

ANNUAL REPORT

2014–2015

Bridging disciplines, building dialogues

UCDAVIS

Humanities Institute



(Credit: Tom Spaulding)



(Credit: Tom Spaulding)

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



Pam Nardinelli
Program Manager



Becky Wilson
Event Coordinator



Amber Harden
Assistant to the Mellon Initiatives



Elliott Pollard
Webmaster



Graduate Student Researchers

Pearl Chaozon-Bauer
English

Alexandra Craven
Art History

Katja Jylkka
English

Stephanie Maroney
Cultural Studies

THE UC DAVIS HUMANITIES 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 from different disciplines in creative and exciting ways. 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.

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. Many may think STEM when they hear the name UC Davis. But as a great university UC Davis needs the humanities no less. 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.

2014-2015 Advisory Board

- Mario Biagioli, Law, History and Science and Technology Studies
- James Housefield, Design
- Michael Lazzara, Spanish and Portuguese
- Lisa Materson, History
- Zoila Mendoza, Native American Studies
- Colin Milburn, English
- Maceo Montoya, Chicana/o Studies
- Eric Smoodin, American Studies
- Archana Venkatesan, Comparative Literature
- Li Zhang, Anthropology



TABLE OF CONTENTS

About 2

Director's Letter 4

Fellows

- Faculty Research Fellows **5**
- Dissertation Year Fellows **6**
- Margrit Mondavi Fellows **6**
- HArCS Dean's Fellows **7**

Events and Workshops

- Brown Bag Book Chats **8**
- Publishing and Grant Workshops **8**
- DHI/ISS Dissertation Retreat **9**
- Co-Sponsored Events **10**
- PhD Unlimited **10**

Partnerships

- Stories on Stage Davis **11**
- Chancellor's Colloquium Speaker Series **12**
- UC Public Partnerships in the Humanities **13**

Mellon Research Initiatives

- Social Justice, Culture and (In)Security **14**
- Digital Cultures **14**

Collaborations

- DHI Research Clusters **16**
- UC Davis Human Rights Initiative **18**
- Environments & Societies Research Group **18**

Support

- Support the Humanities Institute **19**

Preview: What to Watch for in 2015-2016

- Mellon Public Scholars Program **back cover**
- Mellon Sawyer Seminar **back cover**

ON THE COVER

Matt Gilbert, an MFA student in Art Studio and 2014-2015 Margrit Mondavi Fellow, tinkers with his kinetic sculptures in his campus studio. Gilbert has developed a highly interdisciplinary art and design practice that includes interactive electronics, video, animation, sound installation, web development, crochet, papercraft and other media. His creations are composed with a 3-D printer, a makeshift mini-machine shop, surplus store items, handmade circuit boards and dark dental floss. When he flips the "on" switch, small motors hum and interwoven floss moves, sometimes almost imperceptibly, in a kind of dance. "They've raised questions for me about how we perceive lifelike movement, even in a kind of black-and-white line drawing, even with the mechanisms exposed," Gilbert observed.

2014–2015 Director's Letter



What exactly does a humanities institute do?

That is a question I am often asked by friends, family and folks less familiar with the goings-on at a research university. I am pleased to present this 2014-2015 annual report in answer to this question. As you will see, the UC Davis Humanities Institute did a whole lot in the last year to support the research and creative work of our faculty and students in the humanities and social sciences. We offered them grants and fellowships so that they can get their own projects done; we hosted workshops, seminars and retreats to connect them with others and offer them advice on writing successful grants or book proposals; we sponsored research collaborations bringing teams of scholars together to work on hot topics such as the environment, digital cultures and social justice; and we publicized the significant research coming out of the College of Letters and Science with feature stories and a weekly newsletter. What is especially gratifying is to see the impact of the work that we do as our faculty publish award-winning books, receive prestigious fellowships and grants, and graduate students land great jobs.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a number of new initiatives at the institute. Thanks to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's renewal of our Mellon Research Initiatives in the Humanities program, we ran a competition in fall 2014 and selected two new groups to join our continuing collaborations on Social Justice and Digital Cultures. They are an interdisciplinary group investigating Border Studies and another working on Indian Ocean Worlds. We are proud to work with these talented faculty and graduate students who are advancing the scope of the humanities with new and exciting forms of collaboration.

This year, our Faculty Research Seminar took a new direction from years past. Instead of pursuing a theme, we awarded one-quarter sabbaticals to six assistant and associate professors who needed the time to make progress on book projects. The seminar met weekly at the institute over lunch and the participants presented book proposals for discussion by the group. I served as informal seminar leader, but I also benefited by presenting a piece of my own research. In addition to the

intensive feedback that each seminar member received, a strong feeling of cohort across the disciplines developed in the group. Indeed, it is one of the institute's most important missions to create these bridges between departments as a way of giving the humanities at UC Davis a truly collective identity.

As Russell Berman, the Walter A. Hass Professor in the Humanities at Stanford University and a 2014-2015 Chancellor's Colloquium Distinguished Speaker, encouraged us to rethink the Ph.D. in the humanities when he visited UC Davis last fall, we continued to refine the professional and career mentoring we offered under the heading of our PhD Unlimited program; we sponsored workshops on creating a digital identity, panels of Ph.D. alumni with careers outside the academy, and a faculty mentoring event. Our PhD Unlimited program gave us the groundwork and credentials we needed to develop a proposal for a Public Scholars Program to be launched in fall 2015. With the support of a \$400,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation, we will match graduate students with faculty mentors who are involved in some form of community-engaged research. The students will take a seminar in the spring on public humanities and community engagement and will then work in an internship in the community (government, non-profit, etc.). The goal of the program is to prepare students for possible careers outside the academy that are nevertheless related to research on the inside. The program will also create bridges between UC Davis and a wide variety of institutions in the community as well as create a training model for other universities across California and beyond.

