

Annual Report

TAFT RESEARCH CENTER

2018—19

University of
UC
CINCINNATI

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

2018–2019 was a whirlwind year for Taft! Stepping into the position as Taft Center Director & Faculty Chair in January 2019, I benefited much from the legacy of former Taft Director Adrian Parr, who stepped down in July after having served in the position for five years, and most recently from Interim Director Andrés Pérez-Simón (Romance & Arabic Languages & Literatures), who graciously shepherded Taft through the first half of the 2018-19 academic year. I thank Andrés for his work in moving Taft forward during the Fall.

Beginning in January 2019, I held several meetings to invite Taft faculty and students, the College of Arts & Sciences, senior administrators, heads of Taft-departments, and others into the process of imagining Taft's goals and focus over the next five years. In addition to meeting individually with nearly all Taft faculty board members, I hosted an open call to faculty for a mid-February meeting to collectively imagine Taft's future. I was pleased to share a sketch for advancing Taft and its programming with about 60 faculty and to hear their thoughts on how we might move forward with Center activities, faculty and student awards, and Taft programming.

Throughout the year, **Taft hosted over 100 events** and co-sponsored dozens more.

Throughout the year, Taft hosted over 100 events and co-sponsored dozens more. In March, we hosted three marquee events: the 14th Annual Research Symposium, the humanitiesNOW Graduate Conference, and the first ever Graduate Recruitment Weekend event. The Research Symposium featured our Center Fellows and external interlocutors, anchored by a keynote from Dr. William Egginton, Decker Professor in the Humanities at the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Egginton's lecture, *Humanities Education at the Crossroads: Why the Liberal Arts are Fundamental to Democracy*, called for a reorientation of higher education, and particularly the liberal arts, as a public project for the strengthening of community, underscoring the value of learning in a traditional, face-to-face environment, and allowing for sustained dialogue and engagement with people who are different from ourselves. This includes, Egginton argues, that we rethink the digital hype which, while important and useful, does not always allow for meaningful dialogues.

The humanitiesNOW conference featured the work of eight Taft Dissertation Fellows, several Taft Graduate Enrichment awardees, and students from regional institutions, including Miami University and Kent State University. The two-day event featured a keynote address by Dr. Lisa Duggan, journalist, activist, and Professor of Social & Cultural Analysis at New York University. A former President of the American Studies Association, Duggan has written extensively on issues of modernity, neoliberalism, and sexual politics in the United States and transnationally. Her address focused on her current research and most recent publication, *Mean Girl: Ayn Rand and the Culture of Greed* (UC Berkeley Press, 2018), in which she situates the historical reception of Ayn Rand's work in the United States, and her iconic, sometimes cult-like status as a theorist of "free market" ideologies which continue to inform US public policy, law, and culture today.

This spring I began to develop collaborative partnerships with community organizations, state and national organizations, and with other Centers at UC, to engage with wider audiences in Cincinnati, in Ohio, and beyond. I'm excited, for example, about our Fall 2019 co-sponsorship of the "Climate Change/Cincinnati" lecture series at the Mercantile Library, a series we are collaborating on with UC's Center for Public Engagement with Science (a special shout-out to Dr. Angela Potochnik, Philosophy!) and the Mercantile Library. Given the global climate crisis, this series, which includes Taft faculty as well as experts from Cincinnati and across the US, was educational and thought-provoking. In addition, we have begun planning for a statewide humanities summit on the humanities and higher education at the Ohio Statehouse next year, which Taft is co-sponsoring along with Ohio Humanities and four other public universities. We plan to produce a document that we can share with policy-makers and educators about the value of the humanities and social science research in the 21st century.

In Spring 2019, I also began to work more closely with the College of Arts & Sciences and UC Foundation to help promote and support Taft departments and faculty, recruit and retain graduate students, and develop stronger lines of communication with alumni and interested parties. In addition, we are working to renew our digital presence and engagement, bringing a new user-friendly format to the website and application system.

Along with forging new community partnerships, we have begun charting new territory in the Public Humanities, finding new interdisciplinary pathways for research and its funding, and sharing our research in creative ways. At the *Imagining Taft's Future* event, numerous faculty emphasized the need to build collaboratively from existing shared research interests and networks, something I value as director of an interdisciplinary center. One way we did this was by circulating a new Request for Proposals for Taft's faculty-led research groups. The current groups (Urban Studies, Visual Studies, Medical Humanities, Human Rights, Global Studies, Public Humanities, and Digital Humanities) have had widely differing levels of activity; a few have enjoyed some success in solidifying group-based research. However, in a push toward greater research inclusivity and collaborative excellence, I have worked with an ad hoc review committee

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and the faculty executive board in crafting a new structure for research groups that will provide seed monies for up to three years with the goal of fueling collaborative activities and developing an impact-oriented shared research agenda for group members. Groups must be demonstrating potential for leveraging external funding, among other possibilities, and/or working toward a final product such as an edited volume). They are asked to find ways to disseminate research to broader audiences, for example, via op-eds or social media platforms, and to consider other activities that promote dialogue within and/or beyond the proposed research group and the Taft research community.

I have also worked to increase Taft's support of department efforts to recruit excellent graduate students. With this in mind, in March we hosted Taft's first Graduate Recruitment Weekend open house. Prospective students from English and Comparative Literature, Economics, History, Philosophy, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, along with some graduate program directors, attended this meet & greet event where we shared information about Taft's support for graduate students. Over 50 people attended. This practice will continue and will be refined as we partner with the Graduate School and Taft departments on similar future events.

In the early summer, Taft co-sponsored a week-long **TAFT** Faculty Write! workshop with the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. Led by Dr. Laura Micciche (English & Comparative Literature), this workshop was designed to help "jump start" faculty writing over the summer. We received positive feedback from participants and subsequently decided to hold three-hour self-directed writing sessions every Wednesday throughout the remainder of the summer. Dr. Micciche will again host a week-long workshop in May 2020.

I am excited that Taft will co-sponsor the 2nd national Universities Studying Slavery (USS) symposium in October 2019, an event hosted by the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University. This year's theme is "The Academy's Original Sin." Since its 2013 launch, USS has expanded to include over 50 higher education member institutions. We are proud to support the UC Committee on Universities Studying Slavery, and the involvement of UC faculty in this important event. A special shout-out to Dr. Holly McGee (History) for helping make this event happen.

2020 is the centennial of the passage of the 19th amendment, a pinnacle achievement of women's suffrage in the United States. We have just now begun to organize a number of events and activities to celebrate this occasion, including hosting and coordinating the placement of a traveling exhibit from the Ohio History Connection on the UC Uptown campus, and coordinating parallel lectures and events. In addition, Louder Than A Bomb Cincy students voted to make women's suffrage the 2020 central theme of its' youth Spoken Word contest, an event sponsored by Taft for over six years. Lastly, I am excited that Taft Research Center will play a pivotal role in establishing Cincinnati's first Humanities Fest, with our inaugural event to occur in late March/early April 2020.

I thank the Taft Trustees, the College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Research, Graduate School, and Office of the Provost for their support. I am proud of Taft's achievements during a transitional year, and I very much look forward to working with Taft faculty, students, and our broader community in the coming years!

Sincerely,



AMY LIND

TAFT RESEARCH CENTER DIRECTOR & FACULTY CHAIR

MARY ELLEN HEINTZ PROFESSOR OF WOMEN'S,
GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

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CELEBRATIONS



Sally Yang

Taft is proud to welcome a number of new people into the fold this past year.

In the fall of 2019, Taft hired **Sally Yang as Business Manager**. Sally comes to us from Utah State University, where she led operations and financial management duties, grants (in excess of \$12 million), as well as other financial duties for the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering. Sally holds an MA in Workforce Development from Ohio State University and has passed all four sections of the Uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Exam. Sally is a welcomed member of the Taft team and has already begun implementing the needed systems for accurate tracking of Taft funds and future projections.

Three Taft departments were able to make hires this year. We would like to welcome the following new Taft-faculty:



Cassandra Jones

AFRICANA STUDIES: **CASSANDRA JONES**

Since earning her PhD from Bowling Green State University in 2013, Dr. Cassandra Jones has taught at University of South Carolina Upstate, becoming Director of the African American Studies Program in 2016. Now Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at UC, her research in Afrofuturism sits at the intersection of race, gender, technology, and speculative fiction and moves along two vectors: postcolonial memory and metaphors of technology in Afrofuturist texts.

