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THE FRANKE INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES
2021-2022 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

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Richard J. Franke (1931–2022) clearly understood the nature and significance of the humanities. As he once wrote, “The humanities protect and give life to our most enduring values. The very DNA of civilization is encoded in the poet’s song, the painter’s brushstroke, and the vibrant dialogue about ideas.” Rich’s passing last April gives us an opportunity to reflect on how our mission in the Humanities Division at UChicago is enhanced by the Institute that he generously supported.

As academic disciplines that study what human beings have thought, said, written, and created, the humanities are animated by a powerful dialogue that helps us determine what our priorities should be. On the one hand, this dialogue consists of the detailed examination of individual cultures and practices and on the other, the ongoing inquiry into common ideas and values shared across cultures and historical periods. At UChicago, the Humanities Division carries out this work in sixteen distinctive graduate programs, encompassing more than 200 faculty and 500 graduate students. The study of cultures and practices takes place in ten highly ranked language departments (Classics, Germanic Studies, Romance, Slavic, English, East Asian, Near Eastern, South Asian, Comparative Literature, and Linguistics) and in four renowned departments and a committee dedicated to research and creation in the arts (Art History, Cinema and Media Studies, Music, Theater and Performance Studies, and Visual Arts). Investigation of common ideas and values flourishes in our wide-ranging Philosophy Department. The division’s workshops, centers, and committees likewise promote the collaborative exchange of ideas around particular topics and sometimes help incubate new programs and even departments.

So many diverse activities require a critical hub where the best ideas from across the division (and beyond) can continually be presented and debated. This is the indispensable role of the Franke Institute. In bringing faculty together from different fields for talks, lectures, and conferences, sponsoring fellowships for faculty and graduate students, developing new courses, and taking up timely topics around important intellectual and social themes, the Franke serves as a microcosm of the division’s highest aspirations for research and teaching. The Institute is prolific in its offerings: this past year, the Franke’s Every Wednesday Luncheon Series alone sponsored fifteen talks by colleagues from eleven different departments, each followed by a discussion with an interlocutor and audience. The Franke is moreover structurally nimble, moving rapidly to shine a spotlight on timely issues, as it did in hosting a conversation on the “More Than Diversity” initiative and a subsequent discussion about the emerging Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity. At the Franke, we profit regularly from a select array of the most promising humanistic thinking and creativity.

Along with his wife and co-visionary Barbara, Rich Franke came often to the Institute when they were in town. His penetrating observations, like those that follow from the end of the article quoted above, harmonize with the goals of our division:

The humanities bring meaning to our lives through critical thinking and through great works of art. The stakes are high, as the humanities engage not only our knowledge and reasoning, but the emotions and spiritual values that drive our questions. Their reward is great, however. Through imagination, deliberation, and critical thinking, the humanities clear the path for a successful life.

Our debt to Rich Franke for his ability to articulate the importance of our work, *and* for his marvelous philanthropy, is immense.

Anne Walters Robertson
Dean, Division of the Humanities

Here at the Franke Institute during lockdown, we dreamt up new initiatives; in 2021, we launched them. A new program of Franke Faculty Research Grants provides small- and medium-sized awards to faculty to pursue innovative research, teaching and/or public engagement in the humanities, often in collaboration with local institutions. Current projects include the development of a publicly accessible archive of early Black cinema in collaboration with the Chicago Film Archive; a collaborative project that uses satellite data to monitor archaeological sites in Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover; and the development of a text and video archive of contemporary Latinx poetry.



The Franke has also engaged UChicago undergraduates as never before. Our new Collegiate Research Program in Humanities builds undergraduate involvement into Franke-funded projects at multiple levels to initiate students into humanistic scholarship early on; the Center for Disciplinary Innovation has started offering courses at the undergraduate level, nearly doubling the size of its roster; and the Franke has become the home of the College’s Summer Research Institute, which brings together undergraduates and Humanities faculty to conduct primary research.

Thanks to the generous support of the Mellon Foundation and the Humanities Without Walls consortium, the Institute underwrote an innovative collaboration with Chicago Public Schools to develop a multiplayer educational transmedia game focused on climate change. The Franke has also been a main point of contact between the Division of Humanities and the University’s Office of Civic Engagement, a role that will only become more prominent in the future.

All of this comes on top of our usual activities. The Franke continues to be the most important funder of conferences, symposia and other events in the Humanities, but we have increased our levels of support so that applicants can spend less time “passing the hat” and more time being scholars. The Every Wednesday Luncheon Series is better attended than ever, thanks in part to a new online option. Our keystone program of residential fellowships is as vital as ever, including enhanced support for graduate students, with in-person meetings providing a balm after a year of seclusion.

Looking forward there is still much to be done, particularly in strengthening our partnerships with public facing units at the university and with its surrounding communities. Our goal is to expand our portfolio while improving our core operations; in 2021, we made a start, and there’s more to come.

