



2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

CALGARY

INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As you'll see in the following pages, we've had a truly exciting year at the CIH, building on our past successes to move forward in the next phase of our history. Our well-attended annual community seminar, "Living with Plants," was the third in a trilogy of topics from the environmental humanities. The results of the previous two seminars have been gathered into beautiful books that have received considerable attention: *Calgary: City of Animals*, and *Water Rites: Reimagining Water in the West*. A book on plants is in the works.

Our working groups continue to be amazingly productive research incubators, bringing together scholars from diverse disciplines to collaborate on common projects. In addition to their own meetings, our working groups have hosted visiting speakers, hands-on workshops and mini-conferences. One of our working groups, Energy in Society, is the driving force behind a prestigious institutional collaboration between the U of C and Germany's Max Planck Society.

We've also been strengthening our ties with other humanities institutes. With the Kule Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Alberta, we've initiated a new Alberta Humanities Research Grant. And also with KIAS, we co-hosted an international Summer Institute on Chinese Studies, on the topic of migration. This fall, we'll be hosting the Western Humanities Alliance annual conference, a consortium of institutes from the western United States and Canada.

We were honored this year to receive some remarkably generous gifts. In the fall, Judy MacLachlan and family helped to launch an endowment campaign for the CIH with a gift of one million dollars, which was followed by a generous gift of one hundred thousand dollars from Rod and Betty Wade. On Giving Day, we were delighted to receive a further boost to our graduate fellowship endowment. These gifts allow us to keep building on the CIH's rich history of scholarship and community engagement. The CIH continues to provide a bridge between the University and the communities it serves, promoting research and dialogue on issues of importance to our world. We hope that you'll join us in the conversation.



OUR VISION

The Calgary Institute for the Humanities has three main goals: to support groundbreaking humanities research, to promote interdisciplinary research, and to inspire an appreciation for the value of the humanities in the broader communities the University serves.



SUPPORT

We support humanities research through our fellowships program, which provides time and space for top-level scholars to pursue their research. Each year we host professors from within the university, a doctoral student in the final stages of completing their dissertation, postdoctoral fellows, and visiting researchers.

PROMOTE

We promote interdisciplinary research through our Interdisciplinary Working Groups program. This provides space and funding for groups of professors and students from different departments to explore a common research interest. Their activities have included holding seminars, bringing in visiting speakers and organizing exhibitions.

INSPIRE

We inspire community engagement through our annual Community Seminar, which invites distinguished researchers from different fields to discuss an issue of relevance to our city. This event brings together community members, researchers and community organizations in a lively, day-long conversation.



HISTORY

FOUNDED 1976

The General Faculties Council recommends to the Board of Governors “the establishment of an Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Calgary.” The Calgary Institute for the Humanities is recognized for its accommodation of both ‘free’ and ‘mission-oriented’ research and serves “through its lectures and seminars, as a broker between the academic and public communities.”

ADVISORY COUNCIL 1980

The CIH forms an Advisory Council of prominent Calgary citizens to guide the CIH in its public outreach activities. Among the advisory over the years are well known public figures Fred McKinnon, Martha Cohen, E. R. Tavender, and Jane Edwards.

COMMUNITY SEMINAR 1981

The Annual Community Forum was established “to bring together scholars and community participants for the discussion of problems important to society.” The first seminar was on “Calgary’s Growth: Bane or Boon?” In later years, the seminar would continue to address topical issues, often well ahead of their time: “Evolution of Multiculturalism” (1988); “Dilemmas of Reconciliation” (1999); “Speed Limits, Stop Lights, and Driver Training for the Information Highway” (1996).



THINKING THE UNTHINKABLE 1987

The Institute hosts its biggest international interdisciplinary conference with the aim to make a digest from all areas on the impact that rapid climate change will have on civilization. Humanists and social scientists were represented in a discussion previously confined to the scientific community. The resulting publication *Thinking the Unthinkable* was included as part of the study package for the “Changing Atmosphere” international leaders’ conference held in Toronto later that year.

CBC IDEAS BROADCASTS 2000

Under the direction of Rosemary Ommer, the CIH initiated a collaboration with CBC Radio to produce a dozen episodes of the flagship series *Ideas*. Some of the episodes include “Protest and Power” (2002), “Homelessness: Private and Public Responses” (2008), and “Untangling Complexity” (2011).

OFFICES RELOCATED 2004

In late 2004, CIH moved into its current quarters in the Biological Sciences building. Offices for Fellows are located in a separate corridor from the administrative offices of the institute and the CIH seminar room and lounge are used for meetings and workshops.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP 2008

The Frances Spratt Graduate Student Fellowship is established to provide support to a PhD candidate whose research contributes to the public good by promoting the core values of the humanities and building bridges of learning to the broader community.

