

Humanities & Arts Discovery Theme Summary of Process to Launch Pilot Projects, 2016

In 2015, the Office of Academic Affairs announced the establishment of the Humanities & Arts Discovery Theme (H&ADT) as the University's fourth Discovery Theme. The Provost declared three purposes of the H&ADT:

- To deepen student engagement in the humanities and the arts;
- To build intellectual community and collaboration among the faculty within the College of Arts and Sciences and across the university; and
- To increase Ohio State's national recognition and distinction in the humanities and the arts.

The administration of the H&ADT was assigned to Vice Provost Mike Boehm, who oversees Discovery Themes across the university, and ASC Vice Dean Susan Williams.

In January 2016, Vice Dean Williams and Vice Provost Boehm awarded a \$1.1 million non-recurring cash grant to the Division of Arts & Humanities (1) to advance the three purposes articulated by the Provost within the division; and (2) to illuminate and strengthen potential ideas for future investments at Ohio State in the Arts & Humanities.

After consultations among Divisional Dean Peter Hahn, Vice Provost Boehm, Vice Dean Williams, department chairs and center directors in the Arts & Humanities, and a select steering committee of chairs and faculty (see appendix for roster), the following principles were embraced for the allocation of the \$1.1M in funds.

- 1) Cash allocations would advance the three original purposes of the H&ADT.
- 2) Faculty in the Arts & Humanities would be consulted and invited to propose programs and initiatives for cash allocations.
- 3) The process for allocating cash resources would be designed to help identify the "focus areas" or "identity markers" that the division is known for or could become known for with strategic investment of new resources from the H&ADT or the College of Arts and Sciences. By contrast, the process would not favor short-term fixes of current budgetary shortfalls in the absence of evidence that such cash allocations would advance the strategic objectives identified above.

Via a Call for Proposals issued on February 25, faculty in the Division of Arts & Humanities were invited to submit proposals to help develop focus areas of significance to education in the Humanities and the Arts in the 21st century. Proposals for cash grants were welcomed, for pilot projects that would lay the groundwork for potential permanent investment by the college and/or the H&ADT. Faculty were directed to form teams of two to five members to write proposals that addressed the following tasks:



- 1) identify an existing or potential focus area that can build on divisional and university-wide strengths, explaining clearly its significance for education in the Humanities and the Arts in the 21st century;
- 2) outline plans to develop the focus area, through a strategic combination of one-time cash and (prospective) permanent base budget allocations, over a period of 5-10 years, explaining clearly how such plans will advance the division, the college, and the goals of the H&ADT stipulated by the Provost;
- 3) request a grant (suggested range: \$50,000 to \$150,000) to conduct an initial 1-2 year project that would provide immediate benefit to the academic mission of the division and college while also creating a record that could be used to advance the case for longer-term funding by the college and/or Discovery Theme initiative.

Having helped draft the Call for Proposals, members of the Steering Committee and Divisional Dean Hahn facilitated an interactive process for writing grant proposals. The Call for Proposals was widely disseminated across the division and department chairs were encouraged to facilitate collaboration among faculty in all units. Dean Hahn and committee members hosted 90-minute open forums on March 22 and April 22, where prospective applicants posed questions and discussed ideas. Committee members made themselves available to answer specific questions via e-mail, phone, and individual meetings. The division office established a website where questions from faculty and answers from the divisional dean and steering committee were posted. The committee posted additional information and FAQs on the H&ADT website (<https://u.osu.edu/ahdiscovery/>).

By the May 15, 2016 due date, 34 proposals requesting \$4.4M were received. Collectively, the 34 proposals were co-signed by 127 faculty in the division (joined by 6 faculty members from other college divisions and 12 faculty from other OSU colleges and regional campuses). The Steering Committee, under the leadership of chair Dorothy Noyes, discussed and evaluated each proposal, sending Dean Hahn a ranked list of recommendations and written comments. Dean Hahn allocated the \$1.1M in available funding to 11 projects, in increments ranging from \$75,000 to \$130,000. The funding allocations were announced on June 27, and all 34 PIs received written comments on their proposals by the committee, Vice Dean Williams, and Dean Hahn.

The PIs of funded proposals were required to sign acceptance of a list of principles governing their awards and to submit revised budgets for Dean Hahn's approval by August 15. PIs of funded and unfunded proposals were strongly encouraged to consult broadly with other proposal groups, to advance the goal of achieving broad collaboration in both the pilot project phase and the launch of enduring H&ADT initiatives that would follow. The Steering Committee indicated its intention to assess each funded pilot program at the mid-point and the culmination of the trial program.

