

Annual Report

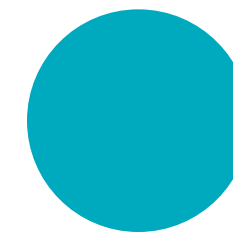
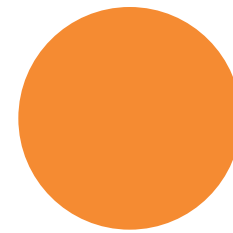
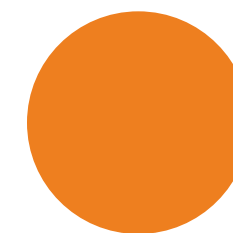
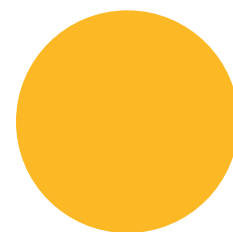
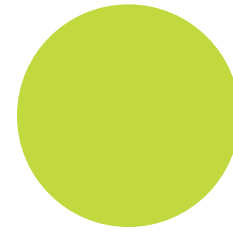
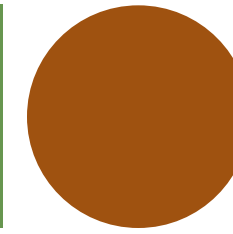
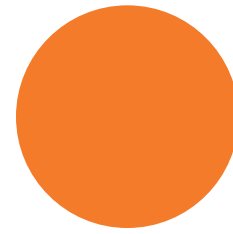
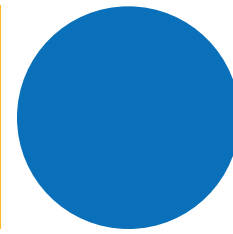
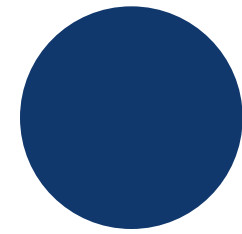
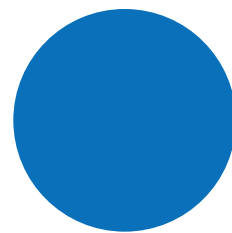
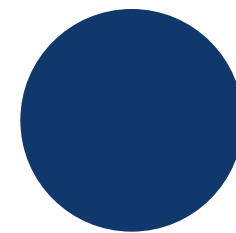
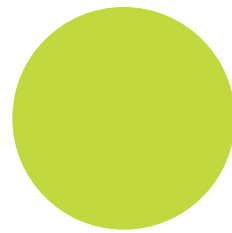
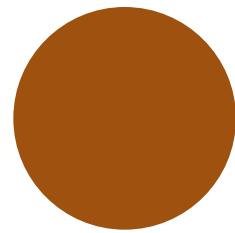
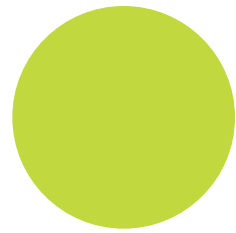
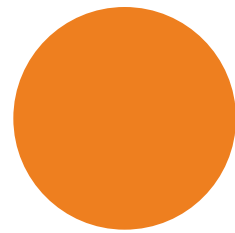
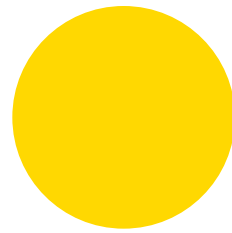
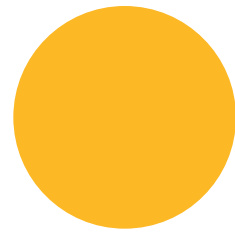
2022-2023

IHGC | Institute of the Humanities
& Global Cultures



Front & back covers

IHGC faces, institutions, and partners from the
2022-2023 academic year.



IHGC | 2022-2023

- 2 From the Director
Debjani Ganguly, 2015-2023
- 4 About the IHGC
- 6 Meet the Incoming IHGC Director
- 8 Futurities: Thematic Lecture Series
- 10 Mellon Fellows Book Seminar Series
- 14 Symposia/Workshops/Conferences
- 18 IHGC Humanities Faculty
& PhD Student Fellows
- 20 IHGC Humanities Working Groups
- 24 2023 Humanities Week
Back to the Present
- 28 Film & Art
- 30 Distinguished Guest Scholars
- 32 Clay Competitive Grants 2022-2023
- 34 Global Humanities Partnerships
- 36 IHGC Staff & Advisory Board

From the Director

IHGC 2022–2023

It is an honor to have led UVA's Humanities Institute these past eight years. I have had one of the most rewarding roles at this historic university: to regenerate and build a community of scholars and students attuned to the global calling of the humanities in the twenty-first century. As I say 'farewell' and head to my convivial departmental home, I'd like to express my deep gratitude to colleagues, students, artists, public intellectuals, and distinguished visitors who have given so generously of their time, energy, enthusiasm, and vision to shape the Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures. Our Institute's enterprise is collaborative in the true sense of the term, one built on a vibrant interdisciplinarity, shared interests, and mutual regard.

When I arrived from Australia to take up my new role, the IHGC was a fledgling unit. Its foundations as a global humanities center, however, were strongly laid under the leadership of its founding director, Professor Michael Levenson. The IHGC was primed to soar, and my vision for it was fortunately supported by the College of Arts and Sciences, the Clay Endowment, and the munificence of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, not to mention the stupendous support of our staff, faculty fellows, students, and the advisory board. The IHGC has not looked back since.

From 2016–2021, we steered a major component of Arts & Sciences' Mellon-funded Global South initiative. The project has invigorated the humanities at UVA by drawing on knowledge traditions from across the world. Our experimental Labs nurtured projects in environmental humanities, pre-modern cultural and religious histories, transnational cinema and media, global performance cultures, Asian cosmopolitanisms, African urbanisms, comparative indigenous studies, comparative political philosophy, global and world literatures, and oceanic studies. These areas have gained a strong foothold across the College and the university. In the process, the IHGC has forged rich institutional partnerships across the world.

One of the most exciting yields of our collaborative ventures has been an experimental Lab focused on the impact of big data, social media, surveillance technologies and artificial intelligence. Philosophers, ethicists, political scientists, media experts, literary scholars, architectural historians, and historians of science conversed with data scientists and computer engineers on both incremental and momentous transformations in our lives due to a dizzying technological acceleration. Even as universities deliberate on the impact of Chat GPT on our epistemic norms and practices, the machinic quest for new forms of intelligence appears unstoppable.

My years at the IHGC coincided with extraordinarily challenging and precarious events. We strained to hold on to our equanimity and reflective civility amidst threats of violent extremisms, the Covid-19 pandemic, and a gothic mediascape populated by ghouls and conjurers vanishing away truth with every click. The existential threat of climate change will continue to loom over our horizon for generations to come.

In 2021 our Institute launched a lecture series to address these concerns. Named "Futurities," the series features humanists, scientists, writers, artists, and policy experts who explore burning questions about our unfolding futures in the age of technological immersion, global warming, pandemics, racial ferment, and the crisis of democracy. The lectures thus far have been sobering, insightful, and occasionally hopeful. Our distinguished speakers have variously addressed questions of complexity in techno-science and their impact on modeling futures; political futures in the Anthropocene; biopolitics of immunity and contagion during pandemics; oceanic upheaval in the era of global warming; frameworks for understanding radical shifts in the earth system that are different from environmental crises and species extinction; the complex relationship between globalization and global warming, and the global and planetary; and the intergenerational responsibilities of academic leadership in universities.

As we continue to encounter seismic techno-planetary shifts, our work as humanists gains in urgency. Existential threats generate a crisis of intelligibility about large metaphysical questions relating to the nature of life, human-nonhuman agency, violence, culpability, reciprocity, mediation, responsibility, suffering, and death. Humanities disciplines are uniquely equipped to distinguish between a *problem* that requires a solution and a *predicament* where we confront what Karl Jaspers calls "endurance in the tensions of insolubility."

The IHGC has transitioned into the capable hands of Professor Jack Chen. A scholar of comparative literature, Chinese philology, digital humanities, and informatics, Jack is deeply committed to our research mission. As I hand over the baton, I wish him and everyone at the Institute great success.

Debjani Ganguly
Professor of English



Debjani Ganguly
IHGC Director

About the IHGC

The Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures

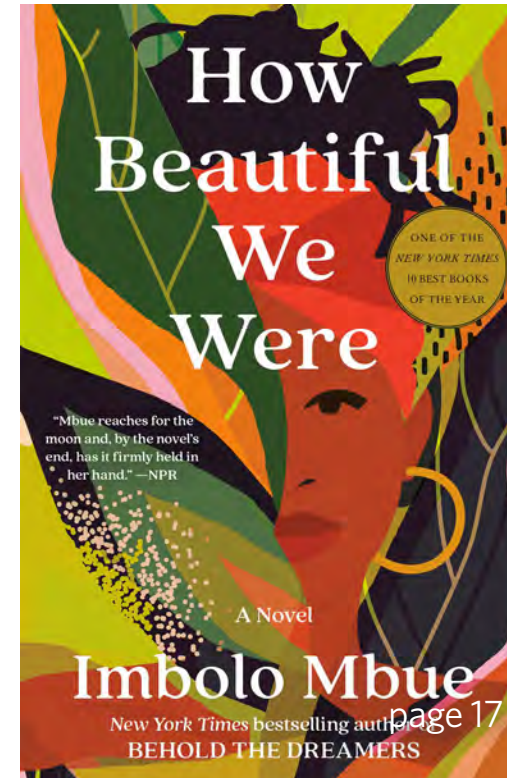
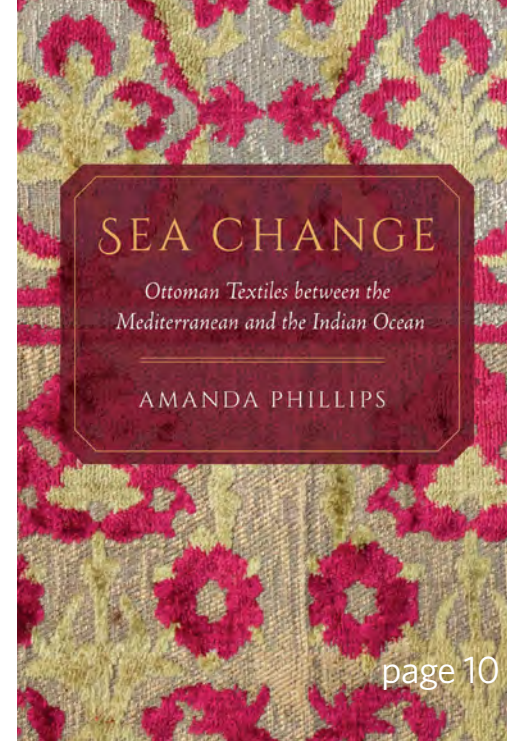
is a center for advanced humanities research, and a catalyst for interdisciplinary humanities research locally, nationally, and globally. Located on the historic grounds of the University of Virginia, the IHGC fosters a community of scholars attuned to the global calling of the humanities in the twenty-first century. In partnership with humanities centers from around the world, the IHGC 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. 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.

