Which human faculty is more powerful, reason or intuition? When confronted with a situation or decision we find troubling or morally questionable, how do we make up our minds about what is “right?” Why is it so difficult to persuade people to change their minds about strongly held political or religious beliefs? Can we learn to disagree with others while still respecting their sincerity and decency?

These are some of the questions social psychologist Jonathan Haidt will explore on May 29 and 30, 2013 in the final lectures in this year’s “being human | human being” series. Haidt, the author of The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion, is the OHC’s 2012–13 Kritikos Professor in the Humanities. He will be giving two public talks while visiting Oregon.

On Wednesday, May 29th at 7:30 p.m. in 182 Lith- lis Hall on the UO campus, Haidt will tackle some of these questions from an historical/anthropological perspective in his talk titled “How Human Beings Got Morality, Religion, Civilization, and Humanity.” Haidt will describe the pivotal shift that occurred roughly 800 millennia ago, when our ancestors first developed the ability to work together, and how that led to shared

Psychologist Jonathan Haidt discusses the hidden power of moral intuition

OHC champions humanities scholarship by cosponsoring campus conferences

Each year, the Oregon Humanities Center provides financial support for more than fifty humanities-related events on campus, including conferences, symposia, lectures, performances, and classroom visits and seminars by visiting humanities scholars. We also occasionally partner with community-based humanities and cultural organizations to provide public programming, both on campus and in the community. The OHC is co-sponsoring seven major conferences during Spring 2013. For more information about each of these events please see the calendar.

Romance Languages
The 2013 Annual Conference of the American Association of Italian Studies will take place April 11–14. The AAIS gathers scholars and intellectuals who conduct research in Italian literature and more broadly contribute to the study of Italian society and artistic production, including its influence on other cultures.

Philosophy
An international conference on critical theory,
Faculty Research Fellowships provide a term free of teaching to pursue research full time as part of a community of scholars.

Lindsay Frederick Braun, History: “Imperial Geosophy: Geography, Imagination, and the African Arc of Meridian, 1869-1956” (Fall)

Sangita Gopal, English: “Two Takes on Modernity: Self-Reflexivity and North Indian Popular Cinema” (Fall)


Dong Hoon Kim, East Asian Languages and Literatures: “Eclipsed Cinemas: Colonial Modernity and Film Cultures in Korea” (Spring)

Karen McPherson, Romance Languages: “Growing Old and Realizing Life in Marie-Claire Blais's Soifs Cycle” (Fall). Ernest G. Moll Research Fellowship in Literary Studies.

Dorothee Ostmeier, German and Scandinavian and Folklore: “The Grimms’ Concept of Nature as Healing Fiction” (Fall). Provost’s Senior Humanist Fellowship.

Priscilla Peña Ovalle, English: “Hair/Style” (Fall)


Faculty Teaching Fellowships provide a summer stipend for course development plus course enrichment funds.

Jenny Lin, History of Art and Architecture: ARH 410/510 Contemporary Art amidst Globalization (Fall)

Kate Mondloch, History of Art and Architecture: ARH 410 In With the New: Global Currents in Contemporary Art and the Venice Biennale (Fall). Sherl K. Coleman and Margaret E. Guitteau Teaching Professorship in the Humanities.

Graduate Dissertation Fellowships provide one term free of teaching to allow full-time work on the dissertation (awarded in partnership with the UO Graduate School).


Chet Lisiecki, Comparative Literature: “Was noch lebt, ist Traum: The Roots and Resonances of Conservative Poetics in Late Weimar and Nazi Germany” (Fall)

Aaron Rodriguez, Philosophy: “The Significance of Aesthetic Experience for a Pragmatist Ethics” (Fall)

Alternates

Mi Zhao, History: “From Singing Girl to Revolutionary Artist: Female Entertainers and China’s Socialist Transformation (1945-2012)” (Winter)

Daniel J. Platt, English: “Narratives of Environmental Organizing in Contemporary American Literature” (Winter)

Graduate Research Support Fellowships provide up to $1000 in dissertation support during the fellowship year.

Matthew Nathan Hannah, English: “Networks of Modernism”

Lindsay Naylor, Geography: “Everyday Autonomies: Fair Trade, Subsistence and the Practice of Food Sovereignty in the Highlands of Chiapas, Mexico”

Qing Ye, East Asian Languages and Literatures: “Aesthetic Beauty and Authentic Sentiment in the 18th-Century Chinese Domestic Novel Guwangyan (Preposterous Words)”

Work-In-Progress talks are given by OHC research fellows on their current or recent work on Fridays at noon in the Humanities Center Conference Room, 159 PLC. Brown-bag lunches are welcome.

April 5
Carrie Adkins, Graduate student, History: “Women and the Transformation of Gynecology and Obstetrics, 1870–1920”

April 12

April 19
Michael Stern, German and Scandinavian: “The Existential Gesture”

May 3
Matthew Dennis, History and Environmental Studies: “American Relics and the Politics of Public Memory”

May 17
Linda Konnerth, Graduate student, Linguistics: “Descriptive Grammar of Karbi”

May 24
Katharina Loew, German and Scandinavian: “Techno-Romanticism: Special Effects in German Silent Cinema”

June 7
Pedro García-Caro, Spanish, “Spanish Drama at the Rim of Empire: The First Californio Play (1789–1803)”
norms, tribalism, intergroup conflict, and ultimately, the distinctly human trait known as morality. He will also explore another transformative event in human history that took place “nearly instantaneously” about 6,000 to 10,000 years ago, when we went from living as small bands of hunter-gatherers to living in larger groups in cities, and the profound effects that transition had on how we interact with one another.

