



UConn

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

**CULTIVATING
CREATIVITY,
INSPIRING
INSIGHT**



**A message
from director
Michael P. Lynch**

What does it mean to be human?

In the midst of technological disruption and global political upheaval, this question has never felt more urgent. It is a question that requires us to understand our past as we grapple with the political and ethical questions of our future.

The mission of the UConn Humanities Institute (UCHI) is to bring together the most creative minds to confront big questions like this – questions about ideas, art, language, and identity – and then act as a voice for those explorations on the global stage.

To exact this ambitious mission, we have received millions of dollars in grant funding from institutions such as the Henry Luce Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the John Templeton Foundation. Our fellows and affiliated UCHI faculty are winning Guggenheim awards and NEH fellowships, and continuing their productive work with the Folger Institute. We have helped bring to campus contemporary luminaries such as Colson Whitehead, Jill Lepore, Rob Nixon, Viet Thanh Nguyen, and Rebecca Traister. As a trans-university institute serving the entire UConn community, we also host annual residential fellowships, foster an interdisciplinary space for scholars to create, provide a home for World Poetry Books, and lead the New England Humanities Consortium, a regional and national leader in humanities activism and outreach.

So whether or not you are new to the Institute or an old friend, join us in the critical and public task of humanistic inquiry. Join us in figuring out what the future has in store for the question of being human.

Thank you,

MICHAEL PATRICK LYNCH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR



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FELLOWS



KORNEL CHANG

“The Lost Dreams of Liberation: A Story of Decolonization in U.S.-Occupied Korea, 1945-1948”

Rutgers University-Newark, New Jersey



JOSEPH ULATOWSKI

“Why Facts Matter: Pluralism about Facts in the Age of Fake News”

University of Waikato, New Zealand



DANIEL A. COHEN

“Burning the Charlestown Convent: Private Lives, Public Outrage, and Contested Memories in America’s Civil War Generation”

Case Western Reserve University, Ohio



EMMA AMADOR

“Contesting Colonialism: Puerto Ricans and the Politics of Welfare in the 20th Century”

University of Connecticut, History



ALEXANDER ANIEVAS

“Race to Rollback: Far-Right Power in America’s Global Cold War”

University of Connecticut, Political Science



ANDREA CELLI

“Hagar the Outcast: Reappraisals of a Biblical Theme in the Context of Post-Tridentine Culture”

University of Connecticut, Literatures, Cultures, and Languages



PATRICIA MORGNE CRAMER

“What Are the Wild Waves Saying: Virginia Woolf, Bloomsbury, and the Public Schools”

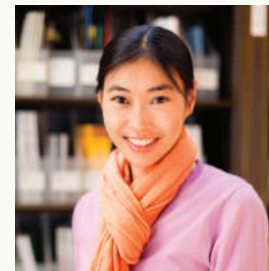
University of Connecticut, English



DEBAPRIYA SARKAR

“Possible Knowledge: The Literary Forms of Early Modern Science”

University of Connecticut, English



NU-ANH TRAN

“Disunion: Anticommunist Nationalists in the Republic of Vietnam, 1954-1963”

University of Connecticut, History



NATHAN BRACCIO

“Parallel Landscapes: Algonquian and English Spatial Understandings of New England, 1500-1700”

University of Connecticut, History



LAURA GODFREY

“‘Be Wholly Out of Body’: Astonishment in Late Medieval English Literature”

University of Connecticut, Medieval Studies



HAYLEY STEFAN

“Writing National Tragedies: Race and Disability in Contemporary U.S. Literature and Culture”

University of Connecticut, English



JESSICA STROM

“Financing Revolution: Adriano Lemmi and the Struggle for Italian Unification”

University of Connecticut, History

~
**2019-
2020**

UCHI: INSPIRING INNOVATION



Bhakti Shringarpure

Associate Professor, English
Fulbright Fellow (2019-20)
Editor-in-chief, *Warscapes*

“I always turn to UCHI to gain momentum on any interdisciplinary and innovative work that may not fit into fixed categories. As an academic who also edits the online magazine *Warscapes* and maintains large networks of writers and artists in the Global South, I rely on UCHI to financially and intellectually support events I’ve organized [and]...I know that UCHI will make the best possible collaborator for this. UCHI has such a dynamic energy and they are the only ones who can support bold and relevant conversations started on campus.”



