01 FROM THE DIRECTOR
02 ABOUT THE IHGC
03 DISTINGUISHED VISITORS
06 SYMPOSIA/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES
12 “BEING HUMAN IN A GLOBAL AGE”
13 AMITAV GHOSH, WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE 2016-17
14 MELLON HUMANITIES FELLOWS PROGRAM
19 MELLON FACULTY @ UVA
20 CLAY FACULTY & GRADUATE FELLOWS
22 HUMANITIES WEEK 2017 “LIVING (IN)EQUALITY”
24 HUMANITIES LABS
26 FACULTY RESEARCH NETWORKS
27 PARTNERSHIPS
28 IHGC ADVISORY BOARD
29 IHGC STAFF 2016-17

The Buckner W. Clay Endowment for the Humanities

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Cover Photo Credits (clockwise from left): M. Bailey and the Global History of Black Girhood Conference, "Daimler Chrysler's supercomputer at their headquarters in Stuttgart" (2005) by Simon Norfolk from the 1% Privilege in a Time of Global Inequality photo exhibit, Anne Gilliam, Corinne Odom, Jim Igoe

University of Virginia
Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures
Wilson Hall, First Floor
P.O. Box 400901
Charlottesville, VA 22904
434.924.2157 TEL
ihgc.as.virginia.edu WEB
Two Springs ago I received a call from the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He offered me the opportunity to lead the University of Virginia’s Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures. I was then ten thousand miles away, in my Australian home at the foothills of the Brindabella Mountains. Global travel had become second nature to me these last two decades. My urge to beat the tyranny of distance that was Australia generated many transoceanic journeys. The United States was a frequent destination, as were countries across Asia, Africa and Europe. But Canberra with its gum trees, kangaroos and red rosellas was always home. Was I ready to leave Burley-Griffin’s exquisitely planned city and relocate to Jefferson’s birthplace?

I guess I was. For here I am now, comfortably ensconced in the majestic environs of this historic University, and primed to plunge into this most fortunate of assignments: to regenerate and build a community of scholars and students attuned to the global calling of the humanities in the twenty-first century.

To say this has been a rewarding year is to understate the riches that have come our way. UVA’s extraordinary strengths in the humanities and the liberal arts are visible everywhere. Not for nothing did the National Endowment of the Humanities choose our University to host its golden jubilee celebrations. From the opportunity to participate in the fiftieth anniversary of the NEH with its headline speaker Sir Salman Rushdie, to hosting writers like Amitav Ghosh, and scholars like Michael Hardt, Amanda Anderson, Bin Wong, Laurent Dubois, and Sandro Mezzadra, not to mention partnering in the Academy in Global Humanities and Critical Theory with the University of Bologna and Duke University, it has been an invigorating adventure in the company of distinguished humanists, younger colleagues, graduate students, undergraduates, visiting scholars, and our indispensable program staff.

My arrival coincided with a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to establish a five-year program of faculty hires, fellowships, and laboratories on the Global South. A rubric that explores myriad sites of knowledge-making not limited to northern and western hemispheric modes of thought, the Global South offers exciting opportunities for research and curriculum advancement aptly suited to our rapidly changing world. In a short period of fifteen months, we have built a cohort of fifty faculty and students engaged in projects on African urbanisms, Indian Ocean commercial and cultural worlds, transatlantic histories, comparative cartography, aquatint empires, Franco-Arab, Latin American and South Asian literatures, Brazilian media, surveillance cultures, pre-modern religious pluralism, silk trade in the pre-modern Mediterranean, global water, contemporary wars and humanitarianism, Islamic philosophy, and environmental post-humanist thought.

Our undergraduates celebrate “Humanities Week” every Spring through their creative and scholarly endeavors. This year they focused on the idea of inequality – a fraught theme that has resonated through the election year. Inequality or rather “1% Privilege in a Time of Global Inequality” is also the theme of a photographic art exhibition we hosted, curated by Time Magazine photo editor, Myles Little. Our students, under the guidance of our wonderful Program Administrator, Anne Gilliam, wove their events around this exhibition and hosted panels, photographic contests, simulations, poetry workshops, and films. They worked with local artists and activists, and brought to life a vision of public humanities that did us proud.

Debjani Ganguly / IHGC Director and Professor of English, University of Virginia
ABOUT THE IHGC

The Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures (IHGC) offers a vision at once local and global, and a mission both academic and socially engaged. At the center of our ambitions stands a Global Humanities Initiative. The humanities today are critically oriented towards generating new universals of human belonging even as they negotiate vast terrains of cultural difference locally and globally. The ‘human’ in the humanities today is indelibly colored by the ‘ethnos’ of the global others, even as it strives to articulate its provenance through a language of the ‘commons’ in the name of our planetary fragility and a post-human consciousness. This shift offers unprecedented opportunities to rethink the very fundamentals of our humanistic disciplines, a task that the IHGC undertakes in earnest. Disciplines and research areas that the Institute fosters include:

- The Global South
- Climate Change and the Environment
- Human Rights and the Post-Human Turn
- Media Ecologies, Visual Cultures and Technology
- War, Violence and Humanitarianism
- Global Health & Medical Humanities
- Comparative Religions
- Pre-modern and Early Modern Global Cultures
- Oceanic Connections
- Art and Performance
- Literary and Language Worlds
- Epistemologies and Institutions

Humanists are primed to offer historical insights that situate contemporary knowledge worlds in a continuum with deep reflections across centuries about the nature of the human sciences, of philosophy, philology, rhetoric, the arts and letters; about civic responsibility; about distinctions between nomothetic and ideographic forms of knowledge, between poesis and mimesis, the expressive and the pragmatic. The IHGC is committed to offering a vibrant platform for exploring the historical lineages of contemporary globalization.

