



Oregon Humanities Center

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Fall 2019

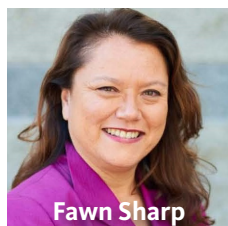
OHC and Native American Studies Program host conference on partnerships between academia and tribal communities

Humanities scholars, universities, and centers across the West are increasingly thinking about ways to expand institutional strengths and resources for the benefit of the public good, what many are now calling the “Public Humanities.”

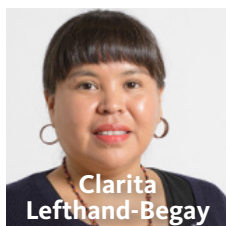
Centered around three thematic axes—Climate Change, Sovereignty, and Place—the 2019 Western Humanities Alliance conference will explore the challenges and opportunities of such work as it relates to partnering and collaborating with the First Peoples and Nations of the lands our institutions occupy. The conference “Engaged Humanities: Partnerships between Academia and Tribal Communities” will be held

November 8 and 9, 2019 at the University of Oregon in Eugene. The University of Oregon and the City of Eugene are situated on Kalapuya Ilihi, the traditional homelands and political territories of the

colonize methodologies, archives, and institutions; to center Indigenous knowledge, culture, and voices in contemporary work; and to improve relationships with and responsibilities to tribal communities, this conference will explore how institutions might more productively engage tribal communities based upon core principles of respect, reciprocity, consultation, stewardship, and service.



Fawn Sharp



Clarita Lefthand-Begay



Mishuana Goeman

Kalapuya peoples, whose descendants are now citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Responding to the calls of scholars such as Linda Tuhiwai Smith to de-

colonize methodologies, archives, and institutions; to center Indigenous knowledge, culture, and voices in contemporary work; and to improve relationships with and responsibilities to tribal communities, this conference will explore how institutions might more productively engage tribal communities based upon core principles of respect, reciprocity, consultation, stewardship, and service.

continued on page 3

Wine Chat: an interdisciplinary approach to describe the complexity of the human microbiome

The OHC’s first Wine Chat in May featured Nathalie Hester, Romance Languages, with an engaging talk about how Italians in Venice, Florence, Modena, and other city-states incorporated the conquest of the Americas in their cultural and political agendas.

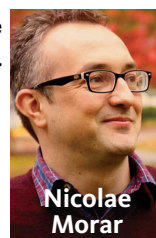
On the heels of that successful event, we will host our second Wine Chat featuring biologist Brendan Bohannon and philosopher Nicolae Morar. Their talk, “Thinking about the Human Microbiome: From Concepts to Therapy and Human Nature,” will take place on Thursday, October 10th at 6 p.m. at Civic Winery and Wines, 50 E. 11th Ave. in Eugene.

The human microbiome is a complex system of microorganisms on and

in our body that is crucial to many vital functions. The bacteria in the microbiome help digest our food, regulate our immune system, protect against other bacteria that cause disease, and produce vitamins. Approximately half of the cells in our body are human and half are microbial. The microbiome may weigh as much as five pounds. But what is the human-microbe system? Is it an organ? Is it an ecosystem? Is it a superorganism? Bohannon and Morar examined the concepts scientists use to think about our microbiome to determine the benefits and limitations of each. They discovered that none of the labels



Brendan Bohannon



Nicolae Morar

capture the complexity of the human microbiome. They concluded that the reason there is no clear description of the nature of the human-microbe system is that it is many things at the same time. It’s important to consider all concepts when thinking about the nature of the human microbiome and how it relates to our health and wellness. The way we talk about things gives us a window into reality.

Bohannon is a professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon. His research focuses on the diversity of microbial life and the interactions

continued on page 3

OHC Director's report by Paul Peppis

As we welcome our students back to the University of Oregon and the rain back to the Willamette Valley, I'm pleased to share news about a number of exciting initiatives and events sponsored by the Oregon Humanities Center (OHC) this fall.

