



# Oregon Humanities Center

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## 2021 Summer Report

### Associate director's annual letter

This past year, one filled with ongoing uncertainty, has only deepened my belief that the humanities are the foundation for understanding and responding to the crises of our times. During the pandemic I have found myself relying upon the many diverse forms of the humanities—helping me to better navigate questions about where we are, how we got here, and where we are headed.

While this was an unprecedented year for all of us and our planet, we at the Oregon Humanities Center (OHC) were driven to be part of the solution. Grounded in our mission to promote and strengthen the humanities, and with the strong support of the OHC's vibrant intellectual community, we were able to continue to operate at full capacity even while working remotely.

In 2020-21, the OHC engaged broader and larger audiences with our online public programs that included a five-part lecture series on "Climate Justice," scholarly talks by faculty and graduate students on their new research and books,

and our *UO Today* interview program that can be found on [YouTube](#) or as a [podcast](#). We found that even with Zoom fatigue, the number of our supporters grew overall. During this time, the OHC's 22 faculty and graduate student

fellows, representing 12 UO departments, worked tirelessly on advancing the humanities even under extremely challenging conditions. (Complete lists of the awardees and their projects can be found on our website at: [ohc.uoregon.edu/fellow-ships](http://ohc.uoregon.edu/fellow-ships).)

[ships](#).)

Support for the OHC was demonstrated not only through excellent audience attendance, but through financial giving. The Fall 2020 fundraising campaign was a success with considerable thanks to Alex and Amy Haugland's generous matching gift which inspired others to give. Information about how you can help support the humanities can be found on page 5 or on our website at [ohc.uoregon.edu/give](http://ohc.uoregon.edu/give).

As we look forward to this coming year, we are busy preparing to present another five-part lecture series centered around the theme "Imagining Futures." Given the many challenges we are all currently facing, we selected a theme to help guide us as we move forward together. For a fuller description of the series, see page two of this newsletter. More information about our upcoming public programs will be available in early fall on [our website](#) and in the next newsletter.

The OHC community has been key to sustaining and grounding me throughout this past year. While I do not know what the future will hold, my hope is that the OHC's efforts have had and will continue to have a positive impact on you as well.



Jena Turner



Robin Morris Collin, Norma Paulus J. Professor of Law at Willamette University College of Law, spoke on "[The Geography of Injustice and the Ecology of Reparations](#)" on December 8, 2020 as the Colin Ruagh Thomas O'Fallon Lecturer.



Naomi Oreskes, Professor of the History of Science and Affiliated Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard University, spoke on "[Can Science Be Saved?](#)" on March 12, 2021 as the Cressman Lecturer.



Kory Russel, an Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon, was [a guest on UO Today](#). He discussed his work on Container-Based Sanitation solutions in the global south, and talked about the positive impact the solution has on mitigating climate change. He also described the work of the Landscape4Humanity initiative that has partnered with SquareOne Villages in Eugene to enhance transitional housing living spaces.

## 2020-21 Coleman-Guitteau Professorship in the Humanities

The OHC's Sherl K. Coleman and Margaret E. Guitteau Professorship in the Humanities promotes the development of new or substantially revised interdisciplinary undergraduate humanities courses which focus on significant intellectual and cultural questions and their history. Coleman-Guitteau courses employ pedagogical approaches that emphasize: open and critical thinking, active student participation, independent inquiry, and the free exchange of ideas.

During the summer of 2020 [Kaori Idemaru](#), Associate Professor of Japanese Linguistics, and [Luke Habberstad](#), Associate Professor of Early Chinese Literature and Religion, developed a new course "Writing in East Asia: From Graphs to GIFs" for the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (EALL) with support from their 2020-21 OHC Coleman-Guitteau Professorship. Adopting a transnational and interdisciplinary focus on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean writing across the broad sweep of human history, their course examines the ways in which the development of scripts and writing systems intersected with state and nation building, identity expressions, and innovation.

