



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF  
LEARNED SOCIETIES

# ACLS

ANNUAL REPORT  
2023



# Support Connect Amplify Renew

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# Mission

The American Council of Learned Societies supports the creation and circulation of knowledge that advances understanding of humanity and human endeavors in the past, present, and future, with a view toward improving human experience.

# Purpose

## SUPPORT CONNECT AMPLIFY RENEW

We support humanistic knowledge by making resources available to scholars and by strengthening the infrastructure for scholarship at the level of the individual scholar, the department, the institution, the learned society, and the national and international networks. We work in collaboration with member societies, institutions of higher education, scholars, students, foundations, and the public. We seek out and support new and emerging organizations that share our mission.

We commit to expanding the forms, content, and flow of scholarly knowledge because we value diversity of identity and experience, the free play of intellectual curiosity, and the spirit of exploration—and above all, because we view humanistic understanding as crucially necessary to prototyping better futures for humanity. It is a public good that should serve the interests of a diverse public.

We see humanistic knowledge in paradoxical circumstances: at once central to human flourishing while also fighting for greater recognition in the public eye and, increasingly, in institutions of higher education. Located at the center of various flows of activity and knowledge among the learned societies and other academic associations, colleges, universities, libraries, and individual scholars, we serve the needs of all these constituencies, strengthen relations among them, and pioneer and amplify collaborative solutions to challenges facing humanistic scholars and scholarship.

We celebrate and support the engagement of scholars with their fellow citizens and with the issues of the world that shape and affect people's daily lives.

We advance public understanding of the importance of humanistic knowledge to the enrichment of individual lives and to the robust resilience of democratic societies.

We believe that the circulation of knowledge through scholarship and teaching is best supported by just and equitable practices in institutions of higher education, notably the prioritization of full-time employment. We uphold equity, fairness, integrity, scholarly excellence, and care for scholars' needs and concerns in general and in our own practice.

# Message from the President

## Greetings From ACLS!



The university, with roots extending up to 2,000 years old across the globe, stands as one of humanity's most enduring institutions. Today in the United States, its resilience is being severely tested. Political pressure, financial constraints, and public skepticism all grew in intensity in 2023.

These worrying developments are bound up with the long-term consequences of the pandemic; persistent economic and opportunity gaps based on gender, race, and social background; and an increasingly polarized society. But we are also tasting the bitter fruit of our framing of the value of our institutions of higher education in terms of narrow outcomes—such as the earnings of college graduates in their first job after college—and corresponding rankings.

At ACLS, we are keenly aware of the need to tell compelling, inspiring stories about the value and impact of scholarship in the humanities and interpretive social sciences. This report is an important expression of our effort to meet that need, and we hope you will share it, along with our other reports, papers, and digital content, within your professional as well as your social communities.

Of our many accomplishments in 2023, I encourage you to keep a sharp eye out for news of our [new three-year pilot fellowship and grant program](#) for faculty at Historically Black Colleges

and Universities, which is currently funded by the ACLS endowment. We hope to secure long-term external funding for that program in the coming years.

In 2024, we look forward with excitement to announcing the first cohort of ACLS HBCU Faculty Fellows and Grantees, along with the first group of winners of our new ACLS Open Access Book Prizes and Arcadia Open Access Publishing Awards, made possible through a generous grant from Arcadia, which rewards both authors and publishers of open access titles by humanistic scholars.

Thanks to the support of Shelly C. Lowe (Navajo), chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, ACLS convened a gathering of philanthropic organizations in New York City in early December, the first time in living memory such a group had come together to discuss the future of funding for humanistic scholarship. We look forward to strong relations and future collaborations with the participating funders. (See page 39.)

We are very grateful to the Mellon Foundation for its generous support of six major programs: the Commission for Fostering and Sustaining Diverse Digital Scholarship (also sponsored by the NEH), the ACLS Digital Justice Grants, the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship, the ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship, the Intention Foundry, and the Leadership Institute for a New Academy, known familiarly as LINA. In 2023, the Intention Foundry ran its third and final successful summer workshop series, having worked closely over three years with more than 100 early career scholars and leaders from 52 societies.

In addition, the Buddhism Public Scholars program continues to blossom as one of the several successful elements of our Buddhist Studies partnership with The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global. The program, now in its third year, places PhDs in Buddhist studies in professional positions at museums, libraries, and publications to help better disseminate knowledge of Buddhist traditions to broad publics. As Frederick Ranallo-Higgins F'22 explained, “Am I just doing this for this little bubble of academics who all already know what I’m talking about? It was difficult to figure out how to do what I was doing in any other way or any other fashion ... As soon as I saw the Buddhism Public Scholars opportunity, I thought, this is the perfect match for me.”

In addition, thanks to the Henry Luce Foundation, we introduced a refreshed program of support for early career scholars of China studies this fall. An extraordinary gift from ACLS board member Carl Pforzheimer and his spouse, Betty, allowed the first of three cohorts of scholars of eastern and southeastern Europe to participate in a summer residency in Bulgaria, undertaking local fieldwork and accessing regional archives and museum collections while also building close relationships that persist in ongoing scholarly collaborations and cross-institutional visits.

2023 also marked the establishment of a new department at ACLS, [Intentional Design for an Equitable Academy](#), or IDEA, which is the home of our efforts to advance meaningful change in academia, including recognition of a broader range of faculty work as deserving of merit and institutional support. As IDEA Director Jovonne Bickerstaff noted in introducing her department this fall, “We take this moment as a call for cultivating opportunities for reparative intervention and transformative engagement that further ACLS efforts to enhance equity, justice, and well-being in the academy.”

This is just a taste of the stories that excite us about the future of humanistic scholarship.

This year marked my fifth at ACLS. I am grateful to the Board for offering me a second five-year term as president of this great organization. By the end of 2024, we will report on our own progress on the first published strategic priorities for ACLS. We are already engaged in consultation on the next plan.

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**“We are grateful for the widespread participation by HBCU faculty and academic leaders in the design of the program in 2022 and 2023—from virtual focus groups to in-person listening sessions and workshops at HBCUs—and the enthusiastic response to our first call for applications. As one focus group member told us at a meeting at Morgan State University in March to preview the new program: ‘This is just what we asked for in the focus groups: a program that recognizes the specific needs of HBCU faculty.’”**

**John Paul Christy**

Senior Program Director, US Programs  
American Council of Learned Societies

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In closing, I want to thank my colleagues for their dedication and the intelligence and insight they bring to our work. I also thank our Board, our member institutions and societies, and the many individuals who support us and our work, particularly past ACLS fellows and grantees. In what Howard Nemerov called a “bad time when faith in study seems to fail,” your vote of confidence bolsters our effort to reward outstanding scholars and to work for renewed public faith in humanistic scholarship. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions at [president@acl.org](mailto:president@acl.org).

Thank you and best wishes,



Joy Connolly

## The Painter Dreaming in the Scholar's House (excerpt)

by Howard Nemerov

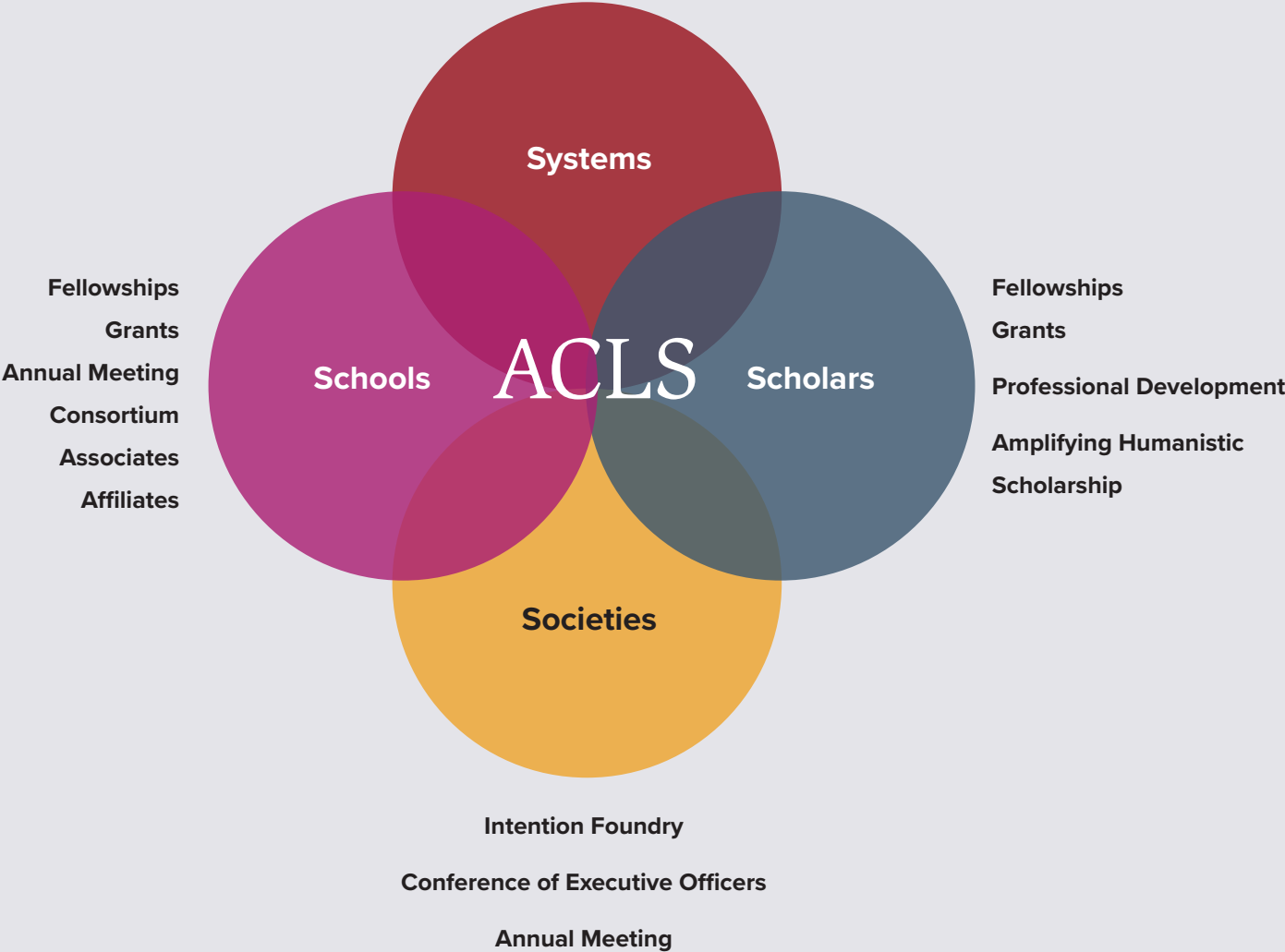
These thoughts have chiefly been about the painter Klee,  
About how he in our hard time might stand to us  
Especially whose lives concern themselves with learning  
As patron of the practical intelligence of art,  
And thence as model, modest and humorous in sufferings,  
For all research that follows spirit where it goes.

...

So may it be to all of us, that at some times  
In this bad time when faith in study seems to fail,  
And when impatience in the street and still despair at home  
Divide the mind to rule it, there shall be some comfort come  
From the remembrance of so deep and clear a life as his  
Whom I have thought of, for the wholeness of his mind,  
As the painter dreaming in the scholar's house,  
His dream an emblem to us of the life of thought,  
The same dream that then flared before intelligence  
When light first went forth looking for the eye.

# Our Relationships

**Intentional Design for an Equitable Academy (IDEA)**  
**Intention Foundry**  
**Commission on Fostering and Sustaining Diverse Digital Scholarship**  
**Leadership Institute for a New Academy (LINA)**



*Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow Amelia  
J. Dietrich F'15 participates in  
a discussion at the 2023 ACLS  
Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.*





# Our Community, Our Work, Our Impact.

As scholars in the humanities and interpretive social sciences continue to work through the consequences of the pandemic and face institutional and political challenges, community is more important than ever. The American Council of Learned Societies takes seriously our obligation to support our member societies by gathering them together to work on problems; enabling smooth communication at all times; offering access to advice on legal issues, communications, and development; working with society boards upon request; and other activities.





“The ACLS CEO group has been an invaluable hub and network of people. I’ve been able to share and be a part of a supportive network of people who have unique insights into the executive director role. Our society is new to having an executive director role, and so this has been both a professional and personally supportive group to be a part of. Recently, I’ve been able to share, support, and receive feedback from ACLS in fundraising and HR matters as our organization diversifies its funding strategy, and professionalizes the Society’s relationship building.”

**Amanda Windle**  
Managing Director  
Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)  
Managing Editor  
*Engaging Science, Technology, and Society* (ESTS)

# Member Societies

In 2023, the ACLS federation of learned societies grew to 80 members as it welcomed the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) in May.

Throughout the year, ACLS continued to expand its support for its member societies through a variety of sharing, capacity building, and networking opportunities for the Council of Executive Officers (CEO) and member society staff.

We introduced the CEO Communications Lead Meet Up series in fall 2023 to provide a space for resource sharing and technical support focused on social media, storytelling to support engagement, website content management best practices, and newsletter strategy.

The annual CEO Leadership Seminar in September included a session led by ACLS Program Officer Keyanah Nurse on equipping society leaders with tools to understand and engage with their diverse constituencies.

In addition to the Leadership Seminar, member society leaders gathered in Philadelphia for the annual spring convening and the annual fall meeting in Dulles, Virginia. ACLS also continued to host a weekly virtual “happy hour” for CEO members, which remains a popular way to discuss complex topics on a regular basis.

## ACLS Member Societies

African Studies Association  
American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
American Academy of Religion  
American Anthropological Association  
American Antiquarian Society  
American Association for Italian Studies  
American Association for the History of Medicine  
American Association of Geographers  
American Comparative Literature Association  
American Dialect Society  
American Economic Association  
American Folklore Society  
American Historical Association  
American Musicological Society

American Numismatic Society  
 American Oriental Society  
 American Philosophical Association  
 American Philosophical Society  
 American Political Science Association  
 American Society for Aesthetics  
 American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies  
 American Society for Environmental History  
 American Society for Legal History  
 American Society for Theatre Research  
 American Society of Church History  
 American Society of Comparative Law  
 American Society of International Law  
 American Society of Overseas Research  
 American Sociological Association  
 American Studies Association  
 Archaeological Institute of America  
 Association for Asian Studies  
 Association for Jewish Studies  
 Association for Slavic, East European,  
 and Eurasian Studies  
 Association for the Study of African American  
 Life and History

Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies  
 Association of American Law Schools  
 Austrian Studies Association  
 Bibliographical Society of America  
 College Art Association  
 College Forum of the National Council of  
 Teachers of English  
 Dance Studies Association  
 Dictionary Society of North America  
 Economic History Association  
 German Studies Association  
 Hispanic Society of America  
 History of Science Society  
 International Center of Medieval Art  
 Latin American Studies Association  
 Law and Society Association  
 Linguistic Society of America  
 Medieval Academy of America  
 Metaphysical Society of America  
 Middle East Studies Association of North America  
 Modern Language Association  
 National Communication Association  
 National Council on Public History

## Conference of Executive Officers Executive Committee

*Chair*

**Steven Rathgeb Smith**  
 American Political Science  
 Association

**Steven Boutcher**  
 Law and Society  
 Association

**Lynnette Cook**  
 Association for Research  
 on Nonprofit Organizations  
 and Voluntary Action  
 (ARNOVA)

**Lisa Fagin Davis**  
 Medieval Academy of  
 America

**Beth English**  
 Organization of  
 American Historians

**Erin McGuirl**  
 Bibliographical  
 Society of America

**Stephanie Rowe**  
 National Council on  
 Public History

## Executive Committee of the Delegates

*Chair*

**Suzanne Preston Blier**  
 College Art Association

**Sharon Herbert**  
 American Society of  
 Overseas Research

**Erik Rau**  
 Society for the History of  
 Technology

**Hugh Rockoff**  
 Economic History  
 Association

**Shelley Rodrigo**  
 College Forum of the  
 National Council of  
 Teachers of English

**Judith Tucker**  
 Middle East Studies  
 Association

**Barbara Weinstein**  
 Latin American Studies  
 Association

National Women's Studies Association  
North American Conference on British Studies  
Oral History Association  
Organization of American Historians  
Philosophy of Science Association  
Renaissance Society of America  
Rhetoric Society of America  
Shakespeare Association of America  
Sixteenth Century Society & Conference  
Society for American Music  
Society for Cinema and Media Studies  
Society for Classical Studies  
Society for Ethnomusicology  
Society for French Historical Studies  
Society for Military History  
Society for Music Theory  
Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)  
Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study  
Society for the History of Authorship,  
Reading and Publishing  
Society for the History of Technology  
Society of Architectural Historians  
Society of Biblical Literature  
World History Association

# Member Institutions

In 2023 Tulane University, University of California, Riverside, and University of California, Santa Cruz joined the ACLS Research University Consortium. The network also introduced a steering committee to contribute to the agenda for the group's annual convenings. The inaugural committee included representatives from Arizona State University, Brown University, Rutgers University, and the University of California, Riverside.

The 2023 Consortium Meeting took place in October in New York City. Representatives from 28 members of this 44-school network joined this annual convening, which opened with a roundtable discussion with foundation leaders Sean Buffington, vice president of the Henry Luce Foundation; Adam Falk, president of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation; and Phillip Brian Harper, program director for Higher Learning at the Mellon Foundation. The talk, followed by a reception, was held at LGD, an art gallery where participants were invited to continue the discussion amidst rare works by Pierre Soulages.

The meeting continued the following day with a full slate of sessions addressing vehicles for change within the academy. Highlights included Maurie McInnis, president of the State University of New York, Stony Brook, speaking on the challenges of collaborative leadership, nurturing the next generation of leaders, and the current divide between faculty and administrators; a discussion on faculty reward structures and enrollment enhancement with James Grossman, executive director of the American Historical Association, and Heather Washington, deputy director of the American Sociological Association; and a discussion on strengthening the position of humanities faculty led by Consortium representatives Jeffrey Cohen, dean of humanities in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University; Sara Guyer, dean of Arts & Humanities at the University of California, Berkeley; and Rebecca Walkowitz, dean of Humanities at Rutgers University–New Brunswick.

In addition, ACLS continued to provide monthly virtual meetings for Consortium and Associate member

institutions on a variety of topics, including guidelines for community engaged scholarship with Paula Krebs, executive director of the Modern Language Association; finance basics and best practices with Matthew Sapienza, chief financial officer at ACLS; and the pros and cons of AI with Mona Sloane, senior research scientist at the New York University Center for Responsible AI.

