

2018–2019

Annual Report



IHGC

Institute *of the* Humanities
& Global Cultures

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IHGC | Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA | COLLEGE and GRADUATE SCHOOL of ARTS & SCIENCES

THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

Front and back covers

Grid of Heads, digital artwork by Mona Kasra, UVA Assistant Professor, Digital Media Design, and intermedia artist Peter Bussigel.

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From the Director

Our year began with an event that every Humanities Institute dreams of hosting—a meeting of the world’s best minds in the humanities. In the summer of 2018, we were privileged to host the annual conference of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes. Over four days, more than two hundred humanists engaged with, and deliberated on, the rise of big data, social media, artificial intelligence, and algorithmic reason.



Debjani Ganguly
IHGC Director and
Professor of English,
University of Virginia

What might the epistemic, aesthetic, political, and ethical fallout of these be?

How threatened are democracies in the age of Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter? Why is it urgent to turn to critical data studies as a 21st-century reprisal of the Frankfurt School project? What constitutes the ground of political deliberation in an age of fragmented and polarized online publics?

How is the realm of aesthetics shaped by human-machine interfaces? Urgent questions such

as these were addressed by an impressive array of scholars: Achille Mbembe, Lydia Liu, Wendy Chun, Jonathan Albright, Renate Ferro, Siva Vaidyanathan, Michael Witmore, and James Evans.

The IHGC’s distinguished visiting speakers’ series was graced by luminaries such as Lisa Parks (MIT), Alexander Galloway (NYU), Joel Robbins (Cambridge), Lorna Goodison (Poet Laureate of Jamaica), Ken Liu (Science fiction writer and Nebula award winner), and Aihwa Ong (Berkeley). A major highlight of our Spring semester was the residency of the distinguished novelist, Amitav Ghosh, and Deborah Baker, acclaimed writer of narrative non-fiction. Their talks, public forums, conversations, and engagements with faculty and students on issues of climate change, global migrations, and global wars were immensely enriching.

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s generous support for our Global South research and curricular initiatives has helped us plan a new Mellon Lab on *Arts and Performance in the Global South* in collaboration with the Center for Humanities Research (CHR) at the University of Western Cape. UVA’s Drama and Music departments will lead this along with CHR’s *Laboratory of Kinetic Objects* (LoKo). The primary focus of the Lab will be the arts of moving objects, and the shifting ground of *kinesis* and *aesthesis* with dramatic shifts in digital technology, AI, and robotics. Puppetry arts will be

a major feature of this Lab as it explores questions of race, environmental crisis, and the displacement of the human by technology. The Lab will be formally launched in Fall 2019 with the visit of Jane Taylor, UWC’s Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Aesthetic Theory and Material Performance.

Our Institute’s commitment to experimental work through our myriad Labs continued unabated. Researchers in our Human-Machine Intelligence cluster developed projects on the impact of artificial intelligence on the workforce, machine assistants for creative writing, the pixel as epistemic agent, cognitive assistants for health care, fairness in computer vision, and trust in autonomous vehicles. Our Global Humanities Labs powered on with teams working on Asian cosmopolitanisms, religious pluralism in pre-modern Mediterranean worlds, coastal futures, surveillance cultures, and smart environments.

The annual Mellon Fellowships program brought together scholars from German, Spanish, Middle Eastern & South Asian Studies, religious studies, anthropology, politics, film, and media studies. Their projects ranged across a marvellous array of topics: thermodynamics and German *avant-garde* cinema; border patrol on the digital frontier; the politics of emergency claim-making; spiritual underpinnings of the United Nations; comparative work on cinematic action genres in Arabic, Iranian, and Indian films; moral-political subjectivity in the global HIV/AIDS pandemic; Hindu-Muslim cosmopolitan cultures in early modern South Asia; and, the colonial Spanish empire in South East Asia.

During the academic year, we focused on enhancing meaningful graduate participation in our interdisciplinary projects and programs. We initiated Lab graduate fellowships and travel grants; built workshops dedicated to graduate research; and significantly deepened our engagement with our PhD Public Humanities Lab which is now about to launch into its third year of operation. We offered every opportunity to our PhD students to have greater agency in collaborative projects, and exposure to professional development opportunities that academic careers typically demand. Our Institute is seen as a welcoming place for graduate students and undergraduates. It is deeply satisfying to feel the energy they exude on a daily basis as they move through our spaces.

I invite you to glimpse at our year’s highlights in the pages of this report.

— Debjani Ganguly, IHGC Director

New Associate Director

Camilla Fojas joined the IHGC as Associate Director

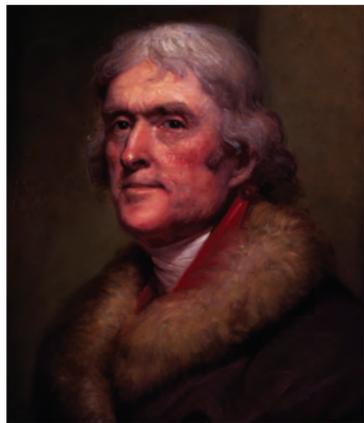
in January 2019. Prior to assuming this position, she was actively engaged with the work of the IHGC as a member of the board, co-director of the Global South Lab, and through her work in the Humanities Informatics Lab co-directing the Surveillance and Infrastructure research area.



She brings a wealth of programming ideas to the IHGC from her various interrelated research areas on race, empire, and borders in the Americas and the Pacific.

Camilla Fojas has published widely in humanities related areas of study, particularly in comparative border studies and questions of empire in the Americas and the Pacific. Her books include *Cosmopolitanism in the Americas* (Purdue UP, 2005); *Border Bandits: Hollywood on the Southern Frontier* (University of Texas Press, 2008); *Islands of Empire: Pop Culture and U.S. Power* (University of Texas Press, 2014); *Zombies, Migrants, and Queers: Race and Crisis Capitalism in Pop Culture* (University of Illinois Press, 2017); and, *Migrant Labor and Border Securities in Pop Culture* (Routledge, 2017). She is currently working on a book project about the mediations and infrastructure of border surveillance along the US-Mexico border tentatively titled *Borderveillance: Border Securities and Migrant Risk*.

Prior to arriving at the University of Virginia in 2016, Professor Fojas was Vincent de Paul Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies at DePaul University and the founding director of the graduate program in Critical Ethnic Studies. ■



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- 1 Matthew Burtner's Mellon Lab ecoacoustics, see pp. 28-29
- 2 CHCI speaker, Michael Witmore, *Director, Folger Shakespeare Library*, see pp. 18-22
- 3 Distinguished Writers-in-Residence, see p. 23
- 4 *Ice Cycles* dance performance at CHCI Conference, see pp. 18-22
- 5 Thomas Jefferson, Founder, University of Virginia
- 6 PH Lab's core members, see p. 31

About the IHGC

Located on the historic grounds of the University of Virginia, the **Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures** (IHGC) fosters a community of scholars attuned to the global calling of the humanities in the 21st century. The humanities today are oriented toward generating new universals of human belonging as they negotiate vast terrains of cultural difference. The "human" in the humanities 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 all earnest.

The Institute's mission gives new meaning to Thomas Jefferson's founding vision for the University of Virginia as "the future bulwark of the human mind in this hemisphere." In partnership with Centers from around the world, the Institute assembles leading scholars to discuss the present state and future prospects of the humanities: methods of research and circumstances of teaching, institutional openings and constraints, self-assessments, and proposals for new engagements.

Supported by the Buckner Clay Endowment and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the IHGC promotes research and experimental pedagogy on the Global South, Climate Change and the Environment, Human Rights and the Post-Human Turn, Media Ecologies and Technology, War, Violence and Humanitarianism, Comparative Religions, Pre-modern and Early Modern Global Cultures, and Oceanic Connections. The Institute hosts laboratories that advance scholarship in these areas. Led by senior researchers, these labs 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. They engage with institutions, both nationally and internationally, and serve as critical sites for training undergraduate and graduate students to embrace the new exigencies of a complex and rapidly changing 21st-century world, both *productively* (with complex collaborative intellectual and practical skills) and *humanely* (with nuanced intercultural knowledge and imagination).

The humanities serve to define our world in myriad ways: through its intellectual and cultural aspirations, its aesthetic values, its comprehension of the past that formed it, and its political, ethical, 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 meaningful role in shaping humanities scholarship on the global stage, and in fostering democratic cultures of learning locally and nationally. ■

Mellon Humanities Fellows Program

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 supports a faculty Fellowship program, Humanities Labs, new faculty hires, new courses, and research focused on the connected histories and cultures of the Global South, an idea that refers both to a post-Cold War cartographic conception embracing Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Central Asia, South East Asia, and the Pacific Islands, as well as spaces shaped by global histories of capitalism, empire, race, and diaspora.



2017-18 Fellows

Paul Dobryden

Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures

Energetic Media

Thermodynamics and the German Avant-Garde

Dobryden's project examines the reception of thermodynamics within the media theory and practice of the 1920s German avant-garde. In the 19th century, the science of thermodynamics placed energy, rather than matter, at the center of a new understanding of the physical universe. As the quintessential science of the industrial revolution, thermodynamics was concerned with movement and efficiency, with bodies and engines, with systems and circulation—subjects that would fascinate important strains of the German avant-garde over half a century later. Focusing on artists associated with Bauhaus and the G group, he investigates how the interwar avant-garde reckoned with a world transformed by the science of energy and took up aspects of the broader cultural imaginary of thermodynamics. He is particularly interested in seeing how individual works negotiated the tension between cultural revitalization—which reflected the avant-garde's energetic, productivist ambition—and the thermodynamic concept of entropy, which inspired visions of historical decline.

Matthew Hedstrom

Associate Professor, American Studies Program and Department of Religious Studies

Religion of Humanity

Spirituality, Politics, and the United Nations

Hedstrom's project, based on his book in progress of the same title, explores the religious history of world government, going back into the 19th century and forward to the late 20th, focusing on the United Nations and its religious contexts, constituencies, and contestations

in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. The long arc of the plot follows the intersecting histories of two great liberal dreams of the modern age—the religious vision of a shared “religion of humanity” and the political vision of world government—as they converged and diverged across the 19th and 20th centuries. At its most expansive, this is a book about human oneness, and how that was conceived, spiritually and politically, across nearly two centuries. At its most narrow, the book examines in detail the religious and political struggles around the UN in the mid-20th century. *The Religion of Humanity* will be the first book to examine the religious history of the UN and world government at this scope, including both the religious genealogy of its animating ideals and the many shades of religious significance it acquired once established. The theoretical concerns framing the project, about spirituality, liberalism, cosmopolitanism, and secularism, come from religious studies, political theory, and US religious and political history.

Aynne Kokas

Assistant Professor, Department of Media Studies

Border Patrol on the Digital Frontier

China, US, and the Global Battle for Data Security

The Internet once promised the free and open flow of data across borders, but the demands of national sovereignty are increasingly limiting the movement of data between countries. Nowhere is the tension between the free movement and the regulation of data flows more significant than in the Sino-US relationship. Through analyses of corporate case studies, Chinese data regulations, and interview data, Kokas contends that China's increasing control of the global movement of data draws much of its power from a combination of US investors and the absence of a centralized US media and technology policy. Using cases from the global entertainment, payment, mobility, surveillance, and cybersecurity industries, her project

examines how US free-market policies ultimately enhance, rather than counteract, Chinese efforts to enact new standards and control the global movement of data.

