

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-18



The Institute for Humanities Research supports scholarship exploring human thought, expression and experience, addressing many of the central challenges facing all of us. ASU humanities scholars of culture, language, literature, the arts, film, media, history, philosophy and religion work within their disciplines and in collaboration with scientists, social scientists, artists and others to advance research that makes a difference in the world.

From the directors

As joint directors of the IHR, we are looking forward to an exciting year as we build upon the excellent work of our predecessors and develop new programs to meet the needs of our dynamic humanities faculty. In addition to continuing our highly successful funding programs — Faculty Fellows, Seed Grants, Research Clusters and the Visiting Humanities Investigator Grants — we are developing several new initiatives: 1) a series of Faculty Development workshops, including workshops in the Digital Humanities, to help faculty further their research agendas; 2) a redesign of the Nexus Research Cooperative as a “ThinkerSpace,” a place for humanities collaboration and co-working; and 3) a major conference this coming spring at ASU’s Washington DC Center on “Humane Technologies and the New American University.”

Our work on previous IHR initiatives — Digital Humanities, Health Humanities and Humane Cities — will continue this year as well, and we look forward to your participation in events related to these initiatives. We will continue to serve as a resource for faculty seeking to apply for grants and fellowships, and we are excited to come together with all of you for our signature events: a talk by and reception with Rebecca J. Kinney, winner of the 2018 Transdisciplinary Book Award; conversation with this year’s Distinguished Lecturer Harry Boyte; and the Faculty Fellows Symposium on the theme “Urban and Rural.” We will kick off this year’s Humanities Forum with a visit from our new Dean of Humanities, Jeffrey Cohen, and will gather for another Humanities Celebration at Rula Bula in late November. Our major event scheduled in the spring is the conference on Humane Technologies, mentioned above, which Elizabeth will lead with Gaymon Bennett. President Crow has agreed to speak at the conference.

The goal of this two-day event is agenda-setting for the future of the technologies that impact all of us. The focus is collaboration among academics, industry and government. The ambition is to drive collaboration forward by/in/through humanities research. We argue that it is no longer enough to imagine human lives embedded in technological worlds. It is time to rethink technology for a humane world. We’re convinced humanities-driven research is vital to this reenvisioning and remaking.

Please plan to visit us at Ross-Blakley Hall. We welcome your participation in our plans and your ideas for how we can continue to make the IHR an important resource, not only for humanities faculty but for the entire university community.

Elizabeth Langland, Director

Victoria Thompson, Co-Director





**THIS CITY IS WHAT IT IS BECAUSE OUR
CITIZENS ARE WHAT THEY ARE – PLATO**

The Humane Cities Initiative was launched in the fall of 2016. Its goal is to make ASU — with its critical mass of faculty working on urban issues across the humanities and in other disciplines — a hub for unprecedented research focusing on cities.

During the 2017–18 academic year, the Humane Cities Initiative sponsored two events. In the first of these, Ian Coller (U.C. Irvine), author of *Arab France: Islam and the Making of Modern Europe, 1789-1831* (2010), discussed the methodological challenges of doing what he calls a “global microhistory” that examines the intersections between representations of Muslims and the actual trajectories of Muslim lives, exploring issues of Muslim presence and invisibility in urban spaces.

Our second event, “Annexation and De-Annexation: The Debate Over South Phoenix, 1960–61,” was a workshop led by Robert Spindler (university archivist), Chris Marin (Chicano Research Collection curator emerita) and Eduardo Pagan (School of Humanities, Art and Cultural Studies) in which a discussion of primary source documents related to the annexation of South Phoenix led to a lively conversation among ASU faculty, staff and community members about the costs and consequences of urban development.