The mission of the IHGC is

1. To foster research collaboration in interdisciplinary Global Humanities through programs comprising of projects, fellowships, labs, conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops, graduate mentorship, undergraduate engagement, and public arts events.
2. To serve as UVA's key conduit to major networks of humanities scholars and institutions, both national and global.

The IHGC seeks to accomplish its mission by

- Generating research and curricular innovation in Global Humanities
- Creating a broad cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research community within UVA
- Attracting the world's best researchers to the University
- Building collaborative partnerships with institutions nationally and internationally
- Offering a conducive training ground for doctoral and postdoctoral scholars
- Supporting undergraduate curricular and co-curricular activities
- Promoting the arts
- Facilitating public engagement
- Advocating for the value of the humanities in the public sphere.



Meet Incoming Director Jack Chen



Jack Chen
IHGC Incoming Director

As the Institute's new director beginning in August 2023, Jack W. Chen, Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages, Literatures & Cultures, plans to continue to advance the IHGC's role and relevance as a laboratory for innovative and public-facing humanistic scholarship; an intellectual commons for cross-disciplinary collaboration; and, a stage for the celebration of art, music, performance, and literature. Chen has been an integral part of the IHGC community of scholars since he was hired by the College with a co-appointment as IHGC Mellon Fellow in Fall 2016. In that same term, Chen, along with then-IHGC Director Debjani Ganguly, and Scholars' Lab Director Alison Booth, secured a grant from UVA's Strategic Investment Fund for \$466,000 for the three-year IHGC Humanities Informatics Lab (2017-2020). The Lab supported four different working groups (Human/Machine Intelligence, Network-Corpus, Smart Environments, Surveillance and Infrastructure), as well as lectures and workshops, individual projects and publications, new curricular development, the Digital Humanities Graduate Certificate, and the IHGC/UVA-hosted 2018 meeting of the global body of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, also on the theme of "Humanities Informatics". Additionally, he worked with IHGC's Asian Cosmopolitanisms Lab on two initiatives in Spring 2021. The first being an online funded interdisciplinary graduate student workshop titled "Comparative / World / Global" that explored recent methodological work with invited national speakers, and the second being an online lecture series, "Rethinking World Literature: China as Method," featuring talks by noted national scholars exploring different approaches to non-Anglocentric models of world literature. These two projects were inspired by IHGC's pioneering work on the Global South but also by the need for spaces to do the kind of methodological work that only exist outside of national literature departments.

Chen's research interests draw both on his training in comparative literature and in classical Chinese literary history. He has published extensively on various aspects of early and medieval Chinese literature, reframing philological and textual concerns through different theoretical and methodological approaches, from critical theory to computational analysis. His recent works have taken up the history of information management in traditional China, gossip and social networks, and (neo)cybernetic approaches to poetry. His current projects are co-editing a six-volume cultural history of Chinese literature and finishing a monograph on ghosts and poetry. His next project will be a study of cats and the literary ordinary. Chen has taught previously at UCLA and Wellesley College, and he received his BA in Literature from Yale, his MA in Comparative Literature from the University of Michigan, and his PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard. ■

“Jack Chen brings a tremendous sense of energy, creativity and curiosity to the vital questions facing the humanities now.”

— Sarah Betzer
Associate Dean for Arts & Humanities, UVA

“I'm humbled and honored to be appointed director of the IHGC, and excited by the opportunity to build upon the impressive achievements of my predecessors, Michael Levenson and Debjani Ganguly, who have successively created shared spaces for innovative cross-disciplinary scholarship that interrogates the past, present, and future of the humanities in its imbricated local and global contexts.”

— Jack Chen
Incoming IHGC Director, 2023-2028

“Jack is a natural collaborator who has worked brilliantly over these years to bring together scholars and students across numerous disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, with exciting results. His leadership will bring a compelling new voice to the IHGC in the coming years.”

— Debjani Ganguly
IHGC Director, 2016-2023

Futurities

For the past two years, IHGC has convened a lecture series on “Futurities.” The thematic series features humanists, scientists, writers, artists, and policy experts who explore burning questions about our unfolding futures in the age of technological immersion, global warming, pandemics, racial ferment, and the crisis of democracy.

IHGC hosted six speakers in 2022–2023. Their talks addressed various questions of complexity in techno-science and their impact on climate modeling; political futures in the Anthropocene; oceanic upheaval in the era of global warming; frameworks for understanding radical shifts in the earth system that are different from environmental crises and species extinction; the complex relationship between globalization and global warming, and the global and planetary; and finally, the intergenerational responsibilities of academic leadership in universities.

1
SEP 23

Technology Eats History *Techno-Metabolism and Time in the Anthropocene*

Paul Edwards

Director of the Program on Science, Technology & Society (STS); and, William J. Perry Fellow in International Security, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University

2
OCT 28

Climate Leviathan *A Political Theory of our Planetary Future*

Geoff Mann

Professor, Geography, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia

3
NOV 11

Depth Figures *Oceanic Futures, Submarine Remains*

Killian Quigley

Research Fellow, Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, ACU Melbourne

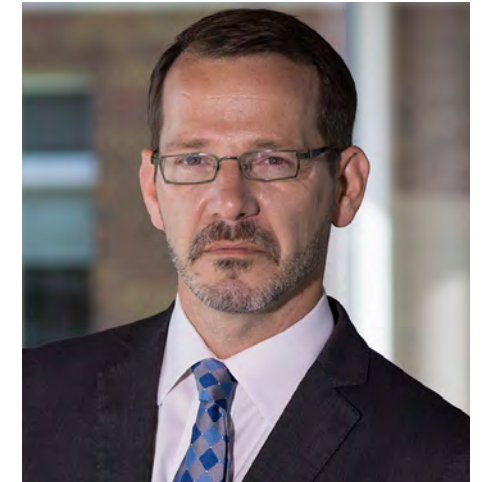
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FEB 23

Frameworks for the Future *The Environment, Climate Change, and the Anthropocene*

Julia Adeney Thomas

Professor, History, University of Notre Dame

Thematic Lecture Series



Top, left to right
Paul Edwards, Killian Quigley, and Ian Baucom
Bottom, left to right
Geoff Mann, Julia Adeney Thomas, and
Dipesh Chakrabarty

5
MAR 15

The Future Claimant's Representative or What is the University For?

Ian Baucom

Executive Vice President and Provost, UVA

6
APR 20

Planetary Futures

Dipesh Chakrabarty

Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor of History, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

Mellon Humanities Fellows Program |

The Mellon Fellows Program was part of a broad multi-year initiative (2015–2021) funded in partnership by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and UVA's College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. Over those six years IHGC has hosted 45 faculty fellows. These residential fellowships have been extremely generative, resulting in the publication of more than 30 monographs by UVA faculty.

The Mellon seminar series, begun in 2021, features books published by IHGC Mellon Fellows. Our 2022–2023 series hosted the following seminars by UVA faculty:

Translating Wisdom Hindu-Muslim Intellectual Interactions in Early Modern South Asia

University of California Press, 2020
September 9

AUTHOR
Shankar Nair
Associate Professor, Religious Studies and MESALC, UVA
2018–2019 IHGC Mellon Fellow

RESPONDENT
Lynna Dhanani
Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, UC-Davis

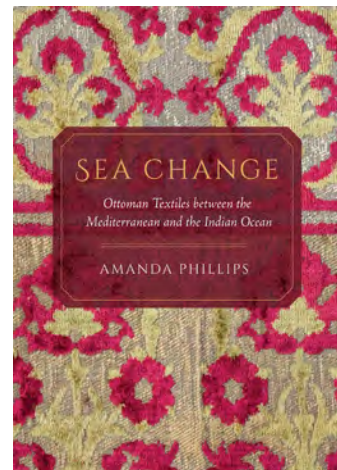
During the height of Muslim power in Mughal South Asia, Hindu and Muslim scholars worked collaboratively to translate a large body of Hindu Sanskrit texts into the Persian language. *Translating Wisdom* reconstructs the intellectual processes and exchanges that underlay these translations. Using as a case study the 1597 Persian rendition of the *Yoga-Vasistha*—an influential Sanskrit philosophical tale whose popularity stretched across the subcontinent—Shankar Nair illustrates how these early modern Muslim and Hindu scholars drew upon their respective religious, philosophical, and literary traditions to forge a common vocabulary through which to understand one another. These scholars thus achieved, Nair argues, a nuanced cultural exchange and interreligious and cross-philosophical dialogue significant not only to South Asia's past but also its present. ■



Shankar Nair



Lynna Dhanani



Amanda Phillips



Nancy Micklewright

Sea Change Ottoman Textiles between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean

University of California Press, 2021
October 14

AUTHOR
Amanda Phillips
Associate Professor, Islamic Art & Material Culture, Art History, UVA
2016–2017 IHGC Mellon Fellow