Richard Neer
Director, The Franke Institute for the Humanities

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

Past seminars have been exclusively at the graduate level but in 2021–22 the CDI expanded to include offerings at the collegiate and mixed grad/undergrad levels as well. This dramatic increase in both the number and the scope of the Center’s offerings was made possible by generous support from Anne W. Robertson, Dean of the Humanities Division, and from Christopher Wild and Eric Slauter, Masters of the Humanities Collegiate Division. This year’s selection process included the new courses for the first time, for enrollments in 2022–23. The program, while in its early stage, proved popular and applications to teach in the CDI were at an all-time high.

Please contact Mai Vukceвич (mav@uchicago.edu), Assistant Director of the CDI, for additional information.

CDI COURSES, 2021–22:

Ekphrasis: Description and Imagination in Art and Religion

Françoise Meltzer, Comparative Literature
Jaś Elsner, Divinity
Graduate seminar

Medical Knowledge in Early Modern Japan and China: History/Literature

Judith Zeitlin, East Asian Languages & Civilizations
Susan Burns, History
Graduate seminar

Related Events:

Pharmacology in Early Modern East Asia

He Bian, Princeton University

Gender and Vernacular Medical Knowledge in Early Modern Japan

Evan Young, Dickinson University



The Zeitlin & Feldman seminar, “Opera Without Borders,” will explore The Royal Shakespeare Company’s production of *The Orphan of Zhao*.

CDI COURSES, 2022–23:

Adaptation Laboratory: Staging Berlin

David J. Levin, Germanic Studies
Mickle Maher, Theater and Performance Studies
Graduate seminar

Creations: The Popol Vuh and Paradise Lost

Timothy Harrison, English Language & Literature
Edgar Garcia, English Language & Literature
Graduate seminar

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

(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
Advanced undergraduate course

On the Course, Medical Knowledge in Early Modern Japan and China: History/Literature:

“I cherish these opportunities to co-teach interdisciplinary courses through CDI. I do always learn the most from them, not only in terms of content, but also in terms of pedagogy. For me they really revive the joy and excitement of teaching.”

– Judith Zeitlin

On the course, Ekphrasis: Description and Imagination in Art and Religion:

“Ekphrasis with Professors Meltzer and Elsner was one of the most fascinating and enriching courses I’ve ever taken — throughout both my college and graduate school years. The ancient concept of ekphrasis, the practice of verbally describing that which is visual, is a unique site on which to study the intersections of art, philosophy, literature, and religion. Though my graduate work is not directly related to the topic, the theoretical frameworks I learned have and will continue to shape my thinking in profound ways.”

– Livia Bokor
Divinity

FRANKE FACULTY GRANTS, 2021-22

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.

EARLY BLACK CINEMA IN CHICAGO

Allyson Nadia Field, Cinema & Media Studies

Early Black Cinema in Chicago aims to provide scholarly and public access to the rich and multifaceted filmmaking endeavors of African Americans in the first decades of the twentieth century. The initial case study focuses on Luther J. Pollard and the Ebony Film Corporation which was active in the mid to late 1910s, motivated by the recent discovery of surviving interviews with Pollard, a figure who has long been enigmatic for film historians. The Franke faculty grant enabled us to hire the Chicago Film Archives to process 16mm film and audio material related to Ebony Film Co. in the Grisham collection. Additionally, our project benefited greatly from the support of two undergraduate research assistants made possible by the CCRF and the Franke.



L. J. Pollard featured in May 18, 1918, *Exhibitors Herald*

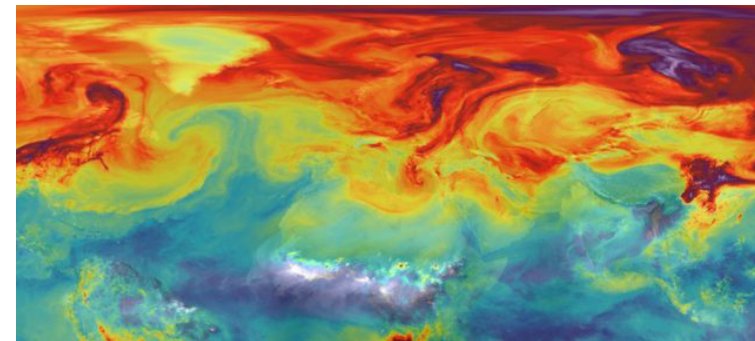
“The broader goal of the Early Black Cinema in Chicago project is twofold: first, to research, explore, and publicly present material on understudied Black filmmakers for whom little material survives; second, to create contextual framing for and digital access to early African American film history in Chicago and beyond.”

- Allyson Nadia Field

REIMAGINING COSMOPOLITANISM

Dipesh Chakrabarty, South Asian Languages & Civilizations and History

Reimagining Cosmopolitanism held our first workshop at the Franke Institute in May of 2022. This two-day event brought together ten international scholars to discuss their draft contributions to the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Cosmopolitanism*. The hybrid in-person/virtual conversation was extremely beneficial in providing feedback for individual writers and for shaping the direction of the volume as a whole. We have received additional project funding, and we will convene additional author workshops and public programs during the upcoming academic year.



