

2020

Center for Humanities & the Arts Annual Report

 University of Colorado **Boulder**

2021





CHA Director's Letter

Dear CHA Supporter,

Breathe. This is what I've had to remind myself at various points during the past 2020-21 academic year. When I am busy or feel stressed, I tend to hold my breath. And as someone who has been practicing sitting meditation on and off for two decades, I know that no matter what is happening in my life or in the world, it is a potent reminder for me to breathe.

This has been the most tumultuous academic year I've ever experienced. A global pandemic. Multiple types of losses—of lives, jobs, experiences. Shifting and adjusting to being on-line with our classes, conferences, meetings. A contentious presidential election. An attempted insurrection at the US capital. Continuing violence—against Black, Asian, Indigenous, Latino/a/x, Sikh, Jewish, Muslim, LGBTQ+ people—and mass shootings: Atlanta, Indianapolis, and of course the King Sooper grocery store in Boulder, CO.

One thing I'm very proud of is the work we've continued to do at the Center for Humanities & the Arts. Our Difficult Dialogue partnership with CU Libraries resulted in the most well attended event we've had—a Fall session on "Unpacking Whiteness" with a panel of CU Boulder faculty that had 225 people in attendance. Zoom also allowed us to collaborate with our friends at University of Iowa's Obermann Center for Advanced Study and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Carolina Public Humanities on Cultural Postmortem 2020 – a look back on a very fraught and fractured year through the lens of arts and humanities. And on March 29, 2021 we welcomed Priscilla Wald as our inaugural Cox Family Speaker. You can see all the remote events and view the recordings [at this link](#).

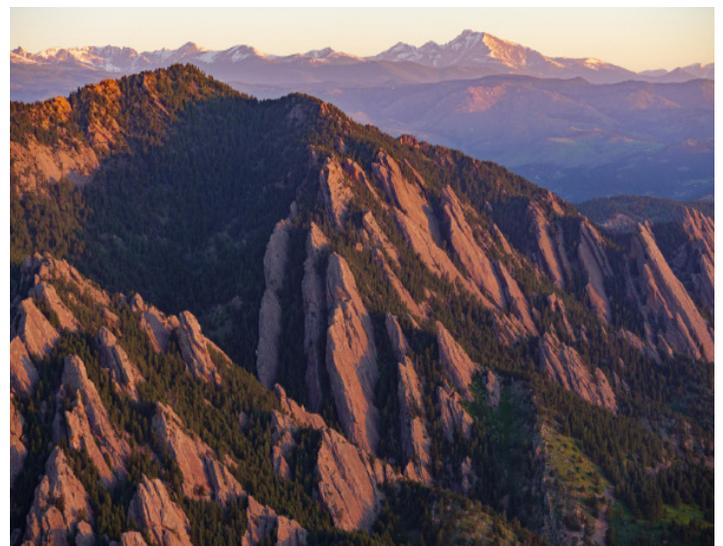
In addition to our public programs, we held monthly meetings of the CHA faculty fellows, gave out guest lecture grants to faculty and grad students, gave out small grant monies to faculty, supported PhD students with dissertation fellowships, created a new material fund for MFA students, increased the number of summer grants for grad students, held an arts

competition for undergraduates on the theme of resilience, and tried as best we could to promote arts and humanities on campus and in the larger Boulder and Colorado communities. As director I get a lot of credit, but the work we do at the CHA is a team effort—we rely on our faculty steering committee, our community advisory board, and the hard-working staff of the CHA: Sharon Van Boven, Kat Lewis, and Dani Urbina. The three of them do the heavy lifting to make the CHA run. I couldn't ask for a better staff, and I'm so pleased to have served another year as director of the Center for Humanities & the Arts.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Ho".

