UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
College of Arts & Sciences

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

FALL 2022

Director's Statement

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For many of us, our "New Year" begins in August instead of January because the start of a new academic year often feels more significant than the transition from December to January. Hopefully, a slower paced summer made space for rest, catching up on reading, and maybe even travel for the first time in several years. The goal is to face a new academic cycle with renewed energy and clear intentions for ourselves and our students.

What is the tone you want to set this year? Cynicism is tempting and probably well-earned as there is so much critical work to be done—a seemingly infinite list of issues worthy of our energy and outrage. In the midst of the ongoing fight for social, political, and economic equity, the struggle to stabilize a climate in crisis, resisting attacks on essential human rights, I would encourage everyone to also reflect on the teachings of Audre Lorde: to practice love for ourselves and love for others as an act of political resistance.

Lorde and other scholars (especially in Black feminism) understand the profound political power embedded in love, joy, and celebration—that embracing the beauty and delight of being human not only disrupts systems designed to perpetuate hopelessness, but renews our strength and energy to continue to fight.

As we move into a new year, I hope you will resolve to incorporate love, joy, and celebration so profound they're restorative, contagious, and maybe even a little subversive.

Liz Kicak, M.F.A.
Director

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Humanities Institute

4202 E. Fowler Ave. CPR 107
Tampa, FL 33620
813-974-3657
www.humanities-institute.usf.edu

@usfhuman

DIRECTOR

Liz Kicak
Associate Professor of Instruction English
ekicak@usf.edu

STAFF

Jade von Werder
Administrative Specialist
jvonwerder@usf.edu

FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD

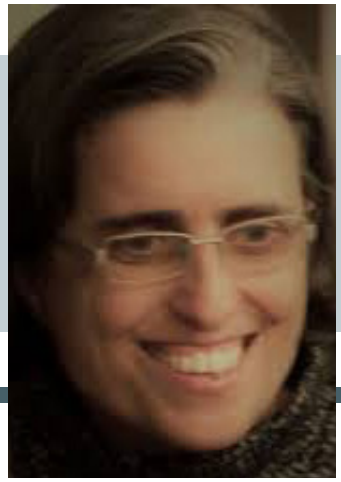
Kristin Allukian (English)
Aaron Augsburger (SIGS)
Andrew Berish (HCS)
Karla Davis-Salazar (Anthropology)
Aisha Durham (Communication)
Matt Knight (History)
Natalie Scenters-Zapico (English)
Catherine Wilkins (Honors College)

Faculty Fellowship Program

MEET THE 2022-2023 COHORT

After a successful first year, the Humanities Institute welcomes its second faculty cohort to participate in a year-long fellowship program. This program is designed to encourage interdisciplinary research and provide time and space for intellectual inquiry and collaboration.

Lorena Madrigal
Professor
Anthropology



Adriana Novoa
Associate Professor
History

Christina Richards
Associate Professor
Integrative Biology

The Complexity of Diversity from an Interdisciplinary Perspective

The 2022 –23 cohort is studying "The Complexity of Diversity from an Interdisciplinary Approach" and plans to explore the wider context of "diversity" including the scientific and humanistic study of the environment in which we live and our relationship with it; the effects that a loss of biological diversity has on all life; and the socio-political ramification of policies that shape the existence of diverse species on Earth in the Anthropocene. These scholars stress the importance of overcoming the artificial separation between the sciences and humanities and how integrating the fields will lead to a deeper understanding of the cultural context of genetic diversity and the pitfalls of any biological concept of race.

The cohort is developing a new General Education course based on their collaborative efforts: HUM 2593, "Science in Cultural Context" and the course will be offered to interested undergraduates in Spring 2023.

Applications for the 2023 - 2024 USF Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship Program will open in Spring 2023

Summer 2022 Highlights

Summer Grant Award Recipients

Congratulations to the ten faculty members from the College of Arts & Sciences who were awarded 2022 Humanities Institute Summer Grants. The call for 2023 applications will be issued in November.