THE AFGHAN HERITAGE MAPPING PARTNERSHIP

Gil Stein, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

Supported by the U.S. State Department, the Afghan Heritage Mapping Partnership is a cultural heritage preservation project that utilizes satellite remote sensing imagery, aided by an artificial intelligence deep learning computer algorithm, to locate and document the archaeological sites in Afghanistan that are at risk of destruction. The Franke faculty grant enabled us to hire and train two graduate students as remote sensing data analysts focused on site verification to determine whether or not the sites identified by the computer are, in fact, actual ancient settlements. Without their help there is no way we would have been able to finish our archaeological map of Afghanistan before the end of our project.



COLLEGIATE RESEARCH PROGRAM, 2021-22

“In working with Professor Warren on a new edition of *The Jungle*, I was able to apply my historical research skills to help bring a literary classic alive to modern readers. This cross-disciplinary experience challenged me to rethink the boundaries and forms of my historical practice, and enabled me to build a lasting relationship with one of the University’s preeminent scholars.”

- Ben Miller

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 pairs advanced undergraduate research assistants with Franke Faculty Fellows and recipients of Franke Faculty Research grants. In 2021, Kenneth Warren (English Language & Literature) worked with Ben Miller ('22) in the College on a new edition of Upton Sinclair’s classic Chicago novel, *The Jungle* (1906).

The Franke also 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>

FACULTY FELLOW PROJECT

The Jungle

The Norton Library edition
Edited by Kenneth W. Warren, Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor, English Language & Literature,
2020-21 Franke Faculty Fellow



2022 CSI RESEARCH PROJECTS

Beshrew Me! Critical Editions for Digital Analysis and Research (CEDAR) led by Ellen MacKay, English Language & Literature

Case Study and Archival Research in Public Discourse led by Leila Brammer, Parrhesia Program for Public Discourse

Documenting American History led by Eric Slauter, English Language & Literature

The Emergence of Global Mycology led by Brad Bolman, Institute on the Formation of Knowledge

Planetary Epistemology in the Science Fiction Pulps led by Katherine Buse, Institute on the Formation of Knowledge and Cinema & Media Studies

Researching Lost Films led by Allyson Nadia Field, Cinema & Media Studies

Smart Museum Collections Research led by Berit Ness, Smart Museum of Art

World War II, Racial Science, and Ergonomics: History and Connections led by Iris Clever, Institute on the Formation of Knowledge

THE NORTON LIBRARY

Upton Sinclair
The Jungle

Edited by Kenneth Warren

Cover of *The Jungle*; August 2022

FELLOWS' RESEARCH PROJECTS, 2021–22

Franke Residential Fellowships support interdisciplinary research for faculty research projects 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

Ahmed El Shamsy

Associate Professor, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization

The History of Early Sunnism

“I identify and describe Sunni Islam as a historical phenomenon.”

Chelsea Foxwell

Associate Professor, Art History

Abundant Images: Art and the Public Sphere in Early Modern Japan

“I study the circulation of visual information such as scientific depictions of flora and fauna, and their relation to paintings, woodblock prints, and poetry in eighteenth-century Japan.”

Paola Iovene

Associate Professor, East Asian Languages & Civilizations

Location Shooting in Chinese Cinema

“I examine the aesthetics and practices of shooting films on location in late 1970s China, with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of the material entanglements and affective impact of cinema.”

Alison James

Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures

Fragile Fictions in Contemporary France

“I explore the shifting status of fictionality since the 1990s, analyzing how hybrid modes of writing (e.g., biofiction, docufiction) respond to the anxieties of the contemporary moment.”

Matthew Kruer

Assistant Professor, History

Sovereigns and Subjects: Indigenous Nations within the British Atlantic Empire

“I analyze the politics of Indigenous nations within the early modern British empire and the evolution of British settler colonialism in North America and the Caribbean.”

Agnes Lugo-Ortiz

Associate Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures

The Plantation Gaze: Slavery and Visual Culture in Colonial Cuba (1727–1886)

“I investigate the relationships between the imperatives of slaveholding surveillance and the formation of modern visual culture in colonial Cuba.”

“I am deeply thankful for Richard and Barbara Franke for the financial support that made this fellowship possible. Their generosity not only allowed me to make substantial progress on my second book project, but also to grow as a thinker and member of the university community. Thanks to the relationships developed as a Franke Fellow, I feel connected – both intellectually and socially – to a larger and more diverse cross-section of UChicago than I was before.”

–Matthew Kruer



Rochona Majumdar

Associate Professor, South Asian Languages & Civilizations

Enlightenment in the Colony: A Global History of the Hindoo College

“I work on the decolonial and postcolonial, as a comparison and conversation.”