Shankar Nair

Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies

Hindu-Muslim Cosmopolitan Cultures in Early Modern South Asia

Nair explores the fashioning of a cosmopolitan Persian Indian intellectual culture in early modern South Asia at the hands of the Mughal Empire (r. 1526–1857), focusing on the particular phenomenon of “translation,” both of texts and broader religio-cultural worlds. The Mughal court devoted considerable resources toward patronizing the translation of numerous Hindu Sanskrit texts into the Persian language, including the focus of his inquiry, the Sanskrit *Yoga-Vasistha*. These translations were typically accomplished by teams of Hindu and Muslim court-scholars working in tandem; Nair analyzes these translations as the collaborative effort of Hindu and Muslim scholars to draw upon the vast resources provided by their respective religio-cultural-intellectual traditions in order to forge a new, cosmopolitan inter-religious lexicon in the Persian language. How did these translators find a vocabulary to express Hindu, Sanskrit theological ideas—including Hindu notions of God, conceptions of salvation, and the afterlife, etc.—in a Persian Islamic idiom? How did these Muslim and Hindu scholars find a shared, common language to communicate and render one another's religious beliefs mutually comprehensible, such that they could collaboratively craft a new literary and scholarly lexicon—“Hinduism expressed in Islamic terms”—that any educated Persian-reader (Muslim, Hindu, or otherwise) would be able to read and comprehend? Nair aims to reconstruct the intellectual and cultural processes that crafted this kind of early modern Hindu-Muslim “dialogue.”

Ricardo Padrón

Associate Professor, Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese

Boxer Codex

Colonial Spanish Empire in South East Asia

Following on the heels of Padrón's newest book, which explores the form and function of the Pacific Rim in the early modern Spanish geopolitical imagination, *The Boxer Codex: Frameworks for Analysis* studies cultural contact between Asians and Europeans in early colonial Manila. The Boxer Codex is a lengthy manuscript describing the peoples of East and Southeast Asia prepared in Manila during the 1570s at the behest of the Spanish colonial governor by a team of Europeans, Chinese, and perhaps native Filipinos. It fuses the Hispanic geographical and ethnographic imaginary, as it had been nurtured by contact with the New World with that of Ming China. Padrón's project convenes scholars in Latin American studies and East Asian studies to discuss the various epistemologies at work in the text.

Jennifer Rubenstein

Associate Professor, Department of Politics

The Politics of Emergency Claim-Making and Its Alternatives

The contemporary world is rife with what might be called “emergency claim-making.” Public officials, journalists, scientists, citizen activist groups, and others claim that particular situations are emergencies. In so doing, they direct attention and resources to particular groups or issues, justify exceptions to normal rules and procedures, and/or defend the

above

top row: Jarrett Zigon, Aynne Kokas, Ricardo Padrón, Samhita Sunya
bottom row: Matthew Hedstrom, Shankar Nair, Jennifer Rubenstein, Paul Dobryden



use of violent force. Their claims, which sometimes reinforce or compete with each other, are accepted, rejected, or ignored by different audiences. Rubenstein's book project seeks to bring the politics of emergency claim-making into view, elucidate how it functions in the context of large-scale global issues such as climate change, epidemics, violent conflict, and migration, evaluate it normatively, and consider its alternatives. Her research suggests that the politics of emergency claim-making—as a distinctive set of discourses, institutions, and practices—is a poisoned chalice, especially for marginalized groups: it promises a lot, yet delivers much less—and sometimes does more harm than good. A central aim of the book is to show that the politics of emergency claim-making is merely one kind of response to urgency among others; it is not inevitable. Its limitations offer ample reason to seek out alternative languages, practices, and institutional forms to address urgent issues.

Samhita Sunya
Assistant Professor of Transnational Cinema,
Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures

South by South/West Asia
Transregional Cartographies of Cinematic Action Genres

Sunya spent her fellowship year developing her second major research project, whose working title is *South by South/West Asia: Transregional Cartographies of Cinematic Action Genres*. This project arises out of her broader interests in histories of “world cinema” along South-South axes, namely Middle East—South Asia circulation histories of popular cinemas. *South by South/West Asia* examines the interface between the geopolitics of wars (the World Wars, the Cold War, and the War on Terror) and the distributions and shifts in global action genres and location shooting—e.g., action adventure films, espionage films, and sci-fi action films—across the Middle East and South Asia.

Jarrett Zigon
William and Linda Porterfield Chair of Biomedical Ethics;
Professor, Department of Anthropology

Moral-Political Subjectivity in the Global HIV/AIDS Pandemic

What kinds of politico-moral persons are constituted in institutional contexts that combine human rights and personal responsibility approaches to health, and how do these kinds of subjectivities relate to local, national, and global forms of the politico-moral represented in health policies? To answer these questions, Zigon draws from research data he's accumulated over the past twelve years through transnational, multi-sited ethnographic studies of moral and political subjectivity in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs, carried out in some of the world's most active contexts of international, national, and local collaboration in the response to either large or rapidly growing HIV/AIDS epidemics—Indonesia (Bali), South Africa (Western Cape), United States (New York City), Canada (Vancouver), and Russia (St. Petersburg). HIV/AIDS programs in these locations increasingly and ambiguously combine human rights and personal responsibility approaches to treatment and prevention, which until recently were considered incompatible, thus allowing such questions as: Are there more distal, non-health related consequences of therapeutic practices of local HIV/AIDS programs that inadvertently shape the political and moral subjectivities of participants in such programs? If so, are they related to particular combination of moral discourses (human rights, personal responsibility, etc.) underlying the therapeutic approach? How are such consequences experienced by participants and how have they altered their everyday social and political interactions in their networks and communities?

above
top row: Jahan Ramazani and Symposium audience, Jennifer Rubenstein, Samhita Sunya
bottom row: Aynne Kokas, Matthew Hedstrom, Ricardo Padrón and PhD intern Joe Wei

Mellon Fellows Symposia

Fall 2018

September 22

Samhita Sunya
Assistant Professor of Transnational Cinema,
Department of Middle Eastern
& South Asian Languages & Cultures
“South by South/West Asia: Transregional
Histories of Middle East/South Asia Cinemas”

Paul Dobryden
Assistant Professor, Department
of Germanic Languages & Literatures
“Hygiene on Screen: The Visual Rhetoric
of Health in Weimar Cinema”

November 2

Jarrett Zigon
William & Linda Porterfield Chair in Biomedical
Ethics; Professor, Department of Anthropology
“A War on People: Dying-with and the
Relational Ethics and Politics of Community”

Aynne Kokas
Assistant Professor, Department of Media Studies
“The New Cybersovereigns:
Power, Control, and Data Between China
and the United States”

Spring 2019

March 1

Shankar Nair
Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies
“An Iranian Wanders Early Modern India:
Deciphering a Muslim Account of Hinduism”

Ricardo Padrón
Associate Professor, Department of Spanish,
Italian & Portuguese
“Early Modern Ethnography and Imperial
Geopolitics: Framing the Boxer Codex”

April 19

Jennifer Rubenstein
Associate Professor, Department of Politics
“Urgency without Emergency?
Emergency Politics and Its Alternatives”

Matthew Hedstrom
Associate Professor, American Studies Program
and Department of Religious Studies
“Spiritual Cosmopolitanism:
The United Nations in US Religious Politics”

Distinguished Speakers

Our Distinguished Speakers Series brings a remarkably diverse and accomplished set of humanities visiting scholars from around the world to benefit the intellectual community across the University. While most visitors present a public lecture, many of these scholars also give generously of their time, participating in interdisciplinary colloquia, offering graduate workshops, and meeting with faculty and students.

Achille Mbembe
Research Professor, WISER, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
“Algorithmic Reason and Planetary Humanities”
June 14, 2018

Lydia Liu
W.T. Tam Professor in the Humanities, Columbia University
“The Psychic Life of Digital Media”
June 15, 2018

Wendy Hui Kyong Chun
Professor of Modern Culture and Media, Brown University
“Critical Data Studies or How to Desegregate Networks”
June 15, 2018

Michael Witmore
Director, Folger Shakespeare Library
“What Should Humanists Think about in the Age of Algorithms”
June 16, 2018

Giles Bergel
Digital Humanities Research Fellow, Department of Engineering Sciences,
University of Oxford
“Computer Vision for DH”
September 19, 2018

Supriya Gandhi
Lecturer in Iranian Studies and Religious Studies, Yale University
“A Tale of Two Translations:
The Surr-I Akbar and Its Afterlives in South Asia”
September 20, 2018

Daniel Shore
Provost's Distinguished Associate Professor of English, Georgetown University
“Cultural Constructicography”
September 27, 2018

Alexa Joubin
Professor of English, George Washington University
“Can World Literature Go Beyond the Nation State?
The Case of Global Shakespeare”
October 1, 2018

J. Edward Chamberlin

University Professor Emeritus of English and Comparative Literature, University of Toronto

“Chanting Down Babylon”
October 5, 2018

Lorna Goodison

Poet Laureate of Jamaica

Poetry Reading & Reflections
October 5, 2018

Tsitsi Jaji

Associate Professor of English and African & African American Studies, Duke University

“Where is African Poetry?”
October 5, 2018

Josephine Nock-Hee Park

Professor of English and Asian American Studies, University of Pennsylvania

“The Poetics of Consolation”
October 5, 2018

Urayoán Noel

Associate Professor of English and Spanish, New York University

“What They Don’t Tell You About #Latinx Poetics”
October 5, 2018

Evie Shockley

Professor of English, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

“Not Reading the Writing on the Wall”
October 5, 2018

Paul Vierthaler

Assistant Professor of Digital Humanities, Leiden University, Netherlands

“Where Did All These Rumors Come From? Computationally Identifying Intertextuality and Machine-Classifying its Source in a Late Imperial Chinese Corpus”
October 11, 2018

Muhsin Al-Musawi

Professor of Arabic Literature, Columbia University

“The City in the Medieval and Modern Arabic Narrative”
October 12, 2018

Lisa Parks

Professor of Comparative Media Studies, MIT

“Vertical Mediation and the War on Terror from 9/11 to Trump”
October 18, 2018

Sarah Tindall Kareem

Associate Professor of English, UCLA

“Chasing Daedalus”
October 26, 2018



Bret Rothstein

Associate Professor of Art History, Indiana University

“Secret Hardware Handshakes”
October 27, 2018

Dennis Tenen

Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

“Techniques of Industrial Modernism: Plot Robot”
October 27, 2018

Heekyoung Cho

Associate Professor of Asian Languages & Literatures, University of Washington

“Rethinking World Literature through the Relations between Russian and East Asian Literatures”
November 1, 2018

Leila Neti

Associate Professor of English, Occidental College

“Global Fictions of History: Wilkie Collins’s The Moonstone and the Kohinoor Diamond”
November 2, 2018

Joshua August “Gus” Skorburg,

Postdoctoral Associate at Duke MIDS, Duke University

“What Kinds of Data Science Research Are Subject to Ethical Review?”
November 2, 2018

Ken Liu

Hugo & Nebula Award Winning Author & Translator

“Betrayal with Integrity: Conformance and Estrangement in Translating Chinese Science Fiction”
November 8, 2018

Ben Tran

Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Vanderbilt University

“Air Conditioned Socialism: The Atmospheres of Revolution and Globalization in Lê Minh Khuê’s Fiction”
November 12, 2018

Jerome McGann

John Stewart Bryan University Professor of English, University of Virginia

“Colonial Exceptionalism on Native Grounds: American Literature before America Literature”
November 16, 2018

Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert

Professor of Hispanic Studies, Vassar College

“Archipelagic Plastic: Art and Sea Currents in Caribbean Art”
January 25, 2019

Alexander Galloway

Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University

“The Concept of the Digital”
March 18, 2019

Sharon Sliwinski

Associate Professor of Information & Media Studies, University of Western Ontario

“Of Refuge and Reverie”
March 22, 2019

Amitav Ghosh

IHGC Distinguished Writer-in-Residence

Reading and Conversation on *Gun Island*
March 25, 2019

Aihwa Ong

Professor of Anthropology, UC Berkeley

“The China Flight: Territorializing Rights in Global Platforms”
March 28, 2019

Jia Tolentino

Writer for The New Yorker

“The Internet Used to Be Good. What Happened?”
April 1, 2019

Meredith Clark

Assistant Professor of Media Studies, University of Virginia

“Black Twitter”
April 2, 2019

Julia Adeney Thomas

Associate Professor of History, University of Notre Dame

Ian Baucom
Buckner Clay Dean of Arts & Sciences, University of Virginia
Amitav Ghosh
IHGC Distinguished Writer-in-Residence