David Arbesú (World Languages) *Traveling to Florida: Edition and Translation of the 1565 Diary of Father Mendoza Grajales*

Pablo Brescia (World Languages) *Rage Against the Machine: Technological Fictions from Latin America*

Holly Dunn (School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies) *Why Am I Here? A Novel About Fieldwork in Conflict*

Matthew Kessler (World Languages) *Conducting Genre-Based Research: A Methodological Guide*

Julia Koets (English) *Someone Will Remember Us: A Collection of Essays on Queerness, Loss, Memory, & Poetry*

John Lennon (English) *Muralism's Contradictory Function in the Political Economy of a Post-Brexit Northern Ireland*

Janna Merrick & **Jody McBrien** (SIGS) *In Search of Safety: Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, and Irregular Immigrants in Italy*

David Rubin (Women's and Gender Studies) *Pandemic Feminism*

Amy Rust (Humanities and Cultural Studies) *Props for an Ecological Age*

Latina/o Studies Association Conference

South Bend, IN

Jade von Werder attended the 2022 Latina/o Studies Association conference at the University of Notre Dame in July. This conference brought together nearly 500 academics, students, artists, writers, filmmakers, and activists in the field of Latina/o/x studies to engage in interdisciplinary dialogue on the theme of "Centering Blackness, Challenging Latinidad." Conference attendees enjoyed plenaries by eminent scholars and an exhibit hall with over 40 representatives from presses, community organizations, and institutions, including a major sponsor, USF. In her capacity as a member of LSA Executive Council, USF Associate Professor Ylce Irizarry helped organize the conference and moderated several professionalization panels; Dr. Irizarry also presented research. The next conference will be held in 2024.

Fall Event

Writing Your Way Home

DANIELE PANTANO

Tuesday, Sept. 13 | 6:00pm

C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY 206)

12303 USF Genshaft Drive

This September, the Humanities Institute welcomes USF alumnus, Daniele Pantano for a week of class visits, lectures, and readings. Pantano is a Swiss poet, essayist, literary translator, artist, critic, editor, and publisher. His poems, essays, and translations have appeared widely, and his poems have been translated into a dozen languages, including Albanian, Farsi, French, German, Italian, Kurdish, Russian, Slovenian, and Spanish. His conceptual and visual literatures as well as his noise poetry have been exhibited nationally and internationally.

After graduating from the USF Departments of English and Philosophy, as well as the Honors College (now the Judy Genshaft Honors College), Pantano taught and directed the Writing Center at the University of South Florida. He later served as the Visiting Poet-in-Residence at Florida Southern College, and taught at Edge Hill University, where he was Director of Creative Writing and Reader in Poetry and Literary Translation. He is currently Associate Professor (Reader) and Programme Leader for the MA Creative Writing at the University of Lincoln.

This will be Pantano's first visit to USF in fifteen years and will coincide with the publication of his newest poetry collection: *Home for Difficult Children* (Broken Sleep Books/ Black Lawrence Press, 2022).

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments and a book signing will follow the event. For questions about this event, parking, or accommodations, contact Jade V. at jvonwerder@usf.edu. Visit our website for more information on our Fall events.

RSVP: https://usf-danielepantano.eventbrite.com

Fall Event

Love in the Time of Serial Killers

ALICIA THOMPSON

Wednesday, Oct. 5 | 6:00pm

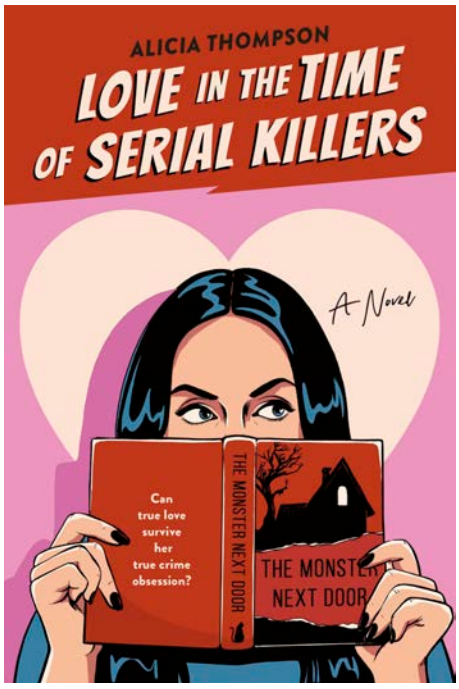
TECO Hall (EDU)