JOURNALISM: **ALFRED J. COTTON, II**

With a PhD in Communication from the University of Kentucky – Lexington, Dr. Alfred Cotton is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Journalism. He has published and presented research exploring race and representation in news media, media framing, and organizational crisis communication. He has taught courses on diversity in the media, journalism and media ethics, media literacy, social media, popular culture, and interpersonal communication. His research focuses broadly on ethics in mass communication both through practice and theory.



Alfred Cotton, II

POLITICAL SCIENCE: TIA SHERÈE GAYNOR

Dr. Tia Gaynor is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and a Co-director of The Cincinnati Project. She holds a Ph.D. and MPA from the School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University – Newark. She received her BA in Psychology from Rutgers – New Brunswick. Additionally, Dr. Gaynor holds a Diversity Management Certification from the University of Houston's International Institute for Diversity. Her research focuses on issues related to social (in)justice, cultural competency, and social equity within a U.S. and global context, particularly as it relates to underrepresented and marginalized populations. Specifically, her work explores intersectionality in public management and policy. Recognizing that scholarship and practice of public administrators can either serve as promoters of equity and justice or facilitators of injustice for underrepresented and marginalized populations, her work is committed to not only recognizing this juxtaposition but offering strategies to foster justice and equity in the field.



Tia Gaynor

POLITICAL SCIENCE: BRANDI BLESSETT

Dr. Brandi Blessett is an Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the new Social Justice Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at the University of Cincinnati. She received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Masters in Educational Leadership from Wayne State University, and PhD from Old Dominion University. Dr. Blessett's research seeks to contribute to the production of knowledge in the field of public administration through the lens of social justice. Her research offers critical insights into the effects of systemic injustice through an examination of public policies and administrative actions, which perpetuate disparity for people of color and their respective communities. Ultimately, she hopes her research will help public administrators move toward more thoughtful consideration and engagement of all groups in society, particularly historically marginalized groups. Dr. Blessett has published in peer-reviewed periodicals such as *Public Integrity*, *Administration and Society*, *Administrative Theory & Praxis*, *Public Administration Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Health and Human Services Administration*. She has also contributed book chapters to *Prison Privatization: The Many Facets of a Controversial Industry* and *Contemporary Perspectives on Affirmative Action*. Currently, she serves on the editorial board for *Administrative Theory & Praxis*. Taft Research Center is excited about the possibilities that Dr. Blessett's leadership brings to the new MPA program!

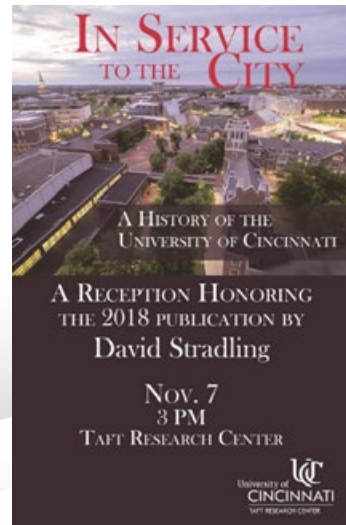
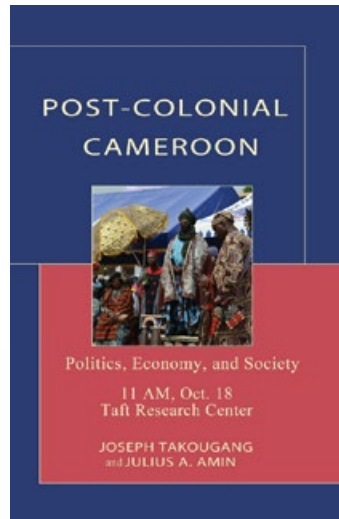


Brandi Blessett

We were able to host and celebrate two Taft faculty-authored book talks this year.

Dr. **Joseph Takougang**, Professor of Africana Studies, presented his new edited volume, *Post-Colonial Cameroon: Politics, Economy, and Society*, along with his co-editor Julius A. Amin.

Also in the fall, Taft hosted Dr. **David Stradling**, Professor of History and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, where he presented on his new UC Bicentennial publication, *In Service to the City: A History of the University of Cincinnati*.



COMMEMORATIONS

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

From Rat Route to Plan Andina: Anti-Semitism in Latin America

Ilan Stavans, Lewis-Sebring Professor of Humanities and Latin American and Latino Culture, Amherst College

Ilan Stavans has published over 30 book-length works. Dr. Stavan's Hispanic Heritage Month lecture was co-sponsored by the Departments of Romance and Arabic Languages and Literatures and Judaic Studies. Our gratitude is given to Carlos Gutiérrez for organizing this event.



Ilan Stavans

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Descendant Communities and Museum Collections

Bob Pickering, Senior Curator, Gilcrease Museum; Director, Museum Science and Management; Professor of Anthropology, University of Tulsa

Collecting is the cornerstone for museums as centers of object-based learning. That principle has guided an explosion of museums of all kinds for more than two centuries in the United States. Museums are also institutions of their times, and as such reflect relevant cultural, legal, artistic, and scientific trends of the time period in which they were created. One of today's most important and powerful trends pertains to how indigenous, native, and other historically under-represented communities are represented in museum collections and exhibitions. This cultural and ethical shift addressing legacies of racism and colonialism have changed museums' self-framings and approaches, viewing themselves more as public forums rather than as temples of knowledge.

To address these historical wounds, thoughtful museums are re-examining how and what they collect, and how to bring descendant communities into the decision-making process. The implications are profound and impact the discussion about who owns history. A special thanks is owed to Ken Tankersley (Anthropology) for organizing this event.



Bob Pickering

Japanese Classics in Manga

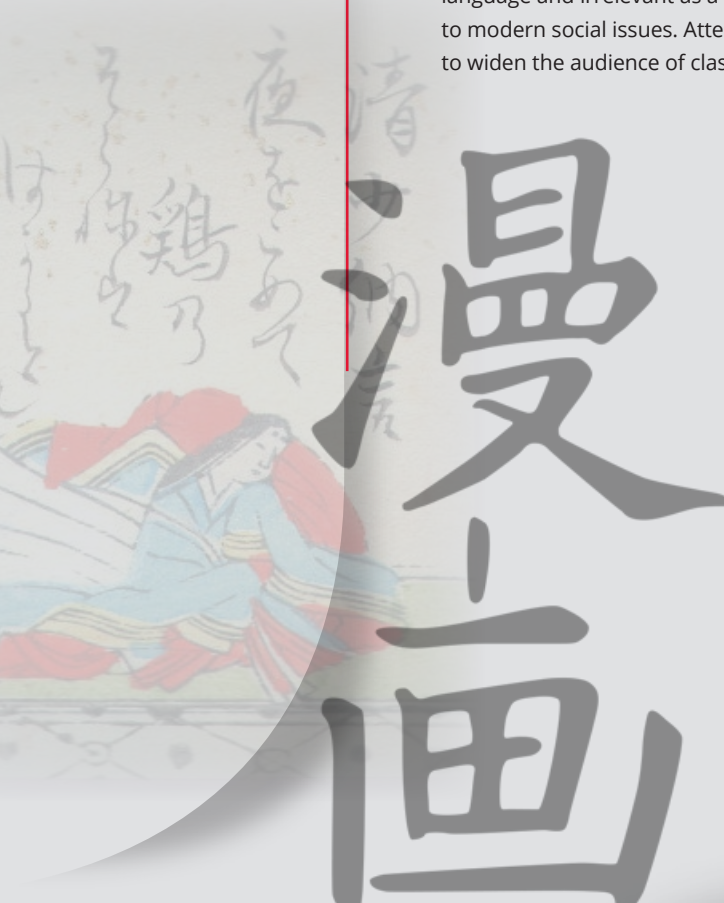
Gergana Ivanova

Asian Studies Program

Manga (graphic novels or comics) is one of the most popular cultural forms in Japan representing over one-third of the current publishing industry. Through its minutely-delineated genres targeted at audiences of specific age groups, interests, and genders, manga features topics related to various aspects of Japanese history and present-day society. Recently, the manga medium has been the main force to rekindle interest in Japanese literary works written over a thousand years ago, which are generally considered inaccessible due to their archaic language and irrelevant as a solution to modern social issues. Attempting to widen the audience of classical

literature by way of careful scene selections, textual revisions, and vibrant illustrations, new renditions of ancient texts continue to expand the manga market in Japan. These graphic-novel adaptations present Japanese classics as “interesting,” “easy to understand,” and “belonging to everyone” and although heavily modified, they are marketed as educational tools and are sold side-by-side with government-issued guides to high school and college entrance exams and practice test collections.

