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

This letter could begin in two ways. In one version, I could write that the Annual Report for 2020–21 chronicles a year in which events at the Stanford Humanities Center were entirely enveloped by the pandemic that started in the winter of 2020. Our public programs were held fully online; the Research Workshops were obliged to forgo the in-person conversation that had been their medium for 20 years; and the fellows were the first group in our 40-year history to miss daily contact at lunch as well as the random encounters that can spark fresh thinking. In contrast to 2019–20, which was disrupted by the pandemic a little after the half-way mark, the past year saw a dark building and a community of faces illuminated by the blue light of screens. When, in June 2021, the easing pandemic permitted a farewell reception as our only in-person event of the year, most of us were meeting live for the first time.

I prefer to tell a different story. In this alternate version, the Annual Report describes one of the most transformative and ultimately successful years in our history. The Presidential Lecture in the Humanities and Arts, delivered in October 2020 by the Cameroonian historian and philosopher Achille Mbembe, drew an international audience of 912 for the live online broadcast, our largest ever (including a fifth of Stanford’s humanities faculty), and countless others who watched the recording. In December of that year, we obtained an anonymous gift of $6.5 million—the largest gift to the SHC in 30 years—that enabled us to establish our first new graduate fellowship program since the 1990s, the Career Launch Fellowship, and to make significant progress on the development of our forthcoming digital platform. We successfully concluded our 40th anniversary fundraising initiative, which ran from September 2018 through August 2021. The Research Workshops, now meeting exclusively online, found new purpose in a global context: several Workshops doubled or even tripled their usual attendance, and the Workshop program overall reached more than a thousand people over the previous year.

Is there a bridge between these two versions? Yes. It’s found in the extraordinary strength of the fellows and staff of the SHC during 2020–21. Together, they made the first story a success despite challenging conditions: as many of the fellows told me during our reception in June, they achieved the kind of intellectual exchange that fulfilled the promise of the fellowship, while the staff went out of their way to make it happen. Meanwhile, the same fellows and staff participated in the historic gains of the past year. Whatever they might have missed from past years, they have been at the SHC in a time of transformation—in a way, the first cohort of our institution in a new era. Many of our future events will be both in person and virtual. Whether you were a fellow in 1992 (as I was) or 2022, whether you’re a Stanford alum or an interested member of the public, you’re welcome here.

We’ll have much more to share in next year’s Annual Report. Meanwhile, as part of our community, please remember that the Stanford Humanities Center continues to provide you with intellectual enrichment, good fellowship, and a tangible connection to Stanford. Best wishes for good health and powerful ideas in 2022.

Roland Greene
Anthony P. Meier Family Professor and Director
A Year for Reflection

Now that we at the Center have passed through the most disruptive period in our history, we are reflecting on what we have learned about our work. The year forced us to adapt to an entirely online presence that we never envisioned, but it also brought about expansion and inclusion—in our audience reach, in the themes we address, and in our ambitions moving forward.

“IT’S SAID THAT NO CRISIS SHOULD EVER BE WASTED. THE CENTER RESPONDED TO THE COVID CHALLENGE IN A MAGNIFICENTLY CREATIVE WAY BY BUILDING AN INTERNET PROGRAM AND PRESENCE REACHING BEYOND THE CAMPUS AND THE NATION TO THE WORLD BEYOND.”

Keith Michael Baker
Violet Andrews Whittier Internal Faculty Fellow/Former Director

“The digital format presented several advantages. Because all events were online, we were able to engage many more non-Stanford and non-local scholars. More crucially, the online format allowed us to accommodate many more guests and attendees from Africa and the African diaspora.”

Elizabeth Jacob
Graduate Student Workshop Coordinator, Producing Knowledge In and Of Africa

“The virtual research talks and the larger Center-wide webinars and Presidential Lecture all felt like coherent aspects of a similar Center mission, and I look forward in the coming years to be able to attend events remotely or to listen to them online if I can’t get there in person.”

Alice Staveley
Internal Faculty Fellow

TIMELINE

New Lecture Series Launched
FRAMING INTELLECTUAL CONVERSATIONS THAT START AT THE CENTER

Hume Honors Fellows Welcome
LARGEST UNDERGRADUATE COHORT IN THE PROGRAM’S HISTORY

Career Launch Fellowship Created
FOUR STANFORD PHD STUDENTS WILL INAUGURATE THE PROGRAM IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2021–22

Research Workshop Events Hosted
DRAWING MORE THAN 3,500 ONLINE PARTICIPANTS

Director’s Alumni Cabinet Formed
GROUP OF RECENT STANFORD ALUMNI WILL BRING FRESH PERSPECTIVES TO THE WORK OF THE CENTER

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The Stanford Humanities Center constitutes an intellectual and social community in which historians, philosophers, scholars of literature and the arts, anthropologists, and other humanists of diverse ages, academic ranks, and departmental and institutional affiliations contribute to and learn from one another’s work. Despite the loss of regular in-person interactions, the Center’s online programming, including regular Tuesday research talks along with a series of social events and check-ins, helped sustain a close-knit scholarly community in new and unexpected ways.

