This booklet offers a glimpse of the Humanities Council’s programs and activities. For a more comprehensive view, visit us at

HUMANITIES.PRINCETON.EDU

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Humanities Council, which creates opportunities to traverse academic fields, to collaborate in ways that address the complexity of the human experience, and to articulate diverse ways of exploring and understanding what it means to be human.

The humanities provide skills and specialized knowledge essential for innovation and democratic citizenship in a world marked by uncertainty, stubborn violence, and seductive ignorance. But our work also speaks to the intrinsic value of studying the past, seeking truth, arguing about a text, interpreting a work of art, and putting distant cultures and intellectual traditions in conversation with contemporary issues. That abiding commitment to this fragile ideal—expressed every day in the passionate work and intellectual rigor of our colleagues, students and graduates—is Princeton at its best.

At a time when the humanities are under tremendous pressure, we offer you a window into the life of the Council and invite you to renew your engagement in our seminars, colloquia, lectures, grant and fellowship opportunities, and all our efforts.

Eric S. Gregory
Chair, Professor of Religion
A lively hub for innovation and collaboration, the Humanities Council is the academic home for more than 30 interdisciplinary centers and programs.

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

American Studies, Program in
Asian American Studies, Program in
Ancient World, Program in the
Canadian Studies, Fund for
Classical Philosophy, Program in
Digital Humanities, Center for
East Asian Studies, Program in
European Cultural Studies, Program in
Film Studies, Committee for
Gauss Seminars in Criticism
Gender and Sexuality Studies, Program in
Hellenic Studies, Stanley J. Seeger ’52 Center for
Humanistic Studies, Program in
Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities
Irish Studies, Fund for
Italian Studies, Program in
Journalism, Program in
Judaic Studies, Program in
Late Antiquity, Committee for the Study of
Latin American Studies, Program in
Latino Studies, Program in
Linguistics, Program in
Media and Modernity, Program in
Medieval Studies, Program in
Near Eastern Studies, Program in
Political Philosophy, Program in
Princeton-Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism and the Humanities
Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, Committee on
Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts
Stewart Seminars in Religion
The University Center for Human Values

HUMANITIES ACROSS CAMPUS

We connect people and ideas, within and beyond the humanities.

African Studies
African American Studies
Architecture
Art and Archaeology
Classics
Comparative Literature
East Asian Studies
English
French and Italian
German
History
Iran and Persian Gulf Studies
Lewis Center for the Arts
Music
Near Eastern Studies
Philosophy
Religion
Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies
Slavic Languages and Literatures
South Asian Studies
Spanish and Portuguese
Translation and Intercultural Communication
Collaboration

We support innovative, team-based approaches to research, teaching, and public engagement.

Large-Scale Initiatives

Through our grants in Collaborative Humanities, we support faculty who seek to develop a collaborative area of focus and generate new research or teaching in emerging fields. Council-supported projects have included the Digital Humanities Initiative, the International Network for Comparative Humanities, and the Princeton & Slavery Project.

“New knowledge easily crosses traditional academic boundaries, and such work inspires new creativity in our faculty and students.”

—Martin Kern, East Asian Studies; Director, Comparative Antiquity

COMPARATIVE ANTIQUITY

Launched in 2018 as a Humanities Council Global Initiative, this three-year research and teaching collaboration will pursue the study of global antiquity. Extensive in geographical and chronological scope, the endeavor will catalyze innovative thinking and learning across diverse fields of study. Plans in the first year include reading groups, international workshops, digital bibliographic projects, conferences, and collaboration with other universities.

PRINCETON & SLAVERY PROJECT

Begun in 2013 with a Magic Grant for an innovative undergraduate course, this now multi-year, collaborative research project continues to explore the University’s complex and unsettling ties to the institution of slavery. Grants from the Council supported four years of postdoctoral research fellowships, the creation of a public digital archive, and campus collaborations including a documentary film, art installations, and theatrical performances.

Visit the Project website for updates and events: slavery.princeton.edu

James Collins Johnson, a fugitive slave freed after an 1843 trial in Princeton, became a prominent figure in town and on campus over the course of his many decades working at the then College of New Jersey.

Photo: Princeton & Slavery Project
Innovation Grants

The Humanities Council supports projects that break new ground both intellectually and pedagogically and bring the humanities to wider public attention.

