

ANNUAL REPORT

2013–2014

*Bridging disciplines,
building dialogues*

UC DAVIS

Humanities Institute



(Credit: Tom Spaulding)

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(Credit: Tom Spaulding)

THE UC DAVIS HUMANITIES INSTITUTE has spent the last 25 years bringing meaning and context to many of the biggest questions we ask ourselves: What is the meaning of time? How do we shape nature, and how has nature shaped us? Is California, as a place and a culture, exceptional? In an era of recycling and sustainability, what is trash?

With our counterparts throughout the University of California system, we aim to bring faculty into conversation with one another, with the campus community and with the public at large. From its early 20th-century roots as the University Farm to its recognition today as among the nation's top 10 public research universities, UC Davis has remained committed to research that benefits the public good. As the branch of the university that asks questions of meaning, the humanities are central to that mission.

The institute is proud of the distinctive kind of humanities we foster at one of the nation's leading land-grant universities. Our brand of "land-grant humanities" addresses critical problems in our culture and does so by bringing together scholars in different disciplines in creative and exciting ways. The Mellon Research Initiatives have proven to be a good mechanism for crossing boundaries. For example, in the Environments & Societies Mellon Research Initiative, historians and literary scholars analyze the cultural impact of environmental crises like global warming. In the Digital Cultures Mellon Research Initiative, literary scholars and anthropologists enlist video games to understand how scientists work in their laboratories. Asking the big questions of meaning, humanists at UC Davis reach across the campus and beyond to make the humanities essential to debates about the public good. But, apart from addressing the problems of today, the institute also supports faculty and graduate students attuned to the past such as a research cluster entitled the Religions of Late Antiquity recently occupied in locating, with the help of a GIS database, the "birth of the liberal arts" in the ancient world. Opening up scholarly inquiries, both past and present, satisfies our curiosities and adds to a body of knowledge that enriches our understanding of the human condition.

Many may think STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) when they hear the name UC Davis. But as a great university UC Davis needs the humanities alongside those disciplines. All great research universities have great humanities departments. It's impossible to have one without the other, and it's our mission—at the UC Davis Humanities Institute—to fulfill that potential.



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ABOUT THE EGGHEADS

Eye On Mrak, one of a series of ceramic egghead sculptures located across the UC Davis campus, serves as the Humanities Institute's unofficial mascot with appearances on its web site, brochures and posters. The Eggheads began appearing on campus in 1991 and are the works of the late Robert Arneson, renowned California artist and longtime professor of art at UC Davis. Arneson's widow, Sandra Shannonhouse, recently encouraged people viewing Arneson's work to look beyond what seems "edgy, naughty or funny" to find more serious comments about political, social and economic issues. For us at the Humanities Institute, Eye On Mrak signifies the openness, curiosity and knowledge that accompanies the work of great artists and scholars in the humanities.



2013–2014

Director's Letter

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED to offer to you this Annual Report of the Davis Humanities Institute for the academic year 2013–2014. This was my first year as director of the institute and I was excited to participate with enthusiastic faculty, graduate students and staff in developing new ways to serve the humanities at UC Davis. There is much talk nationally about the so-called “crisis in the humanities,” reflected in shrinking enrollments and fewer job openings. These are, no doubt, challenges that the discipline must meet. But on the ground, as it were, I find that the humanities are flourishing at our institution. Faculty members are engaged in inventive research while graduate students are pushing the envelope even further in original directions. One of the joys of observing the humanities from the vantage point of the institute is that one can appreciate just how strong the various fields of humanities, humanistic social sciences and the arts are at our university.

The Humanities Institute serves as the hub for all humanistic research at UC Davis. We run competitions for a variety of extramural, individual and collaborative grants. During the last year, we selected two applications for NEH Summer Stipend grants, one of which, by musicologist Carol Hess, was successful in this competitive process. We also ran a competition for a Mellon Sawyer Seminar to begin in fall 2015 and were delighted to learn that Kriss Ravetto-Biagioli of Technocultural Studies and Anupam Chander of the Law School were funded for a project on Surveillance Democracies. We staged a competition as well for HARCS dean's fellows that provided summer support for graduate students in Ph.D. and M.F.A. programs. Finally, we participated in the writing of a renewal grant for the Mellon Research Initiatives in the Humanities, which was also successful.

The Humanities Institute has launched a vigorous professionalization program. We convened a grant writing workshop for faculty and graduate students and another on how to publish an academic book. This last workshop brought Eric Schmidt, an

editor for UC Press, to the campus. We then followed up with an additional workshop in which three faculty presented their book proposals for discussion and criticism. Finally, working with English professor John Marx, we mounted an “Alt-Ac” (“Alternative Academics”) event attended by some 90 graduate students.

The institute also sees as its mission to promote collaborative work in the humanities in addition to the single-authored scholarship much more common in our discipline. In addition to staffing four Mellon Initiatives this year, we also selected Research Clusters designed, like the Mellon Initiatives, to create bridges across disciplines around themes of common interest. And we hosted a Faculty Research Seminar in the spring on the theme of time across disciplines. For next year, the Faculty Research Seminar has been redesigned to give six faculty members a quarter leave to complete book projects while in residence at the institute.

Finally—but not last!—I would like to salute our talented and dedicated staff. When I became director a year ago, we had lost all of our staff, with the exception of Associate Director, Molly McCarthy and Webmaster, Elliot Pollard. Molly and I worked together to rebuild the staff and we are stronger than ever. We are now equipped to staff events for a wide variety of activities, including those of our research clusters. And Molly will continue to provide excellent assistance to faculty and graduate students in writing grant proposals. So, our approach to the “crisis in the humanities” is not to lament but to work harder and with greater conviction that what we do is essential to the mission of the university and to society.

