

# HUMANITIES NOW

THE UIC INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

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The Institute is pleased to welcome two visiting scholars in 2019-2020: **Isabel Huacuja Alonso**, recipient of an ACLS Fellowship (California State University, San Bernardino; pictured) and **Shiben Banerji** (School of the Art Institute of Chicago). We look forward to hearing their work and seeing them at events on our campus!



## Your Humanities Story: James McManus

The Institute celebrates alumni who are connecting their work in the humanities at UIC to exciting career paths and community work. James McManus tells his story:

“I have used my BA in philosophy (UIC, ‘74) and MA in English/Creative Writing (UIC, ‘77) to write eleven books and become a professor of Liberal Arts and Writing at SAIC (1981 to the present).

“My book *Positively Fifth Street* was a NYT bestseller in 2003. Since publishing a history of poker in 2009, I have spoken on that subject at Yale, Harvard Law School (twice), Cornell, Northwestern/Medill, City Hall in London, UIC Library, Beloit College, UNLV, Lawrence University, before the American Bar Association, in the Oval Office with President Obama, in the White House with Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny, among other venues. I’ve written on the subject for *The New Yorker*, *Harper’s*, the *NYT*, *Bloomberg View*, *Grantland*, *Esquire*, *GQ*, *Best American Sports Writing*, *Card Player*, and other newspapers, magazines, and sites.



## FACULTY FELLOWS

The Institute honors the six Faculty Fellows from 2018-2019: **Mahrad Almotahari**, **Adam Goodman**, **Laura Hostetler**, **Michael Jin**, **Atef Said**, and **Julia Vaingurt**.



**Michael Jin** sharing his work on the Japanese American Diaspora. November 13th, 2018.

The Institute welcomes six new Faculty Fellows for 2019-2020: **Anthony Laden**, **David Stovall**, **Haley Negrin**, **Claire Decoteau**, **Stephen Engelmann**, and **Nadine Naber**. (left to right image below)



Throughout the year, our six Faculty Fellows will present their work in a series of lectures and seminars. Check out our website for the dates of public lectures!

Tell us your story by emailing us at [huminst@uic.edu](mailto:huminst@uic.edu)!

We hope to be able to feature it in an upcoming issue of the newsletter!

## VISITING FELLOW GAYATRI CHAKRAVORTY SPIVAK

**Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak** is a scholar, literary theorist, and feminist critic. She is a University Professor at Columbia University and a founding member of the university’s Institute for Comparative Literature and Society.

Considered one of the most influential postcolonial intellectuals, Spivak is best known for her essay “Can the Subaltern Speak?” and for her translation of and introduction of Jacques Derrida’s *De la grammatologie*. Spivak was awarded the 2012 Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy. In 2013, she received the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award given by the Republic of India.



Spivak will be our Visiting Fellow April 1-2, 2020. More lecture and seminar details to be announced soon..

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## DIGITAL HUMANITIES INITIATIVE

With the support of a University of Illinois Presidential Grant to Celebrate the Impact of the Arts and the Humanities, the Institute is collaborating with the Library on a Digital Humanities Initiative. DH expands traditional research methods and provides new public platforms for research and teaching. Focusing on expanding DH advising, tools, workshops, and an innovative conference to explore the latest methods and debates in the field, the initiative encourages students and faculty to analyze research and scholarly opportunities in digital formats. Funding for the initiative, chaired by **Brian Atkinson** at the UIC Library, has already resulted in the hiring of a Postdoctoral Research Associate, **Hannah Huber**, to jump-start Digital Humanities at UIC. If you want to learn more about Digital Humanities, or if you want to schedule an appointment to talk about a DH project, contact Hannah at [h1huber@uic.edu](mailto:h1huber@uic.edu)

## HUMANITIES SUMMIT

The Institute hosted its first-ever Humanities Summit on August 22 to explore challenges and opportunities in humanities work at UIC and beyond. In addition to roundtables on current humanities research at the Institute and Public Humanities at UIC, the summit featured a keynote talk by **Rebecca Wanzo** of Washington University of St. Louis.

If you feel that there are urgent topics to be discussed at our next summit, let us know by emailing **Mark Canuel** at [mcanuel@uic.edu](mailto:mcanuel@uic.edu).

## CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL

With support from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Provost, the Institute has initiated an exciting new partnership with the Chicago Humanities Festival. The partnership will result in new public-facing speaking opportunities for UIC faculty and students, and free tickets to events held at UIC. The next event features **Ta-Nehisi Coates** speaking on his new book *The Water Dancer* on October 2nd, 2019 at UIC Dorin Forum at 7pm. UIC students are taking advantage of free tickets provided by the festival.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### The Refugee Crisis

On October 24th and 25th, 2019, in room 605 of Student Center East (750 South Halsted), the Institute will host a conference that examines the global refugee crisis from numerous standpoints and contexts. Bringing together scholars, creative writers, activists, and refugees telling their own stories, this innovative and timely conference will examine the situation of refugees in a historical context, while also examining specific regional crises and current responses to them. See the Institute website for a complete program.



### Can a River be a Person? Indigeneity, Law, and Climate Change

This workshop on November 1, 2019 brings together scholars, lawyers, and activists to explore the concept of environmental rights. The day's discussions will conclude with a keynote talk by **Elizabeth Povinelli**, Professor of Anthropology and Gender Studies at Columbia University.

## ENGAGED HUMANITIES

The Engaged Humanities Initiative, generously funded by the Mellon Foundation, is now in its second year. The initiative supports students in connecting their humanities scholarship to real-life issues that they encounter in the world outside the university.

If you are a UIC alum and would like to be involved in advising a student in a project connected to your business or community, please contact the Director of the Initiative, Professor **Ellen McClure** ([ellenmc@uic.edu](mailto:ellenmc@uic.edu)).

## GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE INSTITUTE

The Institute is pleased to award Resident Graduate Scholar status to two outstanding PhD students, **Ana Luiza Morais Soares** and **Robert Cashin Ryan**. They will be using the office space to complete work on their dissertations, and to present work from their projects during the academic year.

**Gregor Baszak**, a PhD candidate in the English department, was the first UIC Institute for the Humanities/Chicago Humanities Festival Public Humanities Fellow. The Fellowship allows PhD students to gain work experience in planning and organizing public-facing humanities events.