All of this new activity comes in addition to our very full plate of core programs, such as the Chancellor's Colloquium, graduate summer fellowships, a series of "Book Chats" featuring faculty authors, and much, much more that you can read about in the pages to follow.

Happy reading!

David Biale

Director, UC Davis Humanities Institute



"The fellowship provided me with that rarest and most valuable commodity to a scholar: uninterrupted time to think and write. ... I was able not only to complete my manuscript but also to do so in the rigorous, thorough, and meditative way that successful scholarship in the humanities requires." — Seeta Chaganti

FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWS

The Faculty Research Fellowship is designed to help faculty make significant progress on a research or creative project. Fellows spend a quarter meeting weekly with colleagues in other departments and disciplines whom they would not meet in any other setting. Awards are based on the scholarly merit and originality of the projects. The fellowship provides recipients with a quarter research leave and provides them with time to work intently on their projects. Each fellow is expected to give a public lecture on their work in the academic year following their "residency" at the institute.

The 2014-2015 Faculty Research cohort was made up of faculty from anthropology, English, history, music and French. Unlike in previous years when the fellowship was constructed around a central theme, this year the participants worked on individual projects that were not necessarily connected. Their topics ranged from the cult of relics to lawsuits against Chevron. Nevertheless, the fellows found that there were plenty of unexpected links.

2014–2015 FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWS

Seeta Chaganti *Medieval Dance and Poetry* (English)

Katie Harris *Proving Sanctity: Evidence and the Cult of Relics in the Early Modern Spanish Mediterranean* (History)

Danielle Heard *Mavericks of Masquerade: Comic Strategies of Post-Blackness* (English)

Katherine Lee *Dynamic Korea, Dynamic Samulnori: An Ethnography of a Transnational Percussion Genre* (Music)

Suzana Sawyer *The Valence of Crude: The Intractable Lawsuit Against Chevron in Ecuador* (Anthropology)

Tobias Warner *Aesthetics after Austerity: The "Work" of Literature in Neoliberal Senegal* (French and Italian)

"I learned a great deal from the other members of the cohort. The weekly discussions on how to shape book proposals and critically engage research projects helped me to refine my own research questions and sharpen my book proposal." — Katherine Lee





DISSERTATION YEAR FELLOWS

This year saw the final cohort of Dissertation Year Fellows. The UC Humanities Network has decided to re-align its funding to encourage more cross-campus opportunities for graduate students in working groups and the like. This year's fellows were **Mark Dries**, a doctoral candidate in history, and **Heather Jennings**, a doctoral candidate in English. Fellows receive a full academic year of financial support in recognition of work that promises to make significant contributions to research in the humanities.

Mark Dries's project, "The Mercurial Menace: Health and Indigenous Labor in the Mercury Mines of Huancavelica, Peru, 1570-1700," examines how indigenous conceptions of health influenced the labor regime in the mercury mines of Huancavelica, Peru, during the 16th and 17th centuries. Dries spent much of the year abroad, doing archival research in Huancavelica and Lima. This research has not only furthered his project, but also complicated it in productive ways. His work in the archive at Huancavelica, for example, has produced documents that show "the participation of indigenous miners alongside Spaniards in the current narrative regarding the Andean population focuses on their victimization, but I've seen that that is not the whole story," Dries explained.

Heather Jennings' dissertation is titled "Speaking Flesh: Embodied Knowledge in Medieval Rhetoric, Pedagogy, and Performance" and uses cognitive theory, performance studies, work in pedagogical techniques, and knowledge of medieval grammar and rhetoric to bring to light productive correspondences between premodern and postmodern theorizations of the mind, the body and the performer. Jennings spent the year adding to her research archive in unexpected ways. "I am showing how rhetorical texts spanning nearly two thousand years, as well as many other school texts, shaped medieval drama, which itself encompasses a varied corpus. Additionally, I have expanded my research to include medieval preaching manuals and sermons, which were more influential on dramatic content than I had originally realized," said Jennings.

Both Dries and Jennings also found their time as fellows particularly useful in connecting and collaborating with other scholars. "I have learned how dependent productive intellectual work is on conversations with others, so I have scheduled my work around regular discussions of my writing with other graduate students and my advisors, as well as participated in two conferences addressing medieval performance practices," Jennings explained. Dries participated in interdisciplinary conferences and collaborated with a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology who has also worked with the archives near the mine.



MARGRIT MONDAVI FELLOWS

With the support of philanthropist Margrit Mondavi, the Humanities Institute was able to award 10 grants of \$5,000 each to deserving graduate students in M.F.A. and Ph.D. programs in the division of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies (HARCS) to support research, workshops and travel among other project-related work in summer 2014. This award supports a wide and stimulating array of projects, both visionary and scholarly, including works of visual and sound art, musical compositions, dance performances and studies of U.S. and Brazilian literary culture.

2014-2015 MONDAVI FELLOWS

Theresa Bachmann *Constructing the Memory of the Brazilian Exile in Mexico* (Spanish and Portuguese)

Gabriel Bolaños *String Quartet* (Music)

Jordan Carroll *The Unpublishable: Obscenity and Editorship in U.S. Literary Culture* (English)

William Cooper *Berlin and Ragdale* (Music)

Matt Debbaudt *A Very Big Painting* (Art Studio)

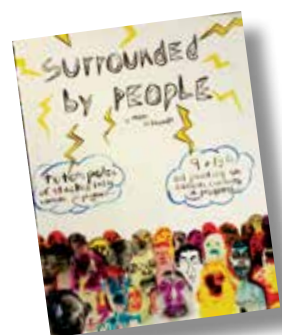
Matt Gilbert *Sound Art: New Forms and Ancient Origins* (Art Studio)

Brandon Gonzales *The Space Between* (Theatre and Dance)

Emelie Mahdavian *After the Curtain* (Performance Studies)

Josef Nguyen *The Institute for the Future and the Anticipation of Epic Wins* (English)

Jonathan Spatola-Knoll *European American Musical Alliance Program in Conducting, 2014* (Music)



Matthew Kelly Debbaudt's work is primarily an exploration of the subconscious through painting and drawing.



