



Fall 2026

THE UNIVERSITY
OF CONNECTICUT

Humanities Institute





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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



This year is a special one for all of us at UCHI, as we celebrate our 25th anniversary. From a small room nestled on the third floor of the Austin building to a thriving hub of activity in the library, the Humanities Institute has grown and thrived because we have put our values into action.

Our fellowship program reflects the value of excellence in research and of the transformative power of shared knowledge. So, it's only fitting that we spend this anniversary year celebrating our fellows and the world-class research they have produced over the past quarter-century. We are particularly excited to showcase our former undergraduate fellows. These students, who have pursued their research projects here at UCHI, are now charting new paths as Fulbrighters overseas, as playwrights in New York City, and as graduate students at Ivy League institutions.

Another indication of the global significance of humanities research can be found in UCHI's growing international partnerships. This year will see expanding collaborations with colleagues in Japan and Morocco who are asking, alongside us, how artificial intelligence will reshape human life. As AI homogenizes so much of the text we find on our phones and laptops, we need the expertise the humanities bring to the complexities of cultural expression across borders and across disciplines.

Here at home, we see that expertise at work as our Humanistic AI Working Group continues to grow, bringing together scholars across the humanities and social sciences to ask how AI is reshaping our understanding of labor, authorship, and care. Their work is a vivid reminder that the humanities provide the very skills we need to navigate technological change wisely.

The humanities provide the tools to reassert the transformative power of human creativity and collaboration as our most valuable resources. It is our shared commitment to better understanding our world and one another that has built this institute, and I have no doubt that this commitment will carry us through the next twenty-five years.

—Anna Mae Duane
Director, UConn Humanities Institute

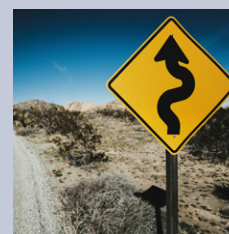
We launched our new **Environmental Humanities Initiative**, including the creation of an **Environmental Humanities Working Group** and capped off by a series of **Earth Week** events at Storrs and Stamford, including a **careers panel**, **book display**, and **community tree project**.



We welcomed our partners from Morocco for the international, interdisciplinary symposium **What Are We Talking about When We Talk about AI?**

Scholars covered topics from medical ethics to copyright law. All the day's talks are available on our YouTube channel and on our podcast.

At **UConn Story Slam**, six students performed personal stories reflecting on social isolation and shared their unique perspectives on what it means to find connection. The students worked with nationally renowned coaches Jonathan Adler and Gillian Epstein to craft their stories into a performance, held at the Ballard black box theater.



This year we piloted a **Careers in the Humanities Mentorship Program**, which connects humanities and social science majors with UConn alumni who offered support and advice as students prepare for the complicated transition from university to post-graduate life.

2025–2026 HIGHLIGHTS

UCHI AT 25 BY THE NUMBERS

\$8,950,000+ in grants

raised since the institute's founding, including from the **John Templeton Foundation**, the **Mellon Foundation**, and the **National Endowment for the Humanities**.

337 fellowships

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

11 major initiatives

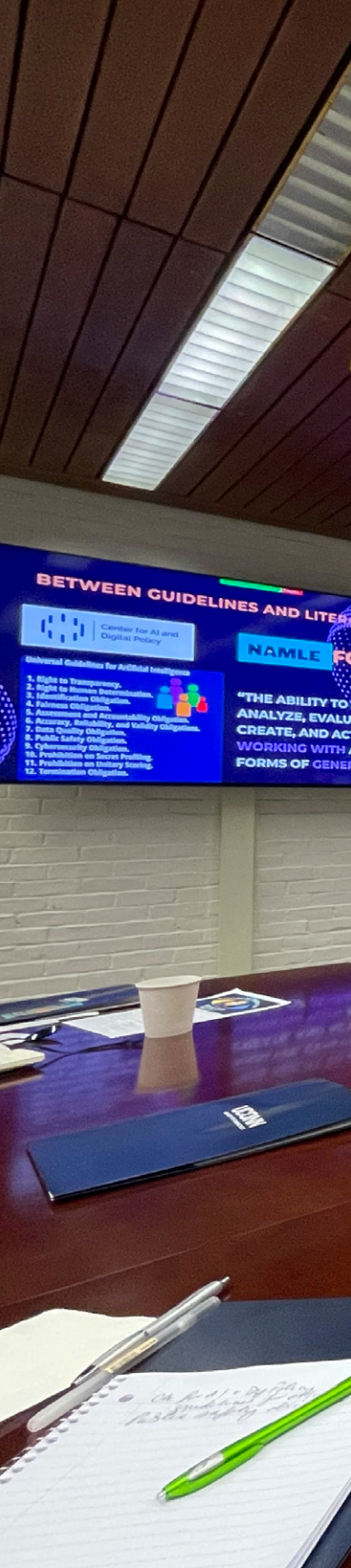
launched since 2001, including the Environmental Humanities Initiative, the Faculty of Color Working Group, the Student Success Initiative, the AI and the Human Initiative, and the Faculty Success Initiative.

25 disciplines

represented by our fellows and their research interests across 25 classes of fellows.

170 programs

sponsored or funded at UConn from 2018 to 2026, including invited speakers, conferences, colloquia, symposia, publications, and performances.



