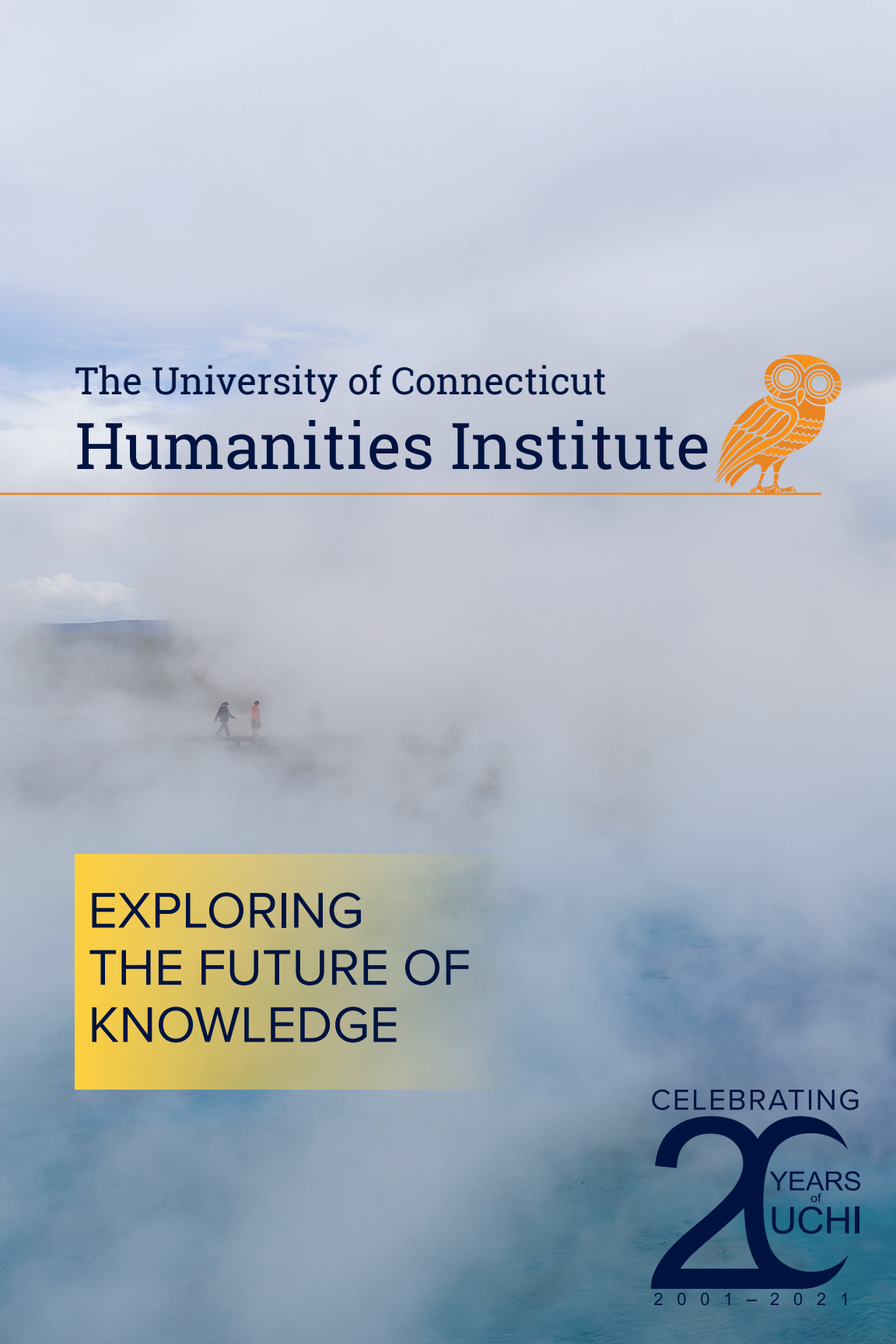
The University of Connecticut

Humanities Institute



EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF KNOWLEDGE

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS of UCHI

2001 – 2021



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20 YEARS of UCHI

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

What is the future of knowledge?

Democracies and their universities used to take it for granted that they knew what knowledge was and why it mattered. But widespread public disagreement over the reality of elections, racism, climate change, and even COVID demonstrates that we can no longer take these assumptions for granted. Moreover, information technology, while making information easier to get, has also made it harder to know what's true, as disinformation spreads like wildfire on social media. Indeed, with the rise of artificial intelligence technology, it is becoming increasingly difficult to say what knowledge even is in our digital economy.

These problems strike at the very heart of democracy but they aren't just technical problems. They are human problems. And they are bigger than any one field. So if we are going to solve them, we need the help of people who know about humans: that is, we need research in history, language, art, philosophy, and the ethics of science, media, and technology. And we need more than the usual voices: we need inclusive and truly global perspectives on these problems—problems that affect the entire world, not just the privileged portions of it. If we can do that, we can start to figure out the future of knowledge and begin to educate our students about the challenges we will face in knowing what's true—and what's not.

This is the promise of UCHI's new project on the Future of Truth. But it is also the promise of the humanities. At a moment when multiple global crises—a pandemic, rising racism, climate change, and misinformation—are fracturing what we once took for granted, the humanities lead us not just toward greater knowledge, but greater understanding.

Michael P. Lynch
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor

"At a moment when multiple global crises are fracturing what we once took for granted, the humanities lead us not just toward greater knowledge, but greater understanding."

—Michael P. Lynch
2014–present





"The humanities are about the inner life, but they are about much more: they engage the systems of artistic and intellectual inquiry through which we interrogate the world in which we live—and create a future in which we *want* to live."

—Sharon Harris
2009–2014

"By studying not only objective realities, but also ways of thinking and acting—ideas, emotions, and behavior, both in the present and in the past—humanists, including those at the UConn Humanities Institute, help us to understand ourselves in the world."



