

STANFORD  
HUMANITIES  
CENTER



2019 — 2020

# STANFORD HUMANITIES CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT



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# Letter from the Director



"When we launched a celebration last year in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Stanford Humanities Center, none of us imagined that this anniversary year would be the Center's most challenging."

When we launched a celebration last year in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Stanford Humanities Center, none of us imagined that this anniversary year would be the Center's most challenging. In the middle of March 2020, because of the pandemic, the fellows and staff were enjoined to leave our building and move abruptly to online activities, a drastic change for an institution accustomed to hosting in-person events for the entire Stanford campus and fostering daily encounters among its members. While we maintained the fellows' weekly work-in-progress talks with scarcely a break, the Geballe Research Workshops made a difficult shift away from on-site meetings, and our ambitious agenda of public events was largely postponed into the autumn of 2020.

Even as the end of the pandemic is not yet in sight, the Stanford Humanities Center remains determined to uphold our distinctive office on campus, in the nation, and in the world. As I see it, only the Humanities Center has the mission to bring to Stanford the freshest, most exciting ideas in the broader humanities.

Across disciplines, the Center speaks for the general importance of interpretation, argument, evidence, and analysis. We lend historical and comparative context to urgent issues of the present such as racial justice and climate change; we sponsor provocative, unfashionable, and unusual work that brings insight to the cultural conversation.

We continue to carry out this responsibility even under adverse conditions, and will emerge from the present pandemic stronger than before, with a new sense of how to adapt the available media to reach our local and worldwide audiences.

Our plans through 2021 include four new series: "How Change Comes," a train of talks and workshops by scholars who maintain a serious commitment to social justice; "Inside the Center," in which Humanities Center fellows present their work in progress; "All This Rising," featuring thinkers of all disciplines whose influence will crest over the next ten years; and the "1891 Lectures in the Humanities," in which new senior members of the Stanford humanities faculty introduce their thought to the community. The endowed lectures on our annual calendar are designed as memorable occasions to hear figures of growing renown.

The work of the Stanford Humanities Center remains urgent, and is now resurgent. We hope that as you explore this report of 2019–20, you will be inspired to join us for the invigorating intellectual experience of the coming years.

Roland Greene  
Anthony P. Meier Family Professor and Director

# A Year Like No Other

The events of this year have caused a seismic shift in the Center's operations. While this wasn't the 40th anniversary we were expecting, it was a collective experience that brought about new and unexpected ways of communicating, exploring, and expanding. It reaffirmed that the work we do matters and showed how humanists respond, even if we don't yet know how this story will end.

 Global Event

Sept 23

Fellowship year begins

Oct 22

Hume Humanities Honors Fellows join the Center

Sept 1

Roland Greene becomes Director of the Center

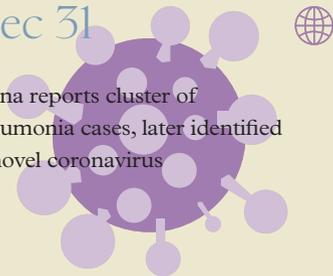


Oct 24

Roland Greene delivers **Classes Without Quizzes** lecture for Reunion Homecoming Weekend

Dec 31

China reports cluster of pneumonia cases, later identified as novel coronavirus



Jan 8

First International Visitor of the year, **Joanne Liu**, arrives



Jan 30

Ato Quayson delivers the inaugural **1891 Lecture in the Humanities**



Jan 31

First case of COVID-19 reported in Santa Clara County



Feb 3

Second International Visitor of the year, **Sophie Lemièrè**, arrives



Feb 18

Third International Visitor of the year, **Alain Schnapp**, arrives



Mar 4

Stanford restricts all university-sponsored international travel



Mar 10

Spring Quarter classes move online

Mar 16

Bay Area institutes nation's first shelter-in-place order

Mar 17

The Center shifts to an entirely virtual program with all staff working remotely

Mar 26

U.S. COVID-19 cases surge past **82,000** the highest total in world

April 1

Spring Quarter International Visitorships postponed to 2020–21

April 23

Planned **Presidential Lecture** by Achille Mbembe (rescheduled to Oct 20, 2020)

May 12

Hume undergraduates present virtual symposium

May 20

Planned **1891 Lecture in the Humanities** by Anna Bigelow (rescheduled to Nov 10, 2020)

May 27

Black Lives Matter demonstrations erupt across the U.S. over the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others

June 5

The Stanford community gathers for an online vigil to pay respects to the Black lives lost to racial injustice

July 29

“Inside the Center” online event series launched

Aug 13

Stanford announces virtual Fall Quarter for undergraduates

# Fellows



"The luxury of having long stretches of time to read, think, and write was the biggest benefit of my year at the Humanities Center. But the benefit of solitary scholarship is beneficial only when set beside the fellowship of a scholarly community. The Center magically makes both possible."

Haiyan Lee,  
*Ellen Andrews Wright Faculty Fellow*

For four decades, the Stanford Humanities Center has created a unique intellectual community for scholars at all stages of their academic careers to join in a mutual exchange of ideas. In 2019–20 the Center provided nearly 50 fellowships to scholars from around the globe. And while we were forced by the pandemic to move that community online midyear, the Center continued to support our fellows' research, writing, and scholarly connections from afar with weekly virtual talks and events.

The Humanities Center's fellowships are made possible by gifts and grants from the following individuals, foundations, and other Stanford offices: The Esther Hayfer Bloom Estate, Theodore H. and Frances K. Geballe, Mimi and Peter Haas, Marta Sutton Weeks, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Mericos Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the offices of the Dean of Research and the Dean of Humanities and Sciences.



Colleen Anderson

Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities

Department of German Studies, Stanford University

*Undivided Heavens: Space Exploration and Identity in Cold War Germany*

The Humanities Center provided a wonderful centerpiece for me to encounter new ideas and be a part of a community on campus. I enjoyed learning about the fascinating new directions that humanities research is taking and thinking about how to incorporate these new perspectives into my own work. All of the opportunities for us to share our own work have been very valuable and I have learned a lot from the ways in which other Mellon Fellows write, think, or teach.



Jacqueline Basu

Stanford Humanities Center Dissertation Prize Fellow

Department of Political Science, Stanford University

*Convergence Concepts: The Political Construction of Stability, Legitimacy, and Authority*

My fellowship year offered a host of benefits, but the most fundamental was probably the time it afforded me to think deeply and critically through my dissertation project. I came into the year with the pieces of a project—only one finished chapter of my dissertation—and the fellowship gave me the time to put them together. Although access to the Center was cut short by the threat of COVID-19, the fellowship was also generous in the space it made for work, study, and community.



