



University of

CINCINNATI | TAFT RESEARCH CENTER

# humanities**NOW**

GRADUATE CONFERENCE

**February 20 + 21, 2018**



# humanities**NOW**

## 2018 GRADUATE CONFERENCE **SCHEDULE**

### **FEB. 20**

- 9:30 // Introductory Remarks
- 9:40 // **Taft Fellows — Orphan Trains, Political Motherhood, and the Impact of Transnational, Religious Advocacy Networks**
- 10:50 // Art, Empathy, Poetry, Painting and Postmodernism
- 11:45 // Lunch
- 12:45 // **Keynote address: Barbara Allen, Virginia tech Knowledge Justice: Making Science for Change in Disempowered Polluted Communities**
- 2:40 // Coffee Break
- 2:50 // Leaving Here, Becoming: Diaspora, Immigration, and Identity
- 3:45 // **Taft Fellows — Models & Math: Scientific models, Regression Discontinuity, and Quasihyperbolic distance**

### **FEB. 21**

- 9:30 // Euroscepticism, Colombia's Plan, and New Lebanese Nationalism
- 10:25 // **Taft Fellows — Future Visions, Old Inequalities, and Berlin theatre**
- 11:35 // Lunch
- 12:35 // Tongqi, Fashion, Gender, and the Female Cairenes Challenge
- 1:50 // Alternate Views: History through Fiction, Identity Through the Camera, the Christopher Street Piers, and Plath's legacy
- 3:05 // Coffee Break
- 3:15 // Trauma, Experience, Serial Killers, and Rural Pennsylvania

**9:30 // INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

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**9:40 // TAFT FELLOWS — ORPHAN TRAINS, POLITICAL MOTHERHOOD, AND THE IMPACT OF TRANSNATIONAL, RELIGIOUS ADVOCACY NETWORKS**



**DEBRA BURGESS, HISTORY**

*Closer Connections: The Response of Immigrant Religious Communities to Progressive Child-Saving Reforms, 1880–1930*

My research focuses on outreach of immigrant lay religious communities to orphaned children among their co-religionists in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh. Focused through the perspective of those who undertook volunteer roles with institutions that provided for day-to-day welfare, educational, and vocational training needs of these children, I examine the efforts within these communities to respond to deficiencies in the child welfare environment and the factors that influenced those who followed a path other than the orphan trains, a movement emblematic of the coalition of the Protestant dominated child-saving efforts of the period.

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**KRISTINA TEATER, POLITICAL SCIENCE**

*Transnational Advocacy Networks as a Response to Religious Restrictions: A Comparative Study of the Christian Minorities in India and Malaysia*

Despite constitutional guarantees, religious minority groups face restrictions on religious practice and belief. In response, these groups turn to transnational advocacy networks. In my dissertation, I conduct a comparative analysis of Christian minorities in India and Malaysia. I explore how they use transnational advocacy networks in response to restrictions, the factors that influence their use, and why some efforts are more effective than others. I focus my research on the years 2000–2017 and analyze three Christian NGOs and their use of transnational advocacy networks in cases and events related to the protection of majority sensibilities, limits to proselytization, and anti-conversion laws.



**CRYSTAL WHETSTONE, POLITICAL SCIENCE**

*Advancing Women's Political Participation in Wartime Environments through Political Motherhood: A Comparative Study of Women's Maternal Peace Activism in Argentina and Sri Lanka*

Armed conflicts can have contradictory effects on women. While devastating, wars also open space for transformations in gender dynamics. I explore women mobilized by their identities as mothers through a concept called political motherhood. During Argentina's state terrorism period (1976–1983) and Sri Lanka's Civil War (1983–2009), the Madres of the Plaza de Mayo and the Mothers' Front, respectively, protested the state's human rights abuses. While the Madres of the Plaza de Mayo increased women's long-term political participation, the Mothers' Front did not. Through a comparative case study of these two groups, this dissertation investigates how political motherhood can increase women's long-term political participation.

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**10:50 // ART, EMPATHY, POETRY, PAINTING AND POSTMODERNISM**

**CHARLOTTE FIGUEROA, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

*Using Art to Develop Empathy Towards Non-Human Animals*

**ABIGAIL CULPEPPER, MIAMI UNIVERSITY**

*Poetry as Amber: The Captivating Nature of Mallarméan Prose*

**ANDREW BARRON, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO**

*Painting and Postmodernism: Notes from the Margins of a Discourse*

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**11:45 // LUNCH**

**12:45 // KEYNOTE**

**Knowledge Justice: Making Science for Change in Disempowered  
Polluted Communities**



**BARBARA ALLEN**

PROFESSOR IN THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES, IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMAN SCIENCES AT VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY.

Dr. Allen's work has been funded by several grants from the National Science Foundation, as well as the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Mediterranean. Among Allen's numerous awards, she was a Fulbright Research Fellow in 2009, a Fellow-in-Residence, Bogliasco Foundation,

in 2008, a Fellow at the National Museum of American History in 1995, and a National Endowment for the Humanities Institute Fellow in 1994. In addition, she received the 2011–2012 Excellence In Administration Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech; and she is the 2000 recipient of the Robert R. Taylor Award by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, recognizing architectural research and teaching that critically locates and examines the contributions of African-Americans.

Barbara Allen is currently working on several research projects that examine the dynamics of citizens, science, regulation, and environmental justice in heavily polluted regions in the U.S. and the EU. The research examines how different national, cultural, and institutional contexts condition the dynamics of citizen response to environmental problems and regulatory change. Additionally, Allen has been leading a Community-Based Participatory Environmental Health (CBPEH) project funded by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health+Safety (ANSES) to develop, conduct, analyze, and disseminate an environmental health study in several towns in a polluted industrial zone.

**2:40 // COFFEE BREAK**

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**2:50 // LEAVING HERE, BECOMING: DIASPORA, IMMIGRATION, AND IDENTITY**

**SHOBHA KANSAL**, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Using a Dramaturgical Lens: South Asian American Identity Negotiation

**SAYAM MOKTAN**, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

International Migration, Globalization and Gendered Care Work: A Case from Nepal

**BENJAMIN KERSTEN**, UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO (SUNY)

Figurativeness and Facts: Reparation and Paranoia in Israel/Palestine

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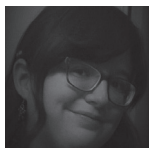
**3:45 // TAFT FELLOWS — MODELS & MATH: SCIENTIFIC MODELS, REGRESSION DISCONTINUITY, AND QUASIHYPHERBOLIC DISTANCE**



**BEAU SAULEY**, ECONOMICS

Regression Discontinuity in Network Models: Non-linear Partial Effects and Spillovers

Regression discontinuity is a popular technique for analyzing causal relationships. Until now, only one attempt has been made to incorporate spatial dependence into empirical causal inference literature. This paper develops exact inference methods to control for spatial heterogeneity in a regression discontinuity framework. An MCMC algorithm enabling posterior inference for a general spatial model with regression discontinuity is developed. Simulations utilizing a Spatial Durbin Model are provided to illustrate performance. An empirical example using housing data from Ohio and tax levy data are examined to show use of the technique.



**ABIGAIL RICHARD**  
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

### Approximations of Quasihyperbolic Distance

The aim of this project is to understand quasihyperbolic geometry. Quasihyperbolic geometry has been studied extensively since it was first introduced and has proven useful in a wide range of areas such as quasiconformal mappings, complex analysis, function theory, geometric topology, partial differential equations, group theory, and dynamics. However, quasihyperbolic distance can be challenging to compute in general spaces. Consequently, it is worthwhile to have a mechanism that allows us to approximate quasihyperbolic distance in general spaces via quasihyperbolic distance in “simpler” spaces. I, along with my advisor, do this for proper domains in Euclidean space via spaces that have only finitely many boundary points. Further, we establish an analogous result in more general non-Euclidean spaces.



**GUILHERME SANCHES DE OLIVEIRA,**  
PHILOSOPHY

### Scientific Modeling without Representationalism

Much of scientific knowledge relies on models and simulations as indirect methods of investigation. But how is it possible to learn about some real-world phenomenon by studying a model of it? How can we, for example, learn about climate change by running a computer simulation, or learn about animal biology by building robots? Philosophers of science generally assume that models are epistemically valuable because they represent the target phenomena. My dissertation draws from embodied cognitive science and ecological psychology to provide an alternative account, in terms of the action possibilities or “affordances” of models. This account circumvents the pitfalls of representationalism and re-frames the problem in a more empirically tractable way, as the question of how humans utilize spatiotemporally-extended cognitive resources to solve problems.



