



HUMANITIES CENTER

YEAR IN REVIEW



2022 - 2023

'22 - '23 Year in Review

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Reckonings Summer Institute

Note from Interim Director

Lori Lefkovitz

With a sorrowful heart, I have returned this semester to the role of director of the Northeastern University Humanities Center, on an interim basis, following the tragic death of my successor in this role, Ángel David Nieves. The events showcased in this Annual Report—published belatedly as the Center struggled to keep up with our full calendar of ongoing events and programs during the intense period of our director’s illness and sudden death on December 3rd—reflect the work and commitments of Professor Nieves.

This report’s contents testify to Ángel’s legacy, to his devotion to the pursuit of racial justice, to his outstanding accomplishments in multiple fields, including Public History and Digital Humanities. The range of programs described in these pages are a tribute to his vision for a Humanities Center that would serve Northeastern and a wider community, often intersecting with the Mellon-funded “Reckonings” project, on which he also had a leadership role.

Audiences were enthralled by speakers such as Lilian Thuram and Julian Chambliss; our colleagues were supported through the Faculty Works-in-Progress series; ongoing annual programs, such as the Women’s and Gender Studies symposium (this year on the theme of “Feminism and the Politics of Crisis”), the bell hooks symposium, the multiple events of the Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Committee, our active program in Health, Humanities and Society, and the Equity Event Series all found support through the Humanities Center’s co-sponsorship.

The signature program of the Humanities Center is our Residential Fellowship program, and I want to acknowledge the stunning leadership of Professor Patricia Williams in the 2022-23 academic year on the theme of “Re-imagining/Re-forming,” and this year, we are thrilled to have Professor Régine Jean-Charles convening a current cohort of fellows on the theme of “World-Making/World-Building.”

Under these extraordinary circumstances, I cannot express the extent of our gratitude to the Humanities Center staff, most especially, the Humanities Center Administrative Operations and Events Manager, Tania Munguia, who held up the sky, managing to ensure the continued excellence of every aspect of the Humanities Center's work, including event management, publicity, budgeting, hosting distinguished guests and feeding us, and much else; she attended to every detail, large and small, even as she, too, was grieving the loss of her supervisor with whom she had worked closely. Tania was ably assisted by Abhishek Sand, who also shouldered the extra burdens of loss with exemplary professionalism, flexibility, and skill. All of us at the Humanities Center are immensely appreciative of our loyal staff.

I also want to warmly thank the office of the Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, and our beloved interim Dean and colleague, Professor Ronald Sandler, for supporting the work of the Humanities Center in every way possible. We are grateful beyond words for a team and colleagues who have helped us sustain an intellectually vibrant and activist learning community.

Thank you, Ángel David Nieves for your leadership. The Humanities Center and our constituents are grateful to you and we miss you every day.



Lori Hope Lefkovitz

Professor of English

Ruderman Professor of Jewish Studies



In Memoriam | Ángel David Nieves

We remember with gratitude and profound sadness our esteemed and much-loved colleague, **Dr. Ángel David Nieves**, who served as Director of the Northeastern Humanities Center from July 2022 until his untimely death from complications following a heart attack in December 2023.

At Northeastern, Professor Nieves had many roles. He was The Dean's Professor of Public and Digital Humanities, Professor of History, Professor of Africana Studies, and Director of the Graduate Program in Public History. Professor Nieves joined the Northeastern faculty from San Diego State in 2020. An architect, archivist, and public historian, Professor Nieves's scholarship was situated at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, social justice, and technology in the U.S. and South Africa, and his work was at the frontier of digital history and experimental online publishing platforms.

Professor Nieves is the author of *An Architecture of Education: African American Women Design the New South* (2018/2020) and co-editor of 'We Shall Independent Be:' *African American Place Making and the Struggle to Claim Space in the U.S.* (2008). His recent co-edited book, *People, Practice, Power: Digital Humanities Outside the Center* is part of the Debates in the Digital Humanities Series. His articles have appeared in *American Quarterly*; *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*; *JITP: The Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy*; *Places: A Journal of Design for the Public Realm*; *The Journal of Planning History*.

At the time of his death, Professor Nieves was working on a digital book project, *Apartheid Heritage(s): A Spatial History of South Africa's Black Townships*, that combines human rights violations testimony and 3D reconstruction technologies of sites destroyed by the apartheid-era regime. In June 2022, Angel co-led the NEH funded Summer Institute "Engaging Geography in the Humanities," with Professors Liza Weinstein (Sociology/Anthropology) and Serena Parekh (Philosophy).

Professor Nieves was an accomplished activist scholar and a mentor to many graduate students to whom he was dedicated. Ángel was a devoted husband to his partner of three decades, Richard Foote, whose recent death left him grief-stricken. Colleagues recall Ángel Nieves's laughter, his speaking truth to power, his vision for new projects, his energy, his goodness, and many kindnesses. Memories of his laughter echo our halls. We are grateful for the gift of his work and friendship. His many collaborators are grateful for all that we learned from him, the ways in which he shaped our imagination, and enabled innovation. We miss him.





OUR IMPACT

Events and Programs

In Conversation Lecture

Lilian Thuram Book Launch Event



In this photo: President Joseph E. Aoun and Régine Jean Charles of Northeastern University with Lilian Thuram and students



December 6th, 2022

Lilian Thuram had a prestigious international career in soccer for the French national team, including as a World champion in 1998, European champion in 2000, and World Cup finalist in 2006. He played for elite European clubs such as Juventus and Barcelona. In 2008, he created the Lilian Thuram Foundation to educate against racism and has since become a high-profile activist himself, providing workshops, lectures, and exhibitions across the world. He is the author of the book, ***White Thinking: Behind the Mask of Racial Identity*** which launched in December 2022.



Provost David Madigan



"In December 2022 we welcomed internationally renowned soccer legend Lilian Thuram campus. In a packed auditorium of the Fenway Center where 150 high school students were also in attendance, Thuram captivated the audience with a talk based on his most recent book *White Thinking*. Thuram, who first rose to fame when he scored the winning goal in the 1998 World Cup, has been vocal about his experiences of racism in France and throughout Europe while playing for various clubs. Now in retirement from soccer, he is using his platform as a venerated athlete to advance racial justice in France and around the world. He exemplifies what it looks like to have a global impact centered on social justice."