HARCS DEAN'S FELLOWS

With the assistance of the HARCS Dean's Office, the Humanities Institute awarded \$5,000 each to M.F.A. and Ph.D. students in HARCS to support travel, research, workshops and other project-related work in summer 2014. Time and money are valuable assets critical in any research process. Our graduate students researched a variety of topics including electronic music in Paris at the end of World War II, an examination of women's theater and the professionalism of the East Asian actress in 20th-century Kyoto and an ethnographic inquiry on the cultural impact of landmines in the rural provinces of Colombia.

2014-2015 HARCS DEAN'S FELLOWS

Megan Ammirati *Rewriting Theater History in East Asia: Classical Japanese Dance and a Methodology for Female Performance* (Comparative Literature)

Pearl Chaozon-Bauer *The Victorian Epithalamium* (English)

Matt Franks *Queer Eugenics* (English)

Diana Pardo Pedraza *Sacrificial Landscapes in the Colombian War* (Cultural Studies)

Navid Saberi-Najafi *Persian Beast Fables* (Comparative Literature)

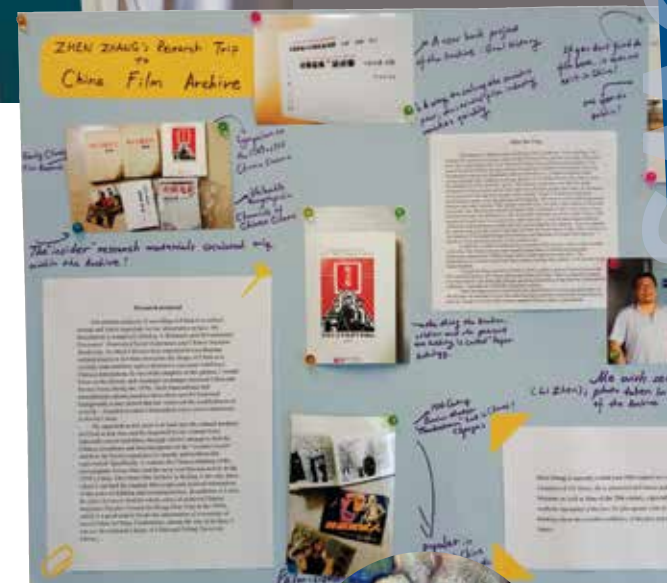
Cara Shipe *Bodies Beholden: Race, Disability, and Slavery in Literature of the 19th-Century U.S.* (English)

Alexander Stalarow *Listening to a Liberated Paris: Pierre Schaeffer Experiments with Radio* (Music)

Christopher Wallis *Nocturnal Emissions in Milton's "Mask"* (English)

Tobias Wilson-Bates *Novel Technologies* (English)

Zhen Zhang *Soviet Experience as Translation* (Comparative Literature)





BROWN BAG BOOK CHATS

A new lunchtime talk series, the DHI Brown Bag Book Chats provides a forum for UC Davis faculty to share their new publications, performances, or recordings with the Davis community. Our Brown Bag Book Chats celebrate the artistic and intellectual ventures of our UC Davis faculty. Through this series the Humanities Institute promotes the range and culmination of UC Davis' collective work.

2014-2015 FACULTY PRESENTERS

Maceo Montoya *Letters to the Poet from His Brother* (Chicana/o Studies)

Corrie Decker *Mobilizing Zanzibari Women: The Struggle for Respectability and Self-Reliance in Colonial East Africa* (History)

Rachel Jean-Baptiste *Conjugal Rights* (History)

Maxine Craig *Sorry I Don't Dance: Why Men Refuse to Move* (Women and Gender Studies)

HOW TO PUBLISH YOUR BOOK

Sponsored in partnership with Innovating Communication In Scholarship (ICIS), the Humanities Institute hosted a talk with UC Press Editor Reed Malcolm that outlined the publication process and offered tips on finding a publisher. Malcolm, a senior editor for works in anthropology and Asian studies, discussed how to prepare a book proposal, how to pitch ideas to an editor, and the ins and outs of the review process. The UC Press Anthropology list encompasses all aspects of social and cultural studies, including comparative, historical, and multi-sited ethnography. Malcolm has had the good fortune of publishing such well-known authors as Arthur Kleinman, Joao Biehl, Elinor Ochs, Tanya Luhrmann, Joel Robbins, and Michael Jackson, among others. The UC Press Asian Studies list is one of the longest running and most highly-regarded in the country, having published award-winning titles in history, anthropology, sociology, politics and policy. Authors have included Frederick Wakeman, Andrew Gordon, Sheldon Pollock, Romila Thapar and Melvyn Goldstein.

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOPS

The UC Davis Humanities Institute holds a series of workshops to assist faculty in the humanities and social sciences to identify and apply for funding opportunities, both from federal agencies and private foundations. Our workshops focused on using the funding database called Pivot as well as securing support from private foundations. Both workshops demonstrated how to find funding opportunities and how to navigate the world of foundation giving.



UC DAVIS HUMANITIES INSTITUTE/INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES DISSERTATION RETREAT

In 2014-2015 the Humanities Institute held its inaugural Dissertation Retreat in partnership with the Institute for Social Sciences (ISS). The retreat's goal was to help doctoral students reinvent their dissertations through editing, revising and sharing. A total of 12 students were selected to participate in the retreat. Students worked in group sessions discussing their dissertations and helped each other work through the writing process.

