



Oregon Humanities Center

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Fall 2021

Urban Studies expert offers solutions for the future

There are estimates that the U.S. population could reach 438 million by 2050. Where will these people be housed? What kind of metropolitan regions will they live in? Will these regions be sustainable or equitable or even livable?

Is it only a dream that we can create sustainable, healthy, resilient, green, and equitable cities? Christina Rosan considers these questions in her talk titled “Reimagining Cities to be Sustainable, Healthy, Resilient, Green, and Equitable” on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom as the OHC’s 2021–22 Kritikos Professor.

Rosan contends that the challenges facing our cities in the global climate emergency are enormous. We need to question our current political, economic, social, and ecological arrangements and

the way that they are expressed in our planning decisions and the metropolitan landscape. But rather than despair, we should reimagine a different path forward. We must go big on our solutions. Many of the solutions we need are already being implemented in some form in cities across the globe.

According to Rosan, “We...need collaborative urban governance where urban agriculture, urban greening, affordable housing, and other community infrastructure like schools, public transit, parks, hospitals, and grocery stores are



planned for together. Together, these are the building blocks of sustainable, equitable, and resilient communities, which will be critical as we face the climate challenges ahead.”

Christina Rosan is an associate professor of Geography and Urban Studies at Temple University. She is an

affiliated faculty member in Global Studies, the Master of Public Policy Program, Latin American Studies, and the Center for Sustainable Communities. Her monograph [*Governing the Fragmented Metropolis Planning for Regional Sustainability*](#),

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HoSang provides transformative visions of racial justice

Renewed attacks on anti-racist education and policies have centered on the contention that struggles for racial justice will inevitably disenfranchise and even humiliate those who have benefited from the dominant systems of racial inequality.

Yet a long tradition of social movements, intellectuals, artists, and cultural formations have argued that the abolition of white supremacy can produce the foundations for a universal liberation. Rather than seeking “equal rights” within failed systems, these efforts generated new visions that embraced human difference, vulnerability,



and interdependence as core productive facets of our collective experience. From the nineteenth century’s abolition democracy and efforts to end forced sterilizations, to the twentieth century’s domestic worker organizing campaigns, to the twenty-first century’s environmental justice movement, these transformative visions of racial justice have produced conceptions of freedom and interdependence never envisioned in the nation’s dominant political framework.

Daniel Martinez HoSang expands on these ideas in his talk “A Wider Type of Freedom: How Struggles for Racial

Justice Liberate Everyone” on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 as the 2021–22 Lorwin Lecturer on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Time and format TBA. Please register to receive updates: ow.ly/KWIX50Ga0lh.

HoSang is an associate professor of Ethnicity, Race, and Migration and American Studies at Yale University, and holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Political Science and serves on the Education Studies Advisory Committee. Prior to joining the faculty at Yale in 2017, HoSang was an associate professor (and department head) of Ethnic Studies and Political Science at the University of Oregon.

His book [*A Wider Type of Freedom: How Struggles for Racial Justice Liberate Everyone*](#) (University of California Press,

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OHC cosponsors “Art of the News: Comics Journalism”

Comics journalism is a humanistic practice with special relevance to the University of Oregon (UO). It was at UO that the founder of contemporary comics journalism, Joe Sacco, obtained his degree in journalism. “For Sacco’s first series *Palestine*, he went to the occupied territories in the early 1990s as a journalist. He was unsatisfied with what we would consider mainstream journalism

and Humanities. The exhibition brings together a number of contemporary works for the first major retrospective of the genre, highlighting recent work from Sacco along with other artists working in the field.

Focusing on the methods and techniques that each artist uses, the show also highlights the ethical imperative that drives this form of documentation. Repudiating both the ever-increasing rapidity of the 24-hour news cycle as well as the valorization of journalistic objectivity, journalists who use comics and graphic narrative to document current events and human rights struggles insist that accurate witnessing takes time and involves human subjects.

