

# Calgary Institute for the Humanities *Newsletter*



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

SPRING 2016

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THE SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CALGARY INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

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## CALGARY: CITY OF ANIMALS

**37th Annual Community Seminar**  
**April 29, 10 am to 3 pm**  
**Kahanoff Centre, 105 12th Avenue SE**

From its beginnings, the history of Calgary is a not just a story of humans, but one of animals as well. The fur trade, cattle ranching, and the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth have all left profound marks on the city's culture and geography. This year's Community Seminar, "Calgary: City of Animals," will explore the history of Calgary from the perspective of the non-human animals with whom we share the city's spaces, and which have helped to shape the city's past, present and future.

The relationship of animals and humans has been the subject of philosophical and ethical reflection since ancient times. In our contemporary world, the question of our relation to animals has become one of increasing relevance and indeed urgency. From new developments in animal cognition, to concerns about mass extinctions, we are challenged to think anew about how we live with animals. In the academy, the rise of the field of Animal Studies has brought new attention to the question of the animal, and the roles that animals have played in human history. More recently, the perspective of Critical Animal Studies has pushed the boundaries of this questioning even further, considering the moral and legal rights of individual animals. This year's seminar will take up some of the issues in relation to our own city and community.

"Calgary: City of Animals," will bring three scholars from the fields of history, animal studies, and geography together with members of the Calgary community, to discuss the role that non-human animals have played and continue to play in the life of our city. The seminar will think about how our interaction with animals has shaped Calgary, and the traces they have left on the city's geography and identity. We will consider the routes that animals have taken through the city, and the places where they currently live. We will think about the different ways we categorize urban animals - wild and domestic, livestock and entertainers - and consider the implications of these categories. Most importantly, we will think about the implications of seeing the city as an ecosystem that includes animal life, and the implications of seeing humans as one animal among many in the urban biome.

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## COMMUNITY FORUM PANELISTS



**SHELLEY ALEXANDER** is Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary. She leads the Canid Conservation Science Lab, has conducted field-based and GIS analysis of large carnivore ecology (specializing in wolves and coyotes) and studied human-wildlife conflict and mitigation in the Canadian Rockies since 1990. In 2005, Shelley launched The Calgary Coyote Project, studying regional urban and rural coyote ecology and human-coyote conflicts across Canada. The Foothills Coyote Initiative (2014--), funded by SSHRC, now encompasses Calgary and the foothills parkland natural region surrounding the city, and seeks to understand human-coyote relationships.



**SEAN KHERAJ** is Associate Professor of Canadian and environmental history in the Department of History at York University in Toronto, Ontario. He is also a co-editor of [niche-canada.org](http://niche-canada.org) where he hosts and produces *Nature's Past: Canadian Environmental History Podcast*. His current research looks at the interrelationship among humans, non-human animals, and urbanization in Canada. His research aims to understand how historical changes in urban human-animal relations transformed cities and changed human ideas about their relationship with non-human nature.



**SUSAN NANCE** is Associate Professor in the Department of History and affiliated faculty with the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare at the University of Guelph. She is a historian of entertainment, communication, and live performance, with special attention to historical animal life. Susan is currently working on a book-length study tentatively entitled, *Born to Buck: Rodeo Animals and the Myths of the West*. This project takes her questions about how modernity has shaped animal and human life to the North American West and beyond, and brings together the fields of animal, environmental, consumer, and entertainment history.

# Congress

The University of Calgary is hosting the 2016 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences from May 28 to June 3. CIH is co-sponsoring several events.

For more information visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/cih/congress2016](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/cih/congress2016).

## ANOTHER TEA AT THE EMPRESS

*Taking action: Contesting the institutional colonial agendas in the formal/nonformal curricula*

Friday, May 27, 4:00 - 7:00 pm - Art Exhibition Opening

Saturday, May 28, 8:30 am - 6:00 pm - Preconference Symposium

Comparative and International Education Society of Canada (CIESC) Preconference Symposium  
Co-sponsored by the Calgary Institute for the Humanities and the Department of Art

## IS OIL A DIRTY WORD?

*Stories from the Humanities*

Sunday, May 29, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, followed by a cocktail reception.

