



The Stack

Arts & Humanities Forum
Spring/Summer 2021 Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 1

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 OVRP. 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
Faculty Director
OU Arts & Humanities Forum
Associate Professor, Anthropology



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

In This Issue

**A New Director and
a New Direction**

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Fellows and Funding

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.

Departing Members

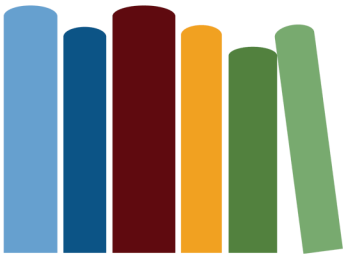
Andrew Porwancher (Classics & Letters)
Dan Mains (Honors College)
Kim Wieser (English)
Jonathan Stalling (English)

Welcome to Our New Members

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



A New Direction

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

Maintain Momentum

This spring we held 6 virtual events and a Manuscript Development Workshop, hosting up to 150 attendees at each event. We facilitated the University-sponsored Arts & Humanities Faculty Fellowship and the Forum-sponsored Manuscript Development Workshop, and five Forum Public Fellowships (formerly Forum Grants). We 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 are working closely with SBSC and the Provost's Budget office to produce accurate accounting and budgeting.

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 public-facing and community-engaged scholarship, the redesign of the Forum Grant into the Forum Public Fellows program is specifically designed to incentivize this type of research and creative activity.

Listen and Learn

We have been meeting with stakeholders to listen and learn about the role that the Arts and Humanities Forum has played (and could play) in scholarly life at OU, including meetings with our Faculty Advisory Committee as well as participating in monthly NHA/CHCI Humanities Center Gatherings.

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 programming also supports **Pillar 5**, encouraging arts and humanities scholarship that enriches and positively impacts our state, our nation, and our world.

New Grant Programs

Forum Public Fellows

Forum Public Fellowships are designed to engage the "public square" at the community, state, regional, or national level and 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

During summer 2021, we funded 3 reading groups around topics 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

I am Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology and have taught at OU since 2011. I specialize 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. I'm currently researching the representational erasure of Native people from the contemporary Great Basin, focusing on the arts and public-school curriculum in Idaho.



Anna Reser
Postdoctoral
Associate

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 the environment at NASA centers.



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 support OU Press operations negatively impacted by the pandemic, and provide funding for some of the most impactful public-facing humanities entities at OU.

OUVPRP SSAH Seed Grant (Funded)

The Forum was awarded a \$5000 SSAH Seed Grant from the OUVPRP'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 to build a nuanced understanding of the structural barriers to the submission of grant applications and publicly-engaged scholarship among humanists at OU. We are interested in how scholars are weighing different priorities, such as tenure requirements, teaching and service obligations, work-life balance, and mental models of good scholarship, and what effects these competing priorities have upon their decision-making. These results will help us to build an effective outreach and secure external funding for the benefit of humanistic excellence at OU.

If you are interested in participating in our research on the institutional barriers to humanistic excellence at OU, we are recruiting participants. If you are at least 18 years of age and a faculty member at OU, we'd like to talk to you. Interviews are unstructured and take 20 minutes – 1 hour (depending on how much you would like to share with us). You will be compensated with a \$20 gift card for participating. Please contact Dr. Marshall at kjm@ou.edu or Dr. Reser at areser@ou.edu for more information. *The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution."



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

Arts & Humanities Faculty Fellows

Kalenda Eaton (African and African American Studies)

Laurel C. Smith (Geography and Environmental Sustainability)

Kari Chew (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies)

Manuscript Development Workshop

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

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)

National Humanities Center Virtual Summer Institute

Sam Duwe (Anthropology)

Anna Reser (A&H Forum)

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).