The humanities serve to define our world in myriad ways: its intellectual and cultural aspirations, its aesthetic values, its comprehension of the past that formed it, and its central ethical, moral, and theological dilemmas. With an enduring commitment to the humanities as both a domain of research innovation and an idiom of institutional self-scrutiny, the IHGC seeks to play a leading role in the shaping of higher education on the global stage. As our institution grows and transforms in the years ahead, it is time to re-imagine its relation to the world in terms more befitting our global century: as an engine of collaborative innovation and institutional transformation driven in great part by a culture of excellence in the humanities.
The Distinguished Visitors series brings the world's foremost humanities scholars to the University of Virginia. While most visitors present a public lecture, many of these scholars also choose to give generously of their time while in Charlottesville, participating in interdisciplinary colloquia, offering seminars for graduate students, and meeting informally with faculty and students alike. 2016-2017 included a remarkably diverse and accomplished set of visitors, sparking conversations and sharing cutting-edge research that continue to benefit the intellectual community at the IHGC.

R. Bin Wong, Distinguished Professor of History; Director of the Asia Institute, UCLA
March 21-23, 2016
“Perspectives on Area Studies in the 21st Century”

Suzy Kim, Associate Professor of Korean History, Rutgers University
April 11, 2016
“Toward Peace in Korea: 2015 Women Cross DMZ”

Paul Muldoon, Pulitzer Prize-Winning poet; Poetry Editor, The New Yorker Magazine; Howard G.B. Clark ’21 University Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Creative Writing, Princeton University
April 16, 2016
“Rising to the Rising: Poetry and Politics in Ireland”

Evelyn Asultany, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Associate Professor in the Department of American Culture; Director of Arab and Muslim American Studies, University of Michigan
April 20, 2016
“Arabs and Muslims in the Media After 9/11” and "Understanding the Recent Rise in Islamophobia"

Ato Quayson, University Professor of English; Director of the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, University of Toronto
April 22-23, 2016
Lecture: “Postcolonial Tragedy”; Graduate Workshop: “Spatial Concepts for Postcolonial Literary Inquiry”
Raffaele Laudani, Associate Professor, Department of History and Cultures; Director of the Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory, University of Bologna
September 22, 2016
“UVA-Duke-Bologna Academy in Global Humanities and Critical Theory”

Kenneth George, Professor of Anthropology; Director of the School of Culture, History, and Language, Australian National University
November 10, 2016
“Companionable Objects, Companionable Conscience: Politics, Cover up, and Disclosure in an Indonesian Art Show”

Kirin Narayan, Professor of Anthropology, Australian National University
November 11, 2016
“Culture at Hand: The Anthropology of Creativity and the Making of a Divine Craftsman in India”

Laurent Dubois, Professor of Romance Studies; Director of the Forum for Scholars and Publics, Duke University
November 16, 2016 | Global South Colloquium
“Afro-Atlantic Genealogies of the Global South”

Juan Obarrio, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University
November 17, 2016 | Global South Colloquium
Plenary Panel: “Southern Theory”

Karin Pallaver, Associate Professor of History and Cultures, University of Bologna
November 17, 2016 | Global South Colloquium
“People without Pockets? Currency circulation and colonial monetary policies in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean”

Mukoma Wa Ngugi, Assistant Professor of English and African Studies, Cornell University
November 19, 2016 | Global South Colloquium
Round Table: “Global South and the Limits of Postcolonialism”
Tsitsi Jaji, Associate Professor of English, Duke University  
November 19, 2016 | Global South Colloquium  
“Where Next? The Global South Out West”

Graham Harman, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc)  
February 16, 2017 | with New Literary History and the School of Architecture  
“On Knowledge in the Arts and Taste in the Sciences”

Ankhi Mukherjee, Professor of English & World Literature; Tutorial Fellow at Wadham, Oxford University  
March 13, 2017  
“Unseen City: Traveling Psychoanalysis and the Urban Poor”

Amanda Anderson, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Humanities and English; Director of the Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University  
March 28, 2017  
“Bleak Liberalism & the Question of Therapeutic Criticism”

Sandro Mezzadra, Associate Professor of Political & Social Sciences, University of Bologna  
April 10, 2017  
“Excavating Contemporary Capitalism: Toward a Critique of Extraction Writ Large”

Michael Hardt, Professor of Literature, Duke University  
April 11, 2017  
“Social Movements: Where Have All the Leaders Gone?”

Margaret Kelleher, Professor and Chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama, University College Dublin  
April 20, 2017  
“Language at the Bar: James Joyce, Myles Joyce and the 1882 Maamtrasna Murders (Galway, Ireland) Revisited”
Second Biennial Disability Studies Symposium - “Disability Across the Disciplines”
February 19, 2016
Convened by Christopher Krentz


Ice Cycle
May 4, 2016
Convened by the Environmental Humanities Colloquium & Climate Cultures

The IHGC sponsored this dynamic multimedia performance for UVA's annual Environmental Humanities Symposium, in which global warming meets dance, music, and videography in a program inspired by choreographer Jody Sperling's voyages to the Artic and dancing on the melting Artic icecap. Alaskan-born composer and Chair of UVA's Department of Music, Matthew Burtner, a specialist in the music of snow and ice, created an original score in this collaboration with Sperling and her New York-based Time Lapse Dance Company.

