



Oregon Humanities Center

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Winter 2019

Biologist discusses human engagement with nature

The Oregon Humanities Center's 2018–19 Robert D. Clark Lecture will be delivered by Nalini Nadkarni, professor of Biology from the University of Utah. Nadkarni's talk will continue to explore this year's theme of "The Common Good" by discussing how her experiences as a scientist precipitated her explorations into diverse ways of engaging humans with the natural world. Her lecture, titled "Tapestry Thinking: Weaving the Threads of Humans and Nature," will take place on **Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.** in 156 Straub Hall on the UO campus.

Nadkarni's 35 years of ecological research in tropical and temperate rainforest canopies led to discoveries about the importance of treetop-dwelling plants in ecosystem processes, as well

as the fragility of the rainforest tapestry. To help raise awareness of the need to protect forests and to narrow the increasing distance between humans and nature, Nadkarni created novel ways to share knowledge with a wide range of public audiences, including urban youth, visual artists, rap singers, policy makers, and faith-based groups. She has also initiated and sustained programs to bring science lectures, conservation projects, and nature imagery to incarcerated men, women, and youth in state prisons, county jails, and juvenile detention centers, including those in Oregon. This



interweaving of plants, animals, and people has helped to create a stronger tapestry of conservation and engagement with nature.

In describing her commitment to public engagement with science, Nadkarni writes, "In 2001, I received a

Guggenheim Fellowship to explore the obstacles that scientists face in disseminating their research to non-scientific audiences. My approach was to directly link my research and conservation messages about forest canopies with activities and objects valued by non-traditional audiences. I have designed

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Journalist examines the mental health crisis in prisons

Alisa Roth, journalist and author of *Insane: America's Criminal Treatment of Mental Illness*, will serve as the 2018–19 speaker for the University of Oregon's Lorwin Lectureship on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Roth's work is an investigation into the crisis of mental illness in the U.S. criminal justice system. She writes, "One of the most horrific—and least acknowledged—effects of mass incarceration is the epidemic of mental illness in our jails and prisons." Roth's lecture, titled "America's Hidden Mental Health Crisis," will take place on **Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in 156 Straub Hall.**



traveled around the country to police departments, courts, jails, and emergency health-care facilities; interviewed current and former prisoners and their families, mental health professionals, lawyers, and police; and conducted research using public records and other source materials. She writes, "Mental illness affects every aspect of the criminal justice system—from policing, to the courts, to prisons, and beyond. Nor are the effects limited to the criminal justice system; many people with mental illness cycle back and forth between jail or prison and living in the community."

She continues, "People with mental illness are among the most disadvan-

tagged members of our society, and when they end up in the criminal justice system, they tend to fare worse than others." Roth hopes her work on this crisis will help "to end the abuses and to bring more compassion and common sense into the way we approach mental illness in our society."

Roth is a former staff reporter at *Marketplace*, and her work has appeared on NPR, and in *The New York Times* and *New York Review of Books*. Roth was also awarded a prestigious Soros Justice Fellowship, which has the goal to "fund outstanding individuals to undertake projects that advance reform, spur debate, and catalyze change on a range of issues facing the U.S. criminal justice system. The fellowships are part

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In uncovering this crisis, Roth

Cinema events explore German and Hispanic feminist film

An international conference organized by the German Studies Committee will focus on the intersections and critical conversations between feminist film theory and experimental filmmaking in the German-speaking world. “Feminism, Theory, Film: Critical Intersections in the Practice and Theorization of Experimental



Lina Sieckmann and Miriam Gossing

Filmmaking since the 1970s” will take place **February 28 and March 1, 2019 in the EMU Crater Lake South room.** The conference will feature panels with guest film scholars and art historians along with UO faculty from diverse disciplines. There will be screenings of films by experimental filmmakers Euan McDonald, Lina Sieckmann, and Miriam Gossing on the evening of February 28 at the UO’s Center for Art Research, 510 Oak St. A special issue of *Konturen*, a UO interdisciplinary journal, will focus on new directions in German feminist film theory resulting from the conference proceedings.

The conference is cosponsored by the Oregon Humanities Center. For more information contact sboos@uoregon.edu.