David Biale
Director
UC Davis Humanities Institute



Fellows

FACULTY RESEARCH SEMINAR

What is the meaning of time? How is it measured? Is our relationship to time changing in the current age of sound bites, pixelated information and social media? These are just a few of the questions that animated the conversations in spring 2014 among the participants of the Humanities Institute's Faculty Research Seminar. Conceived as collaborative incubators for works-in-progress, Faculty Research Seminars bring together faculty across the humanities and social sciences to engage themes that cross disciplines. The seminar participants meet weekly for a single quarter to think in community, challenge each other, and generate new insights into individual research trajectories.

Led by Professor of History Sudipta Sen, the 2013-2014 seminar entitled “Time-Reckoning” generated an interdisciplinary dialogue on the perception of time as it has developed in various branches of the humanities and social sciences. For scholars in the humanities, this topic is especially pressing: across the disciplines there is an assumption that time functions as a stable unit of analysis, flowing in a linear, quantifiable fashion. As this commonplace understanding of temporality comes under more scrutiny, however, the need to re-evaluate the measurement of time itself has never been more pressing.

Sen has made the investigation into the politics of time and space a key feature of his work. His book on this topic, *Ganges: The Many Pasts of an Indian River*, is forthcoming from Yale University Press. Other faculty in the seminar shared Sen's interest in exploring the social constructions of time. Participants included Simon Sadler, professor of architectural and urban history and Chancellor's Fellow in the Department of Design, whose work studies the ideological history of architecture in the late twentieth century. James Smith, an associate professor of anthropology, touches on aspects of temporality in the narratives of progress and development in the African continent. Beth Freeman, professor of English, targets the construction of time as it intersects with queer literature and media. Julia Simon, professor in the French department, seeks to bridge the gap between centuries, emphasizing the enduring relevance of 18th century French texts and philosophy today.

Although never a requirement of participation, we always hope that the seminar seeds further collaboration, and in this case, we were not disappointed. Because the participants felt their work together was “just getting started,” they submitted a successful application to expand their work, including more faculty and broadening the conversation, through the institute's Research Cluster program.

2013-2014 Faculty Research Seminar Participants:

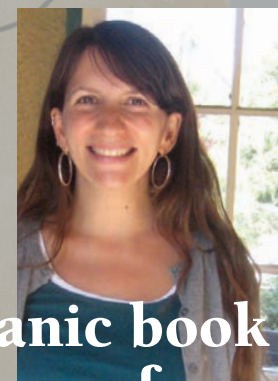
Sudipta Sen, History
Ganges: The Many Pasts of an Indian River

Julia Simon, French
Someday, After Awhile: The Poetics of Time in the Blues

Elizabeth Freeman, English
Time-Sense-Method: Theorizing the Sacramental

Simon Sadler, Design
The Long Now

James Smith, Anthropology
Network Fantasies and Coltan Dreams: Temporal Dispossession and the Drama of Fluctuating Temporality in the Eastern DR Congo



“The organic book emerges from early twentieth century anarchist traditions, but today it appears as an ‘old’ medium being made anew.”

DISSERTATION YEAR FELLOWS

Funded by the UC Humanities Network, the institute’s Dissertation Year Fellowships allow advanced doctoral candidates the time and financial support to complete their dissertations. In addition to time and financial support, the fellows joined a UC-wide cohort of scholars, both students and faculty, as members of the UC Society of Fellows. In the spring, the fellows came together at UC Santa Barbara to present their research in a multimedia format that challenged them to distill their projects into five-minute video presentations. The format was new to these students who reported that the exercise was especially useful as they prepared to enter a competitive academic job market.

With supplemental support from the divisions of Social Sciences and Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, the institute awarded two Dissertation Year Fellowships in 2013-2014. Magali Rabasa, a doctoral candidate in cultural studies, is completing a history of the printed book and its production and circulation in current social movements in Latin America. Grounded in more than two years of participatory research with presses, writers, booksellers, and movements in the capital cities of Mexico, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina, Rabasa’s dissertation explores how the print book is made of—and is continually making—political, social and economic relations. She argues that a different print book is emerging, which she calls the “organic book” drawing on Gramsci’s notion of the “organic intellectual.” The organic book emerges from early twentieth century anarchist traditions, but today it appears as an “old” medium being made anew.

A doctoral candidate in anthropology, Jieun Lee is writing an ethnography of the stem cell enterprise in South Korea, focusing on the proliferation of promises that center on the biological potential of stem cells. Conducting fieldwork in Korea, Lee has observed burgeoning markets for stem cell promises and their derivatives. From the novel business of stem cell banking, often fashioned as “bio-insurance,” to presumably more risky and expensive forms of illegitimate stem cell treatment, these markets revolve around the biological potential of stem cells as the basis of promises. Exploring various sites where stem cells are studied, discussed, and marketed from laboratories to consumer markets, she investigates the relations and practices that make stem cells into entities enfolding social-scientific-economic futures.

Magali Rabasa (Cultural Studies)
Project Title: The Book in Movement: Radical Politics & the Recrafting of Books in Latin America

Jieun Lee (Anthropology)
Project Title: The Marketing of Stem Cells in South Korea



“these markets revolve around the ... potential of stem cells as ... promises.”