Appendix

Steering Committee

CHAIR: Dorothy Noyes, Professor, English and Comparative Studies

Simone Drake, Associate Professor, African American & African Studies

Lisa Florman, Professor and Department Chair, History of Art

Rebecca Harvey, Professor and Department Chair, Art

Robert Holub, Professor and Department Chair, Germanic Languages & Literatures

Lynn Itagaki, Assistant Professor, English and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Janet Parrot, Associate Professor, Theatre

Title of Proposal	Last Name	First Name	Department	Role
Be the Street: A Performance Studies Project on Human Mobility and Placemaking	Puga	Ana E.	Theatre	Principal Investigator
	Bench	Harmony	Dance	Investigator
	Borland	Katey	Comparative Studies	Investigator
	Corona	Ignacio	Spanish and Portuguese	Investigator
	Lara	Jesus	Knowlton School of Architecture, College of Engineering	Investigator
	Martinez-Cruz	Paloma	Spanish and Portuguese	Investigator
	Shank	Barry	Comparative Studies	Investigator
	Stokes	Shilarna	Theatre	Investigator
Collaboration for Humane Technologies	Zuniga-Shaw	Norah	Dance	Principal Investigator
	Chan	Peter K.	Design	Investigator
	Hansen	Isla	ACCAD/Art	Investigator
	Price	Alan	ACCAD/Design	Investigator
	Swearingen	Scott	Design	Investigator
	Denison	E. Scott	Design	Investigator
Contemporary Art and its Publics: Working through Reproduction	Florman	Lisa	History of Art	Principal Investigator
	Fletcher	Richard	Classics	Investigator
	Paulsen	Kris	History of Art	Investigator
	Rush	George	Art	Investigator
The Emergence of Number	Samuels	Richard	Philosophy	Principal Investigator
	Culicover	Peter	Linguistics	Investigator
	Jorati	Hadi	Near Eastern Languages and Cultures	Investigator
	Opfer	John	Psychology	Investigator
	Shapiro	Stewart	Philosophy	Investigator
Environmental Humanities	Davis	Thomas	English	Principal Investigator
	Thomas	Mary	Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies	Investigator
	Otter	Christopher	History	Investigator
From Homer to the Qur'an: The Ancient World at OSU	van Bladel	Kevin	Near Eastern Languages and Culture	Principal Investigator
	Iles Johnston	Sarah	Classics	Investigator
	Fullerton	Mark	Classics	Investigator
Human Rights in Transit	Suchland	Jennifer	Slavic and Eastern European Languages and Cultures	Principal Investigator
	Drake	Simone	African American and African Studies	Investigator
	Hesford	Wendy	English	Investigator
	Shuman	Amy	English	Investigator
	Stevens	Maurice	Comparative Studies	Investigator
Migrants and Movers: Humanities & Arts Perspectives on Global Mobility	Hashamova	Yana	Slavic and Eastern European Languages and Cultures	Principal Investigator
	Brunner-Sung	Vera	Theatre	Investigator
	Cohen	Jeffrey	Anthropology	Investigator
	Dragostinova	Theodora	History	Investigator
	Judd	Robin	History	Investigator
Project Narrative: Applied Narrative Theory	Phelan	James	English	Principal Investigator
	Fletcher	Angus	English	Investigator
	Gardner	Jared	English	Investigator
Proposal for Programming Leading to a Science and Technology Studies (STS) Center	Bystydzienski	Jill	Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies	Principal Investigator
	Brown	Philip	History	Investigator
	Herbers	Joan	Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology	Investigator
	Horn	David	Comparative Studies	Investigator
	Mercil	Michael	Art	Investigator
	Pincock	Christopher	Philosophy	Investigator
Transnational Black Citizenship After Civil Rights and Decolonization Movements	Drake	Simone	African American and African Studies	Principal Investigator
	Hesford	Wendy	English	Investigator
	Mphande	Lupenga	African American and African Studies	Investigator
	Jeffries	Hasan	History	Investigator
	Price-Spratlen	Townsend	Sociology	Investigator