EMERGING SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIP 2018

The CIH introduces a fourth annual fellowship. The Wayne O. McCready Resident Fellowship, in recognition of Director McCready’s long-standing mentorship and contributions to the University of Calgary community, recognizes an emerging scholar on the verge of a significant scholarly breakthrough.



CALGARY INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES PUBLIC LECTURES SERIES

21 September **Fellows Lecture Series**

Beth Rohlman "Rewriting Religion and Rescuing Genre: The Evolution of Texts, Gods and Peoples in the Sanskrit Purāṇas (Puranas)"

25 October **Fellows Lecture Series**

Charles Tepperman "Mapping an Alternative Film History: The Amateur Movie Database Project"

14 November Paula A. Michaels "'Wars Begin in the Minds of Men:' Psychiatry and the Antinuclear Movement"

16 November McCready Fellow Annual Lecture Anuradha Gobin "The Material Afterlife of the Criminal Body in the Dutch Republic"

28 November Whitney Lackenbauer "Situating the Joint Arctic Weather Stations (JAWS): Cold War Science, Militarism, and Arctic Space(s)"

24 January Fellows Lecture Series Rachel Schmidt "Cervantes's Novelistic Critique of the Expulsion of the Moriscos from Spain"

28 February **Fellows Lecture Series**

Murray McGillivray "What Colour was the Green Knight? (and Other Puzzles from a Middle English Manuscript)"

1 March Russell Smith "Duchamp's *Fountain* and Leonardo's *Salvator Mundi*: What is Art Worth?"

3 March Brett Sherman "Three Dimensions of Modal Interpretation," **Michela Ippolito** "Varieties of Sobel Sequences" (Vendler Group)

6 March Taylor Shelton "Data Driven Governance, Post Truth Politics?" (Social Justice and the Smart City Working Group)

14 March Walter Mignolo "Decoloniality and Western Modernity"

20 March Andrew Watson "Energy Transitions and Sustainable Farm Systems on the Great Plains of the United States, 1880-2000" (Energy in Society Working Group)

21 March Uta Hinrichs "Visualization as a Speculative Process" (Thinking Data, Data Thinking Working Group)

21 March **Visiting Fellows Lecture**

Julia Smith "Feminism at Work: Women Labour Activists in Western Canada, 1970-1990"

28 March Kim TallBear "Decolonizing Science and Technology: Collaboration, Training, and Indigenous Governance,"

Jessica Kolopenuk "Star Maps, Forensic Science, and Indigenous DNA Beyond Ancestry: Theorizing Canada's National Missing Persons DNA Program" (Genomics, Bioinformatics and the Climate Crisis Working Group)

4 April **Visiting Fellows Lecture**

Whitney Wood "'Yell Like Hell': Women's Activism and Birth Reform in Postwar Canada"

Every year the CIH proudly features our Fellows in a series of public lectures. We also introduce a number of visiting scholars to the community through our Interdisciplinary Working Groups and in collaboration with other departments and institutes.

8 May Debra J. Davidson

“Sociotechnical Imaginaries and the Silencing of Dissent in Alberta’s Fracking Zone” (Genomics, Bioinformatics and the Climate Crisis Working Group)

17 May Elvin Wyly “Hayek’s Alexa: Architectonic Impulses in the Smart City” (Social Justice and the Smart City Working Group)

20 June Evan Nicoll-Johnson

“Memories and Experiences of Migration in Early Medieval Chinese Literature”

21 June David Curtis Wright “‘Turning from Guests into Hosts’: Han Chinese Migration and Anti-Mongolian Pogroms in Inner Mongolia during the Qing and early Republican Periods”

21 June R. W. Sandwell “Understanding Canada’s Distinct Energy History, 1860-1960: The View from the Household” (Energy In Society Working Group)



2018 COMMUNITY

LIVING WITH PLANTS

The Calgary Institute for the Humanities hosted our 38th Annual Community Seminar, “Living with Plants,” on May 18, 2018 at the Kahanoff Centre. More than fifty members of the local community joined us to engage in a dialogue with an anthropologist, an experimental plant biologist, and a philosopher to discuss how plants have shaped and continue to shape life on earth, and how intimately plants are intertwined with human history.

“Living with Plants” marks the final seminar in our three-part series on topics in the environmental humanities. The previous two seminars concerned urban animals (2016) and water rights (2017).

James F. Cahill Professor, Biological Sciences, University of Alberta

“Brainless Behaviour: Experiments in Plant Behavioural Ecology”

James Cahill maintains that plants

do “behave” and lead anything but solitary and sedentary lives. He has a particular fondness for trying to understand how plants forage for resources, cope with enemies, and alter competitive strategies over time.

