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**THE FRANKE INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**  
2022-2023 BULLETIN

## SOLIDARITY STATEMENT

The Franke Institute for the Humanities has worked with the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes to draft a statement of solidarity with Black Lives Matter and related movements around the world. We post it here on behalf of CHCI and as a declaration of the Institute's own values and commitments.

Black lives matter. The murders, in the United States, of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others expose exploitations and inequities rooted in more than four centuries of colonialism, enslavement, and the violation of civil and human rights.

The international advisory board of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) stands in solidarity with those protesting racist forms of injustice and police violence. We commit to creating and promoting anti-racist environments for scholars, students, and staff in the humanities, in the United States, and around the world.

We also recognize that we are witness to a phenomenon that is not unique to the United States: forms of institutional racism and repressive violence are present on every continent. While the United States' foundational affirmation of equality highlights the violence and demands our attention, we nevertheless reaffirm our international approach to the elimination of institutional racism and to the difficult work of building more equitable institutions, curricula, concepts, and archives.

Scholars in the humanities have deep commitments to concepts such as freedom, humanity, personhood, dignity, and democracy, and yet we recognize that these same concepts often reproduce paradoxes, exclusions, and systems of injustice. By analyzing these concepts, excavating their histories, and examining our own habits and institutions, we commit ourselves to imagining a better future and inventing the world in which we want to live.

For more on the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes and this statement, please see:

**[chcinetwork.org/ideas/chci-solidarity-statement](https://chcinetwork.org/ideas/chci-solidarity-statement)**

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As I step down from leading the Humanities Division, I have been reflecting on the importance of the humanities, be it on our campus or in the world in general. Humanistic thinking is indispensable: it helps us know “where we should go next.” The pronoun “we” is central here: for the humanities is about “us humans,” as Jonathan Lear has written. It is first personal—not about the science of life, nor about societies and relationships among individuals, nor about nonliving systems. The humanities encompass our creators, those who “survey the human scene and try to give it back to us in poetry and fiction, philosophy, art and other narrative forms,” and our scholars, who drive the discipline known as the humanities and are dedicated to conserving attempts through ages and cultures to understand ourselves.

Providing inspiring opportunities and appropriate venues for humanistic study and artistic creation is an enormous task. Our Humanities Division comprises sixteen MA- and PhD-granting departments, encompassing languages and literatures (Classics, English, Germanic Studies, Romance, East Asian, Near Eastern, South Asian, Slavic, Comparative Literature, Linguistics), the arts (Art History, Visual Arts, Music, Cinema and Media Studies, Theater and Performance Studies), and Philosophy. The work in these units is intense, but they are hardly silos. We talk across departments and programs through focused workshops and centers, to be sure, and the one place where we can all go to engage in fruitful interdisciplinary scholarly exchange is the Franke Institute.

The Every Wednesday lunchtime discussions that I have attended at the Franke—while enjoying a different, delectable cuisine each week—have been a high point of my time as dean. I especially want to thank our director, Richard Neer, for his excellent leadership. Through these gatherings and the many other events that the Institute hosts, along with the vibrant research cohort that is constituted annually, Richard fosters a consistently high level of reflection on important topics about “us humans” by faculty from across the Division and beyond. I know the Franke will continue as a beacon of distinction for the humanities writ large, and I look forward to spending more time there in my post-dean years.

**Anne Walters Robertson**

*Dean, Division of the Humanities*

It has been a delightful fourth year as director of the Franke Institute—the first of my term in which the staff and fellows have been in residence for an entire academic year. We closed due to COVID midway through my first year; stayed remote for the entirety of the second; returned, then went remote, then returned again in the third. And now, in the fourth, it’s been a return to a normalcy that feels anything but normal.

The Institute has come alive with a continuous sequence of conferences and events to complement the quieter but no less intense research of our residential fellows. It was a joy to spend a year getting to know our brilliant scholars through sustained, face-to-face conversation—and to welcome new faculty and old friends to our Every Wednesday luncheons in person, with real food. Meanwhile, our program of Franke Faculty Grants has gained traction; particularly gratifying is the number of junior and mid-career scholars we can support alongside established luminaries.

We introduced these grants when the Mellon Foundation, our longtime partner, pivoted away from funding basic research in the humanities; now, careful stewardship of resources (and a generous gift from Richard and Barbara Franke in honor of James Chandler) means that the Institute is underwriting the research of more faculty, at a higher level, than ever before.

We continue to partner with the College in new ways; even as I write, for instance, I can hear the students in the College Summer Institute using the Franke as their home base as they work to become the next generation of humanistic researchers. Meanwhile, the Center for Disciplinary Innovation has successfully expanded into the College as well, bringing team-taught, cutting-edge scholarship to advanced undergraduates. It is a long way from empty halls and Zoom meetings: we are back in business, doubling down on our belief that high-level research and broad engagement can grow together from more to more.

### **Richard Neer**

*Director, The Franke Institute for the Humanities*





# CENTER FOR DISCIPLINARY INNOVATION

The Center for Disciplinary Innovation (CDI) hosts and sponsors exploratory courses as a way to incubate new initiatives and programs, from collaborative research projects to undergraduate minors and Core sequences to graduate tracks and research centers. Each course is co-taught by two faculty, each of whom receives full credit for teaching the course.

Courses are offered at three levels: undergraduate, graduate, and mixed grad/undergrad.

Calls for proposals go out each fall, and the final section of offerings for the next academic year is made by the Board of the Franke Institute.

Please contact Mai Vukceвич ([mav@uchicago.edu](mailto:mav@uchicago.edu)), assistant director of the CDI, for additional information.

## CDI COURSES, 2022–23

### **Creations: *Popol Vuh* and *Paradise Lost***

Timothy Harrison, English Language & Literature

Edgar Garcia, English Language & Literature

*Graduate seminar*

Related Event:

**Screening of *Chac: The Rain God* with an introduction by Edgar Garcia**

### **Politics and Cinema Under Authority**

Maria Belodubrovskaya, Cinema & Media Studies

Monika Nalepa, Political Science

*Mixed-enrollment course*

### **Opera without Borders**

Martha Feldman, Music

Judith Zeitlin, East Asian Languages & Civilizations

*Graduate seminar*

### **Postcolonial and Decolonial History and Theory**

Rochona Majumdar, South Asian Languages & Civilizations

Lisa Wedeen, Political Science

*Undergraduate course*



Still from *Chac: The Rain God*, Rolando Klein (1975)

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

### **On the course, Creations: *Popol Vuh* and *Paradise Lost***

“They’re staging for us this ability to engage in comparative work without needing to be an expert in both texts. That mastery is not a precondition for being able to participate is a model of what classes should be.”