Régine Jean-Charles

Director of Africana Studies

Dean's Professor of Culture and Social Justice

Professor of Africana Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies



**Watch Lilian Thuram's
Event Recording Here!**

Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Annual Symposium



Suzanna Walters and ASL interpreter Janice Cagan-Teuber



Feminists on the Politics of Crisis

Chelsea Mikael Frazier and Régine Jean Charles



Karsonya Wise Whitehead and Paisley Currah



Karsonya Wise Whitehead



Martha Hickson and Carla Kaplan



Paisley Currah and Carla Kaplan
slide presentation created by Martha Hickson



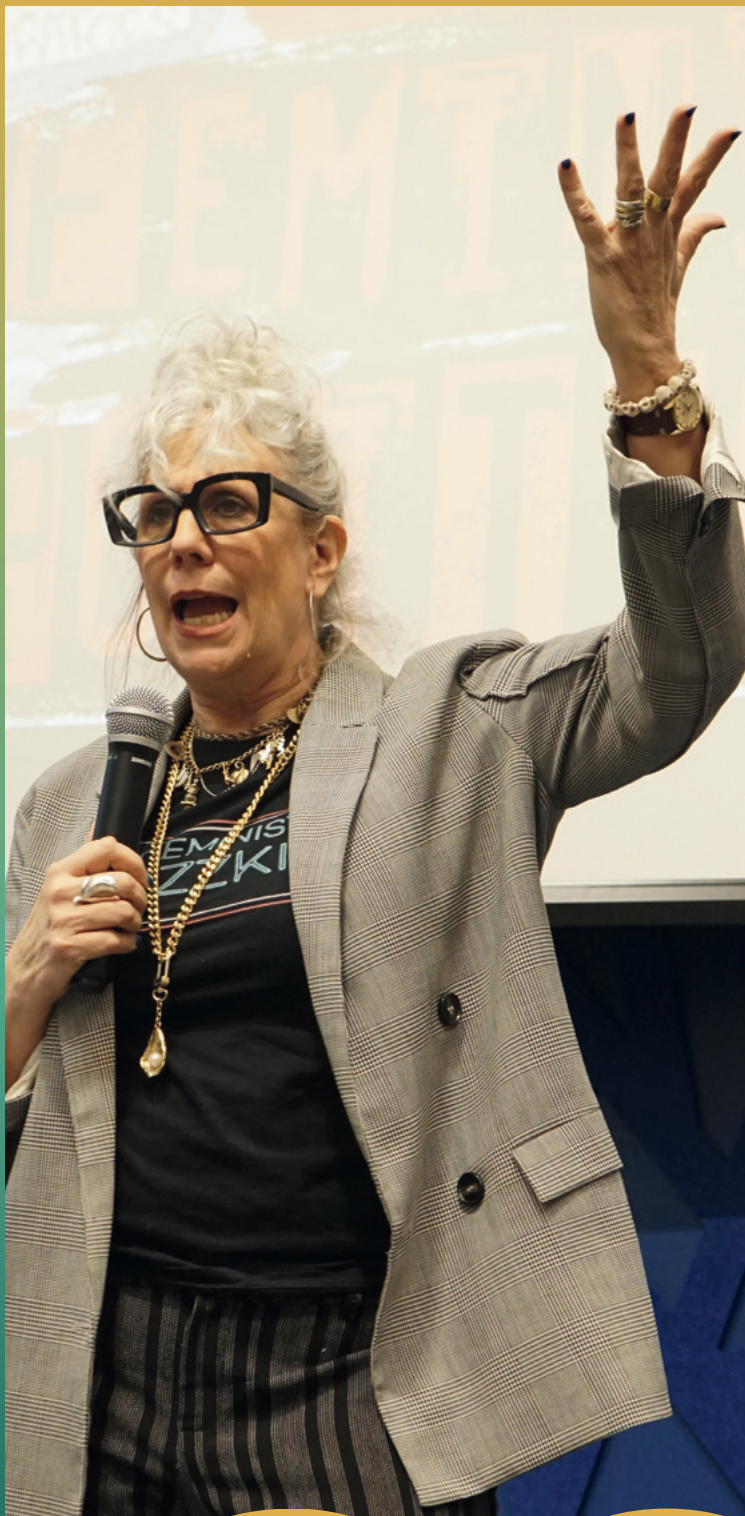
Cara Daggett, Chelsea Mikael Frazier, and Régine Jean Charles

March 23rd and March 24th, 2023

This year's annual Women's and Gender Studies (WGSS) Symposium at Northeastern University, "Feminists on the Politics of Crisis," recognized a confluence of life-threatening emergencies with disproportionate impact on women and the poor, the persecution and policing of women who exercise autonomy over their own bodies, and heightened censorship, the banning of books in America's schools, books that, for example, teach children about the history of race in America and acknowledge gay and trans identities.



Watch Lecture Recordings Here!



WASS

Feminist Comedian Lizz Winstead
Activism is Self Care

"This year's Symposium wanted to address crisis itself: how can feminists best reckon with the myriad dumpster fires erupting with seeming impunity?

We honed in on three (there are, alas, so many): climate, censorship and attacks on progressive speech, and abortion access. The panelists were both depressing and inspiring – providing a road map to various disaster zones but also inciting all of us to deepen our commitments to social justice.

We started the Symposium this year with a Thursday evening comedy set by Abortion Access Front founder (and Daily Show co-creator!) Lizz Winstead who demonstrated the power in laughter and the creative ways in which we all can enact resistance. Once again, our annual Symposium left us all moved, shook, and thinking ever more deeply about showing up for feminist resistance...every day and in every way."



Suzanna Danuta Walters

*Director, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program
Professor of Sociology*

Watch Event Recording Here!



