

# The University of Connecticut Humanities Institute

Fall 2022



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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It has been tremendous to watch UCHI grow over the last twenty years in both ambition and in substance. We have gone from a plucky institute housed in a few cozy rooms in the Austin building to an internationally known research center occupying the top floor of the library. Over the years, we've hosted dozens of creative minds, ranging from Toni Morrison to Jill Lepore to our 20th-anniversary speaker, Nikole Hannah-Jones. Our fellowship program has become one of the most competitive anywhere, and we've been awarded over \$8 million in grants for projects on topics such as restoring public discourse, supporting faculty of color, and the future of truth.

The past year alone, we happily returned to the "in-residence" of our residential fellowships, celebrated our fellows' many accomplishments (including Sarah Willen's NSF grant for the Pandemic Journaling Project), and launched the new website for our exciting Seeing Truth exhibit with the American Museum of Natural History. This coming year, we look forward to the opening of that exhibit and the start of our new undergraduate fellowship program, bringing some of the best young scholars at UConn to the table with our graduate and faculty fellows.

This year will also be my last as director of UCHI. My time with the Institute has been one of the most creative and exciting periods of my life, and I've been fortunate to share it with the best team in the world. But new growth requires new vision, and change is good for the soul. I very much look forward to watching the Institute develop under new leadership and I'm confident it will remain a focus of creative humanistic inquiry over the next two decades and beyond.

**Michael P. Lynch**

Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, Philosophy

We celebrated the Institute's **twentieth anniversary**, recognizing twenty years of promoting the humanities at UConn and beyond. We interviewed past fellows, recognized our founders and supporters, and reflected on twenty years of fellowship, creativity, and innovation.



We cosponsored and hosted UConn's first student-run humanities undergraduate research symposium, inaugurated a new **undergraduate fellowship program**, and launched a fundraising campaign to further expand our undergraduate initiatives.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Nikole Hannah-Jones** spoke with Manisha Sinha at the Student Union Theater. Over 650 attendees witnessed their insightful and inspirational dialogue about the nature of patriotism, the history of racism in the United States, professional gatekeeping, and the role of journalism in a democracy.



After a fully-virtual academic year, we returned to in-person events, starting with our **welcome reception**, held outside under the library's portico.

## 2021–2022 HIGHLIGHTS



# UCHI BY THE NUMBERS

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**\$8,300,000** in grants

raised internally and externally, including from the **John Templeton Foundation, Mellon Foundation, & Henry Luce Foundation.**

**269** fellowships

granted to UConn faculty, UConn graduate students, UConn undergraduates, and external scholars since the Institute was founded in 2001.

**7** major initiatives

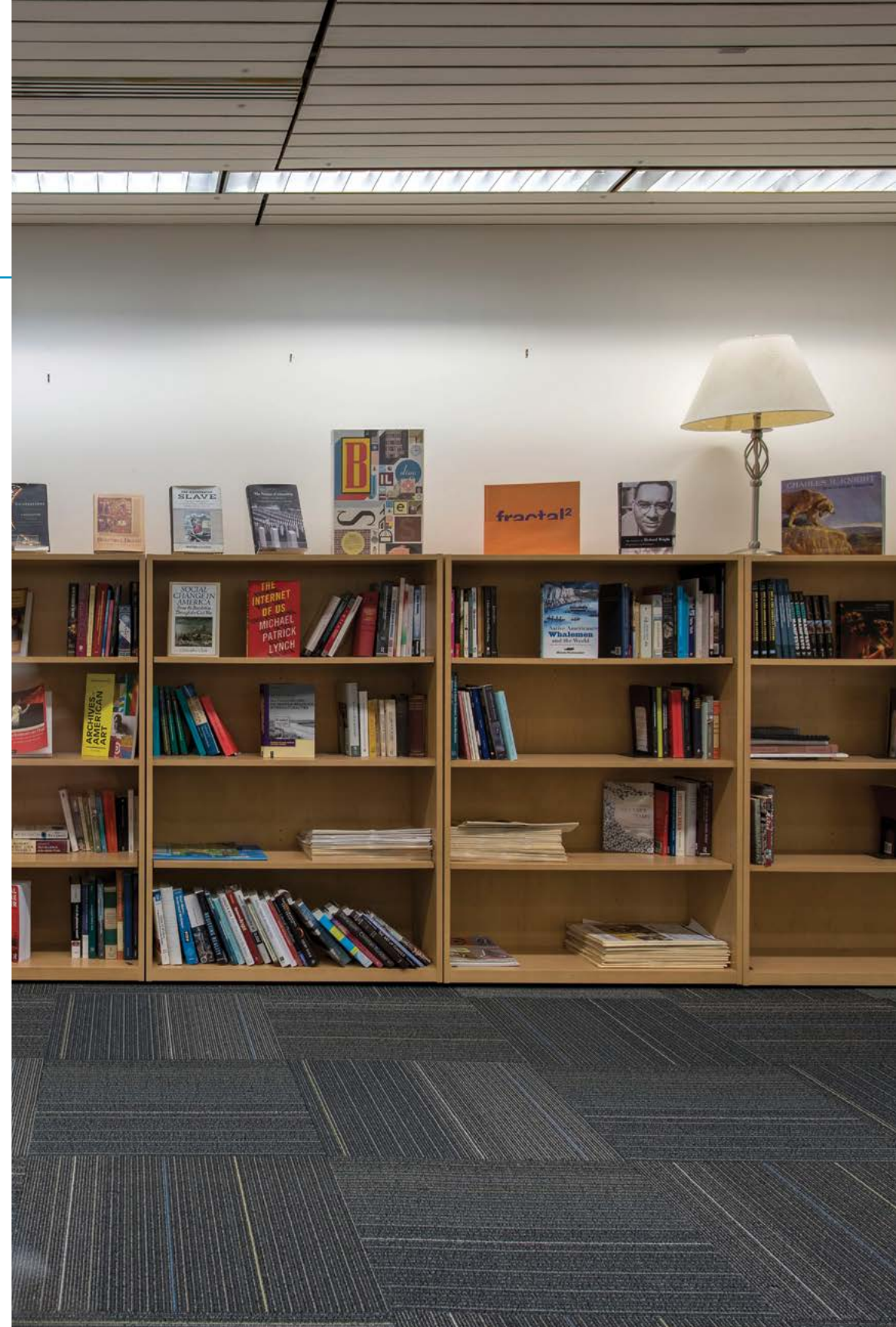
launched, including the New England Humanities Consortium, Digital Humanities and Media Studies, the Future of Truth, Humility and Conviction in Public Life, and the Faculty of Color Working Group.

