



CHARLES PHELPS

TAFT  
RESEARCH  
CENTER

# humanities **NOW**

GRADUATE CONFERENCE

**February 17 – 18, 2016**

UNIVERSITY OF  
  
Cincinnati

# humanities**NOW**

2016 GRADUATE CONFERENCE

**SCHEDULE**

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## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- 9:00 // Intro Remarks  
9:15 // Memories Lost And Regained, (Re)Appropriating Identities  
10:15 // Coffee Break  
10:30 // Dissertation Fellows  
12:00 // Lunch  
**12:30 // Keynote Address**  
2:00 // Dissertation Fellows  
3:00 // Coffee Break  
3:15 // Humanist Perceptions Of Change And Immovability  
4:15 // Roundtable: Undermining Midwestern Nice  
5:15 // New Approaches To Canonic Narratives  
6:35 // Adjourn

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- 9:00 // Critical Thought: A Multi-Perspective Approach  
10:00 // Coffee Break  
10:15 // Dissertation Fellows  
11:45 // History, Culture, And Recognition: New Paths To Comprehend Latin America And Africa  
12:30 // Lunch  
1:00 // Panel: Challenging Sexual Hierarchies  
2:15 // Coffee Break  
2:30 // Towards New Understandings Of The Symbolic: Queer Readings Of Exceptional Contexts  
3:30 // Panel: An Interdisciplinary Approach To Women And Identity In Periods Of Societal Flux  
6:00 // Adjourn

**9:00 // INTRO REMARKS**

Dr. Adrian Parr, Director of the Taft Center

**9:15 // MEMORIES LOST AND REGAINED, (RE)APPROPRIATING IDENTITIES**

**ORANS AL-BEHADILI**, *DAAP, University of Cincinnati*

Place and Memory: Future Cities in Iraq and the Revival of Memory in Architecture

**LILY SCHATZ**, *History, University of Washington –Seattle*

Searching for Modernity at the Antique Market: Liulichang and the Construction of Chinese Modernity in the Republican Era

**KADARI TAYOR-WATSON**, *American Studies, Purdue University*

Following the Fabric: Vlisco's West & Central African Print & The Other Face of Africa

**10:15 // COFFEE BREAK**

**10:30 // DISSERTATION FELLOWS**



**GARY CORNWALL**, *Economics*

*Estimating the Distribution of Income Using a Mixture of Distributions with Spatial Dependence*

Estimating the size distribution of income is a robust research area that has rich history dating back to the late nineteenth century. The predominant focus of research in this area is fitting parametric distributions to income data. These distributions are then used to estimate policy impact, poverty, and income inequality. This work will focus on estimating the distribution of income within a Bayesian framework using a mixture of known distributions while simultaneously incorporating a spatial weight matrix to explain locational dependence in individual income distributions. The end result will be a decomposable income distribution that provides additional avenues to evaluate changes in policy, poverty, and inequality.



**MEGAN UNDERHILL, *Sociology***

*Middle-Class Whites and Uncivilized Others*

This paper examines how parents construct middle-class whiteness in relation to a racial “other” who lives in their neighborhood of residence. Study results reveal that neighborhood of residence matters crucially for the relational construction of race. In both neighborhoods, parents identify white and black low-income residents as racial others, yet *how* they discuss and negotiate contact with these others depends upon the race of the group in question. Low-income whites uniformly conjure feelings of disgust, and are actively avoided, while low-income black residents provoke feelings of greater ambivalence—contact with them is judged to be both valuable and threatening. In the end, these differential racial evaluations of worth affect how parents negotiate neighborhood space and contact with racial others for both themselves and their child.



**ERIC ROGERS, *Philosophy***

*Building a Better Invasion Biology: A Normative Approach to the Problem of Terminological Disunity*

One of invasion biology’s explicit aims is the prevention and mitigation of the many economic and environmental costs of invasive species. Unfortunately, this aim is impeded by wide-spread inconsistencies in the use of key terms and concepts, which I call “the problem of terminological disunity.” Terminological disunity impedes research integration and confuses communication between researchers and the stakeholders in interests threatened by these species. This dissertation attempts to resolve this problem by approaching terminological disunity from the perspective of invasion biology’s intrinsic ethical structure and arguing that terminological reconstruction can be aided by consideration of the social and ethical demands on research. I then offer a partial, reconstructed terminology sensitive to the concerns of working invasion biologists. This is viewed as part of the larger philosophical project of understanding and elucidating science as a socially-embedded, value-laden enterprise.