## ACLS Research University Consortium

*Members for the 2022–2023 academic year*

Arizona State University  
Brown University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College  
Duke University  
Emory University  
Georgetown University  
Harvard University  
Indiana University Bloomington  
Johns Hopkins University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
Princeton University  
Rice University  
Rutgers University–New Brunswick  
Stanford University  
The Ohio State University  
Tulane University  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Riverside  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Chicago  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Southern California



“It has been tremendously beneficial for Brown University to participate in a larger national conversation about the continued value of the arts and the humanities in higher education. Being part of the ACLS Research University Consortium gives us the chance to contribute to important discussions and initiatives that support the visionary, forward-looking work of humanistic scholars everywhere. ACLS provides an invaluable platform for the exchange of ideas and the sharing of knowledge among leaders in higher education. I have learned so much from colleagues at ACLS about supporting faculty, building community, and advocating for positive change.”

### **Zachary Sng**

Senior Associate Dean of the Faculty, Professor of German Studies, and Professor of Comparative Literature  
Brown University (ACLS Research University Consortium Member)

# 2023 ACLS Annual Meeting

ACLS hosted its 2023 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia Thursday, April 27, and Friday, April 28. Among the more than 250 attendees were delegates representing our federation of learned societies, University Consortium and Associate member institutions, past fellows, and supporters. The meeting opened Thursday afternoon with the launch of a new competition for open access books (the dual ACLS Open Access Book Prize and Arcadia Open Access Publishing Award), followed by a live conversation between ACLS President Joy Connolly and National Endowment for the Humanities Chair Shelly C. Lowe (Navajo).

On Friday, featured panel discussions addressed urgent issues facing the academy:

## Leading Change in Academic Norms: Societies, Initiatives, Networks

With Kal Alston, Syracuse University; James Grossman, American Historical Association; Paula Krebs, Modern Language Association; David Scobey, Bringing Theory to Practice; James Shulman, ACLS; moderated by ACLS President Joy Connolly.

## HBCUs: Legacy and Future

With David Canton, University of Florida; Jelani Favors, North Carolina A&T State University; Eileen Kane, Connecticut College; Melanye Price, Prairie View A&M University; moderated by Jovonne Bickerstaff, ACLS.

## ACLS Scholars Panel

With presentations by Cassius Adair, ACLS Fellowship 2021; Monica Bravo, Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowship 2021; Yige Dong, Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellowship in China Studies 2020; Stacie McCormick, Mellon/ACLS Scholars and Society Fellowship 2021; Marcus Pyle, Intention Foundry Participant 2022; moderated by Michele Moody-Adams, ACLS Board of Directors.

The 2023 meeting closed with the 41st Charles Homer Haskins Prize Lecture, delivered by historian Henry Louis Gates, Jr. of Harvard University. Gates's lively, dramatic speech explained how his early interest in his own family history and his scholarship on race fueled his bold leap into television with the enormously successful PBS show *Finding Your Roots*.





University of Texas at Austin  
University of Utah  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Yale University

## **ACLS Associate Members**

### *Members for the 2022–2023 academic year*

American University  
Amherst College  
Arizona State University\*  
Auburn University  
Bard College  
Barnard College  
Bates College  
Baylor University  
Boston University  
Bowdoin College  
Brandeis University  
Brigham Young University  
Brown University\*

Bryn Mawr College  
Bucknell University  
California Institute of Technology  
California State University, Fullerton  
California State University, Long Beach  
California State University, Los Angeles  
Carleton College  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art  
City University of New York, City College  
City University of New York, Guttman Community College  
City University of New York, John Jay College  
City University of New York, LaGuardia Community College  
City University of New York, Lehman College  
City University of New York, Queensborough Community College  
City University of New York, The Graduate Center

Claremont McKenna College  
Clark Atlanta University  
Clemson University  
Colby College  
Colgate University  
Columbia University\*  
Cornell University\*  
Dartmouth College\*  
DePauw University  
Dickinson College  
Duke University\*  
Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection  
East Carolina University  
Eckerd College  
Emory University\*  
Fisk University  
Florida A&M University  
Florida Atlantic University  
Florida State University  
Folger Shakespeare Library  
Fordham University  
Franklin & Marshall College  
Furman University  
George Mason University  
Georgetown University\*  
Georgia State University  
Getty Research Institute



*Attendees in discussion at the Leadership Institute for a New Academy 2023 Summer Institute at Sarah Lawrence College.*





“Being part of the ACLS Associate Member network has provided significant opportunities to participate in creative and innovative conversations about the humanities and social sciences. It has provided a platform to understand how other institutions address pressing issues revolving around humanistic education, and to learn from and share information with scholars who have a vital interest in promoting the thriving and flourishing of the humanities and social sciences.”

**Kimberly R. Kellison**

Associate Professor of History and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences  
Baylor University (ACLS Associate Member)

Grinnell College  
Harvard University\*  
Haverford College  
Howard University  
Huntington Library  
Indiana University Bloomington\*  
Institute for Advanced Study  
Jackson State University  
James Madison University  
Johns Hopkins University\*  
Lafayette College  
Louisiana State University  
Loyola Marymount University  
Macalester College  
Marquette University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology\*  
Michigan State University  
Middlebury College  
Mills College at Northeastern University  
Montclair State University  
Morehouse College  
Morgan State University  
Mount Holyoke College  
National Humanities Center  
New York University\*  
North Carolina A&T State University  
North Carolina Central University

Northeastern University  
Northern Illinois University  
Northwestern University\*  
Oakwood University  
Oberlin College  
Occidental College  
Ohio University  
Pitzer College  
Pomona College  
Prairie View A&M University  
Princeton University\*  
Purdue University  
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University  
Reed College  
Rice University\*  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rutgers University—New Brunswick\*  
Rutgers University—Newark  
San Diego State University  
San Francisco State University  
San José State University  
Sarah Lawrence College  
Scripps College  
Smith College  
Soka University of America  
Southern Methodist University  
Spelman College  
St. Mary’s College of Maryland

St. Olaf College  
Stanford University\*  
State University of New York, Stony Brook  
Swarthmore College  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
Tennessee State University  
Texas A&M University  
Texas State University  
Texas Tech University  
The Clark Art Institute  
The George Washington University  
The New School  
The Newberry  
The Ohio State University\*  
The University of Iowa\*  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
Tougaloo College  
Trinity College  
Trinity University  
Tufts University  
Tulane University\*  
Tuskegee University  
University at Buffalo, State University of New York  
University of Arizona  
University of California, Berkeley\*

University of California, Davis\*  
 University of California, Irvine\*  
 University of California, Los Angeles\*  
 University of California, Merced  
 University of California, Riverside\*  
 University of California, San Diego\*  
 University of California,  
 Santa Barbara\*  
 University of California, Santa Cruz\*  
 University of Chicago\*  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Denver  
 University of Florida  
 University of Georgia  
 University of Illinois at Chicago  
 University of Illinois,  
 Urbana-Champaign\*  
 University of Kansas  
 University of Maryland Eastern Shore  
 University of Maryland,  
 Baltimore County  
 University of Massachusetts Amherst  
 University of Massachusetts Boston  
 University of Miami  
 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor\*  
 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities\*  
 University of Missouri  
 University of Nebraska—Lincoln  
 University of Nevada, Reno  
 University of New Hampshire  
 University of North Carolina at  
 Chapel Hill\*

University of North Carolina at  
 Charlotte  
 University of Notre Dame\*  
 University of Oklahoma  
 University of Oregon  
 University of Pennsylvania\*  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 University of Richmond  
 University of Rochester  
 University of Southern California\*  
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
 University of Texas at Austin\*  
 University of Texas at El Paso  
 University of Texas at San Antonio  
 University of the South  
 University of Toronto  
 University of Utah\*  
 University of Virginia\*  
 University of Washington  
 University of Wisconsin—Madison\*  
 Vanderbilt University\*  
 Vassar College  
 Villanova University  
 Virginia Commonwealth University  
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute &  
 State University  
 Wake Forest University  
 Washington and Lee University  
 Washington University in St. Louis\*  
 Wayne State University  
 Wellesley College  
 Wesleyan University

West Virginia University  
 William & Mary  
 Williams College  
 Yale University\*  
 York University

*\*Member of the ACLS Research  
 University Consortium*

## **ACLS Affiliate Members**

Association for Research on  
 Nonprofit Organizations and  
 Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)  
 Association of American Colleges  
 and Universities  
 Association of Research Libraries  
 Association of University Presses  
 Canadian Federation for the  
 Humanities and Social Sciences  
 Center for Research Libraries  
 Community College Humanities  
 Association  
 Consortium of Humanities Centers  
 and Institutes  
 Federation of State Humanities  
 Councils  
 International Society for Third-Sector  
 Research  
 Phi Beta Kappa



*ACLS President Joy Connolly in discussion with participants at the Leadership Institute for a New Academy 2023 Summer Institute at Sarah Lawrence College.*

# Structure and Governance

The ACLS Board of Directors welcomed Desiree Pedescleaux, dean of undergraduate studies and an associate professor of the political science department at Spelman College, as its newest member in 2023.

In addition, Melani McAlister, professor of American studies and international affairs at The George Washington University, assumed the role of treasurer with the departure of Michele Moody-Adams, who concluded her term of service in May. ACLS is most grateful for the many contributions made by Moody-Adams, including her efforts in establishing the Board Finance Committee, which met for the first time in January 2023 with the aim of reviewing the newly developed ACLS multi-year financial plan. In August, Dana Williams was named chair of the Board Nominating Committee.

## ACLS Board of Directors

### *Chair*

**William C. Kirby**

Harvard University

### *Vice Chair*

**Jimena Canales**

Independent Scholar

### *Secretary*

**Marwan M. Kraidy**

Northwestern University in Qatar

### *Treasurer*

**Melani McAlister**

The George Washington University

**James H. Averill**

Wellington Management (retired)

**Peter Baldwin**

University of California, Los Angeles

**Joy Connolly**

American Council of Learned Societies, President

**Frances Daly Fergusson**

Vassar College, President Emeritus

**Michèle Lamont**

Harvard University

**Malinda Maynor Lowery**

Emory University

**Desiree Pedescleaux**

Spelman College

**Carl Pforzheimer III**

Carl H. Pforzheimer & Co. LLC

**Richard J. Powell**

Duke University

**Dana A. Williams**

Howard University

*Ex officio:*

**Suzanne Blier**

Chair, Executive Committee of the Delegates  
College Art Association

**Steven Rathgeb Smith**

Chair, Executive Committee of the Conference of  
Executive Officers  
American Political Science Association

## ACLS Board Committees

### Advancement Committee

*Chair*

**Frances Daly Fergusson**

Vassar College, president emeritus

**James H. Averill Jr.**

Wellington Management (retired)

**Peter Baldwin**

University of California, Los Angeles

**Jimena Canales**

Independent Scholar

**Joy Connolly**

American Council of Learned Societies

**William C. Kirby**

Harvard University

**Marwan M. Kraidy**

Northwestern University at Qatar

**Alexandra Lord**

National Museum of American History, Smithsonian

**Carl H. Pforzheimer III**

CHIPCO Asset Management, LLC (retired)

**Dana A. Williams**

Howard University

### Investment Committee

*Co-Chair*

**Julia Brody**

East End Advisors LLC

*Co-Chair*

**Ilene F. Spitzer**

Brown Brothers Harriman

**James H. Averill Jr.**

Wellington Management (retired)

**Jimena Canales**

Independent Scholar

**Joy Connolly**

American Council of Learned Societies

**Jon-Michael Consalvo**

Carnegie Corporation of New York

**William C. Kirby**

Harvard University

**Charlotte V. Kuh**

National Academy of Sciences

**Melani McAlister**

The George Washington University

**Carl H. Pforzheimer III**

Carl H. Pforzheimer & Co. LLC

**Daniel Stoddard**

American Museum of Natural History

**Westley M. Hays**, Advisor

Monticello Associates

### Finance Committee

*Co-Chair*

**Marwan M. Kraidy**

Northwestern University in Qatar

*Co-Chair*

**Melani McAlister**

The George Washington University

**James H. Averill Jr.**

Wellington Management (retired)

**Julia Brody**

East End Advisors LLC

**Frances Daly Fergusson**

Vassar College, president emeritus

**William C. Kirby**

Harvard University

**Ilene F. Spitzer**

Brown Brothers Harriman

**Dana A. Williams**

Howard University

### Nominating Committee

*Chair*

**Dana A. Williams**

Howard University

**Lisa Fagin Davis**

Medieval Academy of America

**Theodore S. Gonzalves**

Smithsonian Institution

**Malinda Maynor Lowery**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Rogelio Saenz**

University of Texas at San Antonio

**Working Group on Fellowships**

*Chair*

**Jimena Canales**

Independent Scholar

**Desiree Pedescleaux**

Spelman University

**Steven R. Smith** (ex officio)

American Political Science Association

**Michèle Lamont**

Harvard University

**Working Group on Societies**

**Suzanne Preston Blier** (ex officio)

College Art Association

**Theodore S. Gonzalves**

Smithsonian Institution

**Michèle Lamont**

Harvard University

**Steven R. Smith** (ex officio)

American Political Science Association

In October, ACLS introduced a new departmental unit, Intentional Design for an Equitable Academy (IDEA), led by Dr. Jovonne Bickerstaff, promoted from senior program officer, Higher Education Initiatives, to unit director, with Program Officer Dr. Keyanah Nurse and Program Associate Kathryn Reis, together advancing programmatic efforts for the Intention Foundry (IF), the ACLS Digital Justice Grant Program, and the Leadership Institute for a New Academy (LINA). IDEA draws on human-centered design as a methodology for developing activities and convenings where ACLS can re-envision academic culture, policies, and practices with the goal of enhancing equity, justice, and well-being in the academy.

In addition, Dr. Deena Ragavan, who served for nearly two years as senior program officer in International Programs, was promoted to director of International Programs.

In 2023, ACLS also welcomed nine new staff members: Addie Gordon, research associate; Jordan Baptista, administrative associate; Dr. JM Chris Chang, special projects researcher for international programs; LaToya Jackson, events manager; Edelyn Lau, program associate for US programs; Laura Mowry, program manager for international programs; Dr. Nike Nivar Ortiz, program officer for US programs; Kathryn Reis, program associate for IDEA; and Melissa Sakow, development coordinator.

ACLS said farewell to Sandra Bradley, director of governance and society relations, who retired from ACLS in June after almost 28 years. In addition to overseeing relationships with the member societies, including meetings of the Conference of Executive Officers (CEO) and the Executive Committees of the CEO and the delegates, Sandra also managed activities of the ACLS Board and coordinated the ACLS Annual Meeting.

ACLS also introduced the LGBTQIA+ and Allies Employee Affinity Group in October. Spearheaded by Desiree Barron-Callaci, senior program officer for US programs, the new affinity group will strategize and implement initiatives supporting these communities.

## ACLS Staff

As of December 31, 2023

### Office of the President

**Joy Connolly**, President

**Kelly Buttermore**, Chief of Staff

**Emily Carroll**, Grants Officer

**Heather Hewett**, Program Officer, Higher Education Initiatives

**Mona Rad**, Executive Assistant to the President

### Office of the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

**James Shulman**, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

**Sarah McKee**, Project Manager, Publishing Initiatives

**Tina Li**, Human Resources Manager

**LaToya Jackson**, Events Manager

**Risca Putri**, Executive Assistant and Special Projects Coordinator

**Jordan Baptista**, Administrative Associate

### US Programs

**John Paul Christy**, Senior Director of US Programs

**Desiree Barron-Callaci**, Senior Program Officer

**Alison Chang**, Program Officer

**Nike Nivar Ortiz**, Program Officer

**Jessica Taylor**, Research Fellow

**Tami Shaloum**, Program Manager

**Jaelen Floyd**, Program Manager

**John Zepke**, Program Associate

**Edelyn Lau**, Program Associate

**Addie Gordon**, Research Associate

### International Programs

**Deena Ragavan**, Director, International Programs

**JM Chris Chang**, Special Projects Researcher

**Laura Mowry**, Program Manager, International Programs

**Morgan Day**, Program Associate

### Intentional Design for an Equitable Academy (IDEA)

**Jovonne Bickerstaff**, Director, Intentional Design for an Equitable Academy

**Keyanah Nurse**, Program Officer

**Kathryn Reis**, Program Associate

### Development

**Mary Richter**, Chief Development Officer

**Melissa Sakow**, Development Coordinator

### Communications

**Heather Mangrum**, Director of Communications

**Anna Polovick Waggy**, Communications Manager

### Finance and Administration

**Matthew Sapienza**, Chief Financial Officer

**Cindy Grant**, Senior Accountant

**Irvin Lozano Campos**, Accounts Payable Accountant

**Andrea Griffith**, Staff Accountant

**Tsering Dolkar**, Accounts Receivable Accountant

**Servio Moreno**, Office Manager

### Digital and Information Technology

**Zachary Shuster**, CRM Specialist



ACLS US Programs Staff at the Luce/ACLS/AAR Symposium on Public Scholarship in May 2023.

# Supporting Outstanding Scholarship

## Competitions

In 2023 ACLS demonstrated its commitment to inclusive excellence by building more paths for opportunities for support for humanistic scholars from a wider variety of fields, institutions, backgrounds, and perspectives.

ACLS launched the HBCU Faculty Fellowship and Grant Program in March. The program offers financial support, research development opportunities, and scholarly networking for faculty at historically Black colleges and universities while attending to the unique teaching and service commitments at their schools. The launch came after more than a year of consultations with dozens of HBCU faculty and administrators that shaped the goals, design, and implementation of this program. (learn more about the launch of this innovative fellowship program see page 34)

In September, ACLS also introduced AVDF/ACLS Fellowships for Research on the Liberal Arts, made possible by a generous grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations. In addition to funding for research, the program provides access to and training on the College and Beyond II Database at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan. Awarded projects will examine the impact of the liberal arts on a variety of learners at different stages of their lives and careers.

In March, the Mellon Foundation approved funding to continue the ACLS Digital Justice Grant Program through 2026. Launched in 2021, the program supports digital projects across the humanities and interpretive social sciences that engage with the interests and histories of people of color and other historically marginalized communities. The program also addresses persistent inequities in access to tools and support for digital work among scholars working with nontraditional materials

---

“As a #HumanitiesPhD myself, [the ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship Program] is near to my heart. Career transitions like this one are not easy and I’m proud to be part of an organization that recognized the amazing opportunity to partner across sectors and leverage the expertise this person will bring.”

### Jocelyn Frelier

Former Program Manager

Vital Voices Global Partnership (ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship host organization)

---



*Attendees of the 2024 Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe at the American University in Bulgaria.*

and scholars based at institutions with limited resources for humanists working with digital techniques. With the renewal, the program will seek to fund capacity building efforts, including projects that train students in digital humanities methods; publicly engaged projects that develop new technological infrastructure with community partners; and trans-institutional projects that connect scholars across academic and cultural heritage institutions.