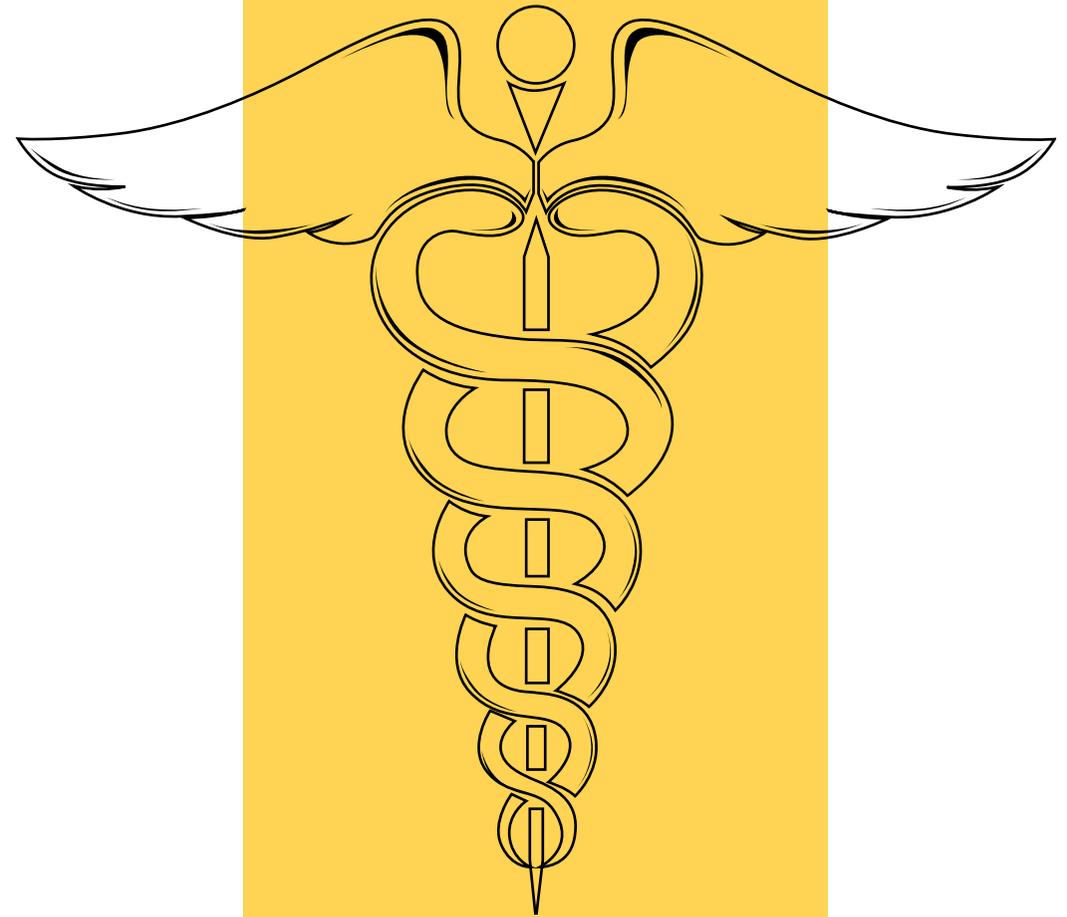
In 2018, the Initiative launched a database of over 75 researchers at ASU working on cities using humanities methods and approaches. The database is designed to help develop further research on questions of cities and city life from a humanities perspective, and to help the public find those who work in this field at ASU. Under the direction of an interdisciplinary steering committee, the Humane Cities Initiative will be working to develop programming and workshops that further faculty research and foster community relationships.

Health Humanities

Health and practices of medicine are crucial areas where STEM fields cannot fully address contemporary challenges without being grounded in and continually engaged with the humanities, and yet these realms of inquiry often remain separate and siloed, both on university campuses and between educational and healthcare institutions. The ASU Health Humanities Initiative seeks to transcend these disciplinary and institutional boundaries by bringing academics, clinicians, caregivers, patients and students together to address grand social challenges in areas of health and healthcare.

The Health Humanities Initiative, in its sixth year, continues to develop research capacity in this interdisciplinary area. In the 2017–18 academic year, the Initiative supported and co-sponsored visits from Lennard Davis, Alondra Nelson and Anthony Hatch. The Initiative also continued its ongoing collaboration with the Center for Humanities in Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Arizona, bringing humanities programming to the clinic and working on focused elective humanities training with residents.

**THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IS AN ART,
NOT A TRADE; A CALLING, NOT A BUSINESS; A CALLING IN
WHICH YOUR HEART WILL BE EXERCISED EQUALLY WITH
YOUR HEAD – WILLIAM OSLER**



Digital Humanities

This past year, the Digital Humanities Initiative conducted an experiment in communal knowledge-building and innovative methods of collaborative work. In addition to functioning as a community of scholars interested in digital scholarship, the Initiative also fostered and continues to support cooperative project building, specifically projects with a deep connection to the spaces that surround us locally and globally — in our Southwestern region of the country, in our current data privacy crisis and in our local histories and narratives.

In Fall 2017 and in collaboration with Hayden Library, the Digital Humanities Initiative launched a multimodal and embodied installation representing the untold stories of how the 1918 influenza impacted Arizonans (“Counting the Dead: Arizona’s Forgotten Pandemic”). In Spring 2018, our community of digital humanities scholars collaborated on the rapid development of three projects that combined technology, history and our current civic and cultural moment: the Eugenic Rubicon, Wound Person and the Park Central Mall Project. The Park Central project was an exemplar of communal work and shared expertise, and in collaboration with Plaza Companies, the Digital Humanities Initiative designed a multimedia online publication that reveals how physical locations, everyday life and memory are central to the development of city centers.

In a continuation of the programming, workshops and events offered in 2017–18, the Digital Humanities Initiative will continue a tradition of serving a dynamic network of ASU scholars producing community-driven digital scholarship in this next year.