—Richard D. Brown
Founding Director, 2001–2009

DIRECTORS PAST & PRESENT



UCHI BY THE NUMBERS

$8,300,000 in grants

raised internally and externally, including from the **John Templeton Foundation**, **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**, & **Henry Luce Foundation**.

253 fellowships

granted to UConn faculty, UConn graduate students, and external scholars since the Institute was founded in 2001.

7 major initiatives

launched, including the New England Humanities Consortium, Digital Humanities and Media Studies, the Future of Truth, Humility and Conviction in Public LIfe, and the Faculty of Color Working Group.

21 disciplines

represented by our fellows and their research interests.

76 programs

sponsored or funded at UConn from 2018 to 2021, including invited speakers, conferences, colloquia, symposia, publications, and performances.



EVENTS

Each year, UCHI puts on scholarly events and professional development workshops for the UConn community and beyond. In 2020–2021 alone we hosted 33 events. Each of our fellows gave a research talk on their project, in dialogue with another fellow. The Digital Humanities and Media Studies Initiative invited speakers from all over the world. In our Publishing Now seminars, editors and other publishing professionals provided a behind-the-scenes glimpse at the publishing process, helping UConn faculty and graduate students share their research broadly. Our grant workshops showed ambitious graduate students how to pitch their projects to secure funding from foundations and institutes. Across those events, we welcomed over 1500 attendees, who asked questions, shared comments, and helped sustain the vibrant scholarly community that is the Humanities Institute.

Past Events

2021

Indigenous scholars and artists on climate change, featuring Sandy Grande, Melanie Yazzie, Anne Spice, and Emily Johnson.



image: Emily Johnson for the performance project, The Thank-you Bar. Photo by Cameron Wittig

> "The Humanities Institute is a small patch of paradise that immeasurably enriches intellectual life at UConn."
>
> —Scott Wallace
> Faculty Fellow (2020–2021)

2020

André Leon Talley on race, fashion, and *Vogue Magazine*, in conversation with Alexis L. Boylan and Melina Pappademos.



2018

Pulitzer Prize winner and *New York Times* best-selling novelist Viet Thanh Nguyen spoke to faculty and students about his books, navigating the publishing world, finding time for creativity, and the role of the public intellectual.





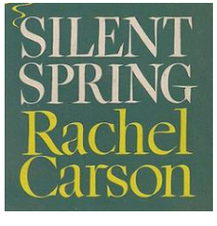
2017

A Publishing Now seminar where Adam McGee, managing editor of the *Boston Review*, talked to faculty and graduate students about publishing beyond the academy.



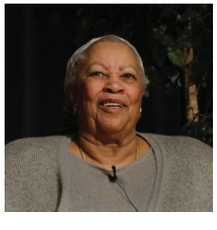
2016

Humility and Politics, the official kickoff event for the Humility and Conviction in Public Life project, featured a night of conversation with panelists David Brooks of the *New York Times*, NPR's Krista Tippett, *New Yorker* columnist Jelani Cobb, and Washington University's Liz McCloskey.



2013

A Day in the Humanities examined the environmental humanities in light of the 50th annivesary of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*.



2011

A keynote address by Nobel and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Toni Morrison, part of UCHI's 10th anniversary celebrations.

& PROGRAMMING

SPONSORED

Each year, UCHI helps to fund conferences, colloquia, invited speakers, and working groups across campus.

Speakers, Conferences, & Colloquia

2020–2021



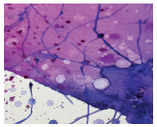
Teach In: The Egyptian Revolution 10 Years On; Hind Ahmed Zaki (Political Science)

Design and Research for Healthy Communities and Healthcare Facilities Project; Françoise Dussart (Anthropology)



"Bl(x)ck Rhizomes: A Digital Public History Praxis" with Aleia Brown; Clarissa Ceglio (Digital Media and Design)

Alejandro de la Guerra's participatory mural project; Samuel Martinez (Anthropology)



Racism in the Margins Conference; Kathleen Tonry and Gabe Morrison (English)

2019–2020

Talk by best-selling author Rebecca Traister; Frank Costigliola (History)



Talk by Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner Colson Whitehead; Melina Pappademos (History & Africana Studies)

UConn Spring Puppet Forum with a presentation by Jane Bennett; John Bell (Dramatic Arts)

2018–2019



Talk by gender studies scholar Jasbir Puar; Bhakti Shringarpure (English)



Working Groups



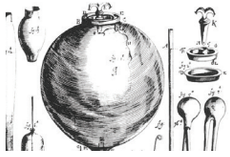
The **Political Theory Workshop**, organized by Jane Gordon, meets six times a year to offer a space for political theorists based at and beyond UConn to present and receive feedback on works-in-progress or recently published writing.

The **Creative Writing Pedagogy Working Group**, organized by V. Penelope Pelizzon, meets monthly to read and discuss selected texts on creative teaching praxis.



The **American Studies Writing Group**, organized by Chris Vials, offers an opportunity for faculty across the university to meet and workshop their chapters and articles in progress.

The **Visual Studies Workshop**, organized by Kathryn Moore, opens up dialogues about the future of visual studies.



The **History of Science Reading Group**, organized by Debapriya Sarkar, Helen Rozwadowski, and Alexis Boylan, explores the interfaces between scientific knowledge and its representation and communication, especially to a wider public, from the pre-modern period through the twenty-first century.

> "We're so fortunate to have UCHI at UConn—nurturing ideas *and* carving out space for public conversations about the stuff that really matters."
>
> —Sarah Willen
> Faculty Fellow (2013–2014, 2021–2022)

The **Literary Epistemology Working Group**, organized by Yohei Igarashi, undertakes collaborative projects about literature, history, and culture, with a focus on epistemological questions and computational methods.



The **Early Modern Studies Working Group**, organized by Greg Semenza, describes a close-knit, interdisciplinary, and ever-growing community, sharing a passion for learning about the art, culture, and history of our early modern forebears.