Jennifer Ho

Director, Center for Humanities & the Arts
Eaton Professor of Humanities and Arts
Professor, Ethnic Studies
University of Colorado Boulder



CHA Staff

Jennifer Ho

Faculty Director, Center for Humanities & the Arts
Eaton Professor of Humanities and Arts
Professor, Ethnic Studies

Kat Lewis

Program & Marketing Coordinator

Dani Urbina

Marketing & Social Media Assistant

Sharon Van Boven

Finance & Operations Manager

Faculty Steering Committee

Reece Auguiste, Critical Media Practices

Carlo Caballero, Musicology

Andrew Calabrese, Media Studies

Francoise Duresse-Stimilli, Art and Art History

Ryan Gardner, Brass and Percussion

Holly Gayley, Religious Studies

Matthew Gerber, History

Leila Gomez, Spanish and Portuguese

Janice Ho, English

Arne Höcker, German & Slavic Languages & Literatures

Sabrina Negri, Cinema Studies & Moving Image Arts

Carole Newlands, Classics

Cecilia Pang, Theatre & Dance

Masano Yamashita, French & Italian



Community Advisory Board

Alexander (Sandy) Bracken

Doug Brown

Leslie Eaton

Gary Frank

Carl Hofmann

Jan McCullagh

Alan Rudy

Peter Spear (Chair)

The CHA is housed under the umbrella of the Graduate School and is supported by the Dean of the Graduate School E. Scott Adler, Director of Budget and Finance Maizy Faithfull, and Director of Development Micah Abram.

Faculty Fellowships

CHA's Faculty Fellowship program offers CU-Boulder faculty working in the arts and humanities opportunities to focus on their research through course releases/s. Faculty immerse themselves in projects, often seeing them to completion by the end of their fellowship and attend monthly meetings to connect and share strategies for writing and making work.

2020-2021 Faculty Fellows

Aun Ali, Religious Studies

Thomas Andrews, History

Cheryl Higashida, English

Rahul Parson, Asian Languages and Civilizations

Stephanie Su, Art and Art History

Levi Thompson, Asian Languages and Civilizations



Upcoming 2021-2022 Fellows

CHA's 2021-2022 Faculty Fellows include a new collaboration with the Center for Research Data and Digital Scholarship (CRDDS) to support faculty working in digital humanities applying computational methods and multimodal presentations to humanities and arts-related research questions. The asterisk designates the Digital Humanities fellow below.

Robert Buffington, Women & Gender Studies

Julie Carr, English

Erin Espelie, CINE, Critical Media Practices

***Vilja Hulden**, History

Peter Hunt, Classics

Javier Krauel, Spanish & Portuguese

Mitzi Lee, Philosophy

Samira Mehta, Women & Gender Studies

Helmut Muller-Sievers, German & Slavic Languages & Literatures

Myles Osborne, History

Jillian Porter, German & Slavic Languages & Literatures

Seema Sohi, Ethnic Studies

Julia Staffel, Philosophy

Lauren Stone, German & Slavic Languages & Literatures

Graduate Opportunities

The Center for Humanities & the Arts provides campus-wide fellowships and highly competitive travel grants for graduate students working in the humanities and the arts. These fellowships and grants are used to recruit incoming students, provide support in completing doctoral dissertations, and aid in scholarly research by providing summer stipends and travel to conferences where they will present a paper or, for those in the arts, perform or display their work.

2020-2021 Fellowships and Grants

Incoming Student Fellowship

Evan Froom, Philosophy
Russel Li, Classics

Dissertation Fellowship

Kerri Clement, History
Maggie Taylor, Philosophy

Eaton Research Award

Andy Dilallo, Art & Art History
Toma Peiu, Critical Media Practices
Chris Dunn, Environmental Studies

CHA Summer Fellowship

Allen Hsiao, Linguistics
Zhujun Ma, Religious Studies
Paige Massey, Philosophy
Arielle Milkman, Anthropology
Zoe Moss, Political Science
Toma Peiu, Critical Media Practices
Biyi Wen, Intermedia Art, Writing and Performance

New Opportunities

MFA Excellence in Research Micro Grant

Over \$16,000 in support for materials, pre/post-production purchases, facility rental fees, honoraria for dancers, composers, directors, etc. was awarded to 21 students in the Art & Art History and Theatre & Dance Departments.

GPTI Guest Lecture Award

\$11,000 in total honoraria was awarded to support 55 guest lectures for graduate student teachers in arts and humanities courses.

