From the Director

It has been a privilege to serve as interim director of the Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures (IHGC) during the most challenging year in its history: a year that began on Zoom and ended on Zoom, as we moved our extensive programming online as a result of the global pandemic. As the University of Virginia’s grounds and the city of Charlottesville slowly begin to reopen, our thoughts remain with colleagues and friends in those parts of the world still suffering gravely from the ravages of the pandemic: in Brazil, in India and East Asia, in sub-Saharan Africa, and elsewhere.

And, of course, here at home. The crisis of the pandemic has proved simultaneously global and local in nature. In the Commonwealth of Virginia alone, over eleven thousand have died from the virus, another fifty thousand-plus have been hospitalized, and the disease has disproportionately affected communities of color in Virginia and around the United States. All this while a struggle for racial justice continues with even deeper gravitas and the disease has disproportionately affected communities of color in Virginia and around the United States. All this while a struggle for racial justice continues with even deeper gravitas.

It has been observed many times that the coronavirus represents an unprecedented threat to the relentless forces of globalization. But humanities scholars are rightly skeptical of claims to the unprecedented. Historians, scholars of literature and the arts, philosophers and classicists: all are well attuned to how human cultures have confronted and endured cataclysms, whether the Antonine Plague of the second century of the Common Era or the Black Death in the later Middle Ages, the 1918-19 flu or the HIV/AIDS crisis. Such catastrophes had profound effects on the intellectual paradigms and collective memories of cultures past. In the years ahead, there is no doubt that this pandemic will shape much of our own teaching and research in ways we cannot yet foresee or imagine.

One unforeseen highlight of the year was our collaboration with PEN America and other departments and institutes at the University of Virginia for a four-part series titled “Free Expression and the Humanities.” The events (discussed in a separate section of this report below) brought together UVA faculty and students with prominent journalists, writers, political figures, and others to explore the nature of free expression and the role of the humanities in shaping democratic conversation.

Another transformational series has come in the form of the Mellon Faculty Fellows seminars, an array of biweekly intellectual exchanges led by our faculty fellows, who have come from over a dozen disciplines in the six years of the program’s existence. Moving these seminars onto virtual platforms has greatly expanded both the quantity and the geographical range of audiences. Several seminars brought in over a hundred participants and viewers from around the world, confirming our conviction that virtual programming will remain a fixture of IHGC offerings in the years ahead.

Throughout this year as interim director I have been moved by the resilience and intellectual vibrancy of my colleagues, who have responded to crisis with a spirit of community and exchange that has left me in awe. I am particularly grateful to the Institute’s hard-working staff, including Karen Huang, Joe Wei, Caroline Whitcomb, and especially Anne Gilliam, all of whom have worked behind the scenes and often invisibly throughout this bittersweet year to make what we do as successful as it can be. I look forward to working with Debjani Ganguly as she transitions back to the IHGC in Fall 2021, and I am thankful for her guidance over these months of my directorship.

— Bruce Holsinger, IHGC Interim Director

INSTITUTE OF THE HUMANITIES & GLOBAL CULTURES
Located on the historic grounds of the University of Virginia, the Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures (IHGC) fosters a community of scholars attuned to the global calling of the humanities in the 21st century. The humanities today are oriented toward generating new universals of human belonging as they negotiate vast terrains of cultural difference. The “human” in the humanities is indelibly colored by the ethnos of the global others, even as it strives to articulate its provenance through a language of the commons in the name of our planetary fragility and a post-human consciousness. This shift offers unprecedented opportunities to rethink the very fundamentals of our humanistic disciplines, a task that the IHGC undertakes in all earnest.

The Institute’s mission gives new meaning to Thomas Jefferson’s founding vision for the University of Virginia as “the future bulwark of the human mind in this hemisphere.” In partnership with 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.

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

The humanities serve to define our world in myriad ways: through its intellectual and cultural aspirations, its aesthetic values, its comprehension of the past that formed it, and its political, ethical, and theological dilemmas. With an enduring commitment to the humanities as both a domain of research innovation and an idiom of institutional self-scrutiny, the IHGC seeks to play a meaningful role in shaping humanities scholarship on the global stage, and in fostering democratic cultures of learning locally and nationally.
The ‘Long’ Eighteenth Century?

Sarah Betzer
Associate Professor of Art History, Department of Art

2020-21 Fellow

Sarah Betzer’s research takes off from the ubiquity of the phrase “the long eighteenth century.” Proliferating in calls for participation and panel descriptions throughout art history and visual culture studies, if the mark of an elongated eighteenth century is inescapable, this terminology merits further scrutiny. She considered the rise of a “long” eighteenth century alongside the significant transformation of art historical inquiry into expanded geographical and cultural terrains. What is meant by the “long” eighteenth century? From which vantage points, and for whom, is it long? And to what ends has this elongation been directed? And what impact, if any, has a “worlding” of art history had upon humanistic thinking about the relative length or shortness, the narrowness or breadth, of the eighteenth century?

Allison Bigelow
Tim Scaife Discovery Chair Associate Professor of Spanish, Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese

Mining Language

Racial Thinking, Indigenous Knowledge, and Colonial Metallurgy in the Early Modern Iberian World

Bigelow’s new project at the IHGC builds from the methods she developed in her first book, Mining Language: Racial Thinking, Indigenous Knowledge, and Colonial Metallurgy in the Early Modern Iberian World (Omonhundro Institute of Early American History and Culture for the University of North Carolina Press, May 2020). This new project turns from mining to agriculture, another critical vernacular science and a root paradigm of settler colonialism. In her tentatively titled Women of Corn, Men of Corn: The Meanings of Maize Agriculture in the Early Americas, she is comparing agricultural technologies and the techniques of maize cultivation in two regions of the hemisphere, Mayan-speaking Mesoamerica, where men grew crops, and the Algonquin-speaking Chesapeake, where women took charge of farming. This framework of similarity and difference has allowed her to analyze how gender influenced agricultural life, and how agricultural patterns shaped gender systems, before and after the European invasion.

Ari Blatt
Associate Professor, Department of French

State of Place, State of Mind

Vernacular Landscapes in Contemporary French Photography

Since the mid-1980s, art photographers from metropolitan France have been training their lenses on places throughout the country they call home. Their work constitutes a dynamic, thoughtful, and altogether transformative way of envisioning what on the surface might seem like perfectly mundane locations, but which the photographers endorse as landscapes endowed with the capacity to expand and indeed “scape” our experience and understanding of modern France. His book project, The Topographic Imaginary: Attending to Place in Contemporary French Photography, introduces a selection of some of the most compelling artists who exemplify this trend. Particularly sensitive to the physiognomic state of the nation today—and to environments both natural and man-made—the pictures they produce depict diverse sectors of terrain from throughout urban, peri-urban, and rural France. They are especially adept at rendering the variegated contours and surface features of some of the nation’s most unheralded and vernacular landscapes more visible than they have ever been. As they investigate various zones of the real that, under most conditions, would normally elude us, these images contribute to a consistently emerging sense of place and shape our gaze of late twentieth- and early twenty-first-century France in exciting new ways. They invest the places they picture with meaning and re-negotiate how the nation has come to be seen. They revist, challenge, and dismantle dominant conceptions associated with the French photographic tradition and the mythologies it has engendered. And, they show how contemporary photographers deploy the medium and experiment with its conventions to reimagine a more traditional and time-worn idea of the country’s shared common space.

Tessa Farmer
Assistant Professor, Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures

Cairo’s Sabils

Gifting Water

Farmer’s research focuses on sabils, or charitable water fountains, as a key location for exploring vernacular water architecture and investigating the underlying conceptual frameworks that give them life. Sabils are important parts of the built environment of Cairo, drawing on religious precedence and enacting everyday ethical notions of reciprocity. They are particularly important in the changing environmental conditions of Cairo and point to the ways in which vernacular and small-scale water infrastructure can add to the picture of urban water resilience in the context of Climate Change. As vernacular memorials, sabils operate as the conduit and material co-producers of hasanat (merits accrued with God) for the souls of departed loved ones. As nodes in neighborly relations, sabils engage neighbors in practices of asynchronous exchanges of the embodied kindness of a cold drink of water and the ephemeral gift of participating in the accrual of divine favor. Sabils are an important manifestation of local processes of creative resilience, everyday practices of tinkering and collective action that probe the limits of the possible, work to remake the built environment and stitch together fluid social networks, and stake claims to the city. The project also investigates the diversity of material forms; practices of care and repair for clay and metal water infrastructure; embodied notions of smell, taste and temperature; a shifting history of social responses to a material context of hardship; and, practices of neighborliness that draw on religious traditions to shape the livability and transversality of Cairo’s urban landscapes.

