



2024-25 NEWSLETTER



INTERDISCIPLINARY
Humanities
CENTER

Dear IHC Community,

I spend a lot of time at the IHC planning. Planning public events. Planning community-campus partnerships. Planning summer graduate student internships. Planning budgets. Planning how to find money for new programs. I do so much planning that sometimes I lose track of why I do so much planning. Then invariably something happens that makes me remember.

Most recently, it was a letter that arrived at the IHC from California State Prison, Corcoran. It was from a man who had just completed a correspondence course in literature through our Foundations in the Humanities program. Here is what he wrote:

Your course provided an avenue for exploration into what it means to be a human being as opposed to being an animal or monster. It allowed me to approach the question of what inside me makes me human. How do I nurture that part? How do I express that?

My first reaction to the man's words was shame. I was ashamed that the man felt he was a monster. Because any man who asks these questions is not a monster. He is a student of literature. He has acquired the skills to probe the mysteries of meaning contained within literary texts and, as he expressed, contained within himself. Reading literature has taken him to the fundamental human questions: "What inside me makes me human. How do I nurture that part? How do I express that?"

This year at the IHC, in our 2024-25 public events series, *Key Passages*, we are going to be focusing on literary texts that have made us think differently about the world in which we live, and our place in the world, by exploring the very questions the man who wrote that letter put so well. Julia Reinhard Lupton (UC Irvine) will examine key passages in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* that illuminate the navigation of life changes and social bodies; Judith Zeitlin (University of Chicago) will present her work on the Chinese ghost story and how she has transformed it into an opera libretto; and Stephanie McCarter (University of the South) will discuss her new translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and her strategies for interpreting and rendering difficult themes related to sexuality, gender, and the body.

A second tack we are taking in our exploration of key passages will involve temporal, spatial, and psychological

passages: processes of transition and experiences of transformation—historical events, social movements, global dislocations and journeys undertaken—that have altered thought, shifted cultural paradigms, and sparked change. We look forward to welcoming Abduweli Ayup, a Uyghur language activist currently living in exile in Norway; Claudio Benzecry (Northwestern University), who will examine the global transformation of materials into goods—specifically shoes—and ideas; literary scholar and leading public humanist Kathleen Woodward (University of Washington), who has done important work on the anthropocene, multispecies generational passages, and aging; and Vincent Brown (Harvard University), who is a historian of transatlantic history and an expert on the Middle Passage.

I also want to mention our other series, *Humanities Decanted*, a forum in which UCSB faculty converse with colleagues about their newest monographs and creative works. The series will feature Vladimir Hamed-Troyansky (Global Studies), William Davies King (Theater and Dance), Daina Sanchez (Chicana and Chicano Studies), Juan Cobo Betancourt (History), and Shana Moulton (Art).

I wish you all a productive and stimulating year, and I hope that you will join us as we explore key passages.

Sincerely,



Susan Derwin, Director
Interdisciplinary Humanities Center



2024-25 IHC ADVISORY BOARD

COLIN ALLEN

PHILOSOPHY

**JUAN COBO
BETANCOURT**

HISTORY

**WILLIAM DAVIES
KING**

THEATER AND DANCE

XIAORONG LI

EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES &
CULTURAL STUDIES

ROSE MACLEAN

CLASSICS

CHRISTINA VAGT

GERMANIC AND SLAVIC
STUDIES

The logo for 'Key Passages' features the word 'KEY' in a blue, sans-serif font above the word 'PASSAGES' in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font. A stylized key icon is positioned above the 'Y' in 'KEY', with its shaft extending down to the 'Y' and its head forming a circle above the 'O' in 'PASSAGES'.

KEY PASSAGES

The IHC's 2024-25 public events series will explore **Key Passages**: processes of transition and experiences of transformation—historical events, social movements, global dislocations, and journeys undertaken—that have altered thought, shifted cultural paradigms, or sparked other forms of consequential change. The series will also examine temporal passages, including ceremonies and rituals that mark significant life stages. Lastly, the series will consider passages in literary texts, musical compositions, and works of visual culture that have opened new directions in artistic fields or energized political activity.

