Founded in 1980, the Stanford Humanities Center is a multidisciplinary research institute at Stanford dedicated to advancing knowledge about culture, philosophy, history, and the arts. The Center’s fellowships, research workshops, and public events strengthen the intellectual and creative life of the university, foster innovative scholarship and teaching, and enrich our understanding of human achievement.

The humanities include, but are not limited to, the following fields: history, philosophy, languages, literature, linguistics, archaeology, jurisprudence, history and criticism of the arts, ethics, comparative religion, and those aspects of the social sciences employing historical or philosophical approaches. This last category includes cultural anthropology, sociology, political theory, international relations, and other subjects concerned with questions of value. (The National Endowment for the Humanities)
The Humanities Center’s programs have continued to flourish in the past year: a bumper crop of six International Visitors and two Arts Visitors kept our event calendar humming, and the receipt of 728 applications for only 10 year-long external faculty positions indicates that our fellowships are among the most sought-after in the country. Last fall, we re-launched the Center website and now all upcoming lectures, symposia, workshops, and roundtables are easy to find, and an extensive video archive of past events is available to all.

Our main focus has been to steer the International Visitors Program from pilot project to full-fledged Center program. We conceived of this venture four years ago as encouragement for departments and research units to bring top international “next generation” scholars to campus for one-month collaborative residencies. The resonance among members of the Stanford community has been extraordinary—please see pages 4 through 12 for details on each visit. A true testament to the program’s success was the 2011-12 class gift: each yearlong fellow contributed to a seed fund for the establishment of a permanent endowment, hoping by their gift to encourage others to add their support to sustaining this important endeavor. I hope you will want to join them! Please see pages 41-42 for ways your gift can make a difference.

We welcomed several new Board members to our ranks in 2011-12: Michael Herzfeld, an anthropologist at Harvard; Harsha Ram, former fellow and comparative literature scholar at Berkeley; and Connie Wolf, the Cantor Arts Center’s new director have started their service on the Academic Council. Jeanne Vander Ploeg, Stanford alumna and community volunteer, has joined the Outreach Council. These new members were initiated into the working life of the Center at our Board meeting in April.

There were also several new appointments on the Center staff. Chris Williams, formerly our Office Coordinator, conquered the challenge of the new website as Communications Coordinator. Rachel Knowles and Priyanka Sumanadasa have excelled as Office and Event Coordinator, respectively. The Center is extremely fortunate to have such dedicated, collegial, and capable staff members.

As Stanford’s Faculty Senate re-focuses its efforts on undergraduate humanities education, and the Modern Language Association and the American Historical Association discuss the vagaries of graduate education for literary scholars and historians, the Center’s work is vital: we achieve dynamic, multi-disciplinary dialogue within the university and bring humanities-driven thinking into the world beyond.

Aron Rodrigue
Anthony P. Meier Family Professor and Director
A linguist from Ghana, Bodomo gave seminars based on his primary expertise on the structure of West African languages (Akan, Dagaare), notably a talk titled “On Nominalizing the Serial Verb in Dagaare.” He also presented from his two newest books, *Africans in China* (Cambria Press) and *La globalización de las inversiones en África* (Globalization of Investment in Africa) (Casa Africa/Los Libros de la Catarata, Madrid). Thanks to his residency at the Center, he finished work on two papers written with Stanford linguists, and forged connections with Professor emerita of Francophone Literature Elisabeth Boyi, who taught a course on Foundations in African Studies at the University of Hong Kong in July 2012. Bodomo also collaborated with Gi-Wook Shin, the director of the FSI Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, and with FSI senior fellow Stephen Stedman.

He was nominated by the Department of Linguistics.

An authoritative voice in the Spanish-speaking world on how young people develop historical consciousness, Carretero’s work has been at the forefront of the “history wars.” His research, unlike that of scholars who explore such issues by dissecting textbooks, is unique in its commitment to fieldwork—conducting interviews with adolescents and observing them in real life situations to understand the dynamics of cultural transmission and resistance. During his residency, Carretero gave several presentations, chiefly the Bliss Carnochan Lecture, “Historical Narratives and the Construction of National Identities.” He deepened his relationships with several Stanford scholars, including Bliss Carnochan, Sam Wineburg and FSI visiting scholar from Morocco Ahmed Benchemsi.

