knowingly contaminated blood supply (1980s). Given these contexts and emerging medical advances, this cohort continues to face unique challenges as they age with hemophilia and other conditions. Medical providers and APWH may navigate the diagnosis and treatment of multiple health conditions that are evident in aging populations in tandem with a lifelong trajectory of medical care for hemophilia. The original project funded by the National Hemophilia Foundation was titled "Navigating Time and Space: Experiences of Aging with Hemophilia." This project explored the experiences of people aging with hemophilia and those who serve them. We investigated strategies to optimize functioning, shifting perceptions of time, and four gerontological domains: self-care, social networks, the meaning of home aging in place and contributions. Our research team interviewed 27 APWH (50 and Being a resident scholar helped me further my thinking and writing on this topic. Our team used this support to prepare several presentations during this year such as to the World Federation of Hemophilia and to the National Hemophilia Foundation. In addition, our team worked on developing manuscripts. I am also grateful for the support of the other scholars to raise questions to consider and to promote a community at WSU supportive of interdisciplinary work.



Hannah Anderson  
Lecturer, Dance  
*"A Dance Between Art and  
Science: Developing  
Dancer Wellness  
Screenings for the  
Collegiate Contemporary  
Dancer"*

Spending Academic Year 2021-2022 as a Humanities Center Research Fellow was engaging, fruitful, and inspiring. Due to maternity leave, I entered the group on the fringes, and quickly became fully engrossed in the cohort late fall semester. It was a wonderful departure from the day-to-day happenings in our department, and while remote, an important community space to think critically, and support researchers from across Humanities fields. The feed-forward sessions for each scholar always got me thinking about my own research. Having a space of accountability required me to stay on a strong research trajectory. While a Resident Scholar, I was able to carry out several important parts of the collaborative research I am engaged with. We applied for and received IRB approval in collaboration with the WSU Department of Physical Therapy, carried out a Dance-Specific Movement Competency Screening in the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, wrote proposals and were accepted to two international conferences, mentored two undergraduate student assistants, collected a bank of research related to dance injuries, and visioned and outlined forthcoming publications. I really appreciated the opportunity to work with faculty from across the university, and look forward to continued relationships.

## Resident Scholars cont.



Above: Resident Scholar, Michael Liebler, presenting on *“Hound Dog: Rock, Revolution & Redemption: A Poet’s Memoir”*



Above: Resident Scholar, Tam Perry, presenting on *“Detroit’s Changing Landscapes: Intergenerational Perceptions of Belonging”*

# Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Lecture

Thanks to the generous endowment provided by former Provost Marilyn L. Williamson, the Humanities Center offers an annual Distinguished Faculty Fellowship to tenured faculty in the humanities (as defined by the NEH), the arts and related disciplines. The award of this fellowship is based on the merit of the individual research project; on the exceptional contribution the proposed project will make to the humanities; and its potential for scholarly recognition, publication, exhibition, or performance. This year's lecture was held on February 4, 2022 via zoom.



## MARILYN WILLIAMSON ENDOWED DISTINGUISHED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP LECTURE



### Ewa Golebiowska, Professor, Department of Political Science

Moderator: Professor Alisa Moldavanova, Associate Professor of Political Science, Wayne State University



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

Nonbelievers are a fast-growing religious minority in the United States and, yet, prejudice toward them continues to be higher than toward almost any other religious minority. In research I describe in this talk, I use a novel experimental design to examine how nonbelievers – atheists and their fellow travelers – are evaluated when they run for political office in the United States. I investigate whether and how the label used to describe a candidate's religious identity and the manner in which voters learn about it influence voters' responses to the candidate. I also consider whether the impact of a candidate's membership in a stigmatized religious minority and manner of its disclosure depend on whether voters face the candidate in a) a primary v. a general election and a) state legislative v. presidential election. Finally, I consider how the effects of religious identity and manner of its disclosure vary among different subgroups of voters.

Professor Golebiowska teaches courses in the area of Political Psychology and Political Behavior. Her book, *The Many Faces of Tolerance: Attitudes toward Diversity in Poland* (Routledge), appeared in print in the summer of 2014. Her articles have appeared in numerous journals including *East European Politics and Societies*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Psychology*, and *American Politics Research*. She has also contributed several chapters to edited volumes.

Friday, February 4, 2022

1:00-2:00 pm EST

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/95331453881?](https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/95331453881?pwd=eitEekxHVGVSYlEwVi9EV3VSRzUwQT09)  
[pwd=eitEekxHVGVSYlEwVi9EV3VSRzUwQT09](https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/95331453881?pwd=eitEekxHVGVSYlEwVi9EV3VSRzUwQT09)

Meeting ID: 953 3145 3881

Passcode: 314442

# Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Lecture cont.

Screen captures from Ewa Golebiowska's Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship lecture on "*Membership in a stigmatized religious minority and political support: Nonbelievers running for office in the United States*" February 4, 2022



MEMBERSHIP IN A STIGMATIZED RELIGIOUS MINORITY AND POLITICAL SUPPORT

## RELIGIOUS IDENTITY IN PRIMARY V. GENERAL ELECTIONS, CONT'D

Republicans are most likely to use religious identity as a voting heuristic in all three election scenarios

- *In primary election-like scenarios*, they favor Christian and religious candidates over:
  - atheists by 18% in each case
  - nonbelievers by 17% in each case
  - secular candidates by 14% and 13%, respectively
- *In general election-like scenarios*, they still favor Christian and religious candidates although by somewhat smaller margins over:
  - atheists by 13% and 10%, respectively
  - nonbelievers by 13% and 9%, respectively
  - secular candidates by 9% and 6%, respectively
- *When faced with a choice between 2 Democrats*, Republicans also favor Christian and religious candidates over:
  - atheists - 15% and 11%, respectively
  - nonbelievers - 11% Christian advantage only
  - secular candidates - 13% and 10%, respectively



## 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 their 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 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 Silviya Gancheva and awardee Jon Bulat.*



Silviya Gancheva  
Political Science  
Fellow

*"Achieving Equality: women and men in local government in Bulgaria"*

Dissertation Advisor: Sharon F. Lean

### Abstract:

My dissertation "Achieving Equality: women and men in local government in Bulgaria" is about the lived experiences of local women leaders in a post-communist setting. From a feminist stance, I use a multifaceted approach, combining quantitative and qualitative methods, including extended interviews to study the gendered nature of local executive office in Bulgarian municipalities. I ask: (1) Whether (and how) gender and gendered characteristics affect local executive officials' road to power; (2) how does gender influence the way in which local executives experience and perceive of their day-to-day work and responsibilities; and (3) whether (and how) gender and gendered characteristics affect local executive representatives' preferences, attitudes, and behavior in office. I draw on research on gendered personalities, exploring whether femininity and masculinity (rather than, or in addition to sex) explain substantive representation in local government.