My curiosity about the role of popular culture in school and university curricula in Japan today led me to explore a broad spectrum of comics published since 1990. Focusing on tenth- and eleventh-century literary works, which form the core of the Japanese literary canon as taught within and outside Japan, I traced how the manga medium has re-invented texts of Japan’s distant past, presented the country’s national tradition and character in reaction to trends such as globalization and multiculturalism, and attempted to expand readers’ cultural literacy in the twenty-first century. A careful analysis of the content, images, and marketing strategies of manga adaptations of some of the most frequently taught ancient texts in Japan revealed that comics construct a long cultural continuity between ancient and modern Japan and perpetuate the notion of a unified Japanese ethnic identity. Educational manga transforms ancient writers, historical personages, and fictional figures into comic-book characters who speak

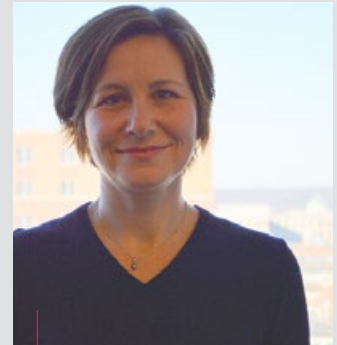


their heart and mind about modern problems. Addressing current social issues in Japan, such as the emperor system, women's empowerment, sexual violence, gender and sexuality, and cultural nationalism, manga-adaptations present literary works written over a millennium ago as belonging to the present and relevant to the lives of readers today. These transformations of classical texts highlight the superiority of Japanese literary culture by showing that even a thousand years ago Japan was able to produce works that are still considered important and resonate with contemporary readers. Thus, manga adaptations function as a powerful tool to not only educate and entertain readers, but to also construct new literary canons that contribute to a vibrant, modern Japanese cultural identity.

Although manga adaptations of the classics are important for understanding current trends in Japanese society, they have not attracted much scholarly attention because they lie in the intersections of two disciplines: manga studies and premodern literature. My work,

which will be published as two articles, attempts to fill this lacuna and offer tools for understanding the multiple functions that manga appropriations of ancient texts perform in Japan today.

TAFT IMPACT: *Thanks to a Taft Research Center Travel for Research, this summer I visited the Kyoto International Manga Museum, the International Library of Children's Literature, the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library, and major bookstores in Japan to collect primary sources. As a scholar in Japanese studies, my work at UC would have been impossible without regular trips to Japan to conduct archival work and I am always greatly indebted to the generous support from the Taft Research Center. Thank you very much!*



Gergana Ivanova

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RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The **ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM** features the work of our Center Fellows— faculty from one of the current 14 TAFT-departments are granted research leave assignment to TAFT for the purposes of completing or preparing for publication a significant scholarly project in a multi-disciplinary setting. Listed below are the Center Fellows and their respective interlocutors, invited for commentary on the Fellow's work.



KRISTEN IVERSEN ENGLISH & COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
Wink's Lodge: The West's Hidden African American Jazz Club and Literary Salon

This book project explores the story of a little-known historic African American mountain community near Nederland, Colorado. At a time of segregation in Denver when the governor of Colorado, Clarence Joseph Morley, was a leading member of the KKK, Wink's Panorama was the only resort west of the Mississippi open to African Americans. Built by "Winks" Hamlet and his partner William Pitts in 1922, what came to be known as the "Lincoln Hills Country Club" offered land lots and cabins to African Americans from around the country and included a summer camp for African American girls. But it was Wink's Lodge, the jazz club and cultural center of the community, that became famous. When the KKK was a potent force in Colorado politics, singers and musicians such as Lena Horne, Billy Eckstein, Duke Ellington, and others who performed in Denver's jazz clubs regularly stayed and performed at Wink's Lodge. Writers Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston were also frequent guests. As a satellite to the literary salons of the Harlem renaissance, Wink's Lodge is a remarkable story hidden in the Colorado Rockies.



Kristen Iversen

INTERLOCUTOR:

LEE MARTIN / THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Lee Martin is the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of English at The Ohio State University. He has authored several novels including *Quakertown* (Dutton, 2001); *The Bright Forever* (Crown/Shaye Areheart Books, 2005), a finalist for the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction; *River of Heaven* (Crown/Shaye Areheart Books, 2008); *Break the Skin* (New York: Crown Publishing, 2011); and *Late One Night* (Dzanc Books, 2016). Dr. Martin's nonfiction publications include *From Our House* (Dutton, 2000), *Turning Bones* (U of Nebraska Press, 2003), and *Such a Life* (U of Nebraska Press, 2012). In addition, he is also the author of two short story collections: *The Least You Need to Know* (Sarabande Books, 1996), and *The Mutual UFO Network* (Dzanc Books, 2018). His novel, *Yours, Jean*, will be out from Dzanc Books in 2020.



Susan Allen

SUSAN ALLEN ANTHROPOLOGY

Out of the Mire of the Past: Reviving Cultural Narratives from a Vanished Wetland Landscape in South Albania

This project integrates humanistic and natural scientific approaches in order to reconstruct human experience of the now extinct Maliq wetland in southern Albania, a focus of settlement in the area for more than 7,000 years. Its drainage in the 1940s provides an especially compelling example of the coupled physical and social effects of radical landscape transformations, which are often exacerbated when power inequalities are entwined with landscape change. Immediately following World War II, the dictator Enver Hoxha hailed the eradication of this wetland as a great political triumph over nature. This rhetoric, grounded in the notion of field reclamation, effectively silenced narratives of loss among the disempowered rural communities most affected by the drainage and its associated shifts in land-tenure policies. Fragments of place-based narratives of human experience of the wetland persist in ethnohistorical, ethnoecological, archaeological, and palaeoenvironmental evidence, despite their deliberate suppression through political propaganda and deliberate erasure of the landscape. The goal of this project is to reconstruct an historical ecology that highlights the enduring cultural saliency of this vanished wetland, despite its silencing under dictatorship. Although focused on illuminating such hidden histories and ecologies in a Southern European case study, this research contributes to the understanding of suppressed historical and ecological realities more broadly.

INTERLOCUTOR:

VICTOR THOMPSON / UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Victor Thompson is Professor of Archaeology, Director for the Laboratory of Archaeology and the Center for Archaeological Sciences, University of Georgia. Dr. Thompson is co-author of *New Histories of Village Life at Crystal River* (University Press of Florida, 2018). His work specializes in the application of archaeological science to the study of socio-political complexity and the historical ecology of wetland and coastal environments in the American Southeast. Broadly, his research utilizes historical and political ecology frameworks and focuses on the Georgia coast and the central and southwestern Gulf Coast of Florida. This research seeks to understand the long-term dynamics between humans and their environments in the context of ritual, monumentality, and political complexity, and how these trajectories experienced ruptures and displacement at the moment of European contact and colonialism.

JT ROANE WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES**Dark Agoras: Insurgent Black Social Life and the Politics of Place in Philadelphia**

Under contract with NYU Press, *Dark Agoras: Insurgent Black Social Life and the Politics of Place in Philadelphia*, historicizes multiple modes of insurgent spatial assemblage and queer social formation—or dark agoras—from within which Philadelphia's Black communities articulated disparaged forms of knowledge about the city. Taken together, the heterodox epistemologies, alternative cartographies, and distinctive spatial practices of Black working-class communities constituted what I describe as Black queer urbanism. Rather than simply attending to Black or queer experiences of the city, Black queer urbanism refers to a critical approach that views non-normative forms of Black social-geographic life and the distinctive and often discredited knowledge produced in dark agoras as the conceptual resources and bases for an alternate vision for the future of urban life outside the rubrics of gendered individualism, heteronormative familialism, and reproductive futurity. Drawing together a rich tapestry of sources, *Dark Agoras* recovers counter-intuitive historical connections between various progenitors of Black queer urbanism including Father Divine's esoteric spiritualist movement, the International Peace Mission, the followers of John Africa's radical "law of life," MOVE, and Philadelphia's unsanctioned frontline queer HIV-AIDS and harm reduction organization, Prevention Point. To the historiography of twentieth century urban social movements, the book contributes an account of a six-decade tradition whereby ordinary Black city dwellers challenged key aspects of the pro-growth paradigm governing the City.