First, I'm delighted to announce a new matching gift opportunity that will help strengthen the OHC's efforts to sustain and support high quality humanities programming, research, and teaching. Thanks to the generosity of OHC Board of Visitors member Amy Haugland, this exciting campaign is underway and continues through December. If we raise \$15,000 from new and current OHC donors, Ms. Haugland will match the gifts, raising at least \$30,000. New donors, your gifts will be matched two to one. Go to duckfunder.uoregon.edu/ohc to learn more. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity today—and encourage your friends to support the humanities at UO!

Second, on November 8 and 9 please plan to attend the annual conference of the Western Humanities Alliance “Engaged Humanities: Partnerships between Academia and Tribal Communities” hosted by the OHC and UO's Native American Studies. Bringing together an impressive group of native scholars, community members, tribal leaders, and UO faculty and students, the conference will explore the challenges and opportunities of collaborations between the academy and America's native and First Nations communities to use the arts and humanities to advance the public good.

Third, the OHC's annual named lecture series, on the theme of *Convergence: intersections between the sciences and the humanities*, kicks off in early February. At a moment when science and the humanities are being subject to unprecedented scrutiny and even attack, a mo-

ment when the UO is nearing completion on a new applied science campus, we at the OHC have organized the *Convergence* lecture series to highlight key areas of human experience where science and the humanities intersect as well as areas of divergence where science and the humanities could be brought into more productive relation. Our speakers, a group of distinguished scientists, scholars, and science writers, will discuss a range of topics and perspectives relating to bioethics, health and justice, climate change and human adaptation, and neuroscience and the human brain. This year, in response to increasing parking challenges on campus and in an effort to strengthen our community outreach, we will hold our named lectures off campus, at the First United

Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., in Eugene.

Fourth, I encourage you to attend our second Wine Chat on October 10th. Related to the *Convergence* theme, this talk features UO professors, biologist Brendan Bohannon and philosopher Nicolae Morar. They will speak about their fascinating research collaboration on the human microbiome—an excellent example of productive intersections between the sciences and the humanities.

Finally, I offer heartfelt gratitude and admiration for all those people who help the OHC carry out its critical mission: our exceptional staff, Faculty Advisory Board, external Board of Visitors, and you and your fellow devotees of the humanities. Thank you for joining us!



Upcoming in 2020

2019–20 Cressman Lecture

Ruha Benjamin
Tuesday, February 4

Benjamin's work investigates the social dimensions of science and technology with a focus on the relationship between innovation and inequity, health and justice, knowledge and power.



2019–20 Clark Lecture

Elizabeth Rush
Thursday, March 5

Rush's work explores how humans adapt to changes enacted upon them by forces seemingly beyond their control, from ecological transformation to political revolution. Her recent book is *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore* (2018).

2019–20 Kritikos Lecture

Leonard Mlodinow
Tuesday, April 21
(Eugene)
Wednesday, April 22
(Portland)

Mlodinow is a theoretical physicist and author, recognized for groundbreaking discoveries in physics, and as the author of five best-selling books. His most recent book is *Elastic: flexible thinking in a time of change* (2018)



2019–20 Tzedek Lecture

“Deep Ethics in the Age of the Algorithm”
Paul Root Wolpe

Thursday, May 14 (Eugene)
Friday, May 15 (Portland)

A futurist interested in social dynamics, Wolpe's work focuses on the social, religious, ethical, and ideological impact of medicine and technology on the human condition.

OREGON HUMANITIES CENTER

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Conference *continued from page 1*



Oregon Humanities Center and Native American Studies presents

Engaged Humanities

Partnerships between Academia and Tribal Communities

2019 Western Humanities Alliance Conference
November 8–9, 2019
Giustina Ballroom
Ford Alumni Center

WHA

NAS
Native American Studies

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UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
Eugene, Oregon | Kalapuya Ilihi

Sculpture by Rick Bartow (Wiyot, Mad River Band, 1946–2016). Background: UO Many Nations Longhouse

ies. “As a public institution in a state with nine federally recognized tribes and whose existence is inextricably tied to histories of dispossession and colonial violence, the University of Oregon must continue to cultivate and strengthen ties with tribal nations. Making space for Indigenous scholars, filmmakers, performers, community members, staff, and students to come together and share the important work going on at our institutions and across our communities is one way to honor those commitments.”