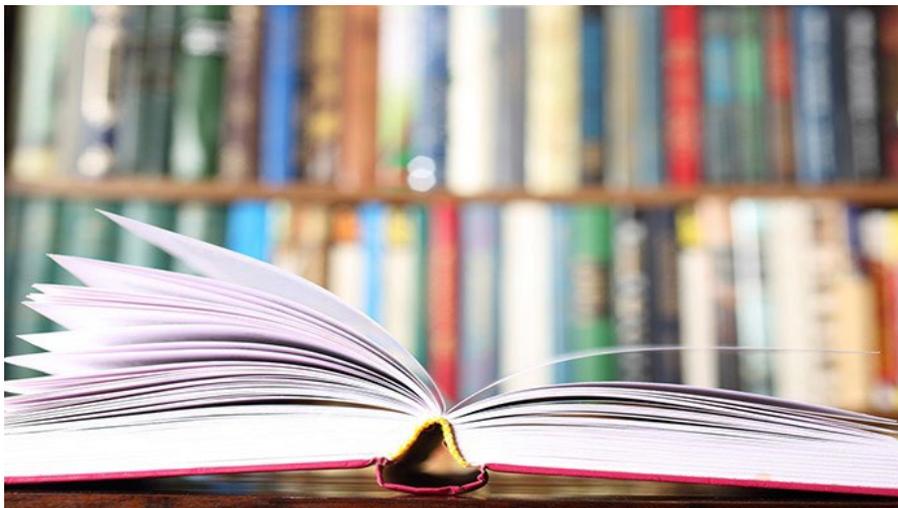
## Humanities Center's Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship cont.



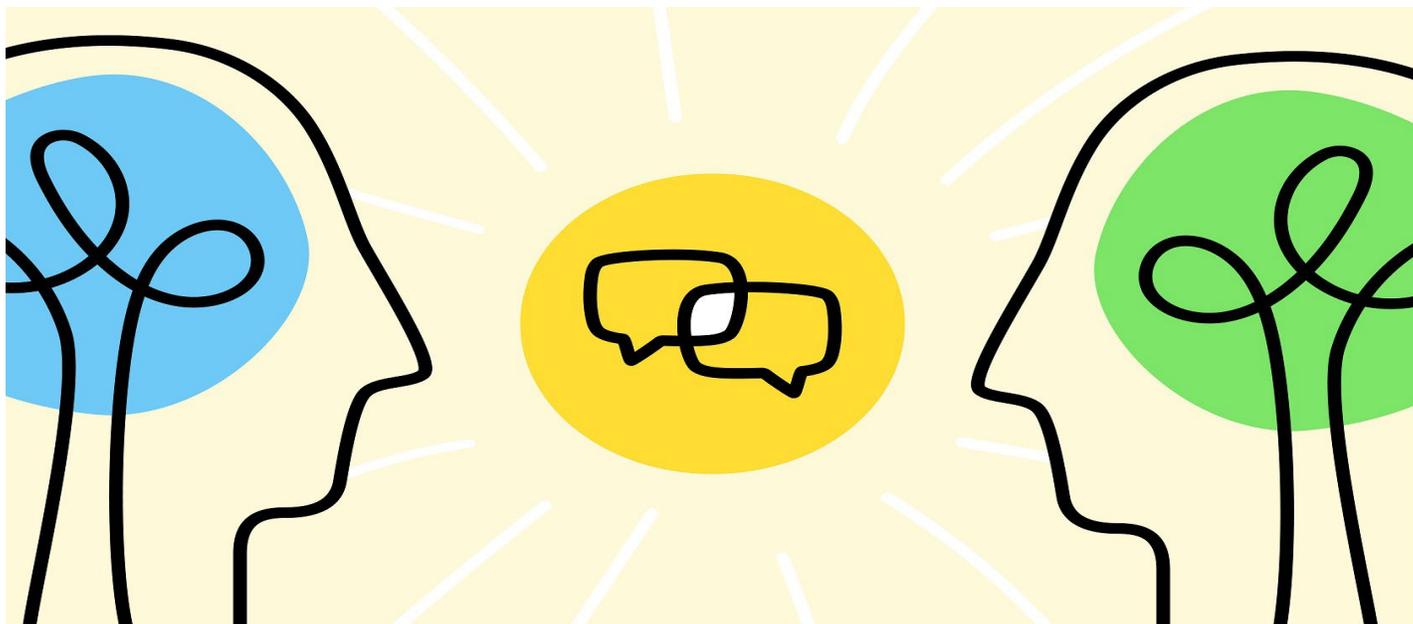
Jon Bulat  
Political Science  
Awardee  
*"The Impact of Municipal and Police Jurisdictional  
Fragmentation on Traffic Stops and Traffic Stop  
Disparities"*  
Dissertation Advisor: Brady Baybeck

### Abstract:

There are thousands of local law enforcement agencies throughout the country providing a needed and valuable service. As the past few years have highlighted, however, the way in which certain law enforcement agents or agencies enforce the law is not always equitable or just. My dissertation examines whether municipal and police jurisdictional fragmentation has an impact on the number of traffic stops in a metropolitan area and whether this fragmentation has any bearing on racial disparities in said traffic stops. By looking into the traffic stop patterns and disparities, my research will help paint a fuller picture of the everyday experiences of metropolitan area residents in the United States, experiences that shape how they view the world and how they interact with it. It will also provide a unique view of fragmentation's effect on equity in public services.



## Brown Bag Colloquium Series 2021-2022



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. This year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> continuous year that the series was held.

A screenshot of a Zoom presentation slide. The slide is divided into two main sections by a diagonal yellow line. The left section has a dark blue background with yellow text that reads: "WOMEN JOURNALISTS IN NEWSROOM LEADERSHIP: Where are the East German women journalists?". Below this, in white text, it says "Wayne State University Humanities Center Dec. 7, 2021". The right section has a white background and features the Wayne State University logo and name, the name "STINE ECKERT" with her Twitter handle "@stineeckert", the name "KARIN ASSMANN" with her Twitter handle "@kbassmann", and the University of Georgia logo and name. In the top right corner of the slide, there is a small video window showing a woman with glasses, identified as Stine Eckert.

