

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY



Humanities Center

Annual Report 2019-2020



The marquee of The Majestic Theatre, from the Detroit-based Doner ad agency's "When the Motor Stops" salute to the spirit of the city and its residents during the COVID-19 crisis (Photo: Zeke Anders)

RESILIENCE AND CHANGE

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Our Mission

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

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

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A Message from the Director 2019 - 2020 Overview



Walter F. Edwards

The Center's 27th year had a promising beginning, but has been significantly disrupted by the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In September 2019 our academic year began auspiciously. Our first event was a well-attended Brown Bag talk on September 10, 2019 by Jon Cawthorne, Dean of the School of Library and Information Sciences on "The 21st century academic library". This was the first of 59 such Brown Bag talks scheduled for the year. The Center also had already scheduled this year's Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Lecture by English Professor Sarika Chandra on "Race after Representation" for January 17, 2020, and our annual Faculty Fellows conference on "Democracy?" was scheduled for April 3, 2020. We had recruited a diverse group of Resident Scholars for the 2019-20 year. The group comprised scholars from the departments of Communication, History, Theatre/Dance, Sociology, Latino/a studies and Modern Languages. Their initial round-table meetings at which they discussed their individual projects and received input from other resident scholars were intense, scholarly, and richly interdisciplinary, as desired. Additionally, the Center had selected for funding seven Working Groups comprising dozens of scholars in the process of researching and publishing on a variety of scholarly and artistic projects that promoted public, environmental, and artistic humanities. Thus, we were off to a good year; the fall semester went well, then the pandemic erupted in mid-winter.

The pandemic precipitated urgent and significant adjustments to the activities of the university. Specifically, it necessitated an abrupt pivot to on-line classes and strict protocols for avoiding infections, including wearing masks, physical distancing and frequent hand sanitation. The immediate effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Humanities Center was to cause the cancellation of 17 of our scheduled 51 Brown Bag talks beginning in mid-February. We also were forced to cancel the 2020 Faculty Fellows conference scheduled for April 3, 2020 at which Secretary of State Joycelyn Benson was billed as the keynoter. The pandemic made it necessary for the resident scholars to reschedule research trips and to abandon their offices in the Center to work remotely; and sent our staff off campus also to work from home. The entire University was disrupted and quickly had to adjust to the new normal of virtual meetings and on-line classes. The Center's review of the 2020 Faculty Fellowships applications had to be conducted virtually and we were forced to cancel the winter and summer Graduate Travel competitions, among other adjustments.

Then on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis, a white police officer killed George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man, by kneeling on his neck for over eight minutes during which time Mr. Floyd pleaded for his life while gasping "I can't breathe!". The video of this horrible incident roiled the nation and was the catalyst for hundreds of righteous protests nationwide and worldwide with people marching with signs and banners most of which proclaimed "Black Lives Matter!" This killing was just the latest in a long history of police brutality against African American people in this country and reminded millions of black, brown and white Americans of similar recent killings of African Americans by white police officers. These victims including Breonna Taylor (2020, Louisville), Atatiana Jefferson (2019, Miami), Aura Rosser

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(2014, Ann Arbor), Stephon Clark (2018, Sacramento), Bothan Jean (2018, Dallas), Philando Castille (2016, Falcon Heights), Alton Sterling (2016, Baton Rouge), Freddie Gray (2015, Baltimore), Eric Gardner (2014, New York City), Michael Brown (2014, Ferguson), and others. George Floyd's killing has galvanized a sustained, and determined resolve by people from all walks of life to address not only police brutality towards African Americans but systemic racism and widespread social injustice against black people and other minorities.

Wayne State University responded admirably to both the pandemic and the civic unrest precipitated by Mr. Floyd's killing. To manage the pandemic, the university quickly moved most classes to on-line instruction; stipulated that employees who are able to work from home should do so; and set up a number of taskforces and teams to address a variety of COVID-19 concerns. President Wilson and Provost Whitfield have been holding regular town hall meetings to keep everybody informed about decisions and to seek input. In response to the national protests against racism and police brutality, President Wilson issued a strong and unambiguous declaration of support for the Black Lives Matter movement and organized a town hall meeting on the topic. Additionally, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, which reports to the Provost, has held at least three university-wide meetings to engage university citizens on the topic of police behavior and social inequities that negatively affect African Americans.

The Humanities Center also responded to both the pandemic and the uprising against police brutality and social injustice. We reacted to the pandemic in the following ways:

1. We titled this annual report "Resilience and Change" with the maxim "*To Fight for Change Tomorrow, We Must Build Resilience Today*". Throughout the report we have inserted pictures of Detroit-area and national buildings, activities and people which all show that we Americans are resilient and thus will recover from the pandemic and learn from it. The Center is grateful to our Brown Bag coordinator Kennedy Cockrel for suggesting and facilitating this pictorial response to COVID-19.

2. Creating a mini-grant program with the following title and description:

CREATIVE RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC MINI-GRANTS Deadline: October 15, 2020
Wayne State University's Humanities Center is sponsoring a one-time mini-grant program to invite graduate and undergraduate students and part-time faculty in the humanities, arts, and social science to reflect in creative ways, via humanistic expressions, on the COVID 19 pandemic and its outcomes.

The center has received several enquiries from musicians, artists, poets and English scholars about submitting proposals; and so far, two proposals have come in.

3. Publishing on our website a statement on the role of the humanities in times of crisis, that appeared on the website of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI).
<https://chcinetwork.org/ideas/a-statement-on-the-role-of-humanities-research-and-education-in-times-of-crisis>

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We prefaced the statement with the following introduction:

WSU's Humanities Center is a member of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) which comprises over 200 centers located in the USA and over 15 other countries across the world. That body published in its June 2020 newsletter the following statement about the role of the humanities and arts during this pandemic. The statement was prepared by the Humanities Center at Washington University in Missouri. Our Humanities Center endorses this statement and with the permission of the CHCI is reproducing it below, along with its signatories, as a way of articulating the intrinsic value of the humanities and humanistic disciplines to human societies and their central roles in modern universities like WSU.

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

As a Black man, I was appalled by the public execution of George Floyd. As I looked at the policeman kneeling viciously on Floyd's neck, I remembered thinking of the 18th century English poet Robert Burns's now famous line "*Man's inhumanity to man makes thousands mourn*" from his 1784 poem "*Man was made to mourn*"

The Humanities Center signaled its solidarity with the protesters through the following activities:

1. With the assistance of members of the Center's Advisory Board, I sought out faculty who are experts in the field of police behavior towards African Americans with the intention of recruiting them to give Brown Bag talks on the subject early in the Fall 2020 semester. We identified sociology professor, David Merolla and his student Jason Smith who volunteered to speak on September 22, 2020 on the topic "*Black, blue and blow: the effect of race and criminal history on perceptions of police violence*".
 2. Published on our website www.research2.wayne.edu/hum a statement of solidarity emanating from the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes to which our Center is affiliated. The following is an excerpt from the statement:
"Black lives matter. The recent murders, in the United States, of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others expose exploitations and inequities rooted in more than four centuries of colonialism, enslavement, and the violation of civil and human rights.
- The international advisory board of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) stands in solidarity with those protesting racist forms of injustice and police violence. We commit to creating and promoting anti-racist environments for scholars, students, and staff in the humanities, in the United States, and around the world...."*
3. Organized a mini-series scheduled for the Fall 2020 Brown Bag talks on the theme of "Democracy?". The *raison d'être* is that the constitution of the USA is built on the principle of democracy in that it asserts that all men (and women) are created equal. Consequently, all Americans should be treated equally under the law. The speakers and topics in this series are as follows:

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September 9th Liette Gidlow, Associate Professor, History

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

September 16th Steve Winter, Distinguished Professor, Law

“Democracy and the rule of law”

October 1. Elizabeth Stoycheff, Associate Professor, Communication

“Deterring democracy: How government mass surveillance chills freedom of expression”

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

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

By interrogating the notion of “democracy” the mini-series will also exemplify one of the fundamental benefits that the humanities can provide in a time of social turbulence as this is. Specifically, the papers will illustrate that *“Humanistic scholarship... grapples with foundational questions of society. Humanities fields, coupled with insights from the social sciences, allow us to work through the big questions, which seem even bigger in times like ours:*

- *What are our responsibilities in a democracy in a time of crisis?*
- *What do we owe each other?*
- *How do we balance rights with obligations in our behavior?*
- *How can we better communicate with each other, through language, arts, and technology, so that we can work effectively together, to restore the body politic, and to reshape our community and how we understand it?*
- *What knowledge can we bring to bear in our understanding of international communities and our place in the global, transnational landscape?*
- *What can we learn from other societies’ pasts and presents that can help us understand the major problems we face in our world?”* (Excerpt from the CHCI’s statement on the roles of the humanities in times of crises referenced above),

Through these talks the Center hopes to provide university citizens and community members the opportunity to examine how a democratic country such as ours can address social and economic inequalities that negatively affect African Americans and other minority populations.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the social unrest in our country around the issue of social justice for African Americans and other minorities, the Humanities Center has had a good year in 2019-20. We can be proud of the fact that we hosted **34** Brown Bag talks before the series had to be terminated, and that our other programs were going well until the pandemic arrived. The body of this report will reveal the successes of our Resident Scholars’ program, our Working Groups program, the Marilyn Williamson Distinguished Faculty Fellowships Competition, the Marilyn Williamson Distinguished Faculty Fellow Lecture, the Humanities Center Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, the and the Faculty Fellowships Competition on “The Future of Failure”.

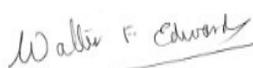
We have also had a good year of hiring key staff members. Last academic year Shamira Tellis graduated from WSU with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health and therefore had to leave her student assistant position with us after six continuous years of outstanding service. We were glad to see her graduate but sad to lose such a talented, responsible, and industrious staff member. However, we were incredibly lucky to hire Kennedy Cockrel, a graduate student in the Business School to replace her this year. Kennedy has been an excellent addition to the Center as our Brown Bag coordinator. After previous incumbents transitioned to other positions in the university, we were also incredibly lucky to hire Tiffin Carter as our new Administrative Assistant. Tiffin has a degree in Education and is a former elementary school teacher. Welcome Aboard Tiffin and Kennedy!