Featured keynote speakers include Fawn Sharp, president of the Quinalt Indian Nation, and Clarita Lefthand-Begay (Diné Nation), University of Washington professor, who will give the Climate

Change and Indigenous Peoples lecture; and Mishuana Goeman (Tonawanda Band of Seneca), UCLA professor of American Indian Studies, who will speak on “Beyond Settler Apologies: Land Grant Institutions and Indigenous Futurities.”

In addition, numerous native scholars, community members, and tribal leaders will participate in ceremonies, panels, a concert reading and discussion of the play *Salmon is Everything* by UO Theatre Arts Professor Theresa May, and a film screening and discussion of the social justice documentary *Promised Land*. The film documents the struggle for federal recognition by the Chinook and Duwamish tribal nations. Filmmaker Sarah Salcedo (Duwamish Nation) will

participate in the discussion.

Partnering with University of Oregon’s Native American Studies program, the Oregon Humanities Center will host the 2019 Western Humanities Alliance (WHA) conference. WHA, a consortium of regional universities’ humanities centers and institutes, promotes innovative research in humanistic fields relating to current social, cultural, and scientific issues. The WHA emphasizes the importance of the humanities in the Western United States and Canadian provinces and is dedicated to the idea that humanities research has a central role to play in shaping the world of the 21st century.

The conference will take place in the Giustina Ballroom in the Ford Alumni Center, 1720 E. 13th Ave. on the University of Oregon Campus in Eugene on Kalapuya Ilihi. The event is free and open to the public. The conference-rate hotel is The Phoenix Inn Suites, 850 Franklin Blvd. The WHA room block is available until October 7. For more information and the complete program go to: ohc.uoregon.edu/2019-wha-symposium.

Wine Chat *continued from page 1*

between humans and microbes. Morar is an assistant professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon. His research focuses on bioethics, the philosophy of biology, and continental philosophy. Morar is a 2019–20 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. They embarked on this collaboration over three years ago and have recently published an article in the *Quarterly Review of Biology* titled “The Conceptual Ecology of the Human Biome.”

Civic Winery and Wines is a new urban winery, wine bar and bottle shop housed in a restored 1930s building featuring reclaimed wood from Eugene’s historic Civic Stadium. The winery focuses on organic and biodynamic grape production aged on site in locally made ceramic amphorae.

The event is free and open to the public. Beverages and snacks are available for purchase. For more information call 541-346-3934.

Help us raise \$15,000 by the end of December!
OHC Board of Visitors member Amy Haugland
will match the gifts, raising at least \$30,000.

**Renew your support today and
your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar.**

If you are a new donor, your gift will be matched two to one!

**Because people like you have given to the OHC,
we have been able to help UO faculty and graduate students,
and bring engaging speakers to Oregon.**

**Help strengthen the OHC’s ongoing efforts to sustain and support
high quality humanities programming, research, and teaching.**

Please give today: duckfunder.uoregon.edu/ohc



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Discover classical Indian arts and culture

The OHC's Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities is cosponsoring two events this fall that feature classical Indian arts and culture.

The School of Music and Dance's World Music Series presents Josh Feinberg performing North Indian classical music on sitar on Monday, October 7th at 7:30 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall. Josh Feinberg is an instructor of sitar and Indian instrumental music at Lewis and Clark College. As a young man he studied jazz but soon discovered, and became a devotee of, North Indian classical, or Hindustani, music. Hindustani music is usually performed vocally but instrumental forms have existed since ancient times. In recent decades, especially outside South Asia, instrumental Hindustani music is more popular than vocal music. Tickets, \$12 for general admission and \$8 for students and seniors, are available at tickets.uoregon.edu.

The Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, Folklore, and the School of Music and Dance present a Kathakali dance drama performance on Thursday, October 24th at 6 p.m. in Berwick Hall. Kathakali is a classical Indian dance drama from southwestern Kerala state. Known for its vibrant makeup and costuming, highly emotive acting style, and large, imposing movements, this visually impressive art form narrates stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata epics. Kathakali has been widely celebrated both inside and outside of India, and its acting techniques have been incorporated into modern theater training world wide. The performance is free and open to the public.

