



Oregon Humanities Center

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Fall 2020

How do Americans think about climate change?

What are the psychological, cultural, and political reasons why some people passionately engage with issues surrounding climate change, while others are apathetic, and some are downright dismissive and hostile?

Anthony Leiserowitz, the founder and Director of the [Yale Program on Climate Change Communication](#) (YPPCC) and a Senior Research Scientist at the Yale School of the Environment, will explore this question as he delivers the 2020-21 Kritikos Lecture “Climate Change in the



American Mind” on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 5 p.m. via [Zoom](#). His talk will be the first in the OHC’s 2020-21 [Climate Justice series](#).

Climate change is one of the most daunting challenges of our time. Americans have diverse and sometimes opposing views about global warming, fundamentally shaping the political climate of climate change. Leiserowitz will explain recent trends in Americans’ climate change knowledge, attitudes, policy support, and behavior and discuss strategies to build public

and political will for climate action.

Leiserowitz is an expert on public climate change and environmental beliefs, attitudes, policy preferences, and behavior, and the psychological, cultural, and political factors that shape them. At Yale, Leiserowitz examines how Americans and others around the world respond to the issues of climate change and other global challenges. YPPCC seeks to discover what people understand and misunderstand about the causes, consequences, and solutions of climate change; how they perceive the risks; and what kinds of policies they support or oppose.

As he explains, Leiserowitz’s research with YPPCC “suggest[s] it is

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Collin outlines strategies to heal climate injustice

How can centuries of environmental exploitation and social injustice in the U.S. be unraveled? Robin Morris Collin, the Norma Paulus Professor of Law at Willamette University College of Law, will share her passion for creating solutions to remedy environmental injustice. She will deliver the 2020-21 Colin Ruagh O’Fallon Memorial Lecture “The Geography of Injustice and the Ecology of Reparations” on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 5 p.m. via [Zoom](#).

Collin asserts that, driven by the legacies of colonialism and slavery, U.S. public policy has deliberately subordinated nature and people in pursuit of profit by discounting the value of people and places into commodities for transactional exchange. Our economy, which relies on patterns of extraction, consumption, and pollution, has deeply harmed the earth and its people. Poor

communities, especially communities of color, are disproportionately impacted by pollution, waste disposal, hazardous sites, resource depletion, and disasters in the natural and built environment.

To visualize how people and places are affected by environmental injustice, Collin has been utilizing the [EPA’s EJSCREEN: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool](#), which collects and analyzes information to assess and compare environmental and human health risks borne by populations identified by race, national origin, or income. Injustice has literally been mapped.



Beyond defining the problems, Collin will outline key strategies that can lead to healing. She contends that in

order to heal we must reestablish a reciprocity between ourselves and nature, and we need to center environmental justice in the heart of sustainability. To that end, Collin maintains that environmental justice must be included in the core curriculum so all will understand why equity matters.

We must reexamine our shared histories and recognize the truth of where we are now—not try to deny or disguise it. She also believes that injured communities

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Upcoming Climate Justice lectures in winter and spring



Vien Truong
2020-21 Tzedek Lecturer

“Fighting for the Future”

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 (Eugene)
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 (Portland)



Naomi Oreskes
2020-21 Cressman Lecturer

“Can Science Be Saved?”

Friday, March 12, 2021



Bathsheba Demuth
2020-21 Clark Lecturer

“The Reindeer and the End of the World”

Tuesday, May 4, 2021



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OHC Director's Report *by Paul Peppis*

As I write this column, the skies in Eugene are thick with toxic smoke from hundreds of historically unprecedented wildfires ravaging communities throughout Oregon and the Western U.S., protests supporting the Black Lives Matter movement continue on the streets of communities all over our country and others, the deadly COVID-19 pandemic persists across the globe, division roils and paralyzes our politics, and schools, colleges, and universities struggle to welcome students back in the face of these daunting challenges. To say that these are difficult times is an understatement.

Like all of you, we at the Oregon Humanities Center have been doing our best to respond productively to these tough conditions while carrying out our mission to promote and strengthen the humanities, on campus and in the broader community, by supporting humanities research and teaching, fostering collaboration among disciplines, and sponsoring public programs. When COVID-19 arrived, we quickly pivoted to offering our public programming online, including our weekly Work-in-Progress talks by graduate student and faculty research fellows, our Books-in-Print talks by faculty authors supported by the OHC, and our final two named lectures in our series on the theme of Convergence: intersections between the sciences and humanities. When millions of people joined together this summer to protest and resist four hundred years of institutionalized racism in the U.S. and the continuing state-sanctioned killing of Black women, men, and children, [we pledged our solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement](#) and shared from our [video archives](#) talks and interviews with Black colleagues, scholars, artists, writers, and public intellectuals to help us recognize, respect, and honor Black people and their lives, and learn from their experiences—work we are committed to continue moving forward.