2025–2026

Undergraduate Research Fellows

Josephine Burke (Political Science & Human Rights)

“Higher Education in Prison in Connecticut: An Overview of Experiences, Constraints, and Institutional Politics”

Project advisor: Sandy Grande

Suleen Kareem (Philosophy & Human Rights)

“Gendered Resistance in Genocide: Women’s Histories of Survival and Activism in the Middle East”

Project advisors: Brendan Kane & Nana Amos

Autumn Scott (History)

“Trinities in World Mythology: How and

Why Geographically Separate Cultures Construct the Same Cosmology”

Project advisors: Robert J. Hasenfratz & Richard Sosis

Bryce Turner (Anthropology & Molecular and Cell Biology)

“The Unseen Impact: Community Perceptions and Responses to Rural Maternal Healthcare Challenges in Willimantic, CT”

Project advisor: Sarah Williams

Visiting Residential Fellow

Jennifer Cazenave (French & Cinema and Media Studies, Boston University)

“Lessons in Seeing: Disability and the Media Archive”

UConn Faculty Fellows

April Anson (English & Social and Critical Inquiry)

JER Fellow

“Unfenceable: American Ecofascism, Literary Genre, and Native American Environmental Justice”

Peter Constantine (Literatures, Cultures, and Languages)

“Indigenous Language Reclamation: Reviving Extinct Languages”

Najnin Islam (English)

“Recasting the Coolie: Racial Capitalism, Caste, and Indian Indentureship in the Caribbean”

Julia Smachylo (Landscape Architecture)

“Silvic Stewardship: Incentivizing Environmental Care in the Northeast”

Fiona Somerset (Literatures, Cultures, and Languages & Social and Critical Inquiry)

“Silence is Consent: The Idea of Complicity in the Middle Ages”

Kathleen Tonry (English)

Faculty Success Fellow

“Time, Work, and Texts in Fifteenth-Century England”

Harry van der Hulst (Linguistics)

“Why are Sign Languages Real Languages?”

Chris Vials (English & Social and Critical Inquiry)

“Authoritarian Agency: The Far Right and US Culture”

Dissertation Research Scholars

Asmita Aasaavari (Sociology)

“Who Will Take Care of Me? Aging and Care in Northeast Connecticut”

Ahmed AboHamad (Philosophy)

“Reconceptualizing Virtue Under Systemic Oppression”

Catalina Alvarado-Cañuta

(Anthropology)

Richard Brown Dissertation Fellow

“Mapuche Creative Spirits: Collective Healing of the Colonial Trauma of Wallmapu”

Ashmita Mukherjee (Literatures, Cultures, and Languages)

Draper Dissertation Fellow

“Textual Pleasures: Literature of Amusement in Post/Colonial India (1850–1950)”



FELLOWS



EVENTS

Each year, UCHI hosts scholarly events and professional development workshops for the UConn community and beyond. In 2025–2026 alone we hosted 45 events. Each of our fellows gave a research talk on their project, in dialogue with another fellow. As part of our theme on Connections and Disconnections we hosted a storytelling event, community building events, and talks exploring the human impact of AI. We held workshops in support of faculty

success and student success, providing support and advice for aspiring fellowship applicants, graduate school hopefuls, and experts looking to build an online presence. We also celebrated the work of our undergraduate fellows' faculty advisors with a series of faculty talks. Across those events, we welcomed almost 1,700 attendees who asked questions, shared comments, and helped sustain the vibrant scholarly community that is UCHI.

2025–2026 Event Highlights

With the support of the Clinton Institute at University College Dublin and as part of America 250, UCHI, Irish Studies, and WGSS hosted a one-day symposium on **Ireland and the Making of America**, where, when not exploring how Irish people have shaped American life, participants learned how to Irish dance.



“The fellowship that I received this year from the UCHI has been a godsend.”

—Chris Vials
Faculty Fellow (2025–2026)

With the Anthropology department, we cosponsored a talk by **Jesper Sørensen** on the role of ritual in the formation of the autonomous self.



Political Science and professor **Sandy**

Grande gave a faculty talk on what she calls “critical place theory”: how being of/on land—to be of place—gives rise to different theories and conceptions of governance and power and, therefore, knowledge and liberation.



In her faculty talk, Anthropology professor **Sarah Williams** shared a series of vignettes from her field work in Yucatán exploring how eugenic logics permeate attempts to control Mexican women’s reproduction as well as the growing fertility industry and birth tourism economy, both of which serve clients from the Global North.



Team members from University Communications conducted a workshop for faculty on **publicizing your research**. Tom Breen, Kim Phillips, and Emily Zangari shared best practices for engaging with the press, for dealing with trolls on social media, and for navigating the ever changing media and political landscape.



We hosted a screening of Digital Media and Design MFA and UCHI graduate assistant Sabrina Claman’s thesis film **Christmas Breaking**. The film is an animated short drawn from the filmmaker’s grandmother’s passing in 2010, told through the eyes of her thirteen-year-old self. It revisits the shock of grieving during the holidays, when private loss collides with the weight of a traditionally joyful season.

& PROGRAMMING

SPONSORED

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

Speakers, Conferences, & Colloquia



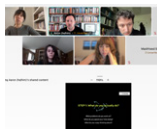
UConn Annual Philosophy Graduate Conference, with a keynote by Dr. LA Paul; Marie Genova (Philosophy)



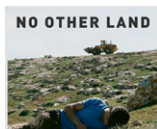
A talk by Diedre Lynch on “Papyromania: Women, Books, and Scraps in the Long Eighteenth Century”; Yohei Igarashi (English)



Hacer teatro en el siglo XXI [Making theatre in the 21st Century] with playwrights Iñaki Rikarte and Denise Despeyroux; Ana María Díaz Marcos (LCL)



Beyond the Academy: Careers for Philosophers, with Dr. Aaron Kagon; Ting-An Lin (Philosophy)



Screening and Discussion: *No Other Land* (dir. Basel Adra & Yuval Abraham); Brady Ryan (LCL)



Refusal(s) and Kurdish Literature, A Conference with a keynote by Joanna Bocheńska; Rojda Idil Arslan (LCL & Human Rights)



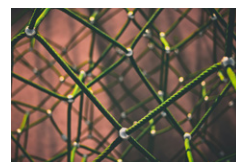
Interiors Project: A concert featuring UConn creative writing students and the band StarWound; Julie Choffel (English)

Working Groups



The **Environmental Humanities Working Group** (Debapriya Sarkar)

brings together individuals from across campuses, and across disciplines, to share research, resources, and funding opportunities, and to collaborate on this vital area of research. It welcomes anyone interested in the interaction of human beings with the environment—faculty, staff, and students.