Preserving Phoenix history



In 2017–18, researchers from across ASU came together to analyze, preserve and revitalize historic materials found during the renovation of Park Central Mall in midtown Phoenix.

The materials found ranged from old photographs and advertisements to microfilm reels and antique signage, all depicting a mid-century Phoenix in the midst of monumental growth.

“This is a one-of-a-kind collection of newspaper clippings, photographs, advertisements and ephemera related to Park Central Mall,” said Matthew Delmont, former director of the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies and professor of history. “It is a sort of time capsule that gives us a glimpse into Phoenix’s cultural history from the 1950s through the 1990s. It is an important collection of everyday history that reveals where people socialized, what they bought, how they dressed, what they ate and how these styles and tastes changed over the decades.”

The site of Phoenix’s first shopping mall, Park Central Mall, is undergoing renovations to revitalize and return the property to its stature as a hub for community gathering.

Last year, an interdisciplinary team of ASU researchers from the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies (SHPRS), the IHR’s Digital Humanities Initiative and ASU Library worked together to preserve and share the stories held within these historic pages.

“When you trace the history of Park Central Mall you can see how Phoenix went from being a small town to being one of the largest cities in the United States,” Delmont said. “Phoenix has a rich history, but its history doesn’t get as much attention as cities like Boston, Chicago or New York. Preserving the history of Park Central Mall is important because it was a hub that connected hundreds of thousands of Phoenix residents over multiple decades.”

Starting in 1957, Phoenix residents made memories at Park Central Mall. From shopping at Goldwater’s department store to hanging out after school, families congregated at the mall on Central Avenue.

SHPRS Research Administrator Kristine Navarro-McElhaney and her team collected those memories in community interviews.

IT IS A SORT OF TIME CAPSULE THAT GIVES US A
GLIMPSE OF PHOENIX’S CULTURAL HISTORY

– MATTHEW DELMONT

“So many people have a deep connection with Park Central Mall — colorful stories, family memories and traditions that resonate with them to this day,” Navarro-McElhaney said. “We want to capture and preserve this rich history and not only highlight Park Central’s significance to those that experienced it, but preserve it for future generations.”

The oral histories collected will accompany the printed materials found in the basement to tell the compelling story of the site. All materials will be permanently housed in ASU Library archives.

The IHR’s Digital Humanities Initiative developed an interactive web resource that allows the public to engage with the artifacts from anywhere using Scalar, a multimedia publishing platform. The ASU Public History Program now runs the Scalar project. It can be viewed at parkcentralmall.org.