– **Esmé Nandorfy-Fischlin**,  
Divinity School

### **On the course, Virtual Ethnography: Encounters in Mediation**

“As a humanities student, I had not previously explored human activities online. Collaborating with Professors Lamarre and Fisch and our insightful classmates has allowed me to discover the potential for the future of humanities studies in the virtual realm.”

– **Dingqi Chen**  
MA Program in the Humanities

### **(Re)Orienting Performance Studies: East Asia as Method**

Ariel Fox, East Asian Languages & Civilizations  
Melissa Van Wyk, East Asian Languages & Civilizations  
*Undergraduate course*

### **Virtual Ethnography: Encounters in Mediation**

Thomas Lamarre, Cinema & Media Studies  
Michael Fisch, Anthropology  
*Undergraduate course*

## **CDI COURSES, 2023–24**

### **Insect Media**

Chelsea Foxwell, Art History  
Thomas Lamarre, Cinema & Media Studies  
*Mixed-enrollment course*

### **New Perspectives on Language Emergence**

Diane Brentari, Linguistics  
Terra Edwards, Comparative Human Development  
*Mixed-enrollment course*

# FRANKE FACULTY GRANTS, 2022–23

Launched in 2021, the Franke Faculty Grant Program supports a limited number of new research and/or public-facing projects. The Franke works with faculty and the College to include undergraduate research assistants for some projects as desired.

## 2022-23

### **CULTURAL STUDIES IN THE PLATFORM ERA**

Hoyt Long, East Asian Languages & Civilizations

This investigation focuses on “attention” and “attachment” as twin poles for understanding how certain kinds of television shows travel faster and further than others. The Netflix-produced *Squid Game* has served as the central case study with its reception informing ideas around global distribution and reception of television in the streaming era.

### **ENCOUNTER: EXPERIMENTS IN TRANSMEDIA PERFORMANCE**

Patrick Jagoda, Cinema & Media Studies and English Language & Literature; Heidi Coleman, Theater & Performance Studies

*Encounter* is a media art experiment that combines transmedia, improvisational, and live interactive performance. This project constructs a game-like narrative architecture that enables a replayable performance piece. Players remotely interact with an actor to tell a short story that is unique to each playthrough.

### **THE POESIA LATINA PROJECT**

Rachel Galvin, English Language & Literature and Comparative Literature

This project supports videotaped interviews with contemporary Latinx poets, editors, literary leaders, and culture mavens. Some interviews are accompanied by public readings/performances. The recordings contribute to a repository of original material that will be made available in a research and teaching resource housed on a dedicated website.





From top to bottom:

Still from *Squid Game* (2021)

Players have a live conversation with Patrick Jagoda during an improvised narrative on the set of *Encounter*

Poetry books published by Atarraya Cartonera, Puerto Rico



## 2023-24

### **HANNAH ARENDT: A PERIODICAL STUDIES PERSPECTIVE**

Na'ama Rokem, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Comparative Literature

The aim of the project is to continue to experiment with modes of cataloguing and visualizing the information about Arendt's periodical publications, and of conceptualizing them as disparate, but connected, ecologies.

### **HISTORIES AND FUTURES OF BLACK FEMINIST FILMMAKING**

Allyson Nadia Field, Cinema & Media Studies

This project will bring together an interdisciplinary group of scholars to explore the rich intersection between Black women's filmmaking, literature, and feminist thought.

### **MEDICAL ETHICS IN CHICAGO AND RWANDA**

Haun Saussy, East Asian Languages & Civilizations and the Committee on Social Thought

This project intends to enlarge the scope of medical ethics by bringing together physicians and humanists on two continents with a common interest in remedying the effects of severe inequality.

### **MONOCHROME MULTITUDES PUBLICATION**

Christine Mehring, Art History

This publication will enrich and expand existing histories of the monochrome by articulating cultural, political, racial, or gendered meanings of monochrome art, emphasizing the significance of materials and media.

### **RUSSIAN ANTIWAR SABOTAGE – FACTS AND FICTIONS**

Ania Aizman, Slavic Languages & Literatures

The goal of this project is to explore this transformation in Russian oppositional culture, particularly the emergent discourses and practices of sabotage among antiwar Russian groups.

# COLLEGIATE RESEARCH PROGRAM, 2022–23



As the Franke expands its activities in the College through its new undergraduate courses in the Center for Disciplinary Innovation (see pp. 3–4), it has also undertaken new initiatives to provide college students with firsthand experience in humanistic research.

In partnership with the College Center for Research and Fellowships, the Franke houses the College Summer Institute in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CSI). The CSI provides selected undergraduates intensive intellectual training with accomplished scholars across humanistic disciplines at the University of Chicago. Students contribute to original scholarship as research associates matched with larger, faculty-led projects. For more information about the CSI, please visit:

<https://ccrf.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-research/college-summer-institute-csi>

## 2023 COLLEGE SUMMER INSTITUTE (CSI) RESEARCH PROJECTS

### **Aesthetics of Artificial Intelligence**

Andre Uhl, Institute for the Formation of Knowledge

### **Anticolonial Thought: An Anthology of Manifestos and Other Primary Documents**

Leah Feldman, Comparative Literature

### **Back to School in Babylonia**

Susanne Paulus, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

### **“But Is It a Book?”: Uncovering Material Meaning in the Taschenbuch Collection**

Elizabeth Frenkel, University of Chicago Library

### **Capturing the Stars: The Untold History of Women at Yerkes Observatory**

Kristine Palmieri, Institute for the Formation of Knowledge

### **Doing Dialect, Doing Identity**

Marisa Casillas, Comparative Human Development

### **Early Collections Research at the Smart Museum**

Tara Kuruvilla, Smart Museum

### **Entanglements of Endometriosis**

Melanie Jeske, Institute for the Formation of Knowledge

**Extinction, Endangerment, and Threat: The History of Fungal Knowledge and Conservation**

Brad Bolman, Institute for the Formation of Knowledge

**Jewish Periodicals in the Mid-Twentieth Century**

Na'ama Rokem, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Comparative Literature

**Organs on Chips: Biomedical Models and the Political Economy of Innovation**

Melanie Jeske, Institute for the Formation of Knowledge

**Social Commentary and Propaganda in Communist East German Films**

Nicole G. Burgoyne, Germanic Studies

**Will the Next Pandemic Be Fungal: Historicizing Fungi and Pathogens**

Brad Bolman, Institute for the Formation of Knowledge

Alongside a team of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers collaborating on the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures' upcoming exhibit, "Back to School in Babylonia," two undergraduate students, Sarah Ware and Dani Levy, spent their summer working on the team as junior members through the CSI internship program.