Knowing the World through Objects in the Eighteenth Century
Friday November 4th
9am-12:30pm
Harrison-Small Auditorium
University of Virginia

How was knowledge of the world transmitted through objects in the long eighteenth century? This half-day symposium questioned the role of objects as evidence and explores methods and approaches that might cut across disciplines as we analyze intercultural exchange in the eighteenth century.
Global South: A Colloquium
November 16-19, 2016
Sponsored by the IHGC & the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; convened by Christina Mobley and Mrinalini Chakravorty

The idea of the ‘Global South’ has varied inflections across the disciplines. An economist’s understanding of it does not converge with that of a historian or a literary scholar or even that of a media specialist. At the same time, the paradigmatic force of the term is not in doubt, one that makes intelligible larger constellations of meaning beyond the specific historicity of its origins in a postcolonial and post-Cold War world. The Global South currently exists at the confluence of and tension between systems of knowledge and ways of conceptualizing space, habitations, cultures, aesthetics, and political economy. Our colloquium explored the many dimensions of this concept – philosophical, historical, political, spatial, and aesthetic – as they inform contemporary scholarship.
Posthumanism in the Anthropocene
December 2, 2016
Convened by Enrico Cesaretti

This one-day, interdisciplinary symposium gathered nine scholars from Italian Studies, German, Comparative Literature, English, and Environmental Studies. Its three panels, (“Questioning Boundaries”, “Energies, Ecologies, Matters”, and “Mediterranean Narratives Between Bios and Zoe”), addressed from various methodological and theoretical angles the posthumanist and postanthropocentric perspectives that have been lately emerging within the field of the Environmental Humanities.

Global History of Black Girlhood Conference
March 17-18, 2017
Convened by Corinne Field, Abosed George, and LaKisha Simmons

The Global History of Black Girlhood Conference gathered over forty scholars, artists and activists to present recent research, creative works, and political organizing that places the emerging field of black girls’ history within a global framework. The conference included a keynote panel on “Global Black Girl Politics” and a reading by Tayari Jones from her award-winning novel Silver Sparrow.
What is a Poem? Inaugural Symposium of the Center for Poetry & Poetics
March 17, 2017
Convened by Jahan Ramazani and Peter Miller

Is a poem more like a song or a shipping container? What was a poem in the seventeenth century, and what is it in the digital age? Why poetry, anyway? Our world-class speakers explored these and other questions. The symposium concluded with a conversation with former US Poet Laureate Rita Dove.

Joan of Arc/Afterlives Symposium
March 30, 2017
Convened by Bonnie Gordon, Deborah McGrady, and Sarah Betzer

“Joan of Arc/Afterlives” explored the reception of Joan and the many roles Joan has played in world culture. Joan’s many lives have included playing the role of heretic and sexual ingénue, icon of the American feminist movement and symbol of the ultra right in France, victim of the patriarchal establishment and the face of the transgender movement. How can one individual of whom we know so little (and then only through court transcripts and rumor) fulfill so many modern desires?

The Global/Contemporary Symposium
March 31, 2017
Convened by Annie Galvin, Jesse Bordwin, and Anastatia Curley

What is gained and what is lost, what is revealed, and what is obscured by understanding the moment in which we live as global? This one-day symposium at the University of Virginia explored the alignment of two dominant terms within the academy, the “contemporary” and the “global,” to question, challenge, and expand the relationship between them.
Political Thinking at the Margins
Conference
April 6-7, 2017
Convened by Murad Idris, Lawrie Balfour, and Sandhya Shukla

This two day conference brought together established and emerging scholars of colonialism, settler-colonialism, and race for a discussion of law, violence, borders, war, property, sovereignty, the global, and the humanities in different contexts around the globe. While the approach was interdisciplinary and comparative, scholars acknowledged challenges to Western canons and to the “comparative” turn in the humanities. Accordingly, the conference sought to elicit connections and understand the disconnections between bodies of thought that have, in contemporary academic formations, remained distinct.

Contemporary Francophone African Literature, Cinema, and Culture
April 8, 2017
Sponsored by the IHGC & the Center for Liberal Arts at UVa

Scholars from UVA and Washington & Lee University shared their expertise in a series of presentations on major literary texts and films by African artists. Each presentation took into account pertinent pedagogical issues and each presentation was followed by a Q&A session.
Beyond Representation: Creative & Critical Practices in the Environmental Humanities
April 8-9, 2017
Convened by Stephanie Bernhard, Caroline Griffith, and Ali Glassie

Many conversations in environmental humanities involve selecting and interpreting scientific data, then adding contributions from humanities fields to that quantitative base. This symposium asked what happens when the equation is flipped—when we assume that many environmental issues start with the humanities. The symposium explored these questions through interdisciplinary panels, workshops, and a reading by poet Cecily Parks. Panel topics included Critical Cartography, African American Environmentalisms, and Indigenous Environmental Justice.

