

2016-2017

ANNUAL REPORT

IHGC | Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures



COLLEGE and GRADUATE SCHOOL
of ARTS & SCIENCES

**The Buckner W. Clay
Endowment for the
Humanities**



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

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Two Springs ago I received a call from the **Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences**. He offered me the opportunity to lead the University of Virginia's Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures. I was then ten thousand miles away, in my Australian home at the foothills of

the Brindabella Mountains. Global travel had become second nature to me these last two decades. My urge to beat the tyranny of distance that was Australia generated many transoceanic journeys. The United States was a frequent destination, as were countries across Asia, Africa and Europe. But Canberra with its gum trees, kangaroos and red rosellas was always home. Was I ready to leave Burley-Griffin's exquisitely planned city and relocate to Jefferson's birthplace?

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

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

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

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

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

ABOUT THE IHGC

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

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

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

The humanities serve to define our world in myriad ways: its intellectual and cultural aspirations, its aesthetic values, its comprehension of the past that formed it, and its central ethical, moral, and theological dilemmas. With an enduring commitment to the humanities as both a domain of research innovation and an idiom of institutional self-scrutiny, the IHGC seeks to play a leading role in the shaping of higher education on the global stage. As our institution grows and transforms in the years ahead, it is time to re-imagine its relation to the world in terms more befitting our global century: as an engine of collaborative innovation and institutional transformation driven in great part by a culture of excellence in the humanities.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The Distinguished Visitors series brings the world's foremost humanities scholars to the University of Virginia. While most visitors present a public lecture, many of these scholars also choose to give generously of their time while in Charlottesville, participating in interdisciplinary colloquia, offering seminars for graduate students, and meeting informally with faculty and students alike. 2016-2017 included a remarkably diverse and accomplished set of visitors, sparking conversations and sharing cutting-edge research that continue to benefit the intellectual community at the IHGC.



R. Bin Wong, Distinguished Professor of History; Director of the Asia Institute, UCLA

March 21-23, 2016

"Perspectives on Area Studies in the 21st Century"



Suzy Kim, Associate Professor of Korean History, Rutgers University

April 11, 2016

"Toward Peace in Korea: 2015 Women Cross DMZ"



Paul Muldoon, Pulitzer Prize-Winning poet; Poetry Editor, *The New Yorker Magazine*; Howard G.B. Clark '21 University Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Creative Writing, Princeton University

April 16, 2016

"Rising to the Rising: Poetry and Politics in Ireland"



Evelyn Asultany, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Associate Professor in the Department of American Culture; Director of Arab and Muslim American Studies, University of Michigan

April 20, 2016

"Arabs and Muslims in the Media After 9/11" and "Understanding the Recent Rise in Islamophobia"



Ato Quayson, University Professor of English; Director of the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, University of Toronto

April 22-23, 2016

Lecture: "Postcolonial Tragedy"; Graduate Workshop: "Spatial Concepts for Postcolonial Literary Inquiry"



Raffaele Laudani, Associate Professor, Department of History and Cultures; Director of the Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory, University of Bologna

September 22, 2016

"UVA-Duke-Bologna Academy in Global Humanities and Critical Theory"



Kenneth George, Professor of Anthropology; Director of the School of Culture, History, and Language, Australian National University

November 10, 2016

"Companionable Objects, Companionable Conscience: Politics, Cover up, and Disclosure in an Indonesian Art Show"



Kirin Narayan, Professor of Anthropology, Australian National University

November 11, 2016

"Culture at Hand: The Anthropology of Creativity and the Making of a Divine Craftsman in India"



Laurent Dubois, Professor of Romance Studies; Director of the Forum for Scholars and Publics, Duke University

November 16, 2016 | Global South Colloquium

"Afro-Atlantic Genealogies of the Global South"



Juan Obarrio, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University

November 17, 2016 | Global South Colloquium

Plenary Panel: "Southern Theory"



Karin Pallaver, Associate Professor of History and Cultures, University of Bologna

November 17, 2016 | Global South Colloquium

"People without Pockets? Currency circulation and colonial monetary policies in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean"



Mukoma Wa Ngugi, Assistant Professor of English and African Studies, Cornell University

November 19, 2016 | Global South Colloquium

Round Table: "Global South and the Limits of Postcolonialism"



Tsitsi Jaji, Associate Professor of English, Duke University

November 19, 2016 | Global South Colloquium

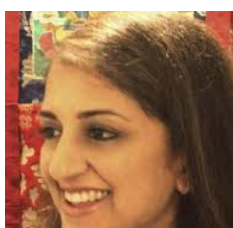
"Where Next? The Global South Out West"



