



# Department of Comparative Humanities Newsletter

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## Letter from the Chair

Hello everyone,

It's been a very dramatic year in the Department of Comparative Humanities. As you can see from the extensive list of accomplishments in this newsletter, we have had a productive and award-winning year. Students, faculty, and staff have worked together to create an exciting, challenging, warm, and successful intellectual environment, an environment that facilitates student learning and scholarly research at the undergraduate, graduate, and community levels.

During the week of March 9, the University of Louisville's spring break, most faculty, staff, and students were enjoying the brief respite. Some were catching up on work, grading, and even a little sleep. By the end of that week, however, it was clear that we were going into quarantine because of the COVID pandemic. Within a matter of hours, new administrative associate Joshua Boydston and veteran administrative specialist Lisa Schonburg managed to make the department ready for remote operations. Within a matter of days, faculty who had never be-

fore taught online were contacting students, working with one another and the University's Delphi Center, meeting via Microsoft Teams, and managing a situation no one had ever experienced. The semester ended successfully. Students completed their courses, graduated, and prepared for the next semester or the next step in their lives.



I am very proud of the department's determination, resilience, and grit. The humanities clearly prepare us for life's challenges and successes. I look forward to the next academic year, and I am confident that

the department will have another successful year. I hope you'll join us. If you are interested in getting more involved in the department's activities or making a donation, please contact me or visit our website: <https://louisville.edu/humanities>.

Be and stay well.

Best,

**Ann C. Hall**

*Chair, Department of Comparative Humanities*

# Dr. Ranen Omer-Sherman Receives Distinguished Faculty Award

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Ranen Omer-Sherman, Professor of Comparative Humanities and the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence Endowed Chair in Judaic Studies, has received the College of Arts and Sciences' Distinguished Faculty Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity in the Humanities! He is also one of the college's nominees for the university-wide award of the same name.

In her letter recommending Dr. Omer-Sherman for this honor, Dr. Simona Bertacco wrote:

The intellectual life of the department, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the university has grown exponentially thanks to the numerous initiatives Dr. Omer-Sherman has organized in the past seven years. These efforts brought to our city and campus internationally renowned writers such as David Grossman and Etgar Keret, as well as famous

scholars such as Sander Gilman and Shachar Pinsker. Most importantly, thanks to Dr. Omer-Sherman's scholarly activity, our university's name has been attached, since 2017, to the prestigious journal *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, which is a testament to the esteem and recognition that Dr. Omer-Sherman enjoys in his research community. ...

Dr. Omer-Sherman's scholarship is rich and diverse: it weaves together comparative Jewish literatures, Hebrew literature, and cultural studies, in ways that move beyond the simple dichotomy between Israel and diaspora, to approach the Jewish experience in global and comparative terms. ... The strength of his work, according to Professor [Avery] Kolers from the Philosophy Department, ... lies in "his larger approach," in his "reading whole intersecting and interacting tra-



ditions as a mode of inquiry into how people live and understand themselves." And he adds that Dr. Omer-Sherman's "deep engagement with Palestinian literary traditions constitutes a major contribution to the field of Jewish Studies." In other words, Dr. Omer-Sherman has profoundly impacted the field of Jewish studies throughout his career, making the field more "open and receptive to new ideas and to innovative ways of thinking" [to quote Dr. Karen Grumberg of the University of Texas at Austin].

## 2019 FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

- **Dr. Pamela Beattie**, 2019 Newberry Library Renaissance Consortium Grant, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL
- **Dr. Hilaria Cruz**, 2019–2020 Faculty Fellow, Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY (Project: "The Chatino Trail of the Dead")

# New(ish) Faces in Comparative Humanities



We're pleased to announce that **Dr. Katie Kleinkopf** will be joining the department as Assistant Professor of Religious Studies this Fall!

Dr. Kleinkopf holds an MA and PhD in the History of Premodern Europe from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, as well as a BA in History and Classics from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She previously taught courses in History and Women's Studies at Indiana University Southeast, Jefferson Community and Technical College, and the University of Tennessee.

In her award-winning dissertation and book project, entitled "Second Skin: Ascetics as Body-Places in Late Antique Christianity," Dr. Kleinkopf argues that Christian ascetics of the ancient Near East used materiality specific to their landscape to represent their bodies to the outside world. "Thus relieved from the heavy social expectations tied to their flesh," she writes, "the ascetics within these enclosures rid themselves of earthly binaries, as they began to exist outside the categorization of male/female, human/earth, and living/dead. From moment to moment their composition changed, depending on everything from the environment, their own movement, or even the stolen glimpse from an observer."

