



## 2023 Summer Report

### Associate Director's annual letter

Summer has finally arrived after what seemed like a longer than usual winter. Even with this late arrival, we at the Oregon Humanities Center (OHC) have been busy wrapping up the 2022–23 activities and preparing for next year's exciting suite of programs and the center's 40th anniversary celebration.

This past year, the OHC focused our public programs on the theme of Belonging. This included a five-part lecture series



**Charlotte Coté (Tseshaht)** shared stories about the river that brings nourishment to her people on October 6, 2022.

that sought to expand understanding of what is belonging, exclusion and barriers to belonging, created and contested spaces of belonging, and how ideas of belonging reinforce historical patterns. The speakers explored this theme through topics on climate destabilization, disability justice, Indigenous sovereignty, immigration, and racial justice—helping foster conversations about what it means to belong, who decides who belongs, and how to create more inclusive systems for everyone.

This focus on belonging gave us an opportunity to reflect on how a humanities center like the OHC is uniquely positioned to create spaces of belonging by connecting different communities and individuals together to form an intellectual network that pursues new knowledge and ways of knowing through research, teaching, internships, fellowships, programs for the

public, scholarly publication, research interest groups, event funding, and digital resources. We built new programs and experiences, supported our ongoing activities, and increased access to the knowledge production happening on campus.

The OHC strives to foster, increase access to, and disseminate the innovative knowledge produced at the UO. Though we've had a YouTube channel since 2014, we have seen an increase in viewership of our online resources since the pandemic. We understand why—because the OHC's online resources provide easy access to a trove of well-organized playlists of lectures, talks, and interviews on our YouTube channel and SoundCloud that can be accessed for free at [ohc.uoregon.edu/multimedia](https://ohc.uoregon.edu/multimedia). The OHC even has a video history of the UO that was completed in 2009 and is available for viewing. Also, with the help of an undergraduate student worker, we started an exciting project last fall to improve the quality and accuracy of the closed captions on the online videos because the YouTube autogenerated transcripts are rife with errors. We are committed to continuing this project to make sure this knowledge is in an accessible format.

A core activity of the center is supporting faculty (early, mid, and late career) who are conducting research—discovering new knowledge, making linkages to our past, and generating ideas to help us understand where we are going. This past year, with the financial support of the OHC's endowment, the Vice President for Research and Innovation, and the Provost, the OHC was able to support ten faculty research fellows, giving each a 10-week term off from teaching so they could focus their efforts on research, writing, communicating, and sharing their findings and new interpretations with the public, students, campus, and each other.

The humanities on campus is represented through a wide-ranging collection of different academic departments

and research and teaching methods. This year's faculty research fellows represented the following areas:

Anthropology; Architecture; English; Environmental Studies; History; Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies; Interior Architecture; Linguistics; and Political Science. An additional four faculty received prestigious teaching awards from the OHC to create or reimagine courses for undergraduate and graduate students. These courses included Global Health History, Sociology of Property, Ethics Through Science Fiction, and Frontiers of the Life Sciences.

The OHC also supports undergraduate



*Jena Turner*



**Cartoonist Keith Knight** spoke about art and social justice as the O'Fallon lecturer on February 7, 2023.

ate and graduate student research, school to career internships, and fellowships. In 2022–23, the OHC supported seven graduate student fellowships—three focusing on the writing of their dissertation, and the other four starting the research that will eventually transform into their dissertation. Additionally, the OHC launched a new collaboration with the UO Libraries that provided two undergraduate students with internship credits and a paid research fellowship to work with Special Collections and University Archives on cataloging and creating a digital humanities exhibit for a

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## Former dissertation fellows graduate and find success



**Lisa Fink**, a 2021–22 OHC Dissertation Fellow, received her PhD in Environmental Sciences, Studies, and Policy in June 2023. Her dissertation, “Unsettled Ecologies: Alienated Species, Indigenous

Restoration, and U.S. Empire in a Time of Climate Chaos,” was selected as the University of Oregon’s nominee for the 2023 Council of Graduate Schools/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Humanities and Fine Arts category.

She has accepted a National Park Service Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship with the National Parks Service’s Alaska Regional Interpretation Team’s “Identifying Connections Between Indig-

enous Knowledge and Scientific Results” fellowship. As a postdoctoral fellow Lisa will transform interpretation through researching Indigenous knowledge, cultural practices, and meaning correlated with peer-reviewed science of natural resource topics in Alaska’s National Parks. And she will develop trainings for interpreters as well as new comprehensive interpretive products that ensure deeper and expanded storytelling.



