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This document is available in an alternate format upon request. Please contact the Assistant to the Director of the UMIH via email at umih@umanitoba.ca or by phone at (204) 474-9599.

Cover image by Niamh Dooley, beaded mask (CARE Microgrant recipient)
INTRODUCTION
The constitution of the Institute for the Humanities requires the Director to report annually to the Dean of Arts, the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost, and the Vice-President (Research). It is customary for this report to be presented annually at the year-end meeting of the Board of Management. Copies are also distributed on campus to the President, the Associate Deans of Arts, the Institute’s Board of Management, and many supporters who are members of the University of Manitoba community. Copies are distributed off-campus to a selection of other Humanities Institutes, and to other friends and supporters. This is the 29th report since 1990-91, there having been no report in 1997-98.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
The UMIH Board of Management met twice during the 2019-20 academic year. The Board’s principal tasks are to select the research affiliates, select the research clusters, choose the recipient of the UMIH Fellowship, approve the asking budget, review terms of reference for affiliate, cluster, and fellowship programs, and assist with the planning of the Institute’s programs.
Mark Hudson (Sociology)
Heidi Marx-Wolf (Religion)
Jocelyn Thorpe (Women’s & Gender Studies, History)
Michael Sampson (Classics)
Erin Keating (English, Theatre, Film & Media)
Michelle Faubert (English, Theatre, Film & Media)
Armelle St. Martin (French, Spanish, and Italian)
Joyce Chadya (History)
Cary Miller (Native Studies)
Oliver Botar (School of Art)
Fenton Litwiller (Kinesiology and Recreation Management)
Naomi Woo (Deautels Faculty of Music)

DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE
Pivot. PIVOTTTT.

So go the famous lines from a bygone sitcom as a group of friends attempt to navigate a sofa up a flight of stairs. “Pivoting” became the dominant language of remote programming during this global pandemic, as many of us at the university scrambled to learn how to use videoconferencing software, livestream events, and edit recordings. It is unbelievable that we programmed an entire year remotely, and yet I remain mindful of the incredible privilege of having been able to do so.

At first, I wanted to pause all programming during the pandemic, as people were stretched thin, falling ill, tending to those who were most vulnerable, and caring for family, friends, and neighbors. But then George Floyd was murdered by police in Minneapolis, and Black Lives Matter organizing swept across the continent. It is not a coincidence that BLM protests swelled during a global pandemic. COVID-19 laid bare so many of the racial
inequalities that structure contemporary settler capitalism, including police brutality.

Much of our public programming was inspired by activists and organizers who connected the dots of racism, capitalism, and settler colonialism. The theme of the year, as you will see, was abolition. We sustained our commitment to hyperlocal collaborations and prioritizing BIPOC voices and perspectives. As the UMIH continues to grow, it is my hope that we can continue to focus on serving the needs and desires of our communities as a means of building relations.

After our first livestream production of a panel on the Indigenous horror/zombie film Blood Quantum in the summer (led by UMIH Research Affiliate Dr Murray Leeder), we began to encourage Arts Faculty members to contact us for support for any guest speakers they were planning to invite into their classes. Drs Erin Keating (ETFM), Jeongmin Kim (History), Jennifer Dueck (History), and Lisa Alexandrin (Religion) took us up on this offer, and we were able to help coordinate their guest speakers’ remote lectures and also livestream them for a larger public. We thank these professors for reaching out to us, and expect more opportunities like this to showcase Arts teaching and research while we remain remote in Fall 2021.

Our most ambitious programming was our CARE Microgrant project. At our 2020 board meeting, anticipating that regular programming would be disrupted in the year to come, the board enthusiastically approved of using funds to provide swift support to 20 students and community members to make a creative work on the topic of care during COVID-19, influenced by any aspect of the humanities. We collaborated with QPOC and MAWA, and prioritized QPOC applicants to adhere to QPOC’s mission. You will see some of the stunning projects in the following pages, ranging from short films, drag performances, beading, fashion, and other media. We are happy to announce that MAWA will host an in-person exhibit of works in summer 2021.