Julie Orlemanski

Associate Professor, English Language & Literature

Who Has Fiction? Modernity, Fictionality, and the Middle Ages

“I seek to tell fictionality’s story through a capacious account of medieval literary fiction.”

FRANKE DISSERTATION COMPLETION RESIDENTIAL FELLOWS

Jon Bullock

Doctoral Candidate, Music

(Re)Sounding Tradition: Iraqi Kurdish Music as a Critique of Colonial Power, 1923–Present

“My research focuses on the role of technology and colonial power in Iraqi Kurdish music since the founding of the Iraqi nation-state in the early twentieth century.”

Marissa Fenley

Doctoral Candidate, English Language & Literature and Theater & Performance Studies

Puppet Theory: The Mechanical Infrastructure of Personhood

“I argue that puppetry, from the marionettes of the modernist avant-garde to ‘The Muppets,’ is uniquely concerned with the limits of what it takes to qualify as a person.”



FRANKE FELLOWS, 2021-22

Top row, left to right:

Paola Iovene, Matthew Kruer, Chelsea Foxwell, Isabela Fraga, Ahmed El Shamsy

Bottom row, left to right:

Margot Browning, Associate Director, Richard Neer, Director, Amy Skjerseth, Alison James, Marissa Fenley, Julie Orlemanski

Not pictured:

Jon Bullock, Agnes Lugo-Ortiz, Rochona Majumdar

Isabela Fraga

Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures
Subjected to Feeling: Slavery and Personhood in Nineteenth-Century Brazil and Cuba

“My project traces a century-long genealogy of writings concerned with the affective lives of enslaved and free people of African descent in the nineteenth-century Atlantic world.”

Amy Skjerseth

Doctoral Candidate, Cinema & Media Studies
Music’s Visual Waves: Popular Music Technology and Audiovisual Aesthetics

“I explore how innovations in music-recording technology, popular music film soundtracks, and music videos influenced sonic and visual culture from the 1960s to the 1990s.”

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, the Affiliated Fellows met on Zoom to discuss their works-in-progress, to enrich each other’s projects with new perspectives, and to provide intellectual community at a crucial juncture. The Affiliated Fellows group is chaired by Margot Browning, Associate Director of the Franke Institute.

Maggie Borowitz

Doctoral Candidate, Art History
Caught by Surprise: Affect and Feminist Politics in the Art of Magali Lara

“My dissertation explores the vibrant feminist art scene of 1970s through 1980s Mexico City and advances a theory of political art that accounts for art’s affective power.”

Pirachula Chulanon

Doctoral Candidate, Philosophy
Kant and the Origin of the Concept of Mind

“I articulate a new interpretation of Kant’s concept of mind that is grounded in reason’s demand for an explanatory understanding that cannot be met by our capacity for knowledge.”

Daniela Gutierrez-Flores

Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures
The Poetics of the Kitchen: Cooks and the Literary Culture in the Early Modern Spanish Atlantic

“I argue that cooking was a transformative practice through which individuals challenged social constraints, engaged with lettered culture, and shaped new social identities and communities.”

Joseph Haydt

Doctoral Candidate, Germanic Studies
Revelation and Thought: A Study in the Age of Goethe

“My project investigates the relationship between philosophy and religion in the thought of Kant, Hegel, and Goethe.”

Erol Koymen

Doctoral Candidate, Music
Listening for Secular Bodies: Western Art Music, Occidentalism, and Belonging in Neo-liberal Istanbul

“I study how the practice of listening to Western art music in neo-liberal Istanbul shape affectively and sensorially tuned secular bodies and modes of urban belonging.”

Enrique Macari

Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures
Aesthetic Matters: Literature, Humanism and Education in 20th-Century Mexico

“My project explores the relations between literature and state-funded education in Mexico.”

“This fellowship allowed me to concentrate solely on my dissertation and job applications, and it gave me confidence to dream big for the future. I am pleased to announce that I am now Lecturer in Audio-Visual Media and co-director of the new Music in Audiovisual Media M.A. Program at the University of Liverpool. This is a dream job for me. I truly could not have received this position without the support of the Franke Institute.”

– Amy Skjerseth



Thomas Newbold

Doctoral Candidate, South Asian Languages & Civilizations and History

The Critical Age: Moral Revaluation and Modern Periodization in Colonial Bengal

“I investigate the ways in which nineteenth-century Bengalis came to view practices previously understood as virtuous as immoral.”

Filippo Petricca

Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures

Money and the Literary Imagination: Medieval Paris and Florence (1200–1321)

“I explore how medieval fiction creates a conceptual space that stages, complicates, and problematizes moral and economic dilemmas.”

Evelyn Richardson

Doctoral Candidate, Comparative Literature

Ends of History: Arabic Revivalism in the Tanzimat Era, 1839–1876

“I study transformations in Arabic historical thought during the Ottoman Empire’s Tanzimat reforms, particularly pertaining to constructions of ‘ancient’ pasts.”

