Director’s Report

As you will see in the following pages, 2019-2020 was a milestone year for the CIH. We saw the launch of two new lecture series, many lectures and public events, and success in a major grant competition with an international consortium of researchers on the politics of deindustrialization. We underwent our first external review in twelve years and received a glowing report that praised our “remarkable success” in recent years.

The academic year began on a high note, with the inaugural event in our Annual LGBTQ2S+ Lecture series. On August 23, 2019, during Calgary’s Pride Week, a crowd of 180 people gathered at the Calgary Central Library to hear Prof. George Chauncey speak. Dr. Chauncey is the author of the groundbreaking work Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World 1890-1940 and an expert witness in a series of Supreme Court cases that profoundly altered gay life in America.

In September 19-21, our interdisciplinary working group Energy In Society played host to an international conference in Calgary and Banff on the topic of Energy and Scale. Co-organized by the world renowned Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, the conference featured speakers from Sweden, Germany, the UK, the US, and Chile. A particular highlight of the conference was the participation of representatives from the Council of Atacameño Peoples, who spoke of the effect of lithium extraction on the Indigenous populations of Chile.

November saw the launch of the first map in our Calgary Atlas Project. Artist Mark Clintberg and writer Kevin Allen spoke about the creation of the LGBTQ2S+ Calgary map. We are especially pleased that the map is being distributed to high school Gay Straight Alliances. The next phase of the project, which will produce four new maps, is generously supported by the Calgary Foundation.

Like everyone, our year was interrupted by the pandemic in March, forcing a change of plans for the first year of our new Applied Ethics program. After an initial live event in collaboration with local salon series Layla Lavan, we pivoted to hosting a five-part online series on the ethics of the pandemic. This series drew an enthusiastic audience of over 1400, and hundreds more to the video recordings of the events.

We have another slate of great events planned for 2020-2021. We’re especially looking forward to launching a new pilot program in the Public Humanities, which will place humanities graduate students in community and cultural organizations. While we’re not sure what the new normal will look like, we are confident that the CIH will have a big role to play in both our University and our city in the years to come.

— Jim Ellis
Annual Fellows

Since 1977, the Institute has offered Annual Fellowships to faculty members at the University of Calgary. Awards are given to support specific research projects and provide the recipient with release from a portion of their teaching obligations. Without such leave time, the scholarly output that is crucial to a university’s mandate would be substantially reduced.

LINDSAY DRIEDIGER-MURPHY
NAOMI LACEY MEMORIAL FELLOW
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

Roman Religious Anxieties

This project demonstrates that many Romans experienced fear and anxiety when interacting with their gods, and considers why anxiety-inducing ways of characterizing the gods rise to prominence in certain contexts in Roman history. To date there has been no systematic study of what Romans believed about the character of their gods. Most scholars hold that Romans saw their gods as benevolent by default. My project seeks to recover a different strand of Roman theology. I identify three key contexts in which Roman sources express concern about the reliability and loyalty of the gods: the Roman conquest of Italy, the Second Punic War, and the collapse of the Late Republic. In each of these periods, I argue, we can see Romans confronting the possibility that the gods might give or transfer their support to Rome’s enemies. This conclusion encourages us to re-evaluate our reconstructions of Roman conceptions of divine-human relationships.

DERRITT MASON
WAYNE O. MCCREADY FELLOW
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

The Virtual Child: Children’s Literature and Digital Culture

The Virtual Child explores the pre-digital history of “the virtual” in order to think through young people’s digital virtualities with greater nuance. This history illuminates how digital virtual space is a site for contemporary iterations of longstanding anxieties and desires surrounding the child’s own virtual qualities. Drawing on the etymology of “virtual,” The Virtual Child argues that we can characterize children’s literature — including its digital texts — as a genre that typically attempts to manage the child’s virtuality. More specifically, children’s literature aims to instill virtue (purity and moral goodness) in the child, while delimiting and subsequently regulating their Virtu (openness and creativity). By considering pre-digital virtualities in key works of children’s and young adult literature including J.M. Barrie’s Peter and Wendy (1911) and Maureen Daly’s Seventeenth Summer (1942), I maintain that we can better theorize how digital texts for young people endeavour to construct and secure their audiences.
TIMOTHY J. STAPLETON  
CIH ANNUAL FELLOW  
PROFESSOR  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  

Military Culture in British Colonial West Africa (c.1860-1960)  

This project will produce a scholarly history of Britain's colonial military in West Africa from the late nineteenth-century conquest to decolonization in the 1950s. Located in Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia, the Royal West African Frontier Force (RWAFF) was Britain’s largest army in colonial Africa, yet it has not received much academic attention. This racially hierarchical institution was central in maintaining British rule. It served as a manpower reservoir for Britain’s global conflicts, and it was the catalyst for important social and political change in West Africa. Utilizing documents from British and African archives and with a focus on the ordinary African serviceman and his family, this study will attempt to better understand the military in British West Africa by employing the concepts of “military culture” which looks at basic assumptions that inform how the military works, and “combat motivation” which explores reasons why soldiers fight.