He was nominated by the School of Education.
Bodomo gave seminars based on his primary expertise on the structure of West African languages (Akan, Dagaare), notably one on “On Nominalizing the Serial Verb in Dagaare.” He also presented from his two newest books, Africans in China (Cambria Press) and La globalización de las inversiones en África [Globalization of Investment in Africa] (Casa Africa/Los Libros de la Catarata, Madrid). Thanks to his residency at the Center, he finished work on two papers written with Stanford linguists, and forged connections with Professor emerita of Francophone Literature Elisabeth Boyi, who taught a course on Foundations in African Studies at the University of Hong Kong in July 2012.

Bodomo also forged connections with Gi-Wook Shin, the director of the FSI Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, and with FSI senior fellow Stephen Stedman. He was nominated by the Department of Linguistics.

Gousseff is a leading figure in East-Central European history, politics and society of the twentieth century, as well as of the former Soviet Union. A researcher at the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) and at the CERCEC (Centre d’Études des Mondes Russe, Caucasiien, et Centre-Européen) in Paris, she shared insights into her new research project on “Population Exchanges in the Modern Era,” particularly the Polish Ukrainian population exchange (1944-1950). Several graduate students sought out Catherine Gousseff’s expertise, and she herself benefited from on-campus conversations with FSI affiliated professors David Holloway, Norman Naimark, Katherine Jolluck, and Amir Weiner.

She was nominated by the Europe Center.

Quijada was director of the 1990s investigation of Nazi activities in Argentina during the Second World War and in the post-war era. She has written extensively on dictatorship, populism, and war and their effect on the public sphere in Argentina and Spain, as well as on the relationship between nineteenth-century Latin American states and their indigenous populations. During her residency, she lectured on “‘Brave Indians’ and the Configuration of a pre-us soli Frontier Citizenship in Argentina, 1820-1880s.” She also presented a research paper with anthropologist Jesus Bustamante on “Iberia and Iberoamerica Between Time and Methodology: Converging Processes” at an international workshop devoted to Spain and Portugal.

She was nominated by the History Department and the Center for Latin American Studies.
Laidlaw is deeply engaged in fieldwork in Asia, researching how the traditional means by which Buddhists practice self-cultivation — asceticism, meditation — are undergoing massive restructuring. Laidlaw has edited seven books, most recently on cognitive approaches to religion, exploring these from an ethnographic perspective. He participated in a symposium on the “Anthropology of the Good,” organized by Professor Tanya Luhrmann.

He was nominated by the Department of Anthropology.

Wolfe’s research focuses on settler colonialism, and he is currently working on a comparative transnational history of settler-colonial discourses of race in Australia, Brazil, the United States, and Israel/Palestine. While at Stanford, he presented material from his forthcoming book in the Wests Comparative seminar on “Frontiers and Wests: A Comparative View.”

He was nominated by the Bill Lane Center for the American West.
The Stanford Humanities Center, in collaboration with Stanford’s Institute for Creativity and the Arts (SICA), hosted two arts visitors this year.

My discussions with Rafael Campo were wonderfully interesting and challenging.

Leah DeVun / External Faculty Fellow

A graduate of India’s premier theatre institution, the National School of Drama based in New Delhi, Raina reflected on his recent projects during a salon featuring his work with children, and on his production of King Lear in a remote area of the Kashimiri Valley. Raina divided his time between giving talks, meeting with students and scholars, hosting screenings with the broader community, and writing a short book on the Actor’s Method “Raina style.” He also presented his ongoing project of filming the four seasons of the Kashmiri Valley.

He was nominated by the Center for South Asia.

October 2011
Theater director from India

M.K. Raina

Arts Visitor Spotlight
rafael campo art s visitor february-april 2012 associate professor of medicine at harvard medical school and director of the office for multicultural affairs

campo is an internationally recognized physician and poet, a leader in medical humanities and the award-winning author of seven books. he is a recipient of a guggenheim fellowship as well as a finalist for the national book critics circle award and a prominent figure in the lgbt medical community. campo gave a reading on “cultural competence: poetry and the importance of voice in the illness experience” at the cantor museum to a captivated audience, and participated in writing workshops for medical and creative writing students, and seasoned writers. campo had on-campus conversations with fellow doctors and best-selling authors daniel mason and irvin yalom. he also completed several poems and an essay titled “on teaching humanities in medicine: ‘core competencies’ or essential experiences?” during his residency.

he was nominated by the arts, humanities, and medicine program at the stanford center for biomedical ethics.

fellos 2011-12

the center’s year-long residential fellowships bring together scholars from different disciplines, career stages, and academic institutions to an environment of intellectual discovery and exchange. in 2011-12, the center welcomed twenty-six fellows with research topics ranging from performance in buddhist japan to the comic modernism of filmmaker jacques tati.