PROGRAMS

RESEARCH

The Future of Truth

The **Future of Truth** is a multi-disciplinary, engaged research project aimed at investigating what truth is now and if, and how, it will matter in the future. Project activities include conferences, a public forum, exhibitions, a podcast series, and related publications. The project is pursued against a background of three convictions: that there is a pressing practical and political need to examine these questions, that doing so at this moment calls for new theoretical approaches, and that these approaches must not be academically isolated, but draw on collaborative insights from art, science, and philosophy.

Seeing Truth

Seeing Truth: Art, Science, Museums, and Making Knowledge, a collaboration with the American Museum of Natural History and generously funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, seeks to challenge audiences to see art, science, and truth anew in this political moment. Each exhibition location, or partner, will use a few select museum objects to inspire a reengagement with their own collections, their own historical locations, and their own communities in order to build a unique and interactive show. In bringing together scientific instruments, photographs, films, educational props, textbooks, paintings, taxidermy, expedition materials, and maps, each exhibition will initiate its own inquiry into truths about art and science, speak its own questions, and engage diverse communities and histories in the project of making new knowledge. UConn's iteration of *Seeing Truth* will premiere in 2023.



"We now face global, epic, and existential problems that can only be solved by facing the future of truth. In other words, the future of truth is also the future of humanity and our planet. What else would we want to talk about?"

–Alexis L. Boylan
Director of Academic Affairs

Why We Argue

In 2021 we released ten episodes of a Future of Truth-edition of our podcast, **Why We Argue**. Host Robert Talisse (Philosophy, Vanderbilt) interviewed scholars and thinkers to discuss what truth is, where it is going, and why it matters in our democracy. Topics ranged from the political power of rage to conspiracy theories and transitional justice, and guests included Sophia Rosenfeld, Jennifer Mercieca, and Cornel West.

HUMILITY & CONVICTION IN PUBLIC LIFE

How can we balance our most deeply held convictions with humility and open-mindedness in order to repair public discourse? This was the central question guiding **Humility and Conviction in Public Life** (HCPL), a research and engagement project investigating how intellectual humility—being aware of our own cognitive limitations and biases, and being responsive to the evidence—can promote healthier and more meaningful public conversation. Sponsored by generous grants from the John Templeton Foundation and UConn, HCPL was an unprecedented combination of research and engagement, bringing together scholars from all over the world and across disciplines. The project, led by Michael Lynch and Brendan Kane, ran from 2015 to 2019 and has resulted in several major research projects and numerous publications, all working to elevate the tone and outcomes of public discourse in our society.

PROJECTS



DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Founded in 2016 under the leadership of Anke Finger, the Institute's Digital Humanities and Media Studies Initiative (DHMS) seeks to engage the UConn community in debates, explorations, and exchanges on all aspects related to the Digital Humanities and Media Studies. These sister fields are uniquely in dialogue at UConn, with faculty and students already working either in one or both, displaying an interdisciplinary and international richness of scholarly inquiry, experimentation, and publication. UCHI's goal is to foster this dialogue by offering a lecture series, workshops, reading groups, and other programming that bring together students and faculty to explore the humanities from digital and medial perspectives. The initiative also offers a certificate in DHMS for graduate students.

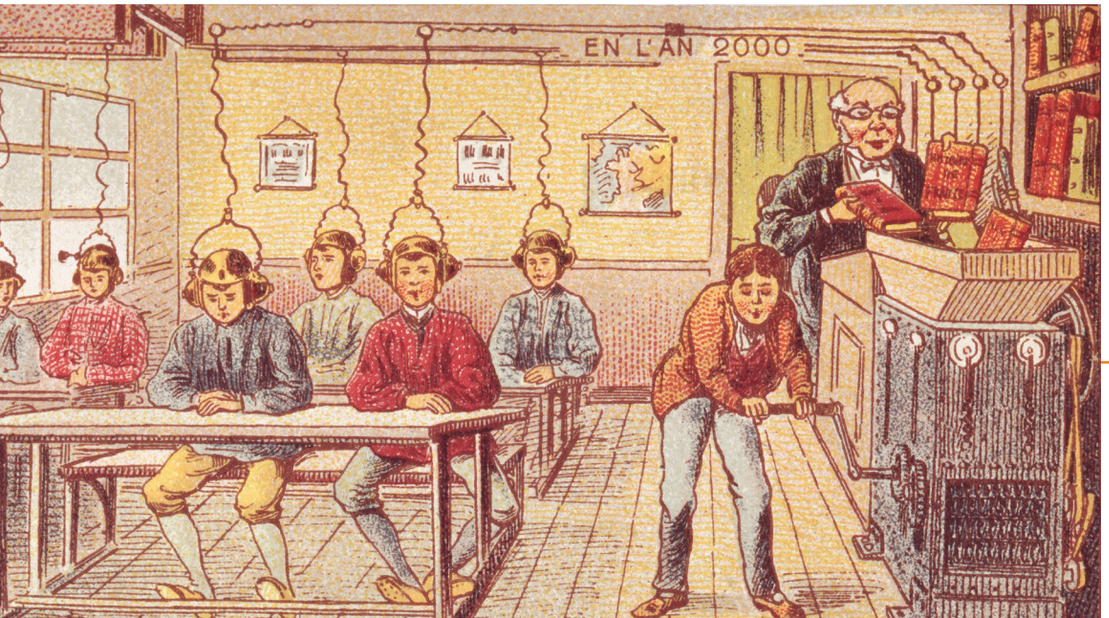
Past Events



2021

In March 2021, the Radical Futures Symposium, organized by Anke Finger and Christoph Ernst, brought together researchers from Germany and the United States to discuss both the future of media and form(at)s of imagination/imaginaries in the 21st century. Sponsored by DHMS and the Future of Truth. *Image: Anke Finger*

Jean-Marc Côté, En l'An 2000, c. 1900. Wikimedia Commons



"UCHI's DHMS initiative focuses on how computation, data, technology, and digital media generally are shaping our world—and how they can help us understand the past and imagine the future."