A Literary History of Information Management in China
May 13-14, 2017
Convened by Jack Chen

This workshop brought together humanities scholars working on information management (the process and methods by which information is stored, structured, made retrievable, and circulated), particularly in relationship to literary history. The workshop laid the foundations for a new collaborative volume on literary history and information management in China, examining how literary information has been organized at the level of the word, the document, and the collection, over the long span of Chinese history and through cultural forms such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, anthologies, canons, archives, and internet databases.
We live in a global age. Technology is booming, populations are growing, and the world is constantly moving. As humans, this can be overwhelming. “Human beings,” writes novelist Salman Rushdie, “do not perceive things whole; we are not gods but wounded creatures, cracked lenses, capable only of fractured perceptions.” Suketu Mehta, author of Maximum City and Bombay: Lost and Found, interviewed Rushdie on how literature and the humanities can help us make sense of our unlimited world and our attempts to find home within it. This event was a part of the Human/Ties celebration of the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities, hosted by the University of Virginia.
Amitav Ghosh was the IHGC Writer-in-Residence for the 2016-17 school year. On April 26, he delivered a public lecture entitled "From Bombay to Canton and Back: Traveling the Indian Ocean Trade Route," which explored Guangzhou as an Indian opium trader might have seen it in the 19th century.

In a conversation with Professor Debjani Ganguly on April 27, Ghosh discussed his latest book, *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*, and on April 28, he led a workshop on the historical novel and ethnographic writing with Anthropology students and members of the Global South Lab.
The Mellon Humanities Fellows Program is part of a broad multi-year initiative on The Global South: An Agenda for Advanced Research and Curricular Innovation in the Humanities (2015-2020) funded in partnership by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The funding goes towards the creation of new courses and research focused on the connected histories and cultures of Africa, Latin America, South and East Asia and other world regions, as well as hiring new faculty in these areas of study.

The Global South initiative offers an opportunity for advanced research and curriculum innovation across the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences by reconfiguring traditional disciplinary and cartographic alliances based on area studies models and nation-making paradigms. It helps reconsider both the contemporary moment of globalization and the centuries-long history that produced it, even as it positions the South in some senses as a window from which to grasp the conditions of intelligibility of our global present: historical, cultural, aesthetic, political, environmental, biomedical, and technological. The idea of the Global South refers both to a post-Cold War cartographic conception that embraces Africa, Latin America, Asia, including parts of the Middle East and the Pacific Islands; and politico-cultural spaces shaped by global histories of capitalism, empire, race, and diaspora. In this regard, the American South, the Caribbean, the border zones of Latino/Latina Studies, and immigrant communities of European nations and cities are as much part of the Global South as are Nigeria and Argentina.
2015-16 MELLON HUMANITIES FELLOWS

Hanadi Al-Samman
Associate Professor, Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures
Queering the Arab Closet

“Queering the Arab Closet” explores sites of contestation and contamination resulting from Arab queers’ adherence to the politics of the Western “closet.” The project examines three historical moments in Arabic literature and culture which articulate differing relationships of same-sex individuals to the concept of the closet (inside the permissive closet, out of the closet, or beyond the closet): poetry in the pre-modern era, modern novels and plays, and contemporary visual culture. In each moment, the book highlights the gains and challenges of adopting an international LGBT agenda. It also explores how conflicts in identity have been shaped and sharpened by the politics of authoritarian regimes, civil war, and failed revolution. I argue that we must shift away from fixed, binary epistemologies of the closet discourse to dynamic models that can capture the Arab queer body’s movements and affects as it performs new, intimate models of citizenship and heterogeneous belonging in the era of globalization.

Lawrie Balfour
Professor, Politics
Reparations: A Democratic Idea

Against critics who have repeatedly dismissed demands for reparations for slavery and its legacies as untimely or impractical, my book manuscript—Reparations: A Democratic Idea—argues that democratic citizens must engage in serious consideration of these demands before rejecting them. Not to do so is to fail to learn from traditions of African American political thought that have fundamentally shaped the history of political life in the United States, as well as from global reparations movements. These movements join visions of reconstituted, multiracial polities to an insistence on confronting the connections between past practices and current forms of domination and injustice. As Salamishah Tillet remarks, “early twenty-first century calls for reparations invoke the past as a way of imagining and constructing a model of democracy for the future.”

Nomi Dave
Assistant Professor, Music
What Good is Music?

As a Mellon Humanities Fellow, my project explores the interaction between music and human rights, from a theoretical and practical perspective. In recent years, practitioners and scholars have increasingly looked beyond legal understandings of human rights and humanitarian law to embrace a more humanistic approach. My project extends this inquiry by considering how music is imagined in the global rights regime, and how it interacts with the everyday practice of rights’ work. How is music apprehended and applied vis-à-vis rights? What expectations are placed on both? I explore these questions through the lens of the imagined: the ways in which the project of universal rights rests on the need to imagine, and the resulting implications for music and art, as well as for the populations intended to be benefited. I apply these ideas to examples of musical human rights initiatives, based on ethnographic study in the Republic of Guinea and the US, to consider their efficacy, outcomes, and underlying assumptions.
Nichole Flores  
**Assistant Professor, Religious Studies**  
**Guadalupe in the Public Square: Aesthetic Solidarity and the Pursuit of Justice**

In Guadalupe in the Public Square I articulate a constructive framework for “aesthetic solidarity” which complements and augments current Christian ethical discourse on intellectual solidarity and practical solidarity. At the theoretical level, aesthetic solidarity represents a novel integration between the fields of religious aesthetics and social ethics. At the practical level, this framework addresses the growing polarization of political and ethical discourse in the United States by asking what role symbols—including explicitly religious ones—might play in cultivating justice, defined as the minimum threshold of solidarity for promoting basic human dignity in society. This project asks how such symbols can potentially inform the emotional and imaginative lives of democratic citizens toward shared ethical goals in a pluralistic society.