In her free time, Dr. Kleinkopf enjoys baking, reading, and spending time outside with her husband and dog. She particularly loves discovering new podcasts, TV shows, and the latest in great young-adult literature.

**Dr. Asaf Angermann's** first year as Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Jewish Thought was an active one! In addition to teaching courses in both the Departments of Comparative Humanities and Philosophy and presenting papers at major Jewish studies and philosophy conferences, he introduced two films at Louisville's 22nd Annual Jewish Film Festival this past February, addressed a number of Jewish institutions around town, and deliv-



ered an engaging and well-attended talk for the Jewish Studies Colloquium, entitled "Love and Strangers in Politics: Modern Jewish and African American Perspectives," in October. This Spring also saw the publication of his essay "Adorno and Scholem: The Heretical Redemption of Metaphysics" in *A Companion to Adorno* (Wiley-Blackwell).

Dr. Angermann's forthcoming publications include an invited chapter on Adorno and religion for *The Oxford Handbook of Adorno* (Oxford University Press) and an English translation of the collected correspondence of Gershom Scholem and Theodor W. Adorno (Polity), which Dr. Angermann edited and for which he has prepared a new fifty-page introduction.

Dr. Angermann earned his PhD in Philosophy from Goethe University in Frankfurt. Before coming to Louisville, he was a Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Postdoctoral Fellow at Yale University and an Anne Tannenbaum Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto.

*The Department of Comparative Humanities wishes to thank the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence for generously supporting Dr. Angermann's visiting professorship.*



This August will mark **Joshua Boydston's** one-year anniversary as Administrative Associate for the Department of Comparative Humanities!

Josh previously worked as a freelance copyeditor for academic presses and as the Academic Program Coordinator for the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Rochester in New York. His undergraduate and graduate degrees are in Religious Studies, so joining the Department of Comparative Humanities was a bit of a homecoming.

When he's not creating forms in Adobe Acrobat or pivot tables in Excel, Josh goes on walks with his dogs, gets lost in book and record stores, and slowly renovates his fixer-upper in the Beechmont neighborhood. He may even have a functional dining room by Labor Day!



# Meet the Class of 2020

## UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS IN HUMANITIES

### Jo Diann Hooper

- › Magna Cum Laude
- › Woodcock Society

### Peter Alois Schaefer

- › Magna Cum Laude
- › Woodcock Society

### Kara Angele Spalding

- › Cum Laude
- › Morris Bein Award for Excellence in Humanities

### Elizabeth Jane Standridge

- › Summa Cum Laude
- › Woodcock Society

### Miranda Christine Webb

- › Magna Cum Laude
- › Woodcock Society

### Magdalena Jo Welch

- › Outstanding Undergraduate in Humanities

## MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMANITIES

### Lauren Christine Olson

- › The Grady Nutt Award for the Most Creative MA Project in Humanities
- › Project: "The Pulaar Poetry of Kaaw Elimane Touré: A Voice Intervening in History to Restore the Human Dignity of a Nation," directed by Karl Swinehart (Humanities)

### Cyrus Otana

- › Project: "Dystopian Literature and Language Determinism," directed by Elaine Wise (Humanities)

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN HUMANITIES

### Darrell Allen Johnson

- › Dissertation: "White Moves First: Unearthing White Privilege in the

Modern Board Game," directed by Simona Bertacco (Humanities)

### Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Ndiaye

- › The Graduate Dean's Citation
- › Dissertation: "Contemporary Francophone West African Social Movements in the Rise of Neo Pan-Africanism: The Case Study of the Y'en a Marre Movement in Senegal," directed by Dismas Masolo (Philosophy) and Tyler Fleming (Pan-African Studies)

### Denise Vulhop Watkins

- › Outstanding Graduate in Humanities
- › Dissertation: "The Long Journey Down Market Street: An Oral History-Based Biography of Mary B. Craik," directed by Catherine Fosl (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

## GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LAUREN OLSON



This May, Lauren Olson completed her MA in Humanities with a linguistics concentration. Her directed study project, "The Pulaar Poetry of Kaaw Elimane Touré: A Voice Intervening in History to Restore the Human Dignity of a Nation," won the 2020 Grady Nutt Award for Most Creative MA Project in the Humanities.