We continue to learn through trial, error, and patience that livestreaming events requires a host of professional skills, as does postproduction. Virtual programming prompted us to provide better accessibility. We featured live ASL interpretation at our larger events, manually closed captioned all archived recordings, and included specific accessibility language into our promotional

UMIH Director Hee-Jung Serenity Joo

materials. We plan to continue this mandate into future years.
This year’s programming would not have been possible without the talents and creativity of the new Assistant to the Director, Ekene Emeka-Maduka. Ekene is a practicing artist with ties to communities throughout and well beyond Winnipeg. She has been responsible for all aspects of our livestreams and recordings, on top of her regular duties and responsibilities. You can read more about her below. When we are back on campus in Winter 2022, please pop in to say hello.

DIRECTOR’S RESEARCH

Research during a pandemic seemed both impossible and obnoxious. Our regular write-on-sites provided a bubble of sorts to continue writing together and supporting each other throughout the tumultuous year.

I submitted an article, entitled “The Asian (as) Robot: Comparative Racial Futurities” to the Journal of Asian American Studies, where it has since been recommended for publication. As well, I worked on a special issue of American Studies I am co-guest editing on the topic of racial futurities, set to go to press in October 2021.

I was originally scheduled to present at American Studies Association (ASA), Mixed Company, and Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the US (MELUS), all of which were cancelled in 2020. I submitted a panel entitled “Racial Extractions” for the Association for Asian American Studies annual conference (March 2021, remote), and presented a paper on it entitled "A "Revolting Humans: Ecological Embodiment in the Works of Chang-rae and Han Kang."

While my academic research chugged on as best as it could, I was able to forge connections to public academics and activists across the city and the region. My work with Prison Libraries Committee led to joining forces with others working in abolition to create Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta Abolition Coalition (SMAAC), a regional collective committed to anticolonial abolition on the Prairies. We hosted an online fundraiser and fact-sharing event, launched successful websites and social media accounts, and co-wrote and published op-eds on abolition.

In Winnipeg, I helped to co-found Prairie Asian Organizers (PAO!), a local collective committed to rejecting the model minority myth and organize in solidarity with fellow BIPOC communities. We hosted film screenings, panels, teach-ins, and workshops. It is perhaps no surprise that such collectives were formed during the pandemic, when many of us were feeling isolated, frustrated, and seeking community.

ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

Beginning work at the institute in October felt like joining an orchestra mid-performance: awkward but also very exciting and fun. My experiences being onboarded and meeting my colleagues at work have been entirely virtual yet, despite this, I have been able to build and feel a sense of community. I have realized that
though I am working in isolation, I am not truly alone. It feels as though we are all navigating this new shift to virtual reality and, in a sense, are onboarding together.

Since joining the institute, I have expanded my knowledge of programming carefully. Careful programming has always been something I try to implement in any community organizing I am involved in. With the world transitioning almost exclusively virtual, I am thankful to have enhanced my skills in this area to include experience with organizing ASL interpretations for events in order to make programming more accessible and inclusive.

Working at the institute has opened doors for continued collaborations with friends and community members. I have had the opportunity to also make new connections within the community through this position and I look forward to revisiting and establishing more threads that in a greater sense create opportunities for critical discussions relating to further diversifying ideas in the humanities.

Next year, I am excited to use what I’ve learnt to practise new, careful approaches to programming that cater to our communities within the institute and beyond. I also hope to work with community organizers with whom I have personal affiliations, with the hopes of expanding the institute’s connections outside the University. I am mostly excited for potential collaborations with TakeHome BIPOC House Winnipeg, Patterns Collective, IRCOM, other departments within the university, and individual activists and organizers. I hope that, as a practising artist, I can encourage creative approaches to programming to include more community engagement, both virtually and when we are back together in person.

Assistant to the Director Ekene Emeka Maduka

GRADUATE FELLOW RESEARCH

The 2020–21 graduate fellowship was deferred for one year due to a change in funding structure. We will be housing two graduate fellows in 2021–22, one of whom will be Ifeoluwa Adeniyi (ETFM).