*Photo and caption courtesy of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures.*



# FELLOWS' RESEARCH PROJECTS, 2022–23

Franke Residential Fellowships support interdisciplinary research for faculty research and for graduate students completing their dissertations. Fellows meet throughout the year in weekly or biweekly workshops to discuss their works-in-progress in a spirit of transdisciplinary collaboration. The Franke Fellows group is chaired by Richard Neer, Director of the Franke Institute.

## FRANKE FACULTY RESIDENTIAL FELLOWS

### **Philip Bohlman**

Professor, Music

*The Cabarettesque in Jewish Music: Sounding Modern European History Anew*

“I seek new ways of understanding the historical narratives of modernism and modernity through the comparative study of cabaret.”

### **Claudia Brittenham**

Associate Professor, Art History

*The Interconnected Mesoamerican World*

“I reconstruct a world before borders, where people, art, and ideas moved throughout ancient Mesoamerica and beyond.”

### **Lina Maria Ferreira Cabeza-Vanegas**

Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature

*God, Witches, War and Boys I Knew in School*

“My collection of essays explores violence, magic, religion, and sexuality.”

### **Itamar Francez**

Associate Professor, Linguistics

*A Voice That Sounds All the Notes: Sound and Regeneration in Jabotinsky's Hebrew Revivalism.*

“I examine language ideologies about sound and spoken language in Zionist discourse of Hebrew revival, focusing on the linguistic writings of Vladimir Jabotinsky.”

### **Benjamin Morgan**

Associate Professor, English Language & Literature

*In Human Scale: Earth Systems in the Literary Imagination*

“I explore how nineteenth-century literature helped readers connect the limited scale of human experience to the vast, inhuman scales of biological and geological earth systems.”

### **Anne Eakin Moss**

Assistant Professor, Slavic Languages & Literatures

*The Special Effects of Soviet Wonder*

“My book investigates the production and theorization of forms of cinematic wonder that helped to promote the Soviet political agenda during the 1930s.”

“By offering not only time but also an interdisciplinary community of scholars whose feedback offered diverse and novel perspectives on my work, the Franke Fellowship significantly transformed my research. I am exceedingly grateful for the dedicated time to complete my first book, the financial support, and the opportunity to expand my research areas in directions I had not entirely foreseen.”

- Kris Trujillo



Itamar Francez and Anne Eakin Moss

### **James Osborne**

Associate Professor, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

*Small-Scale Complexity: Central Anatolia in the Early First Millennium BCE*

“I characterize the sociopolitical organization of city-states that existed in Anatolia during the Iron Age and explain the conditions for their appearance.”

### **Kris Trujillo**

Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature

*Jubilation of the Heart: How Monastic Song Became Mystical Poetics*

“I unearth the influence of monastic liturgy on the manifestations of embodiment, eroticism, and community in Christian mystical poetics.”

## **FRANKE DISSERTATION COMPLETION RESIDENTIAL FELLOWS**

### **Laura Colaneri**

Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures

*The Sinister Southern Cone: Mood, Affect, and Horror in the Cultural Imaginary of Argentine and Brazilian State Terror*

“I examine how Argentine and Brazilian authors, filmmakers, and artists use conventions of the horror genre to create a sinister mood and affect in order to respond to the terror of political violence under dictatorship.”

### **Supurna Dasgupta**

Doctoral Candidate, South Asian Languages & Civilizations

*Intimate Revolutions: Men and Women in 1960s Bengali Literature*

“I study gender politics and radicalism in postcolonial literatures, with a focus on South Asia.”



#### **FRANKE FELLOWS, 2022-23**

##### **Top row, left to right:**

Itamar Francez, Gary Kafer, Kris Trujillo, Claudia Brittenham, Benjamin Morgan, James Osborne, Phillip Bohlman

##### **Bottom row, left to right:**

Margot Browning, Associate Director, Lina Maria Ferreira Cabeza-Vanegas, Supurna Dasgupta, Laura Colaneri, Richard Neer, Director, Anne Eakin Moss, Yueling Ji

##### **Yueling Ji**

Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations  
*A History of Style: Literary Criticism in Cold War China*

“I search the history of Chinese literary criticism for a better way to think and speak about the elusive concept ‘style.’”

##### **Gary Kafer**

Doctoral Candidate, Cinema & Media Studies  
*After Ubiquity: Surveillance Media and the Technics of Social Difference*

“I examine how surveillance technologies produce uneven experiences of visibility and violence within contemporary digital culture.”

“As an advanced graduate student in academia (an international one, no less) it can be difficult to operate with confidence about one’s own scholarly work. The Franke Institute and our generous Franke cohort helped me build a humanistic scholastic vocabulary that I can use beyond my area of expertise to foster wider connections. Additionally, the office space is a real bonus for humanities graduate students at our university: it allowed me to separate my professional and personal spheres and acquire greater discipline in writing. I am grateful to the Institute for its support during a critical time of my graduate life.”

– Supurna Dasgupta



## AFFILIATED DOCTORAL FELLOWS

The Affiliated Doctoral Fellows hold Dissertation Completion Fellowships from the Humanities Division and are members of the Franke community. This past year, Affiliated Fellows met at the Franke Institute to discuss their works-in-progress, to enrich each other's projects with new perspectives, and to provide intellectual community at a crucial juncture—with some fellows joining online from Los Angeles and Germany. The Affiliated Fellows group is chaired by Margot Browning, Associate Director of the Franke Institute.

### **Jiayi Chen**

Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations

*Reading Games in Early Modern China*

"My project explores the dynamic interplay between games and literature from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, and how this interplay sheds new light on the history of reading in a pre-digital ludic age."

### **Melina Garibovic**

Doctoral Candidate, Philosophy

*The Reality of Persons*

"I argue that phenomenological empathy provides a compelling response to the problem of other minds, one that allows us to see how we are sometimes aware of the actual thoughts and feelings of others."