While working in Mauritania as an English teacher, Olson learned French and also Pulaar, a language spoken by many Afro-Mauritanians. Pulaar is a variety of the Fula language, which is spoken across the Sahel region of West Africa by approximately thirteen million people. There, Olson learned of the widespread atrocities that were committed against Pulaar speakers and other Afro-Mauritanians in 1989.

Her MA project examines these events through poems written by a witness to this tragedy, Kaaw Elimane Touré, who memorializes its victims and condemns its perpetrators through poetry.



Lauren Olson (seated, center) poses with some of her students and fellow English teachers in Mauritania.

# Faculty Activity in 2019

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### Asaf Angermann

- › “The Diremption of Love: Gillian Rose on Agency, Mortality, and Hegelian Feminism.” *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* 34, no. 2 (Spring 2019): 309–28.

### Simona Bertacco

- › Editor, with Donna Jo Napoli and Rachel Sutton-Spence. “Disrespected Literatures: Histories and Reversal of Linguistic Oppression.” *Altre Modernità*, no. 22 (November 2019).
- › “Postcolonial Literatures as Disrespected Literatures?” *Altre Modernità*, no. 22 (November 2019): 1–12.
- › “Rescaling Robert Kroetsch: A Reading across Communities, Borders, and Practices.” *Canadian Literature: A Quarterly of Criticism and Review*, no. 238 (2019): 30–45.

### Hilaria Cruz

- › “La ética en la documentación de lenguas: Aproximaciones a la documentación lingüística.” In *Qué hacer para documentar y revitalizar una lengua*, 31–47. Querétaro, Mexico: Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, 2019.
- › With Mandana Seyfeddinipur, et al. “Public Access to Research Data in Language Documentation: Challenges and Possible Strategies.” *Language Documentation & Conservation* 13 (2019): 545–63.

### Kathryn A. Green

- › “The Conversion of Gendered Rhetoric in the Old English Judith Poem.” *de genere: Journal of Literary, Postcolonial and Gender Studies*, no. 5 (2019): 89–102.

### Ann C. Hall

- › Editor, *The Harold Pinter Review: Essays on Contemporary Drama* 3 (2019).

### Michael Brandon McCormack

- › “‘I’m a Muslim ... What’s Wrong with That?:’ Representational Interventions in Islamophobia at the Muhammad Ali Center.” *Journal of Africana Religions* 7, no. 1 (2019): 152–63.

### Maryam Moazzen

- › “The Leading Religious College in Early Modern Iran: Madrasa-yi Sultani and Its Endowment.” In *The Empires of the Near East and India: Source Studies of the Safavid, Ottoman, and*

*Mughal Literate Communities*, edited by Hani Khafipour, 481–92. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019.

- › “The Shi’a Path of the Righteous: The Strength of Akhbarism in Safavid Iran.” In Khafipour, *Empires of the Near East and India*, 79–96.

### Ranen Omer-Sherman

- › “Surprised by Complexity: Empathy, Narrative, and Conflict in the Classroom.” In *Teaching the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, edited by Rachel S. Harris, 99–107. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2019.

### Derek Penwell

- › *Outlandish: An Unlikely Messiah, a Messy Ministry, and the Call to Mobilize*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2019.

### Natalie Polzer

- › “Material Specificity and Cultural Agency: The Mummies of the Capuchin Catacombs in Palermo, Sicily.” *Mortality* 24, no. 2 (2019), 167–82.

### Thomas W. Stewart

- › “Structuralism.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Morphological Theory*, edited by Jenny Audring and Francesca Masini, 85–104. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

### Karl Swinehart

- › “The *Ch’ixi* Blackness of Nación Rap’s Aymara Hip-Hop.” *Journal of the Society for American Music* 13, no. 4 (November 2019): 461–81.
- › “Decolonial Time in Bolivia’s *Pachakuti*.” *Signs and Society* 7, no. 1 (Winter 2019): 96–114.
- › With Anna Browne Ribeiro. “When Time Matters.” *Signs and Society* 7, no. 1 (Winter 2019): 1–5.

### Steven Watkins

- › “The Recent Evolution of Creationism.” *The Fourth R* 32, no. 6 (November–December 2019): 13–20.
- › “Rival Epistemologies and Constructed Confusion at the Creation Museum.” In *Christian Tourist Attractions, Mythmaking and Identity Formation*, edited by Erin Roberts and Jennifer Eyl, 59–78. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019.