This academic year has been very unique for the University and the Humanities Center mainly because the world is experiencing its worst pandemic since the Spanish Flu in 1918. I am pleased to say that the university and the Center are enduring the pandemic well and have learned from it. Already the university has learned how to conduct its business virtually and those platforms (Zoom, Teams) will likely become part of our new normal. Also, we have all been educated in how to safeguard ourselves from infectious diseases and to take responsibility for our own health and that of others. The social unrest has reminded us of the persistence of systemic racism in our country and has stimulated us to make very deliberate efforts to address those problem and work towards a "more perfect union". Across America and the world new laws and policies are being enacted to address systemic racism and social inequities that affect Black people in the African diaspora. I was heartened to see that the death of civil rights icon John R. Lewis on July 17 was mourned so deeply across America by people of all races, and that his life was celebrated in a moving TV special on CBS in primetime on August 4 where he was memorialized by tributes from African American and white celebrities and entertainers. Most significantly for me is that on August 5 Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer declared that "racism is a public health crisis in Michigan" and announced the formation of a Black Leadership Advisory Council to develop policies to address disparities in social justice, health care and economic opportunities that negatively impact African Americans. Positive change has come; and more of them will come.

I wish to thank my staff, the Advisory Board of the Center, and Provost Whitfield and his staff for their assistance in managing the Center. Provost Whitfield has recently accepted a position as President of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas (UNLV) beginning this fall. I wish him every success in his new position. He was an innovative academic and administrative leader at Wayne and should be a successful university president at UNLV. President Wilson has appointed Dr. Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, Dean of WSU's College of Nursing, to serve as interim provost. I look forward to working with her and her administrative team.

I also look forward to a vibrant, pandemic-free 2020-21 for the university and the Humanities Center.

Respectfully submitted,



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

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

2019-2020

BROWN BAG TALKS: Since the inception of the weekly Brown Bag Colloquium Series, hundreds of Wayne State faculty and students in the humanities and arts have participated either as speakers or as members of the audience. Each new year brings an increase in the number of faculty volunteering to present talks. As a result, the Center now regularly hosts between 50 and 60 talks each academic year. During the 2019-20 academic year, the talks were held mainly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. *This year, 51 talks were scheduled but 17 were cancelled due to COVID-19.* Brown Bag Talks are free and open to the public.

HUMANITIES CENTER DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP: The Humanities Center and the Graduate School continued their collaboration on funding a Humanities Center Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. This annual fellowship awards \$15,000 to a humanities or arts doctoral candidate in the final stages of writing 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. Up to three smaller awards of \$500 each can be made at the discretion of the Center. The fellowship award is dispensed as monthly stipends between January and August. *The 2019-2020 fellow was Salam Aboulhassan from Sociology and the awardee was Daniel F. Harrison from Anthropology.*

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

FACULTY FELLOWS CONFERENCE: The Faculty Fellows Conference is held in the winter semester. Internal Faculty Fellows Conference speakers are the recipients of fellowships in the previous year. The conference allows the fellowship recipients to present the results of their funded work and to receive feedback from the audience. In addition to fellowship recipients from WSU, the Center invites a distinguished keynoter who is an expert in the area addressed by the theme. *The 2020 conference theme was "Democracy?"; however, the conference was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 conference theme will be "The Future of Failure".*

MARILYN WILLIAMSON ENDOWED DISTINGUISHED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP: Thanks to a generous endowment provided by former WSU Provost Marilyn L. Williamson, the Humanities Center offers an annual Distinguished Faculty Fellowship to tenured faculty (associate and full professors) in the humanities, social issues and arts. The award of this single \$20,000 fellowship is based on the merits of the research project proposed; on the exceptional contribution the proposed project will make to the humanities and its potential for scholarly publication, exhibition or performance; and on two external recommendations in support of the project. The endowment provides funds to offer two fellowships every third year. Consistent with the mission of the Humanities Center, interdisciplinary proposals are particularly encouraged, although all projects in the humanities are fully considered. The fellowship recipient is asked to share results of the funded research in a public lecture organized during the year of (or following) the fellowship term. *The 2020 recipients were Ljiljana Progovac, Professor of English and Nicole Trujillo-Pagan, Associate Professor of Sociology. The MWEDFF lecture was given by Dr. Sarika Chandra.*

RESIDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM: One of the Center's oldest programs, the Resident Scholars Program is open to all full-time faculty in the humanities, arts, and related disciplines. This program provides office space, basic office equipment, and administrative support from the Center's staff. Additionally, monthly "roundtable" meetings allow our residents to discuss their current research or creative projects in an engaging interdisciplinary environment. Resident Scholars are also eligible for up to \$800 in support for travel and equipment expenses, or to pay for research assistance. *The Humanities Center hosted eight Resident Scholars from six disciplines during the 2019 -20 year. (See pages 11-14)*

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

(continued) 2019-2020

TRAVEL AWARD PROGRAM FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS: The Center budgets up to \$3,000 a year to support this program. In an effort to spread this funding across the full academic year, the Center budgets \$1,200 for the Fall Semester, \$1,200 for the Winter Semester and \$600 for the Spring/Summer Semester. Each award recipient was funded up to \$300 for travel to conferences or exhibitions held nationally or internationally between September 1, 2019 and August 16, 2020. *This year, the Center funded two students from two different departments. This program was significantly interrupted by the pandemic because the University suspended funded travel.*

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



Front Office of the Humanities Center

2019-2020 RESIDENT SCHOLARS

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



Krista Brumley

Associate Professor, Sociology
“Work, Family, and Relationships”

I was awarded the Resident Scholar in 2019-2020. This Humanities Center program provided a peaceful and creative space to concentrate on my research. Throughout the year, I primarily worked on my project Work, Family, and Relationships. This interdisciplinary project uses mixed methods to investigate how workplace resources and support impact work-family conflict, mental health outcomes, and relationships among dual-income couples. I accomplished the following tasks:

1. Submission of the journal manuscript, “The Paradox of Time: Work, family, conflict, and the social construction of time.”
2. Finalized edits for a revise and resubmit, which was published in May: Shirin Montazer, Krista M. Brumley & Katheryn Maguire (2020). The Social Science Journal: “Overnight work-travel, work-family conflict, and psychological distress.” DOI: 10.1080/03623319.2020.1756175.
3. Wrote and submitted a grant to the National Science Foundation.
4. Submission of the journal manuscript, “Flexible Work Arrangements and Supervisor Support,” for another research project entitled, Gender, Work, and Family.

Not only does the resident scholar program offer the opportunity to work in an amazing space, one of the most beneficial aspects is the resident scholar roundtable. Each month the resident scholars came together to discuss the research of one of us; the energy, rich discussion, and brainstorming was inspiring. This type of collaborative engagement enriches our scholarship.



Nicole Coleman

Assistant Professor, German
Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
“The Right to Difference & Pluralism in German Children's Literature: Characters with Disabilities”

During the 2019-2020 academic year (until COVID-19 prohibited work on campus), I used my office in the Humanities Center twice a week as a refuge and writing space. I usually have an open-door policy for my departmental office, which makes it a great space for conversations with colleagues and students but not for research. Having an office dedicated for writing proved wonder 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 being reviewed by the University of Michigan Press for publication 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.



Jose Cuello

Associate Professor
History and Latin/Latino American Studies
“Sacred Fire: The Ideology of Independent Native Identity in the North of Colonial Mexico, 1550-1750”

I had a great research year as a resident scholar at the Humanities Center. It is truly the interdisciplinary center of Wayne State University in which scholars from multiple disciplines discover that they have a lot in common with each other. The structured presentations and discussions and the informal conversations are exciting and motivating. The individual office gave me open space to think more

deeply and broadly on my two book projects that involve a critique of Western Civilization. The micro-study involves the ideological conflict between the Spanish colonial state and the nomadic nations of northern Mexico. The macro-study is on a unified theory of the rise and fall of civilizations. I also got to see Dr. Walter Edwards in action on a daily basis as he organized the twice-weekly brown bag presentations and other faculty support programs. It is truly uplifting when a scholar of his stature makes his work a passion and not just a job. Every faculty at WSU should be lining up to sign up for the Resident Scholar's Program. Whether you do or not, send in your contribution at fundraising time to support this incredible center of academic excellence!



Stine Eckert

Assistant Professor, Communication

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

The Wayne State University Humanities Center 2019-2020 Resident Scholars Program provided the necessary resources for me to work on my project with great focus and concentration. The separate office in the Humanities Center was a quiet place to dedicate my time and energy to my research on U.S. news media coverage of academic sexual misconduct in the United States when university employees are the perpetrators. In this project, I led a team of several co-authors to

analyze how the hashtag #metoo was used as a reference frame, or not, in publicly reported news stories about cases of academic sexual misconduct since October 2017 when the hashtag went viral online. We worked with a large data base that has logged public news reports and court documents of such cases. Our analysis focused on coding each case for #metoo mentions and type of news medium which broke the story. My team consisted of undergraduate and graduate students at Wayne State University as well as researchers at three other universities. The result of this work thus far is a conference paper presentation at the annual conference of the 2020 International Communication Association in May 2020 (converted from a traditional face-to-face conference to a virtual conference) to solicit feedback from peers and to work toward a publication of our study in a peer-reviewed journal. The funds provided by the Humanities Center also assisted in obtaining aid through qualitative analysis software and extra coding help to propel the project forward. The atmosphere provided by the Humanities Center gave me the opportunity to check in weekly with one of my fellow resident scholars to encourage and motivate my work and to forge connections with colleagues beyond the Department of Communication. Thank you, Dr. Edwards, and Humanities Center staff, for all your support for my study.



Michael Fuhlhage

Assistant Professor, Communication

"Gazing Across the Border: "Otherings" of Latina/os in the Nineteenth century Anglo American Press"

The Wayne State University Humanities Center provided many things to me during my year as a resident scholar. My home discipline, communication, and journalism history is thoroughly interdisciplinary. Given that, the interdisciplinarity of Director Walter Edwards and my cohort was so diverse that it infused my own thinking with many more ways to see and process the

historical artifacts of the mediated world that is the center of my scholarship. Particularly as a tenure-track faculty member, I benefited from the experience and diversity of viewpoints of my fellow scholars. Their influence, both during monthly round tables and informally during office hours and beyond, helped me shape my book prospectus and grant proposal.

