Calgary Institute for the Humanities

Annual Report

2021-2022
Our second full year of Covid was a time of experimentation with modes of communication and conversation. If nothing else, the pandemic has given us a new appreciation for the value of community, and for the different ways that communities can come together. Our virtual interactions have enabled conversations between people that would never have been able to meet in person, and the real world meetings we are once again experiencing are reminding us how valuable it is to share the same space with people.

Having long lobbied for the need for a part-time Associate Director position to support our continually expanding programming, we are delighted to report that the Faculty of Arts committed fully to such a position, starting in the 2021-22 academic year. One of the main responsibilities of this position will be the Public Humanities Initiative. We are happy to welcome Noreen Humble, Professor of Classics and last year’s Acting Director, as the first appointee.

Our first big event of 2021-22 was our third annual LGBTQ2S+ Lecture, and it was designed to take advantage of a purely online format. Rather than having one speaker for an hour, we adopted a more conversational format, inviting three young queer or two-spirit Indigenous artists to talk about their work. The evening featured musical performances by Shawnee Kish, poetry by Billy-Ray Belcourt, and Josh Whitehead reading new work, along with laughter and conversation. It was the sort of event that could not easily have been staged in the real world, and which offered a sense of intimacy that would be lost in a lecture hall.

In the fall, as things loosened up a bit, we experimented with hybrid events allowing for both in-person and online attendance. Apart from minor glitches, these worked seamlessly to broaden the access to the talks, although the casual conversations that took place afterwards demonstrated the value of being in the room where it happened. On the other hand, many of our working groups took advantage of Zoom technology to dialogue with scholars from across the world. Our Translation Studies working group, for example, was able to hold an online workshop with two internationally renowned theorists of translation. All in all, our Interdisciplinary Working Groups held over 38 public events, in addition to their meetings. In recognition of his efforts to make these and other events happen, the CIH Coordinator, Sean Lindsay, received the Faculty of Arts Outstanding Staff Recognition Award.

Our inaugural Invited Lecture in Applied Ethics was one of the few events to be held exclusively in person. Renowned philosopher and public intellectual Kwame Anthony Appiah joined us for a thoroughly engaging and thought-provoking discussion of the role of identity in ethics and contemporary politics, followed by a very convivial reception afterwards. One of the goals of the Applied Ethics Program is to stimulate public discussion of ethical issues, and to that end the inaugural lecture could not have been more successful in bringing people together for meaningful conversation.

A final highlight of the year was our 41st annual community seminar on “The Final Frontier: Mythologies of Outer Space.” This event was both in person and live streamed, allowing participation beyond the city for the first time. Our international panel of guests were able to join us in Calgary, and they had the opportunity to visit the University of Calgary’s renowned Bob Gibson Collection of Speculative Fiction. It was a day of discovery and encounter that will be the basis of a new volume in our book series with the University of Calgary Press.

It is difficult to predict the conditions that will shape our conversations next year, but whatever happens, we will find a way to meet and talk, regardless of modality. The CIH exists to promote civic discourse and civil conversation, exploring the values that join us and the differences that enrich us. We hope you’ll join our ever-growing community this year.

Jim Ellis
Professor, Department of English
Since 1977, the Institute has offered Resident 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.

**Resident Fellows**

**Eleonora Buonocore**

CIH Resident Fellow  
Instructor, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures  
**Dante’s Memory: From Fixity to Fluidity**

Memory played a key role in the Middle Ages: it was ubiquitous in medieval education, from rhetoric to philosophy and even theology. Dante’s *Divine Comedy* is a masterpiece of medieval culture, yet, before my research, there was no comprehensive study of Dante’s concept of memory. I argue that memory is one of the underlying structuring principles of the Comedy. Dante begins with a rhetorical memory trap, rooted in the fixity of the art of memory, that is a punishment in *Inferno*. In *Purgatorio* memory becomes a force for good, linked to prayer, which reduces penance. In Eden, at the rivers Lethe and Eunoë, signifying oblivion and good memory, there is a paradigm shift: from memory to forgetfulness. This oblivious memory, fluid and altruistic, informed by theology, is the only memory left in *Paradiso*. My book shows the *Divine Comedy*’s importance within the studies of memory in the European Middle Ages.

**Ryan Pierson**

Naomi Lacey Resident Fellow  
Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Media and Film  
**Pragmatic Visions: Vachel Lindsay’s “Democratic” Spectatorship and Early Cinema**

In 1915, as cinema was coalescing into a major industry, American poet Vachel Lindsay wrote the first book of film theory, arguing for film as a tool of aesthetic enlightenment and political engagement. *Pragmatic Visions* traces Lindsay’s little-understood theory of how cinema engages viewers. Lindsay argued that film’s sensuous power could offer spectators “visions,” in something like a religious sense, of society’s potential future. But the public nature of film exhibition meant that, unlike private religious visions, cinema’s visions could be debated democratically. This project also unearths the cultural context around Lindsay’s ideas. By locating Lindsay’s encounters with print culture, Progressivism, and primitivism, this project reveals disturbing tensions between the ideal and practice of democracy in turn-of-the-century America—tensions that still exist today.
Unbidden Exposures: Histories of Candid Photography

Unbidden Exposures will offer the first full-length study of the history of candid photography, focusing on the period between the 1890s and the 1960s. Defining candid photography as a genre in which the depiction of unsuspecting subjects is assigned special revelatory capacities, Unbidden Exposures historicizes the idea that an unposed image is an optimally “natural” or “truthful” image. Topics discussed include the “art of not posing” in late-19th-century commercial portrait studios; the shifting meanings of candid photographs in the news, and the strategic deployment of “behind-the-scenes” aesthetics by political figures; the establishment of the candid camera as a mass-culture cliché, and the artistic appropriation of this trope; and midcentury female photographers’ contestations of candid photography’s truth claims. Through these case studies, this book illuminates the development of a pervasive yet largely unquestioned contention: the idea that the camera can best reveal its subjects when it is itself concealed.

Great Minds in Despair – The Forced Migration of German-Speaking Neuroscientists to North America, 1933 to 1989

In the history of science scholarship, the “Brain Gain Thesis” is often taken as an unquestioned given in studies of the forced migration of physicians and medical researchers following the Nazis’ rise to power in Germany after 1933. Research literature on the receiving countries has primarily tended to take the intellectual, academic, and institutional dimensions of the forced migration wave into account, while the individual fate and adaptation problems of many émigré psychiatrists and neurologists are still considerably under-investigated. In this project, I thus want to look at the fate of a group of émigré physicians and researchers, who could be classified as early “neuroscientists” and who immigrated to Canada and the US either transitionally or for good. The thesis put forward here is that the process of forced migration most often constituted an end or at least a drastic change to the careers of this group of medical professionals.
Shelley M. Alexander  
Resident Fellow in Applied Ethics  
Professor, Department of Geography  

Lessons from Coyote: Decolonization, Jurisprudence and the Geo-ethics of Marginalized Populations

Burdened by the colonial label of ‘pest’, coyotes can experience legally sanctioned, often unrestrained, persecution everywhere in Canada. Yet evidence shows the species presents minimal risk to people, is ecologically important, and has social systems analogous to those of humans. As such, coyotes are my entry point to critically explore the marginalization of populations, engendered by the intersection of animal ethics, jurisprudence, and colonial worldviews. My aim is to expose the mechanisms and relationships that reinforce speciesism and oppression, and to offer insights and recommendations to decolonize wildlife conservation and everyday practice towards marginalized non-human and human animals alike. Applied outcomes include characterization of an understudied ethical challenge, support for legal reform, and guidelines that can empower human communities to make ethical and ecologically sustainable choices that embody justness for non-human animals.
Nella Darbouze Bonyeme
Frances Spratt Graduate Student Fellow
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Systemic Racism in Nineteenth-Century Tales of Black and Mixed-Race Revenge

“All Negroes need is a leader, valiant enough to guide them towards vengeance and massacre” wrote Denis Diderot, one of the most famous figures of the French Enlightenment, in Histoire des deux Indes (1770). Far from viewing revenge as a private vendetta, Diderot saw revenge as revolution; as a way for the oppressed to repair systemic wrongs of which they are victims and establish social equilibrium. For that reason, recent scholarship has identified nineteenth-century tales of black and mixed-race revenge as vehicles for discourse regarding black agency and racial injustice. However, narrative form and its import on the appraisal of social inequality has been neglected. The aim of my dissertation is to investigate the narrative structure of six nineteenth-century tales of revenge. I argue that the formal features of revenge narratives evolve over the century, revealing shifts in thinking about systemic racial injustice and black agency.
Scholar-in-Residence

In addition to our Annual Fellowships, the CIH hosts a Scholar-in-Residence. The term of this position is 5 years and carries with it the expectation of attracting post-doctoral fellows to the Institute. Each year the Scholar also programs a major public event.