**21** disciplines

represented by our fellows and their research interests.

**93** programs

sponsored or funded at UConn from 2018 to 2022, including invited speakers, conferences, colloquia, symposia, publications, and performances.

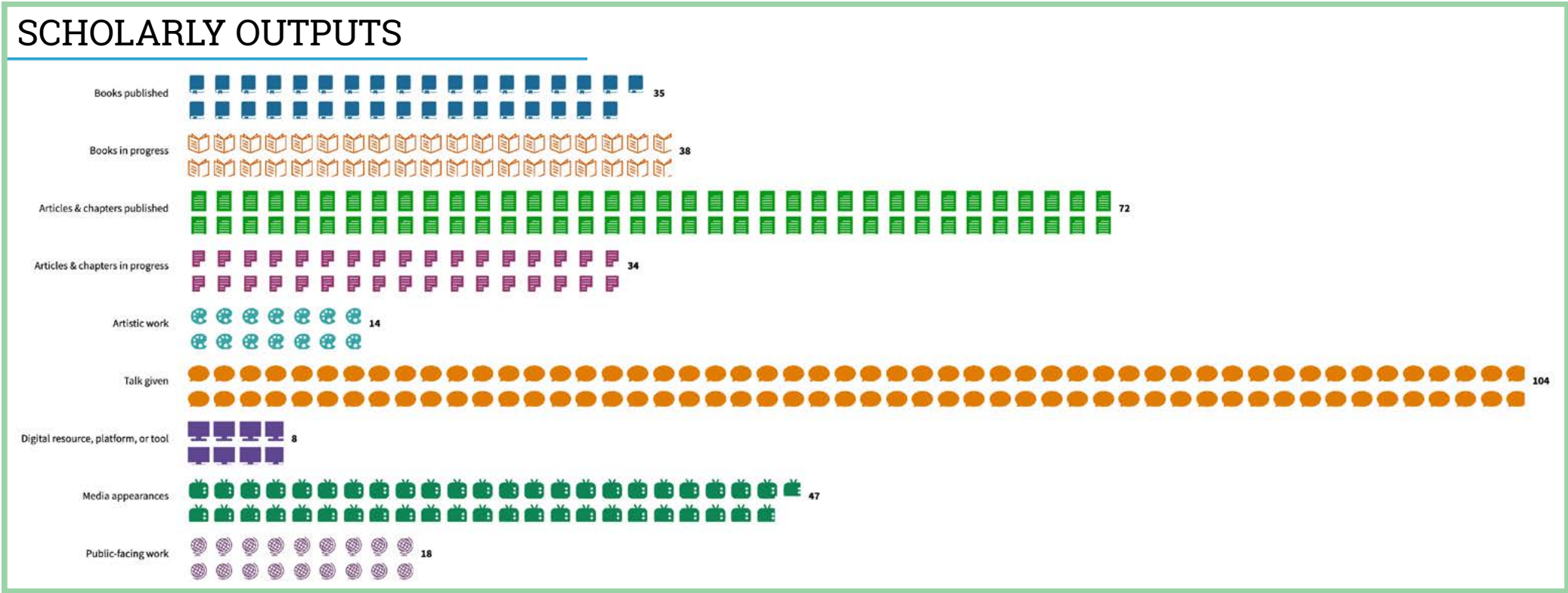
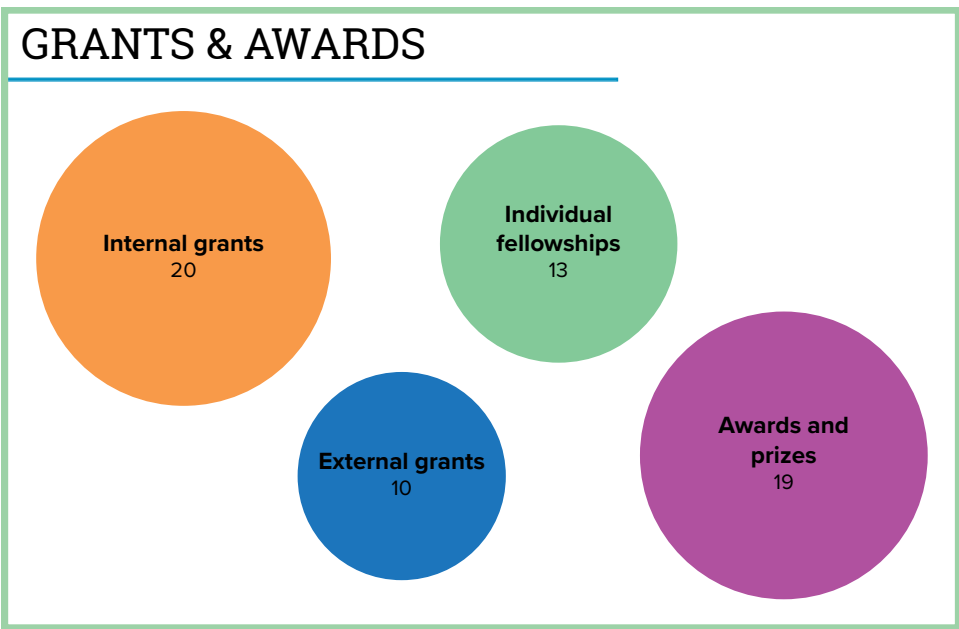


# BROADER IMPACTS

UCHI seeks to inspire and support scholars to take on the critical and public task of humanistic inquiry. By funding fellowships, conferences, invited speakers, working groups, and research, we expand and enrich humanities scholarship at UConn and beyond. But what happens after a scholar completes a fellowship, presents at a conference, or joins a working group? What is the broader impact of UCHI funding?