The **Humanistic AI Working Group** (Nasya Al-Saidy),

brings together faculty from across campus, and across disciplines, to share research, resources, and funding opportunities, and to collaborate on this vital area of research.



The **New Poetries Working Group** (V. Penelope Pelizzon)

brings together an aesthetically diverse group of poets whose creative practice and scholarship includes a broad range of poetic modes. Individually, our work spans from traditional lyric writing in inherited forms, to experimental hybrid

theatrical works, to poetry translation, to machine-generated poetic texts. Meeting monthly throughout the academic year, we discuss recent publications in poetry and poetics with the goal of inspiring new creative writing and new pedagogical strategies.



The **Intersectional Indigeneity, Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Working Group**

(Fred Lee) is dedicated to research and teaching on indigeneity, race, ethnicity, and politics from an intersectional perspective. Bringing together faculty and graduate students across several disciplines, they host workshops for recent publications and works-in-progress and held a one-day graduate conference in Spring 2025.

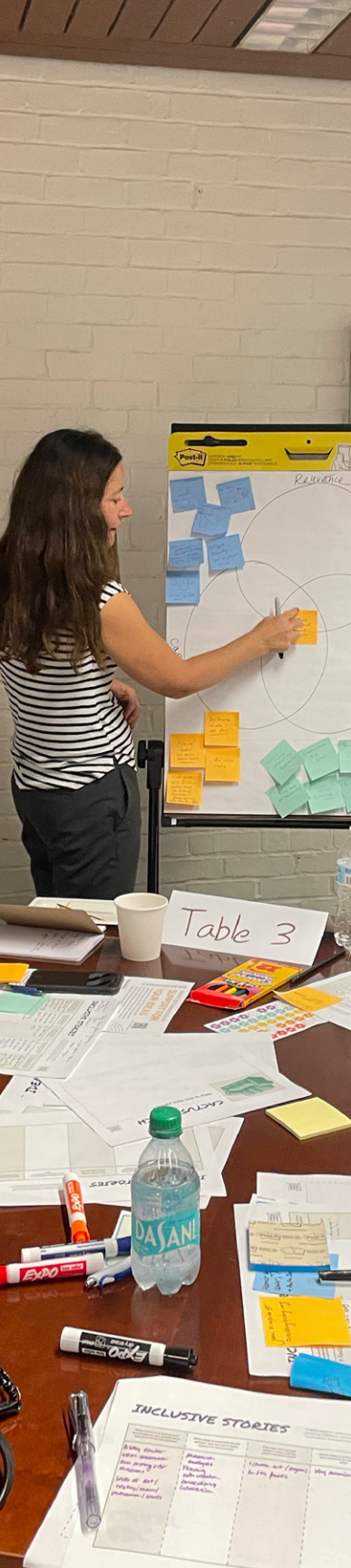


The **Early Modern Studies Working Group** (Lyn Tribble)

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. The Early Modern period practically begs us to explore the relevance of their lives to our own, encompassing as it does so many of the crucial historical influences on who we moderns are.



PROGRAMS



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.

2026 Winner



Elva Orozco Mendoza (Political Science)

The Maternal Contract: A Subaltern Response to Extreme Violence in the Americas (Oxford University Press, 2025)

“Founded upon an analysis of state violence globally, *The Maternal Contract* ... advances an

original theory of ‘the maternal contract’ in political science while grounded in a governmental ethic of care, beyond the Hobbesian ethic of protection.”

Honorable Mention

Emma Amador (History)

The Politics of Care Work: Puerto Rican Women Organizing for Social Justice (Duke University Press, 2025)

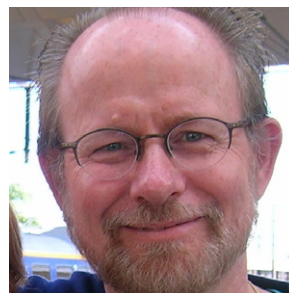
Felberbaum Awards

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.”

2026 Recipients



Peter Constantine
LCL



Harry van der Hulst
Linguistics



Julia Smachylo
Landscape Architecture



Kathleen Tonry
English

“All scholars engage in the ‘production of knowledge.’ Humanists, however, also provide analysis and criticism of how and why societies produce knowledge.”

—Richard Brown
Founding Director (2001–2009)

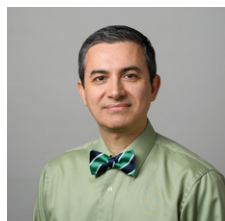


SCHOLARSHIP

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 after their fellowships. Here are some past fellows' recent successes.



2023–2024 faculty fellow **Serkan Görkemli's** short story collection, *Sweet Tooth and Other Stories* (University Press of Kentucky), was a finalist for the 2025 Housatonic Book Award for Fiction. The book weaves together interconnected narratives of four Turkish characters who search for clarity, love, and acceptance amid social change.

"Over the past quarter-century, UCHI has become a force for the study of what matters to us as human beings—not just at UConn but throughout the world."

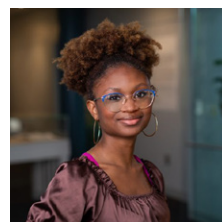
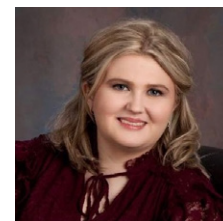
—Michael Lynch
UCHI Director (2014–2023)

2024–2025 undergraduate research fellow **Kathryn Andronowitz** will pursue her MSc in Media



and Communications at the London School of Economics starting in fall 2026. There, she will conduct research on post-feminism and the construction of group identities on social media platforms.