BEING HUMAN

In November and December 2018, the Council will participate in an international festival of humanities researchers and community organizations, for a lively, hands-on exploration of this year’s theme, “Origins and Endings.”

MAGIC GRANTS 2018–19

The David A. Gardner ’69 Magic Project supports ideas with the potential to change how the humanities are conceived and taught. This year’s awards go to faculty in the following departments:

Architecture
Loosening the Bauhaus

Architecture; African American Studies; English
BiM Incubator of Architechnopoetics

Comparative Literature
Archive Writing

East Asian Studies
Asia, Theory, Visuality
The Chinese Grand Canal in History, Literature, and Art
Workshop on Tang-Song Transitions

English
Alphabetographies
Frankenstein at 200

English; American Studies
Indigenous/Settler: Conference

Environmental Studies
Bears Ears Monument: Undergraduate Break Trip

French and Italian
How to Read the Archive? Responses to Jacques Derrida’s Geschlecht III

German; Computer Science
Media Archaeology and the Magic of Optical Audio Capture

History
Intensive Courses in Near Eastern Studies

History; Humanistic Studies
Studying the Past by Digging in the Dirt

History; Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; East Asian Studies
The Story of Slag

Music
Gustavo Dudamel at Princeton

Sound Knowledges

Psychology; Theater; Dance; Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Dancing with and Around Neurological Motor Challenges

Religion
Antioch from the Seleucids to Late Antiquity
Community Engagement, Educational Justice, and the Humanities

Theater; American Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies; Latino Studies
Theater and Society Now

FACULTY OUTREACH

The Council funds faculty who share their expertise with audiences beyond campus, participating in events organized by public institutions or community organizations.

A Sonorine collected for the ongoing Magic project of Thomas Levin, German, and Adam Finkelstein, Computer Science, which aims to recover the voice messages from the surfaces of this near-forgotten technology.

Photo: Levin/Finkelstein
Research Communities

The Council promotes innovative work in established academic disciplines as well as new projects that move across disciplinary boundaries.

Transformative Scholarship

We help build research communities in which faculty present their work to peers who question, challenge, and test it.

OLD DOMINION RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIPS

Old Dominion Professors are appointed for a year of research leave in the Humanities Council, where they engage the community in sustained and interdisciplinary discussions, launched every September with a colloquium for the University community.

The 2018–19 Old Dominion Professors are Michael Flower, Classics; Simon Gikandi, English; Kim Lane Schepple, Sociology, Woodrow Wilson School, and The University Center for Human Values; and Sean Wilentz, History.

SOCIETY OF FELLOWS IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

The Society seeks to support innovative interdisciplinary approaches to scholarship and teaching in the humanities and humanities-related social sciences. Its postdoctoral and faculty fellows meet regularly for seminars, formal and informal discussion, lectures, and reading groups.

Members of the Society of Fellows spend three years on Princeton’s campus, teaching courses, and conducting research. Pictured here: Nijah Cunningham, English, African American Studies; Stefan Eich, Politics; Grace Helton, Philosophy; Chloe Kitzinger, Slavic; Monica Huerta, English, American Studies.

Joshua Katz, Classics, and Anthony Grafton, History, examine early printed editions with students during a seminar.

Photo: Nick Barberio
Visiting Faculty Fellows

Our fellowship programs bring distinguished scholars to Princeton to contribute to the campus’s flourishing intellectual community for a full semester or shorter periods.

**FALL 2018**

Sara Magrin (University of California, Berkeley) will visit the Program in Classical Philosophy, teaching a course on “Plotinus’ Psychology.”

Susan Meiselas, a leading documentary photographer, will co-teach “Alphabetographies” for the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities and participate in the Council’s Belknap Global Conversation in October.

Andrew Nicholson (SUNY–Stony Brook) will visit the Department of Religion, offering a seminar on “Hindu Ethical and Political Thought.”

**SPRING 2019**

Sarnath Banerjee, an artist, filmmaker, and graphic novelist engaged with the global South Asian experience, will visit the Department of History and the Program in South Asian Studies.

Candis Callison (University of British Columbia) will be hosted by Canadian Studies for the full academic year. She will teach a course called “Indigenous Journalism,” with a focus on media practices and platforms.