This community event takes a quote from Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall as a starting point to discuss the many meanings of oil for people living in Calgary and Alberta. In July 2015 Wall insisted “oil is not a dirty word” nor a “four letter word.” Rather than agreeing with or contesting these contentions scholars and practitioners from the humanities will share stories of the many meanings of oil and take apart accepted understandings in order to engage the public in a more reflective and critical discussion of oil in today’s society, especially in Calgary. Chris Turner, one of Canada’s leading thinkers on sustainability, will moderate a panel of artists, activists, and academics.

Co-sponsored by the Canadian Historical Association, the Calgary Institute for the Humanities, and Petra Dolata, CRC in Energy History, University of Calgary

## PSEUDOLUS IN THE BASEBALL DIAMOND

Saturday, May 28, 7:00 pm - staging of the play *Pseudolus* by Titus Maccius Plautus

Sunday, May 29, time TBC - The Challenges Associated with Presenting Classical Works in Contemporary Settings (symposium)

Co-sponsored by the Department of Classics and Religion, the Division of Drama at the School of Creative and Performing Arts, and the Calgary Institute for the Humanities

# Working Groups

## VISUAL RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

The Visual Research Working Group brings together over twenty faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students from ten departments and university units. Our goal is to build a network of visual researchers at the University of Calgary, to advance our individual practices, and to lay the groundwork for potential future collaborations. We have begun by exploring the ways we use images and visual materials in our own knowledge production activities. So far, four members have made presentations about their strikingly different forms of visual research, giving rise to stimulating cross-disciplinary discussion.

**EMILY TRUMAN**, a postdoctoral fellow in food communication in the Department of Communication, Media and Film, discussed her doctoral research about cultural icons, their representations (in print, advertisements, as consumer culture objects, etc.), and the circulation of those images in North American popular culture. In particular, she focused on the visual methodology used in her project to identify, map, and analyze the circulation of iconic images.

**CHRISTINE WALSH**, Professor of Social Work, spoke about a SSHRC-funded research project for which she and her colleagues interviewed immigrant women in Calgary and Montreal about their experience of housing insecurity. The researchers worked with a textile artist who created art pieces that visually/materially respond to and depict the women's stories.

**ANA KARINNA HIDALGO**, a PhD candidate in Environmental Design, presented her ongoing research on urban design principles for mentally healthy winter streets, based upon concepts of environmental psychology and biophilic design. Her research involves the use of modified photographs of urban streets to test participants' response to biophilic elements such as greenery and light.

**DONA SCHWARTZ**, Associate Professor of Art, discussed the trajectory of her work as a photographic ethnographer. Using as examples three of her books, *Waucoma Twilight: Generations of the Farm* (Smithsonian, 1992), *In the Kitchen* (Kehrer, 2009) and *On the Nest* (Kehrer, 2015), she compared "arts-based research" with "practice-led research", and examined the distinctive roles played by images within each research paradigm. In addition, she discussed the potential for visual research not only to cross disciplines, but also to address multiple, diverse audiences within and beyond the academy.

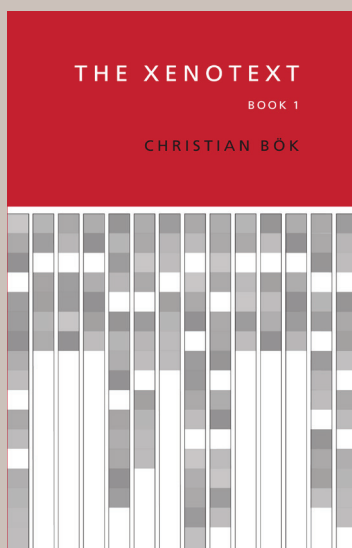
For more information about the Visual Research Working Group, please contact co-conveners Liza McCoy ([mccoy@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mccoy@ucalgary.ca)) and Dona Schwartz ([dona.schwartz@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dona.schwartz@ucalgary.ca)).