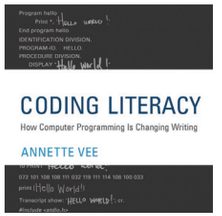


—Yohei Igarashi
Associate Director & DHMS Coordinator



2020–2021

The 2020–2021 speaker series featured talks by digital artist and author of *New York Times* best-seller *How to Do Nothing,* Jenny Odell; feminist media scholar Sarah Sharma; digital humanist and early modern French historian Simon Burrows; computational humanities scholar Allen Riddell; and Chinese media scholar Shaoling Ma.



2019–2020

The 2019–2020 series featured Annette Vee on "Algorithmic Writers and Implications for Literacy" and Nancy K. Baym on "The Relational Affordances of Platforms."



2018–2019

In 2018–2019 DHMS welcomed Jacqueline Wernimont who spoke on "Numbered Lives: A Feminist Media History" and John Durham Peters who discussed "The Media of Weather."

Learn more at https://dhmediastudies.uconn.edu/

& MEDIA STUDIES

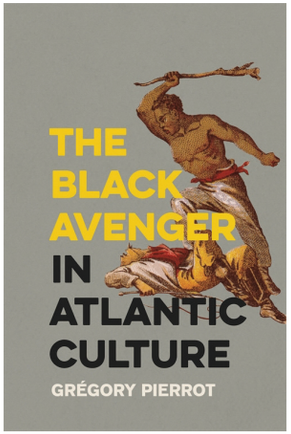


SUPPORTING

UCHI supports several awards and fellowship opportunities that reward creative thinking and scholarship. These include annual residential fellowships for UConn faculty, UConn graduate students, and external fellows, a book award, and awards for faculty fellows.

Sharon Harris Book Award

Since 2017, the annual Sharon Harris Book Award has been given for a book published by UConn tenured, tenure-track, emeritus, or in-residence faculty that demonstrates scholarly depth and intellectual acuity and highlights the importance of humanities scholarship.



2021 Winner
Grégory Pierrot (English)
The Avenger in Black Atlantic Culture (University of Georgia, 2019)

2021 Honorable Mention
Ariel Mae Lambe (History)
No Barrier Can Contain It: Cuban Antifascism and the Spanish Civil War (University of North Carolina, 2019)

Past Recipients

Kathryn Blair Moore, *The Architecture of the Christian Holy Land: Reception from Late Antiquity through the Renaissance* (Cambridge, 2017)

Daniel Hershenzon, *The Captive Sea: Slavery, Communication, and Commerce in Early Modern Spain and the Mediterranean* (University of Pennsylvania, 2018)

Helen M. Rozwadowski, *Vast Expanses: A History of the Oceans* (Chicago, 2019)

Anne C. Dailey, *Law and the Unconscious: A Psychoanalytic Perspective* (Yale, 2017)

Micki McElya, *The Politics of Mourning: Death and Honor in Arlington National Cemetery* (Harvard, 2017)

> "It's always invigorating to feel part of a thinking community!"
>
> —V. Penelope Pelizzon
> Faculty Fellow (2004–2005)

Felberbaum Awards

Since 2003, the generosity of the Felberbaum Family Foundation has enabled UCHI to offer a limited number of Felberbaum Family Faculty Awards to University of Connecticut faculty completing their UCHI fellowship year. These competitive awards are offered to provide financial support for additional expenditures related to fellows' projects. The awards are for UConn faculty fellows only and suggest "the individual receiving the Award will be a recognized researcher, scholar, and teacher and will have made significant contributions to the Institute."

2021 Recipients



Sean Frederick Forbes
English



Melanie Newport
History



Scott Wallace
Journalism

SCHOLARSHIP

PAST

UCHI's dissertation research scholars represent the best and brightest of UConn's graduate students. The fellowship offers them the time and space to focus solely on completing their dissertations. They also benefit from the Institute's community of fellows—learning from more experienced scholars, while interacting with them as equals. They go on to have impressive and successful careers in academia and beyond. Here are some past graduates' recent accomplishments.



Nicole Breault
2020–2021 fellow Nicole Breault was named 2021–2022 David Center for the American Revolution Predoctoral Fellow at the American Philosophical Society. She will be completing her dissertation project, "The Night Watch of Boston: Law and Governance in Eighteenth-Century British America."



Aimee Loiselle
2018–2019 fellow Aimee Loiselle was the recipient of the 2020 Catherine Prelinger Award awarded to "a scholar of excellence" by the Coordinating Council for Women in History. Loiselle is now Assistant Professor of History at Central Connecticut State University.

Jorell A. Meléndez-Badillo
2017–2018 fellow Jorell A. Meléndez-Badillo is Assistant Professor of History at Dartmouth College. His book, *The Lettered Barriada: Workers, Archival Power, and the Politics of Knowledge in Puerto Rico* (Duke 2021) received the Duke University Press Scholars of Color Book Award.



Allison Horrocks
2015–2016 fellow Allison Horrocks is a public historian with the National Parks Service. She also co-hosts, with Mary Mahoney, the popular podcast *American Girls*. Each episode examines a story, place, or cultural artifact associated with an American Girl character.



Asha Bhandary
2010–2011 fellow Asha Bhandary, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Iowa, published two books in 2020–2021, *Freedom to Care* (Routledge) and *Caring For Liberalism* (Routledge), co-edited with Amy R. Baehr.



GRADUATES

Twenty Years of UCHI

2001: UCHI is founded under the directorship of Richard Brown

2002: The first cohort of fellows begin their residency

2003: First annual Felberbaum Awards given

2005: Inaugural Humanities Authors Celebration

2005: Foundations of Humanitarianism Program launched jointly with Human Rights Institute.