“Climate Change and Historical Method”
April 4, 2019

David Forsyth

Professor of Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“The Materials Objects are Fashioned From”
April 8, 2019

Joel Robbins

Director of the Max Planck-Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy, and Social Change; and, Sigrid Rausing Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge

“Anthropology and Theology: The Prosperity Gospel, Humanity and the Problem of Judgement” & “Opacity of Mind, Imagining Other and Coordination of Action”
April 9-11, 2019

Kaveh Askari

Associate Professor, Film and Media Studies, Michigan State University

“Remixing Film Music: The Collage Score and Commercial Film Production in Mid-Century Iran”
April 11, 2019

Deborah Baker

IHGC Distinguished Writer-in-Residence

“Reading and Conversation on The Last Englishmen” with Sangeeta Ray (University of Maryland)
April 12, 2019

Yogita Goyal

Associate Professor of English, UCLA

“Runaway Genres: The Global Afterlives of Slavery”
April 26, 2019

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7	8	9	10	11	12

- 1 Julia Adeney Thomas
- 2 Tsitsi Jaji
- 3 Lorna Goodison with Jahan Ramazani
- 4 J. Edward Chamberlin, right, and symposium guest
- 5 Evie Shockley
- 6 Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert
- 7 Tucker Kuman and Brad Pasanek at Daniel Shore workshop
- 8 Audience overflow for Joel Robbins
- 9 Urayoán Noel
- 10 Ian Baucom, UVA Dean of Arts & Sciences
- 11 Leila Neti
- 12 Sharon Sliwinski with convener Jennifer Rubenstein

Symposia | Workshops | Conferences

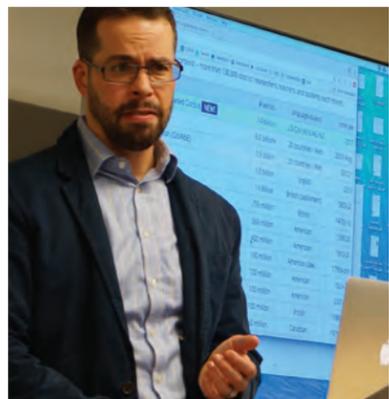
Fall 2018

Workshop on Digital Humanities with Giles Bergel

September 19

CONVENED BY: Rennie Mapp and Brad Pasanek, *Humanities Informatics Lab and DH@UVA*

Computer vision has made rapid progress in recent years. Computers can now reliably match the same image, find differences in similar images, and classify content within multiple images. Recently (and controversially) computers have also begun to be routinely used to identify people and places. This hands-on session demonstrated how to install and use state-of-the-art open source software from the University of Oxford's Visual Geometry. Attendees gained knowledge of how to match, differentiate, classify, and annotate content within many kinds of images. ■



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4	5	6
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- 1 Giles Bergel, Research Officer, Visual Geometry Group, University of Oxford
- 2 Tucker Kuman, Brad Pasanek, and Rennie Mapp at Daniel Shore workshop
- 3 Giles Bergel workshop in Wilson Hall
- 4 Jack Chen on lunch break from Giles Bergel workshop
- 5 Elizabeth Fowler at Daniel Shore workshop
- 6 Alison Booth at Daniel Shore workshop
- 7 Daniel Shore, Provost's Distinguished Associate Professor, English, Georgetown University

Workshop on Cultural Constructicography with Daniel Shore

September 27

CONVENED BY: Rennie Mapp and Brad Pasanek, *Humanities Informatics Lab and DH@UVA*

Participants learned how digital archives and advanced search tools can help us revise our understanding of the history of language, the nature of the sign, and the "structure" of Structuralism. The session began with a short talk about the arguments of Shore's recent book, *Cyberformalism: Histories of Linguistic Forms in the Digital Archive*, moved to a demonstration of corpus-based research methods, and ended with a workshop where students applied corpus methods to their own research topics. ■

Poetry & Race Symposium

October 5

CONVENED BY: Jahan Ramazani and Peter Miller, *English and the Center for Poetry & Poetics*

Poetry has long been a crucial space for constructing and deconstructing racial identities. What can we learn about race from poetry, and poetry from race? How do national and transnational conversations about poetry and race intersect and diverge? This symposium, hosted by the Center for Poetry & Poetics, brought to grounds a group of internationally renowned poets and scholars for a day of panel presentations and interactive discussion and concluded with a poetry reading and reflection by the Poet Laureate of Jamaica, Lorna Goodison. Speakers included:

- J. Edward Chamberlin**, *University of Toronto*
"Chanting Down Babylon"
- Lorna Goodison**, *Poet Laureate of Jamaica*
"Poetry Reading and Reflections"
- Tsitsi Jaji**, *Duke University*
"Where is African Poetry"
- Urayoán Noel**, *New York University*
"What They Don't Tell You about #Latinx Poetics"
- Josephine Park**, *University of Pennsylvania*
"Poetry Reading and Reflections"
- Evie Shockley**, *Rutgers University*
"Not Reading the Writing on the Wall"
- Nathan Suhr-Sytsma**, *Emory University*
"The Vision of Africa Turning Left":
Reading Contemporary African Poetry"

Workshop on Visualizing Stylometric and Intertextual Relationships in Large Textual Corpora with Paul Vierthaler

October 12

CONVENED BY: Jack Chen, *East Asian Languages, Literatures & Cultures*

In this workshop, Vierthaler discussed Stylometry and Intertextuality detection. The utility of stylometry, useful for visualizing stylistic differences, was demonstrated using principal component analysis to look at 19th- and early-20th-century English novels. Vierthaler also demonstrated a way to identify and visualize intertextuality and how to align the results. ■

Puzzles, Bots, and Poems An Interdisciplinary Symposium on Poetics, Structure, Design, and Constraint

October 26-27

CONVENED BY: Brad Pasanek and Neal Curtis, *English*

Hosted by the UVA Puzzle Poetry Group, this symposium brought together poets, art historians, literary critics, computer scientists, and digital humanists in a wide-ranging discussion of the generation of language, the making and breaking of rules, the poetics of resistance, and the mechanics of creativity. The event developed common concerns in a variety of disciplines and put UVA's Puzzle Poetry group into a larger conversation with colleagues across the College, including those in Art, Architecture, Creative Writing, and Engineering. Speakers included:

- Kate Compton**, *University of California at Santa Cruz*
"Creative Coding Workshop"
- Tony Veale**, *University College Dublin*
"Game of Tropes II: A Clash of Symbols"
- Dennis Tenen**, *Columbia University*
"Techniques of Industrial Modernism: Plot Robot"
- Whitney Sperrazza**, *University of Kansas*
"Blazonic (Un)making: Margaret Cavendish's
Recipe Poems as Early Modern Maker Labs"
- Herbert Tucker**, *University of Virginia*
"Riddle Poems: A Discussion"
- Bret Rothstein**, *Indiana University*
"Secret Hardware Handshakes"

Spring 2019 **Beyond Dreamings**
The Rise of Indigenous Australian Art in the United States

February 21

CONVENED BY. Margo Smith and Henry Skerritt, *Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Museum*

The 1988 exhibition *Dreamings: The Art of Aboriginal Australia* at the Asia Society Galleries in New York catapulted Aboriginal art onto the world stage. *Dreamings* was the first major introduction of Aboriginal art to American audiences and represented a major turning point in its international reception. Anthropologist Fred Myers describes it as the moment when “Aboriginal art emphatically became ‘fine art.’” *Dreamings* also signaled a radical shift in the ways Indigenous artists and communities were represented in the modern museum. This symposium celebrated three decades since *Dreamings*, reconsidering its historical moment and examining its legacies. Speakers included artists, curators, art historians, anthropologists and critics who will consider the future of contemporary Indigenous Australian art in the post-*Dreamings* era. ■

Ways of Seeing Emergency
Workshop with Sharon Sliwinski,
University of Western Ontario, Canada

March 22

CONVENED BY. Jennifer Rubenstein, *Politics*

Sliwinski and graduate students and faculty from the Department of Politics discussed four readings on visual imagery of “crisis,” which has opened an unprecedented political quandary that has captured the attention of politicians, policy makers, and the public. It has also opened critical questions about our image-making practices. ■

Decolonizing the Digital Humanities
Indigenous Arts, Histories, and Knowledges
from the Material to the Screen

April 5

CONVENED BY. Allison Bigelow, *Spanish*, and Douglas Fordham, *Art History*

Since the advent of “humanities computing” in the 1940s, known today as “digital humanities” (DH), the field has defined itself as a convergence of technologies and methods that shed light on areas of humanistic inquiry—that is, the study of human experience and expression as mediated through art, history, music, literature, performance, philosophy, and religion, among other frames. Over the years, DH has redefined itself in response to the “ongoing churn of digital innovation” and changing scholarly paradigms, from sound studies, new media, and graphic writing systems to intersectional feminism, critical race theory, and Global South studies.

As DH practitioners work to diversify and decolonize the field, we confront tensions between DH mantras and the beliefs of communities we work with. This conference brought together leading scholars and artists from Australia, Latin America, and the US to explore the possibilities and limits of digital decolonization within the context of Indigenous artwork, histories, and knowledges. ■

The Global Novel
Contemporary Perspectives

April 10-11

CONVENED BY. Debjani Ganguly, *English*
 CO-SPONSORED BY. *New Literary History*

The looming presence of the novel in world literary studies is unmistakable. More than any other literary genre, the novel is perceived as future-oriented and open-ended, ready to absorb within its polymorphous ambit the indeterminacy of the present, a genre that,

in Bakhtin’s words, “has a living contact with the unfinished, still evolving contemporary reality.” It not only travels well, but is also, arguably, the genre par excellence of the mutating lifeworld of global capitalism. This workshop brought together scholars with expertise in various literary regions—South Africa, South Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, North America, Southern Europe, and East Asia—to examine the transformation of the novel across these cultural zones. It explored recent theories of the novel and compared their relative provenance across multiple novelistic traditions. Offering close readings of works across various vectors—historical, political, cultural, ethical, technological, and planetary—the workshop aimed to generate new comparative perspectives on the global novel in the 21st century.

Ignacio Sanchez Prado, *Washington University in St. Louis*

“Transculturation and the Necropolitical: Theory of the Novel from Latin America”

Debjani Ganguly, *University of Virginia*

“Catastrophic Form and Planetary Realism: Reading James George and Amitav Ghosh”

Rebecca Walkowitz, *Rutgers University*

“On Not Knowing: Lahiri, Tawada, Ishiguro”

Ranjana Khanna, *Duke University*

“Touch, Water, Death: Affect and Sinan Antoon’s *The Corpse Washer*”

Daniel Kim, *Brown University*

“Translations and Ghostings of History: The Novels of Han Kang”

Baidik Bhattacharya, *CSDS Delhi*

“Does the Global Novel Have a Democratic Future? Reading Orhan Pamuk and J.M. Coetzee”

Literary Information in China
A History Editorial Workshops

May 11

CONVENED BY. Jack Chen, *East Asian Languages, Literatures & Cultures*

This event marked the final meeting of the editors of the forthcoming volume, *Literary Information in China: A History*, which is under contract with Columbia University Press. The fifty-six individual contributions reconceptualize literary history from the perspective of information and information management, and through the differing scales of the word, the document, and the collection. The editors discussed the project and then presented their own chapters from the volume. This workshop provided an opportunity for the editors to consider the volume as a whole and to talk over the project with interested colleagues. ■

Posters from just two of the IHGC’s many conferences and lectures during the year.

Beyond Dreamings Symposium

The IHGC co-sponsored the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection's *Beyond Dreamings* Symposium and related events on February 21-23, 2019, drawing an impressive audience of 527. In conjunction with an exhibition of the same name at the Kluge-Ruhe, the symposium brought leaders in Aboriginal Australian art and Indigenous art globally—artists, curators, anthropologists, and art historians—to celebrate the historic *Dreamings* exhibition, examine its legacies, and consider the future of contemporary Indigenous Australian art.