My main research project this year involves laying the groundwork for my next book, tentatively titled *Gazing Across the Border: The Genesis of Stereotypes about Latinos in Nineteenth-Century Anglo-American Press*. My project proposes the intellectual raw material for current stereotypes about Latina/os grew out of prejudice against Mexicans that was fed by American news media. Work supported by the Humanities Center resulted in four products: A book proposal, a proposal for a grant from the Wayne State University Office for the Vice President of Research Arts and Humanities Support Program, new research on an early originator of prejudicial journalism (Albert Pike) about Mexicans, and a research project co-authored with two of my doctoral advisees on news coverage of William Walker's 1850s filibustering in Nicaragua. I had planned to use Humanities Center Resident Scholar funds of \$800 to support an archive visit to either the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, or the Ransom Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin in May 2020. However, the hazards associated with the coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown of those archives have forced me to postpone.



Billicia Hines

Director of the Black Theatre Program

Assistant Professor, Theatre and Dance

"Performance theatre of the African Diaspora & Performance and Social Change"

The Humanities Resident Scholars afforded an opportunity to focus on my writing. Below are the accomplishments from this school year. I co-authored the following:

Anderson, Mary Elizabeth and Hines, Billicia Charnelle Hines, "Detroit '67: Bodies, Spaces, Times", *American Dramaturgies for the 21st Century*, e-Theatrum Mundi vol. 6, Sorbonne Université Presses,

Paris, France, expected release date of 2020/2021

The I Am... Experience: Social Justice Art from Process to Product, Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Journal. Published Anderson, Mary Elizabeth, and Billicia Charnelle Hines. "Clairmont: Conversations with Playwright Dominique Morisseau, Actor Breayre Tender, and the Ghosts of Detroit '67." *Texas Theatre Journal*, Edited by Shelby-Allison Hibbs and John Michael Sefel, vol. 16, no. 1,

Sept. 2019, pp. 63–72.

Working Group Report for "Embodying Liberation: An exploration of political resistance through the performing arts" 2019-20

Billicia C. Hines, Dr. Ras Mikey Courtney, Karen Prall, and Alesyn McCall

We created and directed the Freedom Players original social justice show, "I am...", at Edinburgh Fringe Festival, in Scotland in August 2019.

We presented our research at the following events:

- "The Journey of Liberation: From Development to Performance" Black Theatre Network Conference in North Carolina in August 2019

- "Decolonizing the Art" WSU Humanities Center, Brown Bag Colloquium, October 2019

We continued working with the Freedom Players to continue creating new scenes of I AM (2020) We performed led panel discussions at the following events:

- Detroit Public Schools' Day of Racial Healing, Detroit Public Schools

- Wayne State University's Day of Racial Healing

We created a virtual video and blog discussion of "I AM...(2020) for many Social media outlets

Finally, through all the research and performances, Billicia Hines and Dr. Ras Mikey Courtney wrote a grant proposal for the Humanities Fellowship Grant. It was called, "Decolonization of the Arts: An Altered Perception of Failure". The proposal was accepted. *We like to thank the Humanities Center for all the continued support throughout the years!*



Janine Lanza

Associate Professor, History

Director, Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies Program

"Chopped: A Cultural History of the Guillotine"

While on leave this academic year, I had the good fortune to spend two to three days a week in the Humanities Center offices. The quiet, relaxed atmosphere supported the reading and writing

I accomplished over the several months I was in residence. I was fairly productive in that time. I wrote an outline, prospectus, and a chapter of one book project that I'm currently working on. I was able to present that chapter as a Humanities Center brown bag and also to the Fellows working group. I received valuable and helpful feedback at both of those events and was able to expand and revise the chapter on the basis of those meetings. My further progress on that project was curtailed because a research trip planned for spring 2020 was cancelled although I continue to read and draft parts of the manuscript.

I also finished and had published an article in a peer-reviewed journal. While I began the draft in summer 2019, I did much of the writing and all of the revising during my residency. I also wrote, revised, and submitted two book chapters for edited volumes.

Finally, I made progress toward finishing a book project that has been in the works for a decade. I printed a first draft, organized research and began expanding and revising the chapters.

There is no question that the supportive environment in the Humanities Center was a boon to my productivity. The staff is lovely and helpful. The other fellows are great sources of feedback, inspiration, and camaraderie. And the Fellows meetings provided stimulating and lively debate. My only regret is that I missed several months in residence due to the outbreak of the coronavirus. I appreciate the support of the Center and hope to be able to spend time there again in the future.



Nicole Trujillo-Pagan

Associate Professor, Sociology

Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies

"American Dreams, Latino Realities"

As a resident scholar, I attended all brownbag sessions and engaged in thoughtful considerations of other scholars' research. I also presented my own research in the Fall of 2019, a book proposal, which I wrote specifically for the brownbag. I found other scholars' feedback invaluable in identifying what was the central question of my research. I built on this feedback when I wrote several grant proposals in the Winter 2020 semester. I received favorable feedback on those proposals. The book proposal and the feedback I received at my brownbag have also been central to the ways I continue to develop the

manuscript and think about additional data collection.

Resident Scholars



***Above:** Regular meeting for resident scholars to share their recent research, art and studies. Seated from Left to right: Janine Lanza, Stine Eckert, Nicole Coleman, Krista Brumley, Nicole Pagan*

***Below:** Scholars discussing research. Clockwise: Jose Cuello, Nicole Pagan, Dr. Edwards, Michael Fuhlhage, Janine Lanza, Stine Eckert, Krista Brumley.*



Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Lecture

The Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship recipients are asked to share results of their funded research in a lecture organized during the year following the fellowship term.



Abstract: “Redefining Race and Class”

Professor Sarika Chandra, English

Escalating political crises point to the urgent need to theorize the relationship between race and political economy. This presentation will attempt to move beyond impasses in conventional accounts of the US racial order post World War II by remapping the relationship between race and the contemporary form of capitalist accumulation. Dominant ways of establishing this relationship, formulated through interconnections of race and class, only partially explain the imbrication of racial structures and capitalism. This race/class problematic is impeded, in part, by how its terms of analysis are defined. Arguing that how we define race shapes the horizon of struggle with important implications for antiracism, this talk will outline the challenges to analysis posed by the definitional ambiguity of race and class as basic terms of analysis.

Bio:

Sarika Chandra is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at Wayne State University. Sarika received her BA in English from Bentley College, as well as her MBA in Management. Her MA was in English from Northeastern University, and her PhD in English from the University of Florida. She came to Wayne State University as an Assistant Professor in 2004, and was later promoted to Associate Professor in 2011. Some of her most recent honors/awards are receiving the Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship in 2017-2018, the Josephine Nevins Keal Faculty Fellowship in 2015, and the Career Development Chair in 2014. Professor Chandra has taught numerous classes undergraduate and graduate including, Introduction to Film and Native American Literature as undergraduate courses, and Theoretical Issues in Cultural Studies and Imperialism/Anti-Imperialism as graduate courses just to name a few of each. Sarika’s most recent publications include journal article “Urban-Rural Imagination.” Special Issue on In/Security Eds. Janice Ho and Nadine Attwell. English Language Notes. Volume 54, Number 2. Fall/Winter 2016. Another publication was in November 2011 where she authored the scholarly book *Dislocalism: The Crisis of Globalization and the Remobilizing of Americanism*. (The Ohio State University Press).

Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Lecture



Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Lecture

Sarika Chandra, Associate Professor, Department of English



Friday, January 17, 2020
McGregor Memorial Conference Center
Room B/C
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Moderator
Lisa Ze Winters, Associate Professor,
English and African American Studies

"Redefining Race and Class"

Escalating political crises point to the urgent need to theorize the relationship between race and political economy. This presentation will attempt to move beyond impasses in conventional accounts of the US racial order post World-War II by remapping the relationship between race and the contemporary form of capitalist accumulation. Dominant ways of establishing this relationship, formulated through interconnections of race and class, only partially explain the imbrication of racial structures and capitalism. This race/class problematic is impeded, in part, by how its terms of analysis are defined. Arguing that how we define race shapes the horizon of struggle with important implications for antiracism, this talk will outline the challenges to analysis posed by the definitional ambiguity of race and class as basic terms of analysis.



Program:
2:00-2:05 Introduction by Lisa Ze Winters
2:05- 2:50 Lecture
2:50- 3:10 Q&A
3:10- 4:30 Public Reception
Free and Open to the Public!



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

Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship

Thanks to a generous endowment provided by the former Provost Marilyn L. Williamson, the Humanities Center offers an annual Distinguished Faculty Fellowship to tenured faculty in the humanities. The fellow is requested to present the results of their funded work at a special lecture the following year. The 2020

2020 Fellow



Ljiljana Progovac

Professor, English

Title: “Language Evolution, Self-Domestication, and Verbal Aggression”

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

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

Marilyn Williamson

Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship

2020 Fellow



Nicole Trujillo-Pagan

Associate Professor, Sociology

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

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

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

Humanities Center's Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

The Humanities Center and the Graduate School continued their collaboration on funding the Humanities Center's Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. This annual fellowship awards \$15,000 to a humanities or arts doctoral candidate in the final stages of writing his/her dissertation. The fellowship also provides one or two smaller awards totaling \$1,000. The applicant must already be in the process of writing the dissertation and must complete the dissertation, including the final defense, by the end of the Spring/Summer Semester 2020 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 Salam Aboulhassan (Sociology) and awardee Daniel F. Harrison (Anthropology). Below are the abstracts of their dissertations.

Recipients



Salam Aboulhassan
Sociology- Fellow

"Answering for their Visibility: Gendered and Racialized Muslim Experiences at Work"

Dissertation Advisor: Krista Brumley

Abstract: The current U.S. political climate places Muslims as antithetical to U.S. ideologies and a threat to national security. Muslim women who veil are easily identifiable and are particularly targeted. This project examines how the racialized visibility (the hijab, beards) of religious identities affect Muslim women and men in the workplace. In an era of political wrangling and social discontent, it is critical to understand the complexities of Muslim work experiences, a primary setting where social mobility and assimilation occurs among immigrant groups. There are no official statistics that account for Muslims in the workforce; thus, this study offers a nuanced way to advance our insights of how religion, race, and gender distinctly shape their work experiences. This research has the potential to help educators and the wider public understand the experiences of Muslims living and working in the U.S. In addition, findings from this research may help policy makers and employers create public policy to address workplace inequalities.