Book Award

Winner of the 2018 Transdisciplinary Book Award

Beautiful Wasteland: The Rise of Detroit as America's Postindustrial Frontier

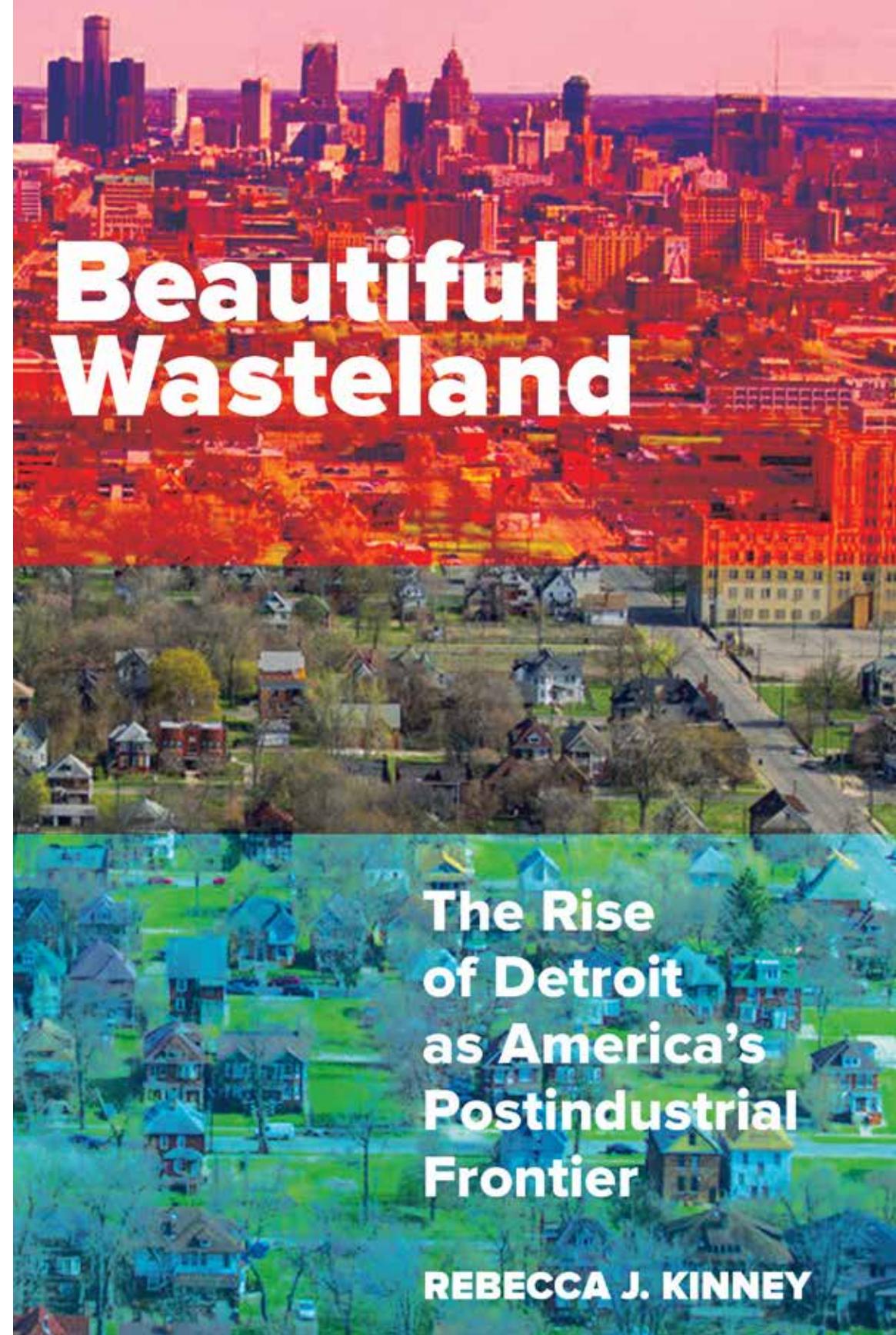
by Rebecca J. Kinney

Beautiful Wasteland: The Rise of Detroit as America's Postindustrial Frontier reveals the contemporary story of Detroit's rebirth as an upcycled version of the American Dream, which has long imagined access to work, home and upward mobility as race-neutral projects. Rebecca Kinney tackles key questions about the future of postindustrial America, and shows how the narratives of Detroit's history are deeply steeped in material and ideological investments in whiteness. As cities around the country reckon with their own postindustrial landscapes, she cautions that development that elides considerations of race and class will only continue to replicate uneven access to the city for the poor, for working-class men and women and for people of color.

Rebecca J. Kinney is an interdisciplinary teacher and scholar of race, place and popular culture. She is an associate professor in the School of Cultural and Critical Studies at Bowling Green State University.

Rebecca Kinney visited ASU to give a talk about her work on October 25, 2018.

Learn more at ihr.asu.edu/bookaward.



INCARCERATING THE CRISIS

FREEDOM STRUGGLES AND THE RISE OF THE NEOLIBERAL STATE



2018 Transdisciplinary Book Award Honorable Mention

Incarcerating the Crisis: Freedom Struggles and the Rise of the Neoliberal State

by Jordan Camp

The United States currently has the largest carceral regime on the planet — a development without historical precedent, but not without historical explanation. In this searing critique, Jordan T. Camp traces the rise of the neoliberal carceral state to a series of turning points in U.S. history, including the Watts insurrection of 1965, the Detroit rebellion of 1967, the Los Angeles uprising of 1992 and post-Katrina New Orleans in 2005. *Incarcerating the Crisis* argues that these events coincided with the rise of neoliberalism and the state's crushing of social movements. Through an examination of the poetry of social movements — including those by James Baldwin, Jayne Cortez, June Jordan, and Sunni Patterson — it suggests that the making of the neoliberal carceral state was not inevitable and that there could have been, and still could be, a different world in the making.

2018 Transdisciplinary Book Award Honorable Mention

Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity

by C. Riley Snorton

Drawing on a deep and varied archive of materials — early sexological texts, fugitive slave narratives, Afro-modernist literature, and sensationalist journalism Hollywood films — *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity* attends to how slavery and the production of racialized gender provided the foundations for an understanding of gender as mutable. In tracing the twinned genealogies of blackness and transness, Snorton follows multiple trajectories, from the medical experiments conducted on enslaved black women by J. Marion Sims, the “father of American gynecology,” to the negation of blackness that makes transnormativity possible.



Fellows Program

The Fellows program provides funding for ASU scholars to engage in a year of collaborative research related to an annual theme and share their research with the academic community.

2018–19 Fellows Theme: Urban and Rural

As long as there have been cities, they have existed in complex relationship to the countryside; bound together in networks of trade and migration, politics and warfare, they have also been pitted against each other. From Jean-Jacques Rousseau's condemnation of cities as centers of female-led corruption to Karl Marx's dismissal of the idiocy of rural life, city and countryside have been strategically defined with and against each other and have worked as complex signifiers in myriad social, cultural and political debates.