Left to right, Linguist Murray Garde translates from Kunwinku, spoken by Aboriginal artist John Mawurndjul

Indigenous curator Djon Mundine (Bandjalung), who organized the *Aboriginal Memorial* (1988) at the National Gallery of Australia, provided the keynote address in conversation with Kluge-Ruhe director Margo Smith. Guests included curators from the Fowler Museum at UCLA, Menil Collection in Houston, and Fondation Opale in Lens, Switzerland; private collectors from Washington DC and San Francisco; and, the Cultural Affairs staff of the Embassy of Australia. Art historian Terry Smith (University of Pittsburgh) spoke about the influence of Indigenous Australian art on contemporary art history and theory. Maia Nuku (Associate Curator of Oceanic Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art) expanded the scope of the symposium to position the art of Oceania within the global art world. Kluge-Ruhe curator Henry F. Skerritt moderated a discussion with Mundine, Nuku, and Smith.

Perhaps Australia's leading Aboriginal artist, bark painter and sculptor John Mawurndjul spoke about his artistic inspiration and process with

linguist Murray Garde, who translated from Kunwinku. Mawurndjul is a principal artist at Maningrida Arts and Culture in Central Arnhem Land. One of Mawurndjul's early bark paintings was included in the *Dreamings* exhibition.

The Kluge-Ruhe Collection also convened a discussion between the graduate student curators of *Beyond Dreamings* and symposium speakers at the exhibition. This public standing room-only session generated a lively debate between curators, encapsulating the change that has occurred in the Aboriginal art world over the past three decades.

The IHGC had excellent co-sponsorship company, which also included the Embassy of Australia, Maningrida Arts & Culture (Australia), the University's Office of the Vice Provost for the Arts, and an anonymous private foundation. ■

Middle East and South Asia Film Series

Course Integration Screenings & Lectures

The IHGC and its Global South & Asian Cosmopolitanisms Labs sponsored a sidebar of films from the Middle East and South Asia, attended by an estimated 450 people, and curated by UVA assistant professor of transnational cinema, Samhita Sunya, in an inaugural collaboration with the Virginia Film Festival (VAFF) in November 2018. It presented a rare opportunity for a UVA and Virginia audience to view Middle Eastern and South Asian films that are beyond the more typically served fare of realist or documentary films about humanitarian or political crises. The series aimed to undo assumptions of these regions as abject, as well as notions of their filmmaking and aesthetics as homogenous and rudimentary, if at all extant.

The series was also an integral part of Sunya's Fall 2018 course, "Film Festivals & Global Media Cultures: Middle East—South Asia Spotlight," for which students were required to write ethnographies of film culture in Charlottesville, volunteer at VAFF, attend a number of VAFF film screenings, and link their experiences to secondary texts and course discussions. VAFF Director Jody Kielbasa and VAFF Programmer Wesley Harris came to Sunya's class where students actively engaged them in conversation about filmmaking. In addition, a large number of professors in Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures (MESALC) and various other language courses had visiting filmmakers speak to their classes and they provided extra credit to their students to attend various films in languages covered by the department or of interest to students doing studies majors (e.g., Moroccan Arabic, Egyptian Arabic, Urdu, Turkish). Filmmakers and scholars visiting UVA classes during the year were:

- **Alireza Khatami**, filmmaker
- **Isabel Arredondo**, Associate Professor of Latin American Literature and Culture, SUNY Plattsburgh "Super 8 Film Federation as Social Network"
- **Sarmad Sehbai**, eminent Urdu writer, dramatist, and filmmaker "Saadat Hasan Manto: From Story to Screen"
- **Ratheesh Radhakrishnan**, Associate Professor, IIT Bombay "Habits and Worlds: Malayalam Cinema's Travels with the Persian Gulf"
- **Kaveh Askari**, Associate Professor, Michigan State University "Remixing Film Music: The Collage Score and Commercial Film Production in Midcentury Iran"

The film series was comprised of two clusters; each film was introduced by a UVA faculty member or followed by a discussion with the filmmaker.

"Letters of Love (LOL) from the Middle East to South Asia: A Film Series of Contemporary Genre Comedies in U.S. Theatrical Premieres"

- **Road to Kabul** - Stoner comedy. Brahim Chkiri / 2012 / Morocco / Arabic with English subtitles
- **Bir Baba Hindu (An Indian Godfather)** - Gangster comedy. Sermiyan Midyat / 2016 / Turkey / Turkish with English subtitles
- **Gahim Fel Hend (Hell in India)** - Musical comedy. Moataz Eltony / 2016 / Egypt / Arabic with English subtitles

The "LOL" series marked the second-ever US screenings of all three films, as well as their official US theatrical premieres.

"Rites of Remembrance from the Global South: Screening Pasts, Presents, and Possibilities"

- **Jago Hua Savera (The Day Shall Dawn)** - A.J. Kardar / 1959 / East Pakistan / Urdu with English subtitles
- **In the Last Days of the City** - Tamer El Said / 2016 / Egypt, UK, Germany, UAE / Arabic with English subtitles
- **Los Versos Del Olvido (Oblivion Verses)** - Alireza Khatami / 2017 / France, Germany, Netherlands, Chile / Spanish with English subtitles
- **Looking for Um Kalthoum** - Shirin Neshat & Shoja Azari / 2017 / Germany, Austria, Italy, Lebanon, Qatar / English, Arabic, Persian with English subtitles

This was the Virginia premiere of these acclaimed films. *The Day Shall Dawn*, thought to have been destroyed and lost forever after its 1959 completion, only recently had its intact archival prints discovered and restored, after which it was featured at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival. ■

Co-Sponsored Events

“Travel in Reverse: Maghals in Safavid Iran” with Sunil Sharma

September 21, 2018
CONVENED BY. Nizar Hermes, *Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures*

“The City in the Medieval and Modern Arabic Narrative” with Muhsin Al-Musawi

October 12, 2018
CONVENED BY. Nizar Hermes, *Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures*

“Global Fusion 2018”

October 19–21, 2018
A GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE
CONVENED BY. Camilla Fojas, *Department of Media Studies*

“Between Poem and Painting, Between Gang and Surdas,” a lecture with Jack Hawley

October 22, 2018
CONVENED BY. John Nemeč, *Department of Religious Studies*

“Two Sidebars,” Films from the Middle East and South Asia with lectures by Isabel Arredondo and Sarmad Sehbai

November 1–4, 2018
CURATED BY. Samhita Sunya
PRESENTED AT. Virginia Film Festival

“Freedom Fast”

November 14–15, 2018
CONVENED BY. Blake Mogel, *International Justice Mission at UVA*

“Rethinking Egyptian Jews’ Cosmopolitanism, Belonging, and Nostalgia in Cinema” with Yaron Shemer

November 30, 2018
CONVENED BY. Nizar Hermes, *Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures*

“Orientalism, Arabic, and the Threshold of World Literature” with Yaseen Noorani

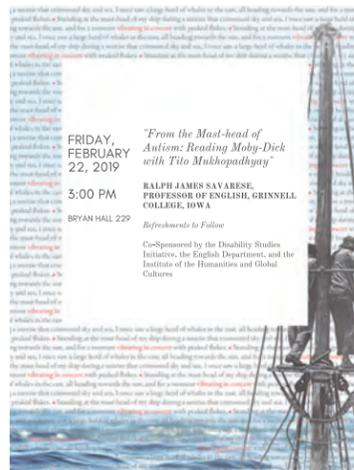
January 25, 2019
CONVENED BY. Nizar Hermes, *Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures*

“Beyond Dreaming: The Rise of Indigenous Australian Art in the United States”

February 21–22, 2019
CONVENED BY. Margo Smith and Henry Skerritt, *Kluge–Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection*

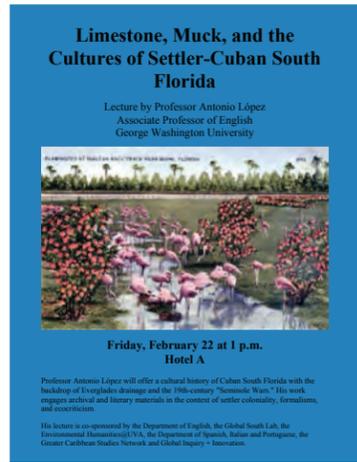
“From the Mast-head of Autism: Reading Moby-Dick with Tito Mukhopadhyay,” a lecture by Ralph James Savarese

February 22, 2019
CONVENED BY. Chris Krentz, *Department of English, and UVA’s Disabilities Studies Initiative*



“(Re)Writing the Narrative of the Iranian Cabaret Dancer (1945–1979)” with Ida Meftahi

February 22, 2019
CONVENED BY. Nizar Hermes, *Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures*



“Limestone, Muck, and the Cultures of Settler-Cuban South Florida” with Antonio López

February 22, 2019
CO-SPONSORED WITH. Environmental Humanities at UVA

Grad Con2019: “Attachment and Affect”

March 22–23, 2019
CONVENED BY. Graduate English Students Association (GESA), *Department of English*

“Feminist DH@UVA: Intersectionality & Doing Justice to/with Data”

March 29, 2019
CONVENED BY. Alison Booth, *Scholars’ Lab*

“The Representation of the City in the Strophic Poetry (Azjāl) of Ibn Quzmān” with Jean Dangler

March 29, 2019
CONVENED BY. Nizar Hermes, *Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures*

“On the Edge: Innovation, Modernity, and Trends”

March 29–30, 2019
CONVENED BY. Anna Gombœva, *UVA Society for Slavic Graduate Students*

“Texts & Violence,” an exhibition and lecture by artist and author Daisy Rockwell

April 1–2, 2019
CONVENED BY. Mehr Farooqi, *Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures, and the Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation*

“Decolonizing the Digital Humanities: Indigenous Arts, Histories, and Knowledges from the Material to the Screen”

April 6–7, 2019
CONVENED BY. Douglas Fordham, *Department of Art History, and Allison Bigelow, Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese*

“Loss, Corruption, Theft: The Perilous Lives of Texts in Medieval South India” with Valerie Stoker

April 12, 2019
CONVENED BY. Nizar Hermes, *Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures*

Oceanic Humanities panel discussion

April 12, 2019
CONVENED BY. Mapule Mohulatsi and Alison Glassie with the Environmental Humanities Initiative

“Remixing Film Music: The Collage Score and Commercial Film Production in Midcentury Iran” with Kaveh Askari

April 18, 2019
CO-SPONSORED. with American Studies at UVA and the McIntire Department of Music

Runaway Genres: Global Afterlives of Slavery,” a lecture by Yogita Goyal

April 26, 2019
CONVENED BY. Mrinalini Chakravorty, *Department of English*

“Rap and Revolt in the Maghribi City” with Nouri Gana

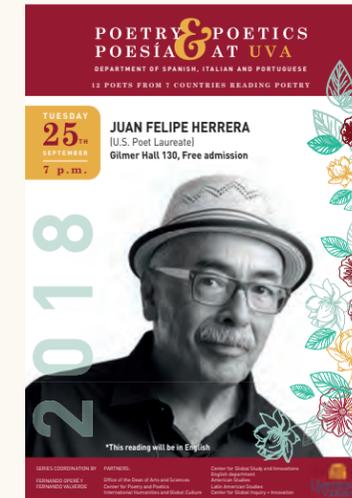
April 26, 2019
CONVENED BY. Nizar Hermes, *Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures*

“Legacy of the World Avenger with Laurent Dubois, Julia Gaffield, and Gregory Pierrot”

May 3, 2019
CONVENED BY. Marlene Daut, *Carter G. Woodson Institute*

“Inner Purity and Pollution in Ancient Mediterranean Religions”

May 9–11, 2019
CONVENED BY. Andrej Petrovic, *Department of Classics, and Cultural Pluralism Lab*



Poetry, Poesía & Poetics @ UVA

CONVENED BY. Fernando Operé, *Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, and Fernando Valverde, Distinguished Visiting Professor*

The IHGC co-sponsored an innovative course in Fall 2018 in bilingual poetry offered by the Spanish, Italian & Portuguese Department, and convened by Professors Operé and Valverde. Almost every week, Professor Valverde, a leading Spanish poet, used his graduate “class” as a “center for poetry” by having renowned poets from Spain, Latin America, and the United States share their work, thoughts, and experience with poetry with the students and the University community.