JT Roane

INTERLOCUTOR:

CHERYL HICKS / UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Cheryl D. Hicks is an Associate Professor of Africana Studies and History at the University of Delaware. She holds a B.A. in American History from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in American History from Princeton University. Her research addresses the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, and the law. She has published in the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, and the *Journal of African American History*. Her first book, *Talk With You Like a Woman: African American Women, Justice, and Reform in New York, 1890-1935* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010) received the 2011 Letitia Woods Brown Book Award from the Association of Black Women Historians. Her current project, "*Black Enchantress*": *Hannah Elias, Interracial Sex, and Civil Rights in Jim Crow New York* explores the life of one of the wealthiest black women in turn-of-the-century New York City in order to illuminate the shifting meanings of sexuality, criminality, and black civil rights struggles in Gilded Age and Progressive-Era America.



Sunnie Rucker-Chang

SUNNIE RUCKER-CHANG GERMAN STUDIES

The Uses of 'Blackness' in Yugoslavia: Dimensions and Legacies of an Idea

In this project I trace the incorporation of “Blacks” into the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (1945-1991), and two of its successor states, Serbia and Montenegro, to understand the position of individuals coded as “Black” over time. I include in this study various local minority groups as well as foreign students who came to Yugoslavia as part of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM), a bloc of states that formed a middle way between the communist East and capitalist West. International students from NAM countries, many of whom were coded as “Black,” helped to expand the expression of Yugoslav global and multi-ethnic solidarities; these students provided a broad narrative to undergird “Black” and Blackness in Yugoslav and post-Yugoslav contexts. This project focuses on the post-WWII (1945-1991) and post-Yugoslav period (2010-), when in defiance to Yugoslav norms, ethnic and racial difference came to represent a counterpoint to the normative ethnic value of “whiteness,” which is regularly positioned as an inalienable, exclusive feature of belonging in both Eastern and Western Europe.

INTERLOCUTOR:

TOMISLAV LONGINOVIC / UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON

Tomislav Longinovic is Professor of Slavic, Comparative Literature and Visual Culture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is currently Visiting Professor at Harvard University. His books include *Borderline Culture* (U. Arkansas Press, 1993), *Vampires Like Us* (Beogradski krug, 2005), and *Vampire Nation: Violence as Cultural Imaginary* (Duke University Press, 2011). *Vampire Nation* was awarded the 2012 Mihajlo Miša Dordevic prize for best book in Serbian studies. Dr. Longinovic's research interests include South Slavic literatures and cultures; literary theory; Central and East European literary history; comparative Slavic studies; translation studies; cultural studies. He is currently working on the book manuscript entitled *The Secret of Translation*, which features a theory of culture based on relational structures rather than ethnic or national ones.

PHILIP TSANG ENGLISH & COMPARATIVE LITERATURE**The Obsolete Empire: Untimely Belonging
in Twentieth-Century British Literature**

The narrative of the “end of empire” has conditioned the ways we think about British imperialism and its legacy. But how did colonial or former colonial subjects comprehend the demise of an empire that did not belong to them? For people who grew up in the shadow of British rule, what does it mean to see England as a mandatory yet illegitimate object of desire? This project studies four writers whose literary careers were linked to the historical trajectory of empire: Henry James, James Joyce, Doris Lessing, and V. S. Naipaul. Thanks to their voracious reading of English literature in childhood, they experienced a richly textured world with which they deeply identified but to which they were not admitted. This literary England, frozen in time and out of place with the realities of imperial decline, in turn figures in their writings as a repository of unconsummated attachments, contradictory desires, and belated exchanges. Caught in the unbridgeable gap between an expansive Britishness and an exclusive Englishness, these writers fashion an untimely aesthetics that is contingent on their peripherality. Their works arrest the linear progression from colonial to postcolonial, from empire to nation, and from subject to citizen. Approaching the British empire as a structure of desire that outlived its political lifespan, this project gives greater precision to a distinct experience of time that has shaped modernist and postcolonial literatures. In addition, by examining the tense interplay of exclusion and attachment, this project puts forward a model of “untimely belonging” that destabilizes hegemonic notions of homeland, heritage, and community.

INTERLOCUTOR:

DAVID KURNICK / RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

David Kurnick is an Associate Professor of English at Rutgers University, where he teaches nineteenth-century literature, the history and theory of the novel, and gender and sexuality studies. His 2012 book *Empty Houses: Theatrical Failure and the Novel* (Princeton University Press) won the Sonia Rudiko Prize for best first book in Victorian Studies and was short-listed for the Modernist Studies Association's first book prize. His work has appeared in *PMLA*, *Victorian Studies*, *boundary 2*, *ELH*, *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, and *Raritan*. He also writes about contemporary fiction for *Public Books and Politics/Letters*. His 2015 translation of Julio Cortázar's *Fantomas versus the Multinational Vampires* was shortlisted for the Best Translated Book Award.

14TH ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

KEYNOTE

WILLIAM EGGINTON

DECKER PROFESSOR IN THE HUMANITIES
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Humanities Education At The Crossroads: Why The Liberal Arts Are Fundamental To Democracy



William Egginton

William Egginton is the Decker Professor in the Humanities at the Johns Hopkins University, where he teaches on literature, literary theory, and the relation between literature and philosophy, and where he directs the Alexander Grass Humanities Institute. He is the author of *How the World Became a Stage* (2003), *Perversity and Ethics* (2006), *A Wrinkle in History* (2007), *The Philosopher's Desire* (2007), *The Theater of Truth* (2010), *In Defense of Religious Moderation* (2011), and *The Man Who Invented Fiction* (2016). He is co-author with David Castillo of *Medialogies* (2017). He is also co-editor with Mike Sandbothe of *The Pragmatic Turn in Philosophy* (2004), translator and editor of Lisa Block de Behar's *Borges, the Passion of an Endless Quotation* (2003), co-editor with David E. Johnson of *Thinking With Borges* (2009). His most recent book, *The Splintering of the American Mind*, was published by Bloomsbury in August of 2018. His research interests include Comparative Literature, Literary Theory, Philosophy, Spanish Literature and Latin American Studies.

The Impact of Maize on Native American Agricultural Soil

Kenneth Barnett Tankersley

Anthropology

Traditionally, Keresan-speaking Puebloans grew maize in the Rio Grande Basin of New Mexico. Maize was initially dispersed to the Rio Grande Basin from Mesoamerica ~2100 BCE. Today, Puebloans practice the same agricultural techniques, as did their prehistoric and historic ancestors. In order to determine the impact of growing maize on soil, samples were collected from the rooting-zone of two Puebloan (Santa Ana and Santo Domingo [Kewa]) agricultural fields where maize has been grown for ~100 years. Additionally, soil samples were collected from an Ancestral Puebloan archaeological site. The analysis of these samples shows that while the soil is anthropogenically enriched in stable carbon over a period of two decades, there is a plateau afterwards. This finding suggests that our interpretations of ancient indigenous maize-based economies based on stable carbon underestimate local maize production.



Kenneth Tankersley

TAFT IMPACT: *A 2018-2019 Taft Center Fellowship provided me with the time and means to conduct field research on Native American Pueblos in the Four Corners region and collect a unique set of data that has not been available to other researchers. This Fellowship has resulted thus far in two peer-reviewed journal articles.*



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GRADUATE CONFERENCE



Now in its sixth year, the **humanitiesNOW GRADUATE CONFERENCE** invites paper presentations, roundtable, and thematic sessions, to present alongside Dissertation and Graduate Summer Fellows.