Graham Harman, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc)

February 16, 2017 | with *New Literary History* and the School of Architecture

"On Knowledge in the Arts and Taste in the Sciences"



Ankhi Mukherjee, Professor of English & World Literature; Tutorial Fellow at Wadham, Oxford University

March 13, 2017

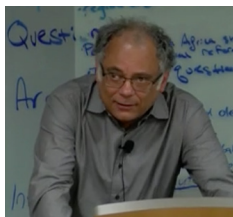
"Unseen City: Traveling Psychoanalysis and the Urban Poor"



Amanda Anderson, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Humanities and English; Director of the Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University

March 28, 2017

"Bleak Liberalism & the Question of Therapeutic Criticism"



Sandro Mezzadra, Associate Professor of Political & Social Sciences, University of Bologna

April 10, 2017

"Excavating Contemporary Capitalism: Toward a Critique of Extraction Writ Large"



Michael Hardt, Professor of Literature, Duke University

April 11, 2017

"Social Movements: Where Have All the Leaders Gone?"



Margaret Kelleher, Professor and Chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama, University College Dublin

April 20, 2017

"Language at the Bar: James Joyce, Myles Joyce and the 1882 Maamtrasna Murders (Galway, Ireland) Revisited"

SYMPOSIA/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES



Second Biennial Disability Studies Symposium - "Disability Across the Disciplines"

February 19, 2016

Convened by Christopher Krentz

Panels focused on Disability and Rights, Disability and the Human Life Cycle, and Disability and the Arts.

Notable keynote speakers included Michael Ashley Stein of Harvard Law School, who discussed "Disability Human Rights and the Politics of Inclusion," and Berkeley's Susan Schweik, presenting "Beside(s) Carrie Buck: Reproductive Justice and the Intellectual Disability Archive."

Ice Cycle

May 4, 2016

Convened by the Environmental Humanities Colloquium & Climate Cultures


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



Knowing the World
through Objects in the Eighteenth Century

Friday November 4th

9am-12:30pm
Harrison-Small Auditorium
University of Virginia



Tianhu god, Jingdezhen, China, 18th century, after a Meissen Spatula. Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Knowing the World through Objects in the Eighteenth Century

November 4, 2016

Convened by IHGC Mellon Fellows in Art History, Douglas Fordham & Amanda Phillips

How was knowledge of the world transmitted through objects in the long eighteenth century? This half-day symposium questioned the role of objects as evidence and explores methods and approaches that might cut across disciplines as we analyze intercultural exchange in the eighteenth century.



Photos from the Global South Colloquium. Left: Juan Obarrio (Johns Hopkins), Debjani Ganguly (UVA), Laurent Dubois (Duke) & Anne-Garland Mahler (UVA) on the plenary panel. (Credit: Anne Gilliam); Right: Tsitsi Jaji (Duke) delivers a talk, "Where Next? The Global South Out West." (Credit: Joseph Wei)

Global South: A Colloquium

November 16-19, 2016

Sponsored by the IHGC & the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; convened by Christina Mobley and Mrinalini Chakravorty

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

GLOBAL SOUTH

A Colloquium

November
16-19
2016

Keynote Events




Left to right: J.R. (c. 1983), "Women are Heroes" Series, Action in Kibera Slum, General View, Kenya, 2009; Bhupen Khakkar (1934-2003), "Procession (Daggraha)"

<p>Wednesday November 16, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Nau Hall 101 "Afro-Atlantic Genealogies of the Global South"</p> <p> Laurent Dubois History & Romance Studies Duke University</p> <p>Thursday November 17, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Nau Hall 101 Plenary Panel: "Southern Theory"</p> <p> Juan Obarrio Anthropology Johns Hopkins University</p> <p> Debjani Ganguly English, Director of the IHGC University of Virginia</p> <p> Ian Baucom Buckner-W. Clay Dean of Arts & Sciences University of Virginia</p>	<p>Friday November 18, 4:00 - 5:30 pm, New Cabell Hall 236 "Poetry, the Global South, and the Migration of Form"</p> <p> Jahan Ramazani English University of Virginia</p> <p>Saturday November 19, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, New Cabell Hall 236 "Where Next? The Global South Out West"</p> <p> Tsitsi Jaji English Duke University</p>
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Posthumanism in the Anthropocene

December 2, 2016

Convened by Enrico Cesaretti

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

Global History of Black Girlhood Conference

March 17-18, 2017

Convened by Corinne Field, Abosede George, and LaKisha Simmons

The Global History of Black Girlhood Conference gathered over forty scholars, artists and activists to present recent research, creative works, and political organizing that places the emerging field of black girls’ history within a global framework. The conference included a keynote panel on “Global Black Girl Politics” and a reading by Tayari Jones from her award-winning novel *Silver Sparrow*.