RESPONDENT
Nancy Micklewright
Andrew W. Mellon Fellow, Department of Islamic Art,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Sea Change explores the history of Ottoman textiles from both a global and interdisciplinary perspective, uniting the eastern Mediterranean with the Indian Ocean on one hand, and social and economic history with art history, technical studies, and global history on the other. Phillips' study insists on a more comprehensive history of textiles, arguing that the plain, the non-canonical, the well-worn, and the downright mediocre are necessary parts of an expanded topography, and deserve treatment on their own terms. Artisans made decisions as they worked, and the book also returns agency to the men and women earning their livings in the textile sector. It shows how they coped with economic hardship and technological change, as well as how they resisted regulations imposed by the central authorities. ■

Book Seminars

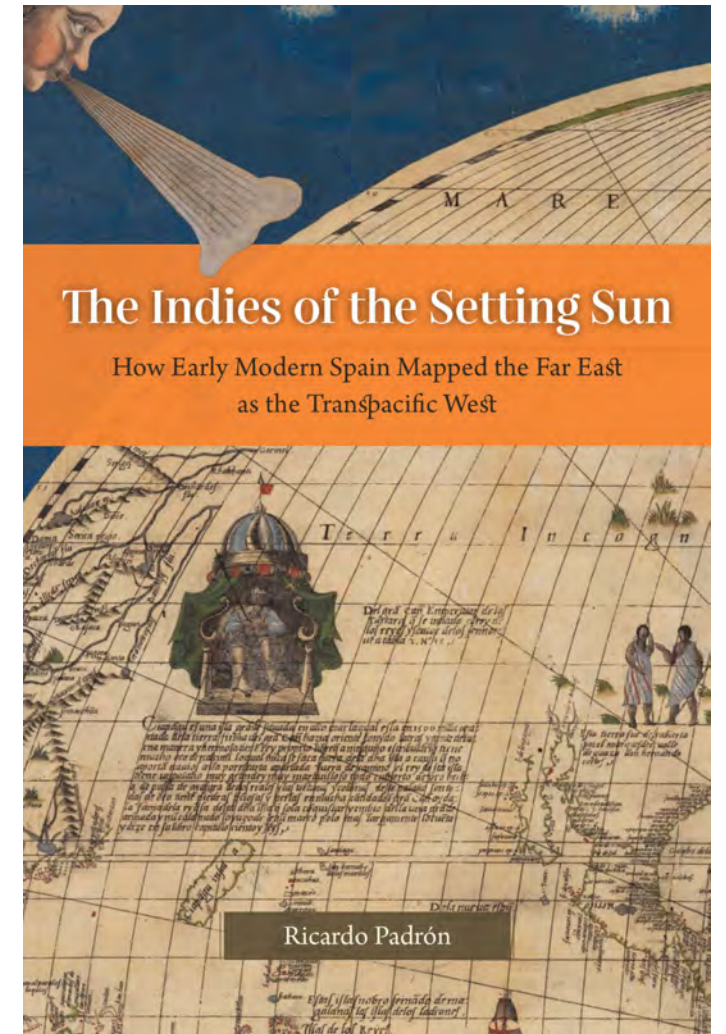
The Indies of the Setting Sun How Early Modern Spain Mapped the Far East as the Transpacific West

University of Chicago Press, 2020
November 4

AUTHOR
Ricardo Padrón
Professor, Spanish, UVA
2018–2019 IHGC Mellon Fellow

Narratives of Europe's westward expansion often tell of how the Americas came to be known as a distinct landmass, separate from Asia and uniquely positioned as new ground ripe for transatlantic colonialism. But this geographic vision of the Americas was not shared by all Europeans. While some imperialists imagined North and Central America as undiscovered land, the Spanish pushed to define the New World as part of a larger and eminently flexible geography that they called *las Indias*, and that by right, belonged to the Crown of Castile and León. *Las Indias* included all the New World as well as East and Southeast Asia, although Spain's understanding of the relationship between the two areas changed as the realities of the Pacific Rim came into sharper focus. At first, the Spanish insisted that North and Central America were an extension of the continent of Asia. Eventually, they came to understand East and Southeast Asia as a transpacific extension of their empire in America called *las Indias del poniente*, or the Indies of the Setting Sun.

The Indies of the Setting Sun charts the Spanish vision of a transpacific imperial expanse, beginning with Balboa's discovery of the South Sea and ending almost a hundred years later with Spain's final push for control of the Pacific. Padrón traces a series of attempts—both cartographic and discursive—to map the space from Mexico to Malacca, revealing the geopolitical imaginations at play in the quest for control of the New World and Asia. ■



Ricardo Padrón

Sirens of Modernity

World Cinema via Bombay

University of California Press, 2022

February 3

AUTHOR

Shankar Nair

Associate Professor of Cinema, MESALC, UVA

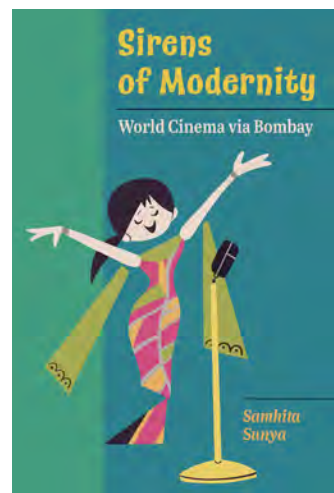
2017–2018 IHGC Mellon Fellow

RESPONDENT

Ratheesh Radhakrishnan

Associate Professor of English, Shiv Nadar University

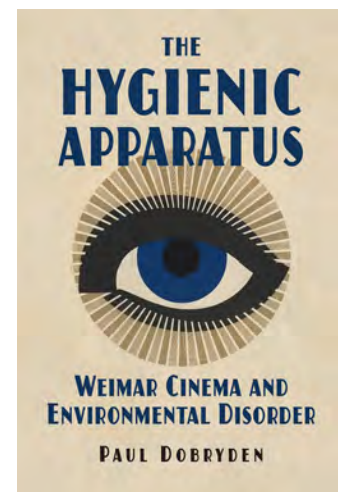
By the 1960s, Hindi-language films from Bombay were in high demand not only for domestic and diasporic audiences but also for sizable non-diasporic audiences across Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean world. Often confounding critics who painted the song-dance films as noisy and nonsensical, if not dangerously seductive and utterly vulgar, Bombay films attracted fervent worldwide viewers precisely for their elements of romance, music, and spectacle. In this richly documented history of Hindi cinema during the long 1960s, Samhita Sunya historicizes the emergence of world cinema as a category of cinematic diplomacy that formed in the crucible of the Cold War. Interwoven with this history is an account of the prolific transnational circuits of popular Hindi films alongside the efflorescence of European art cinema and Cold War-era forays of Hollywood abroad. By following archival leads and threads of argumentation within commercial Hindi films that seem to be odd cases—flops, remakes, low-budget comedies, and prestige productions—this book offers a novel map for excavating the historical and ethical stakes of world cinema and world-making via Bombay. ■



Samhita Sunya



Ratheesh Radhakrishnan



Paul Dobryden



Anjeana Hans

The Hygienic Apparatus

Weimar Cinema and Environmental Disorder

Northwestern University Press, 2022

March 17

AUTHOR

Paul Dobryden

Assistant Professor, German, UVA

2018–2019 IHGC Mellon Fellow

RESPONDENT

Anjeana Hans

Associate Professor of German Studies and Cinema

& Media Studies, Wellesley College

This study traces how the environmental effects of industrialization reverberated through the cinema of Germany's Weimar Republic. In the early twentieth century, *hygiene* encompassed the myriad attempts to create healthy spaces for life and work amid the pollution, disease, accidents, and noise of industrial modernity. Examining classic films—including *The Last Laugh*, *Faust*, and *Kuhle Wampe*—as well as documentaries, cinema architecture, and studio practices, Paul Dobryden demonstrates how cinema envisioned and interrogated hygienic concerns about environmental disorder.

Framing hygiene within the project of national reconstruction after World War I, *The Hygienic Apparatus* explores cinema's material contexts alongside its representations of housework, urban space, traffic, pollution, disability, aging, and labor. Reformers worried about the health risks associated with moviegoing but later used film to popularize hygienic ideas, encouraging viewers to see the world and themselves in relation to public health objectives. Modernist architecture and design fashioned theaters into regenerative environments for fatigued spectators. Filmmakers like F. W. Murnau and Slatan Dudow, meanwhile, explored the aesthetic and political possibilities of dirt, contagion, intoxication, and disorder. Dobryden recovers a set of ecological and biopolitical concerns to show how the problem of environmental disorder fundamentally shaped cinema's relationship to modernity. As accessible as it is persuasive, the book adds to a growing body of scholarship on biopolitics within German studies and reveals fresh ways of understanding the apparatus of Weimar cinema. ■