2024–2025 dissertation research scholar **Julia Wold** began a position as TRIO McNair Scholars Program Director at Northern State University. Through mentorship, workshops, and research and conference funding, the McNair Scholars program provides students with the resources they need for academic and personal success in preparation for graduate school.



2023–2024 undergraduate research fellow **Breanna Bonner** was admitted to the MDes program at Harvard University's School of Design. At Harvard, Breanna will continue her work toward exploring survivor-led artistic projects as a way to intervene, challenge, and expand dominant narratives in gun violence public discourse.

2025–2026 dissertation research scholar **Ahmed AboHamad** accepted a position in Student Affairs at Bowdoin College as coordinator of coordinate Muslim Life. He will advise student organizations, develop cultural and spiritual programming, and serve as a resource for students as they explore Muslim identities, cultures, traditions, and spiritualities.



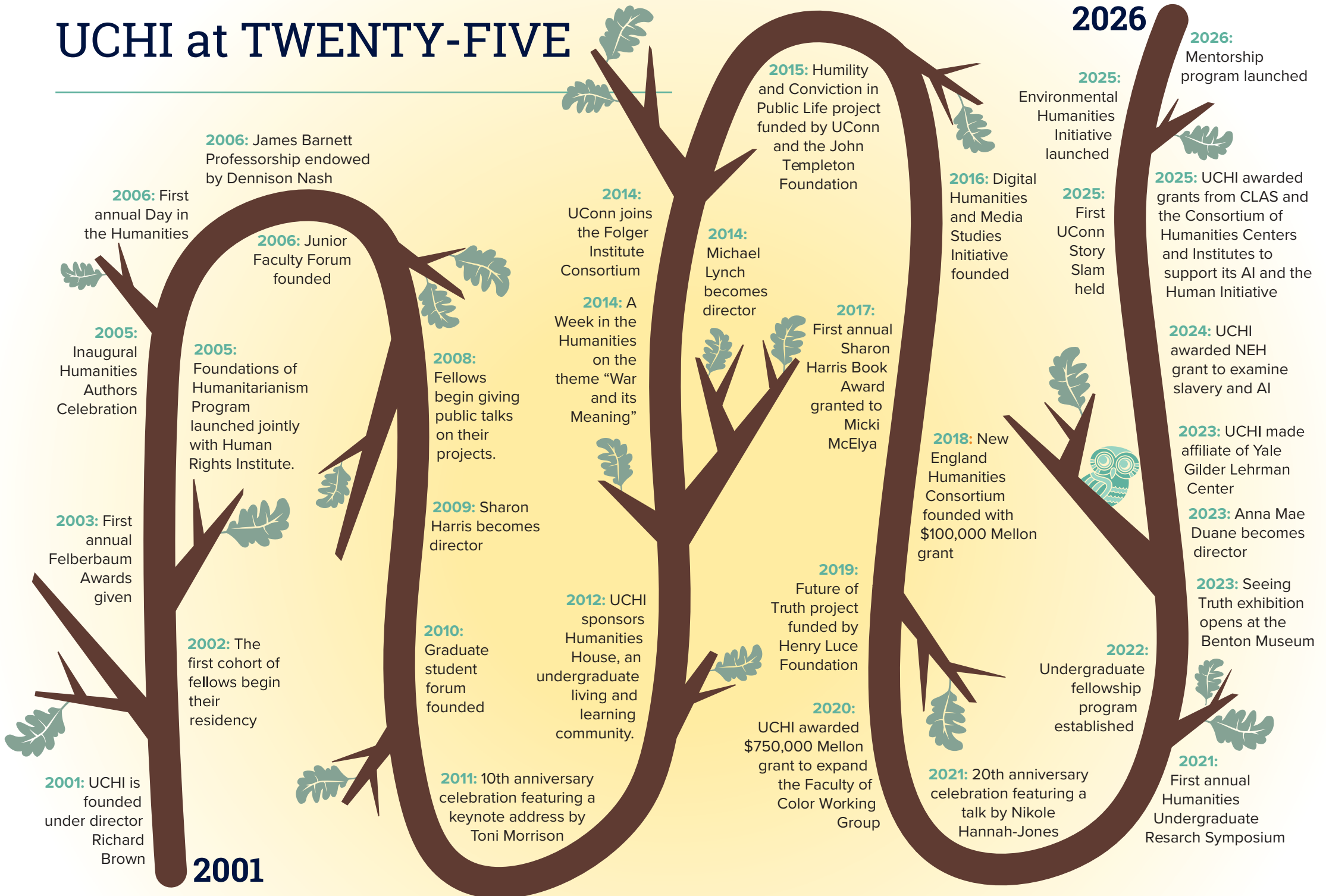
2024–2025 visiting fellow **Heather Ostman** published her most recent book, *Nineteenth-Century American Literature, Religion, and the Search for Grace* (Routledge). This monograph explores the work of four American authors—Walt Whitman, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Sojourner Truth, and Kate Chopin—to understand the relationship between religion and society in US culture.

2021–2022 faculty fellow **Laura Mauldin** published her book *In Sickness and In Health: Love Stories From the Frontlines of America's Caregiving Crisis* (Ecco/HarperCollins), which recounts the US's failure to provide meaningful support to chronically ill and disabled citizens and our resulting reliance on the unpaid caregiving labor of spouses and partners.



SPOTLIGHT

UCHI at TWENTY-FIVE



2001

2026

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

UCHI is committed to fostering collaboration, research, and conversation on artificial intelligence (AI) and the human. As artificial intelligence technologies, including large language model text generators like ChatGPT, become increasingly common and commercially available, we need scholars from all disciplines to help us make sense of the role they play in our world and to understand

their values and pitfalls. In 2025–2026 we deepened our collaboration with scholars at the Université Internationale de Rabat in Morocco, hosting a one-day symposium and publishing fifteen podcast episodes on topics from AI and learning to the commonalities between chatbots and Byronic heroes. Our AI Working group continued apace, and we hosted events on AI and labor, on the power of big tech, and more.