MORGAN VANEK  
CIH ANNUAL FELLOW  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  

Forms of Trade: Significant Omissions in the Records of Empire, 1694-1785  

To date, Anthony Henday appears only around the edges of histories of Alberta, where he’s briefly celebrated as the first Englishman to see the Rocky Mountains. But he’s also the first Hudson’s Bay Company explorer to use the empirical forms of record-keeping that the Royal Society would later recommend to all agents of the British empire. As the four extant versions of his journal demonstrate, however, even small changes introduced to regularize the form of these observations have significant consequences for the journal’s argument about the people and places observed. During the period of the proposed fellowship, I aim both to examine the implications of these formal changes for Henday’s theory of environment and to explore how these changes in the forms of empirical record-keeping correlate to changes in both Company and Cree land management practices in western Canada in the second half of the eighteenth century.
In this project, I analyse modernisation as it was experienced and understood in the province of Antioquia (Colombia) from 1872 to 1919. Specifically, I examine how regional elites used commemorations during this period to celebrate historical change and the emerging of new modernizing social classes and claim a larger national significance for themselves and their region. The study begins by explaining how the funeral of the novelist Jorge Isaacs in 1906 and the centennial celebrations in 1910 created specific links between the local elites, the public, and national memory. I am particularly interested in uncovering the underlying silence of mestizos, women and working class sectors in these celebrations and how those communities inhabited and possibly transformed Medellín’s mnemonic landscapes. This project challenges traditional historiography by showing that Colombia between 1870 and 1938 was marked by a deep sense of faith in peace and progress.

DAVID BARRIOS GIRALDO
FRANCES SPRATT GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOW
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Commemorative Practices and Rituals of Memory in Colombia, 1872-1919

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.
Research Fellows

In addition to our Annual Fellowships, the CIH hosts a Scholar-in-Residence and a postdoctoral fellow. Petra Dolata has been named Scholar-in-Residence for a five-year term. Each year Dr. Dolata will program a major public event.

PETRA DOLATA
SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Sustainability in the Anthropocene
This project researches the emergence and development of the concept of sustainability since the 18th century and understands it as an idea that is closely related to industrialization and growth paradigms. It particularly focuses on the 1970s as a period in which the ecological interconnections between man and nature as well as energy systems approaches led to a more comprehensive understanding of sustainability, which often contained a radical critique of liberal market economies and economic growth. It examines how people engaged with these new environmentalist insights and how ideas of a “conserver society” in Canada influenced discussions on sustainability.

IAN WERELEY
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Passions and Policies: Poles and Poland in Western Diplomacy, 1914-1921
How did policy-makers in Britain, France, and the United States decide the fate of an independent Poland in the First World War era? These individuals knew little about Poland at the start of the war in 1914, but they were drawing the new country’s borders, sending humanitarian aid, and imposing minority protections within five years. I found extensive evidence that while policy-makers debated these decisions, they relied in part on perceptions of national character. This is detailed in my book manuscript, Passions and Policies: Poles and Poland in Western Diplomacy, 1914-1921. I am also a Research Associate on “The Reconfiguration of Canada-Europe Relations after Brexit.” My research for the project thus far has focused on research and innovation policy and Western Canada’s views of Brexit.
The Inaugural LGBTQ2S+ Lecture

Rethinking the Closet: New York Gay Life Before Stonewall

On August 23, 2019, the first Friday evening of Calgary’s Pride Week, the CIH held its first annual lecture in LGBTQ2S+ Studies at the Central Library. The lecture was co-organized by Prof. Annette Timm, editor of the Journal of the History of Sexuality. With 150 people in attendance, Prof. George Chauncey gave a lecture entitled “Rethinking the Closet: New York Gay Life Before Stonewall”. Chauncey is the author of Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940, and Why Marriage? The History Shaping Today’s Debate over Gay Equality. Gay New York was a groundbreaking work that changed how we think about gay lives in the past, and particularly, where to look for evidence of them. Not only were these lives not hidden from history (as the title of one notable book had it), they were also not inevitably lonely and sad. Chauncey uncovered evidence of rich, vibrant queer communities in different configurations of class, race and gender. The book spurred on a host of other more local accounts of LGBTQ history, that collectively show the rich diversity of queer lives in the past.

Gay New York ended its account in the 1940s. The CIH lecture picked up from where the book left off, taking us forward toward the Stonewall era. Once again, Chauncey challenged the dominant narrative of the 1950s and 1960s as a time of intense repression for queer communities. While the gay panics and purges of this era did take place, many queer people did continue to live happy lives in diverse communities.

Since 1993, Prof. Chauncey has participated as an expert witness in more than thirty gay rights cases, including Romer v. Evans (1996), Lawrence v. Texas (2003), and the marriage equality cases decided by the Supreme Court in 2013 and 2015. It is thus no exaggeration to say that not only has he changed the field of LGBTQ history, he has also helped to change the course of LGBTQ history in our era.

The CIH’s new lecture series is part of a longer tradition at the University of Calgary to support diversity and inclusion, particularly sexual minorities. As can be seen in Kevin Allen’s history of the LGBTQ community in Calgary, Our Past Matters, the University of Calgary has a proud history of hosting internationally prominent speakers on LGBTQ rights: in 1969, for example, there was a lecture in Mac Hall by Harold Call, the pioneering gay activist, publisher, and member of the Mattachine Society. This lecture was attended by plainclothes police officers from the vice squad, who were not there to promote diversity and inclusion, but they left without incident after being recognized by the speaker. A couple of years later, the University of Calgary hosted a talk by Sir John Wolfenden. He had earlier led an inquiry into the decriminalization of homosexuality in Britain in the 1950s, which resulted in the Wolfenden Report, one of the most important documents in lesbian and gay rights. The CIH is hoping to build an endowment to support an annual visit by key figures in LGBTQ2S+ Studies, to continue to promote the values of diversity and inclusion in our communities.
In January, the CIH partnered with Sidewalk Citizen Bakery to host Layla Lavan, an ethics and morality talk series. The intent was to host three academics, philosophers, and intellectuals each night, speaking about a specific theme under the spectrum of morality and applied ethics.

