

2022  
2023

# Annual Report

**ASU** Institute for  
Humanities Research  
Arizona State University



**Dear Colleagues,**

This has been a year of welcoming. Having served in a number of administrative roles for IHR as well as Director of Desert Humanities, I became IHR Director in January of 2023; Nicole Anderson stepped down from the position to return to her beloved home in Australia.

Two faculty from the School of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies joined our team in January, as well. Catherine O'Donnell brings her experience and wisdom in leadership to the Institute as our associate director.

Jason Bruner joins us from Religious Studies as the new director of Desert Humanities. Jason has a wonderfully copious vision which has engaged rural farming communities and underrepresented populations in Arizona. He will be focusing on the nexus of water, power and food – all vital to the well-being of desert communities. And after a lacuna in the position of research advancement specialist, the Institute is pleased to have Courtney Berg join us as a friendly collaborator assisting faculty in their grant applications.

We welcomed a breadth of interdisciplinary in-person events at the Institute and were delighted to host participants and attendees from across ASU's colleges and campuses. These included conversations about the role of language in shaping lives and culture, a reception for the opening of our MFA student art exhibition, and a packed hall for Rebecca Solnit's riveting talk about hope in the age of climate change. Solnit's event complemented the talk by our 2022 book award winner Joseph Pugliese, whose "Biopolitics of the More-Than-Human" focuses on environmental justice for humans and nonhumans alike. Keeping with themes of hope and welcoming, the IHR Distinguished Lecturer Shelly C. Lowe Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, painted an ambitious and optimistic portrait of the state of humanities, and encouraged creative participation in NEH initiatives that analyze and celebrate the diversity of American life and culture. (Look for Lowe's conversation with President Michael M. Crow in NEH's "Humanities" magazine.)

The IHR continued to provide excellent professionalization opportunities to the humanities community, including a grant writing workshop with NEH head of research, Chris Thornton, and a free-ranging conversation with Matthew Hulver, vice president of Research at ASU's Knowledge Enterprise; publishing workshops with leading academic press acquisition editors; writing studios with ASU professor and author Chris Jones; a roundtable on navigating one's research career led by a range of successful ASU faculty; and discussions with ASU faculty about their recent books. And we heard excellent state of the field presentations by notable visiting scholars including Steve Mentz, Erica Fudge, and Cary Wolfe.

The Institute for Humanities Research continues to be a dynamic platform for enabling faculty success and celebrating our faculty's many achievements. I am grateful to the Institute's hard-working staff and to all those who engaged with us to make this an inspiring year.

**Ron Broglio**  
**Director**

# Mission

The Institute for Humanities Research (IHR) supports research and creative engagement with what it means to be human in a constantly changing world. The IHR connects university and partner communities in celebrating the best of what the Humanities can accomplish across cultures, times and space.

# In this report

The Institute serves as a hub for bringing people and ideas together in diverse and inclusive communities. Within and beyond the university we promote public humanities and cross-disciplinary conversations and partnerships.



Grants • 2



Initiatives • 6



Events • 11



Workshops • 15



Awards • 16

By funding humanities-centered projects and research, the IHR supports scholars as they investigate the past and present and create the future.

# Grants

# \$450K

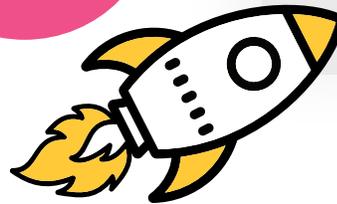
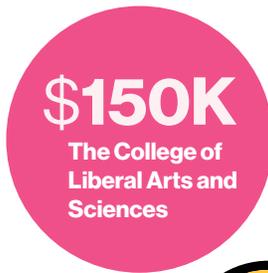
In total funds for 2022-23 **with**