These efforts, as well as our plans for the coming academic year, are inspired by our conviction—stronger now than ever—that the arts and humanities sustain, teach, and uplift us during times of social crisis, upheaval,

and conflict.

Responding to two of the most urgent issues of our moment, climate change and social justice, we have selected for the OHC's annual named lecture series the theme of [Climate Justice](#). Advocates for climate justice believe that climate change is a human rights issue and that current social and political structures and environmental policies inequitably affect human opportunities and experiences amidst a changing climate. As with all OHC themed lectures, our five-part series on climate justice seeks to create space for experts to share their research and knowledge, and foster conversation and understanding. Our speakers will apply their diverse expertise to topics of climate and racial justice, reparation ecology, building an equitable green economy, the interdependence between the humanities and sciences, and climate change communication. By applying the tools of the humanities—rigorous inquiry, critical thinking, and open discussion—to the challenges of climate change and social justice, they will help educate and inspire us to improve our shared human experience. The Climate Justice series kicks off this fall with two online lectures.

You'll find stories about these and other humanities events we are co-sponsoring during fall term in the following pages. Our calendar gives details of the lectures, exhibits, performances, etc. taking place this fall (mostly remotely), including the OHC's [Work-in-Progress talks](#) (WIPs) by our resident research fellows, and [Book-in-Print talks](#) (BIPs) by UO scholars on their recently-published books supported by the OHC.

Given the historic financial challenges brought on by the COVID pandemic that we and our educational institutions are facing, I am especially pleased and grateful to announce a new matching gift opportunity to support the OHC's ongoing efforts to sustain and promote high quality humanities programming, research, and teaching.



Thanks to the generosity of Amanda and Alex Haugland, your gift to the OHC will be matched now through December 31, 2020. Gifts from current donors will be matched dollar-for-dollar. New or returning donor gifts will be matched two-to-one. (Returning donors are those who did not donate to the OHC during the 2019-20 academic year.) When you give to the OHC, you:

- help scholars and students conduct research that deepens our understanding of the human experience.
- foster student learning through humanities course development. This form of faculty support enriches students' experience by supporting the creation of invigorating new humanities courses, including interdisciplinary teaching collaborations among faculty.
- help provide dozens of free lectures, performances, and events hosted or co-sponsored by the OHC each year that explore challenging issues across cultural and disciplinary boundaries.

By making a gift now, you can maximize the impact of your support for the humanities at a time when the need for that support is especially pressing. Go to: duckfunder.uoregon.edu/ohc2020 to give now.

In closing, I once again offer gratitude

and admiration for all who help the OHC carry out its mission to promote and strengthen the humanities and humanities research: our staff, Faculty Advisory Board,

external Board of Visitors, and all those fellow devotees of the humanities who believe in the humanities. That work is more urgent now than it has been at any time in my adult life: thanks for helping us advance it!

All best wishes for a safe, healthy, and uplifting autumn.

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Maximize your impact on the humanities

The Oregon Humanities Center (OHC) creates a vibrant intellectual community with compelling public lectures and generous support for humanities research, teaching, and publication. Your gift to the OHC is vital to sustaining and advancing the humanities.

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Your gift will advance humanities research, support humanities teaching and learning, and help you connect with the intellectual and research community.

By making a gift now at duckfunder.uoregon.edu/ohc2020, you will maximize your impact on the humanities at the University of Oregon. Thank you!

2021 HURF program

The Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellowship (HURF) Program provides humanities undergraduate students with an opportunity to undertake a 16-week research project under the guidance of a UO faculty mentor during the winter and spring terms, and to present their work at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in May.

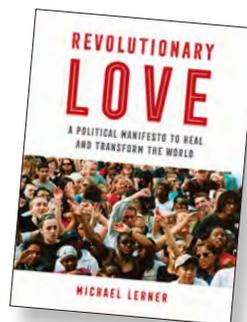
During the fellowship period, the cohort of fellows meets regularly to workshop their projects and participate in seminars on topics such as developing research skills, communicating research orally and in writing, understanding the ethics of research, and preparing for graduate school and/or other career opportunities. Fellows receive a \$2,500 stipend, faculty mentors receive a \$500 stipend.

