

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



Duke

Beverly McIver, *Meeting Eiko*
Adapted with permission from the artist.

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JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN
HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

A Humanities for this Moment

In this report we look back at the 2019-20 academic year at the Franklin Humanities Institute, a year marked indelibly by the coronavirus pandemic and the groundswell of protests, national and international, against the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other African American citizens. Reflecting on the Institute's activities over the past year through the lens of these ongoing crises, the relevance of the work to which so many Duke humanities faculty and students are already dedicated – **scholarly, pedagogical, public** – stands in clear relief.

From **new scholarship in Afro-diasporic arts and culture** to **analyses of contemporary social movements**, from **global dialogues on the politics of the pandemic** to **critical engagements with technology and inequality**, from **anti-racist pedagogy training for faculty** to the **development of a health humanities curriculum**: the projects we support at the FHI respond to the challenges of the present and, at the same time, contribute to the **long history of humanistic thinking on the meanings of justice, freedom, community, and well-being**.

In his Juneteenth statement, Duke President Vincent Price spoke powerfully on the need to advance anti-racism in every aspect of the University's work: in research and teaching, in the cultivation of the campus community, in our local and global partnerships. Inspired by the scholarly example of our namesake John Hope Franklin, who saw himself as a historian not only of Black America or of the United States but also of the world, a vital part of the FHI's founding mission is to **"engage questions of race and social equity in their most profound historical and global dimensions."**

Unquestionably, much work awaits to translate the critical resources of the humanities, arts, and interpretive social sciences into public knowledge and concrete, lasting systemic change – just as difficult work remains to be done for racial justice within the humanities, intellectually and institutionally. **How do the arts and humanities make worlds?** This is a key question of our Annual Theme on World Arts (p. 4). It is to that question, and its deepest impulse towards a different and more just futurity, that we will dedicate our work in the coming year.

Titus Kaphar at the "Black Images, Black Histories" conference during his keynote conversation with Jasmine Cobb. Photo by Eric Barstow.



2019-2020 Overview

The following **principles** guided the work of the Franklin Humanities Institute, our Labs, and affiliated centers in 2019-20. The restrictions on travel and face-to-face interactions have disrupted how we work in fundamental ways. Yet the new conditions also present real opportunities to stretch our conception of the university campus, the public, and the sociality of academic work. We began some of these explorations in Spring and Summer 2020 – and will delve deeper in the year to come.

SUPPORTING AND STIMULATING HUMANITIES FACULTY RESEARCH

The University's commitment to "invest in Duke faculty as scholars and leaders of the university's intellectual communities" continues to guide the Institute's support for faculty research, both fundamental and public, individual and collaborative. Our **Faculty Book Manuscript Workshops** (p. 10) and **research and publication support services** (p. 11) continued apace, shifting seamlessly online when the pandemic upended normal operations.

Despite some cancelled activities in late Spring, the FHI Humanities Labs (p. 14) had a remarkably busy year, collectively hosting four **major conferences** (most notably the From Slavery to Freedom Lab's Black Women Writers at Work to open the year) and generating **new research publications**.

It is in the area of global research collaborations that Covid has posed its most serious challenge (**Global Collaboration Seed Grants** p. 12, **Global Partnerships** p. 31). While some projects are delayed by necessity, we are committed to working with our faculty and partners to develop productive modes of virtual and (when travel conditions permit) hybrid engagements that take account of North/South technological disparities.

HEIGHTENING THE VISIBILITY OF THE HUMANITIES, AT DUKE AND BEYOND

The FHI's **Annual Theme** World Arts (p. 5) and other **signature programming** combine a select number of high-profile external guest visits, designed to spark campus and community interest in the arts and humanities (e.g. **John Hope Franklin Annual Lecture, Artist Residencies**), with regular smaller-scale events that highlight the wide-ranging scholarship of our own faculty (e.g. **Faculty Bookwatch** and **tgiFHI**, p. 9). Public events have been the primary means through which the FHI and our affiliated units bring visibility to and build community around the humanities. As detailed in this report, despite some notable cancellations and postponements, in 2019-20 we were fortunate to have completed most major Institute events, in person, prior to campus closure in mid-March.

By contrast our event calendar in 2020-21 will be entirely virtual. The restriction on face-to-face programming has prompted us to think more strategically about our well-developed video and social media operations as a primary rather than supplementary programming platform. Efforts are underway, for example, to curate thematic clusters in our extensive event **video archive** that could be used for teaching or virtual working groups. In a timely convergence, productions for the influential webcast **Left of Black** (p. 20), hosted by Mark Anthony Neal, shifted to the FHI in late Fall 2019. This new partnership not only strengthens the FHI's founding commitment to the study of race and equity, but also presents an exciting opportunity to expand the public reach of our work.

CULTIVATING WELL-ROUNDED UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE EDUCATION IN THE HUMANITIES

The FHI provides a broad array of opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to engage with humanistic ideas and practices. In addition to our core programming (events open to all, speaker visits with special student opportunities) and our Labs and affiliated Centers (all with their own offerings of working groups, fellowships, assistantships, and more), we offer a number of programs specifically designed for students.

On the curricular front, the undergraduate **Human Rights Certificate** (p. 27) continues to flourish hand in hand with the Duke Human Rights Center @ FHI's more general programs on racial justice in voting, immigration, and environmental policy (p. 22), while the Health Humanities Lab is moving ahead with an **undergraduate curricular initiative focused on social justice and disability studies**, propelled by the pandemic moment. With the support of the University-wide Bass Connections program, FHI is home to the vertically-integrated **summer research program Story+** (p. 28), which undertook a bold experiment in remote collaboration in 2020, mobilizing 50 students in 10 project teams with remarkable results.

Graduate students, as project mentors, are a core constituency of Story+. The **PhD Lab in Digital Knowledge** (p. 29) provides members a space in which to learn about digital scholarship and pedagogy from their peers. In 2019-20 we strengthened our support for fundamental research and degree completion through **Interdisciplinary Working Groups and Dissertation Writing Groups** (p. 30), structures which allow doctoral students to build their own intellectual communities around shared interests. More generally, the FHI strives to be a "home away from (departmental) home" for humanities graduate students: an **intellectual hub** where they can interact with faculty scholars across the disciplines (Duke and elsewhere, US and international) and develop a broad perspective on what it means to be an intellectual in a time of change.

PRACTICING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT THAT TAKES SERIOUS ACCOUNT OF RACE AND SOCIAL EQUITY, GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY

In the US, the tumultuous events of the past year have led to something like a social awakening, to a surge in public desire for critical, historical analysis of racism and other systems of power. At the FHI, 2019-20 began with a set of **public engagements spurred by the migrant detention crisis on the US/Mexico border**, including the Social Movements Lab (p. 16) Director Michael Hardt's participation in the Provost Forum *Immigration in a Divided World*; a panel on "Concentration Camps, Then and Now" presented by the FHI's new journalism and public humanities series *In the Press* (p. 21); and multiple events from the Duke Human Rights Center @ FHI aimed at the general public and Duke students.

