



2023-24 NEWSLETTER



INTERDISCIPLINARY
Humanities
CENTER

Dear IHC Community,

Within the university, the term “humanities” designates a cluster of academic departments as well as interdisciplinary research areas such as digital, environmental, legal, and medical humanities. However, the humanities do not reside exclusively, or even primarily, inside of the university. They exist as a set of reflective and creative practices exercised every time we narrate an event or translate an impression into language, sound, movement, or material form. We interpret our diverse histories, conceptualize our relationships to the institutions that anchor our society, and assess the place we occupy in our built and natural environments through the analytic skills and interrogative techniques central to the humanities. The stories we produce through these endeavors lay the groundwork for how we live with the past and envision our individual and collective futures.

This year, the IHC’s public events series *Imagining California* will explore stories that have shaped the physical place and the cultural imaginary known as California. The speakers in the series will explore our state’s diverse cultures and achievements and the large-scale challenges we Californians are facing. Renowned poet, playwright, and essayist Cherríe Moraga will inaugurate the series on October 12.

The work of building partnerships between the university and the community through shared projects in the humanities continues through the IHC’s public humanities programs. This summer, history graduate students Emma Bianco, Casey Haughin-Scasny, and Dana Hughes; 4–6-grade public school educators; and the staff of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation collaborated on a civics learning project for elementary school students called “The Making of Monuments.” Together they developed lesson plans to teach students how to exercise their voices to influence the ways in which public institutions commemorate the history of their local community.

Four Public Humanities Graduate Fellows are currently working on projects with local and international community partners: Kenzie Wade (Anthropology) is collaborating with Food Tank on three high-profile, national events centered on food systems change; Maria Zazzarino (Comp Lit) is interning with Santa Barbara’s Community Environmental Council; Megan Sheard (History of Art and Architecture) is an

intern at the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation; and Guillem Belmar Viernes (Linguistics) is completing his Mixtec project, “Kusíkí ra kutu’va Sà’án Sàví: Community language learning through storytelling and playing in Oaxaca.”

The IHC continues to support innovative, interdisciplinary research through its 13 Research Focus Groups and variety of competitive research grants. This year, our Faculty Fellows are History Professor Utathya Chattopadhyaya, whose project is “Ganja Matters: Empire and the Pursuits of Cannabis in British India”; Professor Mona Damluji, of Film and Media Studies, who is working on her manuscript “Pipeline Cinema”; and English Professor Rachael King, whose project is entitled “Improving Literature: Media, Environments, and the Eighteenth-Century Improvement Debate.” In Spring 2024, the IHC will host a panel discussion of their work.

The five doctoral students awarded a prestigious 2023–24 Dissertation Fellowship are: Jéssica Malinalli Coyotecatl Contreras,

Anthropology; Amy Fallas, History; Anthony Greco, History; Christina Guirguis, Global Studies; and Albert Ventayol-Boada, Linguistics. In addition to working on their theses, the fellows will participate in a year-long workshop in which they discuss their projects through interdisciplinary perspectives.

I am grateful to the IHC Advisory Board members for their leadership in grant-application review. Their service to our vibrant research culture enables us to support the innovative scholarship and creative projects of our colleagues.

I wish you all a productive and stimulating year, and I look forward to seeing you at the IHC.

Best wishes,



Susan Derwin, Director
Interdisciplinary Humanities Center



2023–24 IHC ADVISORY BOARD

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HISTORY OF ART AND
ARCHITECTURE

JULIE CARLSON
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WILLIAM DAVIES KING
THEATER AND DANCE

XIAORONG LI
EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES &
CULTURAL STUDIES

ROSE MACLEAN
CLASSICS

CHRISTINA VAGT
GERMANIC AND SLAVIC STUDIES



CALIFORNIA is the Golden State and a state of mind, both a gateway and the end of the line. Its name comes from a 16th-century Spanish romance novel in which the mythical Queen Calafia rules an island of powerful Black women, rich in gold, called California. When Spanish explorers adopted the name of this chimeric island for the lands they seized, they inaugurated a history in which utopian promise and settler-colonial violence became twined at the root. Today, California has the largest economy in the nation, it has more national parks than any state, and its public university system is without parallel. California also has an acute housing crisis, and 30% of all people in the country experiencing homelessness reside in the state. California is also the least literate state in the nation. The IHC's 2023–24 public events series *Imagining California* will draw from perspectives in the humanities to consider the contradictions and contestations that define California, the dreams that have informed its past, and the new imaginings that can inspire its future.

