

2020-2021



ANNUAL REPORT

CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
CENTER for the HUMANITIES



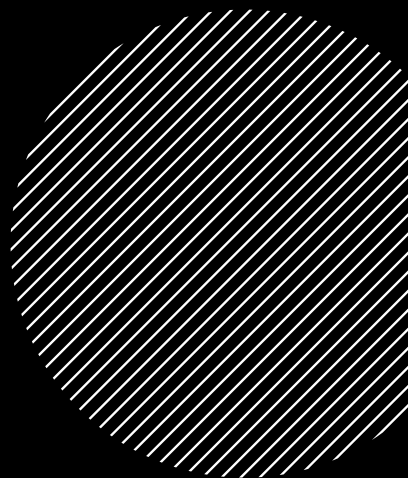
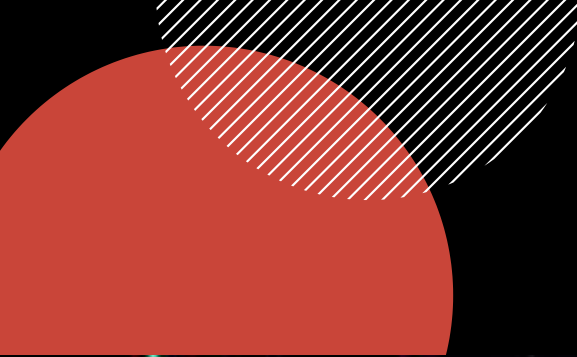


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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Center,

The pandemic and other recent crises have made this year as challenging a time for the Center for the Humanities as for everyone else. Due to social distancing and financial restraints, we had to postpone many of the events we had planned for this year or move them to online platforms. Because of the budgetary crisis the University faced, staff had to spend part of the year on furlough. Across campuses, faculty and staff transitioned to working remotely, juggling work and home responsibilities in an effort to keep our community safe. I am proud to say that despite these challenges, we managed not only to carry out a full complement of regular programming, albeit virtually, but even introduced some new types of events, ultimately engaging over 1,500 event attendees.

Many of our headline speakers directly or indirectly addressed the current crises, though often in a historical context. Antoni Trilla, a leading medical researcher in Barcelona, compared the pandemic of a century ago with today's pandemic, and Kyle Harper, a noted classicist, discussed the impact of early pandemics on history. Martha Jones, an influential historian of African American history, discussed the longstanding importance of black women in the push for voting rights, and Nelson Maldonado-Torres, an important scholar of Caribbean Studies, asked if decolonial humanities are possible. Mary Beth Norton, a former president of the American Historical Association, spoke on her important new book on the origins of the American Revolution, *1774: The Long Year of Revolution*.

The Center's fellows meetings and Interdisciplinary Research Groups moved smoothly to an online format, as did our workshops on grant writing, publishing with academic presses, and careers in secondary education for PhDs. We had even more faculty book talks than usual, a sign of the growing productivity of our humanities faculty. Our Inquiring Minds program, designed to introduce undergraduates to humanities research and professional opportunities, having been canceled last year, returned this year in virtual form. More adventurously, we introduced or expanded a couple of new initiatives, designed for people stuck at home during the pandemic, namely a Virtual Book Club and a Humanities at Home section of our webpage, which allowed people to find virtual humanities resources at UM and elsewhere. We also introduced a permanent new program, the Humanities Hour series, featuring talks by faculty able to convey the wealth of humanities research being done at the university to a broader audience. Finally, we also participated in many collaborative events and projects: we are proudest of the role we played in this year's One Book One U program, chaired by our assistant director, Meghan Homer, which was focused on Ijeoma Oluo's *So You Want to Talk About Race*.



Like everyone else, we hope for a return to normalcy next year, with a resumption of face to face events we have so missed, though some events may have to remain online, at least for the fall, and our new series, Humanities Hour, will remain in a virtual format. We have a very exciting set of speakers, seminars, and workshops lined up for next year, some of them postponed from this past year. Our Henry King Stanford Distinguished Professors include Stephanie Burt of Harvard, a poet and literary critic; the noted author, Valeria Luiselli; Daphne Brooks of Yale University, a noted scholar of African American Studies; and John McNeill, a leader in the field of environmental history.

As always, we greatly appreciate the ongoing support of Dean Bachas and the leadership of the College of Arts & Sciences, especially Senior Associate Deans Maria Stampino, Jennifer Ferriss-Hill, and Kenneth Voss. We are grateful to Provost Duerk for the funding his office provides. Our faculty board has been particularly helpful in giving useful advice in this difficult year. Our staff members, Dr. Meghan Homer and Ms. Ony Dunnam, have pulled off miracles despite being furloughed at times. Our graduate UGrow Fellow, Nadiyah Aamer, not only did the normal range of tasks we needed but also led an engaging book discussion. Our undergraduate student assistant, Gaby Gillard, helped keep the Center running.

Resilience is something that we in the Center, in the University, and in the broader community, have had to develop more than we would wish. Resilience will continue to be necessary for going forward, and it is for that reason that we have decided to adopt resilience as a unifying theme for our events and activities for the next two years. We look forward to sharing news of upcoming events and programs for the 2021-22 academic year and we hope that you will join us in exploring how resilience is at the heart of every humanist endeavor.

QUICK FACTS

- **We had more than 1720 Attendees at Center events this year!**
 - **That includes 638 Book Talk Attendees, 426 Stanfords Online Lecture Series Attendees, and 151 Humanities Hour Attendees!**
- **We funded conference attendance for 3 students**
 - **People joined our online events from the US, Japan, India, Canada, the UK, the Bahamas, Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Columbia, South Africa, Mexico and other places around the world!**

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Voting, Pg 2: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tradlands/30822999686Cuba>, Pg 2

Cuba, Pg 3: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/stereo.ls20209/>

Tea Party, Pg 7: from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boston_Tea_Party_w.jpg

Mask, Pg 8: <https://muzeum.nlk.cz/en/jak-vyrobil-masku-pro-prevenci-chripkove-nakazy/>

Nurse Poster, Pg 8: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Five_thousand_by_June_graduate_nurses_your_country_needs_you.jpg

Women Voters, Pg 9: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nannie_Burroughs,_Woman%27s_National_Baptist_Convention.jpg

Ballot Box, Pg 9: <https://www.chicagohistory.org/fighting-right-vote/>

Newspaper, Pg 22: https://www.pinclipart.com/pindetail/mTwmh_paper-clipart-boy-newspaper-boy-clip-art-png/

HENRY KING STANFORD DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

STANFORDS *ONLINE*

Nelson Maldonado-Torres

"Are Decolonial Humanities Possible?"