Denise Walsh  
**Associate Professor, Politics**  
**When Rights Go Wrong: Multiculturalism and Women’s Rights**

Why and how do multiculturalism and women’s rights go wrong, and how can they be made right again? *When Rights Go Wrong* answers these questions by comparing three very different cases: polygyny in South Africa, indigenous women’s right to return to the reservation in Canada, and the face veil ban in France. Despite their many differences, these three cases share important similarities. In all three, politicians seeking votes declared that a policy conflict between multiculturalism and women’s rights existed, and that they must solve it. In all three, politicians favored the set of rights most likely to win them votes. To justify their choice, politicians argued that their preferred set of rights served national interests. In contrast, minority women’s organizations argued that multiculturalism and women’s rights were indivisible. They demanded both the right to reinterpret their cultural traditions and the right to shape public policies that targeted them. This suggests that policy conflicts between multiculturalism and women’s rights are not inevitable, that when these conflicts erupt they contribute to nationalist fervor, and that empowering minority women’s organizations to speak and be heard when liberal democracies debate issues like polygyny could redeem both multiculturalism and women’s rights.

2016-17 MELLON HUMANITIES FELLOWS

Enrico Cesaretti  
**Associate Professor, Spanish, Italian & Portuguese**  
**Telling Matters: Narratives of Ecological Entanglements in Modern Italy**

Within a conceptual framework informed by recent theoretical developments within the environmental humanities (biosemiotics, cultural ecology, posthumanism, environmental history, material ecocriticism), I explored the narrative eloquence and agency of (some of) the organic and inorganic materials (e.g. concrete, steel, marble, petroleum, wood, trash) that, in their interaction with human beings’ own selves, corporeality, agency and imaginative stories, have contributed to make (but, simultaneously, also “un-make”) the country that is Italy today. This effort ultimately allowed me to reflect on the role these particular, localized Italian narratives (but, by extension, also narratives in general) can play in raising awareness and shaping ideas about our engagement with the places we inhabit and the environment (in Italy and beyond) in the era of the Anthropocene.

Sheila Crane  
**Associate Professor, Architectural History, School of Architecture**  
**Inventing Informality**

Through the analysis of buildings and constructed landscapes, maps, urban plans, written reports, photographs, and literary descriptions, “Inventing Informality” considers the bidonville as an urban form, a subject of visual representation, a site of knowledge production, an object of reengineering, and a place of social and spatial reinvention on the part of its inhabitants. My research aims to contribute to a broader rethinking of planetary...
urbanism through the lens of the aesthetics and ethics of the informal, one that reconsiders how the bidonvilles of Casablanca, the slums of Mumbai, the shantytowns in Lagos, the favelas of Rio, the gecekondu in Istanbul, and the ‘ashwa’iyyat of Cairo have been conceived at once as globally distributed symptoms of distinctively 21st-century urban conditions and as productive paradigms for urban theory and design practice.

Douglas Fordham  
Associate Professor, Art History  
Aquatint Empires

My research examines the importance of what used to be known as ‘English Coloured Books’ to the conceptualization and visualization of the British Empire. A great many of these images were produced in the medium of aquatint, a tonal intaglio process that encouraged certain types of visual themes, historical narratives, and viewer responses. Three ambitious and beautifully illustrated publications lie at the heart of my account, Thomas Daniell’s Hindoo Excavations (1803), William Alexander’s Costume of China (1805), and Samuel Daniell’s African Scenery and Animals (1804–05). My research asks what these publications might reveal about Britain’s place in the world following the Treaty of Amiens of 1802. More broadly, it considers seriality as empire: how did elaborate aquatint publications color British visions of Africa, Asia, and beyond?

Christian McMillen  
Professor, History  
Water Development in the Global South, 1960s to the Present

I am in the midst of working on a book on the development of clean water and sanitation for the developing world. As of now I am concentrating on two things: first, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Health Organization (WHO) sponsored International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade that ran from 1978 to 1990. One cannot overstate the Water Decade’s influence on global water history both in terms of its ambition and its legacy. The global community entered the Decade optimistic, committed to equity and improving the world’s health (this was the same period during which the WHO embarked on its Health for All by 2000 campaign and attempted to institute primary health care as the goal of global public health). By the end of the Decade most were chastened, ambitions were tempered, and a new way of evaluating success or failure—cost effective analysis—in public health had come to dominate.

Amanda Phillips  
Assistant Professor, Art History  
Between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean: Silk and the Commerce of Fashion in the Early Modern Period

This project investigates the impact of the trade of silks from the Indian Ocean into the territories of the Ottoman Empire and specifically into Istanbul during the early modern period. This research and its publication aim to balance existing scholarship on luxury textiles, which emphasizes the brisk commerce in goods and fashions in the Mediterranean exclusively, and to extend the period of study into the eighteenth century, which has been largely neglected. In doing so, it also addresses the larger historiographical problem of Ottoman decline, showing that craftsmen, merchants, and customers responded actively to challenges posed by changing political, economic, environmental, and social circumstances.
MELLON FELLOWS SYMPOSIA 2016-17

March 4, 2016
Denise Walsh, Associate Professor, Department of Politics
"The Limits of Rights: Muslim Women and the European Court of Human Rights"

Nichole Flores, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies
"Guadalupe in the Public Square: Religious Aesthetics and the Pursuit of Justice"

Lawrie Balfour, Professor, Department of Politics
"Reparations: From Margin to Center?"

Nomi Dave, Assistant Professor, Department of Music
“What Good Is Music?”