view the full biographies of the 2011-12 fellows

the center’s fellowships are made possible by gifts and grants from the following individuals, foundations and stanford offices: the esther hayfer bloom estate, theodore h. and frances k. geballe, mimi and peter haas, martac sutton weeks, the mericos foundation, the national endowment for the humanities, and the offices of the dean of research and the dean of humanities and sciences.
SHAHZAD BASHIR
Internal Faculty Fellow
Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University
Bridging Reality: Metaphor and Meaning in the Construction of Islamic Past
I am happy to say that I was able to make considerable headway on my project during the year. It was very helpful to be a part of a community where one could see others dealing with their projects and also try out possible configurations for presentation while thinking about the materials. By the end of the year, I had a general plan for the book, which I find workable and exciting. I have written up significant chunks of the various chapters and am sanguine about finishing the book within a foreseeable future.

MARTIN BLUMENTHAL-BARBY
External Faculty Fellow
Department of German Studies, Rice University
The Language of Secularization
In academic year 2011/12 I completed my first book, Inconceivable Effects: Ethics through Twentieth-Century German Literature, Thought, and Film. The book is a substantially revised and expanded version of my doctoral dissertation and is forthcoming from Cornell University Press. I also began working on my second book project, which develops central theoretical issues from this first book, expanding it in a different direction, tentatively entitled The Language of Secularization.

LUIS CHENG-GUAJARDO
Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellow
Department of Philosophy, Stanford University
The Practical Demand of Means-end Rationality
I made great strides during my fellowship year. First and foremost, I was able to get my dissertation nearly completed by producing several difficult chapters during my time at the Humanities Center. I was also able to travel to a few conferences, give some important talks, and complete a paper that will likely be accepted at one of the top journals in my field. In addition to these milestones, I cannot neglect to mention that the daily interaction and ongoing discourse that I had with fellows from other areas within the humanities helped me to situate my work in relation to other disciplines and make what I do as accessible as possible to others outside of my field.

MARGARET COHEN
Vanier Andrews Whittier Fellow
Department of Comparative Literature, Stanford University
Enchanted Depths: Imagining the Ocean in the Era of Underwater Visualization
I now have a conception of my book, as I had hoped going into the fellowship year. I am thinking it will be a series of short chapters showing how innovations in science and technology sparked formal innovations in both the popular and fine arts. Conversation with fellows working in related areas was very helpful in coming up with the concept. I also gave some talks and wrote articles addressing conditions of visibility in and around water.

GEORGIA COWART
Marta Sutton Weeks Fellow
Department of Music, Case Western Reserve University
Watteau after the Sun King: Satiric Portraits of a New France
I am very near completion of a book manuscript, tentatively titled Watteau after the Sun King: Satiric Portraits of a New France. UC Press has expressed a warm interest. I also completed an article for The French journal XVIIe siècle, an article for The Oxford Handbook of Opera, and two articles for The Cambridge Companion to French Music. I have also spent some time gathering and organizing digital images on a private website, and am in conversation with UC Press as to the possibility of publishing the website as a companion to the book.

MEGAN DEAN
Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellow
Department of History, Stanford University
Mobility, Commerce and Empire in the Caucasus, 1750-1910
I cannot imagine a more congenial environment in which to finish the PhD than the Stanford Humanities Center. During my time here I completed a draft of the dissertation. In addition to writing more than three new chapters, I also prepared my first round of applications for the academic job market, gained valuable interview experience, and applied for future grants and conferences. I have been very productive here, even though I underestimated how much time it would take to compete on the academic job market.
ALEXANDER DUNCAN
Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellow
Department of Classics, Stanford University
Tragic Ugliness: An Investigation in Genre and Aesthetics in Greek Drama

I finished three chapters of my book-in-progress and wrote a draft of an article for a peer-reviewed journal. I also became involved in the queer studies community at Stanford, visiting undergraduate classes and participating in the Queer Studies Lecture Series. I even found time to focus on my visual art practice. I worked on a new photography series and took part in exhibitions in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York City. My colleagues at the Center turned out to be astute critics of my visual as well as my written efforts. This year, for the first time, I began to envision how I might integrate my scholarly artistic, and activist impulses.

PAUL GOWDER
Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellow
Department of Political Science, Stanford University
An Egalitarian Theory of the Rule of Law

My enjoyable fellowship year at the Stanford Humanities Center allowed me to pass several major milestones. In the fall, I completed two chapters and defended my dissertation on ugliness in ancient Greek drama; I also applied to over 20 academic jobs and/or postdoctoral positions. During the winter, I created a job-talk and had two campus visits, ultimately accepting a tenure-track job offer at the University of Utah; Salt Lake City. During the spring, I gave a presentation to the fellows focusing on some of the more visual aspects and artifacts of my research; I also made progress or finished reviews of two books and two dramatic performances, in addition to conducting research for an article that will be submitted for publication in fall 2012.

