



Oregon Humanities Center

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2019 Summer Report

Associate director recaps exciting year

Over the past year, the Oregon Humanities Center (OHC) has been brimming with energy as we have put our new strategic plan into action. The strategic plan was developed last summer after OHC stakeholders were asked to share their ideas about the OHC's mission and future direction.

The scope of the effort was far reaching and has involved launching new programming, welcoming new board members, creating a new website, upgrading the OHC's conference room technology, installing a reader board to broadcast events and faculty accomplishments, and increasing donor giving that supports the OHC's research, teaching, and public engagement mission.

Two such new programs included the OHC piloting a new Wine Chat speaker series at Civic Winery with 75 people in attendance, and partnering with the

The OHC has also been collaborating with Native American Studies to host the Fall 2019 Western Humanities Alliance conference titled "Engaged Humanities: Partnerships between Academia and Tribal Communities," which will bring together local, regional, and international speakers, scholars, and participants. Additionally, the OHC has been busy planning our annual speaker series and next year's Wine Chats that will revolve around the theme of "Convergence: the intersection between the sciences and the humanities."

Another area of work outlined in the strategic plan is to increase the financial support from donors that brings the OHC's programs to life. Increasing annual giving to the Center ensures the continued strength of the operations, public programming, research, and new undergraduate course development. To this end, the

OHC participated in a university-wide "Ducks Give Day." This single day of giving raised \$6,000 for the Center's Dissertation Fellowship program and was supported by an anonymous donor who provided a matching gift. This cam-

them to get on the job market faster.

Due to the generosity and support of those who believe in the value of the humanities, the OHC was able to provide funding for 11 faculty research, 4 faculty teaching, 4 graduate dissertation and 3 research support fellows during the past academic year. In this newsletter, you will hear from a few of these fellows about the positive impact that the OHC's funding has had on their research, publications, teaching, and future careers.

The OHC fellows' work represents a wide diversity of humanities-related disciplines, including Anthropology, Comparative Literature, History, History of Art and Architecture, Religious Studies, and Romance Languages. These fellowships allow faculty the time to undertake rigorous research—work that can involve archival research, data and textual analysis, ethnographic interviews, and language translation. In their time as fellows, faculty have produced articles for journals and chapters for new books, have completed final chapters of books that are headed to publication, and have designed new curriculum that is supported by original research that will be piloted in the classroom next year.

There is no better time than now to support the humanities. This might mean helping to spread the word about the OHC's free public events, lectures, and faculty and graduate student talks; suggesting a friend signs up for our print or electronic newsletter; or donating to sustain the OHC's work. With your support the OHC will continue to thrive.



Jena Turner



Nathalie Hester, Romance Languages, and 2018–19 OHC Faculty Research Fellow, presenting at Civic Winery and Wines on May 30, 2019.

UO's Research Development Services to organize a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) faculty workshop to give 60 faculty the tools needed to apply for external research and course development funding.

paigned focused on one of the OHC's many programs: Dissertation Fellowships. The OHC has found that by providing a term off from teaching, graduate students who are pursuing a PhD are able to complete their dissertation more quickly, allowing

Historian of modern Africa focuses on malaria eradication

I never thought I would study Africa, work on global health topics, or even get to leave the United States. I'm a first-generation college student, and my parents didn't have passports. As an undergraduate at UC Davis, I anticipated studying community development, but as a transfer student, all the required classes were full my first term. I signed up for an African history class on a whim. What luck for me! African history became my major and I had the opportunity to visit Africa for the first time to conduct archival research. I loved it and knew I wanted to return.

After graduating from Davis, I headed to Tanzania to work for a global health organization. I travelled all over the country seeing how health products such as male and female condoms, chlorine water treatment, and bed nets were used. I learned a lot but I also had deep reservations about the global health system I was participating in. There were often gaps between what organizations wanted to do and how local people experienced them. Many things were well-intentioned but there were often unintended consequences that accrued to local populations. In my opinion, not

enough attention was paid to those unintended consequences.

