



INSTITUTE  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES  
University of Illinois at Chicago

35  
YEARS



# A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am the new Director of the Institute for the Humanities at UIC, and I am pleased to join the faculty and staff in celebrating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Institute. This brochure surveys some of the extraordinary research and programming that has taken place at the Institute since 1983. Under four previous directors, we have supported cutting-edge research and scholarship that has changed the course of humanistic inquiry in the US and abroad. We have also continually featured innovative programming that has deepened our knowledge of our disciplines, expanded our intellectual horizons, and ignited partnerships between UIC and other institutions.

The following pages celebrate our distinguished past and anticipate a very bright future. The humanities repeatedly endures attacks from proponents of utility, technology, and science; funding for arts and humanities programs at the national level can be unstable at best. Support at our university for the Institute has been unflagging, however, and we are grateful for that. Equally important is the dedication of our students, faculty, and friends to the Institute's primary mission: to provide support for the best work in the many fields of the humanities, and to provide productive occasions for discussion, debate, and investigation. Bringing together faculty, students, and the community at large, the Institute explores the multiple dimensions of humanities today: we reflect on the past, we engage in the present, and we imagine our shared future.

The Institute benefits from the generous support of alumni and friends. That support helps us to offer free programming for the UIC community and the city of Chicago. To give to the Institute, please contact Wendy Irvine, Director of Advancement and Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at [wirvine@uic.edu](mailto:wirvine@uic.edu) or at 312-413-3469. You may also visit our website (see below).



## **Mark Canuel**

Director, Institute for the Humanities  
Professor, Department of English

# FACULTY FELLOWS

Each year, the Institute for the Humanities awards year-long residential fellowships to faculty members to pursue research on topics of urgent debate in their fields of inquiry. Scholarly research is the core of academic work in the humanities, and helps to enrich teaching and service at our diverse and vibrant university. The fellowships allow faculty the time to explore and create projects that have had an enduring effect across multiple fields.

Fellowship support has resulted in books, articles, and other writings over the past 35 years. Some notable books include:

**MICHELLE BOYD**, *Jim Crow Nostalgia: Reconstructing Race in Bronzeville*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008. Winner, 2009 Best Book Award from American Political Science Association—Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Section.

**ROBERT BRUEGMANN**, *Sprawl: A Compact History*. University of Chicago Press, 2005.

**JOHN D'EMILIO**, *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin*. Simon and Schuster, 2010. National Book Award Finalist.

**SAMUEL FLEISCHACKER**, *On Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations": A Philosophical Companion*. Princeton University Press, 2005. Winner of the 2009 Joseph B. Gittler Award, American Philosophical Association.

**LAWRENCE H. KEELEY**, *War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage*. Oxford University Press, 1996. Finalist, Los Angeles Times Book Prize for History.

**MICHAEL LIEB**, *Milton and the Culture of Violence*. Cornell University Press, 1994.

**VIRGINIA WRIGHT WEXMAN**, *Creating the Couple: Love, Marriage, and Hollywood Performance*. Princeton University Press, 1993.

**LINDA WILLIAMS**, *Hard Core: Power, Pleasure, and the "Frenzy of the Visible"*. University of California Press, 1991.



For the 2017–18 academic year, the following six faculty members received Institute support for their projects (see the online Institute calendar for the dates of public lectures):

**ANNE EATON** · Philosophy · “Rough Heroes: Philosophical Reflections on Cinema, Morality, and Art”

**RODERICK A. FERGUSON** · African-American Studies and Gender and Women's Studies · “The Bookshop of Black Queer Diaspora”

**PETER HYLTON** · Philosophy · “The Development of the Analytic Tradition: The Influence of Logic”

**MARINA MOGILNER** · History · “A Race for the Future: The Scientific Visions of Modern Russian Jewishness”

**HEIDI SCHLIPPHACKE** · Germanic Studies and Classics · “The Aesthetics of Kinship: Love, Literature, and the Dream of a German Nation”

**WILL SMALL** · Philosophy · “Practical Abilities in Human Agency”

# VISITING FELLOWS

**E**ach year, a renowned scholar is invited to the Institute to conduct a seminar, meet with graduate students, and present a free public lecture. Although Visiting Fellows have worked in a range of fields, they have something in common. Each has asserted an influence



T.J. Clark

far beyond his or her specific discipline. Each has challenged traditional paradigms and changed the way humanists think about history, theory, or methodology. The Visiting Fellows program began in 2001, and the distinguished group of past fellows includes: **Natalie Zemon Davis** (Toronto); **Carlo Ginzburg** (UCLA); **Michael Fried** (Johns Hopkins); **Manthia Diawara** (NYU); **Nancy Fraser** (New School for Social Research), and **Robin D.G. Kelley** (UCLA).

2017–2018's Visiting Fellow is **T.J. Clark**, Professor Emeritus of the History of Art at UC Berkeley. For details, see the online calendar.

# THE STANLEY FISH LECTURES

**H**onoring Stanley Fish, Dean Emeritus of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UIC, these lectures featured renowned public intellectuals.

**APRIL 2005** Fredric Jameson, Director of the Institute for Critical Theory, William A. Lane Professor of Comparative Literature and Romance Languages, Duke University · "How to Fulfill a Wish"

**APRIL 2007** Stephen Greenblatt, University Professor of the Humanities, Harvard University · "Shakespeare and the Limits of Hatred"

**APRIL 2009** Judith Butler, Maxine Elliot Professor in the Departments of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley · "Frames of War"

**OCTOBER 2011** Slavoj Žižek, Institute of Sociology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia · "Freedom in the Clouds: What is Possible and What is Impossible Today"

Judith Butler presenting "Frames of War" in 2009. © Roberta Dupuis-Devlin.