HARCS DEAN’S FELLOWS

As every graduate student in the humanities knows, summers are especially tough financially. Annual stipends and instructor salaries don’t go far enough in covering costs associated with completing a creative or research project. Students need support to travel to archives, conferences and seminars, purchase materials such as canvas and clay, or cover living expenses as they write. To bridge the gap in summer support, the dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies in 2013-2014 allocated \$50,000 in summer support to graduate students in Ph.D. and M.F.A. programs. The Humanities Institute awarded each fellow up to \$2,500 for travel, research, workshops and other project-related work in the summer of 2013. The funding supported students in a range of programs from Performance Studies to English and will contribute to the completion of a wide array of projects, including a history of obscenity and editorship in twentieth century American literary culture, an examination of indigenous resistance to rural development in Haiti, and a performance piece that explores the relationship between bodies and sound. Below is a list of the awardees and their deserving projects.

Awardees:

Michael Accinno, Music
Gestures of Inclusion: Music and Ideology at French and American Schools for the Blind

Isabel Baboun Garib, Spanish and Portuguese
Intimacy and Subjectivity in Chilean Independent Cinema of the Transition to Democracy

Molly Ball, English
Slow Death and the Trope of Captivity: Revising Liberal Subjectivity in the Anglophone World

Loic Bourdeau, French & Italian
Researching Montreal

Mary Ann Brooks, Theater and Dance
Improvising While Black: Chronicling a Black Aesthetic

Nicole Budrovich, Art History
Minding the Gap: Methods to Connect Academic Research with the Modern Museum

Jordan Carroll, English
Publishing the Unpublishable: Obscenity and Editorship in American Literary Culture

Xan Chacko, Cultural Studies
Seeds for the Future

Jamie Dunn, Studio Art
Site-specific drawing and printmaking

Kelley Gove, Cultural Studies
Energy Futures and Crises through Nature, Labor and Class in Pinedale, Wyoming and Fort Nelson

Erin Hendel, English
Futures of American Studies Institute

Heather Jennings, English
Performance, Pedagogy and Rhetoric in Medieval England

Gretchen Jude, Performance Studies
Sounding Bodies, Sounding Spaces

Jasmine Kitses, English
Simple Marks: Moments of Punctuation in Twentieth-Century Poetry

Nita Little, Performance Studies
UrbanFERAL

Kelly Neil, English
Inscrutable Suicide: Politics, Gender and the Felo de se in Early Modern Drama

Kevin O’Connor, Performance Studies
Practice As Research Summer 2013 Performance Project

Isabel Porras, Cultural Studies
Embodying Passion & Heritage: Branding Colombia, Regulating Racial Excess in Cartagena

Sayyeda Razvi, Comparative Literature
A Space & Time for Storytelling: Reconfigurations of Spatial and Temporal Experience in the Work of Intizar Husain

Sophie Sapp, Cultural Studies
Developing Resistance: The Contested Ecology of Indigenous Survival Practice and Rural Development in Haiti

Danielle Shaw, English
Mad Men, Playboys and Hipsters: Racializing Labor, Leisure and Masculinity in the Postwar U.S.

Grace Tirapelle, English
Hotel Publics and American Literary Hospitality 1890-2010

Kristen Waha, Comparative Literature
Literary networks: A. Madhaviah and his Intellectual Collaborators

Christine Willie, Native American Studies
Sheep is Life and Diné Decolonization

Sciences and Humanities



OF TWO MINDS: BRINGING TOGETHER THE SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

We at the UC Davis Humanities Institute are especially attuned to the challenges of doing work that crosses disciplines. That is why in 2012-2013, we began a series of conversations aimed at helping faculty and students work more effectively across boundaries and in collaboration. In spring 2014, the Humanities Institute, in partnership with the Department of American Studies and the Mellon Digital Cultures Research Initiative, presented a sequel to an earlier interdisciplinary roundtable and assembled experts to discuss the practical and philosophical implications for faculty and students whose work bridges the social sciences and humanities with the sciences.

Associate Professor Charlotte Biltekoff, who has a joint appointment in American Studies and Food, Science and Technology at UC Davis, emphasized the deep-seated differences between academic disciplines, which are not simply ideological, but also institutional and methodological. Things like what counts as evidence—and just as importantly—what counts toward promotion and tenure, are disciplinarily determined. Biltekoff faced just such challenges learning how to communicate the humanist perspective of her first book *Eating Right in America: The Cultural Politics of Dietary Health* to her scientific colleagues.

The panelists, each of whom have one foot in the sciences and another in the social sciences and humanities, came together as a key session during The Contours of Algorithmic Life conference to discuss the challenges of living a double academic life. The language of bridges and connections was at the heart of the panel's concern about the difficulty of doing interdisciplinary work. The problem with bridges, the panel seemed to concur, is that they connect things, but they don't offer any critical synthesis of the divided parts. In the place of bridges, the panelists each described their own process of developing two, and often more, disciplinary minds for dealing with very different types of academic work.

At the end of the day, Professor Joe Dumit, director of science and technology studies at UC Davis, offered some sage advice about how to get involved in fruitful interdisciplinary projects, saying not to underestimate the power of just getting together face to face—through ongoing projects, conferences, on a train, or over lunch. Simply spending the time to interact with our colleagues from other departments helps us understand their methods and their language, and even more, helps us identify what we don't yet know about them.



PH.D. UNLIMITED

In spring 2014, the Humanities Institute launched a new theme in its programming with a kick-off event titled “PhD Unlimited: Expanding the Horizons of Non-Academic Careers” aimed at encouraging graduate students to think beyond the academy when they think about their future careers. Contrary to what many believe, a Ph.D. in the humanities doesn't limit one to a position in academia. The skills polished as a graduate student are valuable assets in a variety of organizations and industries, a fact that broadens the horizon of post-doctorate career options. For soon-to-be Ph.D.s, however, information on those careers may seem elusive.