Petra Dolata
Scholar-in-Residence
Associate Professor, Department of History

(Hi)Stories of Energy Transitions

As current discussions revolve around decarbonizing the economy, net zero emissions targets and the upcoming global energy transition, understanding society’s role in such transformative processes will be paramount. Recognizing that energy transitions also include social and cultural transformations and conceptualizing energy systems and regimes as socially constructed and narrated, this project studies both the histories of specific energy transitions in the past as well as the many stories that have been created to make sense of and frame these transformative processes. It investigates how individuals, communities and nations have caused, adapted to and rejected changes in energy systems providing a better understanding of historical resilience and agency while facilitating empathy, especially since energy transitions are often connected to processes of deindustrialization and always entail winners and losers. Different societies and cultures have responded differently to and created different stories about the same energy challenges. This diversity of historical experiences and narratives highlights how important it is that we know more about our energy pasts. Such historical knowledge facilitates informed discussions about our energy futures that include and give voice to every citizen and have the potential to facilitate the creation of just and sustainable policies.
Anna Bettini
Postdoctoral Fellow
Research Associate

After Oil and Gas—A Fairer Transition for Workers: How Renewable Energy is Shaping Communities’ and Workers’ Identity in Canada and New Zealand

A socio-cultural and energy anthropologist originally from Italy, Anna Bettini pursued her university studies in the U.S. and the U.K. In 2021, Dr. Bettini completed her Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Alberta. Currently, she is working on a book based on her doctoral research, tentatively titled: A Fractured Land: Stories on the Ecological and Social Uncertainties of Fracking in New Zealand.

During her time at CIH, as part of the Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time SSHRC project, under the supervision of Dr. Dolata, Dr. Bettini is carrying out multi-sited ethnographic research in Canada and New Zealand. In her project, she examines the displacement of workers and the changes in communities’ identity as energy transition processes and projects occur.

Robert Suits
Postdoctoral Fellow
Research Associate

Climate and Work

Robert Suits is a postdoctoral associate researching energy history. He earned a BA in history and music composition at Amherst College in 2012 and taught secondary school for several years before receiving his PhD in environmental history from the University of Chicago in 2021. His work at Chicago explored energy transitions in the USA in the 19th and 20th centuries. He is the author of forthcoming articles on the history of climate engineering and the history of migrant work in the USA, and his work on historical energy transitions has been illustrated and publicized at the Center for Robust Decision-making on Climate and Energy Policy (RDCEP).

Suits’s book project, tentatively titled Climate and Work, connects the history of climate, energy, and labor in the American West. Climatic disaster in the drought- and storm-stricken West, he argues, created precarious conditions for the working class as employers shunted environmental costs onto their workforce. That workforce, whom contemporaries called “hobos” or “tramps”, were migrants: variously down-on-their-luck family men, ne’er-do-well teens, and unreliable drifters who moved from job to job across the continent. As harvest hands, lumberjacks, and miners, they were vital to the economy and typically well-paid, but when work was scarce, they were the objects of police brutality and cultural disdain.
This annual program partners community organisations with highly skilled doctoral students in the Humanities. The aims are to help the students to acquire new kinds of learning and experience in a non-academic setting, to help community organisations understand how they can benefit from the skills offered by Humanities graduates, and to cultivate strong collaborative networks for supporting arts, culture and social justice in our communities.

Nella Darbouze-Bonyeme
PhD Candidate in Transcultural Studies
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Nella Darbouze-Bonyeme worked on “Public Programs and Engagement, Tour Development” with Fort Calgary.

Fort Calgary was looking for a public humanities fellow to help them broaden the stories they share about a site that has played a central role in both the long and more recent histories of this region. The site is rooted in place-stories and memory practices of the Blackfoot Nations, Iyarhe-Nakoda Nations, Tsuut’ina Nation, and the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. Specifically, the fellow will research, develop, and execute a new outdoor tour that embraces the theme of public programs for 2022, “The People.” They will collaborate with the Content Team to create and deliver this tour, and will take part in any offshoot projects that might arise from this tour.

Originally from Montreal, Nella completed a BA at McGill University and a MSc at Université de Montréal in Psychology before delving into Literary Studies with a MA in Comparative Literatures & Cultures at the University of Bristol (UK). She is now completing a PhD in Transcultural Studies, with a focus on the Black Atlantic and global nineteenth-century literatures. Her research investigates the conception of systemic racial oppression in nineteenth-century tales of black and mixed-race avengers. Nella has been a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II scholarship and the Alberta Excellence Award.
Anastasiia Gushchina
PhD Candidate in Communication and Media Studies
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Anastasiia Gushchina worked with the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS) on a project entitled “Representation and Cultural Responsiveness”.

CCIS was looking for a public humanities fellow to contribute to the framework of their Cultural Responsiveness work and advocacy for research ethics. Specifically, the fellow will be looking into how cultural safety can be represented in the physical space with the ultimate goal to reduce unnecessary burdens on the system and to produce equitable access, outcomes, and opportunities for culturally diverse populations.

Anastasiia is an international doctoral student who is passionate about film. She received both her BA and MA in Film Studies from Saint Petersburg State University in Russia. Her academic journey led her to focus on theoretical and practical implications of the use of various representational strategies in visual media and the ways these media portray vulnerable social groups. Her PhD research examines a connection between production practices of independent animated documentaries and the topics the films address. She has presented her research at numerous international conferences dedicated to issues of media representation. She is also serving on the Graduate Representative Council and as a Labour Relations Committee Steward for her department, advocating for the needs of her peers.

Karina Hincapié
PhD Candidate in Spanish
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Karina Hincapié worked with the Esker Foundation on the project “Youth Engagement and Decolonizing Gallery Space”.

As a leader in the Calgary arts community, Esker Foundation is a privately funded art gallery that connects the public to contemporary art through relevant, accessible, and educational exhibitions, programs, and publications. The Public Humanities Fellow will continue ongoing research on the topic of decolonizing gallery/museum spaces. They will be responsible for reviewing, assessing, and/or enacting decolonizing methodologies that de-center the Eurocentric view, challenge white supremacy, and value alternative narratives. The approach to this project is open, and may include emergent research, and/or public engagement activities.

Born in Caracas from Colombian parents, Karina completed her BA at Universidad Central de Venezuela. Following her undergraduate studies, she was granted an Erasmus Mundus Masters Scholarship to pursue a joint MA degree in Cultural Narratives from Universidad de Santiago de Compostela (Spain), Adam Mickiewicz University (Poland) and Université de Perpignan (France), from which she graduated with honours. Currently, she is a Spanish PhD candidate at UCalgary. Her research focuses on interactions of adolescents in recent Latin American films using affect theories as a mechanism of reflection around vulnerability and belonging, with a special interest in female agency and racialized identities.
The evening before Pride Week festivities officially commenced, we hosted our third annual LGBTQ2S+ Lecture, featuring performances and a panel discussion with three celebrated, young Indigenous voices in poetry, literature, and music: novelist Joshua Whitehead, poet Billy-Ray Belcourt, and special musical guest Shawnee Kish.

The topic of the August 26 event was the intersection of art and activism for queer, trans and Two-Spirit Indigenous artists. “Sometimes the 2S+ gets left out when discussing LGBTQ issues,” says UCalgary English professor and CIH director, Jim Ellis, who points out that homophobia was among the many insidious legacies of Canada’s colonization of First Nations people.

Prior to the formation of residential schools and the aggressive proliferation of European Christian influences, being gay, or Two-Spirit, was not stigmatized in First Nations culture, he says. In fact, Two-Spirit people in pre-colonial societies were often honoured as visionaries, leaders, and healers with important spiritual responsibilities.

“In light of the recent discoveries in Kamloops and the importance of addressing Indigenous issues in the name of reconciliation, we thought it was particularly important to host emerging voices from the Indigenous community this year,” said Ellis.

“It’s great to see a resurgence of Indigenous voices in the arts. Our panelists this year have won some of Canada’s highest awards and are important figures in their own right.”

The lecture featured a star-studded lineup:
Joshua Whitehead, a Two-Spirit, Oji-nêhiyaw member of Peguis First Nation who teaches Indigenous studies and English at UCalgary, won Canada Reads in 2021 for his novel, Johnny Appleseed.

Edmonton-based Two-Spirit musician Shawnee Kish has graced the stage with many artists, including Lady Gaga, Madonna and Alicia Keys. She was the winner of CBC Music’s Searchlight competition in 2020 and was a Juno Award nominee for Contemporary Indigenous Artist of the Year in 2022.