After years of working diligently on their dissertations, at the culmination of their time in graduate school, Ph.D. students are often told "No one will ever read your dissertation." To quote Tina Fey's Liz Lemon, "What the what now?" This written body of work that has taken a great amount of blood, sweat and tears to produce is just going to sit in some dark corner of someone's office, or lie buried in some obscure database? What if this didn't have to be the fate of the dissertation? What if its form, content, publication, or all three, could be changed to give the dissertation a renewed vitality and relevance to both graduate education and the public good? This was the impetus behind the retreat: a recognition that a revised dissertation might offer opportunities and parallels with a revamped vision of what doctoral scholars can offer the academic and nonacademic job markets. With our Dissertation Retreats, the DHI is committed to helping and educating UC Davis graduate students in not only reaching their goal of publication, but also in expanding their sense of community through workshops and meet-and-greets.

2014-2015 RETREAT PARTICIPANTS

Nicole Kenley *Detecting Globalization* (English)

Rusty Bartels *War Memories, Imperial Ambitions: Commemorating WWII in the U.S. Pacific National Park System* (Cultural Studies)

Catherine Garoupa White *Do You See What I See? Philosophies, Frames, and Tactics for Clean Air in California's San Joaquin Valley* (Geography)

Laura Pascoe "Pillow Talk is Big Talk": *Perceived Roles and Responsibilities of Men in Negotiating Contraceptive Use and Women's Sexual Pleasure in Cape Town, South Africa* (Geography/Human Ecology)

Megan Ammirati *From the Backstage to the Spotlight: Women's Performance in Chinese Theater from 1906-1966* (Comparative Literature)

Doris Duangboudda *Mass Car Consumption: Mobilizing Middle Classes in Late Post-Socialist Urban China* (Anthropology)

Tracy Quan *Becoming Fluent Abroad: Examining the Effects of Learner Investment and Identity Development on L2 Spanish Learners* (Spanish and Portuguese)

Lauren Nossett *The Virginal Mother in German Literature and Culture: Discourses of Virginity and Motherhood 1771-1927* (German)

Michael Accinno *Gestures of Inclusion: Blindness, Music, and Pedagogy in Nineteenth-Century Thought* (Music)

La Tessa Joy Walker *Signification of the Black Dancing Body: Reinscribing the Historiography of Dance and Revisioning the Discipline and its Collective Identity* (Performance Studies)

Yi Zhou *Friction in the Virtual Word: Women's Affective Labor, New Media Capital and Governmentality in Post-Socialist China* (Anthropology)

Giovanna Montenegro *Textual and Visual Representations of the New World: German and Spanish Perspectives of the Conquest of Venezuela 16th-21st Centuries* (German)



CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

The Humanities Institute annually co-sponsors interdisciplinary conferences, workshops and events featuring and advancing the research of the humanities and humanistic social sciences. The institute is honored to partner with UC Davis faculty in bringing leading scholars, performers, artists and designers to our campus.

In 2014-2015, these co-sponsored awards supported more than two dozen events, including a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution titled **IndiVisible: African Native Lives in the Americas**, part of the conference: “Responding to IndiVisible: African Native Lives in the Americas,” which attended to the intersections between place-making, freedom, belonging, legal and scientific categorization, modernity and performance brought together and made visible by African-native lives across the Americas. Other highlights from the year’s events included the one-day conference “Samuel G. Armistead UC Davis Colloquium on Latin American & Peninsular Languages, Literatures, and Cultures” featuring two keynote speakers and a graduate student panel; the Templeton Lecture in the History of Art, with UC Berkeley Professor Padma Kaimal discussing her work “Change and Persistence: The Kailasanatha Temple at Kanchi from the 8th–21st Centuries”; and “Entr’acte: Performing Publics, Pervasive Media, and Architecture,” the “entr’acte” denoting the specific construction of both time and space between parts of a stage performance.

For more information, please visit dhi.ucdavis.edu.

PHD UNLIMITED

PhD Unlimited offers a series of speakers, workshops and other events dedicated to the increasing need for career training for Ph.D. students that goes beyond the expectation of tenure-track academia. Programming focuses on “alternative-academic,” or “alt-ac” careers, from academic administrator positions, to writing and researching, to management positions at nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations. PhD Unlimited helps graduate students explore all of their options and provides them with resources for how to negotiate a life outside of the academy when they finish their degrees. In 2014–2015, PhD Unlimited included sessions on digital identity, mentoring, job searches and stories from the field.



Programs such as PhD Unlimited are essential for moving beyond, “yes, alt-ac!” to “what now?” After all, even for those graduate students who have gotten over the idea of a stigma attached to seeking alternative means of employment, the question remains—what does that look like? The interesting and problematic answer is that it looks like so many things. Exploring options and what it takes to land different kinds of jobs are the goals of PhD Unlimited’s programming.



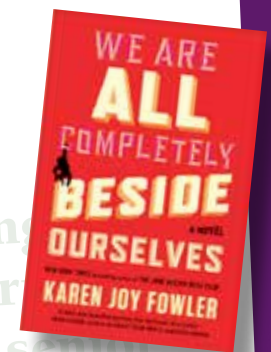
STORIES ON STAGE DAVIS

In partnership with the Humanities Institute, Stories on Stage Davis hosts an authors’ series that enlists actors to perform the work of veteran and emerging authors. Hosted the second Saturday of each month at the Pence Gallery in Davis, Stories on Stage synthesizes literature and theater and has brought lovers of fiction and theater together to celebrate this blending of the arts. The institute has contributed to this community endeavor since the series’ inception by providing a student videographer who records and posts every performance to the group’s website www.storiesonstagedavis.com.

Karen Joy Fowler, Natalie Baszile and Josh Weil were some of the authors featured at Stories on Stage Davis. Davisite Karen Joy Fowler is the author of three short story collections and six novels. Her current novel **We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves** won the 2014 PEN/Faulkner Award and the 2014 California Book Award for Fiction. The novel, narrated by daughter and sister Rosemary Cooke, follows her average nuclear American family with one special caveat: the children’s sister, Fern, is a chimpanzee. The novel captures what it is to be part of a family in the greater workings of life. With an exceptional plot twist, Fowler has yet again produced a work of excellence.