SELECTION OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCT 12** **IMAGINE THIS: THE (RE)GENERATION OF PLACE**
Cherríe Moraga, poet, essayist, playwright, and Distinguished Professor in English (UCSB)
- OCT 19** **IS BARBIE FEMINIST? IT'S COMPLICATED**
M.G. Lord, cultural critic, investigative journalist, and Associate Professor of the Practice of English (USC)
- NOV 16** **THE DREAMT LAND: HOW THE INVENTION OF CALIFORNIA BECAME MIRACLE AND RUIN**
Mark Arax, award-winning author and journalist
- FEB 1** **WRITING CALIFORNIA**
Susan Straight, award-winning author and Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing (UCR)
- FEB 8** **CALIFORNIA AGAINST THE SEA: VISIONS FOR OUR VANISHING COASTLINE**
Rosanna Xia, environmental reporter (Los Angeles Times)
- FEB 23** **AESTHETIC MOBILITY AND SOLIDARITIES AT SELF HELP GRAPHICS & ART**
Karen Mary Davalos, Professor of Chicano and Latino Studies (University of Minnesota)
Tatiana Reinoza, Assistant Professor of Art History (University of Notre Dame)
- MAY 9** **PANEL DISCUSSION: REPARATIONS IN CALIFORNIA**
Daina Ramey Berry (UCSB), Tiffany Caesar (San Francisco State University),
Jovan Scott Lewis (UC Berkeley), and Giuliana Perrone (UCSB)

IHC FELLOWSHIP AND AWARD WINNERS

FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Given to ladder-rank faculty members to release them from teaching for one quarter in order to concentrate on research projects

UTATHYA CHATTOPADHYAYA, History: "Ganja Matters: Empire and the Pursuits of Cannabis in British India"

MONA DAMLUJI, Film and Media Studies: "Pipeline Cinema"

RACHAEL KING, English: "Improving Literature: Media, Environments, and the Eighteenth-Century Improvement Debate"

FACULTY COLLABORATIVE AWARDS

Support for campus or local conferences; collaborative research or instructional projects by faculty members in one or more departments/programs; and initiatives to bring visiting scholars and arts practitioners to campus for collaborative research or teaching

Listening to Cumbia

DAVID NOVAK, Music

RAQUEL PACHECO, Anthropology

IHC DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

Support for doctoral candidates whose research facilitates dialogue across the traditional disciplinary boundaries within the arts and humanities and/or between the arts and humanities, sciences, and social sciences

JÉSSICA MALINALLI COYOTECATL CONTRERAS, Anthropology: "Sovereign and Deadly Energy Transition: Communal Life against Extractivism in Mexico"

AMY FALLAS, History: "Their Own Poor: Communal Identities, Charitable Societies, and the Making of Sectarianism in Modern Egypt, 1879-1939"

ANTHONY GRECO, History: "Flows of History: Science, Colonialism, and the Cairo Nilometer, 1700-1920"

CHRISTINA GUIRGUIS, Global Studies: "Potty Politics"

ALBERT VENTAYOL-BOADA, Linguistics: "Reconstructing an Indigenous Past in Siberia: From Assembling the Archive to the Digital Humanities"

GRADUATE COLLABORATIVE AWARDS

Annual project awards to encourage graduate student collaboration beyond the confines of individual departments and disciplines within the arts and humanities and between the arts and humanities, social sciences, and sciences