September 24, 2020

Nelson Maldonado-Torres is Chair of the Program in Comparative Literature and Director of the Rutgers Advanced Institute for Critical Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. He is also Professor of Latino and Caribbean Studies and faculty affiliate with the Graduate Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the same institution. He co-chairs the Frantz Fanon Foundation, based in France, is President Emeritus of the Caribbean Philosophical Association, and has served as Distinguished Visiting Scholar of the Academy of Science of South Africa. His areas of expertise include Africana, Latinx, and Latin American philosophy, race and ethnic studies, decolonial thought, and theory and philosophy of religion. His publications include *Against War: Views from the Underside of Modernity* (2008), *La descolonización y el giro decolonial* (2011), and co-edited books such as *Decolonialidade e pensamento afrodiaspórico* (2018).

His work involves collaborations with extra-academic organizations such as the Blackhouse Kollektive in South Africa, Lazos America Unida in New Jersey, and the Colectiva Feminista en Construcción in Puerto Rico.

For the inaugural *Stanfords Online* lecture, Maldonado-Torres discussed how the impact of the broad and heterogenous Black Lives Matter movement has been felt in the academy, highlighting that many universities and humanities departments are compelled to determine how to respond to this movement beyond predictable declarations of support. He posited that at stake is the possibility of identifying and opposing racist dynamics and antiblackness that exist not only as part of neoliberal structural adjustments in universities, but also within the very epistemologies of the liberal arts and sciences. He asserted that the racism believed to be situated in the past is actually deeply embedded within the structure of the the academy, and that the field of the humanities, in comprising the university, is not exempt from this complicity. Maldonado-Torres concluded by proposing that the idea of the humanities as infinitely valuable and extendable must be suspended, and that "ecologies of knowledge" rather than faculties of knowledge should take an ideological center. Facing the darker sides of the modern Western and liberal humanities, this lecture explored the extent to which a decolonial turn in the humanities is possible.



Mary Beth Norton

"1774: The Long Year of Revolution"

November 12, 2020

Mary Beth Norton is the Mary Donlon Alger Professor Emerita of American History at Cornell University. Norton is the author of five books and co-editor of several others. Her textbook, *A People and a Nation*, a survey of U.S. history written with five other authors, has been published in ten editions and has sold more than 500,000 copies. Her book, *Founding Mothers and Fathers* (1996), was a finalist for the 1997 Pulitzer Prize. Norton has served on the National Council on the Humanities, as president of the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, and as vice president for research of the American Historical Association. She also served as the general editor of the AHA Guide to Historical Literature in 1995. Norton was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1999. She was also elected Speaker of the third Cornell University Senate. She served as President of the American Historical Association in 2018. Norton has won grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

In her Stanford's *Online* lecture, Professor Mary Beth Norton discussed her new book, a narrative history of the "long year" of 1774, or the 16 months from December 1773 to April 1775, which historians have

tended to overlook. John Adams observed that the true revolution took place in the minds of the people before the battles at Lexington and Concord, and the year 1774, Norton argued, was when that revolution occurred. Indeed, it was during this time that American colonists, united and divided over British policy in the colonies, then managed to overcome their differences to join in a revolution against Britain. Drawing extensively on pamphlets, newspapers, and personal correspondence, Norton reconstructed colonial political discourse as it happened, illuminating the campaign mounted by conservatives in criticizing congressional actions. Norton described the debates between patriots and loyalists that took place through the press, and explained the discourses of the period during which many people once loyal to King George III gradually began to accept the inevitability of war against the British Empire. While many might assume a clear, straightforward trajectory from the Tea Act and Tea Party to independence, Norton argued in favor of re-creating and re-envisioning the reality of this year in all its particularity and polemics. Only then, she suggested, will the complexity of the conflicts, divisions, and confusions that comprise revolutionary flashpoints like the Boston Tea Party be fully understood and appreciated.



Antoni Trilla

"The 1918 'Spanish Flu' in Spain"

January 29, 2021

Antoni Trilla is Research Professor at ISGlobal and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Barcelona. As an expert in infectious diseases, Trilla coordinates the High Level Isolation Unit, chairs the Scientific Advisory Committee for Emerging Infections of Catalonia, and is scientific advisor for the European Center for Disease Control. He is also head of the Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology Unit and teaches Preventive Medicine & Public Health at the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona-UB. He has authored more than 250 original papers in peer-reviewed journals and has been principal or associate investigator in 25 research projects. Dr. Trilla completed his MD and PhD as well as Master's degrees in Hospital & Health Services Management and Health Economics & Health Management at the University of Barcelona. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and in Preventive Medicine & Public Health.

During his Stanfords *Online* lecture, Trilla reviewed epidemiological and historical data about the 1918–1919 influenza epidemic in Spain. He discussed the progression of the influenza epidemic including its likely spread from France to Spain (perhaps as the result of the heavy railroad traffic of Spanish and Portuguese migrant workers to and from France), its

devastating impact, and its characterization as the "Spanish flu," despite contrary evidence on its origins. Trilla explained that although the influenza pandemic acquired its nickname of "the Spanish flu" due to Spain's neutrality in World War I, the situation in Spain at the time was far from calm, marked by strikes, economic instability, and conflicts in Morocco, and these tensions placed Spain in a precarious condition to be particularly devastated by the disease. Modern-day phylogenetic analysis of viral RNA from infected lung tissue shows that the A(H1N1) virus itself was likely to have been avian in origin. Several explanations for the influenza's heightened deadliness in 1918 include the lack of antibiotic treatments and ICU facilities of current times, no effective vaccine, and infectious complications, such as bacterial pneumonia, being a common cause of death. One hundred years later, Spain, like the rest of the world, is suffering the COVID-19 pandemic. Trilla concluded his lecture by reading from a scientific journal article published in 1919, whose words echo almost verbatim the tragic reckonings of the present-day pandemic: "...a catastrophe at once so sudden, so devastating, and so universal."



Martha S. Jones

"What if Black Women Have Always Been the Vanguard of Voting Rights?"