4110 USF Apple Drive

Don't miss a "killer" good time this October when HI hosts USF alumna, Alicia Thompson for a reading and book launch party to celebrate the publication of her newest novel, *Love in the Time of Serial Killers.* In this true crime meets romantic comedy, PhD candidate, Phoebe Walsh, is analyzing the true crime genre for her dissertation when she is forced to return to Florida to clean out her family home after the death of her estranged father. While working at the house, Walsh becomes convinced that her nice-guy neighbor is actually a serial killer.

Thompson is, herself, a true crime devotee. Early reviews for *Love in the Time of Serial Killers* praise its wry humor, wit, and charm. Thompson is also the author of *Psych Major Syndrome* and co-authored *The Go-for-Gold Gymnasts* YA series with former Olympic gold medalist, Dominique Moceanu. She lives in Tampa with her husband and two children.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided and books can be purchased at the event. Book signing will follow the Q&A. For questions or accommodations, contact Jade V. at jvonwerder@usf.edu.



RSVP: https://usf-aliciathompson.eventbrite.com

Fall Event

Humanities & Hops

Cold Drinks. Hot Food. Smart People.

Tuesday, Oct. 25 | 7:00pm

Southern Brewing & Winery

4500 N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa, FL 33603

McArthur Freeman II | School of Art and Art History
Dr. David Ponton III | School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies- Africana Studies
Dr. Tangela Serls | Women's and Gender Studies

Everyone's favorite event returns this fall!

Humanities & Hops: where HI creates a space with "cold drinks, hot food, and smart people" at Southern Brewing and Winery—a staple in the historic Seminole Heights Neighborhood of Tampa.

At each event, we take over the beautiful outdoor patio and bring together three USF faculty members conducting research in related fields so they can share their work with the community in an informal and approachable way. The taproom is open for guests 21 and over, and there is always a great local food truck on site.

This October, the USF Humanities Institute's 2021-22 Faculty Fellows will share insights from their year-long research project on "Re-imagining Blackness: Storytelling the End of the (Racialized) World." More information on this fellowship cohort and their recorded seminars can be found on our website.

We want to bring Humanities & Hops to St. Petersburg and Sarasota! Faculty interested in presenting their work, please email Liz Kicak.

Fall Event

Between Appearance and Reality: On Transphobia, Intimacy, and the Multiplicity of Worlds

TALIA MAE BETTCHER

Tuesday, Nov. 8 | 6:00pm

C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY 206)

12303 USF Genshaft Drive

This November, HI welcomes one of the leading scholars in the emergent field of trans philosophy, Talia Mae Bettcher. Bettcher is a Professor of Philosophy at California State University, Los Angeles. She has published dozens of scholarly articles and her new monograph, *Intimacy and Illusion: An Essay in Trans Philosophy*, is under contract with University of Minnesota Press.

In her talk, "Between Appearance and Reality: On Transphobia, Intimacy, and the Multiplicity of Worlds" Bettcher will discuss "interpersonal spatiality" or the idea that all sensory and discursive encounters between people admit intimacy (closeness) or distance. She will explore the notion of liminal intimacy/distance—the state of being "betwixt and between" entirely different systems of interpersonal spatiality and how the constitution of trans people as mere "pretenders" can be understood as the structural foreclosure of intimacy and the failure to fathom the possibility of intimacy beyond a given structure.

This event is free and open to the public and refreshments will be provided following the event. For questions about this event, parking, or accommodations, contact Jade V. at jvonwerder@usf.edu. Visit our website for more information on our Fall events.

