

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2015–16

Humanities Institute

*Bridging disciplines,
building dialogues*

UCDAVIS





Staff Directory

Office

UC Davis Humanities Institute
227 Voorhies Hall
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616

dhi.ucdavis.edu

Staff



David Biale

Director



Molly McCarthy

Associate Director



Amineh Helalian

Program Manager



Becky Wilson

Event Coordinator



Amber Harden

Mellon Research, Initiatives Assistant



Rachel Reeves

Mellon Public Scholars, Program Manager



Elliott Pollard

Webmaster

Graduate Student Researchers

Stephanie Maroney

Cultural Studies

Michael Accinno

Music

Meg Sparling

English

Undergraduate Assistant

Nicki Padar

DHI Photographer

What exactly does a humanities institute do?

It's a fair and frequent question we get, and one that encourages us to first tackle the meaning of the "humanities" itself. The humanities encompass subjects such as history, literature, art, music, philosophy, languages, film, design and religion. It includes the stories we tell, the art and music we make, and the languages we share. The humanities provide an important lens that often reveals to us "why" or "how," not just "what" or "where." It helps us answer questions both big and small, from the meaning of a rare and ancient manuscript to the meaning of life itself.

As a humanities institute, we support the work of our faculty and graduate students in the arts, humanities and humanistic social sciences. In practice, we offer them time and the space to work on projects, in collaboration and on their own. We provide artists and scholars with the means to connect with other scholars both near and far by hosting conferences, workshops and symposia on topics ranging from environmental sustainability to migration. We also help our scholars connect with the public outside the university, whether through our sponsoring of community-engaged research projects in our Mellon Public Scholars Program or by inviting The OpEd Project to train our faculty on how to translate their research for the nation's opinion pages.

What we do matters. There's no better proof than in the questions our scholars are posing: How has the smartphone that leaves traces of ourselves in chat rooms, on blog posts and in game apps changed the way we see ourselves and risked our claims to privacy? What are the ethical implications of governmental policies regulating life and death such as California's recent "Right to Die" law? How can wearable design improve the lives of children with an autism spectrum disorder? The answers to these and other questions will enrich and strengthen people's lives.

ON THE COVER

To cap off a Winter Quarter event on the topic of migration, performance and healing, the Social Justice Mellon Research Initiative invited Kalpulli Xitlalli, a *Danza Azteca* ceremonial dance circle from Sacramento, to bless the opening of an art exhibition at the UC Davis Cross Cultural Center. The exhibit featured photographs of Azteca dancers taken by Ruby Chacon and Associate Professor Natalia Deeb-Sossa of Chicana/o Studies.



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Director's Message

The UC Davis Humanities Institute spent the 2015-2016 academic year engaged on a variety of exciting fronts, which you will find described in this report. We continued working closely with our four Mellon Research Initiatives and Faculty Research Fellows, inaugurated a new Mellon Sawyer Seminar, and launched an important new Public Scholars Program. Funded by a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation, the Public Scholars Program brings together ten graduate students from UC Davis, plus, with a grant from the UC Humanities Research Institute, a group of students from other UC campuses to explore community-engaged scholarship. After a spring seminar, the participants in the program work in summer internships in an effort to broaden their skills and bring their talents out into the community.

Much discussion this past year revolved around the proposal to reenvision the College of Letters and Science as a unified whole. In this spirit, we at DHI intensified our collaboration with our colleagues in the Institute for Social Sciences. One particularly successful collaboration, described in these pages, was a Dissertation Retreat that brought together students from Spanish, history, economics, experimental psychology and other disciplines.

As I complete my final year as director, I look back with satisfaction at the many projects we have brought to fruition and the many we have launched. It has been a pleasure to work with so many fine colleagues, students and staff committed to a vision of collaborative scholarship at the University of California, Davis.

I am also pleased to introduce Jaimey Fisher as our new director. Jaimey's academic expertise is in the history of German film, so he has one foot in the German department and one in Cinema and Digital Media. Jaimey, who just completed a term as Founding Faculty Director of North Europe for UC (system-wide) Education Abroad, studied German literature and thought at Stanford University, at the Freie Universität Berlin, and at Cornell University, where he received his Ph.D. with an emphasis in German intellectual history as well as in Film and Video Studies. Before coming to Davis in 2004, Prof. Fisher taught at Tulane University as an assistant professor of German. His primary research and teaching interests include film and media studies, German literature and intellectual history.

David Biale

Director, UC Davis Humanities Institute

“The nature of the DHI Directorship—to support and advocate the advancement of the humanities and arts at UC Davis and across the UC system—firmly aligns with my commitment to pursuing innovation, backing faculty and students, and producing knowledge to grow the UC, national and global community.”

—JAIMHEY FISHER, INCOMING DHI DIRECTOR





New Humanities and Arts Venues to Open in Fall 2016

In fall 2016, we look forward to celebrating the opening of two new arts venues on campus, one devoted to the visual arts and the other to music performance. The **Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art** will open to the public on November 13, 2016. The 75,000 square-foot site includes a dramatic 50,000 square-foot aluminum canopy inspired by the building's surrounding landscape and will be devoted to teaching as well as exhibiting artwork representing the campus's artistic legacy. Its collection will include works by Wayne Thiebaud, Robert Arneson and William T. Wiley, the founding generation of the Department of Art. In addition to the exhibition space, the building will feature large, open classrooms, indoor and outdoor workshops and outdoor projection walls.