Patricia Vieira Associate Research Professor, Center for Social Studies, University of Coimbra

“Phytognosis: Learning from Plants”

Vieira put forth the idea of phytognosis—a compound word that combines the ancient Greek terms for plant (*phyton*) and knowledge (*gnosis*). Taking as a point of departure the notion that plants can and do indeed learn and have their own forms of knowledge, phytognosis goes a step further and turns the onus of learning back onto humans. It recognizes that plants learn and that, in turn, we can learn from the plant world. Turning to plants, learning about and from them, paves the way for a less instrumental

approach not only to the environment, to the way we behave toward other vegetal and animal beings, but also to social relations, to our interactions with our fellow human beings.

Andrew Mathews Associate Professor, Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz

“Coming into Noticing: Being Called to Account by Ancient Trees”

Anthropologists and historians have a crucial role to play in helping scientists understand possibilities of transformation, rapid change, and catastrophe that are often ignored in scientific predictions of global environmental change. Mathews, through “a reinvigorated critical natural history which makes imaginative use of drawings and direct observation,” shows how people have responded to climate change throughout history. His work shows that, contrary to the opinions of

FORUM



policy makers, ordinary people do understand climate change, and “respond to it using the material and imaginative resources provided by the landscapes they live in.” Mathews’ natural history is a mindful awareness and deep noticing of the

landscapes where he works in Monti Pisani, in Central Italy. From the sides of highways to abandoned chestnut forests he finds evidence of how humans of the past have shaped the “natural” landscape of the present. Attendees were also treated to a talk

by visual artist **Jennifer Wanner**, whose work—collage, watercolour painting, and stop-motion animation—explores how both art historical constructs and scientific objective means of observing the natural world have shaped our western concept of nature.

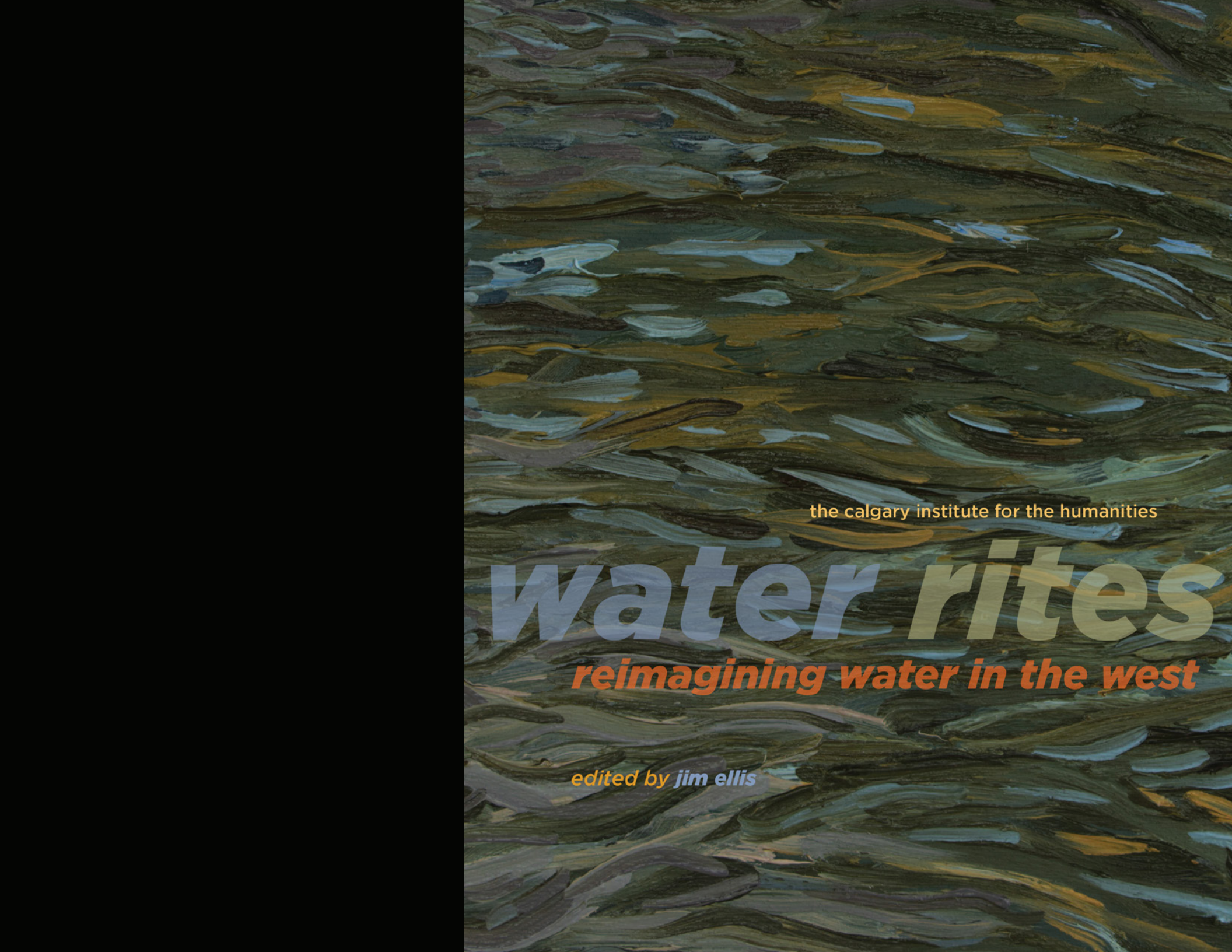
WATER RITES: REIMAGINING WATER IN THE WEST