Comparative Health Humanities Symposium



April 24th & 25th, 2023

The Comparative Health Humanities Symposium in 2023 gathered international health humanities scholars across academic institutions, including Harvard and Columbia University, to examine what we can learn about the field across political, social, cultural, and linguistic contexts. Speakers addressed topics including race/racism, environment and health, translation/ untranslatability, health humanities, and the health profession.

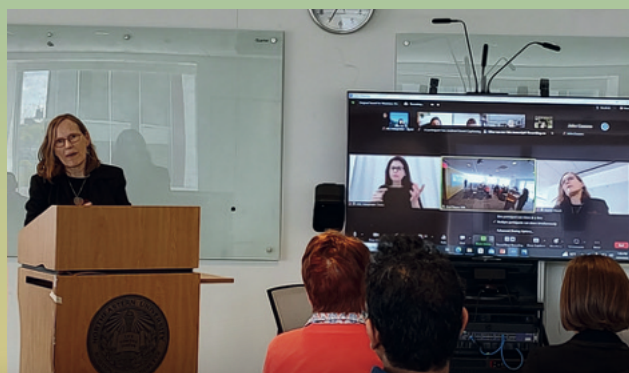
The aim was to not only surface differences but to also develop a new model for thinking about the health humanities comparatively.



"The Comparative Health Humanities Symposium in Boston and its companion symposium in Paris were both wonderful successes! So rarely do people who work on the health humanities in different countries get to be in the same room to talk things through. We not only learned so much about the continuities and discontinuities between questions of ethics, history, and culture of healthcare in France and the United States, but we also deepened important connections between French and American institutions."

Sari Altschuler

*Associate Professor of English
Founding Director of Health, Humanities, and
Society Program
Northeastern University*



Watch the afternoon
lecture that took place
at Northeastern here!

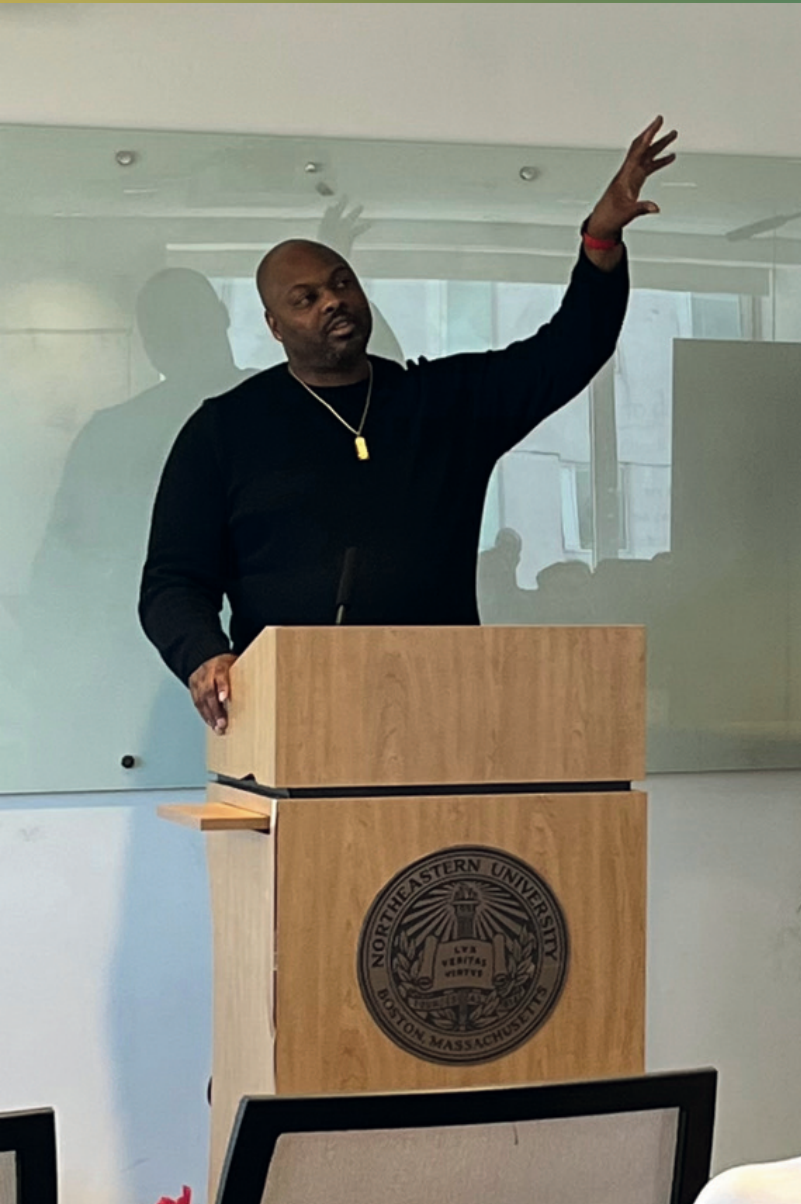


Watch the evening
lecture that took place
at Harvard here!

Equity Event Series

*Race and Justice, Prisons and
Healthcare Systems*

March 27, 2023



Michael Lawrence Walker, *Prison Systems (Left)*
Christopher Willoughby, *Healthcare Systems (Right)*

Michael Lawrence Walker

Prison Systems

Walker's afternoon lecture explored the underexamined issues of sleep hygiene in jails, a problem associated with increased risks for developing mood disorders, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, and other physiological problems.

"Last year's CSSH Equity Series focused on race and justice in two critical American institutions, prisons and the healthcare system. Told through the lens of his personal experience being in prison, Dr. Walker's presentation examined how the prison system's sub-par sleeping conditions affect the dreams and subconscious of those incarcerated, creating a number of negative mental health consequences for individuals. Dr. Walker's emotional and thought-provoking presentation encapsulated the equity series' mission to shed light on the profound and far-reaching impact of social and racial inequities throughout our society."

Amy Farrell

*Director and Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Co-Director of the Violence and Justice Research Lab*

This event was a collaboration between the School of Criminology and Health, Humanities, and Society.



