



Oregon Humanities Center

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2018 Summer Report

Greetings from the Associate Director

It is my honor to be joining the Oregon Humanities Center (OHC) as the new Associate Director. I have been gaining insight into the complex inner workings and rhythm of the Center, and I am deeply impressed with the quality and magnitude of the work that the OHC accomplishes. I feel humbled and grateful to be part of such a hard-working team that is dedicated to amplifying the humanities across campus and in the greater community.

Over the past several months, I have heard from many OHC supporters and have seen first hand that the Center is a vital and essential hub for the humanities in our community. I believe that it is more important than ever, for each of us, to continue finding ways to advance the humanities—whether that means working in the humanities, pursuing research or an education in the humanities, attending thought-provoking lectures, giving voice to the importance of the humanities, or donating to these endeavors.

The impact of the OHC's efforts are demonstrated through the success of our extensive programming. Our programs include an annual speaker series that hosts award-winning thinkers, writers, and artists on campus; fellowships to support faculty research, course development, and teaching and graduate student research; funding faculty publication and research interest groups; co-sponsorship of conferences, events, art exhibits, festivals, film screenings, lectures, research presentations, and readings; production of UO Today video interviews featuring writers, journalists, artists, poets, visiting scholars, and UO faculty, students, and administrators; and support of

undergraduate students who conduct new research as part of the Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellows (HURF) program.

In addition to the important work that goes into planning for our programs and Center operations, the OHC is undergoing a strategic planning process, which has given us an opportunity to hear from our stakeholders on and off campus. Overall, this process has confirmed that the OHC is making a positive impact on campus and in the community, and we have gained valuable input about the future direction of the Center and the ways in which we can better reach and serve our audiences. One important outcome included feedback on how to make our website more useable, something we are eager to tackle in the coming months.

The OHC's efforts are only possible due to the continued support from all of you. Support takes on many forms, and all types are welcome. It is with continued gratitude that we call special attention to the annual financial assistance from the UO's Vice President for Research and Innovation, Dr. David Conover, and UO's Provost, Dr. Jayanth Banavar. In 2017–18, this combined funding supported eight of our eleven faculty fellows and four of our seven graduate student fellows to take one term off from teaching to focus solely on research and writing of a publication or dissertation. Thanks to our generous donors who understand the important influence that teaching has on our society, the OHC administered faculty fellowships that gave seven faculty the time and resources to develop new courses and innovative teaching strategies during



Jena Turner

the 2017–18 academic year.

OHC donors have also been the force behind our annual public lecture series and event co-sponsorship programming. Their generosity allowed us to present the 2017–18 lectures focused on the theme “We the People” with 1,855 people in attendance. During the 2018–19 year, our lecture series theme “The Common Good” will offer a thought-provoking lineup of award-winning speakers who will examine some of the critical issues facing society—such as civil rights, incarceration, economic disparity, environmental degradation, and the impacts (positive and negative) of new technologies. You will find information about these events on page 3. Updates will be announced on our website and social media channels, and in our fall newsletter/calendar.

We are grateful for your continued support of the Center and the humanities. We hope that our work helps, even in small ways, to inspire a better understanding of our world and what it means to be human.

—Jena Turner,
OHC Associate Director

OHC fellowships provide crucial support for junior faculty

I write, first, to express my heartfelt gratitude for the support provided by Oregon Humanities Center and the Ernest G. Moll Faculty Research Fellowship in Fall 2017. As a fourth-year Assistant Professor nearing tenure review, I can say without a doubt that this was the most productive and pleasurable term I have spent at UO. I ended up exceeding the already ambitious work plan I had laid out in the initial application, which was to complete revisions on my manuscript's body chapters; write an introduction; and, in the following quarter, submit the manuscript to New York University Press, a well-respected academic press in my field of Asian American and Popular Culture Studies.

In reality, not only did I complete and submit the manuscript, which examines popular games' key role in constructing modern racial categories, but the fellowship gave me the time, intellectual space, and interdisciplinary

community I needed to reconceive a broader audience for the book and raise the stakes of the argument, particularly in response to my preparation for my Work-in-Progress talk and a community talk at the Eugene Public Library. I also expanded the original four-chapter structure into a shorter, more punchy and accessible six-chapter framework, conducted additional research and completely rewrote two body chapters.