April 27, 2021

Martha S. Jones is the Society of Black Alumni Presidential Professor, Professor of History, and a Professor at the SNF Agora Institute at The Johns Hopkins University. She is a legal and cultural historian whose work examines how black Americans have shaped the story of American democracy. She is author of *Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All* (2020), selected as one of *Time Magazine's* 100 must-read books for 2020. Professor Jones holds a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University and a J.D. from the CUNY School of Law. She is an immediate past co-president of the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, and today serves on the boards of the Society of American Historians, the National Women's History Museum, the US Capitol Historical Society, the Johns Hopkins University Press, the *Journal of African American History*, and *Slavery & Abolition*.

Jones suggests that there are two primary myths of women's suffrage: the first being that the 19th Amendment guaranteed voting rights for women (the vote was not necessarily guaranteed, and state laws would continue to keep women from the polls), and the second being that the 19th Amendment "did nothing" for Black women and that no Black American women gained the vote in 1920. The members of Congress who promulgated the 19th Amendment, the state lawmakers who ratified it, and the suffragists themselves all understood that the Amendment did not explicitly prohibit states from strategically using poll taxes and literacy tests to prevent Black women from registering to vote.

Indeed, nothing in the new amendment promised to curb the intimidation and violence that threatened Black women who came out to polling places. As Jones acknowledges, voting rights and voter suppression went hand in hand in 1920. However, waves of black women had already been voters before the passing of the 19th Amendment when individual states, such as California in 1911, had legalized the vote for women. In St. Louis, Black women organized a "suffrage school" at the YWCA to teach Black women voters how to pay poll taxes and pass literacy tests, and prepared one another for voter registration in the 1920 election. While white women voters in St. Louis reported showing up to the polls to fulfill the promise and future of the 19th amendment, Black female voters registered in efforts to combat Jim Crow legislation and housing segregation in the city. Jones cites the examples of Mary McLeod Bethune in Daytona, Florida and Ida B. Wells in Chicago, Illinois as particularly prolific and successful organizers of Black women voters, even in the face of violent racist backlash from groups like the Ku Klux Klan. By the 1940s, Black women had become the architects of movements for non-violent direct resistance, civil rights and voting rights, demonstrating that securing the vote for Black women became a campaign that has waged across generations. Jones concludes by emphasizing the importance of and degree to which American politics for Black women has been and continues to be a "long game."



LECTURES

Martin Tsang

"Beyond Scholarship, Beyond Words: Emotional and Affective Aspects of Humanities Fieldwork in the Caribbean"

October 30, 2020

Hosted by the graduate student-led *Humanities Fieldwork* Interdisciplinary Research Group, Martin Tsang, the Cuban Heritage Collection Librarian and Curator of Latin American Collections, discussed his anthropology-based methodologies and his research on the Chinese in Cuba, specifically how the legacy of Chinese indentured workers have influenced Cuban culture and Afro-Cuban religion. In 2015, Tsang joined the University of Miami Libraries as the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Postdoctoral Fellow. In his current role, he develops print and digital collections, teaches, curates exhibitions, provides consultative and instructional research support services, and assists the Libraries in designing a new model for transformative library engagement with our research and teaching communities.

Matt Brim

"Queer-Class Counternarratives in Higher Education"

November 6, 2020

In this lecture presented by the *Queer Studies* Interdisciplinary Research Group, Matt Brim discussed his most recent book, *Poor Queer Studies: Confronting Elitism in the University* (Duke University Press, 2020), which reorients the field of queer studies away from elite institutions of higher education and toward working-class schools, students, theories, and pedagogies. Brim is a Professor of Queer Studies in the English department at the College of Staten Island, CUNY, with a faculty appointment at the Graduate Center in the Women's and Gender Studies M.A. Program. He teaches a variety of courses in LGBTQ literature and women's studies, often with a focus on black feminist/queer studies.

Lauren Klein

"Digital Humanities and Data Justice: Lessons from Intersectional Feminism"

September 24, 2020

Lauren Klein, an Associate Professor in the Departments of English and Quantitative Theory and Methods at Emory University and Director of the Digital Humanities Lab, drew from her recent book, *Data Feminism* (MIT Press), in this talk. She began by discussing the field of data justice and its consideration of how the collection, analysis, and use of data relate to issues of social justice. Klein went on to explain how the past several decades of intersectional feminist activism and critical thought can inform scholars' approach to the field. Klein is the co-editor of *Debates in the Digital Humanities* (University of Minnesota Press), a hybrid print/digital publication stream that explores debates in the field as they emerge. This lecture was presented by the *Digital Humanities* Interdisciplinary Research Group.

Amanda Waterhouse

"Architects of the Archive: Oral, Visual, and Textual Records in the Global History of Cold War Columbia"

March 9, 2020

Amanda Waterhouse, PhD Candidate with the Department of History at Indiana University, joined the graduate student-led *Fieldwork* Interdisciplinary Research Group for a talk about her fieldwork experience with activists, Peace Corps volunteers, and grassroots architects in Colombia, as well as how she's been adjusting her strategies to locate interviewees, conducting digital fieldwork during the pandemic, and navigating various narratives in written and oral sources.

Jeffrey Ravel

"Acceleration? Digital Resources and the Speed of Scholarship"

April 23, 2021

Digital hardware and software allow us in principle to work much faster than we did in the days of typewriters and copying machines. The ubiquity of information, in many shades of truth and falsehood, is only a click or two away. Everywhere we turn, it seems, we expect acceleration. For this virtual event, Jeffrey Ravel posed the question: is the promise of speed the most important contribution the Digital Humanities will make to humanistic scholarship? Ravel presented his major Digital Humanities Theater initiative, the Comédie-Française Registers Project (CFRP), a project co-funded by MIT, the French Government, The Comédie-Française, the Sorbonne, and the Université Paris-Nanterre. Ravel demonstrated the site and then discussed the genesis of the project, its advantages, its limitations, and its future directions. This event was presented by the *Theatre Studies* Interdisciplinary Research Group, with support from the Center for the Humanities.

EDITH BLEICH SPEAKER SERIES

Kyle Harper

"Health and History in a Time of Pandemic"
February 11, 2021

Kyle Harper is Professor of Classics and Letters and Provost Emeritus at The University of Oklahoma. Dr. Harper is a historian of the ancient world whose work has spanned economic, environmental, and social history. He is the author of three books, *Slavery in the Late Roman World, AD 275-425* (2011), which was awarded the James Henry Breasted Prize by the American Historical Association and the Outstanding Publication Award from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South; *From Shame to Sin: The Christian Transformation of Sexual Morality* (2013), which won the Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion in Historical Studies from the American Academy of Religion; and *The Fate of Rome: Climate, Disease, and the End of an Empire* (2013), which has been translated into twelve languages. He is currently writing a global history of infectious disease.