The HURF Program is a collaboration between the Oregon Humanities Center, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, and the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program. Application deadline is November 15, 2020. For information, visit: research.uoregon.edu/apply/apply-internal-funding/hurf

Lerner *continued from back page*

strategy for a new socialism built on love, kindness, and compassion for each other. In his book, *Revolutionary Love*, Lerner proposes a method to replace what Lerner terms the “capitalist globalization of selfishness” with a globalization of generosity, prophetic empathy, and environmental sanity.

Rabbi Lerner is the editor of *Tikkun* magazine and author of eleven books including two national bestsellers,



Jewish Renewal and *The Left Hand of God: Taking Back Our Country from the Religious Right*. He received Morehouse College’s King-Gandhi Award for his work for peace and nonviolence.

This lecture series is cosponsored by the Oregon Humanities Center. Both talks are free and open to the public. Details and Zoom links can be

found at: unesco.uoregon.edu/partnerships/unitwin-network

Fall 2020 Work-in-Progress and Books-in-Print talks schedule

All talks take place on Fridays at noon via Zoom. Registration is required.

October 16

HandiLand: The Crippiest Place on Earth. Elizabeth (Betsy) Wheeler, English and Disability Studies. Register: ow.ly/FsWA50BrOCj

October 23

“In the Hands of God: Evangelical Therapeutics and Migrant Faith among Brazilians in the U.S.” Johanna Bard Richlin, Anthropology. Register: ow.ly/5u5f50BrONG

November 6

Beauty Diplomacy: Embodying an Emerging Nation. Oluwakemi (Kemi) Balogun, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and African Studies. Register: ow.ly/CILh50BtNGq

November 13

“The End of Modernity: Temporalities of Nation, Indigeneity, and the Anthropocene in the Contemporary Independent Cinema of the Philippines.” Elio Garcia, Dissertation Fellow, English. Register: ow.ly/MSkj50BrOVq

November 20

“The Longest Resistance: Anti-Fascist Women between Franco and Hitler.” Gina Herrmann, Romance Languages. Register: ow.ly/ULIV50BrOYe

December 4

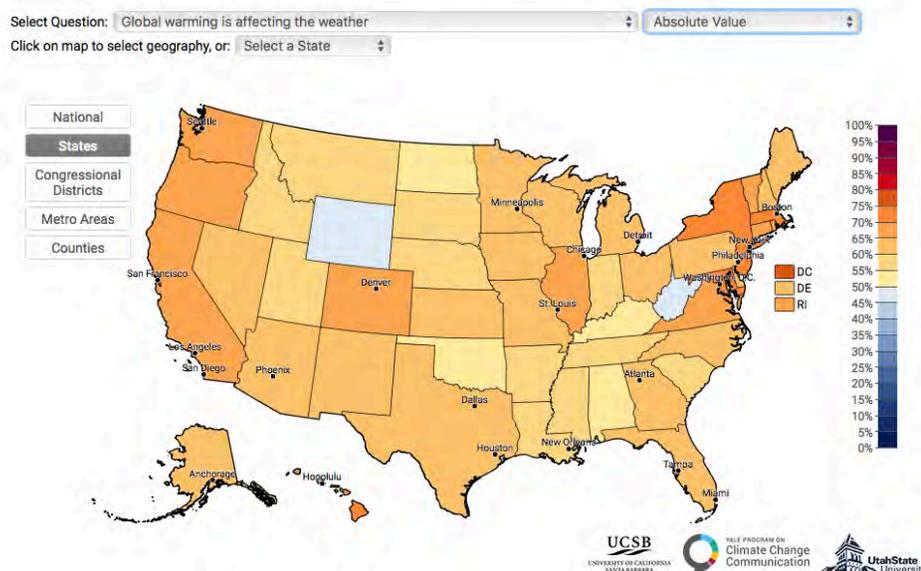
“Amplifying Voices: Auditory Texts in Colonial Korea, 1910–1945.” Jina Kim, East Asian Languages and Literatures. Register: ow.ly/529Y50BrP1K

Territorial acknowledgement

The University of Oregon is located on Kalapuya ilih, the traditional indigenous homeland of the Kalapuya people. Following treaties between 1851 and 1855, Kalapuya people were dispossessed of their indigenous homeland by the United States government and forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today, Kalapuya descendants are primarily citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and they continue to make important contributions to their communities, to the UO, to Oregon, and to the world.

Leiserowitz *continued from page 1*

Estimated % of adults who think global warming is affecting the weather (64%), 2020



Collin *continued from page 1*

and damaged places need to be reconnected, one by one.

