

history philosophy

sustainability art

HUMANITIES

literature culture

IHR Annual Report

religion language



Welcome from the Interim Director

Cora Fox

This is my second year as our Interim Director, and I am sure I share the sense with others that in these times when the culture wars are so visible and their effects are so much the focus of American media and discourse, our commitment to promoting engaged humanities research feels even more urgent. The confrontations Americans are witnessing (privately in their homes or when they exercise their first amendment rights to use their voices and bodies in public protest) are the results of historical and structural conditions, ethical and ideological shifts, and representational and linguistic formations that are at the heart of what humanities scholars study. We have always been central to the enterprise of the research university and a liberal arts education, but this might be a moment when attention turns to how crucial the humanities are to a democratic society.

This year the IHR will support our scholarly community and highlight the ways in which it produces and preserves wisdom and imagines better futures, exploring and addressing complex social challenges in our own academic disciplines and by collaborating with scientists, social scientists, artists, professionals and community activists and workers. We will highlight the role humanities research has played and will continue to play in more fully and respectfully knowing ourselves and others. I look forward to sharing this important work.



2017 IHR Distinguished Lecturer

Lauren Berlant

The IHR was delighted to host Lauren Berlant as its Distinguished Lecturer in the spring of 2017.

Lauren Berlant is the George M. Pullman Distinguished Service Professor of English at the University of Chicago. She is the author of *Cruel Optimism* (Duke University Press, 2011) and *Sex, or the Unbearable* (Duke University Press, 2014), among other titles in a long and impressive career. Berlant was awarded a Guggenheim fellowship in 2016.

A philosopher and an innovative, transdisciplinary humanist, Berlant explores the role of belonging in American culture. She investigates concepts of citizenship, cultural and societal norms of belonging, and focuses particularly on civic relationships and boundaries.

Dr. Berlant presented her talk “On Being in Life Without Wanting the World (Living with Ellipsis).” Reading the words of Claudia Rankine (*Don’t Let Me Be Lonely*) and Harryette Mullen (*Sleeping with the Dictionary*), Berlant explored sex, democracy and belonging. She described living “elliptically,” which she defines as being in a state of questioning rather than answering, as a characteristic of contemporary culture, a response to the challenges of everyday life in the 21st century.

“**Ellipses might be a figure of loss or plenitude: Sometimes it is more efficient to go dot dot dot. Sometimes it’s also a way of signaling an elision. Sometimes the referent is beyond words.**”

– Lauren Berlant, Art Forum

“**How do people start having feelings of intimacy with abstractions like the nation, the state, their city, a team, a region?**”

– Lauren Berlant, KJZZ interview



IHR Fellows Program

The Fellows program provides funding for ASU scholars to engage in a year of collaborative research related to an annual theme and share their research with the academic community.

To learn more about the IHR Fellows program, visit ihr.asu.edu/fellows.

2017-18 Fellows Theme

Health

What is health and what is disease? What institutions promote or impede health? Who has access to the healthiest environments and what makes those environments healthy? How do communities construct, maintain or discipline health in individual bodies?

These questions are central to scholarship in the health humanities as well as other disciplines. Humanities research often underscores the constructed and contested nature of categories surrounding health and how we define and attach value to those categories. The 2017-18 Fellows are investigating our assumptions about wellness, providing a thorough humanistic examination of the nature of health itself.

“Affect, Place and Health among Asian Immigrants”

Karen Leong, Associate Professor, School of Social Transformation

Kathy Nakagawa, Associate Professor, School of Social Transformation

Aggie Noah, Assistant Professor, School of Social Transformation

“Immoveable Bodies: Women Writing Health and Disease in the British Romantic Era”

Annika Mann, Assistant Professor, School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

“The Life of a LARC: A Critical Analysis of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception Promotion Practices and the Lived Experiences They Engender”

Jenny Brian, Honors Faculty Fellow, Barrett Honors College

“Integrative Health and Human Well-Being”

Tyler DesRoches, Assistant Professor, School of Sustainability and the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies

Christopher Wharton, Associate Professor, School of Nutrition and Health Promotion

“The Barbershop Stories: Narratives of Health and Illness of African American Men in the Black Barbershop”

Olga Davis, Professor, Hugh Downs School of Human Communication

For more information about the Fellows and their research, visit ihr.asu.edu/fellows.