### **Sam Gray**

Doctoral Candidate, Linguistics

*In Search of Sounding Like Oneself: Transmasculine Vocal Satisfaction and HRT*

"I explore the phonetics of vocal change during testosterone therapy for trans male and non-binary English speakers, and how this ultimately relates to happiness with one's voice."

### **Kirsten Ihns**

Doctoral Candidate, English Language & Literature

*Aspect Choreography: Perceptual Rhythms in Experimental Poetry and Film (1970–2023)*

"My project offers a new way of thinking about how reflexively cognized, time-based artworks can format conceptual experience under the sign of immediacy at/after late Postmodernism."

### **Lee Jasperse**

Doctoral Candidate, English Language & Literature

*Insignificant Others: The Literary Politics of Celibacy, 1880–1930*

"I argue that the early-twentieth-century cultural politics of celibacy were rooted in fears of women's reproductive exhaustion, unsustainable capitalist growth, and white racial decline."

### **Ayelet Kotler**

Doctoral Candidate, South Asian Languages & Civilizations

*Persian Literary Translation in the Early Mughal Period*

"I examine Persian translations of Sanskrit literature and seek to historically and culturally contextualize what translation meant in early modern South Asia."



#### **AFFILIATED FELLOWS, 2022-23**

Margot Browning, Associate Director,  
Ella Wilhelm, Stephanie Kraver,  
Peter Metzel, Florian Walch,  
Cooper Long, Ayelet Kotler,  
Kirsten Ihns

Not pictured: Jiayi Chen,  
Melina Garibovic, Sam Gray,  
Lee Jasperse, Tiamur Reza,  
Joel Rhone, Siavash Sabetrohani

#### **Stephanie Kraver**

Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

*(Un)Believers in Times of War: Darwish and Ravikovitch's Poetics of Possibility in Palestine/Israel*

"My project explores the poetry and meetings of celebrated Palestinian author Mahmoud Darwish and renowned Israeli writer and peace activist Dahlia Ravikovitch, charting the ways in which these poets envisage an alternative to the conditions of violence that punctuate the present."

#### **Cooper Long**

Doctoral Candidate, Cinema & Media Studies

*John Frankenheimer's Untimely Media*

"I argue that the work of the director John Frankenheimer (1930-2002), who moved between multiple media forms and industries, can change how we look at key issues in moving-image history, theory, and aesthetics."

#### **Joel Rhone**

Doctoral Candidate, English Language & Literature

*Disciplinary Aesthetics: Race and Representation After the Cold War*

"I account for the ways that African American authors have borrowed from and contended with disparate disciplinary methodologies in response to multiculturalist imperatives to manage, archive, and represent racial difference from the mid-twentieth century onward."

#### **Siavash Sabetrohani**

Doctoral Candidate, Music

*Music Theory Between the Public Sphere and Nationalism in Eighteenth-Century Berlin*

"I investigate how Berlin became a center for music theory and practice in the eighteenth century."

### **Florian Walch**

Doctoral Candidate, Music

*Remediated Extremes: Extreme Metal's Fragmentation into Subgenres during the Analog-Digital Transition, 1980-1995*

"I argue that extreme metal's conflicted attachment to digital technologies makes its development an exemplary case for understanding how genre and subgenres are marked by the memory of past media."

### **Ella Wilhelm**

Doctoral Candidate, Germanic Studies

*Heterocosmic Universality: Poetics and Worldmaking in Early German Romanticism*

"I explore the early German Romantic project of progressive universal poetry from the perspective of their treatment of poetic worlds as heterocosms."

## **FRANKE DISSERTATION COMPLETION RESIDENTIAL FELLOWS: NEXT STEPS**

Congratulations to all four Franke Dissertation Completion Fellows on finishing their dissertations and completing their degrees. We are delighted to share their next steps.



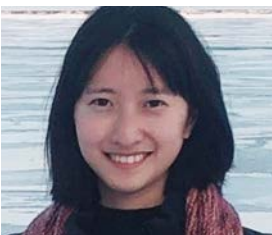
### **Laura Colaneri**

As a Teaching Fellow in the Humanities at the University of Chicago, Laura Colaneri will be teaching a Spanish literature course of her own design on "Contemporary Women Writers in Latin America," as well as the Humanities Core course "Readings in World Literature: Poetry" and a course on "Beginning Elementary Spanish III."



### **Supurna Dasgupta**

Named the Lindsay Teaching Fellow in the Humanities at the University of Chicago, an award that recognizes outstanding teaching, Supurna Dasgupta will be teaching her self-designed course on "Debate, Dissent, Deviate: Literary Modernities in Modern South Asia." Her other courses include "Readings in World Literature" in the Humanities Core and two Hindi courses.



### **Yueling Ji**

As a Teaching Fellow in the Humanities at the University of Chicago, Yueling Ji will be teaching her self-designed course on "Lu Xun: Foundational Texts of Modern Chinese Literature." In addition to teaching "Readings in World Literature" in the Humanities Core, she will also be the preceptor for BA thesis writers in her department.



### **Gary Kafer**

As a Teaching Fellow in the Humanities at the University of Chicago, Gary Kafer will be teaching a course of his own design on "Algorithmic Culture" in Cinema & Media Studies, as well as introductory courses in film and media studies: "Film and the Moving Image" and "Introduction to Film."

# RESIDENTIAL FELLOWS, 2023–24

Selected by the Governing Board of the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the twelve incoming Franke Residential Fellows hail from seven departments in the Humanities and one department in the Social Sciences.

## FRANKE FACULTY RESIDENTIAL FELLOWS

### **Noel Blanco Mourelle**

Assistant Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures  
*Learning Machines: Lullism as a Technological Fiction*

### **Elizabeth Chatterjee**

Assistant Professor, History  
*Energy Emergency: Climate Shocks and Fossil Fuels in Indira Gandhi's India*

### **Alexis Chema**

Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature  
*Extravaganza: A Theory of Popular Poetry in the Era of Reading*

### **Ingrid Christian**

Associate Professor, Germanic Studies  
*The Sociopoetics of Density (1889-1931)*

### **Noémie Ndiaye**

Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature  
*Early Modernity in Black and Brown*

### **SJ Zhang**

Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature  
*Going Maroon and Other Forms of Family*

### **Erik Zyman**

Assistant Professor, Linguistics  
*On the Symmetry Between Merge and Adjoin*

## FRANKE FACULTY AFFILIATED RESIDENTIAL FELLOW

### **Steven Rings**

Associate Professor, Music  
*Ambient Contradictions: Spirituality, Politics, and Race in Immersive Musics*



The 2022-23 Franke Residential Fellows entering the Regenstein Library together.

