The Stack

Arts and Humanities Forum Spring/Summer 2021 Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 1

In this issue: A new director and a new direction, new grant programs, funding and fellows.

From the director:

Greetings and welcome to a new chapter of the Arts & Humanities Forum at the University of Oklahoma. My name is Dr. Kimberly Marshall, and I was appointed in January as the new Faculty Director of the Forum. I join Forum Post-Doctoral Researcher, Dr. Anna Reser, and our fantastic Forum Faculty Advisory Committee in continuing to build upon the strong foundation laid for us by the Founding Director Janet Ward, with whom we will continue to partner in her new role as the Senior Associate Vice President for Research & Partnerships at the OVPRP. We wish her the very best in this new role.

Taking over Forum operations during a global pandemic has presented both challenges and opportunities. We at the Forum have used this pause in the normal pace of operations to take stock of where we are and build toward where we want to be. Please be on the lookout for Forum events, workshops, and funding opportunities during the coming year, as we continue to facilitate established programs and create and refine new ones. I am excited to use this newsletter to share our new direction with you.

Sincerely, Kimberly Marshall

Kimberly Marshall

Faculty Director

OU Arts & Humanities Forum

Associate Professor, Anthropology

Forum Advisory Committee Transitions

Forum Advisory Committee Transitions

This Spring, the following Forum Faculty Advisory Committee members completed their three-year term. We sincerely thank them for their intellectual labor and time spent helping to guide the Forum through this transitional period:

Andrew Porwancher (Classics & Letters)

Dan Mains (Honors College)

Kim Wieser (English)

Jonathan Stalling (English)

Starting in the Fall, we welcome five new members to the Faculty Advisory Committee, and look forward to working with each of them:

Andreana Prichard (Honors College)

Bill Endres (English)

Ronnie Grinberg (History)

Amel Khalfaoui (Arabic – MLLL and IAS)

Katherine Schumaker (Classics & Letters)

Coming soon: OUAH.FM a new podcast for OU arts and humanities.

New look! Check out our redesign at ou.edu/humanitiesforum

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A New Direction: After a fall semester of transition, the Forum began 2021 focused on four main goals.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Marshall

Faculty Director, OU Arts & Humanities Forum

Associate Professor, Anthropology

Spring 2021 Goals

After a fall semester of transition during the midst of a global pandemic, the Forum focused activity during Spring 2021 on four main goals.

1. Maintaining momentum and carrying out existing programming.
2. Streamlining Forum Operations
3. Holding meetings with stakeholders across campus to listen and learn
4. Building Forward with Purpose

*MaintainMomentum*

This spring, we held 6 virtual events and a Manuscript Development Workshop, hosting up to 150 attendees. 2021 Forum Grantee Carolina Rueda’s *Oklahoma Mon Amor* event on February 11, in particular, had over 150 people in attendance from across the globe. We facilitated the campus-wide award for the Arts & Humanities Faculty Fellowship and the Forum-sponsored Manuscript Development Workshop, and five Forum Public Fellowships (formerly Forum Grants). We also, and sponsored two participants in the National Humanities Center Virtual Summer Residency and maintained our commitment to representing OU at national humanities conferences and advocacy programs.

*Streamline Forum Operations*

One of our top priorities has been to organize Forum operations into a centralized administration system.. In addition to re-thinking our communications strategies, we have been working closely with SBSC and the Provost’s Budget office to produce accurate accounting and budgeting for the Forum.

*Listen and Learn*

We have been meeting with a variety of stakeholders to listen and learn about the role that the Arts and Humanities Forum has played (and could play) in scholarly life at OU. These sessions included several meetings with our Faculty Advisory Committee as well as our participation in monthly NHA/CHCI Humanities Center Gatherings.

*Build Forward with Purpose*

The high value we place on building good relationships is evident in the creation of a new granting program that funded Summer Reading Groups to promote intellectual cohort- building across campus. As part of our commitment to promoting public-facing and community-engaged scholarship, the redesign of the Forum GrantGrantee cohort into the Forum Public Fellows program is specifically designed to incentivize this type of research and creative activity.

Lead On, University and the OU Arts & Humanities Forum

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

New Grant Programs

This Spring, the Forum deployed two new granting programs: the Forum Public Fellows program and the Faculty Summer Reading Groups.

*Forum Public Fellows*

In a slight re-focusing of long-established Forum Grants program, these Forum Public Fellowships are designed to achieve two goals:

* Engage the “public square” at the community, state, regional, or national level
* Create substantive intellectual exchange among a diverse group of scholars around a shared theme

The five 2021-22 Forum Public Fellows will participate in intellectual cohort-building through a day-long workshop and through mutual support at their public-facing events.