In early March, on the eve of mass Covid outbreak in the US, the FHI and the DKU Humanities Research Center (p. 33) co-hosted a hybrid virtual and in-person roundtable on **"The Coronavirus: Social, Political, and Human Implications."** In the wake of the pandemic, the Health Humanities Lab (p. 15) has, among other activities, offered an online expressive writing workshop and a **virtual briefing of Congressional aides on health humanities and disability studies through the lens of Covid**. These "rapid responses" would not be possible without longer arcs of research and collaboration. At the FHI we are committed to both underlying "slow" scholarship and nimble engagement with diverse public audiences.

A photograph of Sir David Adjaye, a Black man with a short beard, speaking at a wooden podium. He is wearing a dark grey blazer over a dark t-shirt. He is gesturing with his right hand while holding a water bottle in his left. Behind him is a large projection screen displaying a photograph of a modern building with a glass facade and a green lawn. The scene is lit with stage lights, creating a professional atmosphere.

The focal point of FHI public programs, the **Annual Theme** is designed to spark interest in the humanities and raise their visibility, at Duke and beyond. The 2019-20 and 2020-21 theme **World Arts** brings artists and scholars together to explore the world-making powers of the arts.

WORLD ARTS



AMIT CHAUDHURI



DAVID ADJAYE



ZENA HOWARD

The World Arts theme series brings artists and scholars together to explore **the world-making powers of the arts**. We ask **how worlds are imagined within the arts as well as the humanities**: whether through concepts of the “universal,” “global,” or “planetary”; the histories of trade and trade routes (such as the spice trade, silk roads, slave routes); or the logics of empires, religions, secularisms, politics, and ecologies. The series has a special interest in current conceptualizations of world arts, in categories such as: world literature, the global novel, international style, world music and dance, art and architecture biennials, and music, dance, and film festivals. Series programs include public events, residencies, art projects, working groups, and partnerships with art-presenting organizations.

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN LECTURE The second annual Franklin Lecture was delivered by **Sir David Adjaye OBE**, award-winning architect and lead designer of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, DC. His lecture took the audience through six major projects that engaged with **the history and culture of the Black Atlantic**, from concept to execution. His visit also included a lunch discussion with Duke undergraduates and a public conversation on memorial and community architecture with Duke art historian Richard Powell and NMAAHC collaborator Zena Howard of the Durham firm Perkins+Will. See a **report** by FHI Assistant Director of Public Programs and Communications Sarah Rogers and a **reflection** from undergraduate Global Cultural Studies major Omolola Sanusi.

SHORT RESIDENCY The novelist, critic, activist, composer, and Indian classical vocalist **Amit Chaudhuri** traveled from Calcutta to spend a week at Duke in September 2019. He participated in the **Blackburn Literary Festival** and engaged with faculty and students in a series of events – **lecture, discussion, literary reading, and musical performance** – that reflected his multiple gifts. Read FHI staff member Jennifer Zhou’s **report** on his visit, including videos of the talk and performance. In 2020, Chaudhuri was named an Honorary Fellow of the Modern Language Association.

WORLD ARTS



TIFT MERRITT



RIAFN



THE FORGOTTEN

ART/RESEARCH RESIDENCY Since Spring 2019, along with the Forum for Scholars and Publics and the Social Science Research Institute, the FHI has been hosting the **North Carolina singer-songwriter Tift Merritt** in an art/research residency. Inspired by the **history of a government-run mental asylum in the Jim Crow era**, Merritt is at work on new musical collaborations and an archival project. The latter was the focus of two Story+ summer research projects she led in 2019 and 2020 (see [the 2020 team's final presentation](#)).

GLOBAL COLLABORATIONS With joint support from the Office of Global Affairs Mellon Endowment, the FHI has funded **13 international partnerships** since Spring 2019, including three arts projects: *Distance is Malleable*, a **collaboration between Duke painter Beverly McIver and dancer Eiko**, as part of the latter's *Duet Project*, performed at the 2019 American Dance Festival and [archived here](#); a **documentary project of US military bases in Germany as "contact zones" by photographers** Chris Sims (Duke) and Max Ernst Stockburger (Berlin/Hiroshima); *The Forgotten*, an **image-based performance on coal-mining disasters**, created by Duke puppet artist Torry Bend and Grinnell writer/director Craig Quintero (Humanities Unbounded Fellow) for the Riverbend Theater Company of Taiwan. Although the Duke debut of *The Forgotten* was cancelled due to COVID-19, it will be staged at the Taiwan National Theater in Fall 2021. All three projects enjoyed support by multiple Duke and external organizations.

FRANKLIN HUMANITIES INSTITUTE AWARD As part of a larger effort to enhance the presence of the **Full Frame Documentary Festival** on Duke's campus, the FHI initiated a **new film prize for artistic excellence and formal innovation in a short documentary**. Despite the cancellation of the 2020 Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, the inaugural Franklin Humanities Institute Prize was awarded through a virtual jury process to German short film *Riafn* (Dir. Hannes Lang). In the age of social distancing, *Riafn's* rendering of the soundscapes of the Alps took on greater poignancy. Plans for campus events around the winning film, a key component of the FHI Prize collaboration, have been postponed.

WORLD ARTS



SURROUND SOUND



**TSITSI JAJI
AT MERIDIANS READING**



MERIDIANS

NASHER MUSEUM COLLABORATION For the second year running, the FHI organized a **Duke faculty panel on a major work on view at the Nasher Museum**. This year's featured work was composer and visual artist Christian Marclay's video installation *Surround Sound*. The panel included both artists (Josh Gibson, Shambhavi Kaul, Bill Seaman, John Supko) and critics (Eileen Chow, Rey Chow, Kim Lamm).

LABORATORY FOR SOCIAL CHOREOGRAPHY Directed by Dance faculty Michael Kliën, the **Laboratory for Social Choreography** is a hub for the research and development of generative **embodied pedagogies and experimental social interactions**. The lab is housed at the Kenan Ethics Institute, with support from the FHI (where it began as a working group), Duke Dance, and Duke Arts.

RIGHTS & THE HUMANITIES LECTURE Co-hosted by the FHI and Duke Human Rights Center @ FHI, this series is designed to highlight **humanistic approaches to human rights**, particularly in relation to the FHI Annual Theme. The second annual Rights and the Humanities lecturer was Prof. Joseph R. Slaughter (Columbia University), who gave a talk entitled **"Naming the Crisis: The Language of Human Rights and the Neoliberal Turn."**

MERIDIANS SYMPOSIUM This two-day symposium celebrated the 20th anniversary of the journal *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*, founded at Smith College in 2000 to center **scholarship and creative works by and about women of color**. Bringing together former and current editors, editorial board members, and journal contributors, this powerful gathering also marked the journal's recent move to Duke University Press and the establishment of a Smith-Duke Editorial Advisory Board. Sessions included reflections on the journal's history, new critical works, and poetry readings (see [videos](#)).