The **Ann E. Pitzer Center** will open for the first day of instruction on September 21 for Music 10 (History of Western Music), a large lecture course taught by D. Kern Holoman, distinguished professor emeritus of music. The focal point of the building will be the recital hall, an acoustically superb 399-seat concert venue and a home for chamber and solo music performances. Also providing classroom and practice space, the Pitzer Center is located next to the Music Building, adjacent to the Arboretum, and will contribute to the new "arts district," a hub of activity for visiting artists, students and faculty and a wonderful public venue for the community.



Above: Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum Art

Inset: Ann E. Pitzer Center



“From administrative leaders to regional partners to engaged scholars to student activists, we saw a deep, shared commitment to public engagement as a core value of the university and a measure of its excellence.”

Imagining America Headed to UC Davis

In summer 2017, Imagining America (IA), a national consortium of 100 academic and cultural institutions devoted to strengthening the arts, humanities and design through community partnerships, will make UC Davis its new national headquarters.

It’s an exciting move that will bring national attention to UC Davis and the public scholarship that happens here. Among the things that most impressed the IA site team was the breadth of community engagement and the campus’s deep commitment to equity and inclusion. “From the start, UC Davis and IA felt like the perfect fit,” said Susan Kaiser, interim dean of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, who with Interim Chancellor Ralph Hexter, spearheaded the initiative to host IA. “IA aligns well with the UC Davis way of working across boundaries.”

Among the projects that excited the IA site team was the Mellon Public Scholars program. The five-member team spoke with the Public Scholars about their community-based research, including the crafting of a digital map (and app) prepared with the Akwesasne Nation to document historic sites along the U.S.-Canada border and investigating the human role in energy conservation in partnership with the California Energy

Commission. Even as the site team headed to the airport on the last day, they were still talking about the students they had met in our conference room.

Our hope is that being the home of Imagining America will shine a light on the public scholarship happening all over our campus and bring additional resources to support new projects locally, regionally and internationally. Indeed, UC Davis’ public service mission as a land-grant institution, as well as its strength in research and undergraduate education, helped cement the partnership with IA. Our faculty strive to work across fields to facilitate new insights and approaches to understanding the world and serving its region and state.

“During the IA team’s site visit, we were floored by the range and energy of democratic work being done at UC Davis,” said IA co-director Scott Peters, a Cornell University historian. “From administrative leaders to regional partners to engaged scholars to student activists, we saw a deep, shared commitment to public engagement as a core value of the university and a measure of its excellence.”



Venerable Cultural Studies Programs Become Departments

Over the past year, it has been particularly refreshing to see UC Davis affirm the importance and place of our ethnic studies programs at a time when other universities have moved to shrink them or cut them altogether. The university has done just that by designating African American and African Studies and American Studies programs as full departments.

Both programs go back several decades with African American and African Studies, originally called Black Studies, becoming the first ethnic studies major at UC Davis in 1969. American Studies started two years later in 1971.

“American Studies has been at the forefront of conversations about social justice, sustainability, diversity and global issues,” said Julie Sze, American Studies chair. “Our students become effective critical thinkers, develop excellent writing skills and ‘learn how to learn.’”

Becoming a full department provides stability and allows the departments to grow and build upon their strengths as vital and important humanities programs. “Since the early 1970s, becoming a department has been the goal of African American and African Studies,” said Milmon Harrison, program director. “It took a long time but could not have come at a better moment.”

Faculty Awarded UC Humanities Grants

Nothing gratifies us more at the Humanities Institute than when projects seeded here go on to receive external awards. Next year, our research cluster on Africa-California Research Innovations, co-directed by Rachel Jean-Baptiste and Corrie Decker in history and Monique Borgerhoff Mulder in anthropology, will graduate to a multi-campus working group funded by the UC Humanities Research Institute (UCHRI) and directed by Jean-Baptiste and Anneeth Kaur Hundle at UC Merced. The working group, titled “The Crisis of Diversity within the Multiversity,” will examine the future of African and Africana studies throughout the UC system.

In its first round of awards to digital projects, UCHRI recognized the path-breaking work of Gina Bloom, associate professor of English, whose Shakespeare video game called “Play the Knave” grew out of a partnership between two of our Mellon Research Initiatives, one in early modern studies and the other in digital humanities.





DHI Research Clusters

Research clusters are meant to provide a critical space for interdisciplinary research and collaboration not easily accomplished in a single department or program and to facilitate exchange among faculty and graduate students.

This year, the Early Science, Technology and Environment research cluster, led by Colin Webster, was able to use the cluster platform to engage with scientists across campus on topics such as early modern agriculture and metallurgy. The group intends to continue as a less-formal reading group for members to share works-in-progress and expand to even more cross-disciplinary collaborations. Webster noted that, alongside individual research and projects, members are interested in creating a teaching garden featuring herbs from ancient medical manuals.