2025–2026 Highlights

The **Humanistic AI Working Group**, which brings together faculty from across disciplines to share research, resources, and funding opportunities, met monthly for lightning talks. The group advances AI research that integrates humanistic and social scientific approaches.



“UCHI taught me that the power of the humanities lies in its ability to reach people beyond the researcher and build community.”

—Karen Lau
Undergrad Fellow (2022–2023)



UCHI hosted an interdisciplinary, international symposium, **What Are We Talking about When We Talk**

about AI? with our partners from the Université Internationale de Rabat. Talks from the event are available on our YouTube channel and on our podcast.

As part of a project funded by a grant from **the Consortium of**

Humanities Centers and Institutes, “Reading Between the Lines: An Interdisciplinary Glossary for Human-Centered AI,” UCHI published fifteen episodes of our podcast What Are We Talking

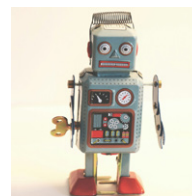


About When We Talk About AI? including interdisciplinary conversations on care, justice, education and learning. Listen at s.uconn.edu/Alpod.



Along with UCPEA, UCHI co-sponsored a panel discussion on **AI and the Future of Work**. Experts involved in shaping AI policy, practice, and regulation discussed how we can move beyond speculation to understand what AI actually means for the work we do—and the relationships that make that work meaningful.

New York Times Bestselling and Pulitzer Center AI Spotlight lead **Karen Hao** spoke to a full Konover Auditorium on the social, environmental, and labor costs of large-scale AI author This event was co-sponsored by department of Social and Critical Inquiry.



Members of the **Human-Centered AI Working Group** were granted nearly \$30,000 in seed grant funding to move early-stage interdisciplinary AI projects toward competitive external funding. Their projects advance research on fostering plurality in AI models, global AI narratives, AI ethics, and more.

& THE HUMAN

ENVIRONMENTAL

The Environmental Humanities Initiative brings together scholars, students, and community partners working on environmental issues. It seeks to nurture scholarship and community action at the intersection of the humanities and the environment by hosting events, supporting workshops, connecting with local organizations, and running idea incubators. It aims

to bridge disciplinary boundaries and foster dialogue among diverse voices across UConn, Connecticut, and beyond. In 2025–26, shepherded by Faculty Research Lead Debapriya Sarkar and UCHI Managing Director Nasya Al-Saidy, the Environmental Humanities Initiative hosted public-facing art events, student-centered programming, and more.

2025–2026 Highlights



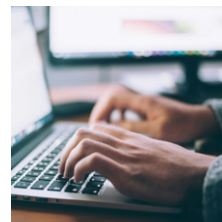
In October, we partnered with the Benton Museum to present **Common Ground**, a community-building and networking event for UConn faculty, staff, and students. Attendees contributed to our community art project—writing or drawing on paper leaves to attach to our community tree, which adorns the entrance to the Institute. Participants were also offered sustainability tips and the opportunity to connect with

others who care about the environment.



“The Environmental Humanities Initiative centers creative approaches and critical methods in order to confront fears about climate change, to imagine better environmental futures, and to envision new pathways to agency, connection, and community.”

—Debapriya Sarkar
Faculty Lead, Environmental Humanities



In November and December members of the Environmental Humanities Working Group presented five-minute **lighting talks**, sharing their diverse research projects touching on topics across the Environmental Humanities, from oceans to public parks to the history of botanic drawings.



The Environmental Humanities Initiative joined the Office of Sustainability’s **Spring Fling** to celebrate Earth Day at Storrs campus. We welcomed over 200 participants and gave away free plants and seeds, invited attendees to engage in our community art project, and shared information about the Initiative and the Institute.



The Environmental Humanities Initiative collaborated with faculty and staff at the UConn Stamford campus to host a series of events, conversations, and activities related to sustainability and environmental issues during the week of Earth Day. Along with a second installation of the Common Ground community arts project, **Earth Week at Stamford** included a book display created by the UConn Stamford Library, showcasing scholarly publications, poetry, fiction, and graphic novels. The Center for Career Readiness and Life Skills organized an environmental careers panel for students interested in careers in environmental fields. Earth Week also included a screening of the film *Can’t Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines*.

HUMANITIES



STUDENT

The Student Success Initiative supports undergraduate student research and helps build a vibrant community of humanities, arts, and social science student-scholars at UConn. In conjunction with CLAS, 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. Alumni of the fellowship program have gone on to be University Scholars, Fulbright recipients, and have been admitted to graduate programs at prestigious institutions like LSE, UVA, and Harvard. The Student Success Initiative is made possible through the work of our undergraduate advisory council, a group of dedicated volunteers who provide insight into undergraduate students needs and interests at UConn. This year, we launched a career mentorship program, which connects graduating students majoring in the humanities or social sciences with UConn alumni.

2025–2026 Highlights



The **Undergraduate Fellowship Program** completed its fourth year. This year, we had four fellows—Josephine

Burke, Suleen Kareem, Autumn Scott, and Bryce Turner—who produced innovative scholarship on topics ranging from higher education in prison to maternal health care deserts, from the prevalence of trinities in world mythology to women's experiences of and cultural responses to genocide. They conducted interviews, gathered oral histories, wrote papers, and gave talks on their projects. They supported each other's work, offering feedback and advice in bi-weekly meetings. They were all profiled in spotlight videos made by DMD students—available now on our YouTube channel.