They taught the course during the 2021 winter term with students of various majors, including Global Studies, Business, Linguistics, and Japanese. The course introduced students to linguistic,



historical, and cultural features of the three dominant writing systems of East Asia. Over the centuries, writing in China, Japan, and Korea has become inextricably intertwined with the political and cultural worlds of their users, providing key touchstones for the expression of individual and collective identities. Chinese, Japanese, and Korean continue to play this role today, even while communication platforms with a global reach have helped transform them into a digital phenomenon, often driven by innovations developed in East Asia like the emoji. Idemaru and

Habberstad sought to give students a broad understanding of the historical development of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, as well as the role of writing in contemporary politics and culture. Their goal was to help their students answer key theoretical questions in the study of writing: What is the difference between writing and symbols? What is the relationship between writing and spoken language?

They will seek to regularize the course as a 100-level introductory class in the EALL curriculum. Their plan is to reintroduce the course in the 2022-23 academic year. Three other faculty members, a pre-modern literary scholar, a modern literary scholar, and a linguist, are interested in teaching the course. As these faculty teach the course in the future, different aspects of the course will be strengthened and the course as a whole will continue to develop further.

Kaori Idemaru has experience teaching Japanese and English in the United States and Japan. Her primary areas of research are speech perception and speech learning with a focus on the characteristics of the speech signal and perceptual processes that enable constant perception of potentially variable and ambiguous speech signal. She is an affiliated faculty in Asian Studies.

Luke Habberstad's research interests include the literature, religion, and material culture of early China (5th century BCE-3rd century CE); early Chinese historical writing; excavated texts; politics and cultures of dynastic and monarchical courts; ancient empires; and religious ritual. He is affiliated with Religious Studies and Asian Studies. His monograph [\*Forming the Early Chinese Court: Rituals, Spaces, Roles\*](#) was published by the University of Washington Press in 2018. He worked on the book while he was a 2015-16 OHC Faculty Research Fellow.

### New lecture series

Join us during the 2021-22 academic year for the Imagining Futures lecture series. Our speakers will reframe some of today's pivotal social issues in order to conceptualize a more just and sustainable future for all. The topics covered throughout the lecture series will be interdisciplinary and will address issues that impact all of us. Our speakers will help us to reimagine our futures around climate change, sustainable cities, indigenous sovereignty, civil rights, and racial justice. More information about these events will be published in our fall newsletter and on the OHC website: [ohc.uoregon.edu](https://ohc.uoregon.edu).





# Recent books published with OHC support



**Nina Amstutz**, Associate Professor, History of Art and Architecture, 2017-18 Faculty Research Fellow

*[Das Bild der Natur in der Romantik. Kunst als Philosophie und Wissenschaft](#)*, Brill/Wilhelm Fink, 2021 (with Anne Bohnenkamp-Renzen, Mareike Hennig, and Gregor Wedekind) (OHC subvention)



**Michael Malek Najjar**, Associate Professor, Theatre Arts, 2019-20 Faculty Research Fellow

*[Middle Eastern American Theatre: Communities, Cultures and Artists](#)*, Bloomsbury, 2021



*[Heather Raffo's Iraq Plays: The Things That Can't Be Said](#)*, Bloomsbury, 2021 (with Heather Raffo)



**Mattie Burkert**, Assistant Professor, English and Digital Humanities

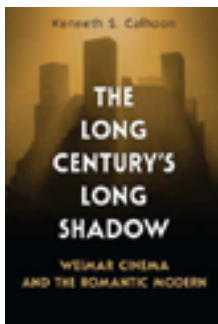
*[Speculative Enterprise: Public Theaters and Financial Markets in London, 1688-1763](#)*, University of Virginia Press, 2021 (OHC/CAS Subvention)

Watch her [UO Today interview on the OHC's YouTube channel](#).