My research examines the writings of Black women in Africa, North America, and the Caribbean whose works provide alternative visions of the future. Works of this kind are
what scholars have come to call Afrofuturism. The term Afrofuturism, since it was coined by Mark Dery in his 1993 essay “Black to the Future” to indicate “speculative fiction that treats African-American themes” (180), has evolved in scholarship to include speculative fantasy and science fiction by Black writers and artists either resident in Africa or in the Diasporas whose works deal with alternative imaginative visions of the future. A distinctive feature of such works has been that Black experiences and viewpoints occupy central positions for an imagined future world. While the focus on Black cultural imaginations of the future have remained a significant feature of contemporary Afrofuturism, the term has still not been fully explored. Scholarly discussion of the concept is yet to encapsulate the broader potential of the discourse to expand thoughts about Black and African futures beyond science fiction as narratives of technology-powered future worlds. Even more importantly, Dery’s and others’ exclusive construction of Afrofuturism around African American experiences (oftentimes disguised using the category of Black or the Black Diaspora) presents a situation, as Louis Chude-Sokei notes in the context of music, of “false universalism” of Blacknesses. This false universalism tends to gloss over the specificities of Black experiences across a wide geographical and historical spectrum and thus presents the peculiar forms of African American experiences as universally Black. Hence extant scholarship on Afrofuturism ostensibly produces a hierarchized discourse in ways that give visibility and voice to African American experiences while muffling the distinctiveness of other Black experiences, thoughts, and imaginative practices, say in Africa or the Caribbean. In this way too, the discourse of Afrofuturism has come to be undertheorized on account of the glossing over of the heterogeneity and complexity of Black thoughts and imaginations globally.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT INTERNS

Undergraduate student internships provide opportunities for students to participate in the intellectual life of the UMIH, cultivate their research interests, and gain practical training in transferrable skills. Interns attend UMIH events and other cultural events related to their research interests, and compose short- and long-form essays of these events for the UMIH blog. This year, they were also responsible for managing the blog, serving as jurors on the microgrant committee, and providing support at remote events. Much gratitude is due to both students in the second pilot year of this programming as we remained remote.

Alexa Watson (ETFM/Women's and Gender Studies)
Due to the remote learning environment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s UMIH internship has been very different than last year’s. Despite the challenges of working remotely, especially when it came to playing email-tag, the UMIH still offered an incredible opportunity through the student intern position. More types of work for the UMIH were available this year, outside of the regular writing that is typical of student interns. For example, running social media, transcribing captions for recorded UMIH events, and helping to facilitate remote question and answer periods. These various tasks have helped give me increased practical experience which are marketable and valuable for professional settings. The events put on by the UMIH were incredibly relevant and deeply important contributions to the intellectual culture of the University. As well, the UMIH positions itself to attract a diverse audience both in and outside the academy, serving not only the University but also the surrounding community. By contributing to the UMIH, and learning valuable skills and experience in the process, the UMIH student internship has been a vitally important opportunity in my academic career.

Over the past year, I have become increasingly aware of the importance of UMIH internships in their professional and academic development and in the operation of the Institute itself. From my own perspective, this internship has served as a vehicle for the application of critical and communicatory skills developed throughout my undergrad. Most important in this regard has been my ability as an intern to attend events I found both interesting and important—and (with much encouragement from the UMIH director and staff) to report on these events in ways I felt would maintain audience interest while remaining informative. As a humanities major, the opportunity to apply these skills outside of a classroom environment has been indispensable in the full realization of my academic and professional development. Notably, this internship has reinforced my view that the theoretical and practical knowledge gained throughout my studies at the U of M transcend the boundaries and specific applications of any individual humanities field.

The extraordinary circumstances of a pandemic school year led to a clear re-evaluation of the role and constructive application of the internship. The continued importance of student interns within the UMIH even as the Institute operated remotely—as evidenced by essays written by interns on virtual lectures, learning the technical aspects of maintaining a blog—underlines the inherent value in including and cooperating with student interns in future UMIH endeavours. Judging from my experience, a return to an in-person work

George Gibson (History)
environment will help future student interns to conduct community outreach and engagement, and expand the audience for UMIH and other humanities-related events. This is one area where the role of student interns can be beneficially expanded.