Asian/American Studies Collective Graduate Symposium

MICHAEL NISHIMURA, Sociology

MAILE YOUNG, English

TANDEE WANG, History

The 26th Annual Conference on Language, Interaction, and Social Organization (LISO)

ANDRE BUSCARIOLLI, Sociology

MUNIRA HAILATI, GGSE

NURGUL ISIK, GGSE

MARISSA MORGAN, Linguistics

EVELYN VERA FLANDEZ, GGSE

MARAT ZHENG, Sociology

Zine Workshop Series /QTBIPOC Identities and Futurities

KRISTY ALI, Linguistics

MAISNAM ARNAPAL, Feminist Studies

YURI FRACCAROLI, Feminist Studies

JOHN JAIRO VALENCIA, Chicana/o Studies

View the upcoming
IHC award deadlines
ihc.ucsb.edu

IHC VISUAL PERFORMING MEDIA ARTS AWARDS

These awards support innovative projects in the visual, performing, and media arts that engage creatively with issues of interdisciplinary concern.

ALEXANDRA BIRCH, History: "GULAGSound: A Rediscovered Concerto for Ukraine"

DOZANDRI MENDOZA, Linguistics: "Ball de Palabreo"

ALISON WILLIAMS, Writing Program, "Wildlife Salvage Permit"

AFFILIATED SCHOLARS:

IHC Research Fellowships are open to all recent UCSB Ph.D.s in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. The IHC's Visiting Scholar Program provides humanities and fine arts faculty from other institutions the opportunity to make use of UCSB's facilities while they are in residence in Santa Barbara. Research Fellows and Visiting Scholars participate in the Center's public events and research groups.

Research Fellow:

JOHN SCHRANCK

Visiting Scholar:

JOSEPHINE METCALF, Senior Lecturer in American Studies & Criminology, University of Hull

GRADUATE TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM

Graduate Teaching Fellows instruct in a correspondence program on Foundations in the Humanities for incarcerated students in California state prisons.

CELESTE MCALPIN-LEVITT, English (Lead Instructor)

KIRI AVELAR, Theater and Dance

CEDAR BROWN, Linguistic

CAMILLE DESPAIN, Education

RODERICK HIBBERD, Classics

EMILY HUDSON, Classics

YIMING MA, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

WOLFE RANDALL, Philosophy

NICOLE REHNBERG, History

CYPRIS ROALSVIG, Classics

EMMANOUELA SCHOINOPOKAKI, Classics

KRISTEN THOMAS-MCGILL, History

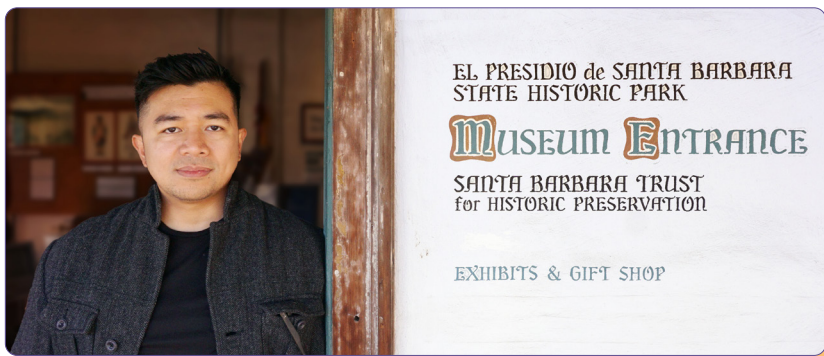
IHC PUBLIC HUMANITIES PROGRAMS

PUBLIC HUMANITIES GRADUATE FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Public Humanities Graduate Fellows Program prepares students for careers as dynamic, socially engaged humanists both within and beyond the academy. Through seminars, practical experience, and a capstone project, fellows become conversant with the history, theories, and methods of public humanities. They gain insight into the social reach and relevance of their scholarship and learn how to be publicly engaged academics. Fellows also use their skills in a variety of social and professional environments, including museums and other cultural institutions, government, education administration, and nonprofit organizations.