In this Edith Bleich lecture, Kyle Harper explored why we need history to understand infectious disease, demonstrating the power of humanistic history in better understanding why we have the infectious disease we have, why epidemics happen, why they matter, and why epidemics will keep happening.

According to Harper, disease history is consilient and requires not only observing disease on a large-scale across regions and "big" timescales, but also necessitates "zooming in" on the details of life for a community, dwelling, or individual. In particular, interdisciplinary work is crucial to the understanding of disease and history, combining the humanities with social science and natural science. Humans, Harper argues, shape the ecology of pathogen evolution and in turn, diseases shape and constrain human beings, and the agency of human beings vis-à-vis disease changes historically. With every human technological advancement in history comes a new disease burden that evolves as a result. Thus, technology changes the ecology of disease. Evolution is relentless and ongoing, suggests Harper, and pathogens that were previously thought to be "old" have been found to be much younger and have evolved more recently in human history, suggesting a more rapid rate of evolution due to the expansion of human populations across the globe. In Harper's closing thoughts on COVID-19, he argued that the current pandemic reached such devastating proportions due to a perfect storm of biological and social conditions, but also notes that COVID-19 continues an "unbroken line of near-misses," which includes other coronaviruses like Ebola and Zika. He finished his lecture by quoting Budd's *Typhoid Fever*: "The members of the human family are, in fact, bound together by a thousand secret ties...a bond which may bring them both, at once, to a common grave."




This speaker series is dedicated to the memory of one of the University of Miami's most devoted students and a beloved teacher, Edith Bleich.



Daria Pietropaolo



Brice Sewell



Nhadya Lawes


INQUIRING MINDS

Undegraduate Opportunities in the Humanities

The Center for the Humanities is committed to promoting and celebrating scholarly pursuits in the humanities and in interdisciplinary fields. In an effort to feature the stellar work of humanities faculty and students and to assist undergraduates in identifying how humanities coursework relates to their professional goals, the Center is proud to present Inquiring Minds: Opportunities in the Humanities. For the 2020-21 academic year, the Inquiring Minds initiative was transformed into a Virtual Challenge, featuring a series of activities, most of which students could complete from the comfort and safety of home! Participants selected tasks to complete including attending Center events, interviewing a humanities faculty member about their research, presenting their own humanities research at an approved conference, attending the Humanities Student Researcher Panel (pictured above) or the Humanities Professional Panel, (pictured below) and more! The Inquiring Minds Virtual Challenge provided students a chance to engage with faculty, hear from alumni about the value of humanities study, and learn how to get involved in humanities research. Students then had the option to submit their materials and enter our prize drawing. With nearly 100 entries in the prize drawing, Inquiring Minds continues to be a success!




Victoria Martinez




Leslie Greenwood, JD



Jennifer Pallicer



Miguel Ramirez



Gauri Agarwal, MD

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

Virtual Grant Writing Workshop

Maria Stampino, Joanna Johnson, Erin Kobetz, and Tracy Erlich

August 28, 2020

Grant writing is considered by many academics to be one of the most intimidating, frustrating, yet potentially rewarding tasks of present-day scholarship. The Center for the Humanities offered a virtual grant writing workshop designed to help University of Miami instructors and graduate students navigate the numerous resources and opportunities offered through the University. The workshop was led by four experts able to offer practical advice on securing grants and fellowships. The panel shared information on available resources to faculty and students such as internal funding opportunities, grant-writing workshops, and access to the Writing Center and writing groups. Practical advice included tips on avoiding typical pitfalls in the writing process, common feedback from reviewers, and suggestions from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Other topics of discussion included how to identify appropriate grants, University proposal processing, award processing and timelines, and how to frame, draft, and submit a successful proposal.

Virtual Panel on Careers in Secondary Education

Joseph Mendes, Corinne Lhermitte, and Jacqueline Grant

November 4, 2020

During this virtual panel for graduate students considering alternatives to the professoriate, three UM alumni with PhDs discussed their successes and challenges in secondary education. After sharing their own experiences in departing from the traditional path of academia and finding fulfilling careers in both private and public high schools, Mendes, Lhermitte, and Grant invited attendees to ask questions about the job search, salaries, certification, and instructor-student connections. The panel included guidance and advice on developing challenging high school curriculums that have the potential to incorporate one's doctoral research, long-term mentoring relationships with students, and balancing teaching responsibilities with remaining up-to-date with the latest academic developments in the field.



Seminar: "A Conversation with Valeria Luiselli"

Valeria Luiselli
March 9, 2021

Valeria Luiselli, whose Stanford lecture was postponed until the 2021-2022 academic year, participated in a discussion of the "Hostile Terrain 94" exhibit, installed on the first floor of Otto G. Richter Library in late-February 2021. Hostile Terrain 94 is a participatory art project sponsored and organized by the Undocumented Migration Project and features over 3,200 handwritten toe-tags representing migrants who have died trying to cross the Sonoran Desert of Arizona between the mid-1990s and 2019. The conversation was moderated by UM faculty Chantel Acevedo and Sallie Hughes and focused on topics such as immigration policies, the history of the Southern border, the narratives and lived experiences of immigrants and how these stories are told, as well as how the exhibit relates to Luiselli's current projects.

Luiselli is an acclaimed writer of both fiction and nonfiction; she is the recipient of a 2019 MacArthur Fellowship, two Los Angeles Times Book Prizes, The Carnegie Medal, and an American Book Award; and has been nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Kirkus Prize, and the Booker Prize.

Virtual Workshop: Publishing Your Book: Advice from an Editor

Gisela Fosado
March 19, 2021

Navigating the publishing world can feel daunting, particularly in an environment where presses face an ever-shrinking monograph market and are continually adjusting their publishing programs to stay solvent. In light of these challenges, the Center presented a workshop led by Gisela Fosado, Editor at Duke University Press, covering topics such as how to shape a project to broaden its readership, navigate the world of academic publishing, understand an editor's role, prepare for and get the most out of the peer review process, and help make a book a success once it's published.

Fosado works with authors writing scholarly books, as well as those for general readerships, and is particularly interested in books that foreground marginalized perspectives, adopt an intersectional approach, and contribute to our understanding of social movements and inequality. Fosado publishes books in a wide range of areas in the humanities and social sciences, including anthropology, sociology, American and Atlantic World history, gender and sexuality studies, race and ethnicity, African American and Africana studies, environmental studies, and Latin American and Latinx Studies.