Billy-Ray Belcourt, a writer and academic from the Driftpile Cree Nation, is an assistant professor at the University of British Columbia’s creative writing program, a former Rhodes Scholar, and the youngest ever winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize.
Invited Lecture in Applied Ethics

The CIH Endowment for Applied Ethics supports a biennial lecture series, featuring a guest lecture by an internationally prominent ethicist. Due to the backlog of public events caused by the pandemic, 2021-22 marked our first year for both our Resident Fellow in Applied Ethics and our invited lecture in Applied Ethics.

On April 8, we welcomed Dr. Kwame Anthony Appiah to the Calgary Central Library. Dr. Appiah is Professor of Philosophy and Law at New York University, and author of numerous books on race, semantics, identity, and ethics, as well as three works of fiction. He is also well known as the author of “The Ethicist” column for The New York Times.

In Appiah’s lecture, “The Place of Identity in Ethics and Politics,” he outlined how ethics touches all aspects of life, from government politics to family relationships. He stressed that the question we need to ask is how do we live our ethical codes in our own lives? Despite the resurgence of nationalism and populism and rejection of a shared set of common facts in recent years, he says he is still optimistic. There is hope, but we must work for it. Human interactions will always be complicated because we often have conflicting and competing goals. He stressed that we could resolve those conflicts by speaking to each other and finding points on which we agree. And he emphasizes that we will find a lot more of this common ground through personal interactions, when we step away from our collective identities. The best kind of progress we can make is through growing our ability to listen and understand the ethics of others, even when our initial reaction to the other is unfavourable.
Calgary Atlas Project

The Calgary Atlas Project fuses historical research and original artwork to share stories about who we are, and how we got here. The project is an initiative of the Calgary Institute for the Humanities that seeks to recover crucial stories about Calgary’s past and present. The Calgary Atlas Project released three new maps in 2021-22:

**Calgary Goes to the Movies: A Historical Guide**, designed by award winning animators Amanda Forbis and Wendy Tilby, traces the history of venues for motion pictures in Calgary, along with the cultural and business struggles they embodied. Moviegoing was the quintessential modern entertainment, projecting Hollywood glamour to a rapidly growing city in the Alberta Foothills in the 20th century. Research was completed by a team of faculty and graduate students from the Department of Communication, Media and Film, Tamara P., and Robert M. Seiler, Andrew Watts and Charles Tepperman.

**Workers Stand Up: A Calgary Labour History Map** was created by historian Kirk Niergarth and artist Karen Mills to bring to life the rich history of solidarity and struggle among working people in our city. Calgary’s labour history is extensive, diverse, and very much alive. In spite of its current branding as a city of rugged individualists, Calgary was built by workers who organized to promote the common good and community well-being.

**Calgary’s Architecture in 40 Buildings** creates a unique perspective on Calgary’s architectural history with research by Professor of Architecture Graham Livesey and design by local design firm SPECTACLE—Philip Vandermeuy, Jessie Andjelic, Veronique Ulrich, and Vanessa Wang. This map surveys buildings from early examples of settler architecture, through local architectural approaches in the ’60s, buildings of the expansion and boom of the ’70s, up to today’s engagement of international “starchitects” and their contributions to the city’s fabric.

This year also marked several new community partnerships for the project with events featuring our maps and mapmakers. The Chinook Country Historical Society welcomed representatives from the project to two of its 2021 Historic Calgary Week events. “Behind the Scenes with the Mapmakers” on July 27 featured CIH Director Jim Ellis, and author of A Queer Map, Kevin Allen, who discussed the process of finding stories that lend themselves to being mapped on the city’s geography. Shaun Hunter, who created a Literary Map of Calgary while serving as Historian-in-Residence at the Calgary Public Library, also participated in the panel. Shaun discussed...
her project, which locates more than 500 historic locations about Calgary writers. An unexpected outcome of this event was the inspiration for a new Calgary Atlas Project map on the 1920s literary and cultural scene in Calgary, which is based on Shaun’s research. Printmaker and installation artist Eveline Kolijn is currently working on the artwork for this compelling snapshot of Calgary as a cultural destination in the West in the early 20th century.

On July 30, Kirk Niergarth and Karen Mills hosted a preview on their map Workers Stand Up, highlighting significant events, organizations, and people who participated in Calgary’s working class history and labour movement. As Niergarth explains, labour history is not only about stories of confrontation and conflict; it also reflects shared spaces and individuals who worked tirelessly to build strong and prosperous communities.

Nickie Galleries hosted a Nickle at Noon presentation on March 24 about the creation of our third map, Calgary’s Art Underground: Place | Time | Art | A Guide. Art curator and writer Diana Sherlock discussed her research on the history of Calgary’s art scene, reaching out to artists to piece together this history of itinerant and ephemeral art collectives, venues and galleries. Sherlock was joined by Mark Dicey, Lesley Sweder and Janet Turner of the art collective Drunken Paw, who used the research as a springboard for their artwork for the map. Drunken Paw’s usual process creates three illustrations concurrently, rotating the illustrations between members of the collective and they walked through how their images grew organically on a 1924 map of Calgary. All of the members have a different relationship to the history they were mapping and brought their own memories and experiences to their drawings.

The bison robe artwork for the map First Nations Stampede: A Guide to First Nations History at the Calgary Stampede made its way from the Glenbow to the Remai Modern in Saskatoon, where it was installed as part of Maanipokaa’ini, the first-ever survey of the work of the Siksika Nation artist Adrian Stimson. This exhibition runs from April 2 to September 5, 2022.

Our formal launches intended for each map were disrupted by the second year of the pandemic, so we were thrilled when Esker Foundation offered to host a joint launch event for our three art- and design-themed maps. On April 22, an enthusiastic audience was treated to a behind-the-scenes peek at how these maps evolved into their final forms. The artists for Calgary’s Art Underground, Calgary Goes to the Movies, and A History of Calgary in 40 Buildings each gave an overview of their maps, from early concept artwork and drafts, through to the final designs.

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. We are grateful to the Calgary Foundation, whose Community Grants program supported this project at a critical juncture. Our network of distributors have also been instrumental in spreading the word and helping this project build momentum. We have now completed six maps. Two more will be added to the collection this summer, and another two are in early stages of development.
Who owns outer space? Does the moon have rights? If we have the technologies to make Mars habitable for humans, should we aim to do so? What costs are we prepared to accept in order to colonize space? Are the legal codes we have governing our use of outer space sufficient in a world where private industries are now leading the space race? Our 2022 Annual Community Forum, *The Final Frontier: Mythologies of Outer Space*, hosted insightful presentations and a lively panel discussion with a space archaeologist, an Indigenous astrophysicist and a science fiction expert to explore these and other issues around humanity’s relation to the cosmos.

Our invited panelists included:

Alice Gorman, PhD (Flinders University, Australia), an internationally recognized leader in the field of space archaeology;

Hilding Neilson, PhD (University of Toronto), who works on astrophysics and the intersection of science and Indigenous knowledge; and,

Chris Pak, PhD (Swansea University, UK), who specializes in the study of Science Fiction with a focus on terraforming and pantropy (the process of modifying humans so they may thrive in inhospitable environments).

The forum featured poetry readings by Kyle Flemmer, poet, author, editor, and founder of The Blasted Tree Publishing Co., a platform for emerging Canadian authors and artists. Kyle is also currently enrolled as an MA Student in the Department of English at UCalgary.

We were also honoured to be able to screen the short film *Afronauts* (2014), directed by Nuotama Frances Bodomo. The film addresses themes of colonialism, nationalism, and Afrofuturism—an aesthetic and a philosophy that explores African diasporic culture and technology—as it follows a team of astronauts as they train for a mission to the moon.

One of the most enduring lines in popular culture describes outer space as the “final frontier.” This metaphor, which is intended to be optimistic and idealistic, is nonetheless revealing about how our thinking about space travel has always been rooted in more earth-bound matters: in this case, the idea that outer space is like the early American West, a largely empty place waiting for European-style settlement. This year’s seminar explored some of the ideas that have shaped the way we have thought about space exploration, travel and colonization, and the development of the technologies that have brought us there. For example, we discussed the ethics of terraforming (making planets habitable for humans), the political status of extraterrestrial sites, the implications of billionaires making decisions that used to be collectively decided under international agreements, and the impact that human development on Earth has had for other animals that have a relationship with the night sky.

This was our first time hosting this event at the Central Library and it was a fantastic venue for our return to an in-person format for the forum for the first time since 2019. A recording of the proceedings is available on the CIH YouTube channel.
**KIAS-CIH Alberta Humanities Research Grant**

The Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) and the Calgary Institute for the Humanities (CIH) collaborate on a joint research team-building grant opportunity, designed to encourage the formation of research teams spanning both universities. This opportunity is designed to encourage interdisciplinary humanities collaborations.