Alí Calderón | Mexico
 September 18, 2018

Gordon E. McNeer | USA, Wales
 September 20, 2018

Juan Felipe Herrera | US Poet Laureate
 September 25, 2018

Tracy K. Smith | US Poet Laureate, Pulitzer Prize
 October 2, 2018

Khédija Gadhoum | Tunisia
Luis Correa Diaz | Chile, Academia Chilena de la Lengua
 October 16, 2018

Roxana Méndez | El Salvador
 October 25, 2018

Daniel Rodríguez Moya | Spain
 October 30, 2018

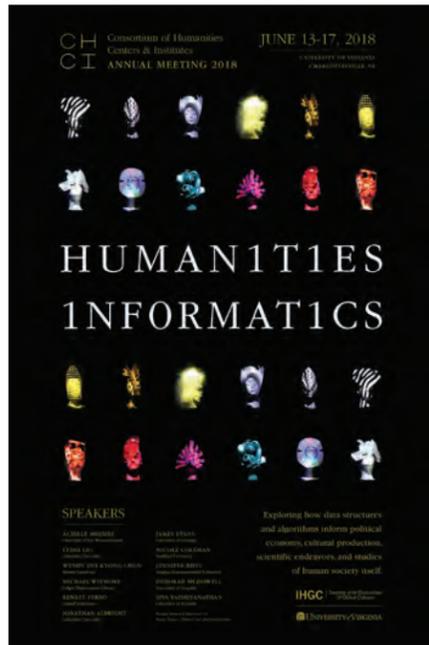
“Concierto de Juan Pinilla” with David Caro | Spain, Latin Grammy Awards Nominee
 November 6, 2018

Federico Díaz-Granados | Colombia
 November 13, 2018

Carolyn Forché | USA
 November 27, 2018

CHCI 2018 Annual Membership Conference

“Humanities Informatics”



The CHCI conference poster appropriated images from “Grid of Heads,” the digital artwork by Mona Kasra, UVA Assistant Professor, Digital Media Design, and intermedia artist Peter Bussigel.

©2017, The Institute for Interanimation

Our highlight of the year was the annual conference of the global humanities body, **Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI)**, which the IHGC hosted from June 13-17, 2018, on the spectacular Grounds of the University of Virginia. More than 200 humanities leaders from six continents attended this conference.

Built around the theme “Humanities Informatics”

the conference explored the epistemic, aesthetic, political and ethical impact of social media, big data, machine learning, and algorithms on human societies and cultures.

Key questions explored

- Is new media technology making democratic politics impossible?
- How has social life been transformed by new media technologies?
- When algorithms make decisions, is there any room for discretion?

Keynotes and Panel Themes

- Algorithmic Reason
- The Psychic Life of Digital Media
- Art, Desire and Techno-Entanglements
- Critical Data Studies
- Information Wars, Impossible Democracies
- Epistemic Acceleration, Algorithmic Cultures

The Annual Meeting closed with a panel that reflected on the events surrounding the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville on August 11 & 12, 2017. This panel included presentations by Deborah McDowell (Director of the Carter Woodson Institute of African and African American Studies at UVA), Louis Nelson (School of Architecture and Vice Provost for Academic Outreach at UVA), and chaired by Michael Bérubé (Penn State University). Panelists revisited the legacies of slavery, the Civil War, the history of confederate monuments, and white supremacist movements in Virginia, a historic region existing on the fault-line of a deep racial division that was foundational to the establishment of the United States as a nation. ■



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

- CHCI Network Meetings

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

- CHCI Network Meetings
- New Directors Meeting
- CHCI Business Meeting
- CHCI Mellon Projects Updates
- Welcome and Introduction

Continued >

“ I want to congratulate you on organizing an amazing conference on one of the most pressing issues of our time. I have been to a lot of conferences on informatics but this is by far the most stimulating, most thoughtful organized conference with a truly humanistic spirit! The talks I heard gave me much food for thought.

Lydia Liu
 Director, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society
 W.T. Tam Professor in the Humanities and East Asian Literature
 Columbia University

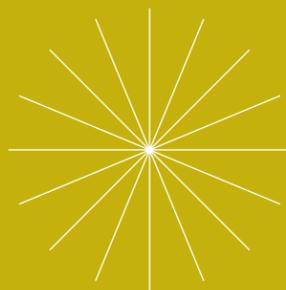
“ I just wanted to thank you for such a wonderful CHCI event at UVA. Your hosting of the event from Pippin Hill to the Rotunda and *Ice Cycles* was fabulous; and the conversations over the fate of humanistic knowledge and the digital inspired me. I do look forward to another opportunity to see you out in Virginia sometime.

James Evans
 Professor of Sociology
 Director, Knowledge Lab
 University of Chicago

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4	5	6

- 1, 2 IHGC PhD interns stuff more than 200 tote bags for conference attendees
- 3 CHCI international Board of Directors meets in Rotunda

- 4 Sara Guyer, CHCI President, welcomes conference attendees
- 5 Ian Baucom, Buckner W. Clay Dean of Arts & Sciences, University of Virginia, introduces keynote speaker Achille Mbembe
- 6 Debjani Ganguly, Director, IHGC



THURSDAY, JUNE 14 *Continued*

- Srinivas Aravamudan Memorial Lecture *Algorithmic Reason and Planetary Humanities*
- Dance and Musical Performance and Opening Reception

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

- Plenary Lecture *The Psychic Life of Digital Media*
- Art, Desire and Techno-Entanglements
- Experimental Humanities: Humanities Labs
- Plenary Lecture *Critical Data Studies, or How to Desegregate Networks*
- Members' Dinner, Pippin Hill Farm and Vineyard



SATURDAY, JUNE 16

- Epistemic Accelerations and Algorithmic Cultures
- Plenary Lecture *What Should Humanists Think About in the Age of the Algorithm?*

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

- Site visit Monticello

“ The meeting was a great one, loaded with consequential talks that prompted some very good audience-speaker interactions. Many thanks again for all your work and that of your superb staff!

And the sunset over the Blue Ridge Mountains, crescent moon, Venus, and all, was an unexpected bonus!

Gary Tomlinson
Director, Whitney Humanities Center
Yale University

“ I'd like to echo all that has already been said. It was a terrific meeting; stimulating in all the best ways, brilliantly put together and punctuated by moments of heart-lifting elegance to boot. Thank you so much to you and your team for hosting us so beautifully and giving us so much to reflect on.

Judith Buchanan
Dean of Arts and Humanities
University of York, UK

“ Thank you for an inspiring, beautiful, and challenging conference. From the amazing venues, including Achille's opening keynote in the Rotunda, the dance performance, Pippin Hill winery, and Nau Hall, to the program—I felt uplifted and encouraged to turn the humanities into a powerful tool to address pressing needs. You've done an amazing job!

Ulrich Baer
Professor of German & Comparative Literature, and former Vice Provost
New York University

“ Thanks to you and your staff, this was by far the smoothest meeting we had so far and we learned a lot in the process. Jane and the Trinity folks in Dublin can benefit from this too, so it is great you are on the committee. Which also means you will keep hearing from us!

Guillaume Ratel
Director of Programs
Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes

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- 1 Achille Mbembe gives keynote lecture in Rotunda's Dome Room
- 2 Wendy Baucom, UVA; Debjani Ganguly, IHGC Director; and Ranjana Khanna, Duke University
- 3 UVA Professor Jack Chen and Dean Ian Baucom at Pippin Hill

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- 4 CHCI membership in Rotunda's Dome Room
- 5 *Ice Cycles* performance, Jody Sperling/Time Lapse Dance Co.; music, UVA Professor Matthew Burtner
- 6 Pastory Bushozi, Tanzania, and Assane Cassimo and Tirso Siteo, Mozambique

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5	6	7	

- 1 Helmut Muller-Sievers, University of Colorado
- 2 Lydia Liu, Columbia University, and Joyce C.H. Liu, University System of Taiwan
- 3 Eileen Julien, Indiana University

- 4, 7 UVA Rotunda and central Virginia view from Pippin Hill
- 5 Premesh Lalu, University of the Western Cape, and Jean Allman, Washington University in St. Louis
- 6 Kerill O'Neill, Colby College



CHCI 2018 Program

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

- CHCI Network Meetings

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

- New Directors Meeting
Simon Goldhill
Director, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), University of Cambridge
Kerill O'Neill
Director, Colby College Center for the Arts and Humanities
- NCHCI Business Meeting
Sara Guyer
President, CHCI
- Updates on CHCI Mellon Projects
Jean Allman
Washington University in St. Louis, Center for the Humanities, United States
Amanda Anderson
Cogut Institute for the Humanities, United States
Pastory Bushozi
University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Assane Cassimo
Teatro em Casa, Mozambique
James Chandler
Franke Institute for the Humanities, United States
Andrés Claró
Universidad de Chile, Chile
Euclides Goncalves
Kaleidoscopio, Mozambique
Achille Mbembe
Ateliers de la pensée, Senegal
Juan Obarrio
Programa Sur Global, Argentina
Joseph Oduro-Frimpong
Center for African Popular Cultures Studies, Ghana
Jane Ohlmeyer
Trinity Long Room Hub, Ireland
Tirso Sítio
Bloco 4 Foundation, Mozambique
- Welcome and Introduction
Sara Guyer
President, CHCI
Debjani Ganguly
Director, IHGC
Ian Baucom
Buckner W. Clay Dean of Arts & Sciences, UVA
- Srinivas Aravamudan Memorial Lecture
Algorithmic Reason and Planetary Humanities
Achille Mbembe
University of the Witwatersrand
Chair: Ian Baucom
Buckner W. Clay Dean of Arts & Sciences, UVA
- Dance and Musical Performance and Opening Reception
Ice Cycles, choreographed by Jody Sperling, music by UVA Professor Matthew Burtner

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

- Plenary Lecture: *The Psychic Life of Digital Media*
Lydia Liu
Columbia University
Chair: James Chandler
Director, Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago

- Art, Desire and Techno-Entanglements
From the Pleasure Principle to the Technological Drive
Renate Ferro, *Cornell University*
Sonic Physiographies of a Time-Stretched Glacier
Matthew Burtner, *University of Virginia*
Respondent: Anjali Prabhu
Director, Suzy Newhouse Center, Wellesley College
Chair: Judith Buchanan
Director, Humanities Research Centre, York University
- Experimental Humanities: Humanities Labs
Algorithmic Abduction: Robots for Alien Reading
James Evans, *Director, Knowledge Lab, University of Chicago*
'Data is a Medium' and other Discoveries from the Laboratory
Nicole Coleman, *Research Director, Humanities + Design Lab, Stanford University*
Humanities Informatics: Lab as Imagined Community
Jack Chen and Camilla Fojas, *Humanities Informatics Lab, University of Virginia*
Chair and Moderator: Eric Hayot
Director, Center for Humanities and Information, Penn State University
- Plenary Lecture: *Critical Data Studies, or How to Desegregate Networks*
Wendy Hui Kyong Chun
Brown University
Chair: Kathleen Woodward
Director, Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington
- Members' Dinner, Pippin Hill Farm and Vineyard

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

- Epistemic Accelerations and Algorithmic Cultures
Cultures of Dehumanization: Drone Warfare, Drone Art, and the Limits of Algorithmic Identification
Jennifer Rhee, *Virginia Commonwealth University*
On the Opacity of Knowledge: Machine-Human Learning
Chad Wellmon, *University of Virginia*
Chair: Gary Tomlinson
Director, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University
- Plenary Lecture: *What Should Humanists Think About in the Age of the Algorithm?*
Michael Witmore
Folger Shakespeare Library
Chair: Jessica Berman
Director, Drescher Center for the Humanities, UMBC
- Information Wars, Impossible Democracies
Antisocial Media: How Facebook Disconnects Us and Undermines Democracy
Siva Vaidyanathan, *University of Virginia*
Truth Shaping: Understanding the Role of 'Suggestions' in Reliable Information Surfacing and Exposure
Jonathan Albright, *Columbia University*
Respondent: Thomas Keenan
Director, Human Rights Project, Bard College
Chair: Amanda Anderson
Director, Cogut Institute for the Humanities, Brown University
- Panel on #Charlottesville August 11 & 12
Deborah McDowell
Director, Carter Woodson Institute of African and African American Studies, University of Virginia
Louis Nelson
School of Architecture and Vice Provost for Academic Outreach, University of Virginia
Chair: Michael Bérubé
Penn State University