Beyond writing the chapters, I conducted two thorough rounds of revisions on the rest of the body chapters to minimize alienating, overly-specific jargon. And I wrote a pithy introduction and coda which incorporate contemporary events and engaging images and examples. My ability to effectively



complete this work was also a direct result of the generous financial assistance provided by the Moll Fellowship. I was able to purchase the sort of computing equipment required to keep up with the ever more sophisticated CPU and resource-consuming technological innovations that characterize the field

of modern online gaming. The fellowship funds allowed my research to be as cutting-edge as the technology it analyzed—a rare and thrilling opportunity for an American humanities scholar like myself.

Thank you so much for your generosity, vision, and support.

—Tara Fickle,
Assistant Professor, English

Philosophy dissertation fellow expresses deep gratitude

I am extremely grateful to the Oregon Humanities Center for their generous support of my dissertation research during Fall Term, 2017. During the Summer of 2017, I was offered a Postdoctoral Associate position at Duke University which was, of course, contingent on the completion of my PhD. The teaching relief afforded by the OHC dissertation fellowship allowed me to finish my dissertation roughly six months faster than anticipated. During the fellowship term, I was able to complete the final two chapters of my dissertation. Moreover, I was able to incorporate feedback from my Work-in-Progress talk into both my dissertation, and subsequent presentations of my dissertation research. I successfully defended my dissertation on November 10, 2017.

In short, I argued in my dissertation



that as a normative framework, virtue ethics is often overly individualistic. I marshalled resources from the philosophy of mind, the philosophy of biology, social and personality psychology, and feminist philosophy to make my case. Given the interdisciplinary nature of my project, I felt very lucky to have the time and space during my fellowship term to collaborate with psychologists and neuroscientists.

My postdoctoral position at Duke University is sure to improve my research, teaching, and odds on the job market. I face the desirable problem of having almost too many opportunities to collaborate with high-powered researchers. But there is a real, material sense in which this would not have been possible were it not for the support of the Oregon Humanities Center.

I have acknowledged this support in the prefatory pages of my dissertation, and I will do the same in the two articles I am currently drafting based on my dissertation research. Since the fellowship term, I have also been approached by an editor who expressed interest in a book proposal based on my dissertation research.

My postdoctoral research at Duke is in the areas of applied ethics and moral psychology. I will be working on an interdisciplinary project on political polarization and also on developing an ethics curriculum for Duke's new Data Science program. An unforeseen advantage of the OHC dissertation fellowship was that I was able to spend more time than I would have otherwise been able in preparing materials for these projects.

It is hard for me to overstate the importance of the OHC dissertation fellowship for completing my dissertation, and easing the transition to a postdoc at a new institution. I am indebted to the OHC for its graciousness and willingness to accommodate my situation.

—Joshua August Skorburg, PhD

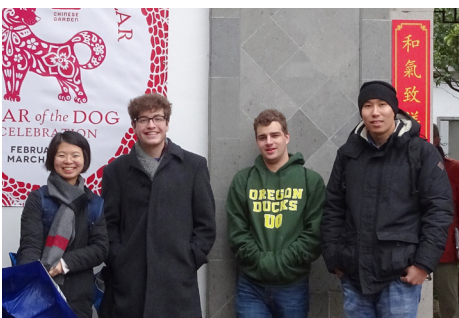
Highlights from OHC Coleman-Guitteau and Wulf Professorships



Deidre Lynch, English, Harvard University (left), speaks with a student in the class, “Book Love: Or Reading Commonplaces,” developed by 2017–18 Coleman-Guitteau Teaching Professor Mai-Lin Cheng, Clark Honors College.



Gail A. Hornstein (left), Psychology, Mount Holyoke College, gave a public lecture and visited the class “Mind, Madness, and Society: Schizophrenia Across Cultures and Genres” developed by 2017–18 Wulf Teaching Professors Mary Wood, English, and Kristin Yarris, International Studies.



Students in “Chinese Cities: Lived and Imagined” visited the Portland Chinese Garden. 2017–18 Coleman-Guitteau Teaching Professors Ina Asim, History, and Luke Habberstad, East Asian Languages and Literatures, and Religious Studies, developed the class.