RSVP: https://usf-taliabettcher.eventbrite.com

Mark Your Calendar

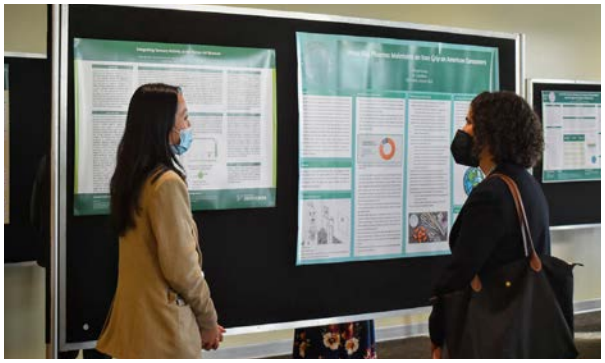
4th ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE HUMANITIES CONFERENCE

Applications open in **October** for the 4th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference. Faculty can supplement their in-class teaching by encouraging students to use assigned research projects as application materials. Undergraduate Research is a designated High Impact Practice (HIP) for students in all majors.

HI staff will happily visit classes to explain the application process, the different presentation options, and answer students' questions. Email Liz Kicak to schedule a class visit.

SAVE THE DATE!

*This year's conference will be held **January 26 - 27, 2023***



Memorial Celebration

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Dr. Jay Hopler passed away in June after a lengthy battle with cancer and just one week after the publication of his third poetry collection, *Still Life*, which he began writing the day he was diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer. Dr. Hopler was a beloved teacher and colleague in the English Department at USF, and his death is a great loss for all who had the joy of knowing him.

Jay's passion for language began at a very early age, and he always intended to be a writer. His first collection of poetry, *Green Squall*, won the 2006 Yale Younger Poets Prize, selected by Nobel laureate Louise Glück, who would become a dear friend. His second collection of poetry, 2016's *The Abridged History of Rainfall*, was a finalist for the National Book Award that year.

Although Jay enjoyed great success as a writer, his true treasure was his private life. As he wrote in one of his late poems, he "loved his wife his wife his ocean was & his mountain range spent in blue gentian." He felt honored to be stepfather to two beloved boys, Elijah West Greenfield and Bennett Zion Greenfield, whom he called his "suns."

Prior to his passing, Jay and his wife, Kimberly Johnson, requested the establishment of the **Jay Hopler Memorial Fund** at the Humanities Institute. This fund will be used to support poetry related projects at USF including guest readings, travel funds for students, or other initiatives. To make a gift in Jay's honor, please visit: **https://usf.to/jayhopler** or contact **Liz Kicak** at **ekicak@usf.edu**.

Major Gift Announcement

The Humanities Institute is proud to announce the establishment of two new gifts totaling nearly $300,000 in memory of Garry Fleming who passed away at the age of 96 last year. Mr. Fleming had a profound love of poetry and fine arts, and he created an impressive collection of paintings and mixed media pieces throughout his life. He was also a prolific writer and reader of poetry, and his substantial donation will fund two new initiatives at the Humanities Institute:

The Garry Fleming Endowment

This gift will be fund a poetry lecture series.

The Garry Fleming Poetry Award

This gift will establish an annual poetry competition.

HI is honored to be able to continue Mr. Fleming's legacy through his generous gift and we look forward to sharing updates on the inaugural reading and award soon.

Fall 2022 Calendar

SEP 13 6:00pm **Daniele Pantano: Writing Your Way Home**
C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY 206)

OCT 05 6:00pm ***Love in the Time of Serial Killers* with Alicia Thompson**
TECO Hall (EDU)

OCT 25 7:00pm **Humanities & Hops: Faculty Fellows**
Southern Brewing & Winery

NOV 04 7:00pm **Jay Hopler Memorial Celebration**
USF Marshall Student Center, Room 3707

NOV 08 6:00pm **Between Appearance and Reality: On Transphobia, Intimacy, and the Multiplicity of Worlds**
C.W .Bill Young Hall (CWY 206)

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