## FRANKE DISSERTATION COMPLETION RESIDENTIAL FELLOWS

### **Sasha Crawford-Holland**

Doctoral Fellow, Cinema & Media Studies

*Making Sense of Heat: Epistemic Media and the Governance of Thermal Perception*

### **Beatrice Fazio**

Doctoral Fellow, Romance Languages & Literatures

*Going the Distance: The Coherence of Tradition from Petrarch to Leopardi*

### **Sanghee Kim**

Doctoral Fellow, Linguistics

*Encoding and Retrieval of Discourse Structure during Language Comprehension*

### **Ethan Waddell**

Doctoral Fellow, East Asian Languages & Literatures

*Listening to South Korean Music through Popular Songs, 1950s–1970s*

# EVERY WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON SERIES

The Every Wednesday Luncheon Series connects faculty to the work of their colleagues in the humanities and the humanistic social sciences. On Wednesdays at 12:30 during this past academic year, faculty members had conversations about their current research followed by group discussion. For this series, faculty of any rank are encouraged to present, but there is a particular emphasis on work by new humanities faculty and visiting professors associated with collaborative projects. The spirit of the Every Wednesday series is transdisciplinary, as scholars from across the Division and the University gather to share ideas and learn from one another.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

### **Orit Bashkin**

Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  
*Animals in Modern Iraqi Fiction*

### **Seth Brodsky**

Music and Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry  
*Composing in the Omnicrisis*

### **Adrienne Brown**

English Language & Literature  
*Arts and Public Life*

### **Whitney Cox**

South Asian Languages & Civilizations  
*Liquid Swords*

### **Frances Ferguson**

English Language & Literature  
*Oratory and the Novel*

### **Patrick Jagoda**

English Language & Literature and Cinema & Media Studies

### **Heidi Coleman**

Theater & Performance Studies  
*Climate Change and Experiential Games*

### **Florian Klinger**

Germanic Studies  
*Theory of Form*

### **Rochona Majumdar**

South Asian Languages & Civilizations and Cinema & Media Studies  
*Cinematic Citation*

### **Deborah L. Nelson**

English Language & Literature  
*Perishable Things*



Patrick Jagoda

**Rocco Rubini**

Romance Languages & Literatures and Theater & Performance Studies  
*Making Tradition*

**Haun Saussy**

East Asian Languages & Civilizations and the Committee on Social Thought  
*Civilization(s) and Barbarism(s)*

**Megan Sullivan**

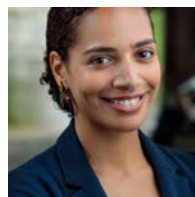
Art History  
*Popular Art*

**NEW FACULTY**



**Ania Aizman**

Slavic Languages & Literatures  
*Fascism*



**Noémie Ndiaye**

English Language & Literature  
*Scripts of Blackness*



**Hoda El Shakry**

Comparative Literature  
*Literary Re-Worlding in North Africa*



**Cecilia Palombo**

Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  
*Community in Early Islamic History*



**Carolina Lopez-Ruiz**

Divinity School and Classics  
*The Making of the Mediterranean*

# BIG PROBLEMS CURRICULUM IN THE COLLEGE

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

### **On the course, Alternate Reality Games**

"I learned the values of alternative reality games as communal puzzle-solving tools, as well as healthy structures for group creative work."

### **On the course, Topics in Medical Ethics**

"This course made me better at thinking critically about ethical issues and taught me how to write a philosophy paper. This class attracted a lot of people from different majors; the discussion sections were filled with a wide variety of life experiences and viewpoints, which was refreshing and made me excited for discussions."

### **On the course, Water Water Everywhere**

"I really enjoyed the perspective of looking at art and art advocacy as a way of understanding and relating to water and felt that the course was unique from other classes I have taken on human rights and environmental policy."

In its twenty-fourth year, the Big Problems program provides a capstone curriculum for third- and fourth-year students, coordinated by the Franke Institute and the College. These elective courses offer students opportunities to broaden their studies from their departmental major by focusing on a "big problem"—a matter of global or universal concern that intersects with several disciplines and affects a variety of interest groups. By their nature, "big problems" call for interdisciplinary teamwork, yet their solutions may not be obvious or finally determinable.

For more information, please see:

<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/bigproblems>

## **COURSES, 2022–23**

### **Alternate Reality Games: Theory and Production**

Patrick Jagoda, Cinema & Media Studies

Heidi Coleman, Theater & Performance Studies

### **Diasporic Narratives and Memories**

Olga Solovieva, Comparative Literature

Bozena Shallcross, Slavic Languages & Literatures

### **Disability and Design**

Michele Friedner, Comparative Human Development

Jennifer Iverson, Music

### **Sensing the Anthropocene**

Jennifer Scappettone, English Language & Literature

Amber Ginsburg, Visual Arts

### **Topics in Medical Ethics**

Daniel Brudney, Philosophy

### **Understanding Practical Wisdom**

Anne Henly, Psychology

Howard Nusbaum, Psychology

### **Urban Design with Nature**

Sabina Shaikh, Environmental Studies

Emily Talen, Urban Studies

### **Water Water Everywhere?**

Susan Gzesh, Social Sciences

Abigail Winograd, Neubauer Collegium



Students in the course on “Urban Design with Nature” debate whether Central Park is “the greenest place on Earth.”