Ari Bryen

Faculty Fellow

Department of History, Vanderbilt University

*The Judgment of the Provinces: Law, Culture, and Empire in the Roman East*

My fellowship gave me time to put into continuous prose some answers to the problems and questions I've been thinking about for some ten years. In the time that I had in the Center, I managed to complete two very lengthy chapters of my book and I'm really happy with the things I have written. I've been a fellow at several institutions, and I know that the culture seems to be a given. But it isn't—it's something built by hard work and attention to detail.



Geraldo Cadava

Faculty Fellow

Department of History, Northwestern University

*The Hispanic Republican: The Shaping of an American Political Identity, from Nixon to Trump*

I spent Fall Quarter finishing up *The Hispanic Republican*, but I also began my next book project on the lifelong friendship between the Watergate mastermind E. Howard Hunt and the conservative intellectual William F. Buckley, Jr. Without a doubt, the major benefits of the fellowship were the quiet time away from responsibilities at my home institution, and the opportunity to make community with everyone at the Stanford Humanities Center. And in fact, I'd probably say that the latter was more important to me than the former.



Lina Chhun

Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities

Program in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Stanford University

*Walking with the Ghost: Contested Silences, Memory-Making, and Cambodian/American Histories of Violence*

This year as a Mellon Fellow has been an invaluable opportunity for growth and preparation for a tenure-track career in academia. I am appreciative of the intellectual and collegial community I found within the program and especially among the group of other Mellons. In addition to scholarly exchange during Friday research talks on a variety of topics, I have enjoyed interacting with and learning from Mellon Fellows as we came and went and worked together in the communal office at the Humanities Center.



Lyndsey Hoh Copeland

Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities

Department of Music, Stanford University

*The Sound of Metal: Amateur Brass Bands in Southern Benin*

I am grateful to the Stanford Humanities Center staff for their support and thoughtful decisions during this time, and for my time at the Center as a whole. I thought the book proposal workshops that included one-on-one meetings with editors were especially helpful. The Center provided a supportive community and a stimulating space in which to share experiences and ideas and I look forward to beginning my new position as Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology at the University of Toronto in the fall of 2020.



Tysen Dauer

**Stanford Humanities Center  
Dissertation Prize Fellow**

Department of Music, Stanford University

*The Varieties of Minimalist Experience: The Roles of Psychological States in the Reception of American Minimalism During the Long Sixties*

Having my own office on campus made for my most productive and focused year at Stanford. I finished and defended my dissertation, applied for over 40 academic jobs (receiving a postdoc position in Toronto), presented at two national conferences, and submitted two papers for publication. But building relationships with other fellows was even more rewarding than the preceding accomplishments and milestones. Faculty and graduate students were willing to have honest conversations about their work, lives, and future goals.



Brian DeLay

**Marta Sutton Weeks Faculty Fellow**

Department of History, University of California, Berkeley

*Aim at Empire: Arms Trading and the Fates of American Revolutions*

It was such a blessing to have time and space to read, research, reflect, and write. I had intended to spend the year mainly writing, and wound up mostly researching, thinking, and reimagining essential aspects of the project. That wouldn't have been possible without the blessing of time and space to think. I really loved the rhythm. Tuesday presentations were always very welcome—learning about everyone's work, and getting to think together, however briefly, as a community. And interacting with the staff was always a delight.



Ksenia Ershova

**Mellon Fellowship of Scholars  
in the Humanities**

Department of Linguistics, Stanford University

*Participant Encoding in West Circassian*

The Mellon Fellowship gave me the space, time, and resources to advance my academic career. My major accomplishments included a fieldtrip to Russia for data collection in December 2019, a presentation at the major conference in my field in January 2020, and the submission of a manuscript to a peer-review journal. As I've transitioned from graduate school to my postdoctoral career, a new campus and department, and throughout the COVID-19 crisis, the Center has been an invaluable source of support and community.



Ramzi Fawaz

**Faculty Fellow**

Department of English, University of Wisconsin, Madison

*Queer Forms*

During my year at the Humanities Center I completed the longest and most challenging chapter of my new book project. The time I was granted to research, reconsider my approach and arguments, was invaluable. I also spent a very significant amount of time simply reeducating myself on my own fields of expertise: I filled in major gaps in my knowledge of 1960s and 1970s social movement history and culture, including learning more about Asian American feminisms, lesbian separatism, and trans politics.



Rima Greenhill

**Faculty Fellow**

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Stanford University

*Through Each Other's Eyes: Russian-English Cultural Encounters, 1553–1603*

I normally teach nine courses a year and have to squeeze my research into evenings and weekends when I am not preparing for my classes. Consequently, this year has been a godsend to me. It's the first time that I have been able to devote myself exclusively to my research. I made considerable progress on three aspects of my research—the gifting between England and Russia, exchange of doctors, and early masques—despite my inability to visit the English and Russian archives, as intended.



Fiona Griffiths

**Violet Andrews Whittier Faculty Fellow**

Department of History, Stanford University

*Priests' Wives: Confronting Celibacy in the Age of Reform, ca. 1040–1215*

With the support of the Stanford Humanities Center, I made substantial progress on a new research project examining the lives and experiences of eleventh-century priests' wives. This subject has been on my research agenda for some time, but it is difficult: most studies of church reform during the eleventh century ignore the implications of celibacy for women married to priests or pass over the women as being “absent” from medieval sources. I felt quite free to explore sources that were entirely new to me.



Heather Hendershot



Nicole Hughes



Mei Li Inouye



Mélanie Lamotte



Joshua Landy



Haiyan Lee

**Marta Sutton Weeks Fellow**

Department of Comparative Media Studies/ Writing, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

*Drowning in the Mainstream: Network News at the 1968 Democratic Convention*

I made tremendous progress on my book on media coverage of the Chicago Democratic National Convention of 1968. I arrived having gathered all of my archival research materials and having read relevant background material. At that point, I had given several conference presentations on the work and had conceptualized the arguments and structure of the book. I now end the year having written the book's introduction plus three chapters. I am delighted with the progress I was able to make on my work while at the Center.

**Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities**

Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures, Stanford University

*Stages of History: New World Spectacles and the Theater of the World in the Sixteenth Century*

Thanks to my Mellon Fellowship, I was able to complete a full draft of my book manuscript, and the Humanities Center enabled me to develop my project in dialogue with the broader intellectual community at Stanford. I presented chapters at Bolívar House and the Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies and taught two undergraduate courses in the Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures. The Center also provided me with an intimate forum where I could present works-in-progress and receive feedback at crucial junctures.

**Stanford Humanities Center Dissertation Prize Fellow**

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Stanford University

*Performing Jiang Qing (1914–1991): Gender, Performance, and Power in Modern China*

In my time as a Dissertation Prize Fellow, I was able to work through my research materials, narrow the scope of my investigation, commit to a methodology of biography and literary/performance analysis, and identify my overall argument for my project. Conversations at lunch with various fellows were critical in helping me shape the structure. A nod, a follow-up question, confusion, methodological comparisons, rephrasing and re-stating, etc., helped me think through the argument and significance of my project in relation to different disciplines.

**Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities**

Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, Stanford University

*Mapping Race: Policies, Sex, and Social Orders in the French Atlantic and Indian Oceans, c. 1608–1756*

The fellowship allowed me to make a difference on the job market. To me, the daughter of an Afro-Caribbean housekeeper and a white working-class artisan from a French banlieue, becoming an assistant professor at Tulane University starting in fall 2020 is such an extraordinary career path. This year, I finished my book manuscript, wrote one article, and taught one course. I am also grateful to the Mellon Foundation for their guest speaker fund, which allowed us to invite Harvard professor Vincent Brown for a fascinating guest lecture by a key figure in the humanities.

**Donald Andrews Whittier Faculty Fellow**

Departments of French and Italian and Comparative Literature, Stanford University

*Marcel Proust: A Very Short Introduction*

My main task has been to make progress on a new book: Oxford University Press kindly commissioned me to write about Marcel Proust for their *Very Short Introductions* series. Among the benefits the fellowship year offered were the time to write, intellectual exchanges with the wonderful fellows, and personal and intellectual connections that I hope will last a lifetime. Also, the daily lunches would bring us together and weekly lectures helped presenters finetune their projects while also enlightening and inspiring everyone else.

**Ellen Andrews Wright Faculty Fellow**

Departments of East Asian Languages and Cultures and Comparative Literature, Stanford University

*A Certain Justice: Toward an Ecology of the Chinese Legal Imagination*

My major accomplishment of the year was finishing 90% of my book manuscript. I also co-organized a symposium on cognitive literary studies under the auspices of the Center for the Study of the Novel. It was the last large in-person event I participated in. The luxury of having long stretches of time to read, think, and write was the biggest benefit of my year at the Humanities Center. But the benefit of solitary scholarship is beneficial only when set beside the fellowship of a scholarly community. The Center magically makes both possible.



## Julian Lim

## Yoshiko Matsumoto

## Nick Mayhew

## Yumi Moon

## Jeff Nagy

## Peggy Phelan

### Faculty Fellow

School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe

*Aliens and Empire: Immigration and the Borders of U.S. Expansion in the Greater U.S. West, 1870–1920*

During my fellowship year, I made significant progress on my next book. I was fortunate enough to give my research talk in the fall, receiving invaluable feedback from other fellows. Based on this feedback, I was able to think more broadly (and ambitiously) about the kinds of research questions and topics that my book needs to address. In addition, my fellowship provided me with several opportunities to present my work to various audiences in California and I was able to deepen my relationships with fellow scholars.

### Violet Andrews Whittier Faculty Fellow

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Stanford University

*Centrality of the Peripheries: The Language and the Users*

The fellowship year brought me a chance to both consolidate my current work and develop a new direction of my research. Two journal articles and one book chapter will appear soon as well as a journal special issue “Multiplicity in Grammar: Modes, Genres and Speaker’s Knowledge.” The intellectual community at the Center provided me with ideas and time to design new projects including “Sharing Conversations: A Core Human Experience Across Life,” supported by Stanford’s Cultivating Humanities Grant.

### Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Stanford University

*Queer Traditions in Early Modern Russia*

I’ve felt very settled and motivated this year, and this has really helped with my productivity. In large part this is thanks to our Mellon Fellowship community, whose friendly support and intellectual engagement have sustained my belief in myself, my work, and academia as a whole. There were also some wonderful fellows at the Humanities Center this year who helped to make the Stanford Humanities Center such a welcoming and supportive place to come and work and socialize.

### Faculty Fellow

Department of History, Stanford University

*Toward a Free State: Imperial Shift and the Formation of Post-Colonial South Korea, 1937–1950*

Although I have been reading sources and writing draft chapters for my current book project for the past several years, this fellowship at the Humanities Center helped me concentrate fully on reading primary sources without interruption and think about how I will write the book for a broader audience. Being able to interact with the scholars in other disciplinary fields and learn about their academic interests and research projects helped me rethink the relevance of my own project.

### Stanford Humanities Center Dissertation Prize Fellow

Department of Communication, Stanford University

*Watching Feeling: Emotional Data from Cybernetics to Social Media*

I was able to devote myself fully to researching and writing my dissertation, a history of the entanglement of computing and emotion from the immediate post-war period to the present. I was fortunate to be able to share this work at a number of conferences over the year, as well as with the Humanities Center community. The diversity of expertise among fellows also helped me refine my framing of my project, in order to make it relevant to scholars in disciplines quite far removed from my own.

### Ellen Andrews Wright Faculty Fellow

Departments of Theater and Performance Studies and English, Stanford University

*Warhol's New York: 1976–1987*

I published two essays about feminist art and wrote another on Warhol and his long film, *Empire*, which will be part of a collection of essays by scholars interested in narrative and slowness. I also worked on the Warhol photo archive at Stanford and began trying to link his work to new conceptions of art as data, largely driven by advances in Artificial Intelligence. And I was the Principal Investigator for a multi-year Mellon Foundation Grant dedicated to evolving the Honors in the Arts capstone program into a four-year minor.



## Rhodes Pinto

## Kristin Primus

## John Tennant

## Rebecca Wall

## Callie Ward

## J'Nese Williams

### Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities

Department of Philosophy, Stanford University

*The Treatment of Motion in Presocratic Philosophy*

This past year has been full of opportunity. The intellectual climate both of the Mellon program itself and the Humanities Center more broadly has truly exceeded my expectations; it is the vision itself of scholarly interchange across disciplines and borders which I have (sadly) found so lacking in most academic institutional settings. That community has allowed me to situate and contextualize my work, to see a number of links between my work and that of others in various humanities fields, and it has made me a more well-rounded scholar.

### Faculty Fellow

Department of Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley

*Transforming Philosophy: A Reading of Spinoza's Ethics*

During the first two quarters, I drafted two new pieces of my larger Spinoza project and revised two other parts. One of these, which was published in the fall as “Spinoza’s ‘Infinite Modes’ Reconsidered” in the *Journal of Modern Philosophy*, was recently nominated by a panel of senior scholars for inclusion in the *Philosopher’s Annual*, a collection meant to represent the ten best articles published in the previous calendar year. I was really thankful to have a year of research leave away from my department and its distractions.

### Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities

Department of Classics, Stanford University

*Proverbial Plato: Proverbs, Gnōmai, and the Reformation of Discourse in Plato’s Republic*

This past year as a Mellon Fellow has been one of my most rewarding as a scholar. First and foremost, I was able to devote significant time to my research and writing. Second, I gained significant experience as a teacher from the course I taught for the Classics Department. Lastly—and speaking more generally—I was able to see a way of situating my work within the larger framework of the humanities. Such interdisciplinary exposure has had a profound impact on my growth as a scholar.