Scott Wallace

Associate Professor, Journalism
Regular Contributor to *National Geographic*

“The Humanities Institute is a small patch of paradise that immeasurably enriches intellectual life at UConn. It’s a wonderful gathering place where ideas germinate and flourish in an atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual respect. As with countless other scholarly projects supported by the Institute, UCHI provided critical assistance for ‘In the Crosshairs,’ an exhibition and series of events that resuscitated the memory of the wars the U.S. waged by proxy in Central America in the 1980s and their current reverberations in today’s immigration crisis.”



Melina Pappademos

Associate Professor, History
Director, Africana Studies Institute

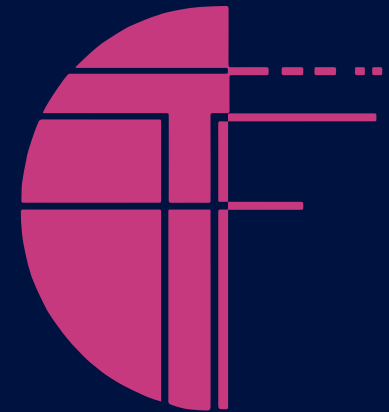
“The many conceptual frameworks provided by UCHI programming support a deeper understanding of how cultures, politics, and world views intersect. UCHI’s varied sponsored talks and activities, for example, stimulate my own thinking on racial mobilization in twentieth-century Cuba. Further...UCHI’s consistent co-sponsorship of Africana Studies Institute (ASI) programs safeguards the integrity of humanistic study.”



Sarah Willen

Associate Professor, Anthropology
& Director, Research Program on
Global Health and Human Rights

“Much gratitude to UCHI for the generous faculty fellowship that made space to work through the tougher parts of this project. We’re so fortunate to have UCHI at UConn – nurturing ideas AND carving out space for public conversation about the stuff that really matters.”



The Future of Truth

Luce Foundation Grant Launches ‘Seeing Truth’ Exhibition

Seeing Truth Exhibition

A collaboration between the William Benton Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History, coming 2023.

The University of Connecticut Humanities Institute received a \$275,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to support the exhibition and programming for ‘Seeing Truth: Art, Science, and Making Knowledge (1750-2023)’ which will be presented at the William Benton Museum of Art during the 2023 academic year. UConn President Thomas C. Katsouleas announced the Luce grant during a reception introducing the UCHI Fellows for the 2019-2020 academic year.

“‘Seeing Truth’ will bring together scientific instruments, photographs, educational props, textbooks, paintings, taxidermy, expedition materials, and maps. The exhibition will challenge notions of what counts as a ‘scientific’ object or as ‘art,’ which will in turn challenge the assumption that there is only one way of understanding and valuing truth and knowledge.”

– Excerpt from *UConn Today* - Aug. 27, 2019



UCHI HENRY
LUCE
FOUNDATION



NEW ENGLAND HUMANITIES CONSORTIUM

NEHC promotes and strengthens intellectual collaboration, interdisciplinary exchange, and innovative educational, intercultural, and curricular programming among 11 New England Humanities centers and institutes. The programming and activities of the NEHC are made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the member institutions. UCHI is the founding member and the executive and administrative hub of NEHC through 2020.



Capstone Meeting

The Mellon Foundation capstone meeting gathered NEHC board members and state humanities councils to reflect on the big ideas uniting them and make a roadmap for future collaborations.



Digital Humanities Retreat

The NEHC-funded Digital Humanities Retreat took place on August 23–25 on Appledore Island, NH. It focused on the cutting-edge research and teaching happening in the digital humanities among the 11 NEHC member institutes and offered workshops on making these valuable digital tools and resources widely available.



“Time’s Up: What Now?”

