



Oregon Humanities Center

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Winter 2021

Climate justice advocate fights for the future

What will the next four years mean for the future of climate justice, economic justice, and racial justice? How have the pandemic and economic uncertainty affected the fight for climate change? Climate justice advocate Vien Truong will consider these questions, share insights, and offer solutions for how we can fight for a more just and sustainable future in her 2020–21 Tzedek Lecture “Fighting for the Future” on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 4 p.m. [via Zoom](#).

Truong has worked to bring equity,



Vien Truong
2020–21 Tzedek Lecturer

social justice, and climate justice to the front lines of the environmental movement and policy making. “Climate justice work is a fight for a new economy, a new democracy, a new relationship to the planet and to each other. When we win this fight, we will win the world that we want. The future is worth fighting for.”

Truong’s parents, nine siblings, and grandmother fled war-torn Vietnam in a boat, rowed 500 miles toward Macau, were intercepted and

sent to a refugee camp where Truong was born. They came to Oregon and worked as migrant farm workers following the harvest across the state. Subsequently they moved to Oakland, California where her parents worked low-wage jobs in sweatshops while supporting their large family. Truong, who grew up amid the poverty and violence of 1980s Oakland, was the first in her family to attend college. She earned a BA at UC Berkeley and a JD at University of California’s Hastings College of Law. Deeply committed to her Oakland community, she works to bring resources for reducing pollution and creating the infrastructure for sustainable economic revitalization.

Truong serves as the Director of

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Science historian explores skepticism about science

During the Covid-19 pandemic, public debates about the validity of scientific findings and the value of science overall have intensified, as some Americans have actively resisted and even denied the legitimacy of scientific guidance about how to address the disease. What are the social and psychological drivers of public skepticism about science? How can skeptics be convinced otherwise? According to Naomi Oreskes, professor of the History of Science at Harvard University, people won’t be persuaded with more science or more facts. They deny scientific findings because they do not like the implications of their veracity—what Oreskes terms “implicatory denial.”

To convince deniers, their fears and ideologies must be addressed. Some Americans hold a worldview that prioritizes the inviolability of individual rights and the sanctity of the economy above

all else, and adhere to an ideology of “limited government.” Oreskes contends, “This runs very, very deep in American culture. It ties into an extraordinary individualism that you don’t generally see in other places in the world. We tend to be more resistant to collective action in the United States than people in other countries. And it ties into this very, very deep idea in American culture that the government that governs best governs least.”

Naomi Oreskes will explore the complexities of Americans’ denial of scientific findings and skepticism about science in her 2020–21 Cressman Lecture “Can



Naomi Oreskes
2020–21 Cressman Lecturer

Photo: Kayana Szymczak

Science Be Saved?” on Friday, March 12, 2021 at noon [via Zoom](#).

As Oreskes explains, “Many Americans think that we face a general crisis of trust in science. With the rejection of mask-wearing by many Americans—as well as many of our political leaders—it is easy to come to that conclusion. But

evidence shows that the vast majority of Americans do, in fact, trust science. Scientists (along with doctors and nurses) remain among the most respected and trusted figures in American life. How-

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2021–22 OHC Faculty Fellows have been selected

Research Fellows

Martha Bayless, English, “The Forgotten Queen: An Early Narrative of the Powerful Woman.” *Ernest G. Moll Research Fellowship in Literary Studies*.

Kristen Bell, Law, “Philosophy of Punishment Behind Bars.”

Burke Hendrix, Political Science, “Allies, Not Subjects: American Indian Responses to American Republicanism, 1776-1934.”

Sharon Luk, Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies, “Sea of Fire: A Buddhist

Pedagogy of Dying and Black Encounters in Times of War.”

Michelle McKinley, Law, “Bound Biographies: Transoceanic Itineraries and the Afro-Iberian Diaspora in the Early Modern World.” *Provost’s Senior Humanist Fellowship*.

Isabel Millán, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, “Coloring into Existence: Queer of Color Worldmaking in Children’s Literature.” *Ernest G. Moll Research Fellowship in Literary Studies*.

Drew Nobile, Music Theory, “Voicing Form in Rock and Pop, 1991-2020.”

Yvette Saavedra, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, “Living la Mala Vida: Transgressive Femininities, Morality, and Nationalism in Mexican California, 1800-1850.”