2018 – 2019 DISSERTATION FELLOWS

ALEX HUFFMAN PHILOSOPHY

**Mechanisms, Laws, and Causes:
New Mechanism as Half Humean Nominalism**

One consensus that has emerged among some proponents of the mechanistic approach to explanation is that special science laws express regularities, which are in turn explained by mechanisms. Most accounts on which laws are regularities are thoroughgoing Humean (empiricist) accounts that deny all manner of “natural necessity” or “necessary connections,” which includes causal relations. However, mechanists are adamantly anti-Humean when it comes to causation—they accept the existence of genuine (singular) causal interactions and hold them to be metaphysically independent of any role they might play in a regularity. Mechanists appear, then, to accept a regularity view of (*ceteris paribus*) laws but reject a regularity view of causation. In this regard, they are half Humean. This work argues for a metaphysical picture to support this hybrid position on which the laws of the special sciences are regularities constituted by local causal-mechanical facts. In so doing, this picture accommodates the mechanists’ avowedly nominalist claim that mechanisms are particulars (as opposed to universals).

MARÍA DEL MAR GÁMEZ

ROMANCE AND ARABIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

**Journalism as a Site of Cultural Memory:
The Literary Canon of the Spanish Golden Age in the
Language of Hispanic Journalism (1975-2017)**

This project analyzes the use and reception of literary terms related to the figures of “don Quixote,” “don Juan,” and “Fuenteovejuna” in the written press of Spain and Latin America since 1975. It studies the way Spanish-speaking journalists from those regions use the above mentioned literary terms to describe present day reality in Spain and Latin America. In addition, it analyzes which of the readings of the Spanish Golden Age literary works that gave birth to those figures most common in Hispanic journalism.

JULIALICIA CASE ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
The Holmes Alpha

This work is a speculative character-driven novel about a group of gamers who learn that a controversial video game technology—one that allows players to walk into a physical version of their favorite game and become their avatars—was secretly developed and then abandoned in a rural town in central Illinois. The experience of the “alpha” (or test version) is both exciting and psychologically difficult, illustrating the complicated intersections between physical and digital experiences. The book draws upon the critical work of game studies scholars such as Ian Bogost, Jane McGonigal, Anna Anthropy, and Janet Murray, and addresses important cultural debates about the influence of video games on empathy and identity, particularly regarding young adults. The novel explores important questions about video games in contemporary society: What are the differences between avatar and lived experiences? How are relationships developed and sustained between individuals who inhabit both physical and virtual worlds simultaneously, and what are the boundaries between these realms? How do our digital experiences influence, affect, and alter our experiences in the physical world?

ELLEN CHEW GERMAN STUDIES

**“Opera with Innovations”? -
 The Debt of Brecht’s “Epic Theater” to the 19th Century**

In his notes accompanying his opera with Kurt Weill, *Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny*, “Das moderne Theater ist das epische Theater,” Bertolt Brecht remarked that opera should move away from the “culinary” or appealing directly to emotions, and toward a dialectical theater, a theater that would instruct audiences to think, not feel: an “opera with innovations”. These “innovations” were the basis of his epic theater, his theories on how the “words, music and setting” should be fully independent from one another. Despite his innovations, however, I contend that Brecht did not fully escape the musical and dramatic formulas of 19th century opera. This project investigates the extent to which the nineteenth century provides the backbone for epic theater, and if perhaps epic opera, with its gritty thematic content, stock characters, and musical structure, is more indebted to the nineteenth century than previously thought.

MURAT YILMAZ POLITICAL SCIENCE**China's Development Model as Internal Colonialism:
The Case of the Uyghurs**

This project investigates the impact of the Chinese neoliberal development model and the global war on terror on the Uyghur community in China through the lens of internal colonialism. China's economic development is, in part, being achieved through a contemporary form of violent internal colonization of its largest indigenous minority group, the Muslim Turkic Uyghurs. Through a qualitative study, this work challenges assumptions about the success of Chinese development and China's self-identity as a non-colonizing country; connects China's development and its dispossession and securitization of the Uyghurs; reveals the range of resistances by Uyghur people within and outside China to these features of internal colonialism; and provides an analysis of how these struggles are being cast by China as Islamic terrorism.

STEF MURAWSKY SOCIOLOGY**Transgender Patient Experiences of Biomedicine**

This qualitative project explores transgender patient experiences of navigating and managing a stigmatized gender identity in biomedical contexts. How do transgender people manage their stigmatized gender identities in biomedical contexts? Do their health care experiences and encounters vary by the type of gender identity they seek to embody (i.e. transwomen vs. transmen vs. gender-nonconforming/non-binary)? How might trans people's other social locations (e.g. class, race, ability, sexuality) interact to constrain or facilitate their access to medical care that allows them to embody and perform their desired gender? Through interviews with a racially diverse set of transgender people utilizing healthcare services, broken out into categories based on their specific gender identities (i.e. transwomen, transmen and people who identify as neither men nor women), we find a critical analysis of stigma in healthcare that demonstrates how structural, interpersonal and individual-level transgender healthcare experiences are gendered and racialized.

NA ZHANG MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

On the Quenched Central Limit Theorem for Stationary Random Fields

For random sequences, it is known that the existence of certain martingale approximations implies the long run behavior of the normalized sum started at a point in an invariant form, called the quenched CLT (central limit theorem). However, it is not studied yet what we can say about the quenched CLT if we have the martingale approximations for stationary random fields. This study is mainly aimed to investigate the quenched CLT for stationary random fields. The first goal is to establish the quenched CLT for martingale differences random fields. The second one is to investigate the projective conditions under which we have martingale approximations for stationary random fields.

HUIBIN WENG ECONOMICS

Estimation of a Social Interaction Model with Endogenous Network Formation

Properly identifying the peer effects in social networks is of real importance for policy makers in order to implement policies efficiently. Spatial Econometrics is often used to estimate peer effects in network models. Exogeneity of the spatial weight matrix is an unrealistic assumption when it comes to model interactions between individuals. Here, the assumption of exogeneity of the weight matrix is here relaxed, and the exponential random graph models (ERGMs) is extended by including nodal-level attributes that would directly affect the probability of links between individuals. ERGMs are some of the most popular models in network analysis but are in practice very difficult to estimate. A class of networks will be estimated by comparing two approaches approximating the Exchange Algorithm proposed by Murray et al. (2006). The first method, Double Metropolis-Hastings sampler, proposed by Liang (2010), replaces perfect sampling with a standard Metropolis-Hastings algorithm. The second method extends the Exchange Algorithm by an importance sampling procedure to generate auxiliary variables, called Adaptive Exchange Algorithm (Liang et al., 2016). The Add Health data will be used as empirical application to estimate the peer effect for high school students on their academic performance.

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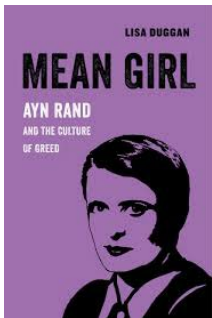
KEYNOTE

LISA DUGGANPROFESSOR OF SOCIAL & CULTURAL ANALYSIS
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**Mean Girl: Ayn Rand and the Culture of Neoliberal Greed**

Donald Trump is no John Galt. But he thinks he is Howard Roark. Is this misapprehension symptomatic of the political present? Ayn Rand's 1940s and 50s cult novels *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged* outlined the crisis of welfare state liberalism that led to neoliberal hegemony by the 1980s. The massive popularity of *Atlas Shrugged* in particular soared again during the neoliberal crisis of 2008. Rand fans deployed the novel's apocalyptic scenario as a warning, recommending more and better neoliberalism as the cure for crisis. But right wing populists, racial nationalists, and authoritarian tyrants have offered conflicting visions, mixing elements of dystopian and utopian futurism into their political prescriptions. Trump embodies and enacts these partly clashing, partly overlapping takes on the future of global neoliberalism. Have we arrived at its End Times or a Zombie New Times of neoliberal revival? This talk analyzes the popularity and influence of Ayn Rand's vision, among Trump administration officials, Silicon Valley tech moguls and others, to illuminate the political present.

Lisa Duggan is a journalist, activist, and Professor of Social & Cultural Analysis at New York University. She is author of *Sapphic Slashers: Sex,*

Sensationalism and American Modernity and *Twilight of Equality? Neoliberalism, Cultural Politics and the Attack on Democracy*; co-author with Nan Hunter of *Sex Wars: Sexual Dissent and Political Culture*, co-editor with Lauren Berlant of *Our Monica, Ourselves: The Clinton Affair and National Interest*. Most recently she is the author of *Mean Girl: Ayn Rand and the Culture of Greed*, forthcoming as hard copy, paperback, and as an e-book. She has also served as president of the American Studies Association 2014-2015.