2006: James Barnett Professorship in Humanistic Anthropology endowed by Dennison Nash

2006: Junior Faculty Forum founded

2006: First annual Day in the Humanities. The theme: "Staging Invasion."

2008: Fellows begin giving public talks on their projects.

2009: Sharon Harris becomes director

2010: Graduate student forum founded

2001 — 2011 — 2021

2011: 10th anniversary celebration featuring a keynote address by Toni Morrison

2012: UCHI sponsors Humanities House, an undergraduate living and learning community.

2014: A Week in the Humanities on the theme "War and its Meaning"

2014: UConn joins the Folger Institute Consortium

2014: Michael Lynch becomes director

2015: Humility and Conviction in Public Life project funded by UConn and the John Templeton Foundation

2016: Digital Humanities and Media Studies Initiative founded

2017: First annual Sharon Harris Book Award granted to Micki McElya

2018: New England Humanities Consortium founded with $100,000 Mellon grant

2019: Future of Truth project funded by Henry Luce Foundation

2020: UCHI awarded $750,000 Mellon grant to expand the Faculty of Color Working Group

FORMER FELLOWS

Through its annual residential fellowships, the Humanities Institute provides an interdisciplinary environment in which junior and senior scholars from around the world come together to think, collaborate, and write. The impact of this opportunity not only shapes the creative minds of our fellows during their residency, but also informs their scholastic contributions long **#afterUCHI**. Here are some past fellows' recent successes.



2010–2011 faculty fellow **Margo Machida**, a pioneer in the academic study of Asian American art, received the 2021 CAA Award for Excellence in Diversity. The Excellence in Diversity Award recognizes outstanding efforts in arts programming, projects, and/or scholarship to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"I formed lifelong friendships with other scholars at UCHI, including creating a writing group that continued after the conclusion of the fellowship."

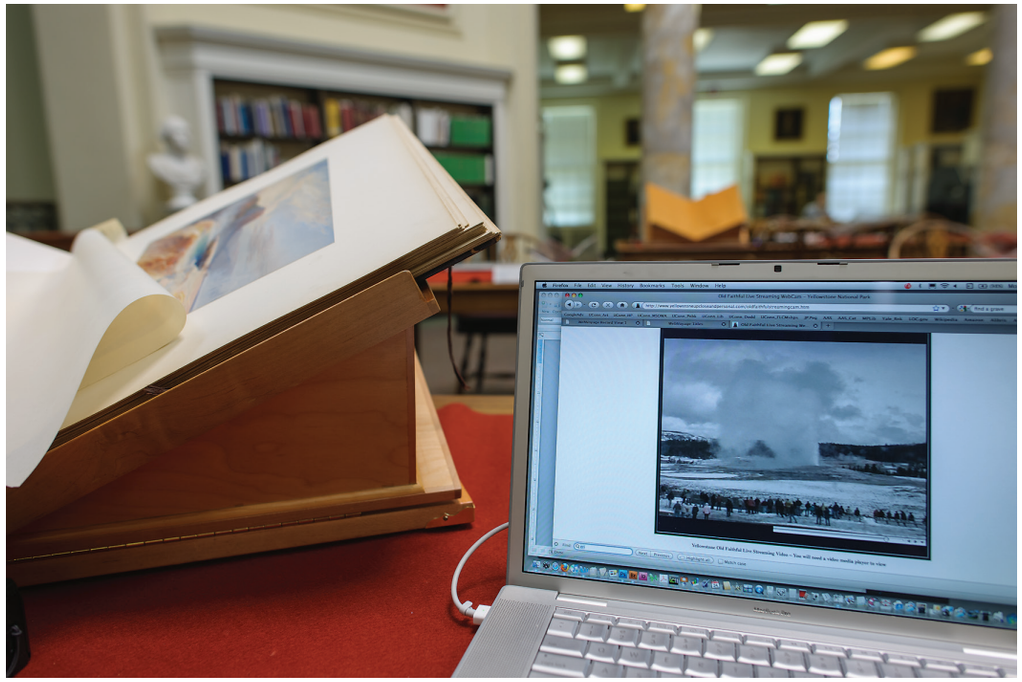
—Katherine Jewell
Dissertation Fellow (2018–2019)



2019–2020 fellow **Debapriya Sarkar** was awarded the 2021–2022 Fletcher Jones Foundation Fellowship from the Huntington. Her project, *Possible Knowledge: The Literary Forms of Early Modern Science*, traces epistemic uncertainty in literary writing during the Scientific Revolution.

December 2019 fellows reunion celebrating 2017–2018 visiting fellow Deirdre Bair





Old Faithful Erupting on Live Web Cam & Prang Portfolio of Moran Sketches, American Antiquarian Society from More Than Scenery: Yellowstone, an American Love Story, *by Janet L. Pritchard © 2010*



2009–2010 faculty fellow **Janet L. Pritchard**'s photography project, *More than Scenery: Yellowstone, An American Love Story*, which she worked on while a UCHI fellow, will be published in 2022 by George F. Thompson. In 2019 she was awarded a Guggenheim fellowship for her project, *The Wild Heart of New England: The Connecticut River + Watershed*.

In 2021, 2018–2019 faculty fellow **Dexter Gabriel** published his first novel, *A Master of Djinn*, under his pen name P. Djèlí Clark. Gabriel's 2020 novella, the Nebula and Locus Award-winning *Ring Shout*, is being adapted for television by Skydance TV. He recently consulted on Connecticut's new Black and Latino studies curriculum for high school students.