CONSORTIUM OF HUMANITIES CENTERS & INSTITUTES As part of the CHCI 2020 virtual conference, the FHI was invited to organize a **virtual session on Arts and Humanities collaborations**. Director Ranjana Khanna worked with Multimedia Director Eric Barstow to create a **20-minute video** in lieu of a synchronous roundtable. Built around interviews with scholars and artists from Ethiopia, India, South Africa, the UK and the US, the video explored **the racial and colonial undercurrents of the institutionalization of arts and humanities in different world regions**.



The FHI provides extensive **Research and Publication Support** for Duke faculty and promotes **Intellectual Communities** around their work.

Engaging Faculty Scholarship

The vibrancy of the intellectual communities that we build at the FHI depends on the excellence of Duke's humanities, arts, and interpretive social sciences faculty. Through programs such as **Faculty Bookwatch** and **tgiFHI**, we bring **greater visibility to Duke faculty scholarship and promote deeper engagement with their work.**

FACULTY BOOKWATCH For the 2019-20 editions of this long-standing series, co-sponsored by the Duke Libraries, we presented **interdisciplinary panel discussions on two notable recent faculty books:** *The Fixer: Visa Lottery Chronicles* (Duke, 2019) by **Charles Piot** (Cultural Anthropology) and *Terrestrial Lessons: The Conquest of the World as Globe* (Chicago, 2017) by **Sumathi Ramaswamy** (History). Both panels featured leading scholars in close and related fields, from Duke and other institutions. For the event on *The Fixer*, Piot was joined virtually by Kodjo Nicholas Batema, his long-time Togolese collaborator and a contributor to the book. **[View event videos here.](#)**

tgiFHI In its second year, this Friday morning series has established itself as **a convivial space where Duke faculty present their research to colleagues, students, and the broader public.** The 2019-20 series (felicitously concluded prior to COVID-19 event cancellations) featured 13 speakers, from first-year Assistant Professors to senior faculty, **representing the full breadth of historical, geographic, methodological, and theoretical expertise among Duke humanists.**

Sumathi Ramaswamy at the Faculty Bookwatch panel on *Terrestrial Lessons*.
Photo by Eric Barstow.

2019-20 TGIFHI TALKS

Roseen Giles, Music: [The Millennial Discord: Generational Tensions in Early Modern Italy](#)

Franklin Cason, Franklin Humanities Institute: [Psyche-Analysis: The Politics of Excess and the Souls of Black Film](#)

Leela Prasad, Religious Studies: [The Sovereignty of an Audacious Raconteur in Colonial India](#)

Mark Antliff, Art, Art History & Visual Studies: [Sculpture Against the State: Anarchism, Censorship and Jacob Epstein's Tomb of Oscar Wilde](#)

Thomas F. DeFrantz, Dance: [Resisting the Universal: Black Dance, Aesthetics, and the Afterlives of Slavery](#)

Leo Ching, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies: [The New Great Game: Anti-Japanism in the Era of China's Rise](#)

Geneviève Rousselière, Political Science: [Revolutionary Republicanism](#)

Patrice Douglass, Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies: [On the Question of Violence: Slavery, Sexual Subjection, and Legal Paradigms of Thought](#)

Taylor Black, English: [Everybody Plays the Fool: On Style and Stupidity](#)

Orin Starn, Cultural Anthropology: [Anthropology and the Misery of Writing](#)

Elvira Vilches, Romance Studies: [Cultures of Capitalism: Early Modern Spain](#)

Kata Gellen, Germanic Languages & Literature: [On Hubris and Imagination: Kafka, Nietzsche, and Contemporary Ecological Discourse](#)

Beth Holmgren, Slavic & Eurasian Studies: [The Stars of Cabaret Warsaw: Jews and Gentiles at Play on the Interwar Polish Stage](#)

Faculty Book Manuscript Workshops

Open to all regular-rank faculty, the FHI Book Manuscript Workshops are intended to **transform already excellent scholarship into superlative published works**. The typical Workshop includes two external readers, an academic press editor, and discussants from Duke and other local institutions. The program also supports non-monograph projects such as edited collections and translations. One of the FHI's longest-running programs, the Workshops are currently supported by Duke's Strategic Plan.

2019-20 WORKSHOPS

Frances Hasso, Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies

Calculating Life and Death: Reproduction, Infant Mortality, and Eugenics in Twentieth-Century Palestine

Evan Hepler-Smith, History

Compound Words: Chemists, Information, and the Synthetic World

William Johnson, Classical Studies (Collaborative Project)

Cultures of Reading in the Ancient Mediterranean World: Jews, Christians, Greeks, Romans, and Others

Harris Solomon, Cultural Anthropology

Moving Life: Traffic, Trauma, and Vital Mobility in Mumbai

Sarah Wilbur, Dance

Funding Bodies: Five Decades of Dance "Making" at the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts (1965-2016)

2019-20 PUBLICATIONS

Samuel Fury Childs Daly, African & African American Studies

A History of the Republic of Biafra: Law, Crime, and the Nigerian Civil War (Cambridge)

John French, History

Lula and His Politics of Cunning: From Metalworker to President of Brazil (UNC)

Andrew Janiak (Ed.), Philosophy

Space: A History (Oxford)

Bradley Rogers, Theater Studies

The Song is You: Musical Theatre and the Politics of Bursting into Song and Dance (Iowa)

Book cover image from Samuel Daly, *A History of the Republic of Biafra*.

Research & Publication Support

SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER FOR SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING

This position was created in 2018 to offer deeper support to Book Manuscript Workshop award recipients and to reach faculty beyond the Workshop framework, by providing **expert advice on academic publishing as well as fellowship and grant proposals**. The position is held by Sylvia Miller, who brings a wealth of experience in scholarly publishing and collaborative grant management. In 2019-20, Miller provided proposal consultation to 18 faculty members, including several who sought editorial advice on multiple projects. A member of the humanities research support team based at the FHI, Trinity College, Office of Foundation Relations, and Office of Research Support, the Senior Program Manager for Scholarly Publishing also organizes programs in **Publishing Humanities** (e.g. workshops on writing groups and an editor talk on trade book publishing).

DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS PARTNERSHIP

A joint position at the FHI and Duke University Press, the Senior Program Manager for Scholarly Publishing serves as **a programmatic bridge between the two units**. DUP editors contribute regularly to the Book Manuscript Workshops. In November, the FHI and the Press, with other partners, co-sponsored *The Business of Books: An Insider's Look at 21st Century Publishing* with DUP Director Dean Smith and W. W. Norton President Julia Reidhead. The Press was a key partner for the Faculty Bookwatch panel on Charles Piot's *The Fixer* and the 20th anniversary symposium of the journal *Meridians*, both published by DUP.

Sylvia helped me secure a National Humanities Center fellowship. She read my proposal carefully and gave extensive feedback. Sylvia is a learned reader unfamiliar with the disciplinary language of my field. She helped me articulate my ideas in an accessible way and even helped me clarify them to myself.

Aarthi Vadde
English

During our Manuscript Workshop, we discussed the potential for the collaboration between a variety of "book history" scholars in different disciplines to extend beyond the edited volume we had planned. We're happy to report that we have come to an agreement with Oxford University Press to co-edit a new monograph series dedicated to cultures of reading in the ancient Mediterranean. We're already off and rolling – and it's due to the fact that FHI saw value in this project and supported us.