The Cluster on Language Research, with renewed funding from the DHI, plans to continue their efforts to create a space where students and faculty of diverse linguistic training can share their insights and expertise in the pursuit of a more modern and unified vision of language. The cluster holds biweekly meetings to discuss a variety of topics related to language research, as well as colloquia and professional development events aimed at faculty and graduate student research interests. “We are confident that these seminars

played an important role in serving our objectives of encouraging collaborative dialogue and research innovation among scholars involved in language research, and we look forward to scheduling additional gatherings next year,” said faculty organizer Robert Blake, professor of Spanish and Portuguese.

“... these seminars played an important role in serving our objectives of encouraging collaborative dialogue and research innovation among scholars involved in language research ... ”

Clusters are awarded up to \$5,000 annually. In addition to Early Science, Technology and Environment and Cluster on Language Research, awards were given to Africa-California Research Innovations, Rhetoric@Davis and Sexualities Across Disciplines.

Margrit Mondavi & HArCS Summer Graduate Fellows

Through the generous support of philanthropist Margrit Mondavi and the Interim Dean of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies (HArCS), the Humanities Institute has awarded grants of \$5,000 each to 20 graduate students in Ph.D. and M.F.A. programs. Fellows pursued travel, research, workshops and other project-related work in the summer of 2015.

The awards support a wide range of exciting projects, both creative and scholarly, including musical compositions, works of visual and sound art, and intersectional studies of literature and media.

CORDELIA ROSS, English

Enclosing History: 12th to 16th Century— Subterranean English Narratives

Cordelia Ross specializes in medieval literature and ecocriticism. Rather than prioritizing the human social experience and treating natural space as a passive entity to be filled in by Western European medieval literature, Ross emphasizes how natural space actively participates in shaping the narrative experience. The HArCS fellowship gave her the time and resources she needed to gain access to several manuscripts crucial to the development of her dissertation on subterranean environments in Gervase of Tilbury's *Otia Imperialia*. The funding also allotted Ross the opportunity to travel to one of the caves in the United Kingdom that Gervase writes about.



MARI CARSON, Theatre & Dance

Marriage of Figaro Research

A costume designer is in large part a fashion historian. For her thesis, Mari Carson created a large-scale costume design for Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Using her Margrit Mondavi funding, Carson traveled to London to view preserved historical garments to better understand 18th century fashion trends. One of the acquisitions of the Fashion Museum in Bath is a bequest of the wardrobe of ballerina Margot Fonteyn. Carson was fascinated not only to see these singular pieces, but also to document how they were combined and worn by a living person. She returned from Great Britain with a greater understanding of historical fashion to inform her thesis.



“These [subterranean] manuscripts contained marginalia, that without this funding, I would have been unable to see. These experiences and research opportunities greatly enhanced my project and have led to continuing invitations to present my research to the National Speleological Society.”

— CORDELIA ROSS



Faculty Research Fellows

Our Faculty Research Fellowships are aimed at helping faculty make progress on major research or creative projects. They enable faculty within the arts, humanities and the humanistic social sciences to meet and work with colleagues in other disciplines and departments. Awards are based on scholarly merit and originality.

This year, **Helen Koo** received one of two Creative Arts Fellowships. Koo is an interdisciplinary scholar and designer with expertise in fashion design, wearable technology, smart clothing and sustainable garments. Koo's project titled "Designing wearable technology for autism spectrum disorder (ASD)" allowed her to develop sensory clothing prototypes she will present at conferences this fall. "The peers gave very constructive comments and ideas on how to improve my research and make progress and on helping me find funding sources," Koo said of the fellowship meetings.

Faculty Fellow **Marian Schlotterbeck** is an historian of modern Latin America, specializing in 20th century Chile. Schlotterbeck's book project is a social history of radical politics centered on the decade before the 1973 Chilean military coup. In *Beyond the Vanguard*, Schlotterbeck utilizes both archival material and extensive original oral histories to understand why working people joined Chile's much-maligned revolutionary New Left—the Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria (MIR). Schlotterbeck explained, "As an early career scholar, the DHI faculty fellowship provided invaluable time to focus on my scholarship within a supportive and dynamic weekly community. Early in the quarter, the other faculty fellows read my book proposal and shared insights on navigating the publishing process. On the basis of this feedback, I met with editors in May and by the start of the summer, I already had several presses interested in publishing my book."

Mellon Research Initiatives in the Humanities

It's hard to quantify the enormous impact that the Mellon Research Initiatives (MRI) have had on the humanities at UC Davis over the past six years. Since the initial grant in 2010 and a \$1.725 million renewal in 2014, the Mellon program has allowed us to bring new energy and faculty into programs such as Cinema and Digital Media; build bridges across departments, divisions and colleges with broad interdisciplinary topics such as border studies, digital cultures and social justice; approach Global Area Studies in new ways with the Mellon group Reimagining Indian Ocean Worlds; compete to recruit the most talented graduate students; and engage undergraduates in the work of our faculty.

Each MRI receives a generous multi-year funding package that supports a two-year postdoctoral fellow, three years of event programming, and recruitment and research awards for graduate students. To date, we have launched six interdisciplinary Mellon Research Initiatives that have run in an overlapping sequence over the course of the last six years. In 2015-2016, two Mellon Research Initiatives—Digital Cultures and Social Justice, Culture and (In) Security—wrapped up their programming at the end of Year 3 just as two new groups—Comparative Border Studies and Imagining Indian Ocean Worlds—launched their Year 1.