Above: Screen capture from the Brown Bag presentation by Stine Eckert, Associate Professor, Communication, "*Women Journalists in Newsroom Leadership*" December 7, 2021

# Fall 2021 Brown Bag Schedule

**September 15: John Corvino, Dean, Irvin D. Reid Honors College, Professor, Philosophy**  
How to Be a Raging Moderate

**September 21: Fred Vultee, Associate Professor, Communication**  
How Media Routines Change and How Audiences Respond

**September 22: Aaron Retish, Associate Professor, History**  
Imagining Russia: How National Geographic Created Russia for Americans

**September 28: Peter Staroverov, Assistant Professor, English, Program in Linguistics**  
Unnatural patterns in phonology: documentation and analysis

**September 29: Lance Gable, 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: Elizabeth Evans, Associate Professor, English**  
Gender, Space, and Geography in British Fiction, 1800-2009

**October 13: Zachary Brewster, Associate Professor, Sociology and Kenneth Gourley, Graduate Student**  
Face Masks and the Color Red: Restaurant Tipping Behaviors During the Pandemic

**October 19: Ljiljana Progovac, Professor, Linguistics and English, Marilyn L. Williamson Distinguished Faculty Fellow**  
Language Evolution, Self-Domestication, and Verbal Aggression

**October 26: Jonathan Flatley, Professor, English**  
Everybody Hates the Police: On Hatred for the Police as a Political Feeling

**October 27: John Sase, Instructor, Economics**  
Cities of Plato

**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 Exemptions

**November 10: Hannah Schacter, Assistant Professor, Psychology**  
Why Peer Relationships Matter for Adolescents

**November 16: Marsha Music, Writer, Cultural Historian, and Former Labor Organizer**  
Joe Von Battle and Hastings Street Blues

**November 17: Kyu-Nahm Jun, Associate Professor, Political Science**  
Fiscal Crisis, Austerity, and Prospects of Participatory Governance: Evidence from US Municipalities

**December 1: Francis Shor, Professor Emeritus, History**  
Passages of Rebellion

**December 7: Stine Eckert, Associate Professor, Communication**  
Women in Newsroom Leadership in Germany. Where is the East German Worsen?

**December 8: Simone Chess, Director of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, Associate Professor, English.**  
Feeling Statues: Premodern Assistive and Erotic Technologies of Touch

**December 14: Jaime Goodrich, Professor and Associate Chair, English**  
The Babylon of Brussels: Spiritual Controversies among English Benedictines 1618-1642

**December 15: Deanna Laurette, PhD Candidate, English**  
Creation, Curation, Communication, and Disclosure: Disability on the Internet



Above: Screen capture from the Brown Bag presentation by Victor Figueroa, Professor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, on “*Nature and Writing in the Poetry of Julia de Burgos*” February 16, 2022. Professor Figueroa appears in the top right inset.

## Winter 2022

**January 11: John Wolf, Professor, WSU Theatre & Dance**

The Story of the Building Built to Tell Stories

**January 12: Howard Lupovitch, Associate Professor, WSU Judaic Studies**

The Challenges of Defining the Longest Hatred

**January 18: Michael Liebler, Associate Professor, English**

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

**January 25: Kypros Markou, Professor, College of Fine Performing and Communication Arts**

Interpreting Music: Challenges, Methods and Possibilities

**February 1: Jose Cuello, Associate Professor Emeritus, History**

Greed Created America's Five Original Sins: Racism, Sexism, Classism, Ageism and a Wild Card Category

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

Structuration of U.S. Communication Graduate Students' Stress

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

Camus's Plague and Our Pandemic

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

Nature and Writing in the Poetry of Julia de Burgos

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

From Resistance to Sellout: Changing Moods in (Post)Apartheid South-African Women's Art

**February 23: Walter Lucken IV, PhD Candidate, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

To an Abolitionist Horizon in Community Writing

## Winter 2022 Cont.

**March 1: Janet Hankin, Professor, Sociology** Impact of the Pandemic on America's Health Care System

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

The Legacies of Marie-Catherine d'Aulnoy's Fairy Tales: The Case of "The Green Serpent"

**March 8: Elizabeth Lublin, Associate Professor, History**

Tobacco: Using One Industry to Explore the Development of the Meiji State

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

Your Emotions and Why You Have Them

**March 31: Tam Perry, Associate Professor, Social Work**

Where are older adults in the marketing and branding of Detroit's development?

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

Creating my own space: Issues of Race, Gender, and Identity among Biracial Women

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

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

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

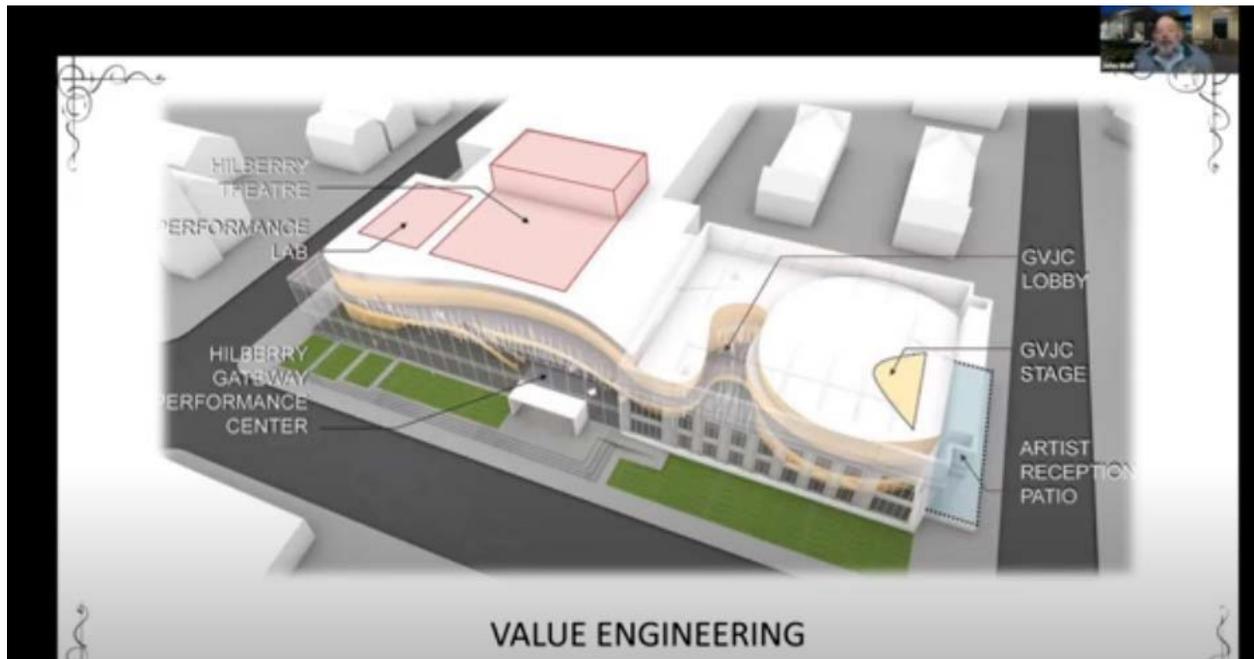
My Story, Your Story: Counterstory as Abolition & Solidarity in Basic Writing

**April 20: Caitlin Cassady, PhD Candidate, Social Work and Anthropology**

Physician Perspectives on Medical Aid in Dying: Understanding Beliefs, Values, and Ethics in a Contentious Practice

**April 26: Alisa Moldavanova, Associate Professor, Political Science**

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



Above: Screen capture from the Brown Bag presentation by John Wolf, Professor, WSU Theatre & Dance, *"The Story of the Building Built to Tell Stories"*, January 11, 2021



Above: Screen capture from the Brown Bag talk by renee c. hoogland , Professor, English, *'From Resistance to Sellout: Changing Moods in (Post) Apartheid South African Women's Art'* February 22, 2022. Professor hoogland is in the inset picture in the top right corner.



