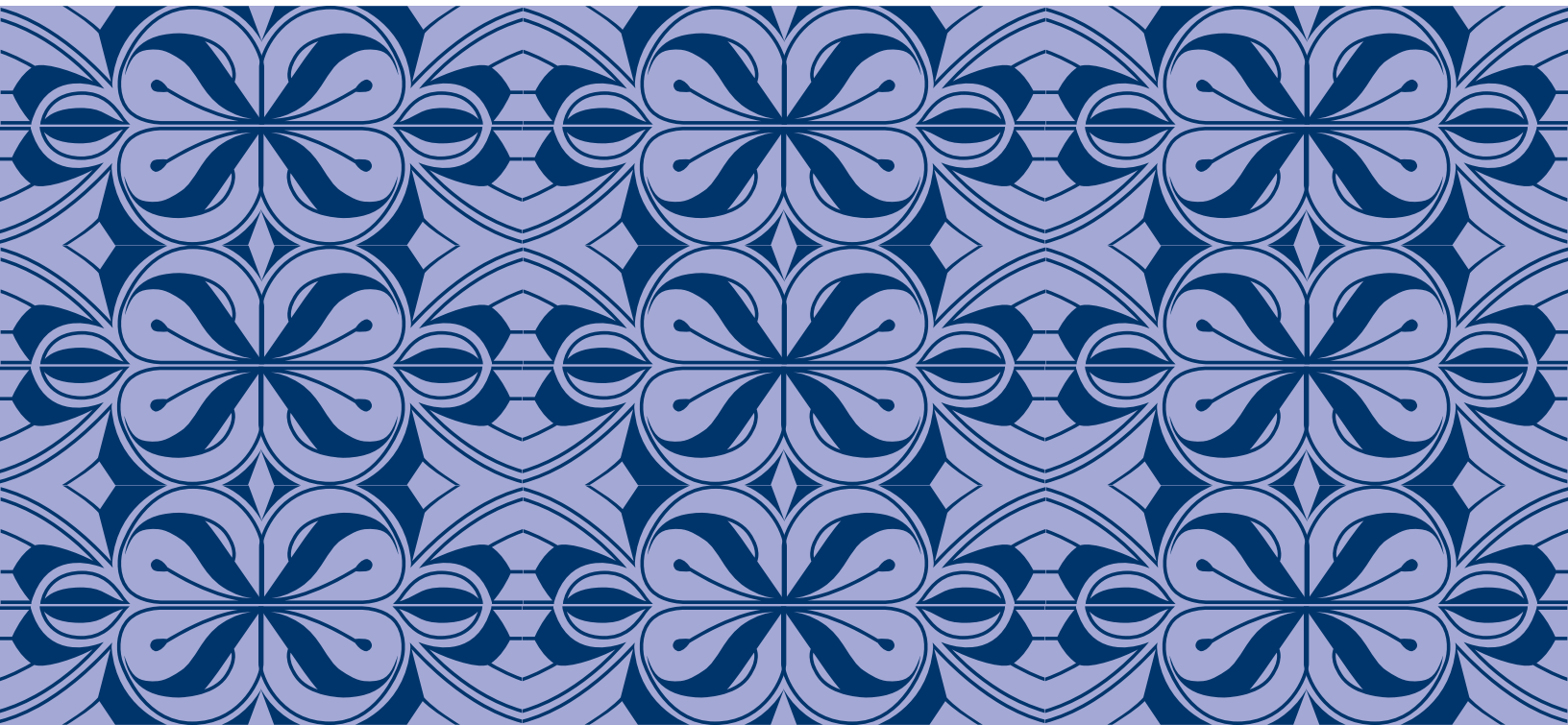




WHITNEY
HUMANITIES
CENTER

2023–2024
ANNUAL REPORT



**The Whitney Humanities Center
is a hub for the humanities at Yale,
where intellectual relationships are
forged across academic boundaries.**

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



CAJETAN IHEKA
DIRECTOR

Asked recently by a colleague how I would describe my work as director of the Whitney Humanities Center (WHC), I responded: busy, exhilarating, and productive. The response stands as I complete my first year as director, which has been not only eventful but also rewarding. The opportunities to meet colleagues and become familiar with their fantastic work within HQ have been transformative, as has the congregational affordance of the WHC, which allowed us to welcome leading scholars and artists to share their visions of the world with the Yale community. Amidst the violent conflicts and other challenges plaguing the globe during the 2023–2024 academic year, including wars in Sudan, Ethiopia and Ukraine, and the Israel-Palestine conflict, the WHC offered a site for free expression, rigorous inquiry, and thoughtful deliberation on human values. The Center's fellowship program, robust programming, and co-sponsorship of research activities reaffirmed the importance of the interdisciplinary humanities in times of crisis.

We learned a great deal from the 35 WHC Fellows, drawn from across schools, libraries, archives, and centers at Yale, that formed the 2023–24 cohort. The group's intellectual diversity, generosity, and camaraderie enriched weekly lectures and the discussions that followed. These Wednesday talks were a highlight of each week for being not only intellectually formidable but also often emotionally memorable: who could forget the richness of Regina Kunzel's opening lecture on the historical intersection of psychiatry and queerness in the United States, or Patrick Weil's memorable psychoanalytic reading of Woodrow Wilson? Lectures foregrounded the oppressive dimensions of slavery, colonialism, and global capital, but were also attentive to lines of flight, to the subversive possibilities at scenes of subjection. Thus, Laura Barraclough reoriented the history of the US National Trail System conventionally a narrative of settler agency, to foreground indigenous interruptions, while Kyama Mugambi highlighted African

subjectivities in the practice of Christianity on the continent.

Fellows also explored the surfaces and plumbed the depths of cultural productions, including literature, film, performance, and art, to transform understandings of phenomena, shedding light on the past and its significance for the present and future. Kimberly Jannarone's work on mass performance in the Czech Republic and Alessandro Giammei's presentation on costume in Italy treat spectacular displays as insightful locations of culture. The epistemological possibilities of art vis-à-vis colonial relations emerged in several talks, including Cécile Fromont's and Lisa Voigt's meditations on early modern print and artistic cultures.

Ideas of translation shaped the work at the Center this year, as fellows tackled the affordances and contingencies of recalibrating their work for an interdisciplinary audience; fellows also took on the practice and scholarship of translation. Sonam Kachru's moving talk on translations of Kashmiri poetry and Riley Soles's inspiring lecture on translations of the *Lotus Sutra* have stayed with me. Both fellows upheld translation as an act of creative writing and interpretation, involving artistic freedom as well as a sense of responsibility. Kaiama Glover embodied the translator's task in a theoretical craft talk on Afro-Fluency, a generative template that guides her approach to translating Haitian literature. I will delight in the joys of our sumptuous meals and conversations in Fellows Hall for a long time.

The global orientation of the WHC motivated a new series, Humanities Now, which kicked off in September 2023 with a performance and conversation between the Nigerian American writer Chigozie Obioma and the Tanzanian music star Lady Jaydee. The series is designed to engage leading scholars, writers, artists, and thinkers who are shaping humanistic discourse, praxis, and activism with their innovative work. Humanities Now derives impetus from a global vision of the humanities: one that embraces interdisciplinarity, reflects a range of disciplinary constellations, and accentuates the heterogeneous humanistic traditions within the United States and across the world. It prioritizes inventive approaches to the humanities, especially those that break intellectual boundaries and dismantle walls between the university and broader communities. The impetus for the inaugural music-literature interface was

a *Financial Times* article wherein Obioma listed Lady Jaydee's music as inspiration for his writing. The pair's conversation and Lady Jaydee's performance brought colleagues, students, and the larger community to the Schwarzman Center. It was especially gratifying to meet attendees from the larger New Haven community, who relished the opportunity to visit Yale for a performance by an East African artist. The interdisciplinary and boundary-breaking qualities of the first event carried through subsequent ones: Mark Anthony Neal reoriented the contours of Black masculinity with his autobiographical rendition on Black fatherhood; Ariella Aïsha Azoulay intervened in contemporary discourse on the museum and colonial plunder. In the final event of the year, Willie James Jennings's talk, at once scriptural and theoretical, offered a provocation on modes of habitation that can serve as alternatives to the obsession with territoriality and ownership in Christian Zionism.

Humanities Now also featured two book events this year, the first on Gary Tomlinson's recent *The Machines of Evolution and the Scope of Meaning* (2023). The book's "scope of meaning" and its meditation on the subject transcend disciplines, even as it locates its intervention at the core of what it means to be human. A panel of Yale colleagues responded to the book, debating questions such as the nature of meaning; what creatures have this affordance; meaning's relationship to information; and what to do with nonhuman species transmitting information without meaning – how might we respond to meaninglessness?

Another kind of meaning framed the second event, which dealt with two new books in the literary humanities, *Criticism and Truth* (2023), by our own Jonathan Kramnick, and *Decolonizing the English Literary Curriculum* (2023), edited by Ato Quayson (Stanford University) and Ankhi Mukherjee (University of Oxford). The authors/editors were joined by distinguished panelists including Elaine Scarry, Paul Saint-Amour, Joe Cleary, Jeanne-Marie Jackson, and Debjani Ganguly. Here, the discussion shifted to the meaning and purpose of literary criticism in the contemporary era, and what unifying practices are intelligible across the field. As expected, the irresolvable question of the uses and practices of decolonizing the curriculum was vigorously debated by the speakers and the audience.

The endowed lectures at the WHC remain highlights of the year, with talks that drew a sizeable audience from across campus. The writer Teju Cole delivered a brilliant lecture on the three final works of the dearly missed Yale treasure and Nobel Laureate, Louise Glück. Cole, with the characteristic erudition that makes him one of today's most exciting readers of literature and culture, showcased the aliveness and rich sensibilities in the archive of the ordinary that constitutes Glück's poetry. With gratitude for the ongoing collaboration between the WHC and *The Yale Review*, I look forward to reading the [revised version](#), which appears in the Summer 2024 issue.

