

HUMANITIES NOW

THE UIC INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

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FACULTY FELLOWS



The Institute congratulates the 2019-2020 fellows: **Claire Decoteau, Stephen Engelmann, Anthony Laden, Nadine Naber, Haley Negrin, and David Stovall.**

And we welcome the incoming 2020-2021 Fellows who will deliver public lectures on their research projects: **Andy Clarno, Beate Geissler, Susila Gurusami, Anna Kornbluh, Yann Robert, and Jeffrey Sklansky.**

Your Humanities Story: Cheryl Ganz

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

When I applied for a PhD program in United States history at UIC, I did not realize how it would transform my life and career. I wanted to professionalize, publish, and teach. I accomplished those goals, but not on the straight path anticipated. While a student, I attended many talks at the Humanities Institute that challenged and influenced my thinking. After graduation, my first interview was for a curator position at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, which I eagerly accepted. As chief curator of philately (the study of stamps and mail), I implemented many of the concepts and methodologies that I learned in my coursework and from mentoring in history and gender and women studies.



I increased diversity in exhibits as well as in museum visitors and stakeholders. I brought a new level of contextualization to the collection and exhibits. Most importantly, I sought accessibility and improved visitor experience so that museum visitors could learn, communicate, analyze, share, and enjoy new ideas. I am proud that my initiatives have reached millions of families and visitors on site and online.

Tell us your story by emailing us at huminst@uic.edu!

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

HUMANITIES IN A PANDEMIC: SPRING 2020

Building a community of humanities scholars is at the core of the mission of the UIC Institute for the Humanities. Although our office space closed in mid-March 2020, following UIC policy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our work continued. We welcomed conversation, analysis and reflection on the webpage "Humanities in a Pandemic: Resources for CoVID-19," dedicated to sharing a variety of responses to the crisis. We Zoomed with the 2020-2021 Institute Faculty Fellows, who enthusiastically set up their lecture schedules for the coming fall and spring. We drafted best practices guidelines for delivering remote lectures and conferences, which we made publicly available to faculty, students, staff, and guest speakers. We honored our commitments to our Graduate Research Assistants, who continued drafting graphic publicity for email, print, and social media updates. Working remotely became the new normal. Although we were not in the same rooms, we continued collaborating together as a humanities community, keeping conversations flowing, informing, connecting. We look forward to fostering scholarship and continuing these connections in 2020-2021.



VISITING SCHOLAR GAYATRI CHAKRAVORTY SPIVAK

April 14-15, 2021

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak is a critic, theorist, translator, and activist. She is University Professor at Columbia University and a founding member of Columbia's Institute for Comparative Literature and Society. She is one of the world's most prominent literary and cultural theorists, whose work continues to influence a broad range of fields, from literary criticism and philosophy to postcolonial theory and feminism. She is author of *In Other Worlds: Essays in Cultural Politics* (1987), *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason: Toward a History of the Vanishing Present* (1999), and *An Aesthetic Education in the Era of Globalization* (2012), among many other landmark books and articles. In 2012, she received the Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy; in 2013, she received the Padma Bhushan, one of the highest civilian awards given by the Republic of India.

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Conference: *Resources + Visibility in the Digital Humanities*

October 22-23, 2020

The inaugural conference for the Digital Humanities Initiative addresses two topical themes—Resources and Visibility—in addition to a general track: The place of race, class, and sexuality in DH. An exciting range of speakers across the disciplines will share their research to inspire debate about the state and future of DH. The conference will be free and open to the public, with the intention of engaging participants from universities and the general public across Illinois.

Organized by **Hannah Huber**, Postdoctoral Research Associate in Digital Humanities, and **Carla Barger**, Ph.D. Candidate in English and Co-Director of the Digital Humanities Initiative.

Keynote addresses from **Moya Bailey** (Northeastern University) and **Sara Schwebel** (UIUC)

Featuring workshops led by **Carly Kocurek** (IIT) and **Elizabeth Hopwood** (Loyola University Chicago)

Click for [Conference Details](#) 

Also available at dhi.uic.edu

UPCOMING HUMANITIES FRONTIERS WORKSHOPS

The V21 Collective: *Presentism in the Moment of No Future*

The fall of 2020 marks the fifth anniversary of The V21 Collective. Founded to develop and advance a Victorian studies for the 21st century, V21 represents a more theoretically robust, publicly engaged, socially dynamic approach to the study of 19th century literature and culture.

The V21 approach to humanistic inquiry in the age of extinction foregrounds imaginative and speculative arcs, and centralizes as well the projects of critique, postcolonial theory, and Marxist analysis that have been recently jettisoned in other areas of literary study. The fall 2021 V21 Workshop will focus on building connections between environmental humanities and the tradition of critique, especially the study of racialization and imperialism, and on the comparative, transnational, and extended epoch methods that are necessary for such building. Organized by **Anna Kornbluh**, UIC English.



Archaists and Innovators Re-read Viktor Shklovsky's *60 Years: Works on Cinema*

The yearly Formalist Re-Reading Workshop is dedicated to reevaluating the legacy of Russian formalists. The 2020-2021 featured text is Viktor Shklovsky's collection of essays on film, *In 60 Years: Works on Cinema*, published posthumously in 1985. Among literary scholars in the West, Shklovsky is known as a theorist of defamiliarization, and the author of "Art as Device," and as one of the first serious theoreticians of cinema. The Formalist Re-Reading Workshop will include screening of a recent film *VMayakovsky*, dedicated to the life of the great Russian futurist poet and highly indebted to the cinematic techniques of early Soviet cinema. Organized by **Julia Vaingurt**, UIC Polish, Russian, and Lithuanian Studies. **April 30-May 2, 2021.**

Conference: *Different Archives, Different Histories* October 29-30th, 2020



This conference aims to explore conversations that are currently being pursued across a range of disciplines on the importance of archives to cultural understanding. The practice of acquiring, preserving, and administering cultural artefacts is now more important than ever; this conference seeks to expose why archiving has become a topic of urgent intellectual discussion in our schools and communities. Keynote speakers include **Roderick A. Ferguson** (Yale, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and American Studies), **Marisa J. Fuentes** (Rutgers University, Africana Studies & Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies), **Avery F. Gordon** (University of California, Santa Barbara, Sociology), and **Kellee E. Warren** (UIC Daley Library, Special Collections).

[This conference will be held via Zoom.](#)  [Click here for schedule and registration.](#) 