“I find comics journalism to be not simply what we might consider a genre or a form, I actually think of it as an ethic. The people who are working in comics

journalism have a very specific reason for doing so. The sorts of stories that they tell and the ways that they tell them are very human-minded. They’re interested in slowly creating relationships with the people that they’re interviewing,” says Kelp-Stebbins.

From displaced persons in refugee camps to frontline workers in a pandemic, the humans who drive comics journalism are likewise rendered by the work of human hands, which draw and record their stories. In the age of Russian bots and fake news, comics journalism

reframes conceptualizations of accuracy and truth. The Comics Journalism exhibition will demonstrate the urgency of such art through carefully curated and researched installations and objects.

Kelp-Stebbins talks about the field of Comics Studies and the “Art of the News” exhibition in her *UO Today* interview (youtu.be/N32cx6D6W7A). The exhibition is on view at the JSMA through January 16, 2022. Visit jsma.uoregon.edu for more information.



From Joe Sacco’s non-fiction graphic novel *Palestine*, which depicts his experiences in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in December 1991 and January 1992.

reporting on the Middle East. He wanted to go and document this for himself. He felt the best way to do so was by drawing,” says associate director of the UO [Comics and Cartoon Studies Program](#) Kate Kelp-Stebbins.

Professor Kelp-Stebbins and Ben Saunders, director of the Comics and Cartoon Studies Program, have co-curated an exhibition at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art called “[Art of the News: Comics Journalism](#).” The exhibition is supported by the OHC’s Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences,



From *In/Vulnerable: Inequity in the Time of Pandemic*, illustrated by Thi Bui in collaboration with The Nib, an online comics publication and Reveal.

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OHC Director's Report *by Paul Peppis*

Writing my annual Director's column at the start of a new academic year provides a welcome opportunity to reflect on where we have been and anticipate what lies ahead. As I look back, my mind still boggles at the unprecedented challenges we've faced over the past eighteen months—pandemic, political division and unrest, social justice protest and activism, economic upheaval and displacement, devastating weather and wildfire, the loss of friends and loved ones. Often during these dark days, when I found myself overwhelmed, exhausted, or depressed, I took solace and sustenance from the humanities and the arts, turning again and again to the many remote and online programs, talks, and events sponsored and co-sponsored by the OHC. From our weekly Work-in-Progress and Books-in-Print talks highlighting the innovative scholarship of our research fellows, to the [UO Today](#) interviews with fascinating colleagues, creative writers

and artists, and public intellectuals, to the illuminating talks in our *Climate Justice* lecture series, I was again and again heartened, energized, and inspired.

These talks, interviews, and lectures are all archived on the OHC's YouTube channel (youtube.com/c/OregonHumanitiesCenter) and as podcasts. They offer powerful reminders that the disciplines of the humanities and humanistic social sciences and the creative arts can help us better understand current realities and better cope with the challenges they present.

No less crucial to the power and value of the humanities and the arts, however, are their capacities to help us imagine possible futures. As we have struggled with the unfolding tribulations of the past eighteen months, we have also glimpsed new prospects and found in them grounds for new hope and optimism. Animated by our faith in the special capacities of the humanities and arts

and our conviction that times of crisis are also times of possibility, we have selected for our annual lecture series the theme *Imagining Futures*.

The [Imagining Futures series](#) seeks to reframe some of today's pivotal social issues to help us conceptualize together a more just and sustainable future for all. The world we inhabit today is not the world later generations will encounter. The COVID pandemic has exposed and deepened societal challenges and inequities that demand urgent attention and sustained action. Prior to the pandemic, many were already living with the realities of systemic injustice and environmental devastation. At this crucial turning point in human history, we are compelled to ask: What does a better future look like? How can we best realize that future? How do we move forward together? This lecture series will summon us to seek answers to these and other related questions. Our distinguished speakers will help us think forward around questions of racial justice, climate change, sustainability, and indigenous sovereignty.