**9:30 // EUROSCEPTICISM, COLOMBIA'S PLAN, AND NEW LEBANESE NATIONALISM****ABED KANAANEH**, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY*The New Lebanese Nationalism: The Muqawamah (Resistance) Nationalism***DIEYUN SONG**, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI*Colombia's Plan—The Primary Partnerships between the U.S. and Colombia in the Development and Execution of Plan Colombia***JELENA VICIC**, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI*Euroscepticism vs. the Establishment: Challenging the Status Quo?***10:25 // TAFT FELLOWS — FUTURE VISIONS, OLD INEQUALITIES, AND BERLIN THEATRE****DANIEL PAUL**, ENGLISH & COMPARATIVE LITERATURE*The Rematerializer on Deck 13 is Broken Again*

A postmodern science-fiction novel that combines tropes from the serial space adventure genre and those from the tradition of the workplace novel. The novel follows the exploits of the Starship “Excel”, specifically its below-deck office staff tasked with documenting the ship’s explorations. Instigating both formal and plotted collisions between the office and sci-fi worlds, the novel seeks to undermine the naturalism that we ascribe to office cultures, and to deconstruct the boundaries between “big” and “small” narrative events, as well as between the present and future, asking, “what do our visions of the future tell us about the present?”

**KATHERINE PAUL**, GERMAN STUDIES*Robert Wilson's Faust I+II and the Berlin Theatre Scene Today*

This project focuses on Robert Wilson’s recent production in Berlin, particularly his staging of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s *Faust*. Particular focus is given to 1) the importance of the piece in Robert Wilson’s career trajectory; 2) its significance in the literary and theatrical tradition of the Faust myth; 3) how it reflects the Postdramatic theater tradition in Berlin; 4) its importance in the contemporary Berlin theatre scene; and 5) how this production functions within a larger transAtlantic context.

**KALASIA DANIELS, SOCIOLOGY**

New Economy, Old Inequalities: Understanding Millennials' Transition from School to Work



What challenges do millennials' face in the new economy? In comparison to older cohorts, millennials aged 25–34, have the highest level of post-secondary education, yet start off with lower earnings and experience smaller earnings growth over time. With increased credentials, millennials lower labor market returns present a complex problem between the benefits of education and our current economy. My research will explore the educational, occupational, and overall status attainment for millennials as they face the new economy. I hope to offer new ways to understand and analyze millennials' career trajectories.

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**11:35 // LUNCH**

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**12:35 // TONGQI, FASHION, GENDER, AND THE FEMALE CAIRENES CHALLENGE**

**BIJUN CHEN, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**

Not Your Normal Marriage: How Tongqi, or Women Married to "Gay Men," Negotiate Marriage, Economy, and Culture in Contemporary China

**NEHAL ELMELIGY, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**

Making a Scene: How Young Women in Cairo Challenge Patriarchy in the Public Sphere

**CONOR MOYNIHAN, UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO**

Warp and Weft: Gender, Sexuality, and Fabric(ation) in the Work of Nilbar Güreş

**KYLE SHUPE, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**

Men's Fashion: Destabilizing and Reinforcing Hegemonic Masculinity

**1:50 // ALTERNATE VIEWS: HISTORY THROUGH FICTION, IDENTITY THROUGH THE CAMERA, THE CHRISTOPHER STREET PIERS, AND PLATH'S LEGACY**

**JULIA ESCOBAR VILLEGAS**, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI  
Muy Caribe Está

**FAZILAT SOUKHAKIAN**, UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY  
Private Revealed: Iranian Youth's Underground Search for a New Modernity Through the Lens of Contemporary Photographers

**EMILY SKAJA**, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI  
The Birth of an Icon: Plath, Hughes, and Second Wave Feminism

**RYAN RUFF SMITH**, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI  
The Pier / Extended Family

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**3:05 // COFFEE BREAK**

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**3:15 // TRAUMA, EXPERIENCE, SERIAL KILLERS, AND RURAL PENNSYLVANIA**

**MOLLY BROSCOE**, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI  
Killing Down: How Serial Killers Reinforce Social Hierarchies Through Victim Choice

**JULIE MARZEC**, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI  
An Intersectional Approach to Serving Immigrant Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

**APARNA SINGH**, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI  
Women's Experiences During Natural Disasters: A Case Study of the 2015 Nepal Earthquake

**ANGELA STIEFBOLD**, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI  
Rural Character and Rural Economy: Bucks County, Pennsylvania, 1930–1990



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