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**Business Retreats at the Crossroads of Performance and Religion**

This project considers the religious and theatrical features of “retreat” and “retreating” in business, with the goal of bridging management studies and the humanities and of assessing how ritual and the performing arts can benefit workers and organizations. In organizational contexts, performance metrics imply constant evaluation in accordance with norms and standards. Although ultimately aimed at renewed efficacy, business retreats offer a respite from the norms that govern business operations, and promise ritual goods like personal and organizational transformation (without always delivering). Borrowed from religious traditions and often designed with the help of experts trained in theatre, business retreats provide an opportunity to examine how even the most outcome-driven organizations rely on softer skills, such as imagination and role-play, and draw on religious structures, such as the rite of passage, to motivate workers, create community, and foster innovation.

Our team—Stefano Muneroni, Associate Professor of Drama (UA), Joy Palacios, Assistant Professor of Classics and Religion (UC), Alice de Koning, RBC Teaching Fellow and Senior Instructor in the Haskayne School of Business (UC), and Emily Block, Associate Professor and George M. Cormie Professor of Business, Strategy, Entrepreneurship and Management (UA)—brings together scholars from business, theatre, religious studies, organization theory, and entrepreneurship. Our varied academic networks position us to foster a transdisciplinary community that links scholars in the humanities and business.

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**Transitional Impressions: Visualizing Environmental Change**

Supported by a KIAS-CIH Alberta Humanities Research Grant, University of Calgary Assistant Professor of Art Heather Leier and University of Alberta Centennial Professor of Fine Arts Sean Caulfield facilitated a workshop and exhibition through which participants explored the role visual art/printmaking can play in building understanding around the intricate issues raised by environmental degradation and climate change.

Many of the complex questions raised in current environmental discourse can be difficult to capture in scientific data or everyday language. The sense of anxiety, loss and uncertainty, as well as feelings of hope for positive change, need to be articulated through creative research alongside other modes of research in order to create a fuller picture of what environmental change means to Canadian society. Transitional Impressions: Visualizing Environmental Change engages with these issues, with a particular focus on what printmaking can bring to these discussions. Participating artists include Jewel Shaw, Tara Manyfingers, Kiona Ligtvoet, Jill Ho-You, Sue Colberg, Sean Caulfield, and Heather Leier.

An exhibition catalogue will be launched during a forthcoming iteration of Transitional Impressions: Visualizing Environmental Change at the FAB Gallery, University of Alberta, during Fall 2022.
The CIH Interdisciplinary Working Groups bring together expertise from different disciplines to produce groundbreaking research. They are convened by distinguished researchers and graduate students and the work of these groups has frequently received recognition through their impressive track record with SSHRC grant applications, peer-reviewed publications, international collaborations, and community outreach events.

Interdisciplinary Working Groups

African Navies: The Overlooked Maritime Arena (ANOMA)

The African Navies working group examines the development and role of African navies in providing maritime security including protection of shipping and offshore resources for coastal African states as well as the involvement of non-African navies with the continent. While problems around building and sustaining effective and locally relevant African navies and coast guards have had profound impacts on standards of living and security in coastal African states, the topic remains understudied by academics. Our group seeks to advance knowledge about this field through building an international network of scholars, publishing an edited collection of papers for which we have obtained funding from the Canadian Department of National Defence, and hosting guest speakers on campus.

Classics, Religion, Anthropology and Archaeology

CRAIG is a graduate student-driven collective that, since its inception in 2018, aims at promoting collaborative activities between its UCalgary members interested in the study of topics pertaining to Classics, Religious Studies, Archaeology, and Anthropology. In 2021-22 the group officially expanded to include members from the English and the History Departments. The Group engages in discussions and projects of an interdisciplinary nature, combining perspectives and frameworks such as material studies, literary, philological, historical and theoretical-critical approaches to encourage dialogue and academic collaborations. Each year the group chooses a broader theme of discussion (previous themes were ‘Landscape’, ‘Economics’, and ‘Materiality’). ‘Gaze’ was the theme for this past year, on which the conveners shared their disciplines’ views and approaches in an open and informal exchange.

Energy In Society

The Energy In Society (EIS) interdisciplinary working group is interested in the human dimensions of energy systems and in sustaining and enriching the community of energy scholars in the humanities, social sciences and the natural sciences that now exists on campus, as well as continuing to reach out to academics and activists worldwide who are involved in the energy field. Our programs discuss in depth what the Humanities can add to current discussions on net zero policies, decarbonization and energy transitions. Over the past year, EIS continued with internal publication workshops to finalize the Energy and Scale edited volume. As part of the funded collaboration on “resilience and/in energy transitions” with the Environmental Humanities Research Group at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), EIS held two virtual workshops in September and December and members attended an in-person workshop in Freiburg in early May. EIS also co-hosted the transatlantic Zoom lecture series New Approaches to Energy History.

Food Studies

The Food Studies Interdisciplinary Research Group aims to build and foster a network of food studies scholars both at UCalgary and beyond. Working across disciplines, we promote critical scholarship from the broad area of food studies, engaging with faculty and students across various departments within the University, as well as engaging with food studies scholars, activists and community leaders.
outside the University. Through our speaker and lecture series, we hope to continue to expand the food studies network and develop interdisciplinary research collaborations for research projects concerning the many facets of, and approaches to, food. Our events this year investigated the theoretical and empirical relation of sustainability and social justice within current food systems. Together, our activities aim to build and consolidate an interdisciplinary group of food scholars at UCalgary as well as increase visibility of ongoing research efforts in the wider academic and non-academic community.

Genomics and Bioinformatics

In 2003, the completion of the Human Genome Project stimulated the development of other large-scale, DNA-sequencing projects for bacteria, plants, and mammals. With computer technology and bioinformatics large-scale, genomic consortia produce DNA sequences at impressive rates. DNA is also currently used to store and transmit digital data, and genomic media highlight new uses for the digital and the biological. As synthetic biology continues to evolve and mature, genetic information is used to create new forms of life. In this context of technology development and application, the stakes could not be higher and the need for critical engagement more urgent. Genomic and bioinformatics technologies raise important questions about justice, democracy, and governance, questions that are often pushed to the side by corporate-driven initiatives. Our working group aims to build sustainable public spaces at UCalgary and beyond to articulate visions for the publicly, rather than privately, oriented governance of genomic science.

Performance and Business

The Performance and Business Research Working Group (PBRWG) explores aspects of business practice and communications through the lens of performance theory. For the last three 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 the dynamics of business performance. In our fourth year, we continued to extend our growing international community by organizing two interdisciplinary dialogues that placed leading scholars from theater/performance and business in conversation, and by hosting a live theatre-based workshop on leadership by an international guest scholar. With the goal of fostering research papers, we also hosted a three-part series that explored business pitches as performance, culminating in a roundtable. Behind the scenes, we worked on creating structures to support the long term continuation of the working group, most importantly by expanding our leadership team.

Rethinking Latin American Studies from the South (RLASS)

As a consolidated working team, RLASS offers a space for various groups to engage in and with a diverse set of narratives that account for highly unique and heterogeneous environments, histories, actors, values and ways of life in the Americas and the Caribbean. Our group connects the community of Latin Americanist scholars on campus and across Canada, especially those committed to inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration, with partners in the region. In the past two years, we held more than 20 keynote speaker sessions connecting faculty and students from the Calgary area with activists, and community members. The RLASS graduate students have organized two symposia with 26 speakers in 2021 and 17 speakers in 2022 and have reached more than 90 participants from 8 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and North America. These events have showcased successful experiences, lessons learned and the challenges of transdisciplinary work throughout the Americas.
**Science, Technology, Environment, and Medicine Studies**

New inventions, discoveries, and theories have a significant impact on the way we understand the facts, products, and processes developed by past scientists, engineers, and physicians. In a current political “post-factual climate,” it is vital to realize that these constantly changing fields need in-depth analyses to grasp the magnitude of today’s challenges. More complex science needs more in-depth humanities scholarship. Through the social studies of medicine, science, technology, and the environment (including historical, sociological, and anthropological perspectives), the research conducted by the members of the C-STEMS Working Group will yield lessons for society’s contemporary problems and generate insights to cope with future societal and technological challenges. This year our group focused on the organization of the International Conference for History and Philosophy of Science Teaching in July, as well as the running of a graduate student and trainee summer school in the History and Philosophy of Science, in conjunction with this conference at UCalgary.

**Social Justice and the Smart City**

We have consolidated an interdisciplinary team focused on scholarship pertaining to “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). Our focus this past year was on mapping injustices in the smart city, questioning the spaces of injustice, what we mean by invoking “social justice”, and the relation between digital urban spaces and the concept of smart cities. These topics address pressing research questions for the field as a whole, and are of particular importance for UCalgary researchers who are producing an edited volume on this subject.