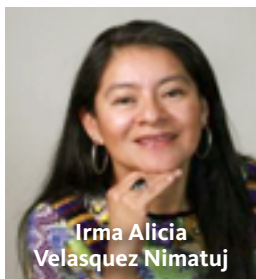
These pages and our calendar of events provide details of our fall term [Imagining Futures lectures](#), all the other exciting arts and humanities exhibits and events occurring this term, many sponsored or co-sponsored by the OHC, as well as our research fellows' [Work-in-Progress talks and our Books-in-Print talks](#) featuring UO scholars supported by the OHC. As you'll see, the offerings are rich indeed.

Finally, I share my gratitude and admiration for all those who have helped the OHC carry out its critical mission to promote and strengthen the humanities and humanities research during these difficult months: our exceptional staff, Faculty Advisory Board, external Board of Visitors, and those numerous fellow devotees of the humanities at the UO, in Eugene, and around the state of Oregon and beyond who support and advocate for the humanities. Thank you for joining us in that essential work at this time of challenge and promise!



Indigenous and Black voices explore environmental justice

Climate change, environmental racism, settler colonialism, white supremacy, patriarchy, north/south divides, and unequal access to basic environmental resources by communities of color have inspired ongoing environmental justice activism in the Americas. "The Air, Water, Land: Native/Indigenous, Black, and Afro-Descendent Relationalities and Activism" symposium, cosponsored by the OHC's Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities, will center Indigenous and Black voices, leverage the campus residencies of Maya activist and teacher Irma Alicia Velasquez Nimatuj (in residence through the [Global Justice Initiative](#) and the [Department of Anthropology](#)) and Muskogee/Creek artist and activist Amber Starks (in residence through the [UO Common Reading program](#)) and focus on environmental justice and sustainable food systems.



Designed to foster critical conversations from Indigenous and Black/Afro-descendant communities across the Americas, this event is organized around themes of air, land, and water, with a committed focus to issues impacting local communities.

The hybrid remote and in-person symposium will take place November 3 and 4, 2021 and feature three panels that explore these connections through air, land, and water, a keynote conversation, and a final discussion and demonstration of sustain-

able food systems. The event is free and open to the public. It is organized by the [Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies](#) (CLLAS), [Native American and Indigenous Studies](#), Anthropology, [Black Studies](#), the Global Justice Initiative, and the Common Reading program of the University of Oregon. For information and access contact: cllas@uoregon.edu.

Panel discusses race and identity in 20th-century children's literature

University of Oregon's [Special Collections and University Archives](#) (SCUA) has one of the largest collections of [20th-century children's literature](#) in the United States. SCUA is working to preserve and make these materials available. Children's literature, which often flies under the cultural radar, is a fascinating rubric through which one can understand the ideological tenor of a society. Our collective values, for better or worse, are mirrored back to us in the stories and lessons for our children. Twentieth century children's literature echoes the radical changes that occurred in American society: at times celebratory, optimistic, and inclusive; and alternately vexing and racist, presenting a white-washed and Eurocentric account of American history.

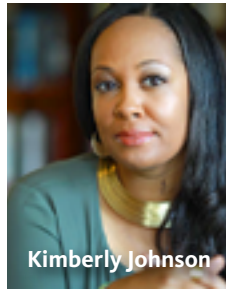
On October 28, 2021 at 3 p.m. SCUA will present a virtual panel discussion, cosponsored by the OHC's Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences and Humanities, which will address the complex issues of race and identity in children's literature—specifically, who can tell whose story, how do we deal with our racist past, and how we can begin to bring fresh narratives and perspectives to the field?

Organizer Danielle Mericle, SCUA's Curator of Visual Resources, says "I am really pleased to facilitate this conversation with contemporary children's literature authors and scholars about the significance of race and identity in the genre. These creators and critics are leading forces in moving young adult and children's literature into anti-racism and reframing our understandings of racism in children's literature history."