# 3.5

**Million** dollars in external funding was awarded to the **Humanities**



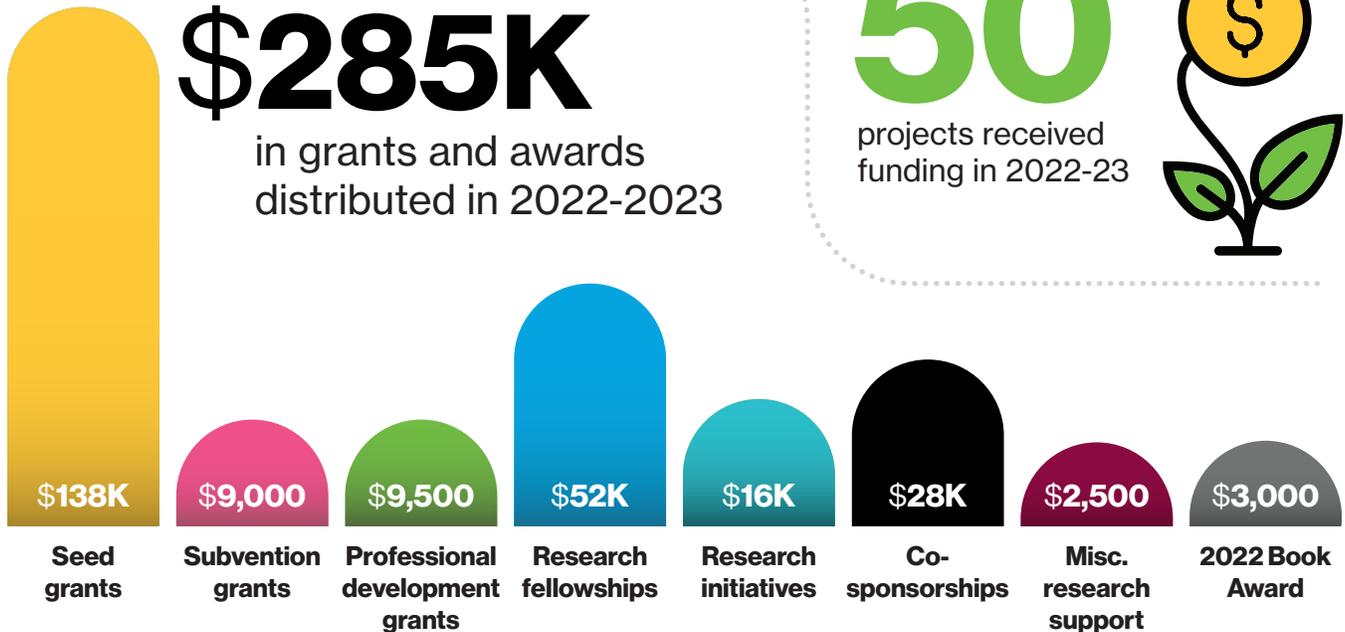
and



Over **\$285K** in grants and awards distributed in 2022-2023

# 50

projects received funding in 2022-23



# IHR Fellows Grant

The Institute for Humanities Research Fellows program advances the scholarly writing and research of humanities faculty. The program includes course buyout, research funding, peer writing groups, and development of a cross-humanities faculty community. Additionally, the program assists faculty in grant writing and writing for a broad public.



**Volker  
Benkert**



**Katherine  
Bynum**



**Marcello  
Di Bello**



**Brian  
Goodman**



**Annika  
Mann**



**Tyler  
Peterson**

**6 fellows**

**\$52K**

awarded in funding

To learn more about the Institute for Humanities Research and the Fellows program, please visit

[ihr.asu.edu/grants-awards/fellows](http://ihr.asu.edu/grants-awards/fellows).



## Seed Grants and IHR Herberger Grant

The IHR's **Seed Grant** program empowers the ASU community to imagine, innovate and create humanities research that addresses significant social challenges. Our seed grant program helps our research faculty bring their ideas to life and apply for external funding to advance their projects.



The **IHR Herberger Grant**, in partnership with The Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, has set aside funds for creative projects between humanities and arts. These applications are considered unique and judged separately from the other IHR seed grants.

To learn more about these grants, please visit [ihr.asu.edu/grants-awards/seed-grants](http://ihr.asu.edu/grants-awards/seed-grants).

**67%** were collaborative and cross-disciplinary

**78%** were involved either in community outreach or community engagement

**\$138,000** awarded

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## 2022 Professional Development Grants

The Institute for Humanities Research Professional Development Grants (which included the IHR's Publication and Travel Grants), were designed to facilitate publication output while increasing the impact of their research within and outside the ASU community.

**6** recipients • **\$9,500** awarded

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## Subvention Grant

The IHR awards a limited number of grants to assist full-time tenured and tenure-track ASU humanities faculty with subvention costs for single-authored and co-authored works in any language, including creative works such as novels, books of essays or poetry.

**7** recipients • **\$9,000** awarded

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# Seed grant

## recipients 2022-23

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Anita Huizar  
Hernández



Frédéric  
Canovas



Markus  
Cruse



Jessica  
Early



Ángel  
Pinillos

Initiatives are designed to make an impact in critical areas of contemporary life. This work supports ASU's faculty and the mission of the IHR in engaging our community. This year, our six initiatives received **\$16,000** in funding from the IHR.