**Translation Studies**

Translation Studies is by nature interdisciplinary, not only the purview of philology and linguistics, but also of literary studies, history, philosophy, semiotics and cultural studies, as well as being a creative act in itself. Thus, angles of investigation and practice are varied and many. The main goal of our working group is first and foremost to establish a supportive and collaborative space for those working on any aspect of Translation Studies, whether they are looking to enhance and expand their knowledge of the theoretical side of this trans-discipline, or wishing to discuss ways to become more skilled and thoughtful translators, or hoping to find new pedagogical methods of incorporating translation studies into teaching at all levels. A secondary and parallel goal is to work towards establishing an interdisciplinary course on translation studies which would serve the interests of students in a number of disciplines.

**Voice and Marginality at the Nexus of Racism and Colonialism**

Our research privileges the perspective and priorities of the vulnerable communities we work with, in diverse fields across Indigenous political theory and sovereignty, environmental and natural resource governance, curriculum, literacy and participatory communication, with Indigenous / remote / diasporic and immigrant communities globally. This group, led by graduate students, is a collaborative, creative and critical research space stemming from the common call against imperialism and paternalism. This space validates different ways of knowing and being, learning from academia and phenomenological lived experience; it encourages researchers to carefully attend to the epistemological and ontological ways in which our work, situated in Western neoliberal academia, may empower the vulnerable voice.

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**FRIAS-EIS workshop participants visited the solar settlement at Schlierberg, Freiburg, May 2022.**

*Photo by Petra Dolata.*
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.

Inclusivity in Education: A Curriculum Roundtable
July 23, 2021
Janis Irwin
MLA, Alberta New Democratic Party
This event brought together over forty local UCalgary graduate students, faculty, and community members in conversation with MLA Janis Irwin of the New Democratic Party of Alberta. Harrison Campbell (PhD Student, Werklund School of Education) moderated a discussion with topics such as integrity, ethics, and proper resource development taking centre stage. Presented by the Voice and Marginality at the Nexus of Racism and Colonialism Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Indigenous Art and Activism: Three Voices
The Calgary Institute for the Humanities 3rd Annual LGBTQ2S+ Lecture
August 26, 2021
Billy-Ray Belcourt
Writer, poet, Assistant Professor in the Creative Writing Program, University of British Columbia
Shawnee Kish
Musician
Joshua Whitehead
Poet, novelist, Assistant Professor in the Departments of English and International Indigenous Studies, University of Calgary
The evening featured readings by Whitehead and Belcourt, performances by Shawnee Kish, and a roundtable discussion about the intersections of art and activism for queer, trans and two-spirit Indigenous artists. More information about this event can be found on page 10. Presented with support from UCalgary Alumni.

Research Sharing Public Meeting
August 27, 2021
Joyce Percel
PhD Student, Department of Geography, University of Calgary
Suzanne Chew
PhD Student, Department of Geography, University of Calgary
This meeting focused on the sharing and discussion of critical research insights. Drawing from scholars who highlight how data are used in ways that dehumanize BIPOC people by centring on damage, violence, and premature death, Joyce Percel invited attendees to collectively think through possibilities for reframing how data is read, interpreted, and communicated in order to create narratives that make us more human. Suzanne Chew shared methodological tensions and discomforts around what it means to work with Indigenous communities as a non-Indigenous researcher. Presented by the Voice and Marginality at the Nexus of Racism and Colonialism Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Scenarios and Narratives in Organizational Change
September 17, 2021
Dr. Tracy C. Davis
Barber Professor of Performing Arts, Northwestern University
Dr. Hans Hansen
Associate Professor of Management, Rawls College of Business, Texas Tech University
This event brought together leading scholars from performance studies and management studies for an interdisciplinary discussion about the role scenarios and narratives play in organizational change. Davis—winner of the Distinguished Scholar Award from the American Society for Theatre Research in 2005—shared an excerpt from her new project on “Activist Repertoires: Liberal Lives, Victorian Performances,” which carefully reconstructs the gestures, actions, and repertoires that enable cultural change.
Hansen, author of Narrative Change: How Changing the Story Can Transform Society, Business, and Ourselves, shared his work on creating and implementing new narratives in Texas’ death penalty defence team. The discussion, facilitated by Dr. Bruce Barton, highlighted how modifications to the stories a group tells could change an organization’s direction. Presented by the Performance and Business Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Cultivating Community Partnerships with the CIH Public Humanities Program
September 22, 2021
The Institute launched a new Public Humanities Fellowship Program in 2020-21. Graduate-level humanities students were placed with community organizations for 12 weeks to complete a partner-specified project. These placements allowed the students to employ their knowledge, skills and experience in a non-academic setting and cultivate strong collaborative networks for supporting arts, culture, and/or social justice in our communities. This event featured the 2020-21 cohort of Public Humanities Fellows as they reflected on their placements this past summer. For the 2021-22 Fellows and their projects, see pages 8-9.

Who’s Responsible for Social Justice in the Smart City?
October 14, 2021
Victoria Fast
CIH 2020-21 Resident Fellow, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Calgary

From ride sharing to food delivery, the COVID-tracing app, fitness trackers and facial recognition, digital technologies control us and our cities. City officials and citizens across the world are adopting these technologies with the hopes that “smart cities” will create more livable, sustainable, resilient places. However, these technologies too often create, reconfigure, and amplify existing urban inequalities. Dr. Victoria Fast, whose field of research is broadly urban GIS—an interdisciplinary mix of geographic information science (GISc), human geography, and urban studies—explored the redress necessary for technology to contribute to (re)making cities that are more socially just and inclusive.

Art as Resistance and Revelation in Academia
October 15, 2021
Romani Makkik
Film Director

Suzanne Chew
Doctoral Candidate, Department of Geography, University of Calgary

Romani, an Inuk film director who produced The Wounded Healers, an intensely powerful film based on her Master’s research with a counsellor training program in Kangiqsujuaqik (Clyde River), and Suzanne, a doctoral student who has published poetry and short stories, engaged in conversation around how art might uplift the voices of communities with whom student researchers work, within the framework of academia today, from a graduate student perspective. Presented by the Voice and Marginality at the Nexus of Racism and Colonialism Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Power Pairings: New Approaches to Energy History
October 19, 2021 to January 25, 2022
This transatlantic lecture series, which was co-organized by Melanie Arndt (Freiburg) and Petra Dolata (UCalgary) and co-hosted by the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies and the Calgary Institute for the Humanities, explored how energy shaped societies since the 19th century and offered new approaches to the history of energy. Over twelve weeks, this series of webinars paired twenty-four internationally recognized energy historians across North America and Europe in important discussions on fundamental historical problems, such as the history of energy transitions, the exercise of power, war and violence, capitalism and colonialism, work and leisure, gender roles, the role of (natural) science and technology, and the interrelationship between humans and nature.

Book Launch: Agrarian Extractivism in Latin America
October 22, 2021

Amid the growing calls for a turn towards sustainable agriculture, Agrarian Extractivism in Latin America, edited by Ben M. McKay (UCalgary), Alberto Alonso- Fradejas (Utrecht University), and Arturo Ezquerrro-Cañete (Universidad de Guadalajara), puts forth and discusses the concept of agrarian extractivism to identify and expose the predatory features of dominant agricultural development model that erodes the autonomy of resource-dependent working people, disposesses the rural poor, exhausts and expropriates nature, and concentrates value in a few hands due to the unquenchable drive for profit by big business. Presented by Rethinking Latin American Studies from the South Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Comparative Study of the Influence of Chinese Food Demand upon Latin American Patterns of Agrarian Extractivism in Argentina and Brazil
October 29, 2021
Rita Giacalone
Visiting Professor, Institute of Latin American Regional Integration, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina

Since China’s entry into the WTO (2001) its demand for agrarian goods such as food for humans and fodder for cattle has influenced the trade patterns of various Latin American nations. Rita Giacalone presented her study comparing Argentinian and Brazilian agri-food systems before and after the impact of Chinese demand in the first decade of the 21st century, employing the concept of agrarian extractivism to explain the phenomenon. Presented by the Food Studies Interdisciplinary Working Group.
Undoing Settler Imaginaries, (Re)Imagining Digital Knowledge Politics  
October 29, 2021  
Isaac Rivera  
PhD Candidate, Department of Geography, University of Washington  
Settler imaginaries take shape through an apparatus of judicial-political technologies that organize ‘legitimate’ and ‘illegitimate’ expressions of social and political life. In this talk, Isaac Rivera traced the relationship between the unconscionable colonial displacement of settler imaginaries onto geography and their maintenance by digital and visual regimes through the framework of Indigenous refusal. Rivera argued for theorizing in precise terms the ways in which the digital and visual intersect to animate settler spatial imaginaries and how Indigenous refusal as an embodied spatial stance maps colonialism’s end.  
Presented by the Social Justice and the Smart City Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Writing English Identity  
November 2, 2021  
Courtney Konshuh  
Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Calgary  
The identity “English” (Latin Angli) and the state “England” (Old English Englaland) do not date back to a unified ethnic group from the early middle ages, but were consciously created in the late ninth and early tenth century. When King Alfred and his heirs sought to expand from Wessex and conquer the rest of Britannia, a widespread learning program was instituted to promote a coherent identity of the English people. Dr. Konshuh discusses this history-writing programme at Alfred’s court and presents evidence that the first Dr. Konshuh discusses this history-writing programme to promote a coherent identity of the English people.

