During the Academic Year 2013-2014 the Humanities Center will be exploring the topic of "HOME" from a multidisciplinary perspective. Home calls for harmony and unison, establishes the difference between a cozy in and a potentially perilous out. Home has often established a boundary between the public and the private. In recent decades it seems that the need for that partition has increased; there is an escalating sense of being under threat which has created a very lucrative market: proliferation of guns, fences, security systems and smart homes full of cameras and sensors. From the family dwelling to the homeland humans are paradoxically becoming more and more isolated in this globalized world. At the same time that humans experience a new opening of markets, fluidity of information, fusion, and erasure of difference, we constantly encounter barricading, partition, and reinscription of geographies. New kinds of walls have been erected since the collapse of the Berlin Wall, built in the name of protecting the homeland from undesirable others. Is there a space for hospitality in this understanding of home and the homeland? Is there a right to the home as dwelling and nation? Are there other ways of conceiving home beyond the family unit and the nation state? Are there other ways of inhabiting home? Might we envision alternative communities that create new spaces of belonging or even invite haunting presences that disrupt traditional narratives of home?

September 19, 2013—4:10pm
Reinhold Martin
Associate Professor of Architecture
Director, PhD Program in Architecture (History and Theory)
Director, Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture
Columbia University
"City, Country, World: An Aesthetics of Sovereignty"

October 31, 2013—4:10pm
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak
University Professor
Columbia University
“Home?”

November 14, 2013—4:10pm
SINCLAIR AUDITORIUM
Eva Morales
Architect and Activist
"Más que una casa/More than a House: New Communities against Home Evictions"

February 6, 2014—4:10pm
Douglas Crimp
Fanny Knapp Allen Professor of Art History
Professor of Art History/Visual and Cultural Studies
University of Rochester
"Art News Parties"

February 20, 2014—4:10pm
Joseba Zulaika
Professor, Center for Basque Studies
University of Nevada, Reno
“Home and Homeland: Rooted and Rootless in a Broken City”

March 20, 2014—4:10pm
Philip Gorski
Professor of Sociology, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Co-Director,
Center for Comparative Research
Yale University
"A Nation of Prophets"

April 3, 2014—4:10pm
Pico Iyer
Writer
“Where is Home?”

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