“The Calgary Institute for the Humanities provided me with an opportunity to complete the research required for the composition of my long poem, entitled *Colony Collapse Disorder* (which translates Book IV of *The Georgics* by Virgil). With the helpful support of the institute, I finished this translation during my tenure, going on to perform the work at venues in Singapore, Brisbane, Los Angeles, and New York (among other cities around the world).”



Christian Bök, Department of English  
Annual Fellow 2013-14

## *The Xenotext*



Internationally renowned poet Christian Bök has encoded a poem (called ‘Orpheus’) into the genome of a germ so that, in reply, the cell builds a protein that encodes yet another poem (called ‘Eurydice’). After having illustrated this idea in *E. coli*, Bök is planning to insert his poem into a deathless bacterium (*D. radiodurans*), thereby writing a text able to outlive every apocalypse, enduring till the Sun itself expires.

Book 1 of *The Xenotext* (Coach House Books, 2015) is an ‘infernal grimoire’ that introduces readers to the conceptual groundwork for this project. The book offers a primer in genetics, even as it revisits the pastoral heritage of poetry, updating the orphic idylls of Virgil for a new age of mythic danger – be it in the beauty of artful biogenesis, if not in the terror of global extinction.



# Current Fellows

## ANNUAL FELLOWS

**CHERYL DUECK**, Department of Linguistics, Languages and Cultures  
*National Pasts, Transnational Presence: Post-Communist Cinemas of Central Europe*

This project seeks to gain understanding of the cinematic response to post-communist transition in Central Europe, where both the means of film production and the thematic content of films have been affected by the societal rupture since the collapse of socialism in 1989-90. I will make the case that there has been a shift from the national to the transnational in cultural identity and memory in cinema of the region, as precipitated by the dismantling of nationalized film production, the rise of funding bodies developed to foster pan-European cultural policy and European identity, and the necessity of audiences from multiple nations and cultures. In 2015, I will engage with local elements of the transnational audience, namely Central European diaspora communities in Calgary, through public screenings and panel discussions. I will analyze 1) remembrance and national myths on screen (Hungarian Uprising, Prague Spring, Solidarnosc and the Fall of the Berlin Wall), and 2) the artistic decisions that serve to make film stories of the secret police in socialist countries appealing to varied cultural audiences.

**ISHTIYAQUE HAJI**, Department of Philosophy  
*Luck's Influence on Obligation and Responsibility*

Something is a matter of luck if it is beyond our control. My fundamental objective is to develop the view that luck significantly affects the breadth both of what is morally obligatory for us and conduct for which we are morally responsible. I first show that owing to luck, we frequently lack alternatives – we can do no other than what we in fact do. Since alternatives are required for obligation, luck undermines or restricts obligation. I then use this result, together with principles that link responsibility and obligation, to derive the further skeptical conclusion that the range for what we are morally responsible for is curtailed.

**ELIZABETH ROHLMAN**, Department of Classics and Religion  
*Telling the Stories of Geography: Compositional Process, Narrative Design, and Communal Identity in the Sarasvatī Purāṇa*

The Sanskrit *purāṇas* are remarkably inter-textual in their composition, engaging myriad texts and genres from the canon of classical Indic literature. Stories are told and re-told in a variety of contexts. In their retelling, they are re-interpreted through a process of narrative textual commentary. This project is the final phase of a monograph on the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa*, a regional text composed in the western Indian region of Gujarat between the 12th and 15th centuries, which resulted in two distinct and theologically opposed recensions. Focusing on the intertextual, this project seeks insight into the compositional process through which the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa* manufactured its own textual and religious authority. While this investigation will not reveal a single, human author of the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa*, it will illuminate the human presence that guided the text's continual re-creation.