Urban Farming and Black Land Sovereignty  
November 3, 2021  
Bweza Itaagi  
Co-owner of Sistas in the Village, Sustainable Program Manager at Grow Greater Englewood  
Mecca Bey  
Co-owner of Sistas in the Village, Non Profit Executive Director & Community Product Manager  
In racially segregated American cities, Black community organizers and urban farmers are reimagining local urban economies for their communities. We heard from Bweza Itaagi and Mecca Bey, co-owners of Sistas in the Village, an urban farm in Chicago, IL, on the principles of welcoming, care, and collectivity, and the creation of a space that heals through food and a care that addresses the ancestral trauma that many Black women feel as descendents of enslaved Africans. Bey and Itaagi discussed the development of their farm, the community that supports them, the local economy they have developed, and the role Black growing plays in Black land and food sovereignty.  
Presented by the Voice and Marginality at the Nexus of Racism and Colonialism Interdisciplinary Working Group.

The Business of Theater and What it Reveals about Markets  
November 5, 2021  
Douglas Bruster  
Mody C. Boatright Regents Professor of American and English Literature and Distinguished Teaching Professor, University of Texas at Austin  
Laurent Simon  
Professor at the Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and co-director of the Mosaic, Creativity and Innovation Hub at HEC Montréal  
This event brought together leading scholars from theatre studies and management studies for an interdisciplinary discussion about the business aspects of the theatre industry in relation to larger market forces. Bruster’s book, Drama and the Market in the Age of Shakespeare, examines theatre’s participation in the emergence of institutionalized capitalism. Simon’s research on contemporary performance-makers such as Cirque du Soleil explores how creativity drives innovation. One key insight from the discussion, facilitated by Dr. Alyson House (Athabasca University), was that creativity, whether in art or in business, works less like a lightbulb and more like an organic process that can be fostered through managerial skills like organization and strategy that help creative people connect and share resources and ideas.  
Presented by the Performance and Business Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Listening to Spiritual Retreat Directors from Business Perspectives  
November 12, 2021  
This roundtable was the first of a series of sessions aimed at listening to practitioners with expertise in different forms of retreats, whether religious, theatrical, or work-related, and featured contributions from Jean Bartunek (Professor of Management and Organization in the Carroll School of Management at Boston College and member of the Society of the Sacred Heart), Sister Ellen Collesano (Director of Formation for the Society of the Sacred Heart), Noara Ellen McClure (Professor of French and History at the University of Illinois-Chicago and lay ordained dharma teacher at Zen Buddhist Temple Chicago), and Japnaam Singh Malik (Principal of the Khalsa School of the Fraser Valley in Langley, BC). The series is designed to enable interested scholars, students, and others to share their perspectives and to encourage the development of papers on the phenomenon of retreats from a range of disciplinary approaches. Our goal for this roundtable was to explore spiritual retreat practices in a comparative context and brainstorm about how concepts and structures from spiritual retreat traditions can be used in secular contexts, such as business retreats. The roundtable is part of an eighteen-month project on “Business Retreats at the Crossroads of Performance and Religion” funded by a KIAS-CIH Alberta Humanities Research Grant.
A Coffee Hour Discussion on Business
Pitches as Performance
November 17, 2021
Joy Palacios
Assistant Professor, Department of Classics and
Religion, University of Calgary
Alice de Koning
Teaching Professor, Haskayne School of Business and
Academic Director, Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial
Thinking
Co-organized with the Haskayne School of Business’
Entrepreneurship and Innovation Coffee Hour, this
was the first of three sessions that explored the
performance aspects of business pitches. Palacios
and de Koning introduced new ways of interpreting
the performance of business pitches and led a
discussion about the performance qualities of pitches
in different contexts, such as reality TV, Investor
pitches, and pitch competitions.
Co-hosted by the Entrepreneurship and Innovation area at
the Haskayne School of Business and the Performance and
Business Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Post-Pandemic: An Invitation to Better
Research with Inuit Communities
November 17, 2021
Shelly Elverum
Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society,
Northern Coordinator at IKAARVIK Project
Justin Sigluk Milton
Manager, IKAARVIK Project
IKAARVIK is an Inuit organization working towards
research in the North that is both meaningful for local
communities and carried out in ways that align with
Inuit Traditional Knowledge. Together with the leaders
of the IKAARVIK project, UCalgary graduate students
explored how one might carry out good research in the
North, in ways that align with Inuit Traditional
Knowledge, or “Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit”—a complete
knowledge system and way of seeing and being in the
world, encompassing a philosophical worldview and
value system.
Presented by the Food Studies Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Unbidden Exposures: Histories of Candid
Photography - McCready Lecture
November 18, 2021
Annie Rudd
CIH Wayne O. McCready Fellow 2021-22
Assistant Professor, Department of Communication,
Media and Film, University of Calgary
“Unbidden Exposures” traces the history of candid
photography, focusing on the period between the
1890s and the 1960s. Defining the candid as a
photographic genre in which the depiction of
unsuspecting subjects is assigned special revelatory
potential, this lecture presented a series of case
studies charting the history of the idea that an
unposed photograph is an optimally “natural” or
“truthful” one.

A Reflective Practitioner Approach to
Food System Planning in Calgary, Alberta
November 26, 2021
John Bailey
Research Associate, The Simpson Centre for
Agricultural and Food Innovation and Public
Education at the School of Public Policy, University
of Calgary
“Calgary EATS!: A Food System Assessment and
Action Plan” was released in 2012 by the City of
Calgary to support the growth of a sustainable
and resilient food system in the city, and to inform
future action and policy. However, implementation
has proven challenging. John Bailey discussed his
thesis work which employed reflective practitioner
and critical planning approaches to identify the
primary challenges affecting the implementation
of the Calgary EATS! Action Plan and potential
opportunities to move the plan forward.
Presented by the Food Studies Interdisciplinary Working Group.

“It Was a Place to Meet People Like Me”:
Sport and Calgary’s LGBTQ+ History
December 2, 2021
Dr. William Bridel
CIH 2020-21 Resident Fellow, Associate Professor
and Associate Dean (Academic) in the Faculty of
Kinesiology at the University of Calgary
Dr. William Bridel uses archival and interview
materials to explore the place of sport in Calgary’s
LGBTQ+ history, from the 1970s to the early 2000s.
From softball to volleyball, running to swimming,
Apollo Friends in Sport, and the Gay Games,
the retelling of these stories on their own and in
conversation with one another reveal that sport
played a necessary but sometimes complicated role
in individual empowerment, community-building, and
the Pride movement.

Book Launch: Energy in the Americas
December 8, 2021
Bringing the diverse energy histories of North and
South American nations into dialogue with one
another, this volume edited by former CIH fellow Dr.
Amelia Kiddle presents an integrated hemispheric
framework for understanding the historical
constructions of contemporary debates on the role
of energy in society. Rejecting past truisms, this
collection historicizes the experiences of producers
and policymakers and assesses the interplay
between environmental, technological, political, and
ideological influences within and between countries
and continents. The launch featured comments
from Dr. Amelia Kiddle (Associate Professor of Latin
American History, UCalgary), Dr. Pablo Heidrich
(Associate Professor of Global and International
Studies, Carleton University), and Dr. Tyler Priest
(Associate Professor of History and Geography,
University of Iowa). They discussed the promises
and potential pitfalls of thinking about energy
hemispherically within the context of their own
contributions to the volume.
Co-hosted by the Energy In Society Interdisciplinary
Working Group.
Towards Indigenous Data Sovereignty: An Ethnographic History of a Form of Biomedical Self-Determination in Postgenomic Canada
December 8, 2021
Arafaat A. Valiani
Visiting Researcher in the History of Medicine and Health Care at the University of Calgary, Associate Professor of History at the University of Oregon

Indigenous communities in Canada have historically been wary of fully participating in genetic studies as a consequence of cruel and dispossession experiences with colonial medicine. Through interpretation of public oral testimonies and archival documents, this paper by Dr. Arafaat Valiani proposed a historical genealogy of Indigenous data sovereignty in Canada comprising the Indigenization of genomic education and training, research ethics in the field of population genetics, and data governance.