### Stanford Humanities Center Dissertation Prize Fellow

Department of History, Stanford University

*The Rebellious River: Transnational Senegal River Management, 1920–2000*

This was quite a hectic year, but one which membership in the Humanities Center community vastly improved! In the space of six months I started and ended a (successful) job hunt, defended my dissertation, and advanced other research projects. I continued a digital history project with my advisor on mapping slave liberations in West Africa. I presented on this at a conference at Rice University and will work on the project with undergraduates at Hamilton College; it will be exciting to make the initiative a multi-university affair!

### Stanford Humanities Center Dissertation Prize Fellow

Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures, Stanford University

*Past Present: The Literature of Human Rights in Postdictatorial Chile, Argentina, and Brazil*

Since early March, I have continued to work on my dissertation and to participate in the virtual activities of the Stanford Humanities Center. This has been a difficult year (for all of us, in different ways), but the feedback I have received was incredibly helpful. It has been restorative, and such a privilege, to continue to take part in this community and to count on the supportive presence of Roland Greene, the Humanities Center staff, and fellows.

### Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities

Department of History, Stanford University

*The Texture of Empire: Botanic Gardens, Science, and Governance in the British Empire, Late 18th and Early 19th Centuries*

While last year I spent the bulk of my time reconceptualizing my dissertation project as the first step toward a completed book manuscript, this year I began to use that roadmap to work on the book manuscript. The year was also very fruitful for my maturation as an educator. The pandemic pushed me to consider what, at bottom, are the most important takeaways for my students to have, and I have focused on those when reshaping classes to fit in the virtual format.



Benjamin  
Wilson

**Distinguished Junior External Fellow**

Department of the History of Science,  
Harvard University

*Strange Stability: The Scientific Power Elite  
in the Age of Nuclear Weapons*

I was able to make significant progress on my book manuscript and I feel fortunate to have been able to do this writing around such a friendly group of people. Presenting a chapter to an engaged and thoughtful audience during the Tuesday talk series was extremely helpful for the process of editing and rewriting. Each week it was impressive to see a group of very smart people engage with the enormous range of methods and topics represented in the research of Humanities Center fellows.



Duygu  
Yildirim

**Stanford Humanities Center  
Dissertation Prize Fellow**

Department of History, Stanford University

*The Age of the Perplexed: Translating Nature  
and Bodies between the Ottoman Empire  
and Europe, 1650–1730*

As a Dissertation Prize Fellow, I have made significant progress on my dissertation, which explores how and why translations managed to create new ideas about nature, human bodies, and faith in the early modern world. I have found Tuesdays talks and conversations with other scholars very important factors to shape my thinking about my project. I now have a much clearer idea about the scope and the structure of my dissertation. The fellowship made me realize, once again, how interdisciplinary thinking is crucial for every research project.



Adrien  
Zakar

**Mellon Fellowship of Scholars  
in the Humanities**

Department of History, Stanford University

*Framing Perception: Landscape Images and  
the Politics of Geographical Information in  
Syria and Lebanon, 1900–1946*

This was my second year with the Mellon program, and we had a fantastic lineup of speakers and editors. Our cohort this year included a linguist, a critical theorist, and philosophers, and I was particularly thrilled by this diversity of viewpoints and approaches. The lunch community of course is what makes the Humanities Center such a unique place to do a postdoc, as I once again got the opportunity to chat with tenured faculty from around the county to build friendships and receive priceless advice.



Sheng  
Zou

**Stanford Humanities Center  
Dissertation Prize Fellow**

Department of Communication,  
Stanford University

*The Engineering of Sentiment and Desire:  
Unraveling the Aestheticized Politics of  
Ideotainment in China*

The most important accomplishment of my fellowship year was the completion of my dissertation and passing my defense with no revision. My dissertation won the 2020 Nathan Maccoby Dissertation Award granted by my home department, an award that is given only in those years when there is an outstanding dissertation. I want to emphasize the importance of this fellowship to my achievements. Because of the fellowship's generous support, I have been able to concentrate on writing and research without distractions and to see my work in a new light.



Eleni  
Bastéa

**In Memoriam**

The Stanford Humanities Center was deeply saddened by the loss of our colleague and friend Professor Eleni Bastéa, who passed away on January 12, after an illness.

Bastéa, who was Regents Professor of Architecture at the University of New Mexico, was in the middle of a yearlong residency at the Center as a Marta Sutton Weeks Fellow. Her research was focused on a book project titled *Geographies of Loss*, which concerned the memory of lost places among refugees and examined the politics of commemoration. Her books include *The Creation of Modern Athens: Planning the Myth* (Cambridge University Press, 2000), also published in Greek (Libro, 2008, author's translation), *Memory*

*and Architecture* (University of New Mexico Press, 2004), and *Venice without Gondolas, a poetry collection* (Finishing Line Press, 2013).

Speaking about her fellowship during a celebratory gathering at the Center, her husband Mark Forte said, "I was happy to see that Eleni connected in the way that I knew she would connect. She was so excited to come here, and she did make a difference."

# Hume Fellows



Above: Hume Fellows meet with students from The Harker School.

"The Hume Humanities Fellowship was one of the highlights of my Stanford career. The fellowship gives fantastic exposure to what serious academic work in the humanities looks like; it's a terrific bridge between undergraduate and graduate life."

Ravi Veriah Jacques,  
Hume Humanities Honors Fellow

In 2019–20, the Stanford Humanities Center expanded the program to award a Hume Humanities Honors Fellowship to ten undergraduate seniors majoring in a humanities discipline. The Hume Fellows receive a stipend for research project materials, share dedicated workplaces in the Humanities Center, and participate in group activities that aim to deepen their scholarly focus and enrich their association as a cohort.

This year's group of fellows rose to the particular challenges of having to complete the fellowship virtually, culminating with a successful online symposium where they each had the opportunity to present on their honors thesis to their peers and advisors.

These fellowships are made possible by gifts from Mr. George H. Hume and Dr. Leslie P. Hume.

## Amir Abou-Jaoude

**Art History and American Studies**

*Robert Mapplethorpe and the Allure of Antiquity*

Advisors: Jody Maxmin, Richard Meyer,  
Christian Whitworth

For his honors thesis work, Abou-Jaoude received the Robert M. Golden Medal for Excellence in the Humanities and the Creative Arts, the 2020 Award for Excellence in Honors Thesis Presentation in Art and Art History, and the 2020 David M. Kennedy Honors Thesis Prize.



## Isabelle Carpenter

**International Relations and Comparative Literature**

*Ahmad Faris Shidyaq*

Advisor: Alexander Key

Following graduation, Carpenter will be working at a political risk analysis consultancy in Washington, D.C. and hopes to return to the Middle East, COVID-19 permitting.