William Johnson, Classics
Duke University

Chris Keith, New Testament and Early Christianity
St. Mary's University, London

Global Collaboration Seed Grants

In 2019 the FHI and Office of Global Affairs announced **13 global collaboration awards**, intended to **stimulate research and creative works** that require multiple regional perspectives. Five of these were completed prior to the COVID-19 outbreak (left column), while eight were interrupted at various stages of development (right column). Though travel restrictions have limited scholars' mobility and curtailed in-person exchanges with global colleagues, the FHI is committed to the intellectual necessity of global collaborations in this moment of geopolitical uncertainty, and to working creatively and strategically with our partners on virtual and (when conditions permit) face-to-face modes of interaction.

Worlding Future Arts: Dance and Black Arts Movements

Thomas F. DeFrantz (Dance) with Luciane Ramon Silva (Acervo África, São Paulo)

The China Question of Cultural and Media Studies

Kang Liu (Asian & Middle Eastern Studies) with WANG Nin (Shanghai Jiao Tong University), ZENG Jun (Shanghai University), SHAN Bo and LI Song (Wuhan University)

The Duet Project: Distance is Malleable

Beverly McIver (AAHVS) with Eiko Otake (Dancer, Japan/US)

The Value of Love: Global Perspectives on the Economy of Care

Jocelyn Olcott (History, GSF) with Marija Barti (University of Amsterdam)

War and Memory in Peru

Orin Starn (Cultural Anthropology) and Holly Ackerman (Library) with Olinda Quispe Chávez (San Cristóbal of Huamanga National University), Ponciano Del Pinto (Pontifical Catholic University)

The Forgotten

Torry Bend (Theater Studies), Craig Quintero (Grinnell College / Humanities Unbounded), and Riverbend Theater Company (Taiwan)

Rethinking Secularism and Modernity: International

Network For Interreligious Dialogue and Education Malachi Hacohen (History) with Hilda Nissimi (Bar-Ilan University) and Todd H. Weir (University of Groningen)

#FMF | #BLM: Race, Precarity, and the Transgenerational

Costs of Racism Anne-Maria Makhulu (Cultural Anthropology) with Hylton White (Wits University)

People of the City: New Directions and Migrations in

African Urbanism Kathryn Mathers (International Comparative Studies) & Samuel F. C. Daly (AAAS) with Loren Landau (Wits University), Caroline Wanjiku Kihato (University of Johannesburg), Jimoh Oluwasegun (Federal University Birnin-Kebbi)

Asian, African American, and Asian American Internationalisms and Solidarities, 1918-2018

Sucheta Mazumdar (History) with Selina Lai-Henderson (Duke Kunshan University)

The Making of Modern Cairo: Urban Topography and Digital Humanities in the Middle East

Adam Mestyan (History) and Sarah Galletti (AAHVS) with Mercedes Volait (French National Centre for Scientific Research)

Perpetrator Studies Working Group

Rebecca Stein (Cultural Anthropology) with Hilla Dayan, Noa Roei, Erella Grassiani (University of Amsterdam)

Bulaq Bridge, Cairo, Egypt, 1912. Richard Mosseri, [Photographies sur les transformations urbaines du Caire entre 1849 et 1946], p. 26, Bibliothèque nationale de France, département Estampes et photographie, PET FOL-VZ-1478.

Institute Faculty & Fellows



**WESLEY
HOGAN**



**SASKIA
CORNES**



**FRANKLIN
CASON**



**ANDRÉS
HENA O CASTRO**



**CAROLYN
FULFORD**

Wesley Hogan, FHI Research Professor / Director, Center for Documentary Studies

Prof. Hogan published her second monograph, *On the Freedom Side: How Five Decades of Youth Activists Have Remixed American History* (UNC Press 2019), and was awarded an NEH grant for a Summer Teachers Institute on grassroots perspectives on the Civil Rights Movement. Originally slated for July 2020, the Institute will be rescheduled.

Saskia Cornes, FHI Assistant Professor of the Practice / Program Director, Duke Campus Farm

On leave in Fall 2019, Prof. Cornes taught her popular undergraduate course “Nature, Culture, Gender” course in Spring 2020. She is a lead faculty instructor for the Imagining the Future of Food DukeImmerse course cluster, postponed from Summer 2020 to Fall 2021.

Franklin Cason, FHI Visiting Assistant Professor

A film-maker and film scholar at North Carolina State University, Prof. Cason was visiting faculty at the FHI for the 2019 calendar year. He spoke on his work on the politics and aesthetics of African American cinema for tgiFHI.

Andrés Fabián Henao Castro, Postdoctoral Fellow, Academy of Global Humanities & Critical Theory

Prof. Henao Castro (Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Boston) spent the second year of his two-year AGHCT fellowship at the FHI. In addition to organizing a working group and international conference on *Antigone* (more on p. 32), he also led an interdisciplinary writing group for humanities postdoctoral fellows and visiting scholars.

Carolyn (Collie) Fulford, Visiting Faculty Fellow, Humanities Unbounded

Associate Professor of Language and Literature at North Carolina Central University, Prof. Fulford is an alumna of the FHI's NCCU Digital Humanities Fellows Program. As part of her Humanities Unbounded Fellowship research project on adult non-traditional students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, she led a Story+ summer project on “HBCU Counterstories” with a mixed-age, Duke-NCCU student team.



Our **Humanities Laboratories** are faculty-led interdisciplinary ventures organized around a central theme. Versatile in form, a Lab is simultaneously a hub of research projects, a cluster of courses, a host of events, and a platform for collaborations with campus and community, national and international partners.

Poet Alexis Gumbs (left) and artist Saba Taj at the Social Practice Lab's Open Engagement conference. Photo by OE - NC Photo Team.

Health Humanities Lab

CO-DIRECTORS

DEBORAH JENSON

Romance Studies
Term ends June 2020

NEIL PROSE

School of Medicine

MARION QUIRICI

Thompson Writing Program

KEARSLEY STEWART

Duke Global Health Institute

JEHANNE GHEITH

Slavic and Eurasian Studies
Term begins July 2020

The Health Humanities Lab takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding health and medicine, locally and worldwide, through work grounded in the humanities. Launched in 2016 with joint support by the Provost and Chancellor of Duke Health, the Lab explores the “whole person” in a dynamic continuum along which the identities of learners, educators, patients, and health care providers, are not mutually exclusive.

<https://sites.fhi.duke.edu/healthhumanitieslab/>



2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM & OUTREACH In Fall 2019, the Lab worked with the **Duke Disability Alliance** to survey student interest in a curriculum on health humanities, building on its multi-year efforts in interdisciplinary teaching (e.g., **Storytelling and Medicine, the Bass Connections Calla Project on reproductive health and storytelling**) and co-curricular outreach (e.g., **Chronic Health Conditions Storytelling Group, Narrative Medicine Workshops, Community Dance Day**).

The HHL has been a key supporter of an effort to decolonize the curriculum among Global Health students. The **development of an undergraduate curriculum centered on social justice and disability studies** will be the Lab’s core focus moving forward.