ACLS President Joy Connolly joined 13 scholars from Eastern Europe and the United States for the inaugural Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe (SISECSE) at the American University in Bulgaria in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. The two-week residency, a collaboration with the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia (CAS), led by Dr. Diana Mishkova, convened talented scholars to undertake research and fieldwork at regional archives, museum collections, communities, and historic sites. Participating scholars joined collaborative writing workshops and engaged

in a series of interdisciplinary discussions on “Scholarly Writing in the Digital Age” and a guest lecture from Jessie Labov, Corvinus University of Budapest, on the consequences of the public accessibility of scholarship on the Internet. The 2023 session was the first of three summer institutes in the region made possible by generous support from Carl and Betty Pforzheimer.



# Reimagining China Studies: A Collaborative Journey



**ACLS and the Henry Luce Foundation** have partnered in advancing the field of China studies for 40 years. This successful alliance began in 1984 with an initiative to help support the Universities Service Center, established by ACLS in Hong Kong in 1963 and now part of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Since then, with the shared aim of expanding understanding of Chinese culture and history through research, education, and international scholarly collaboration, the Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies has emerged as a cornerstone of ACLS international programs.



In 2020, driven by the changing needs of China studies scholars, barriers to field research driven by geopolitical tensions, and the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to reassess the design of the program became urgent and clear. With generous support from the foundation, ACLS embarked on an intensive three-year assessment of the program to determine how to better meet current issues in the field.

The first year focused on a survey-based study under the guidance of an advisory group:

**Keisha Brown**

History, Tennessee State University

**Dorothy Ko**

History, Columbia University

**Yingyi Ma**

Public Affairs and Sociology, Syracuse University

**Michael Szonyi**

History, Harvard University

**Wang Feng**

Sociology, University of California, Irvine

**Paola Zamperini**

Literature and Culture, Northwestern University

As a result of these efforts, in December 2021, ACLS published the report [China Studies in North America](#), which drew on information collected through two online surveys of China scholars: one to faculty who have supervised PhD dissertations at institutions of higher education in North America, and the second to PhDs who had applied to the Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellowships in China Studies Program over its eight competitions, 2012–13 to 2019–20.

From 2021 to 2023, working closely with the program steering committee and faculty advisors, Emily Baum F'15 of the University of California, Irvine, and Yingyi Ma of Syracuse University, ACLS convened more than 100 scholars, experts, and practitioners in a series of live and virtual discussions, covering topics from diversity, equity, and inclusion to the co-creation of knowledge and writing accessible scholarship. Highlights from these

meetings include a Summer Institute in June 2022, to help define recommendations for action that could be taken by ACLS, followed by a series of focus groups and convenings to refine these suggestions. At the same time, Baum and Ma led a series of in-depth interviews to secure a deeper understanding of the individual experiences of China studies scholars.

Across these discussions, common themes surfaced: the desire for more training in and recognition of public facing scholarship; the need for more scholarly community, particularly for those in language and literature fields who may be the only such persons at their institutions; and concerns about the rising bilateral tensions between the United States and China and their impact on research, travel, and academic exchange with China. The needs for flexible support, funding for graduate students and early career scholars, and funding for travel were also emphasized.

Additionally, ACLS challenged participants to reflect on a number of essential questions: how best to define China studies; what impact scholarship can have beyond the academy; how to foster a more equitable, inclusive, and diverse field; and the biggest obstacles to research on China.

In 2023, ACLS published a collection of narratives and actionable recommendations captured by Baum and Ma in [China Studies in an Uncertain Age](#).

Thanks to renewed support by our partners at Luce, ACLS introduced a reimagined Program in China Studies in August 2023. Directly informed by the needs identified by the scholars, administrators, journalists, librarians, curators, artists, and readers of research and writing on China who generously contributed their insights during our assessment, the new Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies aims to foster more inclusivity in the field, support publicly engaged scholarship, and develop effective strategies for long-term change in the field.

The redesigned program also includes the return of travel grants, which now specifically support non-tenured faculty in addition to doctoral candidates, as well as both long-term and flexible fellowships for early career scholars. In 2024, the program will expand with a Collaborative Grant competition, which will support

## 2023 Steering Committee

*Co-Chair*

**Emily Baum**

History, University of California, Irvine

*Co-Chair*

**Yingyi Ma**

Public Affairs and Sociology, Syracuse University

**Ryan Hass**

John L. Thornton China Center, The Brookings Institution

**Michael Gibbs Hill**

Modern Languages & Literatures, William & Mary

**Tobie Meyer-Fong**

History, Johns Hopkins University

**Shellen Xiao Wu**

History, Lehigh University

**Guobin Yang**

Sociology, University of Pennsylvania

**Emily Yeh**

Geography, University of Colorado Boulder

innovative pilot projects that have the potential for long-term transformative change in the field.

This responsive approach reflects the ACLS ongoing commitment to inclusive excellence in scholarship and supporting the growth and impact of emerging humanistic fields. Our efforts to advance and grow the field of China studies align directly with our mission to support the creation and circulation of knowledge that advances understanding of humanity and human endeavors in the past, present, and future, with a view toward improving human experience.

# Documenting Impact

A major theme for ACLS in 2023 was capturing the voices and experiences of fellows and grantees to inform and improve programs and help influence the future of the academy.

Following the success of the NEH-funded ACLS Sustaining Public Engagement Grants program in 2022, which awarded funds to 24 outstanding public humanities projects across the United States and Puerto Rico, ACLS Vice President James Shulman; Senior Director, US Programs John Paul Christy; Program Consultant Dipo Oyeleye; and Program Officer Keyanah Nurse spent the first half of 2023 on virtual and in-person site visits with grantees and meeting with project teams to better understand the impact of the grants and how best to serve collaborative efforts between higher education institutions and community-based projects and teams.

With funding from the Mellon Foundation, ACLS undertook an extensive effort to document the impact of the Mellon/ACLS Scholars and Society and Public Fellows programs. This yearlong initiative, led by ACLS Senior Program Officer Desiree Barron-Callaci and Research Fellow Jessica Taylor, will yield two comprehensive reports to be published in 2024 with recommended approaches and best practices for funding and improving doctoral education and the cultures of scholarly associations.

2023 also saw the welcomed return of in-person site visits to assess the progress and learn more about the administration of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (MMUF), which aims to increase diversity in the faculty ranks of institutions of higher learning. ACLS administers the annual reporting, renewal, and regranting process for this Mellon-funded program, and for much of the COVID-19 era, engagement with participating institutions was almost entirely virtual. In addition to joining Mellon Foundation colleagues on site visits to some of the 50-plus participating colleges and universities across the country, ACLS Chief of Staff Kelly Buttermore and Program Manager Jaelen Floyd attended the MMUF Coordinators Conference in April, the first in-person group convening of the network since 2019, to celebrate the successes and collectively navigate challenges participants are facing.



# Charting the Course for a New Academy



**2023 saw the launch** of the Leadership Institute for a New Academy (LINA) programming, a yearlong pilot initiative designed to galvanize faculty to forge career paths in administration that will strengthen the humanities and drive forward-looking change. The pilot year hosted a series of workshops with sitting and recent deans that aimed to shape the development of a future comprehensive program for change-oriented faculty as they consider administrative roles at the dean level. This program is generously funded by the Mellon Foundation.



From January through March 2023, more than 60 scholars with recent experience as deans or in comparable posts and a demonstrated commitment to enacting or accelerating transformational change in the academy met in virtual small groups and half-day sessions co-led by members of the LINA steering committee, including:

**Robin Means Coleman**

Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, Northwestern University

**Elizabeth Engelhardt**

Kenan Eminent Professor of Southern Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Richard Flores**

Deputy to the President for Academic Priorities, The University of Texas at Austin

**Tyson King-Meadows**

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, University of Massachusetts Boston

**Kathryn Stockton**

Inaugural Dean of the School for Cultural & Social Transformation, University of Utah

**Henry Turner**

Vice President for Academic Initiatives, Rutgers University–New Brunswick

**Dana A. Williams**

Dean of the Graduate School, Howard University  
ACLS Board of Directors

In July, ACLS hosted the LINA Summer Institutes, a series of three-day in-person gatherings in New York. These events offered participants a vibrant community of support and encouraged collaboration in driving change within the academy. The institutes featured informative presentations on a variety of topics, including Nancy Cantor, chancellor, Rutgers University–Newark, on partnerships between universities and local communities; Antoinette Burton, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and Teresa Mangum, the University of Iowa, on public humanities and humanities centers; Bonnie Thornton Dill, University of Maryland, College Park, on methods for values-inflected approaches to change; and Michael Jacobs, Monroe Community College, on lessons for four-year institutions from community colleges.



## 2022–23 Leadership Institute for a New Academy

### PARTICIPANTS

#### Javier Acosta-Hernandez

Universidad del Sagrado Corazon

#### Jasmine Alinder

University of California, Santa Cruz

#### Chadwick Allen

University of Washington

#### Ann Ardis

George Mason University

#### Estella Atekwana

University of California, Davis

#### Mitch Avila

California State University, Channel Islands

#### César Braga-Pinto

Northwestern University

#### Kathleen Canning

Rice University

#### Rita Chin

University of Michigan

#### Joel Christensen

Brandeis University

#### Jeffrey Cohen

Arizona State University

#### Amy Cook

State University of New York, Stony Brook

#### Clare Crowston

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

#### Pawan Dhingra

Amherst College

#### Jeffrey Di-Leo

University of Houston-Victoria

#### Sheryl Fontaine

California State University, Fullerton

#### DoVeanna Fulton

Norfolk State University

#### Bonnie Guzenhauser

John Carroll University

#### Sheila Hassell Hughes

Saint Mary's College of California

#### Taja-Nia Henderson

Rutgers Law School

#### Rosilie Hernández

University of Illinois, Chicago

#### Bessie House-Soremekun

Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

#### Florence Hsia

University of Wisconsin, Madison

#### Dorie Jewel Gilbert

Prairie View A&M University

#### Cherisse Jones-Branch

Arkansas State University



**Peniel Joseph**  
University of Texas, Austin

**Ifeoma Kiddoe Nwankwo**  
San Francisco State University  
(previously with Sarah Lawrence  
College)

**Renata Kobetts Miller**  
City College of New York

**Anne Lambright**  
Carnegie Mellon University

**Deandra Little**  
Elon University

**David Long**  
Durham Technical Community  
College

**Rachel Marie-Crane Williams**  
University of North Carolina

**Celia Marshik**  
State University of New York, Stony  
Brook

**Glenn Martinez**  
University of Texas at San Antonio

**Andrew McMichael**  
Auburn University at Montgomery

**Shaily Menon**  
University of New Haven

**Alexandra Minna Stern**  
University of California, Los Angeles

**Kristy Nabhan-Warren**  
University of Iowa

**Joy Pierce**  
University of Utah

**Lori Poloni-Staudinger**  
University of Arizona

**Daina Ramey Berry**  
University of California, Santa  
Barbara

**Dana Renga**  
The Ohio State University

**Andrew Rich**  
City College of New York

**Ramón Rivera-Servera**  
The University of Texas at Austin

**Nils Roemer**  
The University of Texas at Dallas

**Jason Schmitt**  
Clarkson University

**Wendy Smooth**  
The Ohio State University

**Cynthia Neal Spence**  
Spelman College

**Brian Stipelman**  
Frederick Community College

**Nicole Stokes**  
Pennsylvania State University,  
Abington

**Lisa Tedesco**  
Emory University





**Stephen Trzaskoma**

California State University, Los Angeles

**James Van Wyck**

Princeton University

**Lynn Vidler**

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

**Janet Ward**

University of Oklahoma

**Myra Washington**

University of Utah

**Daryle Williams**

University of California, Riverside

**Tracyann Williams**

Fordham University

**Rafael Zapata**

Fordham University

**INSTRUCTORS**

**Randy Bass**

Georgetown University

**Antoinette Burton**

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

**Nancy Cantor**

Rutgers University–Newark

**Bonnie Thornton Dill**

University of Maryland, College Park

**Tim Eatman**

Rutgers University–Newark

**Mike Jacobs**

Monroe Community College

**Stacy Hartman**

Independent Scholar

**John Isaacson**

Isaacson, Miller

**Cristle Collins Judd**

Sarah Lawrence College

**Sam LaFrance**

PEN America

**Teresa Mangum**

University of Iowa

**Khanjan Mehta**

Lehigh University

**Marisa Parham**

University of Maryland, College Park

**Cybele Raver**

Vanderbilt University

**David Scobey**

Elon University

**Kristen Shahverdian**

PEN America

**Michelle Stephens**

Rutgers University

**Shelly Storbeck**

Diversified Search Group

# Supporting Scholars Before, During, and Beyond Their Awards

ACLS is committed to supporting scholars at every career stage, from dissertation development to creating opportunities for tenured scholars for new research projects. We also recognize the challenges that face scholars who are first generation, employed at less resourced institutions, and those working in emerging fields of study. We design our programs with the goal not only to support excellence in humanistic research and writing during the award period, but to provide free resources to all applicants as they develop their proposals, including detailed feedback post-competition. We have expanded opportunities for awardees to join scholarly networks and engage in professional development activities beyond the fellowship or grant year.

In continuing to support scholars after the award period, ACLS hosted several virtual and in-person gatherings that allowed fellows to meet, present and give updates on their work, and contribute to strong and growing communities of scholars across a variety of fields. These included:

- A virtual networking event in March where 2022 ACLS Leading Edge Fellows heard from four outstanding past fellows from the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellowship and Leading Edge Fellowship programs
- The Luce/ACLS/American Academy of Religion symposium in May in New York for fellows and grantees of the Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs
- The Luce/ACLS China Studies Summer Institute, which welcomed program fellows and grantees from around the world for a two-day convening in New York City in June

- An in-person Leading Edge Fellowship Career Seminar in Chicago in August
- The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies retreat in August in Laramie, Wyoming, featuring a Dissertation Seminar and a Manuscript Development Workshop, as well as evening workshops on finding a publisher and navigating the job market as a recent PhD (Through the New Professorships grant, ACLS was instrumental in placing Catherine Hartmann F'18 as professor at the University of Wyoming, the state's sole Buddhist scholar.)
- A gathering of Mellon/ACLS Scholars and Society fellows at the National Humanities Conference in Indianapolis in October

In addition, ACLS hosted several in-person and virtual events for current and past fellows of the Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellows in the History of Art (2017–2023), offering opportunities to network across the six cohorts of the program. These included a gathering at the 2023 College Art Association Annual Meeting in New York in February, which featured a focus group session led by ACLS and the Getty Foundation on scholarly publishing for early-career scholars. In July ACLS co-hosted the annual residency for Fellows at the Getty Foundation in Los Angeles, which featured presentations by Fellows on the status of their research projects and highlighted opportunities at the Getty Research Institute.

In October, ACLS also hosted a webinar for Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellows and Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellows in American Art on working ethically and responsibly with Indigenous communities, featuring Teresa Montoya of the University of Chicago, Emily Buhrow Rogers F'20 of Indiana University Bloomington, and Revati Prasad F'21 of the Benton Institute for Broadband and Society.

Many ACLS fellowship and grant programs also offer support to applicants, from detailed webinars on the application process to “office hours” where applicants are invited to bring questions to program managers in a live virtual setting, to best practices workshops on writing proposals and applications. In 2023 these resources were made available during application periods for the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowships, ACLS

HBCU Faculty Fellowships and Grants, Leading Edge Fellowships, the AVDF/ACLS Fellowships for Research on the Liberal Arts, and the ACLS Open Access Book Prizes and Arcadia Open Access Publishing Awards.

Application support and resources were also offered through virtual series for several programs, including a fall 2023 webinar series for the ACLS Digital Justice Grants Program, which featured sessions on data ethics and capacity building.

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**“Thank you for the time the ACLS staff takes to clarify the program to applicants and help make the application process accessible. Underscoring the value of the grant writing process in the broader context of our projects (whether they are funded or not) is an important aspect to appreciate about the opportunity. Thank you!!”**

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*Past awardees at the 2023 Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies Early Career Retreat in Laramie, WY.*

# Creating New Avenues of Support for HBCU Faculty

**March 2023 saw the launch** of the first-ever ACLS fellowship and grant competition designed to support the work of faculty at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

The program is the result of an extensive series of listening sessions and consultations with HBCU faculty and administrators from a wide range of institutions about opportunities and needs for research support at their colleges and universities that began in 2021 and continued through early 2023, with in-person visits by ACLS staff to Prairie View A&M University, Morgan State University, North Carolina A&T State University, and North Carolina Central University.

Directly informed by this consultation process, ACLS designed the program to build capacity for applicants, as well as support the scholarship of awardees. In the months leading up to the November 2023 application deadline, ACLS offered informational webinars, “office hours” where applicants could get answers to questions about the program and application process from program officers, and feedback on draft applications, proposals, work plans, and budgets.

Centered on the specific teaching, research, and service contexts of HBCU faculty, the program offers two award types: grants of up to \$10,000 for research project development, and fellowships of up to \$50,000 to support more sustained time and engagement with a significant research project. Both allow applicants to structure their budgets and work plans in ways that best fit their research goals and professional commitments. In addition, each awardee is invited to participate in networking and mentorship opportunities that align with their scholarly goals and institutional circumstances. ACLS also designed the program to recognize and encourage excellent proposals that are not selected for one of the program’s limited number of awards. Applicants who advance to the finalist round of review also receive a \$500 stipend to support their research, in addition to access to project and proposal development workshops.

Each award also comes with an additional institutional grant of \$2,500 to the awardee’s home institution to support humanities programming or infrastructure.



*Jubilee Hall at Fisk University.*

These efforts yielded more than 150 applications for the inaugural year of the program and exposure of ACLS programs to a more diverse community of scholars.

This program is funded primarily by the ACLS endowment as part of our commitment to inclusive excellence in supporting, advancing, and sharing humanistic scholarship. We look forward to sharing the outcomes and continuing to grow this initiative in the coming years.

“ACLS drew on seasoned peer reviewers from a range of disciplines to provide guidance for potential applicants to this new program, with the goal of offering targeted support grounded in disciplinary expertise as well as knowledge of the ACLS review process. As one applicant wrote, “Thank you for the terrific feedback! I was really looking for ways to incorporate more historiography and was hesitant because I wasn’t sure how much I needed to get into it, but this reviewer is letting me know to put it in there. I am going to work on these suggestions and hopefully have a fantastic proposal!”

# Fellowship Among Community College Faculty



**From 2019 through 2022**, the Mellon/ACLS Community College Faculty Fellowship Program (CCFF) supported 110 faculty in the humanities and interpretive social sciences from two-year colleges across the United States.

The restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic limited opportunities for awardees to share their work and network across cohorts around the distinct areas of shared concern in research, pedagogy, and community engagement in the humanities at community colleges.



In October 2023, 88 of these fellows, representing 49 community colleges from across the United States, joined ACLS in New York City for the largest program-related convening ACLS has ever hosted. Over two days of networking, sharing, and learning, participants shared approaches, challenges, and success stories related to their awarded projects. Participants also heard from academic society leaders and deans on urgent topics including engaging with disciplinary societies and learning about fellowship resources for community college faculty in the humanities and interpretive social sciences.

Building on the success of the convening and the enthusiasm of this newly active network, with generous support from the Mellon Foundation, additional virtual forums will be held in 2024. ACLS has also commissioned a set of essays and reflections from selected Community College Faculty Fellows on their experiences conducting research and teaching on their campuses and the unique possibilities these insights can offer to the broader humanities research enterprise.

“I want to thank ACLS for hosting such an inspiring, phenomenal event. It is so rare to feel “feted” and I really felt like ACLS honored and celebrated we community college professors—a group who really has been marginalized by the academy historically. I made wonderful contacts. This entire experience has been such a gift and the research that I have been able to do because of this terrific grant has been priceless.”

Nicole M. Slovak F’ 20  
Mellon/ACLS Community College Fellow  
Santa Rosa Junior College

# The Future of the Academy

As part of our mission to support the best pathways toward and conditions for the creation and circulation of humanistic knowledge, ACLS continues to learn from and build on the experiences of our own programs, as well as those of our fellows and grantees, member institutions, and partners.

In 2023 ACLS hosted the third and final convening of the Intention Foundry (IF) as virtual sessions in March, as well as summer sessions at The Ohio State University and Emory University. With the culmination of IF and the Luce Design Workshop in 2021, as well as the continued development of the [Leadership Institute for a New Academy \(LINA\)](#), a new network of change-minded supporters has emerged. In fall 2023, ACLS launched Building Blocks for a New Academy, a new online resource centered on the feedback and ongoing needs of change-minded faculty and administrators participating in the Design Workshop and LINA. The initiative includes a listserv for the group to facilitate ongoing discussions from this summer's past LINA institutes.

The Commission on Fostering and Sustaining Diverse Digital Scholarship also concluded its year-long series of working groups, convenings, and interviews with scholars, librarians, and administrators. A comprehensive report, as well as an interactive site on the Manifold platform, will be released in spring 2024.

ACLS is also supporting the Path to Open pilot, hosted at JSTOR. The pilot tests a new library subscription model for funding open access books from university presses. Working with consultants at the Educopia Institute, ACLS developed (and will continue to administer) a cross-sector community board of publishers, libraries, and authors that will advise JSTOR through the six-year pilot period.

In September and October, ACLS presented “What Counts: MacArthur Fellows Reflect on Academic Reward Structures,” a public panel series examining promotion and tenure structures for humanities and interpretive social sciences faculty in higher education today. Each

panel featured three MacArthur Fellows discussing how their distinctive approaches to scholarship did or did not fit the “rules of the game” for career advancement in humanistic fields. The series was supported by an X-Grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s MacArthur Fellows Program.

## Part One: September 12, 2023

*Moderated by ACLS President Joy Connolly*

### Monica M. Martinez

University of Texas at Austin  
2021 MacArthur Foundation Fellow

### Natalia Molina

University of Southern California  
2020 MacArthur Foundation Fellow

### Dimitri Nakassis

University of Colorado Boulder  
2015 MacArthur Foundation Fellow

## Part Two: October 2, 2023

*Moderated by ACLS Vice President James Shulman*

### P. Gabrielle Foreman

Pennsylvania State University  
2022 MacArthur Foundation Fellow

### Kellie Jones

Columbia University  
2016 MacArthur Foundation Fellow  
1994 Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art

### Peter N. Miller

American Academy in Rome  
1998 MacArthur Foundation Fellow

*“What Counts: MacArthur Fellows Reflect on Academic Reward Structures” September 12, 2023 panel.*



# Organizations Supporting the Creation of Knowledge

**ACLS received an NEH Chair's grant** to convene a group of funders in December to discuss how best to support the humanities. With a focus on supporting the future of humanistic scholarship, ACLS hosted a funders' convening in December, made possible by a grant from the NEH. In addition to several attendees from the NEH, we welcomed participants representing a broad range of funders:

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation  
Arthur Vining Davis Foundations  
Carnegie Corporation of New York  
Henry Luce Foundation  
John Templeton Foundation  
The Kresge Foundation  
MacArthur Foundation  
Mellon Foundation  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
Open Society University Network/Open Society Foundations  
Teagle Foundation  
Whiting Foundation

Given the clear needs we see, we hope to establish a permanent humanities funding network with more virtual and in-person convenings in 2024 and 2025.



# Opening Doors to Open Access Publishing

**ACLS launched** the new Open Access Book Prizes at the 2023 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Made possible through support by Arcadia—a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin—this three-year initiative aims to raise the prestige of open access publishing by rewarding the authors and publishers of exceptional open books in the humanities and interpretive social sciences.

The inaugural prizes recognize open access monographs in two categories: history and born-digital, multimodal works (in any humanistic discipline). The Open Access Book Prizes are among the largest for academic humanities publications. Authors of the winning books will receive the ACLS Open Access Book Prize, with a cash award of \$20,000. Publishers of the same winning titles will receive the Arcadia Open Access Publishing Award, in the amount of \$30,000, to support at least two forthcoming titles that would not otherwise be published open access.

More than 100 titles were nominated by 46 commercial, library, scholar-led, academic society, and university press publishers from the United States, Canada, Europe, and Africa.

In December 2023 panels of scholars, librarians, digital humanities experts, and accessibility specialists selected five finalists in each category. Winners will be announced in May 2024.

## History Category Finalists

***Black Disability Politics*** (Duke University Press, 2022)  
**Sami Schalk**, Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison

***Committed: Remembering Native Kinship in and beyond Institutions*** (University of North Carolina Press, 2021)

**Susan Burch**, Professor of American Studies, Middlebury College

***Freedom Seekers: Escaping from Slavery in Restoration London*** (University of London Press, 2022)  
**Simon P. Newman**, Professor, School of Humanities, University of Glasgow

***The Power of the Brush: Epistolary Practices in Chosŏn Korea*** (University of Washington Press, 2020)  
**Hwisang Cho**, Associate Professor, Russian and East Asian Languages and Culture, Emory University

***Reproductive Politics and the Making of Modern India*** (University of Washington Press, 2021)  
**Mytheli Sreenivas**, Chair and Professor, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, The Ohio State University

## First-Round Reviewers

**Kimberly Gauderman F'19**, University of New Mexico



# ACLS OPEN ACCESS BOOK PRIZE

# ARCADIA OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING AWARD

**Alexandra Hui**, Mississippi State University, co-editor, *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society*  
**Abigail Perkiss**, Kean University, co-editor, *Oral History Review*  
**Amy Ransford**, Indiana University, book review editor, *Journal of American History*  
**Eric Lindquist**, University of Maryland Libraries

## Second-Round Reviewers

**Matthew P. Romaniello**, Weber State University, editor, *Journal of World History*  
**Judith Allen**, Indiana University, associate editor, *Journal of American History*  
**Emma Molls**, University of Minnesota Libraries

## Multimodal Category Finalists

***As I Remember It: Teachings (ʔəms taʔaw) from the Life of a Sliammon Elder*** (University of British Columbia Press / RavenSpace, 2019)  
**Elsie Paul** (Sliammon Elder), with **Davis McKenzie** (Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs at the First Nations Health Authority), **Paige Raibmon** (Professor, History, University of British Columbia), and **Harmony Johnson** (Vice-President, Policy, Planning and Quality at the First Nations Health Authority)

***Cut/Copy/Paste: Fragments from the History of Bookwork*** (University of Minnesota Press, 2022)  
**Whitney Trettien**, Assistant Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

***i used to love to dream*** (University of Michigan Press, 2020)  
**A. D. Carson**, Associate Professor of Hip-Hop and the Global South, University of Virginia

***Shadow Plays: Virtual Realities in an Analog World*** (Stanford University Press, 2022)  
**Massimo Riva**, Professor of Italian Studies, Brown University

***Vidding: A History*** (University of Michigan Press, 2022)  
**Francesca Coppa**, Professor, English and Film Studies, Muhlenberg College

## First-Round Reviewers

**Barbara McCaskill**, University of Georgia  
**Monique O'Connell**, Wake Forest University  
**Gwendolynne Reid**, Emory University  
**Kayla Shipp**, Yale University  
**Stephanie Rosen**, University of Michigan

## Second-Round Reviewers

**Amy Earhart**, Texas A&M University  
**Joycelyn Wilson**, Georgia Institute of Technology  
**Mara Wade**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

# Thought Leadership

ACLS leadership and staff have had a consistent presence in conversations about issues concerning the academy, scholars, and the environments within which knowledge is created and shared.

In 2023 ACLS issued statements in support of academic freedom and New College of Florida (February); on the effort to undermine academic freedom in Florida House Bill 999 (March); on the SCOTUS ruling to remove Affirmative Action (July); and in response to proposing major cuts in its undergraduate and graduate programs at West Virginia University (September).

ACLS President Joy Connolly further wrote and presented on a number of urgent topics in higher education from a perspective reflecting ACLS values. In January, together with Anna Harvey, president of the Social Science Research Council, to the Advisory Board of the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), of which she is a member, about the challenges facing philanthropic funding for the humanities and social sciences. In April, she gave a presentation on

the value of the humanities to a large strategic planning group at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She joined ACLS Program Officer for Higher Education Initiatives Heather Hewett in November as a panelist at Washington University's Center for Humanities event, "Rethinking Tenure and Promotion Assessment in the Humanities: A Blueprint for Transformation and Innovation."

As she has in the past, in 2023 Connolly spoke out about the urgent need to support publicly engaged scholarship. "Especially at a time when the relevance of humanistic study is frequently called into question, the academy must do more to support, recognize, and reward research that expresses the interests and ideal audiences of the 21st-century scholar ... including first-generation scholars, women, scholars of color, and scholars pursuing approaches to scholarship that often encounter resistance."

In 2023, Connolly was invited to serve on a new committee for the American Academy of Arts and Sciences focused on the intersection of the arts (especially film and fiction) and the humanities. She also continued her service as a member of the National Humanities Alliance Board and Executive Committee and the CUNY Graduate Center Auxiliary Board. In November, Connolly was invited to offer welcoming remarks as part of the inauguration of Ben Vinson III as



Howard University president.

Connolly also remains an in-demand lecturer in the field of ancient studies, delivering the 2023 Peggy Downes Baskins Ethics Lecture at the University of California, Santa Cruz entitled, “A Connected Planet: Scholarship for the Global Good” in February; a lecture and workshops for humanities faculty at the University of Southern California in March; and two lectures and a seminar for graduate students and postdocs in Greek and Roman studies as part of the Advanced Seminar in the Humanities at Venice International University on the island of San Servolo in Venice in April.

In October 2023, ACLS Vice President James Shulman published *The Synthetic University: How Higher Education can Benefit From Shard Solutions and Save Itself* (Princeton University Press). The book argues for a mission-aligned approach to collective action in addressing the rising costs of higher education. *Forbes* named it as one of the best higher education books of 2023. Shulman also assumed Connolly’s membership on the Humanities Indicators committee for the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has also continued work with Eugene Tobin as a senior advisor to Ithaka S+R, working on a range of projects in educational transformation, editing the final draft of the World Humanities Report, and participating in a Pew Trusts meeting in Washington, DC, on academic incentives and societally impactful research.

Shulman was also a featured speaker at the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), convening in Denver in April, as a panelist for “The Path to Open Books Pilot: A Sustainable Model for Making University Press Frontlist Titles Open Access at Scale?” with colleagues from University of Michigan Press, JSTOR, and the University of Minnesota Libraries; and moderating the closing plenary, featuring three members of the Commission on Fostering and Sustaining Diverse Digital Scholarship: Maria Cotera F’18, Meredith Evans, and Maryemma Graham G’18, F’02.

In April, Program Officer for IDEA Programs Keyanah Nurse led a workshop for Howard University doctoral students on crafting strong grant applications as well as grantmaking as a professional trajectory post-PhD. She also delivered a “lighting talk” on the Digital Justice Grant Program, as well as the influence of the Commission on Fostering and Sustaining Diverse Digital Scholarship on the program’s newest inclusion of capacity building

as a program goal at the Mellon Foundation’s Digital Humanities Convening in May. In October, Nurse joined IDEA Director Jovonne Bickerstaff at Spelman College for the annual UNCF/Mellon Mays Programs Conference to lead an interactive plenary presentation on IDEA’s methodology, aims, and programs.

In June, ACLS Project Manager for Publishing Initiatives Sarah McKee presented at the Society for Scholarly Publishing on community-building for the Path to Open initiative and at the annual meeting of the Association of University Presses on a panel about transitioning books to open access. In October she published a blog post with Digital Science about Path to Open and co-produced a new episode for the Adventures in Digital Publishing web series, a collaboration among ACLS, the Association of University Presses, Brown University Digital Publications, and Emory University’s Digital Publishing in the Humanities. The live episode on October 26 featured the team behind the peer-reviewed podcast *Secret Feminist Agenda* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) and the Amplify Podcast Network. And finally, McKee was a featured panelist at the Charleston Conference for librarians, publishers, and resource managers in November, speaking on publishing as part of the humanities infrastructure, as well as community-building within the Path to Open pilot.

Chief Financial Officer Matt Sapienza moderated a panel discussion, “Measuring ROI: The Financial Return of Investment in Faculty & Quality Teaching,” at the National Higher Education Teaching Conference in New York in June.

ACLS hosted the 2023 Union Académique Internationale General Assembly, which took place in Philadelphia in October. Established in 1919 in Paris, the inaugural convening was the catalyst for the formation of ACLS, as representatives from 10 American learned societies established a coalition to represent the United States at the meeting. Today the UAI comprises more than a hundred academies from 63 countries and all continents. ACLS President Joy Connolly joined ACLS delegates Pauline Yu, ACLS president emeritus, and Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Chancellor’s Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Connolly also presented “Crossing Bridges and Borders: The Inclusive Study of the Past,” a panel discussion with Cord Whittaker, an expert in medieval English literature and the history of race, associate professor in the Department of English and Creative Writing at Wellesley College, and co-founder of Sagely,

a diversity, equity, and inclusion consulting group; Rhiannon Stephens, associate professor of history at Columbia University specializing in the history of precolonial and early colonial East Africa; and Roxanne Euben, a political theorist and Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg Professor in the Social Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania.

### ACLS Presents

In 2023, ACLS presented several events designed to engage members of our community around specific areas of our work, as well as continuing the “Humanistic Knowledge in the 21st Century” series:

- **January 23—“ACLS Career Seminar: K–12 Teaching Careers,”** with panelists Colin Harte, PhD, world music curriculum faculty, the High School of Language and Innovation, Bronx, NY; adjunct instructor, CUNY; Sarah Lannom, PhD, classics faculty and coach, the Brearley School, New York, NY; and Nikki Willis, PhD, English faculty, Ethical Culture Fieldston School, Bronx, NY.
- **March 13—“Focus on China,”** a virtual conversation about the current issues related to the study of China with panelists Peter Hessler, staff writer for *The New Yorker*, and Kaiser Kuo, host of the “Sinica” podcast.
- **April 13—“ACLS Chat on ‘The End of the English Major,’”** a lively discussion with a group of 25 current and past board members, donors, and other ACLS supporters on Nathan Heller’s controversial *New Yorker* article, “The End of the English Major,” and the most effective and constructive responses to growing skepticism about the value of humanities majors.
- **May 9—ACLS Darwin Project Celebration** at the New York Public Library, marking the completion of *The Correspondence of Charles Darwin*, an ACLS supported project spanning the past 50 years.
- **September 12 and October 2—“What Counts: MacArthur Fellows Reflect on Academic Reward Structures,”** public panel series examining promotion and tenure structures for humanities and interpretive social sciences faculty in higher education today.



Steve Wheatley, former ACLS Vice President, speaks at the Darwin Correspondence Project Celebration at the New York Public Library.

# 2023 President's Report to the Council



## 2023 President's Report to the Council

2023 Annual Meeting American Council of Learned Societies

Friday, April 28, 2023

Philadelphia, PA

Joy Connolly

*President, American Council of Learned Societies*

Thank you for coming. Thank you for your support of ACLS as a Council delegate, executive director, ACLS Board member, member of staff, reviewer, fellow, participant in our initiatives, supporter, or friend. I'm happy and honored to speak to you today.

In past years, I would assign an exercise on the first day my classes met: I would ask the students to imagine and describe an artwork that embodied the ideal class. Some chose a symphony, others, improv theater or a jazz performance. One of my favored suggestions was the sculpture of Anthony Caro. Caro, a British artist who was active through the second half of the twentieth century and a bit beyond, liked to connect straight or curved steel extensions or tubes to I-bars or steel cutouts. The whole arrangement was often brightly colored, bold red, yellow, purple, or blue, and balanced directly on the ground—and rather radical for the 1960s and '70s, with no pedestal. Caro was my artistic instantiation of a good class because his works are about dynamic tension and balance. They draw our attention to the relation of one element to another. These things, it always seemed to me, constitute the essence of a good class.

When I think of what form ACLS might take if it were an artwork, I find myself thinking once again of Anthony Caro. As a federation of societies and a host of networks, we comprise a number of different elements and initiatives, both bold and grounded, we hope, and we seek to find the right balance among them.

A Caro sculpture also captures the dynamic tensions that characterize higher education today—and that we feel at ACLS as we go about our work. A more prosaic way of putting it is that we walk a number of tightropes.

At ACLS we avoid talking about the decline of the humanities or the liberal arts: first, because we don't want to reinforce a tired, centuries-old narrative of crisis, and second, because there truly are many great things going on in the humanities and interpretive social sciences everywhere you look.

I will name just six:

- Significant research into historically understudied areas and the growing visibility of fields like disability studies and indigenous studies, to name just two areas;
- The growth of multimodal, transcultural, collaborative, and applied work, like the Institute for Practical Ethics at the University of California at San Diego;
- Interdisciplinary and applied programs that are attracting and holding undergraduates, such as the applied humanities program at the University of Arizona;
- Majors combining the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, like those gathered in the report *Branches from the Same Tree*, published by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine;
- Exciting growth in general education programs like the Cornerstone Project at Purdue University, funded by the Teagle Foundation; and



- The growing reach and ambition of public humanities programs like those NEH Chair Shelly Lowe described in our conversation yesterday.

Still, we can't ignore the migration of undergraduates to STEM and business-related fields and the decline of the tenure track jobs available to new PhDs. So while we celebrate the success stories, we also inject a sense of urgency into our efforts to encourage and reward ambitious work in scholarship, teaching, and administration that promises to find broad readership, to attract greater numbers of students and majors, and to advocate for our fields.