To address this, the Humanities Institute, in partnership with the Internship and Career Center and the Office of Graduate Studies, hosted a half-day workshop and expert forum to explore opportunities for non-academic careers for Ph.D.s in the humanities and social sciences. More than 90 graduate students registered for the event that provided graduate students with new ways to think about their Ph.D.s and offered them tools to help them take control of their careers. A panel of experts provided the keynote to the event and offered their own perspectives on the issue of career diversity. The panel included Dave Shepard (Ph.D., English literature), a lead academic developer at UCLA's Center for Digital Humanities; Jodi Samuels (Ph.D, French literature), assistant director of development for the California Primary Care Association and Versatile Ph.D. member; and Julia Brookins (Ph.D., U.S. history), special projects coordinator for the American Historical Association.



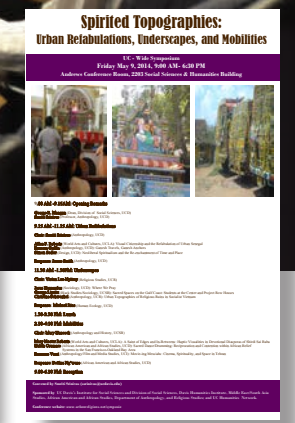
Professor of English John Marx said the event encouraged students to think of non-tenure track employment as more than just a “second option.” Marx wants UC Davis to “do more in deliberately preparing graduate students to enter a humanities workforce active in a host of economic sectors, from the academy to government to various sorts of industry.”

To continue the conversation beyond the event, the organizers created a website where doctoral candidates can share resources and access professional development tools: phdunlimited.ucdavis.edu.

More Ph.D. Unlimited news and events to come in 2014-2015.

To continue the conversation, go to phdunlimited.ucdavis.edu





GRANT WRITING WORKSHOPS

Before they can get their books published, faculty need to complete their research. But research can get expensive, involving visits to distant archives or international locales to conduct fieldwork. To support that research, faculty confront a competitive process and a shrinking number of humanities grant-making agencies and foundations. The Humanities Institute sponsored grantwriting workshops in 2013-2014 that took these challenges into account and offered faculty tips and tools for producing clear and compelling grant applications.

HOW TO PUBLISH YOUR BOOK

Publish or perish. It's a familiar mantra in the academy, and yet there are not many resources for faculty negotiating this rapidly changing publishing marketplace for the first time. To respond to this need, the Humanities Institute sponsored a series of workshops in 2013-2014 to offer faculty, and advanced graduate students, advice on getting their manuscripts published. In winter 2014, an editor from UC Press shared his advice and answered questions on issues such as finding the right academic press for your book, how to contact editors and crafting engaging book proposals. As a follow-up, the institute sponsored a session in the spring to circulate and critique a handful of faculty book proposals. Both workshops in winter and spring were packed and have encouraged us to continue to offer these publishing workshops in the next academic year.

publish or perish!



CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

How did a troupe of 19th-century circus performers introduce Japan to the West? What techniques can actors use to bring the plays of early modern Spain to life on the stage? How is religion transformed in urban landscapes across the globe? How did tea evolve from a beverage to a philosophical and spiritual pursuit in the countries of East Asia? These were just a few of the questions posed at conferences, symposia, workshops and other events co-sponsored by the Humanities Institute in 2013-2014. Our co-sponsored events program supports the intellectual exchange of ideas across the humanities and social sciences by helping faculty bring scholars and artists to campus who will enrich and ignite conversations across many fields and disciplines.

Among the highlights were a "Sewing Circle" at the C.N. Gorman Museum that invited students, faculty and staff to sit with artist Marie Watt who stitches tapestries that evoke both modern-day Manhattan and historic Native American longhouses. Watt's exhibition, titled "Receiver," reflects the authentic and neighborly connections that occur in urban settings and tribal communities. In winter quarter, independent scholar Frederik Schodt presented

the results of his most recent historical detective work with colorful woodcut prints, pristine turn-of-the-century photographs, and the 1905 Thomas Edison film titled "Japanese Acrobats." Schodt's book, *Professor Risley and the Imperial Troupe: How an American acrobat introduced circus to Japan – and Japan to the West*, recounts how a small group of marginalized street performers became Japan's first cultural ambassadors to the West. In the spring, two members of Spain's National Classical Theater Company offered their expertise in an actor's workshop aimed at helping actors interpret early modern plays for the 21st-century stage. The pair's tragic tears, evocative inflections and subtle comedic gestures brought the intense passion and clever wit of the Spanish stage to life.

In 2013-2014, the Humanities Institute supported more than two-dozen events across campus with awards ranging from \$300 up to \$1,500 for conference funding. Please visit the Humanities Institute's website for more information and guidelines about our co-sponsored event program.





MELLON RESEARCH INITIATIVES

The 2013-2014 academic year was an intensive one for the Mellon Research Initiatives in the Humanities, a multi-year series of interdisciplinary collaborations administered by the UC Davis Humanities Institute. For the first time, four Mellon Research Initiatives ran concurrently as two of the groups came to a successful close and another two launched their first year of programming. There were many highlights, including an exciting new digital project seeded between two of the collaborations, a tenure-track offer for one of two new Mellon Visiting Assistant Professors, successful graduate student recruitments in key departments, and an ambitious two-day, multi-media conference on the “Contours of Algorithmic Life” organized and mounted entirely by graduate students.