# CONFERENCES

Over many years, the Institute has sponsored stimulating conferences on topics of widespread debate for students, scholars, and the general public. Future conferences will address issues such as politics and aesthetics after postmodernism; immigration and nationhood; and democracy in times of crisis. All of these events are free and open to the public.

Some recent conferences:

**THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY (2000)** A conference on the problems, limitations, and possibilities of the modern presidency from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to William Jefferson Clinton, featuring Clarence Page, Dan Rostenkowski, Dinesh D'Souza, and other speakers from academia, journalism, and government.

**THE VULNERABLE CITIZEN (2001)** A conference on perceptions of vulnerability and surveillance in everyday life in the United States, featuring Richard Sennett (London School of Economics), Randall Kennedy (Harvard), and many others.

**GLOBALISM AND FILM HISTORY (2006)** A conference on the global reaches of film and the influence of this reach on film production, consumption, and criticism. Keynotes were presented by Jeffrey Berg (Chairman and CEO, Creative Management, LA) and Manthia Diawara (New York University).

**SLAVERY AND ITS AFTERMATH IN THE ATLANTIC WORLD (2012)** An international symposium on the slave trade and its aftermath in the modern world, inspired by the UIC Library's unique collection of works on abolition. Concluded with discussions of "Slavery and Emancipation in the Making of the Modern World" and "Public Memory and the Heritage of Slavery."

**FOOD JUSTICE (2013)** A working conference exploring historical contexts of contemporary food policy debates, with a keynote by Eric Schlosser (American journalist and author).

**WATER AFTER BORDERS: GLOBAL STAKES AND LOCAL POLITICS (2015)** A conference on humanistic, social, economic, and political dimensions of water distribution and management in the Great Lakes. Brought together the academic community, local communities, and governmental agencies.



# WORKING GROUPS

**W**orking Groups convene faculty and students with overlapping scholarly interests; they receive renewable support from the Institute. Although the format varies among them, Working Groups frequently involve reading groups, seminar discussions of new faculty work, or lectures by invited faculty members from other institutions. In the past, Working Groups have investigated the impact of class inequality on the humanities; the overlapping concerns among the disciplines of law, politics, and the humanities; and the connection between documentary media and current scholarship.

Scholars and students at the Institute for the Humanities continue to explore stimulating new topics for discussion. These are the Working Groups for 2017–2018:

**CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN JEWISH STUDIES**

**DIGITAL HUMANITIES**

**EMPIRE AND MODERNITY**

**GLOBAL MIGRATION**

**HEALTH AND SOCIETY**

**IMAGINING PEACE IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

**POLITICAL ECOLOGIES: NATURE, PLACE, HERITAGE**

**POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES**

**RACE AND U.S. EMPIRE**

**REIMAGINING FEMININITY IN POSTWAR FILM AND MULTIMEDIA**

**REPRESENTATION**

**SEE NEXT: (SEMINAR: EAST EUROPEAN AND NORTHERN EURASIAN CROSSTALK)**

**URBANISM ACROSS PLACES, SPACES, DISCIPLINES**



**H**umanities Frontiers Workshops involve faculty and students in focused discussions. Combining intensive workshops with public conferences or lectures, they promote particular scholarly interests by encouraging conversation and debate about research initiatives, theoretical problems, or critical methodologies. Workshops have addressed issues such as relationalism in philosophy, the future of democracy in former colonies, and communication flows in urban spaces.

Two Frontiers Workshops are planned for the fall of 2017:

**Political Ecology as Practice: A Regional Approach to the Anthropocene** (A workshop on the relationship between global theories of the Anthropocene and the experience of local ecological conflicts around the world.) Organized by Ömür Harmanşah, Art History and Molly Doane, Anthropology.

**Critical Theory, Psychoanalysis and the Politics of the Archive in Spanish Cinema** (A workshop exploring theoretical approaches to Spanish cinema in the context of the social and political changes in modern Spain.) Organized by Steven Marsh, Hispanic and Italian Studies.





# HUMANITIES BEYOND UIC

The Institute focuses on supporting faculty and student research, and sponsors conversations that enhance our intellectual life on campus. In addition, it regularly launches projects that connect our campus to the city, to other universities, to national humanities initiatives, and to the general public within and beyond the US. The Institute is committed to expanding this level of visibility and engagement, and welcomes opportunities to collaborate with individuals and communities outside UIC. Past and present initiatives include the following:

**NEH support:** Generous funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities was responsible for the early support of the Institute for the Humanities. Important NEH-sponsored events, organized by Gene Ruoff (Director from 1982 to 1997), included summer seminars for school teachers and public conferences.

**Chicago Humanities Festival:** From 1993–2008, the Institute for the Humanities partnered with the Chicago Humanities Festival to offer annual colloquia to high school teachers in the Chicago area. These Classics in Contexts programs brought university scholars and high school teachers together to discuss teaching texts such as *The Great Gatsby*, Virginia Woolf’s *A Room of One’s Own*, and various works by Shakespeare.

**Chancellor’s Initiative in Food Studies:** Between 2013 and 2015, UIC’s Chancellor sponsored two postdoctoral fellows in Food Studies: Ariela Zycherman (Columbia University) and Priscilla McCutcheon (University of Georgia).

**Humanities Without Walls:** The Institute for the Humanities is delighted to be part of the Humanities Without Walls project, a 16–member consortium of Midwest universities sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and based at the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign.

**Freshwater Lab:** Organized by Rachel Havrelock (English) and receiving part of its initial funding from Humanities Without Walls, this initiative increases environmental awareness, expands community, and improves life in the Great Lakes region.

*Our images on the cover and on pages five to six honor thirty-five years of Institute programs and publications which have made engaged scholarship visible in Chicago neighborhoods and international locations.*

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