Images facing page, clockwise from top left: Cheryl Dueck, Ishtiyaque Haji, Mark Harding, Elizabeth Rohlman

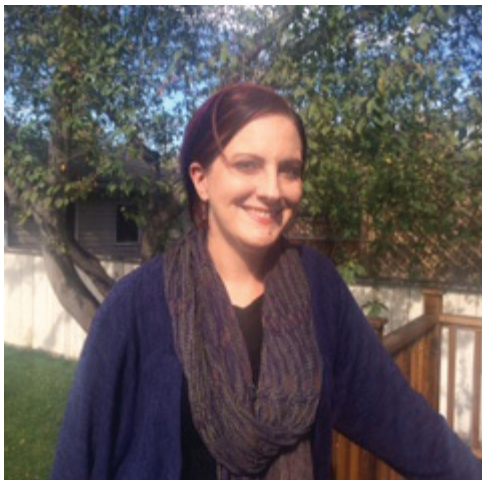
## FRANCES SPRATT GRADUATE FELLOW

**MARK HARDING**, Department of Political Science

*Debating Dialogue: Judicial Review and Elected Responses in Commonwealth Regimes*

Within liberal democracies, bills of rights have become the prominent mechanism for rights protection. However, there are many different models of bills of rights, the merits of which are subject to debate. My research concerns the extent of “inter-institutional dialogue” between courts and legislatures in Canada, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand in order to provide empirical evidence for how different models of rights protection affect democratic governance. My dissertation assesses the relationship of the formal structure of rights protection to the reality of policy dialogue within each case country. I analyze how judicial power grows in a manner currently overlooked within the literature. In each case country, the judiciary uses the bill of rights to revise other areas of law. This takes place when the bill of rights is used to update common law rules and to re-interpret statutes. This process raises questions about the appropriate division of labour between courts and legislatures.

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## FABIO LÓPEZ LÁZARO

*2015 Visiting Fellow*

During the summer of 2015, Fabio López Lázaro (Associate Professor of World History at the University of Hawaii) was the Scholar in Residence at the Institute. After leaving CIH, López Lázaro has noted that thanks to the splendidly gracious scholarly environment of the CIH and the wonderful interlibrary loan department at the University of Calgary's Library, he was able to pursue research into several interrelated projects, including his latest book manuscript, tentatively entitled *Incorporated Communities: The Medieval Origins of the Modern World*, and two articles investigating the relationship between early modern piracy, imperialism, and global capitalism.

In June he delivered one of the projects that was partly researched and written at the CIH, "A Poverty of Theory and the Theory of Poverty: What Anti-Mercantilist Pirates can Teach Early Modern Historians about the Perils of *Nationitis* in Comparative World History," at the annual meeting of the *International Congress for Eighteenth-Century Studies* in the Netherlands. This was expanded and deepened into a fuller essay which was presented at the end of August at the CIH to an appreciative audience; currently being prepared for publication, "*Nationitis? Analytical Imprecisions in Mercantilism, Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, and the Current Culture of Capitalism*," is an essay that explores the causal relationship between the rise of philosophies of political economy, modern capitalism, and today's discourses of comparative world history.

López Lázaro was raised in Spain until his parents, who were active in the anti-Franco movement, immigrated to Canada as political exiles. He graduated with a B.A. in History and Modern Literatures and Languages from the University of Western Ontario and went on to do an M.A. in Middle Eastern and Islamic History at Simon Fraser University. His thesis, *From the A'yan to 'Amir: The 'Abd al-Karim of the Moroccan Rif*, was written under the guidance of the distinguished historian of Arab nationalism, William Cleveland, and garnered the Governor General's Gold Medal.



López Lázaro then studied medieval and early modern history with Jocelyn Hillgarth, Joseph Shatzmiller, and William Callahan at the University of Toronto. His Ph.D. dissertation, *No Crime Safe in its Hiding Place: Crime and Society in Early Modern Spain*, was based on extensive archival analysis of over three thousand criminal and civil cases tried in the Spanish monarchy's key early modern legal court. Since then, López Lázaro has continued to conduct archival research around the world, working in ten research languages, and taught World, Mediterranean, European, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and Islamic History at Stanford, Arizona State, Calgary, and Santa Clara universities.

