

UC DAVIS HUMANITIES INSTITUTE (DHI) 2020-21 IMPACT REPORT

OVERALL INSTITUTE IMPACT: OUR CONSTITUENTS AND INSTITUTE SUPPORT

Fellowships/grants awarded across all programs: **55 individual awards** Number of research clusters and reading groups: **24 groups**

(incl. 13 Hum/Arts clusters, 7 TransCollege clusters, 4 Reading/Writing groups)

Newsletter subscribers: **2,358 subscribers**

Number of faculty on DHI selection board - **9 ladder faculty**

Number of HAAC (community board) Members - **13 around the country**

Number of public events and attendees: **38 events; 3132 attendees; 7972 video views**

Classes from grants on which the DHI is PI or Co-PI

--3 Undergraduate Classes (via SHAPE program): **3 major events /1000+viewers of those**

--1 Graduate Seminar (Mellon Public Scholars seminar)

FACULTY IMPACTS:

Faculty Research Fellowships - **7 (of 22 applicants)**

Network Collaboration - **3 (of 5 applicants)**

Public Scholarship & Engagement - **4 (of 9 applicants)**

Research Clusters: HumArts – **46 faculty involved** and TransCollege – **26 faculty involved** Reading & Writing Groups – **1** faculty member involved (mostly pitched at graduate students) Mellon Public Scholars Mentors - **14**

DHI Faculty Advisory Board - **9**

Events (Book Chats, PhD Unlimited, Film Festival, Conversations) – **43 fac. participants**

Total Faculty impacted: 175 impacted (153 winners/participants, 175 applying)

GRADUATE STUDENT IMPACT:

Reading & Writing Groups - **4 (of 4 applicants)**

Research Clusters: HumArts – **86** graduate students involved and TransCollege -**12**

Mellon Public Scholars - **14 (of 60 applicants)**

NHC Summer and Winter Podcasting - **8**

NHC Meaningful Teaching Awards - **5**

Mondavi and Summer Fellows - **8 (out of 81 applicants)**

Events (Book Chats, PhD Unlimited, Film Festival, Conversations) – **88 grad participants**

Total Graduates 344 impacted (225 winners/participants, 344 applying)

TOTAL IMPACT: 12,522+ (AS SHAPE HAD 1000+ ATTENDEES) + 2,358 NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIBERS (individuals directly impacted by DHI programs, includes the 175 faculty, the 243 graduates, 12,104+ attendees/views, so comprises all winners, applicants, event attendees, video views)

DHI 2020-21 Impact Report Page/ 2

NEW GRANTS RECEIVED:

Two California Humanities awards: \$5,000 for Reframing Sacramento and \$20,000 for Graduate Public Scholars (GPS), Lead PI: Jaimey Fisher, Prof. and DHI Director

NEH Humanities Connection Planning Grant: \$30,000, qualifies one for implementation grant of up to \$150k, Lead PI: Jaimey Fisher, Prof. and DHI Director

NSF - Navigating the New Arctic Planning Grant “Developing Community Frameworks for Improving Food Security in Greenland Through Fermented Foods”: \$298,000 total grant; \$32,000 grant for DHI staff support), Co-PI: Stephanie Maroney, MPS Program Manager

UCHRI Grant: Genocide and Human Rights Studies for Twenty-First Century Californians: Summer Institutes for High School and Community College Educators, \$10,000 --Lead PI-Keith Watenpaugh; Co-PI: Jaimey Fisher, Prof. and DHI Director

ON-GOING GRANTS RECEIVED:

Mellon Public Scholars Program (ending fall 2021)

--Lead PI: Jaimey Fisher, Prof. and DHI Director, \$600,000 renewal after initial \$400k
--funds Program Manager Stephanie Maroney’s position / 14 graduate fellows & mentors

MRPI (UCOP UC-system grant) I for UC Humanities Network

--Co-PI is Dean of Letters & Sciences at UCD, but prepared by UCI and Consortium of Humanities Institutes and Directors (Jaimey Fisher is co-chair of UC-System-wide Consortium of Humanities Institutes and Centers)

--\$1.8m, but divided between UCHRI in Irvine and the 10 campus institutes, so c. \$23,500/campus/year