This project uses qualitative interviews (total n=60) to compare three sets of employees in professional jobs: Muslim women who veil, Muslim women who do not veil, and Muslim men. This research has three goals: (1) to examine gendered differences in religious expression within the workplace, (2) to determine how Muslims navigate career advancement given their religious identity, and (3) to explore the strategies Muslims use to accommodate/challenge workplace expectations. By focusing on religious expression, career advancement, and strategies, this research investigates the gendered processes that undergird the racial demarcation of Muslims, and how women who veil may be further racialized by the hijab. This study engages with theories of orientalism and racial formation to analyze Muslim experiences at work that set them apart from non-Muslims and each other. This study also extends our theorizing of how partial tokenism affects Muslims; “looking” ethnic highlights the hijab in ways that may (re)produce a particular kind of femininity that creates differences among Muslim women.

Humanities Center's Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship



Daniel F. Harrison
Anthropology- Awardee

"Transformation of the St. Clair Maritime Cultural Landscape from the Seventeenth to the Twentieth Centuries"

Dissertation Advisor: Thomas Killion

Abstract: The Strait connecting Lakes Huron and Erie has been the scene of maritime activity since before European contact. Over a succession of periods the landscape has been transformed by occupying groups, each concerned with access to resources and larger maritime networks, and the avoidance of risk and constraints. The formation of maritime cultural landscapes is seen as the outcome of four interrelated and simultaneous processes: cognition, dwelling, movement, and symbolic representation. The anthropological study of such landscapes requires a multidisciplinary approach to diverse forms of evidence: place names, eyewitness narratives, maps, nautical practices, and material culture. Historical ecology offers an inclusive and adaptive theoretical and methodological approach to the organization and analysis of the evidence, including the use of multiple temporal periodizations, and the dialectic as an analytical tool. Five periods are considered: indigenous, French colonial, British colonial, post-colonial and modern. In each, the cultural milieu (ideology, technology, tradition, economics, purpose) is shown to interact with the environment's resources and constraints.

Resulting patterns of settlement, subsistence, movement, and representation produce a maritime landscape unique to each time, place, and society. Descendant populations of earlier occupants, notably the Walpole Island First Nations, preserve their cultural and maritime heritage in a transformed, yet inscribed, landscape. In the case of the delta, or Flats, of the St. Clair River, the preponderance of agency gradually shifted from the environment, to a modern industrialized maritime society capable of physically modifying the landscape. The formerly problematic channels of the Flats, scene of numerous shipping accidents and losses, became a recreational mecca to the population of nearby Detroit, earning it the nickname "America's Venice." The material culture of maritime societies is quantitatively examined both in terms of choices made in boat- and shipbuilding for the locale, and in patterns of vessel losses (shipwrecks) experienced in that same locale. The St. Clair locale offers a significant opportunity to understand the processes of maritime landscape formation, and to preserve a valuable resource of Great Lakes maritime heritage.

FALL 2019 BROWN BAG COLLOQUIUM SERIES

The Brown Bag Colloquium Series is one of the Humanities Center's most successful and visible programs. This year the series comprised 38 talks given mainly by Wayne State University faculty members.



Above: Jon E. Cawthorne, Dean of Wayne State University Library System and the University's School of Information Sciences as the opening speaker for the 2019-2020 Brown Bag Series.

September 10th Jon E. Cawthorne, Wayne State University Libraries & School of Information Sciences, Dean
For Everyone: A 21st Century Academic Library

September 11th Bill Harris, English Professor-retired
I Got to Keep Moving - reading from short stories

September 17th Mark Lumley, Psychology, Distinguished Professor and Director of Clinical Psychology Doctoral Training, Emotional awareness and expression therapy for chronic pain conditions

September 18th Carolyn Shields, Education, Professor
Until we transform our educational system into one that is more equitable, inclusive, and socially just,...unrest will continue to challenge the well-being of our democratic society

September 24th Daphne Ntiri, African American Studies, Professor
What do you mean by feminism when there is Africana womanism? 21st century perspectives on gender and race

September 25th Elizabeth Faue, History, Professor and Chair,
Work and the Body Politics: Gender, Occupational Risk, and the Health of Democracy

September 26th Nadejda Marinova, Associate Professor, Political Science; Raed Ahmed, Political Science, PhD Candidate Mobilization of Diaspora Communities in Metro Detroit against Trump's Muslim Ban

October 1st Julie Hanna, Social Work, Associate Director, Center for Behavioral Health and Justice, Center for Behavioral Health and Justice:
SMART DECARCERATION: Approaches to the opioid crisis

October 2nd Janine Lanza, History, Associate Professor & Director of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies Program

Justice, equality, and punishment during the French Revolution

October 8th Walter Lucken IV, English, Graduate Teaching Assistant

Valerio's Wall: Visual Rhetoric, Vulnerability, and Basic Writing

October 9th Mary Herring, Political Science, Associate Professor; Kevin G. Lorentz II, Political Science, PhD Candidate at WSU, and Lecturer at University of Michigan—Flint; Teresa Patton, Political Science, Graduate Teaching Assistant; Stephanie Zarb, Political Science, Graduate Research Assistant,

Gender Differences in Policy Priorities: Evidence from a Mock Legislature

October 10th Kim Schroeder, Lecturer, School of Information Sciences

Adaptation in the Gay Community: Exploration Through Oral Histories

October 15th Lisabeth Hock, CMLLC* Associate Professor
German Women Write Black Masculinity

October 16th Frederic Pearson, Political Science/Peace and Conflict Studies, Professor and Director; Baher Elsaid, Student,

The Effect of International Interventions on Ethno-Political Conflicts and Prospects of State Failure

October 22nd Fran Shor, History, Professor Emeritus
Weaponized Whiteness: Racist Currents in American Gun Violence



Above: Eric Montgomery (seated left) and Indrani Pal-Chaudhuri (seated right), Indian Canadian multidisciplinary artist and gives a talk on Social Justice and Film: Framing Mami Wata

October 23rd Indrani Pal-Chaudhuri, Indian Canadian multidisciplinary artist; Eric Montgomery, Cultural Anthropologist, Peace and Conflict Studies, Michigan State University

Social Justice and Film: Framing Mami Wata

October 24th John Gruda, Independent Scholar

The Sociology of Art

October 29th Chera Kee, English, Associate Professor of Film & Media Studies

Beware the Zuvembies: Circumventing Comics Censorship with the Not-Quite Undead

October 30th Billicia Hines, Theatre & Dance, Assistant Professor; Karen Prall, Dance Lecturer, Theatre & Dance; Ras Mikey Courtney, Theatre & Dance, Lecturer De-Colonizing the Art

November 5th Jack Blaszkiewicz, Music, Assistant Professor

Splintered Urbanism Music, Popular Theater, and the Cultural Geographies of Nineteenth- Century Paris



Above: Carolyn Shields, Education, Professor pictured giving a talk entitled "A Case for a Normative Theory of Educational Leadership".

November 7th Renee Hoogland, English Professor

State of Exposure: Splicing Time in Tom Bianchi's Fire Island Pines Polaroids

November 12th Jule Thomas, English, Senior Lecturer

Wayne State University Writers: Who uses the WRT Zone and who doesn't

November 13th Robert Sedler, Law, Distinguished Professor

"The Trump Presidency, Impeachment, and The Constitution"

November 19th Krista Brumley, Sociology, Associate Professor

The Social Construction of Time: Work, family, and conflict

November 21st Karen Prall, Theatre & Dance, Dance Lecturer

Central African dance and the emergence of Afro-Beat dance



Above: The Brown Bag audience listens closely while Julie Hanna Associate Director (seated left) Center for Behavioral Health gives a talk on Approaches to the opioid crisis.

December 3rd Dominic Nanni, English, Graduate Teaching Assistant

Michael Oakeshott's Conservatism

December 4th Patrick Cooper-McCan, Urban Studies & Planning, Assistant Professor

Rescaling Urban Parks: Lessons from Detroit and Cleveland

December 5th Hyesook Kim, Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Adjunct Professor

Health disparity: High BPA-containing diets consumed by urban residents and Asian-American.

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

WINTER 2020 BROWN BAG COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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

January 14th Jerry Herron, Irvin D. Reid Honors College, Dean Emeritus

Living with Detroit: An All-Purpose History of America

January 15th Frederic Pearson, Political Science/Peace and Conflict Studies, Professor and Director; Baher Elsaid, PhD candidate



Analyzing the Transition from 'Fragile' to 'Failed' States in World Politics

Above: Associate Professor Natalia Rakhlin (left) poses with Walter Edwards (Director) for a photo after their Brown Bag talk on "What makes us smart: acquisition of clausal structure as a cognitive augments".

January 21st Marsha Richmond, History, Professor

Theo Colborn and the Discovery of Environmental Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals

January 22nd Alisa Moldavanova, Political Science, Associate Professor

Arts at Work: Investigating the Impact of the Arts on Self-Reported Health in U.S. Counties

January 23rd Natalia Rakhlin, English/Linguistics, Associate Professor

What makes us smart: acquisition of clausal structure as a cognitive augments

January 28th Adrienne Jankens, English, Assistant Professor

Using an Ecologic Pedagogy to Frame a Classroom Study of Rhetorical Awareness

January 29th Arash Javanbakht, Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience, Assistant Professor and Director of Stress, Trauma and Anxiety Research Clinic

Trauma and Stress in Syrian and Iraqi Refugees Resettling in Michigan: Epidemiological Findings, Biomarkers, Interventions, and Current Directions

February 4th Juanita Anderson, Communication, Senior Lecturer and 2019-20 Murray E. Jackson University Creative Scholar in the Arts

Hastings Street Blues Project

February 5th Lance Gable, Law, Associate Professor
Litigation and the Opioid Crisis

February 11th Richard Smith, Social Work, Associate Professor; Shawn P. McElmurry, Engineering, Associate Professor; Sydney O'Shay-Wallace, Communication, Ph.D. Candidate

Water and Health Infrastructure Resilience and Learning (WHIRL)

February 12th Jessica Robbins, Anthropology/Gerontology, Assistant Professor

Gardening, Memory, and Wellbeing in Later Life: Comparative Insights from Ethnographic Research in Poland and Detroit

February 13th Veronica Bielat, University Libraries, Librarian IV

Detroit Bronze to Hot Cast: 20 +1 Years of Cast Metal Sculpture in Detroit

February 19th Barbara L. Jones, Peace and Conflict Studies, Community Dispute Resolution Specialist & Faculty Instructor,

Social Justice Activism: Theoretical Frameworks Subsets of Conflicts, Implications and Opportunities



The Brown Bag audience listens closely while Associate Professor Lance Gable (not pictured) from the Law Department discusses "Litigation and the Opioid Crisis".

