

Center for Humanities & the Arts Newsletter

July 2020

Dear CU Boulder Community & Supporters of the CHA,

I've always loved summer in a college town—the pace of life slows down with the added benefit of longer days and more sunshine. And things at the CHA have also slowed down, though we are working on an annual report (to be released in August), supporting the Summer Working Accountability groups (24 faculty are taking part), and planning for the Fall. We are also experiencing a transition in staff as Leah Coffey has moved to Knoxville, TN to begin a PhD program in Tourism. So I'd like to welcome [Kat Lewis](#) as our new Program and Events Coordinator. Some of you may know Kat from her staff position in the English department. You can learn more about Kat at the end of this newsletter. We are thrilled to be working with her and hope when we are no longer keeping six-feet apart that you'll get to meet her in Macky 201.

Two July meetings and a book group that may be of interest to you:

1) **Anti-racism brainstorming** – anyone who wants to work on/promote anti-racism at CU Boulder is welcome to attend – Tuesday, July 14, 11-12pm MT – Zoom info: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/95426827171> Meeting ID: 954 2682 7171

2) **Fellowship Writing workshop** – Monday, July 27, 3-4pm MT – co-hosted by Donna Axel (RIO), this workshop will talk about the genre of fellowship writing, especially for faculty interested in applying for fellowships that grant faculty a semester (or more) free of teaching ([CHA faculty fellowship](#) deadline Thursday, October 1 by 5:00pm MT; [ACLS fellowship information](#) (dates for 2020 haven't yet been released but will probably be similar to last year; [National Humanities Center](#) deadline Oct 8). Please RSVP by Thursday, July 16 and we'll send you the Zoom link: <https://forms.gle/owArc2MLxYvXFuaY9>

3) Our friends at the University of Miami's Center for Humanities are inviting the CU Boulder CHA community

to participate in a virtual book this summer reading Giovanni Boccaccio's *The Decameron*. Details will be included below and at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgHLzljBup45C9kk7rioAAh2POA89klzKxd4YTXpm0kxQIHQ/viewform>

FYI: If anyone wants to advertise an event/program that fits our mission, we would be happy to include it in our newsletter if we receive the information by the 25th of the month—for more details on advertising with the CHA [see our FAQ page](#).

Finally, we are still running our [Pandemic Posts](#)—and I want to highlight [this one](#) by Assistant Professor of Dance [Helanius Wilkins](#), because he captures so perfectly what I feel about living in this moment: “What I know for sure is that humanity will not survive this global reset without nourishment.” Nourishment comes in many forms, but I think if you are reading this newsletter then nourishment definitely comes in the form of humanities and the arts. So I hope you find various forms of nourishment not just to survive but to thrive.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ho
Director, Center for Humanities & the Arts

PS. I was asked to contribute to a [new blog](#) by the [National Humanities Alliance](#), and it has just gone live – very pleased that the CHA is being highlighted for the work we've been doing to respond to COVID-19 as a humanities and arts center—you can read about it here: <https://humanitiesforall.org/features/center-for-humanities-and-the-arts>



Meet Kat Lewis (our new Program and Events Coordinator)

1. What were you doing before coming to work at CHA?

Before joining the CHA, I was the Operations & Communications coordinator for the English Department here at CU Boulder where I got to assist some really stellar faculty and students. I have only been in Colorado for about three years and have been exceptionally lucky that CU Boulder has been part of my Colorado experience, almost from the get go! I have experience in magazine production and management, advertising sales, and also used to teach English at the University of Idaho, where I got my MFA in Creative Writing.

3. What do you miss most about life during COVID-19?

What I miss most from pre-COVID 19 life is live music. Not much admittedly changed for me once quarantine began as I very much love being home and spending time with my partner Aron. Live concerts, however, have always been a large part of our lives and it really is something I miss: the thumping bass, the lights, the excitement of the crowd experiencing art as a collective group of strangers brought together by a similar love of an artist or group.