López Lázaro's research publications focus on legal, political, and maritime world history between 1300 and 1700. His most recent book, *The Misfortunes of Alonso Ramírez: The True Adventures of a Spanish American with 17th Century Pirates* (University of Texas Press, 2011), proves that a book published in Mexico City in 1690 - believed for hundreds of years to be the New World's first novel - is in fact not a fiction at all but an eyewitness account of how imperialists and pirates tangled from Asia through Latin America to Europe. López Lázaro's interest in global and maritime history started at an early age: during his twenties he studied sailing and navigation in the Pacific with Captain James Cook (alas, not the famous eighteenth-century Cook but a latter-day namesake on Vancouver Island!).

After spending this past Fall semester in Europe as the Faculty Resident Director for the University



of Hawaii's Study Abroad School in Seville, Spain, López Lázaro has returned to Hawaii to take up his duties there as the world historian within the History Department and as the Director of the Centre for Research in World History and Editor of the *Journal of World History*. He looks forward to being able to renew his association with the Calgary Institute for the Humanities at some point in the near future.



View of Batavia (detail), c. 1690, by Edward Barlow, from his manuscript "Barlow's Journal, his Life at Sea in East and West Indiamen" (1659-1703); Courtesy of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich U.K.

## CARLO ILLUMINATI: 2016 Visiting Fellow

Carlo Illuminati is a Visiting Fellow from the Department of Literary and Philosophical Studies and Art History at the University of Roma "Tor Vergata". He is currently working on a book on the topic: *Cunning, Seduction, Hypocrisy and Betrayal in Biblical and Literary Tradition from the Ancients to Dante*.

Illuminati will deliver a series of three lectures on *Dante and His World* on March 9, 16 and 23 at 3pm.

## PETER BUSCH 2016 Visiting Fellow



Peter Busch is currently a Visiting Fellow at the CIH. He is Senior Lecturer in Media and War, in the Department of War Studies at King's College London. His academic background is in journalism and international history, with a PhD from the London School of Economics and Masters degrees in Journalism (University of Dortmund, Germany) and International History (LSE). Before joining the KCL in 2004, he was Senior Broadcast Journalist in the news and current affairs department of Germany's public television station, ZDF. During his career in journalism he also taught at the Free University of Berlin, the University of Erfurt and the University of Hanover.

His current research focuses on the role of social media in war reporting. He is also interested in propaganda and strategic communication, particularly from a historical perspective. In this context, he has been working with the Imperial War Museum on projects related to their large collection of international radio broadcast transcripts produced by BBC Monitoring during the Cold War.

While at the CIH, Busch is working on a book project titled, *Propaganda Then and Now: War, Terrorism and Global Conflict in Old and New Media*. The book explores the role of propaganda in conflicts from the First World War to the Islamic State.

Busch will deliver a talk on his research on Tuesday, April 12 at 3pm.

# Lecture Series

<b>February 23</b>	<p><i>Rudolf Carnap and the Logic of Tolerance</i></p> <p>Richard Zach Department of Philosophy Annual Fellow 2013-14</p>
<b>March 9</b>	<p><i>Castle, Cathedral, and Square: Conflict between Church and Empire</i></p> <p>Carlo Illuminati University of Rome Tor Vergata Visiting Fellow 2016</p>
<b>March 16</b>	<p><i>Dante's Divine Comedy: The Great Poem of Christian Europe</i></p> <p>Carlo Illuminati University of Rome Tor Vergata Visiting Fellow 2016</p>
<b>March 23</b>	<p><i>The Devil's Body and the Soul of the Christian: The Snake and the Metamorphoses of the Devil in Medieval Europe</i></p> <p>Carlo Illuminati University of Rome Tor Vergata Visiting Fellow 2016</p>
<b>March 30</b>	<p><i>Atom and Cosmos EXPOsed: Cold War and "Future Energy" in Kazakhstan</i></p> <p>Saulesh Yessenova Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Annual Fellow 2014-15</p>
<b>April 12</b>	<p>Title TBC</p> <p>Peter Busch Department of War Studies, King's College London Visiting Fellow 2016</p>

\* Lectures take place in Biological Sciences Room 561 at 3pm. Lectures are free of charge and all are welcome.