Abstracts for talks are posted on the Center's Web site and can be accessed at:

<https://research2.wayne.edu/hum/Programs/brownbag/18-19.html>

The Year in Photos



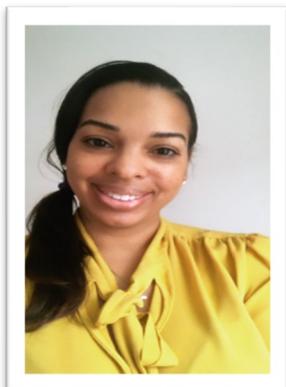
Humanities Center's Team group photo: Left to right, Kayla, Keaira, Jada, Dr. Edwards, Shamira, Alicia, and Bohan



Promoting the Center's programs to the students in the Wayne State University Student's Center



Shamira Tellis who graduated from WSU after serving the Center for six continuous years as a Student Assistant.



Tiffin Carter joined the Humanities Center in 2020 as the Administrative Assistant.



Kennedy Cockrel joined the Humanities Center in 2020 as the Brown Bag Coordinator.

The Year in Photos



Daphne Ntiri (seated left) giving a talk on “What do you mean by feminism when there is Africana womanism? 21st Century perspectives on gender and race”



Bill Harris giving a talk on “I Got To Keep Moving- Reading from Short Stories”



Jack Blaszkiewicz (seated left) giving talk on “Splintered Urbanism: Music, Popular Theater, and the Cultural Geographies of Nineteenth-Century Paris”



Billicia Hines, Assistant Professor, Theatre & Dance and Ras Mikey giving a talk on “Colonizing Art”

Humanities Center’s faithful friend John Gruda (left) just finished his Brown Bag talk pictured with Dr. Edwards (right).



RESILIENCE AND CHANGE IN THE TIME OF CRISIS



*University of California medical students testing residents, essential workers and first responders for Covid-19 in Bolinas, California.
(Photo: David Briggs)*



*Resham Singh works as a cleaner inside intensive care units, include the COVID-19 unit, at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland, Oregon.
(Photo: Beth Nakamura)*



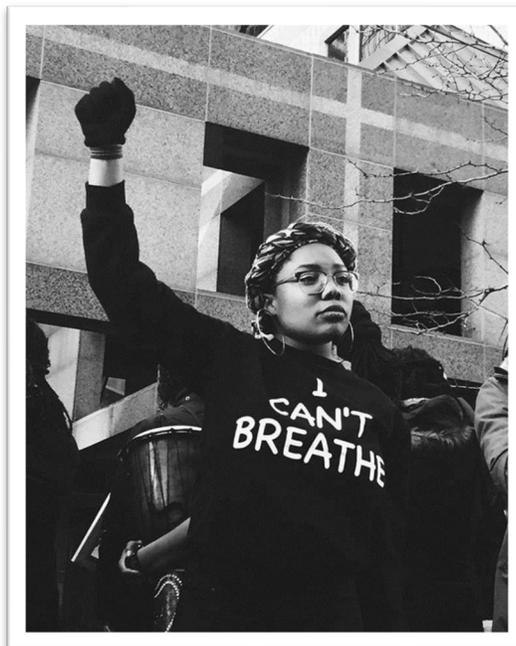
The marquee of Ferndale's Magic Bag, also closed during the COVID-19 crisis, is seen in "When the Motor Stops." (Photo: Zeke Anders)

*Natalie Cooper of the Providence St. Vincent Medical Center Catering and Event Team in Portland, Oregon.
(Photo: Beth Nakamura)*

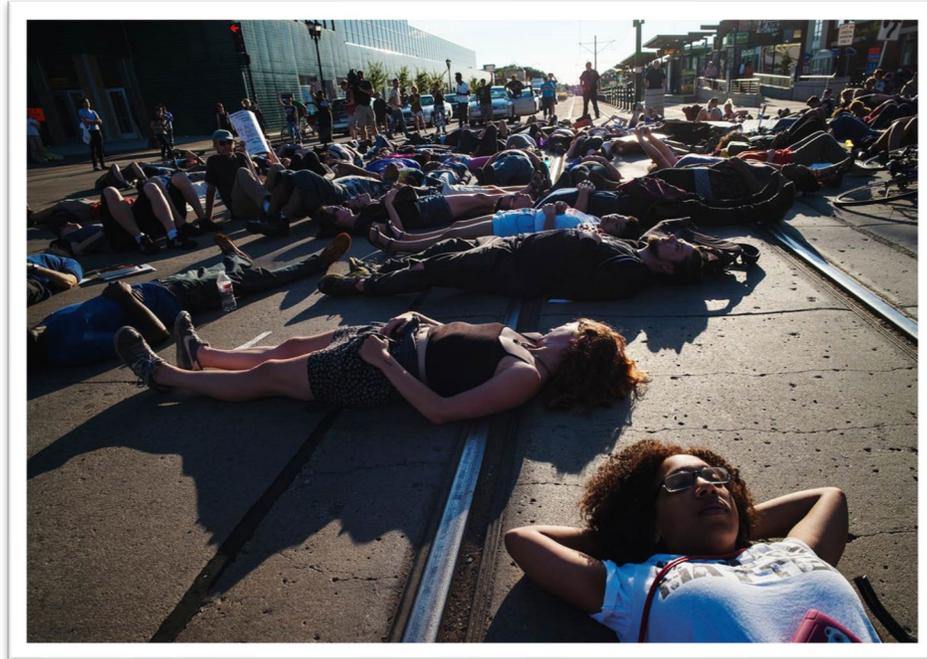




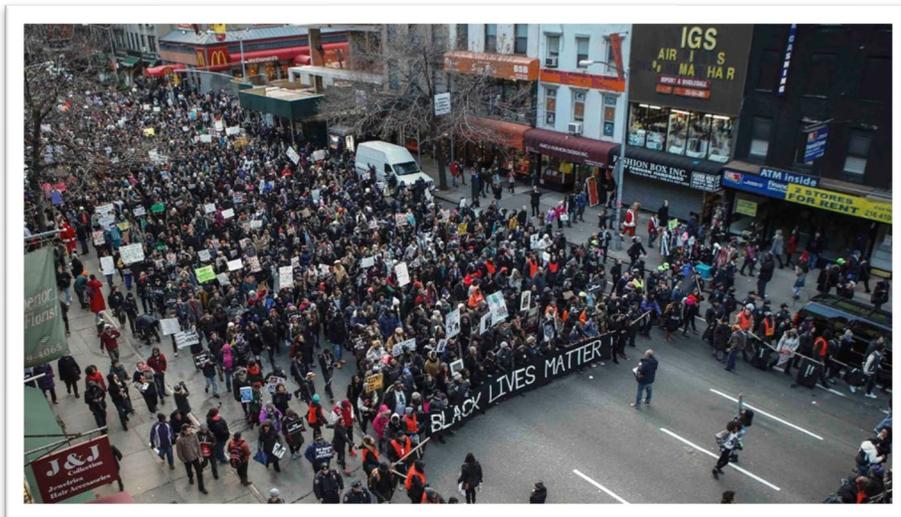
People take part in a Black Lives Matter protest in Trafalgar Square, London (Image: Dominic Lipinski/PA Wire)



Black Lives Matter protesters in Toronto, Canada on March 26, 2016.



Aug. 10, 2015, photo, people participate in a Black Lives Matter protest, stopping the Green Line light rail transit and automobile traffic, in St. Paul, Minn., in memory of Michael Brown.



Black Lives Matter protest moves down Sixth Avenue in New York. Kena Betancur/Getty Images

Working groups in the Humanities & Arts

The Working Groups program is designed to promote collaborative and innovative research among WSU humanities and arts faculty and students. This year the Center funded seven groups. The following are their reports.

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

Core Members include:

Alisa Moldavanova, Associate Professor, Political Science

Holly Feen-Calligan, Associate Professor, College of Education

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

Arash Javanbakht, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences

This working group was created with the purpose of facilitating inter- and cross-disciplinary collaborations among arts and culture researchers from across Wayne State University's campus. Since its inception in September 2019, this group has been providing a forum that has facilitated research exchange and discussions about possible collaborative projects, as well as an opportunity to connect and get to know each other in a less formal setting to scholars from different campus units.

Both faculty and graduate students became active participants of this group, and it has doubled its membership despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the campus move to fully online instruction and activities in early March, 2020. Currently, the group has 16 members who represent diverse campus divisions, including College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Education, College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts, School of Social Work, School of Medicine, and the Center for Urban Studies.

Since its inception, the group held four research meetings, during which Holly Feen-Calligan, Lana Grasser and Arash Javanbakht, Alisa Moldavanova, and Carolyn Dayton presented their arts-related research agenda and emerging projects. The group has also co-sponsored two well-attended Humanities Center talks, both in January 2019, by Arash Javanbakht and Alisa Moldavanova. After the transition to off-campus activities due to COVID-19, the group has created a Microsoft Teams page where group members have been exchanging their research abstracts. We have relied on Zoom to conduct virtual meetings.

Importantly, the group has created a Dropbox folder containing several grant opportunities for arts researchers, and discussed several of those in greater depth as possible submission options. We have also invited the Director of Foundations Relations at WSU Julie Burtch to do a detailed presentation of the finding prospects in the arts, focusing on the philanthropic community. Her presentation was recorded and shared with those who could not attend the meeting, and is kept on file for reference. At this time, the group has identified two possible grant programs of mutual interest to several members – Michigan Health Endowment and the National Endowment for the Arts' Research Labs program. During summer 2020, group members will connect in smaller teams to pursue these opportunities.