PAUL FINDLEN
Ellen Andrews Wright Fellow
Department of History, Stanford University
After Leonardo: The Artist as Scientist in Seventeenth-Century Italy

I have accomplished several important things related to my project. My parts of a multi-authored book on images of fauna and natural curiosities in the Paper Museum of Cassiano dal Pozzo were finished by early summer and the volume should go into production with Harvey Miller in 2013. A book I co-translated with two of my PhD students and for which I wrote an introductory essay: Renato Agno’s Gusto for Things: A History of Objects in Seventeenth-Century Rome, will be published by the University of Chicago Press early in 2013. I completed the writing and revisions on an edited volume, Early Modern Things: Objects and Their Histories, (500 - 800) to be published with Routledge in December 2012.

THOMAS HARE
Marta Sutton Weeks Fellow
Department of Comparative Literature, Princeton University
Edging Zen: Performance and Practice in Buddhist Japan

I thought my year at the Center was a productive one, though my work took some turns different from what I had expected. I became more interested in broader theoretical questions about the meanings attached to voting, even beyond the Indian context that is my central focus. I wrote an article, “Toward a Global History of Voting,” that I began in the fall and was published in an online journal in the spring. I developed this in another article that I also completed at the Center entitled “Voting, Religion, and the People’s Sovereignty,” which will be appearing in an edited volume. I am working these two articles into my book project. In addition to these, I worked as a guest editor on a special issue on India of the leading American journal on election law, Election Law Journal.

This year, by some miracle, I finished the dissertation, and with it, the PhD. By “some miracle,” of course, I mean an immense amount of work greatly facilitated by the Humanities Center’s incredible contribution of space as well as time and company — all three vital ingredients in my success (survival). Space: a lovely nest to fill with books rather than office-mates. Time: funding that wasn’t dependent on obligations like teaching — absolutely vital. Company: the mental health-preserving support from many fellow sufferers and wise experienced folks. And now, as I write this, I’m beginning the tenure track at the University of Iowa College of Law — I got a job this year too! An embarrassment of riches.

LEAH DEVUN
External Faculty Fellow
Department of History, Rutgers University
Enter Sex: Hermaphrodites and the Demand of Difference, 1000 - 600

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My year at the Humanities Center was a productive combination of isolated, focused work and external, interdisciplinary stimulation. Mainly I used the time to think and write about the project I proposed in my application, *Placing a Call*. I drafted and submitted for review my first article on this topic. Additionally, I revised the planned structure of my book manuscript. When the opportunity arose to develop a story for Canadian national radio about my other research project, the freedom granted by a yearlong fellowship allowed me to pursue this. Stanford’s sound studio hosted two recording sessions for the 25-minute segment.

In addition to completing my dissertation, I published an article in the *Journal for the History of Ideas*, presented my work at the North American Victorian Studies Association conference, the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism conference, and at Bryn Mawr College. I also earned a Diversity Research Opportunity Fellowship from the Vice Provost’s office that will allow me to do research in the British Library over the summer. I will be teaching at Stanford next year—in the English department, a course called “Old Media/New Media: from Frankenstein to Facebook” and in the Program for Writing and Rhetoric, I will teach “Invention and Imagination: the Rhetoric of Victorian Culture.”

I wrote three papers that will figure prominently in the book *The Semantics of Racial Epithets*: “The Moral and Semantic Innocence” (with Robert May), “The Inconsistency of the Identity Thesis” (with Robert May), and “Unity and Frege-Geach Problem” (with Jeremy Schwartz). I drafted two additional chapters of my book to this point. I gave six presentations including one at the Central and Pacific American Philosophical Society meetings, as well as presentations at UC Davis, Rutgers, and Texas Tech.

Drawing on insights from multiple disciplines—linguistic anthropology, law and society studies, science and technology studies, and media studies—this project develops a shift in the understanding of language from “text” or “discourse” to artificial forms such as files, documents, archives, and other forms of “paperwork.” The aims are to reintegrate material aspects of linguistic practice and their technological mediality and historicity, and to foreground an alternative understanding of law not so much as discourse but as a technical process intimately bound up with the technological transduction of speech into writing, and the topology, transfer, circulation, and storage of documents.