The Tanner Lectures, a collaborative project between the President's Office and the WHC, were a resounding success this year. The remarkable lectures, delivered by Rob Nixon, Barron Professor of Environmental Humanities and Professor of English at Princeton University, integrated environmental humanities, environmental justice, neuroscience, and forest science. Professor Nixon's first lecture focused on inequities in the great outdoors, where indigent communities and communities of color have limited access to the benefits of outdoor leisure and can in fact be exposed to dangers outside. In the second lecture, he highlighted research on forest thinking, arguing that its cooperative disposition can counteract the individualist inclination of neoliberalism that is wrecking the planet. Professor Nixon also met in small groups with graduate students and members of Yale's Environmental Humanities community.

The Franke Seminar and Fellowship allowed us to welcome distinguished writers and scholars to the WHC. The generosity of the Franke Seminar Fund enabled Ayesha Ramachandran's seminar on Global Lyric to invite distinguished poets and critics of poetry to interact with seminar participants and the larger public on the state of the field. The seminar readings and guest lectures demonstrated the rich traditions of poetry and poetic thought that thrive around the world.

We were also fortunate to have the writer and journalist Rozina Ali in residence as Franke Visiting Fellow during the spring 2024 semester. Ali inspired us with her lecture on "Islamophobia Yesterday and Today," and with her participation alongside Mark Oppenheimer in a panel discussion on Islamophobia and Antisemitism. Although selected before the outbreak of the

Israel-Palestine conflict, Ali's presence was assuring and illuminating, with her class visits, lectures, and responses providing a nuanced understanding of the challenges in the Middle East. I am delighted to welcome the Ugandan writer Jennifer Makumbi, author of the acclaimed *Kintu*, as Franke Visiting Fellow for 2024–25.

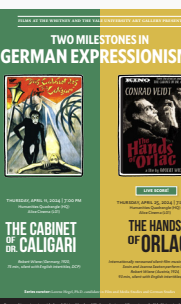
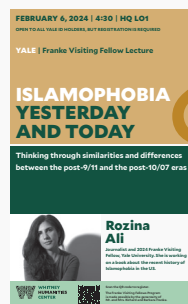
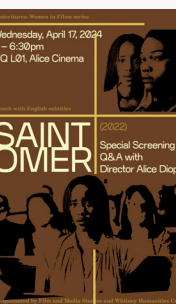
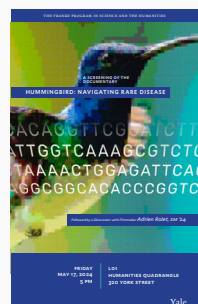
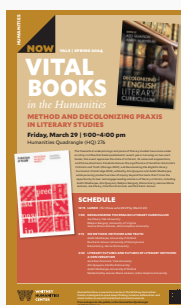
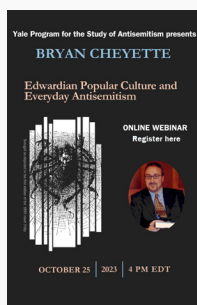
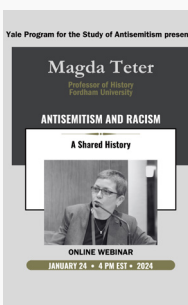
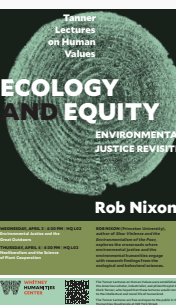
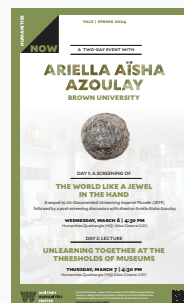
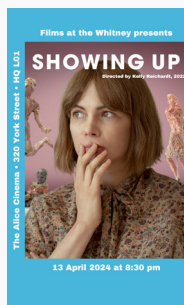
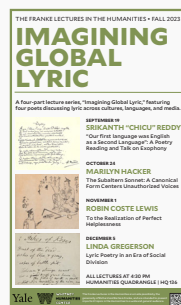
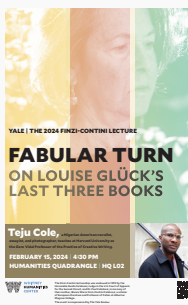
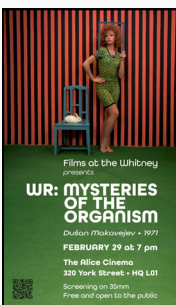
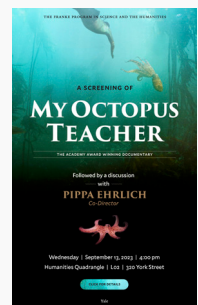
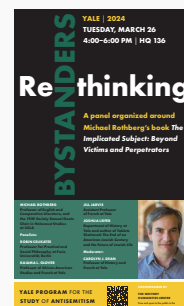
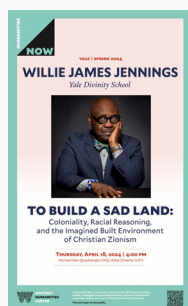
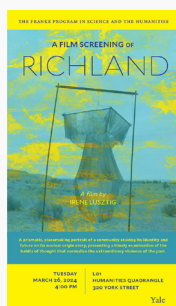
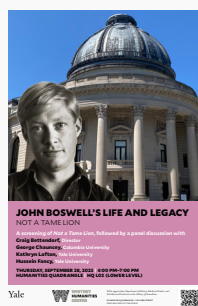
The Whitney Publishing Project thrived this year, with an inaugural Faculty Book Celebration held in December 2023 and a slate of events aimed at supporting publishing, including the visit of Sharmila Sen (Editorial Director, Harvard University Press) as editor-in-residence. The Faculty Book Celebration convened faculty and colleagues to celebrate books published within the past year. Infused with the holiday atmosphere, the relaxed event featured remarks from Dean Kathryn Lofton, congratulating the authors and pressing the significance of humanistic scholarship in this fraught moment. The HQ entrance monitors feature the 144 books that we celebrated at the gathering. The celebration culminates the WHC's involvement in the book publishing ecosystem at Yale, wherein several projects received funding from the Center as works-in-progress, were presented as fellows' talks, and more recently, could be discussed with the editor-in-residence. Sharmila Sen met with faculty colleagues and postdoctoral fellows to discuss their writing projects and to provide feedback during her visit in March 2024. These one-on-one meetings were preceded by a conversation between Sen and Yale History Professor Sunil Amrith on the dynamics of scholarly publishing in the humanities. Other activities of the Whitney Publishing Project can be found in the report that follows.

The highlighted events and visitors are by no means exhaustive of the programming that the WHC initiated or supported this year. Faculty colleagues benefited from the Hilles Publication Fund and the Griswold Faculty Research Fund, supporting publication and translation subventions, and research activities, respectively. The WHC also sponsored research working groups, graduate students' work, conferences, and events that elevate the intellectual life of the University and serve the Center's mission of being the hub for humanistic work at Yale. In this report, you will also read about this year's cohort of Environmental Humanities Graduate Fellows who come from departments across Yale to form a community of intellection and socialization.

I am pleased with the WHC's astonishing collaborative range this year: from sustaining our relationship with the Environmental Humanities Program, to collaborating with the Schwarzman Center on Humanities Now; from a brilliant partnership with the Yale Film Archive on a retrospective marking the centenary of the birth of the "father" of African cinema, Sembene Ousmane, to a film series with Yale University Art Gallery, we succeeded in deepening the study and scope of the humanities at Yale.

Cajetan Iheka
Director

A YEAR IN POSTERS

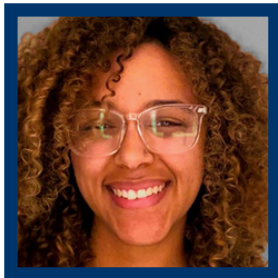


WHC FELLOWS



The Fellows Forum meetings each Wednesday are one of the Center’s core activities. We regard these lunches in Fellows Hall as an important initiative in faculty development that is centered on, but reaches well beyond, the humanities. The weekly meetings and conversations provide an excellent opportunity for sociability and intellectual exchange. We invite fellows from across the university: FAS faculty at all levels, postdoctoral fellows, editors, librarians, and curators, as well as colleagues from Yale Law School, Divinity School, School of Medicine, School of the Environment, School of Drama, and School of Art.

2023-24 WHC FELLOWS



ALVITA AKIBOH

History



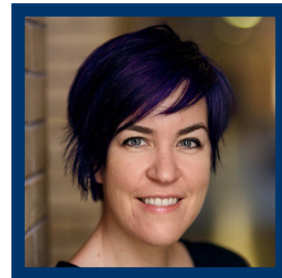
ROZINA ALI

Franke Visiting Fellow



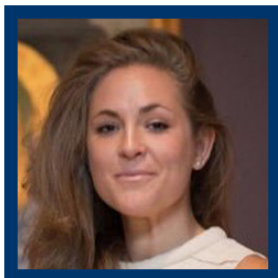
JENNIFER BANKS

Yale University Press



LAURA BARRACLOUGH

American Studies /
Ethnicity, Race, and
Migration



ANTONIA BARTOLI

Yale University Art
Gallery



JOSHUA COCHRAN

Beinecke Library



ERICA EDWARDS

English / African
American Studies



HUSSEIN FANCY

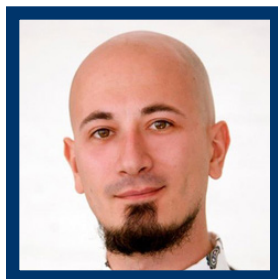
History



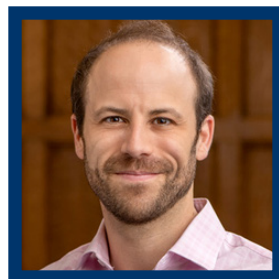
RACHEL FINE
Yale Schwarzman Center



CÉCILE FROMONT
History of Art



ALESSANDRO GIAMMEI
Italian Studies



BENJAMIN GLASER
English



NICHOLE GLEISNER
French / *Yale French Studies*



KAIAMA L. GLOVER
African American
Studies / French



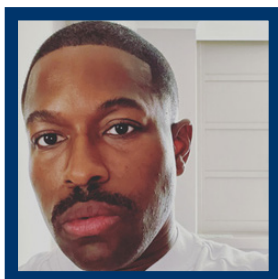
HI'ILEI HOBART
Ethnicity, Race, and
Migration