Above: Screen capture from the Brown Bag talk by Glenn Weisfeld, Professor Emeritus., Psychology, *" Your Emotions and Why you Have Them"* March 30, 2022

# 2022 Faculty Fellowship Conference on *Transition*

This year, the theme for our annual Faculty Fellowship conference was *Transition*. We hosted four internal speakers, and keynoter Harvard professor, Xiaofei Tian, to present projects pertaining to the theme.

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



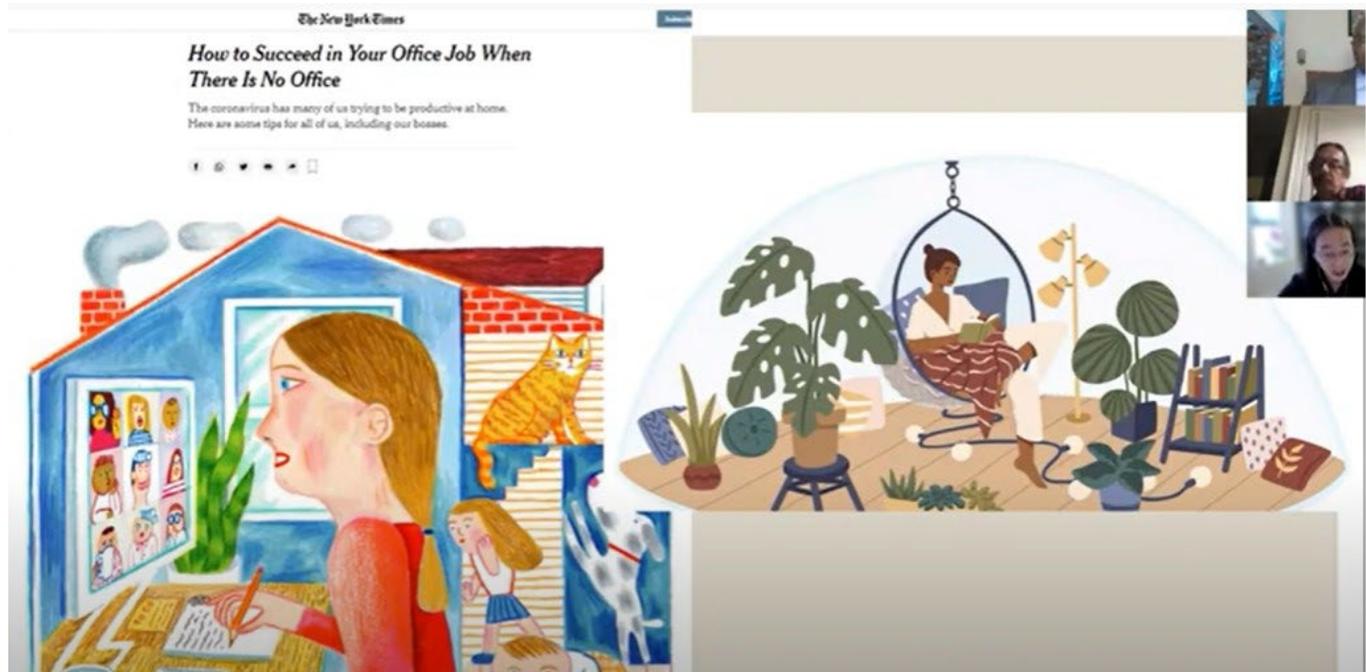
## TRANSITION

### Humanities Center's Virtual Faculty Fellows Conference

#### Itinerary

- 9:30-9:35 Call to Order: **Walter F. Edwards**, Director, Humanities Center, WSU
- 9:35-9:45 Welcoming Remarks: **Stephanie Hartwell**, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, WSU
- 9:45-9:50 Moderator- **Vanessa DeGifis**, Associate Professor and Department Chair, CMLLC, WSU
- 9:50-10:25 **Alina Cherry**, Associate Professor, CMLLC, WSU  
"Beyond Catastrophe: Transitioning through Pictures and Words in Laurent Mauvignier's *Around the World*"
- 10:25-11:00 **Lisa O'Donnell**, Assistant Professor, Social Work, WSU  
"A Feasibility Pilot Study: Assessing Attitudes on the Treatment of Mood and Anxiety Disorders among Individuals in the Workplace"
- 11:00-11:35 **Yunshuang Zhang**, Assistant Professor, CMLLC, WSU  
"Spatial and Cultural Transitions: The Rise of the Private Studio"
- 11:35-12:10 **Margaret Hull**, Assistant Professor, Art and Art History, WSU  
"Cottagecorps: Chintz and Persistence through a Decolonial Lens"
- 12:10-12:15 **Break**
- 12:15-12:20 Moderator- **Yunshuang Zhang**, Assistant Professor, CMLLC, WSU
- 12:20-1:20 Keynote Address- **Xiaofei Tian**, Professor of Chinese Literature, Harvard University "I Will Just Go and Water My Garden": Transition as a Choice