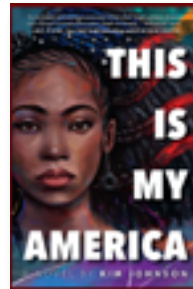
Panel participants include moderator Elizabeth Wheeler, Professor of English and author of [Handiland: The Crippiest Place on Earth](#); Kimberly Johnson, UO Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and author of [This is My America](#) (watch her *UO Today* interview youtu.be/8oYGTOE1Slk); Debbie Reese (Nambé Pueblo), founder, American Indians in Children's Literature, and co-editor of a young adult adaptation of [An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States](#); and Chenoa (Lummi and S'Klallam) and Keith (Lummi) Egawa,



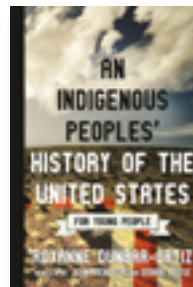
Elizabeth Wheeler



Kimberly Johnson



Debbie Reese



Chenoa and Keith Egawa



authors and illustrators of children's literature.

For more information contact Danielle Mericle dmericle@uoregon.edu.

Kudos

Congratulations to these OHC faculty "alumni" who have received tenure and promotion:

Nina Amstutz, associate professor, History of Art and Architecture, 2017–18 Faculty Research Fellow

Burke Hendrix, full professor, Political Science, 2021–22 Faculty Research Fellow

Kaori Idemaru, full professor, East Asian Languages and Literatures, 2020–21 Teaching Fellow

Jina Kim, associate professor, East Asian Languages and Literatures, 2020–21 Faculty Research Fellow

Theresa May, full professor, Theatre Arts, 2017–18 Faculty Research Fellow

Drew Nobile, associate professor, Music Theory, 2021–22 and 2016–17 Faculty Research Fellow

Kristen Seaman, associate professor, History of Art and Architecture, 2021–22 Teaching Fellow and 2020–21 Faculty Research Fellow

Yugen Wang, full professor, East Asian Languages and Literatures, 2011–12 Faculty Research Fellow

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.

Rosan *continued from page one*

published in 2016, examines metropolitan governance and land use planning in Boston, Denver, and Portland, OR.

Rosan is active in the Philadelphia sustainability community, where she is helping to develop inclusive, community-led, intersectional, and reparative planning processes and policies to create a racially-just and climate-ready city.

Her forthcoming book (co-authored with Stephen Wheeler) *Reimagining Sustainable Cities* will be published by the University of California Press in December 2021. Rosan and Wheeler ask big-picture questions: How do we get to carbon neutral-ity? How do we adapt to a climate-changed world? How can we create affordable, inclusive, and equitable cities? Rather than dwelling on the analysis of problems, the authors prioritize solutions-oriented thinking—surveying historical trends, providing examples of constructive action worldwide, and outlining alternative problem-solving strategies.

Rosan's lecture, the first in the OHC's 2021–22 *Reimagining Futures* series, is free and open to the public. Register at: ow.ly/9gDE50Ga0p3.

Faculty Fellowship applications are due on October 25, 2021

OHC Research Fellowships provide tenure-track faculty with one course release so they can have a term free of teaching to pursue full-time research as part of a community of scholars.

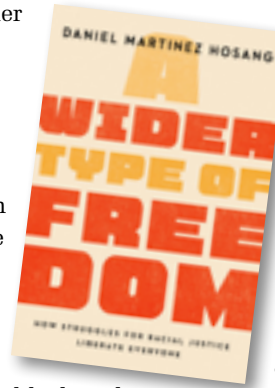
Teaching Fellowships support the development of new humanistic undergraduate courses or the substantial redesign of existing courses. Teaching fellows are offered summer pay and have the option to request course enrichment funds to support course development and to enhance students' classroom experience.

Applications are available at ohc.uoregon.edu/fellowships.