Humanities research into urban and rural areas around the world has helped us understand how both urban and rural societies have functioned over time, the complex interactions between the two, the ways in which the "urban" and the "rural" have been mobilized to make larger comments about modern life and the extent to which urban and rural geographies have generated sites of aesthetic experience and production. Cities and countryside are also locations in which and through which bodies move, as laborers, migrants, refugees and tourists; they are complex sites for the negotiation of individual and collective identities, places of community and places of conflict.



2018–19 Faculty Fellows

Damming Asia: Japanese Overseas Development and the Reconfiguration of the Urban and Rural from the Colonial to the Post-Colonial Era

Aaron Moore | Associate Professor | School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

Feminista Frequencies: Chicana/o Community Radio Archive

Monica De La Torre | Assistant Professor | School of Transborder Studies

Hopi Migration Stories: Uncovering the Legacy of the 1956 Indian Relocation Act on Hopi Identity and Sense of Belonging

Angela Gonzales | Associate Professor | School of Social Transformation

Reclaiming the City: Art, Policy and Resistance in Urban Space

Johanna K. Taylor | Assistant Professor | Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts

Towards “Total Revolution”: Insights from the Bodhgaya Land Struggle of the Late 1970s in Eastern India

Indulata Prasad | Assistant Professor | School of Social Transformation

Salmon Wars on the Klamath River: Stories of Activism, Culture and Resilience

Myla Vicenti Carpio | Associate Professor | Director of Graduate Studies | American Indian Studies



Research Clusters

Research Clusters aim to assist researchers and develop communication among scholars, ultimately enriching the intellectual climate of the university. Participants in Research Clusters meet monthly on a topic of shared scholarly interest. Clusters present their research or ideas in a symposium, roundtable or panel discussion.

When I say “Hip”, You Say “Hop”?: The Politics of Urban Arts, Culture and Knowledge within the Academy

Marcus White | Assistant Professor | Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts

Mako Ward | Lecturer | School of Social Transformation

Charles Norton | School of Anthropology | University of Arizona/
Affiliate Appointment ASU

Mathew Sandoval | Honors Faculty Fellow | Barrett Honors College

The Colonial, the Postcolonial and the Decolonial

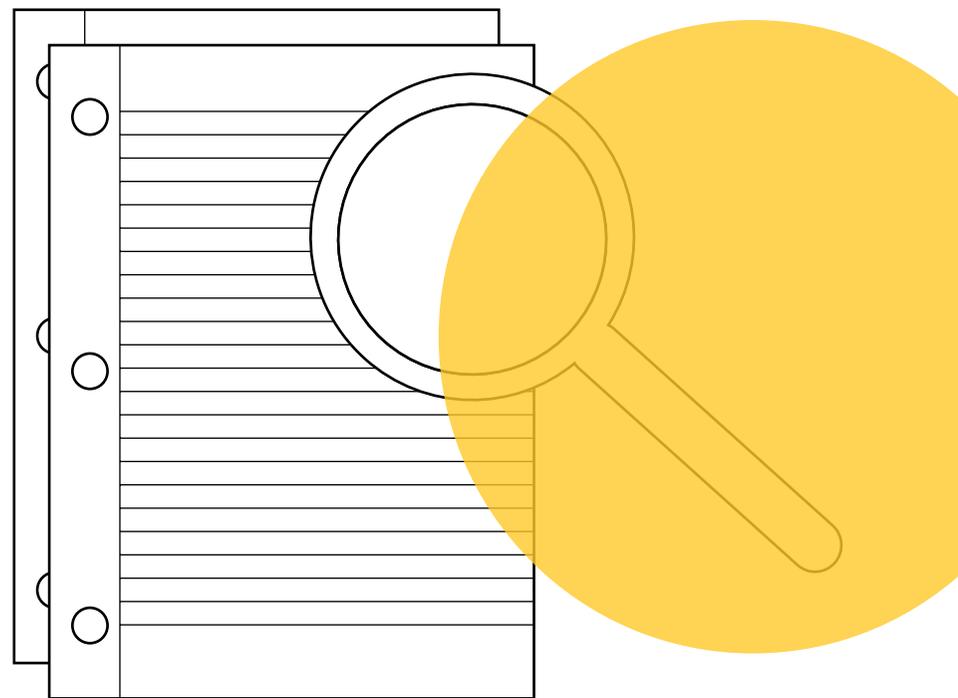
Melissa Free | Assistant Professor | Department of English

Isaac Joslin | Assistant Professor | School of International Letters and Cultures

Citizen-Diplomacy, Past and Future: A Case-Study of Tempe Sister Cities, People-to-People International Arizona, and Global Ties Arizona, 1956–2021

Keith Brown | Director | Melikian Center: Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies

Jennifer Quincey | Assistant Director | Institute for Humanities Research



Seed Grants

The Seed Grant program is designed to provide support for projects that advance the IHR's mission of fostering research that addresses or explores significant social challenges in the past, present and future, employing humanities or transdisciplinary methodologies. The IHR supports projects that demonstrate intellectual merit, potential impact on scholarship and strong prospects of receiving external funding.

Black American Podcast Archive

Sarah Florini | Assistant Professor | Department of English

Dust & Shadow: Audio Attunements for Desert Living

Ron Broglio | Associate Professor | Department of English

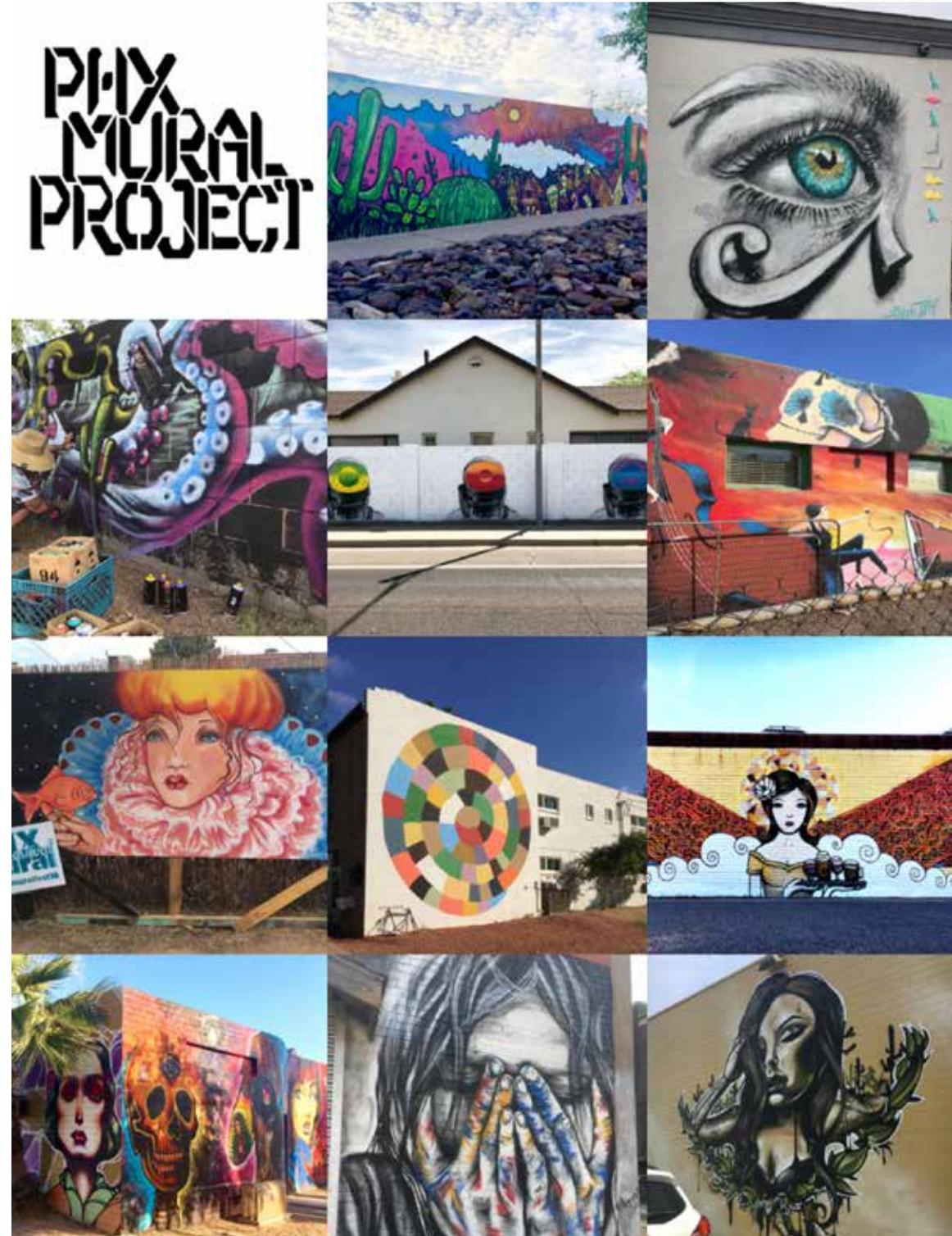
Adam Nocek | Assistant Professor | School of Arts, Media and Engineering | Director | Lab for Critical Technics

Jews and Jewishness in the Dance World

Naomi Jackson | Associate Professor | School of Film, Dance and Theatre

Elizabeth Lerman | Institute Professor | School of Film, Dance and Theater

PIX
MURAL
PROJECT



Seed Grants

Mapping Grand Canyon: A Critical Cartographic History

Matthew Toro | Director of Maps, Imagery and Geospatial Services | ASU Library

Paul Hirt | Professor | School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