The Calgary Institute for the Humanities is proud to announce our second publication with the University of Calgary Press

“ **The range of voices and images in this collection together aim at shifting our understanding not just of the role water plays in our lives, and the consequences of our misuse of it, but more fundamentally of the way that water connects us all, on every level.** ”

On July 28, 2010, the United Nations adopted a resolution declaring access to water and sanitation a basic human right. Building on that declaration, this wide-ranging, multi-disciplinary collection addresses from a variety of perspectives the human right to water, focusing in particular on Western Canada. It brings together artists, scholars, environmentalists and human rights advocates, to explore issues around access to clean drinking water, the competing demands of industry and Indigenous communities, and the dwindling supply of water in the face of human-caused climate change. The essays consider not only the human right to water, but also whether water itself might be said to have rights, as various Indigenous traditions affirm.

Essays address the effects of resource extraction on Indigenous lives; the history of water rights in Alberta in relation to the numbered Treaties; and whether it is more effective to claim individual rights or group rights to water. Also included are portfolios of work by artists that use bitumen to produce photographs of the Tar Sands, who paint the surface of the Bow River each morning, and who use food dye to expose wounded water systems. Historical paintings of water in the western landscape are balanced by newer works that question the role that the spectacle of water has played in the formation of the West's self-image.



the calgary institute for the humanities

water rites

reimagining water in the west

edited by jim ellis

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKING GROUPS

The CIH Interdisciplinary Working Groups bring together faculty and graduate students from different disciplines to explore common research interests and to encourage collaborative research projects. Our Working Groups also add to research and learning opportunities by arranging for guest speakers, hosting symposia and workshops, building public exhibitions, and hiring student research assistants.



Genomics, Bioinformatics and the Climate Crisis

Critical studies of climate change, the social history of DNA, reimagining diversity and kinship in a genomics age, and critical analysis of bioinformatics (DNA as data) were research priorities for the group. Dr. Kim Tallbear (UAlberta) and PhD student Jessica Kolopenuk were invited to present on how genetic science is co-constituted with notions of race and indigeneity and the increasing role of technoscience in Indigenous governance.

Thinking Data, Data Thinking

This group fostered collaborations between researchers in the Humanities and Computer Science, focusing on processes of data selection, capture, structures, and representations. Discussions led to two lectures: “Defamiliarizing Data: A Humanist Perspective” by Dr. Stefania Forlini (English) on invitation of the Data Empowerment Speakers Series, and “Visualization as Speculative Process” by Dr. Uta Hinrichs (Computer Science, U of St. Andrews).

Social Justice and the Smart City

The Social Justice and the Smart City working group debated key concepts related to the social implications of smart cities in prominent literature from the history of technology, critical theory, urban studies, media studies and human geography. They hosted the urban geography and big data scholar, Dr. Taylor Shelton (Mississippi State U) and geographer Dr. Elvin Wyly (UBC) to talk about how data and algorithms intersect with issues such as class, race, and gender discrimination.

Visual Research Working Group

Sharp boundaries between art, literature and science are deliberately blurred in search of new forms of exploration and knowledge dissemination. In its 3rd year, the Visual Research Working Group developed plans for presenting its collaborative work to the public and is preparing for an exhibition in the coming year.

Vendler Reading Group

The group's main goal is to facilitate communication between researchers working on issues related to the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of natural languages. The group wrapped up the year with a workshop on information structure, featuring guest lectures by Dr. Brett Sherman (U South Carolina) and Dr. Michela Ippolito (UToronto).

Energy In Society (EIS)

The EIS sought to create a new research agenda that would render more complex scholarly and public debate about energy. They hosted two public lectures, one on Indigenous knowledge and Alberta's Oil Sands by Dr. Timothy David Clark (Principal, Willow Springs Strategic Solutions), and another on the history of sustainable farm systems by Dr. Andrew Watson (USaskatchewan). EIS also organized a large cross-faculty workshop on Global Energy Transitions and followed up with a second workshop and international collaboration with the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.