The first salon, “Ethics and Morality of Money”, was held on January 18 for a sold-out audience who braved the bitter cold to listen to presentations late into the night on the relationship between money and morality.

In March, following the moratorium on public events and closure of restaurants due to COVID-19, Layla Lavan was reconceptualized as a weekly forty-five-minute-long online conversation with philosophers, scholars, and scientists addressing applied ethics questions arising from the pandemic.

As COVID-19 swept across the world and changed life in ways that mirror dystopian novels, people were obliged to adapt to a new way of living that unravelled how we understand and engage in human interaction. In a series of talks, award-winning writer and journalist Christina Frangou spoke with bioethicists, neuroethicists, and moral philosophers to find moral guidelines to navigate these extraordinary times. Our gratitude also goes out to Christina, whose expertise and compassion balanced important ethical questions with insights into the anxiety and uncertainty we faced during self-isolation.

This series would not have been possible without Layla Lavan curator Michal Lavi, who proposed the initial concept for the series; she was responsible for building relationships with all of our panelists and convincing them to join the conversation. Thank you for inviting the CIH to participate in this important series.
Events

Engaging with the community is an important aspect of the Institute’s mandate. Public events and lectures allow CIH scholars and working groups an opportunity to share research with hundreds of fellow scholars, students, and engaged citizens every year.

Rethinking the Closet: New York Gay Life Before Stonewall

George Chauncey
DeWitt Clinton Professor of American History, Director of the Columbia Research Initiative on the Global History of Sexualities, Columbia University
August 23, 2019


Anthropocene: The Human Epoch film and discussion panel

September 18, 2019

As part of the Energy and Scale Conference, the Energy In Society Interdisciplinary Working Group at the Calgary Institute for the Humanities presented ANTHROPOCENE: The Human Epoch, a cinematic meditation on humanity’s massive reengineering of the planet. A panel discussion followed the screening, featuring Terrance and Neko Houle (interdisciplinary media artists), Maria Michails (multi-disciplinary artist), Chris Turner (journalist and writer); Dr. Cora Voyageur (professor of sociology), and Rebecca Dolgoy, PhD (Curator, Natural Resources and Industrial Technologies, Collection and Research, Ingenium – Canada’s Museums of Science and Innovation).

Presented by the Energy In Society Interdisciplinary Working Group

(Urban) Frontiers of Data (Capital) Accumulation

Anthony M. Levenda
Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability, University of Oklahoma
October 18, 2019

New political-economic interests have overtaken the urban through digital forms of exploitation and appropriation. Facebook, Google, Amazon, Apple, and Twitter—the “unicorns” that haunt San Francisco’s affordable housing activists—offered a vision of a radically changed urban future with new social stratification and division forms. Using as case studies Seattle, Austin, and San Francisco, Dr. Anthony M. Levenda argued that the city is the critical resource of the digital economy.

Presented by the Social Justice and the Smart City Working Group

The Virtual Child: Children’s Literature and Digital Culture The 4th Annual McCready Fellow Lecture

Derritt Mason
2019-20 McCready Fellow
Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Calgary
November 5, 2019

The 4th Annual McCready Fellow Lecture featured Dr. Derritt Mason, who proposes that digital virtual space is often a site for contemporary iterations of longstanding anxieties and desires surrounding the child’s own virtual qualities. Dr. Mason explored pre-digital virtualities in key works of children’s and young adult literature, including J.M. Barrie’s Peter Pan, which depicts a relationship between childhood and the virtual that helps us theorize how digital texts for young people endeavour to construct and secure their audiences.
The Virtual Child: Children’s Literature and Digital Culture

Contemporary scholarship about children’s new media tends to fall into two camps. In the first, scholars offer practical suggestions for deploying digital texts in an educational context. Those in the second camp diagnose and critique the anxieties that arise when children access virtual communities. Implicit in much of this scholarship is the idea that virtual texts and spaces require brand new approaches to both children’s literature and childhood itself.

This talk will illustrate how the longer history of “the virtual” helps us think through young people’s digital virtualities with greater nuance. Such a history illuminates how digital virtual space is often a site for contemporary iterations of longstanding anxieties and desires surrounding the child’s own virtual qualities. Derritt Mason will explore pre-digital virtualities in key works of children’s and young adult literature, including J.M. Barrie’s Peter Pan, which depicts a relationship between childhood and the virtual that enables us to better theorize how digital texts for young people function in traditional and virtual contexts.
The Pen Inscribes the Landscape: The Cases of the Camino de Santiago and the Ruta del Quijote

Rachel Schmidt
2016-17 Annual Fellow
Professor, Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary

December 3, 2019

The 12th-century Codex Calixtinus formed part of Archbishop Gelmírez’s promotion of Jacobean pilgrimage. Yet, Book V, known as the Pilgrim’s Guide, presents the Camino Francés according to a narrative of descent and then ascent which patterns the journey according to a literary mode in which the pilgrim undergoes struggle and then triumph as he passes through uncivilized, even hellish territories.