# Fundraising

The Institute makes important contributions to the research and intellectual life of the University of Calgary through its fellowships, strategic research projects, working groups, and promotion of humanistic study outside of the university through the Annual Community Forum. Contributing to the CIH provides the opportunity to support these projects.

CIH has three targeted endowments: The Wayne O. McCready Resident Fellowship for an Emerging Scholar; “Community Projects” Endowment; and “Student Fellowship Projects” Endowment.

## THE WAYNE O. MCCREADY RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP FUND



In 2013, Prof. Wayne McCready stepped down as Director of the Calgary Institute for the Humanities. Wayne had a distinguished thirty-five year career at the University of Calgary as a scholar, teacher, and administrator in the Department of Religious Studies, and for eleven years, as the Director of the CIH. To honour Wayne's tenure at the Institute, CIH created this endowment.

As Director, Wayne bridged communities inside and outside the university in order to build on the past successes of CIH, its research programs and its Community Forum. Among his accomplishments:

- At the Institute, he established an ongoing research project on place studies and hosted a major international conference on the theme in 2006. He then exported these insights to the larger community, playing a leading role in the imagineCalgary Project (2008-2010), engaging with different community groups to help shape our city's future.
- He sustained a long-running collaboration with the CBC Radio program *Ideas*, which saw the insights generated by our Annual Community Seminar being broadcast to hundreds of thousands of listeners around the world.
- He created and nurtured a community of students, academics and community members at the Institute, promoting the values of interdisciplinary work and engaged public scholarship. The Institute's high reputation nationally and internationally is largely a product of Wayne's tireless efforts.

But perhaps the most important of Wayne's contributions to the University was his mentorship of young scholars. The many undergraduates, doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows and junior professors who have passed through the Institute benefited from his generous advice and friendly guidance, and many say that their time at the Institute was a turning point in their careers. This endowment will continue Wayne's legacy of making a difference in the careers of young scholars, helping to produce more great researchers, teachers, and mentors at the University of Calgary.

The endowment named in Wayne's honour will help fund a Resident Fellowship at the Institute for scholars in the early stages of their careers. The ultimate goal for this endowment is \$175,000, which will fund a partial teaching release each year to allow the recipient time to research and write.

Please visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/cih/donate](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/cih/donate) to donate online.



## CIH IN THE COMMUNITY

From May 28 to June 3, the University of Calgary will play host to the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, with the theme of “Energizing Communities.” This gathering of over seventy Canadian scholarly associations features conferences, public lectures, workshops, performances, and much lively conversation. It offers a chance to hear some of the most exciting work being done by humanist scholars and public intellectuals from Canada and beyond.

The CIH is pleased to be partnering with a few scholarly associations to present Congress events that are open to the public. These events reflect the diversity and vitality of work that happens in the Humanities: a series of performances in McMahon Stadium’s baseball diamond of a play by the Roman author Plautus; a panel discussion at Theatre Junction about the role of oil in the lives of Albertans; and a day-long seminar addressing the challenges faced by First Nations and immigrant students in accessing the educational system. More information about these events will be available on our website nearer to the events.

Just a few weeks before Congress, we’ll be hosting our own annual gathering. On April 29, the CIH’s Community Seminar will take place at the Kahanoff Centre. This year’s topic – “Calgary: City of Animals” – addresses the role that animals have played, and continue to play, in the life of our city. We’re very excited about our line-up of speakers, who will help us to explore the ways we think about the different kinds of non-human animals with whom we share our city: wildlife, livestock, entertainers and pets. We’re gathering together some support material and readings on our website if you’re interested in learning more, either before or after the event. But we hope you’ll be able to join us for seminar itself, and participate in what is now our 37th year of engaged public scholarship.





-Jim Ellis, Director, CIH

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For forty years, the Calgary Institute for the Humanities has worked to foster humanities research of the highest order, to encourage interdisciplinary conversations between scholars, and to 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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