In 2021–2022, we undertook our first

data collection initiative to gather the achievements of our affiliates. What have our fellows and others we’ve funded accomplished over the most recent five years? The data below are based on an online form (completed by 70 of the affiliates to whom we reached out) and additional information reported to us (which added data about 46 more affiliates). The self-reported data, though by no means comprehensive, illustrate the remarkable productivity of the UCHI community.





# 2021–2022

## Visiting Residential Fellows

**Sherie M. Randolph** (History and Sociology; Georgia Institute of Technology)  
“‘Bad’ Black Mothers: A History of Transgression”

**Shiloh Whitney** (Philosophy; Fordham University)  
“Emotional Labor: Affective Economies and Affective Injustice”

## UConn Faculty Fellows

**Meina Cai** (Political Science & Asian and Asian American Studies)  
“The Art of Negotiations: Legal Discrimination, Contention Pyramid, and Land Rights Development in China”

**Haile Eshe Cole** (Anthropology & Africana Studies)  
“Belly: Topographies of Black Reproduction”

**Shardé M. Davis** (Communication; Africana Studies; & Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies), *UCHI Faculty of Color Working Group Fellow*  
“Being #BlackintheIvory: Contending with Racism in the American University”

**Prakash Kashwan** (Political Science)  
“Rooted Radicalism: Transformative Change for Food, Energy, Water, and Environmental Justice in an Age of Climate Change.”

**Laura Mauldin** (Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies & Human Development & Family Sciences)  
“For All We Care”

**Micki McElya** (History)  
“No More Miss America! How Protesting the 1968 Pageant Changed a Nation”

**Kathryn Blair Moore** (Art and Art History)  
“The Other Space of the Arabesque: Italian Renaissance Art at the Limits of Representation”

**Fiona Vernal** (History & Africana Studies)  
“Hartford Bound: Mobility, Race, and Identity in the Post-World War II Era (1940–2020)”

**Sarah S. Willen** (Anthropology), *Future of Truth Fellow*  
“‘Chronicling the Meantime’: Creating a Book about the Pandemic Journaling Project”

## Dissertation Research Scholars

**Erik Freeman** (History), *Draper Dissertation Fellow*  
“The Mormon International: Communitarian Politics and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1830–1890”

**Carol Gray** (Political Science)  
“Law as Politics by Other Means: An Egyptian Case Study as a Template for Human Rights Reform”

**Drew Johnson** (Philosophy)  
“A Hybrid Theory of Ethical Thought and Discourse”

**Anna Ziering** (English)  
“Dirty Forms: Masochism and the Revision of Power in Multi-Ethnic U.S. Literature and Culture”

“It was absolutely life changing to have a year to focus solely on my writing. What a privilege.”

—Laura Mauldin  
Faculty Fellow (2021–2022)



# FELLOWS

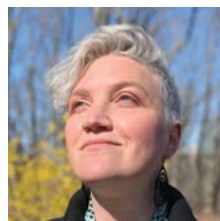
# EVENTS

Each year, UCHI puts on scholarly events and professional development workshops for the UConn community and beyond. In 2021–2022 alone we hosted 27 events. Each of our fellows gave a research talk on their project, in dialogue with another fellow. The Digital Humanities and Media Studies Initiative invited speakers from all over the world. In our Publishing Now seminars, editors and other publishing professionals provided a behind-the-scenes glimpse

at the publishing process, helping UConn-based scholars share their research broadly. In our capstone event, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones spoke with Manisha Sinha about race, history, and journalism in the United States. Across those events, we welcomed over 1800 attendees, who asked questions, shared comments, and helped sustain the vibrant scholarly community that is the Humanities Institute.

## 2021–2022 Event Highlights

Visiting fellow **Shiloh Whitney** (Philosophy, Fordham University) discussed affective injustice using anger gaslighting, environmental despair, and himpathy as case studies in her fellow's talk.



“The humanities help us to broaden our perspective, to test the allegations of this cultural moment, and to explore what is truth.”

—Joyce Scott  
UCHI Supporter

Part of our Publishing Now series, **How to Publish for the Public** featured editors from *Lapham's Quarterly*, *Public Books*, and *The Conversation*.



**Dexter Gabriel** met with a group of undergraduates to talk about reframing national history, the legacies of American slavery, and the controversies surrounding the 1619 Project.



**FEAR OF BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS**  
**LEWIS R. GORDON**

UConn Philosophy's **Lewis Gordon** talked writing about race in this historical moment and his new book, *Fear of Black Consciousness* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022) with UCHI's director, Michael Lynch.



In her moving fellow's talk, WGSS and HDFS professor **Laura Mauldin** shared her research into spousal caregiving during the COVID-19 pandemic and explained that at the foundation of the United States' care crisis is an “anti-body politic.”



At our 20th-anniversary capstone event, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Nikole Hannah-Jones** spoke with James L. and Shirley A. Draper Chair in American History Manisha Sinha about historical truth, journalism, racism, and the United States.

## & PROGRAMMING



# SPONSORED

Each year, UCHI helps to fund conferences, colloquia, invited speakers, and working groups across campus.

## Speakers, Conferences, & Colloquia



Afghanistan and the Course of U.S. Empire, featuring Gilbert Achcar, Quan Tran, and Robert Vitalis; Christopher Vials (English)

Emily Sun on *On the Horizon of World Literature*; Shuyu Guo (LCL)



Speakers for the exhibit *Tradition and Transformation: Mithila Art of India*; Kathryn Myers (Art and Art History)

Mark Twain writer-in-residence program; Sean Forbes (English)



Esther Dischereit, “Voices of Survivors: How a Racist Attack in Germany Created an

Unexpected Jewish-Muslim Alliance”; Sebastian Wogenstein and Avinoam Patt (Judaic Studies)



Body, Medicine, and Feminism: The Life and Work of Nawal El Saadawi Conference; Hind Ahmed Zaki (Political Science)



*Ray Guns, Dames, and the Guilty Gaze: Feminism and the Golden Age of Pulp Fiction* exhibit; Alison Paul (Art and Art History) and Barbara Gurr (WGSS)

Plant Humanities Initiative; Elizabeth Athens (Art and Art History)



Misinformation: Creating a Misfire for American Gun Policy; Gun Violence Prevention Research Interest Group (InCHIP)



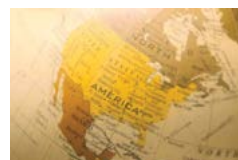
## Working Groups



The **Political Theory Workshop** (Jane Gordon) offers space for political theorists based at and beyond UConn to present and receive feedback on works-in-progress or recently published writing.