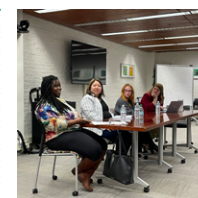
Our **undergraduate advisory council** provides invaluable support for our Student Success Initiative, ensuring

that the Institute is responsive to student needs and interests. The 2025–26 advisory council—Kathryn Andronowitz, Breanna Bonner, Lukas Heil, Amber Hwang, Serena Lee, Avery Lipkin, Miranda Nogueta, Kelsie Quick, Pranavi Rebala, Kanny Salike, Cooper Gillum, and Charlotte Unger—planned two peer-support drop-in events, where senior student volunteers answered questions for their younger peers about course selection, clubs, research opportunities, and internships. They also offered feedback on new initiatives and helped to spread the word about UCHI.



In April 2026, the fifth annual student-run **Humanities Undergraduate Research Symposium**,

organized by Breanna Bonner, Lukas Heil, Pranavi Rebala, and Amber Hwang took place. Students presented their original research projects covering topics from the ancient Roman grain trade, to the politics of horror movies, to the history of railroad ferries. Students also presented their community engaged work—including a project on gun violence prevention and one on improving access to sexual and reproductive health education. Amanda Crawford's JOUR 4016 students presented their original reporting on the impact of Trump's expansive interpretation of executive power on the state of Connecticut.



We hosted info sessions on **applying to graduate school, applying to fellowships**, and an **alumni panel**

on careers for humanities majors. We launched a **career mentorship program**, connecting humanities majors with alumni to help them navigate the transition to post-graduate life.



Graduation Spotlight

Congratulations to the undergraduate fellows who graduated in the class of 2026!

Breanna Bonner, 2023–24 fellow
Kathryn Andronowitz, 2024–25 fellow
Kanny Salike, 2024–25 fellow
Bryce Turner, 2025–26 fellow

SUCCESS

COLLABORATIONS &



In 2024 UCHI began an international, interdisciplinary collaboration with scholars at the **Université Internationale de Rabat** exploring questions surrounding AI and the human. The group held a virtual symposium on interdisciplinary AI in January 2025 and received a grant from the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) to create an interdisciplinary glossary that interrogates the meaning of key AI concepts. UCHI hosted the group for a day-long symposium in October 2025. Recordings from the symposium are available on our YouTube channel and via the podcast *What Are We Talking About When We Talk About AI?*, which also features interdisciplinary conversations on AI with UConn and UIR faculty. In April 2026, Director Duane gave a keynote address at UIR's Medical School's conference dedicated to medical humanities. Looking ahead, thanks to funding from CHCI/The Mellon foundation, UCHI and UIR will be collaborating on a digital glossary dedicated to exploring how key terms in AI research are defined across borders of discipline and geography.

UCHI Director Anna Mae Duane, in collaboration with the American Studies Association and the Japan



United States • Japan
FOUNDATION

Association for American Studies, has been awarded funding from the **United States-Japan Foundation** for “Cultural Innovation and Collaboration in an Age of Rapid Change: Strengthening U.S.-Japan Scholarly Exchange and Next-Generation Leadership.” The two-year project will support an exchange of American and Japanese scholars exploring the role of AI in pedagogy and governance, sending delegations to JAAS in Japan and ASA annual meetings in the US to build mentorship pipelines between the two nations' scholarly communities.



From 2023 to 2025 UCHI served as an affiliate partner with the **Yale Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition**. UCHI Director Anna Mae Duane co-directed a two-year seminar convening an international group of leading scholars of the history of slavery. The group is publishing an edited collection exploring how technological and climate change will shape the future of labor and the definition of freedom.

The **New England Humanities Consortium (NEHC)**, a network of 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. 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 establishes fresh research agendas for early modern humanities. By virtue of UConn's membership, our students, staff, and faculty have access to the Folger's research, educational, and artistic offerings.



CONNECTIONS

WHAT'S

For 2026–2027, we are excited to celebrate **UCHI at 25**—the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Humanities Institute under the directorship of Richard Brown. In this anniversary year, we will continue supporting humanities research across UConn and beyond, while also working to develop new projects and initiatives. We will continue our commitment to faculty and student success with

supportive programming and funding for events and working groups organized by faculty and students. We will be continuing our investigation of AI and the human, in collaboration with the Humanistic AI Working Group, and with our partners at the Université Internationale de Rabat. And the Environmental Humanities Initiative will host community events as well as a series of career panels.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities



We will be continuing our **humanities mentorship program** that will connect current UConn undergraduates with UConn alums who majored in the humanities and social sciences.

In the fall, all four dissertation research scholars, two visiting fellows, and one faculty fellows will give their **fellow's talks**. Most UConn faculty fellows and our undergraduate fellows will present in the spring.

The project advisors for our 2026–27 undergraduate fellows will give talks on their own research as part of our **Faculty Talks** program.



We will host a series of workshops on **professional development** for students and scholars covering topics from applying to graduate school to publicizing your research to navigating the academic job market.

“UCHI provides a wonderful space for collaboration ... and I do think my work in philosophy is much better for it.”

—Tracy Llanera
Faculty Fellow (2023–2024)

The sixth annual **Humanities Undergraduate Research Symposium** will take place in the UCHI conference room in Spring 2027.



This student-led initiative allows UConn undergraduates to share their humanities research projects with their peers and mentors.

In honor of our 25th anniversary, we will be celebrating **25**

Years of Research Excellence: We will be highlighting recent books published by former fellows, including **Micki McElya** and **Scott Wallace**.

We will celebrate the accomplishments of **former undergraduate fellows**, who will share their experiences and successes post-fellowship on a Fellows After UCHI panel.

On March 10, we will host **a book celebration**, recognizing the scholarly contributions of UConn faculty and former UCHI fellows to the humanities, social sciences, and the arts.

The UCHI at 25 Student Leadership Fund will help support undergraduate-led initiatives connected to the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Students looking to organize an event, working group, book club, or other student-led activity will be able to apply for a student leadership award.