Wrapping Up

With three years of programming behind them, the Digital Cultures and Social Justice Mellon Research Initiatives had much to celebrate, including the recruitment of new faculty members that included two Mellon Visiting Professors who were hired as assistant professors in Cinema and Digital Media and Chicana/o Studies. In Year 3, the Social Justice group, led by co-director Yvette Flores of Chicana/o Studies, foregrounded the themes of migration, gender and social justice, bringing to light the multiple diasporas that are at the core of our ethnic studies and women, sexuality and gender studies scholarship. Their activities also offered opportunities to engage in discussions regarding spirituality, healing and citizenship through social justice and feminist lenses.



The Digital Cultures MRI examined digital surveillance; intellectual property law and the commons in the era of digital media; and gaming technologies and interactive media. With the growing interest both nationally and on campus in these areas of scholarship, the campus recruited two new faculty members in Digital Humanities and Media Ecologies. Those faculty join the four recruits from the previous year who have been offering a range of exciting digital media courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. In the coming academic year, the campus will embark on two additional faculty searches in Game Development and Interactive Media. Without Mellon's support, this kind of institutional growth would not have been possible.

Just Getting Started

The MRI in Reimagining Indian Ocean Worlds, co-directed by Smriti Srinivas in Anthropology and Bettina Ng'weno in African American and African Studies, spent the year expanding its network and setting an agenda for the next three years. They brought outstanding visiting faculty to campus for a public speaker series and offered two major conferences, exploring and developing the group's key ideas of placemaking, practices and networks. They also launched an "innovation lab" to help train and support faculty and students doing challenging interdisciplinary research in Indian Ocean studies that provided a space for intellectual discussion and exchange of ideas on works in progress.

Border studies is an area that has not yet crystallized as a program at UC Davis, and that is why the new co-directors of the Comparative Borders Mellon Research Initiative—Robert Irwin of Spanish and Portuguese and Sunaina Maira of Asian American Studies—see their work as particularly important in bringing

together faculty and students from many disciplines around the topic. Their reach is wide, having attracted 24 affiliated faculty members, two postdoctoral scholars, and 25 graduate students from various fields and 16 different programs. Last year, they hosted three major public events and invited talks on the theme of "Human Rights, Citizenship, and Racialized Belonging." They also hosted a series of reading group meetings for affiliated faculty and graduate students to discuss important texts and new approaches in the field. They look forward in Years 2 and 3 to developing proposals that integrate the arts and media to illuminate some key themes in border studies.

“UC Davis has become nationally visible in the area of digital humanities thanks to the Mellon Research Initiatives in Digital Cultures, and we have recruited remarkably talented faculty and students to our campus.”

—Co-directors COLIN MILBURN, the Gary Snyder Chair in Science and the Humanities, and KRISS RAVETTO-BIAGIOLI, associate professor of Cinema and Digital Media



Stories on Stage Davis

Since 2013, the Humanities Institute has partnered with Stories on Stage Davis, a community organization that brings a blend of theatre and literature to Pence Gallery every second Saturday. Now entering its fourth season, Stories on Stage casts local actors to perform the work of established and emerging authors from Davis and beyond. In 2015-16, the series featured an eclectic selection of fiction by UC Davis students and alumni, award-winning mystery writer Catriona McPherson, Bay Area writers Bich Minh Nguyen and Colin Winnette, among others. The DHI films each month's event, making possible a growing online archive of performances. Story lovers near and far can peruse the archive—and check out the 2016-17 season calendar—at the organization's website at storiesonstagedavis.com.



Mellon Public Scholars Program



Across the country, humanities institutes are offering graduate students an opportunity to explore and shape the relationship between universities and their communities through public scholarship. This year, UC Davis joined the conversation. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded the UC Davis Humanities Institute (DHI) \$400,000 to inaugurate the Public Scholars Program, which combines the research-oriented goals of nurturing public scholarship with professional development for graduate students.

Every year, the program invites 10 graduate students in the humanities and the humanistic social sciences to participate in a spring training and planning seminar, followed by a summer internship. One-on-one faculty mentorships provide further interdisciplinary research connections for students and build on engaged scholarship at UC Davis.

This initiative has been greeted with tremendous enthusiasm. UC Davis faculty have offered their encouragement, insights, reading lists, community connections, and service on the program's advisory board and selection committee. UC Davis graduate students filled our information sessions beyond capacity, and 10 percent of the eligible student body applied to be part of our first cohort.

The 2016 group of scholars represent the breadth of UC humanistic graduate studies: art history, anthropology, cultural studies, history, world cultures, language studies and literature. The inaugural cohort also included eight other students from the other comprehensive UC campuses, selected by their humanities centers and institutes and supported by a collaboration award from the UC Humanities Institute. Participants will have an impact across California since the students, after participating in the spring seminar, will work with community organizations in their own areas.

Into the Publics

The scholars came to the spring seminar with great ideas and left with the confidence and good humor to face the uncertainties of collaborative public work. This year scholars partnered with community organizations to design mutually beneficial projects in locations as disparate as a Mexican women's prison to a Northern California artists' colony. Closer to campus, two other scholars are partnering with the Sierra Health Foundation and the qualitative research branch of the California Energy Commission.



“If we are serious about engaging publics, then they should be present in these messy beginnings where we get to set the stakes, the limits and the purpose of our research.”