The **Creative Writing Pedagogy Working Group** (V. Penelope Pelizzon), meets monthly to read and discuss selected texts on creative writing teaching praxis.

The **Engineering Firesides** (Monika Arbaciauskaite) offers a place for students in engineering to discuss the big impacts of their profession through the use of philosophical texts.



The **American Studies Writing Group** (Chris Vials) offers an opportunity for

faculty across the university to meet and workshop their chapters and articles in progress.

**Meanings of Democracy Lab** (Ruth Braunstein) engages students and partners in collaborative research and discussion about the contested moral and cultural foundations of democratic

life in the United States.

The **Visual Studies Workshop** (Kathryn Moore) opens up dialogues about the future of visual studies.



The **History of Science Reading Group** (Debapriya Sarkar, Helen Rozwadowski, and

Alexis Boylan) explores the interfaces between scientific knowledge and its representation and communication.

**Medical Humanities & Health Disparities Research Group** (Martha Cutter) brings together scholars in different disciplines to consider health disparities from multiple viewpoints.

The **Literary Epistemology Working Group** (Yohei Igarashi) undertakes collaborative projects about literature, history, and culture, with a focus on epistemological questions and computational methods.



The **Early Modern Studies Working Group** (Greg Semenza) is a close-knit,

interdisciplinary, and ever-growing community, sharing a passion for learning about the art, culture, and history of our early modern forebears.

# PROGRAMS



# RESEARCH

## The Future of



**The Future of Truth** is a multi-disciplinary, engaged research project aimed at investigating what truth is now and if, and how, it will matter in the future. Project activities include conferences, a public forum,

exhibitions, a podcast series, and related publications. The project is pursued against a background of three convictions: that there is a pressing practical and political need to examine these questions, that doing so at this moment calls for new theoretical approaches, and that these approaches

must not be academically isolated, but draw on collaborative insights from art, science, and philosophy.

## Exhibit

***Seeing Truth: Art, Science, Museums, and Making Knowledge***,

a collaboration with the American Museum of Natural History and generously funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, seeks to challenge audiences to see art, science, and truth anew in this political moment. Each exhibition location, or partner, will use a few select museum objects to inspire a reengagement with their own collections, their own historical locations, and their own communities in order to build a unique and interactive show. In bringing together scientific instruments, photographs, films,

educational props, textbooks, paintings, taxidermy, expedition materials, and maps, each exhibition will initiate its own inquiry into truths about art and science, speak its own questions, and engage diverse communities and histories in the project of making new knowledge. UConn's iteration of *Seeing Truth* will premiere in January 2023. Exhibits at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and at the Mark Twain Center in Heidelberg, Germany will open later in 2023.

## Podcast

A series of videos and podcast episodes where artists, scholars, and writers talk about art, science, museums, and truth. How do we see truth? And where do we see it? What role does art play in communicating truth? Is a museum a site of truth? Hosted by Alexis Boylan, ***Why We Argue: Talking about Seeing Truth*** edition tackles these questions and more. Guests include Valerie Hegarty, Romita Ray, Jane Wildgoose, and Wendy Chun.

## Pandemic Journaling Meets Seeing Truth



2021–2022 Future of Truth Fellow, Sarah S. Willen, and Alexis Boylan are partnering on an exhibition of images submitted to the Pandemic Journaling Project (PJP). PJP, of which Willen is a co-founder, is a project that enables journalists to record their experiences of the pandemic in order to create an archive for

the future. The exhibit, ***Picturing the Pandemic: Images from the Pandemic Journaling Project*** will premiere at the Hartford Public Library in October 2022.



“We now face global, epic, and existential problems that can only be solved by facing the future of truth. In other words, the future of truth is also the future of humanity and our planet. What else would we want to talk about?”

—Alexis L. Boylan  
Director of Academic Affairs

# PROJECTS

# DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Founded in 2016 under the leadership of Anke Finger (LCL), the Institute's Digital Humanities and Media Studies Initiative (DHMS) seeks to engage the UConn community in debates, explorations, and exchanges on all aspects related to the Digital Humanities and Media Studies. These sister fields are uniquely in dialogue at UConn, with faculty and students already working either in one or both, displaying an

interdisciplinary and international richness of scholarly inquiry, experimentation, and publication. UCHI's goal is to foster this dialogue by offering a lecture series, workshops, reading groups, and other programming that bring together students and faculty to explore the humanities from digital and medial perspectives. The initiative also offers a certificate in DHMS for graduate students.

## 2021–2022 Event Highlights



### Black Beyond Data

Jessica Marie Johnson and Kim Gallon discussed *Black Beyond Data*, their new project backed by a \$300,000 Mellon grant. Connecting the fields of digital humanities, Black studies, and data and computation, the project seeks to create an open resource for scholars to combat racial injustice through digital humanities.



"UCHI's DHMS initiative focuses on how computation, data, technology, and digital media generally are shaping our world—and how they can help us understand the past and imagine the future."



—Yohei Igarashi  
Associate Director & DHMS Coordinator



### Discriminating Data

Wendy Hui Kyong Chun (Simon Fraser University's Canada 150 Research Chair in New Media) discussed themes from her new book *Discriminating Data* (MIT, 2021) about how big data and predictive machine learning encode discrimination and create agitated clusters of comforting rage.



### The Digital Dissertation

Anke Finger and Virginia Kuhn explored the many questions surrounding digital dissertations: Are interactive dissertations significantly different from their paper-based counterparts? What are the effects of digital projects on doctoral education? How does one choose and defend a digital dissertation?



### Teaching Machines

Audrey Watters spoke about her latest book, *Teaching Machines: The History of Personalized Learning* (MIT Press, 2021), which tells the pre-digital history of "personalized learning."