Lisa Duggan



Imagining Taft's Future

In February, Taft hosted an open forum with its new Director, Dr. Amy Lind, and roughly sixty Taft faculty. In that meeting, faculty shared ideas about possible new programs and approaches to advancing the work of Taft and its support of the humanities. Several faculty expressed interest in further positioning Taft as a means of bringing together faculty across disciplines, based on shared research interests and interdisciplinary themes. There was also discussion about where to physically house Taft in the future, and many expressed support for UC housing Taft in a space alongside or with other humanities and social science departments. It was

suggested that Taft could potentially house and/or co-share space with other Centers in the College. Following this event, we have already begun to think strategically about rolling out new content, including collaborative marquee events, and strengthening relationships with units on campus, in part through helping departments publicize events, recruit students, and recognize faculty and student accomplishments, and through strengthening our relationship with A&S Development and UC Foundation with specific fundraising goals that the generous Taft endowment allows us to use as leverage.

COLLABORATIONS

GET ON THE BUS!

In commemoration and celebration of Black History Month, Taft sponsored the Get on the Bus! program, made possible by the program director, Dr. Holly McGee, Assistant Professor of History and additional forms of collaboration from other universities and educational organizations. This educational trip brought together students and community members from UC, Xavier University, University of Richmond, United Negro College Fund, DC-based Benjamin Banneker High School and Arkansas-based Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Traveling from Cincinnati to Washington D.C., participants spent four days and three nights in the capital city, visiting the National Museum of African American History and Culture, with continual dialogue throughout. This multiday, extended engagement allowed participants sustained interaction with the Museum's exhibits on African American history, punctuated with moments of reflection and dialogue between participants. For this project, McGee won support from numerous sources including UC's Office of the President, Office of the Provost, and Office of Equity & Inclusion, Xavier University, and Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The cost to UC students for the entire trip was only \$250.



Holly McGee

LOUDER THAN A BOMB CINCY

Now in its fifth year, Louder Than a Bomb Cincy has grown to provide a dozen different events throughout the year, with the finals bridging two nights. Among the numerous special guests, we were proud to have Laura Mitchell (Superintendent, Cincinnati Public Schools), Frannie DiBattista (Producer, Cincinnati Music Festival Presented by P&G), Kyle "Atlas" Fleming (co-founder of Underdog Academy and The W.O.R.D. (Warriors Of Rhetorical Discourse), Patrick Limbach (UC Vice President of Research), and Carol Tonge Mack (UC Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences) as judges.

2019
LOUDER
 THAN
 A BOMB
 CINCY



In the team competition, Walnut Hills High School, DePaul Cristo Rey High School, and WordPlay's Scribes team finished first, second, and third, respectively. In the Indy competition, we had an unprecedented three-way tie for first (all scoring a perfect 10!) between Iyana Brazzile of DePaul Cristo Rey High School, De'Ariss Hope of Walnut Hills High School, and Lily Adams of Walnut Hills High School. Destiny Lewis of Taft High School won the Cincinnati Award, given to the individual or team that most embodies a supportive, community spirit, and de-emphasizes the competitive aspects of Louder Than A Bomb. Ornella Siakam of Princeton High school won the Buddy Gray Political Award for political content.



TAFT FACULTY WRITE!

Hoping to jumpstart summer productivity, Taft co-sponsored, with the Center of Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, a writing workshop for all UC faculty and facilitated by Taft faculty member Dr. Laura Micciche (English) held at Taft during the first week of June. Following the announcement in early May, a dozen faculty reached out with interest in the program within the first week alone. Given the success of this event, Taft continued to host weekly writing blocks throughout the summer, open to all Taft faculty. Dr. Micciche will lead a similar workshop in June 2020.

PATRICIA W. O'CONNOR PAPERS

This year Taft was proud to help fund the Patricia W. O'Connor Papers Digitization project, directed by Andrés Pérez-Simón (RALL) and Arlene Johnson (UC Libraries), in collaboration with UC Libraries, UC Digital Scholarship Center (via the Digital Humanities/Digital Scholarship Strategic Initiative Group), Office of the Provost, Department of Romance and Arabic Languages and Literatures, and the Taft Digital Humanities Research Group. This multiyear project undertakes the digitization of archives of Patricia W. O'Connor, Charles Phelps Taft Professor Emerita of Romance Languages and Literatures. These papers contain a rich set of documentation that evidences the crucial role of Patricia W. O'Connor (b. 1931) in the foundation and development of the academic field of contemporary Spanish drama in a period of approximately thirty years (1964-1994). In addition to her notes, the papers include a large corpus of work on the nearly forgotten history of dozens of dramatic texts condemned to oblivion for political reasons in the last two decades of the Franco regime, including around one hundred texts that could not be published due to censorship; texts that only circulated as "underground" drama until the dictator's death in 1975. Once completed, the collection will be made publicly available through Scholar@UC, UC's digital repository, housed within UC Libraries, allowing global access to the collection and facilitating international scholarly collaboration.



Andrés Pérez-Simón

THE FUTURE OF (NO) WORK AND AI

How do we impart knowledge at a time when information is instant, ubiquitous, and free? How do we prepare students for jobs that might not exist tomorrow? The rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its convergence with other technologies will have profound effects on the future of work. Many job categories, including the professions, will be affected – and dramatic changes in economic, political and social life are inevitable. From a wide field of applicants across UC, five finalists were selected to present on these issues, including Dr. Richard Harknett (Political Science) and Dr. Zvi Biener (Philosophy).



Learning Spanish Grammar through Everyday Conversational Comics

Fenfang Hwu

Romance and Arabic Languages & Literatures

It is well established that English speakers tend to encounter difficulty in mastering numerous Spanish structures. Similarly, teaching those structures is a long-standing challenge for teachers. One contributing factor for such challenges is that English and Spanish do not share similar patterns of use. Pedagogical factors also contribute to the difficulty in mastering those structures by learners. Existing pedagogical materials lack many important features that can help learners understand and acquire those structures. Although many challenges exist, the ability to make correct choices with those structures is critical for effective communication, according to the proficiency guidelines of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Helping learners to effectively develop foreign language abilities lies at the heart of the second language researcher's mission.

Dr. Hwu's project provides not only new knowledge about challenging Spanish structures through research studies but also effective teaching/learning methods, thus advancing the Center's interests in production and dissemination of knowledge. Additionally, the newly-produced knowledge and methods serve and benefit foreign language teaching/learning communities. They improve teachers' presentation of and students' exposure to and interaction with those Spanish structures, leading to more successful learning.

In *Learning Spanish Grammar through Everyday Conversational Comics*, Dr. Hwu draws on three fields of study: Applied Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, and Computer-Assisted Language Learning, as well as her classroom experiences and original ideas. There, she employs innovative and engaging materials and techniques to make grammar-learning enlightening, enjoyable, and effective. Everyday conversations, in the format of comics, serve both as examples and attainment goals, and enable students to easily apply learning to real-life situations. Catchy and colorful graphics, humor, and contextualized short conversations enhance comprehension as well as keep students motivated and engaged. Grammar concepts are explained

in a way that is easy to understand and digest. Abundant examples help students develop maximum understanding and apply knowledge in new situations. Exercises are non-traditional, providing concept-clarification and hands-on learning as well as encouraging self-expression and creativity.

The project prompts Second Language Acquisition researchers to expand the scope of empirical research to include type of context, conversational and narrative discourses. It will contain several innovative features. For example, it will meet a critical need for effective and ecologically-valid instructional methods, serving and benefiting foreign language teaching and learning communities across the

globe. The empirical research studies that help lay the foundations for the book will provide empirical support for Second Language Acquisition-based principles that are used to guide the book's design, and support for the comic-creation tool in the field of Computer-Assisted Language Learning. As the project can be extended to other structures and foreign languages, it can result in a contribution broader than its initial scope.

TAFT IMPACT: *Research for this project was funded by a 2017 – 2018 Faculty Release Fellowship.*



Fenfang Hwu

The project prompts Second Language Acquisition researchers to expand the scope of empirical research to include type of context, conversational and narrative discourses.