## 2022 Faculty Fellowship Conference on *'Transition' cont.*

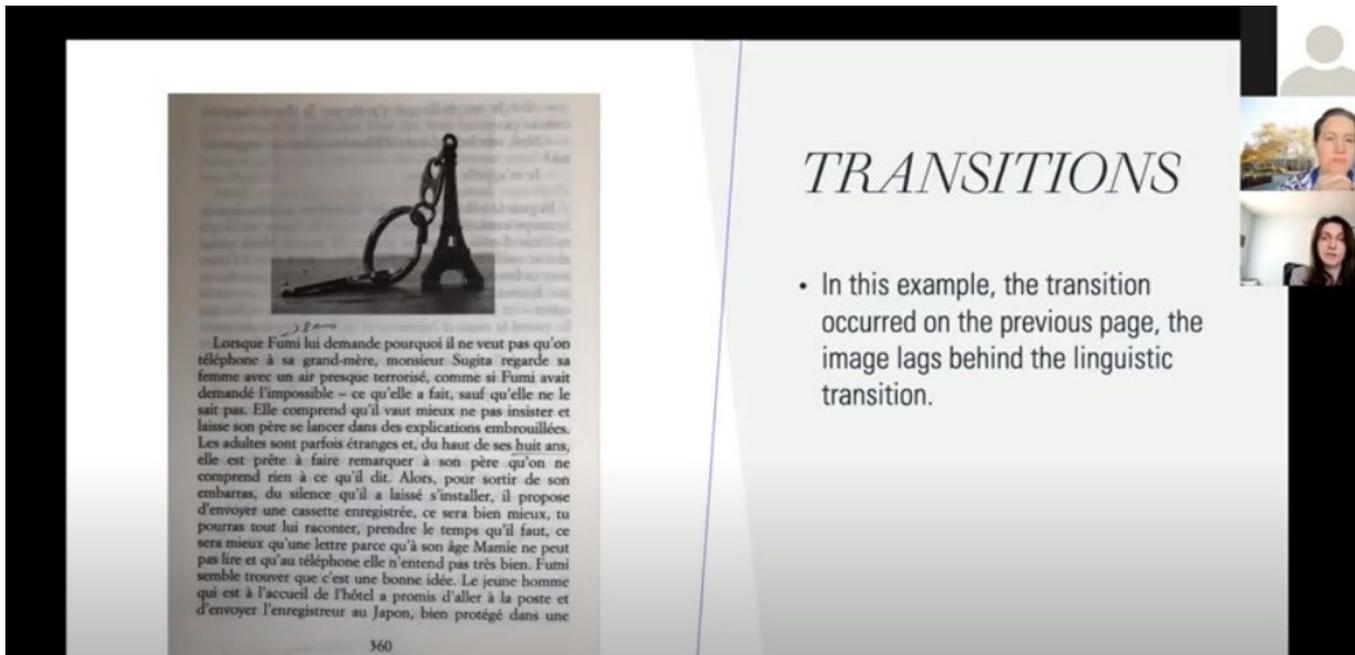


Above: Screen capture from Yunshuang Zhang's presentation on *"Spatial and Cultural Transitions: The Rise of the Private Studio"*



Above: Screen capture from Margaret Hull's presentation on *"Cottagecorps: Chintz and Persistence through a Decolonial Lens"*

## 2022 Faculty Fellowship Conference cont.



The slide features a photograph of a page from a book with a small illustration of a person and a large metal ring. Below the photo is a block of French text. To the right of the photo, the word "TRANSITIONS" is written in a large, elegant serif font. Below the title is a bullet point. On the right side of the slide, there are three small circular video thumbnails showing participants.

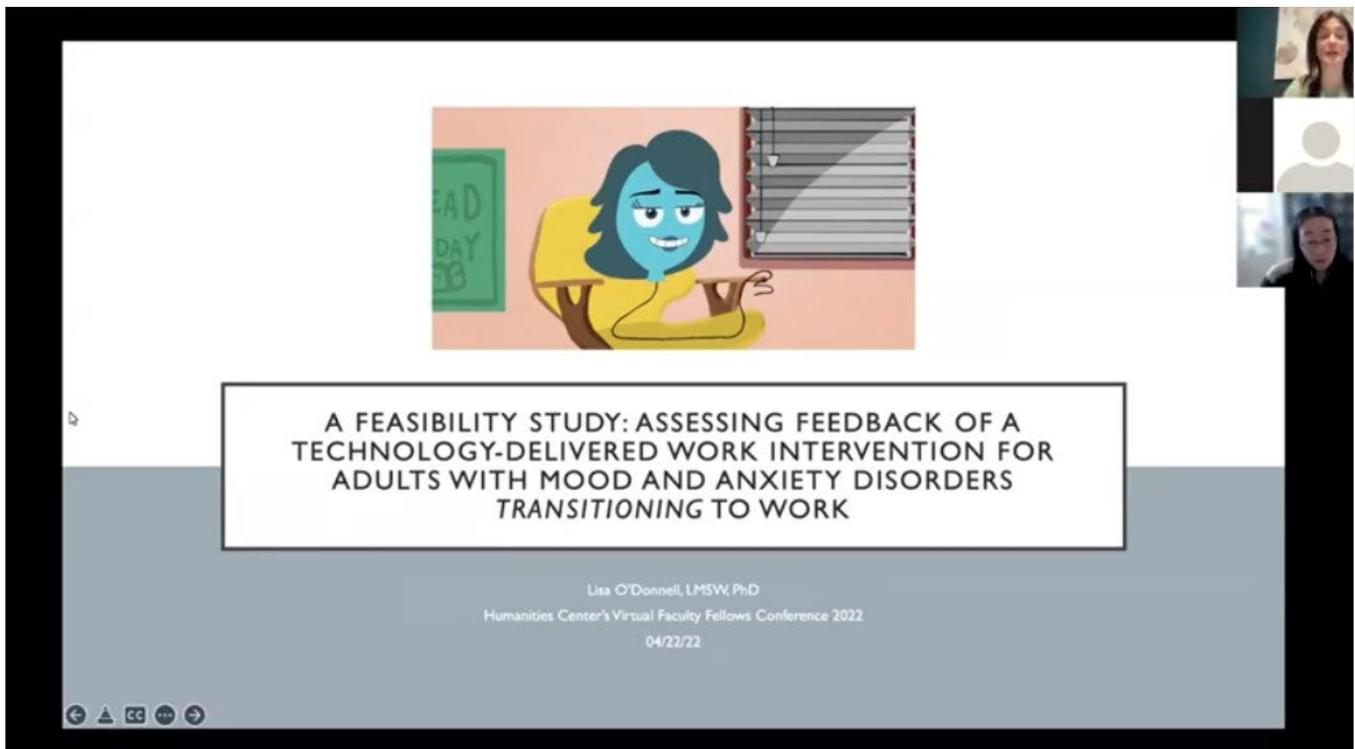
*TRANSITIONS*

- In this example, the transition occurred on the previous page, the image lags behind the linguistic transition.

Lorsque Fumi lui demande pourquoi il ne veut pas qu'on téléphone à sa grand-mère, monsieur Sugita regarde sa femme avec un air presque terrorisé, comme si Fumi avait demandé l'impossible – ce qu'elle a fait, sauf qu'elle ne le sait pas. Elle comprend qu'il vaut mieux ne pas insister et laisse son père se lancer dans des explications embrouillées. Les adultes sont parfois étranges et, du haut de ses huit ans, elle est prête à faire remarquer à son père qu'on ne comprend rien à ce qu'il dit. Alors, pour sortir de son embarras, du silence qu'il a laissé s'installer, il propose d'envoyer une cassette enregistrée, ce sera bien mieux, tu pourras tout lui raconter, prendre le temps qu'il faut, ce sera mieux qu'une lettre parce qu'à son âge Mamie ne peut pas lire et qu'au téléphone elle n'entend pas très bien. Fumi semble trouver que c'est une bonne idée. Le jeune homme qui est à l'accueil de l'hôtel a promis d'aller à la poste et d'envoyer l'enregistreur au Japon, bien protégé dans une

360

Above: Screen capture from Alina Cherry's presentation on *"Beyond Catastrophe: Transitioning through Pictures and Words in Laurent Mauvignier's, 'Around the World'"*



The slide features a cartoon illustration of a woman with dark hair and a yellow shirt sitting at a desk with a laptop. To her left is a green sign that says "HEAD DAY SB". To her right is a window with blinds. Below the illustration is a large white box containing the title of the study. At the bottom of the slide, the presenter's name and affiliation are listed. On the right side of the slide, there are three small circular video thumbnails showing participants.

