

2018-2019 Humanities Center Events

DIGITAL HUMANITIES SEMINARS AND GUEST LECTURES

Faculty Seminars (Preregistration Required)

9/7, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 4/26 (1-3pm)

Seminar Facilitators: Ed Whitley (English) and Rob Weidman (LTS)

This seminar will bring together faculty, students, and staff in the fields of arts, humanities, social science, information technology, and computer science to explore the theory and methods of digital scholarship in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. Monthly meetings will include readings about the digital humanities, discussion of both new and foundational digital projects, and brief training sessions on specific tools and methods (such as topic modeling, Scalar, Story Maps, etc.) in the digital humanities. Seminar participants will be asked to help identify topics of interest, along with readings, projects, and tools to explore as a group.

GENDER, JUSTICE, POWER SEMINARS AND GUEST LECTURES

Faculty Seminars (Preregistration Required)

9/7, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5 and 5/3 (1-3:30pm)

Seminar Facilitators: Monica Najjar (History) and Sarita Mizin (English)

This seminar explores recent turns in feminist theory, particularly work that takes on the challenges to, and opportunities for, justice. Global and national events of the last five years have offered feminist scholars and activists new opportunities to reexamine notions of power, politics, and identity to trouble visions and strategies of justice. In this seminar, we are particularly interested in feminist and queer models of justice within institutions like universities, civil structures such as courts and security systems, in social policy such as health care, and in addressing gendered and racial violence. Including diverse voices in our readings and discussions, we seek to reconceptualize the meaning of justice by analyzing structures of power and investigating the possibility of alternative approaches or systems within existing institutions. In so doing, we expect to think about what feminist theory is now in light of recent discussions of the gendering of educational systems, knowledge production, politics, and praxis within discrete disciplinary traditions.

We envision a number of goals for the seminar. First, we hope to emerge with a “tool kit” of ways to think about—and take action on—these issues as citizens in our various communities and as individuals embedded within institutions. Secondly, we expect to discuss strategies for educational justice (particularly concerns of access) using feminist pedagogies. Third, we expect to discuss “when gender?”, that is, at what times and in what ways is “gender” deployed in public discourse and how is it strategically utilized to bolster structures of inequality and power.

While much of the reading schedule will be set at our first meeting, some key texts (in part or in whole) might include Sara Ahmed’s *Living a Feminist Life* and *The Promise of Happiness*; Roxane Gay’s *Bad Feminist*; Sara Warner’s “The Tender Track,” in *Feminist Activism in Academia: Essays on Personal, Political and Professional Change*; excerpts from Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak’s *An Aesthetic Education in the Era of Globalization*; Sarah Deer’s work on indigenous justice systems; Elizabeth Grosz’s *Becoming Undone*, Audre Lorde’s *Sister Outsider*; Saba Mahmood’s *The Politics of Piety*; Geeta Patel’s *Risky Bodies and Techno-Intimacy: Reflections on Sexuality, Media, Science, Finance*; Nira Yuval-Davis, *The Politics of Belonging*; and Jyoti Puri’s “Governing Sexuality, Constituting States,” in *Sexual States: Governance and the Struggle over the Antisodomy Law in India*.

WRITING RETREATS (Preregistration Required) – 9/21, 10/19, 11/16, 2/15, 3/22 and 4/26

During the 2018-19 academic year, the Humanities Center will host a series of writing retreats for faculty in the humanities and social sciences. These retreats will provide a comfortable, distraction-free space to focus on writing. Participants will trade in phones, emails, meetings, and texts in return for breakfast, lunch, coffee/tea, and other amenities that the Humanities Center will supply.

OTHER LECTURES AND EVENTS

October 31, 2018 at 4:10pm in the Scheler Humanities Forum, Linderman Library, 200 – Carissa Harris lecture “Resisting Rape in the Middle Ages and Now”.

November 2, 2018 from 12-3pm in UC 306 – Lisa Rhody lecture and discussion (part of Digital Humanities seminar - Preregistration Required)

February 21, 2019 at 4:10pm in the Scheler Humanities Forum, Linderman Library, 200 – Sara Ahmed lecture (part of Gender, Justice, Power seminar)