Natalie Baszile, author of **Queen Sugar**, is the recipient of the Hurst Wright College Writer’s Award and was a co-runner up in the Faulkner Pirate’s Alley Novel-in-Progress competition, with excerpts published in Cairn and ZYZZYVA. The novel follows single mother Charley Bordelon, an African American widow laboring to construct a new identity in the contemporary South after she inherits 800 acres of sugarcane land. In her debut novel, Baszile brings her readers close-up to obligation, family and community through diligence and persistence in the character of Charley Bordelon.

Josh Weil, author of **The Great Glass Sea**, won the *New York Times* Editor’s Choice and was a finalist for the Center for Fiction’s Flaherty-Dunn First Novel Award. *The Great Glass Sea* is cloaked in the mysticism of Russian folklore and set in a dystopian present day Russia. The novel focuses on twin brothers Yarik and Dima (one an idealist, the other a realist) who work at the largest greenhouse in the world. Through an extraordinary set of circumstances, the once close brothers find themselves on opposite ends of the political trajectory, threatening to tear their world and family apart.



“In 1996, I was twenty-two years old, meandering through my fifth year at the University of California, Davis, and still maybe only a junior or maybe a senior, but so thoroughly uninterested in the niceties of units or requirements or degrees that I wouldn’t be graduating anytime soon. My education, my father liked to point out, was wider than it was deep. He said this often.”

CHANCELLOR'S COLLOQUIUM

Intended to heighten local and national awareness of research at UC Davis, the Chancellor's Colloquium Distinguished Speaker Series reaches across disciplines and colleges to foster critical dialogue and creative engagement, a core mission of the Humanities Institute. Each forum features a focused presentation by a renowned speaker on a variety of topics followed by a moderated discussion with faculty and policy experts. The series, administered with the assistance of the Humanities Institute, provides opportunities for robust discussions around topics involving food and agriculture, biochemistry, medicine, and humanities and scientific research.



Hamid Dabashi, Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, began the series with his talk titled, "Why Persian Humanism Matters Today." Dabashi discussed academia's understanding of humanism and how it is applied to culture. "The point," Dabashi argued, "is to recognize the differences in the study of humanism in order to enrich the global experiences of what it means to be human."

The Walter A. Haas Professor in the Humanities at Stanford University, **Russell Berman** proposed an ambitious vision for the future of humanities graduate education that stressed shorter time to degree and greater professionalization of doctoral students. Berman emphasized that a humanities doctoral degree is a vital part of higher education and that humanities doctoral students are crucial actors in public life.

Shirley Tilghman, a pioneer in molecular biology and Princeton's first woman president, discussed the current state of biomedical science in a talk titled "The Best of Times, the Worst of Times: Life in Biomedical Science." Tilghman contended that graduate programs across the country are producing too many Ph.D.s, glutting the market with researchers competing for too few permanent positions (and indeed, not even enough temporary postdoc positions). Just as the humanities have had to take a long, hard look at their career placement, so do biomedical departments.

Nigel Thrift, Professor and Vice Chancellor of the University of Warwick, explored how geography shows us both "how we know where we are, and how we feel where we are." Thrift argued that each navigational device that is "used for knowing where you are" produces knowledge about how we know and experience space in radically different ways. Thrift touched briefly on how the state and the economy provide ways to "standardize and stabilize" our experiences of moving through space.

President of the University of Miami and former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, **Donna E. Shalala** examined noncommunicable diseases in developing countries. Shalala explained that the biggest health threat to developing nations are not diseases like Ebola but chronic diseases people of developed nations are very much familiar with, like cancer and heart disease. Global health is in transition, and we need to reprioritize to make this new venture important, according to Shalala.

Closing the 2014-2015 Chancellor's Colloquium season was **Teresa A. Sullivan**, President of the University of Virginia. President Sullivan's talk, "Ready or Not: Preparing Students for 21st Century Careers" focused on the (dis)connection between higher education and the labor market. Sullivan argued that a liberal arts education imparts the core skills required, and preferred, by any employer: skills like lifelong critical thinking, superior oral and written communications, respect for cultural difference and diversity, an ethical approach to decision making, and consideration of multiple perspectives before arriving at a conclusion.



UC PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS IN THE HUMANITIES

Three UC Davis faculty members were awarded the UC President's Public Partnerships in the Humanities grants from the University of California Humanities Research Institute in 2014-2015. **Assistant professors N. Claire Napawan** and **Sheryl-Ann Simpson** (Human Ecology) received support for their project "Our Changing Climate: Resilience Networks at the Community Scale," and **Associate Professor Robyn Rodriguez** (Asian American Studies) will use the funding toward her project, "WELGA! Filipino American Perspectives on the Great Grape Strike of 1965." The Public Partnership grants are designed to support inventive humanities research with community engagement.

"Our Changing Climate: Resilience Networks at the Community Scale"

Napawan's and Simpson's project addresses the urgent need for local perspectives on climate change by leveraging social networking and digital media to provide a digital community that will champion community involvement. These include opportunities to contribute images and narratives to community-generated neighborhood resilience mapping; and community participation in on-going local conversations about climate change and resilience. "There is a need to better understand the sometime-subtle, local, and everyday ways in which people are experiencing climate change," said Napawan. The effects of climate change may be well understood by the academics who study them, but for the average individual, predicted environmental change can be difficult to grasp.



"WELGA! Filipino American Stories of the Great Grape Strike of 1965"

Directed by Associate Professor Robyn Rodriguez (Asian and Asian American Studies), the second Public Partnerships project is dedicated to documenting Filipino leadership in the 1965 Delano Grape Strike and following labor movements. "WELGA" is the Tagalog/Filipino word for "strike", and the project intended to bring attention to the important contributions of Filipinos to the farmworker struggle in California. The project will collect the oral histories of 1965 strike participants and supporters and digitize the stories to be added to a digital archive alongside strike-related materials. The materials gathered through this 15-month project will be housed on a publicly accessible website and physical archive which will be launched in September 2015, the strike's 50th anniversary. The Welga Project also includes collaboration with key community stakeholders in the city of Delano, California,



to install permanent QR (Quick Response) codes at appropriate sites related to the 1965 strike. Additionally, a teacher's resource guide will be produced to support the implementation of AB123, which mandates the teaching of Filipinos' contribution to the farmworker struggle.



