

The University of
Connecticut
Humanities
Institute



Fall 2023



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DIRECTOR'S FAREWELL



Over the last decade, it has been my distinct honor to be part of the collective spirit of inquiry here at UCHI. That is a spirit that UCHI embodies by its very nature, and this year manifested it more than any other. Our inaugural undergraduate fellows, Rylee Thomas and Karen Lau, capped off a year of collaborative fellowship by giving two spectacular talks illustrating the value of humanities scholarship and advocacy. We launched two exhibits about the social emergence of knowledge led by Alexis Boylan: *Picturing the Pandemic* (with Sarah Willen) and *Seeing Truth* (in partnership with the American Museum of Natural History). And this year saw the launch of a new global initiative in partnership with Rutgers, Design Justice AI, as well as (in partnership with the New England Humanities Consortium or NEHC) the fourth symposium of the Faculty of Color Working Group.

It has been tremendous to watch UCHI grow in both ambition and in substance. Over the years, we've hosted dozens of creative minds, our fellowship program has become one of the most competitive anywhere, we founded and led the NEHC, 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.

None of this could have been possible without the collective work of the best team at the university. My deepest thanks to everyone who has contributed to running this institute for the past nine years for their hard work, creative insight, and good humor.

As I step away from the director's seat, I know that UCHI's spirit of collective inquiry will only grow. I very much look forward to watching the Institute develop under Professor Duane's dynamic leadership and I'm confident it will remain a focus of creative humanistic inquiry well into the future.

Michael P. Lynch

Provost Professor of the Humanities
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Philosophy

"UCHI represents the academic ideal in its mission and atmosphere. I'm excited to continue the outstanding work that has been done so far and to push our initiatives and collaborations in challenging new directions. I'm particularly passionate about our new initiative in popular culture studies."

—Stephen Dyson
Associate Director



"I am thrilled and honored to be stepping into the role of UCHI Director, and deeply indebted to Michael Lynch, Alexis Boylan, and their team for creating such a remarkable site of academic inquiry and support. Because I've been a fellow at UCHI, I know very well how the interdisciplinary conversations the Institute facilitates urge us to shift our frame of reference and to rethink our attachments to particular questions and forms of evidence. UCHI allows us to experience the joy of sharing our specialized knowledge, but also demands that we reimagine how we speak to, and learn from, one another. What happens here is, to me, one of the most admirable and precious aspects of higher education and something that is growing increasingly rare in the world outside of it."

—Anna Mae Duane
Director

"Film and media arts provide a new perspective on the pressing issues and questions of today, one that is vital to our understanding of humanity. At UCHI, I hope to connect working artists with humanities scholars, opening new channels of inquiry and encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration."

—Heather Cassano
Assistant Director of Digital Humanities & Media Arts



MEET THE NEW TEAM

UCHI BY THE NUMBERS

\$8,550,000 in grants

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

289 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.

22 disciplines

represented by our fellows and their research interests.

115 programs

sponsored or funded at UConn from 2018 to 2023, including invited speakers, conferences, colloquia, symposia, publications, and performances.



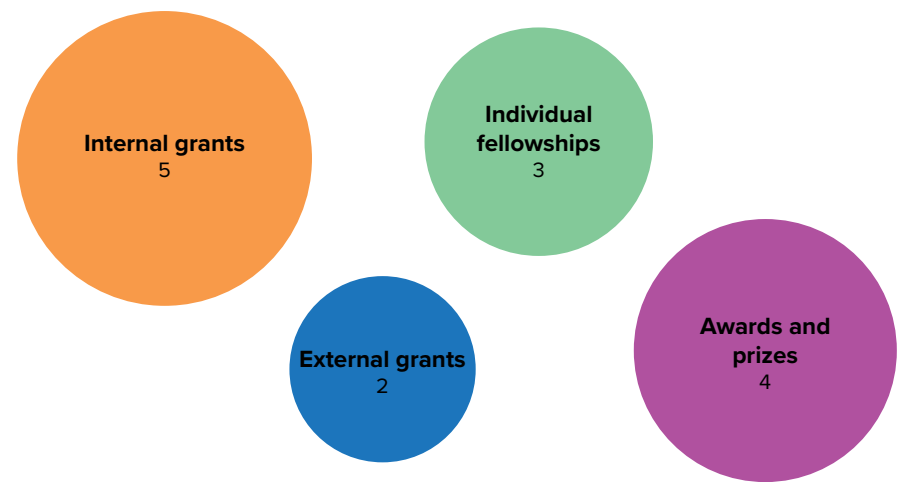
BROADER IMPACTS

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?