Cine-Lit, an international conference on Hispanic film and accompanying film festival, is a 30-year collaboration between the University of Oregon, Portland State University, and Oregon State University. This year “Cine-Lit 9: Mujer y Género (Woman and Gender)” will be held **March 9–10 at Portland State University, and March 11 at the UO in Portland.** The

conference will provide opportunities for critical analysis of relationships between Hispanic culture, cinematography, and literature. The filmography of Argentine Filmmaker Lucrecia Martel, one of the most important directors in the world today, will be featured in special sessions and a retrospective of her work. Film scholars Ana

López, Deborah Martin, Deborah Shaw, and Barbara Zecchi will deliver keynote addresses about the history of Spanish

Gospel concert honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

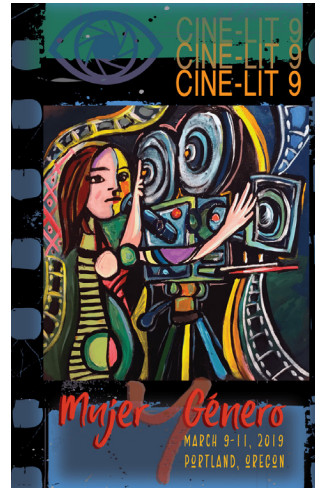
As part of the UO’s annual campus-wide tribute to the leadership and legacy of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Division of Equity and Inclusion will present a concert “A Celebration of Gospel Music: Higher Heights, Deeper Love” featuring Pastor William McDowell, Phil Thompson, Callie Day, and the UO Gospel Choir on **Friday, January 25, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Matthew Knight Arena.**

Gospel musician

William McDowell is pastor of Deeper Fellowship Church in Orlando, Florida. Gospel singer and songwriter, Phil Thompson, was a member of the popular urban contemporary gospel group Ashmont Hill before embarking on a successful solo career with the release of his debut album, *My Worship* in 2018. Gospel singer and educator Callie Day

and Latin American women’s filmmaking. Audiences will develop an understanding of the Hispanic world’s diverse cultures by viewing contemporary Hispanic films featured at the Portland International Film Festival.

Cine-Lit, cosponsored by the Oregon Humanities Center, is free and open to the public. For more information go to: blogs.uoregon.edu/cinelit9.



has performed with the Miami University Opera, the Cincinnati Opera, the Bowling Green State Opera, and in recent years, has been a touring member



of the American Spiritual Ensemble. The UO Gospel Choir, led by Andiel Brown, earned first place honors at the national Disney Gospel Choir Fest in Orlando, Florida in 2010 and 2011. The UO Top Gospel Singers made history in 2013 by becoming the first gospel act ever to

make a public performance tour of the People’s Republic of China.

The concert is cosponsored by the OHC’s Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities. Tickets: \$20, available at the Matthew Knight Arena Box Office (1-800-WEB-FOOT). For information go to: inclusion.uoregon.edu/celebration-gospel-music

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PeaceJam Northwest brings Nobel laureate to UO campus

The annual PeaceJam Northwest conference will be held at the University of Oregon February 16–17, 2019. PeaceJam Northwest is an organization that educates teens about pressing global issues, inspires them by providing opportunities to engage with Nobel Peace Prize laureates, and mobilizes them into action by helping them devise service projects addressing global issues at a local level.

The PeaceJam conference brings a Nobel Peace laureate to campus to meet with a broad spectrum of the UO community and hundreds of middle and high school students from around the Northwest.

Leymah Gbowee, 2011 Nobel Peace



Leymah Gbowee

laureate, will give a public lecture on campus on **Friday, February 15, 2019 at 7 p.m. in 156 Straub Hall** speaking about peace and international conflict. In addition, Gbowee will participate in a roundtable discussion with UO students.

Leymah Gbowee is a Liberian peace activist, social worker and women’s rights advocate. Gbowee is best known for leading a nonviolent movement that brought together Christian and Muslim women to play a pivotal role in ending Liberia’s devastating, fourteen-year civil war in 2003. She is founder and president of the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, which provides educational and leadership development opportunities for women, girls, and youth.