BOOK TALKS

Jennifer Ferriss-Hill, Department of Classics

Horace's Ars Poetica: Family, Friendship, and the Art of Living

Princeton University Press

Berit Brogaard, Department of Philosophy

Hatred: Understanding Our Most Dangerous Emotion

Oxford University Press

Christina Lane, Department of Cinema & Interactive Media

Phantom Lady: Hollywood Producer Joan Harrison, the Forgotten Woman Behind Hitchcock

Chicago Review Press

Melvin Butler, Department of Musicology

Island Gospel: Pentecostal Music and Identity in Jamaica and the United States

University of Illinois Press

Mark Rowlands, Department of Philosophy

Can Animals Be Persons?

Oxford University Press

Claire Oueslati-Porter, Department of Anthropology

Gender, Textile Work, and Tunisian Women's Liberation: Deviating Patterns

Palgrave Pivot

Heather Diack, Department of Art History

Documents of Doubt: The Photographic Conditions of Conceptual Art

University of Minnesota Press

Michael Slote, Department of Philosophy

Between Psychology and Philosophy: East-West Themes and Beyond

Palgrave Macmillan

David Kling, Department of Religious Studies

A History of Christian Conversion

Oxford University Press

Logan Connors, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures

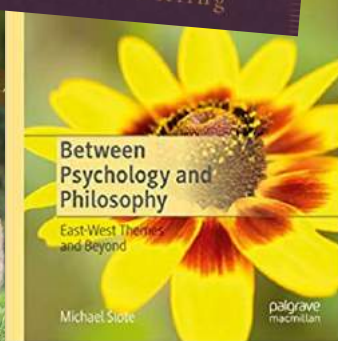
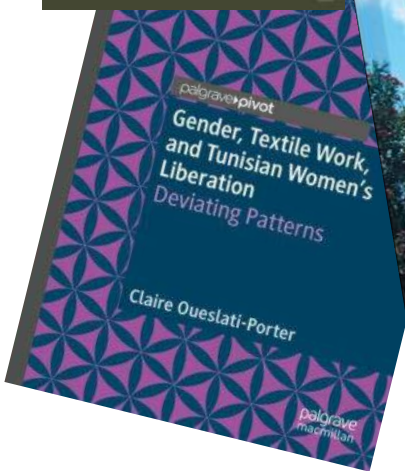
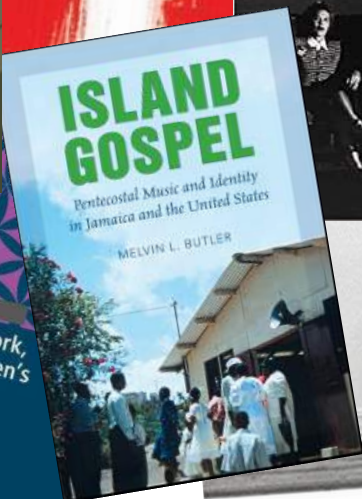
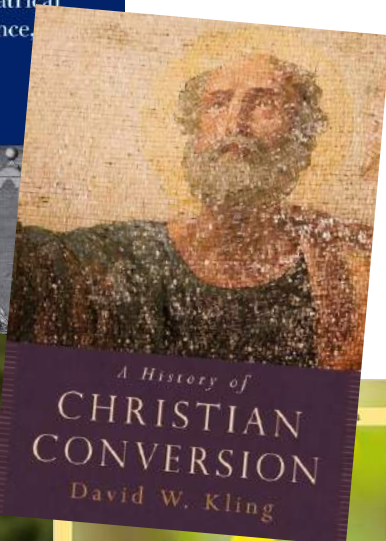
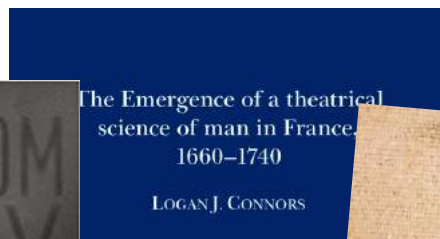
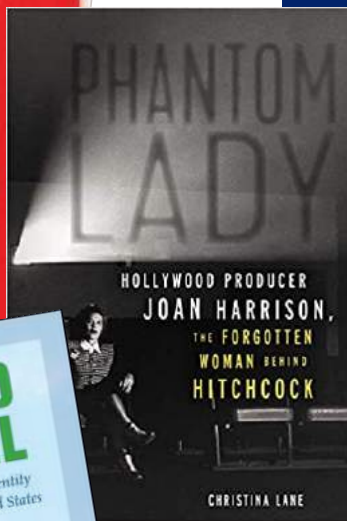
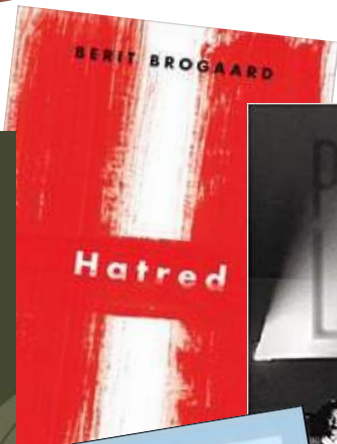
The Emergence of a Theatrical Science of Man in France, 1660-1740

Voltaire Foundation in association with Liverpool University Press





Horace's
Ars Poetica
Family,
Friendship,
and the Art
of Living
Jennifer
Ferriss-Hill



HUMANITES HOUR SERIES

"Historical Fiction—A Novelist's Approach to Researching and Writing 19th Century Cuba"

Chantel Acevedo, Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing
October 1, 2021

As the Center's inaugural Humanities Hour speaker, Chantel Acevedo shared her experiences writing and researching her latest novels, *The Distant Marvels* and *The Living Infinite*, which are set in Cuba during the War of Independence from Spain, and were both published by Europa Editions. Acevedo discussed the process of combining research and invention in order to tell a compelling story, sharing examples of the historical moments and documents that inspired her work.

"Slavery's Emancipation: A Rashomon Effect"

Scott Heerman, Associate Professor of History
October 13, 2020

Taking its inspiration from the 1950 film *Masterpiece, Rashomon*, this talk provided a poly-vocal history of emancipation. Following a few biographies of men and women who escaped slavery in the Caribbean, the talk tries to pin down what the lived realities were after slavery's emancipation. Heerman concluded by asking if we might be better off letting the fearful precarity of emancipation stand in our narratives, rather than trying to settle on a single outcome of these transformative events.