Each of the new Mellon Research Initiatives, one titled **Social Justice, Culture and (In)Security** and the other **Digital Cultures**, spent

their first year broadening their audiences, both on and off campus, and bringing fresh approaches to their events and workshops. The **Social Justice** group, with core faculty and students in the women's/gender and ethnic studies programs in the division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, spent the fall defining the field of social justice through panels and workshops. In spring 2014, the initiative partnered with Syracuse University's Democratizing Knowledge Collective (another Mellon-funded program) to host a roundtable discussion on transnational feminism in hopes of finding methods and theories to sustain feminist academic work around the globe.

The **Digital Cultures** Mellon Research Initiative organized and collaborated on four conferences, two workshops, and nine talks on topics ranging from aerial surveillance to gaming and public culture. The co-directors reported both large public events with prominent guest speakers to campus, and highly valuable workshops and talks in smaller venues. It was particularly these smaller settings that generated further research and possible collaborations.

Although these public events may be the most visible, the Mellon Research Initiatives have had the greatest impact on interdisciplinary graduate training. The **Social Justice** group supported two

graduate students in 2013-2014 in Native American Studies and Geography, both from indigenous or ethnic minorities, and awarded summer funding to six more students whose projects combined feminist and critical race perspectives on social justice. In the area of digital cultures, students presented no fewer than eight dissertation prospectuses in an array of departments, such as cultural studies, music, performance studies, anthropology, Spanish, and comparative literature, that have engaged with topics coming directly out of its Mellon seminars. All told, the **Digital Cultures** group supported no fewer than 16 graduate students in 2013-2014 with some form of funding, including summer research or travel awards, graduate research appointments, or conference funding.

The two original Mellon Research Initiatives—**Early Modern Studies** and **Environments & Societies**—wrapped up their third and final year of programming but made clear that their work is far from completed. Both groups are seeking external funding to extend all or some aspect of the work they began as Mellon Research Initiatives. The co-director of the **Early Modern Studies** group, in partnership with the co-director of the **Digital Cultures** Mellon Research Initiative, has applied to the NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities) Digital Projects for the Public program to support the development of an immersive Shakespeare video game that would instruct users about Shakespeare and the performative aspects of early modern theater. In addition, the director of the **Environments & Societies** Mellon Research Initiative submitted an NEH Collaborative Research Grant in January 2014 to update a seminal essay collection in the field of environmental humanities and is exploring ways to sustain the work of environments and societies through its own center on the UC Davis campus. Thus, the Mellon Initiatives have served as vital catalysts for further collaborative work.

The Mellon funding for early modern studies and environments and societies has made UC Davis a leading venue for scholarship in both of these interdisciplinary fields. Each of these groups took a different approach to building that reputation, whether it was through intensive weekly colloquia held throughout the academic year or larger public events featuring major figures in the field. In its final year, the **Early Modern Studies** Mellon Research Initiative aimed to build even stronger bridges between early modern studies and other research areas by partnering with other campus entities on each of its major public events, such as the Middle East and South Asia studies Program, the **Digital Cultures** Mellon Research Initiative, and a performance studies research cluster.

The environments and societies group hosted 15 scholars from across the U.S. and Canada in fields including English, comparative literature, geography, philosophy, urban studies, gender and women's studies, environmental studies, American studies, and sociology. New work was presented on topics ranging from the environmental consequences of the manufacture and disposal of birth control devices, the implications of deep marine life for the field of animal studies, the politics of global warming and the environmental history of human corpses. Throughout, the history and culture of the anthropocene was a continuing theme.

Thanks to matching funds from the Office of Graduate Studies, the Mellon funding has gone twice as far as it might have in supporting the talented graduate students affiliated with the environments and societies and early modern studies initiatives. Over the course of three years, the **Early Modern Studies** Mellon Research Initiative supported 21 students across six different Ph.D. programs with recruitment fellowships, travel awards, and summer research stipends. The environments and societies collaboration has had an equally broad reach with various levels of funding in the form of graduate research and summer awards reaching more than two dozen students across diverse fields, including history, English, performance studies, anthropology, sociology, comparative literature, and cultural studies. In 2014-2015, the **Environments & Societies** initiative will continue to support two students as part of recruitment packages or dissertation writing awards. All of these students have played a central role in making the initiatives a success and in publicizing the work of the groups through blogs, websites, and social media.

Due to the success of the program, the Mellon Foundation awarded UC Davis an additional \$1.725 million to continue the work of the Mellon Research Initiatives. In the fall of 2014, the Humanities Institute will circulate a call for new groups and new ideas. We look forward to seeing what our faculty will dream up next.

Environments & Societies
Early Modern Studies
Digital Cultures
Social Justice Culture and (In)Security



THE CHANCELLOR'S COLLOQUIUM SERIES

In partnership with the Office of Ceremonies and Special Events, the Humanities Institute continued to stage the Chancellor's Colloquium Series. The distinguished speakers' series, in its fifth season, continued to provide a forum for discussion around critical topics and engaging issues across higher education, the sciences, engineering, the arts and humanities. The season kicked off in fall 2013 with the dynamic and long-serving former chancellor of UCLA **Charles E. Young**, also professor emeritus of Political Science and Public Policy at UCLA. In his talk entitled "The University of California: Past, Present and Future," Young described the disinvestment in education by the state of California and urged attention to expanding access to higher education. Serving for the first time as moderator in an extended Q&A following his brief talk, Chancellor Linda P. B. Katehi had her own opportunity to ask Young about his vision for the future of the public research university. The result was an engaging discussion about the high stakes of shoring up a public education system that has helped make California what it is today.