SELECTION OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCT 10** **INAUGURAL TALK: AI: A NEW PASSAGE TO HUMAN CREATIVITY?**
Sowon Park (UC Santa Barbara)
- NOV 7** **WHEN LIFE IS A SHIPWRECK:
KEY PASSAGES IN SHAKESPEARE'S TWELFTH NIGHT**
Julia Reinhard Lupton (UC Irvine)
- NOV 19** **WHEN THE UYGHUR LANGUAGE CONFRONTS ATROCITY**
Abduweli Ayup
- JAN 30** **TITLE TBA**
Claudio Benzecry (Northwestern University)
- FEB 6** **ANTIDOTES TO AGEISM IN THE ANTHROPOCENE:
GENERATIONAL TIME AND MULTISPECIES LITERARY ETHNOGRAPHY**
Kathleen Woodward (University of Washington)
- FEB 20** **TITLE TBA**
Vincent Brown (Harvard University)
- APR 8** **THE MAKING OF GHOST VILLAGE:
ACROSS THE BORDERS OF LIFE AND DEATH, SCHOLARSHIP AND OPERA**
Judith Zeitlin (University of Chicago)
- APR 17** **TRANSLATING OVID'S METAMORPHOSES**
Stephanie McCarter (University of the South)

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

STEPHANIE MALIA HOM, French and Italian: "On Redemption: Slavery & Colonialism in Italy"

SUSAN HWANG, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies: "Uncaged Songs: Culture and Politics of Protest Music in South Korea"

DAVID NOVAK, Music: "Diggers: A Global Counterhistory of Popular Music"

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

A Return to the African Personality: Intergenerational Conversations

PETER J. BLOOM, Film and Media Studies

STEPHAN MIESCHER, History

Art Loves Science, Science Loves Art: Reproductive Biology Showcase 2023-2024

AMY BODDY, Anthropology

Edible Insects and Food Futures Exhibition

JEFFREY HOELLE, Anthropology

New Approaches to the Study of Traditional Chinese Food Culture: A Workshop

THOMAS MAZANEC, Associate Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

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

JAHAN ZEB AHMED, Global Studies: "Co-Constructing Islamic Glory – American Book Translation Projects in Cold War Pakistan"

RYAN KA YAU LAI, Linguistics: "Tibetan grammar in everyday discourse: A digital exploration"

TEDDY ROLAND, English: "Critical Modeling: Reading & Writing in the Age of Large Language Models"

MACKENZIE WADE, Anthropology: "Edible Insect Acceptance Efforts by Diverse Stakeholders Toward Food Systems Change"

MARIA ZAZZARINO, Comparative Literature: "Tropical Light: Extractive Modernity and Solar Imaginaries in the Caribbean Archipelago"

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

11th Annual American Indian and Indigenous Collective (AIIC) Symposium: "Indigenous Health and Well-Being"

KENDALL LOVELY, History

SYLVIA FAICHNEY, History of Art and Architecture

NAKOA FARRANT, Bren School

MARGARET MCMURTREY, English

CARE: Collective for Archival Research of Embodiment

YIMING MA, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

DIANDIAN ZENG, Music

TINGHAO ZHOU, Film and Media Studies

UUDAM BAOAGUDAMU, Religious Studies

The Future of the Lumpenproletariat: A Conference in Memory of Glyn Salton-Cox

SOMAK MUKHERJEE, English

R BAKER, English

TANNISHTHA BHATTACHARJEE, History

TED GIARDELLO, English

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: "'This is Saamiland' – Reimagining the Gulag on Solovki"

RAMSHA USMAN, Anthropology: "The labor of being 'able': Injury and Disability in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones"

GRADUATE TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM

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

CEDAR BROWN, Linguistics

EMILY HUDSON, Classics

YIMING MA, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

WOLFE RANDALL, Philosophy

NICOLE REHNBERG, History

CYPRIS ROALSVIG, Classics

View the upcoming IHC award deadlines
ihc.ucsb.edu

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.