— Stephanie Maroney, UC Davis (Cultural Studies)

Loren Michael Mortimer, a Ph.D. candidate in environmental history, is developing an interactive application mapping Akwesasne Mohawk land at the U.S.–Canada border. Collaborating with community leaders and storytellers, Mortimer is creating “a living documentary history” available to tourists through their smartphones as they move through the indigenous space. Images and videos, such as those from the award ceremony for World War II code talker Levi Oaks, illuminate the ways the Akwesasne Mohawk history has changed the world. In the long term, this resource will be an asset to the community’s cultural tourism initiative.

Studying racial equity and cultural production in Oakland, Cultural Studies Ph.D. student Trisha Barua had an established relationship with EastSide Arts Alliance. The Public Scholars program enables her to adapt her qualitative, interpretive research skills to arts administration as an evaluation consultant. She is developing a research plan to build demand for contemporary performance among East Oakland’s communities of color.

Cinthya Ammerman, who is earning her Ph.D. in Native American Studies, is creating a social media strategy for a Q’eqchi Community Association. This project demands that she apply her expertise as a researcher in ways that respect her developing relationship with her community partner—an approach she cites as essential to Native American Studies work. As she develops informational videos and content for their website, she draws on her skills as a cultural translator to speak about the organization and the communities they represent to various audiences around the world, including potential funders.

Other projects include a prison education program in Solano County and a collective oral history of multiethnic publishing in the Bay Area.

Looking Forward

The Public Scholars Program reimagines and reaffirms our institute’s work in curricular innovation and interdisciplinary research. On a broader scale, the program has already strengthened the university’s ties to the community and enhanced the public profile of the humanities.

Follow the first cohort’s progress on our Public Scholars Blog at publicscholars.ucdavis.edu, and join us in the fall for our first Public Scholars reunion event, where this year’s fellows and community partners return to campus to share and discuss their research projects.

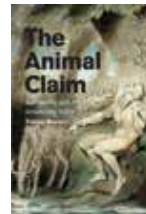
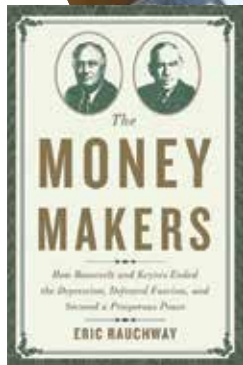
The OpEd Project

The OpEd Project visited UC Davis this spring for a one-day workshop to help our faculty translate their research for a broader audience. Made possible by a grant from the UC Humanities Research Institute, the workshop brought together a diverse group of 20 faculty from disciplines as far ranging as sociology to Asian American studies, for a primer on writing for the nation’s opinion pages. The goal of the OpEd Project—to diversify the voices we hear in the media—paired well with the aspirations of our faculty who want readers to understand why the work they do makes a difference.

“The workshop taught us a variety of ways to translate our unique skills to non-academics and articulate the value of our research interests in relation to ‘bigger picture’ issues at local and global levels.”

—Jessica Perea,
Native American Studies

DHI BOOK CHATS



A lunchtime talk series, the DHI Brown Bag Book Chats provide a forum for UC Davis faculty to share their new publications, performances or recordings with the Davis community.

The 2015-2016 schedule included works from Sasha Abramsky with *The House of Twenty Thousand Books*, Claire Waters with *Translating "Clergie,"* Tobias Menely with *The Animal Claim*, Larry Bogard with *Tactical Performance: The Theory and Practice of Serious Play* and Julie Sze with *Fantasy Islands: Chinese Dreams and Ecological Fears in an Age of Climate Change*.

On May 11, we rounded off the year with Eric Rauchway's *The Money Makers: How Roosevelt and Keynes Ended the Depression, Defeated Fascism, and Secured a Prosperous Peace*. This standing-room-only event, co-sponsored by the Institute for Social Sciences, gave Rauchway the chance to explain the recent rise of right-wing parties in Europe and the United States through the lens of economic history.

M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition

Julian Tan, a 2015-2016 Margrit Mondavi and M.F.A. candidate in Art Studio, was among the students exhibiting their work at the annual Art Studio M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition. Held spring quarter at the Verge Center for the Arts in Sacramento, the exhibition titled *having happened* featured the work of eight M.F.A. candidates working in various media, including sculpture, photography, time-based media, painting, drawing, printmaking, installation, performance and ceramic sculpture, and motivated by equally varied sets of research questions. The Master of Fine Arts Degree in Art Studio, established in 1969, is a two-year, critically engaged studio program that provides an opportunity for interdisciplinary study in the visual arts.





Negotiation / Colonial Impositions / Balancing



Co-Sponsored Events

Every year, the DHI sets aside a portion of its annual budget to partner with UC Davis faculty in bringing leading scholars, performers, artists and designers to our campus. By providing funding for interdisciplinary conferences, workshops and events featuring and advancing the research of the humanities and the humanistic social sciences, we hope to contribute to the intellectual life of our community.

Renowned author Sarah Vowell was invited to campus to discuss her nonfiction writing on American history, including her new book *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States*. Vowell's talk in conjunction with a symposium titled "Writing History for Academic and Popular Audiences" offered attendees a unique opportunity to discuss the methods of history writing, the importance of audience and how to succeed as a writer across multiple genres.