**Humanities & Arts Discovery Theme
Executive Summary of Pilot Projects**

**Be the Street: A Performance Studies Project on Human Mobility
and Placemaking**

OSU faculty and graduate students across five fields who work in the interdisciplinary area of Performance Studies will partner with one or more Columbus community groups to create a series of five different ethnographically-informed Theatre or Dance productions, one every other year, over a period of ten years, on the subject of migration and/or community transformation. For Ohio State, Be the Street will identify OSU as the only public university in the Midwest, and one of a handful of major public universities nationwide, to co-create civic performances; use the resources of the university to reach out to local citizens, bringing together OSU and non-OSU communities as organizers, creators, participants, and performers; increase OSU's ties to underserved communities; provide tangible evidence of the ways in which OSU uses innovative methods in arts and humanities research and application/practice to improve the lives of Ohioans; develop undergraduate research projects in new service learning and general education courses that connect research with real-world issues; support ongoing graduate student research and attract new graduate students; and nurture the existing ecology among the many faculty and students at OSU who work on Performance Studies. For our community partners, Be the Street will provide many short-term and long-term benefits. In the short term the project will draw on the intellectual resources of the university to give underserved communities and their members a more audible public voice and more visible public presence; build on the work of existing community organizations and members to advocate for shared perspectives as well as to identify divergent perspectives; and create a forum for debate and dialogue concerning migration and related issues. In the long term the project will provide a means and methodology for collecting, documenting, and archiving experiences in migration and neighborhood transformation; empower communities to teach OSU faculty and students about what matters in thinking about migration and placemaking; convene and help to coordinate community groups; provide interested community members with instruction in artistic practice and opportunities to create and perform stories of immediate relevance to themselves, to their local communities, and to the wider population; and invent a performance-based model that can be used by communities to address future challenges.

Collaboration for Humane Technologies

The Collaboration for Humane Technologies initiative seeks to foster arts-driven research by faculty and students that engages interdisciplinary collaboration to take action on grand challenges that impact life and livability in the 21st century. The core of our work will be two Pop-Up Collaborations (short-term intensive prototyping) that are supported and extended by curricular offerings involving a broad range of students as well as innovative public events, documentation, and dissemination. The focus for this first round of Pop-Ups will be Humane Technologies, exploring new ways to work, to play, to share, and to think in more dynamic mediums that access our full multisensory human capacities. The interdisciplinary knowledge



base, track record, staffing and facilities of Ohio State's Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design (ACCAD) serve as the foundation of this work. Our experience indicates that while the specific content of pop-up collaborations is important and exciting, the practice-led collaborative methods and relationship building are significant parallel outcomes of this kind of research and can be applied to any problem or question at hand. While the University encourages collaboration, it has been a challenge to implement effective funding or infrastructure to support it. ACCAD and the Collaboration for Humane Technologies are poised to be part of solving that problem and to serve as catalysts for the success of this proposal in effective collaboration across all manner of difference as a key to the future of education and discovery.

Contemporary Art and its Publics: Working through Reproduction

Both Ohio State and the city of Columbus are seeing a surge of interest in contemporary art. The recent openings of, first, the Pizzuti Collection and then, in 2015, the contemporary wing of the Columbus Museum of Art, coupled with the long-time prominence of the Wexner Center and OSU's Art Department faculty (including 2015 National Medal of Arts recipient Ann Hamilton), have done a great deal to fuel this interest. In the autumn of 2017, the History of Art Department will also inaugurate a new Master's program in Contemporary Art and Curatorial Practice, which is designed to take full advantage of the city's and university's resources, even as it draws them into closer collaboration. Discovery Theme resources will support programming over the next two years related to the broad theme of contemporary art and its public accessibility, especially on the crucial role that curators and exhibitions play in this regard. Partly in tribute to the work and legacy of OSU alumnus (and one-time faculty member) Roy Lichtenstein, it will also engage with the issues of artistic appropriation and mechanical reproducibility, and how these have altered our relation to and understanding of art—as captured in the project's subtitle, *Working through Reproduction*.

The Emergence of Number

The Emergence of Number (TEN) program seeks to build a world-leading multidisciplinary community within OSU with the capacity to stimulate, produce, and disseminate outstanding research on the cultural, historical, and cognitive underpinnings of human numerical capacities. In particular, we propose to focus on Interface Issues at the intersection of such traditional academic disciplines as history, linguistics, logic, mathematics, neuroscience, philosophy, and psychology. Although our long-term objectives require that we secure funding for tenure-track and post-doctoral positions – positions that would amplify current University strengths – our short-term plans focus on fostering a vibrant intellectual community, curriculum building, and enhancing the standing of the Division and the University as a center for the interdisciplinary study of number. Towards these ends, we will use our initial Discovery Theme funding to run a speaker series that will bring world-leading researchers to OSU; run a seed grant program for OSU graduate students; provide short-term funding for Program Fellows to engage in relevant research activities; run two summer conferences (Dubrovnik, June 2017, and Columbus, June 2018); publish an edited anthology that brings together papers from these

conferences; develop a TEN program website; run an undergraduate summer institute (June 2018) in collaboration with CCBS, and develop a team-taught introductory (2000-level) interdisciplinary course, tentatively entitled “Understanding Number.”