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. The 2020–21 fellowship cycle included one digital humanities fellowship supported by a grant from the Bing Presidential Fund, awarded to the Humanities Center by the Office of the President.

The fellowship year and my engagement with the other fellows reshaped my project and its contribution in significant ways. I began to think about how my project decolonizes ethnography and how I should write in ways that evoke other senses, becoming attuned to the collectivity that speaks beyond dichotomy of subject and object, and allow theory to emerge from the process of making ethnography itself. With time to write, a superb library, brilliant fellows as interlocutors, a wonderful research assistant, and beautiful landscapes to walk in, the Center provided a sense of community.

My major accomplishment has been to research and write very substantial chapters of my book Jean-Paul Marat: Prophet of Terror. His virulent language as a radical political journalist has been more often cited than read, and my comprehensive analysis will offer a fresh interpretation of the dynamic that ended in the Terror. Writing it during this period of our own nation’s political existence has also led me to think more deeply about populism as a feature of democratic political culture. The Center did an excellent job of preserving the essence of the fellowship experience.

In addition to Darkology, the second part of my fellowship year was devoted to a project I created and executed at the Stanford Humanities Center called “After Life: Life and Death in 2020 America.” I was able to create it because of my freedom from teaching while at Stanford this year, and I think of it as a combination of a service project and a research project. Due to the mass disinformation about the pandemic, the racial uprisings, the George Floyd case, the election, and the white supremacist attack on the Capitol, I gathered a group of 22 scholar-activists to write a collective history of 2020.
The fellowship not only transformed the scope and critical depth of my scholarly manuscript in a deeply impactful way, but provided me with key resources to garner a new academic position. In addition, Stanford’s Digital Humanities initiatives and library archives allowed me to train in new technologies that will improve the historicization of my book. This fellowship year allowed me to access evidence and tools to make more explicit the intersections between South Asian and Latin American modernist avant-gardes in a much more well researched monograph than existed prior.

The two main benefits of the fellowship year were solitary space and intellectual community. The first because it gave me the necessary time to read, write, and think (especially about big-picture themes about the structure of my project), and community because I was able to interact and share ideas with a wonderful cohort of fellow fellows (first virtually and then increasingly in informal in-person settings). My project will be all the richer for these sorts of interactions.

The Mellon postdoctoral fellowship has been a source of support, both emotional and practical, in this very difficult year of working from home. This year, I have gained additional experience teaching (especially teaching remotely), I have presented three times outside of Stanford—at two conferences and as an invited speaker at a workshop; and, despite not being able to travel for data collection, I have made considerable progress with my research based on previously collected data.

First, the Tuesday talks were great moments to get a peek into someone’s research. And a plethora of lectures, beginning with Achille Mbembe early in the year to book talks by our own fellows, offered me a sense of a robust intellectual life despite the remote format. I spent the majority of the fellowship period working on the full draft of my second book, *Aurality and the Craft of Deathwork*. I plan to submit my manuscript to Duke University Press in 2021.

The Humanities Center fellowship gave me the opportunity to delve deep into scholarship on decolonial theory and praxis by affording me not only the time to do this work but also a community of fellow scholars. This has brought nuance to the ways in which I’m approaching my book project. While we all attempt to read widely for our research, the Humanities Center allows for the kind of intellectual proximity to scholars from other disciplines that is hard to come by.

This year at the Center, I completed two dissertation chapters, submitted two articles to journals in my field, wrote a book review, and prepared a new syllabus for teaching this fall. The major benefit was having a quiet, comfortable space of my own to write. Since the pandemic eliminated so many of my usual working spaces— the history department lounge, the library, cafes—my SHC office was an inexorable oasis for me. I am so grateful to have had it, especially this year.
Gabrielle Jung

Seungyeon

Other was truly eye-opening. Meeting produced me to new fields and ideas. Latinx and Indigenous studies—I was unfamiliar with—for instance, the Humanities Center fellows’ researching the unexpected ways in which humanities looks like. However, watching of what interdisciplinary work in the core, I thought I had a good sense designed to be interdisciplinary to its

Coming from a department that is designed to be interdisciplinary to its core, I thought I had a good sense of what interdisciplinary work in the humanities looks like. However, watching the unexpected ways in which the Humanities Center fellows’ research converged and intersected with each other was truly eye-opening. Meeting scholars who work on the topics that I was unfamiliar with—for instance, Latinx and Indigenous studies—introduced me to new fields and ideas.

Because of the pandemic, I decided to switch projects. The book project I applied with, a study on the historical entanglements of American modernism and anthropology, required extensive international travel and would have been impossible to execute. The fellowship year allowed me to conduct extensive research at local archives, including Stanford Special Collections, conceptualize the new project, and begin to draft the introduction. This year also saw the publication of my first book, Enchantments: Joseph Cornell and American Modernism from Princeton University Press.

Although I had to postpone the dissertation defense to early August (and graduation to September), it was a productive academic year. My paper on an understudied early Chinese Buddhist translation text was published in The Eastern Buddhist in January 2021, and my first paper in Japanese, which discusses monastic institutional practices in early Chinese Buddhism, was published in March 2021. In addition, I became an awardee of the ACLS-Ho Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship and will be joining Heidelberg University in Germany.