**Sheela Bora Hadjivassiliou**, a 2021–22 OHC Dissertation Fellow, successfully defended her dissertation “Reorienting the Utopian Island: Tropes, Toponymy and Transgression

in Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Caribbean and Indian Ocean Fictions” and received her PhD in Romance Languages in June 2023. She teaches in the French Immersion Program at the 4J District’s Eugene International High School.



**Katrina Maggilli**, a 2021–22 OHC Dissertation Fellow, successfully defended her dissertation “Managing Life’s Future: Species Essentialism and Evolutionary Normality in Conserva-

tion Policy, Practice, and Imaginaries” and received her PhD in Environmental Studies and English in June 2023.

She has accepted a position as an Assistant Teaching Professor of Comparative Cultural Studies (Environmental Humanities) at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff beginning in August 2023. Katrina will be teaching “Introduction to Humanities” and “Environmental Humanities” during the fall semester.

## Podcasting for humanities scholars

Podcasting has become a common form of storytelling in the digital and social media age. More than reporting or delivering a lecture or essay, podcasts are simple ways for expert voices to offer commentary on the increasingly complicated world we live in. Podcasting is a great way for humanities scholars to synthesize research into accessible language for listeners who come from a range of backgrounds and build academic networks.

Each year the National Humanities Center (NHC) in collaboration with the Digital Humanities Center at San Diego State University provides “Podcasting the

Oregon Humanities Center’s (OHC) Communications Coordinator Peg Freas Gearhart attended the virtual NHC podcasting institute June 12–16, 2023. As part of the registration fee, NHC provided a professional microphone and headset. Peg attended workshops on best practices in scholarly podcasting, recording and editing, and podcast pedagogy. She also participated in discussions about how digital humanities scholarship might be included in tenure-review criteria. With her cohort of colleagues from other universities, Peg created a podcast called “Sustenance: Stories at the Intersection of Culture, Health,

and Memory.” According to Peg, “It was an intense week but I gained many valuable skills. I can imagine how podcasting will elevate the humanities at the UO.”

The NHC offers the podcasting institute to graduate students each winter and faculty and staff each summer. The

OHC plans to sponsor one participant for each institute. Information will be available in upcoming newsletters about how to participate in this exciting opportunity.



Humanities: Creating Digital Stories for the Public” a virtual institute for graduate students, faculty, and staff engaged in the humanities.

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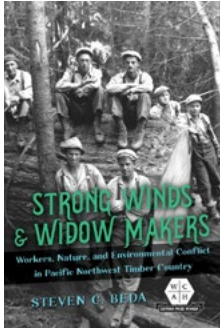
collection of papers that have never been available to the public before.

This intellectual community building requires sustenance and is not possible without the dedicated donors and supporters who give their time and money to ensure the center continues to thrive. This past spring, the OHC put out a call for applications to join the community Board of Visitors (BOV), which help advise the center, and provide friend- and fundraising for the center. But, we need more help, so if you are interested in joining in this important effort to help shape the humanities, please apply to join the BOV today by going to [ohc.uoregon.edu/people/board-of-visitors](https://ohc.uoregon.edu/people/board-of-visitors).

We look forward to celebrating the OHC’s 40th anniversary with you and connecting with you at our events next year where we hope to continue to build community and create a space of belonging. In the fall, we will announce our exciting lineup of speakers and events for 2023–24 under the theme “Humanities Matter(s)”. Until then, have a rejuvenating summer.



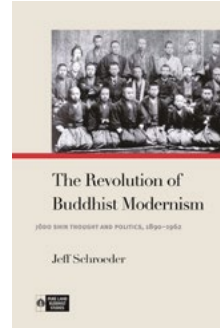
# Recent books published with OHC support (AY 22–23)



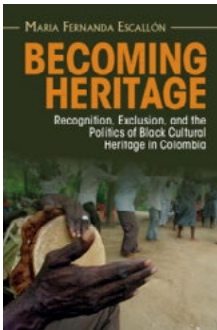
**Steven Beda**, History, 2020–21 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. *Strong Winds and Widow Makers: Workers, Nature, and Environmental Conflict in Pacific Northwest Timber Country*. University of Illinois Press, 2023.