Book Seminars



Aynne Kokas



Dan Chen

Trafficking Data

How China is Winning the Battle for Digital Sovereignty

Oxford University Press, 2022

April 7

AUTHOR

Aynne Kokas

Professor, Media Studies, UVA

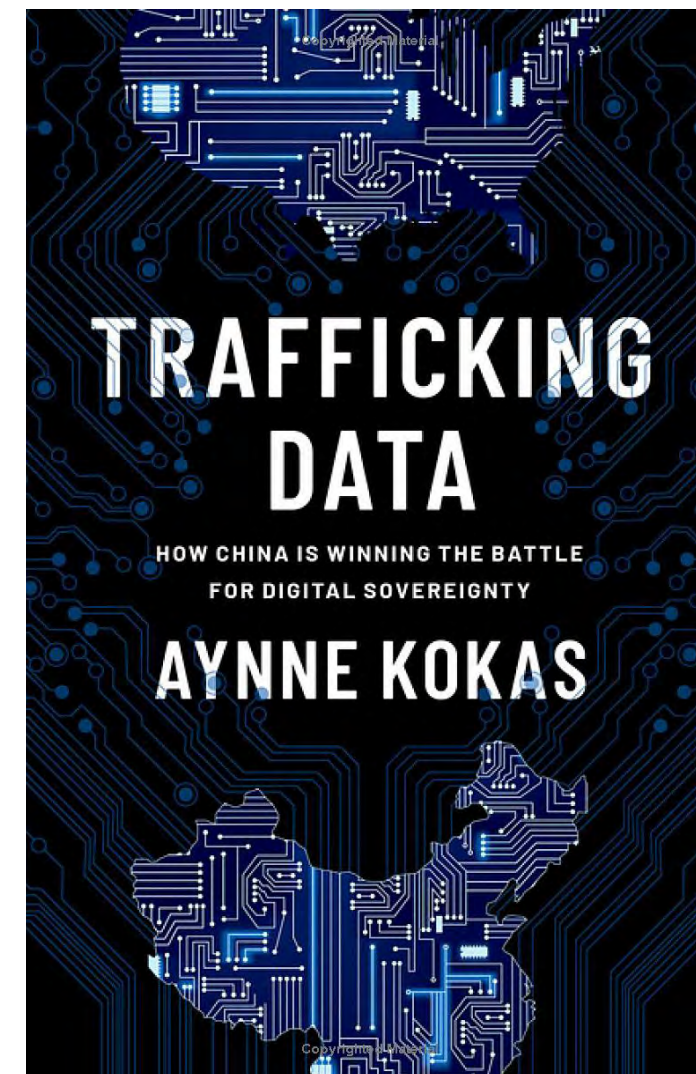
2018–2019 IHGC Mellon Fellow

RESPONDENT

Dan Chen

Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Richmond

In *Trafficking Data*, Aynne Kokas looks at how technology firms in the two largest economies in the world, the United States and China, have exploited government policy (and the lack thereof) to gather information on citizens, putting US national security at risk. Kokas argues that US government leadership failures, Silicon Valley's disruption fetish, and Wall Street's addiction to growth have fueled China's technological goldrush. In turn, American complacency yields an unprecedented opportunity for Chinese firms to gather data in the United States and quietly send it back to China, and by extension, to the Chinese government. Drawing on her years of fieldwork in the US and China and a large trove of corporate and policy documents, in *Trafficking Data*, Kokas explains how China is fast becoming the global leader in internet governance and policy, and thus of the data that defines our public and private lives. ■



Mellon Humanities Fellows Program

Symposia | Workshops | Conferences

2023 to 2025

Reading: A Conversation Project

CO-LEADERS. Jack W. Chen, *East Asian Languages, Literatures & Cultures, UVA*; and, Daniel T. Willingham, *Professor, Psychology, UVA*

This project brought scholars, faculty, staff, and students from across the University including the College of Arts & Sciences, School of Education, Virginia Humanities, the University Library, School of Data Science, and more, into conversation to consider divergent and convergent models of reading from cognitive science and phenomenology. It was funded with generous grants from UVA's Page-Barbour Fund and the Center for Global Inquiry + Innovation.

The energy from the participants throughout the year created two final key results:

1. an approved proposal to create and run a two-year full humanities research laboratory on reading in academic years 2023–2025, funded by the Buckner W. Clay Endowment in the College of Arts & Sciences; and,
2. a multi-day conference, May 25–27, 2023, with participants from other universities invited to present brief papers and thoughts on reading across humanistic and scientific disciplines and in different historical and cultural contexts.

Reading Lab

2023–2025

This interdisciplinary, comparative, and transhistorical project explores manifold concepts and practices of reading as articulated within cognitive sciences, religious and aesthetic phenomenologies, and diverse cultural archives. It considers the past, present, and future of reading as it has been inflected by transformations in media forms and technologies, theories of self and mind, and political, social, and class contexts. While there are significant bodies of scholarship on reading within particular historical periods, geographic areas, and disciplinary frameworks, there have been very few attempts to convene the kind of sustained, collaborative, and multi-perspectival inquiry that this IHGC Reading Lab affords. This Lab proposes a truly global model for transdisciplinary research, bringing together faculty, graduate students, and academic from across the University and providing a forum for scholarly exchange with faculty and centers at other institutions.

Reading: A Conversation | Conference

May 25–27

All sessions were held at the IHGC in Wilson Hall and open to the public.

Welcome Dinner | May 25

Welcome dinner for speakers on Charlottesville's historic Downtown Mall and discussion and overview of the weekend's conference agenda.

Day 1 | May 26, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Welcoming Remarks | 9:45–10:00 am

Christa Davis Acampora, *Buckner W. Clay Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences*; and, *Professor of Philosophy*, introduced by Professors Jack W. Chen and Daniel Willingham

Session 1 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

CHAIR. Charles Mathewes, UVA

Ardis Butterfield, Yale University, "Reading Music"
Elizabeth Alexander, UVA, "Reading in Commentary"
Michael Puett, Harvard University, "Reading as Commentary"
Brad Pasanek, UVA, "Reading Counts"
Eric Hayot, Penn State University, "Reading as Ethical"

Session 2 | 2:00–4:00 pm

CHAIR. Worthy Martin, UVA

Janice Chen, Johns Hopkins University, "Reading, Narrative, Memory"
Colby Hall, UVA, "Reading Words"
Courtney Watts, UVA, "Reading and Rereading"
Natasha Heller, UVA, "Reading Together"
Daniel Willingham, UVA, "Reading and Life Success"

End of Day Discussion | 4:00–4:30 pm

Day 2 | May 27, 9:45 am – 4:30 pm

Session 1 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

CHAIR. Charles Laughlin, UVA

Joshua Billings, Princeton University, "Hate-Reading"
Alexander Freer, Cambridge University, "Reading for Pleasure"
Rachel Retica, UVA, "Reading and Misinterpretation"
Leah Price, Rutgers University, "Reading To/Reading For"
Joseph Howley, Columbia University, "Reading and Enslavement"

Session 2 | 2:00–4:00 pm

CHAIR. Daniel Willingham, UVA

Reginald Jackson, University of Michigan, "Reading and Racialization"
Bruce Holsinger, UVA, "Reading Skin"
Paul Armstrong, Brown University, "Reading Across Historical Distance"
Jack W. Chen, UVA, "Reading as Conversation"

End of Day Discussion | 4:00–4:30 pm



Salman Rushdie

AUG 12

In Solidarity with Salman Rushdie Public Event

In collaboration with the Department of English, IHGC hosted a public event to express solidarity with the acclaimed author, Salman Rushdie, who survived a vicious stabbing on August 12, 2022, at a public event in Chautauqua, New York.

Since 1989 with the publication of *The Satanic Verses*, Rushdie's life has been under threat despite the revoking in 1998 of the *fatwa* by the then Iranian government. Just two weeks before the Chautauqua attack, Rushdie gave an interview to the German current affairs magazine *Stern* where he said, "nowadays my life is very normal again" and that social media would have made his life "more dangerous, infinitely more dangerous" had it existed in the 1980s. Lamentably, his optimism turned out to be premature. Rushdie lost one eye and continues to battle substantial injuries. He remains defiant and has just published his latest novel, aptly named *Victory City*.

The UVA event in honor of Salman Rushdie was led by Provost Ian Baucom who offered brief opening remarks and reiterated the importance of guarding free speech against encroachment by authoritarian forces worldwide. Kapnick Writer-in-Residence, Rabih Alameddine, offered a riotous tribute to the irreverent novelist. English faculty members, Mark Edmundson, Debjani Ganguly, Micheline Marcom, and Herbert Tucker read passages from Rushdie's novels, as did visiting scholar, Adrienne Ghalay. All commented on Rushdie's indomitable spirit and his breathtaking contribution to the world's literary riches.

NOV 11

African Photography The Ethics of Looking and Collecting in the Age of Restitution Symposium

CONVENED BY. Giulia Paoletti, *Assistant Professor, Art History, UVA*; and, Zoë Strother, *Riggio Professor of African Art, Columbia University*

Since the 1990s, exhibitions of African photographers such as Seydou Keita have raised questions about the relationship of ownership to authorship, visibility to privacy. Concerns about the ethics of looking and collecting have grown more urgent with recent debates about the restitution of African cultural heritage.

The symposium drew together scholars, artists, and curators who explored the ethics of working with photographs and methods to decolonize the medium, and its histories. They explored the following questions:

- What rights do photographers have?
- In today's age of hypervisibility, can sitters claim their "right to opacity," to use Édouard Glissant's term?
- What is the future of collecting and curating photographs that originate in family and colonial archives on the continent?
- Can viewers embody "the active struggle of looking with," in Tina Campt's words—rather than observe passively—and can this engender new ways of seeing?

The keynote speaker was Temi Odumosu from the University of Washington, who specializes in Black portraiture, and the imbrication of race and gender in information technology. Steven Nelson from the National Gallery of Art delivered the concluding remarks, while David Freedburg, renowned art historian from Columbia University, and Douglas Fordham, Chair, UVA Department of Art & Art History welcomed participants and inaugurated the symposium.



Giulia Paoletti



Temi Odumosu



Steven Nelson



David Freedburg



Douglas Fordham

Symposia | Workshops | Conferences

SPRING
2023

Premodern Encounters Colloquium Series

CONVENERS. Deborah McGrady, Professor, French, UVA; and, Bruce Holsinger, Professor, English, UVA

In Spring 2023, IHGC co-sponsored a colloquium series on “Premodern Encounters” with Medieval Studies scholars across Grounds. Each colloquium brought together two scholars whose recent work has engaged with cognate themes from different cultural and temporal eras. Rather than delivering formal talks, the speakers initiated a dialogue among their participants based on their published and ongoing research projects. Details of themes and speakers appear below:

Race and Empire in the Premodern World | February 2

SPEAKERS.

Shao-yun Yang, Denison University, author of *The Way of the Barbarians: Redrawing Ethnic Boundaries in Tang and Song China* (2019)

Michael Gomez, NYU, author of *African Dominion: A New History of Empire in Early and Medieval West Africa* (2018)

Premodern Textual Cultures | March 30

SPEAKERS.

Marina Rustow, Princeton University, author of *The Lost Archive: Traces of the Caliphate in a Medieval Synagogue* (2020)

Daniel Wakelin, University of Oxford, author of *Immaterial Texts in Late Medieval England: Making English Literary Manuscripts, 1400-1500* (2022)

Premodern Ecologies and Environments | April 13

SPEAKERS.