SUBVEILLANCE DRONE THEORY ENCRYPTION

#Activism #Indigenous #Language Rights

MELLON RESEARCH INITIATIVES IN THE HUMANITIES

Since its launch in the fall of 2011, the institute has been the home of the **Mellon Research Initiatives in the Humanities**. A Mellon Research Initiative is an intense and focused exploration, over a three-year period, of a particular topic of great institutional importance at UC Davis. Each initiative receives funding for three years of programming, a two-year Mellon visiting assistant professor, director's compensation and support for graduate recruitment and research. Proof of the program's success is the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's renewal of its commitment in 2014 with an additional \$1.725 million to support another four interdisciplinary collaborations through 2021.

These initiatives have allowed us to work toward these simultaneous goals: 1) we have brought talented recent Ph.D. graduates to UC Davis through highly competitive searches, benefited from their energy and intellectual contributions to our community, mentored them during those critical post-graduate years and sent them off to tenure-track jobs; 2) we have increased funding for graduate students, which has allowed us to recruit well and to provide summer funding—it is particularly gratifying that the dean of Graduate Studies at UC Davis matched the Mellon award designated for graduate students, thus increasing its impact; 3) we have enabled senior scholars to create intellectual communities, both on campus and through invitations for conferences, colloquia and seminars. The bonds established through these initiatives will have an enduring impact.

The Digital Cultures Mellon has been especially able to leverage their Mellon Foundation support to build a new community. They have new space, four new faculty coming on board in 2015-2016 and new graduate recruits. Indeed, according to its directors, the Mellon funding is already helping to lay the groundwork for a Designated Emphasis (D.E.) in Digital Culture at UC Davis.

Rather than build an entirely new community, the **Mellon Research Initiative in Social Justice, Culture and (In)Security** spent the last academic year breathing new life into the long-standing and renowned **Native American Studies program, the only one in the country to offer an undergraduate major and minor, a master's, Ph.D., and D.E., all from a hemispheric perspective**. The Social Justice Initiative was intended to build bridges across ethnic and gender studies programs, all co-located in Hart Hall at UC Davis. In year one, women and gender studies took the lead and designed programming around social justice in a feminist, global context. In 2014-2015, Native American Studies shifted the dialogue to encompass the theme of "Global Indigenities" to address issues of indigenous identities, performance as a means of social action, and indigenous knowledge as a form of healing and revitalization.

Among the highlights of the Social Justice group's thematic events and workshops was the **keynote address of Native rights activist and author Walter Echo-Hawk who discussed the U.N.'s Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** at the group's launch event in fall 2014 as well as a workshop on #Activism with speakers who provided tips and best practices about using social media to promote issues of social justice. Attendance at all of the Social Justice events remained impressive in year two as they continued to draw large audiences of faculty, graduate students, undergraduates and the general public.

For the **Mellon Research Initiative in Digital Cultures**, the topics of programming for 2014-2015 may have looked familiar to previous years, but the methods were more interactive. They spent the year discussing many of the same **broad subjects, including drone theory, Internet politics, art and activism, police surveillance and cameras, the changing landscape of encryption and currency, among others**.

However, those subjects were tackled in hands-on workshops conducted by artists, performers and an historian skilled in digital methods. For instance, performance artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña spent a week in the Digital Culture group's studio, known as Modlab, working with 10 graduate students in performance studies, cultural studies and anthropology on a performance piece titled "Glitch Body & Nanostalgia." In these more intimate, interactive events held in the group's dedicated workspace, faculty, students and the public acquired practical skills and engaged with the visiting artists and speakers one-on-one.

Both the Digital Cultures and Social Justice groups in 2014-2015 attended closely to the needs of their graduate students with financial support for travel and research as well as providing them with opportunities to showcase their own research. Out of a competitive pool of 30 proposals, the Digital Cultures group awarded six summer research fellowships to their graduate students. In addition, there are more students advancing to the dissertation stage in the area of digital cultures as nine students delivered prospectuses on topics coming directly out of Digital Cultures seminars. The Mellon visiting assistant professor in Digital Cultures, Kris Fallon, hosted a one-day conference in fall 2014 called "Digital Terrains," inviting graduate students to present their ongoing research projects.



The Social Justice group awarded three conference travel grants to allow graduate students to present their work at professional conferences and nine summer research awards to support students with topics related to indigenous peoples and social justice. Of the two graduate student researchers working for the Social Justice group in 2014-2015, Cutcha Risling Baldy is heading to a tenure-track position at San Diego State and the other, Angel Hinzo, received a 2015-2016 dean's fellowship that will support her in her final year. Graduate students affiliated with the Social Justice group had two opportunities to present their work in 2014-2015. In December 2014, the recipients of 2014 summer research awards were asked to report on their projects and the progress they made on topics ranging from food politics and bacteria to victimhood and climate change in Bangladesh. In March 2015, nine students across Native American Studies, anthropology, English and comparative literature presented their research on topics related to the year's theme.

Fall 2015 will see the launch of our two new Mellon Research Initiatives, selected in a competitive process in the fall of 2014: Comparative Border Studies and Reimagining Indian Ocean Worlds. We're especially excited by the global reach of each of these initiatives, also evidenced by the international profiles of their Mellon visiting assistant professors. We look forward to another busy year of programming with four Mellon groups running simultaneously, two entering their last year and two just getting started.