*Photo by Central Park Conservancy.*



## **COURSES, 2023–24**

### **Abortion: Morality, Politics, Philosophy**

Jason Bridges, Philosophy  
Daniel Brudney, Philosophy

### **Are We Doomed? Confronting the End of the World**

James Evans, Sociology  
Daniel Holz, Physics

### **Diasporic Narratives and Memories**

Olga Solovieva, Comparative Literature  
Bozena Shallcross, Slavic Languages & Literatures

### **Digitizing Human Rights**

Jennifer Spruill, Social Sciences

### **Disability and Design**

Michele Friedner, Comparative Human Development  
Jennifer Iverson, Music

### **Drinking Alcohol: Social Problem or Normal Cultural Practice?**

Michael Dietler, Anthropology  
William Green, Neurology

### **From Fossils to Fermi’s Paradox: Origin and Evolution of Intelligent Life**

Paul Sereno, Organismal Biology  
Sarah London, Psychology  
Leslie Rogers, Astronomy

### **People in Motion: Rethinking Transit in Chicago and Beyond**

Evan Carver, Environment, Geography, and Urbanization  
Luke Joyner, Architectural Studies

### **Reimagining Our Future: Past, Present, and Future of Campus-Neighborhood Relations**

Paul Sereno, Organismal Biology  
Chris Skrable, Chicago Studies

### **Sustainability and Computing**

Andrew Chien, Computer Science  
Luis Bettencourt, Ecology and Evolution

### **Thinking Psychoanalytically: From the Sciences to the Arts**

Anne Beal, Social Sciences

### **Urban Design with Nature**

Sabina Shaikh, Environmental Studies  
Emily Talen, Urban Studies

### **Water Water Everywhere?**

Susan Gzesh, Social Sciences  
Abigail Winograd, Neubauer Collegium



Course on “Water Water Everywhere?”  
*Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, Cloud Prototype, 2003.*



# EVENTS, 2022–23

The Institute sponsors conferences on interdisciplinary topics in the humanities, including themes and issues drawn from the social sciences, that are co-sponsored with University of Chicago centers, departments, workshops, and divisions, as well as other institutions. During 2022–23, the Institute co-sponsored fifty-two conferences, lectures, and other events.

## CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIUMS

### 18th Annual Department of Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Student Conference: Cause/Effect

Tiya Bolton, Cinema & Media Studies

Andrea Oranday, Cinema & Media Studies

### 20th Annual South Asia Graduate Student Conference: South Asian Stories and Storytelling

Constantine Nakassis, Anthropology

### 24th Annual Michiganian Conference: Place, Space, and Landscape

Tulio Bermúdez, Linguistics

E. Summerson Carr, School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice and Anthropology

Terra Edwards, Comparative Human Development

### 36th Annual Comparative Germanic Syntax Workshop

Jason Merchant, Linguistics

### 59th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society

Akshay Aitha, Linguistics

Kutay Serova, Linguistics

Madeline Snigaroff, Linguistics

### Annual Weissbourd Conference of the Society of Fellows

Deborah Neibel, Society of Fellows

### Archival Fragments, Experimental Modes

SJ Zhang, English Language & Literature

Eric Slauter, English Language & Literature

### Cruising the Past

Kris Trujillo, Comparative Literature

### A Cultural History of South Asian Literature in an Age of Transition (1700–1800)

Thibaut d'Hubert, South Asian Languages & Civilizations

### Kabuki in Print

Focused on the Smart Museum's extraordinary collection of over one thousand Japanese prints, *Kabuki in Print* illuminated the early modern theatrical tradition of Japanese kabuki and the relations between page and stage—between print technology, narrative, visual art, and fan cultures—with experts from theater, literature, and art history.

*Toyohara Chikanobu, Ichikawa Danjūrō IX as Shizuka, from the play Senzai Soga Genji no Ishizue, 1885 (detail).*

*The Brooks McCormick Jr. Collection of Japanese Prints, Smart Museum of Art.*

### Genesis: New Beginnings

Na'ama Rokem, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Comparative Literature