Lydia Barnett, Northwestern University, author of *After the Flood: Imagining the Global Environment in Early Modern Europe* (2022)

Adam Goldwyn, North Dakota State University, author of *Byzantine Ecocriticism: Humans, Nature, and Power in the Medieval Greek Romance* (2018)

2022 to
2023

Read for Action The Humanitarian Book Club Collective Reading Engagement

CONVENERS. Adrienne Ghaly, Assistant Professor, English, UVA; and, Kirsten Gelsdorf, Professor of Practice of Public Policy, and Director of Global Humanitarian Policy, Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, UVA

This unique collective reading and engagement project, co-sponsored by the IHGC, and led by Adrienne Ghaly and Kirsten Gelsdorf, is a partnership between the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (which coordinates global humanitarian response along with its partners) and the University of Virginia Humanitarian Collaborative. The latter supports innovative research to bridge the academic-practitioner divide on humanitarian issues.

“Read for Action” began in response to a core question of humanitarian organizations: How can we create durable and sustained engagement while encouraging collective action in ways that are responsible towards affected people? Weaving the power of fiction with the realities of global humanitarian response, the project brought together readers with authors, researchers, and humanitarian policymakers to:

- Create a global community of readers interested in humanitarian crises.
- Host online discussions of the novels where authors, researchers, and policymakers connect the books to specific contemporary challenges and global crises.
- Provide a range of pro-climate and pro-human actions that readers can take collectively to create action at scale.
- Bring together researchers who are interested in learning more about the power of fiction to influence policy.

Events

Over the course of four months in 2022-2023, *Read for Action: The Humanitarian Book Club* hosted livestream events with three bestselling and world-renowned authors. A series of livestream discussions about each book selection were held over the RFA’s Discord channel.

The Displacements by Bruce Holsinger |

November 7 - December 7

GUEST SPEAKERS.

Bruce Holsinger, author; and, Professor of English, UVA

Gloria Fisk, Queens College CUNY

Omar El Akkad, author and journalist

Emily Garin, Sesame Workshop

Hawa Sabriye, UNICEF Somalia

Exit West by Mohsin Hamid | January 15 - February 15

GUEST SPEAKERS.

Mohsin Hamid, author

Jacob Kurtzer, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Cassandra Falke, University of Tromsø

David Herd, Refugee Tales and University of Kent

Sarah Hanani Ahmad Tajuddin, Sunway University, Malaysia

Anna Badkhen, author



How Beautiful We Were by Imbolo Mbue |

February 20 - March 20

GUEST SPEAKERS.

Imbolo Mbue, author

Saidatul Maisarah Faiesall Ahmad Faiesall,

Sunway University, Malaysia

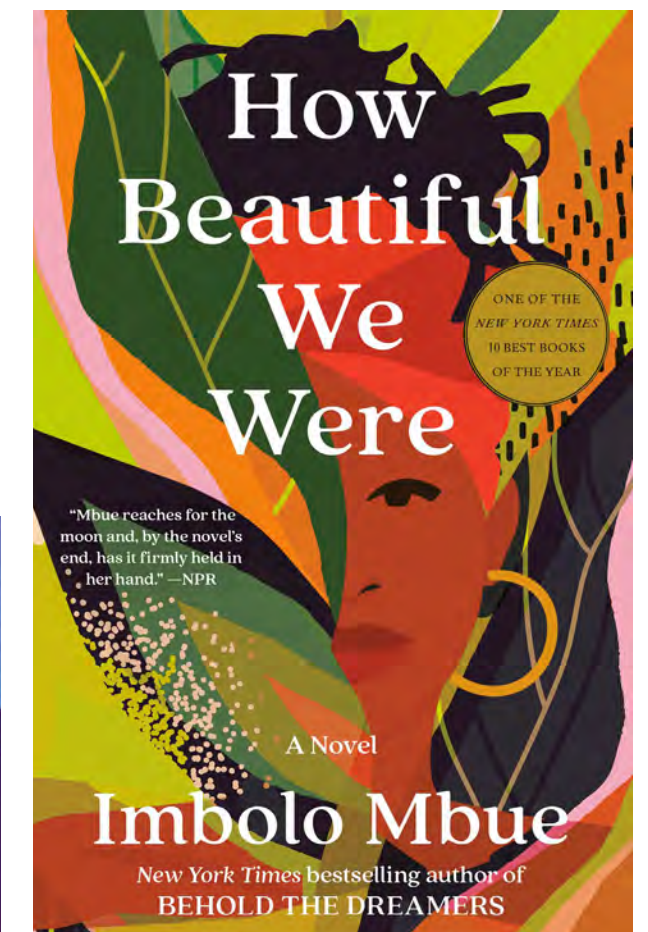
Aida Mengistu, Inter-Agency Standing Committee

Peer-to-Peer Support

Eric Roston, Bloomberg

Olúfẹ̀mi Táíwò, Georgetown University

Jemilah Mahmood, Sunway University, Malaysia



Left to right

Book jackets of works featured in *Read for Action: The Humanitarian Book Club*.

Student Fellows | 2022–2023

The IHGC offered dissertation prospectus fellowships to three graduate students working across departments in the College of Arts & Sciences: Brittany Acors, Isabelle Ostertag, and Rebekah K. Latour. These three doctoral fellows joined an interdisciplinary cohort of current graduate fellows at the IHGC and participated in periodic workshops to discuss their respective projects. They had opportunities to interact with IHGC faculty fellows and distinguished visiting scholars throughout the year. They offered a formal presentation based on their dissertation prospectus during the term of their fellowship.



Brittany Acors | Religious Studies

Acors specializes in the intersection of medicine and religion in 20th-century America, paying a particular interest in vaccination, genetics, and health care. Her dissertation aims

to explore how religious communities reacted to the polio vaccine of the 1950s. Her project seeks to uncover through archival research the never-before-told history of how religious communities championed, questioned, or opposed this vaccine, and to analyze how they used their religious frameworks to make sense of vaccine science. ■

the medieval period. The primary aim of this project is to present a more holistic analysis of medieval lay piety and devotion towards the Virgin Mary through the case study of parish Lady Chapels in East Anglia. ■



Rebekah K. Latour | Religious Studies

Latour specializes in embodiment ethics, epistemology, sex and gender issues across Christian theologies and church histories. Her dissertation aims to contrast the writings

of 16th-century Protestant Reformation leaders such as Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin with the significant and understudied writings of two Reformation women writers, Caritas Pirckheimer and Argula von Grumbach. By foregrounding these writers and upending the typical Reformation narrative, Latour seeks to provide a lens through which questions about the relationship between freedom and coercion, agency and restraint, and resistance and creativity may find new footing. ■



Isabelle Ostertag | Art History

Ostertag's research interests lie in English medieval architecture, lay piety, and Marian devotion. Her dissertation will focus on what

a comparison of parish Lady Chapels—and their associative architecture, location, material culture, social space—reveals about how Marian devotion spread among lay people during

Faculty Fellows | 2022–2024

In Fall 2022, IHGC welcomed its first IHGC Faculty Fellows, Elizabeth Shanks Alexander (Religious Studies) and Oludamini Ogunnaike (Religious Studies). The fellowships have a two-year term, during which fellows are to be actively engaged members of the IHGC community and convene workshops, symposia, or seminars involving both graduate and undergraduate students. Fellows receive research funding and one course release in order to devote additional time to their research topic. Three new IHGC Faculty Fellows will enter the cohort in Fall 2023, serving as Fellows for the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 academic years.



Elizabeth Shanks Alexander

Professor of Judaic Studies, Department of Religious Studies

PROJECT

The Social Implications of Grammatical Gender in Biblical Law & Early Rabbinic Commentary (c. 300 CE)

Alexander's primary research focuses on the classic texts of rabbinic Judaism (midrash, Mishnah and Talmud).

At the core of Alexander's book project is the question of how grammatical gender and social gender identity intersect in different languages, times, and places. How do the various actors that perform gender identity navigate the constraints imposed by grammatical gender? Alexander examines this question in the context of the ancient legal texts of rabbinic Judaism.

Gender nonconforming individuals repurpose pronouns that circumvent the gender binary, like the singular "they," to align grammatical gender with their self-understanding of gender. Two major movements against grammatical gender in the past fifty years are driven to action because regnant grammatical practice misrecognizes, and relatedly deprecates, the gendered sense of self of the reformers. At the heart of these movements is both the recognition that grammatical gender plays a role in the construction and maintenance of social order and identity. Alexander's project places these contemporary movements in context by examining a related phenomenon among social actors who represent the very institutions that contemporary reformers work against. The subjects of her study—members of an ancient male intellectual elite—authored the Hebrew Bible and its rabbinic commentaries, which promote highly gendered and patriarchal forms of life. As social actors, these authors are motivated by a different set of social sensibilities than those that drive contemporary reformers, but *their navigation of grammatical gender* is remarkably similar. She suggests her research into how ancient Jewish male elites negotiate the constraints imposed by grammatical gender will prove to be an unexpected, but illuminating, counterpoint to the work of contemporary grammatical gender activists. ■



Oludamini Ogunnaike

Associate Professor of African Religious Thought and Democracy, Department of Religious Studies

PROJECT

Dreaming Sufism in the Sokoto Caliphate
Dreams and Knowledge in African Islamic Philosophy

Ogunnaike's main research examines the philosophical and artistic dimensions of postcolonial, colonial, and pre-colonial Islamic and Indigenous religious traditions of West and North Africa, especially Sufism and Ifa. His research falls into two general areas: a) the intellectual history and literary studies of the Islamic and indigenous traditions of West Africa, and b) employing the insights and ideas from these traditions to contribute to contemporary philosophical debates relevant to a variety of disciplines.