The same pattern is projected on to the landscape and peoples of La Mancha in 19th-, 20th-, and even 21st-century first-person accounts and even touristic materials creating a Ruta del Quijote on the terrain of interior Spain.

Fifty Shades of Patriotism: From Fake to Forever or From Forever to Fake?

Lynda Dematteo
Fulbright Scholar, Montana State University

December 5, 2019

Through cross-cultural dialogue, Dr. Lynda Dematteo’s ethnography of Montanan families shines light on the meaning that individuals give to patriotism, isolationism, and populism, and on the political articulations between authoritarian populism, “sadopolitism” and patriot organizations.

The Revolutionary Potential of Food Sovereignty: Three Cases of Food Sovereignty in Action

Annette Aurélie Desmarais
Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Social Justice and Food Sovereignty, University of Manitoba

January 30, 2020

Since La Vía Campesina introduced the peasant idea of food sovereignty back in 1996, the idea has gained traction as a radical alternative to globalized food systems. What exactly is food sovereignty? What is it that makes it such a powerful idea? Dr. Annette Desmarais examined these questions by looking at three cases of food sovereignty in action: the global struggle for peasant existence and power, women’s struggles for equity/equality in La Vía Campesina, and how Basque farmers are holding back right-wing populism.

Presented by the Food Studies Interdisciplinary Research Group
Representing Nirvana Through Inversion

Wendi Adamek
2018-19 Annual Fellow
Numata Chair - Buddhist Studies,
Associate Professor, Department of
Classics and Religion, University of Calgary

February 4, 2020

The Nirvāṇa-sūtra was one of the most influential and controversial Buddhist scriptures introduced to China during the early period of Buddhist assimilation. Its characterization of Buddhahood as “permanence, joy, self, and purity” (chang le wo jing) generated much interest and discussion among Chinese practitioners. This was claimed to correct the “inverted” but orthodox teachings of impermanence, suffering, nonself, and impurity. Dr. Wendi Adamek examined Chinese treatments of this motif, highlighting “inversion” as the key relation between impermanent, dependent selves, and adamantine true selves.

Shakespeare's Transplant Poetics: Vegetable Blazons and the Seasons of Pyramus's Face

Vin Nardizzi
Associate Professor, English Language and Literatures, University of British Columbia

February 12, 2020

Shakespeare’s Transplant Poetics identifies as vegetable blazons early modern poems that employ plant figures to depict the human form. It further explores those traditions in A Midsummer Night’s Dream and portraits by Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Both examples cross human flesh with vegetable figure; they unsettle coordinates of gender presentation; and they put a halt to the cyclicality of the seasons. Transplant poetics thus describes trans embodiment and proves helpful for speculating on the affective reception of bodies composed of plant figures.

Identity, Religion, and Empire: The Civic Coins of Roman Phoenicia

Olivia Webster
PhD, University of Nottingham

February 12, 2020

The coastal cities of Phoenicia (modern Lebanon) had been continuously inhabited for centuries before their annexation by the Roman empire in the late first century BC. Archaeological evidence for these cities is often sparse compared to other ancient Eastern sites. Civic coins provide a corpus of evidence characterised by almost unparalleled richness and variety. They can often be our only visual evidence for buildings and cults for which there is little to no other material evidence. Examining this evidence, Dr. Olivia Webster looked at how religious life was linked to the expression of civic identity in Roman Phoenicia on a local level and how these cities engaged with their neighbours and the wide-reaching influence of Rome.

The Climate and Us: How Might We Change?

Vanessa Schweizer
Assistant Professor, Department of Knowledge Integration, University of Waterloo

February 26, 2020

Most Canadians agree that Earth is getting warmer. There is also scientific consensus that Earth’s natural greenhouse effect is growing stronger. However, this hardly means that people agree whether anything should be done about it. Addressing climate change is difficult because it problematizes ways of life that have historically been hallmarks of prosperity. How might we provide the same energy services while dramatically decreasing fossil-fuel use? Find the right balance between sovereignty and cooperation? Most importantly, how might we maintain mutual respect while we confront this unprecedented challenge?
Feeding the Future: Understanding the Contemporary Food Crisis

Haroon Akram-Lodhi
Professor of International Development Studies and Chair of the Department of International Development Studies, Trent University

February 27, 2020

Around the world hunger continues to be a pervasive issue. This talk summarized current evidence regarding global hunger and demonstrated that its principal cause is not to be found in the amount of food produced around the world, but instead is a consequence of the terms and conditions by which the world food system operates. Challenging key aspects of the food system, it was argued that hunger can only be addressed by a root-and-branch transformation of the world food system.

Presented by the Food Studies Interdisciplinary Research Group

Organizational Studies of Performativity: What Do We Know, Where Shall We Go?

Jean-Pascal Gond
Cass Business School, City University London

February 28, 2020

This presentation built on the review of the performativity literature in organizational studies proposed by Gond, Cabantous, Harding, and Learmonth (2016) to discuss recent developments and debates in the organizational studies of performativity, and evaluate the relevancy of the performativity concept for studying organizational phenomena and organizing dynamics.