# Initiatives



**6** interdisciplinary initiatives were supported in 2022-23

**\$16k** dollars funded IHR initiatives

## Applied Theory

**Initiative Director Stacey Moran, assistant professor, School of Arts Media and Engineering**

Applied Theory Initiative intervenes in theory as a highly specialized and contemplative activity separated from practice. The initiative is inspired by early Greek practice of theory as a cultural journey that is both political and sacred. Exploring the various ways that theory shows up in the world, the Applied Theory initiative examines various forms of knowledge production and seeks to reconnect the theoretical humanities to the communities that they hope to serve.

## Tahayyuz Educational Program

ASU Professors Stacey Moran and Adam Nocek are contributing guest lecturers for the Tahayyuz Educational Program in Cairo, Egypt as part of the IHR's Applied Theory Initiative. The Tahayyuz Educational Program is a one-year learning program that teaches critical, interdisciplinary approaches to the built environment. The program aims to present a complementary pathway to the study of the built environment by adopting an integrative educational model that brings together people from diverse backgrounds in the arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences to collectively explore the built environment from within various disciplines.





## Blue Humanities

**Initiative lead Sir Jonathan Bate,  
Foundation Professor, English**

The Blue Humanities Initiative was created to address the environmental crisis – consideration of oceanic ecologies as a crucial dimension of both the earth system and human experience.

Blue Humanities will bring the expertise and passion of scholars in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to our understanding of the relationship between humankind and the ocean, past, present and future. The initiative works in collaboration with the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences, (which has recently become part of ASU's Global Futures Laboratory), ASU's Hawaii-based Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science, and in partnership with researchers at King's College, London.

## The Coast of Bohemia: Water and Survival in Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale"

This lecture about "The Winter's Tale" dives deep into the theatrical waterscape of Shakespeare's fantastical coast of Bohemia.

Shakespeare's transformation of the "deserts of Bohemia" into a fertile seaside provides the watery substrate of the play's utopian countermovement. A focus on the materiality of water – which the play represents in tears, in waves, and in the sea – enables a reconsideration of Shakespeare's understandings of Art and Nature, which turn out to depend upon dynamic concepts of both Error and Time. "The Winter's Tale" transforms blue humanities tropes such as shipwreck and alienation into representations of collective endurance.





## Environmental Humanities

**Initiative Director Joni Adamson,  
President's Professor English**

The **Environmental Humanities Initiative** (EHI) explores how history, literature, philosophy, religion, anthropology, ethnic studies, film, art, and music each serve as entry points to vibrant discussions exploring the complex relationships between people, place, and planet. Networked through the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory (GFL), the EHI seeks to facilitate broad participation of faculty, research scholars, and students from across disciplines and knowledge domains. This initiative has moved under the umbrella of the GFL in 2023.



## Digital Humanities

**Initiative Director Liz Grumbach, program manager for Digital Humanities and Research, Lincoln Center Applied Ethics**

The IHR Digital Humanities Initiative formed the Digital Humanities Working Group with representatives from multiple academic career paths to address the needs and goals of ASU's Digital Humanities community. The Digital Humanities Working Group is led by Program Manager Liz Grumbach, Silvia Stoyanova, and post-doctoral scholar Melissa Rhodes. In 2023, the Digital Humanities Initiative moved under the umbrella of the Lincoln Center.



# Desert Humanities

**Initiative Director, Jason Bruner, professor, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies**



Desert spaces have long nourished artistic and humanistic work, but also distinctive possibilities for the flourishing of life in the past, present, and future. The **Desert Humanities Initiative** fosters both of these dimensions by (1.) Supporting work that analyzes, critiques, and transforms our relationships to deserts and is in service to the communities who inhabit them, and (2.) Providing opportunities to immerse in urban and rural desert sites in order to engage their textured histories, diverse ecologies, and possible futures.



## The Power of Community: How Randolph, AZ Used its History to Fight for its Future

Randolph's citizens discussed the Salt River Project's planned expansion in this town hall meeting. Participants included, Curtis Austin, associate professor of History, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies; Susan Wright, Randolph resident; Ron Jordan, Randolph resident; Reverend Dr. Warren Stewart, senior pastor of the First Institutional Baptist Church; and Steve Brittle, who has over 30 years of experience in environmental and environmental justice issues in Arizona, Brittle also served as policy advisor for Corporation Commissioner Sandra Kennedy. The event took place on March 2023, at the First Institutional Baptist Church in Phoenix.



Photos by Eric Lederman, courtesy of the Arizona Faith Network.