“Making Money: Communities, Capital, and Creativity”

The 2016-17 Fellows focused their research on the topic of “Money.” In the humanities, analysis of money has transformed into research engaged in tracing the histories, values, and influences of money on past and present social groups and individuals.

On April 27th and 28th, the Fellows held their symposium: “Making Money: Communities, Capital, and Creativity.” The symposium featured a keynote talk by Dr. Emily Gilbert, which examined the politics of contemporary forms of compensation and reparations, with a focus on war and terrorism. Gilbert explored the ways money is being deployed in new and sometimes disturbing ways to win “hearts and minds” and as a counter-terrorism strategy.

Dr. Emily Gilbert, Associate Professor, Canadian Studies Program at University College, Department of Geography at the University of Toronto

“Money Talks: Humanists Confront Money”

Presentations by Jonathan Barth, Ann Keniston, Chris Jones, Julia Sarreal, and Bradley Ryner

“Capital Objects: A Lightning Round”

Participants: Jonathan Barth, Ann Keniston, Chris Jones, Julia Sarreal, Bradley Ryner, and Courtney Carlisle

“Futures Market: A Roundtable on New Directions for Humanist Research on Money”

Roundtable led by Courtney Carlisle
Participants: Jonathan Barth, Emily Gilbert, Ann Keniston, Chris Jones, Julia Sarreal, Bradley Ryner, and Victoria Thompson

Learn more about the Fellows and their research at ihr.asu.edu/fellows.

ART + MONEY

In conjunction with the IHR Fellows theme “Money,” the 2017 Art Exhibition Art + Money critically explored concepts of capitalism, ownership and values. Local artists showcased pieces working within a variety of media throughout the spring semester. Commenting on money’s role in war, immigration, art, and the Great Recession, Art + Money opened a dialogue about current socio-economic conditions in the US and their effects on contemporary artists and the public.

The exhibition was curated by Angelica Fox and featured work by Gregory Sale, Davis Birks, John Risseeuw, Lily Reeves, Alison Sweet, Autumn Brown, Sandra Luehrsen, Lydia Quinones, Christine Sandifur, and Victoria Mariel Paz.



Winner of the 2017 Transdisciplinary Humanities Book Award

Charles Lee

The IHR Transdisciplinary Humanities Book Award is presented for a nonfiction work that exemplifies transdisciplinary, socially engaged humanities-based scholarship. The 2017 award goes to Charles Lee for his work *Ingenious Citizenship: Recrafting Democracy for Social Change*.

A work of theory that challenges the limits and assumptions of many mainstream theories of social change, *Ingenious Citizenship* privileges the importance of historical and systemic constraints and lived experience. Lee focuses on the actions of those he calls “abject subjects”—those who are marginalized economically, politically and affectively—as instructive moments in which politics occurs outside traditional democratic and neoliberal structures. Many of the actions that are his focus are, as he puts it, “contaminated” and “complicit” in larger structures of oppression, but they also serve to highlight or circumvent those structures, and offer new ways of theorizing agency, citizenship and the political in a neoliberal age.

Charles Lee is an Associate Professor of Justice and Social Inquiry at ASU's School of Social Transformation.

To learn more about the IHR Transdisciplinary Book Award visit ihr.asu.edu/bookaward.

2018 IHR Distinguished Lecturer

Alondra Nelson

An interdisciplinary scholar focused on social inequality, science and technology, Alondra Nelson is a professor of sociology at Columbia University. She served as the inaugural Dean of Social Science and the Director of the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality. In the fall of 2017, Nelson took the position of President of the Social Science Research Council, an organization that is dedicated to the advancement of social science research for the public good.