## Emily Elott

### English

*Out of Obscurity: The Connection Between Thomas Hardy and Virginia Woolf*

Advisors: Michaela Bronstein, Alice Staveley

Elott is beginning a job as an investment analyst for two years, with Capital Group, but hopes that reading literature and writing will figure prominently.



## Ravi Veriah Jacques

### History

*The Indian Mutiny in the British Racial Imagination*

Advisors: Priya Satia, Kathryn Olivarius

Veriah Jacques was a recipient of the J.E. Wallace Sterling Award for Scholastic Achievement and a 2020 Schwarzman Scholarship. He will be participating with various cohort members from Seoul.



## Won-Gi Jung

### History and East Asian Studies

*The Making of Chinatown: Chinese Migrants and the Production of the Criminal Space in the 1920s Colonial Seoul*

Advisor: Dafna Zur

Jung won a Hofer Prize in Writing and a Korea Program Prize for Writing in Korean Studies. He plans to do a remote internship program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank based in Washington, D.C.



## Adrian Liu

### Mathematics, Philosophy and Religious Studies

*Incomparable Choices and Procedural Justice*

Advisors: Lee Yearley, Rob Reich

Following graduation, Liu plans to be a judicial extern for Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar of the California Supreme Court, and in October he will begin a year-long term as a judicial fellow at Placer Superior Court, part of the Capital Fellows program.



## Clara Romani

### History and French

*Secrecy, Subversion, and the Second Sex: Women's Networks in Medieval Cathar*

Advisors: Rowan Dorin, Fiona Griffiths

Romani won the History Department's Award for Excellence in Honors Thesis Presentation. She is also a Fulbright grantee for the coming year, which will allow her to pursue a master's in history at CY Cergy Paris University.



## Alexandra "Mac" Taylor

### Political Science and Art History

*Ethics of Judicial Decision-Making*

Advisors: Rob Reich, Alexander Nemerov

For the coming year, Taylor has accepted a fellowship to serve as a research fellow at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, where she will work alongside their content team. She also plans to apply to law school.



## Dayonna Evelyn Tucker

### African and African American Studies

*Womb Space: Marvels of Our Own Inventiveness*

Advisor: Allyson Hobbs

Tucker received the Lyric McHenry Community Arts Fellowship with Stanford's Institute for Diversity in the Arts and is considering pursuing an MFA in the future.



## Jenny Vo-Phamhi

### Classics and Computer Science

*Human Trafficking into the Roman World and the Modern United States*

Advisor: Richard Saller

Following graduation, Vo-Phamhi is doing community-engaged work with physicians at Stanford Hospital and other community clinics, developing materials and training to improve identification of human trafficking victims in healthcare venues and other places where trafficking victims might surface.

# International Visitors Program



"The idea behind spending time at Stanford was to reflect and research on how our current security obsession is impacting global responses to humanitarian crises through three case studies: The 2014–15 Ebola epidemic, the attack on Kunduz Trauma center in Afghanistan in 2015, and the ongoing forced displacement crisis across the globe. It has been an immense privilege to be in a sheltered and mind-rich environment. In fact, an environment conducive for success."

Joanne Liu,  
*Physician, Canada*

Since 2009, some 60 international visitors—from more than 30 countries and representing over 50 institutions—have come to Stanford for month-long residencies through the joint partnership of the Humanities Center and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI).

During their stay, the international scholars are able to share their research with other departments on campus and become introduced to Stanford's other institutions and larger intellectual life. Although this year's program was interrupted, with only three visitors able to travel to Stanford, we hope to welcome the others in the next academic year.



Sophie  
Lemiere

FSI-Humanities Center  
International Visitor, 2019–20

Christopher Family International  
Visitor, 2019–20

Political Anthropologist  
Democracy in Hard Places Initiative at  
the Ash Center for Democracy, Harvard  
University

February 2020

Sophie Lemiere's current work explores the intangible elements of politics, including the conjunction of political imaginary and legitimacy; charisma and personality politics; the evolution of political imaginary; the constructions of political and national narratives; and the role of emotions in politics.

Lemiere was nominated by the Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies.



Joanne  
Liu

FSI-Humanities Center  
International Visitor, 2019–20

Bliss Carnochan International  
Visitor, 2019–20

Physician and International President,  
Doctors Without Borders (2013–2019)

University of Montreal  
January–February 2020

Joanne Liu is a pediatric emergency physician who has devoted her career to medical humanitarianism, and has undertaken more than 20 missions since 1996 in Central Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle East. Her contributions range from introducing comprehensive medical care for survivors of sexual violence, to developing a tele-medicine platform connecting doctors in remote areas with medical specialists.

Liu was nominated by the Stanford Center for Innovation in Global Health.



Alain  
Schnapp

FSI-Humanities Center  
International Visitor, 2019–20

Professor Emeritus, Classical Archeology  
Panthéon-Sorbonne University  
February–March 2020

Alain Schnapp's main interests are Greek iconography and the cultural history of antiquity. He has been a visiting scholar or visiting professor at numerous universities and institutes and has produced pioneering work bridging a variety of disciplines. While at the Center, Schnapp worked to finish his manuscript on a universal history of ruins.

Schnapp was nominated by the Department of Classics.



Shashi  
Jayakumar\*

FSI-Humanities Center  
International Visitor, 2019–20

Head of Centre of Excellence  
for National Security

S. Rajaratnam School of International  
Studies (RSIS)

Jayakumar was nominated by the WSD Handa Center for Human Rights and International Justice.

**\*Due to the shutdown and the restrictions on international travel, these visitors were unable to arrive on campus and their residencies have been deferred to a future date.**



Nitza  
Tenenblat\*

FSI-Humanities Center  
International Visitor, 2019–20

Professor of Theater  
University of Brasília

Tenenblat was nominated by the Department of Theater and Performance Studies.



Yfaat  
Weiss\*

FSI-Humanities Center  
International Visitor, 2019–20

Professor of Jewish History, Hebrew  
University of Jerusalem  
Director of the Leibniz Institute for Jewish  
History and Culture–Simon Dubnow  
Professor of Modern History, Leipzig  
University

Weiss was nominated by the Department of German Studies and Taube Center for Jewish Studies.

# Research Workshop Program



"The rise of COVID-19 has only intensified pre-existing racial inequality and discrimination. The CORE Workshop (Critical Orientations to Race and Ethnicity) became an important space to discuss our work in the context of these issues, largely because we were one of the few spaces at Stanford designed for exactly these types of conversations."

Vannessa Velez  
Graduate Student Workshop Coordinator

The Research Workshop Program, now in its 25th year, brings together Stanford faculty and advanced graduate students, as well as Humanities Center fellows and scholars from other institutions, to present and discuss current research and explore topics of common intellectual concern. During this academic year workshops drew some 800 attendees, and coordinators rallied by moving to an online format in the spring, which, as a result, opened up the program to a diverse group of participants from more distant countries and new institutions.