Paleography Reading Group

The group achieved its twin aims of bringing together colleagues and students from diverse areas of study to discuss their experiences in deciphering handwritten documents and to learn more about the process of bringing these rare documents into the public domain by digitally encoding them. An XML encoding workshop was lead by Jeff Witt (Loyola U), an expert in medieval philosophy.



GENEROUS GIFT SPARKS MOMENTUM FOR CIH ENDOWMENTS

As a long time University of Calgary senator and a passionate advocate of the arts, retired lawyer Judy MacLachlan was naturally drawn to the Calgary Institute for the Humanities (CIH). She joined its advisory council in 2013 and her work there has been a labour of love.

“I think of it as a distillation of what the Faculty of Arts is all about,” she says of the venerable, 41-year-old University of Calgary institution dedicated to engaging the public with research based in the humanities. “I love the multidisciplinary research they do there. The idea that they bring so many diverse viewpoints to the table, that they’re always at the forefront of current discussions and forward-thinking visionary ideas. I feel like they’re the glue that holds the faculty together.”

“And yet,” she pauses, “the CIH itself, which is the oldest humanities institute in Canada, has a fairly low profile. It’s under represented, and I think that’s a shame.”

That’s why MacLachlan and her daughters, Kate and Leanne —



both U Calgary alumnae in arts and arts-related programs — have generously donated \$1 million to the CIH, as a gift to *Energize: The Campaign for Eyes High*, the University of Calgary’s \$1.3-billion fundraising campaign. This funding has initiated the creation of a new endowment fund aimed at helping the CIH strengthen its existing programming while also undertaking new projects that will enhance the institute’s profile locally, nationally and internationally.

MacLachlan and her daughters hoped their gift will also inspire others to donate to the institute. “I don’t want anybody to think my donation is where it stops,” says MacLachlan. “Hopefully this is where it begins.”

CIH director Jim Ellis is thrilled with the generous gifts and optimistic that it will encourage further growth. “We’re living in a time when, more than ever, our society needs to have difficult conversations about important matters in a civic and

civil forum,” says Ellis. “That’s what the CIH does and we’re fortunate to have somebody like Judy who recognizes the significance of that. She’s got a real passion for the arts, for this university and for the community, and she sees that the CIH plays an important role. She really wants to see this institute become internationally known.”

MacLachlan feels the research being done and the programming offered by the CIH is already world-class. “It punches way above its weight, consistently,” she says. “More funding, however, would help the institute reach its full potential.

“It would allow them to do the things they really want to do,” she says.

“I think humanities and the arts help us understand our world. They engage us. They bring civil discourse to society. This is important to me. The CIH should be a beacon drawing interest to the Faculty of Arts. I believe that’s a worthy endeavour.”

**Abridged from *UToday* Nov 15, 2017
Heath McCoy, Faculty of Arts**

THANK YOU ROD AND BETTY WADE

The Calgary Institute for the Humanities would like to express its heartfelt appreciation for a major contribution of \$100,000 to our endowments from Rod and Betty Wade. Rod was nominated to the CIH Advisory by his friend and former Advisory Council member Bob Bragg in 2012. At the time, Rod was pursuing a BA in Religious Studies and Applied Ethics at the U of C. “About 10 years prior to retirement, I knew I wanted to go back to school after retirement and study religion,” he says. “I was immediately attracted to this degree as I have a keen interest in morals and ethics. We are beset by ethical conundrums, inconsistencies, and confusion, from fake news to inequality to pipelines and the environment. By understanding the complexity of moral questions, moral philosophy can engender understanding of other points of view, and combat dogmatism.”

Rod brings his enthusiasm, broad interests, and rich education and experience to the CIH; he completed a Master of Engineering degree at the U of C in 1980 and worked as a petroleum engineer for 35 years, managing projects around the world. “Being an ‘applied’ kind of guy, I enjoy any CIH activity that brings the community together with academia, so, not surprisingly, I am a strong supporter of the community forum. We cannot solve the problems in silos,” he emphasizes. “It is inconceivable to me that humanities cannot but play but a central, essential role with other disciplines in tackling and solving our collective challenges. Under the leadership of Jim Ellis, CIH is broadening its reach in academia and in its interface with the community, which I find very exciting, and which I am pleased to support financially.”

The guidance provided by the CIH’s Advisory is crucial to its success. We are pleased to hear that the relationship is not entirely one-sided. “It is a privilege and honour to serve on the Advisory Council,” Rod tells us. “It provides me an opportunity to influence the direction of CIH in an applied, multi-disciplinary and community focused manner, and to learn from and enjoy the company of the other Advisory Council members who are from all walks of life (mostly non-scientific) and who I find most interesting and enjoyable to learn from.”