Left: Scholars gather in Minor Hall for the “Global History of Black Girlhood Conference.” (Credit: M. Bailey and the Global History of Black Girlhood Conference). Right: Stephen Burt, Nikki Skillman, and Don Share speak at the “What is a Poem?” symposium. (Credit: Peter Miller)

What is a Poem? Inaugural Symposium of the Center for Poetry & Poetics

March 17, 2017

Convened by Jahan Ramazani and Peter Miller

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



Joan of Arc/Afterlives Symposium

March 30, 2017

Convened by Bonnie Gordon, Deborah McGrady, and Sarah Betzer

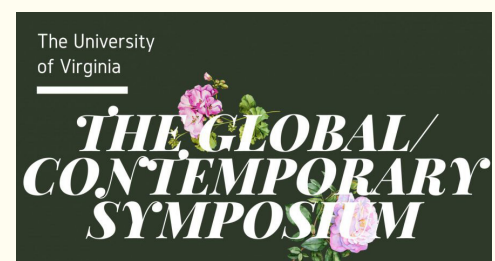
“Joan of Arc/Afterlives” explored the reception of Joan and the many roles Joan has played in world culture. Joan’s many lives have included playing the role of heretic and sexual ingénue, icon of the American feminist movement and symbol of the ultra right in France, victim of the patriarchal establishment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

The Global/Contemporary Symposium

March 31, 2017

Convened by Annie Galvin, Jesse Bordwin, and Anastatia Curley

What is gained and what is lost, what is revealed, and what is obscured by understanding the moment in which we live as global? This one-day symposium at the University of Virginia explored the alignment of two dominant terms within the academy, the “contemporary” and the “global,” to question, challenge, and expand the relationship between them.



Political Thinking at the Margins Conference

April 6-7, 2017

Convened by Murad Idris, Lawrie Balfour, and Sandhya Shukla

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



Left: Michael Hardt delivers a presentation titled “Social Movements: Where Have All the Leaders Gone?” (Credit: Anne Gilliam). Right: Mrinalini Chakravorty gives a talk at the “Global/Contemporary Symposium” on March 31, 2017. (Credit: Anastatia Curley)

Contemporary Francophone African Literature, Cinema, and Culture

April 8, 2017

Sponsored by the IHGC & the Center for Liberal Arts at UVA

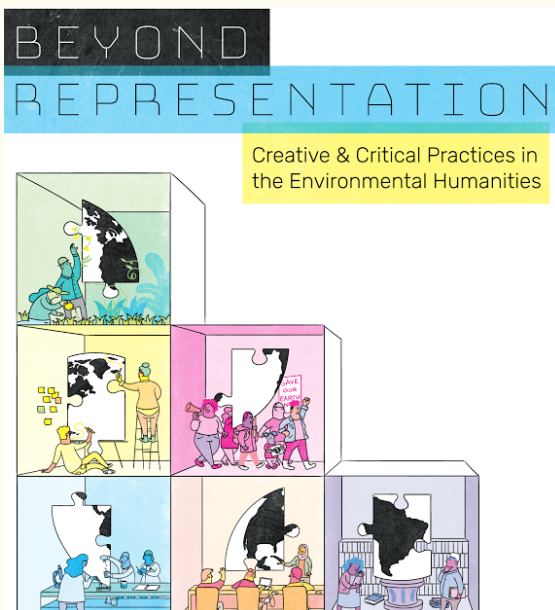
Scholars from UVA and Washington & Lee University shared their expertise in a series of presentations on major literary texts and films by African artists. Each presentation took into account pertinent pedagogical issues and each presentation was followed by a Q&A session.



Kandioura Drame talks to K-12 teachers at the Contemporary Francophone African Literature, Cinema, and Culture workshop. (Credit: Mary Gilbert)



Left: Stephanie Bernhard, Carly Griffith, and Amie Whittemore at the “Beyond Representation” symposium (Credit: Ali Glassie). Right: Austin Hetrick introduces Amitav Ghosh. (Credit: Anne Gilliam)



Beyond Representation: Creative & Critical Practices in the Environmental Humanities

April 8-9, 2017

Convened by Stephanie Bernhard, Caroline Griffith, and Ali Glassie

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

A Literary History of Information Management in China

May 13-14, 2017

Convened by Jack Chen

This workshop brought together humanities scholars working on information management (the process and methods by which information is stored, structured, made retrievable, and circulated), particularly in relationship to literary history. The workshop laid the foundations for a new collaborative volume on literary history and information management in China, examining how literary information has been organized at the level of the word, the document, and the collection, over the long span of Chinese history and through cultural forms such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, anthologies, canons, archives, and internet databases.