Cognition and Language Workshop

History of Political Thought

Marta Sutton Weeks Research Workshop

Critical Orientations  
to Race and Ethnicity

Renaissance Worldmaking

Claire and John Radway Research Workshop

Humanities Center Fellows Research Workshop

A Decolonial Collaborative  
Research Group

Reframing Fashion Studies

Digital Aesthetics: Critical Approaches  
to Computational Culture

Standardization in Ancient Economies

Linda Randall Meier Research Workshop

Blokker Research Workshop

Ethics and Politics,  
Ancient and Modern

Varieties of Agency

Marta Sutton Weeks Research Workshop

Eurasian Empires

Working Group in Literary  
and Visual Culture

Research Workshop in Honor of John Bender

Feminist/Queer Colloquium

Worlds of Work and the Work  
of Networks



# Digital Humanities



The Center for  
Spatial & Textual  
Analysis

Through a new partnership with the Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA), the Humanities Center embraces emerging digital methods to complement traditional kinds of analysis and interpretation. Together, the Stanford Humanities Center and CESTA serve as the hub of an international network of fellows, visiting scholars, students, and alumni.

Founded in 2012, CESTA is a renowned research hub in the digital humanities, supported by the Dean of Research and the Dean of Humanities and Sciences and led by Associate Professor of Classics Giovanna Ceserani, who began her term as director last November. Previous directors were Professor Zephyr Frank (History) and Professor Elaine Treharne (English). CESTA explores places, global spaces, texts, textual artifacts, data visualization, digital curation, preservation and display, linked data and interoperability, and sustainability. As a scholarly community counting more than 25 affiliated faculty, CESTA supports and encourages cutting-edge work across the humanities and the interpretative social sciences.



"The time is ripe to ask central questions about humanistic inquiry as it relates to the evolving methodologies of a changing world, such as what might publishing become in the digital age, or how can machine-learning change the way we investigate the past. Our new partnership with the Stanford Humanities Center will ensure that CESTA continues to ask such questions."

Giovanna Ceserani  
*Director, Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis*

At CESTA, Stanford faculty and students bring the power of humanistic investigation together with new technology to document, analyze, and understand the changing human experience. This work has been continuing, with resilience, amid the difficult circumstances of the pandemic, with our faculty continuing to make progress on their research while we continued to hold all our CESTA seminars remotely, with wider audiences than usual. The impact of this work is profound.

## Highlights from Past Projects

CESTA's record of innovation extends beyond academia as well.

---

### Mapping the Republic of Letters

This historical network analysis of early modern written correspondences has been famously applied to current events such as the investigation of the Panama Papers, helping to identify suspicious and hidden connections within those massive (and otherwise unreadable) leaked documents.

Directed by Professors Dan Edelstein, Paula Findlen, Caroline Winterer, and Giovanna Ceserani, and SU Libraries Data Architect Nicole Coleman.

The interconnecting lines in this map show connections between cities for over 55,000 letters and documents exchanged between 6,400 correspondents in the course of the eighteenth century, with data from the Electronic Enlightenment project.

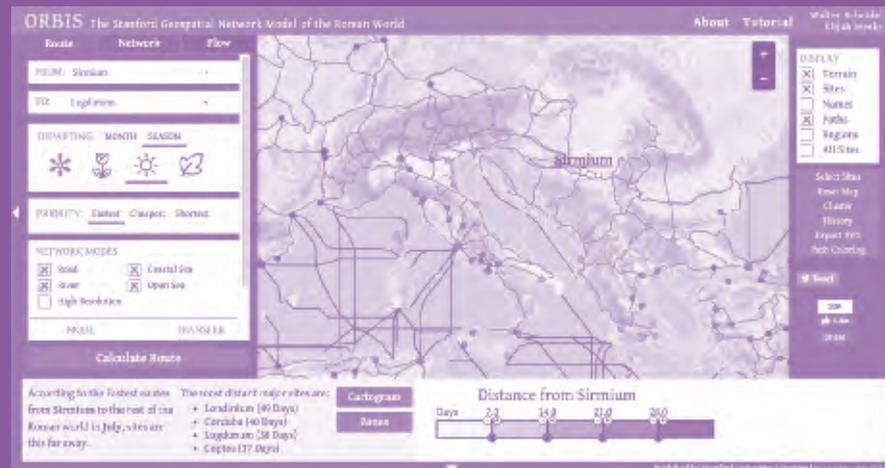


# Highlights from Past Projects

## ORBIS

The launch of *ORBIS*, a Google map detailing the ancient Roman empire, holds tremendous appeal for the general public as well as for scholars.

Directed by Professor Walter Scheidel.



# Highlights from Current Work

## Chinese Railroad Workers in North America

The *Chinese Railroad Workers in North America* project, which just concluded this past year, has tapped the power of the web in order to reveal the untold story of Chinese labor in late nineteenth-century California. The project was awarded the 2019 Preservation Design Award in the Interpretive Exhibits category and a Trustees Award for Excellence by the California Preservation Foundation.

Directed by Professors Gordon Chang and Shelley Fisher Fishkin.



# Other Highlights

## Life in Quarantine: Witnessing Global Pandemic

This Digital Humanities Initiative, launched in March 2020 by three doctoral students and a group of undergraduates, is an online community platform that addresses the transformations we're experiencing in the age of COVID-19.

Directed by PhD students Nelson Endebo, Ellis Schriefer, and Farah Bazzi.

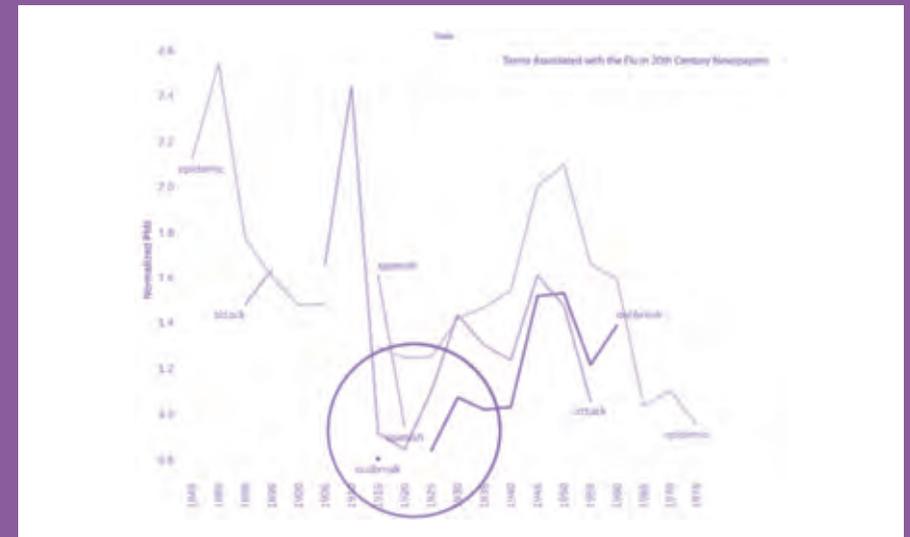


## Writing about Epidemic

The Stanford Literary Lab (directed by Assistant Professor of English Mark Algee-Hewitt) has started a suite of related projects that speak to the ongoing pandemic, using quantitative analysis to explore the language of disease and social isolation over the past three centuries. Together, these projects trace the patterns of words around the experience of epidemic and isolation in order to contextualize our own moment and understand how it echoes, and differs from, similar situations described in literary texts and popular media.

