The Stack

Arts and Humanities Forum Fall/Winter 2021 Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2

In this issue: The NEH ARP Grant. 2022-23 Theme: Porous. Research Feature: River Channels.

From the director:

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We’ve had a busy fall and winter at the Forum. In October, we were notified that OU had been awarded a record-breaking $500,000 humanities grant from the NEH American Rescue Plan. Read more about this grant, spearheaded by the Forum, in this newsletter. We had a fantastic two-day seminar with our 2021-22 Forum Public Fellows, and we’ll be advertising their public-facing projects as Covid restrictions allow. As part of our VPRP funded project River Channels: Institutional Barriers to Humanistic Excellence at OU. Check your inboxes for our large-scale survey from this project: your input is vital.

It has been such a delight to meet and chat with so many of you as I’ve been visiting faculty meetings this Fall/Winter. We are very much looking forward to hosting in-person gatherings again as the pandemic environment changes. We especially hope to see you all at late-spring launch parties for our first batch of NEH-funded OUAH.FM podcast programming.

Sincerely, Kimberly Marshall

Kimberly Marshall

Faculty Director

OU Arts & Humanities Forum

Associate Professor, Anthropology

[Image of OU Arts and Humanities Forum Logo]

2022-2023 Forum Theme: Porous

How often do we *narrate* security into filters, boarders, boundaries that are actually quite permeable? And in what ways can the arts and humanities help us to experience, appreciate, and at times proceed with greater caution around those permeabilities? From virus transmission to nuclear defense to international migration and climate crisis, the arts and humanities can contribute a great deal to understanding the human experience and feeling secure or feeling vulnerable. The Arts & Humanities Forum at the University of Oklahoma invites applications for five Forum Public Fellowships to create public-facing arts and humanities projects that think expansively about the porous boundaries we construct and the meanings about safety we attach to them. Forum Public Fellowships Applications Due April 22.

The Forum supports the OU *Lead On, University* Strategic Plan. We change lives through promoting research and creative excellence in the arts and humanities, as articulated in **Pillar 1*.*** Our emphasis on public-facing programming also supports **Pillar 5,** encouraging arts and humanities scholarship and creative activity that enriches and positively impacts our state, our nation, and our world.

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**Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts (SSHA Seed Grant Program)**

River Channels: Forum Takes Up Research on Faculty Careers

River Channels: Institutional Barriers to Humanistic Excellence is an ethnographic research project that seeks to identify institutional barriers to excellence, faculty research careers, job satisfaction, work life balance, and funding. Through ethnographic interviews and a large-scale survey of OU Faculty, the Forum is learning more about how OU artistic and humanistic faculty work, what they need, and how the Forum can help.

If you are interested in being interviewed, please contact Dr. Anna Reser at areser@ou.edu. All interviews are anonymous and confidential.

OU faculty should have received a link to our anonymous survey. It takes less than ten minutes. Didn’t get a link? We want to hear from you! Email areser@ou.edu.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Ou.edu/humanitiesforum/funding

March 25: Manuscript Development Workshops

April 22: Forum Public Fellowships

April 22: Faculty Summer Reading Groups

Wildlife on the Walls: Artist Hannah Harper

As part of our initiative to create a new, cohesive look for the Arts & Humanities Forum, we were able to celebrate Oklahoma and support the work of OU Artist Hannah Harper with this commissioned work, now hanging in the Forum Atrium in the Carnegie Building.

Harper is a MFA student in the school of visual art. “My work falls under the contemporary wildlife art umbrella,” she writes. “I enjoy pursuing whimsy and encouraging a narrative within my paintings. This piece, ‘Indian Blanket Bingo’ was inspired by some of the flora and fauna local to the state of Oklahoma. The scissor-tailed flycatcher is the state bird, the black-tailed jackrabbit is native to the state, and the Indian blanket is the state flower.”

Meet the Arts & Humanities Forum Graduate Student Assistants.

Myriam Coulibaly Aurelie: Myriam serves as the Public Humanities Graduate Research Assistant at the Forum, funded by the NEH ARP Grant. She is an international graduate student, and currently pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Global Security. Her research interests cover interstate relations, terrorism, militarization, transnational crimes, and geopolitics. At the Forum, Myriam manages the Forum’s public facing content as well as serving as a research assistant for the River Channels project.

Andrew J. Smith: Andrew is a graduate research assistant for the OU Arts & Humanities Forum, funded by the NEH ARP Grant, and serves as an audio production editor for the podcast. Prior to attending OU, Andrew was a touring musician for 15 years with various award winning musicals and production shows. He is currently finishing his Master’s of Music in Trumpet Performance in the Weitzenhoffer Family School of Fine Arts, with the intent of continuing his education and eventually teaching at the collegiate level.

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NEH American Rescue Plan Grant

[Logo for “New Stories of the West, for the West.” Red background with white book stack and mountain scene inlaid.]

Through the leadership of the OU Arts & Humanities Forum, six key humanities programs will benefit from a $500,000 award from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the largest ever total grant from the NEH for OU. The funding originated through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), intended to help the humanities sector across the country weather the coronavirus pandemic.

The award will primarily support staffing needs at the OU Press, but will also be instrumental in developing a new imprint at the OU Press in coordination with the OU Native Nations Center. Other public-facing programs supported by the ARP include World Literature Today, the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, the Arts & Humanities Forum, and the Oklahoma Weather Community Oral History Project.

National Humanities Center Faculty Summer Residency Recipients

Jennifer Saltzstein [Photo]

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation Presidential Professor of Music (Musicology)

Kimberly G. Wieser [Photo]

Associate Professor of English

Congratulations to Jennifer Saltzstein and Kimberly Wieser, who have been selected for summer residencies at the National Humanities Center – a four-week program to give humanities scholars an opportunity to make progress on a current research project or jumpstart a new one. Professors Saltzstein and Wieser will join approximately forty humanities scholars from universities across the country who will work together this summer in the National Humanities Center’s facilities in the Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The National Humanities Center is the world’s only independent institute dedicated to advanced study in all areas of the humanities.

OUAH.FM – Arts and Humanities Podcasting

Funded by the NEH ARP Grant, OUAH.FM is a new podcast initiative by the Forum.

Coming Soon! Staying with the Question: our long-form show explores the deep questions OU scholars are working on in their research.

New Books and projects: We interview OU scholars about their latest Projects.

Faculty Books and Projects

The Forum website now features recent faculty books and major projects. Browse the latest arts and humanities scholarship and creative activity at OU. Ou.edu/humanitiesforum/faculty-projects. Don’t see your book or project? Send us an email: humanities.forum@ou.edu.

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