Dissatisfaction with the global health industry sent me back to school at Boston University. I pursued my Masters in Public Health with an emphasis on medical ethics and my PhD in African History at the same time. I spent more than a year in East Africa working in archives, conducting interviews, and observing in medical spaces. The dissertation and then book that resulted, *The Experiment Must Continue: Medical Research and Ethics in East Africa* (Ohio University Press, 2015) demonstrated how many of the ethical challenges we have with research aren't new, but also vexed researchers a century ago.

This past year I was awarded an OHC Faculty Research Fellowship that provided me a term off from teaching so I could focus on my new book project on the history of failed malaria elimina-

tion attempts in Africa. The fellowship gave me time to draft a chapter of the book that focuses on the World Health Organization's efforts in Zanzibar during

the global eradication program of the 1960s. I also organized a two-hour "Archive Bootcamp" for 13 students (primarily female STEM majors) who learned the basics of archival research. Future work on this project will be funded by a 5-year National Sci-

ence Foundation CAREER award. That award will enable me to involve UO students in my work as research assistants, co-authors on conference papers, and participants in my global health research group. Students will also visit archives with me in Europe and Africa. It will be an exciting five years!

Melissa Graboyes, African and Medical History, Clark Honors College; 2018–19 OHC Faculty Research Fellow



Teaching fellow creates class about the spread of outdoor adventure

I am deeply grateful to the Oregon Humanities Center and the opportunity provided by the 2018–19 Coleman-Guitteau Teaching Fellowship to develop a new class that explores the geography of outdoor adventure sports, "Hike, Bike, Skate, Surf, Ski: The Geography of Outdoor Adventure." Students in the course used archival materials, current academic work, and social media about these sports to examine the transformation of environments, economies, and cultures wrought by the emergence of consumer culture, the increasing availability of leisure time, and the development of modern technologies.

Growing transportation networks allowed access to formerly remote areas from densely populated areas. In European and US urban spaces in the early 1900s—before cars dominated the roads—bikes allowed unprecedented personal mobility. This helped to change women's fashion, as well as gender roles, as exist-

ing clothing styles were unsuited for the demands of cycling. More recently, skateboarding has again transformed the use of urban spaces, and skate culture has become a global phenomenon as urbanization has spread across the globe. Surfing provides another interesting example of globalization. It's initial spread was sparked by efforts to develop tourism and the military expansion of the US into the Pacific. Technologies advanced during World War II provided surfers access to colder ocean waters with wetsuits, and more types of waves with foam surfboards.

Newspapers, magazines, and later film were crucial to the spread of these activities. More recently internet con-

tent and social media have dramatically increased the profile of outdoor adventure activities. A key part of the course

involved students identifying archival materials from the early 1900s (such as newspaper and magazine articles) as well as more recent cultural materials (such as YouTube videos). The support of the fellowship allowed me to work with Joanna Merson and the UO InfoGraphics Lab to build an online collection and map of these archival

materials, tagged with descriptions and summaries provided by the students. This collection was used for class assignments and will be available for future iterations of the course to build upon.

Nicholas Kohler, Geography; 2018–19 OHC Coleman-Guitteau Professor



Dissertation fellow embarks on a Mellon Postdoc Fellowship

Completing my PhD at the University of Oregon with the support of the Oregon Humanities Center (OHC) has meant coming home in many ways. I was raised in what is currently called Eugene, Oregon, and from a young age I had a deep desire to understand the divide between the region's extraction industries and environmental groups like Earth-first!, divisions that defined my family during the spotted owl debates of the late 1980s and early 1990s. In graduate school, I found the field of the environmental humanities to be a robust home for thinking through those debates and their relation to political theory, racial formation, and the representational challenges of climate change.

As an OHC Dissertation Fellow, I was able to complete the fifth chapter of my dissertation ("Unfenceable Sovereignities: Unsettling Natures of Possession in Nineteenth-Century American Literature"), present my work at four national

conferences, and clarify my first book project. The fellowship provided invaluable time for writing, revising, and networking. Still, one of the most significant benefits of the OHC fellowship was being a part of their community, learning from my fellow Fellows' work that I was unlikely to come across otherwise. In the vital interdisciplinary space of OHC, I was likewise able to think and talk about my work in relation to contexts and scholars far outside my fields of expertise.