SPOTLIGHT



TWENTY YEARS

UCHI Leadership
Director: Richard Brown
Associate Director:
Françoise Dussart

2002–2003
Susan Porter Benson
Jonathan Carlyon
Christopher Clark
Frank Costigliola
Anne D'Alleva
Anita Garey
Margaret Gilbert
Fred C. Inglis
Ross Miller
Jennifer Spinner

2003–2004
Peter Baldwin
Rae Beth Gordon
Kenneth Gouwens
Joel Kupperman
Cynthia Macdonald
Charles McGraw
Timothy Nulty
Michael Orwicz
Sylvia Schafer
Sonya Stephens

2004–2005
Fakhreddin Azimi
John Davis
Elisabeth Frost
Jean Marsden
Peg O'Connor
Sherri Olson
V. Penelope Pelizzon
Andreas Prieto
Janet Watson
Chandra Wells

2005–2006
Keith Brown
Cornelia Dayton
Aparna Gollapudi
Robert Hasenfratz
Benjamin Liu
Osvaldo Pardo
Pratima Prasad
Carolyn Schwarz
Altina Waller

2006–2007
Michelle Bigenho
Jacqueline Campbell
Jennie-Rebecca Falcetta
Anke Finger
Robin Greeley
James Luberda
Michael P. Lynch
Sally O'Driscoll
Mark Overmyer-Velazquez
Guanhua Wang

2007–2008
Joel Blatt
Paul Bloomfield
Robert Bonner
Mary Crawford
Sharon Harris
Brenda Murphy
Katherine O'Sullivan
Andrew Pfrenger
Jennifer Travis

2008–2009
Amanda Bailey
Jonathan D. Bobaljik
Brian D. Carroll
Rosa Helena Chinchilla
Barbara Fultner
Stuart Leibman
Jeremy Pressman
Helen Rozwadowski
Nancy Shoemaker
Catherine Thompson

UCHI Leadership
Director: Sharon M. Harris
Associate Director:
Evelyn Simien

2009–2010
Clare Eby
Jennifer Holley
Glen MacLeod
Naeem Murr
Janet Pritchard
Glenn Stanley
Jennifer Terni
Sherry Zane

2010–2011
Asha Leena Bhandary
Miloje Despić
Emma Gilligan
Kenneth Gouwens
Anne Lambright
Margo Machida
Joanne Melish
Gustavo Nanclares
Michael Neagle
Marcus Rossberg
Alexia Smith

2011–2012
Lindy Brady
Phyllis Cole
Eleni Coundouriotis
Omar Hassan Dphrepaulezz
Alea Henle
Oliver Hiob
Melissa Homestead
Brendan Kane
Charles Mahoney
Matthew McKenzie
Paul Silva
Christopher Vials
Patricia Taylor
Janet Watson
Simon Yarrow

UCHI Leadership
Director: Sharon M. Harris
Associate Director:
Brendan Kane

2012–2013
Serena Anderlini-D'Onofrio
Anthony Antonucci
Mary K. Bercaw-Edwards
Mary Burke
Christopher Clark
Jeremy DeAngelo
Antonio Guijarro-Donadiós
Mary Isbell
Pamela Longo
Adrienne Macki Braconi
Linda Meditz
Gregory Semenza
Sebastian Wogenstein
Simon Yarrow

2013–2014
Mohammed Albakry
Peter Baldwin
Kelly Dennis
Robin Adèle Greeley
Robert Gross

> "The opportunity to present nascent ideas to a warm, encouraging, and diverse group of intellects was a true gift—their feedback opened up alternative paths of thought which would otherwise have remained hidden."
>
> —Joseph McAlhany
> Visiting Fellow (2014–2015)

UCHI Leadership
Director: Sharon M. Harris
Associate Director:
Brendan Kane
Brandon Hawk
Michael Hughes
Gregory Kneidel
Jessica Linker
Nicola McDonald
Sarah Willen

UCHI Leadership
Director: Michael P. Lynch
Associate Director:
Brendan Kane
DHMS Director: Anke
Finger

2014–2015
Fakhreddin Azimi
Frank Costigliola

OF FELLOWS

Martha Cutter
Jeffrey Dudas
Gordon Fraser
Lucía García-Santana
Rachel Greenblatt
Christina Henderson
Joseph McAlhany
Beata Moskal
Fiona Somerset

2015–2016
César Abadía-Barrero
Hilary Bogert-Winkler
Peter Constantine
Susan Einbinder
Allison B. Horrocks
Hassanaly Ladha
Diane Lillo-Martin
Joanna A. MacGugan
Natalie Munro
Christiana Salah
Joshua Schechter
Brad Simpson
Peter Zarrow

UCHI Leadership
Director: Michael P. Lynch
Associate Director:
Alexis L. Boylan
DHMS Director: Anke Finger

2016–2017
Robert T. Chase
Anna Mae Duane
Jeffrey R. Egan
Leo J. Garofalo
Mark Healey
Daniel Hershenzon
Melanie Meinzer
George Moore
Daniel Silvermint
Christine Sylvester
Fabiana Viglione
Dimitris Xygalatas

2017–2018
Deirdre Bair
Sarah Berry
Eleni Coundouriotis
Rebecca Gould
Ruth Glasser
Kenneth Gouwens
Alycia LaGuardia-LoBianco
Jorell Meléndez-Badillo
Jeffrey O.G. Ogbar
Nancy Shoemaker
Harry van der Hulst
Laura Wright

2018–2019
Dorit Bar-On
Jason Oliver Chang
Dexter J. Gabriel
Katherine Grandjean
Katherine Rye Jewell
Ellen Litman
Aimee Loiselle
Stuart S. Miller
Jonathan E. Robins
Amy Sopcak-Joseph
Adrian Stegovec
Lynne Tirrell

UCHI Leadership
Director: Michael P. Lynch
Director of Academic Affairs: Alexis L. Boylan
DHMS Director: Yohei Igarashi

2019–2020
Emma Amador
Alexander Anievas
Nathan Braccio
Andrea Celli
Kornel Chang
Daniel Cohen
Patricia Morgne Cramer
Laura Godfrey
Debapriya Sarkar
Hayley Stefan
Jessica Strom
Nu-Anh Tran
Joseph Ulatowski