Mellon Humanities Fellows Program

2020-21 marked the final year of the Mellon Humanities Fellows Program, 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 & Sciences. In addition to the faculty Fellowship program, the funding also supported Humanities Labs, new faculty hires, new courses, and research focused on the connected histories and cultures of the Global South, an idea that refers both to a post-Cold War cartographic conception embracing Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Central Asia, South East Asia, and the Pacific Islands, as well as spaces shaped by global histories of capitalism, empire, race, and diaspora.
Mapping Indigenous/UVA Relations
Stories of Place, Space, and Histories

Mapping Indigenous/UVA Relations: Stories of Space, Place, and Histories is a participatory action methodological project that focuses on sparsely documented Indigenous relations with the University of Virginia. This project combines archival materials related to Indigenous histories and presences in and around UVA with Virginia tribal citizens’ personal digital stories that articulate Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and stories of place, space, and history. These digital stories are powerful and brief visual narratives that have the potential to uncover histories layered into the fabric of UVA, Charlottesville, and the surrounding areas. Centering tribal citizens not as research participants, but as research partners, shifts power dynamics inherent in traditional research methods, allowing for new knowledge to emerge that is mediated by Indigenous perspectives and returns this knowledge to communities as Indigenous-informed. This project seeks to offer an alternative to mainstream mapping techniques that, when created by Indigenous peoples, serve as a localized counter-mapping project alternative to mainstream mapping techniques that, when created by Indigenous peoples, serve as a localized counter-mapping project.

Indigenous-produced digital stories have the capacity to serve as transformative artifacts of understanding, pushing the production of knowledge—and just what constitutes this knowledge—in new directions. Taking seriously digital stories as sense-making intimate spaces, Indigenous-produced digital stories have the capacity to serve as transformative artifacts of understanding, pushing the production of knowledge—and just what constitutes this knowledge—in new directions to inform our understandings of Indigenous/UVA relations.

Michael Puri
Associate Professor, Department of Music
Music, Mimesis, Modernity

“‘If human beings suddenly ceased imitating, all forms of culture would vanish.’ This striking statement by René Girard invests imitation with an extraordinary ability to generate culture. It also implicitly challenges scholars to investigate the role of imitation within their particular fields of study. Puri’s project takes up this challenge from the standpoint of musicology. More specifically, it focuses on mimises—practices and theories of imitation—within western music of the modern industrial era. How has mimesis manifested itself within this context? How has it been conceptualized? How and why has it changed over time? Puri opens two perspectives on these matters. The first is pedagogical and reveals the process involved in constructing a syllabus for a seminar on this topic that he currently offers to PhD students in Music and English. The second is research-oriented and seeks to delineate the role of mimesis within evolving notions of the artwork in early European modernism. Puri teasing out the presence of mimesis in and between Walter Benjamin’s concepts of craft and commodity as he developed them in his ‘Arcades Project.’ This helps show what Benjamin believed to have been gained and lost in the advent of capitalism over the course of the long nineteenth century, especially in France. Puri also considers how these approaches to mimesis might illuminate aspects of French music at the fin de siécle—in particular, the work of Maurice Ravel. His is a celebrated but conflicted oeuvre, one that is caught between the artist’s atelier and the mass marketplace.”

Neeti Nair
Associate Professor, Department of History
The Problem of Belonging after the Partition of India

Did the Partition of the Indian subcontinent resolve the problem of belonging for minority religious communities—in India as well as Pakistan? If Pakistan was supposed to be a homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent, was India meant to serve as a homeland for the Hindus? How did the Hindus of Pakistan and the Muslims of India learn to live and build community in these newly majoritarian countries? In this project, I examine some of these questions through the writings of the playwright and scholar Asghar Wajahat. Both in his most famous 1988 play, Je ne souviens pas (One Who Has Not Seen Lahore), as well as in the more recent Gide ai Gandhivoom (2012), Wajahat’s protagonists find themselves forced into situations where they have to build relationships in shared, intimate spaces that are fraught with tension, as a consequence of the Partition. It is through the process of living together that his characters are able to eventually work their way out of the deep mistrust that pervades relations between, and also within, Hindu and Muslim religious communities. Both plays are set in the immediate aftermath of the partition. However, in short stories set in the wake of organized violence against Muslims in 2002, Maan Hoon Na (I Am a Hindu) and The Spirits of Shah Alam Camp, living together is no longer possible. Wajahat’s fiction reflects the shrinking space for religious minorities in contemporary India. This talk is part of a larger book length project on India’s Partition: Politics, Culture, Memory.

China Scherz
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
Higher Powers
Alcohol and After in Uganda’s Capital City

Higher Powers: Alcohol and After in Uganda’s Capital City is a collaborative monograph (co-authored by George Mpanga and Sarah Namirembe) that draws on four years of fieldwork carried out with Ugandans working to reconstruct their lives after attempting to leave problematic forms of alcohol use behind. Given the relatively recent introduction of Western ideas of alcoholism and addiction in Uganda, most of these people have used other therapeutic resources including herbal ametics, therapies, engagements with and spiritual warfare practiced in Pentecostal churches. Entailed in each of these therapeutic forms are understandings of the self that can follow an effort to stop drinking. While these therapeutic forms differ from one another in substantial ways, they all present challenges to the prevailing biomedical model of addiction as a chronic relapsing brain disease. In so doing, Higher Powers moves towards a reconceptualization of addiction and recovery that may prove relevant well beyond Uganda. Further, in attending to these vernacular therapeutic forms, Higher Powers points to the need to attend more carefully to the place of spiritual experiences in processes of personal transformation and arguments for the importance of giving renewed attention to forms of Indigenous medical and spiritual practice in the medical anthropology of Africa.

Joshua White
Associate Professor, Department of History
An Epic Tale of Sorrow and Joy
Slavery, Migration, and the Mediterranean Journeys of an Ottoman Manuscript

What meaning did a fictional Ottoman tale and the manuscript containing it have to those who copied, read, heard, and owned it? An Epic Tale of Sorrow and Joy is an interdisciplinary microhistory that explores the many meanings, uses, and journeys of an otherwise unremarkable manuscript—the only extant copy of an eponymous Ottoman Turkish story of forced migration, fortune, and loss set in the seventeenth-century Mediterranean—held at the British Library. Tracing the parallel lives of the story’s characters and the manuscript’s early nineteenth-century Ottoman and European owners, this study considers the contexts in which such manuscripts were produced, consumed, collected, and sold, and the lives of the migrants, travelers, and slaves that inspired them. By following this unique manuscript from Izmir to Istanbul and Corfu to London, White brings to light a lost history of cultural exchange and appropriation, travel and migration.

Kasey Jernigan
Assistant Professor, Departments of Anthropology and American Studies
Mapping Indigenous/UVA Relations

1. Michael Puri
2. Neeti Nair
3. Joshua White
4. Michael Puri
5. Neeti Nair
Mellon Fellows Seminar Series

2019-20 Fellows

Fotini Kondyli
Associate Professor of Byzantine Art and Archaeology, Department of Art History
"Citizen Participation and Urban Planning in Byzantine Athens"
September 4

Giulia Paoletti
Assistant Professor of African Art, Department of Art History
"In Its Own Image: Beginnings of Photography in Senegal"
September 25

Rescheduled from Spring 2020 due to COVID

2020-21 Fellows

China Scherz
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
"Higher Powers: Alcohol and After in Uganda’s Capital City"
With George Mpanga and Sarah Namirembe, Independent Researchers, Kampala, Uganda
October 16

Allison Bigelow
Tom Scully Discovery Chair Associate Professor of Spanish, Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese
"Mining Language: Racial Thinking, Indigenous Knowledge, and Colonial Metallurgy in the Early Modern Iberian World"
October 30

Ari Blatt
Associate Professor, Department of French
"State of Place, State of Mind: Vernacular Landscapes in Contemporary French Photography"
November 6

Kasey Jernigan
Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
"Mapping Indigenous/UA Relations: Stories of Space, Place, and Histories"
November 13

Michael Puri
Associate Professor, Department of Music
"Music, Mimesis, Modernity"
February 19

Neeti Nair
Associate Professor, Department of History
"The Problem of Belonging after the Partition of India"
March 5

Joshua White
Associate Professor, Department of History
"An Epic Tale of Sorrow and Joy: Slavery, Migration, and the Mediterranean Journeys of an Ottoman Manuscript"
March 19

Sarah Betzer
Associate Professor, Department of Art History
"The ‘Long’ Eighteenth Century?"
March 26

Tessa Farmer
Assistant Professor, Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Culture
"The Ethics and Materiality of Gifted Water: Vernacular Water Sabils in Contemporary Cairo"
April 16

IHGC
Mellon Fellows Seminar Series
Spring 2021
Feb. 19th
Michael Puri, "Music, Mimesis, Modernity."

Mar. 5th
Neeti Nair, "The Problem of Belonging after the Partition of India."

Mar. 19th
Joshua White, "An Epic Tale of Sorrow and Joy: Slavery, Migration, and the Mediterranean Journeys of an Ottoman Manuscript."

Mar. 26th
Sarah Betzer, "The ‘Long’ Eighteenth Century."