MAY 13 & 14, 2017
GLOBAL SOUTH LABORATORY (WILSON 142)

A LITERARY HISTORY OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN CHINA

supported by
 CENTER FOR GLOBAL inquiry innovation
 IHGC | Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures
 UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA | Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences AHSS/VNPR Research
 EAST ASIA CENTER | University of East London
 PAGE-BARBOROUGH WORKSHOPS

BEING HUMAN IN A GLOBAL AGE

Sir Salman Rushdie, Suketu Mehta
September 16, 2016

We live in a global age. Technology is booming, populations are growing, and the world is constantly moving. As humans, this can be overwhelming. "Human beings," writes novelist Salman Rushdie, "do not perceive things whole; we are not gods but wounded creatures, cracked lenses, capable only of fractured perceptions." Suketu Mehta, author of *Maximum City* and *Bombay: Lost and Found*, interviewed Rushdie on how literature and the humanities can help us make sense of our unlimited world and our attempts to find home within it. This event was a part of the Human/Ties celebration of the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities, hosted by the University of Virginia.



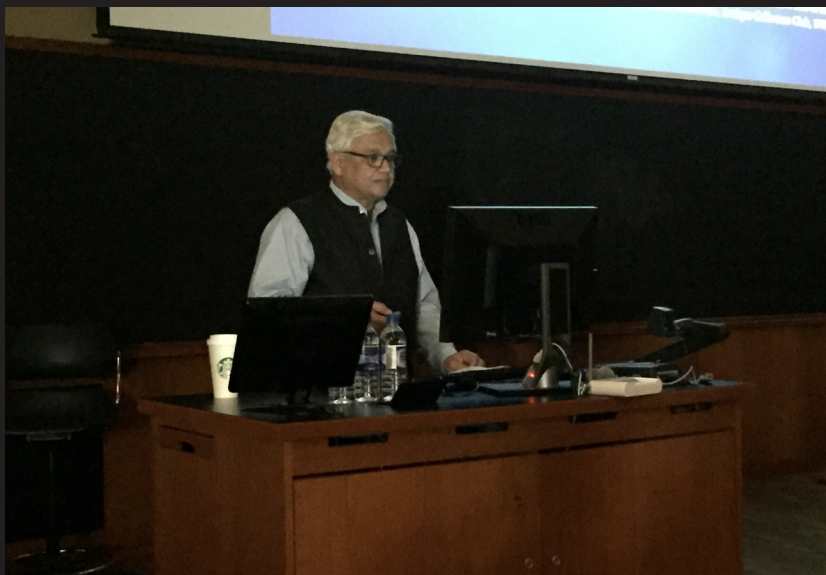
Left to right: Suketu Mehta, Salman Rushdie, and Debjani Ganguly



IHGC WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE 2016-2017

AMITAV GHOSH

APRIL 24-30, 2017



Amitav Ghosh was the IHGC Writer-in-Residence for the 2016-17 school year. On April 26, he delivered a public lecture entitled "**From Bombay to Canton and Back: Traveling the Indian Ocean Trade Route,**" which explored Guangzhou as an Indian opium trader might have seen it in the 19th century.

In a conversation with Professor Debjani Ganguly on April 27, Ghosh discussed his latest book, ***The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable***, and on April 28, he led a workshop on the historical novel and ethnographic writing with Anthropology students and members of the Global South Lab.

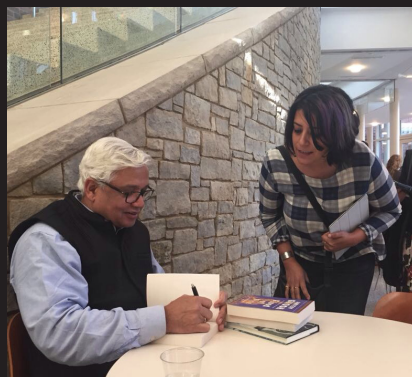


Photo credit: Philip McEldowney

MELLON HUMANITIES FELLOWS PROGRAM

2015-17

The **Mellon Humanities Fellows Program** is part of a broad multi-year initiative on **The Global South: An Agenda for Advanced Research and Curricular Innovation in the Humanities (2015-2020)** funded in partnership by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The funding goes towards the creation of new courses and research focused on the connected histories and cultures of Africa, Latin America, South and East Asia and other world regions, as well as hiring new faculty in these areas of study.