Annie Grace Ross, a UC Davis Native American Studies alumna (B.A., '02), returned to campus to discuss her works on display in a solo exhibition at the C. N. Gorman Museum titled *Heroes/Ghosts*. The series addressed urban and state-sponsored violence,

human-made climate change, and how aboriginal logic works, informs and prevails in its midst. Ross also discussed her studio practices which reflect her research in social and environmental justice, indigenous sustainable technologies, grassroots movements toward fulfillment of potential civil rights, and the self and community in Home/Land.

A conference titled "Open Sourcing Religion: Digital Transformations of Religious Studies" gathered scholars from around the country, and across disciplines, to discuss their research on the growing role that digital cultures and technologies play in the study of religion. Organizer Andrew Ventimiglia of the Cultural Studies Graduate Group pointed out, "Religious studies has played a surprisingly large, if sometimes neglected, role in the history of the digital humanities, and today many scholars of religion continue to innovate in their use of digital tools to tackle a range of issues in the field."

For more information on partnering with the UC Davis Humanities Institute, visit our website at dhi.ucdavis.edu.



Mondavi Distinguished Speaker Series

Each year we can't wait to hear who will be featured in our ongoing partnership with the Mondavi Distinguished Speaker Series. It's a chance for our students to have a moderated conversation and get up close to one of the many artists, filmmakers, activists and authors that Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts brings to campus. Last year, the Humanities Institute hosted Julie Snyder, the co-creator of the "Serial" podcast, who spent an hour in conversation with writer and University Writing Program lecturer Sasha Abramsky and an audience of aspiring journalists, including the staff of *The California Aggie* (pictured).



Symposium on the Music of Cipriano de Rore

At a symposium marking the 500th anniversary of the birth of Flemish composer Cipriano de Rore (1515/1516–1565), music professor Jessie Ann Owens invited a distinguished roster of Renaissance specialists and musicians to celebrate the artist's life and works. With musical performance at its center, the interdisciplinary gathering featured musicologists, literary scholars and performers, all focused on the legacy of one of the most important composers of the middle decades of the 16th century.

De Rore composed sophisticated settings of Italian and Latin texts that were sung by highly trained musicians. He is particularly known for his Italian madrigals. "His innovations both in harmonic language and in texture created a dramatic style intensely expressive of the text and very important for later developments in the madrigal," according to Owens.

The two-day event, supported in part by a conference grant from the UC Humanities Research Institute, featured several recurring themes, including the relation between poetic and musical meaning. For instance, music professor Christopher Reynolds provided a close reading of the poem and musical setting of de Rore's Madrigal *Anchor che col partire*, arguing that the madrigal is musically coded as gendered. Giuseppe Gerbino, an associate professor of music at Columbia University, situated de Rore's musical setting of the poetic text in his madrigal *Non e lasso martire* as an aesthetic response similar to contemporary notions linking mental imagery with emotional response.

After a long day of presentations, the scholars and general public were invited to attend a concert performed by the Orlando Consort at the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, where they had a rare opportunity to hear many of de Rore's works performed for the first time. Deepening that connection between scholarship and performance practice, the Orlando Consort presided over a conference workshop the following morning devoted to the topic of Renaissance tuning.



Chancellor's Colloquium 2015–16

Launched in 2010, the **UC Davis Chancellor's Colloquium Distinguished Speakers Series** invites leaders in government, industry and higher education who promise to spark engaging conversations with our academic community and the broader public around pressing issues of the day. The series, administered by the Chancellor's Office in collaboration with the DHI, provides opportunities for robust discussions around topics involving food and agriculture, biochemistry, medicine, and humanities and scientific research.

Dr. Mamphela Aletta Ramphele gave a talk at UC Davis on September 28 that posed the question, "Can South Africa Liberate Itself from Post-Apartheid Politics of Legacy Capture?" Dr. Ramphele has been a student activist, medical doctor, community development activist, researcher, university executive and global public servant, and is now an active citizen in both the public and private sectors.

On October 28, UC Davis hosted **John Seely Brown**, who gave a presentation titled "Cultivating Resilient Learners for the 21st Century." Brown is currently a visiting scholar and advisor to the provost at the University of Southern California where he facilitates collaboration between the schools for Communication and Media and the Institute for Creative Technologies.

UC Davis rang in the new year on January 25 with **Carl Wieman's** talk, "Taking a Scientific Approach to Science and Engineering Education." Wieman holds a joint appointment as professor of physics and of the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University, directs the science education initiatives at the Universities of Colorado and British Columbia, and has received numerous awards recognizing his work in atomic physics, including the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2001.



On February 22 the Chancellor's Colloquium hosted an exceptionally well-attended lecture from **Gene E. Robinson**, "Me to We: Using Honey Bees to Find the Genetic Roots of Social Life." He holds a University of Swanlund Chair at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is also the director of its Institute for Genomic Biology (IGB) and director of the Bee Research Facility.

Our final Chancellor's Colloquium speaker of the year, **Martin Karplus** gave a talk on May 12 titled "Motion: A Hallmark of Life." Karplus is the Theodore William Richards Professor of Chemistry at Harvard University and Professeur Conventionné at the Université Louis Pasteur. He has received numerous awards, including the 2013 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.