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

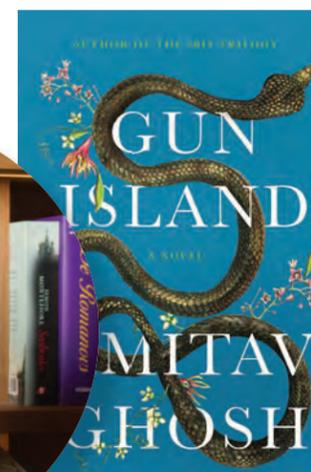
- Site visit
Monticello

Amitav Ghosh & Deborah Baker Spring Writers-in-Residence

Amitav Ghosh

"Amitav Ghosh-in-Spring" is a theme and refrain we have become familiar with. The past three years of his residency at our Institute have yielded riches for our faculty and students alike. This Spring we were fortunate to get a preview of Ghosh's new novel, *Gun Island* that takes up the challenge he offered to literary novelists in *The Great Derangement*, that they seriously rethink their realist frames and engage with the uncanny force of the non-human and the larger planetary world in their creative work. The mystery of the gun island unfolds in an extraordinary tale of climate upheavals and mass migrations stretching from the perturbations of the "Little Ice Age" in the seventeenth century to our contemporary crisis of climate displacement. The current refugee and migration problem that has led to the rise of the far right and neo-fascist groups across the Americas, Europe and the Anglo-Pacific world resonates throughout the novel.

Amitav also participated in an invigorating panel on "Climate Change and Historical Method" with climate humanists Ian Baucom and Julia Adeney Thomas. The panel addressed the urgency of a rejuvenated imagination and new aesthetic forms that bring ever more powerfully into view our lived experience with the crisis of climate change. Few literary voices have been as compelling as Ghosh's in confronting the stark truth that we are already living in the midst of this catastrophe, that it is not an event that will unfold in the future. ■



Deborah Baker

The IHGC hosted Deborah Baker, prize-winning author of narrative non-fiction, this Spring. Baker has published six books including *The Convert*, *The Blue Hand*, and her most recent work, *The Last Englishmen*. Set in Calcutta, London, the glacier-locked wilds of the Karakoram, and on Everest itself, *The Last Englishmen* is also the story of a generation. The cast of this exhilarating drama includes Indian and English writers and artists, explorers and Communist spies, Die Hards and Indian nationalists, political rogues and police informers. Key among them is a highborn Bengali poet named Sudhin Datta, a melancholy soul torn, like many of his generation, between hatred of the British Empire and a deep love of European literature, whose life would be upended by the arrival of war on his Calcutta doorstep.

Dense with romance and intrigue, and of startling relevance for the great power games of our own day, *The Last Englishmen* was the subject of a fascinating conversation this Spring between Baker and Sangeeta Ray, Professor of English at the University of Maryland. ■

top to bottom

1. Jane Ohlmeyer, Trinity College, Dublin
2. Andrés Claró, Universidad de Chile
3. Sara Guyer, University of Wisconsin, and CHCI President
4. James Chandler, University of Chicago

IHGC Distinguished Visiting Scholars 2018–19



Fall 2018

Lisa Parks

"Vertical Mediation and the War on Terror from 9/11 to Trump"

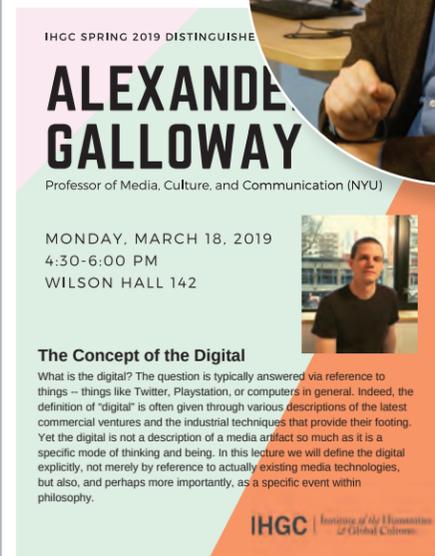
On October 18-19, 2018, the IHGC hosted its Fall distinguished visitor, Lisa Parks, Professor of Media Studies at MIT and winner of the 2018 MacArthur genius award. In a lecture and workshop entitled "Vertical Mediation and the War on Terror from 9/11 to Trump," Lisa Parks wove together her three areas of expertise: satellite technologies and media cultures; critical studies of media infrastructures; and media, militarization and surveillance. Her insights into the impact of aerial and orbital capture by media infrastructures of world superpowers, were both compelling and concerning. ■

Spring 2019

Alexander Galloway

"The Concept of the Digital"

On March 18-19, the IHGC hosted its Spring distinguished visitor, Alexander Galloway, Professor of Media Studies at New York University, and one of the world's leading thinkers on the philosophy of media, computation, and algorithmic cultures. Galloway's public lecture, "The Concept of the Digital," argued that the digital was not a description of a media artifact so much as a unique mode of thinking and being, and a significant event within philosophy, specifically the centuries-long thinking around 'logos' and the 'ana-logos.' ■



Humanities Week 2019

"LOG IN!"

Email. Texting. Snapchat. Zelle. The list of media that informs and shapes our daily existence, both consciously and unconsciously, seems endless. Humanities Week 2019 (April 1-5), the IHGC's annual student-produced, multi-disciplinary celebration of the humanities provided students, faculty members, and community members with events, lectures, and activities to explore their concerns and hopes for society's future in the digital age with this year's theme—"LOG IN!"

Keynote speaker and UVA alum, Jia Tolentino, staff writer for *The New Yorker*, kicked off the week with a packed audience and blockbuster lecture—"The internet used to be good. What happened?"—in which she wittily assessed the changing faces of the internet culture, how social media affects our lives, and the "attention economy."

Student comedians staged an improv night event, poking fun at their generation's use of computers for everything from online dating to facebooking with their grandmothers. Workshop participants learned how to create their own podcast, while a discussion group analyzed the viral sensation article "Cat Person." The UVA community was invited to solve a puzzle via Instagram, and faculty gave talks on "Black Twitter," gaming cultures, Venmo as a social media tool, and the use of irony by white supremacists to legitimize their websites. ■

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top to bottom

- 1 Keynote speaker and UVA alum, Jia Tolentino, writer, *The New Yorker*
- 2 PhD student James Ascher teaching in the Juxtaposition workshop
- 3 Black Twitter with Meredith Clark (center), PhD intern Joe Wei, and Camilla Fojas
- 4 Comedy-improv with members of The Weathermen at Crozet Pizza
- 5 Humanities Week logo sticker designed by Emma Hendrix, Convener
- 6 Discussion of "Cat Person" with Public Humanities Lab members
- 7 Students ask Jia Tolentino questions at her keynote



Clay Fellows 2018–19

Faculty Fellows

Hanadi Al-Samman

Associate Professor, Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures

“Envisioning 21st-Century Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies” conference

Allison Bigelow

Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish

“Decolonizing the Humanities: Indigenous Arts, Histories, and Knowledges from the Material to the Screen”

Phoebe Crisman

Associate Professor, School of Architecture

“Collaboratively Creating a Sustainable Cultural Center with the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate”

Douglas Fordham

Associate Professor, Department of Art History

“Decolonizing the Humanities: Indigenous Arts, Histories, and Knowledges from the Material to the Screen”

Adrienne Ghaly

Lecturer and Postdoctoral Fellow, College of Arts & Sciences

“Burning the Library of Life: Species Extinction and the Humanities—A Symposium”

Nizar Hermes

Associate Professor, Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures

“Of Cities and the Literary Imagination in the Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern World”

Alison Levine

Professor, Department of French

A public discussion of cinema with Antoine de Baecque

Allison Pugh

Professor, Department of Sociology

“Global Ethnographies: UVA Field Methods Workshop 2018–19”

Student Fellows

Fatmah Behbehani

School of Architecture

Dissertation research on New Towns Initiative in Morocco

Joanne Britland

Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese

“La literatura de la crisis”—dissertation research on cultural responses to 2008 financial crisis in Spain

Swati Chawla

Department of History

“Between Homelessness and Homecoming: Tibetan Nationalism and Citizenship in 20th Century India”

Alyssa Collins

Department of English

The Charlottesville Syllabus re: interplay between local and global developments of and resistance to racism and white supremacy

Bremen Donovan

Department of Anthropology

“Filming and Adjudicating Policing: A Genealogy of the Fabrication of Proof in Contemporary France”

Andrew Frankel

Curry School of Education

“Tibetan Extracurricular Education: Negotiating Schooling, Ethnicity, and Marginalization”

Neha Kulkarni

Undergraduate Student

Proposal for Residency on Hindustani Vocal Music: Aesthetics and Improvisation

Peter Miller

Department of English

“Langston Hughes, Ezra Pound, and the Global Blues”

Nathan Moore

General Manager, WTJU-FM

“Global Charlottesville: Immigrant Stories” podcast and radio series

Loreto Romero Martinez-Eiroa

Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese

Case study on Fernando de Roja’s *Celestina*

Tierre Sanford

Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures

“Accounts of Jewish Life in Minsk, Summer 1941”

Kelli Shermeyer

Department of English

“Documenting Revision and Collaboration in the Plays of Thomas Kilroy and Marina Carr”

Michelle Walsh

Department of Religious Studies

“Intersections of Buddhism and Psychology: An Ethnographic Study of Contemplative Practices in Contemporary Bhutan”

Linghui Zhang

Department of Religious Studies

“The Sutric and the Tantric, and Beyond: The Mahamudra Discourse in the Twelfth-Century Hexi Corridor”

Jinchao Zhao

Department of Art History

Dissemination and reception of the Buddhist stupa from South Asia to China between the 3rd and 6th centuries, CE

Devin Zuckerman

Department of Religious Studies

“Sanctuaries: Political Ecologies of Place in an Era of Global Change”

Mellon Humanities Research Labs

Humanities Laboratories are conceived as new spaces for collaborative, discovery-driven, and experimental research 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 developing horizontal links across multiple disciplines, both cognate and distant.

The IHGC currently hosts four Labs funded by the Andrew W. Mellon’s Global South Initiative.

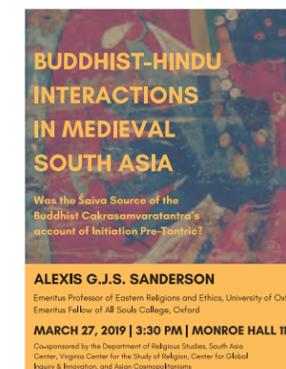


The Global South: Concept and Practice

CO-DIRECTORS. Debjani Ganguly, *English*, and Camilla Fojas, *Media Studies and American Studies*

This is the core Lab of the Mellon initiative. It serves an intellectual and strategic hub for UVA’s Global South program as a whole. The Lab seeds research workshops and curricular initiatives on the Global South across the College, some of which go on to become full-fledged Labs. It is responsible for hosting Mellon Faculty Fellows and convenes a symposium series featuring Fellows’ talks. It offers graduate fellowships to PhD students across the College who wish to develop their dissertation projects in consultation with the interdisciplinary Lab faculty. This Lab has built partnerships with research centers across Africa, Asia and Latin America, and is UVA’s key node in its collaborative academy and graduate summer school on Global Humanities and Critical Theory with Bologna and Duke.