As a final note, the Institute’s focus on local, BIPOC, and community-based productions underlines its importance to the continued diversification of perspectives in post-secondary education and beyond. The Institute’s ability to provide funding, visibility, and institutional legitimacy to content which might otherwise be overlooked is immensely important and should be cultivated further in the future.

**STUDENT INTERNS WRITING**

Gibson, George. "Violence with a Political Purpose: A Discussion of Dr Laura Robson’s Lecture, "The Politics of Mass Violence in the Middle East."


Student Intern articles can be found on the UMIH blog: https://umhumanities.com/
RESEARCH AFFILIATES

COHORT OF 2020 - 2021
Dr Murray Leeder (Communication, Media and Film)
Viviane Luiza (Anthropology): PhD candidate (U of M)
Dr Melanie Unrau (English): SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow (Colombia University)
Tracey Turner (Anthropology): PhD candidate (U of M)
The UMIH supported four Research Affiliateships this academic year. Research Affiliates are nonstipendary positions. As the campus remained closed to regular activities, all Affiliates held their positions remotely. Usually, the UMIH provides two Affiliates with private offices and computers on campus. All Affiliates are extended library privileges and a subsidy for research expenses to support the projects outlined in their applications. Affiliates present their research during the year in the form of a public lecture, contributing to UMIH programming. In recent years, Research Affiliates have been encouraged to organize public-facing events relevant to their research agendas so that they may acquire experience in public humanities programming.

“Star Trek and Human Rights” for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights website. I peer-reviewed numerous articles and furthered my research into such wide-ranging topics as Indigenous horror, *Star Trek* and franchise studies, Romani representation in cinema, Bob Dylan and John Lennon, spiritualism, Canadian vampire media, and other aspects of horror and fantasy media.

In June, I contributed to a roundtable on the topic of Indigenous horror at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) with a number of distinguished scholars, chaired by Dr Kali Simmons (Oglala Lakota).

**Dr. Murray Leeder**

While my first stint as UMIH Research Affiliate (2019–20) was interrupted by COVID-19, this year was defined by it. The inability to travel, however, has led to a more active and varied speaking profile, and the UMIH has been instrumental in allowing me to make it as a productive as it has been. My publications of 2020–21 include “The Scene of Haunting in Silent Adaptations of A Christmas Carol” in the *Journal of Communication and Languages*, an entry on Roger Corman in *The Palgrave Handbook to the Contemporary Gothic*, and a chapter on skeletons for *The Monster Companion*. I wrote a book review for *Irish Gothic Journal*, contributed a non-peer reviewed article to *Luma: Film and Media Quarterly*, and co-authored a piece called

"History Painted Red: A Discussion of Jeff Barnaby’s Blood Quantum" moderated by Dr Murray Leeder.

At the 2021 Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference I chaired a panel entitled “Indigeneity and Horror.” The participants were Erica Tortolani and Dr Jacob Floyd (Muscogee[Creek]/Cherokee), and I was pleased to secure the participation of Dr Gary D. Rhodes (Cherokee) as a respondent. Dr Rhodes and I are also editing a collection called *Indigeneity and Horror* that we will shortly be pitching to University of Texas Press.

This past year, I remotely delivered several public lectures. These include one about Film Studies for the University of Gour (Banga, India) and one by my wife Alana Conway and I entitled "The Romani Other in Horror Film" for the Montreal Monstrum Society. I was invited to talk about Indigenous horror at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in March 2021. I spoke about suburban horror in Canada for the Rural Gothic conference. At a UK-based conference called Lonely are the Brave: The Western and Post-war America, I will speak about the forgotten Canadian Western *Alien Thunder* (1974). I have talked about my research on several podcasts, including *Geek 4* and *Academic Trek*.

During this last year, I also taught six classes. With help from the UMIH, I was able to host a few distinguished guest speakers in my classes for public talks, including Drs. Leslie McMurtry (University of Salford) and Jeffrey A. Tolbert (Penn State Harrisburg), as well as novelist Gemma File who joined us to talk about her book *Experimental Film* (2015). All in all, this has been a productive, beneficial tenure.