Ogunnaike's "Dreaming Sufism in the Sokoto Caliphate" project investigates three works (currently in unpublished manuscript form) by 'abd al-Qādir ibn Muṣṭafā (known as "Dan Tafa") (1804–1864), a 19th-century West African Sufi scholar, to examine the ways in which dreams were (and are) theorized in the African traditions of Sufism and what this can tell us about the different conceptions of knowledge, the self, cosmology, and authority current in the intellectual traditions and societies of Islamic Africa. In addition to translating these manuscripts, and analyzing Dan Tafa's epistemology, cosmology, and metaphysics, this project will seek to contextualize them within the broader Islamic and Sufi traditions, as well as investigate the possible influence of Indigenous Fulani and Hausa traditions of dreaming, dream interpretation, and dream narratives. What literary tropes and genres is Dan Tafa drawing on and why is he deploying them in these ways? Which intellectual traditions, authors, and texts influenced Dan Tafa's accounts of dreaming, knowledge, and philosophy? What does this tell us about the intellectual history of pre-colonial West Africa? What does it reveal about the relationship between dreams and spiritual/epistemic and political authority in this context? How are the perspectives on dreams, knowledge, philosophy, and ritual practice developed in these texts different from and similar to contemporary academic accounts, and what new avenues of research and enquiry could these previously-neglected perspectives open up in various disciplines? ■

The Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures supported three faculty-led multidisciplinary working groups in 2022–2023:

- 1 Environmental Humanities
- 2 Global Histories and Transgender Studies in the Humanities
- 3 Theories and Practices of Listening

1

EH@Scale **Environmental Humanities Working Group**

GROUP CO-LEADERS. **Enrico Cesaretti**, *Spanish, Italian & Portuguese*; **Adrienne Ghaly**, *English*; **Mary Kuhn**, *English*; and **Brian Teare**, *English, UVA*

Bringing together writers, scholars, and practitioners working in different fields, the EH Working Group investigated how paradigms of scale—local, regional, hemispheric, or global—play out in approaches to the most pressing conceptual, practical, and ethical issues of our time. What kinds of environmental thought are necessary in an age of planetary crisis? How might we think flexibly across scales—temporal and geographic—to understand the manifold implications of climate change? How do questions of scale affect strategies for pursuing environmental justice?

Events

Waste and Toxicity | February 10

CONVENER . **Enrico Cesaretti**, *Professor of Italian Studies, UVA*

Panel discussion featured the following scholars:

Allison Cobb is the author of four books: *Plastic: an Autobiography* (winner of the Oregon Book Award and the Firecracker Award); *Green-Wood*; *After We All Died*; and *Born2*. Cobb's work has appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Colorado Review*, and many other journals. She has been a resident artist at Djerassi and Playa and received fellowships from the Oregon Arts Commission, the Regional Arts and Culture Council, and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Marco Armiero is ICREA Research Professor at the Institute for the History of Science, Autonomous University of Barcelona, and the Director of the KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. Since 2019 he has been the president of the European Society for Environmental History. He has worked on the nationalization of nature, migrations and environment, and environmental justice. With his research, he has contributed to bridging environmental humanities and political ecology. He is the author of *Wasteocene* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), which has been or will be translated into Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Bosniac, and Chinese.



Enrico Cesaretti



Adrienne Ghaly



Mary Kuhn



Brian Teare

Sam Amago teaches courses on modern and contemporary Spanish literary history, cinema, comics, and culture in the Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese at UVA. His current scholarship centers on waste and space, memory, and modernity in post-dictatorship Spanish cultural production, including photography, documentary, narrative, comics, film, and television. His latest book *Basura: Cultures of Waste in Contemporary Spain*, was the Winner of the 32nd Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize for an outstanding book published in English or Spanish in the field of Latin American and Spanish literatures and cultures.

Anthropocene Bodies: Scaling Up and Scaling Down | February 24

CONVENER . **Mary Kuhn**, *Assistant Professor of English, UVA*

RESPONDENT . **Adrienne Ghaly**, *Humanitarian Collaborative Practitioner Fellow (Batten), and Visiting Scholar (English), UVA*

SPEAKERS .

Stephanie Clare, *Associate Professor of English, University of Washington*, author of *Earthly Encounters: Feminist Theory, Sensation and the Anthropocene*

Professor Clare works in feminist, queer, and trans studies in more-than-human worlds. Her next book, *Nonbinary Woman: A Feminist Autotheory*, is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press. Her research considers twentieth and 21st-century cultural and scientific representations of gender, sexuality, race, and ethnicity in the Anglophone and Francophone worlds. She is especially interested in understanding the relationship between these representations and embodied, sentient experience in the Anthropocene.

Kathryn Yusoff, *Professor of Inhuman Geography, Queen Mary University of London*, author of *A Billion Black Anthropocenes or None*

Professor Yusoff's work focuses on dynamic earth events such as abrupt climate change, biodiversity loss and extinction. She is interested in how these "earth revolutions" impact social thought. Broadly, her work has focused on political aesthetics, social theory and abrupt environmental change. She is particularly interested in the opportunities the Anthropocene presents for rethinking the interactions between the earth sciences and human geography in the "geo-social formations" of Anthropogenic change.

Emotions, Islands, Crises | March 24

CONVENER . **Charlotte Rogers**, *Lisa Smith Discovery Chair Associate Professor of Spanish*; and, *Convener, Environmental Humanities@UVA program*

Panel discussion featured the following scholars:

Malcolm Ferdinand is a Martinican researcher at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) in France specializing in contemporary ecological conflicts in the Caribbean. Through empirical research on four islands (Martinique, Guadeloupe, Haiti, and Puerto Rico), Malcolm examines the way current ecological conflicts bring to the fore demands of social and environmental justice from the inhabitants, who criticize the current political relationship with the metropolitan power. His book, *A Decolonial Ecology: Thinking from the Caribbean World*, was published by Polity Press in 2022 (original title: *Une écologie décoloniale*, Seuil, 2019).

Roque Raquel Salas Rivera is a Puerto Rican poet and translator of trans experience born in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. His honors include being named Poet Laureate of Philadelphia, the Premio Nuevas Voces, and the inaugural Ambroggio Prize. Among his six poetry books are *lo terciario/ the tertiary*, longlisted for the National Book Award and winner of the Lambda Literary Award, and *while they sleep (under the bed is another country)*, which inspired the title for *no existe un mundo poshuracán: Puerto Rican Art in the Wake of Hurricane Maria* at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Blanche Verlie is an Australian climate change educator and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Urban Research at RMIT University in Melbourne. Her book, *Learning to Live with Climate Change* explores the ways that our emotions entangle us with climate change and offers strategies for engaging with climate anxiety that can contribute to social change.

EH Graduate Symposium | March 30

EH@UVA offers an Environmental Humanities Graduate Certificate, training students to integrate methods of the humanities into cross-disciplinary environmental research. In Spring 2023, three excellent PhD candidates presented their research and work, followed by a discussion.

Manuel Acevedo-Reyes, Spanish, Italian & Portuguese

Anna Gomboeva, Slavic Languages & Literatures

James Razumoff, Art & Art History



2

Global Histories and Transgender Studies in the Humanities Working Group

GROUP CO-LEADERS. **David J. Getsy**, Eleanor Shea Professor of Art History; and **Cole Rizki**, Assistant Professor, Spanish, UVA

This working group had two main foci: to discuss the role of global history within transgender studies, and to encourage development of curricular and research activities in transgender studies at UVA. The working group had research exchanges among members and developed public-facing programs in Spring 2023 to encourage interdepartmental and interdisciplinary conversations. Focusing on historical case studies and methodologies, the working group aims to develop an interdisciplinary conversation about the place of transgender studies at UVA, about how it relates to—and is distinct from—other disciplinary formations (such as queer studies), and to encourage cross-departmental collaboration on historical topics and curricula.

Events

Where Do My Hips Go Now? Non-binary Partnerings On and Off the Ice | February 20

Erica Rand, Bates College, author of *The Small Book of Hip Checks: on Queer Gender, Race, and Writing*

This event was livestreamed with a simultaneous Spanish interpretation.

INTERPRETERS . Esperanza Gorriz Jarque and David Florez-Murillo

A Global History of Trans Panic | March 2

Jules Gill-Peterson, Johns Hopkins University, author of *Histories of the Transgender Child*

This event was livestreamed with a simultaneous Spanish interpretation.

INTERPRETERS . María Esparza Rodríguez and Esperanza Gorriz Jarque



David J. Getsy



Cole Rizki

3

Theories and Practices of Listening: Working Group

GROUP CO-LEADERS. **Fred Maus**, Music; **Noel Lobley**, Music; **Willis Jenkins**, Religious Studies; **Kirsten Gelsdorf**, Public Policy; and **Karolyn Kinane**, Contemplative Sciences Center, UVA

The group’s original description was to create a multi-disciplinary and multi-school group to share theories and practices of listening from various academic disciplines and personal experiences to understand the transformative power of listening on individual, interpersonal, and systemic levels. Efforts to build dialogue across differences such as in race, ethnicity, religion, and political ideology rely on the capacity of people to listen. Seldom, however, is listening made the topic of classrooms or larger university initiatives, where the focus is on speech. But as listening scholars aver, speech means little if people do not bring the skills and attitudes to relate and listen in ways that allow for exchange and the possibility to be changed by an encounter. Not merely a passive act of receiving information, listening can be an active practice of examining, understanding, transforming, and being transformed by our relationships and environments.

The group purchased an online course, “Trauma-Sensitive Mindfulness,” making it available to the UVA community. This widely-respected course, taught by David Treleaven, is crucial for the rapidly increasing group of instructors working with contemplative techniques, often as relative beginners. Group leader Fred Maus said, “We are not aware of any similar resource on general trauma-informed teaching at college levels, but much of what Treleaven teaches is eminently transferable to academic courses. We believe this course will be a valuable resource over the coming years and will reach more people than a public event would have reached.” David Treleaven agreed to grant a site license in perpetuity.



IHGC's most important student-led public humanities program is the spring festival, "Humanities Week." A team of 20 undergraduate students annually convene a week-long series of campus-wide events under a theme. Spring 2023's was *Back to the Present*.

2023 Humanities Week

April 27-31

Back to the PRESENT

Description

A play on the name of the classic film trilogy *Back to the Future*, this year's Humanities Week theme, *Back to the Present*, marks a return to the past as we once knew it, but also a heightened awareness of the new present. Time has felt frozen since the pandemic began, but the world is far from being stagnant. What does it mean to be "present," both in the sense of time and as a state of mind? And what does it mean to be turning back to the present? These questions and more were explored in a weeklong series of events examining how time has influenced our perception of ourselves and those around us as we journey towards a better future.