Environmental Humanities

The Environmental Humanities Pilot Project pulls together existing strengths in the College of Arts & Sciences to forge campus-wide programming and partnerships that extend all of our expertise toward truly interdisciplinary work. Over the course of two years, we will lay the groundwork for making Ohio State a regional and national leader in Environmental Humanities. In our broadest aims, we intend to build infrastructure in Environmental Humanities that will facilitate innovative research, teaching, and outreach. Over two years, we will curate events--lectures by leading scholars and award-winning writers, film screenings, and interdisciplinary workshops--to enhance the research profile and productivity of Environmental Humanities at OSU. These exciting ideas and initiatives will migrate into the classroom and into student life in the form of Freshman Seminars, co-taught interdisciplinary graduate seminars, workshops led by internationally recognized leaders in the field, and graduate student reading groups. Our proposed Environmental Humanities minor will give students across the university unique opportunities to engage environmental issues from a range of disciplinary perspectives. We anticipate that many of our events and screenings will be of great interest to the Columbus and central Ohio communities. We foresee internships and collaboration with local and regional organizations and companies as a primary way in which students with Environmental Humanities training will engage with the broader central Ohio community. These opportunities will allow our students to marshal their unique skill sets and talents in addressing the most pressing ecological issues of the 21st century.

From Homer to the Qur’an: The Ancient World at OSU

OSU’s College of Arts and Sciences has an unusually large group of faculty engaged in research and teaching about the ancient world. Compared with the offerings of most universities, OSU has one of the strongest and broadest arrays of specialists in antiquity in existence. Our goal with this initiative is to raise the profile of OSU in the study of the ancient world further by elevating it to one of the major themes broadcast by the University as a cooperative, interdepartmental, multidisciplinary endeavor. With support from the Discovery Theme, we will capitalize on our strength and build it into a program of still wider recognition that benefits not only scholarship and teaching on campus but also broader public understanding of the ancient past and its continuing influence. Our proposal at this early stage has three components. First, we will sponsor new settings in which we scholars of antiquity will meet, share our research, collaborate, and build a community. Second, we will use our grant to bring scholars to OSU to present new research and to participate in conferences, enhancing OSU’s role as a hub for research on antiquity. Third, we will provide focused mentoring for undergraduates studying antiquity to find paths to careers in antiquity after they graduate. We have formed three research clusters under the rubric of “The Ancient World at OSU,” reflecting some of our current strengths and existing collaborations: Religions of the Ancient

Mediterranean, the Late Ancient Near East and Islam, and the Archaeology of the Ancient Mediterranean and Near East. These research areas will be the focus of our efforts for now, but we wish to foster community and collaboration across all areas of research on the ancient past.

Human Rights in Transit

Human Rights in Transit (HRIT) is a discovery theme pilot project that will lay the groundwork for a dynamic knowledge hub focused on the complex and multidisciplinary questions raised by the fact that human rights, the human, and human environments are in transit. A knowledge hub is a metaphorical location as well as a method of transmission driven by collaboration, research, teaching, and community relationships. Thus, in addition to the idea of human rights being in transit, the concept of “in transit” refers to the circulation of knowledge and experiences between disciplines and among the OSU campus, local community, and wider contexts. The pilot project of the HRIT hub will focus on shifts to contemporary understandings of slavery. From the global movement to recognize human trafficking as “modern day slavery,” to social justice campaigns to recognize mass incarceration as a consequence (and reincarnation) of slavery, current claims for human rights are newly emerging and transforming. With this focus on slavery and centering arts and humanities approaches to critical and capacious thinking, hub activities will include workshops, invited speakers, cluster based learning communities, a dynamic web-based archive, and a (nearly) carbon-free conference in Spring 2018. In the long term we envision the inclusion of new thematic foci including on post-humanism and human rights in the Anthropocene and the expansion of creative projects/opportunities for students.

Migrants and Movers: Humanities & Arts Perspectives on Global Mobility

Global mobility is one of the defining issues of the 21st century. What does it mean to leave home? How do cultures and societies receive newcomers? We address the study of migration to investigate how local cultural factors and decision-making inform global dynamics. Our proposal integrates the insights of the humanities (history, literary studies, and film/media studies) and arts (moving image production) with the social sciences (anthropology) to facilitate a conversation on how to advance the study of global mobility at the largest public institution in the United States. We will foster the exchange of ideas on campus, engage students in and outside the classroom, and forge connections with the wider community in Columbus and beyond. Our short-term goal for the initial two-year funding period is to create a space for conversation with activities which include a scholar-/artist-in-residence program, monthly working lunches, film and lecture series, research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty, and dissemination of our research. At the same time, we will also work on the long-term (5–10 years) vision and impact of the project, which is to lay the groundwork for creating a permanent program or center on global mobility at. We envision it as an interdisciplinary research and training program with research, creative, instructional, and public outreach missions.