# Knowing Rocks

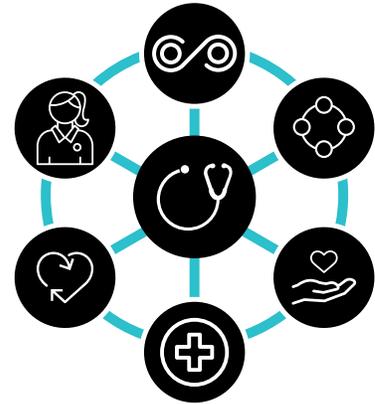
**Knowing Rocks** with ASU's Dean Jeffrey Cohen, author of "Stone," geologist Linda Lorraine Carnes and artist Erika Hanson. Participants learned how to see and engage with rocks from the perspective of philosophy, art, and science and how these disciplines come together to create our cultural understanding of our surroundings.



# Health Humanities

**Initiative Director Cora Fox, associate director English**

The IHR **Health Humanities Initiative** (IHR Health) works to promote research and interdisciplinary collaborations – between the university, community networks, and clinical partners – that address health as a cultural idea, value and practice. Its fundamental mission is to guide and support public discussions about health equity, justice, and access, and to explore creative cultural approaches to promoting care for all.



## Humanities and Health Justice Pathways: Forming First-Generation Professionals

**Creighton University** and **Arizona State University** have been awarded a \$149,497 grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH) to support a joint project aimed at creating new pathways for first-generation students to pursue healthcare professions. The project will design a humanities-based curriculum for a freshman summer bridge program and first-year experience. The funding for this project, titled Humanities and Health Justice Pathways: Forming First-Generation Professionals, runs through January 2025 and is expected to directly benefit 80 participating students (15 at Creighton and 25 at Arizona State University per year).



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES



# Events



## Spring 2023 Distinguished Lecture: Shelly C. Lowe

**Chair, National Endowment for the Humanities**

On February 1, the IHR held the **2023 Distinguished Lecture** featuring **Shelly C. Lowe**, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Chair discussing the future of humanities research and civic engagement. Lowe is a citizen of the Navajo Nation and grew up on the Navajo Reservation in Ganado, Arizona. From 2015 to 2021 she served as a member of the National Council on the Humanities, the 26-member advisory body to NEH, an appointment she received from President Obama. Lowe's career in higher education has included roles as Executive Director of the Harvard University Native American Program, Assistant Dean in the Yale College Dean's Office, and Director of the Native American Cultural Center at Yale University. Prior to these positions, she spent six years as the Graduate Education Program Facilitator for the American Indian Studies Programs at the University of Arizona. The lecture and reception was held at Old Main's Carson Ballroom at ASU's Tempe campus. Lowe also visited the IHR prior to the event in a meet and greet with seed grant recipients, to hear about ASU faculty's individual projects and to discuss NEH grants.

## Rebecca Solnit, “Not Too Late: Changing the Climate Story from Despair to Possibility”

The IHR welcomed writer, historian and activist **Rebecca Solnit** for a book talk and signing for her latest book, “**Not Too Late: Changing the Climate Story from Despair to Possibility**” on April 27 at the University Club at ASU's Tempe campus for a sold out talk. Members of the ASU community and the public gathered for a reception before the lecture, which was followed by a book signing for Solnit's newly released book. “Not Too Late” brings climate voices from around the world to address the political, scientific, social, and emotional dimensions of the climate crisis, addressing the issue with hope.





## Professor Erica Fudge, “Let’s Talk About Animals”

The IHR was delighted to welcome Professor Erica Fudge (University of Strathclyde) on February 22 for a coffee chat at Ross-Blakley Hall. Fudge, who is the director of the British Animal Studies Network (BASN), gave a compelling talk on animal studies to a full house. Her published work on contemporary culture looks at a range of areas where humans interact with animals, including pet ownership, experimentation, the wearing of fur, anthropomorphic children’s literature and vegetarianism.



## Outgoing IHR Fellows Welcomed the 2023-2024 Incoming IHR Fellows

The IHR welcomed the **incoming 2023-2024 Fellows** and celebrated the outgoing ones on April 21 at Ross-Blakley Hall. This was the official hand-off event between the current fellows and the new ones.

Everyone had the opportunity to

discuss their work, deliver feedback on the program and share ideas for its future. The new IHR Fellows are: ASU Professors Annika Mann, Brian Goodman, Katherine Bynum, Tyler Peterson, Volker Benkert and Marcello Di Bello. The IHR Fellows program advances the scholarly writing and research of humanities faculty. The program includes course buyouts, research funds, peer writing groups and development of a cross-humanities faculty community. To learn more about all the IHR Fellows and their projects, please visit:

[ihr.asu.edu/grants-awards/fellows](http://ihr.asu.edu/grants-awards/fellows).