I had two major accomplishments during this fellowship, and I can describe them in as many sentences. First, I finished my dissertation. Second, I secured a tenure track job at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

This year, I managed to check out a hundred or so books and actually look at many of them. In addition, with the help of the Thesaurus Linguae Graecae I once more ploughed through the Iliad line-by-line, this time making a running commentary on all passages having to do with ritual and belief. This is the database from which I began to write several chapters of my book. I finished two long chapters on Apollonius Rhodius and on metaphor in historical poetics.

The major milestones for me were conceptualizing my project, doing the bulk of the research for it, and some of the writing. While I had a general idea about what I wanted to do before arriving at the Center, I did not know what my particular point of view on the subject would be. This quickly took shape during the first half of the year due to the luxury of having time to do extensive research and in-depth thinking. I was then able to go on to write two chapters and part of a third in the second half. Without the time to think about the project afforded by the fellowship, it would have taken me much longer to conceptualize it, and in general being at the Center has been one of the richest and most rewarding experiences in my scholarly life.

This year, I edited and wrote the first chapter of Live Art in LA: Performance in Southern California, 1970–1983. It includes over 100 photographs, four essays, and excerpts from interviews with more than 30 artists. Also, my essay “Atrocity and Action: The Performative Force of the Abu Ghraib Photographs,” was published in Picturing Atrocity: Photography in Crisis, by Reaktion Books, edited by Geoffrey Batchen et al. All royalties are going to Amnesty International. I served as co-director (with Monika Greenleaf) of the Performance and Literature focal group for Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. Finally, I began working with Audrey Shafer from Stanford Medical School on a new Gbehale workshop, Recombinations, which will take place in 2012-13.

The year afforded me a period of concentrated work on my book project, which explores past and present in the Tervuren Museum and its core collections. I am close to completing a draft of the manuscript which marshals extensive new research to two interlocking parts: a critical account of Tervuren’s development and its on-going renovation, and the identification for the first time of the origins of Belgian Art Nouveau as a specifically Congo style in the 1890s. In addition, I participated in an international conference on “Symbolism in Europe, 1880-1910,” in the Paris Musée d’Orsay, where I presented my new work, written at the Center, comparing Emile Gallé’s and Henry van de Velde’s Art Nouveau furniture.
**JOHANNA YUNKER**

Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellow  
Department of Music,  
Stanford University  

Socialism and Feminism in East German Opera: The Cases of Director Ruth Berghaus and Composer Ruth Zechlin  

During my time at the Humanities Center, I presented at two national conferences and wrote four chapters of my dissertation. In the spring quarter I defended my dissertation. I was hired at Lamar University as Instructor of Music History for next year.

**RYAN ZUROWSKI**

Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellow  
Department of English,  
Stanford University  

To the Gentle Reader: Prefaces and Books in Early Modern England  

This was a tremendously useful year in terms of professional development. Chatting regularly with senior and junior faculty members, not only helped me understand my project better, but also forced me to articulate the significance of my project more clearly than I had been able to. Prior to this year, I had not spent much time talking about my dissertation with colleagues, but explaining my interests and the arguments of individual chapters has helped me gain valuable perspective on my project as a whole and its significance within the discipline.

**UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS**

Each year, the Center offers fellowships to undergraduates to work with a faculty fellow on a collaborative research project. This program is made possible by a grant from Stanford’s Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

**Laura Groenendaal**  
Symbolic Systems  
Sophomore, collaborated with Kristen Haring

**Stephen Hilfer**  
English and Creative Writing  
Senior, collaborated with Leah DeVun

**Kyle Lee-Crossett**  
English and Archaeology  
Junior, collaborated with Paula Findlen

**Cody Leff**  
Undeclared  
Freshman, collaborated with Margaret Cohen

**Albert Pak**  
Philosophy and Political Science  
Junior, collaborated with David Gilmartin

"The opportunity to have continuous dialogue is extremely valuable when it comes to being able to talk about one’s own work in a way that is engaging and accessible to others.”  
Luis Cheng-Gusjardo / Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellow

"As a younger scholar, I was fascinated by the type of work advanced scholars were doing and how they talk about their projects. I found the question and answer sessions particularly rich, and I think I learned a lot about the art of engaging with other scholars’ work as a result.”  
Jillian Hess / Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellow
THEODORE AND FRANCES GEBALLE RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

THE GEBALLE RESEARCH WORKSHOPS BRING TOGETHER FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENTS TO SHARE WORKS IN PROGRESS AND EXPLORE NEW AREAS OF INQUIRY. IN 2011–12, APPROXIMATELY 100 STANFORD FACULTY AND OVER 200 ADVANCED GRADUATE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE WORKSHOPS AS WELL AS VISITING SCHOLARS AND THOSE FROM OTHER LOCAL INSTITUTIONS.