The group has launched the call for proposals and started planning its next public event – the Arts Connect Research Showcase – to be held on WSU campus on September 11, 2020, either virtually or in person. The showcase is open to WSU faculty and students as well as extremal stakeholders. The proposals are due on June 15. We have already recruited the keynote speaker - Rochelle Riley, the Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Detroit, who will join the showcase participants in discussing her own vision for the role of arts and culture in shaping Detroit's present and future, as well as how arts and culture researches could help to support and enable such a vision.

Detroit, Reimagined

Core Members include:

Nicole Trujillo-Pagan, Associate Professor, Sociology/Latino/a and Latin American Studies

Kevin Deegan-Krause, Associate Professor, Political Science

Jennifer Hart, Associate Professor, History

Tracy Neumann, Associate Professor, History

Our group was very limited in its ability to work because of the COVID-19 pandemic. After the Humanities Center decided to support the goals of our working group, "Detroit Reimagined," I set out to identify additional group members. We quickly grew from 4 to 12 members. The members included one new faculty who gushed about how helpful it was to make so many connections immediately with other WSU and UM urban scholars studying Detroit.

Our first meeting was a catered event with two urban scholars from the University of Michigan. Martin Murray presented on his book, "The Urbanism of Exception" and elucidated how the urban form is increasingly marked off and disarticulated from its surrounding territory. Maria Arquero de Alarcon then presented on an interactive media/film project on Detroit that draws on Detroit's experience of neighborhood change. Of great significance was the way in which the audience responded to Alarcon's project. The response indicated the distinction between scholars working in and on Detroit, and UM scholars analyzing Detroit as an abstract entity.

We also had another meeting. The speaker (Elena Herrada) who addressed the relationship between schools, water and austerity urbanism following Detroit's bankruptcy.

Also, a discussion about Racism highlighted in the following link:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/detroit-united-against-racism-divided-protesting-tactics-n1226536>

Points taken from the article:

1. The age divide:
 - a. "older black Detroiters and city officials have blamed white suburbanites for late-night clashes with police"
 - b. "Other mostly younger black protesters — joined by young white allies from the suburbs — have taken a more confrontational approach"
 - c. "new group of suburbanites, suburban white folks that are looking through a different lens than their parents and grandparents,"
2. The political framing: "sharp rhetoric from the leaders that have long divided the city and its suburbs."
3. The impact of the pandemic on Black Detroiters: "Part of the reason white people have outnumbered black people... is the harsh toll COVID-19 has taken on African Americans in Detroit."
4. There are many Detroiters of color protesting: "interfaith unity march"
5. The psychic wage: "white...well aware of how they've benefited from racist social structures"
6. Demonstrations in the suburbs: "demonstrate in their own communities, many heeded that call."

Helpful Insights:

1. Critics of the protesters: "never had issues when white people were gobbling up properties," Taylor said. "It's so funny that 'outsiders' is the issue now that they're fighting for justice."
2. "The point is that voices are being heard," she said, "and those voices are all saying we need justice and we need freedom and equality."

Historical Consciousness in Journalism

Core Members include:

Michael Fuhlhage, Assistant Professor, Communication

Jennifer Hart, Associate Professor, History

Fred Vultee, Associate Professor, Communication

Stine Eckert, Assistant Professor, Communication

Jose Cuello, Associate Professor, History/Latin and Latino/a American Studies

The Historical Consciousness in Journalism working group at the Wayne State University Humanities Center has as its purpose infusing a deeper sense of historical context into reporting about public affairs and public policy. Especially in a time when news organizations have laid off more than half of the workforce of news reporters, journalists are under greater strain than ever. Our aim is to help equip reporters with contextual knowledge about the historical antecedents to community issues that continually surface and resurface in newspaper, online, and broadcast reporting and opinion. These issues include immigration, law enforcement, healthcare, education, infrastructure, community equity, political campaigns, and the balance between national security and individual liberty. We also are working to make this concept scalable by networking with communication and history professors nationally. The COVID-19 pandemic made plans challenging, but we will be working to identify virtual options through the summer, with the goal of hosting a workshop that brings together journalism and communication academics and Detroit and Southeast Michigan journalists next year.

As a pilot for the workshop, we have proposed a panel for the American Journalism Historians Association convention in October, with working group members Dr. Michael Fuhlhage and Dr. Jennifer Hart as moderator and panelist. This panel will discuss ways to help current journalists to deepen their coverage by infusing their practices with historical methods and thinking. Our aim is to start the conversation on ways that academics can work together with working journalists to help audiences learn the lessons of the past concerning problems in their communities and in American society. Our collaborations to pull this panel together had to take place online because of the current pandemic, which made it inadvisable to attempt a workshop this winter, but that did not keep us from drawing on the interdisciplinary thinking and connections of our members for the fall panel. Dr. Stine Eckert recommended feminist media scholar Dr. Candi Carter Olson of Utah State University, who will discuss ways to bring archivists and working journalists together. Dr. Hart suggested her fellow history professor Dr. Carly Goodman of La Salle University and editor with the Washington Post, to discuss ways academics can contribute rigorous historical analysis of U.S. current events and public debates in an easily digestible format. Dr. Fuhlhage recruited Dr. Jennifer Moore of the University of Minnesota Duluth, who will discuss her experience engaging in public scholarship in Minnesota and national media. And Drs. Fred Vultee and José Cuello provided input on current events topics and historical precedents to include in our project going forward.

Photographic Representation of Detroit

Core Members include:

Alina Cherry, Associate Professor, CMLLC

Marilyn Zimmerwoman, Retired Professor, Art and Art History

Yunshuang Zhang, CMLLC

Renee Hoogland, Professor, English

Haiyong Liu, Associate Professor, CMLLC

The planned activities of our working group on Photographic Representation of Detroit were impeded by the pandemic, yet we managed to achieve as much as we could during this tough time. The faculty met in last November to discuss and exchange ideas regarding what photography is for and how it can be tapped into humanities studies. Prof. Hoogland planned to study the function of photography and urban studies; she gave a talk at the HC, titled State of Exposure: splicing time in Tom Bianchi's Fire Island Pines Polaroids. Prof. Zimmerwoman planned to take portrait pictures of janitors of Wayne State facilities. Prof. Cherry planned to publish her poetry album with pictures she takes next to the poems. Prof. Liu offered a class on Photographic Representation of the Chinese in Detroit, which trained students to take pictures of the everyday life of the Chinese community in Metro Detroit. Prof. Zimmerwoman gave a talk for his class on the aesthetics of the art of photography.

The students put a focus on how the Chinese community responded to the covid-19 and learned how to present their observations with their cameras. An online photography exhibit was established for their works. Although we were unable to carry out all our plans, for example, invited lectures and meetings, we helped one another and our students to have a more insightful understanding of what photography is for and how it can be instrumented for research and studies in the humanities.

Group for Early Modern Studies (GEMS)

Core Members include:

Simone Chess, Associate Professor and Associate Chair, English

Lisa Maruca, Associate Professor, English

Eric Ash, Professor, History

The Group for Early Modern Culture Studies (GEMS), the working group that for eight years has been fostering interdisciplinary scholarship and discussion on early modern culture (ca. 1400-1800), had a productive year in 2019-2020. We met several times before our plans were brought to an abrupt halt because of the coronavirus pandemic and the closure of campus.

Because we had a number of new members this year, as well as some rejoining after a time away, we started the fall semester in October with **round robin lightning talks** on members' current research projects.

In November, **Professor Simone Chess** (Wayne State, English) reported on and shared her contribution to the Folger Symposium, with a presentation entitled "Intersecting the Sexual: Modes of Early Modern Embodiment." Dr. Chess discussed recent work at the intersections of disability and sexuality studies as a backdrop for her own analysis of the material culture of adaptive technologies in the early modern period.

In January, GEMS partnered with the Marotti Research fund to bring **Professor John Garrison** (Grinnell College, English) to campus as an invited speaker. Dr. Garrison give a talk entitled "Your Memories are a Virus: Shakespeare and the HIV Epidemic" and also facilitated a workshop (for advanced undergrads, grads, and faculty) on "Academic Writing for a Public Audience." These bold and timely events drew a broad audience from across the university and succeeded in our goal of showing the immediate relevance of early modern studies in our current circumstances. During his visit, Professor Garrison also attended a lively and interesting lunch and dinner with faculty and graduate student members of GEMS.

Professor Megan Peiser (Oakland University, English) presented in February on her digital humanities and book project, the Novel Reviews Database. The NRD database catalogs over 1800 reviews of English novels from 1790-1820. Dr. Peiser discussed metadata choices, outlined problems in existing print bibliographies of novels, and explained how she uses both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine the gendered reviewing practices of this period.

Sadly, the rest of our events for the year had to be cancelled. We had hoped to attend a talk and have a special GEMS lunch with **Professor John Romey** (Purdue, Musicology) on popular music seventeenth-century France. In May, we had planned a "field trip" to the Marguerite Hicks Collection of Women's Literature at Oakland University, with a tour by **Professor Emily Spunaugle** (Oakland Libraries, WSU English PhD student).

We thank the Humanities Center for sponsoring our work this year.

Embodying Liberation: An exploration of political resistance through The Performing Arts

Core Members include:

Billicia Hines, Director of the Black Theatre Program/Assistant Professor of Theatre

Karen Prall, Artistic Director of To Sangana and Dance Lecturer, Theatre and Dance

Dr. Ras Mikey Courtney, Assistant Professor, Theatre and Dance

We created and directed the Freedom Players original social justice show, “I am...”, at Edinburgh Fringe Festival, in Scotland in August 2019.

We presented our research at the following events:

- *“The Journey of Liberation: From Development to Performance” Black Theatre Network Conference in North Carolina in August 2019*
- *“Decolonizing the Art” WSU Humanities Center, Brown Bag Colloquium, October 2019*

We continued working with the Freedom Players to continue creating new scenes of I AM (2020) We performed led panel discussions at the following events:

- *Detroit Public Schools’ Day of Racial Healing, Detroit Public Schools*
- *Wayne State University’s Day of Racial Healing*

We created a virtual video and blog discussion of “I AM...(2020) for many Social media outlets

Finally, through all the research and performances, Billicia Hines and Dr. Ras Mikey Courtney wrote a grant proposal for the Humanities Fellowship Grant. It was called, “Decolonization of the Arts: An Altered Perception of Failure”. The proposal was accepted.