Learn more at <https://dhmediastudies.uconn.edu/>

# & MEDIA STUDIES



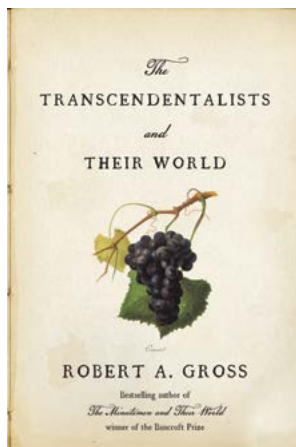


# SUPPORTING

UCHI supports several awards and fellowship opportunities that reward creative thinking and scholarship. These include annual residential fellowships for UConn faculty, UConn graduate students, UConn undergraduates, and external fellows, a book award, and awards for faculty fellows.

## Sharon Harris Book Award

Since 2017, the annual Sharon Harris Book Award has been given for a book published by UConn tenured, tenure-track, emeritus, or in-residence faculty that demonstrates scholarly depth and intellectual acuity and highlights the importance of humanities scholarship.



**2022 Winner**  
Robert Gross (History)  
*The Transcendentalists and Their World* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2021)

“A monumental work of scholarship, this book allows us to view one of the central movements in American literature and philosophy.”

## 2022 Honorable Mention

Peter Zarrow (History)  
*Abolishing Boundaries: Global Utopias in the Formation of Modern Chinese Political Thought, 1880–1940* (SUNY Press, 2021)

## Felberbaum Awards

Since 2003, the generosity of the Felberbaum Family Foundation has enabled UCHI to offer a limited number of Felberbaum Family Faculty Awards to University of Connecticut faculty completing their UCHI fellowship year. 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.”

“Collaboration is scarcely a novel concept, but it takes on new valences as the means to sustain one another in today's difficult times.”

—Margo Machida  
Faculty Fellow (2010–2011)

## 2022 Recipients



Meina Cai  
Political Science



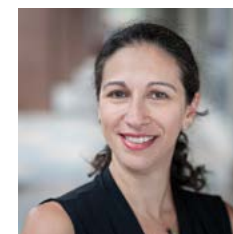
Laura Mauldin  
WGSS & HDFS



Micki McElya  
History



Fiona Vernal  
History



Sarah Willen  
Anthropology



# SCHOLARSHIP

# EXCEPTIONAL



In November 2021, UConn hosted its first student-run **Humanities Undergraduate Research Symposium**.

The symposium, organized by UConn students Madelon Morin-Viall, Aarushi Nohria, and Rylee Thomas, aimed to reiterate the ability of humanities research to inspire much-needed critical thinking, understanding, and

empathy in the face of uncertainty, and to recognize the contributions of undergraduate students to an ever-evolving dialogue of thought by giving students a platform to celebrate the new knowledge that they have created.

Students presented on topics from human rights to Shakespeare to Afrofuturism, attended workshops about conducting humanities research and humanities-related careers, and listened to a keynote address, “How to Exist in the World: Humanities and Our Future” by UCHI’s own Alexis Boylan.

Image by Coyau, Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA-3.0)



Led by UConn History professor Joseph McAlhany, the **MegaBiblion Society** offers intellectually ambitious undergraduates the opportunity to read great works of fiction in a relaxed and friendly setting. Every two weeks, students gather for a free lunch and free-flowing conversation about daunting and difficult books, without the pressure of formal requirements. Instead, students can discover the pleasures of a shared intellectual endeavor outside of the formal framework of a class.

## 2022–2023 Undergraduate Humanities Research Fellows

We are incredibly excited to announce our inaugural undergraduate humanities research fellows!



**Rylee Thomas** is a sophomore at UConn double majoring in English and communication with a creative writing concentration. For her fellowship project, Rylee will explore the culture of victim-blaming double standards that contemporary society continues to place on women by writing a contemporary young adult fantasy novel that plays upon the conventions of both the nineteenth-century gothic novel and modern true-crime drama.



**Karen Lau** is a Day of Pride Scholar double majoring in political science and economics with a minor in Asian American studies. Karen’s fellowship project will investigate how ethnic studies curricula affect students’ mental health and socio-emotional development to justify society’s need for anti-racist education. Her research will survey students in the UConn School of Medicine and interview Directors of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in K-12 school districts.



HURS organizers Rylee Thomas, Aarushi Nohria, and Madelon Morin-Viall

## UNDERGRADUATES



# FORMER FELLOWS

Through its annual residential fellowships, the Humanities Institute provides an interdisciplinary environment in which scholars from around the world come together to think, collaborate, and write. The

impact of this opportunity not only shapes the creative minds of our fellows during their residency, but also informs their scholastic contributions long **#afterUCHI**. Here are some past fellows' recent successes.

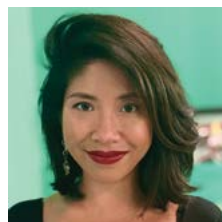


In 2021, 2019–2020 visiting fellow **Jo Ulatowski** served as co-PI of the Truth Without Borders project, which involved a large, multi-site research consortium comprised of scholars from 14 different institutions in Asia, Europe, and North America and a capstone workshop.

"I spent many hours in the UCHI conference room. I loved learning from the visiting fellows and seeing new and compelling work presented to a group of peers."

—Allison Horrocks  
Dissertation Fellow (2015–2016)

2017–2018  
Humility &  
Conviction in  
Public Life fellow  
**Tracy Llanera**  
co-authored



*A Defence of Nihilism* (Routledge) with James Tartaglia, and received a Scholarship Facilitation Fund from UConn's OVPR for the book project *Resilience: The Brown Babe's Burden*.

December 2019 fellows reunion celebrating 2017–2018 visiting fellow Deirdre Bair



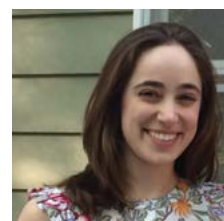
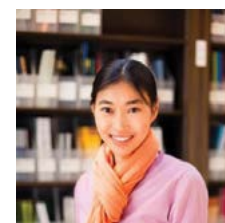
2021–2022 dissertation research scholar **Erik Freeman** will begin a new position as Assistant Professor of History at Snow College (Ephraim, UT) in Fall 2022. His dissertation, "The Mormon International: Communitarian Politics and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1830–1890," was supervised by Christopher Clark.



In 2022, 2018–2019 faculty fellow **Stuart Miller** was elected to the American Academy of Jewish Research (AAJR), recognizing his distinguished career as a scholar of ancient and rabbinic Judaism whose work has been path-breaking in its combination of literary/textual analysis and expert study of material culture.