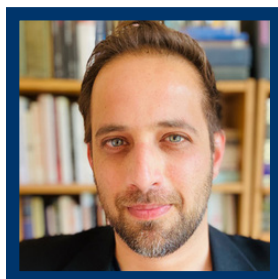
LILY HU
Philosophy



KIMBERLY JANNARONE
School of Drama



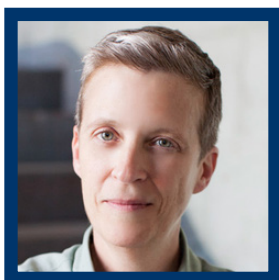
NICHOLAS JONES
Spanish and Portuguese



SONAM KACHRU
Religious Studies



ELLEZA KELLEY
English



REGINA KUNZEL
History / Women's,
Gender, and Sexuality
Studies



SCOTT LIBSON
Divinity School Library



KYAMA MUGAMBI
Divinity School



NONTSIKELELO MUTITI
School of Art



AMEERA NIMJEE
Music



AMANDA REID
Theater and Performance
Studies



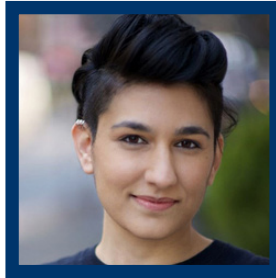
SOPHIE SCHWEIGER
Germanic Languages
and Literatures



SYDNEY SIMON
Yale University Art
Gallery



RILEY SOLES
Humanities Program



MADIHA TAHIR
American Studies



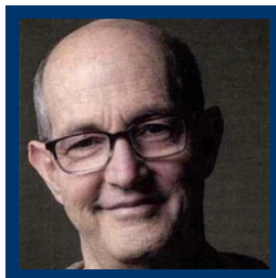
SHANE VOGEL
African American
Studies / Theater and
Performance Studies /
English



LISA VOIGT
Spanish and Portuguese



DAVID WALSH
Yale Program for the
Study of Antisemitism



PATRICK WEIL
Law

2023–24 FELLOWS FORUM TALKS

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

REGINA KUNZEL, History

“In the Shadow of Diagnosis: Psychiatric Power and Queer Life”

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

NICHOLAS JONES, Spanish and Portuguese

“Antônio/Victória of Benin: Early Black Trans* Life in Sixteenth-Century Portugal”

OCTOBER 4, 2023

PATRICK WEIL, Law

“A Madman in the White House? On Sigmund Freud’s Unknown Diagnosis of Woodrow Wilson”

OCTOBER 11, 2023

LAURA BARRACLOUGH, American Studies/
Ethnicity, Race, and Migration

“The U.S. National Historic Trail System: Settler Stories, Indigenous Interruptions”

OCTOBER 25, 2023

SONAM KACHRU, Religious Studies

“The Poems of Lalla of Kashmir: Of the Anonymous First Person and an Archive of Freedom”

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

KIMBERLY JANNARONE, School of Drama

“Mass Performance, Soviet Style: The Machinic-Organic Discourse on Display in the Czech Republic”

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

KAIAMA L. GLOVER, French /African American Studies

“Toward Afro-Fluency”

DECEMBER 6, 2023

KYAMA MUGAMBI, Divinity School

“Spirit, Movement, and the Religious Imagination: Reconceptualizing Emerging Christian Expressions in Africa”

JANUARY 24, 2024

CÉCILE FROMONT, History of Art

“The Discreet Charm of the Old Indies: Kongo, Brazil, and Colonies at the Villa Medici in Rome”

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

JENNIFER BANKS

Yale University Press

“Acres of Edens: Stories of Human Birth”

FEBRUARY 14

LISA VOIGT, Spanish and Portuguese

“Hallucinating Animals in Early Modern Print”

FEBRUARY 28

ALESSANDRO GIAMMEI, Italian Studies

“Culture as Costume: Renaissance Cosplay in Fascist Ferrara”

MARCH 6

DAVID AUSTIN WALSH, Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism

“Why Do People Believe Weird Things? Understanding Conspiracy Culture”

MARCH 27, 2024

SYDNEY SIMON, Yale University Art Gallery

“Harry Bertoia: Artist by Design”

APRIL 10, 2024

MADIHA TAHIR, American Studies

“War Machines: Drones and Distributed War”

APRIL 17, 2024

RILEY SOLES, Humanities

“An Ecstasy in Translation: The *Lotus Sutra* from Text to Teaching”

APRIL 24, 2024

SOPHIE SCHWEIGER, Germanic Languages and Literatures

“(Re-)Directing the Enlightenment: Sketching and Staging Theatre around 1800”

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



VERITY HARTE
Philosophy/Classics



JOSEPH MANNING
Classics/History/Law



PRIYAMVADA NATARAJAN
Franke Program in Science
and the Humanities/
Astronomy/Physics



JOHN DURHAM PETERS
Film and Media Studies/
English



MAYA PRABHU
Medicine/Law



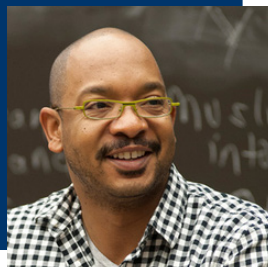
MARC ROBINSON
Theater Studies/English
American Studies



MAURICE SAMUELS
Yale Program for the
Study of Antisemitism/
French



EDYTA BOJANOWSKA
Slavic Languages and
Literatures



RODERICK FERGUSON
Women's, Gender,
and Sexuality Studies/
American Studies



JOSEPH FISCHEL
Women's, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies



LISA LOWE
American Studies/
Ethnicity, Race, and
Migration



FRANCESCO CASETTI
Humanities Program/
Film and Media Studies

FRANKE VISITING FELLOW

The Franke Visiting Fellows Program, made possible by the generosity of Richard and Barbara Franke, allows us to host one fellow each year. Since 2005, the program has supported an eclectic range of visiting fellows; fellows set their own agendas while also participating in cross-disciplinary conversations with humanities scholars at the weekly WHC Fellows Forum.



Rozina Ali, our spring 2024 Franke Visiting Fellow, is a journalist and currently a contributing writer at the *New York Times Magazine*. Her work focuses on the Middle East and South Asia, conflict, immigration, and Islamophobia. She also writes about literature and poetry. Previously, she was on the editorial staff at the *New Yorker* and was a senior editor at the *Cairo Review of Global Affairs*, based in Cairo, Egypt. In 2022–23, she was a fellow at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers, and she is a current fellow at Type Media Center. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The Nation*, and *Harper's*, among other outlets. She was the winner of the 2023 National Magazine Award in reporting.

Rozina spent much of her time with us thinking, writing, and talking about the recent history of Islamophobia in the United States, the topic of her current book project. She shared her research in two public forums, detailed elsewhere in this report.

GRADUATE FELLOWS

WHC GRADUATE FELLOWS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES



Now in its third year, the WHC Graduate Fellows in the Environmental Humanities program aims to integrate new graduate students both into the life of the WHC and into the Environmental Humanities graduate certificate program. Along with a stipend “top-up” of \$1,000, the distinction comes with mentorship opportunities, additional interdisciplinary programming, and a designated lounge in our corridor of the Humanities Quadrangle. We are indebted to the faculty director of the Yale Environmental Humanities Program, **Paul Sabin**, and Ph.D. candidate **Lav Kanoi**, with whom we worked to plan special programming and mentoring.

Our 2023–24 fellows research topics as diverse as the shadow histories of extraction in nineteenth-century art, the ecopoetics of Black Feminist Theory, and the relationship between indigeneity, marronage, beekeeping, and food sovereignty in Puerto Rico. Such work affirms the vital role the environmental humanities play in raising new interdisciplinary questions, deepening our understanding of the ways that culture is intertwined with nature.

This year’s programming included a welcome event with WHC and Environmental Humanities leaders on September 6, a happy hour discussion with **Cajetan Iheka** about his book *African Ecomedia* on November 13, a guided materials session at the Beinecke Library led by curator **Nancy Kuhl** on March 6, and a lunch and conversation with Tanner Lecturer **Rob Nixon** about his forthcoming book on April 4.

2023-24 GRADUATE FELLOWS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES



JACQUELYN DAVILA
History



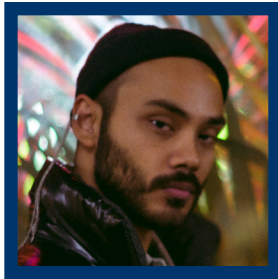
LOGAN EMLET
Anthropology / School of
the Environment



GABRIELLE HILL
African American Studies



HENRY JACOB
History



ATIF KHAN
American Studies



COLTON KLEIN
History of Art



ANTHONY LIDDIE
History



**ANDRÉS TRIANA
SOLÓRZANO**
Anthropology



ELEANOR WOMACK
Slavic Languages and
Literatures



XINYUE ZHANG
History

GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE FELLOWS

Now in its fourth year, our Graduate Professional Experience Fellows program enables a team of Ph.D. students to expand their professional skill set as they develop a deeper understanding of current trends in humanities scholarship. The program began with one (virtual) graduate writing intern in spring 2021 and has since evolved to include a cohort of three GSAS Professional Experience (GPE) Fellows.

GPE Fellows **Maria Teresa Borneo** (Linguistics), **Shwetant Kumar** (Music), and **Mikhail Moosa** (History) worked both as a team and individually to promote a diverse range of humanities events and projects, create engaging written and visual content for various audiences, and strategize ways to build community across disciplines. The fellows were also integral to the successful launch of the Humanities Faculty Bookshelf—a virtual exhibit displayed on the monitors in the Humanities Quadrangle—and the WHC's new Yale Connect page.