In his Portland lecture, “What on Earth is Happening to Us? Polarization, Demonization and Paralysis in American Politics” (Thursday, May 30, 7 p.m., UO in Portland, 70 NW Couch St.), Haidt will take a more contemporary look at the human condition, and at how social psychology helps to explain our political and moral values and behaviors. From a broad perspective, Haidt notes that “The overall trends for humanity are amazingly positive…” Yet he also concedes that “in the United States there is the widespread perception that things are going wrong and we can’t work together to rise to the challenges and opportunities of our time.” In his Portland talk, Haidt will “explain the origins of our current paralysis, and highlight the role of normal moral psychology, which binds people together into groups that seek victory, not truth.” He will “suggest some reforms that would improve governance, and some actions that each of us can take as citizens to tone down the demonizing, and improve our democracy.”

Highly acclaimed by scholars in many fields, Jonathan Haidt spent 16 years as a professor of psychology at the University of Virginia before accepting a job at NYU last summer. Generally, Haidt’s work examines morality and emotion and how they vary across cultures. His current research focuses on the moral foundations of politics, and on ways to transcend the “culture wars” using recent discoveries in moral psychology.

In his current position as a professor of business ethics at NYU’s Stern School of Business, Haidt is building a new program in which he will work with economists and other social scientists to apply moral psychology to complex systems. Haidt’s goal for this current project is “to make businesses, non-profits, cities, and other systems work more efficiently and ethically—without having to teach ethics to anyone.” In addition to The Righteous Mind (2012), Haidt is the author of The Happiness Hypothesis: Finding Modern Truth in Ancient Wisdom (2006). He has written for the Psychological Review and Science, as well as the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and Reason magazine. He has given TED talks, and appeared as a guest on Bill Moyers and The Colbert Report.

Both lectures are free and open to the public, and will be followed by a book sale and signing. Seating is limited, so please plan to arrive early. Both talks will be live-streamed at ohc.uoregon.edu. For more information, or for disability accommodations (which must be made by May 22), please call (541) 346-3934.

**Conferences continued from page 1**

**“Immanent Critique: New Directions,”** will take place **April 19–20** in the **Knight Library Browsing Room.** The conference will feature discussions on the notions of critique and social justice in critical theory today.

**Oregon Social Learning Center**

**Paul Tough** will be the keynote for the Oregon Social Learning Center’s conference “The Brain Meets the Blackboard.” In his public lecture, “The Success Equation,” Tough will explore the concept of character education, a method of teaching that fosters core values like honesty, stewardship, courage, and respect. Tough has written extensively about education, child development, poverty, and politics. His talk will take place on **April 26 at 5 p.m.** in the **Knight Law Center.**

**German and Scandinavian**

“Defining the Human and the Animal” will offer an interdisciplinary look at literary, scientific, and philosophical endeavors defining the border between the human and the animal. The conference will take place **May 2–3** in the **Knight Library Browsing Room.**

**English**

“Biosemiotics and Culture” will take place **May 3–4** in the **EMU Fir Room.** The gathering will focus on the cultural dimensions of biosemiotics, a field that explores meaningful relationships and communication throughout the living world.

**Confucius Institute and the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies**

“Foodways in China: New Scholarly Trajectories” will take place **May 9–10** in the **Gerlinger Alumni Lounge.** Scholars will examine the intersection of food in the culture, traditions, and history of China.

**English/Comics and Cartoon Studies**

The International Comics Forum will hold its 16th annual conference on **May 23–25** at the **UO in Portland.** Brazilian artists and twin brothers, Fábio Moon and Gabriel Bá, will be featured presenters at the conference.

A panel from Daytripper by Brazilian comic artists Fábio Moon and Gabriel Bá.
Dalai Lama visits Eugene

The University of Oregon and the Eugene Sakya Center (Nyen-Gyud Samten Choeling for Tibetan Buddhist Studies) will host His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, when he gives a talk titled “The Path to Peace and Happiness in the Global Society” on Friday, May 10, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in the Matthew Knight Arena. Tickets went on sale March 11th and quickly sold out. However, the talk will be webcast at uoregon.edu.

The Dalai Lama’s UO visit, his first to Eugene, is part of a three-day visit by the Tibetan spiritual leader to Oregon. He is the featured guest at the “Environmental Summit: Universal Responsibility and the Global Environment” conference held May 9–11, hosted by Portland’s Maitripa College. The Dalai Lama is the author of more than 70 books and in 1989 won the Nobel Peace Prize.

The OHC’s Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities underwrote the cost of 100 tickets for the Eugene presentation, which were made available at no cost to UO students.

When you make a gift to the OHC and a subsequent matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust, you will be eligible to receive a 100% tax credit on your gift to the Trust. Find out more at culturaltrust.org or (503) 986-0088.