**Sergio Rigoletto**, Associate Professor, Cinema Studies and Italian, 2017-18 Faculty Research Fellow

*[Le norme traviate: Saggi sul genere e sulla sessualità nel cinema e nella televisione italiana](#)*, Meltemi, 2020



**Kenneth Calhoon**, Comparative Literature. *[The Long Century's Long Shadow: Weimar Cinema and the Romantic Modern](#)*, University of Toronto Press, 2019 (OHC/CAS Subvention)



**Stephen Rodgers**, Professor, Music Theory, 2019-20 Faculty Research Fellow

*[The Songs of Fanny Hensel](#)*, Oxford University Press, 2021



**Alisa Freedman**, Professor, East Asian Languages and Literatures, 2019-20 Faculty Research Fellow

*[Japan on American TV: Screaming Samurai Join Anime Clubs in the Land of the Lost](#)*, Columbia University Press, 2021



**Stephen J. Shoemaker**, Professor, Religious Studies, 2009-10 Faculty Research Fellow

*[A prophet has appeared: the rise of Islam through Christian and Jewish eyes: a sourcebook](#)*, University of California Press, 2021

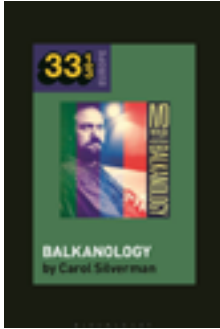


**Bryna Goodman**, Professor, History, 2017-18 Faculty Research Fellow

*[The Suicide of Miss Xi: Democracy and Disenchantment in the Chinese Republic](#)*, Harvard University Press, 2021 (OHC/CAS Subvention)

*more on the next page*

## Recent books published with OHC support



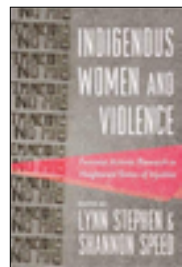
**Carol Silverman**, Professor, Anthropology, 2016-17 Faculty Research Fellow  
[\*Ivo Papasov Balkanology\*](#), Bloomsbury, Global 33 1/3 Series, 2021



**Yeling Tan**, Assistant Professor, Political Science  
[\*Disaggregating China, Inc.: State Strategies in the Liberal Economic Order\*](#), Cornell University Press, 2021 (OHC/CAS Subvention)

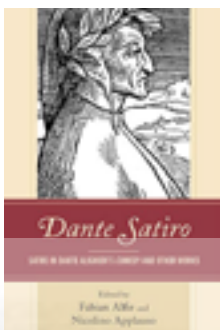


**Lynn Stephen**, Professor, Anthropology, 2015-16 Faculty Research Fellow  
[\*Stories that Make History: Remembering Mexico through Elena Poniatowska's Crónicas\*](#), Duke University Press, 2021

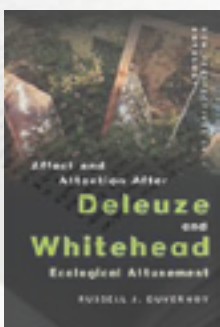


[\*Indigenous Women and Violence: Feminist Activist Research in Heightened States of Injustice\*](#), University of Arizona Press, 2021 (with Shannon Speed, UCLA)

## Recent books by former Dissertation Fellows



**Nicolino Appaluso** (Romance Languages PhD, 2010) 2009-10 Dissertation Fellow; Visiting Assistant Professor, Modern Languages, Loyola University Maryland  
[\*Dante Satiro: Satire in Dante Alighieri's "Comedy" and Other Works\*](#), Lexington Books, 2020 (with Fabian Alfie)



**Russell J. Duvernoy** (Philosophy PhD, 2017), 2016-17 Dissertation Fellow; Assistant Professor, Philosophy, King's University College at Western University of Ontario  
[\*Affect and Attention After Deleuze and Whitehead: Ecological Attunement\*](#), Edinburgh University Press, 2020

## Former Dissertation Fellows' articles

**April Anson**, (English PhD, 2019) 2018-19 Dissertation Fellow; Assistant Professor, Public Humanities, San Diego State University