"The Spirit Writing of Lucille Clifton"

Marina Magloire, Assistant Professor of English
April 8, 2021

During this talk, Magloire drew on unpublished archives to discuss the poet Lucille Clifton's little-known practice of automatic writing and spirit communication, which spanned decades and encompassed everything from past life regressions to conversations with departed spirits as diverse as Langston Hughes, Beethoven, Billie Holiday, and Jesus. Magloire argued that Clifton's poetry insists upon the primacy and specificity of her black woman's body as a site of spiritual encounter, even as her spirit communication complicates the notion of black feminist embodiment by presenting the black woman's body as one transitory incarnation among many.

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

So You Want to Talk About Race

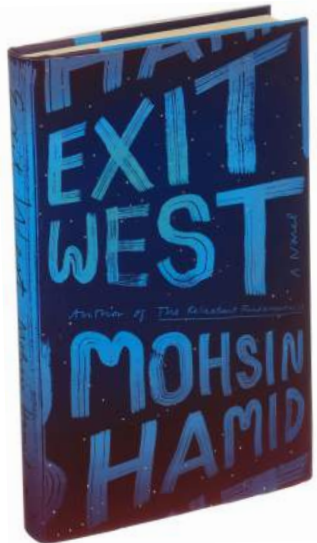
November 2020

As part of the Center's "Humanities at Home" initiative, the Virtual Book Club continued with a discussion of the One Book, One U common read selection, *So You Want to Talk About Race*. In this book, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life. Faculty, staff, and South Florida community members signed on for a virtual discussion led by the Center's UGrow Fellow, Nadiyah Aamer, delving into these challenging topics and participating in thoughtful reflection.



Exit West

March 2021



The Virtual Book Club continued in the spring semester with its first contemporary novel, *Exit West*, by Mohsin Hamid. Set against the backdrop of civil war and social unrest, the story follows remarkable characters as they emerge into an alien and uncertain future, struggling to hold on to each other, to their past, to the very sense of who they are. The virtual discussion, also led by Nadiyah Aamer, provided an opportunity to explore themes of love, loyalty, courage, transience, and hope. Members from the university community and beyond participated in the rich and lively discussion.

FELLOWS' SYMPOSIUM

ANNUAL FELLOWS SYMPOSIUM
October 23, 2020

Presentations from the 2019-2020 Fellows Included:

Session I – 9:00am to 10:00am

Michael Bernath:

"The Excitement at Boggy Swamp" from *In a Land of Strangers: Northern Teachers in the Old South, 1790-1865*

Anjan Chakravartty

Scientific Disagreement, Rationality, and Society

Session II – 10:15am to 11:15am

Erica James

"To Be a Man Among Men: Alexander Hamilton, Henri Christophe and Histories of Portraiture in the Americas" from *Decolonizing Time: Haitian Portraiture and Epistemologies of Vision*

M. Evaline Galang

Beautiful Sorrow, Beautiful Sky

Session III – 11:30am to 12:30pm

Lilianne Lugo Herrera

Meditated Archipelagoes: Theater, Women, and Media

Paige Miller

Multilingual Modernisms: Beyond English in James Joyce, G.V. Desani, Malcolm Lowry, and Jean Rhys

Session IV – 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Nelson Marques

Heroes of the Own Lives: Warfare and Identity in the Portuguese Atlantic, 1624-2668

Lorella Di Gregorio

"Narco-Culture as an Inter-Textual and Global Macro-Context" from *The Global Journey of Mexican and Southern Italian Cultural Products in the Time of Flows*



2020-2021 RESEARCH FELLOWS



Richard Chappell
(Philosophy)
*Bleeding-Heart
Consequentialism*



Marysol Quevedo
(Musicology)
*Cuban Music Counterpoints:
Classical Music Networks Before and
During the Cold War*



Christina Civantos
(Modern Languages &
Literatures)
*Confined Solidarity: A Connected
Cultural History of Cuba, Spanish
North Africa, and Morocco*



Patricia Saunders
(English)
*Social Death and Haptic Visuality:
Ebony Patterson's Three King's Weep
(2018)*



John Function
(English)
*Insurgent Fictions: Partisans and
the Art of Information Warfare in
Early U.S. Literature*



Helen Yetter-Chappell
(Philosophy)
*Realist Idealism: A World of
Sensation*



Karl Gunther
(History)
*The Courtier's Commentaries:
Belief and the Bible in the Early
English Reformation*



Gabriella Faundez-Rojas
(History)
*Conquest and Hagiography:
Rewriting Saints after the Norman
Conquest*



Scott Heerman
(History)
*Carried Back: Black Kidnapping
and State Formation, 1750-1870*



Dainerys Machado-Vento
(Modern Languages &
Literatures)
*The International Mediatization of
Cuban Literature (2006 - 2018)*



Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel
(Modern Languages &
Literatures)
*Overseas Archipelagoes:
Comparative Insular and Colonial
Studies*



NEWS FROM OUR FELLOWS

Marysol Quevedo, Assistant Professor of Musicology, published two book chapters: "Music in Cuban Revolutionary Cinema: Musical Experimentation in the Service of Revolutionary Ideology" in *Experiencing Music in Visual Cultures: Threshold, Intermediality, Synchresis* (Routledge, 2021) and "Communication and Marketing: Building and Reaching Your Community" in *Voices of the Field: Pathways in Public Ethnomusicology* (Oxford University Press, 2021).

June Teufel Dreyer, Professor of Political Science, published *Taiwan in the Era of Tsai Ing-wen: Changes and Challenges* (Routledge, 2021), with co-author Jacques de Lisle. She's written articles for the Analysis series of the Foreign Policy Research Institute and the Pacific Forum's *Comparative Connections* series as well as newspaper articles in *Japan Forward* and the *Epoch Times*. Teufel's appearances include an interview with *Voice of America* and a presentation at the University of Delaware.

Gabriela Faundez Rojas, PhD Candidate (History), was awarded the 2020 Haskins Society Denis Bethell Prize for Best Essay, titled "Denis Piramus's Le Vie Seint Edmund: Translating Cultural Identities In the Anglo-Norman World." The paper will be published in the *Haskins Society Journal* in 2022.

Simon Evnine, Professor of Philosophy, announced that one of his memes from his upcoming book, *A Certain Gesture: Evnine's Batman Project and Its Parerga!*, has been incorporated into the artwork 20x20 Eventi 2020, at the gallery UniMediaModern in Genoa, and will be included as part of the collection of the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Villa Croce, also in Genoa.