Sabrina Perić

Ilegala: Reading, Radicalism and Paramilitarism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1932-1942

While radicalization today is spoken of as a new phenomenon, the integration of youth and disenfranchised citizens into larger political projects deemed 'radical' or 'extreme' has long sustained paramilitary activity around the world. In order to understand this phenomenon, I am studying a historical case of radicalization: the rise of Communist Party youth in the 1930s Kingdom of Yugoslavia and their subsequent transformation, in the early 1940s, into Yugoslav Partisan paramilitary units, and eventually the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia (NOV).



Jack Lucas

Political Authority and Democratic Reform in the Western Canadian City

Who should have the right to vote? Are proportional voting systems desirable? Who should have the power to govern? Through much of the twentieth century, Western Canadian cities led North America in their willingness to experiment with new answers to these questions – experiments that included proportional electoral systems and the early enfranchisement of women. My research explores these democratic experiments, explaining how they emerged, why they were implemented, and how they embodied changing ideas about political authority.



Amelia Kiddle

The Mexican Oil Expropriation of 1938 and the Roots of Resource Nationalism in Latin America

How did the 1938 Mexican oil expropriation influence resource nationalism in Latin American history? The expropriation became a touchstone, reverberating throughout the world, changing business practices, government policies, labour relations, and discourses of resource nationalism. Although the expropriation held multiple meanings for individuals, social groups, and governments throughout the region, it framed the transnational flow of ideas regarding resource nationalism and continues to influence Latin American petroleum policies into the present.

SINCE 1977 THE INSTITUTE HAS AWARDED MORE THAN 100 ANNUAL FELLOWSHIPS

The Wayne
O. McCready
Endowment for an
Emerging Scholar was
created to support
scholars in the early
stages of their
careers.



Anuradha Gobin

The Material Afterlife of the Criminal
Body in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch
Republic

Images that prominently feature
executed criminals in the space of the
anatomy theatre in the Dutch Republic
provoke consideration of the unique
type of afterlife experienced by the
criminal body following execution.
Images and objects associated with the
death of criminals were regarded with
fear and suspicion, but concurrently
treated as elements of curiosity. Once
put to death, the criminal body did not
come to rest: its movement through
civic spaces like the anatomy theatre
indicates the potent afterlife of the
deviant body, especially its ability to
transform civic life.



Jessica Nicol

Lost in the Stacks: A Fictocritical Study of Material and Digital Objects in the Bob Gibson Collection of Speculative Fiction

I am studying a subset of a print archive of books, magazines, and hand-compiled anthologies in order to interrogate the limits of preserving Gibson's collection digitally by identifying certain aspects of material objects that are lost in digital manifestations. I will explore the possibility of bridging this divide between material and digital texts, by comparatively studying and utilizing both types of media and analyzing their particular advantages and detriments in my own written work.

The Calgary Institute for the Humanities invites applications for visiting fellowships. Our visiting fellows are provided with an excellent opportunity to collaborate with the University of Calgary community and they present a public lecture.

The Frances Spratt Graduate Student Fellowship continues the tradition of supporting a PhD candidate whose research contributes to the public good by promoting the core values of the humanities and building bridges of learning to the broader community.



Elena Dahlberg

Latin Poetry in the Service of the Swedish State-Building Programme, c. 1550-1650

This project challenges the opinion that little of note was written during the first decades after the Protestant Reformation and seeks to explain how Latin poetry was used to justify the Swedish state-construction program. The discussions on the discursive mechanisms of early modern poetry will provide an analytical framework and comparative model for understanding how literature affects politics and how politics shape literature.



Whitney Wood

A New Way to Birth? Natural Childbirth in Canada and the World, 1930-2000

A New Way to Birth? is a transnational history of the natural childbirth movement, focusing, in particular, on mid-to-late twentieth-century Canada. Looking at medical textbooks, periodicals, popular magazines and newspapers, and the archival records of birth reform organizations, in addition to conducting oral history interviews with parents and physicians from diverse backgrounds, this project situates Canadian developments and discussions in the broader context of a transnational medical movement.



Julia Smith

Labour Feminists in Western Canada

This project examines the different politics, strategies, and experiences of women who tried to advance gender equality through and within the labour movement in Western Canada between 1960 and 1990. Women used unions and labour organizations to improve their wages and working conditions, but there have been few studies of the independent feminist labour organizations women established to foment social change beyond the workplace. This project will provide a much-needed regional analysis of labour feminism, and deepen our understanding of how people organize for social change.

WORKSHOPS

ENERGY TRANSITIONS

JUNE 21-24, 2018

Energy In Society (EIS), an interdisciplinary research group at the Calgary Institute for the Humanities (CIH), spent the past two years developing a research agenda on the histories, politics and social life of energy and energy transitions.