In 2017 Gbowee was named executive director of the Women, Peace and Security Program at Columbia University.

The OHC is a cosponsor of this year’s conference. It is the fifth year the UO will host PeaceJam Northwest’s annual conference. For more information go to: peacejam.org/peacejam-northwest-with-leymah-gbowee

Nadkarni *continued from page 1*

and implemented projects to raise awareness and inspire these audiences to learn and care more about science, trees, and nature in general.”

Nadkarni is the author of *Between Earth and Sky: Our Intimate Connections to Trees* and has delivered TED Talks on “Conserving the Canopy” and “Life Science in Prison.” She is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Archie F. Carr Medal for Conservation (2013), American Association for the Advancement of Science Award for Public Engagement (2011), and the National Science Foundation Board Public Service Award (2010).

Nadkarni’s lecture is free and open to the public and will be live-streamed. For more information, or for disability accommodations (which must be made

by January 23rd), call (541) 346-3934 or contact ohc@uoregon.edu.

Roth *continued from page 1*

of a larger effort within the Open Society Foundations to reduce the destructive impact of current criminal justice policies on the lives of individuals, families, and communities in the United States by challenging the overreliance on incarceration and extreme punishment, and ensuring a fair and accountable system of justice.”

Roth’s lecture is free and open to the public and will be live-streamed. For information, or disability accommodations (which must be made by March 5th), please call (541) 346-3934 or contact ohc@uoregon.edu.

Sign up for the NEH Application Writing Workshop on February 12

The Oregon Humanities Center and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation are pleased to host a workshop on developing competitive proposals for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) on February 12, 2019 from 3–6 p.m. in the EMU Crater Lake room. Dr. Daniel Sack, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Research Programs, will provide an overview of NEH programs and initiatives, offer strategies for application writing, and facilitate a mock peer review panel session. NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities.



Registration for the workshop is required: bit.ly/2QZ3hCl. The event is free and open to humanities scholars, faculty, and administrators throughout the region.



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Cappella Romana brings Armenian music to Eugene

Discover the ageless beauty of forgotten Armenian liturgical music with Cappella Romana's performance of "Lost Treasures of Armenia" on **Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 8 p.m. at Central Lutheran Church**, 1857 Potter St. Directed by Haig Utidjian and Alexander Lingas, Cappella Romana leads an exploration of traditional Armenian chants by Makar Ekmalian and Komitas Vardapet, along with newer arrangements.

Makar Ekmalian (1856–1905) was an Armenian composer, teacher, and choirmaster.

His most noted piece was the *Patarag*, the canticles of the Armenian liturgy. Komitas Vardapet (1869–1935) was an Armenian priest, musicologist, composer, arranger, singer, and choirmaster, who is considered the founder of the Armenian national school of music. He was a student of Ekmalian. Komitas is recognized

as one of the pioneers of ethnomusicology. Prior to the Armenian genocide, he collected and transcribed over 3,000 pieces of Armenian folk music, more than half of which were subsequently lost. He is considered the "savior of Armenian music."



Haig Utidjian

Haig Utidjian is a British conductor of Armenian descent. He was educated at the Universities of Sussex, London and Cambridge, at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, and at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in

London. In his native Cyprus, Haig was a pupil of Archbishop Zarch Aznaworean and was ordained to the diaconate of the Holy Armenian Apostolic Church. He has served, sung, and conducted in churches in Armenia and throughout the Armenian diaspora. Haig is a student of the Armenian Hymnal and patrology. His

musicological research investigates the intersections of Armenian church music with Byzantine and Ottoman classical traditions.

Alexander Lingas, Music Director of Cappella Romana, is a Reader in Music at City University London and a Fellow of the University of Oxford's European Humanities Research Centre. He received his Ph.D. in Historical Musicology from the University of British Columbia. In 2018 Lingas received the title of Archon Mousikodidaskalos (Music Teacher) of the Great Church of Christ on behalf of His All-Holiness, Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch. The title of Mousikodidaskalos honors individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the teaching and academic study of Byzantine chant.

The concert, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies and cosponsored by the OHC's Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities.