



2019-20 annual report

ASU Institute for
Humanities Research
Arizona State University

INITIATIVES GRANTS + AWARDS EVENTS + WORKSHOPS LOOKING FORWARD

letter from the directors

We ended the academic year in a way none of us could have imagined when we began it. Faced with the coronavirus pandemic in mid-March, ASU moved its entire operations online, and we in the Institute for Humanities Research (IHR) transitioned with the campus to online programming. Although some lectures and events had to be postponed, we credit and thank our staff for the efficiency with which we were able to continue to offer our programming through digital media and for their imaginative suggestions for how to enrich that programming as we faced a health crisis, an economic crisis and the unraveling of our social fabric when stark images brought the realities of social injustice into our lives and gave long-overdue momentum to the Black Lives Matter movement, giving us hope that the long arc of history does bend toward justice.

The immediacy of present crises and uncertainty about what to expect in the coming months make a retrospective look at the year challenging. But we are pleased that we in the IHR have continued to build on the momentum established last year. Prescient to our current moment,

Distinguished Lecturer Kathryn Yusoff gave the talk “Geologies of Race: unearthing the ground of the human,” and we celebrated ASU professor Julian Lim, who was awarded the IHR Book Award for “Porous Borders: Multiracial Migrations and the Law in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.”

We have offered important workshops to assist faculty and graduate students with their research and writing: Russell Wyland from the National Endowment for the Humanities counseled faculty on grant applications, Bill Germano provided substantive advice on writing a book proposal and ASU historian Chris Jones continued to bring faculty and students together in weekly sessions dedicated to scholarly writing.

Through our many funding programs we have allocated monies to support the innovative research of our colleagues in the humanities. And we continue to sponsor and co-sponsor public events, talks and lectures that showcase the vital role of humanities inquiry in safeguarding a future in which we all prosper.

Our ongoing initiatives in Digital Humanities, Environmental Humanities and Health Humanities continue to thrive, and to those

we have added Desert Humanities, an initiative of Dean Cohen, and Humane Tech. These new initiatives, like those before them, bring vital attention to questions that the humanities are uniquely empowered to answer: how can we best ensure and safeguard the ongoing well-being of individuals, communities and our democratic institutions?

We eagerly anticipate next year when the IHR will welcome a new director. Elizabeth will take on a new role as Director of the Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics, and Ron, serving as Associate Director and joined by Assistant Director Liz Grumbach, will ensure a smooth leadership transition in the IHR. We thank all of our constituents — faculty, students, staff, the administration, our donors and community members — for your support this past year and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Elizabeth Langland,
Director, IHR

Ron Broglio,
Co-Director, IHR

initiatives

These dynamic and flexible cross-disciplinary programs allow us to advance areas of research important to many scholars in the ASU community and to the public.

Initiatives are designed to make an impact in critical areas of contemporary life. They are windows into imagining and building better futures for us all.

Digital Humanities

Digital humanities work is interdisciplinary and creative. It weaves new media tools and data and computational sciences with humanities methods, primary materials and theoretical frames to address the challenges of current digital cultures.

The Digital Humanities initiative

at the IHR is a feminist, anti-racist and inclusive space.

Desert Humanities

Deserts are demanding and pose large questions to us — questions that invite large ecological solutions. The Desert Humanities initiative intersects our barren home in the desert with

the humanities issues that arise in such a harsh environment.

Environmental Humanities

The environmental humanities explore how art, history, literature, philosophy and other humanities topics serve as entry points to discussions about the relationships between people, place and planet.

Health Humanities

The Health Humanities initiative seeks to transcend disciplinary and institutional boundaries by bringing academics, clinicians, caregivers and students together to address grand social challenges in areas of health and healthcare.

Humane Tech

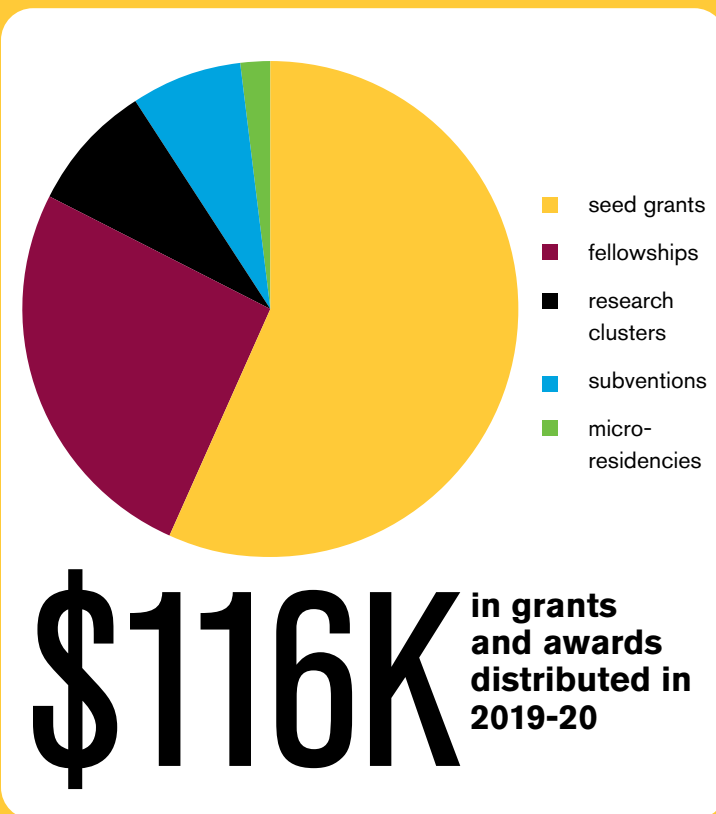
The Humane Tech initiative brings together tech leaders, entrepreneurs, investors and humanists to co-create the frameworks, tools and skill sets they need to overcome the potentially dehumanizing effects of new technologies.

Image Below: Maja Kuzmanovic and Nik Gaffney, founders of FoAM, collected desert sounds for “Dust and Shadow: An Acoustic Ecology Salon,” an exhibit hosted by the Desert Humanities initiative and in collaboration with the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, the Center for Philosophical Technologies and the Synthesis Center. FoAM is a network of labs that intersects art, science, nature and everyday life. Photo courtesy FoAM.



grants + awards

Grants and awards at the IHR imagine and create new futures for research and scholarship at ASU by funding humanities projects and publications.



46 scholars received funding

26 projects received funding

fellows

The fellows program provides funding for faculty to commit to a year of intensive research and work together to meaningfully present their work to the community.

What functions do borders and boundaries serve? Who makes and guards them? Who confronts and crosses them? Fellows studied different regions and peoples around the world to find answers to these questions inspired by the year's fellowship theme, "Borders and Boundaries."



**Vanessa
Fonseca-
Chávez**

**Assistant
Professor,
Interdisciplinary Humanities
and Communication**

Fonseca-Chávez's project engages community histories in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico by examining how long-standing Spanish- and Mexican-origin communities created and preserved their "querencia," a love or attachment to place rooted in landscape, on both sides of Arizona-New Mexico territorial and state borders.



**Calvin
Schermerhorn**

**Professor, School
of Historical,
Philosophical and
Religious Studies (SHPRS)**

Schermerhorn's project is a narrative history of economic inequality, which shows how barriers to Black income and wealth creation formed in the colonial era and transformed over 400 years as a bundle of disadvantages relative to white Americans.



**Anna
Cichopek-
Gajraj**

**Associate
Professor, SHPRS**

Cichopek-Gajraj's book project examines the postwar displacement of Polish Catholics and Polish Jews. It traces their journeys out of Poland through Africa, Europe and Latin America in the first 15 years after World War II.



**Laurie
Manchester**

**Associate
Professor, SHPRS**

In 1954, 100,000 Russians from pious, monarchist families voluntarily repatriated to the Soviet Union. Manchester's research challenges the dominant theories that economic betterment, the desire to live where individual freedom is protected and family reunification were the dominant motivations for migration.



**Miriam
Mara**

**Associate
Professor,
School of
Humanities, Arts and Cultural
Studies**

Ireland's geographical status and national boundaries have profound effects on the ways agricultural guidelines change the land and its use. Mara's project examines Irish agricultural practices and farming policy alongside contemporary literary texts that depict Irish farming practices.



**William
Hedberg**

**Assistant
Professor,
School of Interna-
tional Letters and Cultures**

Hedberg's project centers on the literary representation of "utopia" in early modern and modern East Asian literature. His research partakes of a growing body of scholarship devoted to previously overlooked connections between the literary corpuses of China, Japan and the West.



Image Above: A rare photo of Prince's father (on piano) and his band, which Prince was named after. Rashad Shabazz studied the musical and historical influences of Minneapolis and its impact on the music of Prince for his IHR seed grant project "Biography of a Sound — Prince, Place and the Hidden History of the Minneapolis Sound." Photo courtesy Hennepin County Library and the children of John Ganton.



30% of seed grant projects were collaborative



67% of seed grant applicants received funding

seed grants

The IHR seed grant program empowers the ASU community to imagine, innovate and create humanities research that reveals new ways of understanding the past and future.

Spring 2019 Seed Grant Recipients

Biography of a Sound — Prince, Place and the Hidden History of the Minneapolis Sound

Rashad Shabazz, Associate Professor, School of Social Transformation; Sabine Feisst, Evelyn Smith Professor, School of Music.

Power, Society and the Senses: A Workshop

Toby Harper, Assistant Professor, School of Historical,

Philosophical and Religious Studies; Richard Newhauser, Professor, Department of English.

Storytelling on Location: Emerging Modalities of Place-Based Writing

Jacob Greene, Assistant Professor, Department of English.

Who Wrote the Autobiography of Malcolm X

Keith Miller, Professor, Department of English.

Fall 2019 Seed Grant Recipients

Bodies in Revolt: The Volatile Politics of Women's Body Hair

Breanne Fahs, Professor, School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies.

Monumental Objections: The Phoenix Indian School at Steele Indian School Park

Kathleen Lamp, Associate Professor, Department of English.

No Longer Just 'Hyphenated': The New 'American' Conversation

Pardis Mahdavi, Dean of Social Sciences, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Lois Brown, Director, Center for the Study of Race and Democracy.

external funding

The IHR offers grant support to The College's Division of Humanities at ASU as well as IHR internal funding recipients.*

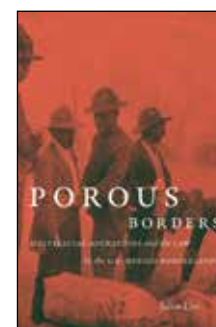
2.8M dollars in external funding was awarded

43 project proposals were submitted

56 faculty participated in sponsored projects in collaboration with the Division of Humanities

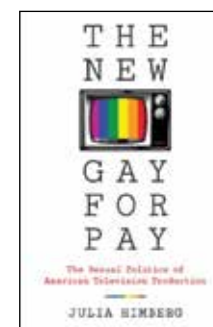
*External funding is measured over an 18-month project period (Jan. 1, 2019-Jun. 30, 2020).

book award



Winner

"Porous Borders: Multiracial Migrations and the Law in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands," by Julian Lim



Honorable Mention

"The New Gay for Pay: The Sexual Politics of American Television Production," by Julia Himberg

The IHR Book Award celebrates outstanding writers whose contributions to the humanities change the conversation by fostering new directions for their discipline.

events + workshops

The IHR hosts several events and workshops to connect ASU scholars with the community, shape new research possibilities and help faculty and graduate students thrive as scholars in the humanities. Here are some highlights from the past year.



75 events were hosted or sponsored by the IHR

32 of these events were workshops



online events and workshops were offered to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic

Geologies of Race, with Distinguished Lecturer Kathryn Yusoff

How are geology and race connected? At this public lecture on February 27, IHR 2020 Distinguished Lecturer Kathryn Yusoff invited guests to discover the connection between the human impact on geology and the inhuman outcomes of colonialism.

A major university and community event, the annual Distinguished Lecturer program brings to campus a prominent humanities scholar whose work highlights the importance of humanities research.



Opening Reception for Dust and Shadow: An Acoustic Ecology Salon

Maja Kuzmanovic and Nik Gaffney of FoAM traveled the desert in two years of site visits with ASU's D.A.R.E. team collecting artifacts and sounds.

From these experiences, they created a desert sounds vinyl album and series of accompanying images, which were displayed at the Acoustic Ecology Salon at the Hayden Library. Additional books, maps and images were supplied by the Hayden Library and its archives.

This public reception (hosted by the Desert Humanities initiative and co-sponsored by the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, the Center for Philosophical Technologies and the Synthesis Center) gave attendees the opportunity to be immersed in a desert experience.

The Scholarly Book: Idea, Proposal, Execution, with William Germano

On October 24, William Germano taught participants how to conceptualize a scholarly book, how to distinguish research from idea, how to determine a structure that works

and how to refine a document so that a publisher will give it serious consideration. Germano provided one-on-one feedback to attendees who were workshoping their own book ideas.

Writing Studios for Faculty and Graduate Students

Throughout the academic year, Chris Jones, director of graduate studies and associate professor of history at SHPRS, hosted six-week writing studios. He held two workshops for faculty and two workshops for graduate students.

Faculty workshop participants discussed topics such as setting themselves up for success, avoiding negative self-talk and practicing habits that make it easier to keep writing on a regular basis.

Topics for the graduate student studios included breaking large writing projects into manageable pieces and writing while researching.

'The New Gay for Pay' Lightning Talks and Workshop with Julia Himberg

On November 14, Julia Himberg,

director and associate professor of Film and Media Studies at ASU, led a workshop for individuals interested in social change, advocacy and activism to talk to each other about how to get out of the academic "comfort zone" and make their work accessible to a public audience.

Guests had the option to present their own three-minute lightning talks on their topic of research in relation to social change, advocacy and activism. Together, the talks and following table discussions bridged the gap between academic research and how to inform the public about that research.

Adaptation, Resiliency and Care: A Series

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IHR launched the Adaptation, Resiliency and Care series. In this broader time of uncertainty, this continuing series seeks to provide conversations and resources to create a community of mutual support.

Series event topics have included teaching online, conducting research and offering support to students, as well as new challenges for parenting and building community during a pandemic.

Image Left: Kathryn Yusoff presents "Geologies of Race: unearthing the ground of the human" as the IHR 2020 Distinguished Lecturer.

Image Below: Part of the display featured at "Dust and Shadow: An Acoustic Ecology Salon," an exhibit hosted by the Desert Humanities initiative.