Christopher Willoughby

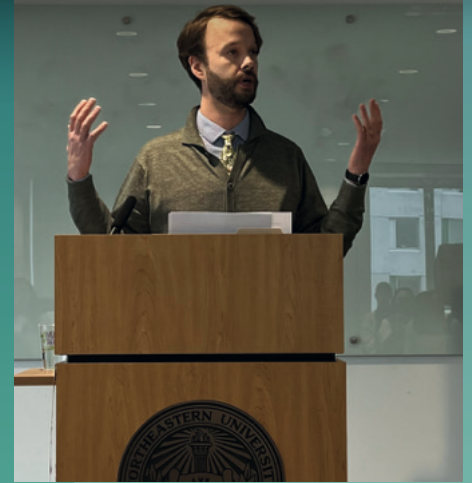
Healthcare Systems

Willoughby's evening lecture focused on the paradox of medical science in antebellum America: science presumed African Americans to be less than human yet still human enough to be viable as experimental subjects, as cadavers, and for use in the training of medical students. His lecture took a hard look at the racial ideas of both northern and southern medical schools, examining how racist ideas were not external to the medical profession but fundamental to medical knowledge.

"Dr. Willoughby took the audience through the fundamental ways racism structured the development of American medical knowledge just as the field was finding its footing in the nineteenth century. This riveting and horrific account of the past poses important questions about racism and medicine for the present, most pressingly: how can medicine shed its racist dimensions if racism has been so baked into the very structure of medicine for centuries? The presentation illustrated for the audience how crucial humanistic inquiry is to the present and future of healthcare, which is the motivating principle of Northeastern's Health, Humanities, and Society program."

Sari Altschuler

*Associate Professor of English
Founding Director of Health, Humanities,
and Society Program
Northeastern University*



Environmental History

Collaborative Lecture Series



October 25, 2022

"The Humanities Center launched its Environmental History program in 2022 - 2023 with two important and well-received public talks. The fall event welcomed to NU's Boston campus Dr. Robert Gioielli of University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College. An alumnus of the Rachel Carson Center in Munich, Germany, Dr. Gioielli is an environmental and urban historian whose work focuses on the intersections of social and environmental issues in the American city. He spoke on the topic of environmental racism in the construction of the American suburb, with an emphasis on connections between the single-family home as an institution and discriminatory practices such as redlining. These Humanities Center sponsored events highlight the intimate connections between the environment and problems of inequality, race and social justice that Northeastern is committed to addressing."



Tim Brown

*Professor and Chair of History, Northeastern University
Associate Director in Environmental Humanities,
Northeastern Humanities Center*

Robert Gioielli

The American Single-Family Home: An Environmental History

Rob Gioielli

Center

The American Single-Family Home: An Environmental History

In this photo from left to right: Lori Lefkovitz,
Simon Rabinovitch, Philip Gourevitch,
Mark Morton, Rebecca Derby, Evan Morton,
Dani Capsis, and Dean Uta Poiger





OUR IMPACT

Holocaust & Genocide
Awareness Week

Events sponsored by the Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Committee

Witness Testimony

Elizabeth Dopazo



In this photo from left to right: Simon Rabinovitch, Lori Lefkovitz, Elizabeth Dopazo, and Laurel Leff

The Philip N. Backstrom Jr. Survivor Lecture

March 29, 2023

This year's Philip N. Backstrom Jr. Survivor Lecture took the form of Witness Testimony by Elizabeth Dopazo.

Now in her nineties, Dopazo was a child in Germany whose parents, as Jehovah's Witnesses, took principled stands against the Nazis, leading to their imprisonment, and ultimately her father's death. She spent the war at her grandparents' home in a small village with her brother as her only companion, as it was too dangerous to play with other children who might learn of the family convictions.

Dopazo's humorous style of speaking relieved the horrors behind her recollections and left the audience enthralled with her storytelling. Her delight in living, despite the hardships she endured, and her lessons of equality of all living beings, left an indelible impression on the students, faculty, and staff who attended.

This event was part of Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Week.



Watch Lecture Recording Here!

In this photo from left to the right: Philip Gourevitch, Jody Kipnis & Todd Ruderman, Founders, Holocaust Legacy Foundation, and Ethan Rogers



2022-2023

Holocaust Legacy Foundation

Gideon Klein Scholarship

Ethan Rogers '25, the student winner of the 2022-2023 Holocaust Legacy Foundation Gideon Klein scholarship, presented his multi-media project, *"Tracing Expressiveness: Illustrated Emotions in Terezins's Secret Synagogue,"* which was funded by his award.

Rogers, an architecture major, explained in detail how he learned about the Secret Synagogue, the fascinating aspects of his research into the Terezin camp, and the synagogue, its artists, and its history during and after World War II while hidden behind the Iron Curtain. Using architectural software, Rogers recreated the synagogue as a video, inserting his interpretations of the artwork, and haunting singing of some of the texts of the walls. The audience was transported to the site and able to imagine the people who worshipped in this room illegally and under the most dire circumstances. Rogers' final revelation was a physical model of the synagogue with which the audience was able to interact.



Watch Event Recording Here!

30th Annual

Robert Salomon Morton Lecture

The final event of Holocaust Awareness Week was the keynote 30th annual Robert Salomon Morton Lecture with writer Philip Gourevitch.

Speaking on "The Perils of Memory: Does Remembering Genocide Make Us Safer?" Gourevitch asked some difficult questions, and used examples from his reporting on other genocides, especially Rwanda, to expand the conversation and bring to it a contemporary relevance, directly from the headlines.

Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Week at Northeastern is sponsored by the College of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Humanities Center. Additional sponsorship for the Robert Salomon Morton Lecture came from the Robert S. Morton Lectures and Events Endowed Fund, the Giessen Morton Lecture Fund and the Giessen Memorial Fund, with co-sponsorship from the School of Journalism and Department of History.



Watch Lecture Recording Here!





Global Cross-Campus

A stylized world map is the background of the page. The landmasses are colored in a vibrant orange, while the oceans are a deep teal. The map is centered, showing the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The title 'Impact Collaborations' is overlaid on the map, positioned over the Atlantic and European regions.