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**12:00 // LUNCH**

**12:30 // KEYNOTE ADDRESS****Gregg Lambert**

*Dean's Professor of Humanities, Syracuse University, Founding Director of The Syracuse University Humanities Center, and Principal Investigator of the CNY Humanities Corridor*

Professor Lambert is the author of thirteen books and critical editions, and well over one hundred articles in journals and critical editions. He is internationally renowned for his general writings on the contemporary

Humanities, as well as his numerous scholarly writings on critical theory, philosophy, film, the contemporary university, Baroque and Neo-Baroque cultural history, and especially for his work on the philosophers Gilles Deleuze, Jacques Derrida, Jean-Francois Lyotard, and Jean-Luc Nancy. Since 2008, Professor Gregg Lambert has served as Principal Investigator and Director of the Central New York Humanities Corridor, a regional collaborative research network between Syracuse University, Cornell University, the University of Rochester, and the NY6 Liberal Arts Consortium. In addition to the CNY Humanities Corridor, he has directed several other major multi-institutional research and interdisciplinary initiatives. In 2013, he was elected as a member of the International Advisory Board of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI).

## *Philosophy after Friendship*

*“We are no longer Greeks, and Friendship is no longer the same.”*

—Deleuze and Guattari, *What is Philosophy?*

Late in his life, immediately following the publication *Foucault* (1986), the French philosopher Gilles Deleuze engaged in a brief exchange of letters with Dionys Mascolo, who was the author of *Le Communisme* (1953) and *Autour d'un effort de mémoire: Sur une lettre de Robert Antelme* (1988). In this correspondence, Deleuze speaks of certain “concrete situations” that have caused the concept of *philos* to become displaced from its original Greek sources of *philein* and *philia*, a displacement which he says has undergone through the experience of the war something that can be likened to aphasia and amnesia, and will require nothing less than a “complete re-evaluation of philosophy.” Taking these comments to heart, in my talk I will attempt to reconstruct a brief genealogy of the different concrete situations to which this final statement might refer in order to arrive at a moment of recollection where perhaps the essential meaning of philosophy might be interrogated anew, especially in relation to Deleuze’s assertion that the democratic ideal of friendship has become corrupted to the point where, today, it may be completely “rotten” (*pourri*).

**2:00 // DISSERTATION FELLOWS**

**ALYSSA MCCLANAHAN**, *History*

*Women and Life on Earth: Peace, Ecology and a Transnational Women's Movement, 1975-1999*

This dissertation conceives of and traces a powerful yet ultimately unsustainable women's movement born in the late 1970s out of feminist, ecological and disarmament concerns. Focused primarily on American and British women, my dissertation begins with a conference in March 1980 in Northampton, Massachusetts in which hundreds of women gathered to articulate and claim "that ecological right"—that their movement could unite all women behind values of peace and ecology. By tracing organizations and direct actions, especially transnational ones, this project tracks how this movement weathered the 1980s and 90s, and interrogates feminism, environmentalism, protest strategy and politics in late-20th century America and Britain. It argues that women began to consolidate a diverse movement that was uniquely for and by women; yet, as inclusive as participants intended to be, they realized shared values could not bridge divergent experiences and identities of race, class, sexuality, motherhood, nationality and political organizing traditions.



**LINWOOD RUMNEY**, *English and Comparative Literature*

*Discrepant Means*

Taking Montaigne, whose early essay about human vanity provides the title of the work, this collection of poems explore various minor and mostly American historical figures and events. These events are drawn from an array of sources and time periods covering the last two centuries, from "The Great Moon Hoax" of the 1830s to Jared Loughner's 2011 shooting-spree. Some of the poems address the absurd while others confront the tragic; most occupy a space in between. The goal of this work is to write poems about and through subjects that don't easily accommodate available traditions (the comic, the elegiac, etc.) in order to revitalize stale poetry practices while investigating extremism and sensationalism.



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**3:00 // COFFEE BREAK**

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**3:15 // HUMANIST PERCEPTIONS OF CHANGE AND IMMOVABILITY**

**JANICE MOSKALIK**, *Philosophy, University of Washington, Seattle*

Connecting Communities: Introducing Philosophy for Children to Seattle Central College

**ANTONIO J. FERRARO**, *English and Comparative Literature, University of Cincinnati*

Visualizing the Disease: Narrative Dualities in Graphic Cancer Memoirs

**CAROLINE BUCHANAN**, *Philosophy, University of Kentucky*

Depression: An Existential Account of Experience and Disease

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**4:15 // ROUNDTABLE: UNDERMINING MIDWESTERN NICE**

A prevailing stereotype of Midwesterners is a homogenous group of wholesome, simple people living quiet lives between the vibrant coasts of East and West. This panel will critique the social construction of “Midwestern nice” and its connotations in literature, society, and in our perceptions of others. Approaches considered in this critique include but are not limited to Midwestern gothic, the sarcastic Midwest, the Midwest as a dream - or hellscape, and the moral Midwest. Writers we may potentially discuss include Kent Myers, Dawn Powell, Bonnie Jo Campbell, and Toni Morrison, amongst others.

**ASHLEY ANDERSON**, *English and Comparative Literature, University of Cincinnati*

**ALEX SMITH**, *English and Comparative Literature, University of Cincinnati*

**JULI CASE**, *English and Comparative Literature, University of Cincinnati*

**SAMANTHA EDMONDS**, *English and Comparative Literature, University of Cincinnati*

**SUZIE VANDER VORSTE**, *English and Comparative Literature, University of Cincinnati*

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**5:15 // NEW APPROACHES TO CANONIC NARRATIVES**

**JAY S ARNS**, *English, Xavier University*

An Analysis of the Inscriptions in a Renaissance Printing of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

**AMELIA WELLS**, *French and Italian, University of Kansas*

'Harmonieuse et Faible': Musical Accompaniment for Emotional Extremes in *Madame Bovary*

**TANNER SEBASTIAN**, *English, Ohio University*

Ungentlemanly: De-dandification Between Editions of *The Importance of Being Earnest*

**WENDY e DAVIS**, *English, Indiana University South Bend*

Silences Within Literary Criticism: Youth Culture in Tillie Olsen's *Yonnondio*

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**6:35 // ADJOURN**

**9:00 // CRITICAL THOUGHT: A MULTI-PERSPECTIVE APPROACH****SAMAH ABRAHEM**, *DAAP, University of Cincinnati*

Neoliberal Housing Development in Baghdad: A Social Justice Perspective

**ICO ABREU**, *DAAP, University of Cincinnati*

Unfolding Space. The Remains of Deleuzian Echoes in Film

**SARA STRASSER**, *Rhetoric and Composition, Ball State University*

Composition Studies Through a Transnational Feminist Lens

**10:00 // COFFEE BREAK****10:15 // DISSERTATION FELLOWS****CATALIN DRAGAN**, *Mathematical Sciences**Sums of Equivalent Sequences of Positive Operators*

Operators are mathematical objects that are studied in Operator Algebras, an important branch of modern analysis. Recent work by Kaftal, Ng, Zhang reveals that a positive operator  $A$  can be decomposed under certain hypotheses as a sum of rank one projections, a special class of positive operators. This has been generalized by Bourin and Lee by replacing projections with “copies” of an arbitrary positive contraction  $B$ .

A von Neumann factor is a collection of operators that have algebraic properties similar to the addition and multiplication of numbers, but where multiplication is non-commutative. The main goal of my research is to find necessary and sufficient conditions for an operator  $A$  in a von Neumann factor to be expressed as a sum of operators with prescribed properties. In answering a conjecture by Bourin and Lee I give sufficient conditions for such decompositions in infinite factors.