Realizing that examining transformations at different times and in different localities will be useful to find solutions for today, the University of Calgary joined forces with the Max Planck Society, one of Germany's most prestigious and successful research organizations, and signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for research collaboration and exchange. This MOU arose from a series of workshops and explorations between the CIH's EIS research group and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin). The signing is a major indication of the international reach and high quality of the interdisciplinary work undertaken by EIS.

The signing kicked off a 4-day "Energy Transitions" workshop in Calgary and Fort McMurray that brought together scholars from the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Sciences, the School of Engineering and the Faculty of Environmental Design, and five visiting scholars from the Max Planck Institute. Co-convenor Petra Dolata, Canada Research Chair in the History of Energy, insists that "energy research should always be interdisciplinary." Research partnerships, like this one with the Max Planck Society, are the best way to move forward on our shared global challenges.



INFORMATION STRUCTURE

MARCH 3, 2018

On March 3rd, the Vendler group in semantics and philosophy of language flew in two speakers for a one-day workshop on information structure. Information structure concerns how the information we express is packaged linguistically.

Brett Sherman (University of South Carolina) spoke about the interpretation of modals like “can” and “might”, and hypothesized that their meaning is sensitive to background contextual conditions regarding which question is being addressed. For instance, what is expressed by “can” in “I can sing beautifully” is partly determined by whether we are inquiring about who can sing beautifully, or, by contrast, how I can sing.

Michela Ippolito (University of Toronto) addressed a wide variety of types of linguistic anomaly, arguing that we can give a single explanation of all of them by understanding the way that alternative information is exploited and structured. For instance, the odd disjunction “She lives in Rome or Italy” is partly explained by the fact that living in Rome entails living in Italy. Thank you to the Graduate Students’ Association and the Department of Philosophy for their generous cosponsorship of this fantastic event.

DIGITAL ENCODING

MARCH 9, 2018

The CIH’s Paleography Reading Group achieved its twin aims of bringing together colleagues and students from diverse areas of study to discuss their experiences in deciphering handwritten documents and to learn more about the process of bringing these rare documents into the public domain by digitally encoding them.

It is important for scholars working with handwritten documents to digitise the material in such a way that an independent and easily transferable and searchable document is the end result. We want to encourage students to consider digitally encoding transcriptions of handwritten material as a basic part of the process. To this end the group brought in an expert in digitally encoding documents for a day long workshop in March.

Jeffrey Witt (Loyola University, Maryland) is a medieval philosopher who sits on the advisory board of the Digital Latin Library, and has extensive experience in teaching others digital encoding following the guidelines of the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI). Digitally encoding manuscripts using XML (eXtensible Markup Language) following the guidelines established by the TEI allows the encoded texts to be fruitfully used by scholars all over the world.

CHINESE STUDIES AND GLOBAL HUMANITIES SUMMER INSTITUTE



The Calgary Institute for the Humanities and the Kule Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Alberta co-hosted a Chinese Studies and Global Humanities Summer Institute from June 19 to July 5. These Summer Institutes invite established scholars from different regions as speakers to share their insights and experiences with participating junior scholars. With successful Institutes held in 2016 at the University of Minnesota and last year at the University of Cambridge, our application was the third winning proposal.

We welcomed 20 visiting scholars from Canada, the United States, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Nigeria, and China to examine the topic of Chinese Migratory Realities. Recent migration of Chinese individuals and families from the interior countryside to the coastal cities is the largest in world history. These social realignments have had profound implications in the realm of cultural representation, in such fields as literature, film, memoir, and media.

The institute is supported by generous funding from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation and the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, with supplementary funding provided by the VP International at the University of Calgary and the China Institute at the University of Alberta.





SPECTRAL CITIES

Western Humanities Alliance Conference
November 2-3, 2018

The Calgary Institute for the Humanities will be hosting the annual conference of the Western Humanities Alliance on November 2-3, 2018. The Western Humanities Alliance (WHA) is a consortium of humanities centers and institutes in the western United States and Canada. Each year a member institution hosts the annual conference, and curates a program on a theme that showcases the particular research strengths and interests of the local institution.

The theme of this interdisciplinary conference is “Spectral Cities,” addressing the themes of cities within cities, lost cities, forgotten cities, and ideas of the city that haunt our imaginations. It will be the culmination of a number of research initiatives involving cities at the CIH, including our Social Justice and the Smart City working group and the Calgary Atlas Project, which maps alternative histories of the city. Selected proceedings of the conference will be published as a special issue of the journal *Western Humanities Review*.