GIFT FUNDS RAISED:

Give Day:

- DHI total funds raised toward MPS and GPS: **\$22,737**

(https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SkSb5rCSI7C_UicglFs6w0V5jm4D71PM/edit#gid=935523315)

- PSE total funds raised toward GPS: **\$6,500**

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING: SAMPLE CONTENT

Film Festival; Conversations; Book Chats; PhD Unlimited

Reach - partnerships with other units on campus (Shrem, Campus Community Book Project, Hemispheric Institute on the Americas, Human Rights Studies). Partnerships with community organizations (Crocker Art Museum, International House Davis, Avid Books)

Online events with high numbers of attendees during the pandemic; also on DHI YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJLh1S2KigsjFjgA0dxICjw>

NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS

Active participation in California (UCs Consortium of Humanities Institute and Centers) and international (CHCI) humanities networks; partners with Office of Research, Mondavi Center for Performing Arts, University Honors Program, Undergraduate Research Center, Human Rights Studies Program, Feminist Research Institute (and many partners with Mellon Public Scholars)

MELLON PUBLIC SCHOLARS IMPACTS: SAMPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Jeanelle Hope (2018 Mellon Public Scholar) co-developed the [Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum](#) for her MPS project with the California Department of Education; that curriculum will be implemented in all CA K-12 schools. Dr. Hope is Assistant Professor of Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies at Texas Christian University.

Anthony Burris (2019 Mellon Public Scholar) appointed to the Governor's [California Truth and Healing Council](#) after working on an MPS project with California State Parks on a project to document Indigenous contributions to two Northern California parks.

Lauren Peters (2020 Mellon Public Scholar) received widespread recognition for her MPS work returning her ancestor, Sophia, to her homelands from the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. Read coverage in the [Washington Post](#), [UC Davis News](#). Peters is a 2021-22 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar.

FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS & SEMINAR: HIGHLIGHTS

Quotes from Recent Faculty Fellows and Impact on Publications and Grants:

I received a 2021-22 National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship (\$60K) for the project that I presented a piece of for the DHI Seminar. In that application, I specifically mentioned the DHI workshop and described how it allowed me to build up to the book that I'm now working on. And more, the feedback, encouragement, and space/time to write with the DHI group last Spring set me up for what has been a very productive sabbatical.

As a pre-tenure scholar (at the time) I found this experience particularly significant, not only because it freed up some writing time, but because it also exposed me to new people outside of my own dept. It has been the most rewarding intellectual experience I've had here so far!

~Stacy Fahrenthold (History)

Jenny Kaminer (German/Russian) has published the book for which she received the DHI Fellowship: *Haunted Dreams: Fantasies of Adolescence in Post-Soviet Culture (Cornell UP)*. She thanks the DHI in the book's acknowledgements and it's the core of her promotion case.

Published a book that in part grew out of the faculty seminar. *Contemporary Chinese Cinema and Visual Culture: Envisioning the Nation* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2021) has been chosen to be part of Bloomsbury's Core Collection.

~Sheldon Lu (Comparative Literature)

DHI 2020-21 Impact Report Page/ 4

The research fellowship helped me with preparations for my solo show in October at Prince Street Gallery in NYC.

~Gina Werfel (Art Studio)

Published: *Africanness in Action: Essentialism and Musical Imaginations of Africa in Brazil*. New York: Oxford University Press.

~Juan Diego Diaz (Music)

DHI and I were able to put on the "Black Sacramento" public panel this past April 15, 2021. We got a Humanities for Fall Quick Grant of \$5000, which allowed us to provide an honorarium to community members (artists, scholars, and an area farmer) who spoke. We were also able to provide a small honorarium to three undergrad students from my community-engaged scholarship class. One of them continued working with the Center for Sacramento History for a time after graduating. The entire project was important to my efforts at more closely combining my teaching, research, and community service commitments, and it really helped me move that personal/professional initiative forward in a very public way. Also, having the course buyout allowed me time to not only work on my book proposal (which I did re-submit, by the way) but to move forward on a journal article that had gotten a "revise and resubmit" on. The article, "California Listenin': A Reflection on the Healing Power of Community Storytelling," is now in press with the peer-reviewed Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship. As a result of the article I am going up for my scheduled merit, which I was previously planning to defer, so my ability to advance during this merit cycle was impacted by my participation in the program this past spring.