Apr. 16th
Tessa Farmer, "The Ethics and Materiality of Gifted Water: Vernacular Water Sabils in Contemporary Cairo."
The final showcase of the IHGC’s Humanities Informatics Lab, a three-year project funded by UVA’s Strategic Investment Fund (SIF), was held completely virtually in September 2020 after having been cancelled in April 2020 due to COVID closures.

Led by faculty from disciplines across the University, the Lab’s four interdisciplinary research groups brought together faculty and advanced student scholars who studied the relationship between human culture and technology and explored the management, control, and flow of information, in both historical and contemporary contexts. They fulfilled a key Lab objective in funding curriculum grants to develop courses addressing questions about the “human” in our information age.

The IHGC appreciates the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) program and Office of the Vice President for Research for extending the Lab’s funding deadline through December 2020 so the Lab could present its amazing projects and work in the online “Final Showcase” scheduled on September 9, 17 & 25, 2020.

Research Groups

**Human & Machine Intelligence (HMI)**
September 9

**CO-LEADERS**: Paul Humphreys, Philosophy; and, Vicente Ordonez-Roman, Computer Science

The Human & Machine Intelligence (HMI) group was formed three years ago with only a few interested participants, but now continues with its own funding with over 100 members who make up a mixture of faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, and external members, drawn from nine of UVA’s twelve schools. It has hosted more than 65 speakers from 16 universities and research institutes. The Showcase panel featured three group members discussing their HMI-related research ranging from workshops on social networks to reading-group discussions with the field known today as digital humanities (DH), ranging from workshops on social networks to reading-group discussions on digital textual studies, to guest lectures on search functions and image recognition in archives, as well as interactive exhibits of the Puzzle Poetry group (with its 3D-printed text pieces).

**Network/Corpus**
September 25

**CO-LEADERS**: Rennie Mapp, Digital Initiatives at UVA; and, Brad Pasanek, English

The activities of Network/Corpus, the group most nearly aligned with the field known today as digital humanities (DH), ranged from workshops on social networks to reading-group discussions on digital textual studies, to guest lectures on search functions and image recognition in archives, as well as interactive exhibits of the Puzzle Poetry group (with its 3D-printed text pieces). “Emergent/eracy Digital Humanities Pedagogy, a Roundtable” was the final event of Network/Corpus. Presenters spoke on courses and curricula relating to big data or DH methods in literature and the arts, crises in humanities higher education, opportunities for critical thinking about memory and other aspects of the group’s collaborative projects. There were discussions on emerging conditions of online pedagogy—how DH pedagogy differs from teaching with technology; the impact of machine learning on studies of texts, persons, and cultures; anti-racist or decolonizing commitments; and, the many media of writing lives and textual scholarship. Participants were encouraged to explore the intellectual geography of UVA and the Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities (open to all enrolled graduate students) at http://dh.virginia.edu.

Panel & Presentations
Moderator: Jack Chen, Associate Professor; Chinese Literature

“Predicting Enemies”
Ashley Deeks, The E. James Kelly, Jr. Class of 1965 Research Professor of Law, UVA School of Law

“AI and the Future of Work”
Anton Konek, Associate Professor; Economics

“Socially-Inclusive Foundations of Statistics”
Dan Spitzner, Associate Professor; Statistics

**Smart Environments**
September 25

**CO-LEADERS**: Mona El Khafif, Architecture and Urban Environmental Planning; and, Joana Ripple, Architecture

The Smart Environments project challenged the social equity and urban spatial implications of data informatics. Its scholars contributed an architectural, ecological, and urban policy perspective to this three-year project that created a critical, and often-neglected humanities dialogue within information studies and data science. In its Final Showcase, Faculty Directors Mona El Khafif and Joana Ripple, and Zhang (Ph.D candidate in Constructed Environments) led a panel discussion on DATA projects developed by a team of faculty researchers in the School of Architecture. The panel was followed by a keynote lecture by Dietmar Offenhuber, Associate Professor, Northeastern University.

**DATA Projects, School of Architecture Faculty**
Moderators: Jose Ibára and Katie McDonald

“Gounding,Cloud”
Ali Fard

“Ostenda illuminata”
Mona El Khafif and Andrew Mondschein

“Material Epidelmics: Health, Segregation, and the Built Environment”
Joana Ripple and Andrea Phillips Hansen

“Algorithmic Cultivation”
Brad Cantrell, Robin Driggs, Lucia Phinney, and Emma Mendel

**Surveillance & Infrastructure**
September 17

**CO-LEADERS**: Camilla Fojas, Media Studies and American Studies; and, Natasha Heller, Religious Studies

The Surveillance & Infrastructure research group explored the convergence of surveillance and sociotechnical infrastructures, particularly in the technologies, techniques, and networks used for gathering information about differentiated populations. The group took an interdisciplinary approach to these topics, from the impact of surveillance technologies on culture, “militainment,” the civilian and domestic origin and application of military technologies, and the role of distribution networks in filtering and disseminating culture and information, to the histories and techniques of surveillance.

Panel & Presentations
Moderator: Debjani Ganguly, Professor; English

“Personal Alarms: Intimacy and Oversight in the Name of Safety”
Elizabeth Ellcessor, Assistant Professor; Media Studies

“Drone Futures”
Camilla Fojas, Professor and Department Chair; Media Studies

“Face Masks and Mass Surveillance”
Natasha Heller, Associate Professor of Religious Studies

**Keynote Lecture**
Dietmar Offenhuber

Offenhuber is an Associate Professor at Northeastern University in the Departments of Art + Design and Public Policy, where he leads the graduate program in Information Design and Visualization. He worked as a key researcher at the Austrian Ludwig Boltzmann Institute and the Arts Electronicafuturelab and taught in the Interface Culture program of the Art University Linz, Austria. He is a visiting scholar at Harvard Metlab and a fellow at the Princeton-Mellton Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism & the Humanities. Offenhuber’s current research focuses on environmental information and evidence construction, their material/sensory aspects and social implications. He is the author of the award-winning monograph, Waste is Information—Infrastructure Legibility and Governance (MIT Press). In his artistic practice, he is part of the collaborative, stadtmusik and his work has been exhibited extensively worldwide. Offenhuber holds a PhD in urban planning from MTT, an M.S. in Media Arts & Sciences from MIT Media Lab, and a Dipl. Ing. in Architecture from the Technical University of Vienna.

**The Geosocial Image of the City**
Guoping Huang, Textual Analytics Laboratory Director, University of Richmond
The ongoing controversy over secularization theory has elicited concerns scholars both in the humanities and in the social sciences. To this question, both with respect to individuals and on a societal level, doubting the existence and power of the gods? The search for answers to this question, and the spread of religious disbelief and doubt (‘where are we going?’) and its driving forces (‘how did we get here?’) are of increasing interest to sociologists for more research into the history of disbelief, of the general public, about religious disbelief and doubt in broad perspective. Why and under what circumstances do people start doubting the existence and power of the gods? The search for answers to this question, both with respect to individuals and on a societal level, concerns scholars both in the humanities and in the social sciences. The spread of religious disbelief and doubt (‘where are we going?’) and its driving forces (‘how did we get here?’) are of increasing interest to scholars, policy makers, and individuals.

Left to right

Losing Your Religion Toward a Long History of Religious Doubt

Lecture series

This series facilitated an interdisciplinary exchange between researchers at all levels (undergraduate, graduate, and faculty), as well as members of the general public, about religious disbelief and doubt in broad perspective. Why and under what circumstances do people start doubting the existence and power of the gods? The search for answers to this question, both with respect to individuals and on a societal level, concerns scholars both in the humanities and in the social sciences. The ongoing controversy over secularization theory has elicited pleas from sociologists for more research into the history of disbelief, which starts already with ancient Greek philosophy. As secularization continues to spread globally both the long-term consequences of the spread of religious disbelief and doubt ('where are we going?') and its driving forces ('how did we get here?') are of increasing interest to scholars, policy makers, and individuals.

Lectures

Oedipus the Atheist
Tim Whitmarsh, A.G. Leventis Professor of Greek, University of Cambridge; and, author of Battling the Gods: Atheism in the Ancient World
September 21

Fall Guys & Mock Epics: ‘Atheism’ from Lucretius to Milton
Pramit Chaudhuri, Associate Professor Classics, University of Texas at Austin; and, author of The War with God: Theomachy in Roman Imperial Poetry
October 19

The Recent Rise of Secular Thought in the Muslim World
Ali Rizvi, author of The Atheist Muslim
November 18

José Torres-Tama
Performances and work sessions

A weeklong series of online work sessions and performances with award-winning Torres-Tama, who uses visual and performance art to explore the effects of mass media on race relations, the “North American Dream” mythology, and anti-immigrant hysteria.