**Dr. Viviane Luiza**

From October to December 2020, I undertook a field trip to the Kadiwéu of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. The occasion of my trip was the completion of the Cultural Center and headquarters of the Association of Kadiwéu Women Artists (AMAK) in the village Alves de Barros, where researchers, tourists, and shopkeepers will be able to access and buy pottery and other arts and crafts. After having worked on this project for four years, I went to Brazil to assist the Kadiwéu women in the opening of the Center. The trip was essential in terms of my sustained relationship with the community, which forms the basis of my work.

I spent about two months in Alves de Barros. At the time of my arrival, the first COVID-19 death in the community occurred of 39-year-old Leonardo, who left a wife and children. Adhering to the regulations of the Secretariat of Indigenous Health (SESAI), after having tested negative for COVID, I had to stay for ten days in quarantine at the school before being allowed to walk in the
village, organize the work, and have meetings with the coordinators, that is the community leaders. The inauguration of the Cultural Center was eagerly awaited by everyone from the kids to the elderly Kadiwéu. The great day was November 28, but participation was restricted because of the health situation. Nobody represented the government institutions. Only three people from the project were present. Antonio Hilario, Jessica Maciel, and myself.

The celebration was accompanied by music and the traditional dance called googe, and the village leaders, together with the women, served lunch for all those present. Although I have been to many feasts at Alves de Barros with triple the number of participants, the banquet on this occasion was especially memorable. Reflecting the Kadiwéu taste, the menu featured rice, cassava, pasta, tomato salad, and traditional barbecue where the meat is grilled over the fire in a pit.

Having accompanied the project since 2014, my contribution was recognized through the red cloth, which has become a symbol of bravery since the Paraguay War (1864–1870), when the Kadiwéu honored with a red cloth the returning warriors who had fought on the side of the Brazilians.

At the inauguration of the Cultural Center, the importance of the moment was marked by both elderly and young ladies holding the red cloth extended over my head while I was looking at each Kadiwéu. To join them on this memorable occasion afforded me relief and gratification after years of hard work, but certainly also was a source of unreserved happiness. The women were happy and proud of a successful project in which they had been the protagonists. They felt what they love to feel: a sense of their empowerment.

**Participation in Events**

- 2020: Brasa (Brazil Initiative and Brazilian Studies Association), University of Texas at Austin
- 2021: University of San Diego, Webinar: “Art and Empowerment: Kadiwéu Women’s Pottery”
- 2021: Workshop no Il de cultura, religioside e saberes locais, University of Dom Bosco, Campo Grande, MS: “Herança de um Brasil Central: aspectos do patrimônio indígena brasileiro na ótica de viajantes e pesquisadores estrangeiros de Alexandre Rodrigues Ferreira a Claude Levi-Strauss”
Dr. Melanie Unrau

Melanie Dennis Unrau is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University as well as a Research Affiliate at the UMIH. Her dissertation was awarded the Canadian Studies Network/Réseau d’études canadiennes Best PhD Dissertation in Canadian Studies in 2020. McGill-Queen’s University Press solicited a book proposal and signed a book contract with her in early 2021 for a monograph tentatively titled The Rough Poets: Petropoetics and the Tradition of Canadian Oil-Worker Poetry. She has a journal article titled “Rig Talk and Disidentification in Peter Christensen’s Rig Talk and Mathew Henderson’s The Lease” forthcoming in Canadian Literature. She served as a peer reviewer for Canadian Literature and Animal Studies Journal.

In fall 2020, she completed a three-year term as a Co-Editor of The Goose: A Journal of Arts, Environment, and Culture in Canada and as an Executive Member of the Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada (ALECC) with the publication of The Goose 18.2, for which she co-authored the editorial. In spring 2021, she guest edited an issue of guest 17 [a journal of guest editors] on the theme of Petropoetics.

She presented a paper at the conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) at the University of California, Santa Barbara in July 2020. She
organized a panel and presented a paper at the ALECC conference at the University of Saskatchewan in July 2020. She gave a lecture titled “Ducks, Syncrude Ducks, and Father Goose: Reading Waterfowl in the Tar Sands” at the UMIH in April 2021.

She organized the launch of The Goose at the ALECC conference in July 2020 and will be hosting the virtual launch of guelf 17 in June 2021. She will present a paper at the ASLE conference in June 2021.