We would like to thank the Humanities Center for all the continued support throughout the years!

Writing and Resilience

Core Members include:

Caroline Maun., Associate Professor and Chair, English

Stephanie Hartwell, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Michael Liebler, Senior Lecturer, English

Mark Lumley, Professor, Psychology

Richard Marback, Professor and Chair, English

The Writing and Resilience Working Group includes members with backgrounds in psychology, sociology, rhetoric and composition, literature, and creative writing. We focused on readings and discussion that explored the practices of expressive writing and its demonstrated connection to resilience, including mental well-being, wellness, recovery, and adaptability. Our understanding of expressive writing includes the writing exercises practiced in therapeutic and clinical settings as well as expressive creative writing that provides a means of encapsulating and generating distance from traumatic experience as well as creating compelling opportunities for connection, community, and empathy.

Individual members brought a wide variety of concerns and expertise to the discussion of these topics, including research interest in alternative, effective, and low-cost interventions for people with trauma, particularly those transitioning from institutions (Hartwell), interventions for community health initiatives and police officers and trauma (Collins), research interest in the benefits to citizenship and community in storytelling (Marback), research interest in written expressive disclosure and improvement in health outcomes (Lumley), creative writing focused on traumatic experiences of others (Fordon), and creative writing and the possibilities it may hold to assist with chronic pain management and positive outcomes (Maun).

Goals of our group included reading and discussing clinical literature to gain an understanding of research taking place about expressive writing and health outcomes in psychology, exploring the possibilities of transferring some research design and methods from the mature and successful research program on written expressive disclosure in psychology to other fields such as English, and developing a team-taught course at the undergraduate or graduate level that draws on the literature and discussions we had. We invited Dr. Howard Schubiner to speak on campus. Formerly at Wayne State University, he is now a pediatrician and internist at Providence Hospital in Southfield, MI. His research involves mindfulness, meditation, and psychobiologic disorders. He agreed to come and will speak in Fall 2020 or Winter 2021, likely in a virtual conference format.

Faculty Fellowships Competition

The Future of Failure

2019 - 2020

Each year the Humanities Center sponsors a Faculty Fellowship Competition on a specific theme. This year's theme was "The Future of Failure". Fellowships provide Wayne State University faculty with funding to help pay for expenses related to their proposed research projects. Fellowship recipients are expected to participate in the annual Faculty Fellows' Conference held the following spring. Below is the explication of the theme and a list of the six faculty who were awarded 2020 Faculty Fellowships. They will present their findings at the Faculty Fellowship Conference in April 2020.

2020 Faculty Fellowships Competition

Explication of Theme

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

For the 2019-2020 Faculty Fellowships Competition, the Humanities Center solicits research proposals that explore the full spectrum of failure, understood in the broadest sense. From the failure of political, economic, or religious groups to how “failure” has been utilized as a buzzword of 21st-century trendsetters, how might we begin to conceptualize and theorize failure? Research questions might center on the historical legacies of failure, personal failures versus public ones, the subjectivity of failure, or failure as a strategic choice or a source of opportunity. We also encourage proposals that center on ideas related to academic failure: what are the gaps, problems, or dead-ends of particular disciplinary methods or academia more generally? How do we learn from failure, and how is it incorporated into our classrooms and our research? Finally, what are the creative possibilities of failure? How is failure a routine part of scientific, humanistic, and artistic practice?

2020 Recipients

Patrick Cooper-McCann, Assistant Professor, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
“Reframing the Shrinking City”

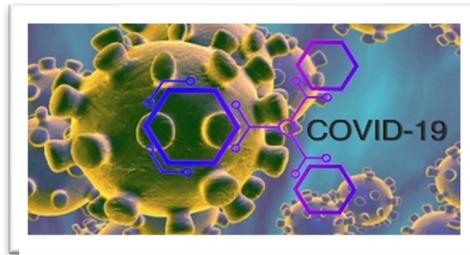
Kristin Taylor, Assistant Professor, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
“Do All Failures Lead to Change? A comparative analysis of policy failure and learning after natural disasters and infrastructure crisis”

Natalie Bakopoulos, Assistant Professor, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
“A Little History had to Intervene”

Samantha A. Noel, Ph. D, Assistant Professor, Art & Art History
“Diasporic Art in the Age of Black Power”

Billicia Hines, Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre & Dance and Ras Mikey Courtney, Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre & Dance
“Decolonization of the Arts: An Altered Perception of Failure”

Christina DeNicolò, Associate Professor, Education
“Learning from Failure: Examining how School Staff Connect with Students Across Languages and the Digital Divide in Times of Crisis”



Creative Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

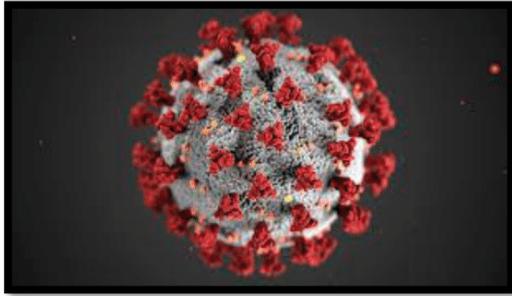
The coronavirus invaded our nation in February 2020. Soon after, the world was in the throes of a full-blown pandemic. As a response to this scourge, the Humanities Center wanted to invite WSU students and faculty in the humanities to record in a variety of creative ways what they experienced, observed and imagined about COVID-19's impact on them, their country, environment and the world. To this end the Center, following the lead of other Humanities Centers in the US, introduced the mini-grant competition described below. Because COVID-19 continues to be rampant in the US and other countries, there remain many opportunities to witness to the devastations that the world has seen because of this pandemic. These narratives and other creations about the pandemic constitute history in the making.



CREATIVE RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

MINI-GRANTS

Deadline: October 15, 2020



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Applicants should submit a 1-2-page proposal, which includes a brief project narrative, justification, timeline, budget (if applicable), and the description of outcomes. Proposals must be submitted electronically to the Center's Director at walter.edwards@wayne.edu and will be reviewed by a panel from the Center's Advisory Board. Application link: <https://forms.wayne.edu/5f108ab553901/>.

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

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

Special thanks to our co-sponsors:



WAYNE STATE
College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences



WAYNE STATE
Irvin D. Reid
Honors College



WAYNE STATE
College of Fine, Performing
and Communication Arts



WAYNE STATE
School of Social Work



WAYNE STATE
Law School



College of Education

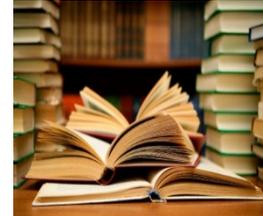
For more information about the Humanities Center, call (313) 577-5471 or visit <https://research2.wayne.edu/hum/>

A Look Ahead: 2020 - 2021 Activities

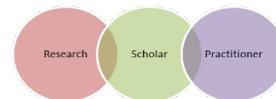


Brown Bag Series

Resident Scholars Program



Doctoral Dissertation



Faculty Fellowship

Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship



Travel Award Program



Faculty Fellowship Conference



Working Groups

Humanities Center



Resident Scholars Program 2020 - 2021

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2021

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

Eligibility and Funding

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 three (3) copies of a proposal with the following content no later than July 2, 2021

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: Melissa Hines (Theatre & Dance), Nicole Edelman (CWL), Michael Fuhrberg (Communication), Josef Guello (History), Walter Edwards (Director), Nicole Trullio-Fugate (Sociology), Janine Lanza (History), Kate Brunley (Sociology) and Stine Edvers (Communication).

Testimonial

"The Humanities Center Resident Scholar program was just what I needed to complete my book revisions and kickstart a few, smaller projects that had stalled due to teaching and research demands. I found working in an office with other humanities scholars to be very motivating and far less distracting than working in my departmental office, where students and colleagues frequently drop by with teaching or service related questions. If you are someone who appreciates the structure of set research hours but finds it difficult to concentrate in your home or departmental office, I highly recommend the Resident Scholars Program. Not only did the program help me to focus on my research, it introduced me to colleagues from other disciplines whose support and friendship made the writing process less lonely and more convivial."

- Kelly Jakes, Assistant Professor, Communication: 2017-2018 Resident Scholar

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, Fall 2020 resident scholars will be allowed to choose between virtual and on campus locations. Virtual residents would check in periodically with the director and participate electronically in roundtable conversations. Depending on the status of the pandemic, virtual residencies could continue in the Winter 2021 semester.

The Humanities Center
Walter F. Edwards, Director
226 Faculty Administration Building
Wayne State University
Detroit MI 48202

(313) 577-5471 | Fax: (313) 577-3843 | www.research2.wayne.edu/hum/

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Humanities Center Brown Bag Schedule 2020-2021



Join us on Zoom Tues and Weds from 12:30pm - 1:30pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 919 - 6046 - 0512
Password: 923905
Link: <https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/91960460512?pwd=FKhRV3grMXlaVWV1ZQZy4e1NmNSlW6Z09>

Because of COVID-19 all Fall 2020 Brown Bag talks will be virtual. Depending on the status of the pandemic, speakers may be allowed to choose between virtual or on campus talks Winter 2021 semester.