Eszter Ronai

Doctoral Candidate, Linguistics

Scales, Alternatives, Context: Experimental Investigations into Scalar Inference

“My project is an experimental-psycholinguistic investigation of how the human mind computes non-literal meanings.”

Emily Smith

Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Linguistics

*The Hittite Reflexive Particle *za*: A Diachronic and Typological Reassessment*

“My dissertation is an analysis of the uses of the Hittite reflexive particle *za*, based on a diachronically organized corpus of original Hittite texts.”

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.

JON BULLOCK



Jon Bullock has accepted a position as Postdoctoral Associate at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, a joint venture between the Yale School of Music and Yale Divinity School.

MARISSA FENLEY



Marissa Fenley has accepted a position at the University of Chicago as a Collegiate Assistant Professor in Humanities and looks forward to remaining a part of the Franke community.

ISABELA FRAGA



Isabela Fraga has received a 2022–23 Mellon Fellowship for Scholars in the Humanities. In 2024, Isabela will begin as Assistant Professor of Spanish in the Department of Romance Studies at Tufts University.

AMY SKJERSETH



Amy Skjerseth has accepted a position at the University of Liverpool as Lecturer in Audiovisual Media. Amy will serve as Co-Director of their Music and Audiovisual Media M.A. Program.

RESIDENTIAL FELLOWS, 2022–23

Selected by the Governing Board of the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the twelve incoming Franke Residential Fellows hail from eleven departments in the Humanities:

FRANKE FACULTY RESIDENTIAL FELLOWS

Philip Bohlman

Ludwig Rosenberger Distinguished Service Professor in Jewish History, Music and the Humanities in the College; Associate Faculty, Divinity School
The Cabarettesque in Jewish Music: Sounding Modern European History Anew

Claudia Brittenham

Associate Professor, Art History
The Interconnected Mesoamerican World

Lina Maria Ferreira Cabeza-Vanegas

Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature
God, Witches, War and Boys I Knew in School

Itamar Francez

Associate Professor, Linguistics
Lautjudentum: Jabotinsky's Language Ideology

Benjamin Morgan

Associate Professor, English Language & Literature
In Human Scale: Earth Systems in the Literary Imagination

Anne Eakin Moss

Assistant Professor, Slavic Languages & Literatures
The Special Effects of Soviet Wonder, 1930-1969

James Osborne

Associate Professor, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
Small Scale Complexity: Central Anatolia in the Early First Millennium BC

Kris Trujillo

Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature
Mystical Poetics: Eroticism, Embodiment, and Song in the Christian Contemplative Tradition



Jane Addams, *Newer Ideals of Peace*.
New York: Macmillan, 1907.

FRANKE DISSERTATION COMPLETION RESIDENTIAL FELLOWS

Laura Colaneri

Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures
The Haunted Southern Cone: Sinister Power and Political Terror in the Cultural Imaginary of Dictatorship

Supurna Dasgupta

Doctoral Candidate, South Asian Languages & Civilizations
Intimate Revolutions: Men and Women in 1960s Bengali Literature

Yueling Ji

Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations
The Stylistic Complaint: Methods of Literary Criticism from Cold War China

Gary Kafer

Doctoral Candidate, Cinema & Media Studies
After Ubiquity: Surveillance Media and the Technics of Social Difference in Twenty-First Century United States

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 noon during this past academic year, faculty members had conversations about their current research in-person and via Zoom, 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.

Listen to past talks at:
franke.uchicago.edu/every-wednesday-luncheon-series

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Dipesh Chakrabarty

South Asian Languages & Civilizations and History
Planetary

Jaś Elsner

Art History and Divinity School
Narrative and Comparativism

Allyson Nadia Field

Cinema & Media Studies
Early Black Filmmaking in Chicago: Lost and Found

Armando Maggi

Romance Languages & Literatures
Pasolini in Yemen

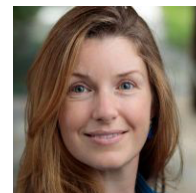
Gil Stein

Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
The Evolving Heritage Project in Afghanistan: Culture, Conflict, and Preservation

Kenneth Warren

English Language & Literature
The Novel and Social Criticism: The Case of William Gardner Smith

NEW FACULTY



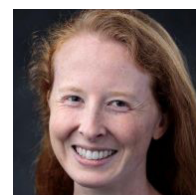
Alexis Chema

English Language & Literature
Commonplaces



Anne Eakin Moss

Slavic Languages & Literatures
Special Effects and Soviet Wonder



Allyson Ettinger

Linguistics
Language and AI



Andrew Ollett

South Asian Languages & Civilizations
Known Unknowns



Lina Ferreira Cabeza-Vanegas

English Language & Literature and Creative Writing
When I Was a Monster



John Proios

Philosophy
Nature and Theory in Plato



Sharese King

Linguistics
Linguistic Prejudice



Melissa Van Wyk

East Asian Languages & Civilizations
Theatrical Prosthetics in Meiji Japan

RACE, DIASPORA, AND INDIGENEITY INITIATIVE

Leora Auslander

History

Adrienne Brown

English Language & Literature

C. Riley Snorton

English Language & Literature
More Than Diversity at the University of Chicago

BIG PROBLEMS CURRICULUM IN THE COLLEGE

In its twenty-third 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:
collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/bigproblems

COURSES, 2021–22:

Diasporic Narratives and Memories

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

Digitizing Human Rights

Jennifer Spruill, Social Sciences
Nick Briz, Media Arts and Design

Disability and Design

Michele Friedner, Comparative Human Development
Jennifer Iverson, Music

Drinking Alcohol: Social Problem or Normal Cultural Practice?