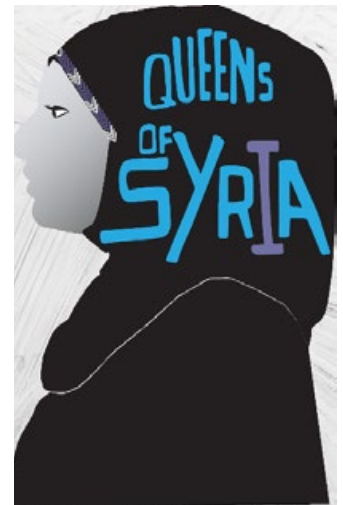
RESEARCH GROUPS

In 2017, the City of Cincinnati became the 7th city in the US to pass two ordinances that support the mission and spirit of the US-based Cities for CEDAW (the United Nation's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which was created in 1979 and has been ratified by the majority of states in the world but not by the US government). The **TAFT GLOBAL STUDIES RESEARCH GROUP** and the **TAFT HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH GROUP** have played significant roles in supporting UC's Gender Equity Research Team, which, following the successful passage of two ordinances and the creation of the Mayor-appointed Gender Equality Task Force, was selected to conduct the required two-year Gender Study of the City of Cincinnati. This intersectional study of gender, race and class disparities amongst City employees helps advance the principles of the UN Convention on CEDAW at the local level. Led by Drs. Anne Sisson Runyan (Political Science) and Amy Lind (WGSS), this project was also funded by the City of Cincinnati, local non-governmental organizations, and several additional UC units. The group serves as a point of coalescence for interdisciplinary research by faculty from Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Political Science, Planning, Anthropology, Communications, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Ethics Center, and has helped build new relationships amongst the City, UC, and local and international human rights advocacy organizations. An Interim Report was delivered to the City in Fall 2018 and the Final Report will be presented to the City in Fall 2019.

In addition, **TAFT GLOBAL STUDIES RESEARCH GROUP** also awarded seed money for the Central American Migrations Collective, initiated by Dr. Leila Rodríguez-Soto, Associate Professor of Anthropology, fueling the development of a website for research, education, and action.

The **GLOBAL STUDIES RESEARCH GROUP**, along with the **VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH GROUP**, also co-funded the film screening and discussion of *Palabras mágicas: para romper un encantamiento (Magic Words: Breaking a Spell)* in Spring 2019. Organized by Dr. Mauricio Espinoza (Romance and Arabic Languages and Literatures, or RALL), the event brought together faculty and graduate students from Anthropology and RALL to view and discuss the film with the director, Mercedes Moncada, a Nicaraguan filmmaker and sociologist. The film contrasts two periods of Nicaragua's Sandinista Revolution. The first period explores the end of the initial revolutionary phase that essentially ended decades of U.S.-backed dictatorial rule. This is explored through the posthumous treatment of the ashes of Nicaraguan revolutionary and Sandinista National Liberation Front (Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional, or FSLN) leader Augusto César Sandino, as a backdrop for the meaning it implies in the imaginary of Nicaraguans. In the second period, the recent (2007) "second triumph" is explored, as the FSLN regained power in 2007 through a national vote with the re-election of Daniel Ortega as president. The film offers a powerful and insightful critique of the Ortega-Murillo regime, as student protests broke out in the country followed by generalized protests and opposition to the government in 2018, which has responded with a violent crackdown.

The **TAFT HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH GROUP** co-sponsored, with the Department of Classics, a film screening of and interdisciplinary panel discussion about the award-winning documentary, *Queens of Syria*, directed by Yasmin Fedda. The film follows 50 Syrian forced refugee women living in Aman, Jordan. These women organized a reading and then an international production of Euripides' *Trojan Women*, the Ancient Greek tragedy about the plight of women in war. The film explores a "cross-cultural contact across millennia, in which women born in 20th century Syria found a blazingly vivid mirror of their own experiences in the stories of a queen, princesses and ordinary women like them, uprooted, enslaved, and bereaved by the Trojan War," as noted in the film's marketing materials. This was the first screening of the documentary in the Midwest. The screening was followed by a panel response and discussion facilitated by Dr. Lauren Ginsberg (Classics), Dr. Rebecca Sanders (Political Science), Dr. Leila Rodriguez (Anthropology), and Julie Le Master (Director, Cincinnati Immigrant and Refugee Law Center). Over 100 audience members learned about the Syrian refugee crisis, discussed strategies for helping refugees in Cincinnati, and were able to consider the benefits of interdisciplinary approaches to social challenges.





Stacy Farenthold

Building on the *Queens of Syria* event, the **TAFT HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH GROUP** also sponsored a visit by Dr. Stacy Farenthold, University of California Davis, entitled *The First World War in the Syrian and Lebanese Diaspora, 1908-1925*. Dr. Farenthold's talk examined the politics of Syrian and Lebanese migration around the period of the First World War. Some half-million Arab migrants, nearly all still subjects of the Ottoman Empire, lived in a diaspora concentrated in Brazil, Argentina, and the United States. They faced new demands for their political loyalty from Istanbul, which commanded them to resist European colonialism. In the Western hemisphere, Syrian migrants grappled with political suspicion, travel restrictions, and outward displays of support for the war against the Ottomans. From these diasporic communities, Syrians used their ethnic associations, commercial networks, and global press to oppose Ottoman rule, collaborating with the Entente powers because they believed this war work would bolster the cause of Syria's liberation. Beyond the well-attended discussion of her path-breaking research, Dr. Farenthold taught a hands-on class of approximately 60 students, helping to analyze primary-source texts to better understand the complexities of the diasporic experience.

Also sponsored by the **TAFT VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH GROUP**, as well as the **DIGITAL HUMANITIES RESEARCH GROUP**, was the multimedia exhibition and project, *Layering the City / Stadt(ge)schichten: Ruhrpott and Rust Belt*, which involved faculty and students from the **Program for Literature and Media Praxis at the University of Duisburg-Essen** and **UC's Department of German Studies**. The project is part of an ongoing seminar which examines the transformation of no-longer-used industrial sites (e.g., manufacturing plants, transportation hubs, breweries) into repurposed cultural sites or destinations in Cincinnati and in Essen and the Ruhrgebiet, Germany. The first event took place in May 2019 in Essen, the second takes place in November 2019 in Dortmund, and the third will take place in February 2020 in Cincinnati. The Cincinnati contingent is organized by Dr. Tanja Nusser, Associate Professor, German Studies & Film / Media Studies, and Director of Graduate Studies, German Studies; and Dr. Lindsay Preseau, Assistant Professor Educator and Director of Basic Languages, German Studies.

The **DIGITAL HUMANITIES RESEARCH GROUP** continued its' partnership with and development of the **UC Game Lab**. The lab, directed by Dr. Evan Torner, Assistant Professor of German Studies and Film / Media Studies and Undergraduate Director of German Studies, has built a core collection of materials and has started to host events. In addition to organizing panel discussions, the UC Game Lab hosts weekly sessions on games and game studies with Hughes High School students, allowing exploration of experimental and artistic games, as well as Game Lab Study Breaks at the end of each semester. The lab has partnered with Breakthrough Cincinnati to provide programming for students in grades 6-12, offering a wide range of services, from career counseling in games careers to game design. The lab has also partnered with UC Libraries, allowing their collection to be checked-out by any member of the public that holds a Cincinnati Libraries card.

The **MEDICAL HUMANITIES RESEARCH GROUP** spent the year planning and organizing long-term collaborations with faculty from the College of Medicine, applying for 2019-2020 external grants, and supporting events that highlight the work being done by participants and that help generate collaboration. This engagement has been fruitful in bringing together, for example, a reading group collectively organized by group members and medical faculty. Two important events sponsored by this group are worthy of special mention: First, a sponsored lecture by Dr. Mark Hannah of Arizona State University, co-author of *Mapping the Terrain: Examining the Conditions for Alignment Between the Rhetoric of Health and Medicine and the Medical Humanities*. This talk was organized by Dr. Lora Arduser, Associate Professor of English & Comparative Literature, and co-author of the above text. Secondly, the group sponsored the *Popular Culture, Medicine, and Bodies Conference* keynote lecture, delivered by Dr. James Phelan, a founding member of Project Narrative and Distinguished University Professor of English & Director of Medical Humanities at The Ohio State University. The conference was organized by Dr. Michele Reutter, Associate Professor Educator, Department of English & Comparative Literature.

OTHER EVENTS OF NOTE IN 2018–2019...