Performances and work sessions

Performance Art & Social Change
The Artist as Provocateur and Aliens, Immigrants, & Other Evildoers
September 14-19
Democracy and Technology in Taiwan
Conversation
Audrey Tang, Minister without Portfolio, Taiwan
March 9
CONVENED BY: Natasha Heller, Associate Professor, Religious Studies
CO-SPONSORED WITH: Royal Society for Asian Affairs (RSAA)
This conversation focused on democracy and technology in Asia. Audrey Tang, Taiwan’s Digital Minister, was involved with helping the Sunflower Student Movement amplify its message in 2014, before joining the government in 2016. Tang is part of “gov-by-zero,” a civic hacking project that re-imagines government through endeavors like “Taiwan,” an online space for debate. In Spring 2020, as the pandemic took hold, Tang opened access to data on where masks were available, leading to the development of apps to help people locate them. Tang’s approach has created spaces online where people locate them. Tang’s approach has created spaces online where

Maintaining Mental Health in Academia
Workshop
Unwellness in the Academy
Mental Health, Contingency & Care – A Workshop with Mimi Khúc
March 11
CONVENED BY: Joseph Wei, PhD candidate, English
Things are not well. For graduate students and contingent faculty, the mental health crisis—worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic—is but one of many overlapping, longstanding “crises” in higher education: a jobs crisis, a debt crisis, a crisis in the humanities, and so on. In the face of these structural crises, how might we tend to our unwellness? And how might we dream of new forms of care in the face of these adversities? Mimi Khúc, a writer, scholar, and teacher of things unwell, and the 2019–2021 Scholar/Artist/Activist in Residence in Disability Studies at Georgetown University, guided attendees through these questions in an interactive workshop, followed by an open discussion.

New Literary History
Forum
Animality/Posthumanism/Disability
March 19
CONVENED BY: New Literary History
This forum featured NLH’s Special Issue Editor Michael Lundblad, University of Oslo, and several contributors for a webinar marking the publication of New Literary History 51.4, “Animality/Posthumanism/Disability.” Participants focused on several keywords arising from the special issue and discuss its interventions within the fields of disability studies, posthumanism, and animal studies.

Participants
Rachel Adams
Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
Nirmala Erevelles
Professor of Social and Cultural Studies in Education, University of Alabama
Michael Lundblad
Professor of English Language Literature, University of Oslo
David Mitchell
Professor of English and Cultural Studies, George Washington University
Christopher Krentz
Professor of English and Director, Disability Studies Initiative, UVA
Sara Orring
Senior Lecturer, Centre for Gender Research, University of Oslo

Partition of India Aftermath
International symposium
Citizenship, Belonging, and the Partition of India
April 9
CONVENED BY: Neeti Nair, History; and, Sonam Kachru, Religious Studies
CO-SPONSORED WITH: Royal Society for Asian Affairs (RSAA)
The question of citizenship and belonging, matters of life and death for those whose provinces were divided during the tumultuous partition of India in 1947, has returned to center-stage in the politics of the subcontinent. The Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019, that promises Indian citizenship to religious minorities in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, is a frontal assault on the formal secular professions of the Indian state and Constitution; it also threatens to undo an assortment of fragile pacts and understandings that have formed the basis of diplomatic relations in an already tense region. The scholarly papers presented in this international symposium revisited the aftermath of the partition of 1947, and the war of 1971, to examine some of the longer-term consequences of the redrawing of borders across South Asia. From the eastern frontier of Assam to the westernmost reaches of Gujarat and Sindh, the papers reopened the “minority question” to show how it has manifested in different contexts. Working with letters, pamphlets, poetry, novels, ethnographic fieldwork and official sources, each of these papers foregrounded the voices of the “refugee” and the “minority,” still too often neglected in debates centered around the partition and the status of Kashmir. A close study of how people have been affected by border-making and remaking in each of these frontier regions is integral to understanding the “big picture” that is South Asia.

Panel 1
Borders, Citizenship, and Contested Ideas of the Nation
Moderator: Neeti Nair, UVA
Hindus in Bangladesh and the Citizenship Question in Assam
Antara Dutta, Royal Holloway College
The 1971 War Perspectives from Gujrat
Farhana Ibrahim, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
Hyderabad’s “Police Action”
Muslim Belonging, Memory, and the Hidden Histories of Partition
Sarah Wahid, Davidson College
Contesting Sovereignty
Islam, Polity and Blasphemy Politics in Pakistan
Anzalan Khan, Union College

Panel 2
Literature and History, Longing and Belonging
Moderator: Sonam Kachru, UVA
Artificial “Borders”
Kashmiri Belonging in the Aftermath of Partition
Shaheen Hussain, St. John’s University
Language Without a Land
Linguistic Citizenship and the Case for Sindhi in India
Uttara Shahnai, Oxford University
Kashmiri Poetry and the Imaginaries of Love, Loss, and Freedom
Ather Zia, University of Northern Colorado
Wounds of Partition as Symbolized in the Fiction of Intizar Husain
Malik Farooqi, UVA
Endangered Indigenous Languages  
Bilingual roundtable

La codificación de la cosmovisión maya  
Retos y oportunidades para investigadores indígenas en el Sur Global

Encoding Maya Cosmovision  
Challenges and Opportunities for Indigenous Researchers in the Global South

April 13

CONVENE BY: Allison Bigelow, Spanish

Among the many challenges facing contemporary Indigenous communities in the Global South is language endangerment. In Mexico and Central America, state persecution, economic pressure, and barriers that reflect the deep legacies of colonialism led to precipitous declines in language learning among Maya youth throughout the twentieth century. These trends are exacerbated today by migration crises and the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, Indigenous researchers have created new strategies, transnational networks, and tools to meet young learners where they are online. With a new approach to colonial archives, K’iche’, Q’eqchi’, Tz’utujil, and Jakayek collaborators at UVa’s Multietal Project are converting ancient texts like the Popol Wuj into digital tools to promote language acquisition, literacy, and cultural empowerment among youth in Mexico, Guatemala, and the diaspora.

Presenters spoke in Spanish, with English-language slides translated by UVA students enrolled in SPAN 4040 (Translation): Alisa Negron Damsky, Natalie Axelrod, Lauren Mason, and Sarah Alverson. Audience members participated in English, Spanish, and Mayan languages.

Session 1  
U yuumben Póopol Wuuj  
Una versión electrónica

A Digital Popol Wuj in Jakayek Maya

Presentations

Retos para la lengua maya  
[Challenges for the Mayan Language]

Miguel Oscar Chan Dzul (Jakayek), Universidad de Oriente

El audiovisual  
[herramienta para el aprendizaje significativa]  
[Audiovisual Materials: Tools for Significant Learning]

Mirem Litz May (Yukatek), Universidad de Oriente

“Producción de materiales en lengua maya”  
[Producing Mayan Language Materials]

Irma Yolanda Pomol Cahum (Jakayek), Universidad de Oriente

The Arts in Iran

International symposium

The State of the Arts in Iran  
Forty Years after the Revolution

April 16

CONVENE BY: Farsaneh Milani, Cavallers’ Distinguished Teaching Professor; and Raymond J. Nelson Professor of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures

The Islamic Republic, in its ever-widening antidisssident net, has ruled with an iron fist for four decades and imposed many restrictions on artists, yet the Iranian art scene is witnessing an unparalleled flourishing. It is no exaggeration to claim that an artistic renaissance is the unintended consequence of the 1979 Revolution. In spite of all the problems—and there are many—female and male artists have defied the strictures imposed on them and attained an unprecedented level of the arts. The regime, it seems, refuses to accept that art cannot be murdered. Artists can be incarcerated, exiled, even assassinated, but their aspiration for democracy and human rights cannot be put behind bars or silenced. The symposium aimed to discuss the ways in which vernacular and small-scale water infrastructure can add to the picture of urban water resilience in the context of climate change. Farmer discussed sabils with Hagar ElDidi, a research analyst with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), where her research interests include equitable and sustainable communal governance of natural resources, environmental justice, rural development, and food security for vulnerable communities.

Session 2

Mesa redonda  
Los retos del Maya para elaborar una versión infantil del Popol Wuuj  
Roundtable on the Challenges of Producing a Mayan-Language Popol Wuj for Young Readers

Professors and scholars participating from Universidad Nacional de Pedagogía and Fundación Proyecto Lingüística Francisco Marroquín:

Beatriz Par (K’iche’)
Sajijx Candelaria López Ixcoy (K’iche’)
Agustin Pablo Garcia Imnat (Tz’utujil)
Hector Xul (Q’eqchi’)

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Good Neighbors? Charlottesville & UVA
April 20

CONVENE D BY: Joseph Wei, PhD candidate, English

In cities across America—including here in Charlottesville—universities have become a dominant social and economic presence: gentrifying neighborhoods, maintaining large police forces, and becoming primary employers. “University life,” it could be said, increasingly happens at the expense of the cities which surround them. What is a university’s obligation to the city in which it resides? What actions can we take to imagine a new, equitable vision of university life? Davarian Baldwin will discuss his findings from his recent book, In the Shadow of the Ivory Tower, and Ang Conn will address the local situation in Charlottesville.