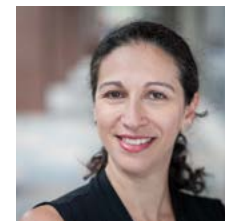
2019–2020 faculty fellow **Nu-Anh Tran** published her new book, *Disunion: Anticommunist Nationalism and the Making of the Republic of Vietnam* (University of Hawaii Press, 2022).

Based on previously neglected primary sources, *Disunion* paints a rich and sensitive portrayal of leaders and activists in the Republic of Vietnam.



2021–2022 dissertation research scholar **Anna Ziering** has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Oglethorpe University (Brookhaven, GA), beginning Fall 2022. Anna's dissertation, "Dirty Forms: Masochism and the Revision of Power in Multi-Ethnic U.S. Literature and Culture," was supervised by Christopher Vials.

Faculty fellow **Sarah Willen** (2014–2015 and 2021–2022) along with colleagues at Brown University received a 2022 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to address the impact of COVID-19 on first-generation college students and their families in the United States as part of the Pandemic Journaling Project.



## SPOTLIGHT

# CREATING

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The **New England Humanities Consortium** (NEHC) promotes and strengthens intellectual collaboration, interdisciplinary exchange, and innovative educational, intercultural, and curricular programming among New England humanities centers and institutes, and the faculty, students, and regional, national, and global communities they serve. NEHC includes: Amherst College, Brown University, Colby College, Dartmouth College, Middlebury College, Northeastern University, Smith

College, Tufts University, the University of Connecticut, the University of New Hampshire, the University of Rhode Island, the University of Vermont, Wellesley College, and Wheaton College. The programming and activities of the NEHC, including seed grants for collaborative humanities projects, are made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the participating institutions. UCHI founded NEHC in 2018 and served as its first administrative hub through June 2021.



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. This area of study spans from the 14th through the 18th centuries, focusing on a wide range of relevant texts, issues, and questions. The Institute fosters targeted investigations of the world-class Folger collection and is based out of the Folger Shakespeare Library. The Consortium acts as an advisory body to the Folger Institute, with members meeting bi-annually in D.C. to work with Folger staff on program development and scholarly outreach, among other things. By virtue of UConn's membership, our students, staff, and faculty have access to the Folger's tremendous range of research, educational, and artistic offerings.

## Global Distinguished Humanities Fellowship

In an effort to foster international collaboration and highlight the importance of the humanities in creating a future that speaks globally to social justice, equity, and the environment, Global Affairs and the Humanities Institute have joined forces to create a new opportunity for a **Global Distinguished Humanities Fellowship** at the University of Connecticut.



Maoz Azaryahu, Professor of Cultural Geography at the University of Haifa in Israel and the Director of Herzl Institute for the Study of Zionism, is our inaugural fellow. Azaryahu will be in residence at

UConn in Spring 2023. His research includes urban and landscape semiotics, the cultural and historical geographies of public memory and commemoration, the spatialities of memory and narrative, and the cultural history of places and landscapes. Maoz Azaryahu has built his career on a remarkable ability to speak across disciplinary boundaries, forging productive collaborations with scholars across a wide range of fields.

While in residence at UConn, Azaryahu will meet with students, give a public talk, and participate in UCHI-sponsored events, including a two-day symposium on Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities*.

His residency was sponsored by Ken Foote (Geography), Nathaniel Trumbull (Geography & Maritime Studies), Sebastian Wogenstein and Avinoam Patt (Judaic Studies), and Chris Vials (American Studies).

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# CONNECTIONS





# FACULTY OF COLOR

Generously supported by the Mellon Foundation and in collaboration with the New England Humanities Consortium and UCHI, the **Faculty of Color Working Group** (FOCWG) provides extra-institutional space for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) faculty to navigate the particular challenges that they face in their academic positions. Academic institutions create and incubate myriad inequalities, institutional microaggressions, and bad-faith policies regarding the recruitment, retention, promotion, and provision of healthy, respectful environments for faculty of color. Such imbalances degrade BIPOC faculty's well-being and professional advancement as well as institutional health. FOCWG has begun to address these inequities through targeted programming.



## Director

Dr. Melina Pappademos (Africana Studies & History, UConn)

## Executive Committee

Touba Ghadessi (Wheaton)  
Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann (UConn)  
Darryl Harper (Amherst)  
Kareem Khubchandani (Tufts)  
Irene Mata (Wellesley)  
Noliwe Rooks (Brown)  
Melva Treviño-Peña (Rhode Island)  
Gabriela Torres (Wheaton College)



"Using vital support programs for BIPOC faculty, FOCWG fosters broad institutional health and growth. It also challenges colonization in the academy, its received wisdoms about who and what have value, deserve respect, and can actively shape its future."

—Melina Pappademos  
Director of FOCWG



*Nikole Hannah-Jones meets with the UConn branch of FOCWG.*

## What We Do...

Host an **annual symposium**, which provides a rare and necessary venue for faculty of color to speak freely to one another, find community, and share ideas, strategies, potential solutions, and creative energy through the experiences of others.

Offer **fellowships** that seek to relieve scholars of institutional hindrances by providing resources to reduce many of the barriers that make it difficult for faculty of color to research, think, and engage in their transformative work at their home institutions.

Administer a **mentorship program** that aims to create a supportive community of scholars that works toward alleviating the unequal advancement of FOC through the ranks of academia.

FOCWG is supported by the



# WORKING GROUP

# UCHI

Beyond our offices on the fourth floor of Homer Babbidge Library, UCHI occupies a vast and growing virtual space. Our online presence—from our websites and social media, to our YouTube channel and podcast—allows us to reach more people, all over the world. When the COVID-19 pandemic shifted all UCHI activities online, we reimagined virtual versions of our fellowship, events, and programming.

Returning to campus, we brought with us many of the lessons we learned from that virtual experience. In 2021–22 we livestreamed all of our in-person events, allowing participants with childcare conflicts or health concerns, those working at UConn's other campuses, and people outside the UConn community to listen, to ask questions, and to learn. And that's only one way we reach people online.