Ten new Fellows joined the program this year:

RUSSELL NYLEN, Anthropology

LAN AN, English

SOFIA CAVANESS, Communication

MARTINA MATTEI, Comparative Literature

HUY PHAN, Linguistics

EDWARD REYES, Chicana/o Studies

MINGYI XIAO, Comparative Literature

KATERINA GONTARYUK, Philosophy

JOSÉ MANUEL MEJÍA VILLENA, Sociology

ALICE FULMER, English

Three fellows completed the program and their practicums:

GUILLEM BELMAR VIERNES, Linguistics | Mixtec language learning project in California and Oaxaca

MEGAN SHEARD, History of Art and Architecture | Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

MARIA ANNA ZAZZARINO, Comparative Literature | Community Environmental Council

PUBLIC HUMANITIES GRADUATE FELLOWS PROGRAM

View the interactive ePub: adobe.ly/3HnZ95P

MAKING OF MONUMENTS PROGRAM

This year, the IHC launched a new program in civics education, the Making of Monuments. The program brought together eight teachers from the Santa Barbara Unified School District, three UCSB public history Ph.D. students, and community partners at the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation to create lessons for elementary school students around questions of history, memory, and representation. The program comprised a four-day workshop to learn about monuments, explore archival resources, and design teaching modules; teaching those lessons in class; field trips to El Presidio State Historic Park to observe and analyze the statue in person; and a field trip to UCSB, where students applied their critical skills to a statue on campus.

INTERPRETING IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS PROGRAM

In the eighth year of the Interpreting in Our Local Schools Program, UCSB graduate and undergraduate students continued to serve as interpreters for the fall and spring parent-teacher conference weeks in local elementary schools. This year, the program expanded to 11 school sites: Adams, Cleveland, Harding, Monroe, Roosevelt, Washington, Brandon, Ellwood, Isla Vista, La Patera, and Mountainview Elementary Schools. 113 UCSB students provided interpretation for a total of 332 parent-teacher conferences at these schools, as well as for the annual Back-to-School Night at Isla Vista and La Patera. In addition to Spanish-language interpretation, student interpreters also provided support in Arabic, Mandarin, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. 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 eighth 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 California state prisons. This year's program enrolled 202 participants across all three courses. The courses were taught by twelve IHC Graduate Teaching Fellows. The Foundations in the Humanities program provides these UCSB graduate students with 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 utilizing alternative pedagogies. The IHC completed the second year of 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.

2024–25 Research Focus Groups:

ANCIENT BORDERLANDS

Dorota Dutsch (Classics), Nuha Khoury (History of Art and Architecture)

CATASTROPHES: THINKING SHOA AND NAKBA TOGETHER

Bishnupriya Ghosh (English), Sherene Seikaly (History), Elisabeth Weber (Germanic and Slavic Studies)

CARIBBEAN STUDIES

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

CLIMATE JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

Javiera Barandiaran (Global Studies)

Jéssica Malinalli Coyotecatl Contreras (Anthropology)

Mona Damluji (Film and Media Studies)

Maria Zazzarino (Comparative Literature)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND POSTCOLONIAL MEDIA THEORIES

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

GHANA STUDIES

kwabena agyare yeboah (History), Peter Bloom (Film and Media Studies), Stephan Miescher (History), Francis Yeboah (Film and Media Studies)

GLOBAL CHILDHOOD MEDIA

Peter Bloom (Film and Media Studies), Solaire Denaud (Comparative Literature), Dominique Jullien (French and Italian), Martina Mattei (Comparative Literature), Muhammad “Mo” Muzammal (Film and Media Studies), Nicole Smirnof (Comparative Literature), Sara Pankenier Weld (Germanic and Slavic Studies)

INTERDISCIPLINARY SINOPHONE STUDIES

Li-Ting Chang (East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies), Howard Chiang (East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies), Diandian Zeng (Music)

LANGUAGE, INTERACTION, AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION (LISO)

Mary Bucholtz (Linguistics), Amy Kyratzis (Education), Geoffrey Raymond (Sociology), Kevin Whitehead (Sociology), Marat Zheng (Sociology)

LEGAL HUMANITIES

Maha Agha Kalsoum (Religious Studies), Ahmad Atif Ahmad (Religious Studies), Kiri Avelar (Theater & Dance), Jeannine DeLombard (English), Elizabeth DePalma Digeser (History), Mohamad Jarada (Anthropology), Gregory Johnson (Religious Studies), Elinor Mason (Philosophy), Kathleen Moore (Religious Studies), Giuliana Perrone (History), Kari Robinson (Legal and Medical Humanities)

MACHINES, PEOPLE, AND POLITICS

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

SLAVERY, CAPTIVITY, AND THE MEANING OF FREEDOM

Manuel Covo (History), Jeannine DeLombard (English), Stephanie Malia Hom (French and Italian), Candice Lyons (Black Studie), Rose MacLean (Classics), John Majewski (History), Taylor Moore (History), 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 reflects on a year of record attendance to its live performances and film series, Magic Lantern Films. We are newly grateful to the student body for passing two separate fee initiatives to benefit Isla Vista Arts, a clear signal to us that they value the artistic opportunity and cultural offerings we provide.