2. What do you like about the arts and/or humanities?

I think a question that would give a shorter response might be “what don’t you like about the arts and the humanities?” I am a published poet, a painter, a photographer, a classically trained musician, a life-long student of the arts (even though I absolutely cannot dance!). The arts and humanities not only document culture, ways of life, historical movements in the most honest and visceral ways, but provide the ultimate form of expression for the creators and for the viewers. I think this COVID-19 quarantine has proven, even to non-supporters, that the arts and the humanities are what get us through the good and the bad of our lives by providing entertainment, emotional connections, provoking questions, and beauty. What could be more important than that?

4. What’s one thing you’d like to share with us about who you are (favorite book/poem/movie, best meal you’ve ever had, least favorite ice cream flavor, the superpower you wish you could have?)

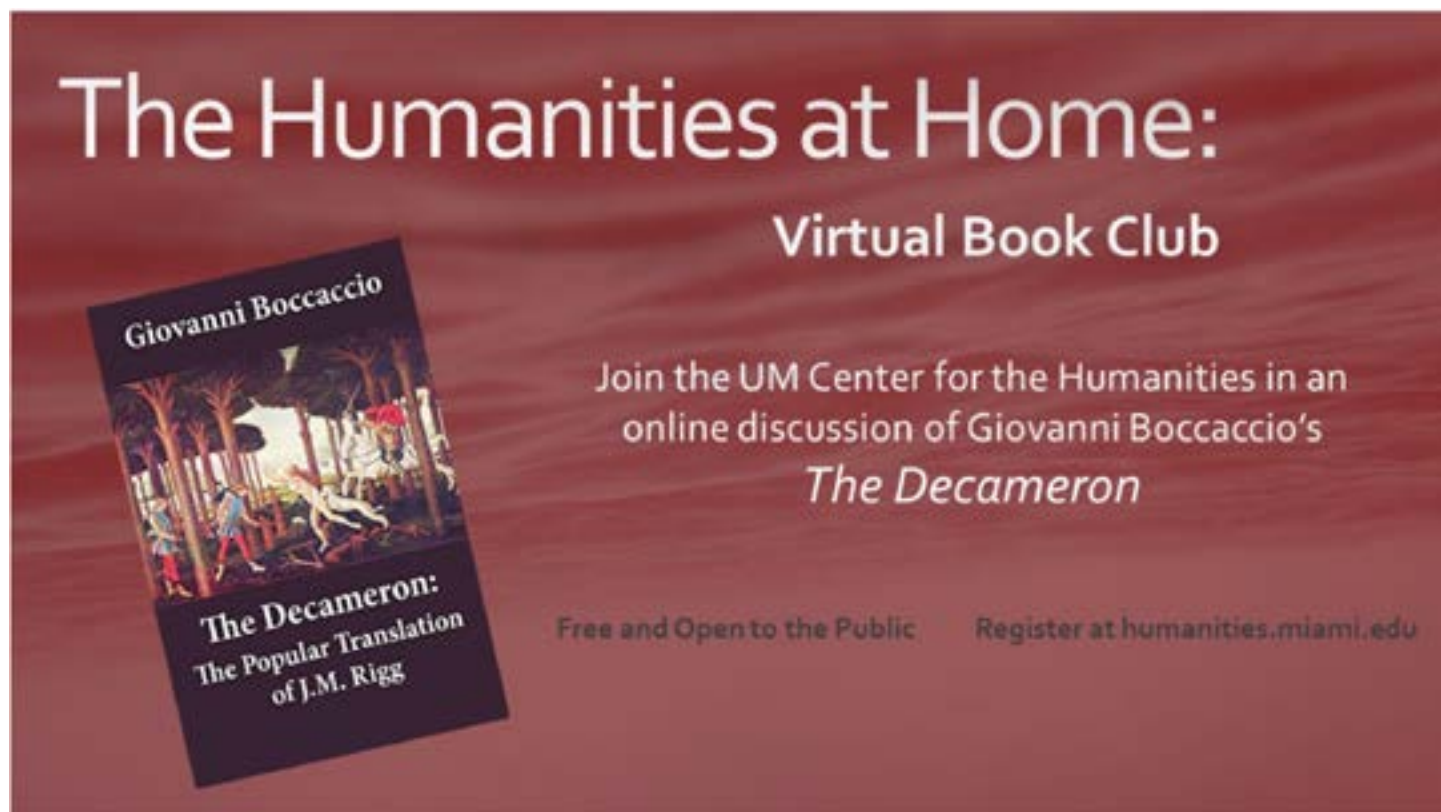
If I could share one thing about who I am, it would be this poem: Litany in which Certain Things are Crossed Out by Richard Siken.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/48158/litany-in-which-certain-things-are-crossed-out>