Speaking of traditional academic practice raises another dynamic tension to our attention. We deeply value curiosity-driven and highly specialized scholarship. The unpredictability and free play of human curiosity is a crucial driver of understanding and for us is a *sine qua non* ("without which, nothing"). But from our perch at ACLS we also see how rare and difficult it is to ask critical questions about how our research questions are formed and which are most valued.

As Peter Miller of the Bard Graduate Center points out in the introduction to his short book, *What Is Research?*, we spend, globally, over a trillion dollars on research, and there are roughly 164 million works categorized as "research" that you can consult in the United States Library of Congress catalog. But if you look in the Library of Congress under "the history of research," you will find a tiny number of works—just over 40—that give deep critical consideration to the historical arc of scholarly and scientific questions.

Miller is right on target when he suggests that we need to think more critically about the scholarship we are doing and valuing, partly because it advances familiar questions. We will improve our scholarship when we ask: For whom are we doing our work? Are we accountable to anyone other than ourselves? Might we ask better questions? How do we define "better" in the first place? Who is the "we" here? We need to ask these critical questions in constructive, generous ways, and those who want to advocate for traditional modes of scholarship need to avoid reacting defensively, as though asking these questions is equivalent to an attack. Again, I think of Anthony Caro: those arcs of steel, I-bars, and slabs.

One more example of tightrope walking. At ACLS, we don't want to be or be seen as partisan. We believe in dialogue across difference. But we also see the attempt to erase entire fields of study in Florida, the beginning of the end of tenure in Texas, the bans on teaching and studying concepts that have been misleadingly labeled as "divisive" in states including Georgia and Tennessee. The systematic challenges to academic freedom across the country demand that organizations like ACLS avoid party politics but boldly advocate on behalf of dialogue and the free exchange of ideas and against censorship. I hope you all stay tuned for a new statement of principles on this topic.

One thing we are absolutely certain of at ACLS: the value of scholarship, broadly defined. As I wrote in the January 2023 ACLS community newsletter, humanistic scholars make visible that which would otherwise remain invisible. They nourish care for things and people unknown to us before. If we are to understand the wicked problems of the world, we must create more space for humanistic study and teaching.

No single organization can achieve this ambitious goal alone. Working in collaboration with others, ACLS is ideally placed to strengthen the humanities and social sciences—and by doing so, we can help make academia a better profession where everyone can flourish. We hold a valuable spot in American higher education, as a hub of exchange among learned societies, schools, scholars, and groups like Imagining America and Bringing Theory to Practice. Our ability to connect and convene is all the more valuable at a moment when the forces of competition and financial austerity encourage the isolation of institutions and individuals. We are fortunate to have respect and visibility due to our grantmaking, which does good in and of itself and builds trust and confidence in us across fields, as we seek to encourage new directions and to support emerging and under-represented scholars. Our work with the learned societies and with our member universities allows us to circulate ideas and action plans that improve the professional experiences of doctoral students and faculty. Our excellent relations with organizations like the National Humanities

Alliance help us advocate for scholarship and its value in the world through public events and, increasingly, research into the state of higher education and advocacy for our fields.

In our first Strategic Priorities, which are guiding our work through the end of 2024, we announced our commitment to future-proofing humanistic scholarship by strengthening academic infrastructure and solving problems together in our several networks of societies and institutions. Most of our sustainable achievement in this area has taken place through convenings and workshops that tackle problems or weak points at the level of the academic system, transcending individual institutions or fields. To quote our second strategic priority, we are solving problems together.

*How can we get more humanists into academic administration, to help fight the good fight in the offices of deans and provosts? How can we help equip administrators to humanize administrative processes?*

The Luce Design Workshop for a New Academy created the platform for the Leadership Institute for a New Academy, or LINA, which this year is bringing together over 60 deans online and in summer workshops to share strategies and build sustainable networks of mutual support. We have begun circulating a quarterly newsletter on the New Academy initiatives, and Program Officer Heather Hewett and Research Associate Treviene Harris, based at the University of Pittsburgh, have produced an ACLS guide designed for beginning doctoral students and the faculty who teach them—a collection of best practices in doctoral education. At the LINA meetings in New York this summer, we will discuss “blueprints for change,” models of curricular and research practice that show the most promise of securing the humanities and the social sciences for the future.

*How can we continue the work of legitimating and preserving digital scholarship, in the service of field building, and strengthen understudied areas of scholarship?*

Our Commission for Fostering and Sustaining Diverse Digital Scholarship is answering those questions; we will make their work public in the coming academic year.

*How can we advance equity and a sense of belonging across all fields and areas of study?*

Senior Program Officer Jovonne Bickerstaff, who leads the Intention Foundry, asked Chair Lowe yesterday how we move from inviting more and different people to the table to empowering more and different people to set the agenda and design the solutions. The Intention Foundry and the society-specific projects it incubates do just that, by empowering scholars of color, most of them early career scholars, to set the agenda and design solutions in collaboration with learned society executive directors.

*How can we ensure better access to fellowships and grants?*

Our new HBCU faculty fellowship, led by Senior Director John Paul Christy and Program Officer Derisa Grant, is our latest effort on this front, and we're grateful for the generosity of many HBCU faculty and administrators who offered crucial guidance, helping us to design this program. In a recent visit to Morgan State University, I was asked by a faculty member: “Why focus on HBCUs?” Relying on what I have learned from Professor Jelani Favors of North Carolina A&T, who spoke to us earlier today, I answered: their historical under-funded status yet “over-achieving” profile, given the powerful contributions of HBCU faculty and students to scholarship and society; the crucial role of HBCUs in accelerating social and political change; and the ongoing impact and legacy of structural racism, which creates gaps of networking and access in the brutal hierarchy of American higher education. We look forward with excitement to the coming year, when we will launch this new program.

*How can we assist the movement to ensure free access to scholarly knowledge?*

The Arcadia Open Books Prize just announced yesterday is our latest effort in promoting access to knowledge:

it incentivizes both authors and presses to publish books open to all. Our work on making knowledge accessible develops earlier projects at ACLS. The Digital Commission builds on our many years of offering Digital Extension Grants; it also ties back to my predecessor Pauline Yu's convening, leading to the 2006 publication of *Our Cultural Commonwealth: The Report of the ACLS Commission on Cyberinfrastructure for the Humanities and the Social Sciences*. Other efforts represent new directions: the Intention Foundry, which seeks to increase the inclusivity of fields across the humanities and social sciences, was funded to the tune of \$2 million thanks to a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation in 2019.

Effective action for change requires accurate assessments of current conditions. The scarcity of reliable facts about doctoral outcomes and other matters means (as David Scobey of *Bringing Theory to Practice* said earlier today) that the humanities and social sciences must themselves be the object of well-designed research programs that identify strengths and weaknesses. We already benefit from the Humanities Indicators at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, led by Rob Townsend and his colleagues; we will soon benefit from the MLA's new research programs. ACLS is lucky to have strong allies doing research into current conditions in the humanities and social sciences.

This year, we took steps to better position ACLS as a known resource for research into selected elements of humanistic scholarship and practice. Program Officer Jessica Taylor, until recently a staffer at the Humanities Indicators, is conducting research on the outcomes of the Mellon Public Fellows Program. Program Officer Sarah McKee, who ran *Digital Publishing in the Humanities*, a Mellon-sponsored program at Emory University, is focusing on innovation in the area of open publishing.

The point of gaining knowledge is to circulate it. You are all key nodes in the circulation, whatever your society, field, organization, or school. Our networks are growing: since 2019, we have been expanding our membership groups, starting with the Council itself. Over the past few years, we have welcomed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and the National Women's Studies Association as well as Italian Studies and the Philosophy of Science Association. You vote on the membership of the Society for the Social Studies of Science today. With the help of our Board Working Group for Societies, we continue to seek out conversation with other vibrant scholarly communities, both in emerging areas of study and long-established fields, who would benefit from membership. We are confident that we will benefit from their presence! We are mindful that some groups already belong to our current member societies, so we move cautiously and consultatively, but our list of member societies sends a strong public message about our identity and values: we are committed to inclusive expansion.

We are in a spasmodic moment in American society and higher education. We see the erosion of the norms of democratic politics, respect for others, freedom of speech, the free quest for knowledge. I hope this overview of ACLS activities demonstrates our commitment to grand principles and also to the hard incremental work of the everyday.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead ACLS. It is an honor and pleasure to be working with smart colleagues on worthy goals and key issues in higher education. I welcome questions, and I ask that you take what you learn here back home with you. We are stronger together!



ACLS Fellow Carlos Macías Prieto F23 reads the manuscript of Codex Chimalpahin at the National Library of Mexico.

# 2023 Fellowship and Grant Competition Awardees

ACLS is committed to maintaining the highest standards in the administration of our programs and the ways we support the hundreds of fellows and grantees we award each year. ACLS continues to develop programming to increase engagement with and among fellows around the world, with the goal of providing networks of support concerning issues of societal engagement, public scholarship, and diverse career pathways for PhDs. We work closely with scholarly communities, partners, and allies in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America as part of our ongoing efforts to advance the growth and circulation of humanistic study. ACLS continually and intensively assesses and refines each of our programs—application materials, related outreach and promotion, nominating procedures, review processes, and support to awardees. As a result, our awardees are more diverse than ever, and we will continue to develop and expand programs that represent the highest standard of inclusive excellence in the quality of the scholarship we support.



# ACLS Fellows

The ACLS Fellowship Program is the oldest and among the most popular in the ACLS portfolio. Reflecting our core belief that diversity enhances the scholarly enterprise, these fellowships recognize academic excellence among scholars working across all sectors of higher education as well as independent scholars. The program spans the broad spectrum of humanities and interpretive social sciences. For the 2022–2023 competition year, with the disproportionate effect the current economic downturn has on emerging, independent, and untenured scholars, ACLS continued to offer these fellowships solely to untenured scholars who have earned a PhD within eight years of the application deadline.

This program is funded primarily by the ACLS endowment, which has benefited from the generous support of esteemed institutions and individuals including the Mellon Foundation, Arcadia Charitable Trust, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the ACLS Research University Consortium and Associate members, past fellows, and friends of ACLS.

## Mal Ahern

Assistant Professor, Cinema and Media Studies,  
University of Washington  
*Factory Forms: Making Copies in the Age of Automation*

## Keitlyn Alcantara

Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Indiana University  
Bloomington  
*Recipes of Resistance: An Archaeology of the Past and Present*

## Corinne Bayerl

Instructor, Clark Honors College, University of Oregon  
*The Stage on Trial: Transnational Opposition Against the Theatre in Early Modern Europe*

## Kalzang Dorjee Bhutia

Visiting Scholar, East Asian Studies, University of  
Southern California  
*Returning the Temple: Recovering and Repatriating  
Sikkimese Buddhism from Colonial Structures*

## Roya Biggie

Assistant Professor, English, Knox College  
*Sympathetic Ecologies in Early Modern English  
Tragedies*  
ACLS Carl and Betty Pforzheimer Fellow in English and  
American Literature

## Brian E. Bond

Visiting Lecturer, Music, University of California, Berkeley  
*Singing Islam: Sufi Music and Socio-religious Change  
on India's Western Border*  
ACLS Susan McClary and Robert Walser Fellow in Music  
Studies

## Hilary Buxton

Assistant Professor, History, Kenyon College  
*Disabled Empire: Decolonizing Care and the First World  
War in Imperial Britain*

## Kendra Calhoun

Assistant Professor, Anthropology, University of  
California, Los Angeles  
*#BlackPeopleBeLike: Discursive constructions of  
contemporary race, culture, and African American  
identity on TikTok*

## Tristan Call

Independent Scholar  
*Migration and Captive Labor in the Pandemic South*

## Zachary Cagle

Postdoctoral Scholar, Archaeology and Heritage Studies,  
Aarhus University  
*The Human Asteroid Strikes Florida: The Mining  
Landscapes and Anthropogeochimistry of Phosphorus*

## Sarah Aurelia Carson

Lecturer, History, Dartmouth College  
*Weathering Prediction: Forecasts, Nature, and Political  
Power in Modern India*

## Melanie Chambliss

Assistant Professor, Humanities, History, and Social  
Sciences, Columbia College Chicago  
*History in the Making: Black Archives, Black Liberation,  
and the Remaking of Modernity*  
ACLS Oscar Handlin Fellow in American History

**Sandy F. Chang**

Assistant Professor, History, University of Florida  
*Across the South Seas: Gender, Intimacy, and Chinese Migration to British Malaya, 1877–1940*  
ACLS Frederic E. Wakeman, Jr. Fellow in Chinese History

**Jerome Clark**

Assistant Professor, New College, Arizona State University West  
*Bundling: A Diné Theory and Practice of Storying and Future-Making*

**Mali Collins**

Assistant Professor, Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies, American University  
*Scrap Theory: Reproductive Injustice in the Contemporary Black Feminist Imagination*

**José A. de la Garza Valenzuela**

Assistant Professor, Latina/Latino Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Queer in a Legal Sense: Brown Citizenship and Other Lawful Fictions*

**Nicholas Carby Denning**

Visiting Assistant Professor, International Studies, Bryn Mawr College  
*Ecuadorian Visions of Post-Oil Futurity*

**Yuri W. Doolan**

Assistant Professor, History, Brandeis University  
*America’s Comfort Women: Legacies of Military Prostitution in Cold War Asia and the Pacific*

**Guadalupe Escobar**

Assistant Professor, English & Gender, Race, and Identity, University of Nevada, Reno  
*Decolonial Witnessing: The Post–Cold War Testimonio of Human Rights*

**Karma Frierson**

Assistant Professor, African and African American Studies, Washington University in St. Louis  
*Yes, in Part: Expectations of Blackness in Multicultural Mexico*  
ACLS/Marwan M. and Ute Kraidy Centennial Fellowship in the Study of the Arab World and Latin America



ACLS Susan McClary and Robert Walser Fellow Brian Bond F’23 with the kâfi singer Arab Jat of Kachchh, Gujarat.

**Hannah Clare Frydman**

Assistant Professor, French and Italian Studies, University of Washington  
*Between the Sheets: Classified Advertising, Sexuality, and the Moral Threat to Press Freedom in France*  
ACLS Morton N. Cohen and Richard N. Swift Fellow

**Linda R. Gosner**

Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures, Texas Tech University  
*Mining Matters: Industry, Community, and Empire in Roman Iberia*  
ACLS Barrington Foundation Centennial Fellow

**Eric J. Harvey**

Independent Scholar  
*Blindness Lived and Imagined in the Ancient Middle East*



ACLS Fellow Shoniqua Roach F'21 gives a lecture titled "The Black Bedroom" at Brown University's Pembroke Center.

**Rebecca H. Hogue**

Lecturer, History & Literature and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Harvard University  
*Nuclear Archipelagos: Radiation Empires and Indigenous Resistance in the Pacific*

**Sam Holley-Kline**

Teaching Fellow, University Honors, University of Maryland, College Park  
*A Labor History of Mexican Archaeology*

**Mai-Linh K. Hong**

Assistant Professor, Literatures, Languages, and Cultures, University of California, Merced  
*Perilous Telling: Story in the Shadow of the Refugee Regime*

**Jang Wook Huh**

Assistant Professor, American Ethnic Studies, University of Washington  
*"Afro-Korean" Encounters: The Literary Intersections of Black Liberation Struggles in the US and Anticolonial Movements in Korea, 1910–1953*

**Bebel R. Ibarra**

Adjunct Faculty, Professional Advancement, Tulane University  
*Empowering Voices of the Dead: The Role of Descendant Communities Decolonizing the Interpretation of Archaeological Data on Mortuary Practices in Peru*

**Hyeok Hweon Kang**

Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Washington University in St. Louis  
*Artisanal Heart: The Vernacular Engineers of Early Modern Korea*

**Dana Kornberg**

Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara  
*The Garbage Economy: Pursuing Money and Scrap in Urban India's Casted Institutions*

**Son Ca Lam**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Geography, Dartmouth College  
*Lost (in) Time: Making Home in Diasporic Space and Time*



**Ashleigh A. Lawrence-Sanders**

Assistant Professor, History, University of Colorado Boulder

*They Knew What the War Was About: African Americans and the Memory of the Civil War*

**Sina Lee**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, The College of Wooster

*The Other Mother of My Child: Transnational Solidarity among Transnational Korean Adoptees, Adoptive Mothers, and Birth Mothers*

**Patrick Lozar**

Assistant Professor, Native American Studies, Salish Kootenai College

*Crossing Homelands: Native Nations and the US-Canadian Border on the Columbia Plateau*

**Carlos Macías Prieto**

Assistant Professor, Romance Languages, Williams College

*Nahua Writing at a Moment of Crisis: Domingo Chimalpahin's Preservation of the Cemanahuac Archive in Colonial Mexico*

**Elise Mitchell**

Postdoctoral Fellow, History, Princeton University

*Morbid Geographies: Enslavement, Epidemics, and Embodiment in the Early Modern Atlantic World*

**Jocelyn Rachel Moore**

Visiting Scholar, Classics, University of Virginia

*If the House Would Speak: The House and Greek Tragedy's Collective Vision*

**Nicholas C. Morgan**

Lecturer, Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University

*Busy Doing Nothing: Queer Anti-Work Experiments in Art, Film, and Life in the Cybernated 1960s*

**Isadora Moura Mota**

Assistant Professor, History, Princeton University

*On Their Own Terms: Literacy, Slavery, and the Archives of Afro-Brazilian History*

**Benjamin Kofi Nutor**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Texas A&M University

*The Peki in the Atlantic World: Landscapes, Power, and Identities of Slavery in West Africa*

**James Padilioni**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Religion, Swarthmore College

*To Ask Infinity Some Questions: San Martín de Porres and the Black Hagiographic Mysteries of Florida*

**Mezna Qato**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Newnham College, University of Cambridge, UK

*Education in Exile: Palestinians and Postwar Regeneration*

**Mariam Rahmani**

Lecturer, Comparative Literature, University of California, Los Angeles

*Queerness in Translation, from Persian to English and Back*

ACLS Pauline Yu Fellow in Comparative Literature

**Yuridia Ramirez**

Assistant Professor, History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*Indigeneity on the Move: Transborder Politics from Michoacán to North Carolina*

**Caleb Richard Scoville**

Assistant Professor, Sociology, Tufts University

*Stupid Little Fish: Extraction, Conservation, and the Politics of Environmental Decline*

**Angelica Serna Jeri**

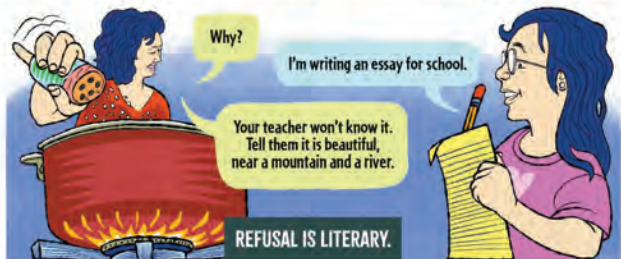
Assistant Professor, Spanish & Portuguese and Latin American Studies, University of New Mexico

*The Huarochiri Manuscript Archive: the Experience of Writing, Speaking and Translating Quechua*

**Tatsiana Shchurko**

Lecturer, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, The Ohio State University

*Haunting Aspirations, Scattered Intimacies: Resonances of Black Women's Travels to the Soviet Union (1920–1980) for Anti-Imperialist Feminist Solidarities Today*



**CAN REFUGEE STORY HELP US ENACT A REFUGEE POLITICS OF CARE?**



Pages of ACLS Fellow Mai-Linh Hong's F'23 visual project, a four-page comic related to her forthcoming book "Perilous Telling: On Refugee Story." Art credit: Eli Africa.