**A FEASIBILITY STUDY: ASSESSING FEEDBACK OF A TECHNOLOGY-DELIVERED WORK INTERVENTION FOR ADULTS WITH MOOD AND ANXIETY DISORDERS TRANSITIONING TO WORK**

Lisa O'Donnell, LMSW, PhD  
Humanities Center's Virtual Faculty Fellows Conference 2022  
04/22/22

Above: Screen capture from Lisa O'Donnell's presentation on *"A Feasibility Pilot Study: Assessing Attitudes Among Stakeholders of a Technology-Delivered Work Intervention for Ind with Mood and Anxiety Disorders Transitioning Towards Employment"*

# 2022 Faculty Fellowship Competition

Each year the Humanities Center sponsors a Faculty Fellowship Competition on a specific theme. This year's theme is *"Fear and Fragility in the Covid-19 Era"*. 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 to be held in Spring of 2023. Below is the explication of the theme and a list of the six faculty who were awarded 2022 Faculty Fellowships.



Art by  
Maggie  
Chiang

## Explication of Theme

### *"Fear and Fragility in the Covid-19 Era"*

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.

# 2022 Faculty Fellowship Recipients



**Shirin Montazer**, Associate Professor, Sociology

**Areas of Expertise:** Sociology of Mental Health, Work-Family Conflict, International Migration, Neighborhood Context, Quantitative Methodology

**Project Title:** *"Fear in the time of Covid-19: The Effect of the Pandemic on the Mental Health of Employed Adults in the U.S."*



**Jessica Moorman**, Assistant Professor, Communication

**Areas of Expertise:** Media Sexual Socialization, Single Socialization, Black Women & Media, Intersectional Approaches to Media & Communication, Children & Media, Sleep & Media, Health Communication

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



**Lauren Duquette-Rury**, Associate Professor, Sociology

**Areas of Expertise:** International Migration, Race & Ethnicity, Vigilantism, Citizenship, Political Sociology, Development & Globalization, Democratization, and Mixed Methods Research

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

*\*\*\*The above recipients will give presentations at our conference to be held Spring 2023\*\*\**

## 2022 Faculty Fellowship Recipients cont.



**Lauren Kalman**, Associate Professor, Art & Art History

**Areas of Expertise:** Metalsmithing, Sculpture, Ceramics, Digital Art

**Project Title:** *"To Have or to Hold"*



**Pradeep Sopory**, Associate Professor, Communication

**Areas of Expertise:** Health, risk and science communication

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



**Sarah Swider**, Associate Professor

**Areas of Expertise:** Precarious and Informal Work, Labor and Labor Movements, Sociology of Development, Migration and social inequality, Gender, labor and social movements, China and Asian Studies

**Project Title:** *"Love's Story: Legitimizing, legislating and liminal-love among unmarried binational relationships during a global pandemic"*

\*\*\*The above recipients will give presentations at our conference to be held Spring 2023\*\*\*

# Virtual Book Launch Program

Our Book Launch program is the Center's newest initiative to contribute to conversation in the Humanities and to celebrate the scholarship of Wayne State University faculty. All faculty in the Humanities, regardless of rank, who had published a book since May 2020 were eligible to submit self-nominations for the biannual book launches. This academic year the Center sponsored four book launches.



Kevin Deegan-Krause  
Associate Professor, Political Science

*"The New Party Challenge: Changing Cycles of Party Birth and Death in Central Europe and Beyond"*

Abstract: A new party bursts onto the political scene promising to put an end to corrupt business-as-usual. It fails, but things don't return to normal because an even newer party takes its place.

Moderators: Sharon Wolchik, Professor of Political Sciences and International Affairs, George Washington University

Valerie Bunce, Professor of International Studies and Government (emeritus), Cornell University

Book Launch hosted on October 29, 2021.



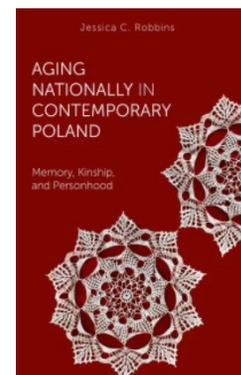
Jessica Robbins  
Associate Professor Anthropology

*"Aging Nationally in Contemporary Poland: Memory, Kinship and Personhood"*

Abstract: Through intimate portrayals of a wide range of experiences of aging in Poland, Robbins shows that everyday practices of remembering and relatedness shape how older Poles come to be seen by themselves and by others as living worthy, valued lives.

Moderator: Sarah Lamb, Barbara Mandel Professor of the Humanistic Sciences, Professor of Anthropology and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University

Book Launch hosted on November 9, 2021.



# Virtual Book Launch Program cont.



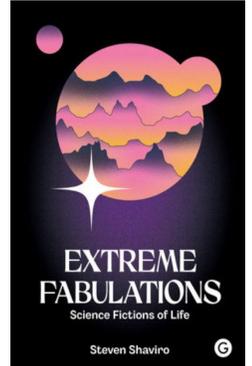
Steven Shaviro  
Deroy Professor, English

*"Extreme Fabulations: Science Fictions of Life"*

Abstract: In “Extreme Fabulations: Science Fictions of Life”, Steven Shaviro discusses a number of science fiction narratives: three novels, one novella, three short stories, and one musical concept album. Shaviro not only analyzes these works in detail but also uses them to ask questions about human, and more generally, biological life: about its stubborn insistence and yet fragility; about the possibilities and perils of seeking to control it; about the aesthetic and social dimensions of human existence, in relation to the nonhuman; and about the ethical value of human life under conditions of extreme oppression and devastation.

Moderator: Dr. Rebekah Sheldon, Associate Professor, English,  
Indiana University at Bloomington

Book Launch hosted on March 24, 2022.



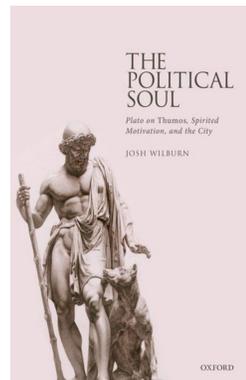
Josh Wilburn  
Associate Professor, Philosophy

*"The Political Soul: Plato on Thumos, Spirited Motivation, and the City"*

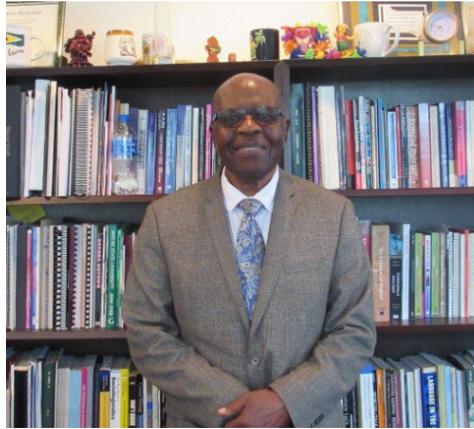
Abstract: In “*The Political Soul: Plato on Thumos, Spirited Motivation, and the City*,” Wilburn discusses Plato's views in relation to a broad range of early Greek Literature and thought. Wilburn examines Plato's account of the psychology of friendship and political life, offers a new interpretation of moral education and social organization in the Republic, and traces the development of Plato's thinking from his early to late dialogues, including chapters on Protagoras, Statesman, and Laws.