Leigh

Daisy

It goes without saying that the pandemic was a difficult time for everyone. However, having a quiet, well-equipped, and comfortable space to work made a significant difference. It restored a sense of normalcy, and just allowed for some physical and mental separation from home. I also enjoyed attending the Tuesday talks; because my field work perhaps isn’t as routinely in contact with the other humanities fields, I learned a massive amount simply through osmosis, and I have actively applied some of the ideas to my own work.

During my time at the Stanford Humanities Center, I finished the revisions of my manuscript Genres of Listening: An Ethnography of Psychoanalysis in Buenos Aires. I finished and submitted the article “Comunicabilidad y mediatización de los discursos psicoanalíticos en Buenos Aires.” I am immensely grateful to the SHC for allowing me the time to finish my book and write these articles.

Thank you to the Stanford Humanities Center for providing support and time for research during this unprecedentedly difficult time. The virtual year of course deeply shaped my experience as a visiting fellow. It was a great pleasure to learn about the cutting-edge research of scholars from across the humanities and the country. I received valuable feedback on the work I presented in the fellows’ presentations, which I was able to incorporate into my book manuscript.
In spite of the challenges posed by the pandemic, this year has been really productive both in terms of research as well as teaching and professional growth. The scaling back of in-person meetings has freed up time for research, teaching via Zoom has provided new opportunities for thinking through pedagogical challenges and techniques, and the Mellon program has continued to offer a range of useful workshops, especially on how to reframe academic work for a broader audience.

By allowing me to postpone my tenure-track job at Vanderbilt University, the Mellon fellowship gave me time to make a lot of progress on my book manuscript. I also received awards for my research, including the Norman Foerster Prize for the best article of the year in the journal American Literature. Even more important were my informal engagements with other Mellon fellows, Humanities Center fellows, and Stanford faculty. Indeed, I think that the relation between fellows and departments is one of this program’s signature strengths.

Holding a fellowship at the Humanities Center this year enabled me to largely complete my book *Common Law Originalism*, which I will be submitting to Yale University Press in the fall. It also furnished me with the opportunity to begin and get halfway through a new project, a textbook on the field of law and literature, entitled *Law and Literature: An Introduction*. Being given the time to devote to writing, especially given the constraints of caring for other family members during the pandemic, was an incredible opportunity.

By allowing me to postpone my tenure-track job at Vanderbilt University, the Mellon fellowship gave me time to make a lot of progress on my book manuscript. I also received awards for my research, including the Norman Foerster Prize for the best article of the year in the journal American Literature. Even more important were my informal engagements with other Mellon fellows, Humanities Center fellows, and Stanford faculty. Indeed, I think that the relation between fellows and departments is one of this program’s signature strengths.

My first year as a Mellon fellow has been incredibly rewarding personally, professionally, and intellectually, despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic. I completed a book chapter and book review, presented at two major conferences, and taught two seminars. Plus I was able to meet with colleagues in the Art History Department through in-person and Zoom meetings, including very productive discussions with my departmental mentor Alex Nemerov. The support of the other Mellon fellows and administrators was also invaluable.

I am deeply grateful for the SHC fellowship that came as I was working on my second book monograph. I have been working over eight years on the project, which would have made a fantastic three-volume book on the politics of caste, popular culture, gender, class, and sexuality; however, it would take an enormous amount of time. The fellowship provided me the opportunity to carve out a manage-able project within a one-year time frame. I workshoped the monograph with ten South Asia experts and they loved the book!

This past year as a Mellon postdoctoral fellow has been another vibrant and stimulating one, despite the pandemic restrictions. The community has better allowed me to situate and contextualize my work, has allowed me 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 of the humanities. Last, but hardly least, the teaching has been an absolute joy, with amazing students and vibrant classes I shall never forget.
### Faculty Fellow

**James Reichert**

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Stanford University

Japanese Period Fiction, 1933–1941: Media, Temporality, and Ideology

The year spent at the Stanford Humanities Center was hugely beneficial. Professionally, it afforded me an opportunity to focus on my research. In intellectually, I was stimulated by the interaction with scholars working in multiple areas and different academic disciplines. It was especially exciting to discover unexpected intersections between my work and that of my colleagues. Over the course of what in many respects was a difficult year, the shared commitment to the humanities exhibited by the SHC fellows and staff was revitalizing and inspiring.

### Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities

**Amanda Reid**

Department of Theater & Performance Studies, Stanford University

To Own Ourselves: Dancing Caribbean Radicalism in Independent Jamaica

The Mellon program functions as both our support network and professionalization crash course on how to become faculty. I’ve had the time to develop several new courses that will ease transition when I start a tenure-track position in 2022. Having the opportunity to speak about our work with colleagues across disciplinary boundaries has been invaluable for my development as a scholar and moving beyond creating work that speaks narrowly to my field (in fact, I credit the program with helping me find a job in an interdisciplinary department).