HoSang *continued from page one*

2021) provides a survey of transformative visions of racial justice in the United States. HoSang brings together stories of the social movements, intellectuals, artists, and cultural formations that have centered racial justice and the abolition of white supremacy as the foundation for a universal liberation. He taps into moments across time and place to reveal the longstanding drive toward a vision of universal emancipation. HoSang reveals a bold, shared desire to realize the antithesis of “a philosophy based on a contempt for life,” as articulated by Martin Luther King Jr. Rather than seeking “equal rights” within failed systems, these efforts generated new visions that embraced human difference, vulnerability, and interdependence as core productive facets of our collective experience.



dence as core productive facets of our collective experience.

HoSang's other publications include *Under the Blacklight: The Intersectional Vulnerabilities that Covid Lays Bare* (Haymarket Press, Spring 2021, co-edited with Kimberle Crenshaw), *Producers, Parasites, Patriots: Race and the New Right-Wing Politics of Precarity* (University of Minnesota Press, 2019, co-authored with Joseph Lowndes), and *Seeing Race Again: Countering Colorblindness Across the Disciplines* (University of California Press, 2019, co-edited with Kimberle Crenshaw, Luke Harris and George Lipsitz).

HoSang's lecture is free and open to the public. For event updates register at ow.ly/KW1X50Ga0lh.

Coming up in 2022

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Kim Nicholas, Sustainability Science, Lund University (Sweden); author of *Under the Sky We Make: How to be Human in a Warming World* (Penguin Random House, 2021)

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson (Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg), scholar, writer and artist; author of *A Short History of the Blockade: Giant Beavers, Diplomacy and Regeneration in Nishnaabewin* (University of Alberta Press, 2021)

Monday, May 16, 2022 (Eugene) | Tuesday, May 17, 2022 (Portland)

Charles Chavis, Jr., founding director, John Mitchell, Jr. Program for History, Justice, and Race, George Mason University; editor of *For the Sake of Peace: Africana Perspectives on Racism, Justice, and Peace in America* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020)

2021-22
imagining
futures



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land of the Kalapuya people.

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Writers read from their poetry and fiction

The UO's Creative Writing Program will present two author readings during fall term. The readings are cosponsored by the OHC's Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities.



On Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom, poet [Chad Abushanab](#) will read from and discuss his debut collection *The Last Visit*, winner of the 2018 Donald Justice Poetry Prize, finalist for the Poetry by the Sea Book Award, and finalist for the Writers' League of Texas Book Award.

Abushanab carefully and compassionately explores a family broken by alcoholism and abuse. These poems trace the trajectory of an adolescent living with a violent father struggling

with addiction, and recount both the abused child's perspective and his attempts to reckon with his past as he reaches adulthood, chronicling his own struggles with substance abuse and the reverberations of trauma in his life.

Amid the violence and hurt, Abushanab's verse renders moments of compassion—even the least sympathetic figures are shown to be grappling with their flaws, and the narrator struggles to find compassion and move beyond the memories and habits that haunt him. These well-crafted poems explore how the past shapes us and how difficult it can be to leave

behind.

Fiction writer [Sameer Pandya](#) will read from and discuss his novel *Members Only* on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Members Only explores what membership and belonging mean, as the protagonist, Raj Bhatt, navigates the complicated space between black and white America. He is often unsure of where he belongs. Having moved to America from Bombay as a child, he knew few Indian kids. Now middle-aged, he lives mostly happily in California, with a job at a university. Still, his white wife seems to fit in better than he does at times, especially at their tennis club, a place he's cautiously come to love.

But it's there that, in one week, his life unravels. It begins at a meeting for potential new members: Raj thrills to find an African American couple on the list; he dreams of a more diverse club. But in an effort to connect, he makes a racist joke. The committee turns on him, no matter the years of prejudice he's put up with. And worse still, he soon finds his job is in jeopardy after a group of students report him as a reverse racist, thanks to his alleged "anti-Western bias."

For information and registration go to crwr.uoregon.edu.