In partnership with the Mondavi Center's Artists in Residence program, the colloquium in February 2014 welcomed choreographer and dancer **Stephen Petronio**, who talked with Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Ralph J. Hexter about his provocative memoir called *Confessions of a Motion Addict*. The conversation took Petronio from his first days as a college student at Hampshire College and his introduction to dance, through his many successes and accolades, through alcohol addiction and recovery, up to today's challenges of

sustaining a productive dance company in the midst of shrinking resources and funding for the arts. All in all, Petronio confessed to enjoying his wild and unpredictable ride and encouraged aspiring performers in the audience to follow their own calling no matter how steep the odds. He was so grateful to continue to have the opportunity to do what he loves.

The season closed in spring 2014 with **Henry Jenkins**, Provost's Professor of Communication, Journalism, Cinematic Arts and Education at the University of Southern California. Over the course of his career, Jenkins has established himself as a preeminent voice in the effort to redefine the role of journalism, scholarship, and consumerism in the digital age. Jenkins has been at the forefront of investigating the concept of "participatory culture," a system that blurs the line between content providers and consumers. His talk and subsequent conversation with moderator Colin Millburn, professor of English and co-director of the Mellon Research Initiative in Digital Cultures, considered the ways in which social media and other Internet tools have provided today's youth with new forms of political participation. Jenkins' survey of these new modes of participatory democracy proved a refreshing counterpoint to recent suggestions by political pundits that low voter turnout has signaled a disaffected and disengaged electorate.

To view the exciting line-up of speakers for the 2014-2015 season, please visit the Chancellor's Colloquium Series website: chancellor.ucdavis.edu/initiatives/colloquium



STORIES ON STAGE DAVIS

In 2013-2014, a group of local writers launched a new kind of writers' series that enlists actors to perform the work of established and emerging authors. Hosted the second Saturday of each month at the Pence Gallery in Davis, Stories on Stage blends literature and theater and has drawn lovers of fiction and theater from both near and far. The Humanities Institute is pleased to be able to partner with this community series by providing them a videographer and UC Davis film student, Kasey Furutani, who records and posts every performance for their website. The arrangement has proved mutually beneficial, offering Furutani valuable hands-on experience and the Stories on Stage organizers the ability to share and publicize their events via the web.

Up-and-coming author Maria Kuznetsova, whose work inaugurated the series, confessed that she enjoyed not having to be nervous about reading her own work. Kuznetsova, who received her master's in creative writing at UC Davis, added: "Hearing someone else read and interpret my story . . . helped me think about the plotting and characterization in a new way." Kuznetsova's work has been featured in *New Ohio Review*, *The Southeast Review*, and *The Sunnyside Review*; her novel, *The Accident*, won the 2011 UC Davis Maurice Prize in Fiction, and an excerpt from the work is forthcoming in *The Iowa Review*.

Established author and Associate Professor of English Lucy Corin, whose work was read in December 2013, commended the actors with understanding the difference between reading something that is written to be performed versus performing something that was written for the page. "Kelley Ogden read [my work] in a way that I thought struck an amazing balance of leaving the text alone—not 'acting it out'—but reading with sensitivity and rhythm and carefully modulated emotional range and expressiveness that brought the intimacy and immediacy of the stage to my story," said Corin. Ogden read selections from Corin's latest work, *One Hundred Apocalypses and Other Apocalypses*.

Stories on Stage will resume in September. Please visit the Stories on Stage website for a list of its upcoming authors and performers: storiesonstagedavis.com.

ALT-AC PROGRAMMING

Ph.D. Unlimited was more than just an event. The spring 2014 workshop and symposium was the result of a new and ongoing partnership between the Humanities Institute and the Internship and Career Center and the Office of Graduate Studies. Drawing on the expertise and knowledge of the campus' career development administrators and staff, we have begun to think about ways we can better serve our graduate students in the humanities and social sciences who want to explore careers outside of academia. The Ph.D. Unlimited workshop was just one, visible expression of those efforts, an event aimed at letting students know what resources are already available to them while at the same time helping them identify the skills that make them ideal job candidates for any number of careers whether it be with non-profits, government or industry.

Less visible is the work that we have been doing behind the scenes in gathering job placement data for Ph.D. alums in the humanities and qualitative social science departments. Only by understanding where our students have gone, can we better understand the patterns of employment for our Ph.D. graduates over the past 20 years. The data may help identify potential mentors for students interested in various careers and give us a better sense of how to prepare our students for careers both inside and outside the academy.

We invite you to explore the resources and contribute to the ongoing conversation at the Ph.D. Unlimited website, where you will also find a list of upcoming events and workshops related to career diversity: phdunlimited.ucdavis.edu.



RESEARCH CLUSTERS

In 2013-2014, the Humanities Institute's Research Cluster program supported exciting new and ongoing cross-disciplinary conversations across the humanities and social sciences. The clusters proved a fruitful breeding ground for new ideas and conversations around a variety of topics including global health, Turkish studies, medieval performance, rhetoric, and film. Activities ranged from small workshops to ambitious international conferences with impact on the work of faculty and graduate students at UC Davis and beyond. The outcomes included a special journal issue; newly forged faculty and student networks across divisions and colleges; new teaching resources around topics such as queer and feminist studies; and successful funding applications to Cal Humanities, the University Outreach and International Program's seed grant, California Studies Consortium, among others. Here's a brief snapshot of the achievements of our nine research clusters over the last academic year:



Performance and the Premodern Archive

Faculty Coordinators: Noah Guynn, French, and Matthew Vernon, English

The cluster had two specific structural objectives for this year: one was to experiment with nontraditional event formats, moving away from the standard talk with Q&A; the other was to incorporate more non-Western perspectives into their examination of the medieval. One significant outcome of PPA's activities was the increase in visibility and effective branding of the UC Davis medievalist community to audiences within the UC and beyond. PPA also created new mentorship networks for UC medievalists through the junior faculty workshop. As a testament to its success and utility, a couple of its faculty participants have volunteered to seek out funding to repeat it on a different campus next year; it is our hope that this workshop can travel around the UC system and thus alleviate the cost burden to any one campus. The hope is that sustaining these conversations among UC medievalists will also allow them to refine their ideas for larger grant opportunities such as the Mellon Research Initiatives in the Humanities and the UC Multi-Campus Research Group program.