### Stanford Humanities Center Dissertation Prize Fellow

**Veronica Shi**

Department of Classics, Stanford University

Writing and the Origins of Greek Intellectual Influence

I came in with about 20,000 words of a dissertation draft written, and ended up adding about 55,000 words to that total over the course of the year. This included an enormously challenging chapter on the textual practices of the Near East that was, at the time of writing, over two and a half years in the researching. The SHC, and Stanford more broadly, has on the whole done an amazing job of switching to a virtual format and I did not feel that my own work was ever seriously impeded.

### Marta Sutton Weeks Fellow

**Juliana Spahrs**

Department of English, Mills College

Foundational Concerns

This was a weird year, but the fellowship part of it was nothing but a blessing and a much-needed distraction. The result was that I made significant progress on a book-length manuscript that I am now writing with Stephanie Young and Claire Grossman. Independently, I wrote and published “Hearing the Pandemic in Claude McKay’s ‘If We Must Die’” in *PMLA*. I also completed a draft of an opera called *Dark Fall* with former SHC fellow Hans Thomalla, which will be produced by the Mannheim Opera House in 2022.

### Donald Andrews Whittier Fellow

**Kathryn Starkey**

Department of German Studies, Stanford University

Medieval Germany, 900–1250

This year has been such a privilege, despite the upheavals of the pandemic and the non-normative experiences of a fellowship that precluded in-person congregation. It gave me precious time and space to reconnect with my scholarly persona after many years of teaching and administrating. My writing group even helped me restructure my book in line with ideas I was able to bring to them from the SHC talks and the community of fellows, so it felt very much a cross-fertilizing set of engagements and virtual spaces.

### Faculty Fellow

**Alice Staveley**

Department of Classics, Stanford University

Writing and the Origins of Greek Intellectual Influence

I had planned to write a book on medieval textiles and poetics, but it would have required research at several German and Asian museums. So instead I have spent the year working on a textbook on medieval Germany for Cambridge University Press, which I am co-authoring with former SHC fellow Fiona Griffiths. It differs from traditional histories by probing “low status” sources to highlight communities and peoples that are typically underrepresented in medieval history books and taking a more global perspective that investigates social movement and cultural change across borders.

### Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Stanford University

Japanese Period Fiction, 1933–1941: Media, Temporality, and Ideology

This year has been such a privilege, despite the upheavals of the pandemic and the non-normative experiences of a fellowship that precluded in-person congregation. It gave me precious time and space to reconnect with my scholarly persona after many years of teaching and administrating. My writing group even helped me restructure my book in line with ideas I was able to bring to them from the SHC talks and the community of fellows, so it felt very much a cross-fertilizing set of engagements and virtual spaces.
This past year was particularly challenging, given the pandemic, but the opportunity to present my work to the combined audience of the Director of the Mellon program and my fellow Mellon fellows has been invaluable. Specifically, this took the form of generous feedback provided during a Zoom presentation in July 2020 on the first chapter from my book, which is also part of a special issue on labor in science and took it in a new direction. It was the community we were able to maintain throughout. Next year, I will be entering the job market this fall. My favorite part is always the fellows’ presentations, whether state of the field or on specific projects. Given the special circumstances of COVID, the most helpful aspect of the Mellon fellowship was the community we were able to maintain throughout.

My year as a third-year Mellon fellow was very stressful, but I am immensely grateful to have gotten a tenure-track position in the end. It was overall a quite exciting and productive year. My favorite part is always the fellows’ presentations, whether state of the field or on specific projects. During my fellowship year, I completed three chapters of my dissertation and began work on a separate article project arising out of a newly discovered collection of merchant papers currently in private hands. Along with my presentation to the Humanities Center fellows, I was able to share parts of my work at Stanford’s European History Workshop. I am prepared to finish my work at Stanford’s European History Workshop. I am prepared to finish my work at Stanford’s European History Workshop. I am prepared to finish my work at Stanford’s European History Workshop.

The sessions with editors from academic presses were the highlight of the fellowship. I also workshoped an article draft (“Caring only for Canes”) at the invitational workshop “New Directions in the History of Science” run by Stanford history faculty. I published the peer-reviewed article “Plantation Botany: Slavery and the Infrastructure of Government Science in the St. Vincent Botanic Garden, 1765–1826.” This piece took a small kernel of content from my dissertation and took it in a new direction. It was part of a special issue on labor in science in the eighteenth century.

My year as a Dissertation fellow began with the publication of an online series on global protests published in the Society for Cultural Anthropology’s Member Voices page that I co-edited and contributed to. For the rest of the year, I worked on my PhD dissertation. The major benefits of my fellowship were uninterrupted time to focus on my dissertation work, without teaching or any other requirements, which has allowed me to analyze my material and engage with existing literature far more deeply than I otherwise would have had the opportunity to do.

My fellowship has been incredibly nurturing. The Center has provided me with a lot of intellectual inspiration, both through the many Tuesdays when we would all convene to hear about each other’s projects, and through the lecture series that featured guest speakers from outside of the Center, our own fellows, and previous fellows too. All of this amounted to a productive dialogue that has shaped my research. I deeply thank the Center for the intellectual generosity and very productive dialogue that have, undoubtedly, contributed to my finding more interlocutors at other institutions.

