

Overview

In the 2019-2020 academic year, the Center for the Humanities continued to host and support initiatives across NYU, New York City, and the larger global community that promote the Center's mission to provide a forum for cross-disciplinary discussion and collaboration in the humanities and the arts. A summary of these initiatives is provided below.

Fellowships

The Center supported a total of 13 Fellows in the 2019-2020 academic year: 4 Doctoral Student Fellows, 7 Faculty Fellows, and 2 Doctoral Student Public Humanities Fellows. We also welcomed Benjamin Schmidt, Director of Digital Humanities, into the cohort. **Faculty and Doctoral Student Fellows** participated in weekly luncheon seminars to present research, debate ideas, and learn from colleagues. The Center provided further support for Doctoral Student Fellows in the form of workshops on writing and professional development.

Doctoral Student Public Humanities Fellows belong to a cohort from eight other New York universities: The City University of New York Graduate Center, Columbia University, Cornell University, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Binghamton, the University of Rochester, and Syracuse University. Within this cohort, Public Humanities Fellows receive training in the methods and approaches of the public humanities, even as they work in partnership with a community organization on a public project of their own devising. Public Humanities Fellows participated in the weekly luncheon seminars and events with Doctoral Student Fellows.

Starting Fall 2020, the Center will host a total of 15 Fellows: 5 Doctoral Student Fellows, 2 Public Humanities Fellows, and 8 Faculty Fellows.

Bennett-Polonsky Humanities Labs

The Center is proud to support the Bennett-Polonsky Humanities Labs, which are now in their second year of activity. Humanities Labs (H-Labs) consist of year-long intensive collaborations integrated by both faculty and students (each participating in different capacities) coming from diverse disciplines across the University.

The subjects of the H-Labs are proposed by self-assembled groups (consisting of four or five faculty members and including one or two humanities or arts practitioners) interested in a specific question they wish to explore. Topics are broad ranging in nature, touching upon the complex experience of being human in a social world and that demands multidisciplinary exploration.

H-Labs launched in 2018-2019 (with activity continuing into 2019-2020):

- **Digital Theory**

H-Labs launched in 2019-2020:

- **Multi-Species**
- **War**
- **Radical Ecologies**

New H-Labs selected for 2020-2021:

- **Knowledge Alphabets**
- **Asylum**

Digital Humanities

The Center has worked closely with Benjamin Schmidt, Director of Digital Humanities at NYU. We have supported the Digital Humanities Seed Grant program, which recently awarded \$100k in funding. The Center will promote the work of the funded projects and will also offer workshops on the digital humanities for the 2020-21 Faculty and Doctoral Fellows.

Grant Programs

Working Research Groups build community and foster interdisciplinary exchange on topics with a humanistic focus. The Center supported four Working Groups for the 2019-2020 academic year:

- **New Radical Archives**
- **Latinx**
- **Medical Humanities**
- **Writing Matters**

Two new Working Groups have been selected to begin in September 2020: **Cold War Media** and **Drama, Theater and Performance Studies**.

Book Publication Subvention Grants were awarded to support the publication of faculty books with a humanistic focus. In 2019-2020, the Center awarded 11 Book Publication Subvention Grants to faculty from the following departments and schools: Anthropology (FAS); Art and Public Policy (Tisch); Art History (FAS); Cinema Studies (Tisch); Comparative Literature (FAS); East Asian Studies (FAS); Expository Writing Program (CAS); French Literature, Thought and Culture (FAS); Liberal Studies (FAS); Music (FAS); Spanish and Portuguese (FAS).

Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem (TOME) enables the NYU Office of the Provost, the Center for the Humanities, and the Division of Libraries to support the publication of open access digital monographs in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. For the 2019-2020 academic year, the Center awarded three TOME grants for open access publishing (to be distributed in 2020-2021).

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipends provide an opportunity for faculty in the humanities to receive a stipend to carry out research over a two-month period. The Center nominates two proposals from senior faculty each year; junior faculty may apply directly.

Events

The Center hosted and/or co-sponsored a total of 30 public events in the 2019-2020 academic year:

Fall 2019

- Blood Libel in the United States: It Happened Here (book launch)
- Writing Matters (working group event)
- Campus at a Crossroads: Free Speech, Truth and Democracy in an Election Year (panel)
- Measles and Memory (working group event)
- Writing Matters: How to Write a Good Sentence I (working group event)
- Wilding (book launch)
- A Coming Word: Werner Hamacher, Paul Celan (book launch)
- Writing Matters: How to Write a Good Sentence II (working group event)
- Why Trust Science? (environmental humanities)
- Black Portraiture[s] (conference co-sponsor)
- Introduction to a Hope: Fostering the Humanities in a Professional School (panel)
- Writing Matters: How to Write a Good Paragraph I (working group event)
- Ghost Fleet: Screening and Q&A (environmental humanities)
- Screens 'R' Us: Introducing Mauro Carbone's Philosophy-Screens (book launch)
- Writing Matters: How to Write a Good Paragraph II (working group event)
- This World as Beyond: A New Look at Leonardo da Vinci (panel)
- Digital Capitalism (H-Lab event)
- Diversity Inc. (panel)
- Antiquities Beyond Humanism (book launch)
- Decolonizing Smell: Olfactory Aesthetics and Indigenous Ecologies (Env Humanities)
- Katrina Forrester, In the Shadow of Justice (book launch)
- Ava DuVernay: Filmmaking, Vision and Justice (panel)
- Security and the Political Geographies of Gender Violence: Lila Abu-Lughod (lecture)

Spring 2020

- Writing Matters: How to Write a Good Chapter I (working group event)
- Writing Matters: How to Write a Good Chapter II (working group event)
- Border Talks I (panel)
- Border Talks II (panel)

Subsequent events were moved to Zoom:

- Narratives of the Diaspora (film screening and panel)
- Writing Matters: How to Write a Good Book I (working group event)
- Writing Matters: How to Write a Good Book II (working group event)

Co-sponsorships & Collaborations

Here are some of the many departments, institutes, and organizations the Center was able to collaborate with during the year:

- New York Institute for the Humanities
- Environmental Humanities Initiative
- NYU Migration Network
- NYU Libraries
- NYU Center for Global Asia
- Humanities New York
- Department of English, FAS
- Department of German, FAS
- XE: Experimental Humanities & Social Engagement
- Department of Comparative Literature, FAS
- Institute for Public Knowledge
- Institute for African American Affairs
- Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- Center for Black Visual Culture
- Institute of French Studies
- NYU Animal Studies
- NYU Liberal Studies
- PEN America
- The Consortium for Intellectual History, NYU/Columbia
- NYU Department of Environmental Studies