Local Food and Global Food: Exploring Strategies to Overcome the Local Trap in Food Systems
December 10, 2021
Abby Landon
MA Thesis Student, Department of Geography, University of Calgary

John Bailey
Research Associate, Simpson Centre for Agricultural and Food Innovation and Public Education at the School of Public Policy, University of Calgary

Abby Landon presented preliminary findings for her thesis research. Through a literature review and a case study of the EthniCity Catering program, she identified strategies that may be employed to overcome defensive and exclusionary expressions of the 'local trap' in food systems. In the second half, John Bailey briefly introduced the Simpson Centre, a relatively new research group housed in the School of Public Policy focused on agri-food policy and research.

Presented by the Food Studies Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Chilean Democracy From Consolidation to Fragmentation
December 16, 2021
Pablo Policzer
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary

Long held up as an example of a consolidated and well-functioning democracy, today Chile is being pulled in different directions. The social protests of 2019 triggered a constituent process toward a fairer and more participatory democracy. Yet the results of the recent first round elections threaten polarization and fragmentation. Freshly returned from Chile, where he was able to vote in the first round elections, Pablo Policzer discussed these trends in anticipation of the runoff elections of December 19.

Presented by Rethinking Latin American Studies from the South Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Puppets with a Soul: Science, Art, and Culture in Mid-Twentieth Century Chicago
January 12, 2022
Francesca Cadel
Professor of Italian, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures, University of Calgary

The life and works of Gian Maria (John) Cadel (1905-1973), a poet educated in Italy at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Venice and in Florence, help trace a portrait of Italian “enemy alien” citizens in North America. His major work is Marionette con l’anima (Puppets with a soul, 1948-1973), a poetic and ironic critique of American plutocracy during the years of the Cold War. His is a sample case with important links to several institutions, such as the Art Institute, the Argonne Laboratory, and the University of Chicago.


Towards a Historical Evaluation of Patient-Oriented Research in Canada: How the Past Informs the Present Changing the Future
January 24, 2022
Fedir Razumenko
Research Associate, Department of Medicine, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary

Based on interviews and archival research, Dr. Razumenko discussed how strategies for a patient-oriented framework have interfaced with the emergence of a more litigious society, the growing pressure for bioethics, and the fragmentation of a complex healthcare system.

Presented by the Calgary History of Medicine Society (CHoMS) and the Science, Technology, Environment, and Medicine Studies Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Conversations with a Mapuche Elder in Canada: Possibilities and Challenges for a Community-Driven Food Network within a Capitalist World Economy
January 28, 2022
Chelsea Rozanski
Ph.D. Student, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Calgary

Sara Rodriguez Huenchullan
Community Organiser, Activist, and Mapuche Elder

Two members of a grower-activist circle in Greater Forest Lawn, Moh’kinstsis (Calgary), shared their experiences of a food network driven by community needs, strengths, and decision-making. By enacting daily modes of opposition framed by an ideology of ‘the commons,’ they strive to close the gap between who can participate in the processes of growing, gathering, and eating ‘healthy, happy food’—critically engaging with the ecological, socio-economic, political, cultural, and gendered implications of a capitalist economic model for growers and consumers.

Presented by the Food Studies Interdisciplinary Working Group.
African Seapower Webinar Series
Episode 1: Nigerian Navy
February 4, 2022
Tim Stapleton
Professor, Department of History, University of Calgary

Lawrence Udeagbala
Lecturer, History and War Studies, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna

Zara E. Kwaghe
Associate Professor, History and International Studies, Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State

Dirk Siebels
Senior Analyst, Risk Intelligence, Denmark

The launch of this webinar series featured talks on “Origins of the Nigerian Navy (c.1890s-1960s),” “Nigerian Navy and the Civil War,” “Nigerian Navy and the challenge of insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea,” and “Understanding contemporary cooperation between the Nigerian Navy and private security companies in the Gulf of Guinea.”


The Chilean Constitutional Process as a Transdisciplinary Endeavour: A Voice from Women in Politics
February 4, 2022
Eva Caurapán
Chilean Mapuche political leader, member of the No-Neutrals independent movement

Héctor Turra
PhD Student at the Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary

Hector Turra and Eva Caurapán, discussed the constitutional process development in Chile. In this conversation, Mr. Turra and Ms. Caurapán described the grassroots initiatives led by the constituency members, including the Mapuche perspective on transdisciplinary learning and co-production of participatory political knowledge in Chile.

Presented by Rethinking Latin American Studies from the South Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Data Gardens: Plants, DNA, and Data Storage
February 10, 2022
Artists Cyrus Clarke (Paris) and Kyriaki Goni (Athens) discuss their data gardens. Two projects that share a name, but are independent of one another, emerged at the same time, and each asks whether digital storage can be thought of as a garden, using DNA to encode data into plants.

Presented by Genomics and Bioinformatics Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Justice in Research and the Everyday: A Conversation with Ericka Hart
February 10, 2022
Ericka Hart
Sexuality educator, writer, and social justice activist

This event focused on navigating racism, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination in the academy. In this conversation, Joyce Percel spoke with Ericka about prioritising care and finding support systems for BIPOC, queer, and other marginalized students, researchers, and teachers. Ericka also discussed ways that academics who hold more privilege can better support and center students and colleagues from marginalized groups in their own work.

Presented by the Voice and Marginality at the Nexus of Racism and Colonialism Interdisciplinary Working Group.

How Many Siblings Had Philip Pirrip?
Counting Siblings in the Victorian Novel
February 17, 2022
Karen Bourrier
CIH 2020-21 Resident Fellow, Associate Professor of English, Department of English, University of Calgary

This talk uncovered formal patterns in sibling sets in fifty canonical Victorian novels using a combination of digital tools and close reading. Short sibling sets are an essential formal component of Victorian domestic realism, informing the rise of the individual, the inheritance plot, and the courtship plot. The Victorian novel self-consciously distracts the reader’s attention from the long sibling set, which was the demographic norm.

Translators’ [In]visibilities
February 25-26, 2022
A two-day workshop focussed on the idea of ‘invisibility’ from multiple perspectives. Informed by scholarship in translation studies, in particular the work of Lawrence Venuti, especially The Translator’s Invisibility (3rd edition; Routledge 2018), this event explored the ideas of visibility and invisibility across a range of approaches to studying, practicing and teaching translation. The workshop included presentations from a dozen graduate students and featured keynote speakers Chana Kronfeld (Bernie H. Williams Professor of Modern Hebrew, Yiddish and Comparative Literature at University of California, Berkeley) and Lawrence Venuti (Professor Emeritus of English at Temple University, Philadelphia).

Presented by the Translation Studies Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Pragmatic Visions: Vachel Lindsay’s “Democratic” Spectatorship and Early Cinema
March 1, 2022
Ryan Pierson
CIH 2021-22 Naomi Lacey Resident Fellow, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Media, and Film, University of Calgary

In 1915, as cinema was coalescing into a major industry, American poet Vachel Lindsay wrote the first book of film theory. This talk traced Lindsay’s theory of cinema and how it engages viewers. Lindsay argued that film’s sensuous power offered spectators “visions” of society’s potential futures. Because of the public nature of film exhibition, these visions could be debated democratically by audiences. By tracing Lindsay’s ideas in the book through his encounters with American print culture, progressivism, and primitivism, this talk reveals disturbing tensions between the ideal and the practice of democracy.
Reimagining Performance, Creativity, and Ethics in Arts and Business Leadership
March 11, 2022
Sarah Saddler
Assistant Professor, Department of Fine and Performing Arts, Baruch College, City University of New York
Led by Saddler, whose research as a performance studies scholar and applied theatre educator investigates the role of theatre and performance in the transnational professional economy, this interactive workshop featured theatre games and exercises drawn from improvisation and community-based performance traditions to invite faculty and students to critically assess their own leadership values and how 21st-century leaders behave and perform. The workshop was made possible by a Collaborative Research Grant from the American Society for Theatre Research, with support from the Calgary Institute for the Humanities and the School of Creative and Performing Arts. Presented by Rethinking Latin American Studies from the south in knowledge production. They discussed the inclusion of EDI frameworks in the bilingual and bicultural orientation that values land stewardship. For more information about Dr. Appiah’s talk, see page 25.