FUNDING FOR THE WORKSHOPS COMES FROM GIFTS TO ENDOWMENT FROM INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS FROM THE MELLON FOUNDATION AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES.

ARCHAEOLOGY TODAY

Blokker Research Workshop
How does archaeology impact the past, present, and future of human societies? Graduate students from law, religious studies, and history joined archaeologists in discussions about myriad topics of current relevance, from cultural patrimony or intangible heritage to Islamic communities in Roman North Africa or Los Angeles’ built environment. Looking at empires, globalization, and archaeology’s relationship to local and global forces was the main focus of this year’s group.

ART AS DOCUMENTATION, MEMORY AS ART
This workshop investigated the relationship between document and memory in contemporary arts, particularly in theater. Theoretical readings, invited speakers, and group discussions centered on six seminal productions of Bertolt Brecht plays at the Berliner Ensemble in the 1950s.

COGNITION & LANGUAGE
How exactly does language work? How does it interact with the other cognitive processes that shape the human experience? The investigation of language and thought included a number of disciplines, including linguistics, philosophy, psychology, anthropology, and computer science. This workshop encouraged and facilitated communication among these diverse approaches to the study of the same central question, focusing on particular topics at the cutting edge of this broad area of research.

CONTEXT DEPENDENCE IN LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION
Human language is an incredibly powerful tool for communication. Communicative inferences—feats of reasoning that connect what is said with what is meant, using information from shared context—are a fundamental topic for scholars across a broad range of fields. This workshop aimed to establish a joint vocabulary among linguists, philosophers, and psychologists about shared reference and context.

ETHICS AND POLITICS, ANCIENT AND MODERN

Marta Sutton Weeks Research Workshop
The possibilities for reuniting classical and classically-influenced ideas about ethics (especially the ethics of virtue) with political theorizing that is applicable to the modern world, bringing together scholars from different disciplines with interests in ancient and modern moral and political thought were explored within this workshop.
ETHNIC MINORITIES, RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, RIGHTS, AND DEMOCRACY IN THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

Linda Randall Meier Research Workshop

The Middle East and Central Asia constitute an interregional zone defined by a great variety of interlinked local cultures, economies, and ecologies. The workshop approached issues of minorities, religious communities, rights and democracy with attention to historical depth and cultural specificity, as well as contemporary geopolitics.

GRAPHIC NARRATIVE PROJECT

From centuries-old Japanese woodblock prints and political cartoons to manga, superhero serials, comics journalism and webcomics, pictures and words have been brought together by visionary artists who saw the potential to tell stories of human civilization in ways not possible via text or image alone.

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO CONSCIOUSNESS

Explaining conscious experience crosses the disciplines of philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, literature, physics, law, and cognitive science. The workshop explored this phenomenon by looking at three topics: pain experience, the problem of color, and the promise and peril of enhanced consciousness and sensory implants.

MYTHOS & LOGOS: RELIGION AND RATIONALITY IN THE HUMANITIES

Claire and John Radway Research Workshop

This workshop brought together scholars from philosophy, religious studies, and other fields to re-examine the role that religion plays and should play in contemporary culture. It investigated such topics as a renewed interest in theories of secularization; philosophical work on the normative, ethical, and existential value of religious stances; and the role played by religious ideas and discourse in politics. The terms “mythos” and “logos” were used as a framework to discuss the interplay between faith and reason.

PHILOSOPHICAL READING GROUP

PRG met weekly to discuss philosophical texts chosen in advance. Graduate students and faculty presented and analyzed philosophical work, and graduate students had the opportunity to relate their own research to philosophical questions raised by the text.

SEMINAR ON ENLIGHTENMENT AND REVOLUTION, 1660-1830

Research Workshop in Honor of John Bender

This seminar crossed national boundaries and disciplines by bringing together a variety of eighteenth-century scholars with different research interests and methods to investigate an extremely rich historical period, with a focus on the categories of “Enlightenment” and “Revolution.”

TRANSAMERICAN STUDIES WORKING GROUP

Humanities Center Fellows Research Workshop

This working group focused on developing a common methodological paradigm for doing comparative literary scholarship of the Americas. It sought to move beyond the national (especially U.S.) and regional (especially Latin American) paradigms toward a transnational hemispheric literary and historical discussion.

VERBAL AND VISUAL LITERACIES OF ANCIENT ROME

VVLAR took as its focus the practice and performance of cultural literacy in the Ancient Roman world—interpretations of verbal and visual objects ranging from elevated poems to scurrilous graffiti, from weighty civic monuments to provocative personal paintings. Using archaeology, history, philology, philosophy, and—of course—classics, the workshop explored the Romans’ interpretive activities as they interacted with the private and public spaces of their cities.