In 2018–19, the core Lab has worked on building a partnership on arts and performance cultures with the Humanities Center at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in Cape Town, South Africa. The result is a collaborative Mellon Arts Lab between UVA and UWC that will be operational beginning in Fall 2019. Faculty from UVA’s Drama and Music Departments will lead this Lab. The Lab is also a partner in a project on “Oceanic Humanities for the Global South,” a Mellon-funded project led by Isabel Hofmeyr from University of the Witwatersrand (“Wits”), Johannesburg. In April 2018, the Lab hosted a graduate fellow from Wits, Mapule Mohulatsi, who participated in a workshop on Oceanic waste hosted by UVA’s *Environmental Humanities Colloquium*. From April 10–11, the core Lab partnered with the journal *New Literary History* on an international symposium on the global novel, papers from which will be published as a special issue of *NLH* in 2020. ■



Symposium posters for visiting speakers in IHGC’s Mellon Humanities Research Labs

Matthew Burtner, Co-Director of the Coastal Conservatory Lab, on the Arctic Ocean playing the ice and recording the sounds underwater and inside the ice through a five-foot hole he cut.



2

Cultural and Religious Pluralism in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean

CO-DIRECTORS. John Miller, *Classics*, Janet Spittler, *Religious Studies*, and Andrej Petrovic, *Classics*

This Lab's interdisciplinary exploration of ancient and medieval Mediterranean religious pluralism begins with the premise that the study of the pre-modern Mediterranean is inextricably tied to the study of contemporary cultural and religious exchanges and upheavals in the Global North and South. The Lab focuses on topics of cultural inclusivity and cultural translation, in order to identify and follow trajectories of cultural, religious and political pluralism across related religions and societies. The key problems it addresses involve strategies of resistance against cultural reductionism, both regarding academic disciplines and popular appropriations. The project aims at once to advance understanding of religious pluralism in its various manifestations and to debunk recent misappropriations of the legacies of the ancient and mediaeval Mediterranean. The Lab's research projects, curricular initiatives and workshops engage with Islamic, Greek, Roman, Christian, Jewish, and other ancient and Medieval religious traditions, including those of South Asia.

The Lab's second academic year began with a week-long visit by eminent scholar of antiquity, Jan Bremmer (Professor, Religion, University of Groningen), whose work spans Greek and Roman traditions to early Christianity. Lab members exploited Bremmer's

broad expertise in several presentations: two seminars—respectively on “Author, Date, and Provenance of the Protoevangelium Jacobi” and “Early Christians in Corinth (AD 50–200): Religious Insiders or Outsiders?”; a lecture keyed to the main theme of the Lab, “Religious Pluralism in the Ancient World: Herodotus, the Roman Republic, and Late Antiquity”; and, a presentation to a class and consultations with students and faculty, individually and in groups. Among the other notable visiting scholars from the US and Europe were Cornelia Horn (Heisenberg Professor, Languages and Cultures of the Christian Orient, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg); Vinciane Pirenne-Delforge (Professor, Religion, Collège de France and the University of Liège); and, Osmund Bopearachchi (Emeritus Director of Research of C.N.R.S.-E.N.S. Paris and Adjunct Professor, Central and South Asian Art, Archaeology, and Numismatics, UC-Berkeley).

The Lab co-sponsored two major conferences, in Fall 2018, the lively symposium on “Materials of Christian Apocrypha,” and, in early May 2019, the international conference on “Inner Purity in Ancient Mediterranean Traditions and Beyond.” In addition, the Lab awarded four course-development grants, which will enrich the UVA undergraduate curriculum in several departments, and supported research and travel for faculty and student participants in the Lab. ■

3

Asian Cosmopolitanisms

CO-DIRECTORS. Natasha Heller, *Religious Studies*, Sylvia Chong, *American Studies and English*, and Charles Laughlin, *East Asian Languages, Literatures & Cultures*

This Lab seeks to conceptualize the study of Asia across disciplines of the humanities and interpretive social sciences, at a time when the geopolitical landscape is shifting, and the worldwide influence of multiple different Asian cultures growing. The central work of this lab is to redefine Asia from its Cold War understanding as particular nation-states within a geographical region, to a new conception as multiple networks and flows that touch upon all parts of the world. Lab members speak of cosmopolitanisms in the plural to insist upon a non-monolithic understanding of Asia, one that has been invented within Orientalist discourses from the early modern period and re-inscribed in modern Asian self-identities. The Lab also seeks to draw on conceptual frameworks that emerge out of Asian systems of thought and social practice, and address how these frameworks complicate and enrich the hegemonic theoretical discourses in the work of contemporary humanities.

The Lab has a different focus each semester. Fall 2018's theme was “Asia Translating,” through which the lab explored translation as a form of cultural and historical agency among Asian cultures, as well

as between Asia and the rest of the world. Independent translator and science fiction and fantasy writer Ken Liu, gave two talks in Fall 2019—“Manipulable Geometry: The Mathematics of Paper-Folding” and “Betrayal with Integrity,” and also spoke in Charles Laughlin's course on Chinese translation, sharing with students important issues of ethics in translation, particularly across cultures, with respect to the translators' relationships to authors as well as their connections with publishing and distributing networks, and providing students the opportunity to discuss translation choices with an award-winning translator. Spring 2019's theme was “Asian Diasporas,” and speakers explored the asymmetry of power relations between the notions of home/abroad, native/hybrid, insider/outsider, authentic/fake that shape discussions of national cultures, societies and politics. Spring 2019 keynote speaker Aihwa Ong (UC-Berkeley) gave a public lecture, “The China Flight: Territorializing Rights in Global Platforms,” and held a workshop with East Asian and Asian Americanist faculty and graduate students. ■

4

Coastal Conservatory and Climate Change

CO-DIRECTORS. Matthew Burtner, *Music*, and Willis Jenkins, *Religious Studies*

The Coastal Conservatory Lab integrates arts and humanities into the study of coastal change. Working with UVA's NSF-funded Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) site, the Virginia Coastal Reserve (VCR), the Conservatory cultivates arts and humanities projects in connection with a major center for coastal sciences. Under the rubric “listening for coastal futures”—developed in concert with the “coastal futures” initiative of the Environmental Resilience Institute—the Conservatory develops multidisciplinary collaboration around listening in four distinct ways: as embodied exercises of attentiveness; as interface with acoustic data, sonified data, and ecoacoustic composition; as epistemic metaphor of environmental knowing; and, as form of relation across disciplines and global boundaries. The Conservatory's overall aim is to deepen public understanding, stimulate cultural imagination, and advance capacities of responsibility. This lab is thus a site-based project focused on coastal change and also an experimental model for integrated arts/sciences/humanities collaborative research.

The Conservatory achievements in its first year are: 1) worked with the Virginia Coastal Reserve to sonify datasets, so that audiences

can hear the data of long-term environmental change; 2) supported individual and collaborative research projects from faculty and graduate students; 3) developed connections with the LTER network and the global network of environmental humanities research stations, H/E Observatories, and will officially become a member of the H/E Observatories in late 2019; 4) hosted an ecoacoustics concert with EcoSono and WAI, a Maori traditional music ensemble from Aotearoa, and a public lab research meeting with members of WAI teaching a form of traditional music expression and then charging Labmembers to listen across disciplines and coasts; 5) published a website that introduces the Conservatory concept, invites auditors to listen to the research, and connects VCR research with arts and humanities projects; 6) Co-director Willis Jenkins presented the Conservatory model to an invitation-only gathering of environmental humanities leaders, and submitted a 10K-word article on the project and its broader implications for integrations of humanities and sciences to the journal *Environmental Humanities*; and, 7) began planning a major event for Fall 2019, with public events in Charlottesville and the Eastern Shore of Virginia. ■

Humanities Informatics Lab

CO-DIRECTORS. Debjani Ganguly, *English*; Jack Chen, *East Asian Languages, Literatures & Cultures*; and Alison Booth, *English*

The Humanities Informatics Lab, funded by UVA's Strategic Investment Fund (SIF), brings together scholars who study the relationship between human culture and technology and explore the management, control, and flow of information, in both historical and contemporary contexts. The Lab encourages a critical, and often-neglected dialogue between scholars in the humanities and those working in the fields of information studies and data science.

Led by faculty from disciplines across the University, the Lab's four interdisciplinary research groups continued their leveraging of UVA's strength in the humanities and the information sciences through active collaboration. Building on the previous year's research and dialogues, each group identified areas of convergence and focused its efforts on these intersections. They fulfilled a key objective of the Lab in funding curriculum grants to develop courses addressing questions about the "human" in our information age. These courses and other Lab outcomes will be highlighted in a three-day symposium in the spring of 2020.

Research Groups

Human and Machine Intelligence (HMI)

Led by Philosophy Professor Paul Humphreys and Vicente Ordonez-Roman of Computer Science, HMI hosted guest speakers on topics that considered the ethics and fairness of various data and machine systems. Topics discussed included the impact of artificial intelligence on the workforce, machine assistants for creative writing, the pixel as epistemic agent, cognitive assistants for health care, fairness in computer vision, and trust in autonomous vehicles. In addition to group members' academic research in related areas, collaborative projects supported by 3 Cavaliers grants pursued in-depth research on harnessing the wandering mind and on improving representation learning in artificial and biological neural networks. ■

Network-Corpus

This cross-disciplinary research group, led by Rennie Mapp, Project Manager, Strategic DH Initiatives@UVA, and Brad Pasanek, Associate Professor of English, assessed a need to help humanists deal with data. In year two, they tested the workshop as a model for teaching DH approaches. Their fall symposium—Puzzles, Bots, & Poetics—featured a Creative Coding workshop with Kate Compton. The group sponsored four additional workshops over the year. In Fall 2018, Paul Vierthaler led a session on vector space models. In co-sponsorship with the HMI research group, Giles Bergel conducted a workshop on computer vision for book historians. Daniel Shore provided coaching and the opportunity for participants to apply corpus methods to their own research topics. Alexander

Galloway led a Spring workshop on Networks and Interfaces. These workshops primed development of a model workshop for UVA to be tested and tuned in year three of the Lab. ■

Smart Environments

The Smart Environments research group, led by Associate Professor Mona El-Khafif and Assistant Professor Jeana Ripple, both of UVA's School of Architecture, supported five DATA Projects in year two—Smart Cities Atlas; CCUS: *Ostenda Illuminata*; Material Epidemics: Health, Segregation, and the Built Environment; Algorithmic Cultivation; and, The Geosocial Image of the City. Next fall, research group members will bring the products of their work to UVA's NEXT CITIES conference, showcasing projects aimed at tackling the complex inter-relationships between our growing cities and their impacts on society. In the spring, the group will exhibit their products in the Humanities Informatics Symposium. ■

Surveillance & Infrastructure

The Surveillance and Infrastructure research group, led by Professor Camilla Fojas of Media Studies and Associate Professor Natasha Heller of Religious Studies, started the year's activities with a talk by guest speaker Professor Lisa Parks (MIT) on vertical mediation and the war on terror, a key area of interest for the lab. Topics of discussion at later meetings included cybersecurity, emergency infrastructure, border surveillance, the "smart home," digital media in China, and photography and policing. The group added new faculty, expanding its reach into Engineering, Sociology, and Data Sciences. The group established collaborations with scholars and institutions outside UVA as it prepared to carry its work into year three. ■

IHGC Graduate Student Public Humanities Lab | PH Lab

CORE MEMBERS. James Ascher, *English*; Ankita Chakrabarti, *English*; Justin Greenlee, *Art History*; Christian Howard, *English*; Samuel Lemley, *English*; Lorena Ochoa, *Spanish*; Kelli Shermeyer, *English*; and Samantha Wallace, *English*

FACULTY ADVISOR. Lisa Speidel, *Assistant Professor, Women Gender & Sexuality*

Participation & Working Groups

Increased participation from multiple disciplines was a key 2018-19 PH Lab priority. New participants joining the eight core members included 41 undergraduates, graduate students, staff, and faculty from six departments, schools, and libraries. Key local and state collaborators were the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton; UVA's Rare Book School; and Richmond's Sacred Ground Reclamation Project and Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice, and Equality.

