

Humanities at Large

Jackman Humanities Institute Newsletter
Volume 1: Issue 6 (February 2018)



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling Candidates for JHI Graduate Fellowships in 2018-2019 by Veronica Litt

The application is live, and you can see it [HERE](#). Every year four senior Ph.D. students join our Circle of Fellows to finish writing their dissertation in the lively and supportive environment of the Jackman Humanities Institute. We interviewed one of this year's graduate fellows, Letha Victor (Anthropology, pictured above) about her experience.

Letha has found the Institute's collegial community to be instructive and motivational while writing her dissertation on spiritual pollution and social change in Northern Uganda. "The interdisciplinary setting has benefited me more than I expected," she says. "It is really instructive to learn how to talk to people outside of your discipline and across levels."

Highlighting the weekly lunches where fellows present on their research, Letha finds the institute's "sustained conversation" to be a "motivating factor to try new things with my scholarship." The discussions "crop up in my own work...and keep me invigorated. I have a renewed excitement for my work because of the productive discussions I've had with scholars who work outside of my field."

Letha also credits her productivity and renewed enthusiasm to the JHI's close community, citing the supportive setting and cheerful smiles that greet her at the office: "I want to come into my office every day. This is my favourite year at UofT so far. It's a great opportunity to see the forest through the trees and to see my own research in new ways. I have a renewed excitement for my work because of the productive discussions I've had with scholars who work outside of my field."

JHI will select three fully-funded fellows who are beyond the funded cohort, and one (with replacement funding for TA work) who is in the last year of the cohort. For 2018-2019, we'll be seeking people whose research is relevant to the annual theme, *Reading Faces -- Reading Minds*.

Could this be you next year? If you have questions, you are welcome to contact us at jhi.associate@utoronto.ca. The deadline for applications is **15 March 2018**.



Photo credit: Veronica Litt, 2018

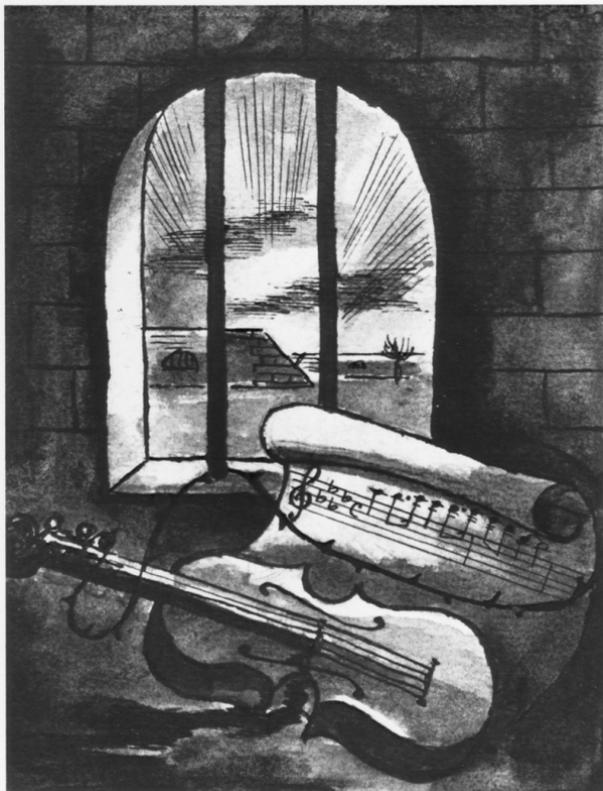
Annual Theme, 2018-2019

Reading Faces -- Reading Minds

What does it mean to read—a face, a text, an object, another mind? Human beings use a variety of intuitive and deliberate techniques in an effort to gauge what others feel, want, mean, and know, a sort of 'mindreading.' But are the faces we see and voices we hear always representational? While face-to-face encounters have exceptional social significance, the ways in which people encounter each other on stage, in print, and on screens are not transparent. What access to other minds do the humanities afford, and how do the humanities connect to developments in cognitive science and neuroscience? How do notions about reading minds transform what we think we do in reading texts? What is it to recognize the face and to know the mind of another?

JHI Program for the Arts Applications for 2018-2019

The Jackman Humanities Institute will be accepting applications for support of next year's humanities events starting until **20 March**. This program supports a range of activities: performances, exhibitions, concerts, film series, speakers, symposia, and even conferences. Organizers should be faculty members at the University of Toronto, and the events should be relevant to next year's theme, Reading Faces -- Reading Minds. The application is [HERE](#).