2023-24 GPE FELLOWS



MARIA TERESA BORNEO
Linguistics



SHWETANT KUMAR
Music



MIKHAIL MOOSA
History

LECTURES AND EVENTS

FINZI-CONTINI LECTURE

The Finzi-Contini Lecture features a distinguished speaker in the field of comparative literature. For thirty-four years, the lectureship has brought such notable figures as Umberto Eco, Masha Gessen, Amitav Ghosh, Tzvetan Todorov, Hernan Diaz, and Percival Everett to the WHC. The lectureship was endowed in 1990 by the Honorable **Guido Calabresi**, Judge in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and Dr. **Paul Calabresi**, in memory of their mother, **Bianca Maria Finzi-Contini Calabresi**, a scholar of European literature and Professor of Italian at Albertus Magnus College. Since 2021, *The Yale Review* has co-sponsored the Finzi-Contini Lectures and published revised versions of the talks.



This year's lecturer was **Teju Cole**, a celebrated novelist, photographer, critic, curator, and the author of several books, including *Every Day Is for the Thief* and *Tremor*. He has been honored with the PEN/Hemingway Award, the *Internationaler Literaturpreis*, the Windham-Campbell Prize, the New York City Book Award for Fiction, and a Guggenheim Fellowship, among other recognitions. He was the photography critic of the *New York Times Magazine* from 2015 until 2019 and currently teaches at Harvard University as the Gore Vidal Professor of the Practice of Creative Writing.

Students, professors, and poetry enthusiasts filled the HQ lecture hall on February 15, 2024, for “Fabular Turn: On Louise Glück’s Last Three Books,” which focused on the poetry of Yale’s own – and much missed – Nobel laureate Louise Glück. **Meghan O’Rourke** of *The Yale Review* introduced Cole as a writer and artist who has built a body of work about seeing anew – about being truly available in response, morally, politically, and aesthetically. Reading from Glück’s final three books, Cole described how the poems within their pages resemble fables. His lecture gave the audience the opportunity to luxuriate in Glück’s long, fabular poems. “In so many of the ways we are invited to read poetry these days, we are given lines, abridgments, summarizations,” he said during the Q&A. Rarely do we get to experience what he called “the durational gift of the poem itself.” We are grateful to have experienced the durational gifts of Louise Glück’s poems, seen anew from the visionary perspective of Teju Cole. A revised version of the lecture appears in the Summer 2024 issue of *The Yale Review*.

TANNER LECTURES ON HUMAN VALUES

The 2024 Tanner Lectures on Human Values, “Ecology and Equity: Environmental Justice Revisited,” were delivered by **Rob Nixon** April 3–5, 2024. Author of the groundbreaking *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*, Professor Nixon urged members of the Yale and New Haven communities to reconsider the value of the humanities in an era of neoliberal extraction, climate crisis, and inequity.



Nixon is the Thomas A. and Currie C. Barron Family Professor in Humanities and the Environment and Professor of English and the High Meadows Environmental Institute at Princeton University. Author of four books on postcolonial literature and environmental humanities, Professor Nixon is also a frequent contributor to the *New York Times*, where he writes on environmentalism and on literature and culture from the Global South. He has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship, a MacArthur Foundation Peace and Security Fellowship, and a National Endowment for Humanities Fellowship.

LECTURE 1: BREATHING ROOM: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Nixon’s opening slide positioned his work in relation to the Tanner Lectures: in his view, these would be the “Tanner Lectures on Human and More-than-Human Values.” Nixon then reminded the audience that most environmental justice work foregrounds the unequal distribution of environmental harms faced by frontline and fence-line communities, with poorer communities bearing the brunt of the effects of environmental depredation. In contrast, this lecture centered on a less discussed feature of environmental justice, namely unequal access to environmental pleasures.

Before his second-day lecture, Professor Nixon generously met for lunch with the WHC Graduate Fellows in the Environmental Humanities. The conversation offered a preview of his forthcoming book on environmental martyrs, *Blood at the Root: Environmental Martyrs and the Defense of Life*. He encouraged graduate students to think about how they, too, might use stories to galvanize attention, reverberate ideas, and awaken readers to widespread forms of systemic violence.

LECTURE 2: THE WOOD WIDE WEB, NEOLIBERALISM, AND THE SCIENCE OF FOREST COOPERATION

Nixon's second lecture was animated by the question of plant communication. He opened by wondering aloud why the past decade has given rise to such a vast literature on forest sentience, forest suffering, and the capacity of plants to commune with one another. Using Suzanne Simard's coinage of the "wood wide web," Nixon suggests that these natural networks speak to our current obsession with clustered communication—social media, crowdsourcing, swarm behavior, and the hivemind. The interactive forest may suggest an alternate path forward to that promulgated by neoliberal politicians. As neoliberalism rends the social fabric and indeed the web of life, Nixon suggests that forest defenders may emerge as the leaders who build the "vital coalitions of repair."

DAY 3: PANEL DISCUSSION



This breakfast event brought together scholars and students from the university who work in environmental humanities and environmental justice. **Cajetan Iheka** moderated the panel discussion, which featured Nixon in conversation with **Nurfadzilah Yahaya**, assistant professor of history, and **Gerald Torres**, professor of environmental justice at the Yale School of the Environment, professor of law, and founder of the Yale Center for Environmental Justice. At the heart of this conversation was a shared conviction: data-driven fields need the humanities. "The data we rely on needs to be interrogated," said Professor Torres, "not discarded, but interrogated to see what we're *not* looking for and what we're *not* seeing."

HUMANITIES NOW

Humanities Now, a new lecture series at the Whitney Humanities Center, is designed to spark deep thinking, inclusive deliberation, and smart action on current intellectual and social concerns. Founded in fall 2023 by director **Cajetan Iheka**, Humanities Now convenes a thoughtful community to explore important topics in the humanities today. This exploration takes place through conversations with leading scholars, writers, artists, and thinkers who are shaping humanistic discourse, praxis, and activism with their cutting-edge work. The series derives impetus from a global vision of the humanities: one that embraces interdisciplinarity, reflects a range of disciplinary constellations, and accentuates the heterogeneous humanistic traditions within the United States and across the world. It prioritizes innovative approaches to the humanities, especially those that break intellectual boundaries and dismantle walls between the university and broader communities.



SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

LADY JAYDEE, Tanzanian singer
CHIGOZIE OBIOMA, novelist
 Conversation and musical performance at the
 Yale Schwarzman Center

OCTOBER 9, 2023

MARK ANTHONY NEAL, Duke University
 “The Love Languages of Black Fatherhood”

JANUARY 25, 2024

GARY TOMLINSON, Yale (Music)
PAULINE LEVEN, Yale (Classics)
PAUL NORTH, Yale (German)
JOANNA RADIN, Yale (History of Science)
 “Beyond Human Meaning: An Interdisciplinary
 Discussion of Gary Tomlinson’s *The Machines
 of Evolution and the Scope of Meaning*”

MARCH 6, 2024

ARIELLA AÏSHA AZOULAY, Brown University
 Film screening: *The World Like a Jewel in the
 Hand—Unlearning Imperial Plunder II* (2022),
 with Q&A, with Jill Jarvis (French).

MARCH 7, 2024

ARIELLA AÏSHA AZOULAY, Brown University
 “Unlearning Together at the Thresholds of
 Museums”

MARCH 29, 2024

JOE CLEARY, Yale University
DEBJANI GANGULY, University of Virginia
JEANNE-MARIE JACKSON, Johns Hopkins
 University
JONATHAN KRAMNICK, Yale University
ANKHI MUKHERJEE, University of Oxford
ATO QUAYSON, Stanford University
PAUL SAINT-AMOUR, University of
 Pennsylvania
ELAINE SCARRY, Harvard University
 “Vital Books in the Humanities: Method and
 Decolonizing Praxis in Literary Studies”

APRIL 18, 2024

WILLIE JAMES JENNINGS, Yale Divinity School
 “To Build a Sad Land: Coloniality, Racial Rea-
 soning, and the Imagined Built Environment of
 Christian Zionism”

FRANKE LECTURES IN THE HUMANITIES

Ayesha Ramachandran (Comparative Literature) taught the fall 2023 Franke Seminar, “Imagining Global Lyric,” as part of the Humanities Program course offerings. The series featured three distinguished poets who delivered public lectures and attended the seminar the following day. These poets have all confronted the fraught legacies of subjectivity and racial separation in the history of the lyric. Together, their lectures invited audiences to imagine a different way to approach lyric poetry—across cultures, languages, and media.



SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

SRIKANTH “CHICU” REDDY, University of Chicago

“Our first language was English as a Second Language’: A Poetry Reading and Talk on Exophony”

DECEMBER 5, 2023

LINDA GREGERSON, University of Michigan
“Lyric Poetry in an Era of Social Division”

OCTOBER 24, 2023

MARILYN HACKER, poet

“The Subaltern Sonnet: A Canonical Form Centers Unauthorized Voices”

FRANKE VISITING FELLOW LECTURES

Rozina Ali shared her research in two public forums during her Franke Visiting Fellowship: a panel discussion on Islamophobia and Antisemitism with **Mark Oppenheimer**, author of *Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood*, and a lecture exploring the similarities and differences between Islamophobia in the post-9/11 and the post-October 7 eras. Rozina modeled how we—as educators and members of a university community—can engage students of all backgrounds in an open, intellectually nuanced dialogue about Islamophobia and Antisemitism.



FEBRUARY 6, 2024
ROZINA ALI, Franke Visiting Fellow, journalist
 “Islamophobia Yesterday and Today”



FEBRUARY 20, 2024
ROZINA ALI, Franke Visiting Fellow, journalist
MARK OPPENHEIMER, author, Vice President
 of Open Learning at American Jewish
 University
 “How to Think about Islamophobia and
 Antisemitism,” moderated by **Maurice Samuels**

*Co-sponsored by Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism; Yale
 Program for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration;
 MacMillan Council on Middle East Studies; Jewish Studies; and Whitney
 Humanities Center*

THE DR. T PROJECT



Shawkat Toorawa (a.k.a. Dr. T), professor in the departments of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Comparative Literature, continues his partnership with the WHC. His afternoon gatherings known as the Dr. T Project offer thirty minutes of “three things worth knowing”: one literary item, one musical item, and one general cultural item. The “three things” are accompanied by shortbread and elderflower pressé. Dr. T draws a big crowd of loyal followers for this Thursday tradition.

HONORING JOHN BOSWELL: NOT A TAME LION



The Whitney Humanities Center hosted a special screening of Craig Bettendorf's documentary *Not a Tame Lion* (2023), honoring the life and legacy of the late John Boswell. One of the first openly gay professors at Yale University, Boswell revolutionized LGBTQ scholarship with his research on religion and homosexuality in the Middle Ages. At Yale, he helped establish the Lesbian and Gay Studies Center, later the Research Fund for Lesbian and Gay Studies. Beloved by students, Boswell, the A. Whitney Griswold Professor of History, was posthumously awarded the Harwood F. Byrnes/Richard B. Sewall Teaching Prize in 1995, the year after he died of AIDS-related complications at age forty-seven.



Family, friends, and colleagues of Boswell, along with a new generation of students, gathered on September 28, 2023, to commemorate this remarkable scholar. The event began with remarks by Boswell's sister, **Patricia Boswell**, and Professor **Regina Kunzel** (Department of History and Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies). A panel discussion featuring **Craig Bettendorf**, Dean **Kathryn Lofton**, and Boswell's former student **George Chauncey**, director of the Columbia Research Initiative on the Global History of Sexualities, and moderated by Professor **Hussein Fancy** (History), offered further insights into Boswell's life and work. The screening and discussion served as both a poignant reminder of the tremendous intellect we have lost and a celebration of an extraordinary scholar and friend to many.

Co-sponsored by Departments of History, Spanish and Portuguese, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Program in Medieval Studies, Yale Research Initiative on the History of Sexualities, and Whitney Humanities Center

TRANSLATING HISTORY IN BULGARIAN FICTION



Balkan choral music set the stage for literary translator **Angela Rodel** ('96) on January 30, 2024. The Yale Slavic Chorus filled the Alice Cinema with bright, melodic harmonies sung in Bulgarian, and Rodel, a former member of the chorus, joined the Yale College singers in a musical homecoming. Rodel then delivered her lecture, “Cem Sultan and the Discreet Monsters of the Past: Translation Strategies for History in Bulgarian Fiction,” co-sponsored by the Yale Translation Initiative.

Focusing on her recent translations of Georgi Gospodinov’s 2023 Booker International prize-winning novel *Time Shelter* and Vera Mutaŭchieva’s 1968 historical novel *The Case of Cem*, Rodel explored the challenges of translating history in Bulgarian fiction. From Gospodinov’s absurdist portrayal of a dangerous collective nostalgia to Mutaŭchieva’s sly humor, both novels approach history in unorthodox ways, presenting a formidable task for the translator. Non-Bulgarian readers, as Rodel pointed out, experience both temporal and lexical distance, requiring a delicate balance to preserve the essence of the original. **Carla Baricz**, Sterling Library, articulated the stakes of this work in her opening remarks: “More than ever, it is important that works like Mutaŭchieva’s make their way into English because they counter narratives that treat Bulgarian, and Eastern European literature more generally, as somehow exotic.”

Co-sponsored by Yale Translation Initiative and Whitney Humanities Center

OTHER CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

BAUDELAIRE'S WORLDS CONFERENCE

Participants included Robert F. Barsky, Ramla Bédoui, R. Howard Bloch, Dominique Brancher, Laurent Dubreuil, Kaiama L. Glover, Paul Grimstad, Michèle Hannoosh, Elissa Marder, Pierre Saint-Amand, Maurice Samuels, Andrea Schellino, Patrick Thériault, Seth Whidden, and Catherine Witt.

With the support of the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States

OCTOBER 11, 2023

CAROLYN BAUGH, author

Writing Muslims Speaker Series: Public reading from *Shoreline*

Co-sponsored by the American Studies Program, the Departments of Comparative Literature, English, and Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, and Whitney Humanities Center

OCTOBER 25, 2023

SEBASTIAN KLINGER, University of Vienna

"The Big and Noble Family of Barbiturates": Proust, Nabokov, and the Literary History of the Sleeping Pill"

Co-sponsored by Slavic Languages and Literatures, Department of French, and Whitney Humanities Center

OCTOBER 25, 2023

AISHA GAWAD, author

Writing Muslims Speaker Series: Public reading from *Between Two Moons*

Co-sponsored by the American Studies Program, the Departments of Comparative Literature, English, and Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, and Whitney Humanities Center

OCTOBER 31, 2023

JEAN KHALFA, University of Cambridge

"Madness and Colonialism in Frantz Fanon's Thought"

Co-sponsored by Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration; Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library; Whitney Humanities Center; Program in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration; Department of the History of Art; Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

SAHAR MURADI, author

Writing Muslims Speaker Series: Public reading from *OCTOBERS*

Co-sponsored by the American Studies Program, the Departments of Comparative Literature, English, and Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, and Whitney Humanities Center

MARCH 4, 2024

COLLEEN MCQUILLEN, USC Dornsife

"Mining the Earth: Narratives and Natural Resources in Russian at the *Fin de Siècle*"

Co-sponsored by Environmental Humanities and the Whitney Humanities Center working group "Eurasian Ecologies"

MARCH 5, 2024

LYNDSEY BEUTIN, Princeton University and McMaster University

"Trafficking in Antiracism: Modern-Day Slavery, White Indemnity, and Racial Justice"

Co-sponsored by Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Public Humanities at Yale; Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration; and Whitney Humanities Center

MARCH 28, 2024

GISELA HEFFES, Rice University and Johns Hopkins University

LIZABETH PARAVISINI, Vassar College

HANNAH COLE, Harvard University

in conversation with

LUNA NÁJERA, Yale University

SANTIAGO ACOSTA, Yale University

"Thinking, Caring, and Doing: Perspectives from Latin American Environmental Humanities"

Co-sponsored by Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Yale Environmental Humanities, and Whitney Humanities Center

APRIL 3, 2024

SANDRA RICHTER, Director of the German Literature Archive Marbach

"The Archival Pact: The Practice of Archival Reading and the Example of Rilke's *Malte Laurids Brigge*"

Co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and Whitney Humanities Center

APRIL 9, 2024

UBAH CRISTINA ALI FARAH, Somali Italian poet, novelist, playwright, and oral performer in conversation with

AMARA LAKHOUS, Italian Studies

JANE TYLUS, Italian Studies

The Yale Mediterranean Series

Co-sponsored by the Department of Italian Studies, the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund, Diversity in Italian Studies, and Whitney Humanities Center

APRIL 26, 2024

HALA ALYAN, poet and author

NATALIE DIAZ, poet and language activist

ROBIN D. G. KELLEY, UCLA

“We Teach Life’: An Evening of Poetry and Conversation about Palestine”

Co-sponsored by the American Studies Program; the Departments of History, African American Studies, Music, and Ethnicity Race & Migration; Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration; Yale MacMillan Center Council on Middle East Studies; and Whitney Humanities Center

MAY 1, 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

Graduate participants include Kamil Ah-san, Shoko Yamada, Kristine Ericson, Xiyao Fu, Junhan Hu, Marcus Yee, Anika Reynar, Gino Marcelo Rivera Bulnes, Alberto Martinez Garcia, Ankush Arora, and Jack L. Markowitz. Faculty moderators: Sunil Amrith, Lloyd Alimboyoyan, and Pauline LeVen

Co-sponsored by Yale Environmental Humanities, the 320 York Humanities Grant Program, Yale School of the Environment, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale School of Architecture, and the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund

MAY 15, 2024

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS & IDEAS

Ghost Mountain: The Second Killing Fields of Cambodia—film screening and Q&A with Mae Bunseng Taing and James Taing

With the support of the Whitney Humanities Center

JUNE 15, 2024

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS & IDEAS

“Ideas Summit: Environmental Voices”

With the support of Connecticut Humanities, Connecticut Public, Gordon Geballe Environmental Series, and Whitney Humanities Center

JUNE 22, 2024

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS & IDEAS

“Ideas Summit: How We Live”

With the support of Connecticut Humanities, WPKN, and Whitney Humanities Center

JUNE 29, 2024

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS & IDEAS

“Ideas Summit: Intersections in the Arts”

With the support of Connecticut Humanities, Connecticut Public, and Whitney Humanities Center

WHITNEY PUBLISHING PROJECT

The Whitney Publishing Project helps scholars in the humanities navigate the publication process—from first article to first book and beyond. Since 2022, the project has supported humanities publishing in a variety of ways: workshops, editors-in-residence, and grants for faculty editing major journals. The project is headed by our deputy director, **Diane Berrett Brown**, who brings decades of experience as an editor for scholarly publications, including *Diacritics*.



In addition to the editor-in-residence, humanities faculty digital bookshelf, and the faculty book celebration, each detailed below, the Whitney Publishing Project planned three smaller, targeted events. In November, we brought two specialists from Yale University Library, **Sandra Enimil** and **Lindsay Barnett**, to present a lunch workshop: “Who Owns Your Research? Copyright, Authors’ Rights, and Open Access.” In March, **Lisa Voigt** (Spanish and Portuguese) and Diane Berrett Brown planned an afternoon of workshops for faculty and graduate students involved in editorial work for humanities journals. These sessions were geared specifically toward scholars who play significant editorial roles in scholarly journals. Yale editors were joined by **Dana Leibsohn** (Smith College, *Colonial Latin American Review*) and **Jorge Tellez** (University of Pennsylvania, *Hispanic Review*). Leibsohn and Tellez, who are lead editors for two of the top journals in Spanish and Portuguese studies, spent the morning meeting with graduate students in Spanish and Portuguese. The afternoon sessions allowed for brainstorming and idea sharing on a range of topics, including open access, inclusivity, distribution, labor and staffing, special issues, best practices for peer review, fairness and equity. The workshop then moved to a larger room for a roundtable discussion and Q&A geared toward graduate students. Lisa Voigt moderated the panel, with Leibsohn, Tellez, and Brown. An audience eager to learn about publishing in interdisciplinary humanities journals packed the room for the panel discussion.