Featuring
Laura Goldblatt, moderator, UVA
Davarian Baldwin, Trinity College
Ang Conn, Organizer

Imitation in Music
Roundtable

Music and Mimesis
April 20

CONVENE D BY: Michael Puri, Music

Imitation, or mimesis, may be the glue that binds culture, but we have yet to take the full measure of its forms, processes, and effects. This two-hour session focused on exploring mimesis within the realm of music—a line of inquiry that is still in its early stages. How does mimesis manifest itself within music? What makes musical mimesis important to study? How does it relate to other instances of mimesis in culture? These questions and others were broached in a roundtable discussion.

Participants
Michael Puri, moderator, UVA
Arnie Cox, Oberlin College
Roger Mathew Grant, Wesleyan University
Daniel Villegas Vélez, KU Leuven, Belgium

Pandemic in Asia
International symposium and conversation

East Asian Cultural Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic
April 26

CONVENE D BY: Anri Yasuda, Japanese Literature

While policy and strategy decisions have dominated mainstream media coverage of other nations’ handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is also important to consider how at the level of everyday life, societies and individuals have been experiencing the upheavals caused by the pandemic. This panel focused on East Asian cultural reactions to this worldwide crisis. Jieho Kang (Seoul National University) described how South Korean responses to the pandemic have been shaped by a confluence of technological and traditional cultural factors, and are interpreted along these rubrics. Chenshu Zhou (University of Pennsylvania) examined online video representations of Wuhan under lockdown that make use of drone footage. Anri Yasuda (UVA) analyzed how works of Japanese literature written during the pandemic underscore a pervasive ‘crisis ordinary’ mentality that precedes COVID-19. The symposium attendees exchanged ideas about the shared themes marked differences among contemporary East Asian socio-cultural contexts.

Left to right
Covid virus and book jacket for The Cambridge History of World Literature edited by Debjani Ganguly

Protestant Churches in China
Lecture

Trans-National Ties Formation between the Episcopal Mission of Hankow and the Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston
May 4

CONVENE D BY: Emily Yen, IHGC Visiting Scholar, with the Asian Cosmopolitanisms Lab

While there is extensive scholarship on protestant missions in China prior to 1950 and the emergence of Chinese American protestant churches in the United States during the second half of the twentieth century, there is a limited understanding of the mechanisms that allowed the former to shape the growth of the latter. There is little empirical research on the relationships between the recalled missionaries in China and the Chinese student migrants fleeing to the United States during the McCarthy Era. This case study traces how the social ties formed between a missionary and congregants at the Episcopal Mission of Hankow shaped the emergence of the Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston. These pre-migration ties significantly shaped the Chinese Christian community in Boston and complicate our understanding of the mechanisms facilitating Boston’s Quiet Revival and Chinese American church planting. More broadly, this case study provides insight into how recalled missionaries can shape immigrant communities.

Participants
Debjani Ganguly, Editor, and Professor of English, UVA
Francesca Orsini, Professor Emerita, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Jahan Ramazani, Edgar F. Shannon Professor of English, UVA
B. Venkat Mani, Professor of German, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Literature
Book launch

The Cambridge History of World Literature
Launch Event
May 27

CONVENE D BY: Cambridge University Press

Participants
Debjani Ganguly, Editor, and Professor of English, UVA
Francesca Orsini, Professor Emerita, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Jahan Ramazani, Edgar F. Shannon Professor of English, UVA
B. Venkat Mani, Professor of German, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Art & Film

Middle Eastern and East Asian Film Sidebar
October 21–25, Virginia Film Festival

IHGC Global South Lab member Samhita Sunya (MESALC), for a fourth year, was a guest curator with the Virginia Film Festival (VAFF) and made selections for a four-film cluster programmed under the title “Between Man and God: Chronicles of contemporary Middle Eastern and South Asian Films.” The Virginia Film Festival (VAFF) and made selections for a fourth year, was a guest curator with the Virginia Film Festival. IHGC Global South Lab member Samhita Sunya (MESALC), October 21–25, Virginia Film Festival. Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages & Cultures.

All were screened online with Zoom discussions following.

The figure of the young man and the role of religion in his everyday life-worlds animates each of these four films in different ways.

You Will Die at Twenty is a poignant coming of age story set in a Sudanese village, about a young man whose death at twenty is prophesied by a sheikh at his birth.

Filmfarsi is a fast-paced essay film that showcases an incredible collage of lost-and-found footage that illuminates the complexities of “filmfarsi,” the wildly raucous Iranian populist—cinerama banned after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Eeb Allay Ooo! is a dark comedy-drama, inspired by Kean was selected to undertake this research based on his 40-year relationship with Papunya Tula Artists, during which time he has gained extensive knowledge of the artworks from this region and the geographies they depict. During this trip, knowledge holders took Kean to a number of specific sites mapped in artworks in the Kluge-Ruhe collection, allowing a better understanding of these places and insights into the motivations that drove artists to depict them in the early days of the Papunya Tula art movement. After recording interviews with knowledge holders, Kean sought their approval for specific quotes to be used in the exhibition and catalog, thus allowing Kluge-Ruhe to amplify Indigenous voices throughout its exhibitions and in all of its printed and digital products.

Kean’s research contributed substantially to the exhibition catalog, inspiring the arrangement of artworks in a way that conveys how they are related to one another geographically and culturally. This revealed previously overlooked continuities between artworks created during the same period and over time, enabling the identification of sites in previous unidentified artworks.

The exhibition opened at Kluge-Ruhe on June 24, 2021 and continues, in two parts, through February 26, 2023. The exhibition catalog, which is being edited by Kluge-Ruhe’s curator Henry F. Skerritt and Professor Fred R. Myers, includes essays by Kean, Steve Martin, Hetti Perkins, Cara Pinchbeck, Marina Sinchici, and artists Bobby West Tjapaljarri and Joseph Jurra Tjapaltjarri with Paul Sweeney. The catalog comes out in October 2021 from University of Virginia Press and will be distributed worldwide.

Early Modern Workshop

The IHGC was delighted to co-sponsor the launch of UVA’s Early Modern Workshop, a multidisciplinary forum started by Ricardos Padrón (Spanish), Josh White (History), and Jane Mikkelson (Religious Studies) in which scholars working on the early modern period (broadly defined) will be able to present and discuss their work with colleagues across departments. The aim is to foster conversations that go beyond departmental, disciplinary, and regional parameters, and to create an active community of early modernists at UVA. The group convened a speakers’ series monthly on Zoom during 2020–21.

The Indies of the Setting Sun
How Early Modern Spain Mapped the Far East as the Transpacific West
September 21
Ricardo Padrón, Professor, Spanish, UVA

Discussion of Varlik’s book
Plague and Empire in the Early Modern Mediterranean World: The Ottoman Experience, 1347-1600
October 15
Nükhet Varlik, Associate Professor, History, University of South Carolina and Rutgers University-Newark

Beyond Text
What Objects Can Tell Us
October 23
Amanda Phillips, Associate Professor, Art History, UVA

“‘This Tunis, Sir, Was Carthage’
Abū al-Fath al-Tūnisī’s Nostalgia for the Besieged ‘Bride of the Maghrib’
November 13
Nizar F. Hermes, Associate Professor, Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures, UVA
Co-Sponsored Events

Early Modern Workshop continued

GUEST PRESENTATION
Nil Volentibus Ardua, Baruch Spinoza, and the Reason of Tragedy
December 4
Russ Lee, Associate Professor, English, Princeton University
Andrew Marvell and the Temporality of Art
Cloister, Gallery, Country House, Poem
February 26
Elizabeth Fowler, Associate Professor, English, UVA

GUEST PRESENTATION
From the Early Modern to Graphic Scholarship
Reflections on Methodology
March 5
Rivi Handler-Spitz, Associate Professor and Chair, Asian Languages and Cultures, Macalester College
CO-Sponsored with: IHGC’s Asian Cosmopolitanisms Lab

Between History and Abstraction
Naming and the Art of Particularity in Renaissance Poetics
March 19
Rebecca Rush, Assistant Professor, English, UVA

Ethics Through the Prism of Poetics
Early Modern Hindu and Muslim Re-tellings of the Ramayana Epic
April 9
Shankar Nair, Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, UVA

GUEST PRESENTATION
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and the Chinese Goddess of the Sea
April 30
Christina Lee, Associate Professor, Spanish and Portuguese, Princeton University
CO-Sponsored with: Department of Spanish, Italian, & Portuguese

GradCon 2020: “Transformation”
October 2-4
CONVENED BY: Graduate English Students Association (GESA), Department of English
The Humanities As a Racial (Transformation)
Kandice Chuh, Professor of English and American Studies, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

“undocuWeek”
April 27
CONVENED BY: Caro Campos, undergraduate student with undocUVA
CO-Sponsored with: undocUVA’s and UVA’s Organization of Young Filipino Americans (OYFA)

Migrant Liberation & Abolition
Dylan Rodriguez, Professor Media & Cultural Studies, UC-Riverside; and, President, American Studies Association

Distinguished Writers-in-Residence Seminar Series

Amitav Ghosh & Deborah Baker

Deborah Baker and Amitav Ghosh each were scheduled to lead seminar series in March & April 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic these were rescheduled to online Zoom webinars in October & November 2020.