Victoria Custer
Undergraduate Co-Chair



Maryann Xue
Undergraduate Co-Chair



Rebecca Barry
Graduate Coordinator



Left to right
Puzzle Poesis Scavenger Hunt
Remixing Paintings and Poetry
Clemons Library puzzle check out for
Tabletop Time Machine.
2073 Time Capsule
2073 Time Capsule



MONDAY

Travel through Time and Space

Back to the Future Movie Screening
Wilson Hall Auditorium | 7-9 pm

What better way to kick off **Back to the Present** than with the movie that inspired this year's theme? The audience enjoyed movie snacks while time-traveling on an adventure with Marty McFly and Doc Brown, followed by a discussion.

...

Puzzle Poesis Scavenger Hunt Across UVA Grounds

Start from South Lawn | 12 pm kickoff
Finish at final "secret location" | 12 pm, Friday
For the second year in a row, Brad Pasanek (*Associate Professor, English*) and an elite team of wordsmiths and puzzlemasters worked throughout the year to design this multi-day scavenger hunt. Individual students and student teams deciphered clues, solved riddles, and traversed the landscape in order to unlock the secrets the Puzzle Poesis

group hid around UVA Grounds. Team members helped recruit others to participate in this epic cross-Grounds adventure!

The first person or team to solve all the puzzles won a grand prize of \$250, with second and third place finishers winning \$150 and \$100.

...

TUESDAY

Re-creational Art

Remixing Paintings and Poetry
Brooks Commons | 2-3 pm

What would it look like if you took apart your favorite pieces of art and poetry and remade them into something new?

Students remixed iconic poetry and art manually (cutting, pasting, drawing) to create a new vision of contemporary culture!

...

WEDNESDAY

Games for the Future

2073 Time Capsule
Bowers Library, Bryan Hall | 1-3 pm

What are the items and memories of the present we hope will be remembered and learned from in the future?

Students contributed writings and objects to a time capsule that will be kept at UVA until the future is ready for it!

...

Tabletop Time Machine

Student Activities Building | 4-7 pm

Join three UVA classes for a 3-hour board games extravaganza! Students played their favorite board games as well as all-new games created by UVA students. They learned about how games can help shed light on important issues in our community and collaborate in original storytelling adventures. Many thanks to Chandler Jennings, graduate student in English, who coordinated this event for those who were new to board games or experienced players.

...



Back to the PRESENT

THURSDAY Future Forward

Plant Adoption
South Lawn | 4-5 pm

Adopt a plant and bring a living piece of the Earth into your home!

Students teamed up with UVA Sustainability and planted seedlings in recycled glasses and bottles and helped them find caring homes! Graduating students were encouraged to bring plants to hand down to others still at university.

...

AI or Human?
Bryan Hall Faculty Lounge | 5-7 pm

With the academic world panicking about ChatGPT and AI's capabilities, it's time to ask...can professors tell the difference between student and AI writing, a renowned artist's painting or a computer-generated artwork?

A panel of professors—Jennifer Sessions (*History*), Debjani Ganguly (*English*), Brad Pasanek (*English*), and Elizabeth Orrico (*Computer Science/Engineering*)—tested their skills against student-faculty-staff teams to compete for prizes.

...

Burn Your Past
Shred Shack | 7:30-9 pm

If there's something in your personal history that's been holding you back, maybe it's time to get back to the present by burning your past.

Teaming up with UVA Outdoors Club, students wrote down what was burdening them and then let it go into the fire in good company, and with s'mores and roasting marshmallows, of course.

...

FRIDAY Music as Connection

Musitecture
South Lawn | 1-2 pm

Humanities Week team members collaborated with UVA Architecture School students to design this activity to take participants on a journey through the organizers' choice of music. The music directed the participants to design a physical space with plenty of room for creative freedom. On this journey, the participants felt the flow of rhythm through their fingers into their creation.

...

Broadway Talks Back with Salisha Thomas
Dance workshop | 2-3:15 pm, O'Hill Forum
Talkback | 3:30-4:30 pm, O'Hill Forum

Salisha Thomas is a Broadway performer in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, as well as a former Disney vocalist and Miss California! She led a dance workshop and participated in a Talkback with students. Students got a lesson in choreography from *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* and Broadway's upcoming *Once Upon a One More Time*, a musical featuring music of Britney Spears. No formal training or experience was required. At the Talkback, students learned about being on Broadway, being part of the development of a new Broadway musical, learning the music of both Carole King and Britney Spears, and more!

...

Sounds of the Future with UVA student bands
1515 University Avenue | 5-8 pm

This Humanities Week finale celebrated the talent of some of UVA's student bands and musical groups from a range of genres, soundscapes and backgrounds. Behind the Sun, The Cage, Trust Fall, and V Major performed for a university-wide audience at 1515 on The Corner.

...



Above, left to right
Students at the *Plant Adoption* event
Panelist and students at *AI or Human?* event
Students enjoying *Burn Your Past* with s'mores and roasted marshmallows.

Opposite page, clockwise
Dance workshop with Salisha Thomas
Salisha Thomas
Musitecture
Sounds of the Future with UVA bands

Cinematic & Art

Collaborations

Documents of Life, For the Record

A Middle East—South Asia Film Series

November 5–6, Virginia Film Festival

IHGC sponsored a sidebar on Middle East & South Asia Film Series at the Virginia Film Festival in November 2022. The sidebar, curated by Samhita Sunya from MESALC, presented three films by up-and-coming filmmakers. While not solely documentaries, all three films bear witness to the vitality and poignancy of seemingly small acts of care and connection, under pressing constraints:

- Colonial subjugation in Tanzanian filmmaker Amil Shivji's *Tug of War* a lush period film set in 1950s Zanzibar that brings Adam Shafi's eponymous Swahili novel—and a love story between a South Asian woman and Black man—to the screen.

Tug of War

Amil Shivji, 2021, Tanzania, Swahili/English
Nov 5 | 10: 45 am | Violet Crown

- Climate change and majoritarian nationalism, which threaten both human and non-human life in Shaunak Sen's lyrical documentary of two brothers who rehabilitate birds of prey amid Delhi's stiflingly polluted air in *All That Breathes*.

All That Breathes

Shaunak Sen, 2022, India, Hindi
Nov 5 | 10: 45 am | Violet Crown

- Physically and psychologically demanding low-wage seasonal agricultural work, which brings a band of feisty young women to a fig orchard in Tunisian documentarist Erige Sehiri's debut feature *Under Fig Trees*.

Under Fig Trees

Erige Sehiri, 2022, Tunisia, Arabic
Nov 6 | 8:30 pm | Violet Crown

The VFF side bar also featured a book discussion on November 6 at the Violet Crown with UVA film scholars and historians: Samhita Sunya, Paul Dobryden, and Chris Gratien. ■



Above
The official poster of the Tanzanian film *Tug of War* (Vuta N'Kuvute)

Opposite, left to right
The official poster of the film *All That Breathes*
The official poster of the film *Under Fig Trees*



An Evening of Hindustani Classical Music

WITH . Sanhita Nandi and a Hindustani Vocal Music Residency

April 28–30

CONVENER . Mehr Farooqi, Associate Professor, MESALC; and, Nomi Dave, Associate Professor, Music

CO-SPONSORED WITH . MESALC and Department of Music

Distinguished

Paul Edwards

Director of the Program on Science, Technology & Society (STS); and, William J. Perry Fellow in International Security, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University

Technology Eats History
Techno-Metabolism and Time in the Anthropocene

September 23

Brinda Bose

Associate Professor, Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

Together in the Pages of the Book
Notes on a Bengali Modernist Poetics of Desire

September 27

Geoff Mann

Professor, Geography, Simon Fraser University

Climate Leviathan
A Political Theory of our Planetary Future

October 28

Temi Odumosu

Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Scholar and Curator, iSchool, University of Washington

African Photography
The Ethics of Looking and Collecting in the Age of Restitution

November 11

Killian Quigley

Research Fellow, Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, ACU Melbourne

Depth Figures
Oceanic Futures, Submarine Remains

November 11

Julia Adeney Thomas

Professor, History, University of Notre Dame

Frameworks for the Future
The Environment, Climate Change, and the Anthropocene

February 23

Ian Baucom

Executive Vice President and Provost, University of Virginia

The Future Claimant's Representative
or What is the University For?

March 16

Premesh Lalu

Professor, Humanities in Africa, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town

Undoing Apartheid
Aesthetic Education

March 24

Guest Scholars

Francesca Orsini

Professor, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London

Studying, Strolling, Overhearing
Poetry in Multilingual Early Modern India

March 27

Dipesh Chakrabarty

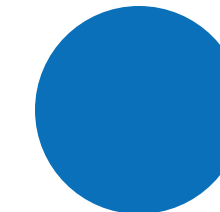
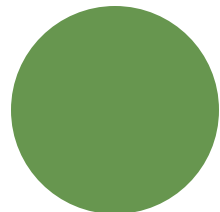
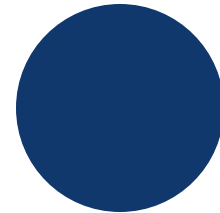
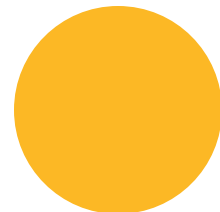
Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor of History, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

Planetary Futures

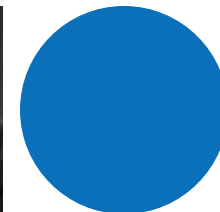
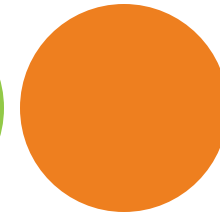
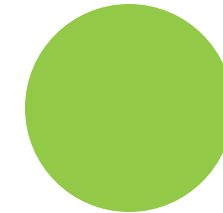
April 20



Above
Key image from "African Photography" symposium where Terri Odumosu spoke on Black portraiture, see p. 15