The major benefits of my fellowship year, I worked on my PhD dissertation. During my fellowship year, I completed three chapters of my dissertation and began work on a separate article project arising out of a newly discovered collection of merchant papers currently in private hands. Along with my presentation to the Humanities Center fellows, I was able to share parts of my work at Stanford’s European History Workshop. I am prepared to finish my dissertation in the coming year and will be entering the job market this fall.

Access to an office was an enormous relief and gave me the opportunity to finally focus on writing.
In 2020–21, the Stanford Humanities Center expanded the program to award Hume Humanities Honors Fellowships to 14 undergraduate seniors majoring in a humanities discipline. The Hume fellows received a stipend for research project materials and participated in virtual group activities that aimed to deepen their scholarly focus and enrich their association as a cohort. And once again, the fellowship year culminated in an online symposium where they each had the opportunity to present their honors thesis to their peers and advisors, SHC fellows, and the program benefactors.

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

“The Hume fellowship was a vital way to connect with brilliant fellow thesis writers during a year of incredible solitude.”

Sophia Colello, Hume Humanities Honors Fellow

Ariela Algaze

Art History, Minor in Medieval Studies and Classics

The Poetics of Baptism: Liturgical Performance and Ekphrasis in Medieval Florence

Advisors: Bissera Pentcheva, Emanuele Lugli

Following an internship in the Director’s Office of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Algaze will be starting a master’s program in medieval art history at the Institute of Fine Arts in New York City as an IFA Fellow.

Sophia Colello

Classics and Archaeology

Imperial Substance: Ancient Numismatics and the Malleable Conditions of Sovereignty

Advisor: Jennifer Trimble

Colello plans to immerse herself in the cultural heritage and communities of Armenia before continuing to pursue a PhD in Classical Archaeology/Near Eastern Studies.

Ayelet Drazen

Political Science and Computer Science

Addiction, Agency, and Responsibility: Substance Use Disorders in the Criminal Justice System

Advisors: Keith Humphreys, Michael Bratman

After an internship at Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Drazen will be completing a coterminal master’s at Stanford.
Megan Faircloth

**East Asian Studies**

Precious Threads of Time: Tracing the Critical Consciousness of Korea’s Working Class through Literature

Advisor: Dafna Zur

Faircloth was also a research fellow at the Stanford Center for Poverty and Inequality and a writer for the Stanford Daily.

Kory Gaines

**African and African American Studies and Political Science**

The Private Li(v)es and Public Truths of Shirley Graham

Advisors: Allyson Hobbs, Lauren Davenport, Alison McQueen

Gaines was a recipient of the Kennel Jackson, Jr. Award and AAAS program award.

Paloma Moreno Jiménez

**Urban Studies**

The Effects of Testimonio on Migrant Mothers: A Closer Look at Desahogamiento

Advisors: Sharika Thiranagama, Ramón Martínez

Jiménez has been interning with Chicago Public Media and will be returning to school in the fall to complete her thesis.

Eunice Jung

**Anthropology and International Relations, Minor in Education**


Advisor: Christine Min Wotipka

Following a summer internship in corporate social responsibility, Jung will be a coterm this fall in Sustainability Science and Practice.

Allison Oddman

**History and Computer Science**

Performance as Liberation: Theatrical Possibilities of De-Labored Black Womanhood

Advisor: Amir Weiner

Hume Fellow, Fall ‘20

Emilia Porubcin

**History, Minor in Computer Science**

Inequality in a Socialist Utopia

Advisors: Amir Weiner, Nancy Kollman

Porubcin plans to attend the University of Chicago Law School to prepare for a legal career.
Maggie Roache

Political Science

Controversy in the Classroom: An Analysis of Spanish Secondary School Education on the Civil War, Franco, and the Democratic Transition

Advisor: David Cohen

Hume Fellow, Fall ’20

Will Shao

Classics, Minor in International Relations and Modern Languages

When Worlds Collide: Prophecy in Greek Tragedy

Advisor: Marsh McCall

Shao hopes to be able to continue his work in classical reception through future PhD studies, while also pursuing his passion for technology policy by applying to law school.

Angel Marie Smith

African and African American Studies and Creative Writing

(Dis)Order of Race: Historical Limitations and Fictitious Imaginaries

Advisor: Aileen Robinson

Following graduation, Smith will be interning with the Sundance Institute Community Programs Department, researching, facilitating, and organizing relationships between artists and art organizations.

Julianna Yonis

Science, Technology and Society, and Theater & Performance Studies

Performative Algorithms: Content Recommendation and the Lost Autonomy of the User

Advisor: Paul Edwards

After leaving Stanford, Yonis will be producing a theater festival in Los Angeles while pursuing a career as a screenwriter.

AnQi Yu

Film and Media Studies, Minor in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity

The Cinema of Kelly Reichardt

Advisor: Karla Oeler

Yu is planning to apply to graduate programs in film production, film and media studies, and/or ethnic studies.
Since 2009, more than 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).

Due to the unanticipated circumstances of COVID-19, the Humanities Center made the decision to postpone all outstanding visitorships to the 2021–22 academic year. In reaching this conclusion, the Center prioritized adherence to Stanford’s safety policies as well as the working preferences of all scholars. We will maintain the original vision of the program in facilitating visitorships that will take place in person and promote the unique connections that result from direct engagement with students, faculty, and the various resources of the Stanford community.