Presented by the Business and Performance Research Working Group

Roman Religious Anxieties
The Naomi Lacey Memorial Lecture

Lindsay Driediger-Murphy
2019-20 Naomi Lacey Resident Fellow
Associate Professor, Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary

March 10, 2020

Did Romans feel anxious about their gods? The first-century BCE polymath Varro averred: ‘The gods are feared by the superstitious person. By the religious person, however, the gods are honoured like parents, not feared like enemies. The religious person describes all the gods as so good that it would be easier for them to spare the guilty than to hurt someone innocent.’ Many scholars of Roman religion have followed this lead, holding that most Romans considered their gods benevolent by default. Yet some ancient texts tell a different story. This lecture, by Dr. Lindsay Driediger-Murphy, explored some of the evidence for Roman anxieties about the reliability, morality, and loyalty of the gods. The goal is to recover a different strand of Roman theology and develop a more accurate understanding of ancient religious experience.
Calgary Atlas Project

The Calgary Atlas Project recognizes that our city is at once one community and many. By researching and sharing the stories of the diverse communities within our city, we hope to show how this diversity contributes to our shared history. It is something of a cliché to observe that Calgary does not do enough to preserve our shared heritage. The older parts of our built environment are knocked down and built over, and the history that those buildings or sites embodied is often forgotten. Memory is most vivid when it is attached to place, and when we lose those places, significant stories of those communities that interacted with them or passed through them are lost.

This project seeks to document some of the forgotten or overlooked stories from Calgary’s history by mapping these stories onto the city’s geography, and highlighting significant sites, events, and people in Calgary’s past. Where possible or appropriate, writers and artists will be drawn from those communities, and community archives and resources will be consulted.

Our pilot for this project, A Queer Map: Gay and Lesbian Calgary, documented significant places and moments in the history of the LGBTQ2S+ community in Calgary. Members of Calgary’s LGBTQ2S+ community frequently comment on our shared lack of understanding of our past, partly because many former sites where the community congregated are gone. This map restores some of that memory in an attractive and easily accessible format.

We are now being approached by other groups and individuals that are interested in participating in the project. Our focus in phase one, with the generous support of a Community Grant from the Calgary Foundation, will be to produce four maps documenting our community’s histories: the involvement of Indigenous communities in the Calgary Stampede; alternative and underground artists, and alternative art movements; sites of labour activism and radicalism; and paths of immigration, as reflected in the independently owned ethnic restaurants and groceries of Forest Lawn / International Avenue.
Communicating Around Climate Change: Interdisciplinary Conversations (New)

Climate science is complicated and effectively communicating about the specifics of climate change for different populations is even more difficult. Such discussions, due to the fraught nature of impending changes as well as how intertwined such changes are with present political and socioeconomic realities, turn empirical research into a plaything for various factions, rather than a cornerstone for practical future planning. This description highlights a social need to deeply consider both the ways and means for communicating around the climate crisis. Additionally, due to the diversity of experiences with respect to the climate crisis, it is important to understand the crisis via an interpretive social science and humanities (ISSH) perspective, which allows for highlighting issues of justice, gender, power, and identity. The group is currently examining the measures being taken on campus to broaden and deepen the climate change conversation among faculty and students.

Classics, Religion, Anthropology and Archaeology (Returning, 2nd Year)

The field methods from Archaeology, the conceptual frameworks of Anthropology, and the philological, historical and critical approach integrated from both Classics and Religious Studies form a concrete base for collaborative activities between graduate students and faculty members engaged in interdisciplinary projects, combining material studies with the study of literary sources and other approaches. Engaging the campus community at all levels has been a goal during our first and second year of activity. This year, we organized and completed a workshop series on numismatics led by Marina Fischer (Collection Specialist – Numismatics, Nickle Galleries at the University of Calgary), with a guest facilitator in the Winter 2020 term: Dr. Olivia Webster, who recently completed a project at the British Museum, researching approaches to numismatic displays in English museums. Dr. Webster also presented a public lecture, examining the rich archaeological evidence of civic coins in Roman Phoenicia.

Energy In Society (Returning, 4th Year)

EIS is interested in sustaining and enriching the community of energy scholars in the humanities, social sciences and the natural sciences that now exist on campus and continuing to reach out to academics and activists worldwide who are involved in the energy field. With the CIH’s support, we have engaged practitioners and scholars of a variety of energy processes and industries. We wish to advance a new agenda for energy scholarship based on community-engaged research and international collaborations. This year, we successfully co-convened an international conference on “Energy and Scale” at the Banff Centre with the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG) of Berlin, Germany. The conference, supported by a SSHRC Connection Grant, brought together concerned scholars and citizens interested in the topic of energy transitions, including the Atacamanian Peoples’ Council, a community-based organization in Chile.

Film Theory and Resistance in the 1960s and 1970s (New)

We established an interdisciplinary working group of researchers interested in reading “Film Theory and Resistance in the 1960s and 1970s”, and the relationship between politics and the representation of radical opposition to commodification.
The relevance of Film Theory in a global context was a topic for discussion focusing on the 1960s and 1970s. We started by discussing Pasolini’s Cinema of Poetry theory, and his 1968 movie Teorema, quickly shifting to British and German experimental filmmakers. The latter portion of the working group considered the intersection between militant cinema and the American avant-garde and surveyed a body of documentaries from across the global south. Ultimately, the group forged meaningful connections between film theory, aesthetics, and contemporary debates around politics and social media.