KEEPERS OF THE HOUSE Premiered at the September 2019 DukeAHEAD Health Professions Education Day, this **15-minute documentary film** tells the unsung **stories of Environmental Service Workers at Duke Hospital**, many Black and Latinx, especially the social bonds they form with patients and families. The film is a joint effort of Lab Co-Director Neil Prose, filmmaker Rhonda Klevansky, and animator Francesca Talenti.

COVID-19 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT In the midst of pandemic lockdown, the Lab launched a special edition of its popular **expressive writing workshops on resilience during COVID-19**. The Co-Directors and Lab Manager Cuquis Robledo also participated in the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes’ virtual **Health Humanities Network** meeting and, in partnership with the Duke Federal Relations Office, an **online briefing for Congressional staff** on what the arts and humanities can bring to healthcare.

Social Movements Lab

CO-DIRECTORS

MICHAEL HARDT
Literature, Duke

SANDRO MEZZADRA
Arts, University of Bologna

Eschewing the theory/practice divide, the Social Movements Lab seeks to understand contemporary social movements through the lens of scholar-activists who theorize the work of movements as they participate in them. Taking an international and intersectional approach, the Lab focuses on connections between movements in different social domains and national spaces. The Lab was slated to wrap up its third and final year in 2019-20. Due to Covid, a concluding seminar with the Co-Directors was postponed, to be rescheduled when travel conditions permit.

<https://sites.fhi.duke.edu/socialmovementslab>



Protesters performing Chilean feminist anthem "El violador en tu camino" in Raleigh, January 2020. Photo by Elia Figueroa.

2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT The Lab's third and final year was bracketed by two important **public interventions** by the Co-Directors: Hardt's participation in the **Provost's Forum on Immigration** at Duke in October and **Mezzadra's essay**, published online in March during the COVID-19 emergency in Italy, on **new terrains of political struggle in pandemic times**.

WEEKLY DIALOGUES & PUBLICATION SERIES Over the past three years, the Lab hosted **33 weekly dialogues and other events with scholars and activists on social movements** across Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe. These events have yielded **11 special sections in *South Atlantic Quarterly***, with recent and forthcoming dossiers on indigenous struggles in Canada, Mediterranean migrant rescue (co-edited by Hardt and Mezzadra), the rise of the platform worker, the Gilets Jaunes (Yellow Vests) movement in France, and citizenship politics in Modi's India. Graduate fellows Elia Figueroa and Anna Tybinko have created a **web archive** that includes these *SAQ* essays along with other readings, as a public resource for researchers seeking to understand social movements, their specific local trajectories and shared global conditions.

ABOLITION UNIVERSITY In October, Lab Manager and Visiting Scholar Eli Meyerhoff co-convoked **Whose Crisis? Whose University? Abolitionist Study in and beyond Global Higher Education**, a two-day conference focused on the **American university's entanglements with systems of inequalities**, as well as strategies of countering these legacies through research, teaching, and campus activism. This project is extending into **Piedmont Biocapitalism**, a nascent **research network** co-organized by Meyerhoff and Gabriel Rosenberg (Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies) to study the ties between universities, the tobacco industry, and other biocapitalist enterprises across the Piedmont region.

From Slavery to Freedom Lab

CO-DIRECTORS

LAMONTE AIDOO
Romance Studies

JASMINE COBB
Art, Art History & Visual Studies

RICHARD POWELL
Art, Art History & Visual Studies

The From Slavery to Freedom Lab explores the life and afterlives of slavery and emancipation through scholarly exchanges, artistic engagements, and experimental modes of inquiry. The Lab supports projects, including vertically integrated teams, that develop new ways to imagine freedom as a historical experience, a representation, and a lived reality.

<https://sites.fhi.duke.edu/fromslaverytofreedom/>



2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

BLACK WOMEN WRITERS AT WORK In September 2019, the Lab hosted a **historic gathering of eight founding scholars in Black feminist literary and cultural studies**, to reflect on the past, present, and future of the field: Carole Boyce Davies, Hazel Carby, Thadious Davis, Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Farah Jasmine Griffith, Deborah McDowell, Cheryl Wall, and Mary Helen Washington. The event was rendered all the more poignant six months later with the tragic passing of Dr. Wall. To ensure long-term scholarly access, videos, transcripts, and photographs from the conference are in the process of being deposited at the University Archives and John Hope Franklin Research Center at Rubenstein Library.

BLACK IMAGES, BLACK HISTORY This **two-day conference** in January 2020 brought together **curators and art historians to consider iconic images and popular constructions of Blackness in American culture**, from memorial sculptures to the photographic archives of ordinary citizens. A standing-room only crowd attended the keynote dialogue between Co-Director Jasmine Cobb and visual artist Titus Kaphar, best known for his reworkings of classical styles and mediums - through symbolic cuts, tears, and erasures - to make visible the racial history so often hidden from view. See coverage of the conference in [Duke Chronicle](#) and [Duke Research Blog](#) and watch Co-Director Powell read from his essay on the Obama Portraits (video to the left). A thematically related Lab visit to Los Angeles for a major exhibition of the Black feminist assemblage and installation artist Betye Saar, linked to Powell's American Artist course, was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19.

Social Practice Lab

DIRECTOR

PEDRO LASCH

Art, Art History & Visual Studies

The Social Practice Lab seeks to promote socially engaged art in a University setting by bringing together scholars, artists, and activists in public interventions and signature projects. The Lab's operations are centered on the creation of multi-year projects, as well as smaller, student-led productions happening on a single year or single semester basis. SPL projects take shape through research and production teams, curricular tracks, and ongoing opportunities that extend beyond the social and geographic boundaries of the university (age, income, neighborhood, region, country).

<https://sites.fhi.duke.edu/socialpracticelab>

2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

OPEN ENGAGEMENT 2019 The Lab opened the year by bringing the **international art and social practice annual conference** Open Engagement to the Triangle and Triad, with an emphasis on visionary, futurist work oriented towards social justice.

Emergent Futures: State of the Field took place from September 13 to 15 at Duke, UNC Chapel Hill, and UNC Greensboro, and surrounding communities, featuring workshops, performances, exhibits, and other sessions with socially engaged artists, activists, students, scholars, and community members.

ART OF THE MOOC COVID-19 social distancing has been especially challenging for social practice projects, many of which are site-specific and depend on face-to-face interactions, both practically and conceptually. But while Director Lasch and collaborators rethink social engagement in the shadow of Covid, the Lab's **Art of the MOOC** online course, created in 2015 in partnership with Creative Time, has seen an astronomical increase in enrollment, with **8,000 new subscribers** between March and August.

National Abstraction Ensemble, public march organized by the Bologna Social Practice Lab at the Summer School of Global Studies and Critical Theory, 2017. Photo by BSPL photo team.



Affiliated Centers & Initiatives

Duke University Press Editorial Director Gisela Fosado (right) at the Meridians 20th Anniversary Symposium. Photo by Eric Barstow.