OHC's interdisciplinary ethic, events, and practice space provided crucial preparation for my next position as the 2019–21 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the Penn Program for the Environmental Humanities (PPEH) at the University of Pennsylvania. At Penn, I will be researching, writing, and helping to build PPEH's interdisciplinary, public humanities programming. Even as I make the move to Philadelphia, my roots remain deeply wedded to the place I was raised



and the people there—the Kalapuya peoples who continue to nurture their homelands, as well as the Oregon Humanities Center and the many divisions it helps to suture.

April Anson, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, PPEH on Lenape homelands; 2018–19 OHC Dissertation Fellow, English, University of Oregon on Kalapuyaili (Kalapuya) homelands

Humanities faculty awarded 2019–20 research grants



Melissa Graboyes, Clark Honors College, and 2018–19 OHC Faculty Research Fellow, NSF CAREER award (\$411,171) for "Vernacular Knowledge, Expertise, and Ethics:

A Case Study of Malaria Elimination in Zanzibar, 1900–2018."



Luke Habberstad, East Asian Languages and Literatures, 2017–18 OHC Teaching Fellow, and 2015–16 OHC Faculty Research Fellow, ACLS grant (\$50,000) for "Water Control and Political Culture in Early Imperial China."



Nathalie Hester, Romance Languages, and 2018–19 OHC Faculty Research Fellow, NEH grant (\$60,000) for "Inventing America in Baroque Italy: Columbus, Vespucci, and New

World Epic."

Leslie Alexander, History, and 2018–19 OHC Faculty Research Fellow; **Faith Barter**, English; and **Heidi Kaufman**, English, and 2015–16 OHC Coleman-Guitteau Teaching Fellow, won a VP



for Research and Innovation's 2019 Incubating Interdisciplinary Initiatives (I3) award (\$50,000) for "Rebellions in the African Diaspora," a digital humanities project that studies patterns in



the representation of slave insurgency. Drawing from library databases, the project will use metadata and data visualizations to study the patterns of discourse of Black rebellions; how rebellion writing moved across boundaries and places in

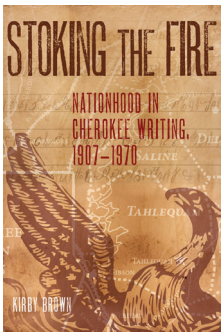


19th-century print culture throughout the Atlantic world; and the means by which Black rebellions demanded equality by drawing from global literary, political, religious, and legal culture.

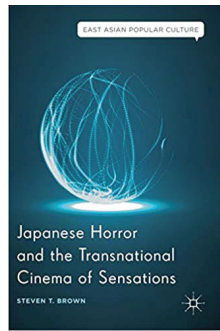
Thien Nguyen and Thanh Nguyen, Computer and Information Science, round out the project's team. The I3 grant offers critical seed funding for collaborative projects that show promise for securing external funding.

Recent publications supported by the OHC

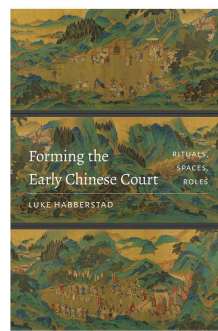
Monographs



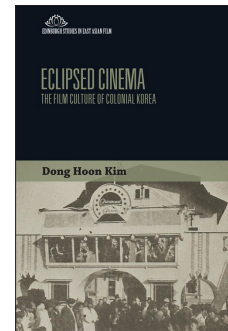
Kirby Brown, English. *Stoking the Fire: Nationhood in Cherokee Writing, 1907-1970*, University of Oklahoma Press, 2018. 2015-16 OHC Faculty Research Fellow.



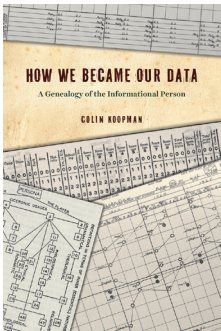
Steven T. Brown, Comparative Literature. *Japanese Horror and the Transnational Cinema of Sensations*, Palgrave, 2018. 2016-17 OHC Faculty Research Fellow.