## Radically Reimagine the Human Relationship with Nature

A private International Earth Day Event with presentations from local sustainability experts was held on April 21, 2023 at Liberty Wildlife Refuge in Phoenix. The event included the Arizona Sustainability Leadership Award Ceremony and was sponsored by the IHR, Desert Humanities Initiative and ASU's College of Law. Read more here: [radicallyreimagining.com/awards](https://radicallyreimagining.com/awards).



## African Futures and Urban Imaginaries

A dynamic interdisciplinary panel composed of artists, writers and intellectuals (**Pemi Aguda, Yvette Lisa Ndlovu, Granville Carroll, Jenna N. Hanchey, and Isaac Joslin**) explored the roles that arts and the imagination play in envisioning global futures. Focusing on African-centered perspectives of world-making and non-Western futures, specifically in the context of urban spaces, this panel conversation investigated the intersections of fiction and creative endeavors for questioning, critiquing and re-envisioning developmental paradigms associated with modern metropolitan geographies.

Photo by Granville Carroll



## IHR Art Opening “What World Worlds World”

The Institute for Humanities Research was pleased to host an art opening featuring MFA students on Thursday, February 9. Approximately 80 guests, including faculty, staff, grad students from across the university and the local community joined us for an evening of art, collaborations and conversation. We were excited to welcome the community into our newly refurbished space and form new connections. Thank you to artists Arianna Barley, Camila Bianchi, Wabwila Mugala, Rebecca Pipkin, Yvette Serrano, Amy Simons, Liza Stout and Jess Tommeraasen, who provided the works featured in the IHR offices.



The IHR hosted 33 professional development workshops and events that supported the mission of the IHR, 29 sponsored interdisciplinary events and eight Desert Humanities events. Below is a sample of some of our programs:

# Workshops

## 2022-2023 series

- “ASU Faculty Humanities Book Talks”
- “IHR Fellows Writing Group”
- “Do You Have a Word for That?”
- “Writing Studio with Chris Jones” Foundation and Sprint series

## Sept. 2022

- “How to Write Grants with Ayanna Thompson and Sarah Moser”

## Oct. 2022

- Lennard J. Davis  
“Biocultural Myths about the Poor”

## Feb. 2023

- “Writing Grants with Matthew Hulver”

## March 2023

- “Posthumanities in the Wild: Projects in Multi-Species Justice” with Cary Wolfe



View our programming on our YouTube site **IHR ASU**  
[youtube.com/c/IHRASU](https://youtube.com/c/IHRASU)



Established in 2008, the annual award celebrates outstanding writers whose contributions to the humanities change the conversation by fostering new directions for their discipline. Their nonfiction humanities-based books are judged by the IHR Advisory Board.

# Book Award

## Winner 2022



### **Biopolitics of the More-Than-Human: Forensic Ecologies of Violence**

**Author:** Joseph Pugliese

**Publisher:** Duke University Press

In his book, Pugliese examines the concept of the biopolitical through a nonanthropocentric lens, arguing that more-than-human entities – from soil and orchards to animals and water – are actors and agents in their own right with legitimate claims to justice. Examining occupied Palestine, Guantánamo and sites of U.S. drone strikes in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen, Pugliese challenges notions of human exceptionalism by arguing that more-than-human victims of war and colonialism are entangled with and subject to the same violent biopolitical regimes as humans.

## Shortlisted books 2022



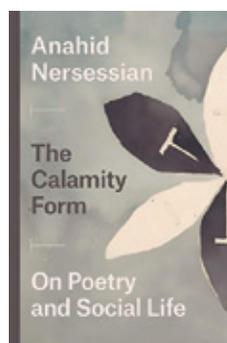
### **Drone Art: The Everywhere War as Medium**

Thomas Stubblefield,  
University of California Press



### **The Death of Things: Ephemera and the American Novel**

Sarah Wasserman,  
Oxford University Press



### **The Calamity Form: On Poetry and Social Life**

Anahid Nersessian,  
University of Chicago Press

# IHR faculty and staff

## Staff

### **Ron Broglio**

IHR Director

### **Catherine O'Donnell**

IHR Associate Director

### **Jason Bruner**

Desert Humanities Director

### **Mina Lajevardi**

Marketing and Communications  
Specialist, Snr.

### **Caden Gillespie**

Business Operations Manager

### **Courtney Berg**

Research Advancement Administrator

### **Jacob Leveton**

Program Coordinator

### **Victoria Day**

Administrative and Events Coordinator

## Thank You!

Thank you to our donors, stakeholders, scholars and friends for your continued support. The IHR is excited to welcome the community to our upcoming programs, events and celebrations. We look forward to serving you in the 2023-2024 academic year!



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