Impact Collaborations

Northeastern University

London Campus



Mark Martin

Book Launch, My Teaching Routine



March 15, 2023

The book launch of *My Teaching Routine* by Mark Martin, MBE at Northeastern University London was a significant event, highlighting the importance of teaching, learning, and classroom pedagogy in enhancing educational practices. With over 60 attendees in person and remote participation from Northeastern colleagues in the US, the event fostered cross-campus collaboration between Boston and London. Mark Martin's innovative teaching strategies and insights on inspiring and motivating learners in the classroom, along with his emphasis on teacher well-being, provided valuable resources for educators seeking to enhance their practice. The event exemplified Northeastern University's commitment to excellence in education and the power of collaboration in advancing teaching and learning across campuses.

Northeastern University,
Mills College, Oakland



MILLS : LORRY I. LOKEY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BU

Carlos Alvarez Pereira
Vice President of the Club of Rome

50 Years on from "The Limits to Growth"



March 16, 2023

"In the spring, in the first substantial collaboration between NU's Boston and Oakland campuses, the Humanities Center welcomed to the Mills Campus, Dr. Carlos Alvarez Pereira, Vice President of the Club of Rome. He spoke about the meaning and historical reception of the Club's influential 1972 "Limits to Growth" report, the subject of a 50th-anniversary retrospective that he co-edited. That talk was followed by an educational workshop with an interdisciplinary group of Mills faculty linking the sciences and humanities, demonstrating the importance of collaborations across Northeastern's global campus network."



Tim Brown

*Professor and Chair of History, Northeastern University
Associate Director in Environmental Humanities,
Northeastern Humanities Center*

Watch Lecture Recording Here!



2022 - 2023

Humanities Center Fellowship



Mindful of recent political, cultural, and environmental upheavals, the Northeastern Humanities Center invited proposals for the 2022 - 2023 academic year on the theme of "Re-imagining/Re-forming." The range of projects address how bedrock notions of social contract are being reconfigured by the disruptions of what some have called Industry 4.0, or the Fourth Industrial Revolution. They consider: What are the material implications of recent technological developments—broadly understood, including, for example, AI and biotechnologies—for the humanities, and for the laws and social ordering of what we have traditionally thought of as "the human"? Are we moving towards a digital social contract, and if so, who or what is determining its terms? These fellows connected to many dimensions of this broad field of inquiry, including literary, artistic, historical, socio-political, economic, ecological, media theoretical, philosophical, linguistic, as well as technology-focused perspectives. Patricia Williams, University Distinguished Professor of Law and Humanities, led the year-long interdisciplinary conversation among fellows about their work.

“Re-Imagining / Re-Forming” Fellows



Sari Altschuler
English



Kabria Baumgartner
Public History



Nicholas Beauchamp
Political Science



Victoria Cain
History



Sina Fazelpour
Philosophy



Chad Lee-Stronach
Philosophy



Deirdre Loughridge
Music



Lily Song
Race, Social Justice, and
the Built Environment



Gloria Sutton
Contemporary Art History



Ari Waldman
Law



Taylor Braswell
PhD Candidate
Sociology



Cherice Escobar Jones
PhD Candidate
English

Sari Altschuler, Associate Professor of English; Founding Director, Health, Humanities, and Society Minor and Initiative, "Capable Citizens: How Disability Shaped American Citizenship"

Kabria Baumgartner, Dean's Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies, "Revolutionizing the City: Black Youth and Civil Rights in Boston"

Nick Beauchamp, Assistant Professor of Political Science, "Re-Forming Politics Online: Community Formation and Social Policing within the Left"

Victoria Cain, Associate Professor of History, "Refuge, Revelation, Risk: A History of Adolescent Privacy in the Digital Age"

Sina Fazelpour, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Computer Science, "Standpoint Matters: Justice & Diversity in Sociotechnical Algorithmic Systems"

Chad Lee-Stronach, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, "Encoding Justice: Towards a New Digital Social Contract"

Deirdre Loughridge, Assistant Professor of Music, Faculty Affiliate of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, "Sounding Human"

Lily Song, Assistant Professor of Race and Social Justice in the Built Environment, "Re-Imagining and Re-Formulating Spatial Planning and Development with Local Communities"

Gloria Sutton, Associate Professor of Contemporary Art History, Faculty Affiliate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, "Pattern Recognition: Marginality as Methodology within Computational forms of Art"

Ari Waldman, Professor of Law and Computer Science, Faculty Director, Center for Law, "Laundering Misinformation Through Law"

Taylor Braswell, PhD Candidate in Sociology, "The Historical Urban Political Economy of Community-owned Electric Utilities in the Southeastern United States"

Cherice Escobar Jones, PhD Candidate in English, "Healing Words: The Role of Rhetoric and Writing in the Pursuit of Racial Health Equity"



Convened by Patricia Williams

University Distinguished Professor of Law and Humanities
School of Law, College of Social Sciences and Humanities

2022 - 2023

“Re-Imagining / Re-Forming” Fellows Feedback

“Our facilitator, the brilliant scholar, Patricia Williams, guided us through our fellowship during the academic year. She brought great energy and insights to all of our projects. It was wonderful to listen to other fellows present their work and to comment on it. And the advice given to one fellow’s project was oftentimes advice each of us could apply to our own work. Early in the academic year, I presented my book prospectus on Black youth and civil rights in the nineteenth-century U.S. I remember one participant reminding me that I was inexplicably burying the lede. As I reviewed my prospectus, I realized that she was right and I needed to rethink how I presented my book’s argument, significance, and sources. A few months later, I received a book contract from the University of North Carolina Press, my first-choice press. My reader reports were overwhelmingly positive! I’m happy that I had the opportunity to share an early version of my book prospectus at a critical stage and get some great feedback to strengthen it. Even better is that, through the process, I gained a deeper understanding of my book and the story I want to tell. I’m thankful to have been a Humanities Center Fellow this past year and I’m grateful to the Director, staff, and my fellow cohort. It was a delightful year.”