RESEARCH CLUSTERS

Our research clusters provide a critical space for the interdisciplinary research and collaboration not easily accomplished in a single department program. Clusters are meant to facilitate exchange among faculty and graduate students in workshops, symposia or mini-conferences to encourage experimentation with new forms of collaboration within and beyond UC Davis and to broaden the aims of faculty research in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. In addition to programming, we encourage clusters to view this as seed funding and to think about ways the cluster can serve as an incubator for larger projects in the future.

In 2014-2015, we sponsored eight research clusters that received awards of up to \$5,000. This year our clusters focused on a variety of topics, including researching Indian Ocean cultures, transnational perspectives for scholarship and teaching on women and gender, and the idea of rhetoric as a field of study.

Cluster on Language Research

Faculty Coordinator: Robert Blake (Spanish & Portuguese)

The cluster on Language Research expanded its local symposium to host a second annual UC Davis Symposium on Language Research in spring 2015, drawing participants and presenters from four UC campuses and five other California universities. The symposium was also diverse in terms of disciplines with panelists representing seven different academic departments (Linguistics, Spanish, French, Education, TESOL/English, Psychology, and Modern Languages and Literatures) that made for a very interdisciplinary conversation around language acquisition and interdisciplinary methods. Aside from expanding their research networks across California and across campus, the cluster participants, faculty and graduate students, used their bi-weekly meetings to prepare a proposal for a special issue of the interdisciplinary journal *L2*, published by the Berkeley Language Center.

The Digital Premodern: From Codex to Code

Faculty Coordinators: Claire Waters (English) and Matthew Vernon (English)

The goal of this research cluster was to explore the spaces of productive interaction between medieval studies and digital humanities. By putting fields that ostensibly are at opposite poles of research methodologies and objects of inquiry, they hoped to stimulate discussions about the potential and limits of digital work, develop skills for creating field-specific research tools, and initiate conversations across the university and across the country about new directions in humanistic work. The cluster supported three major events in 2014-2015 with a capstone two-day symposium, co-organized with the UC Davis IMMERSe group. Its investigation of new directions in medieval studies has progressed from media and posthumanism to performance and archival studies and into digital humanities. Each of these topics has afforded the cluster perspectives on topics that are allied with medieval studies, but which lend themselves to styles of presentation and research that are uncommon within traditional modes of doing medieval studies. In this way, they have accumulated an archive of ideas for future projects on campus and for wider professional and popular audiences. Participants have begun to plan future digital work and to lay the groundwork for more cross-temporal and interdisciplinary work.

Indian Ocean Imaginaries: Place-Making, Practices, and Networks

Faculty Coordinators: Smriti Srivinas (Anthropology) and Bettina Ng'weno (African American and African Studies)

The Indian Ocean Imaginaries cluster brought together 14 members from Anthropology, African American and African Studies, Music, Geography, Cultural Studies, English and Religious Studies to create an explicit community focused on the Indian Ocean world. Indian Ocean Studies has emerged in the last decade as a growing interdisciplinary field and has offered a response to the compartmentalization of specific area studies as well as a way of thinking about mixtures, globalization and movement that does not necessarily privilege the West. Meeting bi-monthly to collate and share a set of key texts on the Indian Ocean, the cluster developed a successful proposal for the Mellon Research Initiatives in the Humanities. For that reason, it postponed a planned conference to fall 2015 that would additionally serve as the launch of the Mellon Research Initiative Reimagining Indian Ocean Worlds. That will also allow for the participation of the Mellon visiting professor as well as international and national scholars working in this emerging field.

Multidisciplinary Psychoanalytic Research Cluster

Faculty Coordinators: James Smith (Anthropology) and Li Zhang (Anthropology)

This cluster was a workhorse of the Humanities Institute cluster program, sponsoring 17 discrete events across the academic year, including four film screenings, nine faculty talks, two socials, a collaborative writing event, and a UC-wide psychoanalytic retreat organized by UCLA that members were able to attend. Among the most significant outcomes was the ability of UC Davis faculty to share works in progress with a community of like-minded scholars. Those forums and other events allowed participants to build an intellectual and pedagogical network both on and off campus that will contribute to individual research projects as well as seed future collaborative work.



Rhetoric@Davis

Faculty Coordinator: Chris Thaiss (University Writing Program)

The Rhetoric@Davis cluster has become the primary force for collaboration across disciplines at UC Davis to foreground the study of rhetoric in all its historical richness and contemporary variety. It serves as the locus for the many scholars across campus that study topics related to rhetoric, which this cluster seeks to engage in a unified dialogue. The Rhetoric@Davis cluster has been very active on campus for the past three years, successfully hosting well-known scholars from a number of disciplines, such as physics, education, English, classics, technical/professional writing, and new media studies to speak on topics related to rhetoric. The cluster has used its funding well and pooled it with co-sponsorships from Religious Studies, UWP, and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning to bring speakers from across the University of California and the world to encourage innovative research and pedagogy among its cohort.

Temporality and Its Limits: Reconsidering Time, Duration and the Event

Faculty Coordinator: Sudipta Sen (History)

This cluster grew out of a DHI Faculty Research Seminar (FRS) on the theme of Time Reckoning convened in spring 2014. Expanding beyond the original six participants of the FRS, the cluster continued and deepened discussions around the topic of time in regular, intensive meetings that focused around the reading of key texts. In addition, they invited outside speakers that highlighted some of the main threads of current scholarly work on temporality. The year was capped by a weekend retreat that seeded work on an external proposal to be submitted in December 2015 to the National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Grant, focusing on questions related to global temporalities and the planetary, ecological and environmental aspects of time.