Message from our friends at the University of Miami’s Center for Humanities Book Group

After a successful Virtual Book Club discussion of Ross Gay’s *The Book of Delights* in spring 2020 with our friends at the University of Colorado Boulder, The Center for the Humanities is pleased to announce that we will continue the Virtual Book Club with a discussion of Giovanni Boccaccio’s *The Decameron* in July 2020.

The Decameron is one of the literary masterpieces of the Italian Renaissance. It tells of ten wealthy Florentines, three men and seven women, who flee to the countryside to escape the Black Death and pass their time in quarantine by telling ten stories a day over the course of ten days. The introductory framework provides an unusually vivid picture of the impact of a premodern pandemic, which may be of particular interest, given the present COVID-19 pandemic. The stories abound in trickery, sex, love, piety, and impiety, and provide a humorous window into Renaissance culture.



The Humanities at Home:

Virtual Book Club

Join the UM Center for the Humanities in an
online discussion of Giovanni Boccaccio's
The Decameron

Free and Open to the Public Register at humanities.miami.edu

The book is organized according to the number of days the characters spend telling stories. Each day, the characters share their stories or “novels” to pass the time. Although we encourage participants to read as much of the book as they’d like, the Zoom discussion at the end of July will focus on the following sections of the book:

- Proem (Introductory Section)
- First Day: Novels 1 and 2
- Second Day: Novel 9
- Third Day: Novel 4
- Fourth Day: Novel 1
- Fifth Day: Novel 3
- Sixth Day: Novels 7 and 10
- Seventh Day: Novel 5
- Ninth Day: Novel 2

We encourage you to [register here](#) by **Friday, July 3rd** to allow enough time to read the above sections, but we will accept new members through July 2020. Those who register as participants will receive a follow-up email with more information, discussion questions, and details on two optional Zoom discussions scheduled for **Thursday, July 16th at 7pm EST** and **Thursday, July 30th at 7pm EST**. Please note that we ask you to register for this installment of the the Virtual Book Club, even if you registered for discussion of our previous selection, *The Book of Delights*. Complete information, including a link to an online version of the text, can be found [here](#).

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to connect with the Center and the rest of the UM community! Please contact Dr. Meg Homer with any questions: mkh81@miami.edu.

FELLOWSHIP WRITING WORKSHOP

Monday, July 27th | 3 - 4 PM MT

CO-HOSTED BY:



Donna Axel
RIO



Rebecca Maloy
Musicology



David Shneer
Jewish Studies



Julia Staffel
Philosophy



This workshop will talk about the genre of fellowship writing, especially for faculty interested in applying for fellowships that grant faculty a semester (or more) free of teaching. The CHA faculty fellowship deadline is Thursday, October 1 by 5:00pm MT; ACLS fellowship information dates for 2020 haven't yet been released but will probably be end of September. The National Humanities Center deadline is October 8.

RSVP BY THURSDAY, JULY 16
WE WILL SEND YOU THE ZOOM LINK