- **Falko Daim** (Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Mainz), an archaeologist focusing on the nomadic societies of Eurasia, will participate in the Comparative Antiquity collaboration during his visit to the Program in Medieval Studies.
- **Michael Kleiner** (University of Göttingen) is rendering the Kebra Nagast, Ethiopia’s “national epic,” into English. An Africanist and Arabist, he will visit the Department of Comparative Literature.
- **Pascal Rambert**, a director, choreographer, and playwright, will co-teach an undergraduate theater course, “Others,” for the Department of French and Italian.
- **Garrett Stewart** (University of Iowa) has taught fiction, film, and textuality. His course for the Department of English is entitled “The Long Media Century: Victorian to Modern.”

Documentary photographer Susan Meiselas will be a Fall 2018 Visiting Belknap Fellow in the Humanities Council.

**Reading & Discussion Groups**

The Council’s interdisciplinary groups examine approaches, assumptions, and methods of inquiry; explore new practices of reading across archives; and consider how objects and texts encounter diverse publics.

- **BEHRMAN FACULTY FELLOWS**
  We invite recently tenured humanities faculty to spend two years as Behrman Fellows, meeting in monthly seminars that cultivate interdisciplinary thinking and collaboration.

- **OLD DOMINION FACULTY FELLOWS**
  Faculty from across the University’s divisions—humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering—assemble each month to discuss topics of common interest.

- **TELLING STORIES WITH DATA**
  For 2018–19, the Council offers a Gilburne Faculty Seminar, in partnership with the Center for Digital Humanities, to consider humanistic approaches to data and storytelling.

- **COMPARATIVE ANTIQUITY**
  Reading groups convened under this umbrella include “Textuality, Materiality, and Reading Practices,” “Comparative Diplomatics,” and the founding group, “Comparative Antiquity.”

- **BODIES OF KNOWLEDGE**
  Faculty, staff, and graduate students explore the humanistic dimensions of medicine, including illness, health, and the body.

- **TRANSLATING ANTIQUITY**
  A branch of the Postclassicsmss initiative, this group extends reception studies to consider transnational and interdisciplinary configurations.

- **HISTORICAL POETICS**
  This year focuses on “Comparative Archaisms” in a transatlantic, nineteenth-century context.

- **POSTCOLONIAL HUMANITIES**
  Humanities scholars engage with service, activism, and interdisciplinary research on the repercussions of imperial history.
Each fall, the Humanities Council hosts an annual colloquium that brings together members of the University community in cross-disciplinary conversation.

Photo: Isometric Studio

Cross-Disciplinary Conversation

Our public lectures, seminars, and colloquia build community across the campus, encouraging cross-disciplinary discussion and debate.

HUMANITIES COLLOQUIUM
The Council’s annual colloquium brings together Old Dominion Research Professors with campus and community members to explore compelling issues facing the humanities. This year’s event, on September 20, is “Capturing the Human.”

BELKNAP GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS
These events bridge the creative arts and humanities in a global context. On October 18, “Humanitarian Photojournalism: A History of the Present” focuses on the reporting of war and atrocity.

FIRST PEOPLES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Canadian Studies and the Humanities Council will host a two-day public conference this December, featuring scholars, journalists, and artists.

GAUSS SEMINARS IN CRITICISM
Instituted in 1949, the Gauss Seminars in Criticism provide a forum for discussion, study, and the exchange of ideas in the humanities. The Fall 2018 seminars feature Wendy Brown, Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley.

1968/2018: CITIES ON THE EDGE
This year-long series on the tumultuous events of 1968 features talks on Paris, Berlin, Mexico City, Tokyo, Newark, and is jointly sponsored by the Humanities Council and the Princeton-Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism and the Humanities.

PROVOCATIONS: A CONFERENCE ON BLACK POETRY AND POETICS
The Humanities Council joins the Department of English and the Lewis Center for the Arts to present this major conference on February 14–16.

FABER LECTURES
The gift of Eberhard L. Faber IV supports lectures, colloquia, workshops, and discussions in the criticism, history, and theory of literature.

THINKING CINEMA
A series of lectures illuminating the history, theory, and criticism of film, the initiative was launched in 2017–18 by the Committee for Film Studies.

PROFESSOR SIMON GIKANDI
Simon Dikandi, English, will be an Old Dominion Professor in the Humanities Council this year.

Photo: Denise Applewhitte

2018–2019 humanities council

Student protesters in the streets of Paris, May 1968.

Photo: Denise Applewhite
Innovative Teaching

We develop cross-disciplinary and team-taught courses and create opportunities for learning beyond the classroom.