The following postponed visitors will join a full cohort during the 2021–22 academic year.

Shashi Jayakumar  
FSI-Humanities Center International Visitor  
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.

Nitza Tenenblat  
FSI-Humanities Center International Visitor  
Professor of Theater, University of Brasilia  
Tenenblat was nominated by the Department of Theater & Performance Studies.

Yfaat Weiss  
FSI-Humanities Center International Visitor  
Professor of Jewish History, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Weiss was nominated by the Department of German Studies and Taube Center for Jewish Studies.
The Research Workshop Program, now in its 26th year, brings together faculty, students, Humanities Center fellows, and scholars from Stanford and beyond to present and discuss current research and explore topics of common intellectual concern. As with many programs at Stanford, the pandemic transformed the workshops from intimate, in-person gatherings to virtual, technology-dependent events, creating new opportunities to expand their interdisciplinary and geographic scope. Online platforms enabled new modes of engagement, collaboration, and research—the research program hosted over 160 events and included over 3,500 participants from around the globe.

**Rendered Worlds: New Regimes of Imaging**

A collaborative virtual conference was organized and co-hosted by the Humanities Center’s Digital Aesthetics Research Workshop and UC Davis’ Technocultural Futures Research Cluster. This innovative event featured Deborah Levitt (The New School), Ranjodh Singh Dhaliwal (UC Davis and Universität Siegen), Bernard Dionysius Geoghegan (King’s College London), and Shane Denson (Stanford) discussing their recent work, with Hank Gerba (Stanford) and Jacob Hagelberg (UC Davis) co-moderating.

**Arts and Justice**

The Arts and Justice workshop imagines the legal terrain as culturally constituted, suffused with its own practices, and as a powerful force shaping our subjectivity, social relations, and political institutions.

**Critical Data Practices in Humanities Research**

In its first year, this workshop chose to critically investigate data practices as a bridge to understanding data’s role in developing new insights and innovative solutions that encourage knowledge transfer not only among disciplines but between the academic and community engagement worlds.

**Cognition and Language Workshop**

Researchers at the frontier of linguistics and cognitive science increasingly study linguistic communication from the perspective of language as a highly context-sensitive and dynamic system, shaped through the interaction of linguistic competence, social cognitive reasoning, and individualized mental representations of communicative interlocutors and the surrounding environment. This year’s workshop focused on experimental and computational approaches to grounded linguistic communication.
Critical Orientations to Race and Ethnicity (CORE)

Humanities Center Fellows Research Workshop

Racial and ethnic identities are simultaneously nationally and internationally constructed, personal and political, vehicles of oppression and resistance. The CORE workshop strives to create an intellectual community that interrogates and advances scholarship across multiple disciplines, using a diverse array of research agendas to theorize and discuss race and ethnicity.

Data Scarcity in the Ancient Mediterranean

The Data Scarcity workshop explores the ways in which theoretical approaches, statistical tools, and inferential models drawn from social and natural sciences can be combined with humanistic perspectives to overcome the challenges of data scarcity in ancient Mediterranean studies.

Digital Aesthetics: Critical Approaches to Computational Culture

The Linda Randall Meier Research Workshop

This workshop hosts conversations about material culture studies, performance theory, technology history, and aesthetics to explore a partnership between engineering and the humanities. The continuing and increasing reliance on digital interaction suggests an even greater need for critical approaches to digital technologies.

History of Political Thought

Marta Sutton Weeks Research Workshop

The History of Political Thought workshop takes an expansive and global view of political thought, including such concepts as constitutions and political order, rights provisions, suffrage, theories of representation, legislation, legitimate resistance, the role of religion in politics, and the dissolution of government.

Matters of Voice

Marta Sutton Weeks Research Workshop

The Matters of Voice workshop supports research agendas that engage with both the embodied nature of voice (drawing from the disciplines of music, film, sound studies, performance studies, and gender and sexuality) and its relational nature (drawing from the disciplines of literature, linguistics, anthropology, and philosophy).

The Medical Humanities

This workshop explores the challenges of data scarcity in ancient Mediterranean studies.

The topics foremost in today’s conversations—including systemic racial bias and inequality—underscore the need to create space at Stanford for scholarly conversations around medicine and health care that cross all parts of our campus and equip graduate students, faculty, undergraduates, fellows, and trainees to do the best possible work in the world.
Producing Knowledge In and Of Africa

Knowledge Production in Africa is a highly contested topic. Recent calls have been made—both within the academy and outside it—to “decolonize” the production and circulation of knowledge about Africa.

Reframing Fashion Studies: Performance, Gender, and the Body

This workshop orients fashion within a broader study of the body itself, a discursive site upon which fashion studies and its attendant disciplines of visual culture, anthropology, sociology, and history overlap. The objective is to reconceptualize the field of fashion as something more than a cultural construction by unearthing the interwoven set of corporeal, social, and theoretical operations that structure fashion’s logic and foster its material manifestations.