Deborah Baker
“Narrative in the Age of Political Extremism”
We are living in a time of rising extremism and increasing polarization around the world. This trend has been accompanied by acts of millennial terror, generally committed by men who believe themselves and their identities and beliefs to be facing an existential threat. What narrative strategies can be used to dramatize the conflict between those who want to destroy civil society, replacing civic norms with ones in which they are the unquestioned arbiters, and those who seek to protect the status quo? Seminar participants considered works of fiction and narrative non-fiction that have captured this struggle in all its moral, political, and historical dimensions.

Reading List
The Convert, Deborah Baker narrative non-fiction
One of Us: The Story of a Massacre in Norway, Asne Sierstad narrative non-fiction
American War, Omar El Akkad futuristic fiction
The Plot Against America, Philip Roth speculative fiction
Defying Hitler, Sebastian Haffner posthumous memoir

Webinars
SEMINAR: The Convert
PUBLIC LECTURE: In the Heart of Whiteness; Charlottesville, Modernism, and White Supremacy
October 26

One of Us: The Story of a Massacre in Norway
DEBATING: Emily Gorcenski, American data scientist/“hitchhiker,” and protestor
November 2

American War
DEBATING: Omar El Akkad, author, American War
November 9

The Plot Against America and Defying Hitler
DEBATING: Carina Rudy, Professor, English, UVA
November 16

Deborah Baker was born in Charlottesville and grew up in Virginia, Puerto Rico and New England. She attended the University of Virginia and Cambridge University. Her first biography, written in college, was Making a Farm: The Life of Robert Bly, published by Beacon Press in 1982. After working a number of years as a book editor and publisher, in 1990 she moved to Calcutta where she wrote In Extremis: The Life of Laura Riding. Published by Grove Press and Harshil Hamilton in the UK, it was shortlisted for the Pulitzer Prize for Biography in 1994. Her third book, A Blue Hotel: The Beats in India was published by Penguin Press USA and Penguin India in 2008. In 2008-2009 she was a Fellow at the Dorothy and Lewis C. Summan Center for Writers and Scholars at The New York Public Library. There she researched and wrote The Convert: A Tale of Exile and Extremism, a narrative account of the life of an American convert to Islam, drawn on letters on deposit in the library’s manuscript division. The Convert, published by Graywolf and Penguin India, was a finalist for the 2011 National Book Award in Non-Fiction. In August 2018, she published her fifth work of non-fiction, The Last Englishmen: Love, War and the End of Empire.
Future or Past? Climate Change As Seen from
Sunil Amrith, Julia Adeney Thomas, Anand Pandian,
INSTITUTE OF THE HUMANITIES & GLOBAL CULTURES

The Jnanpith, in 2019. Award. Ghosh was awarded India's highest literary honor,
for the Man Booker Prize in 2008, and was awarded the
award. His novel, The Hungry Tide, won the International e-Book Award at the Frankfurt
of Fire. His latest novel, Sea of Poppies, was published in 2019.
The Circle of Reason, The Shadow Lines, In An Antique Land, Dancing
in Cambodia, The Calcutta Chromosome, The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide, Sea of Poppies, River of Smoke and Flood of
Fire. His latest novel Gun Island was published in 2019. The Circle of Reason was awarded France's Prix Médicis in
1990, and The Shadow Lines won two prestigious Indian prizes the same year, the Sahitya Akademi Award and
and the Amanda Puraskar. The Calcutta Chromosome won the Arthur C. Clarke award for 1997 and The Glass Palace
was awarded the Crossword Book Prize, a major Indian award. His novel Sea of Poppies (2008) was shortlisted
for the Man Booker Prize in 2008, and was awarded the
Crossword Book Prize and the India Plaza Golden Quill Award. Ghosh was awarded India's highest literary honor, the

Amitav Ghosh was born in Calcutta and grew up in
India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. He studied in Delhi, Oxford and Alexandria and is the author of The Circle of
Reason, The Shadow Lines, In An Antique Land, Dancing
in Cambodia, The Calcutta Chromosome, The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide, Sea of Poppies, River of Smoke and Flood of
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Crossword Book Prize and the India Plaza Golden Quill Award. Ghosh was awarded India's highest literary honor, the

Amitav Ghosh
“The Indian Ocean in the Anthropocene”
As the impact of climate change intensifies, it is becoming increasingly clear that the Indian Ocean region, with its fast-accelerating economies, its innumerable oil and gas producers, its collapsing ecosystems, its vulnerable yet rapidly-increasing populations, and its swiftly-expanding carbon footprint, will be the theatre in which the future of the world will be decided. How will the ongoing changes affect the material and cultural lives of the region’s peoples, who are simultaneously drivers and victims of climate change? Many of the world’s major zones of conflict are already clustered around the Indian Ocean, and the region is also the theater of many accelerating arms races. How will these developments affect the global balance of power? What lessons might past climatic shifts offer for the future?

Webinars

**Indian Ocean Worlds and the Anthropocene**
**Future or Past? Climate Change As Seen from the Global North and South**
October 30
The Little Ice Age in Tokugawa Japan, Netherlands, and Moghal India Early Modern Perspectives
GUEST SPEAKER - Julia Adeney Thomas, University of Notre Dame
November 6
The Arts of Living in a Precarious Age
GUEST SPEAKER - Anand Pandian, Johns Hopkins University
November 13
Environmental Crisis and Security in the Indian Ocean
GUEST SPEAKER - Sunil Amrith, Yale University
November 20

**Screening of the First Vice-Presidential Debate**
October 7

**Democracy in Danger Podcast Series**

**Live Broadcast Aftermath**

**Democracy in the Wake of 2020**

**Writing on Climate Change**

**A Conversation with Amritav Ghosh**

**Noted Indian novelist and**

**IHGC 2020 Distinguished Writer-in-Residence**

**Terry Tempest Williams**

**Noted American writer, educator, conservationist, and activist**

**Emily Raboteau**

**American fiction writer and essayist; and,**

**Professor of Creative Writing, City College of New York**
2021 Humanities Week
April 19–23

The New (ab)NORMAL

2020 and 2021 witnessed tremendous changes in our world and we often heard the phrase “getting back to normal.” But what is “normal” or “normalcy” now? This year, the IHGC presented Humanities Week 2021: The New (ab)NORMAL. Students explored and presented their ideas on the ever-evolving ideas of normal and abnormal as we have lived them in the past year—from the most mundane, to experiences of crisis, resilience, and community that have spanned the globe. This year’s all-virtual Humanities Week was held April 19–23, 2021, and included talks by UVA’s noted professor of politics Larry Sabato and Tony Award-winning actress Alice Ripley, as well as a virtual cooking class by a Chopped Teen Champion, Veronica Seguin, and sustainability activities on Earth Day.

MONDAY
Normalcy in Politics Lecture & Q&A
WITH Larry Sabato, Director, UVA Center for Politics, on his new book, A Return to Normalcy?

TUESDAY
Virtual Cooking Class Livestream
Hosted by Chopped Teen Grand Champion Veronica Seguin
Co-Sponsored with UVA International Center

Film Screening, The Story of Plastic Artwork from plastic film packaging
Created by Students in Amanda Nelsen’s “Climate, Art & Community” course
Location: UVA Amphitheatre

WEDNESDAY
PechaKucha Night
A virtual event with presentations and announcement of contest winners

THURSDAY
Earth Day
Co-Sponsored with UVA Sustainability

FRIDAY
Alice Ripley Teaches Masterclass
The Tony Award-winning actress of Next to Normalcy teaches UVA students virtually.

“What Is Normal?” Writing Contest
Winners announced over social media and entries were displayed at 1515 University Ave.

Above: Actress Alice Ripley of Broadway’s Next to Normalcy
Bottom: Left to right
Fossil flora pieces made of Costco Tortilla Chip bags and displayed in conjunction with film The Story of Plastic
Chopped Teen Grand Champion Veronica Seguin hosted a virtual cooking class.
A rug made from plastic film exhibited at the UVA Amphitheater and created by students in Amanda Nelsen’s course, “Climate, Art & Community.”

26

27
As initially conceived, the Asian Cosmopolitanisms Lab planned to devote a semester each to the Lab’s research clusters (Asia Translating, Asia Diasporas, and Politics of Knowledge), followed by culminating events in the last semester of the Lab (Spring 2020).

Some of the Lab’s events this year built upon the research clusters, the roundtable “Strange Bedfellows? Asian American Studies and Asian American Studies in the 21st Century” addressed the themes of both Asia Diasporas and Politics of Knowledge, and the three lectures in the series “Rethinking World Literature: China as Method” brought together issues that had been discussed in Asia Translating and Politics of Knowledge.

Lab members anticipate that the ideas and conversations from the Asian Cosmopolitanisms Lab will be further developed in future courses by graduate students and faculty. Through curriculum development grants, the Lab supported new syllabi and innovative teaching across the social sciences and humanities for the “Comparative/World/Global” brought together graduate students from across the social sciences and humanities for discussions with core faculty.