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

2015-16 MELLON HUMANITIES FELLOWS



Hanadi Al-Samman

Associate Professor, Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures
Queering the Arab Closet

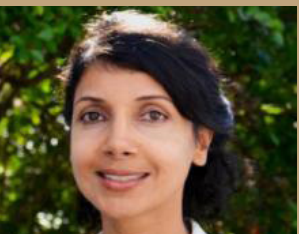
“Queering the Arab Closet” explores sites of contestation and contamination resulting from Arab queers’ adherence to the politics of the Western “closet.” The project examines three historical moments in Arabic literature and culture which articulate differing relationships of same-sex individuals to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



Lawrie Balfour

Professor, Politics
Reparations: A Democratic Idea

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



Nomi Dave

Assistant Professor, Music
What Good is Music?

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



Nichole Flores

Assistant Professor, Religious Studies

Guadalupe in the Public Square: Aesthetic Solidarity and the Pursuit of Justice

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



Denise Walsh

Associate Professor, Politics

When Rights Go Wrong: Multiculturalism and Women's Rights

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

2016-17 MELLON HUMANITIES FELLOWS



Enrico Cesaretti

Associate Professor, Spanish, Italian & Portuguese

Telling Matters: Narratives of Ecological Entanglements in Modern Italy

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



Sheila Crane

Associate Professor, Architectural History, School of Architecture

Inventing Informality

Through the analysis of buildings and constructed landscapes, maps, urban plans, written reports, photographs, and literary descriptions, “*Inventing Informality*” considers the bidonville as an urban form, a subject of visual representation, a site of knowledge production, an object of reengineering, and a place of social and spatial reinvention on the part of its inhabitants. My research aims to contribute to a broader rethinking of planetary

urbanism through the lens of the aesthetics and ethics of the informal, one that reconsiders how the bidonvilles of Casablanca, the slums of Mumbai, the shantytowns in Lagos, the favelas of Rio, the gecekondu in Istanbul, and the ‘ashwa’iyyat of Cairo have been conceived at once as globally distributed symptoms of distinctively 21st-century urban conditions and as productive paradigms for urban theory and design practice.



Douglas Fordham

Associate Professor, Art History

Aquatint Empires

My research examines the importance of what used to be known as ‘English Coloured Books’ to the conceptualization and visualization of the British Empire. A great many of these images were produced in the medium of aquatint, a tonal intaglio process that encouraged certain types of visual themes, historical narratives, and viewer responses.

Three ambitious and beautifully illustrated publications lie at the heart of my account, Thomas Daniell’s *Hindoo Excavations* (1803), William Alexander’s *Costume of China* (1805), and Samuel Daniell’s *African Scenery and Animals* (1804–05). My research asks what these publications might reveal about Britain’s place in the world following the Treaty of Amiens of 1802. More broadly, it considers seriality as empire: how did elaborate aquatint publications color British visions of Africa, Asia, and beyond?



Christian McMillen

Professor, History

Water Development in the Global South, 1960s to the Present

I am in the midst of working on a book on the development of clean water and sanitation for the developing world. As of now I am concentrating on two things: first, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Health Organization (WHO) sponsored International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade that ran from

1978 to 1990. One cannot overstate the Water Decade’s influence on global water history both in terms of its ambition and its legacy. The global community entered the Decade optimistic, committed to equity and improving the world’s health (this was the same period during which the WHO embarked on its Health for All by 2000 campaign and attempted to institute primary health care as the goal of global public health). By the end of the Decade most were chastened, ambitions were tempered, and a new way of evaluating success or failure—cost effective analysis—in public health had come to dominate.



Amanda Phillips

Assistant Professor, Art History

Between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean: Silk and the Commerce of Fashion in the Early Modern Period

This project investigates the impact of the trade of silks from the Indian Ocean into the territories of the Ottoman Empire and specifically into Istanbul during the early modern period. This research and its publication aim to balance existing scholarship on luxury

textiles, which emphasizes the brisk commerce in goods and fashions in the Mediterranean exclusively, and to extend the period of study into the eighteenth century, which has been largely neglected. In doing so, it also addresses the larger historiographical problem of Ottoman decline, showing that craftsmen, merchants, and customers responded actively to challenges posed by changing political, economic, environmental, and social circumstances.