Amanda Thibodeau, Associate Professor of English (Broward College), was been elected Faculty Senate President at Broward College for 2021-22, having served as a faculty member at Broward College for seven years and as a Faculty Senator for six years.

Hugh Thomas, Professor of History and Director of the Center for the Humanities, published his most recent book, *Power and Pleasure: Court Life under King John, 1199-1216*, in November with Oxford University Press.

Guido Ruggiero, Professor of History, published a new book: *Love and Sex in the Time of Plague: A Decameron Renaissance* (Harvard, 2021). Ruggiero also received the Society for Italian Historical Studies 2020 Senior Scholar Citation award for "field-defining contributions" to Italian studies over the course of a career.

Mary Lindemann, Professor of History, served as President of the American Historical Association in 2020 and is currently Immediate Past President. In January 2021, she delivered the Presidential Address on "Slow History" that was published in expanded form in the March 2021 issue of the *American Historical Review*. She has contributed an article on "A Dutch Notary and His Clients" to a volume on life-histories edited by James R. Farr and Guido Ruggiero.



Brenna Munro, Associate Professor of English, won a fellowship for the 2021-22 academic year at the National Humanities Center to work on her book project, *Queer Writing in Digital Times: The Mobile Nigerian Present*.

Gema Pérez-Sánchez, Associate Professor of Modern Languages & Literatures, received a UM Arts and Humanities Fellowship for her book project, *Transnational Queer Affects and Activism: Literary and Visual Public Interventions in Spanish Culture in the 1970s and 2000s*. Invited lectures include her talk with the Seminario Cuerpo y Textualidad Research Group (Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona). She continues to participate in the Research Workshop on Race, Ethnicity, and Citizenship (Asociación de Literatura y Cultura Españolas Siglo XXI).

Kathryn Freeman, Professor of English, published *Rethinking the Romantic Era: Androgynous Subjectivity and the Recreative in the Writings of Mary Robinson, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Mary Shelley* (Bloomsbury, 2021).

Alok Amatya, Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellow (Georgia Institute of Technology) accepted a position as Assistant Professor of English at Lyon College (Arkansas) beginning in August 2021.

Dainerys Machado Vento, PhD candidate (Modern Languages & Literatures), received the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award from the MLL Department and was selected by *Granta Magazine* as one of the best of young Spanish Novelists (2021). She also published two peer-reviewed chapters in books edited in Mexico and United States (Universidad de Guanajuato and UF Press).

Robyn Faith Walsh, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, published a monograph, *The Origins of Early Christian Literature: Contextualizing the New Testament within Greco-Roman Literary Culture* with Cambridge University Press, as well as a handful of book reviews, online contributions, and public media pieces for venues such as *Slate*. Her work was also featured on NPR and a variety of podcasts and webinars, including *The Cambridge Forum*.

Kate Ramsey, Associate Professor of English, published "Powers of Imagination and Legal Regimes Against 'Obeah' in the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century British Caribbean" in the history of science journal, *Osiris*.

Maria Galli Stampino, Professor of Modern Languages & Literatures, announced her first article in Italian and in an Italian venue: "Traduttrici traghettatrici e creatrici di testi, o del valore della traduzione" in *Women Language Literature in Italy/Donne lingua letteratura in Italia* (2020).

Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, Marta S. Weeks Chair in Latin American Studies, published two co-edited volumes: *Contemporary Archipelagic Thinking: Towards New Comparative Methodologies and Disciplinary Formations* with Michelle Stephens (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers) and *The Routledge Hispanic Studies Companion to Colonial Latin America and the Caribbean (1492-1898)* with Santa Arias (Routledge).

Lindsay Thomas, Assistant Professor of English Lindsay published her book, *Training for Catastrophe: Fictions of National Security after 9/11* with the University of Minnesota Press in March 2021.

COLLABORATIONS

The Crusades and the Jews in Medieval Europe & the Holy Land

On February 4th, The Miller Center for Judaic Studies and the Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies invited the Center's director, Professor Hugh Thomas, to give a lecture. During his talk, Thomas emphasized the resilience of the Jewish people in Europe and the Holy Land during the Crusades, despite the horrific attacks they faced under anti-Jewish practices by European Christians. In addition to reviewing the emergence of anti-Jewish sentiment among Christians, forced conversion and baptism, economic factors, examples of attacks on Jewish communities, and the rampant paranoia and bizarre theories about Jewish people, Thomas shared examples of Jewish communities flourishing, citing elaborate architecture and spectacular artwork.

"When Liberty Burns" Screening and Discussion

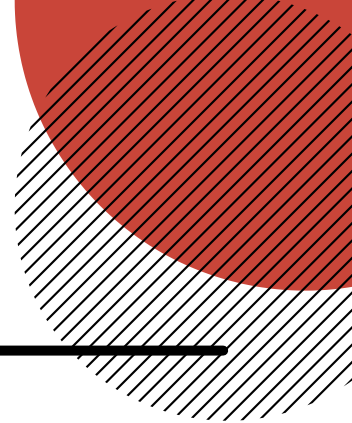
On February 11th, the Center for the Humanities was pleased to co-sponsor a screening of feature film "When Liberty Burns" and short film "Being," presented by the Office of Civic and Community Engagement and the Department of Cinematic Arts. After viewing the films, the community was invited to a panel discussion on themes depicted in the films that touch upon intersectionality, segregation, privilege, and systemic racism, the desegregation of Florida beaches, and a narrative on black trauma. This event was featured in the One Book, One U schedule of related programming.

Discussion with Sofian Merabet

In partnership with the Gender & Sexuality Studies Program and the Queer Studies Interdisciplinary Research Group, the Center sponsored a discussion on February 25th with Sofian Merabet, socio-cultural anthropologist with expertise in the modern Middle East and the wider Muslim world. In thinking of sexual difference as a manifestation of disruption but also of perseverance and possibility in times of war, and a way in which concerned individuals negotiate an often-hostile environment, Merabet addressed how queer sexualities have become pivotal for some individuals in articulating their responses to the Syrian war and the refugee crisis. In so doing, the talk conceptualized hospitality (as a philosophical concept) and the notion of the stranger as distinct yet interrelated themes through which queer Syrian identities are communicated and contested.

Undergraduate Scholarship

Seeking to support our undergraduate students' intellectual curiosity and professional development, the Center was pleased to help fund several students' conference presentations. With the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, the Center funded Nathaly Gonzalez's (French and Psychology) participation in the Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium, where she presented "The Solitude of Colombia: Story and Subalternity." The Center also sponsored Nhadya Lawes (English), who presented, "'A Different Image, Another Sound': Resistant Rhetoric and Black Identity," at the Nova Southeastern University Crossroads Conference. In addition, the Center funded English PhD candidate Rachel Northrop's presentation at Crossroads: "Network Narratives of the American 1970s."