Column 1
Paul Edwards
Column 2 & 3
Geoff Mann, Temi Odumosu, and Killian Quigley
Column 4 & 5
Julia Adeney Thomas, Ian Baucom, and Premesh Lalu



Column 1
Francesca Orsini and Dipesh Chakrabarty

Buckner W. Clay Endowment Fellowships

Faculty Fellows

Ira Bashkow

Associate Professor, Anthropology

PROJECT

The Corporation
History, Culture, Capital

Sylvia Chong

Associate Professor, English and American Studies

PROJECT

Teacher Workshop
Introducing Vietnamese American Literature
into U.S. K-12 Curricula

Nomi Dave

Associate Professor, Music

PROJECT

Hindustani Vocal Music
Poetry as Multi-Modal Expression and Knowledge

Katia Dianina

Associate Professor, Slavic Languages and Literatures

PROJECT

Whose Heritage? Contested Orthodoxy and
Memory Wars in the Post-Soviet Public Space

Paul Dobryden

Assistant Professor, German

PROJECT

Film and Disability in Early
Twentieth-Century Germany

Mehr Farooqi

Professor, MESALC

PROJECT

Hindustani Vocal Music
Poetry as Multi-Modal Expression and Knowledge

Fiona Greenland

Associate Professor, Sociology

PROJECT

Archaeological Repatriation in
Postcolonial Context
Partage in Jordan, Libya, and Syria

Bruce Holsinger

Linden Kent Memorial Professor of English;
and, Editor, *New Literary History*

PROJECT

Premodern Encounters

Fotini Kondyli

Associate Professor, Art History and Archaeology

PROJECT

Sacred Landscapes, Undone

Michael Levenson

William B. Christian Professor of English

PROJECT

Support for critical research and creative
development towards production of play
"In the Net" in Manhattan and London.
Play concerns vulnerability of refugees to
the reach of power, nature of solidarity on the
margins, and pursuit of safety and defiance.

Xiaoyuan Liu

David Dean 21st Century Professor of
Asian Studies and History

PROJECT

The "Minority Issue" between the US and
China in the Cold War and After

Deborah McGrady

Professor, French

PROJECT

Premodern Encounters

Giulia Paoletti

Assistant Professor, Art History

PROJECT

African Photography
The Ethics of Looking and Collecting in
the Age of Restitution

Steven Parks

Professor, Writing and Rhetoric

PROJECT

Authoritarian Movements
and Democratic Futures
A Research Collaborative of Academics
and Advocates

Jenny Wales

Associate Professor, Drama

PROJECT

No Fear and Blues Long Gone
Nina Simone

Graduate Student Fellows

Susan Shoshan Abraham

PhD Candidate, Spanish, Italian & Portuguese

RESEARCH PROJECT

Narrating Faith Across the Straits
Morisco Manuals of Faith in Tunis and the Early
Modern Mediterranean

Thirumalai C.A. Achintya

PhD Candidate, History

RESEARCH PROJECT

Practitioners of the Law
Legal Professionals in British South Asia
1770-1870

Mylène Freeman

PhD Candidate, Politics

RESEARCH PROJECT

Shaping Policy, Shaping Identity
Theorizing the Politics of Group Identity
Through Education Policy

Lauren Mehfoud

PhD Candidate, Spanish, Italian & Portuguese

RESEARCH PROJECT

The Poetics of Prohibition
Drugs, Race, and Politics in Latin America

Robyn Morse

PhD Candidate, History

RESEARCH PROJECT

Oceanic Boundaries
Transnational Merchant Families of
the Persian Gulf

Wu Qu

PhD Candidate, History

RESEARCH PROJECT

A Cold Conflict amid a Hot War
US-Chinese Indoctrination Contest over
the POWs during the Korean War

Andie Waterman

PhD Candidate, English

RESEARCH PROJECT

The nature of literary theorist, educator,
and humanist I.A. Richards's internationally
influential approach to language teaching thru
and investigation of television film reels, LPs,
cassette tapes, and workbooks.

Kevin Woram

PhD Candidate, History

RESEARCH PROJECT

Attend summer course at British School at
Rome in Latin epigraphy, the study of ancient
Roman inscriptions. Dissertation focuses
on ancient marketplaces as locations where
economic forces and moral values intersect.

Yuchen Zhao

PhD Candidate, History

RESEARCH PROJECT

Revitalization of Tibetan Buddhism and
Identity Renewal and Maintenance in Northern
Sichuan in the Early Reform Era, 1978-2000

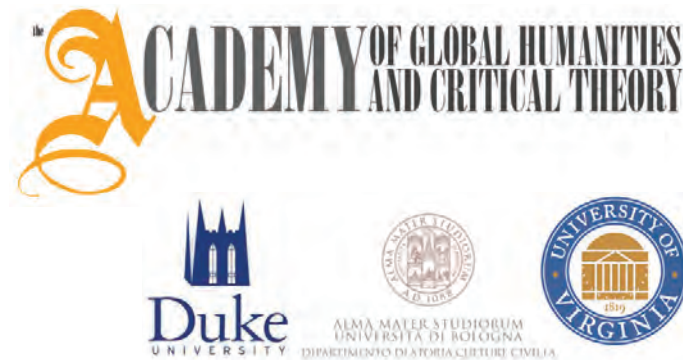


Global

Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory

The Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory, a research entity housed at the University of Bologna, was established in 2016 and jointly promoted by the University of Virginia, Duke University, and the University of Bologna. At the heart of the Academy is a graduate Summer School in Global Humanities and Critical Theory that offers students from around the world courses, workshops, lectures, and symposia by outstanding faculty. The IHGC is UVA's key facilitator of this collaboration that includes the graduate summer school, faculty exchanges, and collaborative workshops with Duke and Bologna. IHGC Director Debjani Ganguly is a member of the advisory board of the Academy and has served as a faculty member in the Academy's annual graduate summer school. The IHGC manages every aspect of UVA's participation in the Academy including vetting internal applications for the graduate school, fellowships exchanges, and collaborative workshops. In the summer of 2022, IHGC collaborated with Bologna and Duke to convene a summer school focused on oceanic humanities. Forty graduate students from 21 countries participated in the school, and 17 faculty experts from around the world taught courses and/or featured as keynote speakers. These included Marcus Rediker, Sharad Chari, Iain Chambers, Charles Heller, Lorenzo Pezanni, Melody Jue, Denise Ferreira Da Silva, Sarah Nuttall, and Jasmine Iozzelli. UVA faculty participants included Laurent Dubois and Maya Boutaghou. UVA sponsored five graduate students to attend the summer school. ■

Left top
University of Bologna
Left bottom
University of Lucerne



Partnerships



Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes | CHCI

Established in 1988, the 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 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, and its director, Debjani Ganguly, served on CHCI's International Advisory Board from 2009 until June 2021. She continues as an active participant in many of its key initiatives and has been a member of several sub-committees of this Consortium. The CHCI Annual Meeting is an opportunity for members to network and build professional linkages, and also to explore new frontiers of research in the humanities and interpretive social sciences. The IHGC had the privilege of hosting the annual meeting of the global membership of CHCI in June 2018 at the University of Virginia. ■

Lucerne-WiSER-ANU Collaboration

In Spring 2020, the IHGC partnered on a funding application to the Swiss funding agency, Movetia, to establish a graduate summer training institute with the University of Lucerne, University of the Witwatersrand, and Australian National University. The funding was successful. In 2022-2023 the team hosted a year-long seminar and workshop series on "Futures Now." From June 2-9, 2023, Lucerne's Institute for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies hosted a graduate summer school on "Movement(s)." IHGC Director Debjani Ganguly taught a seminar on "Network Mobilities" on June 6, 2023.



Staff & Advisory Board



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Director

Anne Gilliam

Program & Finance Manager

Joseph Wei

Seventh Year PhD Student, English
Graduate Research and Outreach Intern
2016-2022

Isabelle Ostertag

Third Year PhD Student, Art History
Graduate Research and Outreach Intern
2021-present

Rebecca Barry

Second Year MA Student, English
Humanities Week Graduate Coordinator
2021-2023

Tom Williams

Second Year MA Student, English
Graduate Marketing/Communications Intern
2022-present

Sam Jacob

Second Year PhD Student, English
Graduate Research, Outreach, and
Website Intern
2022-present

Victoria Custer

Fourth Year Undergraduate Student
Foreign Affairs and Media Studies
Humanities Week Co-Chair
2022-2023

Maryann Xue

Fourth Year Undergraduate Student
English and Psychology, Minor in History
Humanities Week Co-Chair
2022-2023



Column 1
Debjani Ganguly, Anne Gilliam, Joseph Wei, and
Isabelle Ostertag

Column 2
Rebecca Barry, Tom Williams, Sam Jacob, Victoria
Custer, and Maryann Xue

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College and Graduate School of Arts
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Professor, English

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Krishan Kumar

William R. Kenan Jr. Professor, Sociology

M. Jordan Love

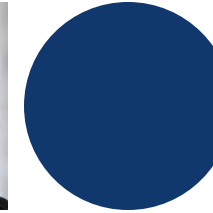
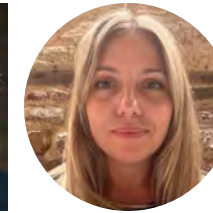
Carol R. Angle Academic Curator,
Education Department; and, Co-Interim
Director, The Fralin Museum of Art

John Miller

Arthur F. and Marian W. Stocker Professor,
Classics

Joseph Wei

Seventh Year PhD Student, English



Copy Editor/Production Manager

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Cesaretti; Courtesy of Mehr Farooqi; Courtesy
of Douglas Fordham; Anne Gilliam; Justin
Ide Photography; and, Sanjay Suchak/ UVA
Communications.

Printing

T&N Printing

Column 1
Sarah Betzer, Alison Booth, Enrico Cesaretti,
Jack Chen, Mehr Farooqi, Bonnie Gordon,
Natasha Heller, and Bruce Holsinger

Column 2
Fontini Kondyli, Krishan Kumar, M. Jordan Love,
John Miller, and Joseph Wei

An online version of this report is available at:
<http://ihgc.as.virginia.edu/current-annual-report>

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Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures

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