Robert Spindler | University Archivist | ASU Library

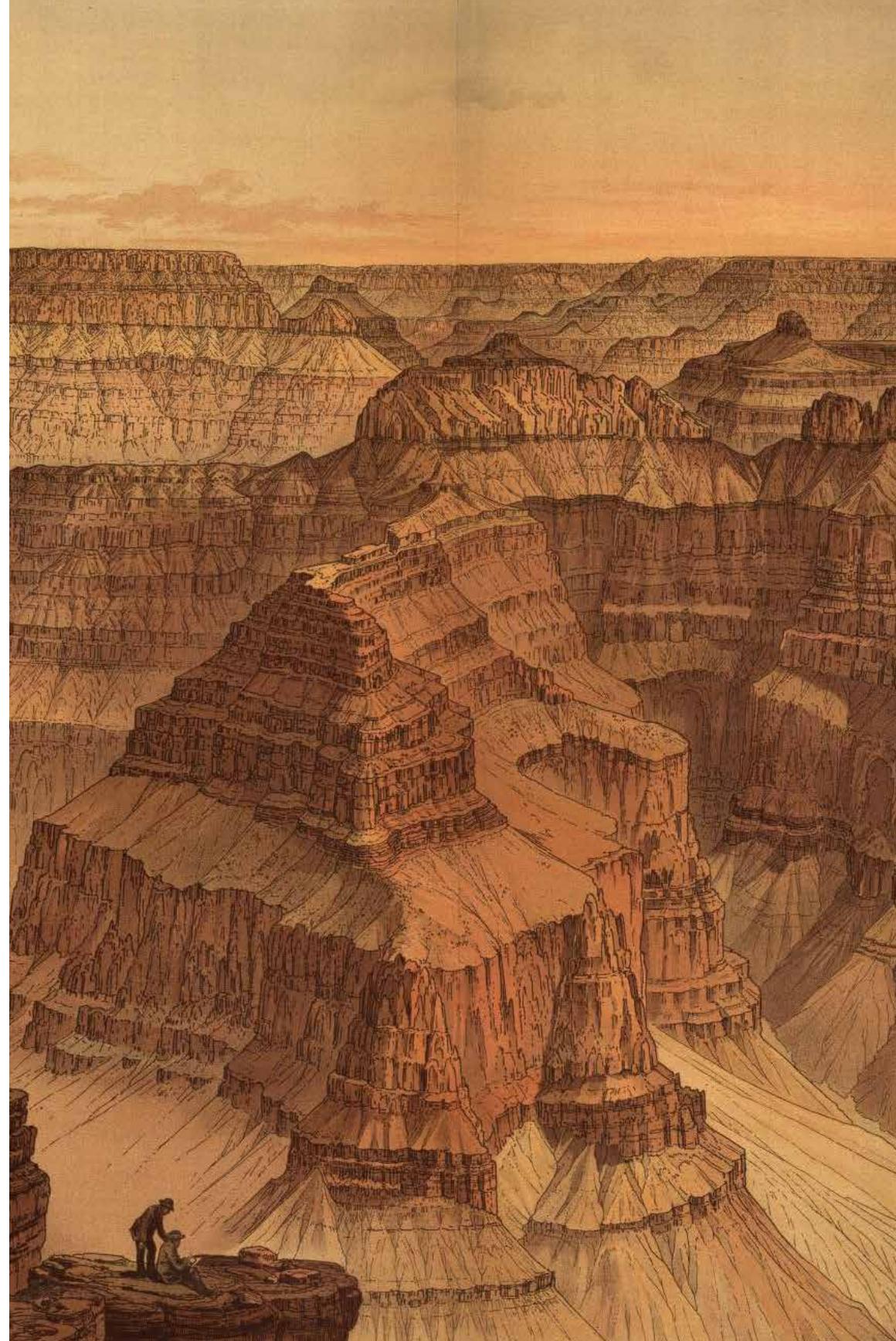
Phoenix Mural Project

Danielle Foushee | Assistant Professor | Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts

“You can’t see it, but I’ve got a lot of shit going on”: Young Women, Invisible Disability, and the Paradox of Passing

Heather Switzer | Associate Professor | School of Social Transformation

Anastasia Todd | Postdoctoral Research Associate | School of Social Transformation



Learn more about the IHR Seed Grant program at ihr.asu.edu/seedgrants.

VHI Grants

The IHR's Visiting Humanities Investigator program encourages and supports collaborations between ASU humanities faculty and other faculty, artists or community leaders from outside of the Phoenix area.

ASU tenure-line faculty are encouraged to submit applications to invite a collaborator for a micro-residency at ASU. VHI residencies can be anywhere from two days to two weeks, and they must facilitate jointly authored or jointly led outcomes, including grants, research publications (including articles, chapters, book proposals or full manuscripts), specialized conferences and seminars, creative projects and programming for the public (including digital programs).