Renaissance Worldmaking

The Claire and John Radway Research Workshop

The Renaissance is a crucial site both for understanding and critiquing modernity and for imagining alternative conceptions of the world. This workshop explores new definitions of the spatial and temporal boundaries of early modernity, emphasizing the transatlantic and Mediterranean Renaissances.

Standardization in Ancient Economies

The Blokker Research Workshop

This workshop draws together and organizes scholarship to examine how standardization—and by extension its opposite, diversity—functioned in ancient and historic economies. Standardization offers a lens to trace intersecting ideas and practices broadly across time, space, material, and context.

Working Group in Literary & Visual Culture

The Research Workshop in Honor of John Bender

How do ways of seeing and reading inform our sense of history or place? What is the relationship between close reading, an essential tool for literary critics, and close looking, central to art history?

The Workshop in Poetics

Over its fourteen years, the Workshop in Poetics has become a central venue in the Bay Area for sharing projects in a conversation outside of conventional disciplinary, departmental, and national limits.

The Representation of Female Characters in Japanese Comic Magazines
The Humanities Center embraces emerging digital methods to complement traditional kinds of analysis and interpretation through its ongoing partnership with the Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA). The Stanford Humanities Center is proud to offer support to CESTA to serve as the hub of an international network of fellows, visiting scholars, students, and alumni.

The Year in CESTA Events

Data Practices Online Conference and Challenge
At the start of the first fully remote academic quarter, CESTA, in partnership with Stanford’s Libraries and Data Science Institute, organized a conference on data practices with Anne Burdick (Visual Communication, The University of Technology Sydney), Jo Guldi (History, Southern Methodist University), and Mark Hansen (Journalism and Innovation, Columbia University).

Digital Humanities Public Lectures
CESTA inaugurated its Digital Humanities Public Lecture series with public talks by Gordon Chang and Roland Hsu (November 17) and by Elaine Treharne (March 9). These talks, which were attended by hundreds of people from around the world, marked a new and ongoing effort by CESTA to bring faculty research in DH to the general public.

Critical Data Practices Workshop
Giovanna Ceserani, Elaine Treharne, Nicole Coleman, and Merve Tekgürler coordinated the Critical Data Practices workshop over eight sessions (sponsored by the Humanities Center).

Digital Humanities Long View
CESTA also collaborated with University College London’s Centre for Digital Humanities in organizing the Digital Humanities Long View seminar series, which brought together speakers from across the world to discuss where digital humanities research has been and where it’s going.

CESTA Seminar Series
CESTA’s long-running Seminar Series continued with nine talks on subjects ranging from “Digital Rasaniya: Disassembling the Haitian Archive” (Professor Marlene Daut) and “Distant Reading the Law” (Dr. Hanjo Hamann), to “Geographical Knowledge in the Ottoman World” (Dr. Adrien Zafar, Merve Tekgürler, and Umar Patel).
The Year in CESTA Research

The past year was a productive one for CESTA scholars, with a number of published books and prizes awarded to projects.
Events
The Stanford Humanities Center’s events in 2020-21 made a major shift to being entirely virtual.

“A plethora of lectures, beginning with Achille Mbembe early in the year to book talks by our own fellows, offered me a sense of a robust intellectual life.”

Denise Gill Internal Faculty Fellow

2020–21 Highlights

October 20, 2020

Presidential Lecture in the Humanities

“Futures of Life & Futures of Reason”

Achille Mbembe, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

October 22, 2020

The Redistributed University

Sarah Nuttall, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

May 21, 2021

Celebrate the Fellows 2021: What Difference Do We Make?

Xochitl Marsilli-Vargas, Bernadette Meyler, and Carlos Alonso Nugent

The year saw a full calendar of talks presented as part of four new lecture series that were developed to frame dynamic intellectual conversations that start at the Center: “1891 Lectures in the Humanities”, “How Change Comes: Knowledge + Justice”, and “All This Rising: The Humanities in the Next Ten Years.” Additional programming that developed in response to the pandemic included a series called “Inside the Center,” designed to take the audience member behind the scenes at the SHC.
How Change Comes: Knowledge + Justice

How can distinctive, original scholarship encourage the pursuit of justice in society or the academy? In this series, scholars who have made indelible statements in both areas discuss the conditions of their work and how their political and intellectual investments inform each other.

In the first of two talks, Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra spoke about his research on 16th century social revolutions.

September 23, 2020
“Conquest? Collapse and Rise of Ancien Régime in 16th Century Spanish America and the Role of Paper Archives”
Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, Professor of History, The University of Texas at Austin

September 25, 2020
“Conversations on the History of ‘Hispanics’ in the U.S., from Marginality to More Marginality”
Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, Professor of History, The University of Texas at Austin
All This Rising: The Humanities in the Next Ten Years

What are the ideas and methods that will mark new paths for the humanities in the next decade? Visitors will present their work in both unmediated and "meta" modes. They will consider the motives and conventions of the work in progress, how it converses with its discipline, and what it portends for the humanities.

Ricardo Padrón discussed the implications of his recent book, *The Indies of the Setting Sun*.