Consortium

The Consortium for PhD students in Languages and Literatures in the College of Arts & Sciences began as a means to financially support PhD language and literature students and has morphed into an intellectual consortium that supports all students interested and invested in humanities research. Under the leadership of Dr. Tiffany Beechy, Associate Professor of English, the three cohorts of Consortium students engage in intellectual and professional discussions and prepare for careers that utilize their PhD in Languages and Literatures.

Undergraduate Opportunities

The CHA has made a significant effort to include undergraduates in funding, research, and award opportunities on campus in 2020-2021. From highlighting undergraduate students as panelists in events to creating funded art competitions specifically for undergraduates, the CHA is looking to expand our offerings and opportunities.

Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Art

This new award was designed to highlight the impressive works of art from any area including but not limited to studio and fine arts, performance, multi-media, film, visual, etc.

The 2021 theme of RESILIENCE proved that art can be a powerful motivation for boosting the well-being of people, society, and the environment.

1st prize: Julia Merten-Media Production

2nd prize: Connor Flynn-Media Production

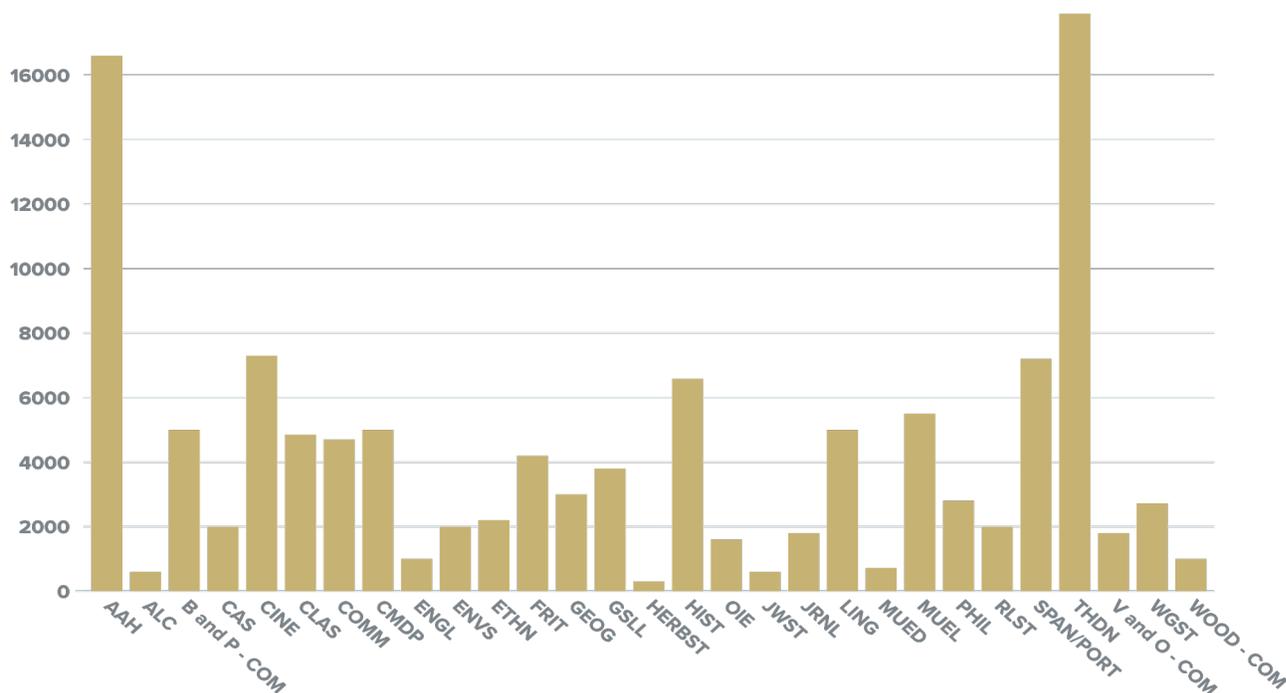
Honorable Mentions: Nathan Bala, Anna Lynton, Ryan McCormick, Ryan Phillips and Kevin Wu

Small Grants

The [CHA Small Grant program](#) provides up to \$3,000 for CU Boulder faculty to deepen and enrich the range of humanistic and artistic activities on campus and enhance faculty scholarship. This year, we opened up the Small Grant program for remote guest lecture funding for faculty to open up time for professional research while expanding opportunities for their students.