[\*"Master Metaphor: Environmental Apocalypse and the Settler States of Emergency"\*](#) in *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*, 2020

[\*"No One is a Virus: On American Ecofascism"\*](#) in *Environmental History Now* blog, 2021

**Marc Carpenter**, PhD candidate, History; 2019-20 Dissertation Fellow

[\*"Pioneer Problems: 'Wanton Murder,' Indian War Veterans, and Oregon's Violent History"\*](#) in *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, 2020

**Joshua Kerr**, PhD candidate, Philosophy; 2019-20 Dissertation Fellow

[\*"Spinoza: From Art to Philosophy"\*](#) in *Philosophy Today*, 2020

**Nathaniel Otjen**, PhD candidate, English and Environmental Studies; 2020-21 Graduate Research Fellow, 2021-22 Dissertation Fellow

[\*"Barbadian Biocontact Zones and Threatened English Colonialism: Reading the Unruly Species of Richard Ligon's History"\*](#) in *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, 2020

**Bonnie Sheehy**, (Philosophy PhD, 2019) 2017-18 Dissertation Fellow; Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Montana State University

[\*"Reparative Critique, Care, and the Normativity of Foucauldian Genealogy"\*](#) in *Angelaki: Journal of Theoretical Humanities*, 2020

**Joshua August Skorburg**, (Philosophy PhD, 2017) 2016-17 Dissertation Fellow; Assistant Professor, Philosophy, University of Guelph

[\*"What Counts as 'Clinical Data' in Machine Learning Healthcare Applications?"\*](#) in *American Journal of Bioethics*, 2020

[\*"Is There an App for That: Ethical Issues in the Digital Mental Health Response to COVID-19"\*](#) in *AJOB Neuroscience*, 2021



## The OHC's people and their pooches



Director Paul Peppis is pictured with Ella, a fourteen-year-old Miniature Poodle.



Associate Director Jena Turner and her family adopted Lupe during the COVID quarantine. Lupe is a two-year-old mixed breed pup.



Program Coordinator Melissa Gustafson and her family adopted Willow this past June. She is a four-month-old Old Time Scotch Collie.



Communications Coordinator Peg Freas Gearhart adopted Juno in 2016. He is a four-year-old Standard Poodle.

## Libby Wadsworth: "Always InFormaTion"

Don't miss this exhibition of [Libby Wadsworth's](#) (wife of Paul Peppis) work. Her practice spans multiple media, including letterpress printmaking, painting, and photography, in which she teases open written language with her thoughtfully composed visual arrangements. "Always InFormaTion" demonstrates Wadsworth's evolving interest in blurring the distinctions between text and image. The exhibit is on view at the [Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art](#) through November 7, 2021.



*Solid*, 2016. Oil on canvas, 36" x 26"

## Help shape the future of the humanities



The humanities bring meaning to complicated issues. They offer us context on the past, reflections on today, and solutions for the future. They help us express what we're feeling. And they challenge us to think in new ways. Humanities work is an essential part of a healthy and thriving society, and the Oregon Humanities Center is a crucial partner in promoting just that. But we can't do it alone. You can help elevate an already vibrant intellectual and research community and inspire the next generation of thinkers and creators by making a gift to the OHC. With your support, we can

- Fund scholars and students who conduct research that deepens our understanding of the human experience
- Foster student learning through humanities course development
- Provide dozens of free lectures, performances, and events that explore challenging issues across cultural and disciplinary boundaries

If you would like to make a gift to the Oregon Humanities Center, please contact Margaret Savoian, Associate Director of Development, University Initiatives [msavoian@uoregon.edu](mailto:msavoian@uoregon.edu) or 541-346-2027





Oregon Humanities Center

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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](http://ohc.uoregon.edu), calling (541) 346-1001, or contacting [Margaret Savoian](mailto:Margaret.Savoian@uoregon.edu). We would like to thank the following individuals and foundations for their support during the 2020–21 fiscal year (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021):

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