Events

January 28

Roundtable participants
Sylvia Chong, UVA
John Cheng, Binghamton University
Nerissa Balce, Stone Brook University
Christina Si, Georgetown University
Nayoung Aimee Kwon, Duke University
Francis Tangias-Aguas, College of William & Mary

From the Early Modern to Graphic Scholarship Reflections on Methodology
March 2

Rui Handler-Spitz, Macaulay College

This was part of the series “Rethinking World Literature: China as Method”

CO-SPIRED BY: Early Modern Workshop

Arabic Literature and the Boundaries of Translation History in Modern China
April 2

Michael Gibbs Hill, College of William & Mary

This was part of the series “Rethinking World Literature: China as Method”

Yiqian Zhang on Directing American Factory
April 9

Yiqian Zhang discussed her work on the Academy Award-winning documentary American Factory (2019)

MODERATED BY: Sylvia Chong, Asian Studies and English

Virtual film screening of Minari
April 17

“The Subjectivity of the Translator”
April 21

Jeremy Tiang, translator

Faculty panel on Minari
April 23

Sylvia Chong, American Studies and English
Shilpa Dave, Media Studies and American Studies
Samhita Sunya, Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures

Trans-National Ties: Formation Between the Episcopal Mission of Hankow and the Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston
May 4

Emily Yen, IPAG Visiting Scholar

Recovering First Patients: De-anglophonizing the Pandemic Archive on SARS
May 14

Belinda Kong, Bowdoin College

This was part of the series “Rethinking World Literature: China as Method.”

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

Over the past three years, the Conservatory has:

■ worked with the VCR to sonify datasets
■ supported individual and collaborative research projects from faculty and graduate students
■ become part of the international Humanities for Environment Observatories network and the Mellon-funded Coasts, Climates, Humanities and Environment Consortium

■ published peer-reviewed essays and a website that serves as digital arts platform
■ created a museum installation for the Barrier Island Center on the Eastern Shore, and supported other local public humanities engagements
■ developed global coastal change partners
■ received national and international press attention, as well as international invitations to present on the Conservatory model
■ developed virtual residencies with an array of international researchers in the context of an international ecocoustic music competition
■ installed sound streaming sensors and long-term audio field-recorders at coastal locations in Virginia and Alaska.

The Conservatory model continues to inform research and outreach work of the VCR, including an effort to create a UNESCO Biosphere Soundscape at the VCR. It also made possible regional and international collaborations in environmental humanities that will continue.
The Global South Lab had a productive year despite a shift in the mode of delivery of events and programs. Some of the Spring 2020 programming was deferred to Fall 2020 as a result of precautions taken for the pandemic.

The Lab continued its annual awarding of dissertation fellowships to PhD students across various disciplines in Arts & Sciences who are working on topics related to the Global South. These awards include the opportunity to have their dissertation proposals workshoped by Global South Lab faculty members and professors of their choosing, as well as a nominal stipend. These PhD fellows are encouraged to attend IHGC events to foster greater connections among faculty and graduate students working in similar research areas. Three fellowships were awarded for 2020-21 and three fellows from the previous year presented their work in Fall 2020. Cherrie Kwok (English) presented her work on global decadence and the anti-imperial imagination, with professors Murad Idris (Politics), Mininali Chakravorty (English, and American Studies), and Lab director Camilla Fojas, serving as respondents. Heidi Nicholls (Sociology) gave a workshop exploring race and empire in a comparative analysis of indigeneity in Hawai‘i and Virginia, with feedback from Lab faculty members, as well as Anna Brokhouse and Sandhya Shukla (both with English and American Studies). Ray Qu of Anthropology presented his work on the tributaries of hope and uncertainty in post-Mao China, with Murad Idris, Natasha Heller (Religious Studies), and Camilla Fojas responding. Enoila Eleyan (Anthropology) presented her work this Spring about the various meanings and uses of a sacred grove in Nigeria, with professors Murad Idris and Mininali Chakravorty. There are two remaining Global South Lab fellows who will present their work in the Fall, Susan Abraham and XianQu.

The Lab funded curriculum development projects related to the research of the Global South Lab, broadly defined. These projects were to take the form of a syllabus, instructional module, or online course resources. Ten grants were awarded to faculty and graduate students from across the university and recipients were asked to share the results of their work at the end of the year. Some developed entirely new course materials. For instance, Ilima Qureshi created a course on love in the Islamic tradition, an understudied area. Others include professors Geeta Patel, who used the funds to create a new course, and Carmen Lamas, who used the funds to invite special speakers to her course on Latinx literature. Most of this work came in the form of syllabi and will be displayed as examples on the IHGC website.

The Lab supported three faculty book manuscript workshops during the year. Sandhya Shukla (English) shared her book manuscript, Harem Stories, with a panel of Global South Lab members and two outside experts in May 2021, enabling her to complete her manuscript and receive the feedback necessary for submission to a publisher, Columbia University Press. In December 2020, Samhita Sunya (Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures) had two external and two internal readers workshop her manuscript before she submitted it to University of California Press. Aynne Kokas (Media Studies) had one external and one internal reader for her manuscript Trafficking Data: China, the United States, and the Global Battle for Data Sovereignty to be published by Oxford University Press in 2022.

The Lab provided David Nemer (Media Studies) with funds to aid in the translation of his book, Technology of the Oppressed (MIT Press) into Brazilian Portuguese. The translation was completed in April 2021 and is being published in Brazil by Millontes Editora, a nonprofit press based in Vitória, where some of his fieldwork took place.

Part of the Global South programming fosters greater connection to other institutional members of the Global South initiative, some of this programming was postponed in 2020 and will take place in 2021. David Nemer and Christian McMillan (History) were invited to teach for the Summer School in Global Theory at the University of Bologna in Summer 2021. Camilla Fojas promoted the summer school to the graduate college and various graduate students for wider distribution.

This Lab sought to explore and understand space and place from Indigenous perspectives, including the University of Virginia’s contemporary relationships to Native communities in the commonwealth and beyond. MIW’s approach is grounded in interdisciplinary humanities scholarship, in conversation with the sciences and professional schools. The Lab’s research and curriculum development vision connects to key themes of the UVA Global South initiative, most notably race and ethnicity, cartographies and spaces, language worlds, media ecologies and cultures, art and performance, cultures of human rights, and digital inequities.

The MIW Lab scaled back its planned activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21.

During 2019–20, the Lab hosted a series of workshops designed to teach and develop GIS-based visualization projects to interested faculty and graduate students, convened workshops and events, and sponsored course development and research. The Lab had hoped to build on this foundation to do much more of the same in 2020–21, with a special focus on collaborative visualization. The pandemic made such work difficult. Nevertheless, the Lab continued to support an active portfolio of research and course development relating to its mission. The Lab supported the following projects:

- the Intiijka Kwamun Tango (Past & Present Together): 50 Years of Papunya Tula Artists exhibition (Kluge-Ruhe Collection)
- the forthcoming museum exhibition catalog, Boomall on Paper: Making Space as an Art Collective (Art History/Kluge-Ruhe Collection)
- The Indigenous Benches of Brazil Digital Exhibition (The Fralin Museum of Art)
- grant and symposium planning relating to the Mul엽al Project (Spanish/UVA)
- a course development/online project grant, Mapping the Toala Pre-Columbian Collection and enhancing the Archaeology of South America (ANTH 4389) course curriculum
- the Mapping Indigenous Relations through Language Contact and Phylogeny project (Anthropology)
- a visit by Maasai legal scholar Saitoti Parmelo, in relation to a British Academy funded project on the Sustainable Development Goals in East African Indigenous Communities.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the MIW Lab’s projects reflect the community of scholars convened and confirmed the utility of digital geospatial visualization that was anticipated. As the Mellon Global South initiative comes to a close, all of the Lab’s participants plans to work together to build on these projects and connections, especially in relation to the campaign to promote Indigenous Studies at UVA.
Performance Cultures &
Creative Embodied Practices

Co-Directors: Michelle Kisliuk, Department of Music; and, Marianne Kubik, Department of Drama

- With projects and events adjusted to fit virtual and hybrid environments, the Lab enjoyed a robust season of creative research and programming despite global pandemic restrictions.