New Partnership

Left of Black

2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

After nearly ten dynamic years at the John Hope Franklin Center, the **web series** *Left of Black* shifted its productions to the FHI in Spring 2020. Created and hosted by Mark Anthony Neal, James B. Duke Professor and Chair of African American Studies, the series features **weekly interviews with scholars, critics, writers, artists, musicians, and others working in the capacious field of African American thought and culture.** This new partnership builds upon the FHI's strong media production unit, headed by Multimedia Director Eric Barstow, and a *Left of Black* Story+ project in Summer 2018. More fundamentally, **the series' focus on Black Studies and its lively presence in digital public spaces** resonates powerfully with the FHI's intellectual and institutional mission.

2019-20 series guests included **Jazz saxophonist and composer Joshua Redman, novelist and playwright Caryl Phillips,** and speakers from the **50th Anniversary of Black Studies at Duke Series.** Season 10 also featured co-host Sasha Panaram, then doctoral candidate at Duke and now Assistant Professor of English at Fordham University.

CREATOR & HOST

MARK ANTHONY NEAL

African & African American Studies

Left of Black is a weekly webcast that explores Black Studies - particularly questions of culture, gender, sexuality, and the arts - through interviews with scholars, artists, and other public figures. Series production moved to the Franklin Humanities Institute in 2020. Additional support for the series is provided by the Trinity College of Arts and Sciences.

<https://leftofblack.tumblr.com/>



New Initiative

In The Press

2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

Building upon the FHI's Media and Journalism project from 2016-18 (directed by Jonathan M. Katz), this new initiative puts journalism into conversation with public humanities. Directed by award-winning journalist and anthropologist Brian Goldstone (who received his PhD in Cultural Anthropology at Duke), the series brings together **journalists, scholars, and activists to discuss emergent issues in the media**, providing theoretical and historical context for current debates.

In Fall 2019 In the Press presented "Concentration Camps, Then and Now," **a roundtable on the migrant detention camps on the US/Mexico border that explored their historical antecedents in US and world histories, and the political controversy over the use of the term "concentration camps."** Speakers included journalists Andrea Pitzer and (in a return visit to the FHI) Jonathan Katz and activist and Social Movements Lab Fellow Roxana Bendezú, with Goldstone serving as moderator.

DIRECTOR

BRIAN GOLDSTONE

Journalist & Anthropologist

In the Press brings together journalists, scholars, and activists to discuss emergent issues in the media, providing theoretical and historical context for current debates. Future events may explore the overlaps between academic writing, investigative journalism, and narrative nonfiction - and their practical, professional, and theoretical implications for scholars and students.

<https://fhi.duke.edu/programs/in-the-press>



Duke Human Rights Center @ FHI

2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Anti-racist environmental work remains a key priority at the DHRC@FHI, even while its **multi-year research partnership with the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice** (CREEJ), formerly Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise) had a quieter year due to expanding commitments for CREEJ founder and recently named **MacArthur Fellow Catherine Flowers** (see video on right). The 2019-20 speaker series **Indigenous Rights and Environmental Justice** also draws on the DHRC's historic strength in human rights in the Americas. In conjunction with the speaker series, the DHRC has been a key participant in a **Triangle-area land acknowledgement committee**, comprised of students, staff, and faculty from UNC, NC State, and Duke and members of local Native Nations.

TEACHING FOR EQUITY FELLOWS Led by DHRC@FHI Assistant Director Emily Stewart, the Teaching for Equity Fellows program continues to grow in reach and impact. In 2019-20 the program again offered its year-long, professionally facilitated **anti-racist training for two cohorts of campus faculty** (Arts and Sciences and Professional Schools) and one cohort of health educators and clinicians, with each cohort consisting of ~20 participants. The program has also maintained strong connections to its previous Fellows, which now number over 150, offering a **4-part alumni workshop series** that included, for example, a session on how to embed race equity approaches in the science and engineering classroom.

PAULI MURRAY PROJECT Directed by Barbara Lau, the PMP continues to gain national attention while deepening local relationships. In January it convened a **Think Tank** with local activists, culture workers, and community stakeholders. In the wake of the social justice protests of the summer, it worked with local civil rights attorneys to organize **legal education workshops** on protest arrests and police violence. The Murray childhood home, site of the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice, was featured in the forthcoming documentary *My Name is Pauli Murray*.

CO-DIRECTORS

ROBIN KIRK

Cultural Anthropology

ERIKA WEINTHAL

Nicholas School of the Environment

The DHRC@FHI brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars, staff and students to promote new understandings of and action on human rights, in both local and global contexts. Committed to social justice, the Center engages with issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, income inequality, the environment, the philosophy and history of human rights, the literature that emerges alongside it, linguistic rights, and artistic responses in its research, teaching, programming and outreach. The DHRC@FHI is the Duke base of the Pauli Murray Project, dedicated to community history and social justice (directed by Barbara Lau).

<https://humanrights.fhi.duke.edu/>

<https://www.paulimurraycenter.com/>



Digital Humanities Initiative @ FHI

2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

CRITICAL DIGITAL HUMANITIES The DHI@FHI has begun an effort to **rethink Digital Humanities** in terms of its position within the humanities (is it a set of tools or an emergent field with its own theories and norms?) and the need for **deeper engagement with “digital divides” along the axes of race, colonialism, gender, ability, and class**. In February the DHI@FHI presented **Co-Opting AI?, a seminar on artificial intelligence and the design justice movement**, with Luciana Parisi (Literature, Duke) and Ezekiel Dixon-Román (Social Policy, Penn). In late summer, thanks to the **ACLS Emerging Voices Fellowship** program, the DHI@FHI was able to offer a postdoctoral position to the historian Jesus Ruiz (PhD Tulane), who will bring his expertise on the Black Atlantic and colonial geography to bear on Critical DH. These developments have emerged organically from DHI@FHI’s 2018 NEH Summer Institute on Virtual and Augmented Reality (VARDHI), which reunited for a **follow-up symposium** in February 2020, as well as its **on-going partnership** with North Carolina Central University (NCCU).

NCCU DIGITAL HUMANITIES FELLOWS

See p. 24.

PHD LAB IN DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE

See p. 29.

DIRECTOR

VICTORIA SZABO

Art, Art History & Visual Studies

The DHI@FHI organizes events and communities interested in the digital humanities, broadly conceived across the disciplines and in dialogue with media studies, technology and ethics, information studies, and related topics. We host the PhD Lab in Digital Knowledge, the NCCU-Duke Digital Humanities Fellows program, and organize events and opportunities around campus. We also co-sponsor the interdisciplinary PhD program in Computational Media, Arts & Cultures, and coordinate with the Libraries, interdisciplinary labs, and other programs on joint programming.

<https://digitalhumanities.duke.edu/>

<https://sites.fhi.duke.edu/phdlab/>



Multimedia artist Tahir Hemphill speaking at VARDHI workshop. Photo by Jennifer R. Zhou.

Intersections of Di



NCCU Music faculty Lenora Helm Hammonds introducing keynote lecture at the #RepresentationMatters Institute. Photo by Chioke Brown.