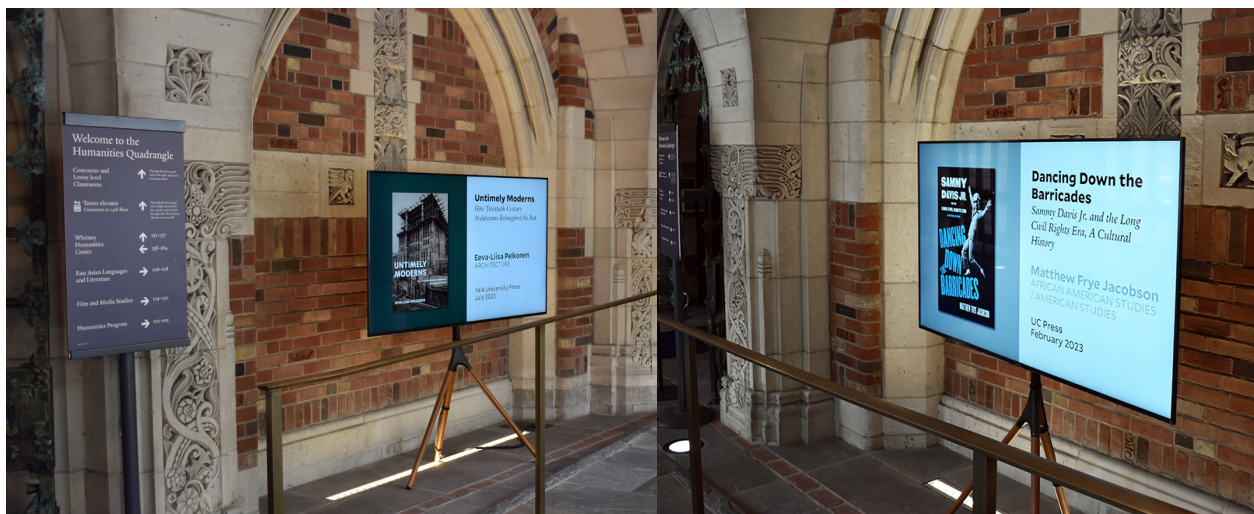
SPRING 2024 EDITOR-IN-RESIDENCE



Sharmila Sen, Editorial Director and Director of Special Initiatives at Harvard University Press, joined us as the project's second editor-in-residence, from February 26 to March 1: in conversation with **Sunil Amrith**, the Renu and Anand Dhawan Professor of History, and then in individual consultations throughout the week with scholars across the humanities to discuss book projects. During a very full week, she met with more than twenty scholars; these meetings offered faculty and postdoctoral fellows an opportunity to receive tailored feedback and advice from a leading editor of scholarly books in the humanities.

HUMANITIES FACULTY BOOKSHELF

The Whitney Publishing Project supports faculty at all stages of the publication process, including the celebration of their achievements. In fall 2023, the WHC launched the Humanities Faculty Bookshelf, a virtual exhibit with a slide for each new faculty book on the monitor in entrance of the Humanities Quadrangle. This display, managed by communications officer **Megan O'Donnell** and supported by our graduate professional experience fellows, featured 144 books published in 2022, 2023, and early 2024 by Yale faculty.



HUMANITIES FACULTY BOOK CELEBRATION

December 2023 saw the WHC's inaugural book party, where humanities faculty gathered to celebrate more than a hundred books published by their colleagues within the last year. The festive occasion featured refreshments, live music, and a looping slideshow of book covers displayed on two large monitors. Dean **Kathryn Lofton** congratulated the authors and stressed the importance of humanities scholarship at time when uncertainty and the unknown are often met with violence instead of curiosity.



RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION SUPPORT

The Whitney Humanities Center administers two Yale funds in support of faculty research and publication. Decisions are made each year by a faculty committee appointed by the director and deputy director of the WHC: this year's committee was led by **Joseph Fischel**, WGSS, with **Greta LaFleur**, American Studies and WGSS. The **A. Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Fund** was established to support Yale faculty research in the humanities. It awards grants for specific humanities research projects to faculty from across the disciplinary spectrum at Yale. Grants up to \$8,000 per academic year may be sought for purposes such as travel to access primary-source materials and research assistance. The **Frederick W. Hilles Publication Fund** helps defray the costs of publishing scholarly books in the humanities. Applicants must have a publishing contract in hand to be eligible for Hilles funding, which covers expenses such as indexing, images, charts and maps, copyediting, fact checking, publisher's subventions, and translations. Applicants may be awarded up to \$7,000 for any one book.

WHITNEY GRISWOLD FACULTY RESEARCH FUND

GRISWOLD RESEARCH AWARDS, NOVEMBER 2023

Claire Roosien (Slavics)	Travel to Central Asia (Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan) in search of primary sources pertaining to narratives of the environment and the Aral Sea crisis.
Joseph Fischel (WGSS)	Travel to two conferences, presenting papers on the legal right to sex work and the absolution of sexual assault law.
Ana Ramos-Zayas (ERM)	Research assistance to do preliminary archival and social mapping research on neighborhoods of NYC.
Jing Tsu (East Asian Languages and Literatures)	Institutional archival research in China for book project "Future Shapers: Science Fiction, Technology, and Culture in China."
John MacKay (Film and Media Studies)	Research in Serbia to view the archives of actor Pavle Vuisić.
Evren Savci (WGSS)	Developmental editor for book project "Monogamy and Its Discontents."
Stephen Darwall (Philosophy)	Copyediting and indexing for two forthcoming books: <i>Modern Moral Philosophy in the Twentieth Century</i> (Cambridge UP) and <i>The Heart and Its Attitudes</i> (Oxford UP).
Quincy Ngan (History of Art)	Travel to Asia, visiting the Hong Kong Palace Museum (Hong Kong), Asian Art Archives (Hong Kong), and National Palace Museum (Taipei).
Marco Ramos (History of Science and Medicine)	Travel to Córdoba, Argentina to work in the Archivo Gregorio Bermann, activist and psychoanalyst.

Serena Tucci (Anthropology)	Support use of ancient DNA technologies to investigate novel diagnostic proxies for identifying malaria, in samples extracted from two members of the Medici family who died of malaria in Florence in the 16th century.
Craig Buckley (History of Art)	Travel to São Paulo Brazil to access documents related to the history of cinema architecture and urbanization in Brazil.
Serena Bassi (Italian Studies)	Travel and living costs in Bologna for work on the first cultural history of the Italian queer movement in the years of its burgeoning, from 1968 to 1977.
Jessica Lamont (Classics)	Travel to Athens to access primary-source documents that pertain to Greek female healers from c. 500-300 BCE.
Nurfadzilah Yahaya (History)	Travel to The Netherlands to do archival research into the Dutch engineering companies contracted by British colonial governments to reclaim land.
Greta LaFleur (American Studies)	Travel to archives to locate commutations petitions from New England historical societies.
Daniel HoSang (ERM)	Archival visits (Philadelphia, Washington DC, Truman State, Stanford) for a book on the American Eugenics Society and its ties to Yale (1920s and 1930s).

GRISWOLD RESEARCH AWARDS, MARCH 2024

Paris Aslanidis (Political Science)	Archival research at the National Library of Greece, for project on Eleftherios Venizelos.
Hal Brooks (Theater and Performance Studies)	Funds for travel to four new play development festivals.
Ardis Butterfield (English)	Research assistance to complete a new edition of <i>Medieval English Lyrics</i> for Norton Critical Editions.
Emily Coates (Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies)	Research at the Bibliothèque nationale de France: Nyota Inyoka Archive.
Hi'ilei Hobart (ERM)	Travel to Hawai'i to conduct interviews with filmmaker Joan Lander, descendants of the Ka'elemakule and Magoon families, and state parks employees.
Jill Jarvis (French)	Travel to Sri Lanka to work with Kanchuka Dharmasiri on the Sinhala translation and performance of Eugène Ionesco's <i>La cantatrice chauve</i> .

Andrei Kureichik (Slavic)	Research, digitization, and retrieval of manuscripts from the unique archive of the Belarusian diaspora in the USA, which was collected over 70 years by the Belarusian church community in Brooklyn, in Belarusian churches and community in South River, NJ, and the Krichevsky Foundation.
Fatima Naqvi (German)	Research assistance with images (scanning, copyrights) for forthcoming book.
Quincy Ngan (History of Art)	Line editing for one chapter of book on utilization and interpretation of azurite from 15th to 19th centuries in China.
Jessica Peritz (Music)	Research in Italy for work on second book, <i>Histories Out of Time: Opera Seria and the Limits of Historicism</i> .
Sally Promey (American Studies, Religious Studies)	Travel to Hawai'i to conduct research at the Bishop Museum and elsewhere on the American art critic James Jackson Jarvis.
Amanda Reid (Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies)	Research trip to Jamaica (obtain rights to photographs from a private collection) and Trinidad (archives of Beryl McBurnie).
Karin Roffman (Humanities)	Research on John Ashbery's two trips to Japan (1989 and 1995): interviews with poets, journalists, professors.
Melanie Ross (Divinity)	Archival research for project on early and mid-century evangelical music: Southern Baptist Historical Archives (Nashville) and Evangelism and Missions Archives (Wheaton College).
Nari Shelekpáyev (Slavic)	Travel to Brazil and Canada to conduct research for first book, <i>Visible Power: The Global History of Capital Cities</i> .