### Michael Williams

- › *Tattered Men*. City Quartet. Lexington, KY: Seventh Star Press, 2019.
- › *Trajan’s Arch*. 2nd ed. City Quartet. Lexington, KY: Seventh Star Press, 2019.

## SELECTED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

### Asaf Angermann

- › “Love and Strangers in Politics: Modern Jewish and African American Perspectives.” Jewish Studies Colloquium, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, October 25, 2019.
- › “Souls in Dialogue: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Jewish Question Reconsidered.” 51st Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, CA, December 17, 2019.
- › Chair, “Religion and Aesthetics.” 51st Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, CA, December 16, 2019.

### Pamela Beattie

- › “Life after Life: Versions of Lull’s *Vita Coaetanea* as Didactic Texts.” 54th International Congress of Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 10, 2019.
- › “Mediterranean Eschatological Spirituality in Ramon Llull’s *Llibre contra anticrist/Liber contra Antichristum*.” 50th Annual Meeting of the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, July 13, 2019.
- › “Ramon Llull: The Medieval Prophet of Computer Science.” Featured interview by Philip Ball for *Science Stories*, BBC Radio 4, September 4, 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00081tk>.
- › “Talking to ‘Others’: The Medieval Roots of Civilized Discourse.” Meet the Professor, University Club, Louisville, KY, February 7, 2019.

### Simona Bertacco

- › “Doing the Body in Poetry in the Twenty-First Century.” Keynote lecture, Le Ali di Icaro: Medical Humanities e Narrazione come cura (conference), University of Milan, Milan, Italy, December 5, 2019.
- › Graduate workshop, doctoral program in Studi linguistici, letterari e interculturali in ambito europeo ed extra-europeo, University of Milan, Milan, Italy, December 5–6, 2019.
- › “The Relocation of Culture: Accents, Borders, and Translation.” 50th An-

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niversary Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association, Washington, DC, March 23, 2019.

- › “Translation as the Relocation of Culture.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, March 9, 2019.

#### **Terry Burden**

- › “The Art of Incredulity in Sacred Literature: The Irony of the Inconceivable.” 46th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Philological Association, University of Pikeville, Pikeville, KY, March 2, 2019.

#### **Hilaria Cruz**

- › “Chatino from Oral to Written to Digital: Seeking ASR for the Chatino Language.” Persephone: A Tool for the Automatic Phonemic Transcription of Endangered Languages (workshop), University of London, London, UK, November 13, 2019.
- › “Creating Materials for Early Reading in Indigenous Languages with College Students.” Native and Non-Native Indigenous Languages in Chicago (conference), University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, October 12, 2019.
- › “Deploying Technology to Save Endangered Languages.” Workshop on Language Technology for Language Documentation and Revitalization, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, August 12, 2019.
- › “Emerging Discourse on Migration from Chatino Speeches by Elders in San Juan Quiahije.” Indigeneity and Diaspora: Global Legal and Linguistic Activism, Sawyer Seminar Workshop, Brown University, Providence, RI, March 15, 2019.
- › “Ethics of Field Work and Language Documentation from a Community Perspective.” 24th Workshop on the Structure and Constituency of the Languages of the Americas, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, May 10, 2019.
- › “Growing a Community of Readers and Writers in Indigenous Languages: A Chatino Perspective.” University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, January 21, 2019.
- › “Meet Me in Quechua: Native Speakers, Computers Scientists, and Linguist Meet to Discuss Ways to Harness ASR for Endangered Languages.” 18th Meeting of the Texas

Linguistics Society, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, February 23, 2019.

- › “Mi enemigo(a) es tu enemigo(a): Cuando un investigador indígena realiza estudios en su propia comunidad.” Latin American Studies Association Congress, Boston, MA, May 26, 2019.

#### **Mike Hagan**

- › “Style, Not Type: Self-Creation Based on a Nonessential Field-Process Relationship. Series 3: Role Failure and *Gilligan’s Island*.” Annual Conference of the Midwest Popular Culture Association and Midwest American Culture Association, Cincinnati, OH, October 13, 2019.