OHC announces 2018–19 theme series



O’Fallon Lecture in Art and American Culture

Dianna Cohen

Wednesday, October 17, 2018 • 7:30 p.m. • 156 Straub Hall
Inspired by her creative work with ubiquitous plastic bags, artist Dianna Cohen co-founded the Plastic Pollution Coalition, a group that addresses the pervasive problem of plastic pollution.

Clark Lecture

Nalini Nadkarni

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Nalini Nadkarni, professor of Biology, University of Utah, explores the rich, vital world found in the tops of trees. She communicates what she finds to non-scientists—with the help of poets, preachers and prisoners.



Alisa Roth

Winter 2019

Journalist Alisa Roth is the author of *Insane: America’s Criminal Treatment of Mental Illness*, an investigation into the crisis of mental illness in the U.S. criminal justice system.

Tzedek Lecture

Chuck Collins

Wednesday, April 17, 2019—Eugene

Thursday, April 18, 2019—Portland

Chuck Collins, senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies, is the author of *Born on Third Base: A One Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good*.



Kritikos Lecture

Danielle Allen

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Danielle Allen, James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard University, and Director of Harvard’s Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, is widely known for her work on justice and citizenship in both ancient Athens and modern America.

World Music Series reaches beyond the campus community

During the weekend of April 27, the **Oregon Humanities Center's Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities** co-sponsored a visit by the Chicago Cuatro Orchestra (CCO) as part of the School of Music and Dance's World Music Series (WMS). The CCO is the top-level performing group of an after-school program that serves youth in the Chicago area by giving free lessons on the Puerto Rican cuatro. The cuatro is a guitar-like instrument with ten strings that plays the main melodies in the string band music of the island's countryside. While in Eugene, the CCO played a special morning concert for elementary and middle school students. Many of the over four-hundred students that attended participate



in 4J and Springfield Spanish-language immersion programs and had not previously been in the School of Music's Beall Hall. These young people particularly enjoyed the group's rendition of the classic Spiderman theme played on the traditional instruments. Afterward, CCO members took the time to coach UO students enrolled in Dr. Juan Eduardo Wolf's (2016–17 OHC Faculty Research Fellow) Puerto Rican Music Ensemble.

The class was being offered for the first time on campus. Later that evening, the CCO enthralled the audience attending the last public concert of the 2017–18 World Music Series with renditions of classics like Rafael Hernandez's "Capullito de Aleli." They also performed more experimental pieces like "Blues con Décima," which blended blues with a traditional Puerto Rican troubadour form. The next day, several community members listened to co-founder Orlando Rivera and several other members lecturing on their experiences organizing and funding the CCO for over twenty years. Performers and audience members alike enjoyed the visit, and the WMS is extremely grateful to the Oregon Humanities Center for their continued support. For more information about the Chicago Cuatro Orchestra visit: theccoproject.org; and, as always, find out about WMS concerts and activities at facebook.com/worldmusicseries.

—Juan Eduardo Wolf,
Assistant Professor, Ethnomusicology

CEF wins prestigious awards

In March 2018 the UO's **Center for Environmental Futures (CEF)** won a \$600,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support student and faculty research in the study of environmental humanities.

The CEF integrates expertise across the humanities, sciences, social sciences and other fields to tackle some of the most pressing environmental issues facing society.



Co-directors **Stephanie LeMenager**, the Barbara and Carlisle Moore Chair in English, and professor of Environmental Studies; and **Marsha Weisiger**, the Julie and Rocky Dixon Chair in U.S. Western History, and a 2015–16 OHC Teaching Fellow, also won a 2018–20 ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowship for "To Speak of Common Places: A People's History of Oregon's Public Lands."

Learn more about CEF at blogs.uoregon.edu/uocef. Watch a recent UO Today interview with Weisiger at: youtu.be/AN44zZYPCkK

Historian wins ACLS grant



Daniel Rosenberg, Honors College, and 2016–17 OHC Teaching Fellow, won a 2018 ACLS Fellowship for "Data: A Quantitative History."

Today is an age of data, yet the history of the concept of data has yet to be written. This project unearths that history, exploring how the concept emerged during the seventeenth century, what it has meant since then, and how, in recent years, it has moved to the center of public discourse. The project is both qualitative and quantitative, offering both a conceptual history and a critical toolkit for data-driven humanities research.