**Amanda Shubert**  
Lecturer, English and Communication Arts, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
*Seeing Things: Virtual Aesthetics in Victorian Culture*

**Emily Sibley**  
Affiliated Scholar, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Whitman College  
*The Poetics of Incivility: Satire and Subversion in Arab Culture*

**Gabriella Soto**  
Lecturer, Honors College, Arizona State University  
*Boundary Work: Ruination, Forensic Evidence, and Care for the Dead at the US-Mexico Border*

**Stephanie Michelle Strauss**  
Adjunct Professor, Art History, University of St. Thomas, MN  
*Inscribing Power: The Materiality of Script in Early Mesoamerican Art*  
ACLS H. and T. King Fellow in Ancient American Art and Culture

**Sara Ann Swenson**  
Assistant Professor, Religion, Dartmouth College  
*Near Light We Shine: Buddhist Charity and Urbanization in Vietnam*

**Kathryn Takabvirwa**  
Assistant Professor, Anthropology, University of Chicago  
*Citizens in Uniform: Policing Everyday Life in Zimbabwe*

**Michael Sy Uy**  
Lecturer, Music, Harvard University  
*Endowing Equity: The NEA's Expansion Arts Division and Funding the Underfunded, 1971–1995*

**Pamela N. Walker**  
Assistant Professor, Communication, History, and Philosophy, Texas A&M University-San Antonio  
*Signed, Sealed, Delivered: How Black and White Mothers used the Box Project and the Postal System to Fight Hunger and Feed the Mississippi Freedom Movement*

**Joshua Williams**

Visiting Assistant Professor, English and Theater Arts,  
Brandeis University  
*The Animal Subaltern: Performing Race and Species in East Africa*

**Kim Williams-Pulfer**

Independent Scholar  
*The Black Center: Tracing the Strategies and Capacity of African Diasporic Arts and Cultural Networks*

**Diane Wong**

Assistant Professor, Political Science and Global Urban Studies, Rutgers University–Newark  
*You Can't Evict a Movement: Intergenerational Activism and Housing Justice in New York City, 1960–2020*

**Terrance Wooten**

Assistant Professor, Black Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara  
*Registered: Homelessness, Sex Offense, and Carceral Sexuality*

**Duygu Yildirim**

Assistant Professor, History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
*Uncertain Knowledge: The Making of Slow Science between the Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe*



“I come from a Mexican American working-class background. I was a first-generation college student. I am a rare breed in my discipline and in academia writ large. When I entered my PhD program, I knew I would need research support beyond the five years of funding I was guaranteed. The ACLS Susan McClary and Robert Walser Fellowship in Music Studies provided me the time off from teaching to complete my book first book, *Immaculate Sounds: The Musical Lives of Nuns in New Spain* (Oxford University Press, 2023) as well as to begin research on a second book project.”

**Cesar D. Favila F’22**

ACLS Susan McClary and Robert Walser Fellow in Music Studies  
Assistant Professor of Musicology  
University of California, Los Angeles



“My experience working with writing and writers in a variety of contexts helps me approach relationships, opportunities, and projects with curiosity rather than an agenda. Just as every piece of writing ‘teaches’ a reader how to read it, every step of a community-driven process needs to come from the community rather than be imposed from the outside.”

**Alison Turner F’22**

ACLS Leading Edge Fellow/Research and Data Coordinator  
Operation Shoestring

## ACLS Leading Edge Fellows

In 2023, ACLS named the fifth cohort of Leading Edge Fellows, and in September they began two-year career-building positions at nonprofits advancing social justice. This program demonstrates the value of advanced training in the humanities and interpretive social sciences and its applicability to work and careers advancing justice beyond the academy. Partners and positions in the 2023 competition offered a range of professional experiences as well as opportunities to advance reproductive justice, amplify the voices of young women, and advocate for the rights of elders, all while applying the diverse skills earned in course of the PhD.

This program is made possible by a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation.

**Kevin Salvador Alejandro**

PhD, Sociology, University of Kentucky  
Appointed as Learning and Impact Manager, Center for Cultural Power

**Elaine Kathryn Andres**

PhD, Culture & Theory, University of California, Irvine  
Appointed as Manager of Learning and Evaluation, Destiny Arts Center

**Cruz A. Arroyo**

PhD, English, University of Southern California  
Appointed as Movement Building and Capacity Strategist, Movement Advancement Project

**Jessica E. Auer**

PhD, History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Appointed as Tribal Broadband Policy Analyst, Institute for Local Self-Reliance

**Christine B. Case**

PhD, English, University of Pittsburgh  
Appointed as Narrative Strategy Specialist, Children’s Defense Fund



*Desiree Barron-Callaci, ACLS Senior Program Officer of US Programs (center), with ACLS Leading Edge Fellows Elizabeth Melton F'21 and Justine Esta Ellis F'21.*

**Kiara M. Childs**

PhD, Communication, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
 Appointed as Editor, Data & Society

**Ebenezer Concepcion**

PhD, Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Studies, University of Chicago  
 Appointed as Community Engagement and Advocacy Manager, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

**Johnathan Favini**

PhD, Sociocultural Anthropology, University of Virginia  
 Appointed as Data Inclusion Specialist, Open Environmental Data Project

**Tiara Giddings**

PhD, Sociology, Georgia State University  
 Appointed as Research and Policy Analyst, Campaign for Southern Equality

**Tina Grandinetti**

PhD, Global, Urban, and Social Studies, RMIT University (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology)  
 Appointed as Associate, Housing Futures, PolicyLink

**Lisa Gulya**

PhD, Sociology, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
 Appointed as Advocacy and Research Specialist, Gender Justice

**Mimi Howard**

PhD, Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge, UK  
 Appointed as Program Specialist, University Settlement Society of New York

**Corey Masao Johnson**

PhD, Modern Thought and Literature/Anthropology, Stanford University  
 Appointed as Research Manager, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

**Corinne Kentor**

PhD, Anthropology, Teachers College, Columbia University

Appointed as Policy and Communications Associate, Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration

**Brittney Knotts**

PhD, English, University of Pittsburgh

Appointed as Program Coordinator, Youth Activation, Vital Voices

**Nicole Navarro**

PhD, History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Appointed as Research Associate, Thurgood Marshall College Fund

**Amber T. A. Reid**

PhD, Humanities, Clark Atlanta University

Appointed as Research Analyst, The Afiya Center

# ACLS Project Development Grantees

ACLS Project Development Grants provide flexible seed funding to support faculty at teaching-intensive colleges and universities pursuing research projects with the potential to significantly advance areas of humanistic study. At a time when many smaller colleges and public institutions face pandemic-related budget constraints, this program reinforces the ACLS commitment to support promising scholars whose dedication to classroom teaching ensures that future generations can benefit from the insights gained through innovative new research.

This program is funded primarily by the ACLS endowment, which has benefited from the generous support of esteemed institutions and individuals including the Mellon Foundation, Arcadia Charitable Trust, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the ACLS Research University Consortium and Associate members, past fellows, and friends of ACLS.

**Edward Brudney**

Assistant Professor, History, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

*Changing the Rules of the Game: Labor, Law, and Citizenship in Argentina, 1973–1983*

**Francisco Chen-López**

Assistant Professor, World Languages and Cultures, Spelman College

*Mapping the Chinese Diaspora: Chinatowns in Latin American Narratives*

**Adam Lee Cilli**

Assistant Professor, Behavioral Sciences, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

*Necessary for My Release: Racial Policing and Criminal Justice Reform during the Great Migration*

**Christabel Devadoss**

Assistant Professor, Global Studies and Human Geography, Middle Tennessee State University  
*Rust Belt Representation: Race, Rurality, and Everyday Experiences*

**Nick Dorzweiler**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies, Wheaton College (MA)  
*On Air: Harold Lasswell, NBC Radio, and the Psychotherapy Program for the American Masses*

**Gaby Greenlee**

Adjunct Faculty, Art History, Santa Clara University  
*Inka Borders and the Power of Volatility: at the Fringes and Edges of Textile and Territory*

**Larissa Kopytoff**

Associate Professor, History, University of South Florida  
*Contested Claims: Law, Islam, and Citizenship in French Colonial Senegal*

**Juan Pedro Lamata**

Assistant Professor, English, California State University, Los Angeles  
*Masterless Renaissance: Rogue Form from Utopia to Hell*

**Judith Mansilla**

Instructor, History, Florida International University  
*The Legal and Social Limits of Corruption and Dishonest Behavior in Early Modern Lima, Peru*

**Nicholas McLeod**

Assistant Professor, History, Rider University  
*Practicing Pan-Africanism: West Indians, Governance, and Nation Building in Kwame Nkrumah's Ghana, 1949–1966*

**Diana Moore**

Adjunct Associate Professor, History, City University of New York, John Jay College  
*Navigating the Culture Wars: Religion and Feminism in Late Nineteenth-Century Italy*

**Josh Mund**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Tulane University  
*The Ethics of Humane Animal Agriculture*



Rebecca L. Walkowitz F'02 speaks at an ACLS Research University Consortium meeting.

**Osama Rehan Siddiqui**

Assistant Professor, History and Classics, Providence College  
*A Science of Society: Languages of Economic Thought in Colonial India*

**Monica Styles**

Assistant Professor, World Languages and Cultures, Howard University  
*Afro-Peruvians in the Colonial Latin American Literary Canon*

**Mimi Winick**

Affiliated Scholar, English, Virginia Commonwealth University  
*Ecstatic Inquiry: Religion, Literature, and the Feminist Mythological Imagination, 1870–1980*

# Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellows in the History of Art

The Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowships in the History of Art support outstanding early-career art historians worldwide whose projects stand to make substantial and original contributions to the understanding of art and its history.

This program is made possible by a generous grant from the Getty Foundation.

## **Bimbola Akinbola**

Assistant Professor, Performance Studies, Northwestern University

*Transatlantic Disbelongings: Anti-Respectability, Queer Kinships, and Diasporic Homemaking in Nigerian Women's Art*

## **Petya Andreeva**

Assistant Professor, Art and Design History and Theory, Parsons School of Design

*Visualizing the Early Soviet East: Posters, Politics and Pioneers in Central Asia (1917–1939)*

## **Irene Brisson**

Assistant Professor, Architecture, Louisiana State University

*Kreyòl Architectures: Design in Dialogue in Haitian House Building*

## **An Jiang**

Independent Scholar

*Painted Ceramic Vases in Ancient Greek Sanctuaries: Rethinking the Human Experience*

## **Aparna Kumar**

Assistant Professor, History of Art, University College London

*The Museum and Its Fragments: Dispossession and Writing the Border*

## **Julia Lum**

Assistant Professor, Art History, Scripps College  
*Landfalls: Art Between Britain and Polynesia*



2022 Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellows in the History of Art at their fellowship residency at the Getty Center in Los Angeles.



**Maria Lumbreras**

Assistant Professor, History of Art and Architecture,  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
*The Fracture of Evidence: Replication and the Past in  
Early Modern Iberia*

**Arathi Menon**

Assistant Professor, Art History, Hamilton College  
*Hipped & Gabled: The Sacred Art and Architecture of  
Malabar*

**Mira Xenia Schwerda**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies,  
University of Edinburgh  
*Between Art and Propaganda: Photographing  
Revolution in Modern Iran*

**Jessica A. Varner**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Humanities,  
University of Southern California  
*Chemical Desires: When the Chemical Industry Met  
Modern Design (1870–1970)*



“The Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowship benefited me in many ways. First, I was able to finish my book manuscript, which is already in the editing process with a university press in Mexico. Second, I was able to meet a group of fantastic young scholars who are rethinking art history from new directions. The cluster of Getty/ACLS fellows I had the opportunity to meet gave me certainty about the importance of our work and the need to keep thinking about/from images in the 21st century. Third, the prestige of this award helped make my work more widely known.”

**Luis Vargas-Santiago F'20**

Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of Art)  
Researcher, Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas  
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México



“ACLS gave me a way into the world of academic research. It also exposed me to some great mentors who pushed me in my work, making it sharper. Because the fellowship program has a built-in mentoring component, it gave me a space to experiment with my thinking, testing some new ideas. The space of supportive experimentation and critical feedback has been really helpful in building out the shape of my current project.”

**Darren Byler F’21, G’14**

Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellow in China Studies,  
Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies Predissertation-  
Summer Travel Grantee)  
Assistant Professor, International Studies  
Simon Fraser University

## Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellows in China Studies

The Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies seeks to promote and sustain excellence in research on China in the US and Canada, with a special emphasis on early-career scholars and the strengthening of scholarly networks. Early Career Fellowships support outstanding scholars preparing PhD dissertation research for publication or embarking on new research projects.

The program is made possible by the generosity of the Henry Luce Foundation, with additional funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Chloe Estep**

Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages and  
Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania  
*Print Classicism: Poetry, Politics, and Media in  
Republican China, 1911–1949*

**Adam K. Frost**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Business Humanities and Law,  
Copenhagen Business School  
*Reimagining Informality: A Microhistorical Study of  
Shifting Formal/Informal Boundaries in Post-Socialist  
China*

**Xiaofei Gao**

Assistant Professor, History, University of Colorado  
Denver  
*The Blue Revolution: Maritime Connections and Coastal  
Communities in Modern China, 1910–2010*

**Yidong Gong**

Assistant Professor, Division of Social Sciences, New  
College of Florida  
*On the Fringe of Care: The Terrain of China’s Medical  
Engagement in South Sudan*

**Aynur Kadir**

Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Studies,  
University of British Columbia  
*Safekeeping Culture*



Jue Liang F'23, F'19, G'16, awardee of the Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies and The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies, researching at Larung Gar in Tibet.

**Ja Won Lee**

Assistant Professor, Art, California State University, East Bay

*Culture on Display: Collecting and Representing Chinese Antiquities in Korea, 1700–1910*

**Lin Li**

Assistant Professor, History, University of St. Thomas, MN  
*Fighting the Memory War in China and Beyond: A Transnational History of Remembering “Comfort Women”*

**Yifei Li**

Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, New York University Shanghai  
*Environmentalism of, by, and for the Chinese State*

**Jue Liang**

Assistant Professor, Religion, Denison University  
*A Library of Her Own: The Literary Everyday of Tibet’s First Female Philosophers*

**Yun-chen Lu**

Assistant Professor, History of Art and Architecture, DePaul University  
*Paths to Artistic Eccentricity: Artists with Disabilities and Their Art in Eighteenth-Century Yangzhou*

**Xu Ma**

Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Lafayette College  
*Boudoir, Buddha, and Body: Re-Imagining Social and Religious Spaces for Women in Late Imperial China*

**Chelsea Zi Wang**

Assistant Professor, History, Claremont McKenna College  
*Logistics of Empire: Governance and Spatial Friction in Ming China, 1368–1644*

**Matthew West**

Lecturer, Global Affairs, George Mason University  
*Written Property, Public Secrets, and the Re-Making of Global Flows: The Production of Taiwanese Semiconductor Patents between the United States and China*

**Andrew Womack**

Assistant Professor, Asian Studies; Anthropology, Furman University  
*The Tao River Archaeological Project: Mapping Proto–Silk Road Interactions in Northwestern China*

**Hong Zhang**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University  
*Chinese State Capital and Global Infrastructure Development*

# Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellows in American Art

The Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowships in American Art are awarded to promising doctoral candidates as they pursue dissertations on the history of the visual arts of the United States, including all facets of Native American art.

This program is made possible by a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation.

## **Dusti Cheyenne Bridges**

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, Cornell University  
*(Re)lating Archaeological Collections: Hodinöhsö:ni' Art, Colonialist Histories, and Indigenous Futurities in Archaeological Research*

## **Ashley E. Kim Duffey**

Doctoral Candidate, Art History, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
*(Re)visioning Kinship: Photographies of U.S.-Korean Adoption since 1953*

## **Sonja Elena Gandert**

Doctoral Candidate, Art History, City University of New York, The Graduate Center  
*La resolana: Chicano Artistic Imaginaries of Place, Race, and Activism in New Mexico and Texas, 1969–1985*

## **Emma McMath Kennedy**

Doctoral Candidate, Art History, Northwestern University  
*Entangled Lives: The Representation of Blackness and Indigeneity in Contemporary Art*

## **Phillippa Pitts**

Doctoral Candidate, History of Art & Architecture, Boston University  
*Pharmacoepic Dreams: Art and America's Medical Democracy, 1800–1860*

## **Elizabeth Driscoll Smith**

Doctoral Candidate, History of Art & Architecture, University of California, Santa Barbara  
*Build/Live/Work: Artist-Built Environments and the Expanded Vernacular in the Twentieth Century*  
*Ellen Holtzman Fellow*

## **Meshell Lea Sturgis**

Doctoral Candidate, Communication, University of Washington  
*The Political Aesthetics of Black Girl Magic: Self-Representation in Alternative Media*

## Luce/ACLS Collaborative Programming Grantees in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs

The Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs aims to deepen public understanding of the role religion plays in global public life by allowing fellows to pursue significant scholarly research on religion and to connect their specialist knowledge directly with journalists and media partners.

This program is made possible by the generous support of the Henry Luce Foundation.

### **Arizona State University**

*Muslims in the Media: Empowering Youth Engagement through Global Perspectives*

Yasmin Saikia, Professor, History, Arizona State University

Chad Haines, Associate Professor, Religious Studies, Arizona State University

Syed Ali Hussain, Assistant Professor, College of Communication, Arizona State University

### **Northeastern University**

*The Sacred Writes Extended Fellowship Program for Untenured Scholars*

Elizabeth Bucar, Professor, Religious Studies, Northeastern University

Jeb Sharp, Associate Teaching Professor, School of Journalism, Northeastern University

Brook Wilensky-Lanford, Associate Director, Sacred Writes Public Scholarship on Race, Justice, and Religion, Northeastern University

## Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellows

These fellowships provide support at the formative stage of dissertation development, allowing time and support for emerging scholars to apply innovative approaches to their work. The program seeks to expand the range of research methodologies, formats, and areas of inquiry traditionally considered suitable for the dissertation, with a particular focus on supporting scholars who can build a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable academy.