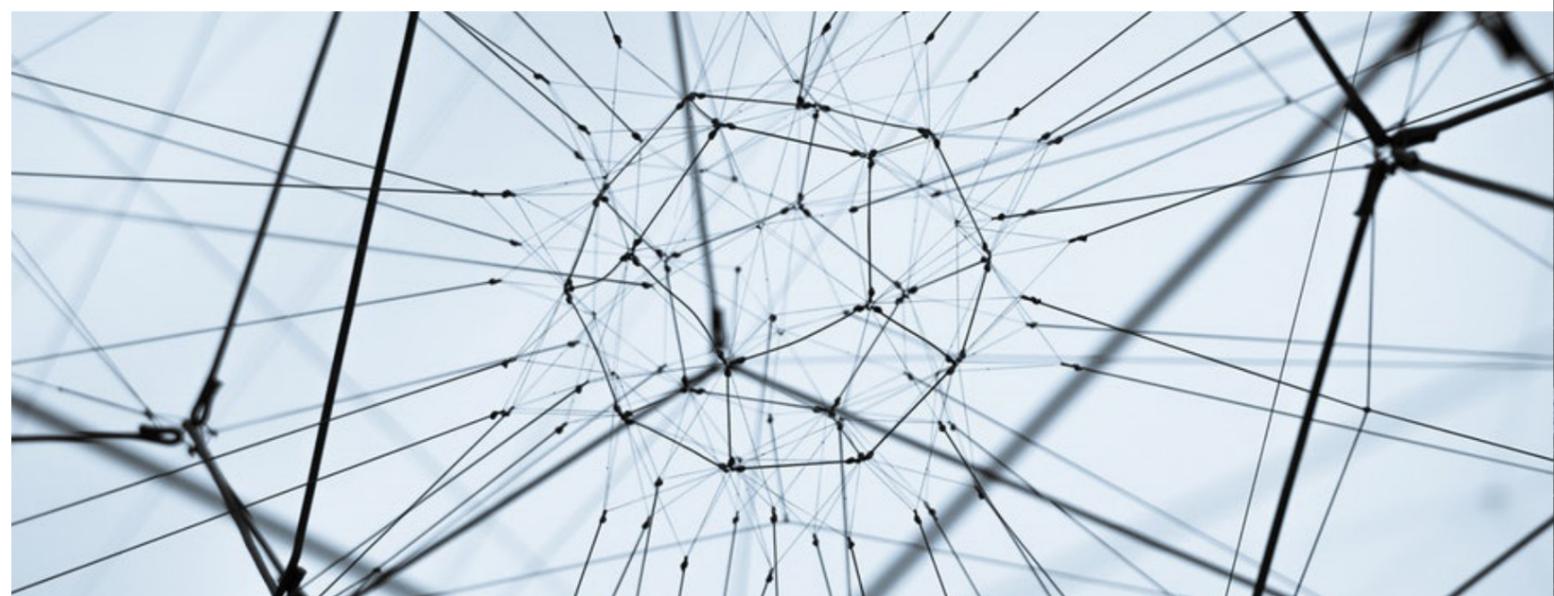
Her most recent book, *The Social Life of DNA: Race, Reparations, and Reconciliation after the Genome* examines how the double helix has wound its way into the heart of the most urgent contemporary social issues around race.

Nelson will present her talk "Reconciliation Projects: The Racial Politics of Genetic Ancestry Testing." She will discuss how DNA-based techniques are being used to grapple with the unfinished business of slavery: to foster reconciliation, to establish ties with ancestral homelands, to rethink citizenship, and to make legal claims for slavery reparations.

The IHR will be hosting a reading group series leading up to the event.

Visit ihr.asu.edu to participate in the reading group, to learn more about her lecture, and to register for the event on March 27th, 2018.





IHR Initiatives

Drawing on the talents and energies of ASU researchers of all levels from across the university, the IHR supports and encourages initiatives promoting cross-disciplinary research that examines essential and timely topics. The work of IHR scholars advances humanistic knowledge, methodologies, and skills that are central to the analysis and resolution of the world's many challenges.