In October we will celebrate **National Humanities Month** with a series of talks and workshops highlighting the key role the humanities and social sciences play in intellectual life at UConn and beyond.



The **Environmental Humanities Initiative** will be facilitating a series of environmental career panels at different UConn campuses.

“It’s really inspiring to see what the other fellows are doing and the range of creative and research projects that they’ve undertaken.”

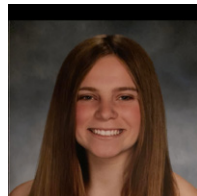
—Kathryn Andronowitz
Undergraduate Fellow (2024–2025)



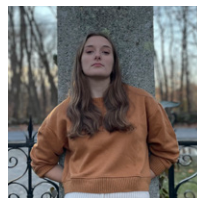
NEXT?

2026–2027

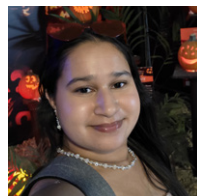
Undergraduate Research Fellows



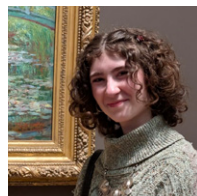
Kimberly Butynes
“Arguments with My Dad”
Project advisor: Jane Gordon



Elly Hume
“Trade, Production, and
Cultural Transmission: Maritime
Perspectives on Material Culture in
Antiquity”
Project advisor: Kevin Feeney



Natasha Khetan
“Invisible Pain, Visible Stories:
The Endo Experience Through a
Middle-Grade Fictional Novel”
Project advisor: Anna Mae Duane



Kaitlyn Levine
“A Gallery of Fractured Light:
Reimagining the Lives of Afflicted
Artists Through Ekphrastic Poetry”
Project advisor: Sean Frederick
Forbes



Nate Wylie
“You Have to Close Your Eyes:
Senegal and the films of Djibril Diop
Mambéty”
Project advisor: Mary Elizabeth
Allen

Visiting Residential Fellows



Surya Parekh
(English & Women’s,
Gender, and
Sexuality Studies,
Binghamton
University—SUNY)
“Swimming in the Mainstream”



Wesley Phelps
(History, University of
North Texas)
“Queering the Lone
Star State”

UConn Faculty Fellows



Daniel Adler
(Anthropology)
“Becoming Human:
Neanderthal-
Modern Human
Interactions and
Interconnectedness”



Emma Amador
(History)
JER Fellow
“Bright Futures: How
Antonia Pantoja’s
Vision of Community
Organizing Sparked Movements for
Latina and Puerto Rican Rights”



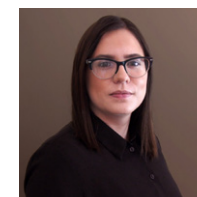
Eleni Coundouriotis
(English)
“History for the
Future: Twenty-first
Century African
Historical Fiction”



Joshua Mayer
(Anthropology &
Social and Critical
Inquiry)
“Territory as
Freedom: Building an
Afro-Indigenous Future in Nicaragua”



Camilo Ruiz
(Anthropology)
“Participation
and the Politics
of Knowledge:
A Collection of
Multimodal Participatory Action
Research Projects in Colombia and the
United States”



Kali Simmons
(English & Social and
Critical Inquiry)
“The Savage Screen:
Indigeneity in
Modern American
Horror Cinema.”



FELLOWS

Dissertation Research Scholars



Sarah Boateng

(Communication)

"Making Oneself Heard: Communicative Agency and Black Women's Perinatal Care in the United States"



Ananda Griffin

(Philosophy)

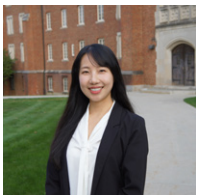
Richard Brown Dissertation Fellow

"What We Learn from Tears and Laughter: Emotions as an Epistemic Resource"

"Genuinely, this project wouldn't even be possible without my fellowship at the Humanities Institute. Even the process of applying for this fellowship allows you to think so deeply about what it is you want to investigate."

—Josephine Burke

Undergraduate Research Fellow (2025–2026)

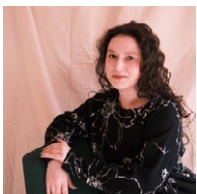


Chloe Kwak

(Political Science)

Draper Dissertation Fellow

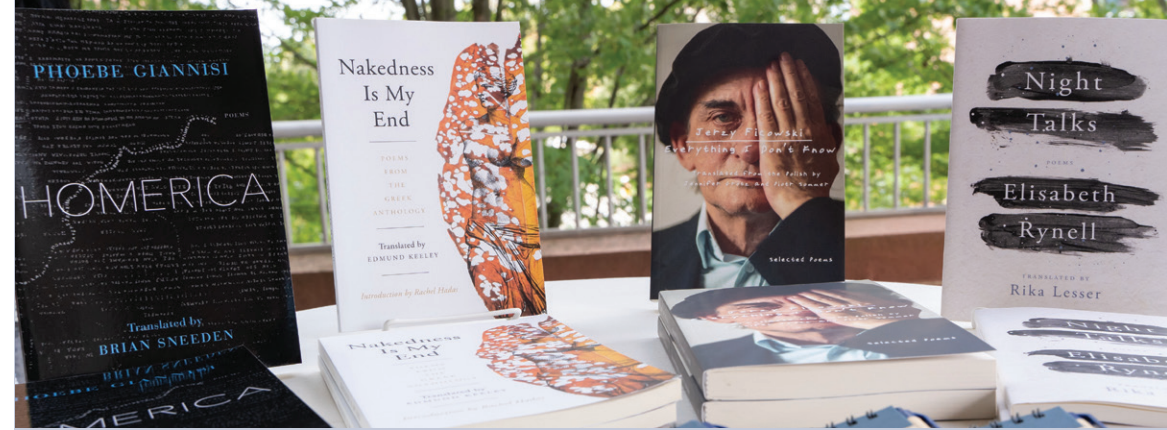
"Diasporic Group Subjectivity: Distinct Group Identities and Memories of 'Comfort Women' in Korean American Communities"