*The Evolving Language of Disease*  
*Literature of Confinement*  
*Personifying Illness*

This graph traces the embedding space of influenza, showing the closest terms to "flu" in American newspapers over the course of the twentieth century. The circle indicates the 1918 influenza pandemic and the disappearance of terms associated with it as the pandemic was censored across the media landscape.



CESTA also hosts undergraduate research interns working intensely on faculty-led projects.

"Over ten weeks, we explored big ideas by bringing diverse disciplines and methods together from the humanities and sciences. From mapping massive urban areas and translating ancient poetry, to visualizing the migration of people and ideas, we worked with each other to cultivate invaluable academic and professional skills."

Cathy Yang '20  
*Art Practice, minor in East Asian Studies*  
Mark York '21  
*Communication, minor in Creative Writing*



# Events



Above:

Ato Quayson delivered an impassioned talk on “Interdisciplinarity and Interpretation,” presenting a taxonomy of interdisciplinary approaches and situating his work in this area.

The Center’s major events draw the public to hear leading figures in the humanities and arts. This year saw the launch of our “1891 Lectures in the Humanities” series designed to welcome senior humanities faculty. However, most of the key events planned before the shutdown, such as the Presidential Lecture in the Humanities by philosopher Achille Mbembe and a new series titled “How Change Comes: Knowledge + Justice,” were rescheduled to this fall or in early 2021.

In the summer we also began offering our first all-virtual public events with an ongoing series called “Inside the Center,” highlighting current and former fellows’ research and writing. Find more information and recordings of past events at [shc.stanford.edu/inside-center](https://shc.stanford.edu/inside-center).

## 2019–20 Highlights

October 24, 2019

### Stanford Alumni Association: Homecoming Reunion | Classes Without Quizzes

*1600: When Science, Art, and Literature Changed Together*  
Roland Greene, Director, Stanford Humanities Center



January 30, 2020

### The 1891 Lectures in the Humanities

*Interdisciplinarity and Interpretation*  
Ato Quayson, Professor of English, Stanford University



March 5, 2020

### Book Talk | Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War

Vincent Brown, Professor of American History and  
Professor of African and African American Studies,  
Harvard University



# Online Events

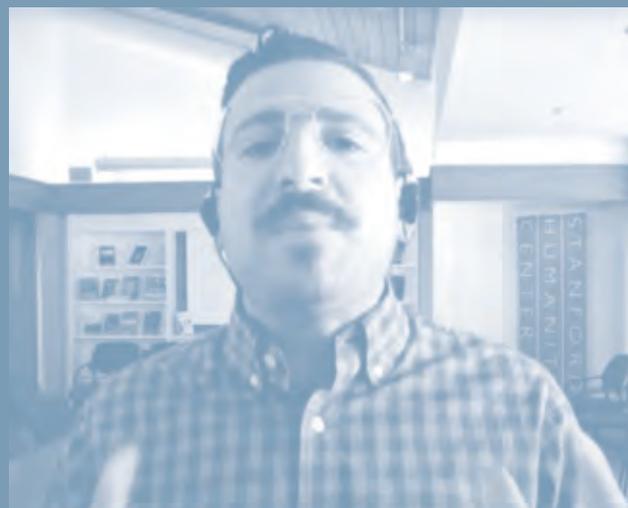
July 29, 2020

## Inside the Center with Ramzi Fawaz

*Queer Love on Barbary Lane: The Sexual Politics of Serial Gay Fiction in Armistead Maupin's 'Tales of the City'*



Watch a video:  
[shc.stanford.edu/inside-center](https://shc.stanford.edu/inside-center)



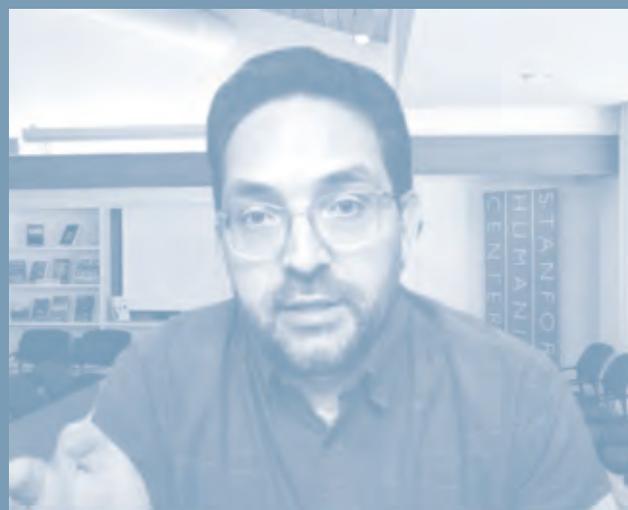
August 26, 2020

## Inside the Center with Geraldo Cadava

*The Hispanic Republican: The Shaping of an American Political Identity, from Nixon to Trump*



Watch a video:  
[shc.stanford.edu/inside-center](https://shc.stanford.edu/inside-center)



# Selected Co-sponsored Talks & Conferences

October 12, 2019

## The Uplift of All: Gandhi, King, and the Global Struggle for Freedom

Co-sponsored with Center for South Asia, WSD Handa Center for Human Rights and International Justice, Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute

October 29, 2019

## Bhante Sujato: Translating a 2500-Year-Old Sacred Text for a Modern Audience

Co-sponsored with Ho Center for Buddhist Studies at Stanford

November 7 & 8, 2019

## Symposium | Making History, Thinking Historically

Co-sponsored with Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies, Department of Art and Art History, Center for South Asia, Department of Religious Studies, University Libraries, Department of History, Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages

December 5 & 6, 2019

## Lit + | Conference on the State of the Interdisciplines

Co-sponsored with the Program in Modern Thought and Literature, Stanford Law School, Program in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

February 11, 2020

## Felon: Poems: A Conversation with Poet Reginald Dwayne Betts

Co-sponsored with Black Law Students Association, Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, Center for Human Rights and International Justice, Criminal Law Society, SLS Criminal Justice Center, Center for Ethics in Society, Stanford Arts Institute

February 27, 2020

## Stanford Writers in Conversation: An Evening with Namwali Serpell

Co-sponsored with Stanford Continuing Studies

# Generous Donors

All gifts received through 2020–21 count toward the Stanford Humanities Center's 40th anniversary fundraising initiative.