October 7, 2016
Fahad Bishara, Assistant Professor, Department of History
"Monsoon Travelers: Dhows and the Trading Worlds of the Western Indian Ocean, c. 1800-1960"

Maya Boutaghou, Assistant Professor, Department of French
“Remapping Francophone Literatures and Cultures through a Global South Perspective: Provincializing France"

February 10, 2017
Hanadi Al-Samman, Associate Professor, Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures
"Queering the Arab Closet"

Jack Chen, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Languages, Literatures & Cultures
"Towards a Literary History of Information in Traditional China"

Camilla Fojas, Associate Professor, Departments of Media Studies and American Studies
"Techno-Domestics, Telecommunications, and Surveillance across the American Pacific"

Mary Kuhn, Assistant Professor, Department of English
"'The vulgar short leaved pine': Forest Industries and the U.S. Literary Landscape in the Late-19th Century"

March 3, 2017
Sheila Crane, Associate Professor, School of Architecture
"Towards a Non-Aligned Architectural Theory: Notes from the Maghrib"

Amanda Phillips, Assistant Professor, Department of Art
"Between the Seas: Ottoman Textiles in the Eighteenth Century"

Douglas Fordham, Associate Professor, Department of Art
"Aquatint Empires: Medium and Message in Georgian Book Illustration relating to Asia and Africa"

April 14, 2017
Enrico Cesaretti, Associate Professor, Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese
"Slick Territories: Two Oil Encounters Italian Style"

Carmen Lamas, Assistant Professor, Departments of English and American Studies
"Archival Interventions in the Latino Nineteenth Century"

Christian McMillen, Professor, Department of History
"Clean Drinking Water and Sanitation in the Global South, 1970 to the Present"
MELLON FACULTY @ UVA

Michael Allen, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies

Jessica Andruess, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies

Fahad Bishara, Assistant Professor, Department of History

Maya Boutaghou, Assistant Professor, Department of French

Jack Chen, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Camilla Fojas, Associate Professor, Departments of Media Studies and American Studies

James Igoe, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology

Willis Jenkins, Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies

Mona Kasra, Assistant Professor, Department of Drama

Fotini Kondyli, Assistant Professor, Department of Art History

Mary Kuhn, Assistant Professor, Professor of English

Carmen Lamas, Assistant Professor, Departments of English and American Studies

Anne-Garland Mahler, Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese

Andrej Petrovic, Professor, Department of Classics
CLAY FACULTY FELLOWS 2016-17

Ira Bashkow
Associate Professor, Anthropology
Introduction to Field Ethnography: How to Study People in Natural Settings

Allison Bigelow
Assistant Professor, Spanish, Italian & Portuguese
Translation and Transmission in the Early Americas

Jenny Clay
William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor, Classics
Team Teach, with Athanassios Vergados of Heidelberg

Corinne Field
Assistant Professor, Women, Gender & Sexuality
The Global History of Black Girlhood

Richard Handler
Professor, Anthropology, and Director of Global Development Studies Program
Three-day Residency of Artist Matthew Bakkom

Claudrena N. Harold
Associate Professor, History
Embracing the Hyphen: The Making and Remaking of African Identity in the United States

Murad Idris
Assistant Professor, Politics
Political Thinking from the Margins: A Global Conference

James Loeffler
Associate Professor, History

Jill Martiniuk
Lecturer, Slavic Languages and Literatures
Making a Cultural Museum: Exploring Russian Images & Identity in the Digital

CLAY GRADUATE FELLOWS 2016-17

Hannah Beaman
College of Arts & Sciences
“Compañeros Training and Empowerment Project: A Partnership between Students and Latino Community Health Workers in Charlottesville”

Thomas Berenato
English
“Research at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth”

Stephanie Bernhard
English
“Environmental Humanities Symposium”

Jesse Bordwin
English
“Summer School on Global Studies & Critic Theory and Research in Ireland”
Joshua Brown  
*Curry School of Education*  
“From Digital Humanities to Organizational Studies”

Swati Chawla  
*History*  
“Leaving Behind the Rubbish: Tibetan Buddhist Nuns in Contemporary India”

Dannah Dennis  
*Anthropology*  
“Re-Imagining the Nation: Citizens in the New Nepal”

Alexandra Evans  
*History*  

Annie Galvin  
*English*  
“The Global Contemporary: An Interdisciplinary Symposium”

Macario Garcia  
*Anthropology*  
“Sensing Incarceration: Mobility and Confinement in United States Corrections Systems”

Mary Gilbert  
*French*  
“Racine and the Ancients: Andromaque, Britannicus, and Phèdre”

Paul Gleason  
*Religious Studies*  
“Study the Libraries of Lord Edward Herbert of Cherbury at Jesus”

Maya Hislop  
*English*  
“A Memorial to Rape and Race: Remembering the Women of Color”

Hannah Hotzman  
*French*  
“Legacy of the 19th-Century Japonisme Style in Postwar Literature and Film”

Kimberly Hursh  
*History*  
“Dissertation Research at the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain”

Fauzia Husain  
*Sociology*  
“Pakistani policewomen – Training, Social Aspects, Nationalism, Religion”

Jiyeon Kang  
*Anthropology*  
“Reproductive Choice and Middle Class Status in the Context of China’s New Population Policy”

Nasser Meerkhan  
*Spanish, Italian & Portuguese*  
“The Divine Comedy” in Dialogue with Islamic Legends: On Visual Medieval Depictions of the Afterlife”

Scott Miller  
*History*  

Murad Mumtaz  
*Art & Architecture*  
“Muslim Devotional Portraiture in the Field of South Asian Painting”

Ethan Reed  
*English*  
“Langston Hughes Research at Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library”

Sean Tennant  
*Classical Art & Archaeology*  
“Domestic Architecture within the Northwestern Roman Provinces in Europe”
Nan MacMillian's poetry reading (right), Lady T spoken word poet (middle), and other students, April 22, 2017.