Kabria Baumgartner

Dean’s Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies

“The Humanities Center fellowship group this year was incredible. Brilliantly led by Patricia Williams, this group met every two weeks in a space that felt out of time and place—a protected space to think and learn together at the highest level. I think I am not alone in feeling that fellowship year reminded many of us why we got into academia in the first place. What a privilege!”

Sari Altschuler

Associate Professor of English, Founding Director of Health, Humanities, and Society

“The Humanities Center Fellowship provided the most generative and intellectually engaging moments of my time at Northeastern. Because of this small group of diverse scholars, I was exposed to scholarship about history, music, urbanism, discrimination, philosophy, and technology that I would never have been exposed to otherwise. This is only one of the reasons I will cherish my time as a Fellow. The other reason is just as, if not more, important: The people I met along the way were, to a person, remarkable.”

Ari Waldman

Professor of Law and Computer Science; Faculty Director, Center for Law, Innovation and Creativity (CLIC)

2023 - 2024

Humanities Center Fellowship

The Rosewood, Florida Massacre of 1922. The Kingdom of Hayti led by Henri Christophe in 1811. FTX. The Human Genome. Mars. The imagined spaces of Wakanda. The sites, locations, real or imagined, extant or existing digitally and online, and otherwise, or as part of the human body provide us with different ways of considering what world-making can mean across a variety of disciplines. The idea of world-making suggests that there are possibilities beyond the worlds we know right now.

World-making presents thinking beyond the present to imagine worlds otherwise, worlds that we may not yet have access to, worlds that push past what might be possible. World-making invites creativity, necessitates building, and is inherently capacious. World-making asks us to be expansive in our thinking, building, imagining, and theorizing. However, overly expansive utopian thinking has also been used to oppressive ends.

Régine Jean Charles, Director of Africana Studies and Dean's Professor of Culture and Social Justice, and Professor of Africana Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies is leading the year-long interdisciplinary conversation among fellows about their work.

"World-Making/World-Building" Fellows



Layla Brown
Cultural Anthropology and
Africana Studies



Patrice Collins
Cultures, Societies &
Global Studies



Jonathan Kahn
Law



Denise Kohr
Asian American Studies
and Visual Studies



Sarah Riccardi-Swartz
Religion & Anthropology



Rachel Rodgers
Applied Psychology



**Pierre-Valery Njenji
Tchetgen**
Music and Art and Design



Jeffrey Lamson
PhD Candidate
History



Vivek Mishra
PhD Candidate
Public Policy



Shavaun Sutton
PhD Candidate
Sociology

Layla Brown, Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology & Africana Studies and affiliate faculty in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, "Making Life Delicious: Building a Pan-African Feminist World One Country at a Time"

Patricia Collins, Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice and Cultures, Societies and Global Studies, "Reimagining 'The Visit' for Children with Incarcerated Parents"

Jonathan Khan, Professor of Law and Biology, "The Uses of Diversity: Managing Race and Representation in Law, Science, and Society"

Denise Khor, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies and Visual Studies and Associate Director of Asian American Studies, "The Invisible Hand: A History of Asian Americans and the Animation Industry"

Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, Assistant Professor of Religion and Anthropology, "Trad Futurity and the Digital Politics of Reactive World-Building"

Rachel Rodgers, Faculty Affiliate of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Associate Professor of Applied Psychology, "Building Online and Embodied Spaces that Support Body Liberation and Neutrality"

Pierre-Valery Njenji Tchetgen, Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in Music and Art and Design, "Drumball: Re-coding Drum Language"

Jeffrey Lamson, PhD Candidate in World History, "Engines of Authority: Patrol Cars as Modern Policing in the Urban United States and the World, 1930-1970"

Vivek Mishra, PhD Candidate in Public Policy, "Republic of Affluents: Elite Informals and the Cultural Production of Property in Delhi"

Shavaun Sutton, PhD Candidate in Sociology, "'I'm Building Me a Home': World-making in Black Staten Island"



Convened by Régine Jean-Charles

Director of Africana Studies

Dean's Professor of Culture and Social Justice

Professor of Africana Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

College of Social Sciences and Humanities

2023 - 2024

"World-Making/World-Building"

Fellows Feedback

"I am excited and honored to be a Humanities Center Fellow this academic year. While previously aware of the program, I was drawn to this year's fellowship in particular due to the focus on "World-Making/World-Building" as a theme. This seemed like a perfect fit and opportunity for my work that explores the ways in which individuals co-construct their reality across the virtual and offline world in relation to their self-perception and body image. My project focuses on refining and testing a new model of the ways in which young people, women and gender minorities in particular, co-construct their self-image through engagement with online spaces and movements. The proposed stage model offers an understanding of how individuals may move from the endorsement of mainstream appearance-ideals, through body positivity, liberation, to neutrality. The project utilizes qualitative and quantitative data to provide different insights into the usefulness of the model. I am looking forward to being part of a community of interprofessional scholars. My experience is that the best work comes from this type of integration across field and frameworks. My hope is to be able to use this fellowship to engage deeply with my project, and broaden my lens through input from the other fellows."

Rachel Rodgers

Associate Professor of Applied Psychology

"I hope to learn from the community of scholars, each expert at their varying levels. Through engagement with Humanities Center and its fellows, I aspire to continue to be a community-accountable scholar, while shining light on the ignored and unheard."

Shavaun Sutton

Phd Candidate, Sociology

"My research interests lie in critical urban theory, urban political economy, urban informality, urban history, governance, citizenship, social movements, and queer urbanism. My dissertation research focuses on elite informality in Delhi, India, and their everyday practices of the cultural production of property. I am thrilled to participate in the Humanities Center Fellowship as it will allow me to share my work and interact with an interdisciplinary and humanistic group of scholars thinking through other examples of world-building. This will enrich my thinking and allow me to focus on writing and completing my dissertation in my final year."

Vivek Mishra

PhD Candidate, Public Policy

**A TALE OF DATACOVERY:
THE BLACK EXPERIENCE AND
DIGITAL PUBLIC RECORD WITH
JULIAN CHAMBLISS**



Watch Lecture Recording Here!