2020–2021
Elizabeth Athens
Nicole Breault
Kerry Carnahan
Amanda J. Crawford
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Ashley P. Gangi
Erica Holberg
Amy Meyers
Melanie Newport
Helen M. Rozwadowski
David Samuels
Shaine Scarminach
Sara Silverstein
Scott Wallace
Sarah Winter

2021–2022
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Haile Eshe Cole
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Carol Gray
Drew Johnson
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Laura Mauldin
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Kathryn Blair Moore
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20 YEARS of UCHI

WORLD POETRY BOOKS

Based at the University of Connecticut, World Poetry Books (WPB) is the only publisher in the United States dedicated solely to publishing books of international poetry in English translation. As a press, our goal is to champion poets and translators from all stages of their careers by creating new communities of readers both inside and outside of the university. We believe every language has its Walt Whitman, C.P. Cavafy, or Anne Carson, yet most world poetry—especially poetry from underrepresented languages—remains under-published and undiscovered. Our mission is to publish and promote books of vital world poetry from languages other than English. We invite our readers to celebrate the art of translation so essential to the vibrant circulation of words and ideas.

Current titles include *Last Dream* by Giovanni Pascoli, winner of the 2020 Raiziss/De Palchi Book Prize from the Academy of American Poets; *Goddesses of Water*, the debut collection by Mexican poet Jeannette L. Clariond, whose work pays homage to Mexican Indigenous cultures and the Nahuatl language; *Everything I Don't Know*, the selected poems of Warsaw Uprising resistance fighter Jerzy Ficowski; and a growing collection of others.

Meet the WPB Team



Peter Constantine
Publisher



Brian Sneeden
Senior and Managing Editor

WORLD POETRY BOOKS



EXCEPTIONAL

HUMANITIES UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The **Humanities Undergraduate Research Symposium** (HURS) is a student-run exhibition of undergraduate humanities research at UConn.

After the COVID-19 pandemic led universities across the country to cut humanities research programs, the Humanities Undergraduate Research Symposium aims to reiterate the ability of humanities research to inspire much-needed critical thinking, understanding, and empathy in the face of uncertainty. Through research presentations by students in panel and roundtable formats, a keynote presentation by Alexis Boylan, and informational panels, the Symposium will introduce what research in the humanities entails and provide an opportunity for students to share research they have accomplished through coursework and/or individual projects.

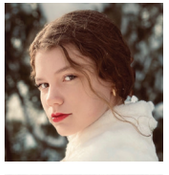


Image by Coyau, Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA-3.0)

Led by UConn History professor, Joseph McAlhany, the **MegaBiblion Society** offers intellectually ambitious undergraduates the opportunity to read great works of fiction in a relaxed and friendly setting. Every two weeks, students gather for a free lunch and free-flowing conversation about daunting and difficult books, without the pressure of formal requirements. Instead, students can discover the pleasures of a shared intellectual endeavor outside of the formal framework of a class.



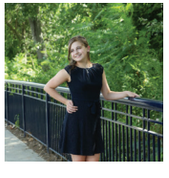
Meet the HURS Team



Madelon Morin-Viall is a University Scholar majoring in English and minoring in History. Her research interests focus on Early Modern drama and the ways in which humanity expresses emotional pain.



Aarushi Nohria is a senior double majoring in English and Human Rights. Her research interests center on the intersection of human rights law and literature, Afro-futurism and speculative fiction, and postcolonial literature.



Rylee Thomas, from East Hampton, CT, is double majoring in English, with a creative writing concentration, and communication. She is a 2021 Holster Scholar pursuing a film study on feminism in Victorian novels and enjoys reading Jane Austen and writing fiction and poetry.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Starting in 2022, UCHI will offer undergraduate fellowships, redoubling our support for student scholarship in the humanities.

UNDERGRADUATES

CREATING

The **New England Humanities Consortium** (NEHC) promotes and strengthens intellectual collaboration, interdisciplinary exchange, and innovative educational, intercultural, and curricular programming among New England humanities centers and institutes, and the faculty, students, and regional, national, and global communities they serve. NEHC includes: Amherst College, Brown University, Colby College, Dartmouth College, Middlebury College, Northeastern University, Smith College, Tufts University, the University of Connecticut, the University of New Hampshire, the University of Rhode Island, the University of Vermont, Wellesley College, and Wheaton College. The programming and activities of the NEHC, including seed grants for collaborative humanities projects, are made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the participating institutions. UCHI founded NEHC in 2018 and served as its first administrative hub through June 2021.



In 2014 UConn became a Consortium member of the prestigious **Folger Institute**, a center for advanced study and collections-focused research in the humanities. Through its multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural programs and residential research fellowships, the Folger Institute gathers knowledge communities and establishes fresh research and teaching agendas for early modern humanities. This area of study spans from the 14th through the 18th centuries, focusing on a wide range of relevant texts, issues, and questions. The Institute fosters targeted investigations of the world-class Folger collection and is based out of the Folger Shakespeare Library. The Consortium acts as an advisory body to the Folger Institute, with members meeting bi-annually in D.C. to work with Folger staff on program development and scholarly outreach, among other things. By virtue of UConn's membership, our students, staff, and faculty have access to the Folger's tremendous range of research, educational, and artistic offerings.

Global Distinguished Humanities Fellowship

In an effort to foster international collaboration and highlight the importance of the humanities in creating a future that speaks globally to social justice, equity, and the environment, Global Affairs and the Humanities Institute have joined forces to create a new opportunity for a **Global Distinguished Humanities Fellowship** at the University of Connecticut.



Maoz Azaryahu, Professor of Cultural Geography at the University of Haifa in Israel and the Director of Herzl Institute for the Study of Zionism, is our inaugural fellow. Azaryahu will be in residence at UConn in March 2022. His research includes urban and landscape semiotics, the cultural and historical geographies of public memory and commemoration, the spatialities of memory and narrative, and the cultural history of places and landscapes. Maoz Azarhayu has built his career on a remarkable ability to speak across disciplinary boundaries, forging productive collaborations with scholars across a wide range of fields.