Michael Dietler, Anthropology
William N. Green, Neurobiology

Food: From Need to Want, or, Ethics and Aesthetics

Laura Letinsky, Visual Arts

Narrating Migration

Josephine McDonagh, English Language & Literature
Vu Tran, Creative Writing and English Language & Literature

Sensing the Anthropocene

Jennifer Scappettone, English Language & Literature
Amber Ginsburg, Visual Arts

Thinking Psychoanalytically: From the Sciences to the Arts

Anne Beal, Social Sciences

Urban Design with Nature

Sabina Shaikh, Environmental Studies
Emily Talen, Urban Studies

What Does It Mean to Be Free to Speak?

Andreas Glaeser, Sociology
Genevieve Lakier, Law School



Course on “Digitizing Human Rights”

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

Digitizing Human Rights

Jennifer Spruill, Social Sciences
Nick Briz, Media Arts and Design

Disability and Design

Michele Friedner, Comparative Human Development
Jennifer Iverson, Music

Sensing the Anthropocene

Jennifer Scappettone, English Language & Literature
Amber Ginsburg, Visual Arts

Thinking Psychoanalytically: From the Sciences to the Arts

Anne Beal, Social Sciences

Topics in Medical Ethics

Daniel Brudney, Philosophy

Urban Design with Nature

Sabina Shaikh, Environmental Studies
Emily Talen, Urban Studies

Water Water Everywhere?

Susan Gzesh, Social Sciences
Abigail Winograd, Visual Arts

On the course, Digitizing Human Rights:

“I learned about what surveillance capitalism is and how it affects our lives. I also learned about how ecology, expression, education, corporate power, privacy, and property provide useful frameworks for understanding human rights in a digital age.”

On the course, Food: From Need to Want, or, Ethics and Aesthetics:

“We learned a lot about different community groups and organizations in the area that are doing great work, as well as the sociocultural factors that shape how we think of modern cuisine.”

On the course, What Does It Mean to Be Free to Speak?:

“I was surprised with how much I learned about free speech and how my thoughts behind speech changed over the course of the class.”



Course on “Food: From Need to Want, or, Ethics and Aesthetics”
[Documentation of ‘Los Angelitos de Nuestra Señora del Jardín,’ commissioned by Vallarta Botanical Garden, 2021]

EVENTS, 2021–22

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 2021–22, the Institute co-sponsored twenty-five conferences, lectures, and other events. Due to the continued coronavirus pandemic, many events were postponed.

CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIUMS

September–December

But by the Love You Bear My Kin

MetaMedia

Exodus and Exile: Migrants, Refugees, Asylum Seekers and the Problem of Slavery in the Pacific and Atlantic Worlds, 1750–1850

Coping with Changing Climates in Early Antiquity

April

From the City of Music to the City of Angels: Erich Wolfgang Korngold's Compositional Journey

Art and Attention: An Interdisciplinary Conference

Chicago Linguistic Society 58

17th Annual Graduate Student Conference: Silly Media

Literary Transversals: Modern East Asian and Diasporic Literature

Errant Voices: Performances Beyond Measure

May–June

Musical Encounters: A Symposium in Honor of Philip V. Bohlman

Sensorium of the Early Modern Chinese Text: A Symposium in Celebration of Judith Zeitlin

What is Sunnism? A Virtual Workshop

Materiality and Affect: Emotion in Chinese Art

A Conversation Between Art, Film, and Philosophy: A Conference in Honor of D. N. Rodowick

The New Sciences of the Ancient Economy



Exodus and Exile: Migrants, Refugees, Asylum Seekers and the Problem of Slavery in the Pacific and Atlantic Worlds, 1750–1850

This interdisciplinary conference focused on the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century history of the figure of the migrant in all its castings: exile, refugee, émigré, slave, coolie, emigrant, especially on the voluntary and involuntary movement of labor in the Pacific and Atlantic worlds.