“Time’s Up: What Now?” was a series of events during the 2018–19 school year on the Time’s Up movement, interrogating sexism, misogyny, romance, and solidarity in our present age. Invited speakers included Laurie Essig, Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies at Middlebury College; Kate Manne, Assistant Professor at the Sage School of Philosophy at Cornell University; and Mark Rifkin, Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.



Summer Institute in Public Humanities

Funded by the Mellon Foundation, the 2019 week-long institute, or bootcamp, in public humanities was held at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). Participants included UConn faculty Fiona Vernal and Connecticut State Historian Walter Woodward. The UNH-Mellon Summer Institute educated faculty and students in the intellectual rationale, history, foundational skills, and prospects for doing engaged work in the humanities.



Faculty of Color Working Group

NEHC’s first meeting of the Faculty of Color Working Group provided a space for faculty of color to network, mentor young scholars, and share ideas and experiences for promoting institutional change.



**NEHC IS A BRIDGE BETWEEN
INSTITUTES OF HIGHER
EDUCATION AND STATE
HUMANITIES COUNCILS IN
NEW ENGLAND**

Amherst College, Colby College, Dartmouth College, Northeastern University, Tufts University, University of Connecticut, University of New Hampshire, University of Rhode Island, University of Vermont, Wellesley College, Wheaton College

Connecticut Humanities, Maine Humanities Council, Massachusetts Humanities, New Hampshire Humanities, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, and the Vermont Humanities Council

FELBERBAUM AWARDS

The generosity of the Felberbaum Family Foundation has enabled UCHI to offer a limited number of Felberbaum Family Faculty Awards to UConn faculty completing their UCHI fellowship year since 2003. These competitive awards are offered to provide financial support for additional expenditures related to fellows' projects. The awards are for UConn Faculty Fellows only and suggest "the individual receiving the Award will be a recognized researcher, scholar, and teacher and will have made significant contributions to the Institute."



"[These funds] subsidized a research trip to Barcelona, Spain. In Barcelona I intend to consult two collections of antique books: the Biblioteca de l'Ateneu (Atheneum) and Rare Book Room in the Biblioteca de Catalunya (National Library of Catalonia). Both contain very rare materials, including specific volumes useful to my research projects."

Ken Gouwens

Department of History
Felberbaum Award ('18)



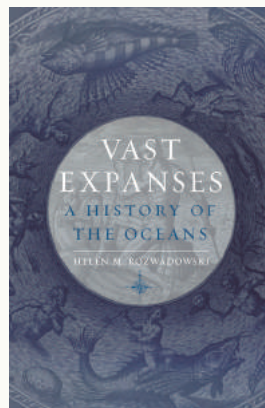
"[These funds] were used for archival research in both Washington, D.C. at the Library of Congress and in Atlanta at the Atlanta History Center, and Woodruff Library at the Atlanta University Center."

Jeffrey Ogbar

Professor of History and
Africana Studies Institute
Felberbaum Award ('18)

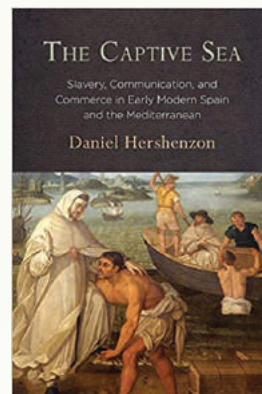
SHARON HARRIS ANNUAL BOOK AWARD

The Sharon Harris Annual Book Award is given for a book published by UConn Tenure, Tenure-track, Emeritus, or In-Residence faculty that best demonstrates scholarly depth and intellectual acuity and highlights the importance of humanities scholarship.



Helen Rozwadowski
(Class of 2008 – 2009)

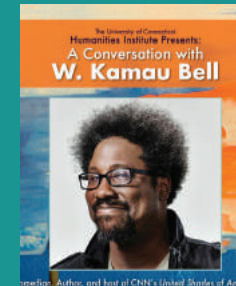
Winner of the 2019
Award for *Vast
Expanses: A History of
the Oceans*.



Daniel Hershenzon
(Class of 2016 – 2017)

Winner of the 2019
Award for *The
Captive Sea*.