During 2020-2021, the CHA Faculty Steering Committee recommended awarding a total of \$119,775 to fund 88 projects across 29 different departments at CU Boulder supporting research, creative work, special events, and virtual presentations by visiting scholars and artists.

Small Grant Distribution by Department



Hazel Barnes Flat

The [Hazel Barnes Flat](#) in the heart of London is a gift to scholars in the humanities and arts made by Hazel Barnes, the much-admired Professor of Philosophy at CU Boulder and founder of the Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities. Since 2010, the flat has provided opportunities to conduct scholarly research in and around London to CU Boulder faculty and graduate students. Management of the flat has been entrusted to the CHA since its inception.

171 unique visitors to the flat
71% faculty visitors
24% graduate students
5% other



Testimonials

“The CHA fellowship provided invaluable support that enabled my work to continue in a very uncertain time. I am so grateful.” – CHA Summer Fellow

“Receiving this CHA award at this time was a lifeline for taking action on my own artist project. This allowed to me to deepen my relationships with important artistic collaborators and to manifest the next phase of my current research.” – CHA Faculty Small Grant Recipient

“In light of my teaching load and commitments outside of academia, had I not received the CHA Fellowship, it would have taken me at least another year, possibly two, to complete my dissertation.” – CHA Dissertation Fellow

“I consider the CHA fellowship crucial, valuable, and indispensable support in the initial stage of my academic path.” – CHA Incoming Graduate Fellow

“Perhaps most importantly, this was my first attempt at a public program at CU, so the CHA grant offered me an opportunity to put together a program that was extremely well received by my department in the year before I went up for tenure.” – CHA Faculty Small Grant Recipient & Incoming Faculty Fellow

EVENTS



Lectures

CHA lectures this year went virtual, as well. We also introduced the inaugural Cox Family Process Speaker Series, an annual lecture we will produce each spring semester where a leader in an arts or humanities field will be invited to speak on a work that made them famous from the perspective of process and reflection.

Lectures this year included: Citizenship: Past and Present; Cox Family Process Speaker Series featuring Dr. Priscilla Wald; Seeing Differently; and The Art of Communicating Climate Change.

Panels

The CHA put on a variety of virtual panel discussions through the academic year, as well as collaborated with multiple on and off campus partners, to adapt to COVID-19 restrictions surrounding Center programming.

Panel events included: Difficult Dialogues: Unpacking Whiteness; CHA First Vote Panel Discussion; Cultural Postmortem 2020; Difficult Dialogues: Power; What It Means to Disagree: Part I & II; and Humanities @ Home: Humanities & Healing.

DR. PRISCILLA WALD

The CHA is proud to announce the inaugural installment of the Cox Family Process Speaker Series featuring Dr. Priscilla Wald from Duke University. This annual programming will bring renowned artists and scholars to CU Boulder to speak about work that made them famous in their fields.

Dr. Wald will be speaking on her book, *Contagious: Cultures, Carriers, and the Outbreak Narrative* (Duke University Press 2008) – she will share her inspiration for this critical work, its afterlife, and any thoughts she has about this work given our COVID-19 lives.

Monday
March 29th,
2021
3pm MT/5pm
ET

This event is free and open to the public. Please use this google form to receive the Zoom webinar link: <https://forms.gle/suQSHU8mWRXN-HPQ8>

The CHA would like to thank the Cox Family Visiting Professor Fund for making this series possible through their generous donation.



Contagious
CULTURES, CARRIERS, AND THE OUTBREAK NARRATIVE

Priscilla Wald



University of Colorado Boulder

Workshops

The CHA provided workshops and brainstorming sessions this year on anti-racism efforts, as well as grant and fellowship writing for CU Boulder faculty. We partnered closely with the Research & Innovation Office on campus to provide as much funding information for faculty as possible.

Workshops this year included: Anti-racism Brainstorming Session; Summer 2020 CHA/RIO Fellowship Writing Workshop; and Summer 2021 CHA/RIO Fellowship Writing workshop.