Collin believes that reparations can change the ecology of subordination, but not with payments—payments will not change systems. Sustainable community-based projects create new systems that bolster relationships between people and the land—like the Southeastern African American Farmers' Organic Network

which is committed to culturally relevant, ancestrally guided, and ecologically sustainable, agricultural-based living. Healing entails a community-by-community focus on restorations, reparations, and re-creations.

Collin, the first U.S. law professor to teach sustain-

ability courses in a U.S. law school, currently teaches Global Sustainability. Prior to her tenure at Willamette University, she was a professor at the University

of Oregon's Law School from 1993 to 2003. While at the UO, she cofounded the Coalition Against Environmental Racism's Environmental Justice conference and the Sustainable Business Symposium, both of which continue into their second decade.

She has been awarded the David Brower Lifetime Achievement Award from the UO's Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, the 2012 Oregon Woman of Achievement Award, the Leadership in Sustainability Award from the Oregon State Bar, the Campus Compact Faculty Award for Civic Engagement in Sustainability, and the national Environmental Justice Achievement Award from the Environmental Protection Agency for her work with the Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force. She was a founding board member of the Environmental Justice Action Group of Portland, and a founding member of Lawyers for a Sustainable Future.

Collin's talk is free and open to the public. Registration is required to participate in the live Zoom event. Register at: ohc.uoregon.edu. The talk will be recorded and available for viewing on the [OHC's YouTube channel](https://ohc.uoregon.edu). For more information contact ohc@uoregon.edu.

possible to improve public understanding of the scientific consensus on climate change in a way that does not trigger political polarization. In particular, our findings suggest that scientists, nonprofit organizations, and policy makers should communicate the scientific consensus using short, simple declarative sentences or simple pie charts. Ultimately, better communication of the scientific consensus on human-caused climate change can contribute to improved public understanding and engagement with the issue."

According to Leiserowitz, despite the distraction of COVID-19, climate change is "not fading from people's memories, it is not fading from their sense of importance just because other issues have arisen."

Leiserowitz earned both his MS (1998) and PhD (2003) in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon. He studied with Paul Slovic, professor of Psychology and president of Decision Research (DR), with whom he currently serves at DR. He conducts research at the global, national, and local scales, including many surveys of the American public. He conducted the first global study of public values, attitudes, and behaviors regarding sustainable development and has published more than 200 scientific articles, chapters, and reports. Leiserowitz and his colleague Edward Maibach (George Mason University) are winners of the 2020 Stephen H. Schneider Award for Outstanding Climate Science Communication. In addition, he is the host of Climate Connections, a radio program broadcast each day on more than 600 stations nationwide.

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Spiritual leaders speak about their social activism

How has the COVID-19 crisis, and our responses to it, revealed the injustices endemic to our culture? How can we turn things around? And what role does religion play in confronting this crisis?

The UNESCO Chair in Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue and Peace and the UO-UNESCO Crossings Institute will host a series entitled "Getting Religion Right in a Time of Crisis." Sister Helen Prejean will talk about her recent book *River of Fire: On Becoming an Activist* (Random House, 2019) on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7 p.m. And on the following Wednesday, October 21, also at 7 p.m., Rabbi Michael Lerner will talk about his recent book *Revolutionary Love: A Political Manifesto to Heal and Transform the World* (University of California Press, 2019). Both talks will be presented via Zoom.

In her book, *River of Fire*, Sister Helen Prejean shares the story of her growth as a spiritual leader, speaks out about the challenges of the Catholic Church, and shows that joy and religion are not mutually exclusive. She writes about the relationships with friends, fellow nuns, and mentors who have shaped her over the years.



Sister Helen has been instrumental in sparking national dialogue on capital punishment and in shaping the Catholic Church's vigorous opposition to all executions. In 1982, she began corresponding with Patrick Sonnier in the Louisiana State Penitentiary. He had been sentenced to death for the murder of two teenagers. Two years later, when Sonnier was put to death in the electric chair, Sister Helen was present to witness his execution. In the following months, she became the spiritual advisor to another death row inmate, Robert Lee Willie, who was to meet the same fate as Sonnier. After witnessing these executions, Sister Helen realized that this lethal ritual would remain unchallenged unless its secrecy was stripped away, and so she sat down and wrote a book, *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*. That book ignited a national debate on capital punishment and was turned into an Academy Award winning movie and an extraordinarily moving opera.

Social theorist and psychotherapist Rabbi Michael Lerner has developed a
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