2023 Fellows Symposium

with Julian Chambliss



April 12, 2023

"It was an honor to be in collaboration with Angel. His work inspired so many of us, and his ability to weave local concerns and experiences of communities of color into a wider global conversation about equity and justice was profound. To be asked by him to share my experience and perspective on black digital humanities, community-based research, and heritage communities as a part of the Humanities Center Fellows Symposium was a great honor. His work at Northeastern continued a pattern of scholarship that models thoughtful institutional partnership that centers community betterment. His commitment is an inspiration and his impact will remain as his example marks a pathway we can all strive to follow."

Julian Chambliss

Professor of English and the Val Berryman Curator of History at the MSU Museum at Michigan State University

In this photo from left to right: Isaura Oliveira of Raízes Culturais E Espíritos, alongside Larry Watson, De Ama Battle, Valerie Stephens, and Napoleon Jones-Henderson, featured in the Black Artists of Boston and Visual Arts project, and Tony Van Der Meer, UMass Boston



Thank you!



OUR IMPACT

Community and Co-Creation

Faculty Works in Progress

2022 - 2023 Series

**SEPT
19**

Pursuing Community-Led, Science-Driven Climate Resilience and Wellbeing

- Moira Zellner, *Director of Participatory Modeling and Data Science; Co-Director, NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks; Program Director, Master of Science in Urban Informatics*
- Dan O'Brien, *Director, Boston Area Research Initiative; Director, PhD in Public Policy Program*

Video Data Analysis of Body-Worn Camera Footage: A Practical Methodology in Support of Police Reform

Eric Piza, *Director of Crime Analysis Initiatives, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice*

**OCT
3**

**OCT
17**

Soy Porque Somos: Pan-African Feminist Influences in Francia Marquez's Vice Presidency

Layla Brown, *Assistant Professor, Sociology and Anthropology*

Reckonings: A Platform for the Community Archivist

- Ángel David Nieves, *Director, Humanities Center, Dean's Professor of Public and Digital Humanities and Professor of Africana Studies and History*
- Uta Poiger, *Special Advisor to the Provost on Humanities; Professor of History and Dean of CSSH from 2012-2023*
- Dan Cohen, *Dean of Libraries; Vice Provost for Information Collaboration; Professor of History*
- Kabria Baumgartner, *Dean's Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies*

**OCT
31**

**NOV
14**

Beyond Home Movies: Japanese Americans, Amateur Filmmaking, and Camera Clubs in the 1930s

Denise Khor, *Associate Professor of Asian American Studies and Visual Studies and Associate Director of Asian American Studies*

**Humanities Center Fellows,
"Re-Forming/Re-Imagining" Presentations**

- Kabria Baumgartner, *Dean's Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies*
- Ari Waldman, *Professor of Law and Computer Science; Faculty Director, Center for Law, Innovation and Creativity (CLIC)*
- Chad Lee-Stronach, *Assistant Professor in Information Ethics*
- Deirdre Loughridge, *Faculty Affiliate of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Associate Professor of Music*

**DEC
12**

**JAN
23**

Ending Plastic Pollution: The Role of Small States

Co-Sponsored by the D'Amore-McKim School of Business and the Humanities Center

Maria Ivanova, *Director of the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs*

**Black Marks and Bridgerton:
ReThinking Race and Writing in Romantic-era England**

Nicole Aljoe, *Professor of English and Africana Studies*

**FEB
6**

**FEB
27**

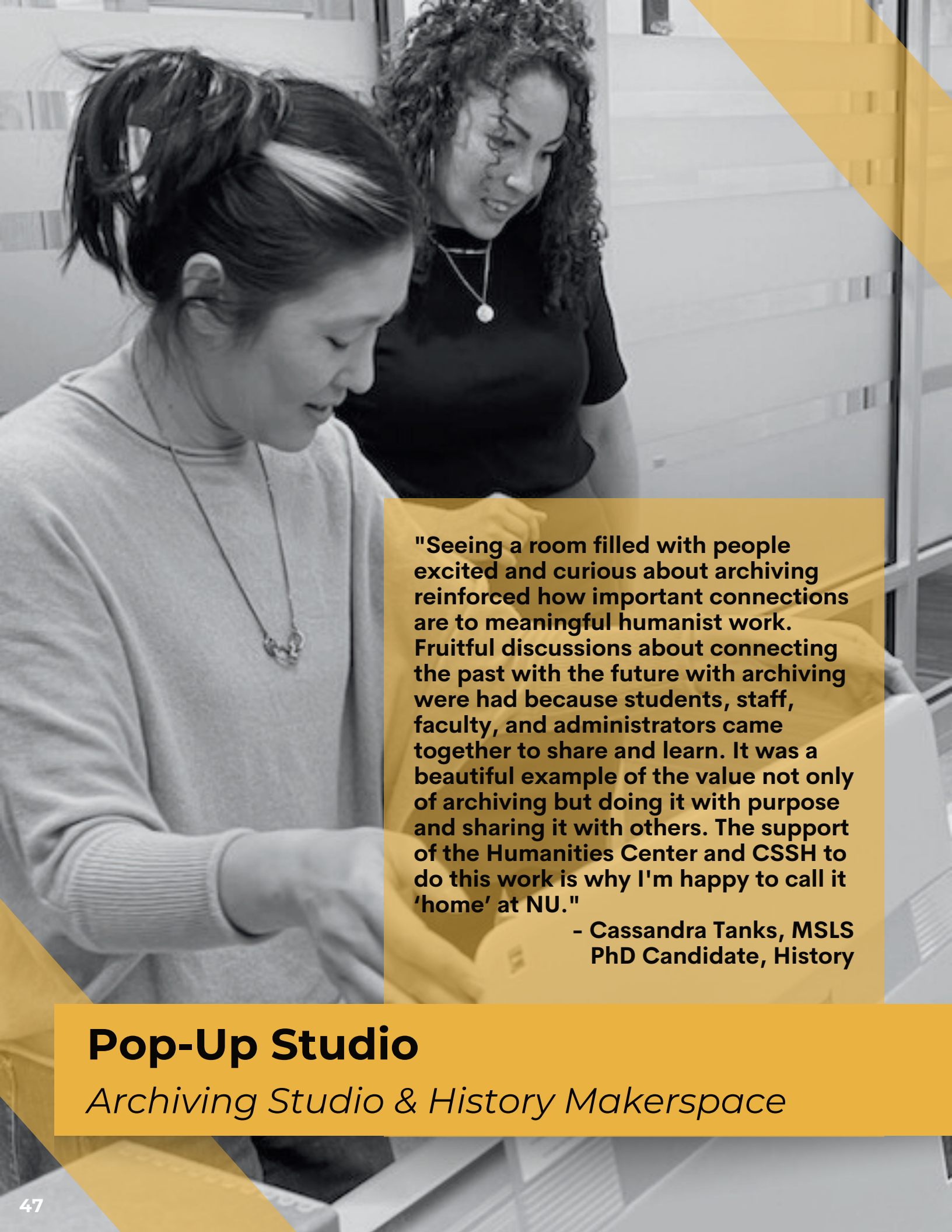
**Humanities Center Fellows,
"Re-Forming/Re-Imagining" Presentations**