2017–18 by the numbers

OHC co-sponsored events: 58

(15 multi-part events,
33 departments served)

OHC lecture attendance: 1855

UO Today shows taped: 33

Fellowships granted: 25

(18 faculty, 7 graduate)

Work-in-Progress and

Books-in-Print talks: 19

Website page views: 23,097

(from 62 countries)

Facebook friends: 434

Twitter followers: 470

YouTube subscribers: 908

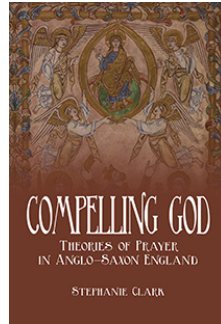
YouTube views: 51,639

Recent publications supported by the OHC

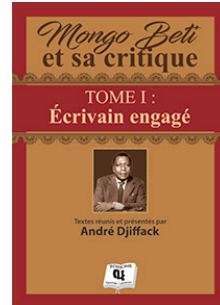
Monographs



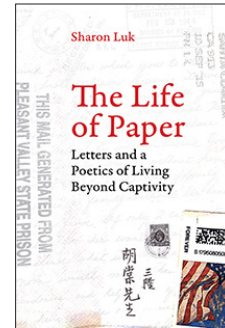
Carlos Aguirre, History. *La Ciudad y los Perros: Biografía de una Novela*. Editorial Renacimiento, 2017. OHC/CAS Subvention.



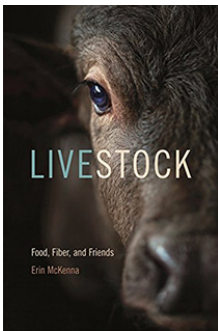
Stephanie Clark, English. *Compelling God: Theories of Prayer in Anglo-Saxon England*. University of Toronto Press, 2018. OHC/CAS Subvention



André Djiffack, Romance Languages. *Mongo Beti et sa Critique, Tome 1: Écrivain engagé & Tome 2: In Memoriam*. Editions CLE, 2017. OHC/CAS Subvention.



Sharon Luk, Ethnic Studies. *The Life of Paper: Letters and a Poetics of Living Beyond Captivity*. University of California Press, 2017. OHC/CAS Subvention.



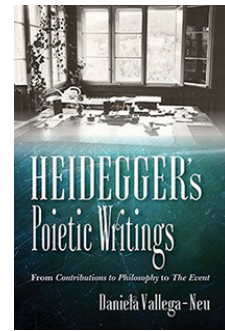
Erin McKenna, Philosophy. *Livestock: Food, Fiber, and Friends*. University of Georgia Press, 2018. OHC/CAS Subvention.



Kate Mondloch, History of Art and Architecture. *A Capsule Aesthetic: Feminist Materialisms in New Media Art*. University of Minnesota Press, 2018. OHC research fellow (2015–16) and subvention recipient.



Stephanie Nohelani Teves, Ethnic Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. *Defiant Indigeneity: The Politics of Hawaiian Performance*. University of North Carolina Press, 2018. OHC/CAS Subvention.



Daniela Vallega-Neu, Philosophy. *Heidegger's Poietic Writings: From Contributions to Philosophy to The Event*. Indiana University Press, 2018. OHC/CAS Subvention.

eBooks



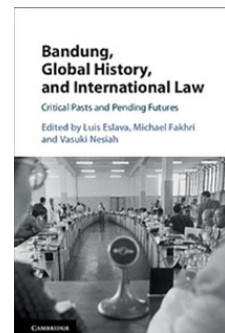
Pedro García-Caro, Romance Languages. *Astucias por heredar un sobrino a un tío* (Spanish Edition eBook). (Written by Fermín de Reygadas.) Arte Público Press, 2018. OHC/CAS Subvention.



Pedro García-Caro, Romance Languages. Introduction, Co-translator of *La fiebre* (Spanish Edition eBook). (Written by Wallace Shawn). Les Editions du Paquebot, 2018. OHC/CAS subvention for print publication in 2012.



Kevin Nute, Architecture. *Naturally Animated Architecture: Using the Movements of the Sun, Wind and Rain to Bring Indoor Spaces and Sustainable Practices to Life*. (Kindle Edition.) World Scientific Publishing Company, 2018. OHC Subvention.



Michael Fakhri, Law. *Bandung, Global History, and International Law: Critical Pasts and Pending Futures*. Cambridge University Press, 2017. OHC Subvention.

Edited volume



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