Emily Scott, Environmental Studies and History of Art and Architecture, “Particulate Matters: on Air, Art, and Justice.”

Analisa Taylor, Romance Languages, “Daughters of the Moon: Longing and Memory in Mexico’s Lacandon Rainforest.” *Ernest G. Moll Research Fellowship in Literary Studies*.

Alternates

Annelise Heinz, History, “Collective: How Lesbian Feminists Reimagined Society.”

Arafaat Valiani, History, “Casting Health? The Politics of Genomic Science, Precision Medicine and Race in India and North America.”

Stephanie Clark, English, “A King Must Buy a Wife: Purchase, Ownership, and Personhood in Early Medieval England.”

Katherine Kelp-Stebbins, English, “How Comics Travel.”

Teaching Fellows

Roy Chan, East Asian Languages and Literature, and **Lanie Millar**, Romance Languages, SPAN/CHN 199 The Chinese in Latin America. *Coleman-Guitteau Professorship in the Humanities*.

Corinne Bayerl, Comparative Literature and Clark Honors College, COLT 211 African American Writers in France.

Kristen Seaman, History of Art and Architecture, ARH 321 Ancient Jewish Art and Architecture. *Coleman-Guitteau Professorship in the Humanities*.

Fellows give talks in winter term

January 22—“Running the Redwood Empire: Indigeneity, Modernity, and a 480-mile Footrace.” Tara Keegan, PhD candidate, History, and 2020-21 OHC Dissertation Fellow. Register: ow.ly/iVxS50CF4D4

January 29—“Amplifying Voices: Auditory Texts in Colonial Korea, 1910-1945.” Jina Kim, East Asian Languages and Literatures, and 2020–21 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. Register: ow.ly/DCKV50CF4LW

February 5—“Revolutionary Melodrama: Tales of Family, Kinship, and the Nation of Modern China.” Shuangting Xiong, PhD candidate, East Asian Languages and Literatures, and 2020–21 OHC Dissertation Fellow. Register: ow.ly/pag750CF50g

February 12—“The Afro-Asian Theme Matures,” chapter of book manuscript, *The Soviet Afro-Asianists: Anti-Imperialism and the Soviet Intelligentsia*. Julie Hessler, History, 2020–21 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. Register: ow.ly/8Vei50CF58Q

February 19—“The Formation of a Multicultural Mediterranean in Chateaubriand’s and Byron’s Works.” Fabienne Moore, Romance Languages, 2020–21 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. Register: ow.ly/FIYB50CF5fB

February 26—“Art and Work in the Greek Sculpture Industry.” Kristen Seaman, History of Art and Architecture, and 2020–21 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. Register: ow.ly/wrA450CF5o8

March 5—*Earth Matters on Stage: Ecology, Environment and American Theater*. Theresa May, Theatre Arts. Register: ow.ly/aKvj50CF5wo

Thank you for helping us reach our matching gift challenge goal of \$20,000! And thanks to Amy and Alex Haugland for their match.

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Climate Justice for former presidential candidate Tom Steyer's political action committee and is the principal of her firm, Truong & Associates, where she advises lawmakers, universities, and organizations globally on developing an inclusive workforce, creating sustainable economies, and equitable environmental policies. She formerly served as CEO of the Dream Corps, and led Green For All, a national initiative that puts com-

Oreskes *continued from page 1*

ever, Americans do distrust and reject science in particular areas, and we know something about why that is: Americans reject scientific findings and advice when they dislike their implications. Often this involves a perceived threat to our individual freedoms and personal liberties, or to strongly held beliefs. In the Covid-19 crisis, irresponsible political leaders fomented the idea that asking a person to wear a mask was asking them to give up their freedom. This, of course, was preposterous; wearing a mask is little more than an inconvenience. Still, because the question of mask-wearing has become entangled with the question of personal choice, solving it will not be a matter of giving people more or better information. This means that scientists will have to accept that asking people to trust science is more than a matter of asking them to accept facts; it is also a matter of ethics, morality, and citizenship."

Oreskes is a leading public intellectual on the role of science in society, the reality of anthropogenic climate change, and on anti-scientific disinformation campaigns. She has written numerous books including *Discerning Experts* (2019), *Why Trust Science?* (2019), and *Science on a Mission: American Oceanography from the Cold War to Climate Change* (2020), and the forthcoming *The Magic of the Marketplace: The True History of a False Idea* with Erik Conway.