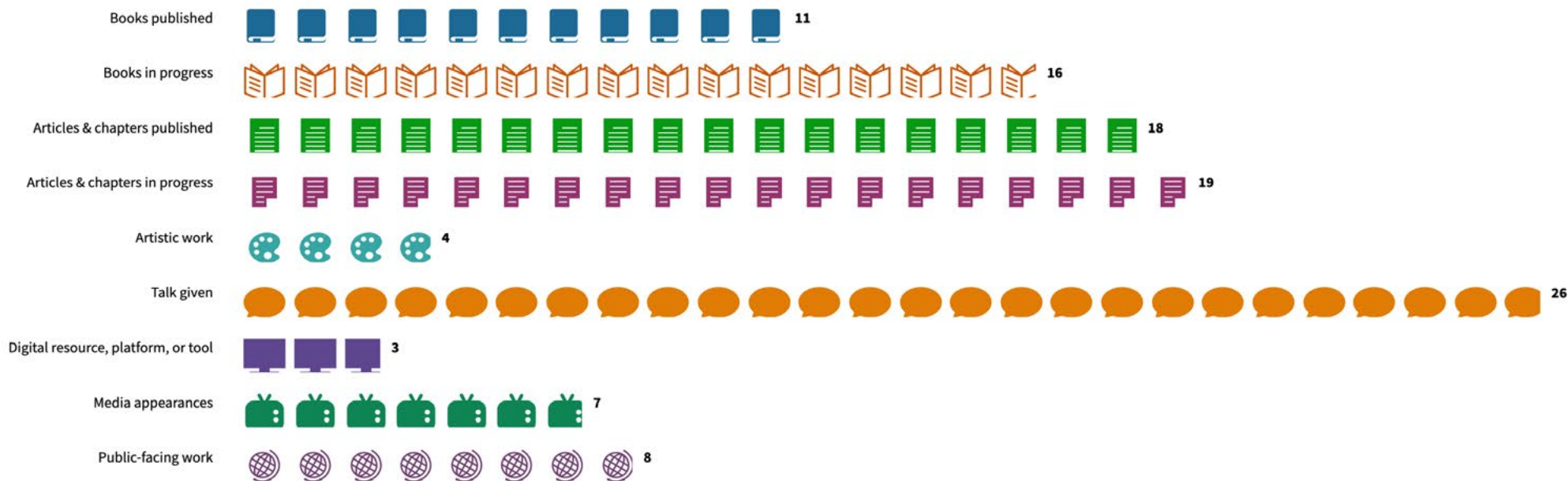
In 2022–2023, we continued our

data collection initiative to gather the achievements of our affiliates. What have our fellows and others we’ve funded accomplished over the past academic year? The data below are based on an online form completed by fifty of the affiliates to whom we reached out. The self-reported data, though by no means comprehensive, points to the impressive productivity of the UCHI community and to the importance of UCHI as resource for the success of the humanities at UConn.

GRANTS & AWARDS



SCHOLARLY OUTPUTS



2022–2023

Undergraduate Research Fellows

Karen Lau

“Soup Dumplings for the Soul: Ethnic Studies and Social-Emotional Learning”
Project advisors: Jason Oliver Chang and Grace Player

Rylee Thomas

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

Visiting Residential Fellows

Joseph Darda (Texas Christian University; English)

“The Sporting Public: Race, Labor, and the Miseducation of the Fan”

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”

Hassanally 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”

Dissertation Research Scholars

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

Yuhan Liang (Philosophy)
“Confucian Exemplarism and Moral Diversity”

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

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

“Being part of an interdisciplinary group of scholars helped me learn to articulate my work in a language that is understandable to people who aren’t just at the interior of the debate.”

—Asha Bhandary
Dissertation Fellow (2010–2011)



FELLOWS

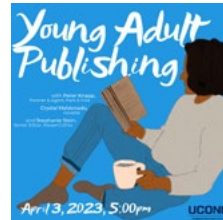
EVENTS

Each year, UCHI puts on scholarly events and professional development workshops for the UConn community and beyond. In 2022–2023 alone we hosted 31 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

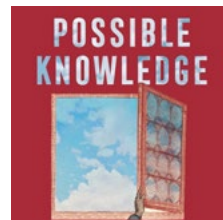
at the publishing process, helping UConn-based scholars share their research broadly. We also hosted or co-sponsored events connected to the launch of the *Seeing Truth* exhibition, including invited speakers, book launches, and film screenings. Across those events, we welcomed over 1300 attendees who asked questions, shared comments, and helped sustain the vibrant scholarly community that is the Humanities Institute.

2022–2023 Event Highlights

Part of our Publishing Now series, a panel on **Young Adult Publishing** featured an editor, an agent, and a novelist discussing the ins and outs of YA publishing. The conversation was moderated by 2022–2023 undergraduate fellow Rylee Thomas.

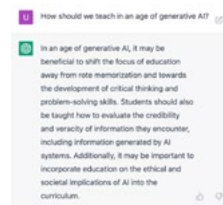


Debapriya Sarkar launched her new book, *Possible Knowledge: The Literary Forms of Early Modern Science* (Penn Press, 2023)



Teaching in the Age of ChatGPT, organized

in conjunction with the Writing Center and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, asked how we should reassess course policies as well as teaching and learning in this new era of natural language generators.