*Faculty Summer Reading Groups*

For this pilot program, we focused on developing intellectual community, as a productive way to address the isolation and intellectual disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. During summer 2021, we funded 3 reading groups around topics of interest and proposed by faculty. Although facilitated through small dollar grants and the provision of books, this comparatively small grant program had a big impact, funding 20 total OU Scholars.

Meet the Arts & Humanities Forum Staff

Kimberly Marshall, Faculty Director (portrait of Dr. Marshall)

I am Associate Professor of Anthropology and have taught at OU since 2011. I am a cultural anthropologist specializingwho specializes in the anthropology of religion and expressive culture , specifically in Native North America. My 2016 book *Upward, Not Sunwise: Resonant Rupture in Navajo Neo-Pentecostalism* is an ethnography of the tent-revival movement among Navajos *(Diné)* of the US Southwest, and was published by the University of Nebraska Press. My current research studies the representational erasure of the Native people from the contemporary Great Basin, focusing with a focus on the arts and public-school curriculum in Idaho.

Anna Reser, Postdoctoral Associate (portrait of Dr. Reser)

I am a historian of technology, focusing on the history of the American space program in the 20th century. I am the co-author of the book Forces of Nature: The Women Who Changed Science. In 2014 I co-founded Lady Science, an independent publication for women and gender in the history of science. My current research focuses on the visual culture of infrastructure and environment at NASA centers.

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Funding: Read about new funding the Forum is pursuing, and meet our new fellows and grantees

NEH American Rescue Plan Grant (Submitted)

This Spring, the Forum spearheaded the OU Institutional application for the NEH’s American Rescue Plan Grant. Entitled “New Stories of the West, For the West,” this application coordinated the funding needs of several constituent OU entities, including the OU Press, OU Native Nations Center, World Literature Today, the Oklahoma Weather Community Oral History Project, the Oklahoma Native Youth Language Fair, and the A&H Forum. If funded, this $500,000 grant would shore up OU Press Staffing needs negatively impacted by the pandemic while also funding the development of a Native Nations Center imprint with the press. It would also provide funding for some of the most impactful public-facing humanities entities at OU.

OUVPRP SSAH Seed Grant (Funded)

Also this spring, the Forum was awarded a $5000 SSHA Seed Grant from the OVPRP’s office for our research project River Channels: Institutional Barriers to Humanistic Excellence. For this project, Dr. Reser and Dr. Marshall are conducting 12 months of ethnographic research among humanistic faculty at OU. This research seeks to build a nuanced understanding of the structural barriers to the submission of grant applications and publicly-engaged scholarship among humanists at OU. We seek to know the extent to which humanistic scholars are weighing different priorities, such as tenure requirements, teaching and service obligations, work-life balance, and mental models of good scholarship, and what affects these competing priorities have upon the decision-making of humanistic faculty about submitting external funding for public programming. We have been conducting interviews with OU Faculty over the summer, and will use these preliminary results to build a large-scale survey later this Fall, before conducting follow-up interviews and producing a full report of findings in Spring 2022. These results will help us to build an effective outreach, including external grants and sponsorships, for the benefit of humanistic excellence at OU.

Congratulations to all of our new 2021-22 Awardees and Fellows

*2021-22 Arts & Humanities Faculty Fellows*

* Kalenda Eaton (African and African American Studies) *Black Women Writers and the New Plains Narrative*
* Laurel C. Smith (Geography and Environmental Sustainability) *The Emergence of Agency of Tribal Environmental Professionals in Oklahoma*
* Kari Chew (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) *Enacting Relationality in Online Indigenous Revitalization Efforts*

*2021-22 Manuscript Development Workshop Recipient*

* Rachel Jackson – *Red State Reclaimed: The Transrhetorial Recovery of Resistance in Oklahoma*

*2021-22 Forum Public Fellows*

* Jill Hicks-Keeton (Religious Studies)
* Aparna Nair (History of Science)
* Zoe Sherinian (Musicology)
* Laurel C. Smith (Geography and Environmental Sustainability)
* Sarah Trabert (Anthropology)

*2021 National Humanities Center Virtual Summer Institute Podcasting in the Humanities*

* Sam Duwe (Anthropology)
* Anna Reser (A&H Forum)

*2021 Faculty Summer Reading Groups*

* Kari Chew – *Indigenous and Decolonizing Studies* (Participants: Natalie Youngbull, Jenny Sperling, Heather Shotton, Alicia Harris, Racquel Sapién)
* Sandra Tarabochia – *Social Justice Studies* (Participants: Catherine Minter, Rodney Bates, Lisa Byers, Laurel Smith, Jeremy Thibodeaux, Traci Voyles)
* Aparna Nair – *Disability Studies* (Participants: Robert Scafe, Kathleen Crowther, Hong Lin, Mary Barczak, Darcie DeAngelo, Talisha Haltiwanger Morrison).

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