MELLON FELLOWS SYMPOSIA 2016-17

March 4, 2016

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

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

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

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

October 7, 2016

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

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

February 10, 2017

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

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

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

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

March 3, 2017

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

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

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

April 14, 2017

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

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

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

MELLON FACULTY @ UVA



Michael Allen, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies



Jessica Andruss, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies



Fahad Bishara, Assistant Professor, Department of History



Maya Boutaghrou, Assistant Professor, Department of French



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



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



James Igoe, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology

Willis Jenkins, Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies



Mona Kasra, Assistant Professor, Department of Drama



Fotini Kondyli, Assistant Professor, Department of Art History



Mary Kuhn, Assistant Professor, Professor of English



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



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



Andrej Petrovic, Professor, Department of Classics



CLAY FACULTY FELLOWS 2016-17

Ira Bashkow

Associate Professor, Anthropology

Introduction to Field Ethnography: How to Study People in Natural Settings

Allison Bigelow

Assistant Professor, Spanish, Italian & Portuguese

Translation and Transmission in the Early Americas

Jenny Clay

William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor, Classics

Team Teach, with Athanassios Vergados of Heidelberg

Corinne Field

Assistant Professor, Women, Gender & Sexuality

The Global History of Black Girlhood

Richard Handler

Professor, Anthropology, and Director of Global Development Studies Program

Three-day Residency of Artist Matthew Bakkom

Claudrena N. Harold

Associate Professor, History

Embracing the Hyphen: The Making and Remaking of African Identity in the United States

Murad Idris

Assistant Professor, Politics

Political Thinking from the Margins: A Global Conference

James Loeffler

Associate Professor, History

Two-Day Conference, “The History of the Human Rights Treatises”

Jill Martiniuk

Lecturer, Slavic Languages and Literatures

Making a Cultural Museum: Exploring Russian Images & Identity in the Digital

CLAY GRADUATE FELLOWS 2016-17

Hannah Beaman

College of Arts & Sciences

“Compañeros Training and Empowerment Project: A Partnership between Students and Latino Community Health Workers in Charlottesville”

Thomas Berenato

English

“Research at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth”

Stephanie Bernhard

English

“Environmental Humanities Symposium”

Jesse Bordwin

English

“Summer School on Global Studies & Critic Theory and Research in Ireland”

Joshua Brown

Curry School of Education

“From Digital Humanities to Organizational Studies”

Swati Chawla

History

“Leaving Behind the Rubbish: Tibetan Buddhist Nuns in Contemporary India”

Dannah Dennis

Anthropology

“Re-Imagining the Nation: Citizens in the New Nepal”

Alexandra Evans

History

“Reagan’s Middle East: Lebanon and the Evolution of U.S. Strategy, 1981-1985”

Annie Galvin

English

“The Global Contemporary: An Interdisciplinary Symposium”

Macario Garcia

Anthropology

“Sensing Incarceration: Mobility and Confinement in United States Corrections Systems”

Mary Gilbert

French

“Racine and the Ancients: Andromaque, Britannicus , and Phèdre”

Paul Gleason

Religious Studies

“Study the Libraries of Lord Edward Herbert of Cherbury at Jesus”

Maya Hislop

English

“A Memorial to Rape and Race: Remembering the Women of Color”

Hannah Hotzman

French

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

Kimberly Hursh

History

“Dissertation Research at the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain”

Fauzia Husain

Sociology

“Pakistani Policewomen – Training, Social Aspects, Nationalism, Religion”

Jiyeon Kang

Anthropology

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

Nasser Meerkhan

Spanish, Italian & Portuguese

“The Divine Comedy” in Dialogue with Islamic Legends: On Visual Medieval Depictions of the Afterlife”

Scott Miller

History

“A Merchant’s Republic: Independence, Depression, and the Development of American Capitalism, 1760-1807”

Murad Mumtaz

Art & Architecture

“Muslim Devotional Portraiture in the Field of South Asian Painting”

Ethan Reed

English

“Langston Hughes Research at Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library”

Sean Tennant

Classical Art & Archaeology

“Domestic Architecture within the Northwestern Roman Provinces in Europe”



Nan MacMillan's poetry reading (right), Lady T spoken word poet (middle), and other students, April 22, 2017.



Corinne Odom facilitating the Poverty Simulation.



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



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



Ice cream promoting the upcoming Humanities Week festivities.