The Stanford Humanities Center gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations that made gifts in support of the Humanities Center between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020.

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Gifts to endowment have made it possible to carry out the Center's mission and to secure its core activities in perpetuity.

The dates in parentheses indicate the year the endowment was established.

**HUMANITIES CENTER DIRECTORSHIP**

Anthony P. Meier Family Professorship in the Humanities (1987)  
 Linda and Tony Meier; Anthony Meier, Jr., Eric Meier, and Laura Meier Fisher

**FELLOWSHIPS**

Marta Sutton Weeks Fellows (1982)  
 Marta Sutton Weeks  
 Stanford Humanities Center Dissertation Prize Fellows (1987, 1998)  
 Theodore and Frances Geballe  
 Donald Andrews Whittier, Violet Andrews Whittier, and Ellen Andrews Wright Fellows (1988)  
 The Mericos Foundation, Joanne Blokker, President  
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 Leslie P. and George H. Hume

**RESEARCH WORKSHOP PROGRAM**

Research Workshop Program (2007)  
 Anonymous

**INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH WORKSHOPS**

Linda Randall Meier Research Workshop (2004)  
 Linda and Tony Meier

Marta Sutton Weeks Research Workshops (2004, 2007)  
 Marta Sutton Weeks

Blokker Research Workshop (2005)  
 The Mericos Foundation, Joanne Blokker, President

Research Workshop in Honor of John Bender (2005)  
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Claire and John Radway Research Workshop (2006)  
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Humanities Center Fellows Research Workshop (2008)  
 Peter S. Bing and Humanities Center Fellows

**VISITORSHIP**

The Marta Sutton Weeks Distinguished Visitor (1987)  
 Marta Sutton Weeks

**EXPENDABLE NAMED GIFTS**

Expendable gifts designated in support of specific activities help to sustain programs not funded by endowment.

Oya and Thomas Christopher The Christopher Family International Visitor  
 \$20,000 to support the residency of one international visitor (2017)

**UNIVERSITY SUPPORT**

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 endowments. Each year these ongoing series present a variety of lectures by distinguished scholars, writers, and artists from around the world.

The Humanities Center also gratefully acknowledges support from the Dean of Research and the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

**FOUNDATION GRANTS**

Foundation grants to endowment are supporting the Humanities Center's fellowships and workshops in perpetuity.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (2003)  
 The Mericos Foundation (1988)  
 National Endowment for the Humanities (1978, 1986, 1995, 2004)

# Giving Opportunities

You can give to change the world, or you can give so the world understands it needs to change.



Celebrate the Center's 40th anniversary by making gifts and pledges in support of our core programs as well as new initiatives such as a digital platform, career-launching fellowships, and original programming. Find all the giving opportunities at [shc.stanford.edu/support](http://shc.stanford.edu/support).

Unrestricted, expendable gifts are particularly helpful in enabling the work of the Center to continue to thrive in these challenging times. You may make such gifts to the following funds.

## Annual Fund

Gifts of Any Amount

Unrestricted Annual Fund gifts help sustain programs not funded by endowment and facilitate campus partnerships that benefit the wider community such as manuscript review workshops, international visitor residencies, and co-sponsored events.

## Director's Fund

Gifts of \$10,000 and Above

Contributions to the Director's Fund enable the Humanities Center's leadership to advance the most urgent needs and priorities of the Center. As members of the Director's Circle, donors at this level help the Center to strengthen core programs, promote new initiatives, and amplify the significance of the humanities on campus and beyond.

## Ways To Give

Every Gift Supports the Humanities

- Make an online gift—one-time or recurring ([shc.stanford.edu/support](http://shc.stanford.edu/support))
- Write a check (payable to Stanford University)
- Make a multi-year pledge by sending an email to Susan Sebbard at [sebbard@stanford.edu](mailto:sebbard@stanford.edu)
- Donate your honorarium ([shc.stanford.edu/support/donate-your-honorarium](http://shc.stanford.edu/support/donate-your-honorarium))
- Transfer stock sales
- Make a planned gift

All gifts are tax deductible. For more information about supporting the Humanities Center, please contact Assistant Director Susan Sebbard at [sebbard@stanford.edu](mailto:sebbard@stanford.edu) or 650.723.3053.

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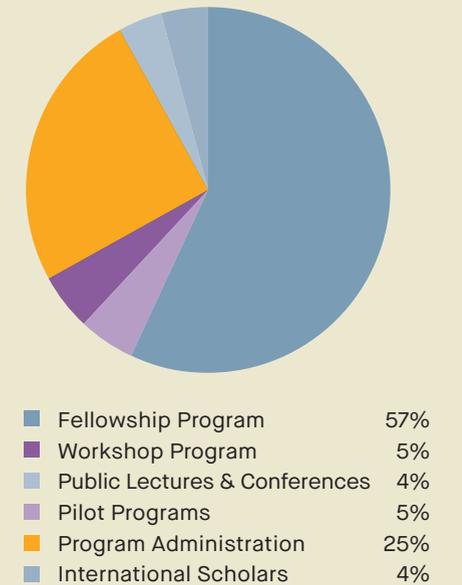
\*Emeritus/Emerita

# Financial Highlights

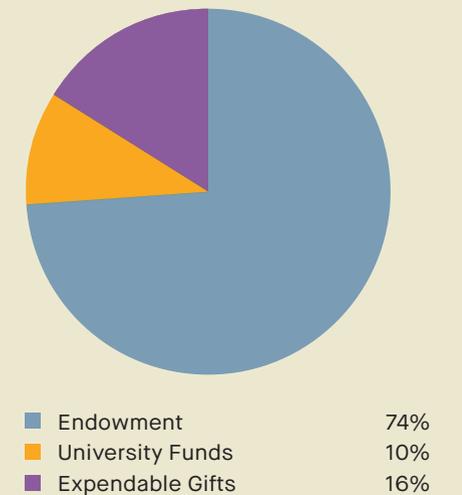
FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 TO AUGUST 31, 2020

Functional expense breakdown based on total program expenditures of \$3,900,163.

## PROGRAM EXPENSES



## FUNDING SOURCES



## The Stanford Humanities Center confronts this moment in history and culture with insights into the questions that define our world.

The Center has nurtured, inspired, and amplified the work of preeminent humanities scholars since its founding in 1980. We promote the exchange of ideas and examine how knowledge is made and practiced in the world. Under Roland Greene's leadership, the Center continues to launch new initiatives that distinguish us as a leader among the world's humanities centers. Your support is an investment in experiences—fellowships, workshops, lectures, and more—that will enrich research in and across the disciplines for the next 40 years.

Thank you!



Andrea Davies  
*Associate Director*





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