Bedrich Fritta, *Still Life of Violin*, 1943

This year's Program for the Arts lineup included *Music Amidst Violence*, a three-part series in December 2017 featuring a lecture by Michael Beckerman (NYU), a roundtable forum, and a concert with talk. The organizer, Professor Sherry Lee (Faculty of Music) describes her experience as "a chance to juxtapose scholarship, performance, and ethical questions in a distinctive way... we gathered scholars from various disciplines who are researching music in relation to violence: music composed in contexts of violence and repression; music performed as an expression of the experience

of violent trauma; music whose re-performance in the present may memorialize loss, celebrate survival, or inspire reflection and activate empathy within listeners." She was able to integrate "live musical performance with the presentation of scholarship and engaged discussion of... what may be at stake in constructing listening experiences that oscillate between history and aesthetics." *Music Amidst Violence* is a wonderful example of how the Program for the Arts can support events that in turn support research in the humanities.

FEATURED EVENT

David Perry

"Public Humanities in the Age of Trump"

**Tuesday 6 February, 4:00 p.m. in JHB100
(170 St. George Street)**

Should academics go public in the Age of Trump? How does it work? What are the risks of speaking out? What are the risks of being silent?



David Perry, a widely-published journalist and historian, will speak about the perils and promises of breaking out of the Ivory Tower in this networked age.

[David Perry](#) is a journalist and public humanist. He has taught history at Dominican University and is currently at the University of Minnesota. And he has widened his intellectual interests and his reach: from Venice, the Crusades, and the Mediterranean world, to violence, criminalization, higher education, and disability rights. He is a regular columnist for [Pacific Standard](#), and has been published in many other popular publications.

[Event website](#)

Contact Us

To subscribe to Humanities at Large, send an email request to jhi.associate@utoronto.ca

Director: [Alison Keith](#) / Associate Director: [Kim Yates](#)

Office Manager: [Monica Toffoli](#)

[Website](#) / Telephone: (416) 978-7415

Thoughts on Caring for a Wampum Belt by Kim Yates, Associate Director

It is white, with two dark-blue stripes that run its length. I could tell you that it is 36.5" long and 4.5" wide (or 93 cm x 11.5 cm if you prefer the metric system), but it would perhaps be more accurate to describe it in its own terms. It is made of tubular glass beads, woven side-by-side in thirteen rows: three white rows, two blue, three white, two blue, and three more white. Each row contains 323 beads; multiply by 13 and you get 4,199 beads. It is woven on a light-brown waxed linen thread, and there are 14 braided tassels at each end of the belt. The white beads are opaque, bright white; the blue ones are translucent, a deep indigo that is almost purple. It's quite lovely held up to the light.

This object is a replica Two-Row wampum belt. It came into my office because the Jackman Humanities Institute is engaged this year on the annual theme of "Indelible Violence: Shame, Reconciliation, and the Work of Apology", and one of our fellows suggested that it would be a good addition to the Institute. It has a name: kashwentha (sometimes spelled guswenta). This refers both to the object in all its many replicated instances, and to the agreement that it signifies.



Replica Two-Row wampum belt
Photo by Kim Yates, 2017.

This essay appears in the Humanities at Large blog for January 2018. Read more [HERE](#).

The blog is jointly written by JHI staff and fellows. Some entries provide a look at what the fellows are working on in their weekly lunch presentations. Others highlight a particular working group, or an event in the life of the Institute. New entries are posted at roughly one-week intervals.

Upcoming events

6 Feb., 4-6 pm JHB100 170 St. George St.

[\[more information\]](#)

Public Humanities in the Age of Trump

David Perry, Pacific Standard and History, U. of Minnesota

13 Feb., 4-6 pm Munk School Room 208N 1 Devonshire Place [\[more information\]](#)

Punishing Remains: Performing Witch Archives, Decriminalizing Witchcraft

VK Preston, Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies

26 Feb. 5-7 pm Robert Gill Theatre 214 College Street [\[more information\]](#)

Tipi Confessions: A Research-Creation Laboratory

Kim Tallbear, University of Alberta

Part of [Indelible Refusal: Bodies, Performances and Walking Resistance](#)

27 Feb., 12-2 pm JHB 1040 170 St. George St.

[\[more information\]](#)

'Because SSHRC Says You Have To': Managing your Research Data

Digital Humanities Lightning Lunch -- RSVP required

13-15 March, 4:30-6 pm, UC140 [\[more information\]](#)

The End of Knowledge

Jill Lepore, David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History, Harvard U.

F.E.L. Priestley Lectures in the History of Ideas

22 March, 4:30-6 pm, UC140 [\[more information\]](#)

The Aesthetics of Crisis: Art, Writing, and the Politics of Being

Simon Gikandi, Robert Schirmer Professor of English, Princeton U.

The W.J. Alexander Lecture in English Literature

Application Deadlines

[Jackman Scholars-in-Residence](#)

12 February 2018 (midnight)

[Graduate Fellowship Nominations](#)

15 March 2018

[JHI Program for the Arts grants](#)

20 March 2018

[JHI Undergraduate Fellowships](#)

5 April 2018

[JHI Working Groups](#)

20 May 2018