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November 2, 2020
“Darkness Visible: The Haunted House of Classics”
Dan-el Padilla Peralta, Associate Professor of Classics, Princeton University

February 24, 2021
“The Phenomenology of Distance in Early Modern Hispanic Geopolitics”
Ricardo Padrón, Associate Professor of Spanish, University of Virginia
In 1891, thirty-five scholars gathered to form a community in a new university. In that spirit, this newly launched series welcomes new senior humanities faculty of the Stanford community to present their work.

November 10, 2020
“Thinking With Islamic Things”
Anna Bigelow, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Stanford University.

November 10, 2020
Anna Bigelow, who joined the Stanford faculty in 2019, reflected on her recent work on Islam and material culture.
Inside the Center: Book Talks

The Humanities Center’s first online event series launched in summer 2020, “Inside the Center,” highlights recent and current fellows, directing a spotlight on some of the most provocative, groundbreaking, and unusual work happening under our roof.

“This was a great way to share my book with the Stanford community and beyond, and especially to audiences outside my field who otherwise follow SHC events.”

Usha Iyer, Internal Faculty Fellow

Watch event recordings at: shc.stanford.edu/multimedia

December 10, 2020
Say What Your Longing Heart
Desires: Women, Prayer & Poetry in Iran
Niloofar Haeri, 2015–16 Fellow

January 21, 2021
Dancing Women: Choreographing Corporeal Histories of Hindi Cinema
Usha Iyer, 2020–21 Fellow
Co-sponsored with the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity and the Center for South Asia at Stanford

March 31, 2021
Enchantments: Joseph Cornell and American Modernism
Marci Kwon, 2020–21 Fellow

June 3, 2021
The First Pagan Historian: The Fortunes of a Fraud from Antiquity to the Enlightenment
Frederic Clark, 2020–21 Fellow
We acknowledge the following individuals and organizations that made gifts in support of the Humanities Center between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021.

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In memory of Professor Gordon Wright

**Former Fellow**

**Marta Sutton Weeks**
Marta Sutton Weeks Fellowships (1982)
Marta Sutton Weeks Foundation (1982)
Marta Sutton Weeks

**Prize Fellowships**

**Distinguished Junior External Fellowships**
$150,000 annually to support one junior external fellow (2015–present)

**Endowment Gifts in Support of Specific Activities**
- $150,000 annually to support one junior external fellow (2015–present)
- $500,000 annually to support the Center’s mission and to secure its core activities in perpetuity

**Foundations**
- The Mericos Foundation (1988)

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

**Visitorship**
- The Marta Sutton Weeks Distinquished Visitorship (1987)
- Marta Sutton Weeks

**Research Workshop Program**
Research Workshop Program (2007)
Anonymous

**Individual Research Workshops**
- Humanities Center Fellows Research Workshop (2008)
- Peter S. Bing and Humanities Center Fellows

**Research Workshops**
- Career Launch Fellowships (2020)
- Anonymous
- Hume Humanities Honors Fellowships (2013)
- Leslie P. and George H. Hume
- Donald Andrews Whittier, Violet Andrews Whittier, Ellen Andrews
- Wright Fellowships (1988)
- The Mericos Foundation, Joanne Blokker, President
- Theodore H. and Frances K. Geballe
- Marta Sutton Weeks Fellowships (2013)
- Marta Sutton Weeks

**Expendable Named Gifts**
- Expendable gifts in support of specific activities help to sustain programs not funded by endowment.
- Distinguished Junior External Fellowship
- Anonymous

**Gifts**
- Endowment Gifts in Support of Specific Activities help to sustain programs not funded by endowment.
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Functional expense breakdown based on total program expenditures of $3,780,825.

PROGRAM EXPENSES

- Fellowship Program: 54%
- Workshop Program: 5%
- Pilot Programs: 11%
- Program Administration: 22%
- Public Lectures & Conferences: 5%
- International Scholars: 3%

FUNDING SOURCES

- Endowment: 72%
- University Funds: 15%
- Expendable Gifts: 17%
Giving

Opportunities

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

Along with support for core programs, the Humanities Center is focusing on three initiatives:

01: Demonstrating to the Stanford community the diverse and rigorous nature of humanities research through original programming

02: Offering Career Launch fellowships for Stanford graduate students

03: Educating a public audience beyond campus about this cutting-edge research and its relevance through a new digital platform

For a list of gift opportunities, please visit our website at: http://shc.stanford.edu/support

Unrestricted, expendable gifts are particularly helpful in enabling the work of the Center to continue to thrive. 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)
- Write a check (payable to Stanford University)
- Make a multiyear pledge by sending an email to Susan Sebbard at sebbard@stanford.edu
- Donate your honorarium (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 or 650.723.3053.
Thank you for the trust you have shown in the work and mission of the Stanford Humanities Center.

The culmination of our 40th anniversary coincided with intersecting and compounding social crises around the world. We responded by canceling local festivities and expanding our programs to share humanities research with a global, online audience seeking to make sense of these crises and their impact. Advanced humanities research not only examines and interprets the biggest life questions of the past and present, but also frames these challenges to help us better understand our present and shape our future.

Your support helps the Center to thrive. We look forward to keeping you informed about the exciting research taking place at the Humanities Center and the lives being transformed.

Andrea Davies
Associate Director