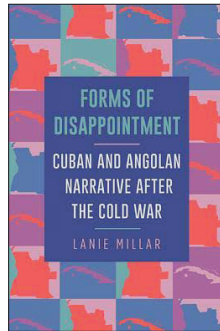
Luke Habberstad, EALL. *Forming the Early Chinese Court: Rituals, Spaces, Roles*, University of Washington Press, 2018. 2015-16 OHC Faculty Research Fellow.



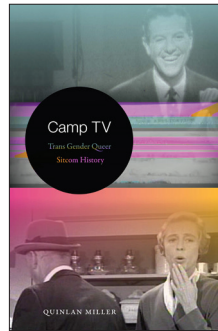
Dong Hoon Kim, EALL. *Eclipsed Cinema: The Film Culture of Colonial Korea*, Cambridge University Press, 2017. 2013-14 Faculty Research Fellow.



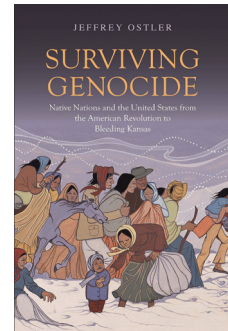
Colin Koopman, Philosophy. *How We Became Our Data: A Genealogy of the Informational Person*, University of Chicago Press, 2019. 2015-16 OHC Wulf Teaching Fellow, and 2014-15 OHC Faculty Research Fellow.



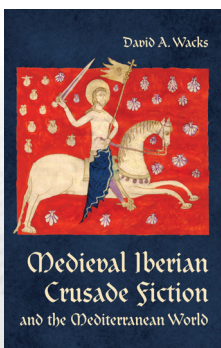
Lanie Millar, Romance Languages. *Forms of Disappointment: Cuban and Angolan Narrative after the Cold War*, SUNY Press, 2019. 2016-17 OHC Faculty Research Fellow and OHC/CAS Subvention.



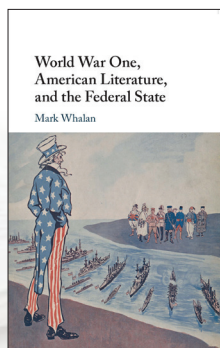
Quinn Miller, English. *Camp TV: TransGender Queer Sitcom History*, Duke University Press, 2019. OHC/CAS Subvention.



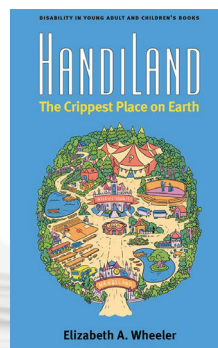
Jeffrey Ostler, History. *Surviving Genocide: Native Nations and the United States from the American Revolution to Bleeding Kansas*, Yale University Press, 2019. 2012-13 OHC Faculty Research Fellow and OHC/CAS Subvention.



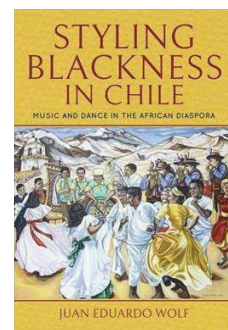
David Wacks, Romance Languages. *Medieval Iberian Crusade Fiction and the Mediterranean World*, University of Toronto Press, 2019. 2017-18 OHC Faculty Research Fellow and OHC/CAS Subvention.



Mark Whalan, English. *World War One, American Literature and the Federal State*, Cambridge University Press, 2018. 2016-17 OHC Faculty Research Fellow.

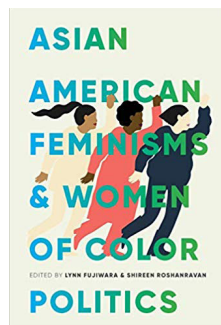


Elizabeth A. Wheeler, English. *HandiLand: The Crippest Place on Earth*, University of Michigan Press, 2019. 2014-15 OHC Faculty Research Fellow and OHC/CAS Subvention.



Juan Eduardo Wolf, Musicology. *Styling Blackness in Chile: Music and Dance in the African Diaspora*, Indiana University Press, 2019. 2016-17 OHC Faculty Research Fellow.