Humanists@Work

Simon Abramowitsch, a Ph.D. candidate in English and member of the Humanists@Work Graduate Advisory Committee, reports:

“The Humanists@Work initiative supports UC humanities graduate students to pursue a variety of careers alongside and outside traditional tenure-track academic positions.

“My own interest in the programming I think mirrors more general trends among humanities Ph.D.s: beyond the oft-noted influence of a tightened academic job market, my own preparation for work after the Ph.D. is shaped by personal considerations of family and geography as well as professional interests in the public impact of the humanities, addressing humanities work to expanded audiences and constituencies, and work environments other than that of the university professoriate.

“The Humanists@Work Graduate Student Workshops, such as the one in Fall 2015 at the Crocker Museum in Sacramento, offer a site for creating communities of graduate students who want and need information, resources and networks. These connections can help them explore a variety of careers and develop the capacities required to secure work that is personally and professionally satisfying.

“In my own community of graduate students in the UC Davis English department, these workshops and resources have had tangible effects. This year, two students were hired for excellent career positions—at Stanford University and at an academic publisher—and identified Humanists@Work programming as having had a particularly significant impact on their search process.”

Publishing & Grants Workshops

The best way to let faculty and students know they can come to the Humanities Institute with their grant and publishing questions is to sponsor a continuing series of workshops on grant- and publishing-related topics. The focus of our grant workshops last year was on finding funding opportunities, preparing budgets and seeding international projects. On the publishing front, Ray Ryan, senior editor at Cambridge University Press, met one-on-one with many of our faculty to discuss their book projects and gave a public talk on how to get your book published.

“I, for one, am very glad to have the DHI as a resource. You are always my go-to with anything grant related.”

—ARCHANA VENKATESAN, associate professor and chair of Religious Studies

Dissertation Retreat

One of DHI's most important goals is to create conversations across the disciplines. But how distant can those disciplines be from each other and still allow for fruitful dialogue? We tested that question in April, when a group of 11 doctoral students, led by our director David Biale and Institute for Social Sciences director Joe Dumit, spent an intensive two days at Grandlibakken Lodge at Lake Tahoe. Fields from the humanities, the humanistic social sciences and the quantitative social sciences were represented. The remarkable range of topics included the history of grain storage in medieval China, French literature in the 18th century and an alternative statistical model for psychology.

Each student was responsible for presenting the work of another student in a different field. For example, a history student was challenged to present the work of a student working in statistics. They were able to overcome ignorance of the other student's field to summarize and then ask questions about this partner's work. It was striking—and a sign of how good our students are—that all the students rose to this challenge. The discussions were deep and stimulating.

The students all agreed that they learned a lot about their own research in ways not possible in their own departments. Most rewarding was the desire of the students to continue meeting as a group in the coming academic year, a process the DHI will facilitate. As testimony for the possibility of making very specific research intelligible to a broader public, the Dissertation Retreat points to the possibility of a university without disciplinary walls.

2015-2016 List of Fellows

Margrit Mondavi Summer Research Fellows

Maria F. Diaz Basteris (Spanish & Portuguese)
Understanding Diaspora through Graphic
Novels of the Hispanic Caribbean

John Zibell (Performance Studies)
The Skies are Full of Swarming Eyes: Durational
Improvisations with Drones

Bryce Cannell (Music)
Sacher Foundation: Anton Webern Manuscript
Collections

Mari Carson (Theatre & Dance)
Marriage of Figaro Research

Nina Cole (Cultural Studies)
From JA to L.A.: Performing Authenticity in Los
Angeles' Vintage Jamaican Music Community

Anna Davidson (Art)
Sea Level

Kristen Hough (Art Studio)
Ocular Immersion in Painting

Carolina Novella (Performance Studies)
Oncogrrrls

Raissa Simpson (Theatre & Dance)
Dancing in Sepia

Julian Tan (Art Studio)
Minding the Gaps, Waiting the Lines

HArCS Summer Research Fellows

Andrea Miller (Cultural Studies)
The Forensics of a Strick: UAV Infrastructure
and Racialized Drones Discourse in the U.S.
War on Terror

Omar Abdullah (Cultural Studies)
The Politics of Punchlines

Ksenia Fedorova (Cultural Studies)
Feedback Interfaces in Media Arts and
Technoculture

May Ee Wong (Cultural Studies)
The Global Sustainable City

Michael Martel (English)
Governing Victorians: Localist Writing and the
State, 1850-1914

Xan Sarah Chacko (Cultural Studies)
Pivoting the Imperative to Collect: An
Institutional History of the Millennium Seed
Bank

Elizabeth Crachiolo (English)
Sensitive Plants and Natural History in Early
Modern England

David Tenorio (Spanish & Portuguese)
Sex after the Revolution: Queer Futurity, Sexual
Politics, and the Poetics of Hope in Mexican
and Cuban Cultural Production

Scott Tsuchitani (Cultural Studies)
Art and Social Change in Japan: Initial Field
Research

Cordelia Ross (English)
Enclosing History: 12th to 16th Century
Subterranean English Narratives

Faculty Research Fellows

Xiaomei Chen (East Asian Language & Cultures)
Staging Chinese Revolution: Founding Fathers,
Red Classics, and Revisionist Histories of
Twentieth-Century Chinese China