VISUALIZING COMPLEXITY AND UNCERTAINTY: EXPLORING HUMANISTIC APPROACHES TO GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

This workshop brought together humanists engaged in visualization projects with experts from the fields of geography, cartography, communication design, the visual arts, and computer science to look at visual techniques as scholarly method. Using these projects as case studies, the workshop found ways to convey the complexity and nuance of humanistic modes of inquiry.
“Mapping the Republic of Letters” remains the core project in digital humanities supported by the Stanford Humanities Center. The project is comprised of twelve faculty-led case studies, currently involving twelve graduate students and four undergraduates. It is joining with the Spatial History Project and Stanford Literary Lab under the umbrella of the new Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA). This collaborative effort, spearheaded by Zephyr Frank (History) and supported by the Dean of Research, provides a common workspace, shared technical resources, and a common administrator for all three projects.

Stanford Humanities Outreach

For the past five years, the Center has been home to the Humanities Outreach Program, a strategic communications initiative designed to raise awareness about humanities scholarship and academics among both internal and external audiences. News stories and multimedia content are distributed on campus via the Stanford Report and to national and international media outlets through News Service press releases as well as on social media platforms. All stories direct readers to the Human Experience website, a portal that showcases the wide array of humanities activity at Stanford. In the past two years, the scope of the project has also grown to include targeted outreach to current and prospective students through Admit Weekend events and print and online collateral. To learn more about the humanities at Stanford, visit the project’s website.

Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities

The Humanities Center continues its partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities, a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford. The fellowships are awarded for two years to scholars in different humanities disciplines on a rolling basis. The Center is the administrative home of the program, and fellows participate in the intellectual life of the Center. R. Lanier Anderson (Philosophy) and J.P. Daughton (History) are co-directors of the program and oversee the selection and year-long professional development of the fellows. For more information, visit the Mellon Fellowship website.
THE HUMANITIES CENTER BRINGS DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO STANFORD TO SHARE THE RESULTS OF THEIR RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS.

_RECORDINGS FROM PAST LECTURES ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE._

“I loved being able to drop in on lectures and colloquia by simply taking the few steps from my office to Levinthal Hall.”

Georgia Cowart / Mara Sutton Weeks Fellow 2011-12

EVENTS

OCT 11 2011  ARTS WRITER/PRACTITIONER IN RESIDENCE
M.K. RAINA
Theater Director
“Salon Featuring M.K. Raina”

OCT 13 2011  INTERNATIONAL LECTURE
ADAMS BODOMO
Professor of Linguistics, African Studies Programme Director at Hong Kong University
“What is it like to be an African in China?”

OCT 20 2011  ALUMNI EVENT
JENNIFER SUMMIT
Professor of English at Stanford University
Classes without Quizzes: “The Humanities and the Future of the University”

NOV 2 2011  ARTS CRITIC IN RESIDENCE
ALASTAIR MACAULAY
Chief Dance Critic for the New York Times
“Life, Art, Dance, and Criticism”

NOV 9 2011  MARTA SUTTON WEEKS DISTINGUISHED VISITOR LECTURE
HELEN WHITNEY
Documentary filmmaker
“A Life in Film”

JAN 17 2012  PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE
HELEN VENDLER
A. Kingsley Porter University Professor of English at Harvard University
“Wallace Stevens as an American Poet”
I find workable and exciting. I have written up significant chunks of the materials. By the end of the year, I have a general plan for the book, which I am happy to say that I was able to make considerable headway on my project during the year. It was very helpful to be a part of a community to others outside of my field. In addition to these milestones, I cannot neglect to mention that I made great strides during my fellowship year. First and foremost, I was able to travel to a few conferences, give some important talks, and complete difficult chapters during my time at the Humanities Center. A paper that will likely be accepted at one of the top journals in my field. In academic year 2011/12 I completed my first book, Inconceivable Rationality: The Practical Demand of Means-end Calculation to Other Disciplines and Make What I Do as Accessible as Possible.

Following are books recently published by Humanities Center fellows. All information has been gathered from fellows’ communications. The years in parentheses indicate the academic year the fellow was in residence.


This year marked the nineteenth annual Humanities Center celebration showcasing works written, edited, and performed by and about Stanford humanists. In addition to books, CDs, and DVDs, the event also celebrated digital publications published during the 2011 calendar year.
The Humanities Center gratefully acknowledges, with heartfelt thanks, the following individuals who made gifts to the Center between September 1, 2011 and August 31, 2012.