Program in Humanistic Studies

In our interdisciplinary certificate, students chart their own intellectual journeys, creating bridges from their concentration to another discipline, thereby illuminating one field with insights and approaches from another. They participate in a specially designed team-taught capstone seminar.

INTEGRATED APPROACH

In our yearlong sequences—“Interdisciplinary Approaches to Western Culture” and the “East Asian Humanities Sequence”—faculty teach in pairs or teams to offer an intensive and integrated exploration of literature, philosophy, history, music, and art from antiquity to today.

COMMUNITY

Students join a vibrant intellectual community that meets regularly for discussions, lectures, meals, and cultural activities. Humanities Mentors offer peer advising and host undergraduate symposia. The Behrman Undergraduate Society of Fellows is a monthly forum for intellectual exchange among juniors and seniors from across the University.

INTERNATIONAL AND EXPERIENTIAL CURRICULUM

Our funds support global and comparative approaches and innovative field experiences. We sponsor course-related undergraduate and graduate travel across the world, including to China, Peru, Cuba, Brazil, Greece, Italy, France, Canada, Japan, England, Bosnia, and India. Courses have also taken break trips to locations within the United States, including Los Angeles, New York City, the Utah Spiral Jetty, and New Orleans.
Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities (IHUM)

The Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities (IHUM) offers a joint PhD in collaboration with the humanities departments. The program’s 27 doctoral students receive an additional year of fellowship for research in areas beyond the boundaries of their fundamental disciplinary training. They graduate with a joint degree from their home department and from the Council.

RESEARCH

IHUM students become core members of a research community that convenes seminars, workshops, conferences, reading groups, and other events. On September 24, IHUM will host a Faber Lecture featuring Lauren Berlant, Professor of English at the University of Chicago.

READING GROUPS

A dozen interdisciplinary reading groups are open to all graduate students and faculty. Topics include Ethnography, Film and Media Theory, Queer Cultures, Social Philosophy, Race and Psychoanalysis, and Black Studies and the Black Radical Tradition.

COURSES – FALL 2018

IHUM courses, often team-taught, are open to all graduate students at the University, placing the humanities in dialogue with the arts and sciences and testing the conventions of intellectual exchange. IHUM also cross-lists courses with humanities departments.

D. Graham Burnett

Interdisciplinarity and Antidisciplinarity

Daniel Garber and Nigel Smith

Hobbes and Milton: The Commonwealth, the Person and the Nature of Language

Eduardo Cadava and Susan Meiselas

Alphabetographies

Program in Journalism

Building on 60 years of excellence, our journalism seminars forge new generations of distinguished journalists, writers, and policy makers.

NEW CERTIFICATE

In 2018–19, the Humanities Council will launch an undergraduate certificate program in Journalism. Students will progress through a coordinated curriculum, from gateway courses in media literacy and journalistic ethics to practical experiences reporting in the field. The capstone experience entails the presentation of research in an interdisciplinary senior colloquium.

FERRIS PROFESSORS IN RESIDENCE

The journalism seminars rely on the expertise of three accomplished Ferris Professors in Residence. The program is directed by Joe Stephens, a long-time investigative reporter for The Washington Post.

Joe Stephens, Program Director
Investigative Journalism

John McPhee ’53, The New Yorker
Creative Nonfiction

Deborah Amos, NPR News
International News: Migration Reporting

Joe Stephens, long-time investigative journalist at The Washington Post, teaches a Ferris Seminar. Photo: Isometric Studio

VISITING JOURNALISTS 2018–19

Distinguished practicing journalists visit campus for a semester and teach a course that draws from their immediate professional experience.

Michael Calderone, Politico
Determined Press, Skeptical Public, and the Next Presidential Race

Nick Chiles, journalist and author
The Media and Social Issues

Will Englund, The Washington Post
Covering Hostile Governments

Pico Iyer, journalist and author
The Literature of Fact

Kira Kay, Bureau of International Reporting
Reporting After War: Post-Conflict Nation Building in Bosnia

Kathleen McCleery, PBS NewsHour
Covering the 2018 Elections

Mike McIntire, The New York Times
Investigative Journalism

Stacey Vanek Smith, NPR’s Planet Money
Audio Journalism

Deborah Sontag, formerly The New York Times
Writing About Immigration

PATH-BREAKING COURSES AND GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE

For the past three years, a summer Journalism seminar has taken students to Athens and Lesvos, Greece, to cover the global refugee crisis. In the coming year, seminars will include field-reporting experiences in Phoenix, Arizona, to cover contested mid-term elections; Winnipeg, Canada, to follow migration stories; and Sarajevo, Bosnia, to report on post-conflict nation building.