At the opening for the *Seeing Truth* exhibition, artists, scholars, and students gathered to explore the art, artifacts, and specimens curated by Alexis L. Boylan to encourage viewers to consider how science, art, and museums have collided to produce, and sometimes distort, truth and knowledge.



In her fellow's talk, Political Science and NAIS professor **Sandy Grande** shared sections of her new book on Indigenous aging and elders. Part memoir, part scholarship, the book explores Grande's own experience caring for her mother and offers a reimagining of aging as a condition of possibility rather than a crisis.



In conjunction with the *Seeing Truth* exhibition and the Tree of Life Conference, writer and designer **Manuel Lima** spoke with Alexis Boylan about tree diagrams—their history, their value, what they reveal, and what they don't.

& PROGRAMMING

SPONSORED

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

Speakers, Conferences, & Colloquia



Screening of *Landfall* and Q&A with Cecilia Aldarondo and Lale Namerrow Pastor; Martine Granby (Journalism)

Visit and Exhibition with artist Jumaadi; Macushla Robinson (Art & Art History)



Women of Color (WOC) Faculty Mental Health and Wellness Retreat; Evelyn Simien (Political Science)



Faces, Masks, Bodies: Contemporary Cuban Writing, Art, and Performance Conference; Jacqueline Loss, Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann, and Inileidys

Hernández (El Instituto)



Lecture and visit from Carl Wennerlind, "Scarcity: A History from the Origins of Capitalism to the Climate Crisis"; Dwight Codr and Lauren Ziolkowski (English)



Talk by Noelle Leslie dela Cruz, "Is Giving Birth Comparable to Writing Books?"; Tracy Ann Llanera (Philosophy)

54th Annual Conference on African Linguistics; Vicki Carstens (Linguistics)



Visit of Stacey Waite, Keynote speaker for First Year Writing Annual Conference; Lisa Blansett (English)

The Hartford installation of Picturing the Pandemic



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 **Workshop on International Security and Economics** (Jeremy Pressman) is a monthly, virtual forum for scholars interested in international relations and global affair.



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.

#IndigiReads (Cristina Connolly, Sandy Grande, and Amy Safran) meets regularly to read and discuss texts related to food sovereignty, Indigenous knowledge systems, agriculture, and the environment.



The **Early Modern Studies Working Group** (Lyn Tribble) 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.

Exhibition

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* premiered 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, Stephon Alexander, Jane Wildgoose, Alexis Rockman, and Wendy Chun.

Pandemic Journaling Meets Seeing Truth



2021–2022 Future of Truth Fellow, Sarah S. Willen, and Alexis Boylan partnered 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*** premiered at the Hartford Public Library in October 2022 and has since had exhibits in Providence, Heidelberg, and Mexico City.



“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 (2016–2023)

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.