FREDERICK W. HILLES PUBLICATION FUND

HILLES PUBLICATION GRANTS, NOVEMBER 2023

Alice Kaplan (French)	<i>Baya ou le grand vernissage</i>
David Engerman (History)	<i>Apostles of Development: Six Economists and the World They Made</i>
Edyta Bojanowska (Slavic)	<i>A World of Empires: The Russian Voyage of the Frigate Pallada</i>
Jinyi Chu (Slavic)	<i>Fin-de-siècle Russia and Chinese Aesthetics</i>
Jonathan Howard (English and African American Studies)	<i>Inhabitants of the Deep: The Blueness of Blackness</i>

Jennifer Raab (History of Art)	<i>Relics of War: The History of a Photograph</i>
Lisa Kereszi and Benjamin Donaldson (School of Art)	<i>IN</i>
Marissa Bass (History of Art)	<i>The Monument's End: Public Art and the Modern Republic</i>
Naomi Levine (English)	<i>The Burden of Rhyme: Victorian Poetry, Formalism, and the Feeling of Literary History</i>

HILLES PUBLICATION GRANTS, APRIL 2024

Andrea Aldrich (Political Science)	<i>Gender Quotas as Game Changers for the Recruitment, Selection, and Performance of Elected Politicians</i>
Marijeta Bozovic (Slavic)	<i>Avant-Garde Post — : Radical Poetics after the Soviet Union</i>
Rohit De (History)	<i>Assembling India's Constitution: A New History</i>
Denise Ho (History)	<i>Curating Revolution: Politics on Display in Mao's China (Chinese translation)</i>
Nicholas Jones (Spanish and Portuguese)	<i>Cervantine Blackness</i>
Benedito Machava (History)	<i>The Morality of Revolution: Reeducation Camps and the Politics of Punishment in Socialist Mozambique, 1968–1990</i>
Nana Osei Quarshie (History)	<i>An African Pharmakon: Psychiatry and the Mind Politic of Modern Ghana (open access)</i>
Giauco Schettini (Humanities)	<i>The Invention of Catholicism: A Global Intellectual History of the Catholic Counterrevolution, 1780–1849</i>

HUMANITIES/HUMANITY

Humanities/Humanity brings together small groups to advance thought about foundational topics connecting disciplines. Launched by former WHC Director **Gary Tomlinson** in 2014, the program encourages scholars from multiple disciplines to learn from one another in workshops that tend to break from the traditional format of academic conferences. Each year, the program enables experts, near and far, to gather in person: these gatherings can be seminars, workshops, discussion groups, or conferences.

This year, we funded five Humanities/Humanity workshops on topics ranging from the colonial archive to community storytelling.

2023-24 HUMANITIES/HUMANITY WORKSHOPS

'80s Remix: Global Culture Beyond the Three World

Jinyi Chu (Slavic)
Michael Denning (English)
Evren Savci (WGSS)
Nari Shelekpavev (Slavic)

The 1980s: a decade of capitalism, conservatism, and questionable fashion choices. But it was also a decade of unprecedented encounters between audiences and artifacts from across the globe, and of the commercialization of culture that inevitably resulted. '80s Remix: Global Culture Beyond the Three Worlds brought together perspectives from history, political science, sociology, cultural studies, and gender and sexualities studies to explore this startlingly interconnected alternate history of the 1980s, as well as its impact on subsequent political and economic events.

What Is a Colonial Archive?

Priyasha Mukhopadhyay (English)
Lucy Mulrone (Beinecke)
Ayesha Ramachandran (Comparative Literature)
Erika Valdivieso (Classics)

Over the last decade, there have been increasing calls to “decolonize” the archive. Underlying these calls for decolonization is a more fundamental question: what is the colonial archive? The colonial archive writ large is a multilingual, trans-historical, multimedia archive created by and against colonial regimes of power. Decolonizing it entails acknowledging how imperial powers policed the inclusion and exclusion of documents and historical subjects. This Humanities/Humanity series consisted of three lunchtime conversations focusing on items in Yale’s special collections, as well as a symposium and associated workshop that built toward collaborative frameworks for future teaching, research, and stewardship efforts.

Trajectories of Constituent Power

Lucia Rubinelli (Political Science)
Isaac Nakhimovsky (History)
Samuel Moyn (History/Law)

Constituent power has become a key tenet of political theory and constitutional thought globally. How has its meaning changed across space and time? How have scholars extended the concept beyond its original context, the French Revolution? This interdisciplinary conference aimed to recover, analyze, and systematize the meaning and implications of constituent power for democracy today.

Storytelling and Community Well-being: Healing Our Communities Through Communal Narrative Change

Thomas Allen Harris (FMS/African American Studies)
Laura Wexler (American Studies/WGSS)
Elihu Rubin (American Studies)
Marta Figlerowicz (Comparative Literature/English)
Charlie Musser (American Studies/FMS/Theater Studies)

Storytelling is the mechanism we use to understand the world around us and to define our place in it. How can storytelling help us understand and address the systemic causes of collective distress in our communities? This Humanities/Humanity colloquium examined the role of communal narratives, the stories we tell ourselves, in contextualizing our individual and collective relationships to modern social, cultural, and political systems. Using a multidisciplinary approach, scholars and practitioners explored the use of storytelling and narrative change in addressing the social determinants of community well-being and helped identify concrete actions to heal societal, cultural, national, and global challenges.

WORKING GROUPS



The Whitney Humanities Center provides annual funding to discipline-based and transdisciplinary working groups that bring together faculty, students, and other researchers from across the humanities at Yale. These working groups—many of which have existed for several years—remain productive and varied, with topics ranging from cuneiform to pre-modern environmental humanities to American religious history.

Each working group has an annual budget of \$500 (intended primarily to provide refreshments for meetings), with the possibility of up to an additional \$500 per year for nonfood expenses. Among the many opportunities these additional funds enabled during the 2023–24 academic year were two notable excursions to New York City. In October 2023, the American Classicisms Working Group went to La MaMa Experimental Theater Club for a preview performance of Caitlin George’s new play, *Helen*. In April 2024, the Dante Working Group turned a bustling transit hub into an impromptu stage for medieval poetry with “Dante Underground”—a public reading of Dante Alighieri’s *Inferno* in the Times Square subway station.

2023–24 WORKING GROUPS

American Classicisms	Film Studies at Yale	Philosophy and the Built Environment
American Religious History	Gender Work	Post-Kantian European Philosophy
Ancient Philosophy	Global Philosophy Reading Group	Pre-Modern Environmental Humanities (PMEH)
Arabic Philosophy	Hittite	Reading the Queer Hispanophone
Caribbean Studies	Labor and Film	Religion and the Black Radical Tradition
Cultural Foundations of Law and Public Administration	Law and Humanities	Third-World
Culture and Technology	Marxism and Cultural Theory	Topics in Literature and Contemporary Theory
Dante	Medieval Latin Reading Group	Yale Cuneiform
ELLM City (Philosophy)	Medieval Song Lab	
Early Modern Philosophy	Modern and Contemporary Brazil	
East Asian Media History and Theory	Moral Philosophy	
Eurasian Ecologies	Opera Studies Today	
	Osip Mandelstam Working Group	

FILMS AT THE WHITNEY



We began the year in collaboration with the Yale Film Archive to celebrate the centenary of the birth of the Senegalese director Ousmane Sembène. *Early Ousmane Sembène* included Sembène's first five feature-length films and two of his early shorts, supplemented by introductions and a panel discussion.

Throughout the year Films at the Whitney benefited from the expertise and enthusiasm of graduate students in Film and Media Studies. Our fall 2023 film screenings were curated by **Amrita Chakravarty**, **Lora Maslenitsyna**, and **Andrew Robbin**. These screenings culminated in the visit of the documentarian Amit Madheshiya and a screening of his award-winning *Cinema Travellers*. In Spring 2024, Andrew and Lora, working with the newly hired FAS Film Programming Manager, **Marc Francis**, put together a successful series beginning with the cult classic *W.R.: Mysteries of the Organism*.

Lorenz Hegel (German Studies and FMS) collaborated with **Diane Brown** and the curators of *Munch and Kirchner: Anxiety and Expression* at the Yale University Art Gallery to produce a series on German Expressionism. The final screening, Robert Wiene's *The Hands of Orlac*, featured the renowned silent-film musicians **Donald Sosin** and **Joanna Seaton**, who performed to a packed auditorium.

A highlight of the year in films was our collaboration with Film and Media Studies to bring the French-Senegalese director **Alice Diop** to a screening of her award-winning *Saint-Omer*.

We look forward to working with Marc Francis next year. Working together, we put out a call for proposals from graduate students across FAS for two curated series in the 2024–25 academic year.

EARLY OUSMANE SEMBÈNE: THE FIRST FILMS FROM THE FATHER OF AFRICAN CINEMA

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

BOROM SARRET
Ousmane Sembène, 1963

BLACK GIRL
Ousmane Sembène, 1966

Post-screening discussion with **Doyle Calhoun**, **Dudley Andrew**, and **Archer Neilson**.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

TAUW
Ousmane Sembène, 1970

MANDABI
Ousmane Sembène, 1968

OCTOBER 8, 2023

EMITAÏ
Ousmane Sembène, 1971

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

XALA
Ousmane Sembène, 1975

Post-screening discussion with **Kenneth Harrow** and **Cajetan Iheka**.