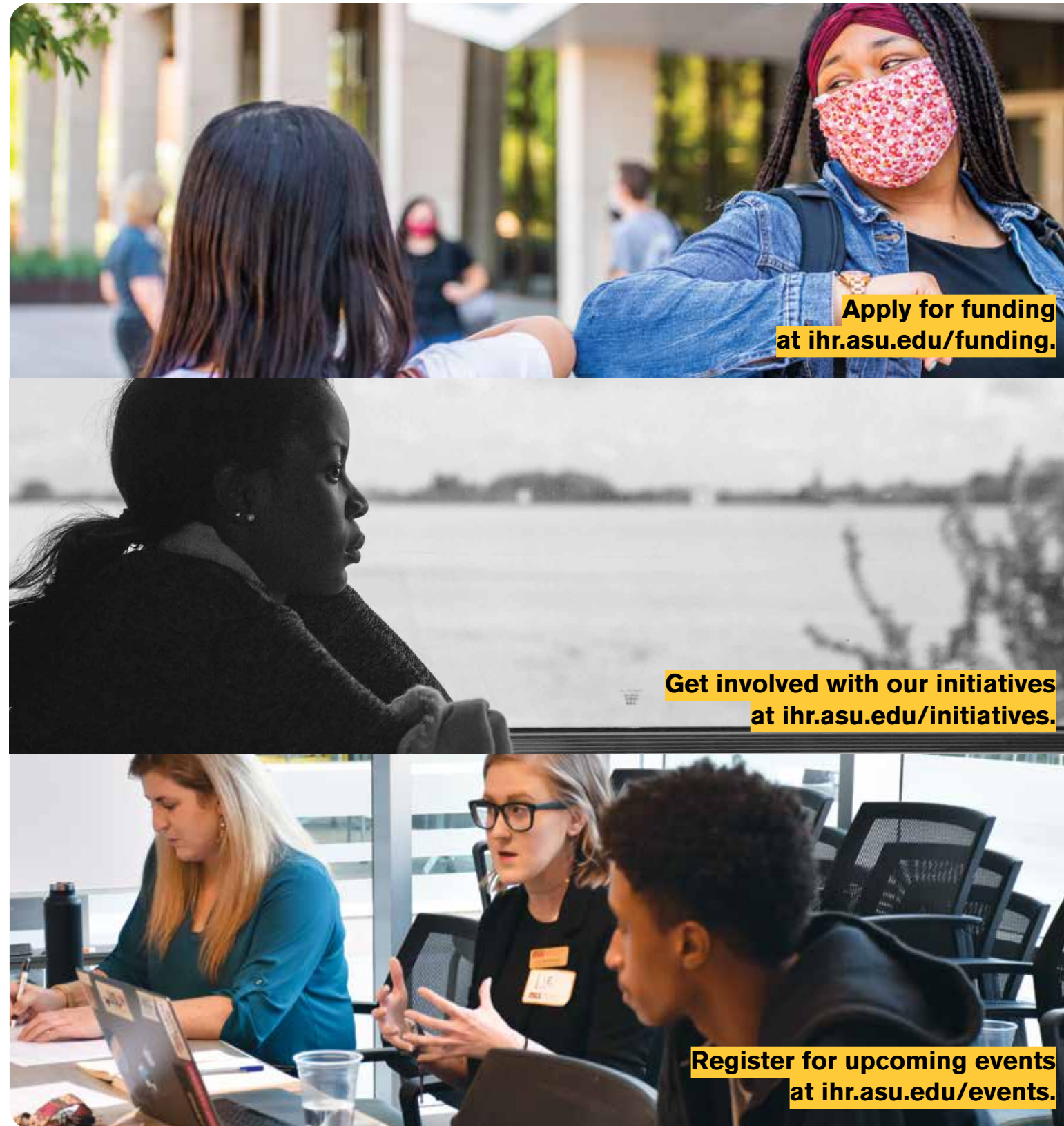
looking forward

The 2020-21 academic year holds new challenges and possibilities. To meet the demands of the times, we are creating responsive programming.

Look for our new Black Ecologies initiative. Attend programming on Adaptation, Resilience and Care. Tune in and participate in our Scholarly Series on Hope and Empowerment.

Meet our innovative postdoctoral scholar in residence, Nnamdi Igbokwe, who is working on public policy and globalism. Join conversations with our 2020 Book Award winner Juan Du and honorable mention recipient Francine Banner. Hear from our 2021 Distinguished Lecturer, adrienne maree brown.

In the year ahead, we hope you will engage with us in creating new ideas for the humanities at ASU and in our community.



Apply for funding
at ihr.asu.edu/funding.

Get involved with our initiatives
at ihr.asu.edu/initiatives.

Register for upcoming events
at ihr.asu.edu/events.

2019-20 Advisory Board

Manuel Avilés-Santiago, Associate Professor, College of Integrative Sciences and Arts

Lois Brown, Director, Center for the Study of Race and Democracy

Jason Bruner, Associate Professor, SHPRS

Anna Cichopek-Gajraj, Associate Professor, SHPRS

Mary Fitzgerald, Program Director and Associate Professor, School of Film, Dance and Theatre

Mary Margaret Fonow, Professor, School of Social Transformation

Ilana Luna, Associate Professor, School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

Andrew Mara, Faculty Head and Associate Professor, College of Integrative Sciences and Arts

Michael Tueller, Professor of the Classics, School of International Letters and Cultures

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Ron Broglio, Co-Director and Director of Desert Humanities

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Celina Osuna, Coordinator and Desert Humanities Assistant Director

Lauren Whitby, Communications Specialist



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