Events
- Department of Drama MFA Acting students engaged in a month-long February 2020 residency with Tectonic Theater Project’s co-founders and artists training in their Moment Work™ method for “writing performance.” Students created 40 theatrical “moments” and curated them into a full-length performance in response to the prompt of “desired, achieved, strained, and broken connections.” A documentary video of their experience was produced, and the residency included a live-streamed Q&A with Tectonic co-founder and National Medal of Arts recipient & “Laramie Project” creator Moisés Kaufman (February 19), and a workshop on negotiating difficult conversations about diversity and inclusion as they relate to creatives and creative spaces.
- Ama Oforiwa Aduonum’s award-winning solo show Walking with My Ancestors, postponed last year due to the pandemic, was rescheduled in a special live-streamed performance on March 25, 2021, from Aduonum’s home institution of Illinois State University. Her multimodal performance, based on field research in the slave dungeons of Ghana’s Cape Coast Castle, was followed by a virtual talkback. Aduonum’s residency concluded with a virtual conversation with graduate students from Music and Drama.
- A Cyber Residency on Performance Art and Social Change was held in September 2020 with visual and performance artist José Torres-Tama, who uses performance to explore the effects of mass media on race relations and anti-immigrant hysteria. Torres-Tama led a week of lectures and interactive master classes on arts activism with students participating in a hybrid format at the Department of Drama, and the residency closed with a live-streamed performance and talkback of Torres-Tama’s solo show Alems, Immigrants & Other Evileaters.
- Conversations with South African artists continued with a virtual performance planned for Fall 2021. Theatre-makers Tony Borgars Miyambe, Nihalisha Mahangu, and Phala Oskeditshe Phala will share their experience of the pandemic with A Song of Do-ease, a multimodal performance piece created for the UVA community and incorporating puppetry, movement, music, and sound. The artists will lead class visits during their virtual residency.
- The 2020 cancelled symposium in practice-based research was rescheduled for October 2021 at Morven Farm. Michelle Kisliuk (Musici) will coordinate a three-day gathering of UVA community and regional faculty and artists to share presentations and performances, and discuss future directions for practiced-based initiatives at UVA.

Projects
- An early-cut of documentary film project Big Mouth by Nomi Dave (Musici) and Bremen Donovan (Anthropology) was completed and screened online at the international RAI Film Festival. The documentary examines the defamation suit against Guinean journalist and feminist activist Moussa Yéro Bah for referencing an ongoing sexual assault case in Guinea on her radio news program. Two roundtable discussions offered critical feedback in preparation for additional filming in Guinea next year.
- Mona Kasra (Drama) and Lydia Mayer (Art) completed research for a time-based video project that explores the life and death of Nasim Najafi Aghdam, known in the US media as the YouTube Shooter. Working with a paranormal investigator, a private investigator, and a forensic psychologist to gather information, they will design and produce the project for art installation and film festival screening.
- Marianne Kubik (Drama) connected practitioners of puppet arts, textile arts, art therapy, theatre movement, and storytelling to support future student and community programming in music, dance, and theatre.
- Collaboration on (Performance X): Empathy Across Space, Time, and Species commenced with a team led by Kelli Shermeyer (UVA Visiting Scholar) and Charlottesville visual artist Megan Hilary. A site-specific puppetry performance planned for Spring 2022 will engage audiences with the specific histories and found environments on Charlottesville’s Downtown Mall to invite consideration of ontological and temporal frameworks that move behind notions of “autonomy” and “individualism,” and the continuing effects of colonization on the local community.
- Tim Booth (Music) conducted field research in New Zealand on the Māori musical revival taupō pīrā, an Indigenous practice that has potential to inform decolonial approaches to environmental conservation during a moment of accelerating climate change. Learning how to make and play musical instruments while studying Māori language, culture, and science, Booth will integrate his research into his dissertation and aims to use taupō pīrā to advocate for arts-science intersections as solutions to environmental crises.
- University Singers created a virtual-choir rendition of “Adonai Ro’i” composed by Judith Shatin (Professor Emerita, Music), with remote recordings from individual performers synchronized into a single video production.

Investments
- The Lab invested in African musical instruments and costumes to support future student and community programming in music, dance, and theatre.
- An investment in portable sound equipment will be made available through the UVA Music Library for mobile outdoor/indoor live and recorded performance projects.
Clay Fellows

2020–21

Faculty Fellows

Giulio Celotto
Assistant Professor, Classics

Natasha Heller
Associate Professor, Religious Studies
PROJECT: Collaborative workshop series, “Democratic Cultures in East Asia: A Workshop Series”

Inger Kuin
Assistant Professor, Classics

Erik Linstrum
Associate Professor, History
PROJECT: Webinar series, “Decolonizing Britain”

John Miller
Arthur F. and Marian W. Stocker Professor, Classics
PROJECT: Collaborative workshop with UVA’s Center of Liberal Arts, “Homer’s Odyssey in a Global Context: A Workshop for Teachers”

Student Fellows

Daniel Fishkin
PhD student, Music
PROJECT: Collaborative podcast production project, “Hearing Trouble: The Dark Side of Deep Listening”

Syeda Haider
Undergraduate student, Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures
PROJECT: “Sabils: The Role of Water Sharing in the Urban Fabric of Cairo, Egypt”

Joseph Wei
PhD candidate, English
PROJECT: Collaborative symposium, “Who Cares? Doing and Thinking Care in the University”

IHGC’s Impact

Moving its events on virtual platforms has greatly expanded both the quantity and the geographical range of audiences. During 2020–21, the IHGC boasted an enlarged attendance at all of its seminars, symposia, and other events.

1,970+
Zoom attendees

6
Continents represented

“Thank you so much for [arranging] the book workshop for Trafficking Data. The feedback I received was incredibly helpful and targeted several areas I had been struggling with in the book. I feel so lucky to have had this support to make the final product much stronger. If I can ever provide a testimonial about the transformative impact of the Mellon fellowship on my book, and my academic career, please don’t hesitate to let me know.”

— Ayenne Kokas
Assistant Professor, Media Studies

“It’s been very beneficial to my own work and our department to be affiliated with IHGC.”

— Charles A. Laughlin
Professor and Chair, East Asian Languages, Literatures & Cultures

“I just wanted to send a note of thanks for all the support and help with yesterday’s event. It went amazingly well and we had an international group of participants from as far away as New Zealand and Colombia. 70+ people.

Joanne Rappaport’s talk was powerful, delving deeply the history and practices of the work that was done in Colombia.”

— Matthew Slaats
PhD student, School of Architecture

“Even though I have been at UVA for just over a year, and in the middle of a pandemic to boot, the IHGC has been a such a crucial site for building a sense of intellectual community.”

— Aswin Punathambekar
Associate Professor, Media Studies

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— Aswin Punathambekar
Associate Professor, Media Studies
IHGC’s By the Numbers

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South Africa Partnerships

The IHGC has established collaborative projects with two universities in South Africa, University of Western Cape (Cape Town) and its Center for Humanities Research (CHR), and also University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg). The IHGC’s Mellon Performance Cultures & Creative Embodied Practices Lab collaborated with Jane Taylor of CHR’s Laboratory of Kinetic Objects (LoKo), noted for its puppetry arts which explore questions of race, environmental crisis, and the displacement of the human by technology.

This year, the Lab began working with South African lab participants on a virtual performance and artist talk, “A Song of Dis-ease,” to be held in September 2021. South African theatre-makers Tony Bongani Miyambo, Nhlanhla Mahlangu, and Phala Ookeditse Phala will share their experience of the pandemic with A Song of Dis-ease [working title], a multimodal performance piece created for the UVA community and incorporating puppetry, movement, music, and sound. The artists will lead class visits during their virtual residency. Also, Lab co-director Marianne Kubik (Drama) connected a network of practitioners of puppet arts, textile arts, art therapy, theatre movement and storytelling to collaborate on development of a puppet-movement project, “Dangerous Myths, Reliable Narrators,” which aims to tap into motifs of sexual assault and patriarchy in Greek mythology as an avenue for exploring the hero’s journey toward survival and recovery.

This IHGC has partnered with University of the Witwatersrand on its Mellon-funded project on Oceanic Humanities for the Global South. This five-year project seeks to institute oceanic humanities as a field through graduate curriculum development and training, research production, building transnational global south teaching and research networks, and public humanities activities and platforms. The IHGC’s Mellon Global South Lab has been a key partner in this initiative, hosting workshops and faculty-student exchanges. The collaboration continued in Fall 2020 with a Zoom seminar and reading group on “Indian Ocean Worlds and the Anthropocene” with the novelist Amitav Ghosh and Sunil Amrith, the Indian Ocean historian from Harvard.

Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory

The Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory is a research entity established in 2016 and jointly promoted by the University of Virginia, Duke University, and the University of Bologna. The Academy is predicated on the assumption that the humanities and the interpretative social sciences need a global perspective in order to break down the “methodological nationalism” that has dominated them in the past and to envisage new interpretative frameworks. Such an approach calls for a radical intermingling of diverse disciplines, traditions, and fields of critical thought from across the globe. At the heart of the Academy is a graduate Summer School in global humanities and critical theory that offers students from around the world courses, workshops, lectures and symposia by outstanding faculty. The IHGC is UVA’s key facilitator of this collaboration that includes the graduate summer school, faculty exchanges and collaborative workshops with Duke and Bologna. IHGC Director Debjani Ganguly and Global South Lab Director Camilla Fojas are members of the advisory board of the Academy and, before the global pandemic, have been seminar faculty in the Academy’s annual graduate summer school. Ganguly and Sarah Nuttall from University of the Witwatersrand lead a project on “Rethinking the Human in the Humanities.”
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http://ihgc.as.virginia.edu/current-annual-report

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