Watch his Work-in-Progress talk: [youtu.be/dFCw5faXI30](https://youtu.be/dFCw5faXI30)

Watch his *UO Today* interview: [youtu.be/2owjX50O-jo](https://youtu.be/2owjX50O-jo)

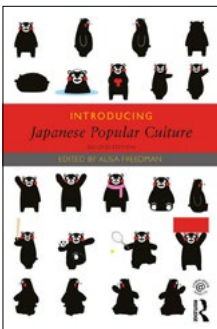


**Jeff Schroeder**, Religious Studies, 2018–19 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. *The Revolution of Buddhist Modernism: Jōdo Shin Thought and Politics, 1890–1962*. University of Hawaii Press, 2022.



**María Fernanda Escallón**, Anthropology, 2019–20 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. *Becoming Heritage: Recognition, Exclusion, and The Politics of Black Cultural Heritage in Colombia*. Cambridge University Press, 2023. (OHC/CAS subvention)

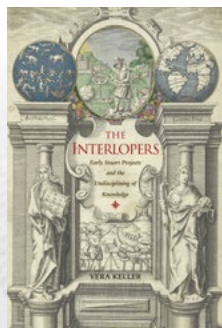
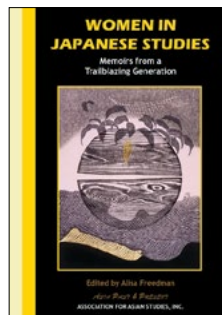
Watch her *UO Today* interview: [youtu.be/uOtYtWz5pHk](https://youtu.be/uOtYtWz5pHk)



**Alisa Freedman**, Asian Studies, 2019–20 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. *Introducing Japanese Popular Culture*. Routledge, 2023 (2nd edition); and

*Women in Japanese Studies: Memoirs from a Trailblazing Generation*. Columbia University Press, 2023.

Watch her Books-in-Print talk *Japan on American TV*: [youtu.be/NBYg7Ln-RZFs](https://youtu.be/NBYg7Ln-RZFs)



**Vera Keller**, History, 2018–19 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. *The Interlopers: Early Stuart Projects and the Undisciplining of Knowledge*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023.

## Digital Humanities project

**Judith Raitskin**, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2019–20 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. *Outliers and Outlaws: The Eugene Lesbian Oral History Project*, [outliersoutlaws.uoregon.edu](https://outliersoutlaws.uoregon.edu) and exhibit at the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History through 2023.

## Articles and chapters

**Kristen Bell**, Law and Philosophy, 2021–22 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. "Critical Mercy in Criminal Law." *Law and Philosophy*, November 2022.

Watch her Work-in-Progress talk: [youtu.be/t684HkCg4hs](https://youtu.be/t684HkCg4hs)

Watch her *UO Today* interview: [youtu.be/GF87SDYIsCA](https://youtu.be/GF87SDYIsCA)

**Yvette Saavedra**, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2021–22 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. "Speaking for Themselves: Rancheras and Respectability in Mexican California, 1800–1850." *California History*, Spring 2023; and "Of Chicana Lesbian Terrorists and Lesberadas: Recuperating the Lesbian/Queer Roots of Chicana Feminism, 1970–2000." *Feminist Formations*, Summer 2022.

Watch her Work-in-Progress talk: [youtu.be/PfXC1o5IPvU](https://youtu.be/PfXC1o5IPvU)

**Jina Kim**, East Asian Languages and Literatures, 2020–21 OHC Faculty Research Fellow. "Sonic Aesthetics and Social Disparity: The Voice of Villains in Ryoo Seung-wan's *Veteran* (2015) and *The Unjust* (2010)." *Asian Sound Cultures*. ed. Iris Haukamp, Christin Hoene, and Martyn Smith. Routledge, 2022; and "Rewriting the City: Yi Sang, Architecture, and the Figure of the Department Store." *The Routledge Companion to Korean Literature*. ed. Heekyung Cho. Routledge, 2022.

Watch her Work-in-Progress talk: [youtu.be/VWJMztf-Br4](https://youtu.be/VWJMztf-Br4)



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diversity and compliance with the Americans with  
Disabilities Act. To arrange disability accommoda-  
tions for OHC events or to obtain this report in an  
alternative format, call 541-346-3934.*

## 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*, faculty and graduate fellowships, and undergraduate research opportunities. We invite you to learn more about OHC giving opportunities by visiting [ohc.uoregon.edu](http://ohc.uoregon.edu) or calling 541-346-1001. We would like to thank the following individuals and foundations for their support during the 2022–23 fiscal year (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023):

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*\*in memory of former OHC Board  
of Visitors member Ken Kodama,  
who passed away in September  
2022.*