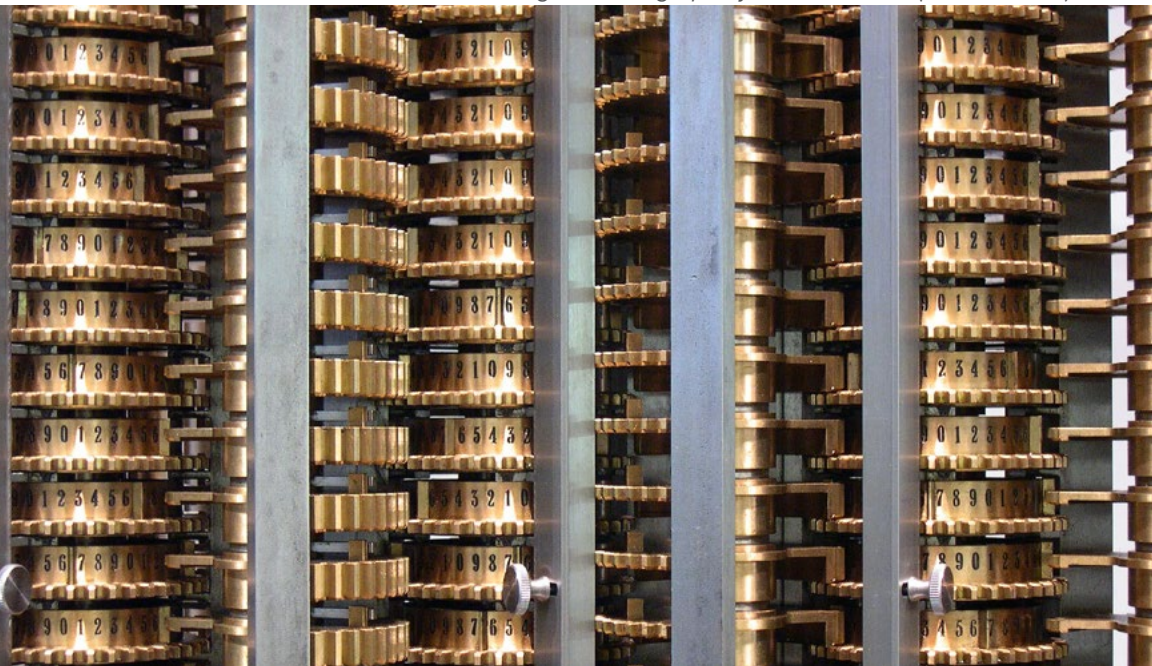
2022–2023 Event Highlights



The Ends of Knowledge

Rachael Scarborough King and Seth Rudy asked, What would you say your discipline's goals are, when it comes to advancing knowledge? How are they like or unlike the "ends" of other disciplines?

Difference engine. Photograph by Carsten Ullrich (CC BY-SA 2.5)



"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."

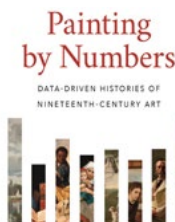


—Yohei Igarashi
Associate Director & DHMS Coordinator (2019–2023)



The Lab Book

Lori Emerson, Jussi Parikka, and Darren Wershler discussed their recent study, *The Lab Book: Situated Practices in Media Studies*, offering insights into how the book emerged and how it resonates with contemporary developments regarding "labs."



Painting by Numbers

Diana Seave Greenwald explored how one can blend historical and social scientific methods to provide fresh insights into nineteenth-century art. She described the extent to which art historians have focused on a limited—and potentially biased—sample of artwork from that time.

Can We Be Wrong?
The Problem of
Textual Evidence
in a Time of Data

Andrew Piper

Textual Evidence in a Time of Data

Andrew Piper considered the question, How can we move, reliably and credibly, from individual observations about texts to more general beliefs about the world?

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

& MEDIA STUDIES



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)
Regine Jean-Charles (Northeastern University)
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



Swag from the 2023 FOCWG Symposium, "The Corporate University and Shrinking BIPOC Supports: Where do We Go from Here?"

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

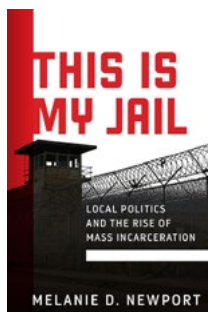
SUPPORTING

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

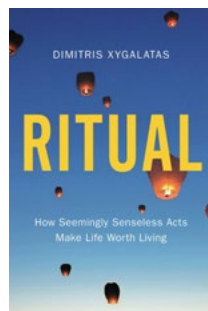
Since 2017, the annual Sharon Harris Book Award has been given for a book published by UConn tenured, tenure-track, emeritus, or in-residence faculty that demonstrates scholarly depth and intellectual acuity and highlights the importance of humanities scholarship.

2023 Winners



Melanie Newport (History)
This is My Jail: Local Politics and the Rise of Mass Incarceration (Penn Press, 2022)

“An incisive and timely political history [that] features previously under-engaged stories of resistance by jailed people and their allies.”



Dimitris Xygalatas (Anthropology)
Ritual: How Seemingly Pointless Acts Make Life Worth Living (Little, Brown Spark, 2022)

“An exceptional combination of meticulous research and vivid prose, a first-rate scholarly book which has garnered attention well beyond the academy.”

2023 Honorable Mentions



Martha Cutter (English)
The Many Resurrections of Henry Box Brown (Penn Press, 2022)

“This truly interdisciplinary work offers an important new perspective in how we engage the work of nineteenth-century African American artistry.”



Nu-Anh Tran (History)
Disunion: Anticommunist Nationalism and the Making of the Republic of Vietnam (University of Hawai'i Press, 2022)

“This remarkable book adds complexity and nuance to the ever-present American justification of violent intervention as a means of ‘spreading democracy.’”

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.”

“The humanities have transformed the way I view the world. At a time when we need more empathy, humility, and compassion, more than ever, it's critical to invest in students and in humanities research.”

—Karen Lau
Undergraduate Fellow (2022–23)

SCHOLARSHIP

EXCEPTIONAL

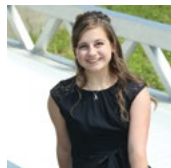
The 2022–2023 academic year marked the launch of our new undergraduate fellowship program. In conjunction with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, UCHI offers year-long fellowships that allow exceptional undergraduate humanities scholars to pursue a project of their choosing, under the supervision of a UConn faculty member.

Our 2022–2023 fellows, Rylee Thomas and Karen Lau, contributed greatly to the intellectual life of the Institute, sharing their work, insights, and enthusiasm for the humanities. They are both dedicated, driven

students, and everyone at UCHI is excited to see what they do next.