Food Studies Interdisciplinary Research Group (New)

Food is much more than a source of energy. It is strongly interconnected with social organization, history, culture, politics, and is time and place specific. Many academic, governmental, civic, and economic stakeholders stress the necessity and urgency to change the dominant agri-food regime in response to environmental, health, justice, and ethical concerns. Food has also emerged as a mobilizing frame for social justice movements (i.e., food justice) and within human rights frameworks (i.e., the right to food), as well as for broader movements around the political economy of food (i.e., food sovereignty). This CIH working group is a first step towards building and consolidating an interdisciplinary group of food scholars at the University of Calgary to study our current ways of producing, processing, distributing, and consuming food, with a focus on how these systems intertwine with overarching issues such as global economic integration, immigration, language and culture, welfare state transformation, and the environmental crisis.

Genomics and Bioinformatics Research Group (Returning, 2nd Year)

Scientific experimentation and industry application have run ahead of analysis in the social sciences and humanities, leaving gaps in our understanding of the social, political, and ethical implications of genomics and bioinformatics applications. As science and technology studies scholar Sheila Jasanoff explains, “science exerts power in part by turning the myriad pathways for living that humanity has evolved over millennia into singular channels that have undeniable value for segments of the human community... but these ‘solutions’ may not speak to the fundamentals of the human condition, and they may err or produce unintended consequences through premature simplification.” Genomics and bioinformatics technologies raise important questions about the risks, governance, and ownership of genetic resources. Current regulatory regimes have yet to keep up with the pace of technological change and lay publics are often unaware of the scope, speed, and significance of techno-scientific advances.

Intersection of Performance and Business (Returning, 3rd Year)

The Performance and Business Research Working Group explores aspects of business practice and communications through the lens of performance theory. For the last two years, we have challenged performance researchers to broaden their perspectives on where and how performance occurs while challenging business researchers to deepen their insight into business performance dynamics. In year two, our main goal was to expand scholarship on performance and business by supporting research by our group members.
Collectively, our efforts produced a conference paper, two SSHRC grant applications (Exploration, IDG), and a panel proposal on “Reimagining Business Performance After Repetition” to the American Society for Theatre Research (accepted), in addition to supporting the development of a dissertation chapter, workshop material, and building a relationship with a local community leader.

Science, Technology, Environment, and Medicine Studies (New)

The University of Calgary has an opportunity to lead the way for Western Canada by building our capacities to be competitive for future high-tech and knowledge-based economies. The efforts to be the frontrunner will materialize in enhanced collaborations and support for partnership projects — notably between faculties — to bridge the humanities and social sciences to the science, technology, and medicine fields. In a current political “post-factual climate” it is vital to realize that this continually changing field needs in-depth analyses and examinations of historical and social lessons to grasp the magnitude of today’s challenges. Due to COVID-19, the group postponed a planned public outreach event with the Genomics and Bioinformatics Research Group and the O’Brien Institute for Public Health.

Social Justice and the Smart City (Returning, 3rd Year)

The Social Justice and the Smart City working group consolidated an interdisciplinary team focused on the scholarship of ‘smart cities’ (i.e., urban environments instrumented with sensors, communication technologies, analytics, and related technologies for collecting, analyzing, and visualizing data, that mediate decision-making and governance). In the 2019-20 academic year, we completed the peer review process for a special issue of Urban Studies (IF: 3.272), arguably the top journal for the discipline. With CIH funding, we brought to Calgary Kevin Ward (Manchester), Anthony Levenda (Oklahoma), and Harris Breslow (American University – Sharjah, UAE). A workshop with pre-eminent geographers Eric Sheppard and Helga Leitner (UCLA), was postponed due to COVID-19. Past CIH support contributed to publications in many top interdisciplinary journals and supported work leading to two successful Insight Development Grants and a Partnership Development Grant.

Vendler Group: Philosophy and Linguistics (Returning, 4th Year)

The Vendler Reading Group is an interdisciplinary group composed of faculty and graduate students from philosophy and linguistics. The group’s main goal is to facilitate communication between researchers working on issues related to the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of natural languages. This year’s focus for the Vendler Group was on the semantics, pragmatics, and processing of the progressive. The progressive morpheme “ing” can be appended to many (though not all) verbs to express that an event of some kind is happening. Unlike the future or past tense, that have relatively straightforward semantics (they locate the event after/before the time of utterance), the meaning of “ing” is still deeply controversial. This should not be surprising. After all, in order to understand the meaning of “ing” it seems as if we have to answer a deeply vexing question about the nature of events—what is it for something to happen? Any adequate semantics for the progressive mopheme will have to account for the fact that progressive sentences can be true even if the events they speak about never culminate. For instance, “I am crossing the street” may be true even if I never get across.
The Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) and the Calgary Institute for the Humanities (CIH) sponsor a joint research team from the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary. This opportunity is designed to encourage interdisciplinary humanities collaborations between researchers from both institutions.

Tools and Resources for Indigenous Family Survivors of Violence

The recipients of the 2019-20 KIAS-CIH Alberta Humanities Research Grant, Dr. Gina Starblanket (Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary) and Dr. Tasha Hubbard (writer, filmmaker, and an Associate Professor in Native Studies at the University of Alberta) are the principal investigators of a research team developing Tools and Resources for Indigenous Family Survivors of Violence.