The Contested Terrain of Financial Knowledge: Financial Coaching, Behavioral Economics and the Pursuit of Market Agency

Miranda Martinez, The Ohio State University

Human-Plant Attachments & Modes of Unequal Belonging in South Africa

Laura A. Foster, University of Indiana-Bloomington

Developing Successful Masters of Arts in Teaching Programs: From Conceptualization to Graduate Placement

Próspero N. García, Rutgers University

Muslims and American Religion Post-World War II

Kambiz GhaneaBassiri, Reed College

The Origins of Suburban Crisis: Real Estate and Inequality in 20th Century America

Thomas Sugrue, New York University

53rd Annual Philosophy Colloquium: Philosophy of Biology

Commented reading/rehearsal of “The Oven”

Ilan Stavans, Amherst College

Symphony: This Will Be Our Reply – A Tribute to Leonard Bernstein

Maestro Lucas Richman, Bangor Symphony Orchestra

Queering Family: Erotic Relationships and Creative Kinship

Sarah Imhoff, Indiana University

James C. Kautz Lecture: Our Changing Lives: Work, Family, and Policy in a Time of Rising Gender Equality

Betsey Stevenson, University of Michigan

A People’s Atlas of Detroit: Collaboration, Research, and the Right to the City

Andrew Newman, Wayne State University

Men, Women, and Shame among Jews in Antiquity

Michael Satlow, Brown University

The Spectacular Case of Abner Louima: Sexualized Violence, Black Masculinity, and Police Brutality

Jamie L. Small, University of Dayton

Life of the Mind: What's Next for America? Teaching Hope and Reviving Democracy *(with Panel)*

Sarah M. Stitzlein, Education & Philosophy

Uneasy Peace: The Great Crime Decline, the Renewal of City Life, and the Next War on Violence

Patrick Sharkey, New York University

Change the World': Broadway's Assassins (1990), Gun Violence, and American Society (Part 1)

Maestro Lucas Richman, Bangor Symphony Orchestra

Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North

Thomas Sugrue, New York University

Ethics, Aesthetics, and Nonfictionality in Medical Fictions: Lisa Genova's Inside the O'Briens and Ian McEwan's SaturdayWriting & Popular Culture Conference
Keynote: James Phelan, Ohio State University**Islam and the Arc of Justice in America**

Kambiz GhaneaBassiri, Reed College

'Change the World': Broadway's Assassins (1990), Gun Violence, and American Society (Part 2)

Maestro Lucas Richman, Bangor Symphony Orchestra

Field Mapping: The Terrain of the Rhetoric of Health & Medicine and the Medical Humanities

Mark Hannah, Arizona State University

Descendant Communities and Museum CollectionsBob Pickering, University of Tulsa;
Senior Curator, Gilcrease Museum**Public Q&A "The New Hispanics"**

Ilan Stavans, Amherst College

In the Wilderness (Midbar): The Spiritual Journey of *Transparent*

Rabbi Susan Goldberg, Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Los Angeles

Finding Common Ground: Moving Toward Productive Pathways for CitizenshipBrain Calfano, Journalism
Nancy Jennings, Communication**Breaking New Ground: A Collaborative Approach to Repatriation and Social Justice**

Holly Cusack-McVeigh, Indiana University & Purdue University – Indianapolis

Free to Rock: How Rock & Roll Helped End the Cold War

Screening followed by Q&A with Producer Doug Yeager

What makes a Good Worker or Good Boss? How *Undercover Boss* Answers

Ilana Gershon, Indiana University
Bloomington

Allegory, the Nation, and the Female Body in Anne Claire Poirier's *Les Filles du Roy*

Maggie Flinn, Ohio State University

Are Jewish Men Manly? A Story of American Masculinity

Sarah Imhoff, Indiana University

Arts and Activism in Prisons

Ashley Lucas, University of Michigan

Incorporating Dynamic Assessment in the Language Classroom through Concrete Tasks and Strategies

Próspero N. García, Rutgers University

Feminist Leadership Principles in Higher Education

Amy Koerber, Texas Tech University

Women's Empowerment in Japan: Progress, Challenges, and Ways Forward

Asako Osaki, Government of Japan

Liberalism Cannot Save the Planet: Multispecies Justice, Ongoing Colonialism, and Decolonization in Malaysia and South Africa

Juno Salazar Parreñas, The Ohio State University

Creating "Half-Breed:" A History of Mixed Blood North America, 1600-1940

Anne Hyde, University of Oklahoma

Humanities Education at the Crossroads: Why the Liberal Arts are Fundamental to Democracy

14th Annual Research Symposium
Keynote: William Egginton, John Hopkins University

Mean Girl: Ayn Rand and the Culture of Neoliberal Greed

humanitiesNOW Keynote: Lisa Duggan, New York University

The Political Theology of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt

Sarah Eltantawi, Evergreen College

The American Mosque and Its Controversies

Kambiz GhaneaBassiri, Reed College

**2018 Taft Hispanic Lecture,
From Rat Route to Plan Andinia:
Anti-Semitism in Latin America**

Ilan Stavans, Amherst College

Transnational Orientalia

Minoo Moallem, University of
California, Berkeley

**What Can Comparative Politics
Teach us about Gender and
Populism in India?**

Amrita Basu, Amherst College

**Oceans of Skin in the Early
Modern World**

16th Annual Queen City Colloquium &
Interdisciplinary History Conference
Keynote: Craig Koslofsky, University of
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

**Journeys through Feminist
International Relations: A Century
of Feminist Thought and Activism
on Peace and Security**

J. Ann Tickner, University of Southern
California

**Taking the F#%&ing High Road'
and Other Essays About Music,
Leadership, and Life**

Maestro Lucas Richman, Bangor
Symphony Orchestra

**We Live for the We: The Political
Power of Black Motherhood**

Dani McClain, Independent Scholar &
Journalist

BUDGET OVERVIEW

FACULTY AWARDS: 45.86%

Faculty awards consist of travel, center fellowships, summer fellowships, release fellowships, research supplements, research support, departmental allocated research support, publications, and collections.

STUDENT AWARDS: 29.18%

Student awards consists of graduate travel, graduate enhancements, dissertation fellowships, graduate & undergraduate summer fellowships, graduate and undergraduate enrichment, and undergraduate research awards.

FACULTY & STUDENT AWARDS: 5.51%

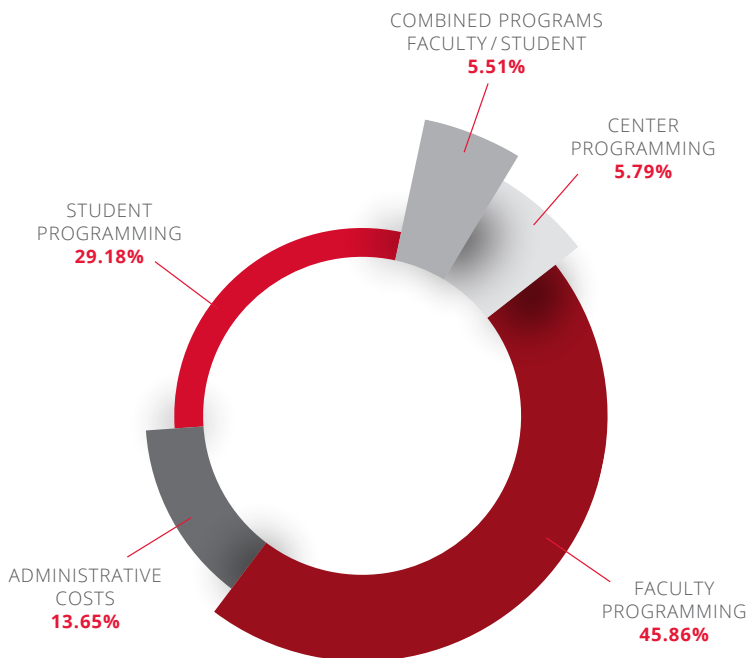
Faculty & Student awards consists of conferences, competitive and departmental lectures, and research seminars

CENTER AWARDS: 5.79%

Center-based programming consist of commemorative events, **TAFTtalks**, **TAFTco-labs**, **humanitiesNOW** graduate conference, annual research symposium, LTAB, research groups, and CHCI membership

ADMINISTRATION: 13.65%

Administration costs of faculty programs, student programs, combined faculty & student programs, and center programs comprises just over 13% of the total budget.



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