Seven new Fellows joined the program this year:

KRISTY ALI, Linguistics
ANA CÁRDENAS GASCA, Media Arts and Technology
TANNER CASSIDY, Music
KATYA LOPATKO, Comparative Literature
CLAUDIA MENDOZA CHAVEZ, Anthropology
WOLFE RANDALL, Philosophy
CYPRIS ROALSVIG, Classics



Public Humanities Graduate Fellow Shannon Toribio

Seven fellows completed the program this year:

HEATH PENNINGTON, Theater and Dance
MARIACAROLINA SINTURA, English
LAUREN SMYTH, Anthropology
MORGANE THONNART, Religious Studies
SHANNON TORIBIO, Religious Studies
ESRA TUNC, Religious Studies
MACKENZIE WADE, Anthropology

Six fellows completed their Practicum by partnering with nonprofit and community organizations:

HEATH PENNINGTON, Communications Fellow internship | Direct Relief
MARIACAROLINA SINTURA, "SietePolas El Podcast" series project | Sillón Estudios
LAUREN SMYTH, Program and services assessment project | Arizona Students Recycling Used Technology (AZ StRUT)
MORGANE THONNART, Research and communications project | European Middle East Project
SHANNON TORIBIO, Filipino Oral History Project internship | Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation
MACKENZIE WADE, Marketing Fellow internship | Foodbank of Santa Barbara County

[View the interactive ePub:
adobe.ly/3HnZ95P](https://adobe.ly/3HnZ95P)

INTERPRETING IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

In the seventh year of the Interpreting in Our Local Schools Program, UCSB graduate and undergraduate students continued to serve as Spanish interpreters for the fall and spring parent-teacher conference weeks at Harding, Isla Vista, and La Patera Elementary Schools, as well as the Back-to-School Night at Isla Vista and La Patera Elementary Schools. Sixty-four students provided paid Spanish-language interpretation for a total of 258 parent-teacher conferences at these three school sites. Thank you to all of our interpreters!



FOUNDATIONS IN THE HUMANITIES PRISON CORRESPONDENCE PROGRAM

The "Foundations in the Humanities" Prison Correspondence Program continued into its seventh year. Foundations in the Humanities is a social justice program that uses the study of literature to enable participants to expand their insight into themselves and their society, for the purpose of building better lives in prison and after their release. The program offers three courses: "Foundations I: Introduction to Literary Studies," "Foundations II: Selected Works of American Literature," and "Foundations III: Studies in the Novel." The program takes place through correspondence and is active in all thirty-four California state prisons. This year's program enrolled 128 participants across all three courses. The courses were taught by nine **IHC Graduate Teaching Fellows**, and the "Foundations in the Humanities" program provides UCSB graduate students a paid opportunity to explore issues of civic engagement and social justice, as well as to gain experience teaching in the humanities, working with diverse students, and alternative course delivery. The IHC began its three-year Innovative Programming Grant from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which supports the delivery of in-person and correspondence instruction at California State Prison, Corcoran.

**Learn more about
these programs**
ihc.ucsb.edu/public-humanities

RESEARCH FOCUS GROUPS

Research Focus Groups bring together faculty and graduate students with shared research interests from different fields and departments/programs to foster the development of interdisciplinary research agendas. Convened by individuals from at least two departments/programs, the RFGs meet regularly during the academic year to present work in progress, read and discuss texts and current scholarship, and/or plan and implement common research projects.

2023-24 Research Focus Groups:

AMERICAN INDIAN AND INDIGENOUS COLLECTIVE

Sarah Roselena Brady (Art), Kendall Lovely (History), Margaret McMurtrey (English), Daina Sanchez (Chicana/o Studies)

ANCIENT BORDERLANDS

Elizabeth DePalma Digeser (History), Dorota Dutsch (Classics), Claudia Moser (History of Art and Architecture)

CARIBBEAN STUDIES

Stephanie Batiste (English), Mireille Miller-Young (Feminist Studies), Saide Singh (English), Cathy Thomas (English)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND POSTCOLONIAL MEDIA THEORIES