While in residence at UConn, Azaryahu will meet with students, give a public talk, and participate in UCHI-sponsored events, including a two-day symposium on Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities*.

His residency was sponsored by Ken Foote (Geography), Nathaniel Trumbull (Geography & Maritime Studies), Sebastian Wogenstein and Avinoam Patt (Judaic Studies), and Chris Vials (American Studies).

CONNECTIONS



FACULTY OF COLOR

Generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and in collaboration with the New England Humanities Consortium and UCHI, the **Faculty of Color Working Group** (FOCWG) provides extra-institutional space for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) faculty to navigate the particular challenges that they face in their academic positions. Academic institutions create and incubate myriad inequalities, institutional microaggressions, and bad-faith policies regarding the recruitment, retention, promotion, and provision of healthy, respectful environments for faculty of color. Such imbalances degrade BIPOC faculty's well-being and professional advancement as well as institutional health. FOCWG has begun to address these inequities through targeted programming.

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Dr. Melina Pappademos (Africana Studies & History, UConn)

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Gabriela Torres (Wheaton College)



"Using vital support programs for BIPOC faculty, FOCWG fosters broad institutional health and growth. It also challenges colonization in the academy, its received wisdoms about who and what have value, deserve respect, and can actively shape its future."

–Melina Pappademos
Director of FOCWG



What We Do...

Host an **annual symposium**, which provides a rare and necessary venue for faculty of color to speak freely to one another, find community, and share ideas, strategies, potential solutions, and creative energy through the experiences of others.

Offer **fellowships** that seek to relieve scholars of institutional hindrances by providing resources to reduce many of the barriers that make it difficult for faculty of color to research, think, and engage in their transformative work at their home institutions.

Administer a **mentorship program** that aims to create a supportive community of scholars that works toward alleviating the unequal advancement of FOC through the ranks of academia.

FOCWG is supported by THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

WORKING GROUP

FUTURE OF KNOWLEDGE

In 2021–2022, UCHI is celebrating its twentieth anniversary. As we welcome our twentieth cohort of fellows and commemorate twenty years of innovation, creativity, and community, we also look forward with events and programming around the theme **The Future of Knowledge**.

Through invited speakers, panels, and colloquia we explore the challenges facing the production, dissemination, and representations of knowledge as well as solutions to those challenges, working toward a future that is equitable, sustainable, and just. What will the future of knowledge bring?

Fall 2021

How to Apply for a UConn Internal Grant, Humanities Style, featuring Matthew Mroz, Internal Funding Coordinator, Office of the Vice President for Research

Publishing about Politics after (?) Trump, featuring Susan Herbst (Political Science), author of *A Troubled Birth: The 1930s and American Public Opinion* (2021)

> "The future of knowledge will depend upon specialized research and writing and creating ways to deliver those findings to a more general audience."
>
> —Kornel Chang
> Visiting Fellow (2019–2020)



How to Publish for the Public, featuring editors from *Lapham's Quarterly*, the *Conversation*, and *Public Books*

Daniel Rosenberg, co-author of *Cartographies of Time: A History of the Timeline* (2010) on the **history of data and information**

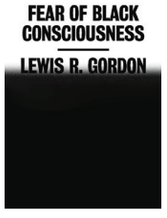


Jessica Johnson (History, Johns Hopkins University) and Kim Gallon (History, Purdue University) on the **Black Beyond Data** project

Kyle Booten (English), Sue Huang (Digital Media and Design), Stefan Kaufmann (Linguistics), and Anna Lindemann (Digital Media and Design) on **Algorithmic Arts & Humanities at UConn**

Wendy Hui Kyong Chun (Communication, Simon Fraser) on her new book, ***Discriminating Data****: Correlation, Neighborhoods, and the New Politics of Recognition* (2021)

Spring 2022



How to Write about Race Now, featuring Lewis Gordon (Philosophy), author of *Fear of Black Consciousness* (2021)

How to Work with an Academic Press, featuring Leah Pennywark, Humanities editor, University of Minnesota Press

> "Today, if you create knowledge without communicating with a variety of audiences it will remain silenced."
>
> —Anke Finger
> Faculty Fellow (2006–2007)
> DHMS Director (2014–2019)

Talk by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Nikole Hannah-Jones** (Communications, Howard University)



Audrey Watters on her new book ***Teaching Machines*** (2021), an exploration of the predigital history of education technology

Public talk by **Global Distinguished Fellow** Maoz Azaryahu (Cultural Geography, University of Haifa)



Cover image: detail from Excelsior Geyser from More Than Scenery: Yellowstone, an American Love Story, *by Janet L. Pritchard*
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Give

As UConn's premier institute for research in the humanities, fellowships and lectures are highly competitive and awarded only to outstanding projects. Private support helps sustain excellence across the humanities.

A gift to the Humanities Institute will provide critical resources to UConn faculty, students, and external fellows to pursue a full range of humanistic inquiry and enrich our understanding of the human condition. Gifts help fund fellowships, graduate student research, study groups, conferences, special initiatives, and more.

For more information or to give, please visit s.uconn.edu/donate or contact the UConn Foundation at (800) 269-9965 or (860) 486-5000.

Visit

Our bright, beautiful offices, located on the fourth floor of Homer Babbidge Library, offer collaborative space for scholars to meet and talk, as well as office space for all our fellows and staff. Our conference room, complete with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment that supports livestreaming, is available for booking. Visitors will find a bookshelf filled with the scholarship of past fellows, past book award winners, and other friends of the Institute. Our walls showcase bits of our history—including posters and banners from past events and a celebration of fellows past—as well as art on loan from UConn's Benton Museum.

Connect

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20 YEARS of UCHI



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