PAST EVENTS & PROGRAMS



A Conversation with W. Kamau Bell

Comedian, author, and host W. Kamau Bell brought his signature comedic style to bear on an unscripted and in-depth conversation about activism and politics, race and diversity, pop culture and more.



Aruna D'Souza

Art historian Aruna D'Souza presented her scholarship on the ways that art museums reflect racial biases and opened a dialogue on art, race, and erasure.



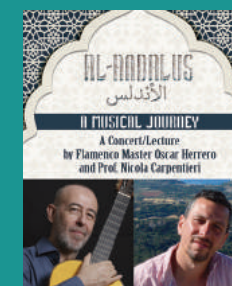
Women's Anger and Social Change by Rebecca Traister

Award-winning journalist and astute cultural observer, Rebecca Traister, described by Anne Lamott as "the most brilliant voice on feminism in this country" gave a talk in the Konover Auditorium on feminism, activism, and social change in the 21st century.



Colson Whitehead

Celebrated author Colson Whitehead gave a public lecture on the continued importance of fiction in America today, interweaving his experiences as a writer with the racial contexts of the Trump Era.



Al-Andalus: A Musical Journey

Distinguished flamenco guitar player Oscar Herrero joined Professor Nicola Carpentieri on a journey through the culture and history of Medieval Spain.



Unprogramming Asian American Studies

This summit sought to assess and rethink the field of Asian American Studies, support AAS faculty and programs, and sharpen the field's commitments to Critical Ethnic Studies as a whole.

CULTIVATING CREATIVITY BEYOND THE FELLOWSHIP AWARD

UCHI IN NUMBERS

206 FELLOWSHIPS
AWARDED SINCE
2001

46 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED
BY FELLOWS AND THEIR
RESEARCH

69% OF UCONN FELLOWS
ENAGE IN INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH

\$7,100,000

RAISED IN INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL
GRANT MONEY



Diane Lillo-Martin
(Class of 2015 – 2016)

Recipient of a \$2.5 million **National Institute of Health (NIH)** grant to study parent and children sign-language learning and acquisition.



Deirdre Bair
(Class of 2017 – 2018)

Winner of the **National Book Award** for *Samuel Beckett: A Biography* (1990); her latest book is *Parisian Lives: Samuel Beckett, Simone de Beauvoir, and Me: A Memoir* (2010).



Harry van der Hulst
(Class of 2017 – 2018)

Author of *Asymmetries in Vowel Harmony* (2018) and recipient a 2019–2020 **Scholarship and Collaboration in Humanities and Arts Research (SCHARP)** grant.



Janet Pritchard
(Class of 2009 – 2010)

2019 Guggenheim Fellow for demonstrating an exceptional capacity for productive scholarship and significant creative ability in the arts.



Sarah S. Willen
(Class of 2013 – 2014)

Recipient of a **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant** of approximately \$700,000 and author of *Fighting for Dignity: Migrant Lives at Israel's Margins* (2019), published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.



Jason O. Chang
(Class of 2017 – 2018)

Recipient of the 2018 **Koontz Prize** for the most deserving contribution to the *Pacific Historical Review* and author of *Chino: Anti-Chinese Racism in Mexico, 1880-1940* (2018)



Martha Cutter
(Class of 2014 – 2015)

Winner of a \$60,000 **Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities** for her book project, "Slavery as Spectacle."



WORLD POETRY BOOKS

Based at the University of Connecticut, World Poetry Books is the only publisher in the United States dedicated solely to publishing books of international poetry in English translation. As a press, our goal is to champion poets and translators from all stages of their careers by creating new communities of readers both inside and outside of the university. We believe every language has its Walt Whitman, C.P. Cavafy, or Anne Carson, yet most world poetry – especially poetry from underrepresented languages – remains under-published and undiscovered. Our mission is to publish and promote books of vital world poetry from languages other than English. We invite our readers to celebrate the art of translation so essential to the vibrant circulation of words and ideas.