We are excited to announce that we will be doubling the size of our undergraduate fellowship program—from two to four fellows—in 2023–2024. We are also forming an undergraduate advisory council whose members will provide guidance for UCHI’s undergraduate initiatives and outreach and serve as representatives of the undergraduate student body at UCHI. They will also be given resources and support to organize humanities-related programming for undergraduates at UConn.

2022–2023 Fellows



Rylee Thomas is majoring in English and communication with a creative writing concentration. Rylee’s fellowship project is a contemporary young adult horror novel that plays upon the conventions of both the gothic novel and the modern true-crime drama. Her novel, titled *The Ghostly Dynasty*, explores the double standards that society places on women in both literary and criminal justice. Rylee will be continuing work on her novel as a 2023 University Scholar.



Karen Lau is a Day of Pride Scholar majoring in political science and economics with a minor in Asian American studies. Her fellowship project, “Soup Dumplings for the Soul” examines the link between ethnic studies and social-emotional learning. She draws conclusions from a series of Asian American history workshops she led at EO Smith High School and their impact on students’ mental health and sense of identity. In 2023–2024 Karen will be a UConn BOLD scholar, and in 2023 she participated in a summer program at UVA Law School.



Humanities Undergraduate Research Symposium



In March 2023, UConn hosted its second annual student-run **Humanities Undergraduate Research Symposium**.

The symposium, organized by UConn students Grace Kennedy, Karen Lau, 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 *Frankenstein* to the Rwandan genocide to the philosophy of gossip, and listened to a keynote address on the Pandemic Journal Project (PJP) and doing engaged scholarship by PJP co-founder and former UCHI fellow, Sarah Willen.

“It has been a pleasure to learn from the inspiring professors and faculty members at UCHI, who have gone above and beyond to help me achieve my goals in the humanities. I’m so grateful to have been a part of UCHI this year!”

—Rylee Thomas
Undergraduate Fellow (2022–2023)

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.

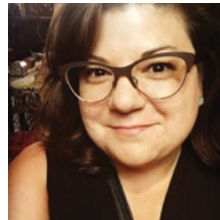


2021–2022 visiting fellow **Sherie M. Randolph** co-curated the exhibition “We Who Believe in Freedom: Black Feminist DC” at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, DC. The exhibition focuses on the stories and voices of Black feminist organizers whose expansive work made a difference in the lives of Black women in DC and the United States.

“I formed lifelong friendships with other scholars at UCHI, including creating a writing group that continued after the conclusion of the fellowship.”

—Katherine Rye Jewell
Visiting Fellow (2018–2019)

2020–2021
Dissertation
Research Scholar
Nicole Breault
has accepted
a position
as Assistant



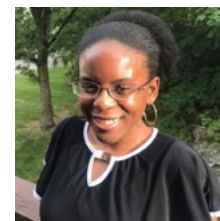
Professor of History at the University of Texas El Paso. Her dissertation, “The Night Watch of Boston: Law and Governance in Eighteenth-Century British America” was supervised by Nina Dayton.

2021–2022 faculty fellow **Laura Mauldin** launched the website *Disability at Home*, which documents the ingenuity and creativity that caregivers and disabled people use every day to make home accessible. She also published a moving reflection of her experience caring for her late partner in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.



2018–2019 faculty fellow **Jason Oliver Chang** has been recognized for exemplary service to UConn with the 2022 Provost’s Outstanding Service Award. Jason was lauded in nomination materials for superb teaching, widely respected scholarship, and leadership of the Asian and Asian American Studies Institute (AAASI).

2018–2019 faculty fellow **Dexter Gabriel** published his new book, *Jubilee’s Experiment: The British West Indies and American Abolitionism* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). It examines how the emancipated British Caribbean colonies entered into the debates over abolitionism and African American citizenship from the 1830s–1860s.



2022–2023 dissertation research scholar **Britney Murphy** will begin a new position as Assistant Professor of History and African-American Studies at the University of Alabama – Birmingham in Fall 2023. Her dissertation, “Outsiders Within: Volunteers in Service to America and the Boundaries of Citizenship, 1962–1971,” was supervised by Peter Baldwin.

2019–2020 faculty fellow **Debapriya Sarkar** published a new book *Possible Knowledge: The Literary Forms of Early Moderns Science* (Penn Press, 2023), which argues for the pivotal role of literature—what early moderns termed *poesie*—in the dynamic intellectual culture of the Renaissance—an era of profound incertitude.



SPOTLIGHT

CREATING CONNECTIONS



The **New England Humanities Consortium (NEHC)**, a network of seventeen colleges and universities across New England 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. 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.