## Check out our...



### Podcast

Why We Argue, now a member of the New Books Network, features in-depth conversations with scholars like Cornel West. Our upcoming set of episodes sees host Robert Talisse (Philosophy, Vanderbilt) turn the microphone over to Alexis Boylan, who will interview artists and scholars about knowledge, museums, and seeing truth. [s.uconn.edu/podcast](https://s.uconn.edu/podcast)

*The 2020–2021 fellowship class meets with UCHI leadership on Zoom*



“The great promise of the internet is access. Livestreaming, captioned video, and transcribed audio all broaden the reach of UCHI—allowing us to bring vital humanities research to people, wherever they happen to be.”

—Elizabeth Della Zazzera  
Head of Communications



### Seeing Truth Website

This year, we launched the website for the *Seeing Truth* exhibition. When you visit the website, start with Instigator Objects—items from the archival collection at the American Museum of Natural History—and follow the links at the bottom of each item page to make your own connections and build your own knowledge. [s.uconn.edu/seeingtruth](https://s.uconn.edu/seeingtruth)



### YouTube Channel

If you missed a fellow's talk, DHMS event, or want to watch an episode of Talking about Seeing Truth, visit our YouTube channel. There, you can also watch recordings of the 2021 Radical Futures Symposium, Get to Know a Fellow videos, and more. Visit [s.uconn.edu/watch](https://s.uconn.edu/watch)



### You Should... Series

Get recommendations on what to watch, read, and listen to from members of the UConn community. Recently, Manisha Desai (Sociology) recommended the work of Dalit artist and activist Sambhaji Bhagat. See more at [s.uconn.edu/youshould](https://s.uconn.edu/youshould)

# ONLINE



# 2022–2023

## Undergraduate Research Fellows



**Karen Lau**

“Kimchi Jjigae for the Soul: Ethnic Studies and Social-Emotional Learning”

Project advisor: Jason Oliver Chang



**Rylee Thomas**

“*The Ghostly Dynasty*: Victim-Blaming, the Gothic Novel, and the Modern True-Crime Drama”

Project advisor: Ellen Litman

### Honorable mentions:

Kathryn Atkinson, “Cenabis Bene: A Culinary Odyssey through Apicius”

Monika Rydzewski, “Look at the Screen!: Merging Media with Gossip”

## Visiting Residential Fellows



**Joseph Darda** (Texas Christian University; English)

“The Naturals: How Sports Make Race in America”

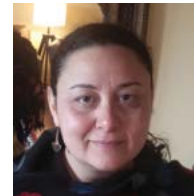


**Kareem Khalifa** (Middlebury College; Philosophy)

*Future of Truth Fellow*

“Segregation and Social Inquiry”

## UConn Faculty Fellows



**Hind Ahmed Zaki**

(Political Science & Literatures, Cultures, and Languages)

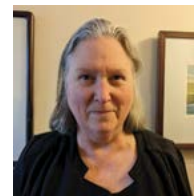
“The Price of Inclusion: Feminist Politics in the Shadow of the Arab Spring”



**Heather Cassano**

(Digital Media and Design)

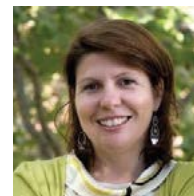
“The Fate of Human Beings”



**Cornelia Dayton**

(History)

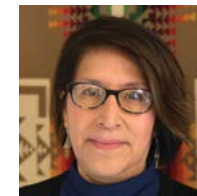
“John Peters, A Life”



**Anna Mae Duane**

(English)

“Like a Slave: Slavery’s Appropriation from The American Revolution to QAnon”



**Sandy Grande**

(Political Science & Native American and Indigenous Studies)

“Indigenous Elders and Aging”



**Stefan Kaufmann**

(Linguistics)

“What was, what will be, and what would have been”



**Hassanaly Ladha**

(Literatures, Cultures, and Languages)

“Solomon and the Caliphate of Man”



**Elva Orozco**

**Mendoza** (Political Science & Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

*UCHI Faculty of Color Working Group Fellow*

“The Maternal Contract”



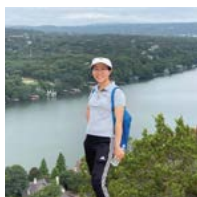
# FELLOWS



## Dissertation Research Scholars



**Julia Brush** (English)  
*Richard Brown Dissertation Fellow*  
 “State/Less Aesthetics: Queer Cartographies, Transnational  
 Terrains, and Refugee Poetics”



**Yuhua Liang** (Philosophy)  
 “Confucian Exemplarism and Moral Diversity”



**Britney Murphy** (History)  
 “Outsiders Within: Volunteers in Service to America and the  
 Boundaries of Citizenship, 1962–1971”

“My time at UCHI inspired me to think differently  
 about my writing. It got me thinking about things like  
 texture, color, and pace, as much as the argument. So  
 I started to experiment with my prose and worked  
 with new sources to try to tell a better story.”

—Kornel Chang  
 Visiting Fellow (2019–2020)



**Shihan Zheng** (History)  
*Draper Dissertation Fellow*  
 “The Opium Discourse in China, 1830–1910”

# WORLD POETRY BOOKS



World Poetry Books (WPB) is committed to publishing  
 exceptional translations of poetry from a broad range of  
 languages and traditions, bringing the work of modern  
 masters, emerging voices, and pioneering innovators  
 from around the world to English-language readers in  
 affordable trade editions. Our titles are reviewed and  
 excerpted widely—in *The New York Review of Books*,  
*The Paris Review*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Publishers Weekly*,  
*The Los Angeles Review*, *Lit Hub*, *Circumference*, and *World Literature Today*,  
 among others—and several have received awards, including the 2022 PEN  
 Award for Poetry in Translation. Founded in 2017, World Poetry Books is a 501(c)(3)  
 nonprofit and charitable organization based in New York City and at the University  
 of Connecticut Humanities Institute where we offer publishing internships and  
 sponsor student translation awards.