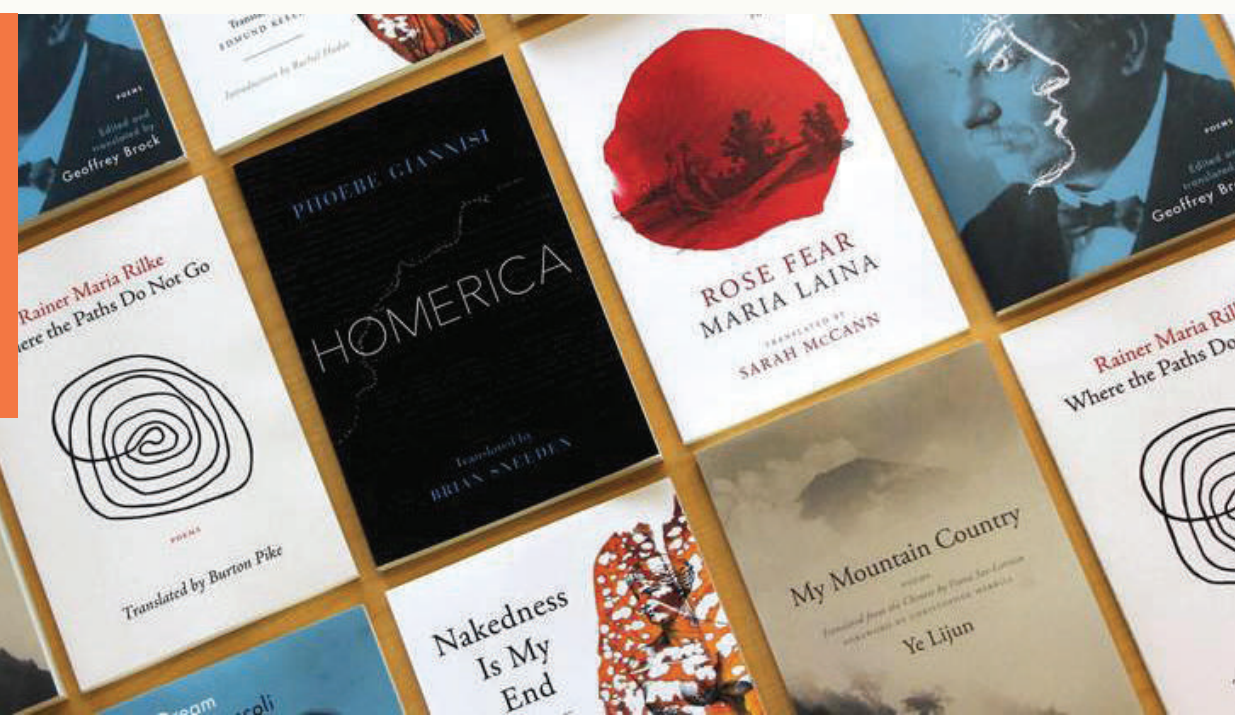
Current titles include *Last Dream* by Giovanni Pascoli and translated from Italian by Geoffrey Brock; *My Mountain Country* by Ye Lijun and translated from Chinese by Fiona Sze-Lorrain; *Nakedness Is My End*, an anthology of Greek poetry translated by Edmund Kelley; and a growing collection of others.



Peter Constantine
Publisher



Brian Sneed
Senior and Managing Editor



DIGITAL HUMANITIES & MEDIA STUDIES



Yohei Igarashi
Assistant Director

Digital media shape our lives in nearly every way. Through speakers, workshops, and other programming, UCHI's Digital Humanities & Media Studies initiative brings together students and faculty to explore how we socialize, create, think, and know in today's digital world.

2019-2020 SPEAKER SERIES



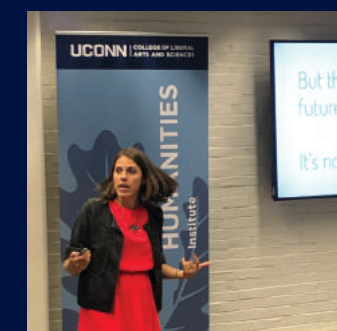
Annette Vee
University of Pittsburgh
October 2, 2019
UCHI Conference Room
Babbidge Library, 4th Floor



Nancy Baym
Microsoft Research/MIT
February 5, 2020
UCHI Conference Room
Babbidge Library, 4th Floor



Hal Roberts
Berkman Klein Center
for Internet & Society
April 1, 2020
UCHI Conference Room
Babbidge Library, 4th Floor



Annette Vee,
“Algorithmic Writers
and Implications
for Literacy”

FOLGER INSTITUTE CONSORTIUM

In 2014 UConn became a Consortium member of the prestigious Folger Institute, a center for advanced study and collections-focused research in the humanities. Through its multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural programs and residential research fellowships, the Folger Institute gathers knowledge communities and establishes fresh research and teaching agendas for early modern humanities. The Institute fosters targeted investigations of the world-class Folger collection and is based out of the Folger Shakespeare Library. By virtue of UConn's membership, our students, staff, and faculty have access to the Institute's tremendous range of research, educational, and artistic offerings.

“[The] funding to visit the Folger Shakespeare Library has been invaluable to my research. The Folger's collections, meditative environment, and robust and helpful scholarly community serve as a boon to any early modern project. The Folger is one of my favorite archives to visit.”



NATHAN BRACCIO
PhD Candidate, History
University of Connecticut
UCHI Fellow (Class of 2019–2020)

WORKING GROUPS



AMERICAN STUDIES WRITING GROUP

brings together faculty from across the humanities and social sciences who work on the cultures of the United States and their place in the world. We workshop articles, chapters, and smaller pieces in progress, and participating scholars get feedback on their work from faculty across the disciplines.



ART & TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP

explores to what extent historical and contemporary developments in art have emerged from and/or engaged with technologies. Readings include Anne Friedberg's *The Virtual Window*; Bernhard Siegert's *Cultural Techniques*; and Wolfgang Schivelbusch's *Disenchanted Night*.



EARLY MODERN STUDIES WORKING GROUP

brings together graduate students and faculty for interdisciplinary collaboration and skill building. The group conducts a biweekly reading group, a paleography training session, and invites innovative scholars from throughout the Northeast to give talks on their research.



MEGABIBLION SOCIETY

offers intellectually ambitious undergraduates the opportunity to read and discuss longer works of literature in a friendly, informal setting without the pressure of formal requirements.



POLITICAL THEORY WORKSHOP

is a place for political theorists to present and receive feedback on works in progress. It is the primary forum in the department of political science for the humanistic study of powers, norms, histories, identities, and cultures.



HISTORY OF SCIENCE READING GROUP

explores recent research in the history of science and technology from the premodern period through the 21st century. Focusing on the interface between scientific knowledge and its representation and communication, the group examines scholarly conversations in fields such as natural history, museum studies, global science, and writing.

FUNDING & DONATIONS



Alexis Boylan, Michael Lynch, Thomas Katsouleas

“One of the most exciting things about the humanities is that it really connects the work we’re all doing. Whether it’s fine arts, engineering, agriculture or nursing, every corner of the university benefits from the insight and knowledge imparted by humanities research.”

THOMAS KATSOULEAS, PH.D.
16th President
University of Connecticut



Nu-Anh Tran, Emma Amador, John Elliott, Mark Healey



Class of 2019 – 2020 UCHI Fellows

Your gift to the UConn Humanities Institute Fund will provide critical resources to UConn faculty, students, and external fellows to pursue a full range of humanistic inquiry and enrich our understanding of the human condition.

For more information or to give, please visit humanities.uconn.edu/donate. Or contact the UConn Foundation at (800) 269-9965 or (860) 486-5000.

OUR TEAM



Michael P. Lynch
Director
Board of Trustees
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy



Alexis L. Boylan
Director of Academic Affairs
Associate Professor,
Art and Art History Department
and Africana Studies Institute



Yohei Igarashi
Assistant Director of Digital Humanities
& Media Studies
Associate Professor of English



Jo-Ann Waide
Program Coordinator



Nasya Al-Saidy
Financial Coordinator
Ph.D. Candidate, Economics



Siavash Samei
Postdoctoral Fellow

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