Students conduct interviews outside the Parthenon in Athens for JRN 465: Reporting on the Front Lines of History in Greece.
Executive Committee

Yelena Baraz, Classics
Leonard Barkan, Comparative Literature
Rubén Gallo, Spanish and Portuguese
Eric S. Gregory, Religion; Council Chair
Emmanuel Kreike, History
AnneMarie Luijendijk, Religion
Federico Marcon, East Asian Studies; History
Benjamin Morison, Philosophy
Esther Schor, English

Council Faculty and Fellows

FACULTY
Alexander Nehamas, Edmund N. Carpenter II
Class of 1943 Professor in the Humanities; Philosophy; Comparative Literature
Peter Brooks, Humanities Council; French and Italian
Thomas C. Leonard, Humanities Council; Economics
Byron Ahn, Linguistics
Laura Kalin, Linguistics
Florian Lionnet, Linguistics

OLD DOMINION RESEARCH PROFESSORS
Michael Flower, Classics
Simon Gikandi, English
Kim Lane Scheppelle, Sociology, Woodrow Wilson School, The University Center for Human Values
Sean Wilentz, History

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS
Nasser Abourahme, Princeton-Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism and the Humanities
Jim Casey, Center for Digital Humanities; English
Sunwoo Jeong, Linguistics
Nicholas Rolle, Linguistics

BEHRMAN PROFESSORS IN THE HUMANITIES
Jeff Dolven, English
Efthymia Rentzou, French and Italian
Yelena Baraz, Classics

BEHRMAN FACULTY FELLOWS IN THE HUMANITIES 2018–2019
Lucia Allais, Architecture
Nathan Arrington, Art and Archaeology
Emmanuel Bourbouhakis, Classics
Marshall Brown, Architecture
Donnacha Denney, Music
Karen Emmerich, Comparative Literature
Katja Guenther, History
Javier Guerrero, Spanish and Portuguese
Brian Herrera, Lewis Center for the Arts
Paize Keulemans, East Asian Studies
Joshua Kotin, English
Federico Marcon, East Asian Studies; History
Michael Meredith, Architecture
Yair Mintzker, History
Moule Vidas, Religion
Christy Wampole, French and Italian
Wendy Warren, History

SOCIETY OF FELLOWS IN THE LIBERAL ARTS
Michael Gordin, Director
Beate Witzler, Executive Director
Rhea Dexter, Program Manager
Guangchen Chen, Comparative Literature
Nijah Cunningham, African American Studies; English
Stefan Eich, Politics
Monica Huerta, English
Janet Kay, History
Matthew Larsen, Religion
Benedito Machava, History
Bernadette Pérez, History; American Studies
Justin Perez, Anthropology
Alice Pisani, Astrophysical Sciences
Natalie Prizel, English; Humanistic Studies
Ava Shirazi, Classics; Humanistic Studies
Maria Josefa Velasco, Music

Administration

Eric S. Gregory, Chair
Kathleen Crown, Executive Director
Karyn Zucker Greco, Department Manager
Margo Bresnen, Program Manager
Sara Brooks, Professional Specialist
Susan Coburn, Office Coordinator
Luke Eelman, Computing Support Specialist
Judith Perszt, Program Manager
Candice Kessel, Program Coordinator
Barbara Leavey, Program Manager
Stephanie Lewandowski, Program Manager
Sarah Malone, Communications and Events Manager
Jeannine Pitarresi, Event Coordinator
Min Pullan, Communications Manager
Debbie Puskas, Budget Manager
Yolanda Sullivan, Program Manager

Linguistics faculty Laura Kalin and Byron Ahn host the inaugural Princeton Symposium on Syntactic Theory, a two-day conference featuring speakers from across the U.S., Canada, and Europe.
Efthymia Rentzou, French and Italian, Behrman Professor in the Humanities, teaches a Humanities Sequence precept outside Joseph Henry House. Home to the Humanities Council, the historic building forms part of the Andlinger Center for the Humanities, a complex in the heart of Princeton’s campus.

**JOSEPH HENRY HOUSE**

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