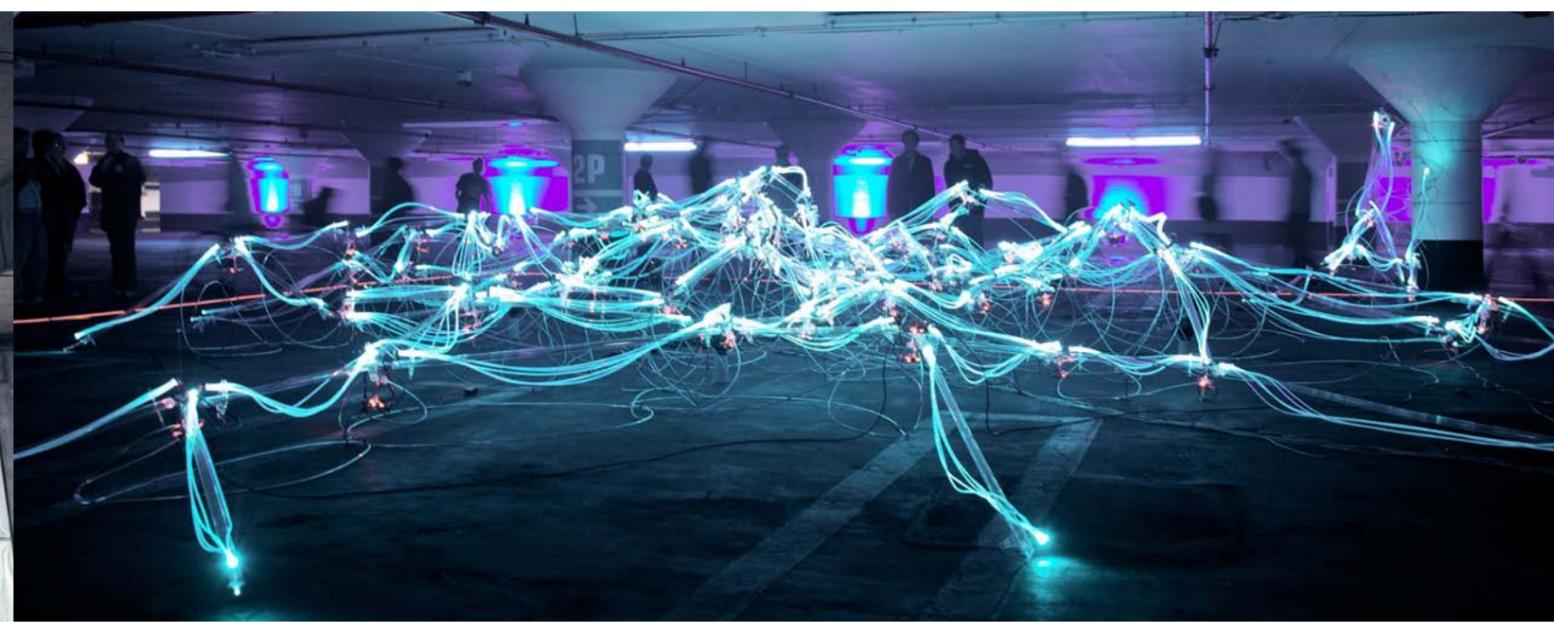
To learn more about the current IHR initiatives, visit ihr.asu.edu/initiatives.

Health Humanities Initiative

Health and the practices of medicine are crucial areas where STEM fields cannot fully address contemporary challenges without being grounded in and continually engaged with the humanities, and yet these realms of inquiry often remain separate and siloed, both on university campuses and between educational and healthcare institutions. The ASU Health Humanities Initiative seeks to transcend these disciplinary and institutional boundaries by bringing academics, clinicians, caregivers, patients and students together to address grand social challenges in areas of health and healthcare.

In the 2016-17 academic year, the IHR Health Humanities Initiative:

- Contributed to designing ASU's new undergraduate certificate in Health Humanities.
- Led a workshop "Creativity and Resilience" and highlighted ASU projects at the Humanities in Medicine Symposium at Mayo Clinic in Arizona.
- Created an annotated national bibliography of arts and humanities programs that promote resilience in various populations at risk (Kristine Leier, IHR Health Humanities research assistant)
- Co-sponsored and helped organize "The Endgame Project: A Documentary on Theater, Life and Parkinson's"
- Hosted a seminar on "Early Modern Plagues: Histories of Resilience"
- Developed the theme of the 2017-18 Fellows program: Health.



Humane Cities Initiative

Too often thought of in terms of infrastructure and resources, cities are first and foremost created by and for human beings. Humane cities foster dialogue and provide official and unofficial venues in which residents can make their voices heard. They encourage residents to feel at home by creating spaces in which people can gather, by inspiring community ties, and by offering a framework for expressing and debating collective identity and history. They serve as microcosms for challenges of national and global importance, and places where abstract concepts such as “migration” or “borders” are lived every day by ordinary people.

The Humane Cities Initiative was launched in the fall of 2016. Its goal is to make ASU—with its critical mass of faculty working on urban issues across the humanities and other disciplines—a hub for innovative, transdisciplinary research focusing on cities.

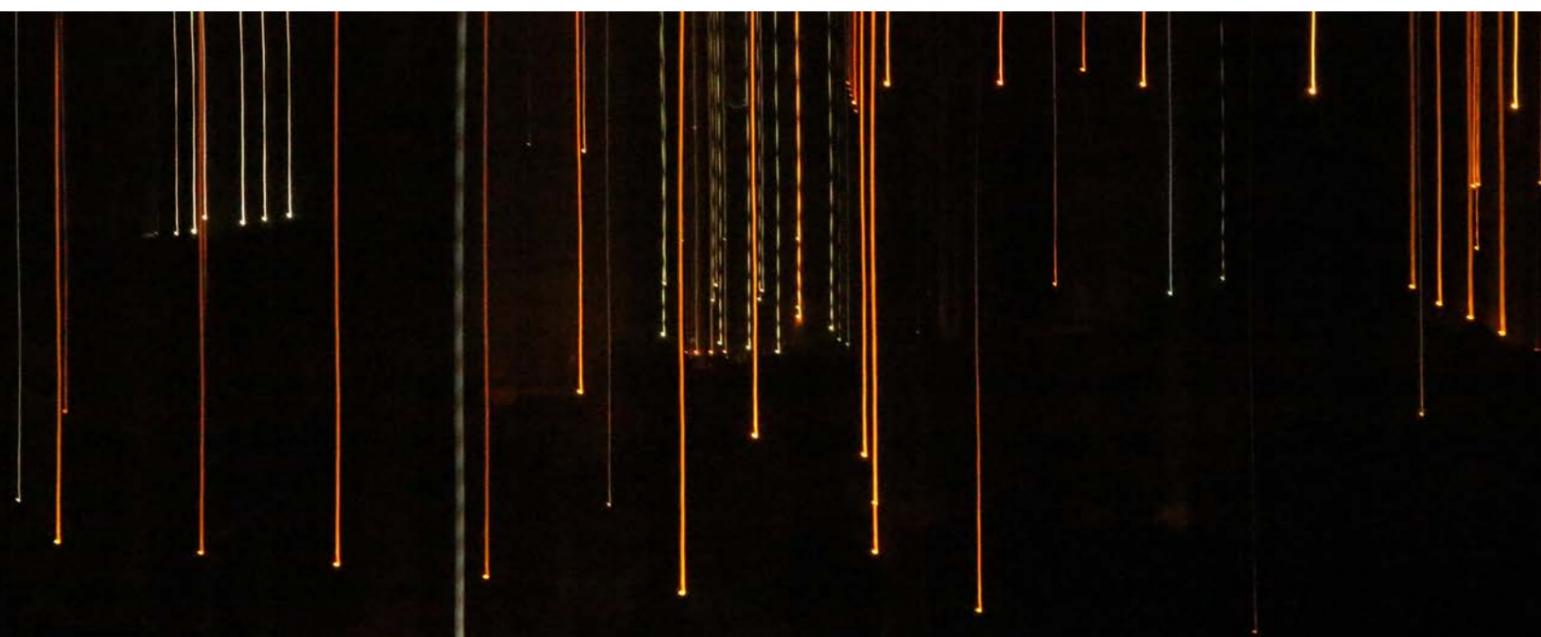
In spring 2017, the Humane Cities Initiative hosted two networking events and planning luncheons at the Tempe campus, and co-sponsored a screening of the documentary *Food Truck: The Movie*, including a panel focused on the challenges of urban food deserts with faculty speakers Joni Adamson, Joan McGregor and Josh MacFadyen.

Digital Humanities Initiative

Nexus Digital Research Co-op

In 2016 Nexus began its transition from a Lab to its new identity as the "Nexus Digital Research Co-op." Nexus is a voluntary association of researchers at all levels who are interested in doing digital research (method) or research on the digital (subject). In addition to functioning as a community, Nexus is also a physical space and set of communal resources located within the Institute for Humanities Research. A major part of the work done at Nexus in 2016-17 was preparing for the transition to this new model, which was launched with the move of Nexus into the new IHR space in Ross-Blakely Hall.

In collaboration with the Human Security Collaboratory, in February 2016 Nexus hosted 10 scholars from across the nation at the New Connections: Cybersecurity and Digital Humanities Colloquium to explore the ways in which digital humanities and cybersecurity domains might fruitfully and ethically overlap. This was run in collaboration with Drs. Quinn DuPont (Toronto, University of Washington) and Bradley Fidler (University of California, Los Angeles).



HASTAC

The Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory

In collaboration with the leadership of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Nexus Director Jacqueline Wernimont secured ASU's new partnership with City University of New York to lead HASTAC, the Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory. HASTAC is the oldest social network in North America—predating Facebook even. A community of more than 14,000 graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, artists, staff, and industry professionals, HASTAC is a way of transforming not only higher education, but also the nature of transdisciplinary work that brings humanities principles of justice and equity to the fore.

The HASTAC partnership positions ASU to be a major leader in higher education futures and transdisciplinary work. As part of this new partnership, the IHR already has a wonderful cohort of HASTAC scholars at ASU, as well as a pair of engaged and talented HASTAC/Connected Academics Interns.

Research Clusters

The IHR Research Clusters aim to assist researchers and develop communication among scholars, ultimately enriching the intellectual climate of the university. Participants in Research Clusters meet monthly on a topic of shared scholarly interest. Clusters are also expected to present their research or ideas in a symposium, roundtable, or panel discussion, or invite an ASU or external scholar to give a lecture. The 2017-18 IHR Research Clusters include:

“Food and Well-being in the Anthropocene”

Joshua MacFadyen
Tyler DesRoches
Joan McGregor

“Asian Americans and Mental Health”

Karen Kuo
Marianne Kim
Brandon Yoo

“Radical Feminism, Sexuality, and Resistance”

Breanne Fahs
Elizabeth Brake
Eric Swank
Sarah Stage

“Mindfulness and Social Justice”

LaDawn Haglund
Charles Lee

To learn more about these Research Clusters visit ihr.asu.edu/researchclusters.



Seed Grants

IHR Seed Grants are awarded at individual and team levels to ASU faculty or staff in the humanities. The Seed Grant program provides support for exciting and innovative projects that advance the IHR's mission: fostering research that addresses or explores significant social challenges in the past, present, and future, employing traditional or transdisciplinary methodologies. Seed grants awarded in 2016-17 include:

“En Tiempos Peligrosos/In Dangerous Times: Digitizing Women’s Literary, Charitable and Political Networks from the Spanish Civil War to the Cold War”

Elizabeth Horan, Professor of English, Department of English

Carmen de Urioste-Azcorra, Professor of Spanish, School of International Languages and Cultures

Cynthia Tompkins, Professor of Spanish, School of International Languages and Cultures

“Foundations of Resilience: Libraries as Critical Infrastructure for Disaster Response and Readiness”

Michael Bennett, Associate Research Professor, School for the Future of Innovation in Society and Faculty Fellow, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law

Michael Simeone, Director, Unit for Data Science, ASU Libraries and Assistant Research Professor, Biosocial Complexity Initiative

“Domestic Boundaries: Marriage and Immigration Law in U.S. History”

Julian Lim, Assistant Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

“VAST: Creating Virtual Archives for Scholarship and Training”

Eric Nystrom, Assistant Professor of History, Interdisciplinary Humanities and Communication, College of Integrative Sciences and Art

Penelope Moon, Associate Clinical Professor of History, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, Research Administrator, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

“Monumental Objections: Civic Identity and the American Landscape”

Kathleen Lamp, Associate Professor, Department of English

“Jewish Latin America: New Cinematic Horizons”

Ilana Luna, Assistant Professor, Spanish and Latin American Studies, School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

To learn more about these research projects and about the IHR Seed Grant program, visit ihr.asu.edu/seedgrants.

We moved!

We are excited to announce that the IHR has moved to the newly renovated Ross-Blakley Hall. The IHR, Nexus, the Humanities Lab, and the English Department are sharing space in this beautiful building.