The Messy Politics of Menstrual Activism: Local and Global Implications

Breanne Fahs | School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies
Chris Bobel | Associate Professor | College of Liberal Arts |
University of Massachusetts Boston

Scenebook for Latinx Actors: Voices of the New American Theatre

Micha Espinosa | Associate Professor | School of Film, Dance and Theatre
Cynthia DeCure | Assistant Professor | Department of Theatre |
California State University, Stanislaus

HOLD

Sally Ball | Associate Professor | Department of English
Jan Vicar | Visual Artist | Czech Republic

Susan Moller Okin as Radical Feminist

Elizabeth Brake | Associate Professor | School of Historical,
Philosophical and Religious Studies
Tamara Metz | Associate Professor | Political Science and
Humanities | Reed College

Temporal, Spatial and Memory Continuities of War and Genocide in the 20th Century

Volker Benkert | Assistant Professor | School of Historical,
Philosophical and Religious Studies
Michael Mayer | Assistant Professor | Akademie für Politische
Bildung, Tutzing, Germany



Distinguished Lecturer

Harry C. Boyte is the founder of the international youth civic education initiative Public Achievement and co-founder with Marie Ström of the Public Work Academy. He also founded the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the University of Minnesota, now merged into the Sabo Center for Democracy and Citizenship at Augsburg University where he is Senior Scholar in Public Work Philosophy. He has coordinated a variety of educational, civic, business and philanthropic civic groups, including those that worked with both the Clinton White House Domestic Policy Council and the Obama 2008 campaign. Boyte's forthcoming book, *Awakening Democracy through Public Work* (Vanderbilt University Press 2018), recounts lessons from 30 years of work aimed at empowering young people and others and revitalizing the civic purposes of K–12, higher education, professions, governments, development work and other settings.

Public Universities, Democracy and the Citizen Professional

This lecture will recall the tradition of land grant and public universities as “democracy colleges.” Boyte will argue that the revival and adaptation of this heritage is crucial in a time of globalization, authoritarian trends, a metastasizing consumer culture and widespread feelings of powerlessness. Using examples such as the “Outlier Art and American Vanguard Art” exhibition at the National Gallery of Art, Boyte will draw on recent humanities theory and practice to argue for the preparation of students as “citizen professionals.” These citizen professionals become part of the civic life of communities — not simply “partners with” or expert service providers. They work in a catalyzing and empowering fashion as agents of democratizing change.



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Victoria Thompson, Co-Director

Elizabeth Grumbach, Assistant Director

Mara Lopez, Research Advancement Specialist Sr.

Barbara Dente, Business Operations Specialist

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Christopher Hanlon | Associate Professor | School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

Manuel Avilés-Santiago | Associate Professor | College of Integrative Science and Arts



Support Humanities Research

Our Vision

The Institute's vision is to advance and support vital humanities scholarship that makes a difference in the world. In addition, through the IHR's support of transdisciplinary research, ASU humanities scholars of culture, languages, literature, film, media, art, history, philosophy and religion collaborate regularly with engineers, biologists, geographers, social scientists and others — applying humanities methodologies and perspectives to research projects in many important fields. The IHR is an incubator for new ideas and new directions, and a nexus for grassroots enthusiasm in humanities scholarship at ASU and beyond.

What will private investment make possible?

Private funding will open exciting new avenues of humanities research, creating new initiatives and supplementing the limited financial awards now available to scholars at the start of their projects. Investments from donors like you give scholars a competitive advantage when they seek additional federal, state and foundation funding. For example, a private anonymous donation allowed us to expand our Health Humanities Initiative into the successful partnership with Mayo Clinic in Arizona that it is today.

Contributions from Reverend Jenny Norton have enabled us to provide supplemental funding to qualifying projects pertaining to women locally and globally. Your philanthropy will not only support ideas — it will support real-world outcomes and better futures.

ASU was ranked **#4** in the nation for humanities research expenditures in 2016, and has been ranked **#1** in innovation for the last three years.

You may choose to support one of the opportunities below, or you may prefer to rely on an ASU development officer to guide your gift to the most promising and immediate area of need within the IHR.

Heath Humanities Initiative | Digital Humanities Initiative |
Humane Cities Initiative | IHR Humanities General Fund |
IHR Annual Book Award | Research Clusters | Seed Grant
Program | Fellows Program | Annual Distinguished Lecturer

For more information on how to support the IHR, visit ihr.asu.edu/support.

“

I believe it is very likely that men, if they ever should lose their ability to wonder and thus cease to ask unanswerable questions, also will lose the faculty of asking the answerable questions upon which every civilization is founded.

”

Hannah Arendt

Thinking Without a Banister: Essays in Understanding, 1954–1975