Queer Feminist Trans Studies

Faculty Coordinator: Kathleen Frederickson, English

This group mounted a spring conference, co-sponsored by the Cultural Studies of the Americas research cluster, entitled Trans Americans with guest speakers Felicity Amaya Schaeffer, Associate Professor of Feminist Studies at UC Santa Cruz, and Jennifer Dyle, Professor of English at UC Riverside. The cluster also took on a slightly different kind of project, in conjunction with the Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research, to create a short guide on developing curriculum and pedagogy that is queer-friendly and feminist. That work was seeded in the "Feminist Pedagogy Workshop" and will lead to the construction of a teaching resource for graduate students to guide them in their classes.

Reception Studies

Faculty Coordinator: Brenda Schildgen, Comparative Literature

This group sought funding to continue an interdisciplinary research initiative (funded by an Academic Senate grant in 2012-2013) that mounted a national conference on the topic of Reception Studies in fall 2013, as an instigator for exploring the establishment of a UC Davis Institute for Reception Studies. The cluster also produced a HIP proposal for a director of a Reception Institute supported by several departments across the college (Philosophy, Spanish, EALC, Art History, Classics, and Comparative Literature). Also, the cluster hosted a series of talks by major international figures, who addressed the consequences of "reception" in their respective disciplines.

Cultural Studies in the Americas

Faculty Coordinator: Michael Lazarra, Spanish and Portuguese

A great part of this cluster's energy and budget was dedicated to hosting a major international conference called "Performing the Archive: The Problem of Memory in Postdictatorial Latin America" which was held in October of 2013. The conference brought UC Davis into an alliance of scholars investigating the issue of memories of political violence in democratizing Latin American societies. UC Davis acted as the host institution for the third international colloquium of this working group. The colloquium produced two publications: a special journal issue to be published online in fall and a co-edited volume of conference papers. In November 2014, UC Davis faculty will travel to Managua to participate in the fourth annual colloquium. The cluster is considering submitting a proposal for the new Mellon Research Initiatives in the Humanities on the topic of memory and trauma.

Turkish Studies

Faculty Coordinator: Baki Tezcan, History

The Turkish Studies cluster spearheaded new intellectual work on contemporary Turkey, in a critical moment when the Gezi Park uprising and ongoing peace process with the PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party) provided an opening for new political forms in Turkey. The cluster challenged UC Davis scholars to take seriously the possibilities of Turkey's pluralistic, leaderless, minority-oriented movements for popular autonomy as well as the possibilities of their appropriation and repression. The cluster held quarterly meetings to discuss other members' work and held a series of public events that were distributed online. A significant outcome of this group's work was the degree of community outreach, both on and off campus. The long list of co-sponsorships, which include seventeen academic and research units in the Divisions of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies and Social Sciences, as well as two Student Affairs units, speaks for its success in forging new campus connections.

What does Health Mean Today?

Faculty Coordinator: Cristiana Giordano, Anthropology

This cluster explored culture, medicine, and health in a globalizing world. Intended to bring together a number of faculty and graduate students in a variety of disciplines, the cluster sponsored six speakers and a roundtable discussion. They have also been able to create several collaborations with other programs (the program in Science and Technology Studies and the Center for Science and Innovation Studies), and groups (Multidisciplinary Psychoanalytic Research Cluster, Humanities, Religious Studies, Hemispheric Institute of the Americas) on campus, and to create dialogues with scholars from other campuses in California.

DHI Studies in Performance and Practice

Faculty Coordinator: Kriss Ravetto-Biagioli, Cinema and Technocultural Studies

While UC Davis has a couple of small film festivals, it has little scholarship designed to address critical trends in film and visual culture. This cluster aimed to bring faculty and graduate students together from various disciplines to foster a critical dialogue on the medium itself, in particular on the paradox of screening as a social and anti-social practice. The cluster met a few times a quarter to work on collective projects and engage in workshops as well as sponsor a public event. The cluster will produce a special journal issue out of its conference entitled the Art of Appropriation, which was an opportunity for rigorous intellectual discussion on intellectual property, copyright, filmmaking, art practice and critical thinking.



Rhetoric @ Davis

Faculty Coordinator: Chris Thaiss, University Writing Program

The Rhetoric@Davis Research cluster created a forum to meet, discuss and share research related to rhetoric for scholars from an array of disciplines and departments at UC Davis. Their aim was to promote awareness of the field of rhetoric on campus and to foster connections among different disciplines. In 2013-14, the cluster continued its ambitious agenda of quarterly speaker events and established a new series of panel discussions as responses to or elaborations of the speaker addresses. The new panel discussion format has specifically initiated dialogue among the participants. This dialogue has nurtured interdisciplinary connections among scholars, lecturers, and graduate students, cultivating and advancing possibilities for research in different disciplines.