From the City of Music to the City of Angels: Erich Wolfgang

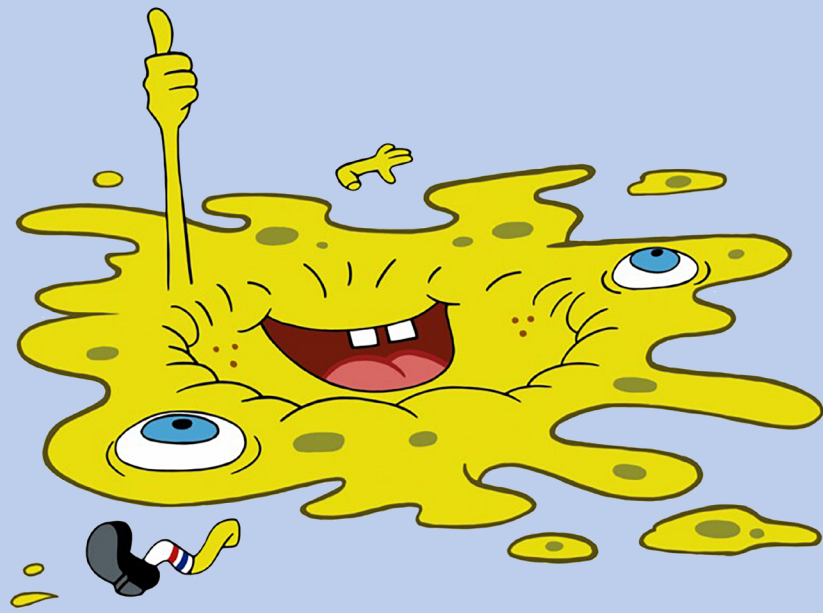
Korngold's Compositional Journey

The Korngold Symposium featured performances and academic presentations, which together complement and enhance the American premiere of Erich Wolfgang Korngold's 1937 opera, *Die Kathrin*, at the Logan Center for the Arts. The Symposium participants, both guest speakers and those from the University of Chicago, represent different departments and disciplines.



Coping with Changing Climates in Early Antiquity

Showcasing the results of a three-year collaboration between UChicago, UMichigan, and Purdue, this comparative conference offered a holistic perspective on past human-environment relationships, integrating humanistic and social scientific approaches to studying climatic and social change (3000–1000 BCE) in the ancient Middle East.



The 17th Annual Graduate Student Conference: Silly Media

This conference proposed a reinvestment in the aesthetics and politics of silliness and its objects. How does the silly register in and through different affects, forms, genres, modes, styles, structures, technics, etc.?

What contrary epistemologies and counter-politics might emerge when we reimagine the “waste materials of everyday communication” as pivotal to the constructions and experience of a public?

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS/DISCUSSIONS

October

Czesław Miłosz: A California Life
Cynthia Haven, Stanford University

March–May

Getting Real: From Handheld to HD; Aesthetics, Identity, and Legibility in Reality TV
Racquel Gates, Columbia University

Getting Real: “The Real World Homecoming” and the Rebooting of Reality TV’s Past
Amanda Ann Klein, East Carolina University

A Built Environment Conversation: Center for Native Futures

Getting Real: Reality TV Working Group
Wendy Osefo, Johns Hopkins University
Lauren Michele Jackson, Northwestern University

Getting Real: Reality TV Virtual Talkback
Michael Breslin and Patrick Foley, co-creators of *This American Wife*

New Directions in Postcolonial Studies

EXHIBITS/FILMS/PERFORMANCES

Spinning Home Movies with D-Composed

Getting Real: Screening of *This American Wife*

CO-SPONSORS FOR THE 2021–22 EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

At the University of Chicago:

Center for East Asian Studies, Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies, Center for Latin American Studies, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory, Chicago Linguistic Society, the College, College Center for Research and Fellowships, Committee on Chinese Studies, Committee on Social Thought, Committee on Theater and Performance Studies, Film Studies Center, Graduate Council, Antiquity to Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry, Humanities Division, International House, Karla Scherer Center for the Study of American Culture, Nicholson Center for British Studies, Office of the Provost, Oriental Institute, Provost’s Global Faculty Awards, Social Sciences Division

External Co-Sponsors:

Humanities Without Walls Consortium (funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation)

Faculty Organizers:

Art History, Cinema & Media Studies, Classics, East Asian Languages & Civilizations, English Language & Literature, Germanic Studies, History, Music, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Philosophy, South Asian Languages & Civilizations

At the Franke Institute:

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

A Conversation Between Art, Film, and Philosophy: A Conference in Honor of D. N. Rodowick

Art and Attention: An Interdisciplinary Conference

Materiality and Affect: Emotion in Chinese Art

17th Annual Graduate Student Conference: Silly Media

Spinning Home Movies with D-Composed

Materiality and Affect: Emotion in Chinese Art

This interdisciplinary, international conference explored the multifaceted roles of emotions in Chinese art and visual culture from antiquity to the present. Advancing the existing narrative in art-historical research and interpretation, it generated new vocabularies and concepts for public consideration of the cultural and social dimensions of emotions in art from any time.

EVENTS, 2022–23

For 2022–23, the Governing Board of the Franke Institute has awarded nineteen 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.