Dunahay Pereyra

(Sociology)

"Managing (Un)Feminine Bodies: Conceptions of Self and Illness in Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Patients"



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. WPB titles are widely reviewed and excerpted in publications such as *The New York Review of Books*, *The Paris Review*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Los Angeles Review*, and *Lit Hub*. Several have received major awards, including the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation, the National Translation Award, and the Academy of American Poets' Harold Morton Landon Translation Award. Founded in 2017 by UConn professor Peter Constantine, World Poetry Books is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and charitable organization based in New York City and affiliated with the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute and Translation Program where it offers publishing internships, sponsors student translation awards, and co-sponsors events with poets and translators.

Meet the WPB Team



Peter Constantine, Publisher



Matvei Yankelevich, Editor

WORLD POETRY BOOKS



OUR TEAM

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Professor, English

Elizabeth Della Zazzera

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Assistant Professor in Residence, History

Clarissa Ceglio

Associate Director of Collaborative Research
Associate Professor, Digital Media and Design

Yohei Igarashi

Associate Director of Academic Affairs
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Nasya Al-Saidy

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Give

As UConn's premier institute for research in the humanities, fellowships 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.

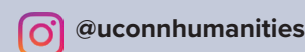
Visit

Our bright, beautiful office suite, located on the fourth floor of Homer Babbidge Library, offers a collaborative space for scholars to meet and talk, as well as office space for our fellows and staff. Our conference room, complete with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment that supports live streaming, is available for booking by contacting our team. 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! Follow us on social media, subscribe to our newsletter, listen to our podcast, or visit our website.

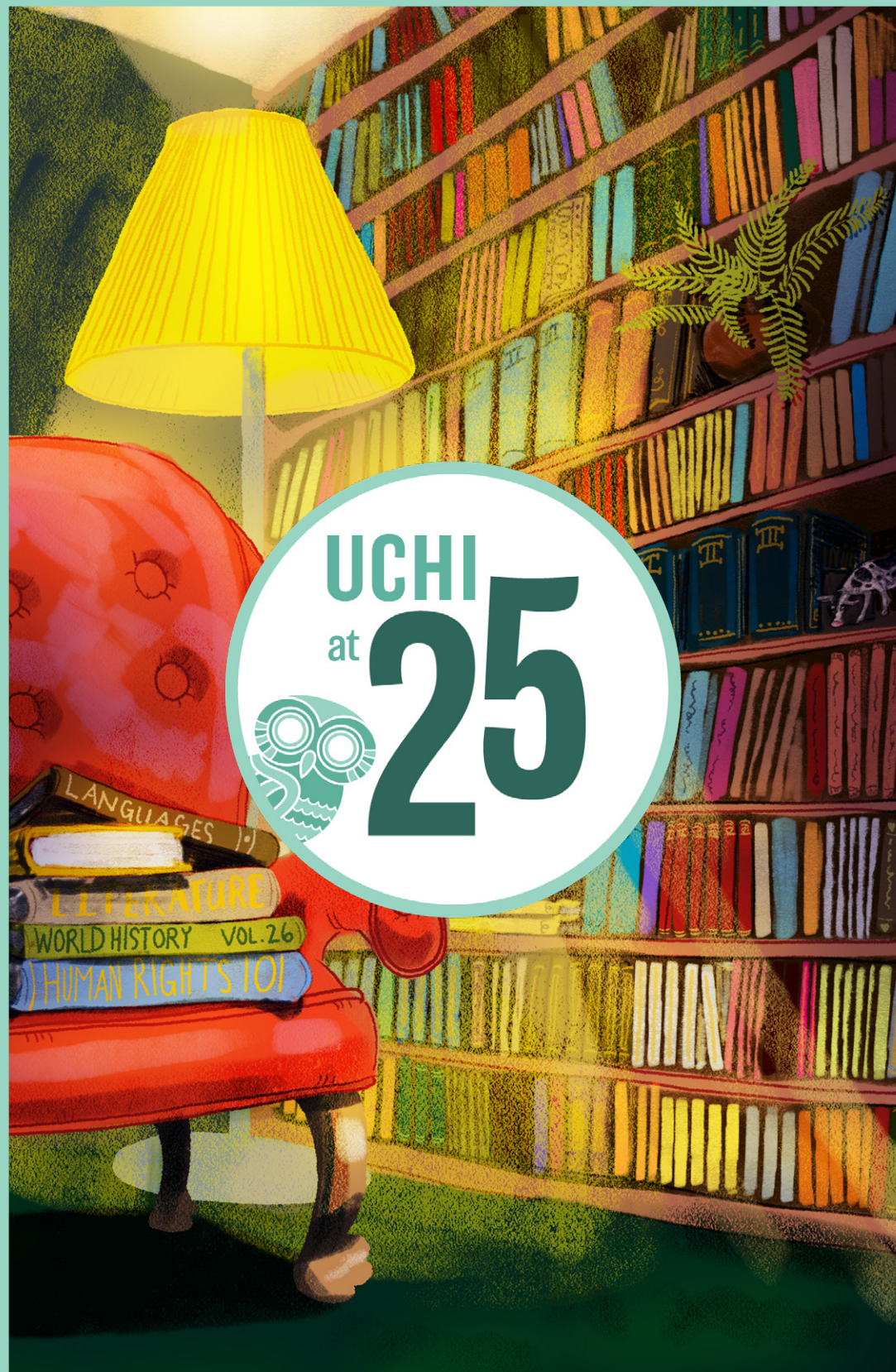


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UCHI
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