Students participate in a Poverty Simulation, April 21, 2017.

Ice cream promoting the upcoming Humanities Week festivities.

The exhibit, “1% Privilege in a Time of Global Inequality,” curated by Myles Little, hung in Wilson Hall from March to June 2017.

Corinne Odom facilitating the Poverty Simulation.

Isir Said and Beki San Martin take a picture at the “Neighbors” art exhibit at New City Arts Initiative in downtown Charlottesville, VA.


Students gather for the ice cream social promoting Humanities Week, April 2017.

Beki San Martin working away on Humanities Week preparation, April 2017.

(Humanities Week Photo Credits: Beki San Martin, Corinne Odom, Isir Said & Anne Gilliam)
Humanities Week 2017 (April 17th - 22nd) was the annual student-produced, interdisciplinary cultural celebration of the humanities held on Grounds and produced by the Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures.

Humanities Week 2017 ran in conjunction with a photographic art exhibition curated by Time Magazine photographer, Myles Little, “1% Privilege in a Time of Global Inequality.” “Some of the images map out points in the world of affluence, such as education, leisure, and healthcare (while avoiding clichés like fur coats and private jets). Other images are positioned outside the world of the 1%, looking back in.”

The week was filled with events that dealt with the topics of equality and inequality through a number of different lenses — including poetry, global development, food and agriculture, literature, politics, film, visual art, and photography.
**HUMANITIES LABS**

Humanities Laboratories are conceived as new spaces for collaborative, discovery-driven and experimental work at UVA. Led by senior researchers, the laboratories foster vertical integration of undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, librarians, curators, and technologists around teaching and research initiatives, while at the same time developing horizontal links across multiple disciplines, both cognate and distant. The Institute currently hosts three Labs with two funded under the Mellon Global South initiative.

**GLOBAL SOUTH: CONCEPT & PRACTICE**

Co-leaders: Debjani Ganguly (English) & Christina Mobley (History)

The idea of this Lab originates in the assumption that an ambitious, multi-scalar agenda for curriculum development and advanced research on the Global South requires, in the first instance, a sustained interrogation of its theoretical, historical and cartographic provenance across a vibrant interdisciplinary space. Global South is an unsettled and unsettling epistemic frame from which to contemplate the world. Some think of it as a post-Cold War era replacement for the ‘Third World’ (and so primarily covering Africa, Latin America, South and Southeast Asia, but not Europe, America and the Mediterranean worlds), while others use it synonymously with the idea of underdevelopment and deprivation wherever these are found. Yet others see it as a ‘frontier in the unfolding history of neoliberal capitalism.’ As will be obvious, the idea of the ‘Global South’ has varied inflections across the disciplines. Currently, the idea of the Global South exists at the confluence of and tension between systems of knowledge and ways of conceptualizing space, habitations, cultures, aesthetics, and political economy. Its role as a disordering episteme in our contemporary world is what this lab proposes to examine and showcase.

**AFRICAN URBANISM**

Co-leaders: James Igoe (Anthropology) & Ellen Bassett (Architecture)

This Lab explores the phenomenon of improvised urban development in the African continent with special focus on South, East, and sub-Saharan African. Africa’s current urban explosion is not happening in ways that are easily legible to standard modernization scenarios. Rural migrants are flocking to cities in many contexts without the mechanization and commodification of any antecedent agricultural revolution. Industrialization, with its concomitant need for agglomeration and large labor pools is also not driving African urbanization. Rapidly growing African cities, for the most part, are not associated with stock markets and financial centers, high-profile information technology and software development, or even telemarketing and phone-in service centers. Rather, contemporary African urbanization is characterized by an extraordinary diversity of economic activities, understood as “the informal sector.” In spite of the connotations of the label “informal,” however, many activities encompassed by this so-called sector are remarkably high-tech. But high-tech in African urban contexts reflects a new dynamic, in which technology is not just networked, like in the Silicon Valley and comparable urban spaces, but also widely distributed, throughout rhizomatic expanses of improvised neighborhoods. Networked devices are in the hands of the creative many. How might scholars understand this twenty-first century mode of urbanism in the Global South?
HUMANITIES INFORMATICS

Co-leaders: Debjani Ganguly (English), Jack Chen (East Asian Studies), and Alison Booth (English, Scholars' Lab)

Funded by UVA's strategic investment funds, the Humanities Informatics Lab brings together scholars working on questions arising from the management, control, and flow of information in both historical and contemporary contexts. The Lab addresses the ways in which data structures and the actual computation of data inform the various histories of humanistic cultural production, human scientific endeavors, and studies of the evolution of human life itself. Through active collaboration with traditional humanities research and disciplines such as library science, engineering, mathematics, statistics, computer science, neuroscience, and bioinformatics, the Humanities Informatics Lab leverages UVA strength in humanistic-oriented research and information sciences and takes a leadership role in global academia for the University in innovative research, creative teaching, and public engagement in the field of humanities informatics.