Fall 2020

- September 9th** Liette Gidlow, Associate Professor, History
Addie Hunton, Undercover: Race and Resistance in the Post-Nineteenth Amendment South
- September 15th** Brad R. Roth, Professor, Political Science & Law
Legitimacy in the International Order: The Continuing Relevance of Sovereign States
- September 16th** Steve Winter, Distinguished Professor, Law
"Democracy and the rule of Law"
- September 22nd** David M. Merolla, Associate Professor, Sociology and Jason P. Smith, Student
Black, Blue, and Blow: The Effect of Race and Criminal History on Perceptions of Police Violence
- September 23rd** Joseph Fitzgerald, Professor Emeritus, Psychology
Many Americas: A model for Social Context and it's Impact on Deaths of Despair
- September 29th** Leisa Kauffmann, Associate Professor, CMLLC
Were the Toltecas (also) Chichimecas? The view from the histories of Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl and the *Annals of Cuauhtlan*.
- September 30th** Suzette Bristol, Graduate Teaching Assistant, English
Reflection in Practice: Evaluating Ourselves and Our Teaching Moments in the Classroom
- October 1st** Elizabeth Stoycheff, Associate Professor, Communication
Deterring democracy: How government mass surveillance chills freedom of expression
- October 7th** Kelly Polasek, Graduate Teaching Assistant, English, Ph.D. Candidate
TBD
- October 13th** José Cuello, Associate Professor, History and Latino and Latin American Studies
Why Democracy Cannot Exist Without Capitalism; Why Capitalism Destroys Democracy
- October 14th** Alisa Moldavanova, Associate Professor, Political Science and Nathaniel Wright, Assistant Professor, Political Science
Organizational Social Connectedness and Arts and Culture Nonprofits' Engagement in Local Sustainable Development
- October 20th** Haiyong Liu, Professor, CMLLC/Linguistics
The Opposite of Many Is Not Few
- October 21st** Yunshuang Zhang, Assistant Professor, CMLLC
A Shift of Values: How Did a Virtuous Minister of 7th Century BCE Become a Licentious Man in 11th Century China?
- October 27th** Clay Walker, Senior Lecturer, English
Cognitive Linguistics and Literacy Studies: Finding Common Ground
- October 28th** Barry Lyons, Associate Professor, Anthropology
Film Presentation: VIRGINIA'S CALLING
- November 3rd** Billicia Charnelle Hines and Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney, Associate Professor of Theatre/ Co-Artistic Director of the Black Theatre and Dance Collective, Department of Theatre and Dance
Equitable Value within Performing Arts Education
- November 4th** Valerie (Edua) Sweeney Prince, Associate Professor, African American Studies
Washboards and Waterbearers: Laundry and the Work of Black Women
- November 11th** Russell Miller, Associate Professor, Music
The Music of Matt Michaels: A Guided Tour Through the Recording Process
- November 17th** Anne E. Duggan, Professor, French, Adrien Dula, PhD in French, and Julie Koehler, Interim Director of FLTC and German Lecturer
Presenting on: Women Writing Wonder
- November 18th** Alisa Moldavanova, Holly Feen-Calligan and Arash Javanbakht, Artsconnect Working Group
ArtsConnect: Forging Links and Bridging Divides
- December 1st** Shooshan Danagoulian, Assistant Professor, Economics, Allen Goodman, Professor, Economics, Janet Hankin, Professor, Sociology and David Jaeger, Professor, Economics
Coping with Covid-19: Preliminary Results from Student Survey
- December 2nd** Andrew Newman, Associate Professor, Anthropology
Empire's Garden: Anthropology and the racialization of vision in 19th century Paris
- December 8th** Khari Brown, Associate Professor, Sociology
Race, Religion, and Environmental Activism
- December 15th** Kim Jaffee, Associate Professor, Social Work
The Experiences of Transgender Patients and Physician Willingness to Provide Health Care

- December 16th** Beth Fowler, Irvin D. Reid Honors College, Senior Lecturer
Teach Me to Twist': Black Music in White Dominated Spaces, 1960-1964.
- Winter 2021**
- January 19th** Boris Baltes, Professor, Psychology
Examining the Role of Coping Behaviors in Reducing Work Family Conflict
- January 20th** Matt Seeger, Professor, Communication/ Dean of the College of Fine Performing and Communications Arts
Communication, Organization and COVID-19
- January 26th** Noa Ofen, Associate Professor, Psychology/ IOG
Development of Memory Systems in the Brain
- January 27th** Kristin Taylor, Associate Professor, Political Science
Do All Failures Lead to Change?
- February 2nd** Melba Joyce Boyd, Distinguished Professor, African American Studies
TBD
- February 3rd** Natalia Rakhlin, Associate Professor, English/Linguistics
TBD
- February 9th** Joshua Duchan, Associate Professor, Music
"Community Singing in the Age of Coronavirus: The Case of Collegiate A Cappella"
- February 10th** Naresh V. Mahabir, Senior Lecturer, Mathematics / Public Health
COVID: Impacts on Math Education in Higher Education
- February 16th** Eldonna May, Lecturer, Music
A Coach for Cinderella: Jam Handy and Industrial Film Music in Detroit
- February 17th** Samuele Zilioli, Assistant Professor, Psychology & Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences
TBD
- February 23rd** Howard Lupovitch, Associate Professor, History/Judaic Studies
"Jewish Immigrants, and Refugees: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Lessons"
- February 24th** Soraya (Layla) Saatchi, Instructor, Irvin D. Reid Honors College
Intra-religious reasonable peer disagreement: Debunking "the True Islam"
- March 2nd** Patrick Cooper-McCann, Assistant Professor, Urban Studies and Planning
The Shrinking City in Historical Perspective: Detroit, 1920-2020
- March 3rd** Jorgelina Corbatta, Emerita Full Professor, CMLLC
TBD
- March 16th** Richard J. Smith, Associate Professor, Social Work
TBD
- March 17th** Jeremy Peters, Assistant Professor, Music
The Record Store as Scene: Joe's Records in Detroit's Black Bottom
- March 23rd** Caroline Maun, Associate Professor and Chair English
Writing and Resilience: Thinking Transdisciplinarily about Writing and Pain
- March 24th** Marc Kruman, Distinguished Service Professor, Director, Center for the Study of Citizenship, Professor, History
Citizenship for Health: Putting the Public in Public Health.
- March 30th** Jennifer Hart, Associate Professor, History and Michael Fuhlhage, Associate Professor, Communication
Infusing Historical Consciousness into the News: Bringing the Lessons of the Past into Public
- March 31st** renee c. hoogland, Professor, English, Vice Chair, Academic Senate
TBD
- April 6th** Tam Perry, Associate Professor, Social Work and Brian Doucet, Assistant Professor, CLAS
Understanding Changing Landscapes in Urban Contexts
- April 7th** Ty Partridge, Associate Professor Director, Research Analysis & Design Unit
Psychology
The Role of Developmental Science in Promoting Social Justice
- April 14th** Haiyong Liu, Professor, CMLLC-Linguistics, Marilyn Zimmerwoman, Emerita Professor, Art and Art History-CFPCA, Min Yu, Assistant Professor, Social Studies Education, and Yunshuang Zhang, Assistant Professor, CMLLC
Interdisciplinary Collaboration: from Furniture to Space
- April 27st** Kyu-Nahm Jun, Associate Professor, Political Science
Fiscal Crisis, Austerity, and the Prospects of Democratic Governance and Public Participation: Evidence from U.S. Municipalities



WORKING GROUPS

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Application Deadline: September 11, 2020

DESCRIPTION

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

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



ELIGIBILITY

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

FUNDING

In 2020-2021 the Humanities Center will fund up to five working groups by making available a maximum of \$800.00 each for three new groups and \$600.00 each for two continuing groups. Funded working groups will be able to use their grants for photocopying, inviting speakers, and other organizational expenses. The Center will give preference to new working groups. The Center is willing to help groups find meeting places in the Faculty/Administration Building.

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals for new working groups should consist of:

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

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

Proposals should be submitted no later than September 11, 2020 for consideration for the 2020-2021 academic year. Proposals can be emailed to walter.edwards@wayne.edu or mailed to:

The Humanities Center,
Attn: Walter F. Edwards, Director
2226 Faculty/Administration Bldg., Wayne State University
Detroit, MI 48202



*Bringing Humanists
Together for
Collaborative Research*

656 W. Kirby, Suite 2226
Phone: 313-577-5471
Fax: 313-577-2843

Working Groups
currently
supported by
the Humanities
Center

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

Historical Consciousness in Journalism |
Photographic Representation of Detroit Group
for Early Modern Studies (GEMS) Writing and
Resilience

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



Travel Support for Graduate Students

Application Guidelines 2020-2021

PURPOSE

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

ELIGIBILITY

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

FUNDING

The Center will budget up to \$3,000 in the 2020-2021 academic year to support this program. **In an effort to spread this funding across the full academic year, the Center will now budget \$1,200 for the Fall Semester, \$1,200 for the Winter Semester and \$600 for the Spring/Summer Semester.** Each award recipient will be funded up to \$300 for travel to conferences or exhibitions held **nationally or internationally** between September 6, 2020 and August 14, 2021.

GUIDELINES

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

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

DEADLINES: September 13, 2020 for Fall 2020

December 06, 2020 for Winter 2021

April 9, 2021 for Spring/Summer 2021

REVIEW

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

Please email applications to:

Dr. Walter Edwards: walter.edwards@wayne.edu

HUMANITIES CENTER FACULTY FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION 2020 - 21



Transition

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

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

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

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

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

**Deadline: Friday,
March 26, 2021**

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

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

The Center will fund about eight proposals with up to \$6,000 each. Results of the competition will be announced within a month of the closing date. Recipients will be expected to present their findings to date at a Faculty Fellows Conference to be scheduled in April 2022.

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



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Humanities
Center



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL

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 2020-2021 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, or picked up from the Humanities Center at 2226 Faculty/Administration Building. For more information, email Dr. Walter Edwards at walter.edwards@wayne.edu



Apply by
October 16, 2020

*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



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY



Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship

Deadline: February 19, 2021

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

Funding

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

Conditions

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

Guidelines for proposals

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

The body of the proposal must include the following elements:

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

Fourteen (14) copies of the application and professional record should be submitted to the Director, Humanities Center, by 5:00 PM on **February 19, 2021**. Each application must have an application coversheet. The application cover sheet is available online: <https://research2.wayne.edu/hum/>

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



*An empty Michigan Avenue toward Downtown Detroit during the COVID-19 crisis, is seen in "When the Motor Stops."
(Photo: Zeke Anders)*

Humanities Center



Bringing Humanists Together for Collaborative Research

Humanities Center 2019-2020 Annual Report

Designed and Formatted By:

Tiffin Carter and Kennedy Cockrel

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Images by: Photographer David Briggs, Beth Nakamura, Zeke Anders and Doner Ad Agency "When the Motor Stops" salute to the spirit of the city and its residents during the COVID-19 crisis, Black Lives Matter/Protests pulled from Google/Getty Images by Unknown Photographers.