### Global Anti-Gender and Anti-LGBTQ+ Politics: Historical Continuities, Transnational Connections, Contested Futures

Michaela Appeltovia, History

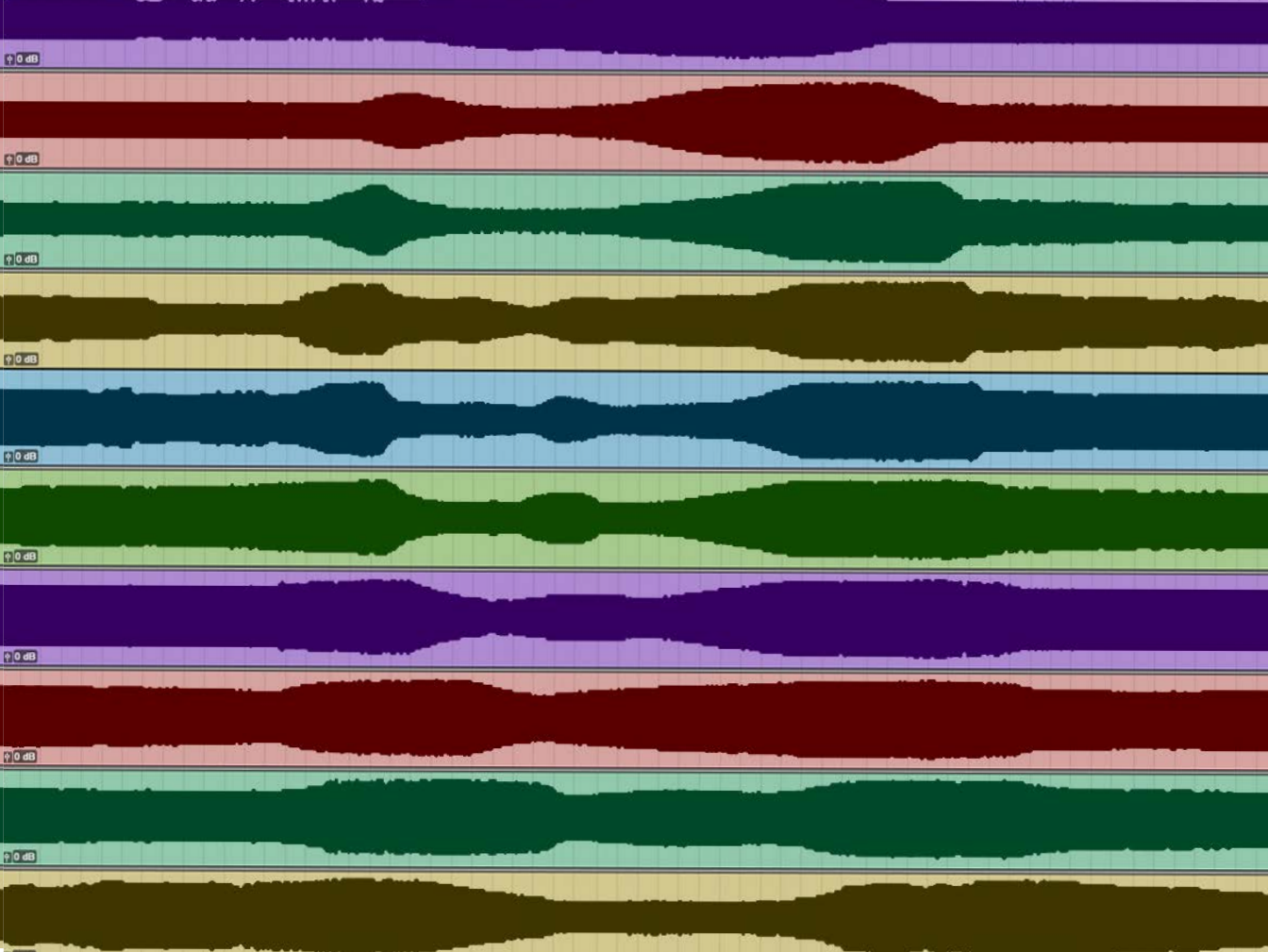
Roy Kimmey, History

### Historicism Beyond Periodization: Transhistorical Methods in Chinese Literary Studies Conference

Paola Iovene, East Asian Languages & Civilizations

### Kabuki in Print: Actor, Fans, Image, and Medium in Early Modern Japan and Beyond

Chelsea Foxwell, Art History and East Asian Languages & Civilizations



#### **Music and the Internet Conference**

At the intersection of music, sound, and digital culture, this interdisciplinary conference explored how the 21st-century internet is a noisy place: from auto-playing videos to social media echo chambers, music has become both a shaped and a shaping medium in the music industry and in everyday musical activity.

*Image public domain.*

#### **Kant's Doctrine of Right**

James Conant, Philosophy  
Matthias Haase, Philosophy

#### **Mongols, Mamluks, and Others: A Conference in Honor of John E. Woods**

Ahmed El Shamsy, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

#### **Music and the Internet Conference**

Paula Harper, Music

#### **New Directions in Amazonian Studies Conference**

Victoria Saramago, Romance Languages & Literatures  
Eduardo Leão, Romance Languages & Literatures

#### **New Directions in the Study of Early Islam: A Conference in Honor of Fred Donner**

Ahmed El Shamsy, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  
Cecilia Palombo, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

#### **Pasolini's Cultural and Political Legacy**

Armando Maggi, Romance Languages & Literatures

#### **The Philosophy of Michael Kremer: Frege, Wittgenstein, Ryle, and the Analytic Tradition**

James Conant, Philosophy

#### **Phoenix Poets Literary Festival**

Alan Thomas, University of Chicago Press  
Srikanth Reddy, English Language & Literature and  
Creative Writing



**Power on Trial: Public Opinion and Political Legitimacy from the Enlightenment to the Napoleonic Era and Its Modern Implications**

Ryan Brown, Romance Languages & Literatures  
Maximilien Novak, Romance Languages & Literatures

**Power over Life and Death: Feminism, Abolition, and the State**

Daniel Epstein, Political Science  
Kit Ginzky, History  
Helen Galvin Ross, Political Science

**The Quest for Modern Language Between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea**

Orit Bashkin, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  
Holly Shissler, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  
Itamar Francez, Linguistics  
Na'ama Rokem, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Comparative Literature

**Radical Formalisms: Rethinking the Literary in Greco-Roman Antiquity and Beyond**

Sarah Nooter, Classics and Theatre & Performance Studies

**Revision and Transformation: Rainer Maria Rilke's *Book of Images***

Ingrid Christian, Germanic Studies

**Science and Liberalism**

Isabel Gabel, History and Institute on the Formation of Knowledge  
Stephanie Dick, Simon Fraser University  
Marc Aidinoff, Jefferson Scholars Foundation

**The Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts 2023**

This nine-week screening series and closing symposium commemorated the original 1976 Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts, considered the first Black women's film festival. The event brought together over seventy Black women filmmakers, writers, archivists, curators, and scholars, gathering to reflect on the past and future of Black women's filmmaking.

*Still from Back Inside Herself, S. Pearl Sharp (1984).*



### **Sounding the Spectral**

The symposium elucidated insights about the challenges of history, the role of remainders, and the capacity of music and sound to model a spectral modality. We cannot take hold of a spectral register with certainty; it is a register that refuses to present itself with clarity or reveal what it is.

*Image by Elissa Osterland.*

### **Shi'i Studies Symposium**

Orit Bashkin, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  
Alireza Doostdar, Divinity School and Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion  
Tahera Qutbuddin, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  
Paul Walker, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

### **Sojourner Truth Festival for the Arts**

Allyson Nadia Field, Cinema & Media Studies

### **Sounding the Spectral: A Symposium**

Seth Brodsky, Music and Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry  
Martha Feldman, Music

### **Things to Do with Descartes**

Chris Wild, Germanic Studies and Theatre & Performance Studies

### **Workshop on Ancient Greek Philosophy of Race and Ethnicity**

John Proios, Philosophy

## **LECTURES/WORKSHOPS/DISCUSSIONS**

### ***Conversation on Sensory Futures: Deafness and Cochlear Implant Infrastructures in India***

Michele Friedner, Comparative Human Development  
Jennifer Iverson, Music



### **Conversation on *Unseen Art: Making, Vision, and Power in Ancient Mesoamerica***

Claudia Brittenham, Art History  
Wu Hung, Art History and East Asian Languages & Civilizations  
Sarah Newman, Anthropology  
Mary Weismantel, Northwestern University

### **Cross-Genre//Greater Mexico**

Amy Sara Carroll, University of California, San Diego

### **Kingly Crafts: The Archaeology of Craft Production in Late Shang China**

Yung-ti Li, East Asian Languages & Civilizations

### **Monochrome Multitudes: Lecture Series**

Amanda Williams, Artist and Architect  
Arturo Herrera, Visual Artist  
Byron Kim, Visual Artist  
Dan Peterman, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Haegue Yang, Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main  
Irena Haiduk, Performance Artist  
Sheila Hicks, Textile Artist  
Tobias Rehberger, Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main

### **Reading and Conversation**

Achy Obejas, Novelist, Poet, Translator, Self-Translator

### **Reading From *Tokyo Ueno Station***

Yu Miri, Playwright

### **Monochrome Multitudes**

In conjunction with the Monochrome Multitudes exhibit, a series of talks by exhibiting artists considered rich, idiosyncratic references and resonances in their own work, in relation to histories of the monochrome and abstraction. Featured artists included Irena Haiduk, Arturo Herrera, Dan Peterman, Sheila Hicks, Amanda Williams, Byron Kim, Haegue Yang, and Tobias Rehberger. *Detail of Claire Zeisler, Triptych, 1967, Smart Museum of Art. Photograph by Claire Rich-Carcara.*