Larry Bogad (Theatre & Dance)
Economusic: Keeping Score

Helen Koo (Design)
Designing Wearable Technology for Autism
Spectrum Disorders

Marian Schlotterbeck (History)
Beyond the Vanguard: Grassroots Movements
and the Making of Revolutionary Chile

Baki Tezcan (History and Religious Studies)
Imperial Visions: Africans, Americans, Asians,
and Europeans in the Early Ottoman World

Cristiana Giordano (Anthropology)
Migrants and Microbes: Life of the Immune
Systems in Contemporary Europe

Rachel Jean-Baptiste (Anthropology)
Mother Africa, Father France: Race, Sexuality,
and Belonging in Twentieth Century
Francophone Africa

Jeff Fort (French)
Facing Death: Maurice Blanchot and the
Ontology of Cinema

Mellon Public Scholars

Simon Abramowitsch (English)
Multi-Ethnic Publishing in the San Francisco Bay
Area: A Community History
Mentor: Desiree Martin (English)

Cinthya Ammerman (Native American Studies),
Social Media Strategy for a Q'eqchi Community
Association
Mentor: Liza Grandia (Native American Studies)

Trisha Barua (Cultural Studies)
Building Demand for Contemporary and
Experimental Performance among People
of Color in East Oakland
Mentor: Susette Min (Asian American Studies)

Bridget Clark (Sociology)
Report to California Energy Commission:
What Don't We Know About the Role of
Human Behavior in Energy Conservation?
Mentor: Thomas Beamish (Sociology)

Chelsea Escalante (Spanish and Portuguese)
Exploring the Long-term Effects of
International Volunteerism
Mentor: Robert Bayley (Linguistics)

Jonathan Favero (Music)
Positive Youth Justice Initiative: A Report to the
Sierra Health Foundation on Barriers to Reform
in the CA Juvenile Corrections System
Mentor: Miroslava Chavez-Garcia (Chicana
and Chicano Studies, UCSB)

Lily Hodges (History)
Education Behind Bars
Mentor: Kathy Olmsted (History)

Stephanie Maroney (Cultural Studies)
The Promise of CRISPR to Scientists and
Publics: Critically Engaging Communication
about the Social Impacts of Gene
Modification Technologies
Mentor: Lisa Ikemoto (Law)

Loren Michael Mortimer (History)
You Are on Indian Land: Visualizing
Indigenous Spaces on the U.S.-Canada Border
Mentor: Elisabeth Rose Middleton (Native
American Studies)

Jennifer Sedell (Geography)
Race, Citizenship, and Agrarian Histories:
Situating Immigrant Contributions to
Sustainable Agriculture in California
Mentor: Julie Sze (American Studies)

UC Public Scholars

Margaret Bell (UCSB – Art History)
Collaborative Lesson Planning and Mural
Painting in an Isla Vista Fifth-grade
Art Classroom
Mentor: Rebeca Mireles-Rios (Graduate School
of Education)

Michele Brewster (UCI – History)
"Mexico/L.A.: History into Art, 1820-1930":
an Exhibition at Laguna Art Museum
Mentor: Laura Mitchell (History)

Kendra Dority (UCSC – Literature)
Educators' Workshop: Creative and
Empowering Pedagogies for Teaching
Shakespeare
Mentor: Sean Keilen (Literature)

Yessica Garcia (UCSD – Cultural Studies)
Mexican Regional Music and the Experience of
Latino Immigrants in the United States
Mentor: Jillian Hernandez (Ethnic Studies)

Audrey Harris (UCLA – Spanish & Portuguese)
Stories from a Mexican Women's Prison
Mentor: Hector Calderón (Spanish &
Portuguese)

Jared Katz (UCR – Anthropology)
Printing Ancient Music: 3D Replicas of Ancient
Maya Instruments for Public Engagement
Mentor: Travis Stanton (Anthropology)

Shaina Molano (UCM – World Cultures)
Access to and the Control of Water in the
Pre-Columbian Central Andes
Mentor: Christina Torres-Rouff (Anthropology)

Emma Silverman (UCB – Art History)
A History of Pond Farm, an Artist's Colony
in Guerneville, California
Mentor: Jenni Sorkin (History of Art
and Architecture)

“The UC Davis Humanities Institute exists to facilitate the research of UC Davis faculty and graduate students and to convey that work to audiences beyond the university.”

Support the Humanities Institute

The UC Davis Humanities Institute (DHI) welcomes funding from individual donors and charitable organizations to support its interdisciplinary and collaborative research initiatives. As a “research hub” for the humanities and arts at UC Davis, DHI exists to facilitate the research of UC Davis faculty and graduate students and to convey that work to audiences beyond the university. Fulfilling this mission would not be possible without the generous support of private foundations and individuals who understand the role that humanities and arts play in creating a vibrant and robust university as well as an informed community.

Please consider making a gift to the DHI Annual Fund. Your unrestricted support will assist the institute in its important initiatives to foster the humanities and arts. Furthermore, a multi-year pledge option to DHI would make it possible to support a graduate fellow, research forum or public lecture.

To give, please go online to dhi.ucdavis.edu and click the “gift” button on the top menu bar or contact Christine Tebes Stroh (cmstroh@ucdavis.edu) at 530-754-2221.