Our publication, “Word Magazine” is UCSB’s only student-run feature magazine. During the past year, it won accolades in a competitive field of college and university publications across the United States at the American Collegiate Press’ (ACP) national convention in San Diego in March. There, “Word Magazine” was recognized with two third-place awards: one for feature writing and another for design.

It was a critical year for student-led performance groups as they needed to scale up to meet higher levels of attendance. Isla Vista Arts stepped in to help with funding, allowing several productions to find larger audiences. We helped to find sponsorship for a full staging of Luis Valdez’ seminal Chicana/o play “Zoot Suit” and helped with its marketing and production. We assisted the stand-up comedy group, Laughology, in bringing professional stand-up comics to Campbell Hall. We secured needed funds for two student-led a cappella groups and the student-led musical performance group, Shrunken Heads, with its production of “Cabaret.”

We hope to continue to provide exciting cultural and artistic opportunities for students in the coming year.



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 2023–24 Platform exhibition brought the University’s academic and community guests into dialogue with the IHC’s annual public events series theme, *Imagining California*, in creative ways. View the current and previous exhibitions online at ihc.ucsb.edu/platformgallery.



2023-24 IHC PUBLIC EVENTS SERIES HIGHLIGHTS



Clockwise from top left: **CHERRÍE MORAGA** / **SUSAN STRAIGHT** / **GIULIANA PERRONE, JOVAN SCOTT LEWIS, DAINA RAMEY BERRY, and TIFFANY CAESAR** / **DEVON GRAY and GREG KAUFMANN** / **M.G. LORD** / **MARK ARAX** / **ROSANNA XIA and CHARLES LESTER** / **KAREN MARY DAVALOS and TATIANA REINOZA**

2023-24 HUMANITIES DECANTED SERIES

Presenting new works in the humanities by UCSB faculty:

YUNTE HUANG (English): *Daughter of the Dragon*

LIZ CARLISLE (Environmental Studies): *Healing Grounds*

JANET AFARY (Religious Studies): *Mollā Nasreddin*

THOMAS MAZANEC (East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies): *Poet-Monks*

SWATI CHATTOPADHYAY (History of Art and Architecture): *Small Spaces*



IHC STAFF



SUSAN DERWIN

Director

T: (805) 893.8538
Office: 6046A HSSB
derwin@ihc.ucsb.edu



GABBY REYNA

Payroll and Financial Assistant

T: (805) 893.5541
Office: 6054 HSSB
gabbyreyna@ihc.ucsb.edu



CHRISTOFFER BOVBJERG

Associate Director

T: (805) 893.3137
Office: 6046B HSSB
cbovbjerg@ihc.ucsb.edu



CAROLE STREHLOW

Contracts and Grants Coordinator

T: (805) 893.5073
Office: 6036 HSSB
carole@ihc.ucsb.edu



CASEY HAUGHIN-SCASNY

Assistant Director

T: (805) 893.2004
Office: 6038 HSSB
haughinscasny@ihc.ucsb.edu



DAVID HERAS

Administrative Assistant

T: (805) 893.3907
Office: 6046 HSSB
dheras@ihc.ucsb.edu



SAMANTHA OGLESBY

Business Officer

T: (805) 893.8727
Office: 6050 HSSB
samantha@ihc.ucsb.edu



ANNA JENSEN

Director of Isla Vista Arts

T: (805) 893.4809
Office: 6034 HSSB
akjensen@ihc.ucsb.edu



Interdisciplinary Humanities Center
6046 HSSB, UC Santa Barbara



/ihcucsb

Santa Barbara, CA 93106-7100

T: (805) 893.3907

F: (805) 893.4336

admin@ihc.ucsb.edu