Project Narrative: Applied Narrative Theory

Project Narrative, which began 2006 with funding from the Targeted Investment in Excellence initiative and which has established itself as the world center for the study of stories and storytelling, will use Discovery Theme funding to leverage the knowledge and skills of its exemplary faculty in order to make the world a better place. More specifically, we will apply the principles and concepts of narrative theory to three overlapping endeavors: (1) Narrative Medicine; (2) Comics Studies; and (3) Collaborative Storytelling. Narrative Medicine is an emerging interdisciplinary movement built on the principles that people are not lists of symptoms but people with stories and that narrative competence enhances medical competence. Project Narrative will use the funding to host a major conference on Narrative Medicine in 2018, to build on various collaborations with the College of Medicine, and to further develop the new interdisciplinary minor in Medical Humanities and the proposed M. A. in Medical Humanities and Social Sciences. In Comics Studies, Project Narrative will use the Discovery Theme funding for two initiatives, “Applied Comics” and “Comics, the History and Evolution of a Form.” “Applied Comics” will bring the art of graphic narrative to V.A. hospitals, elder homes, and hospital wards in order to assist patients in recognizing and telling their own stories. In “Comics, the History and Evolution of a Form,” Project Narrative faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates will explore the vast archives of the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum in order to map out a history and theory of the central conventions and attributes of comics art and graphic narrative. Collaborative Storytelling involves the most straightforward transfer of theory into practice: we will teach students how to apply narrative theory to help themselves and others become adept storytellers, and we will conduct such applications ourselves inside and outside the University. We will build on current projects such as the team-taught course “HIV: From Microbiology to Macrohistory,” which requires students to tell stories about AIDS, and the collaboration between Project Narrative and researchers in Infectious Diseases on producing a public service announcement about OSU’s unique approach to antimicrobial resistance.

Proposal for Programming Leading to a Science and Technology Studies (STS) Center

An interdisciplinary faculty team proposes collaborations, and ultimately the establishment of a STS Center, that will build on existing strengths of Arts & Humanities (A&H) faculty and bring together scholars, scientists, and engineers from across the University to discuss ideas and develop projects of mutual interest that illuminate broad issues associated with responsible development and use of science and technology in globally diverse societies and conditions. Four STS themes around which interested faculty and students can coalesce have been identified: cultural studies of science and technology; under-representation in STEM; ethical and legal issues arising from advancements in science and technology; and art and technology. Each of these initiatives will be led by at least one A&H faculty member and will have an organizing committee consisting of faculty and students. During academic years 2016-17 and 2017-18, each group will develop and execute a program. At the end of the second year, representatives of the four groups will hold a summit to evaluate the entire initiative and to determine future activities. Subsequently, the team will pursue additional funding and develop a proposal for an STS Center.

Transnational Black Citizenship After Civil Rights and Decolonization Movements

This pilot project seeks to work collaboratively with faculty across campus to develop a humanities-based “think tank” that, through both pedagogy and research, makes OSU a destination for faculty, postdocs, and students who are invested in critical studies of transnational black citizenship. Through collaboration among faculty in the Arts & Humanities, other division of the Arts & Sciences, Law, Public Health, Education, and Medicine, this project will analyze the question: What is blackness? This question is not simply about the study of black people, but rather it pertains to defining, studying, and teaching about blackness in the 21st century. It is a critical race studies question that the humanities is well positioned to interrogate, because approaches to answering it must dig deep into what it means to be human; who is allowed to belong; under what circumstances they are granted belonging; and whether membership has limitations. Humanness, then, is inextricably linked to considering how blackness is imagined and defined in ways that disallow black people full incorporation, whether as US citizens or in Africa and the rest of its Diaspora. It is useful to apply a critical race studies methodology to analyzing social problems. The goals of this think tank are: 1) to help undergraduate and graduate/professional students recognize the importance of critical race studies for engaging race and difference in disciplines and professional fields outside of the humanities and, thus, attract those students to the humanities; 2) to work toward a collaborative production of scholarship among humanities and arts scholars and colleagues in the behavioral and social sciences and professional fields; and 3) to expand the exigency for this project beyond the university, inviting faculty, K-12 teachers, and graduate students nationwide to participate in the production of knowledge that will help to conjoin blackness and humanness in the academy and especially in society broadly.