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Gifts to endowment provide crucial funding for Humanities Center programs. The Center also receives expendable funding for basic expenses and new initiatives from the Dean of Research and the Office of the President.
“As a result of my visit, I learnt a lot from interactions with people at the Center and was able to convey my research findings to some of the best scholars in the world. The lasting benefit from all this would be the networks established for the purpose of knowledge exchange.”

Adams Bodomo / FSI–Humanities Center International Visitor

**UNIVERSITY SUPPORT**

The office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

- Expendable funding for Undergraduate Research Assistant Fellowships (2001–2012)

Office of the President

- With the support of the Office of the President, the Humanities Center stages the Presidential and Endowed Lectures in the Humanities and the Arts, which include and derive additional funds from the Harry Camp Memorial and Raymond F. West Memorial lectures. Each year these ongoing series present a variety of lectures by distinguished scholars from around the world.

**VISITORSHIP**

- The Weeks Distinguished Visitor (1987)
- Martha Sutton Weeks

**GRANTS**

- National Endowment for the Humanities
  - $400,000 challenge grant to endow Stanford Humanities Center research workshops (2004)
  - The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
    - $1 million matching grant to endow Stanford Humanities Center research workshops (2003)
    - $120,000 three-year expendable “bridging” grant to support Stanford Humanities Center research workshops (2005)

**VISITORSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS**

In 2008, the Humanities Center began a collaboration with the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI). The two institutions started a pilot program to bring high profile international scholars to Stanford for short-term residencies. This pilot project has become a successful and flourishing Humanities Center program, the International Visitors Program, and the Center seeks funds to sustain this program through expendable gifts and permanent endowment. This is the Center’s highest fundraising priority.

Thirteen leading scholars in the humanities and social sciences from countries such as Spain, Thailand, Indonesia, and South Africa, have participated in this program since its inception. Staying for one or two months at a time—a period that is feasible for a variety of academic calendars worldwide—the visitors are fully integrated into campus life: they lead sections in Stanford undergraduate and graduate classes, give lectures and presentations on their areas of expertise, carry out joint projects with Stanford colleagues, and spend time in the research libraries and archives.

These intense interactions with the Stanford community have proven one of the best ways to introduce global scholars to all that this university has to offer, and to achieve lasting scholarly results in the form of cross-cultural teaching exchanges, co-authored publications, and, on one occasion, a reciprocal visit to Indonesia by International Policy Studies graduate students.

For more information on the international visitorships, visit our website.

**GIFT OPPORTUNITIES**

- **NAME AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR (TERM)**: $20,000/year for three years
  (Each year for three years, an international visitor will carry the donor’s name)

- **NAME AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR (PERMANENT, ENDOWED)**: $400,000
  (One international visitoship will carry the donor’s name in perpetuity)

- **NAME THE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM**: $2.5M

**GENERAL GIFTS**

- General gifts at the $1,000 level are especially helpful, but gifts of any amount are welcome and appreciated!

For more information contact Susan Sebbard at sebbard@stanford.edu or 650.723.3053.
Annual gifts from friends of the Humanities Center are indispensable to funding its fellowships, workshops, outreach, and research initiatives. To help the Center fulfill its mission, please consider a gift of any size. All gifts are tax deductible. See below for ways to give.

**GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**

**INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM**
This pilot project, instituted in 2008, has become a successful and flourishing Humanities Center program, bringing high-profile international scholars to Stanford for short-term residencies. The Center seeks funds to sustain this program through expendable gifts and permanent endowment and is the Center’s highest fundraising priority (see page 41).

**HUMANITIES CENTER INNOVATION FUND**
Annual gifts to the Innovation Fund vitalize the humanities at Stanford. These unrestricted gifts are indispensable to enabling the Center to pursue its goals in promoting the scholarship of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates.

**PLANNED GIVING**
Planned gifts, such as bequests and life income gifts, are an effective way to realize your philanthropic goals. Giving by bequest costs nothing now, but allows you to help secure the future of the Stanford Humanities Center. Bequests also offer significant tax advantages. To learn more, please contact Susan Sebbard at sebbard@stanford.edu or 650.723.3053.

You may also contact Stanford’s Office of Planned Giving directly at 800.227.8977, ext. 54358, or planned.giving@stanford.edu. Or you may visit their website at http://bequestsandtrusts.stanford.edu.

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• Make a pledge
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We welcome gifts at all levels. Every gift is appreciated!

For more information, please visit our website at http://shc.stanford.edu/support or contact Assistant Director Susan Sebbard at sebbard@stanford.edu or 650.723.3053.