Paul Kim (Film and Media Studies), Anna Schewelev (Comparative Literature), Christina Vagt (German, Comparative Literature), Tinghao Zhou (Film and Media Studies)

GHANA STUDIES

kwabena agyare yeboah (History), Christabel Agyeiwaa (History), Peter Bloom (Film and Media Studies), Stephan Miescher (History)

GLOBAL CHILDHOOD ECOLOGIES

Martina Mattei (Comparative Literature), Zheng Ren (Germanic and Slavic Studies), Nicole Smirnov (Comparative Literature), Sara Pankenier Weld (Germanic and Slavic Studies)

LANGUAGE, INTERACTION, AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION (LISO)

John Du Bois (Linguistics), Amy Kyrtzsis (Education), Geoffrey Raymond (Sociology), Kevin Whitehead (Sociology)

LEGAL HUMANITIES

Ahmad Atif Ahmad (Religious Studies), Jeannine DeLombard (English), Elizabeth DePalma Digeser (History), Greg Johnson (Religious Studies), Kathleen Moore (Religious Studies), Giuliana Perrone (History)

MACHINES, PEOPLE, AND POLITICS

W. Patrick McCray (History), Lisa Parks (Film and Media Studies)

PERFORMING RACE, PERFORMING SPACE

Clara Chin, (English), Taylor Holmes (English), Dozandri Mendoza (Linguistics), Alex Mireles (Feminist Studies), Jessica Nakamura (Theater and Dance), Michael Parra (English), Erick Rodriguez (English), Diana Sanchez (Chicana/o Studies)

RE-CENTERING ENERGY JUSTICE

Javiera Barandiaran (Global Studies), Jéssica Coyotecatl Contreras (Anthropology), Mona Damluji (Film and Media Studies)

SLAVERY, CAPTIVITY, AND THE MEANING OF FREEDOM

Manuel Covo (History), Jeannine DeLombard (English), Rose MacLean (Classics), Giuliana Perrone (History), Cathy Thomas (English)

SOUTH ASIAN RELIGIONS AND CULTURES

Barbara Holdrege (Religious Studies), Bhaskar Sarkar (Film and Media Studies)



IV ARTS

As the new academic year approaches, Isla Vista Arts looks forward to offering live performances, film events, and new writing initiatives for the campus community.

Pre-teens and teens from the St. George Youth Center YMCA recently attended IV Arts' summer theater camp experience, "Nuestra Voz." UCSB students exposed the teens to all aspects of theater: acting, playwriting, and design. IV Arts sent all the campers to see the musical *American Mariachi* at PCPA, where they were invited to a talk-back after the show with playwright José Cruz González and the cast. The students greatly enjoyed the heartwarming story of family and changing traditions. Many campers said that their favorite part of the summer camp was the behind-the-scenes tour of the Theater Department's scenic and costume shops.

It was a year of recognition for *Word Magazine*, IV Arts' publication on the arts and culture of Isla Vista, which was awarded second place for a feature magazine at the Associated Collegiate Press' (ACP) national conference in San Francisco this year. ACP accepted three groups of *Word* journalists to present at the conference on topics such as cultivating a journalistic voice among one's peers and preparing multimedia visual art for print.

IV Arts produced Caryl Churchill's play, *Love and Information*, which serendipitously echoed the IHC's recent theme of *Too Much Information*. Look for more details on this program in the spring of 2024.