"Oli Otya" Film Screening and Discussion

On March 11th, the Center also partnered with the Lowe Art Museum, the School of Nursing and Health Studies, and the Center for Communication, Culture, and Change to present a screening and discussion of Lucy Bruell's film, *Oli Otya? Life and Loss in Rural Uganda*. The film follows a team of palliative care health professionals from the US who care for villagers with little or no access to medical treatment. During the discussion, the U.S. team reflected on the difficulties in trying to adapt their methods to the culture of rural Uganda, challenging themselves to consider a Ugandan clinical officer's charge to "think in stories, understand stories." Through the lens of their experience, *Oli Otya?* explored how faith, culture, and belief frame how people understand illness and how they care for each other when options are few, engaging participants in a valuable discussion on healthcare from an interdisciplinary perspective.

"Blackness and Anti-Blackness in American Public Life"

As universities grapple with some of the wider ranging and material effects of racism, particularly anti-Blackness, three scholars engaged questions about the relationship of racial identity to social movements, media production, and intellectual property. The lecture was led by Lisa M. Corrigan, a Professor of Communication and Director of the Gender Studies Program at the University of Arkansas; Alfred L. Martin Jr., a media and cultural studies scholar whose work is concerned with the complex interplay between media industry studies and audience/fandom studies as related to television and film studies, critical black studies, sexuality and gender studies; and Anjali Vats, an Associate Professor of Communication and African and African Diaspora Studies at Boston College and Associate Professor of Law at Boston College Law School. This event was collaboratively hosted by The School of Communication, The Center for the Humanities, The Africana Studies Program, and the American Studies Program.

One Book, One U Common Read Program

The Center for the Humanities continues to be an avid supporter of the University's common read program, providing funding and administrative support. This year, their Selection Committee announced Ijeoma Oluo's *So You Want to Talk About Race* as its selection. Having made a commitment to foster inclusive excellence, the UM community found Ms. Oluo's book to be an invaluable instrument in exploring topics of race, ethnicity, identity, privilege, and intersectionality, with particular emphasis on stories told by people of color. Based on available data, the program had over 863 attendees at its events and programs, including the nearly 200 people who attended the virtual author event on February 17, 2021. The Center's support also made distribution of over 2,000 free copies of the book possible. Based on questionnaire results and comments, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and indicates strong support of the text and of the One Book, One U Program.

DAVID JOHN RUGGIERO AWARD

The annual award for the best dissertation in the humanities was established with the generous support of Guido Ruggiero, Professor of History, in memory of his brother, David John Ruggiero.

2021 Award Winner: Anna Nelson Bennett

The Ruggiero Prize Committee unanimously selected Anna Nelson Bennett's "The Magic of Things: Matter, Spirit, and Power in Venice, 1580-1730" as the recipient of the 2021 David John Ruggiero Dissertation Award. According to the committee members, Dr. Bennett's dissertation is an exhaustively researched and pristinely written examination of the material culture of magic during Venice's "long" seventeenth century. Her innovative analysis of the object-based spiritual practice of lay-Venetians, and especially Venetian women, offers novel insights into the still-enchanted worlds occupied by her early-modern subjects, and makes a significant contribution to the already voluminous work done by previous scholars on magic and witchcraft during this period. Her dissertation, according to the letter of nomination, "offers a significant reperiodization of the history of magic and witchcraft in Italy"—one which makes it clear that "the apparent decline of magic and witchcraft in late-seventeenth and early-eighteenth century Venice was just that: apparent." Not only does "The Magic of Things," to quote the nomination letter again, "link up nicely with current historical reappraisals of the interlocking roles of magic, religion, superstition, and science in a putative age of reason," but it also engages in compelling ways with cutting edge work in the fields of material culture, feminist theory, and urban studies, and should find a wide and appreciative audience among scholars throughout the humanities. Finally, the prize committee noted that Dr. Bennett's evocative storytelling, her carefully crafted prose, and her ability to crisply and effectively communicate complex ideas made "The Magic of Things" a pleasure to read throughout—something closer to what a reader might expect from a book manuscript than in a conventional dissertation. For these many strengths, it is a worthy recipient of the Ruggiero award and a valuable contribution to scholarship in the humanities.



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GIVING

The Center for the Humanities brings a wealth of opportunities to the University and the South Florida community to learn about the latest developments in humanities scholarship. The Center's programs promote mutual understanding among groups and cultures, provide support for student and faculty researchers, and enrich the intellectual culture on campus and beyond.

The Center relies on philanthropic support for its wide-ranging programs that stimulate public awareness and debate about humanities topics. A thriving Center for the Humanities is vital to promote the lifelong learning and intellectual growth for all.

By making a gift today, you can help support the many initiatives that enable the Center to maintain its excellence. Your gift, of any size, can impact our scholars, students, and community. Please consider the opportunities below or contact us about your own ideas!

Give to the Center for the Humanities Annual Fund

Unrestricted gifts to the Center provide the Director with the crucial flexible funding to enrich successful programs, support exciting new initiatives, and help meet unanticipated needs. These gifts enable the Center to seize opportunities as they arise in order to enhance its outstanding programs.

Donors who support the Center with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more will become a members of the University's James W. McLamore Society, and will receive invitations to exclusive University receptions and events.

Endow a Speaker Series

Name and endow a speaker series for \$100,000 on a topic area that is important to you. Share your passion for the medical humanities, the arts, music, women's or gender studies, sciences and the humanities, or whatever area is close to your heart!

Endow a Faculty Fellowship

Groundbreaking research produced by faculty fellows impacts the quality of instruction at UM and elevates the University's position in national rankings when the research is published. A gift of \$500,000 or more allows you to endow a faculty fellowship and support both our faculty and students.

Support our Humanities Students

The Center is committed to encouraging and supporting the intellectual curiosity and professional development of undergraduate and graduate students. If you'd like to explore how you can make transformative experiences like research or cultural experiences possible for UM students, please contact us.

Promote Humanities in the K-12 Classroom

A true humanities education starts early! The Center is highly motivated to bring the latest humanities scholarship to elementary, middle, and high school classrooms. The Center is seeking support for seminars led by UM-faculty designed for local school teachers, who will in turn vitalize and enrich their instruction with cutting-edge humanities scholarship.

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