**John Shahan, *German Studies***

*Concepts of Justice in Spy and Detective Fiction Viewed Through a Kantian Lens*

This project examines the work of detective fiction by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, a Swiss author who wrote in German, and spy fiction by John Le Carré, which focuses on Germany during the Cold War, against the philosophical perspective of Immanuel Kant. Viewing these novels through a Kantian lens enhances the discussion of justice in these books, allowing us insight into whether or not a Kantian hero differs from a conventional hero or even an anti-hero in terms of duty and justice. If human beings are ends in themselves and not a means to an end, as per Kantian analysis, how can we evaluate what happened during the Cold War in Germany as seen in spy fiction?



**Manuel R. Montes, *Romance Languages and Literatures***

*Fiction Writing as an Aesthetic Identity Pursuit in the Spanish Language Novel*

This doctoral research explores, questions, and analyzes how the literary creative process became a canonical theme in the Spanish language novel tradition. It traces the origin, continuous presence, development, and current status of the figure of the writer as a main character who seeks their artistic identity through the intimate, subjective ordeals, and uncertainties of telling a story. Focusing primarily on the paradigmatic contributions of Juan Carlos Onetti's *La vida breve/The Brief Life* (1950); Josefina Vicens' *El libro vacío/The Empty Book* (1958); Roberto Bolaño's *Los detectives salvajes/The Savage Detectives* (1998); and Enrique Vila-Matas' *Bartleby y compañía/Bartleby & Co.* (2000), this dissertation unfolds the path that has been reshaping the concept of a fictional hero by increasingly addressing the failure of narrators who do not find themselves. Instead, they lose almost everything, except for an ephemeral yet enlightening experience of invention.

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**11:45 // HISTORY, CULTURE, AND RECOGNITION: NEW PATHS  
TO COMPREHEND LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA**

**AMY LATESSA**, *DAAP, University of Cincinnati*

Hybrid Cultures in Globalized Times: Thinking about Migration and the  
Diaspora through Contemporary Art

**JORGE BAYONA**, *History, University of Washington*

Inherited Destinies: Discourses of Territorial Loss in States Across the Pacific  
(1903-1928)

**LARA ROSANA NERES DINIZ**, *Anthropology,  
University of Illinois at Chicago*

Monitoring Tropical Forest Hunting: The Experience of Zoro People in  
Southwest Mato Grosso, Brazil

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**12:30 // LUNCH**

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**1:00 // PANEL: CHALLENGING SEXUAL HIERARCHIES**

**KYLE SHUPE**, *Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies,  
University of Cincinnati*

For Fuck's Sake: Decentering Object, Foregrounding Act

**JO TEUT**, *Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies,  
University of Cincinnati*

Asexual Diversity Equals A Sexual Diversity

**IZZAT ALAMOUR**, *Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies,  
University of Cincinnati*

Queering Teacher Identities in High School Systems

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**2:15 // COFFEE BREAK**

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**2:30 // TOWARDS NEW UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE SYMBOLIC:  
QUEER READINGS OF EXCEPTIONAL CONTEXTS**

**ARMAGHAN ZIAEE**, *DAAP, University of Cincinnati*

Women's Body as a Tool; the Two Antithetical Cases during the Twentieth Century in Iran.

**ADAM DENNEY**, *Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies,  
University of Cincinnati*

Queer as Sugar

**RUSSELL SPIKER**, *Sociology, University of Cincinnati*

A First Look at the Couple-Level Determinants of Sexual Minority Health

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**3:30 // PANEL: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO WOMEN  
AND IDENTITY IN PERIODS OF SOCIETAL FLUX**

**ANNE ROTHASS**, *English and Comparative Literature,  
University of Cincinnati*

"Clean it up": Bhabha's Concept of Hybridity in Yasmine Gooneratne's Novel *The Sweet and Simple Kind*

**AYESHIA CASIE CHETTY**, *Sociology, University of Cincinnati*

Post-colonial Legal Discourse over Women's Bodies in Sri Lanka

**CRYSTAL WHETSTONE**, *Political Science, University of Cincinnati*

Women's Maternal Organizing for Peace in Wartime Sri Lanka: A Path Toward Empowerment?

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**6:00 // ADJOURN**





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