Oreskes's lecture 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://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8hCjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKj). For more information, contact ohc@uoregon.edu.

munities of color at the forefront of the climate movement and equality at the center of environmental solutions.

Truong co-led the coalition to pass and implement California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (SB 535), creating the biggest fund in history for the poorest and most polluted communities. It has invested over \$1.5B in disadvantaged communities most harmed by fossil fuel pollution, and served as a model that has been replicated in other states. Truong has received numerous congressional,

state, regional, and local awards for her work advocating on behalf of those most vulnerable to climate change, including a White House Champion of Change award for her work on climate equity.

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Undergraduate fellows announced

The Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellowship (HURF) Program, a collaboration between the Oregon Humanities Center, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, and the Undergraduate Research Opportunity 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.

2021 HURF Fellows

Starla Chambrase, History and Biology, "Changing Views of Muscular Dystrophy: The Biosocial Nature of Disease and Cure." Faculty mentor: Arafat Valiani.

Cassie Cole, Public Relations, "Developing Racial Gatekeeping Theory and Identifying Its Factors: A Study of the Vietnamese-identifying Community." Faculty mentor: Donnalyn Pompper.

Bitu Habashi, English, "The Representation of Middle Eastern Women Writers in High School Curricula." Faculty mentor: Kara Clevinger.

Abigail Kellems, Music Composition, "The Impact of Diversity and Inclusion

on Environmental Composers." Faculty mentor: Robert Kyr.

Sabrina Piccolo, Linguistics and Spanish, "Effects of Accent Perception on the Perception of Credibility and Professionalism." Faculty mentor: Melissa Baese-Berk.

Kira Seretan, Linguistics, "Cross-linguistic Study of Truncation." Faculty mentor: Vsevolod Kapatsinski.

Jude Stone, Political Science, "Racial Influence on Transgender Hate Crime Verdicts." Faculty mentor: Alison Gash.

Maya Ward, Political Science, "Transgender Reproductive Care: Politics vs. People." Faculty mentor: Krystale Littlejohn.

Alternate

Maxwell Ely, Journalism, Public Relations, and Political Science, "The Role of the Press Secretary During a Scandal." Faculty mentor: David Markowitz.



Photo: Peter Goldberg

"The Reindeer and the End of the World"

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

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Performance artist Meredith Monk visits virtually

Jacqueline Cordova-Arrington, assistant professor of flute, has organized the School of Music and Dance's 2021 Trotter Visiting Professor residency. Groundbreaking performance artist Meredith Monk will participate in a virtual residency February 20–26, 2021. Arrington's goal was to devise an experience that would help students learn how to take creative risk in the arts. Originally developed in 2019, Arrington knew the topic was important, but she couldn't imagine how significant this experience would be in 2021. Performers around the world are now asking themselves: What is the true purpose of the arts? How do my artistic and cultural values fit in a performance? Is a performance career viable in an age of pandemic, racial reckoning, and political unrest?

Meredith Monk is a composer, singer, director/choreographer, and creator of new opera, music-theater works, films, and installations. Recognized as one of the most unique and influential artists of our time, she is a pioneer in what is now called "extended vocal technique" and "interdisciplinary performance." Monk creates works that thrive at the intersection of music and movement, image and object, light and sound, discovering and weaving together new modes of perception.

According to Arrington, "Meredith Monk's contributions

in the field of composition and interdisciplinary collaboration have paved the way for artists of various disciplines to explore identity and creative risk freely and successfully. The three major threads of Meredith's success—creativity, perseverance, and risk—woven together, have produced a vitality that is directly aligned with the spirit of the School of Music and Dance, and is especially relevant to musicians reimagining their careers in light of our current historical landscape. I could not imagine anyone else guiding our students and community through such artistically challenging times. Meredith's past and present creative work confirms that the creation of art is possible and necessary."

Monk's residency is cosponsored by the OHC's Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities. Events will include a streamed concert, an interactive movement workshop titled "Dancing Voice Singing Bodies," a live discussion with University of Oregon performance faculty, a conversation with SOMD faculty member Brian McWhorter about her most recent composition written during the pandemic *Indra's Net*, and more. The event schedule, including times and updates, is forthcoming and will be available on the School of Music and Dance's website music.uoregon.edu.