Digital Humanities Initiative @ FHI

NCCU-DUKE DH FELLOWSHIPS

Launched in 2016 under the auspices of the FHI's Mellon Humanities Futures grant and now housed at DHI@FHI, the program welcomed its **fourth cohort of NCCU faculty fellows** in Fall 2019. Focused on digital pedagogy, the program has spurred the growth of DH at NCCU beyond the classroom. In October a group of program alumni organized **#RepresentationMatters, the first Triangle Digital Humanities Institute to be held at NCCU**. In July, 2018-19 Fellow Brett Chambers (Mass Communications) was elected President of the Digital Humanities Collaborative of North Carolina. An **interactive map of NCCU founder James Shepard's travels**, created by former Fellows Tony Frazier and Jarvis Hargrove (now at East Carolina University), was prominently featured on the University's 110th anniversary website, while the **NCCU DH Lab** continues to enable classroom innovations. Built upon over a decade of work with HBCU faculty, this partnership continues to be vital to the FHI's intellectual and institutional mission.

2019-20 FELLOWS

TaKeia Anthony

History

Rachelle Gold

Language & Literature

Kwame Hawkins

Art

Kuldip Kuwahara

Language & Literature

Camille Passalacqua

Language & Literature

<https://sites.fhi.duke.edu/nccudhfellows/>

Center For Philosophy, Art & Literature

2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

PAL was founded in Fall 2010 with the goal of putting literature and the arts (theater, painting, film, etc.) in conversation with philosophy. Its core programs include **event series on Ordinary Language Philosophy, Intellectual Women, and Writing Is Thinking**. Along with a **Graduate Certificate**, PAL co-organizes **an annual graduate student conference with partners at Stanford University**, with each school hosting the event on alternate years. In the Fall 2019, PAL presented a **2-day symposium in memory of the philosopher Stanley Cavell**, whose work in aesthetics and ordinary language philosophy has been deeply important for PAL faculty and students. After 10 richly productive years, PAL was originally slated to conclude in Fall 2021 with a major conference. This conference will be rescheduled when in-person meetings are once again possible.

DIRECTOR

TORIL MOI

Literature

PAL seeks to foster conversation between writers and artists and scholars and critics. PAL's mission is to show that literature and the arts think as deeply as philosophy, and to encourage dialogue between literature and the arts, and philosophy in ways that don't subordinate the former to the latter, but rather acknowledge them as equal contributors to human knowledge.

<https://dukepal.org/>





Doctoral students Max Symuleski and Rebecca Uliasz at the PhD Lab of Digital Knowledge. Photo by Jennifer R. Zhou.

In addition to our core programs, the Franklin Humanities Institute provides a rich array of opportunities designed for **graduate students** and **undergraduates**.

Duke Human Rights Center @ FHI

HUMAN RIGHTS CERTIFICATE

The Human Rights Certificate offers undergraduate students an in-depth and rigorous **interdisciplinary study of human rights history, theory and practice**, cultivating life-long learners and engaged citizens who have a deep and nuanced understanding of human rights. Administered by the DHRC@FHI, the certificate introduction and capstone courses are taught by DHRC@FHI executive committee faculty.

In a bittersweet end to an unprecedented year, **19 seniors graduated with the Human Rights Certificate** – the third and **largest class in the program's history**. The Certificate continues to maintain an **average enrollment of 40 to 50 students per year across all classes**. Many certificate students are also active in other DHRC@FHI projects, including those on **campus history, environmental justice, and land acknowledgement**.



As a Saint Louis native who bore witness to the Ferguson uprising in August 2014, the Human Rights Certificate piqued my interest, as I sought interdisciplinary studies that helped me make sense of the things happening around me and support the work in the ongoing fight for Black lives and human rights.

De'Ja Wood, T'20

This certificate program emphasizes actual engagement with some of the most urgent human rights issues of our moment. The Human Rights Center staff are constantly organizing insightful events, building relationships with community partners across the country, and encouraging students to research, write, and think critically.

Gino Nuzzolilli, T'20

Story+

CO-DIRECTORS

AMANDA STARLING GOULD

Franklin Humanities Institute

JULES ODENDAHL-JAMES

Academic Advising Center & Theater Studies

Story+ is a 6-week summer research experience for Duke students interested in exploring interdisciplinary humanities research topics and methodologies. The program combines hands-on research with storytelling to create dynamic outcomes for diverse public audiences. Project teams are proposed by faculty, staff, and community organizations, led by graduate mentors, and staffed by undergraduate researchers. Story+ is funded by the Together Duke Strategic Plan and administered by the FHI in conjunction with Bass Connections, with support from Duke University Libraries.

<https://fhi.duke.edu/programs/story>



Both Together and Apart: Story+ 2020 Thrives Online

By Amanda Starling Gould

Following Duke University's official policy guidance that any "Duke-sponsored academic curricular and co-curricular programs scheduled for the summer [of 2020] must be delivered remotely or online," **Story+ decided, without pause or hesitation, to move online.**

Teams collaborated closely while living apart, in different cities, states, countries, and time zones. This summer, **more than 50 students in 10 teams participated across 18 states and 5 countries!** Over the course of the six weeks they researched, created, collaborated, discovered, conversed, listened, and authored... all the while also taking and teaching online courses, Zooming, voting, protesting, and weathering a pandemic. They **wrote poetry, designed technologies, managed interviews with academic and everyday experts, crafted digital zines, learned to tell stories through physical movement, and participated in global live-streamed music events.**

This year's students, project managers, project PIs, and Story+ staff are nothing short of **innovators**. There has never been a remote Story+ program before this summer, but everyone pulled together and the **research thrived!**

Read the complete blog post with links to project presentation videos at <https://fhi.duke.edu/highlights/both-together-and-apart>

*During the six-week duration of **STORY+**, participants gain **firsthand experience with humanities research processes**, learning how to **collaborate and conduct research in a group context**, and how to **turn research findings, processes and products into narratives and presentations**. For me, this last point, the ability to recognize what is interesting in a research archive, articulate why one finds it compelling, and ultimately situate it in a broader social narrative is **foundational to any research practice regardless of discipline**, and one I've observed the **STORY+** program achieve exceptionally well in terms of outcomes for undergraduate researchers from a variety of humanistic fields.*

Quran Karriem

**Ph.D. Candidate, Computational Arts, Media & Cultures
Story+ Research Assistant**

DIGITAL HUMANITIES INITIATIVE @ FHI

PHD LAB IN DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE

Co-directed by Victoria Szabo (AAHVS) and Philip Stern (History) and embedded within the DHI@FHI, the PhD Lab continues to be **a gathering point for doctoral students interested in digital research and teaching in the humanities, across disciplinary locations and levels of expertise**. In 2019-20, the Lab's 20 Scholars hailed from 11 departments in the arts, humanities, and interpretive social sciences. They met biweekly to share their **works in progress** throughout the year and, after COVID-19, held a special meeting on the **challenges and possibilities of digital pedagogy**.

The Lab has benefited from a close relationship with the PhD program in Computation Media, Arts, and Culture, with C-MAC students often taking on the role of **peer mentors** to other students. PhD Lab Scholars have the opportunity to participate in other DHI@FHI projects, for example as Research Assistants for the NCCU-Duke DH Fellows Program.