Visiting Humanities Investigator Program

The IHR is pleased to announce a new program to encourage and support collaborations between ASU humanities faculty and other faculty, artists, or community leaders from outside of the Phoenix area.

ASU tenure-line faculty are encouraged to submit applications to invite a collaborator—a Visiting Humanities Investigator (VHI)—for a micro-residency at ASU. VHI residencies can be anywhere from two days to two weeks, and they must facilitate jointly-authored or jointly-led outcomes, including grants, research publications (including articles, chapters, book proposals or full manuscripts), specialized conferences and seminars, creative projects, and programming for the public (including digital programs).

2017-18 Faculty Seminar Series

Empire, the Postcolonial, and the Decolonial

To learn more about the Faculty Seminar Series and future events, visit ihr.asu.edu/faculty-seminar-series.

The 2017-18 IHR Faculty Seminar Series on “Empire” explores the ways colonial pasts and presents structure not just political and ideological systems of nationhood, but intersectional structures of race, class, and gender, the subaltern, linguistic practices, economic forces, the environment, and the patterns of exploitation, cooptation and collaboration that make up our global present.

Negotiating North American Identities

“Rethinking Youth Identities in a Global Context: Postcolonialism, Intersectionality, and Young Adult Literature”

Sybil Durand, Assistant Professor, Department of English

“Use-Rights, Resource Management, and Sovereignty in Anishinaabewaki”

Susan Gray, Associate Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

Histories of Resistance and Rebellion

“Feeling Back: Judeo-Hellenistic Compassion as Resistance to Imperial Culture”

Françoise Mirguet, Associate Professor, School of International Letters and Cultures

“Islam is the Vision, the Colony is the Vessel: the Dutch East Indies”

James Rush, Professor of History, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

“Ukraine’s Post-Colonial History and Possibilities of Intra-European Colonialisms”

Mark von Hagen, Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

Empire Studies Workshop: Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Futures

Melissa Free, Assistant Professor, Department of English

Staff

Cora Fox

Interim Director, IHR
Associate Professor, Department of English

Victoria Thompson

Associate Director, IHR
Associate Professor, School of Historical,
Philosophical and Religious Studies

Jennifer Quincey

Assistant Director, IHR

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Julia Sarreal

Associate Professor, School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

Juliann Vitullo

Associate Professor, School of International Letters and Cultures

Support humanities research at ASU

Our vision

The IHR's vision is to advance and support vital humanities scholarship that makes a difference in the world. In addition, through the IHR's support of transdisciplinary research, ASU humanities scholars of culture, languages, literature, film, media, art, history, philosophy, and religion collaborate regularly with engineers, biologists, geographers, social scientists, and others—applying humanities methodologies and perspectives to research projects in many important fields. The IHR is an incubator for new ideas and new directions, and a nexus for grassroots enthusiasm in humanities scholarship at ASU and beyond.

What will private investment make possible?

Private funding will open exciting new avenues of humanities research, creating new initiatives and supplementing the limited financial awards now available to scholars at the start of their projects. Investments from donors like you give scholars a competitive advantage when they seek additional federal, state, and foundation funding. For example, a private anonymous donation allowed us to expand our Health Humanities initiative into the successful partnership with Mayo Clinic in Arizona that it is today. Contributions from Reverend Jenny Norton have enabled us to provide supplemental funding to qualifying projects pertaining to women locally and globally. Your philanthropy will not only support ideas—it will support real-world outcomes and better futures.

ASU was ranked #4 in the nation for humanities research expenditures in 2016, and has been ranked #1 in innovation for the last three years.

You may choose to support one of the opportunities below, or you may prefer to rely on an ASU development officer to guide your gift to the most promising and immediate area of need within the IHR:

Heath Humanities Initiative
Digital Humanities Initiative
Humane Cities Initiative
IHR Humanities General Fund
IHR Annual Book Award
Research Clusters
Seed Grant Program
Fellows Program
Annual Distinguished Lecturer
Visiting Humanities Investigator

For more information on how to support the IHR, visit ihr.asu.edu/support.

Thank you!



Image provided by Anne Schutte, IHR Events Coordinator

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