#### **Ann C. Hall**

- › “Art and Politics / Politics and Art: Harold Pinter’s and Arthur Miller’s Grand Experiment.” 13th International Arthur Miller Conference, Ashland University, Ashland, OH, October 19, 2019.
- › “Containers and Containment: The Pinter Trade in America.” Harold Pinter: Histories and Legacies, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK, September 19, 2019.
- › “Teachers’ Lounge: A Short Play.” 61st Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, November 15, 2019.
- › Panel Proposal, actor, and chair, “A Reading of Pinter’s *Ashes to Ashes*.” 47th Annual Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, February 22, 2019.
- › Panel Proposal and chair, “A Reading of Sam Shepard’s *Stages of the Moon*.” 47th Annual Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, Louisville, KY, February 23, 2019.
- › Panel Proposal and chair, “Triangulations: Beckett, Pinter, McDonagh.” 47th Annual Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, February 22, 2019.

#### **Maryam Moazzen**

- › “‘My Heart Has Fallen Homeless in the India of Darkness’: Hazin-i Lahiji: Acerbic Poet in Exile.” Midwest Association of Middle East and Islamic Studies Conference, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, March 22, 2019.
- › “Religious Absolutism and Religious Pluralism: Akbar’s Religious Experi-

mentations in Safavid Sources.” 6th Perso-Indica Conference, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo, Japan, March 10, 2019.

#### **Ranen Omer-Sherman**

- › “Bodies, Borders, and Jewish and Arab Queer Desire in Recent Fiction.” 51st Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, CA, December 16, 2019.
- › “‘My father sitting on an empty vegetable crate among rubbish and rotting oranges’—Youth Aliya and Mizrahi Dissonance in Eli Amir’s *Scapegoat* (*Tarnegol Kaparot*).” Migration in Israeli History and Society (conference), Institut für die Geschichte der deutschen Juden, Hamburg, Germany, July 15, 2019.
- › “Nationalized Maternal Bodies of Mothers (and Their Sons) in David Grossman’s *To the End of the Land* (*Isha Borahat Mib’sorah*).” Maternal Sacrifice in Jewish Culture (conference), Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales, Paris, France, November 19, 2019.
- › Sherry Levy-Reiner Memorial Lecture, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, April 2, 2019.
- › Chair, “Rereading Kanafani: *Returning to Haifa* at Fifty.” 47th Annual Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, February 22, 2019.
- › Chair, “Revisions in Hebrew Literary Historiography.” 51st Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, CA, December 17, 2019.
- › Discussant, “Gender Diversity in Publishing: Women and the Table of Contents.” 51st Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, CA, December 15, 2019.

#### **Natalie Polzer**

- › “Rabbinic Historical Imagination and Midrashic Artistry: The Destruction of the Temple in Avot de Rabbi Nathan A and B.” British Association for Jewish Studies Conference, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, July 24, 2019.
- › “Warts, Moles, Over-Sized Breasts—Ambivalence and Gendered Disgust in Rabbinic Halakhah.” British Association for Jewish Studies Conference, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, July 22, 2019.

#### **Karl Swinehart**

- › “Eternal Praise to the Brave Warriors:



- Indeterminacies of Nationhood in Jesús de Machaca, Bolivia.” Discourse Lab, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, March 12, 2019.
- › “Indigenous Languages of the Americas: Diversity, Survival, and Resilience.” Public lecture, Louisville Free Public Library, Louisville, KY, February 12, 2019.
  - › “Indigenous Languages of the Americas and UNESCO’s ‘Year of Indigenous Languages.’” Radio interview, *UofL Today*, March 28, 2019.
  - › “Ist’apxam! (Listen!): Hearing Aymara Hip-Hop in El Alto, Bolivia.” Center for Multilingualism in Society across the Lifespan, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway, September 4, 2019.
  - › “Securing an Aymara Future: Andinofuturist Aesthetics and Aspiration in Contemporary Bolivia.” Joint Conference of the Canadian Anthropology Society and the American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, BC, November 23, 2019.
  - › “Securing an Aymara Future: Andinofuturist Aesthetics and Aspiration in Highland Bolivia.” Biennial Conference of the Finnish Anthropological Society, Helsinki, Finland, August 29, 2019.

## DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE HUMANITIES EVENTS, 2019-2020

### SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

Leadership Series Talk with Jessica Stavros, Director of the Culberston Mansion State Historic Site

### SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

An Evening with Israeli Novelist Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

### SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

Global Humanities Lecture by Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian

### OCTOBER 23, 2019

Welcome to Hell: William Lee on Independent Filmmaking

### ▼ OCTOBER 25, 2019

Dr. Asaf Angermann (University of Louisville), “Love and Strangers in Politics: Modern Jewish and African American Perspectives” (Jewish Studies Colloquium)

### NOVEMBER 4, 2019

Book launch for *Tattered Men*, the final volume of the City Quartet by Dr. Michael Williams (University of Louisville)



### ▲ FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Dr. Andrew M. Byrd (University of Kentucky), “Using Proto-Indo-European as a Conlang in Video Games & the Classroom”

### FEBRUARY 16, 2020

The 2020 Naamani Memorial Lecture by Ayelet Tsabari

### MARCH 3, 2020

Farai Gonzo, “Media in Zimbabwe: My Experience as a Journalist, Why I Fled Zimbabwe, and My Journey to Canada” (Scholars at Risk Network)



## DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE HUMANITIES

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Dr. Pamela Beattie

### Director of Undergraduate Studies

Dr. Natalie Polzer

### Director of Graduate Studies

Dr. Simona Bertacco

### Administrative Associate

Joshua Boydston

### Graduate Studies

### Administrative Specialist

Lisa Schonburg

## FALL 2020 SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES\*

### HUM 361-03. Music & Sound in Film •

D. Burke • TTH 2:30–3:45 p.m.

Explores the art of music and sound in film from early cinema through today. Students will learn to critically listen to music and sound in film and develop an understanding of the history and broad impact of film and sound technology.

*Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.*

*Note: Co-listed with MUH 315-01.*

### HUM 362-50. Race, Gender & Human Behaviors • L. Anthony • DIST ED

The course is an elective that examines human behaviors in relation to race and gender from psychological, sociological, and technological perspectives. These perspectives will be viewed in terms of contemporary societies throughout the African diaspora. At the end of the term, students will demonstrate their knowledge by creating a presentation for an adverse audience while taking a supportive position of a social issue relating to race and/or gender.

*Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.*

*Note: Co-listed with PAS 300-50 and WGST 390-50.*

### HUM 363-50. Gender & Social Media (WR) • N. Provolt • DIST ED

An introduction to technologies and the impact on our everyday lives and how we perceive ourselves through it. The primary focus of this course is to explore through a gendered lens how technology such as the internet and social media has structured our lives. Including, but not limited to gendered technologies, its influence on how we categorize gender, sexuality, race, and class while examining how technology and social media has shaped our identity today. *Notes: May be repeated when topics vary; co-listed with WGST 393-50.*

### HUM 509-01. The Acquisition of Knowledge: The Theatre of the Absurd (CUE, WR) • A. Hall • W 4:00–6:45 p.m.

Methods and theories in interdisciplinary thinking and research, emphasizing 1) the interrelationships of the disciplines, 2) the importance of synthesizing art, theatre, literature, music, philosophy, and religion in a cultural context, and 3) the critical examination of issues arising from fields outside the Humanities that have significant impact on and synergy with the Humanities. *Prerequisites: Junior standing; majors only. Notes: Credit may not be earned for both HUM 509 and HUM 609; co-listed with HUM 609-01.*

### HUM 561-75. Introduction to Public History • A. Crothers • T 4:30–7:15 p.m.

Introduction to nature, history, and methods of public history. Emphasis on relationship of historical scholarship to nonacademic applications. *Prerequisite: Junior standing. Note: Co-listed with HIST 597-75 and HIST 697-75.*

### HUM 596-03. Faith & Film (WR) • J. Ferre • T 2:30–4:30 p.m., TH 2:30– 3:45 p.m.

From Charlie Chaplin's 1917 silent movie *Easy Street* to the 2018 film *First Reformed*, feature films have explored the promises and shortcomings of religious faith and institutions. Because films about religion consider values, beliefs, or perspectives that are important at the time of their release, popular films about religion can serve as an index to religious anxieties and preoccupations. This course will trace the history of religion and film decade by decade from the silent era to the twenty-first century, focusing on the themes, values, and contexts of films about Christianity, Judaism, and Islam—the predominant religions in North America. *Prerequisite: Completion of 75 undergraduate hours. Note: Co-listed with COMM 463-02.*

**\* All course offerings are subject to change. For a current listing, please check the online schedule of classes.**

## YOUR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL TO OUR SUCCESS!

Gifts to the Department of Comparative Humanities help us continue our exceptional research and will support the development of outstanding graduates and professionals. To donate, please visit our website at <https://louisville.edu/humanities>.