~Milmon Harrison (African and African-American Studies)

José Juan Pérez Meléndez (History) has submitted the manuscript he worked on in in the seminar in Spring 2021 to Cambridge University Press as well as two related articles: --"A Tropical Schönbrunn: German Cameralism and the Contours of Brazilian Independence" (under review with *The Americas*)

--"A Different Meridian: Brazil's and Mexico's Post-Independence, c.1821-1871" (under review in *Past & Present*)

You can use me as an example of a faculty member with a disability and solo mothering responsibilities that make it essentially impossible to apply for a sabbatical in residence elsewhere. There are remarkably few opportunities to stay at home. In a time of climate change and with the new flexibilities of Zoom, it's also a wonderful moment rethink the resources that go into scholarly travel and the ordinary fellowship model based on carbon-heavy relocation. . . The teaching relief from the DHI fellowship was the space I sorely needed to get back to my manuscript. . . Programs like the DHI fellowship are essential for rectifying inequities on a campus that clearly values the sciences over the humanities -- with disparities in teaching loads, salaries, and eligibility for large grants.

~Liza Granda (Native American Studies)

MELLON RESEARCH INITIATIVES IMPACTS: SAMPLE HIGHLIGHTS

HATCH: Feminist Arts and Science Workshop - Developed HATCH curriculum, including an undergraduate course on reproduction through the lens of transgender studies (Jaleel, WMS 137, Winter 2021) and a speculative experimental graduate writing workshop (Choy, ANT210, Spring 2021). Dr. Jaleel also ran an undergraduate research group on anti-carceral feminist responses to sexual violence, which explored how scientific theories of sex, race, and trauma have contributed to and have been used to combat carceral institutional projects. In Spring 2021, Co-Directors Jaleel and Choy also co-taught an undergraduate course, “Bloodchild: Unhatching Feminisms” synthesizing HATCH’s key analytics (the relationships between feminism, science, and arts).

Racial Capitalism - Publication of *Histories of Racial Capitalism* (Feb 2021, Columbia University Press) a volume co-edited by co-director and Assistant Professor of History at UC Davis, Justin Leroy and Assistant Professor of History at University of Chicago, Destin Jenkins (who was an invited guest during the second year of the initiative). Angela Harris, Professor Emeritus at UC Davis School of Law and faculty affiliate of the MRI wrote a foreword for the volume, a relationship forged by the initiative itself. The volume also included four contributions from scholars who participated in MRI events.

At the level of graduate students - work in dialogue with the topics of the initiative. Several grad students are now in the dissertation writing stage having done coursework in the area and being involved with the events. Included are Jasmine Wade (Cultural Studies), winner of a UC Davis Dissertation Year Fellowship, writing on Black and Indigenous Radical Imaginings; Marlene Mercado (Cultural Studies) writing on the social relations damaged by histories of incarceration; Carla Martinez Plascencia (Cultural Studies) writing on race, disability, and economy; Vivienne Muller (Native American Studies) writing on Native removals; Debbie Arce (History) writing on health disparities. This is just a partial list, but it shows how the work of the initiative has been influential across a wide swath of disciplines and has impacted graduate student research at all stages.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ASSISTED WITH APPLICATIONS THAT YIELDED SIGNIFICANT AWARDS:

Con Diaz (Science and Technology Studies) - Digital Ethics Research Cluster • They completed the proposal for the Conscientious Computing Minor, to be submitted in fall 2021.

- 2019-20: awarded a \$149,999 grant for the Digital Ethics group from the Mozilla Foundation’s Conscientious Computing program
- Con Diaz will be Co-PI of a major NSF Medium award (valued at \$1.2 million) secured by Premkumar Devanbu (PI), who participated in the cluster. Con Diaz will spearhead its social implementation and outreach components through the development and delivery of a 5 unit introduction to programming course that incorporates digital ethics into the technical curriculum, which he is designing with Devanbu. They hope for a 2022 release date.