**Film Screening of *Jai Bhim Comrade***

*Still from Jai Bhim Comrade, Anand Patwardhan (2011).*

**Sino-Japanese Cultural Diplomacy in the 1950s: The Making and Reception of the Matsuyama Ballet's *The White-Haired Girl***

Emily Wilcox, William & Mary

**Towards an Emotional History of Zionism**

Derek J. Penslar, Harvard University

**Unpacking the “Culture of Migration” Trope: A Study of Radiophonic Debates in Kaye, Mali (1980)**

Aïssatou Mbodj-Pouye, Institut des Mondes Africains

**Writing and Resistance**

Tenzin Tsundue, Poet, Writer, Refugee, Activist

**EXHIBITS/FILMS/PERFORMANCES**

**Film Screening of *Jai Bhim Comrade***

Anand Patwardan, Documentary Filmmaker  
Ritika Kaushik, Film Historian

**Film Screening of *Chac: The Rain God***

Edgar Garcia, English Language & Literature



## CO-SPONSORS FOR THE 2022-23 EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

### At the University of Chicago:

Center for the Art of East Asia, Center for Disciplinary Innovation, Center for East Asian Studies, Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies, Center for Effective Government, Center for German Philosophy, Center for International Social Science Research, Center for Latin American Studies, Center for Leadership and Involvement, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory, The College, Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization, Committee on Southern Asian Studies, Creative Writing, Department of Anthropology, Department of Art History, Department of Cinema & Media Studies, Department of Classics, Department of Comparative Human Development, Department of Comparative Literature, Department of English Language & Literature, Department of Germanic Studies, Department of History, Department of Linguistics, Department of Music, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Department of Philosophy, Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures, Department of Sociology, Department of South Asian Languages & Civilizations, Digital Media Workshop, Disability Studies Workshop, Divinity School, Film Studies Center, France Chicago Center, Global Studies, Graduate Council, Graduate Council Academic and Professional Fund, Graham School, Humanities Division, Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, International House's Global Voices Program, Islamic Studies Workshop, June and Harold Patinkin Fund at the Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies, Katz Center for Mexican Studies, Lichtstern Fund, Mass Culture Workshop, McKeon Center at the Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, Media Arts Data and Design Center, Morris Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine, Neubauer Collegium, Nicholson Center for British Studies, Office of the Provost, Open Practice Committee, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, Smart Museum, Social Sciences Division, Sound and Society Workshop, UChicago Arts, UChicago Press, Wigeland Fund in the Division of the Humanities

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### Faculty Organizers:

Anthropology, Art History, Cinema & Media Studies, Classics, Comparative Literature, Creative Writing, Divinity School, East Asian Languages & Civilizations, English Language & Literature, Germanic Studies, History, Linguistics, Music, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Philosophy, Romance Languages & Literatures, South Asian Languages & Civilizations, Theater & Performance Studies

### At the Franke Institute:

The Adelyn Russell Bogert Fund supports activities involving the arts. This year, the Bogert Fund co-sponsored the following events:

18th Annual Department of Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Student Conference: Cause/Effect

Monochrome Multitudes: A Symposium

Pasolini's Cultural and Political Legacy

Sojourner Truth Festival for the Arts

# EVENTS, 2023–24

For 2023–24, the Governing Board of the Franke Institute has awarded twelve grants to faculty members and graduate students for events on widely-ranging topics, including the ones listed below. For information about these events throughout the year, please see: [franke.uchicago.edu](https://franke.uchicago.edu).

## AUTUMN

### Conference and Festschrift in Honor of Gary Tubb

Andrew Ollett, South Asian Languages & Civilizations

### Global Shapes of Knowledge: Towards a History of Research

Whitney Cox, South Asian Languages & Civilizations  
Haun Saussy, East Asian Languages & Civilizations and the  
Committee on Social Thought  
Ahmed El Shamsy, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

### Lessing's Legacy

Joseph Haydt, Divinity School

### Local Knowledge: Reimagining Musicological Futures

Martha Feldman, Music  
Ferdinand Schevill, Music  
Erika Supria Honisch, Music

### Mrinal Sen

Daniel Morgan, Cinema & Media Studies  
Rochona Majumdar, South Asian Languages & Civilizations

#### Mrinal Sen

Marking the centenary of the Indian filmmaker Mrinal Sen's birth, this conference will feature film screenings, academic panels, and a public roundtable about Sen and the "New" Indian Cinema, Third Cinema, and "the enemy within."

*Still from Bhuvan Shome, Mrinal Sen (1969).*



## WINTER

### **Hannah Arendt in the *Aufbau***

Na'ama Rokem, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Comparative Literature

### **Photography in Jewish History**

Na'ama Rokem, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Comparative Literature

### **Reading Consent: The French Canon through the Female Gaze**

Pauline Goul, Romance Languages & Literatures

## SPRING

### **Chicago Tamil Forum**

Victoria Gross, MA Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS) and Anthropology

### **Signification, Circulation, Emanations**

Constantine Nakassis, Anthropology

### **Social Structures and their Symptoms**

Amy Levine, Philosophy and the Committee on Social Thought  
Bellamy Mitchell, English Language & Literature  
Jonathan Lear, Philosophy and the Committee on Social Thought

### **What's Left of Kant?**

Will Levine, Political Science

### **Hannah Arendt in the *Aufbau***

Framed from the perspective of periodical studies, this workshop will explore Hannah Arendt's articles in the *Aufbau*, considering them as media objects, documents of social and cultural history, and complex linguistic objects.

*Hannah Arendt in 1944. Photo by Fred Stein/Corbis.*



# THE FRANKE INSTITUTE IN PICTURES



Above: The Regenstein Library, home to the Franke Institute for the Humanities  
Below: From the “Archival Fragments, Experimental Modes” conference at the Franke Institute



Above and below: From the “Cruising the Past” conferene at the Franke Institute

## **GOVERNING BOARD**

**Allyson Nadia Field**  
Cinema & Media Studies

**Adam Green**  
History

**Jennifer Iverson**  
Music

**Gabriel Richardson Lear**  
Philosophy

**Agnes Lugo-Ortiz**  
Romance Languages &  
Literatures

**Catriona MacLeod** (on leave)  
Germanic Studies

**Kenneth Warren**  
English Language & Literature

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## **2022–23 BULLETIN**

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**THE FRANKE**



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