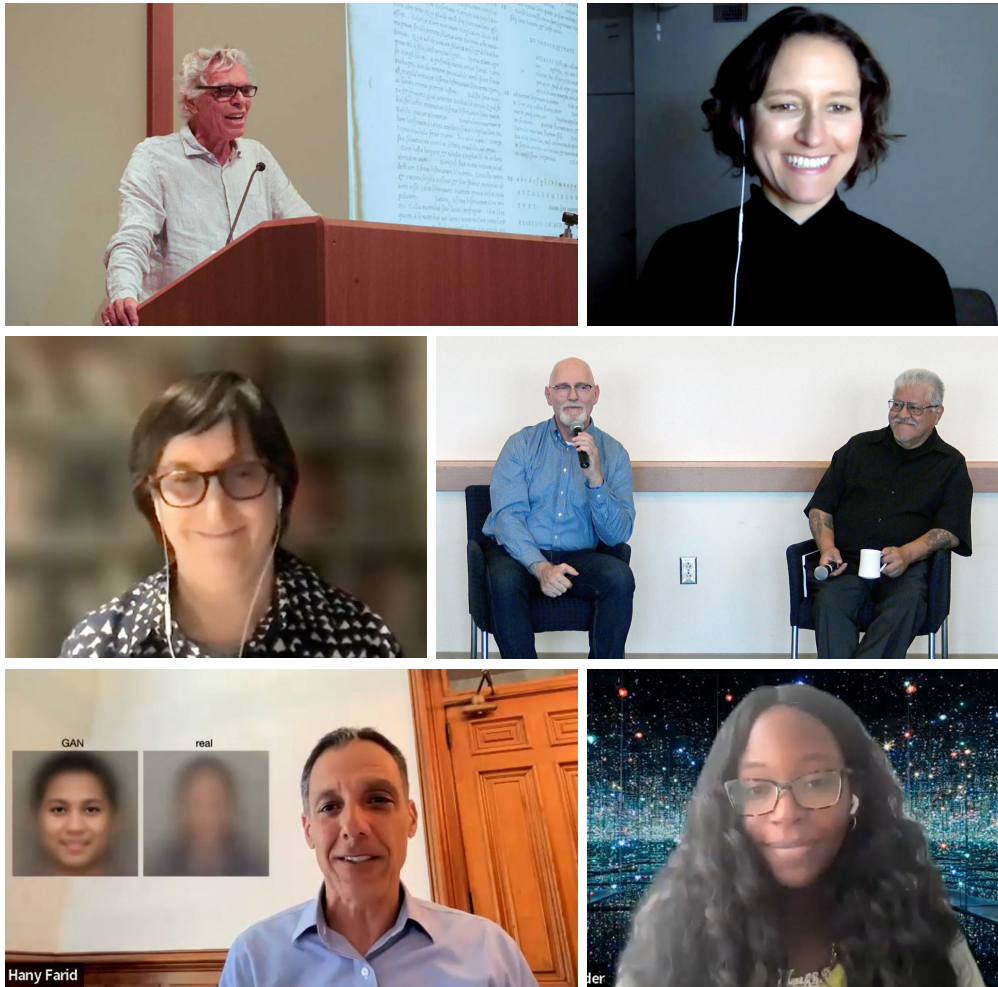


PLATFORM

Originating from the French word *plateforme*, meaning "ground plan" or "flat shape," Platform is a public exhibition space at the IHC that features the work of emerging and established artists displayed as two-dimensional printed media. The artwork displayed in the 2022-23 Platform exhibition brought the University's academic and community guests into dialogue with the IHC's annual public events series theme, *Too Much Information*, in creative ways. View the current and previous exhibitions online at ihc.ucsb.edu/platformgallery.



2022-23 IHC PUBLIC EVENTS SERIES HIGHLIGHTS



Clockwise from top left: **WOLF D. KITTLER** / **HEATHER HOUSER** / **KENNETH HARTMAN** and **LUIS RODRÍGUEZ** / **TAIFHA ALEXANDER** / **HANY FARID** / **LAURA KURGAN**

2022-23 HUMANITIES DECANTED SERIES

Presenting new works in the humanities by UCSB faculty:

LEO CABRANES-GRANT (History): *The Bones of Contention*

ROSS MELNICK (Film and Media Studies): *Hollywood's Embassies*

JODY ENDERS (French and Italian): *Translating Medieval Farce*

BISHNUPRIYA GHOSH (English and Global Studies): *The Virus Touch*

GIULIANA PERRONE (History): *Nothing More than Freedom: The Failure of Abolition in American Law*



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