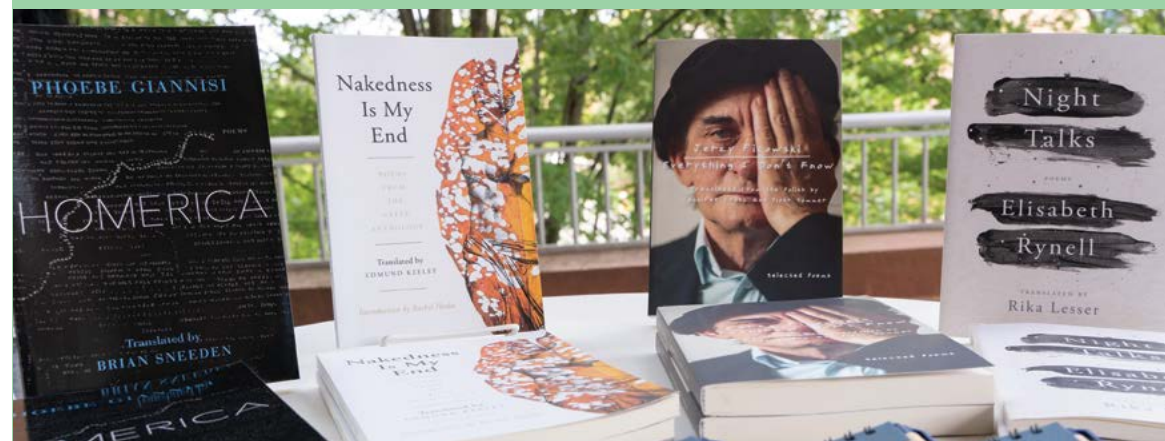
## Meet the WPB Team



**Peter Constantine**  
 Publisher



**Matvei Yankelevich**  
 Editor





# WHAT'S

For 2022–2023, many of our planned events reach beyond the walls of the academy—with children's programming at public libraries and exhibitions of art, photography, and artifacts in spaces across the United States and Europe. Closer to home, our Digital Humanities and Media Studies speaker series will

include talks about data-driven histories of art and about the end-goals of scholarly pursuits. Our Publishing Now series will give the UConn community insights into digital publishing. And our fellow's talks will cover topics from gothic novels, to documentary filmmaking, to Indigenous elders.

## Fall 2022



***Picturing the Pandemic: An Exhibition of Images from the Pandemic Journaling Project***, a joint project of Seeing Truth and the Pandemic Journaling Project, will premiere at the Hartford Public Library in October. In Spring 2023, versions of the exhibit will open at locations in Providence, RI, and Heidelberg, Germany.

In a joint Publishing Now/DHMS event, editors will introduce a multi-modal publishing series from MIT Press and Brown Library that explores **how visuality is related to equity and justice**.

All four dissertation research scholars and both visiting fellows will give their **fellow's talks**. Undergraduate and faculty fellows will present in the spring.

"People are still curious about the world around them. I don't think that the quest for knowledge is disappearing from the human experience any time soon."

—Dexter Gabriel  
Faculty Fellow (2018–2019)

Seth Rudy (Rhodes College) and Rachael Scarborough King (University of California, Santa Barbara) will discuss their forthcoming edited collection, ***The Ends of Knowledge: Purposes and Endpoints in the Arts and Sciences*** (Bloomsbury, 2022).

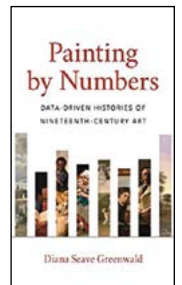


## Spring 2023



***Seeing Truth: Art, Science, Museums, and Making Knowledge*** will premiere at the William Benton Museum of Art in January 2023. Curated by Alexis Boylan, *Seeing Truth* seeks to challenge audiences to see art, science, and truth anew in this political moment. Later in the year, iterations of the exhibit will premiere in New York and Heidelberg, Germany.

Diana Seave Greenwald (Assistant Curator of the Collection, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum) will join us to speak about her recent book, ***Painting by Numbers: Data-Driven Histories of Nineteenth-Century Art*** (Princeton, 2021).



The second annual **Humanities Undergraduate Research Symposium** will take place in the UCHI conference room in March 2023. This student-led initiative, where UConn undergraduates share their humanities research projects with their peers and mentors, is organized by Grace Kennedy, Karen Lau, Kayla Simon, and Rylee Thomas.

UCHI's Luce Foundation-funded **Future of Truth** project will conclude this spring with a symposium featuring talks by truth scholars from around the world.

**Global Distinguished Fellow** Maoz Azaryahu (Cultural Geography, University of Haifa) will give a public talk this spring, as part of his residency at UConn, co-sponsored by Global Affairs.



"The Humanities Institute is a small patch of paradise that immeasurably enriches intellectual life at UConn."

—Scott Wallace  
Faculty Fellow (2020–2021)

# NEXT?



# OUR TEAM

## Michael P. Lynch

Director

Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, Philosophy

## Alexis L. Boylan

Director of Academic Affairs

Professor, Art and Art History & Africana Studies

## Yohei Igarashi

Associate Director & DHMS Coordinator

Associate Professor, English

## Nasya Al-Saidy

Administrative Manager & Financial Officer

## Mary Volpe

Administrative Program Support

## Elizabeth Della Zazzera

Head of Communications

Assistant Professor in Residence, History

## 2022–2023 ADVISORY BOARD

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**Ellen Litman**; English

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**Nancy Shoemaker**; History

**Dimitris Xygalatas**; Anthropology

## Give

As UConn's premier institute for research in the humanities, fellowships and lectures are highly competitive and awarded only to outstanding projects. Private support helps sustain excellence across the humanities.

A gift to the Humanities Institute 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. Gifts help fund fellowships, student research, study groups, conferences, special initiatives, and more.

**For more information or to give, please visit [s.uconn.edu/donate](https://s.uconn.edu/donate) or contact the UConn Foundation at (800) 269-9965 or (860) 486-5000.**

## Visit

Our bright, beautiful offices, located on the fourth floor of Homer Babbidge Library, offer a collaborative space for scholars to meet and talk, as well as office space for all our fellows and staff. Our conference room, complete with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment that supports livestreaming, is available for booking. Visitors will find a bookshelf filled with the scholarship of past fellows, past book award winners, and other friends of the Institute. Our walls showcase bits of our history—including posters and banners from past events and a celebration of fellows past—as well as art on loan from UConn's Benton Museum.



## Connect

Keep up with all future events and programming by following us on social media, subscribing to our newsletter, or checking out our website.



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