The research team produced eight booklets that focus on the themes and information identified as useful by the family of Colten Boushie, an Indigenous youth who was killed in 2016 in Saskatchewan. Booklet themes include foundational knowledge, how to work with the media, understanding the criminal legal process, and lists of relevant community organizations and legal resources available for families. Colten Boushie’s family not only suggested the themes based on their experiences, but are also involved in revising the booklets.

Tools and Resources for Indigenous Family Survivors of Violence is in the final stages of editing for accessibility and online design and will be released on September 16, 2020, as part of the online release for nipawistamasowin: We Will Stand Up. The film outreach team has a partnership with the National Association of Friendship Centres, and they have adapted the guides for other provinces and territories, and will distribute the printed guides, once completed.

The Regulation of Sexual Violence in Canadian Contexts: New Philosophical Questions

A second award was made to support the costs of a symposium on the philosophical questions raised by attempts to regulate sexual violence — most obviously in Canadian criminal law, but also in institutional policies (such as campus sexual violence initiatives), and in parallel legal systems (such as Indigenous law).

Principal investigators, Dr. Cressida Heyes (Professor of Political Science, H.M. Tory Chair, University of Alberta) and Jennifer Koshan, LLM (Professor of Law, University of Calgary) convened a symposium, consisting of five workshop papers, presented by Jennifer Koshan (“Sexual Assault, Judicial Ethics and the Regulation of Judges”), Lise Gotell (“Condoms and Consent”), Paige Gorsak (“Wrong Problem, Wrong Solutions: The Regulation of Sexual Violence by Neoliberal Universities”), Kiara Mikita (“Either she’s fine with it, or she isn’t: The regulation of women’s expressions of non-consent”), and Cressida Heyes (“What if she never knows? The challenge of consent and unconsciousness”), as well as two plenary public lectures, presented by Elizabeth Sheehy and Sunny Marriner (“Current Legal Responses to Violence Against Women”) and Ann Cahill (“Title IX and Catharine MacKinnon: An Intellectual History, and a Cautionary Tale”). This event was a valuable opportunity for the participants to discuss their work and plan further collaborations.
Funding

- Faculty of Arts
  - Annual Fellowships
  - Community Forum
  - Working Groups
  - Operating Budget
  - Maintenance and Furniture
  - Operating Budget: $63,700

- Endowment Income
  - CIH Endowment
  - Wayne O. McCready Endowment for an Emerging Scholar
  - Fred A. McKinnon Humanities Endowment
  - Endowment Income: $63,700

- Naomi and John Lacey Foundation for the Arts
  - Naomi and John Lacey Foundation for the Arts: $13,500
    - Naomi Lacey Memorial Fellowship

- Grants
  - MacLachlan Family Programming Gift
  - Grants: $17,606

- Alumni Development Partnership Fund
  - Alumni Development Partnership Fund: $4,600
Report on Endowments

In 2019-20 we received the first allocation from the CIH Endowment. This stable source of income for the CIH allows us to set goals for future programming and ensure the sustainability of our core programming: our fellowships, our community outreach, and our interdisciplinary working groups.

Some of these investments have been well-rewarded. Our inaugural LGBTQ2S+ Lecture saw tremendous community interest, and we have already started to build a new endowment for this series. We also want to thank Alumni Partnerships for their support of this event.

Our continuing investment in the Calgary Atlas Project provided us with a significant portfolio, which we presented to the Calgary Foundation this Winter; we’re happy to announce that this initiative was rewarded with a Community Grant from the Foundation, which will support the hiring of a project coordinator, and provide funding for four new maps.

The Faculty of Arts continues to be a major supporter of the CIH. In addition to continuing support for two of our annual fellowships and our Annual Community Forum, the Faculty recognized the tremendous gift leading to a new Program in Applied Ethics and provided us with bridge funding to kick off this initiative right away. We invested a portion of these funds in the successful Layla Lavan ethics and morality salon series; we also commenced planning the inaugural Applied Ethics Lecture, which will bring in a renowned speaker on applied ethics Calgary to present a free, public talk to the Calgary community.

The CIH is currently planning a Public Humanities Project, creating opportunities for graduate students in the humanities to work with local organizations. This program will provide students in the humanities with valuable experience, applying their problem-solving skills to challenges faced by community groups.

As we all know, this past year was not without its surprises. COVID-19 took its toll on the market values of our endowments. However, our donors’ continuing support and our recent successes in our internal and external grant applications mean that we have no concerns about maintaining our programs in the coming year.

$2,147,102
Total endowments and grants
The Calgary Institute for the Humanities returned its fellowship award to a full course release this year, doubling the amount of time our Fellows are granted to focus on their research. This has long been a goal for the CIH, and we are grateful to our donors and the Faculty of Arts, who have made this possible.

We also supported ten Interdisciplinary Working Groups and increased the funding for returning groups. Additionally, we continued our collaboration with the Kule Institute for Advanced Study to offer a humanities grant supporting collaborations between researchers from the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary.

One-time funding from the Faculty allowed us to have the common spaces painted, upgrade the tables and chairs in our seminar room, and add another workstation to accommodate a postdoctoral researcher working with our Scholar-in-Residence.