Moderator: Dr. Nicholas D. Smith, James F. Miller Professor of Humanities,  
Department of Classics and Department of Philosophy, Lewis and Clark College

Book Launch hosted on April 7, 2022.



# Humanities Center 2021-2022 Staff



*Dr. Walter F. Edwards, Director*



*Ariel Ferguson, Administrative Assistant*



*Jaqueline Boswell, Brown Bag  
and Resident Scholar Coordinator*



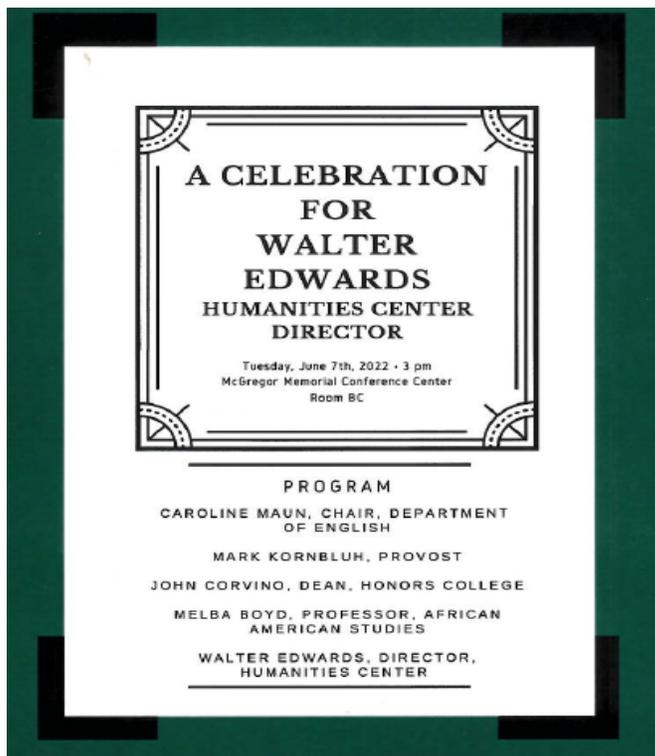
*Hui Hu, Webmaster*



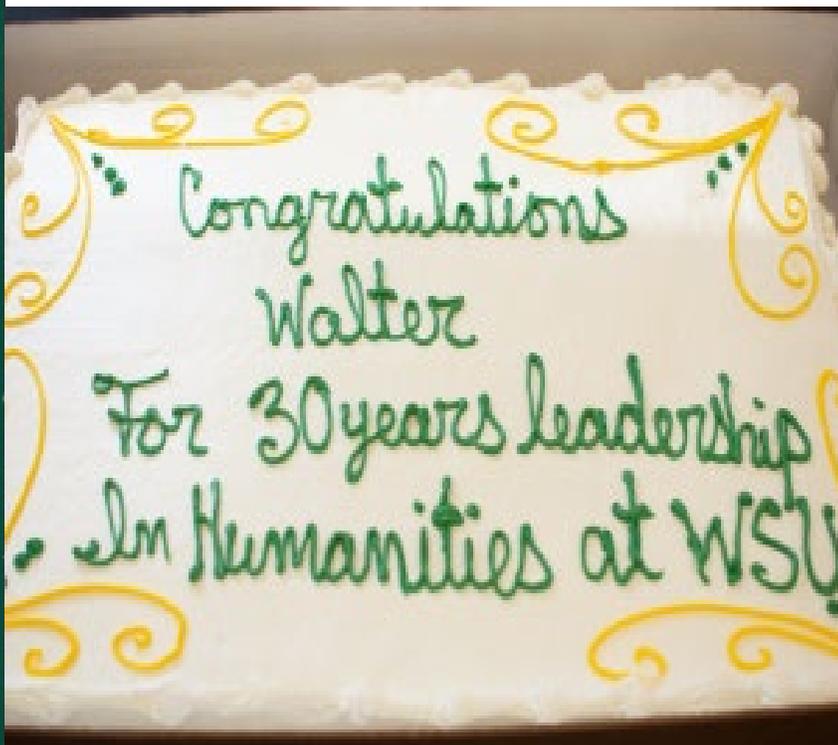
*Cheri Hollie, Student Assistant*

## Photos from the Tribute Celebration for Dr. Edwards

For nearly 30 years, Walter Edwards has stood at the helm of the Humanities Center. While under his leadership, the Center has supported 155 Working Groups, 244 Faculty Fellows, 241 Resident Scholars, 272 Graduate Travel recipients, 33 Edward Wise/Humanities Center Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships, and has hosted 1200 Brown Bag talks and 55 conferences and symposia. Dr. Edwards will return to his love of teaching and research in the fall of 2023 after a year of administrative leave.



*Above: Program for Dr. Edwards's celebration*



*Above: Cake from Dr. Edwards's celebration*



*Above: Dr. Edwards (left), John Corvino (right)*



*Above: (Left to right) Brian Edwards, Dr. Edwards, Valarie Edwards Stephanie Hartwell, David Merolla and Lawrence Lombard*

# Photos from the Tribute Celebration for Dr. Edwards



*Above : Valarie Edwards (left), Dr. Edwards (right)*



*Above: (left to right) Victor Figueroa, Dr. Edwards, Melba Boyd*



*Misc. photo from celebration*



*Misc. photo from celebration*

# Looking Forward to 2022-2023

A brief overview of upcoming events, programs, application details, and tentative deadlines.

Brown Bag Colloquium Series: Tentative Event Schedule

Virtual Book Launch: Tentative deadlines and submission details

Resident Scholars Program: Application details

Faculty Fellowship Competition: 2023 Theme, *"Reckoning with Ecological Peril and Possibility"*. Application and submission details

Faculty Fellowship Conference: Spring 2023 Theme, *"Fear and Fragility in the Covid-19 Era"*

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship: Tentative deadlines and submission details





# Humanities Center

Bringing Humanists Together for Collaborative Research



## Humanities Center Preliminary Brown Bag Colloquium Series 2022-2023

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



\*Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the situation on campus and the status of in-person events are still evolving. Depending on the state of the pandemic, speakers may be allowed to choose between virtual and/or in-person talks during the Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 semesters.