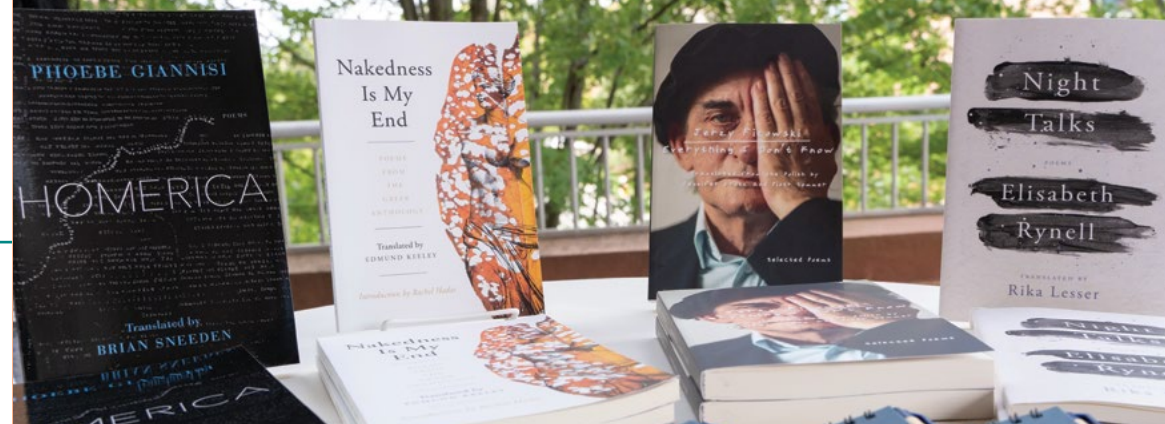
In 2014 UConn became a Consortium member of the prestigious **Folger Institute**, a center for advanced study and collections-focused research in the humanities. The Institute fosters targeted investigations of the world-class Folger collection and is based out of the Folger Shakespeare Library. The 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.



In 2023 UCHI was jointly awarded funding for a **Global Humanities Institute on Design Justice AI**. The project, which is led by the Rutgers Center of Cultural Analysis, has three partner institutes: the Humanities Research Centre at ANU, the Center for Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria, and UCHI. Supported by the Mellon

Foundation via the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, the project will fund an interdisciplinary series of workshops and conferences dedicated to building sustainable global research partnerships that address the ethics of artificial intelligence, including a two-week long institute held at the University of Pretoria in 2024.



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

WORLD POETRY BOOKS

WHAT'S

For 2023–2024, we are excited to offer new programming and explore new initiatives. Our undergraduate advisory council, led by Director of Undergraduate Outreach Elizabeth Della Zazzera, will offer guidance to UCHI and plan an event for the UConn student body. Associate Director Stephen Dyson will launch a popular culture initiative, to bring together scholars across disciplines engaging

in the study of pop culture. Assistant Director Heather Cassano will work to connect artists and humanities scholars, opening up new avenues of inquiry and interdisciplinarity at UConn. We will also be launching a focus on “love in public,” with a particular emphasis on how we imagine love in popular culture, and how we might foreground love in the medical humanities as we struggle with how best to care for one another.

Upcoming Events



Can you fall in love with Chat-GPT? A Roundtable Discussion, will explore the nature of AI and of human-AI interactions through an analysis of the film *Her* (2013), which tells the story of a grief-stricken man who purportedly falls in love with an intuitive operating system.

We will be launching **book manuscript workshops**, which will allow early career scholars to receive feedback on their book manuscripts from both UConn faculty and invited subject experts.

A live recoding of the UConn PopCast, hosted by Stephen Dyson and Jeff Dudas, will feature **Danielle J. Lindemann**, author of *True Story: What Reality TV Says about Us*.



In the fall, all four dissertation research

scholars, all three visiting fellows, and three faculty fellows will give their **fellow's talks**. Most faculty fellows along with our undergraduate fellows will present in the spring.



The third annual **Humanities Undergraduate Research Symposium** will take place in the UCHI conference room in February 2024. This student-led initiative, where UConn undergraduates share their humanities research projects with their peers and mentors, is organized by Grace Kennedy, Karen Lau, and Rylee Thomas.

The **Medical Humanities and Arts Initiative** will bring together arts practitioners and humanities scholars who engage with questions about experiences of health and illness, medical justice, and the ethics of care.

Our newly formed **Student Advisory Council** and student-led **Ethnic Studies Consortium** will each invite a speaker of their choosing to campus.



If, as Cornel West has suggested, “justice is what love looks like in public,” we need new ways of thinking about love in order to move towards a more just society. As part of our “**love in public**” focus, we will convene a series of conversations on topics ranging from online hate groups to educational justice.

We will be hosting a series of workshops on professional development and the tools needed for successful publicly engaged scholarship, covering topics from **mitigating faculty burnout** to **how to start a podcast**.

“UCHI has such a dynamic energy and they are the only ones who can support bold and relevant conversations started on campus.”