Just Don’t Call it Climate Change: Climate-Skeptic Farmer Adoption of Climate-Mitigative Practices
March 18, 2022
Sven Anders
Professor of Agricultural Economics and Food Marketing, Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta
Despite low levels of agreement that climate change is caused primarily by humans, respondents to a survey on climate change beliefs and adoption of climate-mitigative practices among beef and grain producers in Alberta indicate a high level of adoption of agricultural practices with climate-mitigative benefits. Sven Anders discussed these research findings, highlighting the strongest predictor of mitigative practice adoption as a learning orientation, defined as valuing improvement, research, learning, and innovation, followed by a conservation orientation that values land stewardship. Presented by the Food Studies Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Towards an Inclusive Scientific Production: The Pending Agenda in an Intercultural Latin America
March 25, 2022
Cristina Dorador
PhD in Microbiology, Associate Professor at the Universidad de Antofagasta. Currently she is a member of the Chilean Constitutional Convention
In this event, a group of international PhD students at the University of Calgary (Ana Watson, Hector Turra and Veronica Briseno) explored with Dr. Cristina Dorador the challenges and opportunities to foster the participation of minority and female researchers from the south in knowledge production. They discussed the inclusion of EDI frameworks in the Chilean constitutional process and how to advance and support scientific knowledge co-production and epistemic justice in the Americas. Presented by the Voice and Marginality at the Nexus of Racism and Colonialism Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Practitioner Insights from the Food Justice Movement
April 1, 2022
Shelby Montgomery
Program Manager, Nourish (Alumni, BA Honours, Development Studies, University of Calgary)
Shelby Montgomery has worked and volunteered across the food system, from small-scale agriculture to the restaurant industry, to charity. Contributing to projects, programs, and research across Canada, into the North, and internationally. Shelby shared the recurring barriers she has found that limit the impact of food justice initiatives and invited discussion of these systemic problems. Presented by the Food Studies Interdisciplinary Working Group.

The Place of Identity in Ethics and Politics
April 8, 2022
Kwame Antony Appiah
Author and Professor Of Philosophy and Law, New York University
We talk a great deal these days about identity and identity politics. Gender, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, and class are all kinds of identity that might matter for politics. And that’s just the start of a very long list. But what are identities? And where do they fit into our lives, both personally and politically? Read more about Dr. Appiah’s talk on page 11.

The Volcanic Eruption of Samalas and the Collapse of the Mongol Empire in 1259: Epidemic and Environmental Chaos in the Mid-thirteenth Century
April 13, 2022
Stephen Pow
AMS Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of Medicine, Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, Saint Petersburg State University
The Mongol Empire’s end came soon after the largest eruption of the Common Era (the eruption of
Samalas in 1257), and its political situation devolved into open warfare between claimants to the throne occurring amidst a series of epidemics, droughts, famines, and erratic weather which were likely tied to after-effects of the eruption. Dr. Pow presented the complex social effects and lasting historical consequences that arose from this natural disaster.


A Look Into Latin American Resistance Through Painting, Theatre and Hard Rock
April 22, 2022
Vanessa Padilla
PhD Candidate, Etudes romanes: Espagnol, Universidad Paris Nanterre

Mariana Sapienza
Teacher and theatre director

Santiago Silva
Coordinador de Áreas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre del Fondo de Inversión Ambiental Sostenible (FIAS)

Latin American resistance and knowledge take infinite forms. The region resists through solidarity among its people in times of crisis, in the streets, and in election times, where profound social transformations have been achieved. Within all the expressions of resistance in contemporary Latin America, one has transcendental influence: art. This panel addressed the importance of art as a tool of resistance in Latin America.

Presented by Rethinking Latin American Studies from the South Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Roundtable on Business Pitches as Performance
April 22, 2022

As the culmination of a three-part exploration of business pitches as performance, this roundtable brought together scholars from drama, education, entrepreneurship, finance, and religious studies to examine business pitches as a performance genre and to analyze the pitch’s cultural construction in settings ranging from the management classroom to the TED Talk. Sonja Johnson and Harrison Campbell (PhD Students, Werkund School of Education, UCalgary) presented on “Improving the Presentation Skills of Business Students Using Drama”; Alice de Koning (Teaching Professor, Haskayne School of Business and Academic Director, Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, UCalgary) and Joy Palacios (Assistant Professor, Department of Classics and Religion, UCalgary) presented, “How Process and Audience Affect the Performance of Pitches”; Steven Paget (Instructor of Finance, UCalgary, and Chartered Financial Analyst) discussed the ritual elements surrounding business pitches; “Charismatic Signaling in the Business Pitch?” was presented by Clio Unger (PhD Student, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London)

Presented by the Performance and Business Interdisciplinary Working Group.

Municipal Involvement in Urban Food Production in the City of Calgary
April 29, 2022

Erin Shoults
Business Information Analyst, Animal and Bylaw Services, City of Calgary, Master of Environmental Design Student, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, University of Calgary

Jennifer Lawlor
Business Strategist, Calgary Community Standards, City of Calgary

Kristi Peters
Sustainability Consultant and Food Systems Planner, Office of Sustainability, City of Calgary

Two City of Calgary employees involved in urban food systems participated in a panel on municipal involvement in urban food production. Jennifer Lawlor spoke about her experience amending the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw to include an urban hens pilot program – the process, research and engagement involved in the amendment. Kristi Peters shared her experiences working in urban food systems, the challenges and successes for the City of Calgary in the face of growing demand, and how she sees urban food production developing.

Presented by the Food Studies Interdisciplinary Working Group.

“What Does It Mean to Retreat? Business Retreats at the Crossroads of Religion and Performance”
June 15, 2022

As part of an eighteen-month project on the religious and theatrical aspects of “retreat” and “retreating” in business funded by the KIAS-CIH Alberta Humanities Research Grant (2021-2022), this one-day virtual symposium brought together scholars in management studies, theater, and religious studies to explore how ritual and performance allow individuals, communities, and businesses to continue to reimagine themselves through periods of structured retreating from daily life and to interrogate how business retreats function as discursive practices where creativity, imagination, and social practices construe new realities. Papers examined the way business retreats incorporate elements from spiritual retreats, liturgical forms, and contemplative traditions, their structural similarity to immersive theatre and capacity to instigate transformation, their use by some businesses to encode certain types of embodiment or reinforce preexisting ideas about leadership and success, and how complaints in social media about business retreats shed light on their ritual structure. The symposium concluded with a keynote by Dr. Tina Dacin (Stephen J. R. Smith Chair of Strategy and Organizational Behavior, Queen’s University) titled “Performing Retreats: Unpacking the Role of Ritual, Emotions, and Place.”
Income

$173,605 University of Calgary
Operating Budget

$79,182 Donations & Grants
Seed money for future endowments
Donor contributions for operating expenses

$59,262 Endowment Income
CIH Endowment
Wayne O. McCready Endowment for an Emerging Scholar
Fred A. McKinnon Humanities Endowment
CIH Fellowship Endowment
CIH Community Projects Endowment

$2,230 Sales of Services and Products
Calgary Atlas Project Map Sales

Expenditures

Salary and Benefits
$93,488 (28.8%)

Resident Fellowships
$78,060 (24.0%)

Graduate Student Fellowships
$29,824 (9.2%)

Calgary Atlas Project
$59,702 (18.4%)

Fellows Lectures and Guest Lecturers
$36,156 (11.1%)

Interdisciplinary Working Groups
$15,374 (4.7%)

Meetings, Equipment and Office Expenses
$8,661 (2.7%)

Grants and Awards
$2,563.13 (0.8%)

Conferences and Memberships
$838 (<0.01%)

FY 2021-22 (Apr. 1, 2021 to Mar. 31, 2022)
Over the past five years, philanthropic support of the Calgary Institute for the Humanities has transformed the Institute and its programming. Our endowments have doubled over the past five years, and we have channelled those funds into expanded research support and public outreach programming.

Since 2017 the CIH has:

- increased the number of our resident fellowships from three to four, with a fifth fellowship available biennially;
- doubled the stipend for our graduate student fellowship;
- increased funding and support for an increased number of Interdisciplinary Working Groups;
- created a program to offer publication subvention assistance and open access fee support to scholars;
- increased our co-sponsorships for conferences, exhibitions, and lectures in related fields;
- doubled the average number of public lectures and symposia offered to the public, and dramatically increased attendance;
- renovated our offices to create two additional workspaces for postdoctoral fellows;
- launched a public humanities fellowship program to sponsor PhD student placements with community organizations; and,
- established two new invited lecture series.

We continue to build our endowments, focusing on establishing an endowment to fund the annual LGBTQ2S+ Lecture Series permanently. The CIH is also fundraising for our Humanities Institute Fellowships endowment to support a second graduate student fellowship in the near future.

We at the Calgary Institute for the Humanities are sincerely grateful to our donors for the confidence you have shown in us to promote the value of the humanities and support individuals who critically engage in scholarship that examines what it means to be human.

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$3,087,201

Combined Market Value of all Endowments

(Mar. 31, 2022)
Advisory Council

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

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Geography
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Communication, Media and Film
George Colpitts
History
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Jim Ellis
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Naomi Potter
Director/Curator, Esker Foundation
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Executive Council

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

Shelley Alexander
Geography
Lee Carruthers
Communication, Media and Film
George Colpitts
History
Petra Dolata
History
Jim Ellis
English / CIH
Noreen Humble
Classics and Religion / CIH
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