### Fall 2022

**September 13: Lance Gable, Professor, Law**

The Future of Wastewater Screening for the Public's Health

**September 14: Theodoto Ressa, Assistant Professor, Teacher Education**

Disability Culture and the Barriers and Opportunities in Higher Education

**September 20: Adrienne Jankens & Clay Walker, Assistant Professors, English**

Collaborative Research in the Humanities

**September 21: Ewa Golebiowska, Professor, Political Science**

The Intersection of Gender and Age in Voters' Responses to Candidates for Political Office

**September 27: Jose Cuello, Emeritus, Associate Professor, History**

Universities Can Play a Key Role in Mitigating the Global Ecological Crisis

**September 28: Carly Overfelt, Program Coordinator, Office of Teaching & Learning**

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

**October 4: Layla Saatchi, Senior Lecturer, Honors College**

Can we stop calling it Islamophobia?

**October 5: Evan Pavka, Assistant Professor, Art & Art History**

The House as Trauma Archives: The Troubled Interior of Do Ho Suh and Mike Kelley

**October 11: John Brender, Director, International Programs**

Millennial Expats in China: Experiences and Observations

**October 12: Kathleen Hanlon-Lundberg, PT Faculty, Anthropology & Public Health**

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

**October 18: Michael Okpanachi, Writing Fellow, English**

Memory, History & Shame: A Personal Narrative

**October 19: Walter Lucken IV, Graduate Teaching Assistant, English**

Third World Studies and the History of Rhetoric

**October 25: Sarah Swider, Associate Professor, Sociology**

Love's story: Using digital activism to legitimize love among unmarried bi-national relationships during a global pandemic

**October 26: Eun-Jung Katherine Kim, Associate Professor, Philosophy**

Protest as Exit Strategy from a Partial State of Nature

**November 1: Kurt Troutman, Academic Services Officer III, Education**

Cultural Humility: The Hunt for an Evaluation Framework

### Winter 2023

**January 10: Alisa Moldavanova, Associate Professor, Political Science**

Helping Hang: Does Greater Organizational Connectedness Lead to More Resilient

Nonprofit Organizations?

**January 11: Lawrence Lombard, Professor, Philosophy**

What is metaphysics, and how is it possible?



## HUMANITIES CENTER 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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 2022 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 Jonathan Anderson ([jon.anderson@wayne.edu](mailto:jon.anderson@wayne.edu)) and Cheryl Turski ([cheryl.turski@wayne.edu](mailto:cheryl.turski@wayne.edu)) by **September 9th**:



- 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 16th**, 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.

# Humanities Center



WAYNE STATE  
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## Resident Scholars Program 2022 - 2023

**DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023**

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

All full-time faculty in the humanities, arts, and related disciplines are eligible to apply, including those who are on sabbatical for all or part of the academic year.

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 22, 23 to: [ariel.ferguson@wayne.edu](mailto:ariel.ferguson@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 November 2019 meeting. From Left to Right: Billicia Hines (Theatre & Dance), Nicole Coleman (CMLLC), Michael Fuhlhage (Communication), José Cuello (History), Walter Edwards (Director), Nicole Trujillo-Pagan (Sociology), Janine Lanza (History), Krista Brumley (Sociology) and Stine Eckert (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 (CMLLC) 2020-2021 Resident Scholar**

The Humanities Center  
2226 Faculty/Administration Building  
Wayne State University  
Detroit MI 48202

(313) 577- 5471 | Fax: (313) 577-2843 | [www.research2.wayne.edu/hum/](http://www.research2.wayne.edu/hum/)



## Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship Competition 2022-2023

*Submit applications by March 24, 2023*

### **Reckoning with Ecological Peril and Possibility**

The climate crisis, pollution, and loss of biodiversity threaten the future of life on earth. What do these self-inflicted existential crises—and our halting responses to them—tell us about human nature, society, and our relationship to the earth on which all life depends? Which social forces, actors, and institutions are driving us toward catastrophe, and how do we fight back? How do we transform our political and economic systems? How do we prepare for and adapt to an environment that is already compromised? How do these crises introduce new threats to our physical and mental health, and how are communities and professionals grappling with these? What new forms of knowledge and technology are needed to comprehend and respond to the ecological perils we face? What can we learn through the study of history? What can we learn from social movements? What can we learn from visionary artists and futurists? What new cultural, moral, political, and social forms are emerging to frame and give meaning to these transformations? How can we reimagine more sustainable and socially just futures? How can we bring those futures into being and avert planetary disaster?

We invite a range of creative and humanities-based responses from faculty members in all academic disciplines, including the arts, humanities, social sciences, life and physical sciences, and professions.

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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 letter can be found on the FORMY. The Center will fund up to eight proposals with up to \$6,000 each. Recipients will be expected to present their findings to date at a Faculty Fellows Conference to be scheduled in April 2023.

*Submission details will be provided later in the summer.*

## The Humanities Center Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

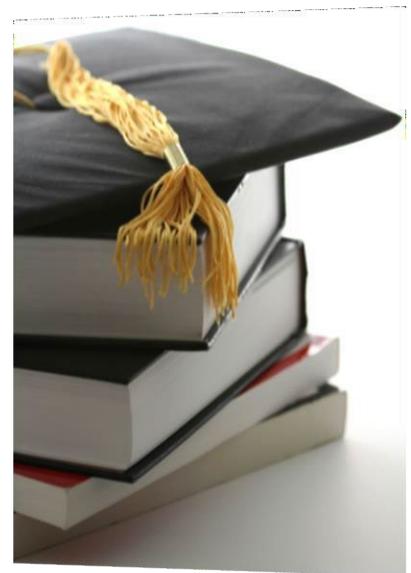
The Humanities Center and the Graduate School are happy to announce the continuation of their collaboration on funding the **Humanities Center Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for the 2022-2023 Academic Year**. This annual fellowship will award **\$15,000** to a humanities or arts doctoral candidate 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), and submitted via FORMY ([Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship - Wayne State University](#)). For more information, contact the Humanities Center by phone at (313) 577-5471



**Apply by:**  
**October 14, 2022**

*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



# Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship

**Deadline: February 17th, 2023**

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. Criteria for selection include: the merits of the individual research project proposed for the fellowship term; the exceptional contribution the proposed project will make to the humanities and its potential for scholarly recognition, publication, exhibition or performance; and two external recommendations in support of the project. Consistent with the mission of the Humanities Center, interdisciplinary proposals are particularly encouraged, although all distinguished projects in the humanities will be fully considered.

## Funding

The Center funds one proposal annually and two proposals every third year. **This year, only one fellowship will be available.** Applicants should limit their total budgets to \$20,000, and should prepare a budget statement which includes expenses related to the specific research project, e.g. travel, research assistance, salary and fringe benefits.

## Conditions

1. All tenured WSU 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 this fellowship within the last 6 years, and/or 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 required to publicly 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 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.

Completed applications must be submitted by 5:00pm February 17, 2023, at: <https://forms.wayne.edu/61967c4ec015c/>  
Further application details to be made available soon.

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



# WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



**Bringing Humanists Together for Collaborative Research**

*The Humanities Center 2021-2022 Annual Report Designed and Formatted by Ariel Ferguson.*