Eighteenth-Century Studies

Faculty Coordinator: Alessa Johns, English

This year the eighteenth-century cluster hosted the annual conference of the Western Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies. In addition to the conference, the cluster invited two speakers and held its annual Hopkins-McGuinness lecture. Its quarterly meetings allowed graduate students to discuss readings, present their research and promote contacts among departments. The Hopkins-McGuinness Lecture is a series that honors Bob Hopkins and Art McGuinness, the UC Davis faculty members who founded and for nearly three decades edited the journal *Eighteenth-Century Studies*.

THE UC DAVIS HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM

The Humanities Institute has been collaborating with the UC Davis Human Rights Initiative since 2011 when it received critical seed funding from the Academic Senate's Committee on Research to launch a program devoted to the issue of human rights and humanitarianism. That seed funding has paid off and resulted in external funding from the UC Humanities Network for a multicampus research group titled the UC Human Rights Collaboration in addition to grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Institute of International Education, the Scholar Rescue Fund, and University Outreach and International Programs. Directed by Keith Watenpaugh, a historian of the Middle East and associate professor of religious studies, the UC Human Rights Collaboration, hosted the fourth annual Human Rights Symposium at UC Davis, cosponsored by the UC Davis Humanities Institute and UC Humanities Research Institute.

At a two-day symposium at the International House in May 2014, the Human Rights Symposium gave Watenpaugh and his colleagues at other UC campuses and beyond a chance to discuss their research as well as

the recent findings of a survey of conditions facing Syrian refugee university students in Lebanon, a project supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Institute of International Education, the Scholar Rescue Fund, University Outreach and International Programs and the Davis Sunrise Rotary Club. Lebanon is now home to over a million refugees from the war in Syria, including tens of thousands of displaced university students and young people unable to attend school because of the war. "This is the humanitarian disaster of our time," said Watenpaugh, who worries about the consequences of a generation of students who don't have access to university education but will be tasked with rebuilding their war-torn country following the conflict.

Watenpaugh and his research team recently visited several refugee neighborhoods in Lebanon, where educators and university students who oppose the Assad regime are trying their best to educate younger members of the Syrian refugee population. Often using Lebanese classrooms after hours, refugee children at "second shift" schools receive perhaps the only education available to them. "Carnegie and the Institute of International Education are playing the leading international role in understanding the problem of refugee students and identifying ways to help them," said Watenpaugh. The symposium also featured papers by faculty and graduate students from across the UC system. Four panels presented on issues relating to humanitarianism, law and citizenship, indigeneity, and memory, identity, and culture.

For additional information please visit the Human Rights Initiative website: humanrightsinitiative.ucdavis.edu



RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

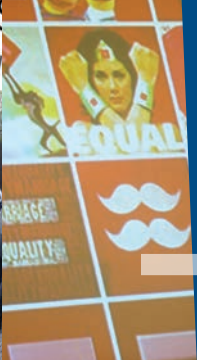
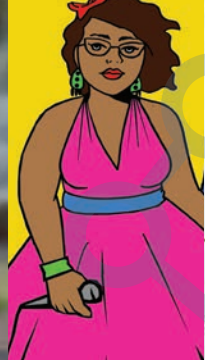
The Humanities Institute wants to help UC Davis faculty and graduate students receive grant funding. Aside from offering grant-writing workshops and information sessions with program officers, we meet with faculty to formulate ideas and projects, to help them find collaborators and community partners, and to identify funding opportunities. And, with a professional grant writer on staff, we can also help refine and polish those funding proposals. In 2013-2014, the Humanities Institute assisted in developing successful proposals for the Mellon Foundation's John E. Sawyer Seminar in the Comparative Study of Cultures as well as a \$1.725 million renewal of the Mellon Research Initiatives in the Humanities; a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend award and an NEH Summer Seminar and Institute for College and University Teachers on Dante's Divine Comedy; a Chateaubriand Fellowship; a seed grant from University Outreach and International Programs; two UC President's Public Partnerships in the Humanities program awards, among many others.

To subscribe to a weekly, curated list of funding opportunities in the humanities and social sciences, please visit the Office of Research's page: research.ucdavis.edu. To customize your own funding search, sign up for Pivot, a powerful and extensive database for finding funding and fellow collaborators.

“The UC Davis Humanities Institute is the hub for grant-making in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. Our goal is to increase the number of successful grants supporting cutting-edge research in all our related disciplines.”

—David Biale, Director of the UC Davis Humanities Institute

UC Humanities Research Institute
 National Endowment for the Humanities
 Cal Humanities
 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
 Social Science Research Council



Support



SUPPORT THE HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

The Humanities Institute is the “research hub” for the humanities at UC Davis. Each year we provide fellowships and awards to faculty and graduate students working in the humanities and humanistic social sciences and support a wide array of interdisciplinary research collaborations. Our events offer a forum for exchange around questions of critical importance in areas such as the environment, food and health, and history and culture as well as give our faculty in the humanities and the creative arts an opportunity to showcase their work. **We exist to facilitate the research of UC Davis faculty and graduate students and to bring that work to an audience beyond the university.** Fulfilling this mission would not be possible without the generous support of private foundations and individuals who understand how important the humanities is to the future of the public university.

By engaging with the Humanities Institute through your gifts, you directly support UC Davis and the institute in our overall mission. **Please consider supporting our faculty and graduate fellowships, research forums, or public events by making a gift in any amount to the Humanities Institute.**

To give, send a check payable to “UC Regents” to the Humanities Institute, One Shields Avenue, 227 Voorhies, Davis, CA, 95616, or go online to dhi.ucdavis.edu and click the “gift” button on the top menu bar. For named funds or endowments, please contact Associate Director Molly McCarthy (molmccarthy@ucdavis.edu) or call 530-754-0331.

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