A celebrated writer (Alberto Manguel), two recognized interdisciplinary scholars (Ato Quayson and Abraham Akkerman), and an internationally exhibited visual artist (Larissa Fassler) will present a series of public keynote lectures to frame the discussion. These lectures will be placed around six panels: literature of the city; the ancient city as religious and economic nexus; the Canadian post-industrial; spectral cities in Eastern Europe; and surveillance and data collection in the sentient city. We’re hoping as well to launch the first three maps in our new public humanities venture, the Calgary Atlas Project.

The Calgary Institute for the Humanities, Canada’s oldest humanities institute, has a distinguished history at the U of C of contributing to scholarly research and connecting it with successful public engagement strategies. The WHA has similarly maintained an interest in what are called the “public humanities”: research that actively engages with local communities. This WHA conference will allow humanities researchers to share their work and cultivate cross-disciplinary connections and will also provide a forum to connect with the public.

Our theme, Spectral Cities, coincides with our two venues in Calgary’s newest architectural landmarks, Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre, and the new Calgary Central Library. We are extremely fortunate that our major community partner for the conference is the Calgary Public Library. Spectral Cities will be the first public event hosted in the new Central Library after the Grand Opening on November 1, 2018.



KIAS-CIH ALBERTA HUMANITIES RESEARCH GRANT

The Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) and the Calgary Institute for the Humanities (CIH) have established a joint research team building grant for interdisciplinary working groups at both the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary. The purpose of this grant is to encourage collaboration between researchers at our two universities in the humanities or humanistic social sciences.

The recipient of the Alberta Humanities Research Grant for 2018-2019 is the Prairie Indigenous Philosophy Project. The project addresses an acute problem within Indigenous thought: despite sustained intellectual production over many decades, the philosophical writings of many of the most esteemed prairie Indigenous thinkers are not easily accessible, thereby hiding the breadth of their intellectual output. The lack of an accessible archive hinders efforts to advance understandings of Indigenous thought rounded in the diverse intellectual traditions of Indigenous peoples. Led by Dr. Daniel Voth, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Instructor in the International Indigenous Studies Program (UCalgary) and Matthew Wildcat, Instructor Political Science and Native Studies (UAlberta), the project will begin collecting, compiling, and commenting on the works of two esteemed prairie Indigenous thinkers: Métis Elder and writer Maria Campbell, and Blackfoot scholar Leroy Littlebear.



THE CALGARY ATLAS PROJECT

The Calgary Atlas Project seeks to recover crucial stories about Calgary's past and present, stories that will illuminate in surprising ways the character of the city. The project will produce eighteen to twenty maps that each document an alternative history and geography of the city. Original maps will be commissioned from artists and illustrators that illuminate the histories that will be printed on the back.

Research and illustration of the first three maps is underway. Mark Clintberg, working with research by Kevin Allen, is mapping the early histories of Calgary's queer communities. Adrian Stimpson will map the history of Indigenous involvement with the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth. Kirk Niergarth and Karen Jeanne Mills are mapping the history of labour movements in our city.

Future maps will explore the routes of animals, food, oil and water as they move through the city, film production and exhibition history, and the evolution of Calgary's underground art scene. The Atlas aims to layer multiple histories, experiences, and geographies over our dominant urban narrative.

The interdisciplinary organizing committee includes George Colpitts (History), Jim Ellis (CIH), Nancy Janovicek (History), Graham Livesey (EVDS), and Charles Tepperman (Communications, Media and Film).

It is evident that an understanding of human reality and of human values, beyond the insight which the social and natural sciences can provide, is crucially important to society, and that universities have not only the opportunity but a special obligation to carry on the complex and responsible task of analysing and interpreting human experience for a civilization subjected to rapid change in technology, culture and social order.

Egmont Lee, CIH Director 1978-1980 and Chair of the Planning Group for a Humanities Institute, 1978

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Institute receives support and advice from the Advisory Council, which is composed of dedicated members from the external community

Rod Wade, Chair

Retired Petroleum Engineer

Ronald B. Bond

Post-secondary Educational Consultant

Jackie Flanagan

Founder & former editor of Alberta Views

Murray Laverty

Minister, Parkdale United Church
Board Member, Calgary Foundation

Donna Livingstone

President & CEO, Glenbow Museum

Judy MacLachlan

Board Member, Silvera for Seniors and
Alberta Seniors Communities and Housing Association

Micheline Maylor

Calgary Poet Laureate 2016-2018
University of Calgary Senator

Bill Ptacek

CEO, Calgary Public Library

Valerie Seaman

Businesswoman

Nancy Tousley

Senior art critic & independent curator

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chaired by the Director, the Executive Council is composed of university academics and advises on general operations and planning of activities

Francesca Cadel

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Petra Dolata

History

Jim Ellis

English / CIH

Noreen Humble

Classics and Religion

Graham Livesey

EVDS

Dona Schwartz

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