**Expenditures**

- **Fellowships**: $71,039 (39%)
- **Interdisciplinary Working Groups**: $27,577 (15.2%)
- **Furniture and Office Renovations**: $20,496 (11.3%)
- **Annual Community Forum**: $15,438 (8.5%)
- **LGBTQ2S+ Lecture**: $12,645 (7%)
- **Calgary Atlas Project**: $9,740 (5.4%)
- **Publications and Marketing**: $8,730 (4.8%)
- **Conferences and Memberships**: $8,551 (4.7%)
- **Meetings, Office Expenses**: $4,221 (2.8%)
- **Event Co-sponsorships**: $2,733 (1.5%)
One of the more pressing political issues of our time is understanding the rise of populist movements in the west. These movements are often tied to the phenomena of deindustrialized communities, communities that were formerly dominated by a single industry that has closed or been drastically reduced. Whether these are coal-mining communities in the Ruhr Valley in Germany or in Cape Breton, or steel towns in the Rust Belt, common wisdom often assumes a direct connection between deindustrialization and working-class, right-wing populism, but this connection has never been studied through a comparative, transnational lens.

We are happy to announce that the CIH and its Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Petra Dolata, are part of a successful SSHRC partnership grant on the “Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time”. The project is led by Dr. Stephen High of Concordia University. It involves an international consortium of researchers and 33 research institutions in Canada, the UK, the US, Germany, Italy, and France, exploring different regions of the world that have undergone substantial change when dominant industries disappeared. The consortium seeks to understand the long-term consequences of deindustrialization, its possible connections to the rise of populist working-class political movements, the role of gender and race in these class politics, and the different legacies of deindustrialization in different parts of the world.

The grant will extend over seven years, and provide 2.5 million dollars to the consortium of researchers. As a co-investigator, Dr. Dolata will be involved over the life of the grant, but will be crucially involved in directing activities in years two to four of the grant, under the subtheme of “Gender, Family and Deindustrialization.” During these years, the CIH will host a postdoctoral fellow in connection with the grant, who will be exploring the gender politics of Energy Transitions. Dr. Dolata will also curate an exhibition. The project as a whole has ambitious goals, including annual conferences, op-eds, a Deindustrialization Summer Institute for students, a multi-site exhibition, and an eleven-volume book series.
Rod and Betty Wade Sponsor Program in Applied Ethics

The Calgary Institute for the Humanities is pleased to announce a new resident fellowship and lecture series commencing in the 2020-21 academic year, made possible by a generous donation from Rod and Betty Wade.

The gift, totaling $500,000, will support an alternating program of fellowships and lectures on applied ethics. The Fellowship’s principal objectives are to support research and community engagement on the topic of applied ethics, which broadly defined can include environmental ethics, medical ethics, Indigenous ethics, professional ethics, social justice, and moral standing, among others.

In the program’s inaugural year, the CIH partnered with a local salon series, Layla Lavan, to offer late night talks and discussions on applied ethics. After the arrival of COVID-19, we pivoted to an online webinar format that was met with great success. Next year and every two years following, scholars from across the university will be encouraged to apply for a resident fellowship to pursue advanced research in any area of applied ethics. An internationally prominent ethicist will be invited to Calgary to give a public lecture in an accessible venue in alternating years.

The field of applied ethics is especially appropriate for the CIH, given its long history of promoting both the value of the humanities and the importance of civic dialogue. Ethics are at the heart of the humanities, and considerations of ethics are one of the key contributions the humanities can make to a thriving public sphere.

Rod Wade is a long-time member of the CIH’s Advisory Board and served as its chair for two years. He holds multiple degrees in Engineering, but returned to the University of Calgary to earn a BA in Religious Studies and Applied Ethics in 2013. “We are beset by ethical conundrums, inconsistencies, and confusion, from fake news to inequality to pipelines and the environment,” he says. “By understanding the complexity of moral questions, moral philosophy can engender an understanding of other points of view, and combat dogmatism.” We are grateful to Rod and Betty for this transformational gift, which will allow the CIH to pursue their vision for advanced research and public engagement in this field.
Over the past five years, the generosity of the community has transformed the CIH. Contributions support fellowships for humanities researchers and graduate students, attract the next generation of researchers, and bring community together through public lectures on timely and relevant topics.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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The University of Calgary is a global intellectual hub located in Canada’s most enterprising city. In our spirited, high-quality learning environment, students thrive in programs made rich by research, hands-on experiences and entrepreneurial thinking. Our strategy drives us to be recognized as one of Canada’s top five research universities, engaging the communities we both serve and lead. This strategy is called Eyes High, inspired by the university’s Gaelic motto, which translates as ‘I will lift up my eyes.’ For more information, visit ucalgary.ca/eyeshigh.
Established at the University of Calgary in 1976, the CIH has a proud history of supporting research excellence through three key programs: our annual resident fellowships, our research projects, and our knowledge engagement with the community. For over forty years, the Calgary Institute for the Humanities has worked to foster humanities research of the highest order, encourage interdisciplinary conversations between scholars, and communicate the results of humanities research to the greater community. The humanities as traditionally conceived encompass the study of languages, literature, history, philosophy, religion, and the arts. At the CIH, we take a broader approach to the humanities, to include all forms of study that illuminate what it means to be human.
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The Institute receives support and advice from the Advisory Council, which is composed of dedicated members from the external community.

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Former Chairman of Honens

Ronald B. Bond
Post-secondary educational consultant

Jackie Flanagan
Founder & former editor of Alberta Views

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Nancy Tousley
Senior art critic & independent curator

Rod Wade
Retired petroleum engineer

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

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