DECEMBER 7, 2023

CEDDO
Ousmane Sembène, 1977

Series presented by Yale Film Archive and Whitney Humanities Center

TWO MILESTONES IN GERMAN EXPRESSIONISM

APRIL 11, 2024

THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI
Robert Wiene, 1920

MAY 23, 2024

THE HANDS OF ORLAC
Robert Wiene, 1924

With live score performed by internationally renowned silent-film musicians **Donald Sosin** and **Joanna Seaton**

Series presented by Yale University Art Gallery and Whitney Humanities Center

STANDALONE SCREENINGS

OCTOBER 7, 2023

I AM CUBA
Mikhail Kalatozov, 1964

NOVEMBER 11, 2023

A NIGHT OF KNOWING NOTHING
Payal Kapadia, 2021

DECEMBER 2, 2023

THE CINEMA TRAVELLERS
Shirley Abraham and Amit Madheshiya, 2016

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

W.R.: MYSTERIES OF THE ORGANISM
Dušan Makavejev, 1971

APRIL 13, 2024

SHOWING UP
Kelly Reichardt, 2022

APRIL 17, 2024

SAINT OMER
Alice Diop, 2022

Followed by a Q&A with **Alice Diop**, in conversation with **Yasmina Price**, Ph.D. candidate in African American Studies and Film and Media Studies, **Claire Demoulin**, and **Oksana Chefranova**, associate research scholars in Film and Media Studies

Co-sponsored by Film and Media Studies and Whitney Humanities Center

APRIL 19, 2024

HOW TO SAVE A DEAD FRIEND
Marusya Syroechkovskaya, 2022

AFFILIATED PROGRAMS

FRANKE PROGRAM IN SCIENCE AND THE HUMANITIES

The Franke Program in Science and the Humanities aims to foster communication, mutual understanding, collaborative research and teaching among diverse scientific and humanistic disciplines. The director of the Franke Program is **Priyamvada Natarajan**, Joseph S. and Sophia S. Fruton Professor of Astronomy and Professor of Physics, with the support of assistant director, **Tahia Kamp**.

The 2023–24 academic year was a busy one for the Franke Program in Science and the Humanities, which hosted three film screenings, three co-sponsored events with the Yale Quantum Institute (YQI), three book talks, and an international workshop for our Inference Project series.

“Yale Inference Workshop: Probing the Nature of Inference from Data, Models and Simulations across Disciplines” was the culmination of our ongoing multidisciplinary exploration project *Understanding the Nature of Inference: Correlation and Causation*. During the course of this colloquium series, we explored how inference models operate across disciplines by learning from each other. To this end, we endeavored to go beyond our respective vantage points, across fields and into a new epistemic framework to define causal relationships and how they function.

During the December 2023 workshop, experts from varied disciplines presented how they set up problem solving given the complexity of systems that they model. A key question they were asked to address, in addition to explaining the current landscape of modeling methodologies, was how a near-future data deluge is likely to impact their modeling methodologies. Most fields stand to transform dramatically with the influx of new data expected within the next two to five years. How current conceptual models will need to be refined and altered in this scenario were discussed within the talks and amongst our numerous participants.

We are indebted to The Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund and The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale, as well as to the John Templeton Foundation, for the generous funding we have received to bring this workshop to fruition.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

PIPPA EHRLICH, co-director

Screening of *My Octopus Teacher* and post-film discussion

OCTOBER 4, 2023

KLEM JANKIEWICZ, Classiq Technologies

“Quantum is In. Code is Out!—Designing No-Code Experiences for User-Interactions with Quantum Technology”

Co-sponsored by the Yale Quantum Institute and the Franke Program in Science and the Humanities

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

CARLOS EIRE, Yale University

“They Flew: A History of the Impossible”

DECEMBER 14–15, 2023

YALE INFERENCE WORKSHOP: PROBING THE NATURE OF INFERENCE FROM DATA, MODELS AND SIMULATIONS ACROSS DISCIPLINES

International Conference

JANUARY 24, 2024

ANDREW KOH, Yale University

“From Cross Campus to West Campus to Science Hill: The Yale Ancient Pharmacology Program”

MARCH 26, 2024

IRENE LUSZTIG, director

Screening of *Richland* and post-film discussion

APRIL 4, 2024

CHRISTIAN COOPER, science writer

ROBERT LAMOTHE, Yale University

“In Conversation with Christian Cooper: Observing the Observer”

Co-sponsored by Yale School of the Environment; CT Audubon Society; the New Alliance Foundation; Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development; Community Foundation of Greater New Haven; Arts Council of Greater New Haven; City of New Haven Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism; New Haven Bird Club; Mobley Family Fund for Environmental Humanities at Yale; and the Franke Program in Science and the Humanities

APRIL 19–20, 2024

SYMPOSIUM

“Global Environment in Early Modernity”

Co-sponsored by Yale Environmental Humanities, the Dean's Fund, the Program in Early Modern Studies, and the Franke Program in Science and the Humanities

APRIL 21, 2024

STEPHEN BATCHELOR, writer, translator, teacher, and artist

BHIKKHU SANTI, monk, writer, and teacher

“Secular Buddhism and the Timeless: A Conversation with Stephen Batchelor and Bhikkhu Santi”

Co-sponsored by Yale University Chaplain's Office, Yale Buddhist Student Community, Good Life Center, and the Franke Program in Science and the Humanities

MAY 1, 2024

NICHOLAS MILKOVICH, Massachusetts College of Art and Design

“Your Cells are Leaking! The Uncanny Bio-mechanical World of Polyethylene Art”

Co-sponsored by the Yale Quantum Institute and the Franke Program in Science and the Humanities

JUNE 10, 2024

SERENA SCAPAGNINI, visual artist

“The Shape of Thoughts: Down the Flowering River of Tributaries Neurons”

Co-sponsored by the Yale Quantum Institute and the Franke Program in Science and the Humanities

YALE PROGRAM FOR THE STUDY OF ANTISEMITISM

The Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism (YPSA) seeks to bring the resources of Yale and its faculty to bear on the problem of antisemitism, inviting scholars from across the university to analyze antisemitism in an atmosphere of interdisciplinary collaboration and scholarly inquiry. YPSA sponsors lectures by leading scholars – both in person and over Zoom. It also hosts an annual conference focused on a specific theme; this year’s conference, “Rethinking Bystanders,” was organized around Michael Rothberg’s book *The Implicated Subject: Beyond Victims and Perpetrators*. All events are open to the public. Director **Maurice Samuels** was joined in 2023–24 by a postdoctoral fellow, **David Austin Walsh**, author of *Taking America Back: The Conservative Movement and the Far Right* (Yale UP, 2024). During the 2023–24 academic year, amid the violence and global strife of the Israel-Palestine conflict, YPSA provided a platform for rigorous analysis and thoughtful discussion of both past and present forms of antisemitism.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

MARTHA HODES, New York University
“Memory, History, Politics: A Hostage Revisits a 1970 Hijacking,” moderated by **Maurice Samuels**, YPSA director

OCTOBER 5, 2023*

AYAL FEINBERG, director of the Center for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights at Gratz College
“Clarifying Antisemitism through Experiments: Exploring Blame, Responsibility, and Hate Crime”

OCTOBER 25, 2023

BRYAN CHEYETTE, University of Reading / University of Southampton
“Edwardian Popular Culture and Everyday Antisemitism,” moderated by **Maurice Samuels**, YPSA director

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

KENNETH STERN, director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate
“Antisemitism after October 7,” moderated by **Maurice Samuels**, YPSA director

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

MICHELLE KAHN, University of Richmond
“Antisemitism across Borders: German and American Neo-Nazis, 1970s–1990s,” moderated by **David Austin Walsh**, YPSA postdoctoral associate

NOVEMBER 15, 2023*

JENNIFER MITTELSTADT, Rutgers University
“Fighting World Government: Revisiting the Grassroots Campaigns Against the UN and Liberal Internationalism in Postwar America”

JANUARY 22, 2024

DIANA FERSKO, Rabbi at The Village Temple in Manhattan
“Antisemitism in a Post–October 7 World”

JANUARY 24, 2024

MAGDA TETER, Fordham University
“Antisemitism and Racism: A Shared History,” moderated by **David Austin Walsh**, YPSA postdoctoral associate

JANUARY 29, 2024*

JEREMY EICHLER, *Boston Globe*
SEBASTIAN RUTH, violist and educator
“Listening to Lost Time”

FEBRUARY 12, 2024*

SIMON SEBAG MONTEFIORE, historian
“Questioning the Settler-Colonialist Paradigm”

FEBRUARY 20, 2024*

ROZINA ALI, Franke Visiting Fellow, journalist
MARK OPPENHEIMER, author, Vice President of Open Learning at American Jewish University
“How to Think about Islamophobia and Antisemitism”

FEBRUARY 26, 2024

MAURICE SAMUELS, director of the Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism
“Alfred Dreyfus: The Man at the Center of the Affair,” moderated by **Alice Kaplan**, Yale (French)

MARCH 26, 2024*

CAROLYN J. DEAN, Yale University
ROBIN CELIKATES, Freie Universität
KAIAMA L. GLOVER, Yale University
JILL JARVIS, Yale University
JOSH LEIFER, Yale University
“Rethinking Bystanders”

MARCH 27, 2024

RENÉE POZNANSKI, Ben Gurion University
“The French Resistance and the Persecution of the Jews during WWII,” moderated by **Maurice Samuels**, YPSA director

APRIL 9, 2024*

DAVID AUSTIN WALSH, YPSA postdoctoral associate
LILA BERMAN, Temple University
HASIA DINER, New York University
JOSEPH FRONCZAK, Princeton University
“Rethinking the Fringe: A Roundtable Discussion on *Taking America Back: The Conservative Movement and the Far Right*”

APRIL 15, 2024*

EVA ILLOUZ, Directrice d’Études at the EHESS
“Is Theory Antisemitic?”

APRIL 17, 2024

MAURICE SAMUELS, director of the Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism
EVA ILLOUZ, Directrice d’Études at the EHESS
JASON STANLEY, Yale University
EDIEAL PINKER, Yale University
ELLI STERN, Yale University
“Jewish Responses to October 7”

*IN-PERSON EVENT

OUR PEOPLE



CAJETAN IHEKA
Director



DIANE BERRETT BROWN
Deputy Director



MEGAN O'DONNELL
Associate Communications
Officer



SANDRA MALAN-BOWLES
Program Manager



ASHLEIGH COHEN
Operations Manager
(replaced Tisheena Harris
November 2023)



INESSA LASKOVA
Senior Administrative
Assistant



MATTHEW HAGAN
Program Coordinator (left
the WHC April 2024)

Report prepared by Megan O'Donnell and Diane Berrett Brown, with Cajetan Iheka