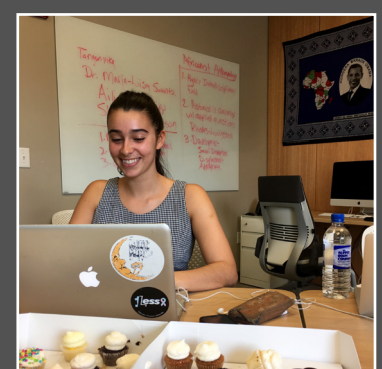
Michael Levenson moderates a discussion with Robert Fatton, Tessie San Martin & Anuj Kapoor, April 18, 2017.



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



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



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

HUMANITIES WEEK 2017: LIVING (IN)EQUALITY

Hosted by the University of Virginia's Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures
Convened by Anne Gilliam, Corinne Odom & Beki San Martin

Humanities Week 2017 (April 17th - 22nd) was the annual student-produced, interdisciplinary cultural celebration of the humanities held on Grounds and produced by the Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures.

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

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



SustainAPitch, organized by Suchita Chharia.



Beki San Martin talks to visiting students about Humanities Week 2017.



Jodie Ehlers and GracePatrice Anyetei-Anum share their photography.

HUMANITIES LABS

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



GLOBAL SOUTH: CONCEPT & PRACTICE

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

The idea of this Lab originates in the assumption that an ambitious, multi-scalar agenda for curriculum development and advanced research on the Global South requires, in the first instance, a sustained interrogation of its theoretical,

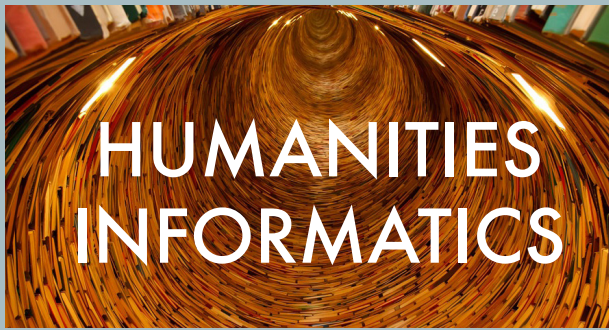
historical and cartographic provenance across a vibrant interdisciplinary space. Global South is an unsettled and unsettling epistemic frame from which to contemplate the world. Some think of it as a post-Cold War era replacement for the 'Third World' (and so primarily covering Africa, Latin America,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

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

This Lab explores the phenomenon of improvised urban development in the African continent with special focus on South, East, and sub-Saharan African. Africa's current urban explosion is not happening in ways that are easily legible to standard modernization scenarios. Rural migrants are flocking to cities in many contexts without the mechanization and commodification of any antecedent agricultural revolution.

Industrialization, with its concomitant need for agglomeration and large labor pools is also not driving African urbanization. Rapidly growing African cities, for the most part, are not associated with stock markets and financial centers, high-profile information technology and software development, or even telemarketing and phone-in service centers. Rather, contemporary African urbanization is characterized by an extraordinary diversity of economic activities, understood as "the informal sector." In spite of the connotations of the label "informal," however, many activities encompassed by this so-called sector are remarkably high-tech. But high-tech in African urban contexts reflects a new dynamic, in which technology is not just networked, like in the Silicon Valley and comparable urban spaces, but also widely distributed, throughout rhizomatic expanses of improvised neighborhoods. Networked devices are in the hands of the creative many. How might scholars understand this twenty-first century mode of urbanism in the Global South?





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

Funded by UVA's strategic investment funds, the Humanities Informatics Lab brings together scholars working on questions arising from the management, control, and flow of information in both historical and contemporary contexts. The Lab addresses the ways in which data structures and the actual computation of data inform the various histories of humanistic cultural production,

human scientific endeavors, and studies of the evolution of human life itself. Through active collaboration with traditional humanities research and disciplines such as library science, engineering, mathematics, statistics, computer science, neuroscience, and bioinformatics, the Humanities Informatics Lab leverages UVA strength in humanistic-oriented research and information sciences and takes a leadership role in global academia for the University in innovative research, creative teaching, and public engagement in the field of humanities informatics.