AUTUMN

Archival Fragments, Experimental Modes

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

The Cultural and Political Legacy of Pier Paolo Pasolini

Genesis: New Beginnings

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

Honor and Power

Monochrome Multitudes

Queer Premodernisms and Queer of Color Critique

Rethinking the Literary in Greco-Roman Antiquity and Beyond

The Cultural and Political Legacy of Pier Paolo Pasolini

Marking the 100th anniversary of Pier Paolo Pasolini's birth, these events will investigate how Pasolini's poetics and works influence contemporary debates about visual arts, cinema, philosophy, queer studies, and postcolonialism.

[Photographer: Angelo Novi]



Things to Do with Descartes

The 36th Annual Comparative Germanic Syntax Workshop

WINTER

Kant's Doctrine of Right

The Middle Ages in Midcentury Thought

The Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts

SPRING

Ancient Greek Philosophy of Race

Caste, Social Justice, and the Cinema in South Asia

New Perspectives on Hittite Art

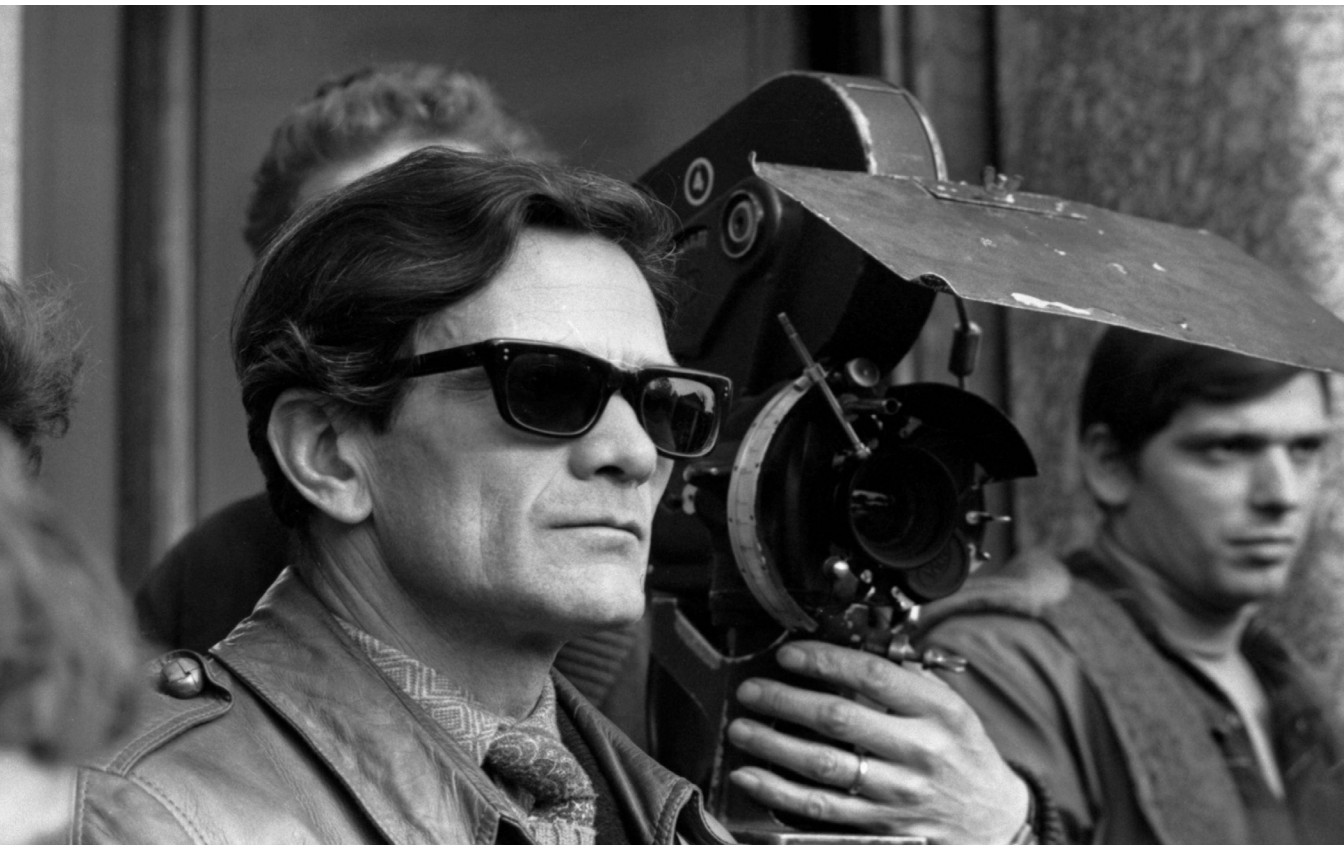
New Phoenix Poets Literary Festival

The Quest for Modern Language: Ideologies and Poetics

Caste, Social Justice, and the Cinema in South Asia

With film screenings and a conference, this special project will explore how the mainstream film industries of Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras have responded to questions about caste violence and oppressed communities.

[Film still from *Ghatashraddha*]





The Franke Institute
for the Humanities
The University of Chicago
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Chicago, Illinois 60637