This program is made possible by a grant from the Mellon Foundation.

### **Sergio Alarcón Robledo**

Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University

*From Archives to Soundscape analysis: Architectural change and power display in Early Dynastic Egypt*

### **Gokh Amin Alshaif**

Doctoral Candidate, History, University of California, Santa Barbara

*Native Outsiders: The Black Muhamasheen of Yemen*

### **Aja J. Antoine-Jones**

Doctoral Candidate, Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

*Policing, Pollution, Plague: Breath and Death in an Unequal Society*

### **Musa K. Azimli**

Doctoral Candidate, History, University of Virginia

*The Imperial Slave Market in Istanbul*

### **Nicola Chávez Courtright**

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles

*Archive, memory and emotion in Salvadoran LGBTQ+ organizing*

**Janessa M. Chinana**

Doctoral Candidate, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington  
*Xaadlāa Gwáay.yaay: Indigenous Border Nationhood and Haida Governance Across Settler-States*

**Danielle Davis**

Doctoral Candidate, Musicology, Florida State University  
*Virginian Hip-hop in Hampton Roads: Investigating the Production of Place in the Tidewater Trio's Music from 1990–2005*

**Ash Duhrkoop**

Doctoral Candidate, Art, University of Virginia  
*When the Dust Unsettles: Modernism and Extractivism in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)*

**Taaja El-Shabazz**

Doctoral Candidate, History, Brown University  
*The Many-Threaded Hydra: A Patchwork Labor History of the American Womenswear Industry, 1924–1941*

**Alfredo Escudero**

Doctoral Candidate, History, Florida International University  
*The Land Is the Laboratory: Indigenous Labor, Land Inspections and the Engineering of the Colonial Andes*

**Nohely Guzmán Narváez**

Doctoral Candidate, Geography, University of California, Los Angeles  
*Intimate Encounters and the Conquest of the Amazon: The Affective Infrastructures of China's Geopolitical Frontier-making in Bolivia*

**Tiên Dung Hà**

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, Stanford University  
*Science and Spirit: Searching for the remains of Vietnam's MIAs four decades later*

**Johanna Hernández-Pérez**

Doctoral Candidate, Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles  
*Negotiating Blackness: How Jamaica and Puerto Rico Represent Race for Tourism*

**Alaba Ilesanmi**

Doctoral Candidate, Musicology, Florida State University  
*The Sound of Black Solidarity: (Re)Incarnations of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti in the Global Black Politics and Soundscapes*

**Larissa A. Juip**

Doctoral Candidate, Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University  
*Re-Storying an Industrial Landscape: Moving Beyond Traditional Approaches to Heritage Interpretation*

**Rae Ke'ala Kuruhara**

Doctoral Student, English, University of California, Los Angeles  
*Man(g)a, Mo'olelo, and the Many Bodied Forms of Indigenous Comics*

**Anthony A. Landers**

Doctoral Candidate, Sociology, Rutgers University–New Brunswick  
*Prisons as Sinks: Mapping the Slow Violence of Carceral Spaces*

**Jessica R Locklear**

Doctoral Student, History, Emory University  
*The Other Lands We Know: Intergenerational Histories of Lumbee Mobility, 1880–1980*

**Elsa Lora**

Doctoral Candidate, African and African American Studies, Harvard University  
*Mothers of Crime: Family and the Making of the US Carceral State, 1877–2016*

**Joyce Sauann Lu**

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, Rutgers University–New Brunswick  
*“Se embolsan los animalitos”: the changing biosocial life of antibiotics in the western highlands of Guatemala*

**Khadeeja M. Majoka**

Doctoral Candidate, Religion, Columbia University  
*Faqiri: Subaltern Religion in a Neoliberal City*

**Andreina Malki**

Doctoral Candidate, Geography, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
*Tracing Racial Capitalism in Place: Indigenous Dispossession, Plantations, and Private Immigrant Incarceration in North Carolina*



Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellow Alaba Ilesanmi F'23 (middle) with members of the Afrobeat band Eparapo as part of his fieldwork in London.

**Edward Kenneth Lazaro Nadurata**

Doctoral Candidate, Global and International Studies, University of California, Irvine  
*Reimagining Care: Aging, Retirement and Neoliberal Governance in the Philippines*

**Ayaan Natala**

Doctoral Candidate, American Studies, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
*Recovering Freedom Dreams: Black Lives Matter and New Visions of Black Liberation in Minnesota*

**Jermani Ojeda-Ludena**

Doctoral Candidate, Spanish and Portuguese, University of Texas at Austin  
*The Indigenous Rhetoric's Resurgence: The Quechua Radio Broadcasting Creates a Sonorous Community and Challenges Settler Voices*

**Joel Daniel Olea-Calixto**

Doctoral Candidate, History, University of California, Davis  
*Studying for Corporate Imperialism: Mining Colleges, Racial Capitalism, and the Rise of Mexico's Mining Technocrats, 1908–1996*

**Chijioke K. Onah**

Doctoral Candidate, Literatures in English, Cornell University  
*Toxic Intimacies: The (Bio)Politics of Waste and Disposability in Africa and African Diaspora*

**Nnenna Onuoha**

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, Harvard University  
*Monumental Silences: de/post/Colonial Remembrance along the Wilhelmstraße and the M-Straße, Berlin, Germany*

**Michele D. Pflug**

Doctoral Candidate, History, University of Oregon  
*Hidden Histories of Insect Collections: Women, Empire, and Entomology in the Early Eighteenth Century*

**Joshua K. Reason**

Doctoral Candidate, Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania  
*Brazil After Dark: Memory, Haunting, and Desire in Northern-Northeastern Brazil*



Left: Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellow Brandon Scott F'23 explores bald cypress stands in Big Thicket National Preserve, TX, as part of his fieldwork; Right: Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellow Sanggay Tashi F'23 (right) participates in community-engaged research training at University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

**Kristen Reynolds**

Doctoral Candidate, American Studies, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

*The Human in the Machine: Black Speculation and Revolutionary Technoculture Beyond the Human*

**Maurice Rippel**

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, Yale University  
*"A Different Type of Time": Modernity, Mobility, and Quiet Violence in the Black Atlantic*

**Soyoon Ryu**

Doctoral Candidate, History of Art, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

*We Live Here: Collectivization and Art in the Field in East and Southeast Asia, 1972–1992*

**Ha'ani Lucia Falo San Nicolas**

Doctoral Candidate, Political Science, University of Hawaii at Manoa

*Famalao'an CHamoru, Reproductive Liberation, and Resurgent Poetics*

**Carine Schermann**

Doctoral Candidate, Modern Languages and Linguistics, Florida State University

*Under the Skin: Monstrosity, Myth-Making, and Resistance Across and Beyond the Haitian-Dominican Border*

**Brandon O. Scott**

Doctoral Candidate, Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

*The American Grove: On Nineteenth Century Vegetal Aesthetics*

**Brayan Serratos Garcia**

Doctoral Candidate, Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University

*Navigating the Cross and Crossing the Sea: Collaborative Knowledge-Production, Visual Literacies, and Racial Formations in Spanish Asia and America*

**Destry Maria Sibley**

Doctoral Candidate, English, City University of New York, The Graduate Center

*After Mother: Genres of the Maternal in Twenty-First Century American Memoir*

**Margie Tang-Oxley**

Doctoral Candidate, History, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

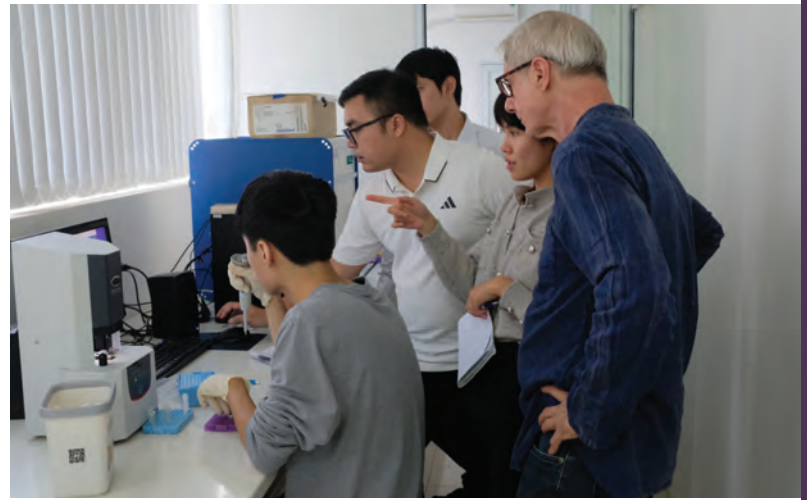
*The "Oriental Julia Child": Chinese American Cuisine, Gendered Orientalism, and the Cold War*

**Sanggay Tashi**

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder

*Indigenous Innovations: Nomadic Agency, State Intervention, and Community-Based Research in Amdo Tibet, China*





Left: Photo from Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellow Sanggay Tashi's F'23 community-engaged research training at University of Hawai'i at Manoa; Right: Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellow Tiên Dung Hà F'23 attends scientific training with a Vietnamese forensic scientist at a forensic lab in the Netherlands.

### **Merve Tekgürler**

Doctoral Candidate, History, Stanford University  
*Crucible of Empire: Danubian Borderlands and the Making of Ottoman Administrative Mentalities*

### **Nic Vigilante**

Doctoral Candidate, Music, Cornell University  
*Rethinking Ethnography in a Pandemic and Beyond: Sonic Performances of the Unreal in QTAPI Nightlife, Virtual Reality, and Esports*

### **Anca Wilkening**

Doctoral Candidate, The Study of Religion, Harvard University  
*Red Sisters, Womanly Fathers, and Queer Domesticities: Radical Pietism, Kinship, and Intimacy in Lenape and Mohican Homelands*

### **Travis Wright**

Doctoral Candidate, History, Indiana University  
Bloomington  
*You Can Help: SNCC, the Friends of SNCC and the Struggle for Black Freedom*

### **Alan T. Yeh**

Doctoral Candidate, French, University of California, Berkeley  
*Con ăn cơm chưa? Refugee Lessons on Feeding and Care in the Vietnamese Diaspora*

## **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies**

This program offers an articulated set of fellowship and grant competitions that will expand the understanding and interpretation of Buddhist thought in scholarship and society, strengthen international networks of Buddhist studies, and increase the visibility of innovative currents in those studies. Awards showcase a rich diversity of languages, historical periods, and locations of research, which reflect the wide variety of Buddhist traditions around the world.

Each of the competitions in this program is made possible by a generous grant from The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global.



“The Buddhism Public Scholar fellowship offered through ACLS has opened a new career path to me, allowing me to learn an entirely new skill set and preparing me for a career in public humanities in the sphere of curatorial or other museum work.”

**Hillary Langberg F’22**

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholar  
National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian Institution

## The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholars

This innovative program places early-career scholars of Buddhism in professional positions for up to two years with host organizations, including museums and publishers, that study the traditions of Buddhism. Awardees use their academic knowledge and professional experience to bolster the capacity of host organizations in sharing knowledge in Buddhist art and thought across all traditions and locations in which Buddhism is practiced.

**Jesse Drian**

PhD, East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Southern California  
*Appointed as a Public Scholar to the Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library, University of California, Los Angeles*

**Dessislava Vendova**

PhD, Religion, Columbia University  
*Appointed as a Public Scholar to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*



Past awardees attend the 2023 Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies Early Career Retreat in Laramie, WY.

# The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellows in Buddhist Studies

Dissertation Fellowships enable outstanding doctoral candidates around the world to devote a year to preparing dissertations on Buddhist traditions.

## Kelly Marie Carlton

Doctoral Candidate, Religion, Princeton University  
*Children in Medieval Chinese Buddhism: Discourses on Ethics and Practice*

## Bianba Deji

Doctoral Candidate, Centre of Buddhist Studies, University of Hong Kong  
*Lojong Literature in The Sakya School: The Evolution of the Parting from the Four Attachments through Its Tibetan Commentaries*

## Guttorm Norberg Gundersen

Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University  
*A Home Away from Home: The Upper Tianzhu Monastery and the Institutionalization of a Public Teaching Monastery in Song Dynasty China*

## Thupten Kelsang

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology & Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford

*Reanimating Tibet in the Museum: Contentions in Collections and Their Contemporary 'Afterlives'*

## Petra Lamberson

Doctoral Candidate, South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley  
*Identities in Situ: The Contested Sacred Sites of Nepal*

## Patrick Ryan Magoffin

Doctoral Candidate, Religious Studies, Brown University  
*An Alternative Tiantai Vision: Buddha-Nature in the Heretical Writings of Qiantang Tiantai Monks*

## Rachel Deborah Quist

Doctoral Candidate, Art History, University of Kansas  
*Forging Bonds through Icons and Ritual: Imperial Patronage of Daigoji*

## Matthew Schissler

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
*Cultivating Islamophobia: Fear, Revulsion, and a Buddhist Movement Against Muslims in Myanmar*

## Jackson B. Stephenson

Doctoral Candidate, Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara  
*The Afterlife of Indian Esoteric Buddhist Poetry*

## Daniel Wojahn

Doctoral Candidate, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford  
*Living Law Between the Lines: The Evolution of Buddhist Legality in Thirteenth Century Central Tibet*



Left: The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Buddhist Studies Daniel Wojahn F'23 researches at Kalimpong Sakya Monastery in India; Right: Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Buddhist Studies Dendup Chopel F'23 conducts fieldwork.



“ACLS played a pivotal role in facilitating my dedicated focus on writing my thesis, ensuring its timely completion and submission. The program provided me with invaluable academic exposure through a range of talks and the opportunity to attend a Buddhist Studies retreat in Wyoming. This experience not only enhanced my scholarly knowledge, but also allowed me to establish connections with esteemed American academics. The one-on-one consultations with mentors during the retreat proved instrumental in clarifying potential career paths following the completion of my doctoral studies.”

**Sonam Choden F'21**

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellow in Buddhist Studies Doctoral Candidate in Tibetology  
Universität Hamburg, Germany

## The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Early Career Research Fellows in Buddhist Studies

This program awards pre-tenure faculty working full-time at higher education institutions around the world to enable them to focus on advancing promising research and writing projects.

**Dendup Chopel**

Fellow, Center for Advanced Studies, Friedrich Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany

*The Pandemic Buddha: Social Recalibration and Post-pandemic Buddhist Engagement in Bhutan*

**Nils Martin**

Postdoctoral Scholar, East Asian Civilizations Research Centre, École Pratique des Hautes Études, France  
*Art History and Epigraphy of Early Tibetan Buddhist Rock Carvings in Ladakh and Baltistan, from ca. eighth century to early eleventh century*

**Rachelle Saruya**

Postdoctoral Scholar, Historical Studies, University of Toronto, Mississauga  
*Wishing at the Banyan Tree: Wishing-for-children Rituals in the Buddhist Scriptures and in Contemporary Myanmar Buddhist Women's Practices*

**Parjanya Sen**

Assistant Professor, English, Deshbandhu College for Girls  
*Bengal and Tibet: Travels, Encounters and Sacred Geographies*

**Mengxiao Wang**

Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Southern California  
*Buddhism and Theatricality in Early Modern China*

## The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation New Professorship in Buddhist Studies

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation New Professorships in Buddhist Studies provide multiyear grants to colleges and universities seeking to establish or expand teaching in Buddhist studies. Since 2016, the grants have provided seed funding for full-time faculty positions at 11 schools in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

### University of Utah

The New Professorship grant will help establish the first tenure-line position focused on teaching and research in Buddhist studies in the College of Humanities at the University of Utah. The appointment will not only strengthen the University's Asia-related research and teaching, it will also help them better serve the growing ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity of their students. The successful candidate will be housed in either History, Philosophy, or World Languages and Cultures, depending on their disciplinary training, and affiliated with the federally funded Asia Center. Ultimately, the hope is that the creation of this position will pave the way for the future development of a new Department of Religious Studies at the institution.

## The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Translation Grantees in Buddhist Studies

Grants for Translations support work of crucial importance to the study of Buddhism and to its wider appreciation, particularly translation of canonical texts into modern vernaculars and the translation of scholarly works on Buddhism from one modern language into another. Priority is given to translations of important Buddhist texts for the benefit of contemporary audiences who currently do not have access to them in their own languages.

### Aruna Keerthi Gamage

Postdoctoral Fellow, Indology and Tibetology, Philipps-Universität Marburg

*An Annotated English Translation of the Exegesis of the First Grave Offense (parajika) in the Vajirabuddhi-Tika*

### Yogesh Raj

Senior Fellow, , Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya

*Critical Edition and Translation of Popular Caryā Songs from Kathmandu Valley, Nepal*

### Janine Tasca Anderson Sawada

Professor, East Asian Studies and Religious Studies (joint), Brown University

*A Zen Buddhist Defense of the Dharma*

### Peter Daniel Szanto

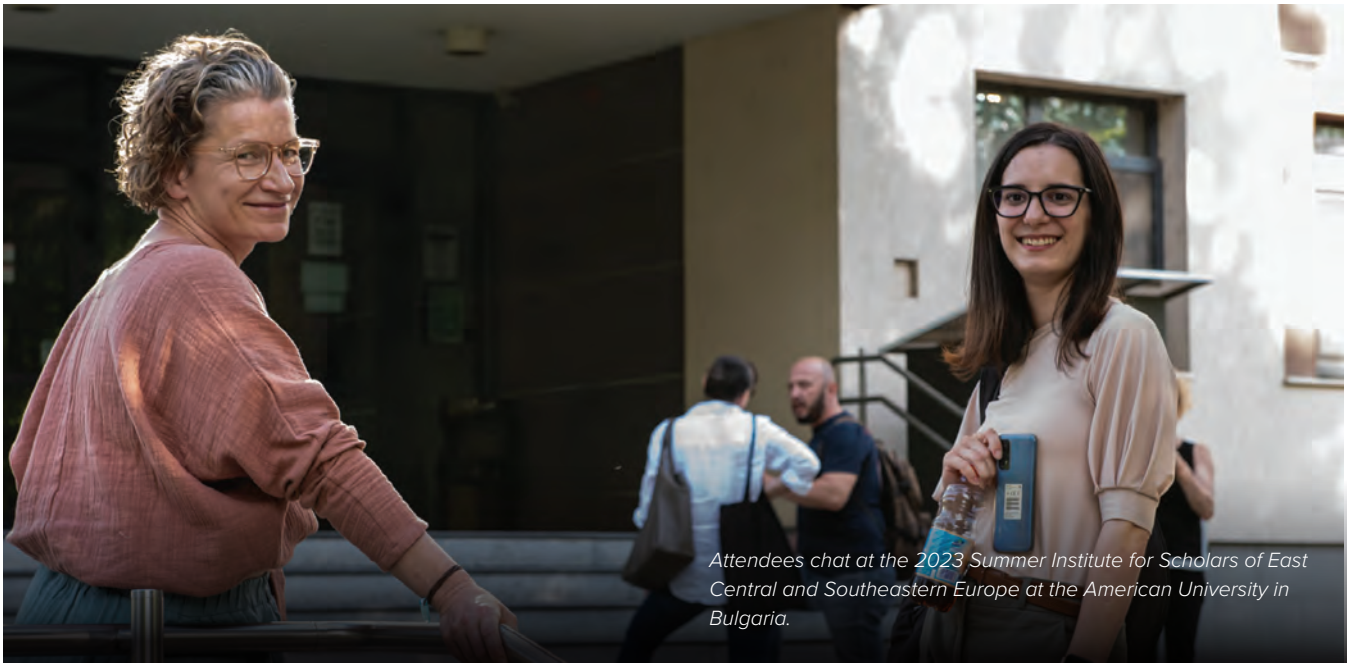
Associate Professor, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, Eötvös Loránd University

*The Mañjukirti Corpus*

### Jay Holt Valentine

Associate Professor, History and Philosophy, Troy University

*Revealing the Northern Treasures: The Life and Works of Rigdzin Gödem (ca. 1337–1409)*



Attendees chat at the 2023 Summer Institute for Scholars of East Central and Southeastern Europe at the American University in Bulgaria.

## Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe Awardees

In June 2023 ACLS, in partnership with the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia (CAS), hosted 13 scholars from Eastern Europe and North America for a two-week residency at the American University in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. In addition to undertaking local fieldwork at regional archives, museum collections, communities, and historic sites, awardees joined collaborative writing workshops and a series of interdisciplinary discussions on “Scholarly Writing in the Digital Age.” Other highlights included an overnight trip to Plovdiv, Bulgaria, and a guest lecture from Jessie Labov, associate professor, communication, and Senior Research Fellow at Corvinus University of Budapest. Her talk, “Are We All Public Intellectuals Now?” addressed the consequences of the public accessibility of scholarship on the Internet.

This program is made possible by a generous donation from Carl and Betty Pforzheimer.

### **Winson W. Chu**

Associate Professor, History, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

*The Criminal Police and the Lodz Ghetto*

### **Gabrielle Cornish**

Assistant Professor, Musicology, University of Miami

*Socialist Noise: Sound and Soviet Identity after Stalin*

### **Polina Dimova**

Assistant Professor, Languages, Literatures & Cultures, University of Denver

*At the Crossroads of the Senses: Synaesthesia in Art and Science—A Digital Companion*

### **Olena Fomenko**

Associate Professor, Educational and Scientific Institute of Journalism, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

*Ukraine’s Image in Media Discourse: Cultural Icons and the Impact of the Russia-Ukraine War*

### **Magdalena Grabowska**

Associate Professor, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, The Polish Academy of Sciences

*Reproductive Agency, Social Reproduction, and (Re-) Democratization Processes in Poland and Eastern Europe*

**James Graham**

Assistant Professor, Architecture, California College of the Arts

*Settler Constructivism: Architecture, Agriculture, and the “National Question” under the Soviet First Five Year Plan*

**Kristina Hook**

Assistant Professor, School of Conflict Management and Peacebuilding, Kennesaw State University

*Losing and Finding a Nation: Ukrainian Holodomor Narratives as Wartime Resistance and Reclamation*

**Klejd Kellici**

Lecturer, Political Science, University of Tirana

*Identity, Political Reburials, and Regimes of Memory in Albania*

**Emil Kerenji**

Independent Scholar, Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, US Holocaust Memorial Museum

*The Houses of Novi Sad, or the Book of Shame*

**Wiktor Marzec**

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Institute for Social Studies, University of Warsaw

*Post Imperial Field of Power in the Second Republic of Poland, Greater Romania and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes after the First World War*

**Ehlimana Memisevic**

Assistant Professor, Department of Legal History and Comparative Law, University of Sarajevo

*A Search for Belonging: Migrations of Bosnian Muslims in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries and Responses of the Islamic Scholars*

**Julia Sushytska**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture, Occidental College

*On Truth in the Age of Postmodern Propaganda: Views of Five Eastern European Philosophers*

**Snejana Ung**

Affiliated Scholar, Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies & Research, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

*The Inter-Peripheral Circulation of the Novel in Post-Imperial Southeastern Europe, 1918–1989*



“Discussing my research project with the scholars of East Central and Southeastern Europe had an invaluable impact on understanding different perspectives, theoretical frameworks, and methodological approaches. Besides contributing to my research, the Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe broadened my intellectual networks, which will lead to valuable future collaborations.”

**Ehlimana Memisevic G’23**

Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe

Assistant Professor

University of Sarajevo

# Selection Committees for 2022–2023 Fellowship and Grant Competitions

The American Council of Learned Societies is committed to supporting scholarship that has the potential to significantly advance fields in the humanities and interpretive social sciences. We are equally dedicated to ensuring that the scholars and research we support truly reflect the broad spectrum of perspectives represented in the global community of humanistic studies. Peer review is a vital part of ensuring these high standards in both quality and inclusive excellence. Each year, we recruit more than 600 reviewers with expertise in a wide variety of disciplines, representing institutions, learned societies, and independent research initiatives from around the world, to evaluate fellowship and grant applications and select awardees.

## ACLS Fellowships

Farid Azfar, Swarthmore College  
Julia Q. Bryan-Wilson, Columbia University  
Megan Bryson, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
James Doyle, Pennsylvania State University  
Carolyn Eastman, Virginia Commonwealth University  
Tarek El-Ariss, Dartmouth College  
Victor Goldgel-Carballo, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Christopher A. Grobe, Amherst College  
Jennifer Wyatt Kyker, University of Rochester  
Brook Danielle Lillehaugen, Haverford College  
Shannon Mariotti, Trinity University  
Gregory C. Mitchell, Williams College  
Melissa Y. Mueller, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Neeti Nair, University of Virginia  
Laura S. Nasrallah, Yale University  
Marguerite Nguyen, Wesleyan University  
Falguni Sheth, Emory University  
Timothy J. Smith, Appalachian State University  
Beverly J. Yuen Thompson, Siena College  
Ivy Wilson, Northwestern University  
Susie Woo, California State University, Fullerton

## Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowships in the History of Art

Sussan Babaie, Courtauld Institute of Art  
John R. Clarke, University of Texas at Austin  
Ananda Cohen-Aponte, Cornell University  
Joan Kee, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Bronwen Wilson, University of California, Los Angeles

## Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowships in American Art

Kirsten Pai Buick, University of New Mexico  
Ondine Chavoya, University of Texas at Austin  
Elizabeth W. Hutchinson, Barnard College  
Drew Sawyer, Brooklyn Museum

## Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies Early Career Fellowships

Michael Hill, William & Mary  
Ching Kwan Lee, University of California, Los Angeles  
Anita Plummer, Howard University  
Shuang Shen, Pennsylvania State University  
Yulian Wu, Michigan State University  
Don Wyatt, Middlebury College

## Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowships

Deborah A. Boehm, University of Nevada, Reno  
Bryan Carter, University of Arizona  
Kevin A. Escudero, Brown University  
Yomaira Figueroa, Michigan State University  
Aaron Glass, Bard Graduate Center  
Daniel Goldmark, Case Western Reserve University  
Matthew Johnson, Texas Tech University  
Jeffrey Q. McCune, University of Rochester  
Anne O'Byrne, State University of New York, Stony Brook  
Nandini B. Pandey, Johns Hopkins University  
Judith M. Pascoe, Florida State University  
Katina Rogers, Inkcap Consulting



## **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies Dissertation and Early Career Research Fellowships**

Jacob P. Dalton, University of California, Berkeley  
Anne R. Hansen, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Reiko Ohnuma, Dartmouth College  
James Robson, Harvard University

## **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies New Professorships, Translation Grants, and Buddhism Public Scholars**

Robert E. Buswell, University of California, Los Angeles  
Ann Heirman, Ghent University  
Donald S. Lopez, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Asuka Sango, Carleton College

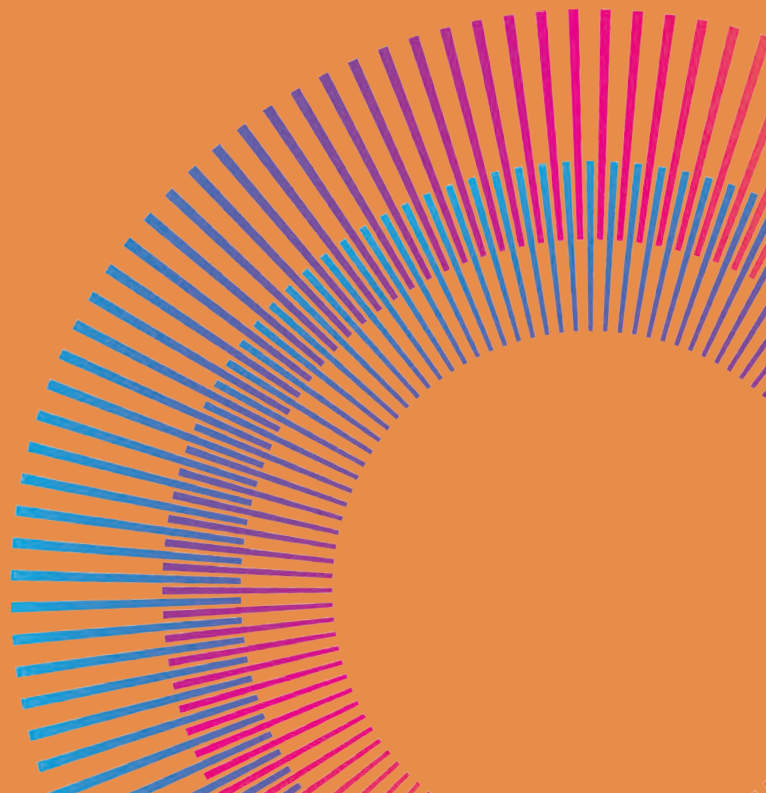
## **Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe**

Galina Tihanov, Queen Mary University of London  
Balázs Trencsényi, Central European University  
Maria Sonevsky, Bard College



*Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow Nicole Ivy F'15 participates in a discussion at the 2023 ACLS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.*

# Support



# Support

## Foundation and Government Support

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Named for the year of our founding, the 1919 Society and its members celebrate ACLS's past achievements and future promise as the foremost proponent for academic humanities in the United States. Through planned gift commitments made during estate planning, supporters of ACLS can ensure that they will be leaving a legacy. The 1919 Society recognizes the following generous donors who have included ACLS in their wills or estate plans:

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# Financial Statements



# 2023 By the Numbers

**\$179,897,869** Endowment as of  
December 31, 2023

**\$22M+**

Awarded Annually  
across a Variety of  
Humanistic Disciplines

**13,000+**

Scholars Supported  
Since 1957

**600+**

Scholars Contribute to  
the ACLS Peer Review  
Process Each Year

**300+**

Fellows and Grantees for the  
2021–22 Academic Year

## Membership



**44** Research  
Consortium  
Members

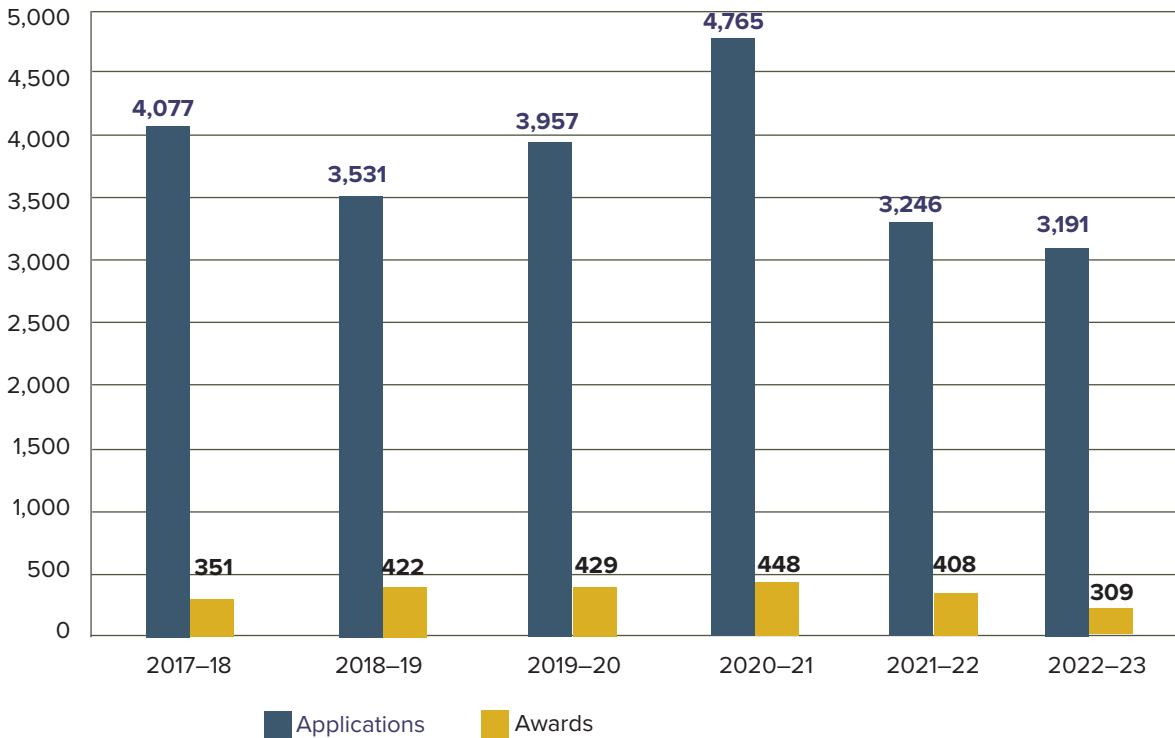


**200+** Associate  
Members

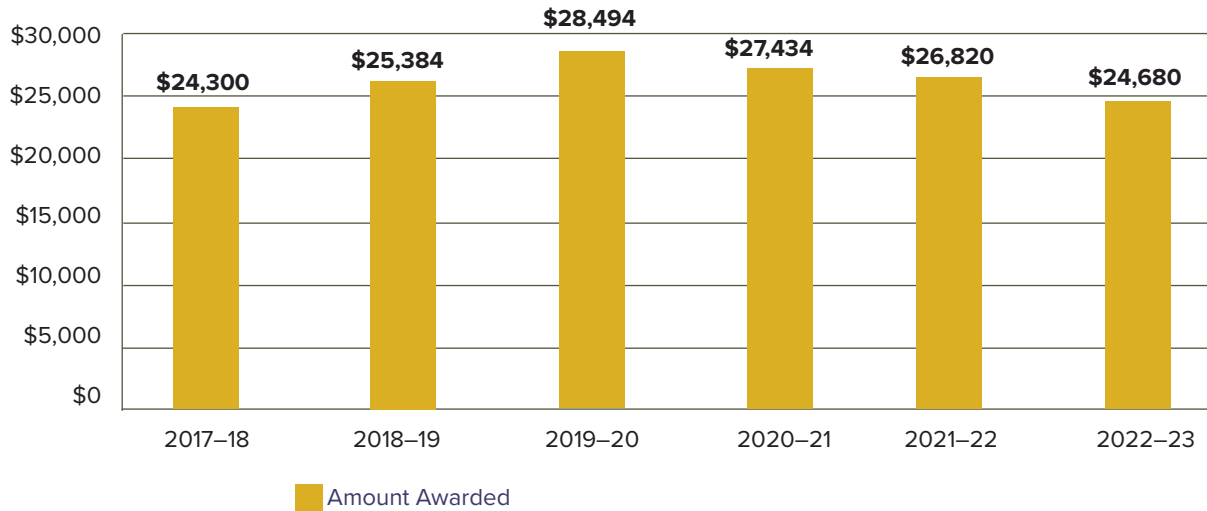


**80**  
Learned  
Societies

## ACLS Fellowship Programs Applications and Awards\*



## ACLS Fellowship Programs Total Amount Awarded



\* This data represents total dollars awarded during the specific competition year. Fellowship payments by fiscal year may differ based on the timing and term of individual awards.

# A Message from Melani McAlister, ACLS Board Treasurer

## To the ACLS community:

In support of various uses of funds, the American Council of Learned Societies relies upon a range of sources of funds to ensure that we can reliably plan and carry out our support of humanistic scholarship. Some degree of investment in our internal capacity enables us to take on activities that we believe to be urgent; this was the case with the Leading Edge Fellowship Program (for which we were able to raise external support from the Henry Luce and Mellon Foundations) and for the Emerging Voices Fellowship Program (which we funded internally). In this note, I report on how we are financially structured to conduct this work.

## Sources of Funds:

The ACLS endowment (which stood at \$179,897,869 as of December 31, 2023) consists of roughly 29% that is permanently restricted to supporting fellowships, 7% that is permanently restricted to supporting administration of the organization, and the rest—about 64% of the endowment—that is subject to the designation of the Board. Grant support for programs have continued to hold steady over the past two decades, though new programs and activities have supplanted some others. In the 2023 fiscal year, ACLS provided scholars and institutions with over \$22 million in direct support.

Our 44 Research University Consortium members, our 200-plus Associate members, and 80 learned societies provide additional funding through their membership fees that support our fellowship and grants programs as well as our work with member societies.

ACLS also generated about \$300,000 in philanthropic contributions in Fiscal Year 2023. While our endowment is subject to market conditions, it has been positioned to mitigate against downside risk.

As of December 2023, the finances of ACLS have not been significantly affected by the fallout from the pandemic, but various grant-funded programs are expected to run their course in coming years. If we continue to demonstrate that we are a strong partner for conducting programs that benefit the evolution of the sector, we have every reason to believe that new programs will earn their place in our work and in the community's support even as some other programs are concluded.

## Uses of Funds

The total operating expenditures of ACLS reached \$28,499,969 in FY 2023; roughly 78% was disbursed to our fellows and grantees. Increasingly, our work also includes community-convening efforts to explore and foster new directions for institutions or to build cohorts of various kinds.

## Conclusion:

We are grateful for the extraordinary support of the following foundations: the Arcadia Trust, the Mellon Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Getty Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global, as well as significant support from individual donors.

We continue to devote considerable time and resources to carrying out and communicating work that provides our various constituencies with a clear sense of the value of working with ACLS.

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