- Taylor Braswell, *PhD Candidate. Department of Sociology*
- Sina Fazelpour, *Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Computer Science*
- Gloria Sutton, *Faculty Affiliate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Associate Professor of Contemporary Art History*
- Sari Altschuler, *Associate Professor of English; Founding Director, Health, Humanities, and Society minor and initiative*

**Humanities Center Fellows,
"Re-Forming/Re-Imagining" Presentations**

- Lily Song, *Assistant Professor of Race and Social Justice in the Built Environment*
- Cherice Escobar Jones, *PhD Candidate, Department of English*
- Nick Beauchamp, *Assistant Professor of Political Science*
- Victoria Cain, *Associate Professor of History*

**APR
3**



"Seeing a room filled with people excited and curious about archiving reinforced how important connections are to meaningful humanist work. Fruitful discussions about connecting the past with the future with archiving were had because students, staff, faculty, and administrators came together to share and learn. It was a beautiful example of the value not only of archiving but doing it with purpose and sharing it with others. The support of the Humanities Center and CSSH to do this work is why I'm happy to call it 'home' at NU."

**- Cassandra Tanks, MSLS
PhD Candidate, History**

Pop-Up Studio

Archiving Studio & History Makerspace

Reckonings Project

Summer Institute 2023



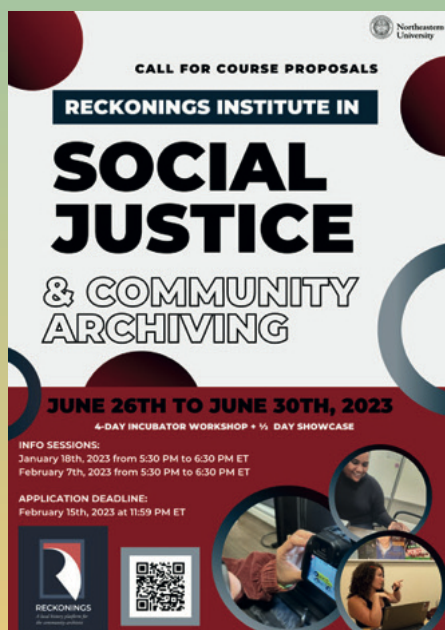
In the course of his career, Dr. Ángel David Nieves received support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC), and Yale University, among others. Together with Northeastern colleagues Kabria Baumgartner, Dan Cohen, and Uta Poiger, he was Co-PI on a project funded by the Mellon Foundation, Northeastern University, and private philanthropy entitled *Reckonings: A Local History Platform for the Community-Archivist*. The ongoing project is an innovative program of collaboration to empower BIPOC communities and citizens in the preservation, creation, and curation of community histories. Making the historical record more accurate is a vital effort.

Reckonings Project

Summer Institute 2023



Watch Summer Institute
Recap Here!



Through the generous support of the Mellon Foundation and Northeastern University, the Reckonings Project Summer Institute in Social Justice & Community Archiving launched in Summer 2023. The Reckonings Project built collaborations with community partners, faculty, and students as a means to empower BIPOC communities and residents in the preservation, creation, and curation of their community histories. As such, the Summer Institute promoted the methods and practical application of co-creation and co-curation among community organizations and college teachers across the Boston and New England region.

Co-creation and co-curation are approaches to community enrichment wherein community partners and college teachers work together to build programming, archives, and exhibits that best serve BIPOC communities. Representatives from partnering community organizations received training in digital archival methods as well as access to necessary tools they deemed fit for their work. The Summer Institute was a protected space where community and participant members could gather and share ideas in a knowledge-making setting. As such, it was integral to have the goals of community members central to this work to highlight the iterative nature of this community-engaged effort.

The June Summer Institute was co-developed and led by Professor Ángel David Nieves and by Professor Dorothy Kim from Brandeis University. The institute was dedicated to community groups and college teachers working together on conceiving community archiving projects.

Valerie Stephens
and Tony Van Der Meer



Dzidzor Azaglo



Cassie Tanks, Savita Maharaj, Victoria
Dey, Asia Potts, and Janika Dillon



Isabel Martinez and María José Morales



About the Northeastern University **HUMANITIES CENTER**

Critical and reflective study of human cultures and people's artistic and intellectual achievements develops acumen, heightens sensitivity to experience, and enhances our sensibilities. Founded in 2008, the Northeastern Humanities Center supports faculty and student research in the humanities and social sciences; facilitates collaboration across disciplines; and presents humanistic and social scientific research to the wider university community and the general public. Through working groups, forums, discussions, symposia, seminars, workshops, informal dialogues, conferences, and joint projects, the Center supports a wide-ranging interdisciplinary exchange of ideas in an atmosphere of respect for different perspectives, experiences, and expertise. By offering various opportunities for engagement with art, literature, philosophy, history, and social and political formations, the work of the Humanities Center strengthens the foundation from which we can respond meaningfully to one another and the needs of our world.

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