Turkish Studies

Faculty Coordinator: Baki Tezcan (History and Religious Studies)

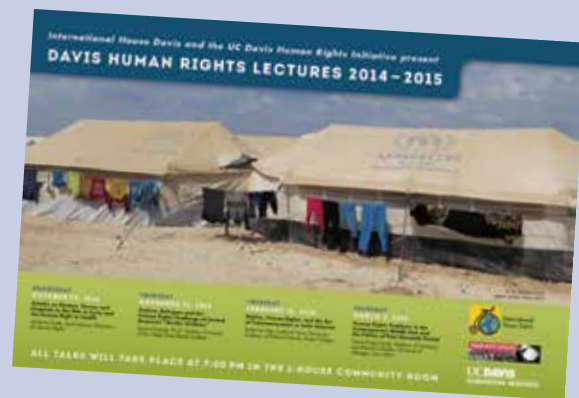
The Turkish Studies cluster was another collaboration that was able to stretch its award thanks to co-sponsorships from other centers, programs and departments, especially the Middle East/South Asia Studies program, which Baki Tezcan directs. Among the most visible of the cluster's efforts this year was the mounting of the Western Ottomanist's Workshop in winter 2015. The workshop highlighted UC Davis as a major center for Ottoman Studies and gave UC Davis graduate students a chance to present their research at their first professional conference.

Women and Gender in the World

Faculty Coordinators: Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor (History) and Lisa G. Materson (History)

This cluster hosted a very successful conference in November 2014 featuring 24 leading scholars in American women's and gender history. This public forum, well attended by students, faculty and the public from across the region and California, provided an opportunity for exchange and discussion of pre-circulated essays to be published in a high-profile Oxford University Press series and titled *The Oxford Handbook of American Women's and Gender History*, co-edited by Hartigan-O'Connor and Materson (the cluster's coordinators). In addition to this larger event, the cluster convened a more local gathering of UC faculty to consider the future work of women's and gender history in a global context. The cluster has built a community of scholars that has become a vital part of campus initiatives to integrate scholarship on women, gender and sexuality with humanistic and scientific inquiry.





“This lecture series will bring to the university and the community distinguished scholars and practitioners in the fields of human rights, humanitarianism and genocide studies. The visitors will spend time with UC Davis undergraduates and graduate students taking courses and seminars in the university’s expanding offerings in Human Rights Studies.”

**—Keith Watenpaugh
Associate Professor and Director
of the Human Rights Initiative**

HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE

The Humanities Institute has been collaborating with the UC Davis Human Rights Initiative (HRI) since 2011 when it received pivotal seed funding from the Academic Senate’s Committee on Research to initiate a program devoted to the issues of human rights and humanitarianism. The International House in Davis and the HRI formed a partnership in the 2014-2015 academic year to host the Davis Community Human Rights Lectures. These lectures showcased research and ideas about the work of hospital staff in times of crisis, asylum for displaced children, commemoration in Latin America and the politics of genocide denial. According to the HRI director and Associate Professor Keith Watenpaugh, “This lecture series will bring to the university and the community distinguished scholars and practitioners in the fields of human rights, humanitarianism and genocide studies. The visitors will spend time with UC Davis undergraduates and graduate students taking courses and seminars in the university’s expanding offerings in Human Rights Studies.”



SUPPORT THE UC DAVIS 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.

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.

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 UC Davis 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 530-754-0331.



ENVIRONMENTS AND SOCIETIES RESEARCH GROUP

The UC Davis Research Initiative “Environments and Societies: History, Literature, and Justice,” one of two inaugural Mellon Research Initiatives launched in 2011, continued its programming in 2014-2015 with the support of the Division of Social Sciences Dean’s Office. The cross-disciplinary collaboration undertook the broad rethinking of human/nature interactions that are critical to meeting the environmental challenges of our era. This year the colloquium featured an assortment of topics pulling disciplines together and producing lively discussion and debate among faculty and students. Topics included queer studies, climate change, utopias, science fiction, wind power, food safety, political theory, and law. Papers on each topic were available for review before participating in the seminar-styled discussions.

What to Watch for in 2015–2016

MELLON PUBLIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded the UC Davis Humanities Institute \$400,000 to inaugurate a program that will support community-engaged scholarship and provide experience for graduate students interested in diverse careers.

The Mellon Public Scholars Program will launch in fall 2015 and invite 10 graduate students in the humanities and humanistic social sciences to participate in a quarter-long seminar in spring 2016 that introduces them to the intellectual and practical aspects of public humanities scholarship. Each student will be paired with a faculty mentor to develop a community-based research project and spend the summer following the seminar working with the community partner they identify in their project.

While other universities have developed public humanities programs and offer degrees or certificates in the public humanities, few combine the research-oriented goals of nurturing public scholarship with professional development for graduate students. The Public Scholars seminar at UC Davis will provide students with training in areas such as project management, digital methods and communication at the same time they are developing new research skills. The institute will host a launch event for the Public Scholars Program on Monday, March 7, 2016.

MELLON SAWYER SEMINAR



In the fall 2015, UC Davis will host its second Mellon Sawyer Seminar in three years. Named for the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's long-serving third president, John E. Sawyer, the program is designed to create a temporary research center for cross-disciplinary, intensive study. Titled "Surveillance Democracies?" and led by Associate Professor Kriss Ravetto-Biagioli in Cinema and Digital Media and Law Professor Anupam Chander, the year-long seminar will interrogate the impact of digital technologies on our public and private lives. The subject has grown out of vigorous conversations and research collaborations on the UC Davis campus over the last several years on various forms of digital humanities.

The grant funds a postdoctoral research fellow and two advanced graduate students. It also underwrites the travel costs associated with bringing to UC Davis an array of scholars working in the humanities and social sciences for a series of symposia in 2015-2016.

"Surveillance Democracies?" was one of 10 Mellon Sawyer Seminars awarded in 2014. In Spring 2012, Ravetto-Biagioli convened a Faculty Research Seminar at the UC Davis Humanities Institute on the topic of surveillance and the social network.

"I am particularly pleased that the Seminar represents a collaboration ... since the legal discussions about surveillance need to be situated in broader cultural frameworks."

**—Ralph J. Hexter
Provost and
Executive
Vice Chancellor**