Art in Public

CO-INVESTIGATORS. Justin Greenlee, *Monuments Working Group*; and Kelli Shermeyer, *Living History*

Art in Public supported Kelli Shermeyer's research on interpretive practices at Living History museums. The Monuments Working Group included graduate students, community members, and Charlottesville and Richmond organizations devoted to activism, social justice, and ending racism on display in the cities' public spaces. Key activities were: developing the group's website; dissemination of historical essays in social media threads and Twitter on the history of blackface at UVA; support for a Change.org petition to remove the Confederate statue from the Albemarle County Courthouse, and for a Richmond ordinance to rename The Boulevard to Arthur Ashe Boulevard; production of posters and T-shirts supporting Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project in Richmond and advocating for a Shockoe Bottom Memorial Park; and, development of an undergraduate course, "Monuments, Memorials, and UVA." ■

Circulating Spaces

CO-INVESTIGATORS. Ankita Chakrabarti & Christian Howard
Because of its focus on contemporary modes of production and the transformation of literature across media, the second season of the podcast series, *Circulating Spaces*, aired five new episodes animating the concept of the "living humanities" by exploring what it means to live the humanities in everyday life. New episodes, available on the podcast's website and iTunes, included interviews with experts in the art of Manga, performing hip-hop, global publishing, the climate in world literature, and global activism. ■



Image of the revolutionary Gabriel produced on posters and T-shirts supporting Shockoe Bottom Memorial Park.

Feminism Is for Everybody

CO-INVESTIGATORS. Lorena Ochoa & Samantha Wallace

The group hosted three events: an ongoing reading group focused on feminism and everyday life; a discussion of the 2017 viral hit short story "Cat Person" for Humanities Week, which addressed issues of sex education, consent, and the challenges of communications during sexual encounters; and, a one-day women's self-defense course, taught by Professor Lisa Speidel, focusing on issues of acquaintance assault and techniques to thwart assault. ■

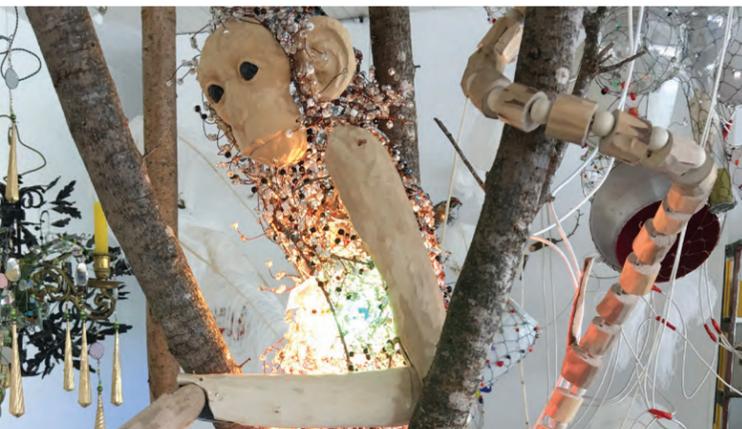
Juxtaposition As Inquiry

CO-INVESTIGATORS. James Ascher & Samuel Lemley

This group sponsored work on the Rotunda Library Online (RLO) project and research on the Rotunda Planetarium project. 1,200 bibliographical entries in the RLO database were edited and completed. RLO and Rotunda Planetarium were led by PhD students in English – Madeline Zehnder, Samuel Lemley, and Neal Curtis. The group researched new methods of bibliographical collation and created the Pocket Hinman app, continued development of JunicodeRX for quasi-facsimile transcription, and funded development of CommonplaceBook, a digital database method for note-taking and study. ■

Partnerships

Collaborations



South Africa Partnerships

In 2018-19, the IHGC established collaborative projects with two universities in South Africa, University of the Western Cape (Cape Town) and University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg). With UWC's Center for Humanities Research (CHR), our Institute is collaborating on a new two-year Mellon Lab on *Arts and Performance in the Global South*. Faculty from UVA's Drama and Music departments are leading this Lab along with directors of CHR's Laboratory of Kinetic Objects (LoKo), Jane Taylor and Premesh Lalu. The primary focus of the Lab will be the arts of moving objects, and the shifting ground of kinesis and aesthesis with dramatic shifts in digital technology, AI, and robotics. Puppetry arts will be a major feature of this Lab as it explores questions of race, environmental crisis and the displacement of the human by technology. The Lab will be formally launched in Fall 2019 with the UVA visit of Jane Taylor, UWC's Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Aesthetic Theory and Material Performance. As a build up to this Lab, in December 2018, drama faculty, Marianne Kubik and Steve Warner, participated in the Barrydale community



Barrydale, South Africa, annual Giant Puppet Parade, celebrating South Africa's Day of Reconciliation. The "River and Redfin" theme highlighted the plight of the community's endangered redfin minnow, accompanied by giant "mother earth" woman puppet and Barrydale school children and residents marching with handmade art redfins on sticks. Monkey lighted artwork at Magpie Arts Collective, a parade collaborator.

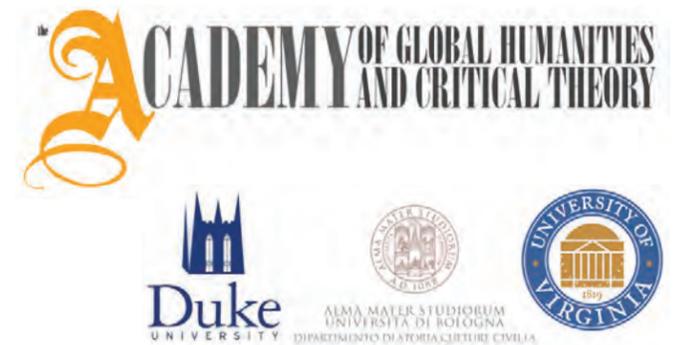
puppetry arts festival just outside Cape Town coordinated by Jane Taylor. In July 2019, our drama faculty will visit UWC for the launch of the next phase of LoKo with UVA and University of Toronto as partners.

Our Institute has partnered with University of the Witwatersrand on its Mellon-funded project on *Oceanic Humanities for the Global South*. This five-year project seeks to institute oceanic humanities as a field through graduate curriculum development and training, research production, building transnational global south teaching and research networks, and public humanities activities and platforms. The project is organized around three major clusters: Literature and Oceanography; Hydrocolonialisms and Indian Ocean Energies. Our Mellon Global South Lab is a key partner in this initiative and together we have hosted workshops and faculty-student exchanges. In April 2018, a PhD student from Wits, Mapule Mohutasi, was in residence with us, and shared aspects of her project, *Black Aesthetic and the Deep Ocean: Archive or Rubbish Dump*, with fellows, faculty and graduate students. She also participated in a graduate workshop convened by our *Environmental Humanities Collective*. Our collaboration will continue in the next academic year with a Spring 2020 reading group and workshop on "Indian Ocean, Energy Security and Climate Change." ■

Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory

The Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory is a research entity established in 2016 and jointly promoted by the University of Virginia, Duke University and the University of Bologna. 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. 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 is UVA's key facilitator of this collaboration that includes the graduate summer school, faculty exchanges and collaborative workshops with Duke and Bologna. Our Institute Director, Debjani Ganguly, and Associate Director, Camilla Fojas are members of the advisory board of the Academy and are seminar faculty in its annual graduate summer school. Debjani Ganguly and Sarah Nuttall from Witwatersrand lead a project on "Rethinking the Human in the Humanities." In 2018 (June 24-July 7), Ganguly and Nuttall convened the program for the graduate summer school in collaboration with the Academy Director, Raffaele Laudani, on the theme "The Human in Question." The 2018 Summer School offered courses on theories of race, violence, new materialism, technology and the environment as they bear on the questions of the 'human' in our time. Leading scholars participated as course and seminar leaders including Paul Gilroy, Vron Ware, Rita Segato, Partha Chatterjee, Achille Mbembe, Ranjana Khanna, Negar Mottadeh, Laurent Dubois, Tiziana Terranova and Anthony Bogues. Our Mellon Global South Lab members participated in a workshop on 'Global South Studies' on July 2. They included Camilla Fojas, Marlene Daut, Kaiama Glover, and Christina Mobley. The IHGC hosted visiting scholars and graduate students from Bologna and Duke as part of the Academy exchange program. ■



Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes

CHCI is a global professional body consisting of humanities centers, institutes, research libraries, and related organizations. The Consortium serves as a global arena for discussion of issues germane to cross-disciplinary work in the arts, humanities, and interpretive social sciences. As an international network, it cultivates new forms of multilateral collaboration and experimental models for research, pedagogy, and public engagement. While based in the United States, CHCI currently has a membership of 260 organizations and affiliates in 23 countries and 46 US states. It has regional partners across Africa, East Asia, Europe, Australia, and Latin America. The Consortium is governed by an advisory board of 24 distinguished scholars and directors of Humanities Institutes who steer the intellectual and institutional mission of the organization.

IHGC is an active member of the CHCI. The institute's Director serves on the CHCI's International Advisory Board and is an active participant in many of its key initiatives. She is a member of several sub-committees of this Consortium, including the program committees of meetings/conferences in Dublin (June 2019) and New Delhi (December 2019). The CHCI Annual Meeting is an opportunity for members to network and build professional linkages, as also to explore new frontiers of research in the humanities and interpretive social sciences. In 2018, the CHCI Board invited the IHGC and the University of Virginia to host its Annual Meeting on UVA's historic grounds. Over 200 of the world's leading humanists gathered on Grounds for the annual conference. It was a memorable occasion for humanities at the University of Virginia. ■

CH Consortium
CI of Humanities
Centers and
Institutes

IHGC Impact 2018-19

91% Increase in Distinguished Speakers

633 people



- 56 Visiting & Distinguished Scholars
- 8 New IHGC Mellon Faculty Fellows
- 18 Mellon Humanities Faculty
Global South Initiative new hires
- 21 Faculty co-directors of Labs and
key research groups
- 8 Core Members of PhD Public
Humanities Lab
- 24 Clay Faculty and Student Fellows
- 3 Full-time staff administered activities
- 3 Student interns
- 22 Advisory Board members
- ~202 IHGC faculty and student members
of IHGC Labs and research groups
- ~250 CHCI members and guests
from six continents attended June 2018
annual conference at UVA

51 partnerships



- 26 UVA departments and organizations
whose programs were hosted by IHGC
- 6 Continents represented through
IHGC faculty, students, and visiting scholars
- 19 Established global collaboratives
academic institutional linkages,
with 4 more begun

15 research clusters



- 5 Mellon Labs
Global South, Religious & Cultural Pluralism,
Asian Cosmopolitanisms, and Coastal
Conservatory, with development of South
Africa Arts & Performance Lab
- 1 PhD Public Humanities Lab
- 4 Working groups
within the PhD Public Humanities Lab
- 1 Humanities Informatics Lab
SIF-funded
- 4 Research groups
within the Humanities Informatics Lab

151 events



- 10 Undergraduate-produced events
for Humanities Week
- 56 Lectures/talks
by IHGC Visiting Scholars
- 13 Symposia, conferences & workshops
- 25 Visiting Scholars workshops
with students and faculty
- 10 PhD Public Humanities Lab
events and new podcasts
- 37 IHGC co-sponsored University-wide,
faculty-convened humanities workshops
and symposia

ph lab

- \$30,000 Jefferson Trust grant received by
PhD students in the Public Humanities Lab
for their Rotunda Planetarium project
- 1,200 Bibliographical entries completed in the
Rotunda Library Online database
- 41 New participants — undergraduates,
graduate students, faculty, and staff

funds

- \$115,910 In Clay Fellowships awarded to
Faculty and PhD students
for research, book, or dissertation projects
- 24

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Copy Editor/Production Manager
Anne Gilliam

Design
Anne Chesnut

Photography
Dan Addison/UVA University Communications,
Molly Angevine/UVA's A&S Communications
Office, Neal Curtis, Stacey Evans for Kluge-
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IHGC

Institute *of the* Humanities
& Global Cultures

University of Virginia
Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures
Wilson Hall, First Floor
P.O. Box 400901, Charlottesville, VA 22904

434.924.2157
www.ihgc.as.virginia.edu



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