GRADUATE COLLABORATIVE NETWORKS (2017-18)

Public Humanities Lab

This Lab is an interdisciplinary, graduate student-led initiative within the IHGC, which aims to develop collaboration among departments, to provide a common space for scholars and the wider community to generate lively discussion, research, and advocacy initiatives over the course of the coming year. The Public Humanities Lab is composed of ten core members from across the University of Virginia, who constitute the five working groups, each led by two core members, or principal investigators, and each centered on one of the following topics: Climate Change and Environment (Marine and Terrestrial); Human Rights and the Post-Human Turn; Literary and Language Worlds; and Pre-Modern and Early Modern Global Cultures; a fifth working group is currently open for applications. The Public Humanities Lab offers an invaluable opportunity to connect graduate research to the sphere of public humanities, as well as a chance for PhD students to gain valuable professional experience in the field of public humanities.

Ecological Methods Lab
Co-leaders: Jeremy Sorgen, Luke Kreider, Alice Besterman

The “Eco-Methods Lab” facilitates interdisciplinary research seeking “best practices” for bringing ecological principles into the humanities. “Ecology” is gaining currency in the humanities as a metaphor that aims to promote non-anthropocentric modes of inquiry and knowledge production, while trying to making sense of the complex entanglement of environmental, cultural, and political systems. The term now distinguishes an enormous array of subfields in the humanities -- we have political ecology and ecological economics, spiritual ecology and ecological theology, eco-poetics and ecosophy, eco-linguistics and eco-acoustics, eco-feminism, eco-criticism, and more. The Lab will further serve as a springboard for future collaborations on public humanities initiatives, partnerships between the sciences and humanities, information sharing networks, advocacy groups, and other research activities.
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ometimes interdisciplinary research just happens: people meet, think, and research across disciplinary boundaries. But the IHGC is also committed to helping that kind of thinking develop: to pushing scholars to encounter work and scholarly approaches they might not otherwise. Through the support and development of Faculty Research Networks, the IHGC licenses and supports innovative efforts that bring together diverse scholars working on some of the central problems facing the Commonwealth and the globe. In 2016-2017, the Institute supported these two networks:

POWER, VIOLENCE & INEQUALITY COLLECTIVE

The Power, Violence & Inequality (PVI) Collective in the College of Arts & Sciences brings together scholars, students, and others in the University community and beyond to advance research, mentorship, and teaching focused on violence rooted in power and inequality, and to foster collaboration in those areas across disciplines, methods, and university units. Focusing especially on structural violence, the collective takes on complex problems rooted in gender, race, sexuality, and other power relations. The PVI Collective is directed by Denise Walsh, Associate Professor of Politics and Women, Gender and Sexuality; and Nicholas Winter, Associate Professor of Politics.

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES COLLOQUIUM

Led in 2016-2017 by University of Virginia faculty from English, Italian, Anthropology, and the School of Architecture, the Environmental Humanities Colloquium (EHC) is the University of Virginia’s major interdisciplinary working group for the study of the environmental humanities. It is a remarkably diverse community, one which often finds future lawyers speaking to literature scholars, climate scientists talking cost-benefit analysis, and undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty speaking together about common environmental challenges. This academic year, the EHC hosted or co-hosted nine speakers, sponsored a two-day symposium, and (with the help of our graduate interns) inaugurated a podcast series about common environmental challenges.
PARTNERSHIPS

CONSORTIUM OF HUMANITIES CENTERS AND INSTITUTES (CHCI)

The IHGC is an active member of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI). Established in 1988, the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes serves as a global arena for the discussion of issues germane to cross-disciplinary activity in the humanities, and as a network for the circulation of information and best practices related to the organizational and management dimensions of humanities centers and institutes. CHCI currently has a membership of over 230 organizations and affiliates in 23 countries and 46 US states. The IHGC Director, Debjani Ganguly, serves on the CHCI’s International Advisory Board and is an active participant in many of the key initiatives of this global Consortium. In 2018, the IHGC will host, on behalf of the University of Virginia, the Annual Meeting of the CHCI on the theme “Humanities Informatics.”

UVA-DUKE-BOLOGNA ACADEMY IN GLOBAL HUMANITIES AND CRITICAL THEORY

The Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory is a new research entity jointly promoted by the University of Virginia, Duke University, and the University of Bologna. The IHGC is UVA’s key facilitator of this collaboration. The Academy is predicated on the assumption that the humanities and the interpretative social sciences need a global perspective in order to break down the “methodological nationalism” that has dominated them in the past and to envisage new interpretative frameworks. Such an approach calls for a radical intermingling of diverse disciplines, traditions, and fields of critical thought from across the globe. The Academy is based at the University of Bologna. At the heart of the Academy is a graduate Summer School in global humanities and critical theory that offers students from around the world courses, workshops, lectures, and symposia by outstanding faculty. The IHGC Director, Debjani Ganguly, serves on the Board on this Academy and is a faculty participant in the summer school.

VIRGINIA FOUNDATION OF THE HUMANITIES

Virginia Foundation for the Humanities connects people and ideas to explore the human experience and inspire cultural engagement. It is the largest of all fifty-six state humanities councils with the most diverse programs and funding sources in the nation. VFH encourages discovery and connection through the humanities by supporting and producing cultural, civic, local, and global educational programs for broad public audiences. Since its founding in 1974, VFH has produced more than 40,000 humanities programs serving communities large and small throughout Virginia, the nation and the world. In addition to Foundation-directed programs including festivals, publications, digital initiatives, conferences, teacher institutes, and public radio programs, VFH has contributed to more than 3,000 grant projects and 300 individual and collaborative fellowships. In the coming years, the IHGC aims to build its public humanities initiatives in partnership with the VFH.
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Third Year, Political & Social Thought  
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An online version of this report is available at:  
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Design | Joseph Wei  
Email | humanities@virginia.edu