—Bhakti Shringarpure
English & WGSS, UConn

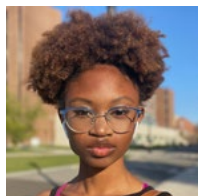
“UCHI is instrumental in supporting innovative research in the humanities and beyond!”

—Manuela Wagner
LCL, UConn

NEXT?

2023–2024

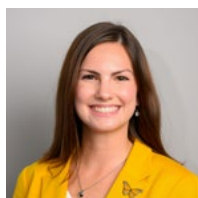
Undergraduate Research Fellows



Breanna Bonner

“‘The Space Between Black and Liberation’: Analyzing Black Women’s Experiences of Intersectional Invisibility Within Liberation Movements”

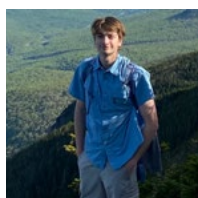
Project advisor: Evelyn M. Simien



Anabelle Bergstrom

“Minds Among Minds: A Pragmatist View of the Social and Spiritual Self in a Hyperconnected World”

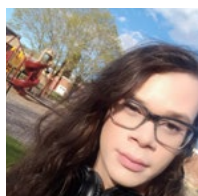
Project advisor: Julian J. Schlöder



Brent Freed

“A Revolution Hijacked: Art and Ideology from the Atelier Populaire”

Project advisor: Elizabeth Della Zazzera



Nathan Howard

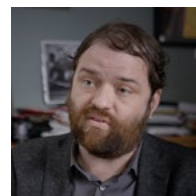
“Homofascism: The Queering of Hated”

Project advisor: Tracy Llanera

Honorable mention:

Gianna Socci, “Monstrosity on Trial: Claiming Legal Personhood for Frankenstein’s Monster”

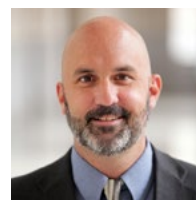
Visiting Residential Fellows



Jordan Camp

(American Studies, Trinity College)

“The Southern Question”



Alexander Diener

(Geography, University of Kansas)

“The Middle of Somewhere: Place Attachment and the Geographies of Being”

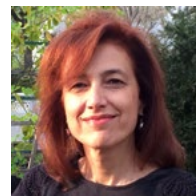


Birgit Brander

Rasmussen (English, SUNY Binghamton)

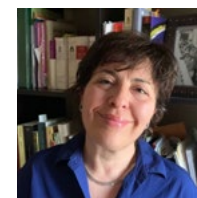
“Signs of Resistance, Signs of Resurgence: Indigenous Literacies, New Media, and Anti-Colonial Imaginaries in Native American Literature and Culture”

UConn Faculty Fellows



Zehra Arat (Political Science)

“Human Rights Norms in Turkey”

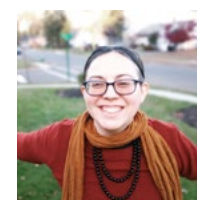


Ana María Díaz-

Marcos (Literatures, Cultures, and Languages)

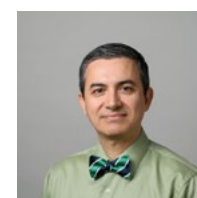
“‘A fistful of antifascist energy’:

Ernestina Gonzalez Fleischman’s Biography and Writings”



Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann (LCL & El Instituto)

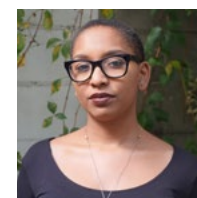
“Soliarity in Translation: Aimé Césaire and His Cuban Comrades in Art”



Serkan Gorkemli

(English)

“You’re Always Welcome Here, a Book of Short Stories”



Martine Granby

(Journalism & Africana Studies)
Faculty of Color Working Group Fellow

“Ten Seconds of Sugar”



FELLOWS



Oscar Guerra (Digital Media and Design)
“Documenting Migration”



Tracy Llanera (Philosophy)
“The Misfits of Extremism”



Richard Ashby Wilson (Law)
“United Against Hate? Punishing Bias Crimes in the United States”

Dissertation Research Scholars



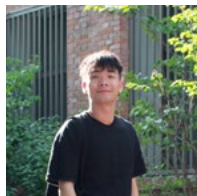
Kathryn Angelica (History)
Draper Dissertation Fellow
“An Uneasy Alliance: Cooperation and Conflict in Nineteenth-Century Black and White Women’s Activism”



David L. Evans (History)
“Hunger for Rights: Establishing the Human Right to Food, 1930–1988”



Geoffrey Hedges-Knyrim (Anthropology)
“Political Power during the Iron Age of the Southern Levant Through the Lens of Agricultural Production”