Collaborations

A robust mixture of panels, lectures, workshops, and showcases were collaborations. We partnered with on-campus groups, like CU Advancement, the Research & Innovation Office, CU Libraries, the Immigration and Citizenship Law Program, and the Center of the American West. Off-campus partners included C35 Films, Carolina Public Humanities, the Obermann Center for Advanced Research, Denver7 News, and Denver Museum of Nature & Science.



Center for Humanities & the Arts
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Research & Innovation Office
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Fellowship Writing Workshop

Co-hosted by Center for Humanities & the Arts (CHA) Director **Jennifer Ho** and RIO Proposal Editor & Writing Coach **Donna Aael**, 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 7).

Panelists include **Christine Larson** (Journalism) and **Julia Stahei** (Philosophy).

Registration is required to participate: bit.ly/3hG2pZj



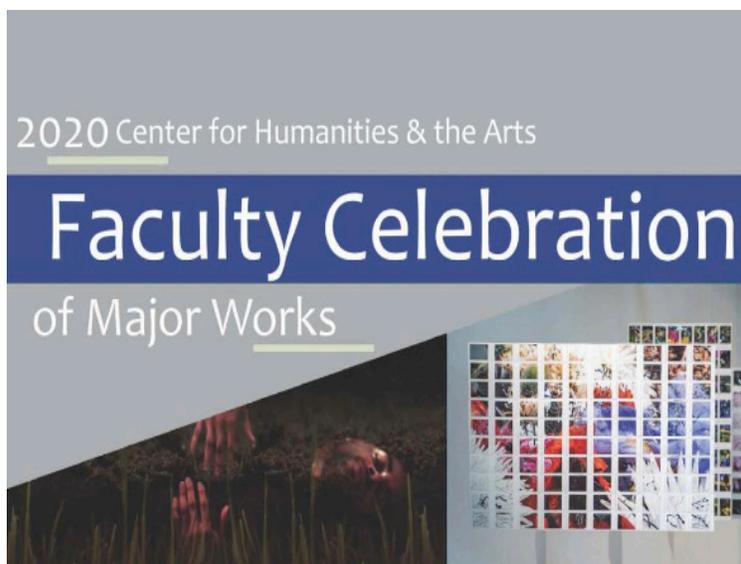
Jennifer Ho Donna Aael Christine Larson Julia Stahei

Tuesday, June 8th, 2021
9:30 - 10:30am MT via Zoom
Open to all CU Boulder faculty members and research staff

Showcases

This year, we held multiple showcases, all virtual, each had supplemental materials available for audiences to interact with faculty, student, and staff research in a variety of ways from the safety of their homes.

Showcases this year included: the Shelter Project Showcase; National Poetry Month 2021; and our inaugural Faculty Celebration of Major Works magazine that replaced our in-person celebration from spring 2020.



2020 Center for Humanities & the Arts

Faculty Celebration

of Major Works



A screenshot of a Zoom meeting with four participants. The top-left participant is Jennifer Ho, the top-right is Melinda Mayor Lowry, the bottom-left is a man with a beard and glasses, and the bottom-right is a woman with glasses. The names of the top two participants are visible in small text below their video feeds.

CENTER FOR
**HUMANITIES
& THE ARTS**



The **Center for Humanities & the Arts** fosters community, supports collaborations, and inspires creativity and research while promoting equity, inclusion, and academic excellence.

Thank you to the following donors:

Louise & Robert Bland
Max & Monica Boykoff
Doug Brown
Richard & Lois Coward
Leslie & Henry Eaton
Yolanda & Anthony Ho
Jennifer Ho
Linda & Herbert Lichtenberg
Janice McCullagh
Renaissance Charitable Foundation Inc.
Peter Spear
Paul Sutter
Leaf & Sharon Van Boven
Sue Zemka

A special acknowledgement to:

David Chadwick, Trustee and Secretary
University of Colorado U.K. Foundation Ltd.

Dr. Priscilla Wald

CU Boulder Libraries

Carolina Public Humanities
The Obermann Center for Advanced Studies

Staff of Macky Auditorium