(Credit: Learning, Design & Technology)



GRADUATE COLLABORATIVE NETWORKS (2017-18)

Public Humanities Lab

Co-leaders: Samantha Wallace, DeVan Ard, James Ascher, Ali Glassie, Sarah Winstein-Hibbs

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

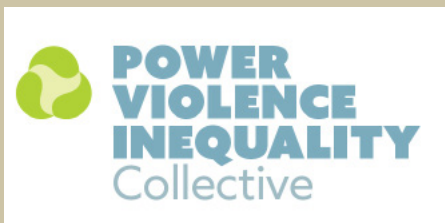
Ecological Methods Lab

Co-leaders: Jeremy Sorgen, Luke Kreider, Alice Besterman

The "Eco-Methods Lab" facilitates interdisciplinary research seeking "best practices" for bringing ecological principles into the humanities. "Ecology" is gaining currency in the humanities as a metaphor that aims to promote non-anthropocentric modes of inquiry and knowledge production, while trying to making sense of the complex entanglement of environmental, cultural, and political systems. The term now distinguishes an enormous array of subfields in the humanities -- we have political ecology and ecological economics, spiritual ecology and ecological theology, eco-poetics and ecosophy, eco-linguistics and eco-acoustics, eco-feminism, eco-criticism, and more. The Lab will further serve as a springboard for future collaborations on public humanities initiatives, partnerships between the sciences and humanities, information sharing networks, advocacy groups, and other research activities.

FACULTY RESEARCH NETWORKS

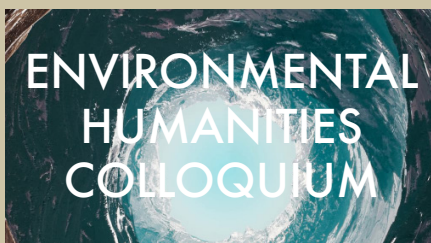
Sometimes interdisciplinary research just happens: people meet, think, and research across disciplinary boundaries. But the IHGC is also committed to helping that kind of thinking develop: to pushing scholars to encounter work and scholarly approaches they might not otherwise. Through the support and development of Faculty Research Networks, the IHGC licenses and supports innovative efforts that bring together diverse scholars working on some of the central problems facing the Commonwealth and the globe. In 2016-2017, the Institute supported these two networks:



POWER, VIOLENCE & INEQUALITY COLLECTIVE

The Power, Violence & Inequality (PVI) Collective in the College of Arts & Sciences brings together scholars, students, and others in the University community and beyond to advance research, mentorship, and teaching focused on violence rooted in power and inequality, and to foster

collaboration in those areas across disciplines, methods, and university units. Focusing especially on structural violence, the collective takes on complex problems rooted in gender, race, sexuality, and other power relations. The PVI Collective is directed by Denise Walsh, Associate Professor of Politics and Women, Gender and Sexuality; and Nicholas Winter, Associate Professor of Politics.



ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES COLLOQUIUM

Led in 2016-2017 by University of Virginia faculty from English, Italian, Anthropology, and the School of Architecture, **the Environmental Humanities Colloquium (EHC)** is the University of Virginia's major interdisciplinary working group for the study of the environmental humanities. It is a remarkably

diverse community, one which often finds future lawyers speaking to literature scholars, climate scientists talking cost-benefit analysis, and undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty speaking together about common environmental challenges. This academic year, the EHC hosted or co-hosted nine speakers, sponsored a two-day symposium, and (with the help of our graduate interns) inaugurated a podcast series about common environmental challenges.

PARTNERSHIPS

CONSORTIUM OF HUMANITIES CENTERS AND INSTITUTES (CHCI)



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

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

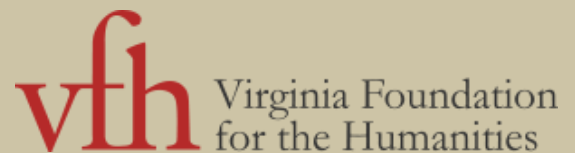


The **Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory** is a new research entity jointly promoted by the University of Virginia, Duke University, and the University of Bologna. The IHGC is UVA's key facilitator of this collaboration. The Academy is predicated on the assumption that the humanities and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

VIRGINIA FOUNDATION OF THE HUMANITIES

Virginia Foundation for the Humanities connects people and ideas to explore the human experience and inspire cultural engagement.

It is the largest of all fifty-six state humanities councils with the most diverse programs and funding sources in the nation. VFH encourages discovery and connection through the humanities by supporting and producing cultural, civic, local, and global educational programs for broad public audiences. Since its founding in 1974, VFH has produced more than 40,000 humanities programs serving communities large and small throughout Virginia, the nation and the world. In addition to Foundation-directed programs including festivals, publications, digital initiatives, conferences, teacher institutes, and public radio programs, VFH has contributed to more than 3,000 grant projects and 300 individual and collaborative fellowships. In the coming years, the IHGC aims to build its public humanities initiatives in partnership with the VFH.



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(minor)*

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Undergraduate Intern

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

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