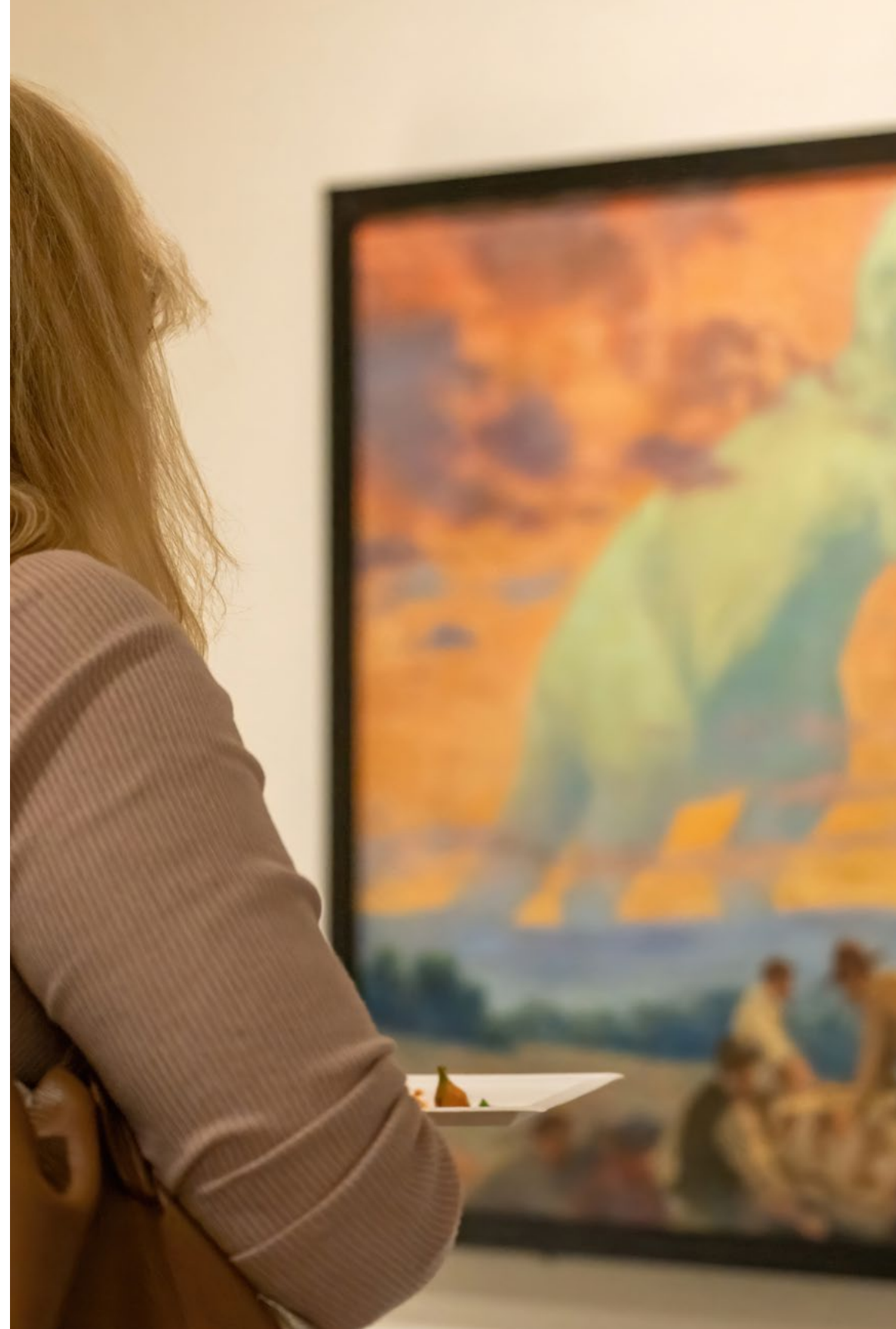
Xu Peng (Literatures, Culture, and Languages)
Richard Brown Dissertation Fellow
“From History to the Future: Chineseness in Contemporary Cuban, Puerto Rican, and Dominican Literatures and Cultures”



Victor Zatsepine (History)
“Unsettling the Sino-Mongol-Russian Borderlands, 1911–1945”

“The serendipitous nature of forming connections across our diverse experiences and interests was one of most rewarding and exciting things about my time as a fellow.”

—Debapriya Sarkar
Faculty Fellow (2019–2020)





OUR TEAM

Anna Mae Duane

Director
Professor, English

Stephen Dyson

Associate Director
Professor, Political Science

Heather Cassano

Assistant Director of Digital Humanities & Media Arts
Assistant Professor, Digital Media and Design

Elizabeth Della Zazzera

Director of Communications & Undergraduate Outreach
Assistant Professor in Residence, History

Nasya Al-Saidy

Administrative Manager & Financial Officer

Mary Volpe

Administrative Program Support

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Anke Finger; Literatures, Cultures, and Languages

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Jane Gordon; Political Science

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Tom Scheinfeldt; Digital Media and Design

Scott Wallace; Journalism

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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 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.



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