GRADUATE WORKING GROUPS + DISSERTATION WRITING GROUPS

In Fall 2019 we revived our **Dissertation Writing Groups program** and issued a call for **Interdisciplinary Graduate Working Group Proposals**. These programs are intended to create **more avenues of support for doctoral students**, besides the thematically defined Humanities Labs. All groups are expected to be self-organized; the FHI provides **funding for books, meetings, and public events** that advance group members' intellectual agendas.

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKING GROUPS

Carcerality
Latin American Critical Theory
Listening Group
Transnational Soundscapes
Unearthing Duke Forest

DISSERTATION WRITING GROUPS

Daily Writers
Gender
Ibero-Americanists
Political Economy

*Particularly as an advanced-stage graduate student, the Franklin Humanities Institute is an important organizational framework for my scholarly endeavors. I am a member of the Ibero-American **Dissertation Working Group** which has provided a collaborative atmosphere for those of us working on Spanish and Lusophone cultural studies projects to develop connections across the disciplines and geographic areas. The **From Slavery to Freedom Lab** and the **Social Movements Lab** have been fundamental for expanding my intellectual horizons. Through both labs, I've been able to keep abreast of new research on the African Diaspora and liberatory struggles that may be outside of my strict academic field but that very much inform my work. I've also been supported by these labs in planning events myself. This past spring, I held a workshop entitled "Abolitionist Organizing on the US-Mexico Border" as part of my undergraduate seminar on Spanish narratives of migration. Thanks to the Labs my students were able to dialogue with activists closer to home. The public nature of **FHI events** meant that my students were conversing with a much wider community. I am grateful for these **layered learning opportunities** to grow as a teacher, scholar - and even activist!*

Anna Tybinko

Ph.D. Candidate, Romance Studies



Coronavirus roundtable co-hosted by the FHI and DKU Humanities Research Center. Photo by Avery Rhoades.

The FHI's **Global Partnerships** promote research, teaching, and institutional exchanges across borders, languages, and intellectual traditions.

Academy of Global Humanities & Critical Theory (AGHCT)

A collaboration with the University of Bologna and University of Virginia, the Academy is **a transnational research network committed to exchanges, in particular, across the Global South and Global North**. In 2019-20, the AGHCT's inaugural 2-year **Postdoctoral Fellow, Andrés Henao Castro** (Assistant Professor of Political Science, U Mass Boston), spent the year at the FHI after a first year at Bologna. At the FHI Henao Castro led **a working group on adaptations and interpretations of the Greek tragedy Antigone around the world**, especially anti-imperial, postcolonial, feminist, and queer reimaginings. With Institute Director Ranjana Khanna, he is co-organizing **an international conference** on the same topic as part of the World Arts series. Originally scheduled for October 2020, the conference has been postponed, but the **companion film series** will go forward as planned via streaming. Already deeply resonant before the events of 2020, the dramatizations of mourning and dissent in the global Antigone tradition compel critical reflections on the crises of the present: we look forward to beginning 2021 with this timely gathering of scholars and thinkers.

The heart of the Academy is its annual **Summer School** for graduate students. In early March, as the coronavirus emergency spread in Italy, the Academy made the decision to cancel the 2020 Summer School as well as the **Spring cross-campus faculty residencies** (Duke faculty John Martin and Marianna Torgovnick were scheduled to teach in Bologna, and UNIBO's Marica Tolomelli to visit Duke and attend the annual Feminist Theory Workshop). As the re-opening of international travel remains uncertain, the FHI is leading an initiative among the AGHCT partners (Bologna, UVA, Wits) to create **a shared digital platform, tentatively entitled Digital Library of Global Critical Thought**.



Photo courtesy of the AGHCT.

Duke Kunshan University Humanities Research Center

The FHI has maintained a close institutional relationship with the Duke Kunshan University Humanities Research Center since its founding in 2018. In Early Spring 2020, after the emergence of Covid in China, we became the temporary home of **Center Co-Director and Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary Strategy James Miller and Lab Manager Tim Smith** – and de facto headquarters of the Humanities Research Center itself. On March 2, the FHI and HRC co-hosted **The Coronavirus: Political, Social, and Human Implications, a two-part event** that included **a virtual forum for DKU students**, who joined from locations around the world, and an in-person **roundtable**

for the Duke community. Speakers included Duke and DKU faculty, as well as Duke graduate and undergraduate students. The discussion – primarily focused on China – of **government and university responses, data and surveillance, civilian mutual aid and social media diaries, and the vulnerability of front-line workers and marginalized populations**, has proved to be starkly illuminating for the current American predicament. **An essay collection** based on the event, edited by Miller, was published by Palgrave MacMillan in December 2020.



Consortium of Humanities Centers & Institutes (CHCI)

As the administrative base of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes for 10 years, the FHI remains actively engaged with the CHCI, **an international organization with over 250 member centers spread across 43 nations**. Director Ranjana Khanna is a member of the CHCI International Advisory Board. In December 2019, she and Debjani Ganguly, Director of the Institute for Humanities and Global Culture at UVA, co-organized **a CHCI conference in Delhi on the state of the arts and humanities in India**. The Consortium's annual conference, originally to be

hosted by the Confluencer for Creative Inquiry at Arizona State University, went online over May and June this year. Khanna led **a virtual session on Arts and Humanities collaborations**, centered on video interviews she conducted with artists and scholars around the world, while Associate Director Christina Chia co-convoked **a session for Humanities Center Administrators**. Faculty and staff from the Health Humanities Lab also presented at the CHCI **Health and Medical Humanities Network** virtual meeting.



Meet the FHI Staff



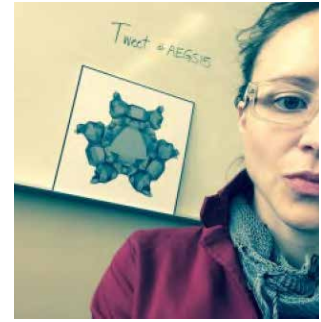
Eric Barstow
Multimedia Director • Director & Producer, Left of Black



John Carbuccia
IT Analyst



Christina Chia
Associate Director



Amanda Starling Gould
Sr. Program Coordinator, Educational Programs & Digital Humanities • Co-Director, Story+



Ranjana Khanna
Director • Professor, English, Literature, Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies



Barbara Lau
Director, Pauli Murray Project



Eli Meyerhoff
Manager, Social Movements Lab • Visiting Scholar



Sylvia Miller
Sr. Program Manager, Scholarly Publishing • Duke Univ. Press Liaison, Carlyle Letters Online



Pamela Montgomery
Assistant Director • President, NC Chapter of the Society of Research Administrators International



Avery Rhoades
Operations Coordinator



Cuquis Robledo
Manager, Health Humanities Lab



Sarah Rogers
Assistant Director, Public Programs and Communications



Emily Stewart
Assistant Director, Duke Human Rights Center @ FHI • Director, Teaching for Equity Fellows



Mary H. Williams
Financial Manager



Jennifer Zhou
Coordinator, From Slavery to Freedom Lab & PhD Lab in Digital Knowledge