Edited volumes

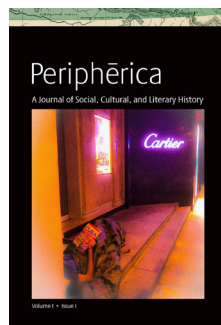


Lynn Fujiwara, Ethnic Studies. *Asian American Feminisms and Women of Color Politics*, University of Washington Press, 2018. 2016-17 OHC Faculty Research Fellow and OHC/CAS Subvention.

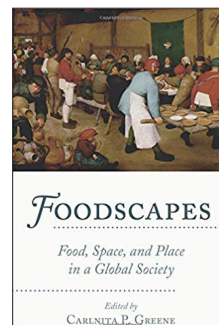


Michael Malek Najjar, Theatre Arts. *Six Plays of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, McFarland Books, 2018. eds. 2019-20 OHC Faculty Research Fellow and OHC/CAS Subvention.

Journals and chapters



Pedro García-Caro, Romance Languages. *Periphērica: Journal of Social, Cultural, and Literary History*, journals.oregondigital.org/index.php/periphērica, 2019. OHC/CAS Subvention.



Courtney Thorsson, English. "Kitchen, Nation, Diaspora: Ntozake Shange's African American Foodways," in *Foodscapes: Food, Space, and Place in a Global Society*, Peter Lang Publishing, 2018. 2012-13 OHC Faculty Research Fellow.

HURF Program enters its fifth year

The University of Oregon's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) was established in 2014 as a resource for the UO's community of scholars. Housed in the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (VPRI), UROP works to support undergraduate research and creative scholarship in all academic disciplines. One of UROP's first priorities was to create a program that supported undergraduates conducting research in the humanities. To achieve this goal, UROP partnered with the Oregon Humanities Center to create the Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellowship (HURF) program.

The HURF program is entering its fifth year and has grown into a comprehensive undergraduate research program that assists students with their research,

writing, and communication skills, while providing them with opportunities to explore career pathways for humanities scholars. The breadth of research topics that fellows have engaged in is impressive, ranging from an anthropological study of homeless women in Eugene, to research on how youth in Brazil participate in the political process through digital memes, to a study of the influence of James Baldwin across literary forms. Each year the program culminates with students giving presentations at the UO Undergraduate Research Symposium.

By all accounts, the HURF program has been a resounding success. Fellows annually report that by participating in the program they felt more engaged with the research mission of the University and made significant gains in developing

their critical thinking and analytic skills. Program alumni are completing graduate study at institutions including MIT, Washington University in St. Louis, and Willamette University College of Law. Others are pursuing careers in journalism at the *Wall Street Journal*, serving in the Peace Corps in The Gambia, working as a wildland firefighter with the US Forest Service, and interning as a research consultant with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

The success of the program is the result of strong support from the VPRI, English's Composition Program, the UO Libraries, and the incredible faculty mentors who support the fellows during their undergraduate education.

Meet the OHC's development officer

Caitlin Elwood began her partnership with the Oregon Humanities Center in March 2018 after working for local non-profits the previous seven years. Her role, based in the University of Oregon Advancement Office, is to work with current and potential donors to support the mission (research, teaching, and public outreach) of the OHC. By meeting with UO alumni, community members, the OHC Board of Visitors, and other stakeholders on and off campus, Caitlin hopes to promote the important work of

the OHC and strengthen the humanities presence in Lane County and beyond.

As a UO alumna and History major, Caitlin particularly enjoys attending the free public lectures and Work-in-Progress/Books-in-Print talks throughout the academic year. She also appreciates meeting with the faculty and students who receive awards through the OHC to hear about their work and how the support of the OHC



helped them make significant progress toward completing a new course, thesis, or book. Caitlin hopes that more and more people will attend OHC events and consider supporting the Center philanthropically because she sees its impact first-hand. If you are

interested in learning more about how you can help the mission of the OHC, please reach out to Caitlin: celwood@uoregon.edu or 541-346-6140.



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Many thanks to our supporters

It is largely due to the generous support of our friends and donors that the OHC is able to offer free public programs, *UO Today*, and faculty and graduate fellowships. We invite you to learn more about OHC giving opportunities by visiting ohc.uoregon.edu or calling (541) 346-1001 or contacting Caitlin Elwood (see story pg. 5). We would like to thank the following individuals and foundations for their support during the 2018–19 fiscal year (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019):

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