Dr. Dennis Unrau designed and taught a section of the course Introduction to English: Reading Culture, with a theme of energy transition, in the Department of English at the University of Winnipeg in Winter 2021. Ongoing projects include her monograph and her poetry project in collaboration with “father of the tar sands” S.C. Ells.

With my research focus being primarily working with photographic collections from the Manitoba Museum, I have spent the past few months in grant writing and the development of a funding request from CLIR (Council for Library and Information Resources) with the Manitoba Museum, for working with a number of photographic and film collections from Northern Canada in the early 20th century. These feature Inuit, Gwich’in, and Cree communities, and depict daily life in the north, most of which have never been seen by community members. Digitizing these resources will allow us to work with the Kivalliq Inuit Association (Nunavut), York Factory First Nation (Manitoba), and the Inuvialuit Cultural Centre (Northwest Territories) to identify ways for descendants and interested community members to engage with the material, and enhance the value and relevance of these collections.

Tracey Turner

My time as an affiliate of the UMIH this past year has moved swiftly. I am currently in my third year of my doctoral program in Anthropology. This past Pandemic year has directly impacted my research working with archives and collections, as many institutions have been closed or access has been very limited.

Working on this grant application over the past few months has helped focus my research and fine-tune the development of my doctoral research proposal going forward. I am now focused on developing my bibliography and reading the latest scholarly publications in preparation for my candidacy exams this fall. I wished I had had more opportunity to engage with the UMIH over the past year, but it has been an exceptional year for certain.
RESEARCH CLUSTERS

COHORT OF 2020 – 2021
The Occupy Bartleby Collective
Graphic Narrative Beyond the Gutter
Research Clusters are composed of faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students from a variety of departments and disciplines. Cluster members share common research interests focused on interdisciplinary research, and typically follow a theme or a topic across several disciplines. Many North American humanities centres or institutes support Research Clusters; the UMIH has supported at least two Research Clusters each year since 2005.

The two Research Clusters supported by UMIH this year were Occupy Bartleby and Graphic Narrative Beyond the Gutter. Along with administrative support, the clusters were awarded financial support for their programming. Each cluster was awarded $5,000 for the 2020–21 academic year. This year’s clusters adapted deftly and creatively to research and programming in a remote world.

**OCCUPY BARTLEBY**

The aim of the Occupy Bartleby collective are as follows:

- to read as carefully as possible, word by word, Herman Melville’s 1853 tale “Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street” and primarily from the vantage point of critical race studies;
- to explore the ways in which the narrator’s bafflement at Bartleby’s dissent occurs in relation to a politics of seeing;
- and, thus, to discuss the visibility and invisibility—as Melville represents it—of the antebellum plantation economy in the consolidation of northern capitalism and white supremacy (in the speculating on and financing of the reproduction of enslaved humans and animals for trade and profit by white investors);
- and, finally, to rethink the scholarship on the tale, moving the subject of Bartleby’s race and the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 into central position for understanding and teaching the story.

**CLUSTER MEMBERS**

**PROFESSORS**
Dana Medoro, ETFM (organizer)
Alyson Brickey, English, U of Winnipeg
Jonah Corne, ETFM
Andrew Loman, English, Memorial University

**ETFM UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**
Anna Blackmore
Sabrina Campos
Ruby Chijioke-Nwauche
Drew Cruikshank
Bonique Dawiskiba-Clark

**ETFM GRADUATE STUDENTS**
Lauren Dietterle
Amy-Leigh Gray
Natalie LoVetri
David Smith

Student interest in the group has grown, with six new members joining between September and April. All funding went towards payment of the students for their research.

We held—and are continuing to hold—weekly Zoom meetings. They have been consistently well-attended, productive, and
fun. As we outlined in our original application, we are reading “Bartleby” line by line and are not yet at the story’s halfway mark; we often back up and re-read sentences we covered the week before, tracking down Melville’s multiple allusions to contemporaneous paintings, architecture, sculpture, guns, coins, etc., as we go along.

Alyson Brickey and I, on behalf of the Collective, presented a paper on “Bartleby” and race-based capitalism at the MLA in January. We are presenting at next year’s MLA conference, this time with a paper titled “Bartleby, Refugee.”

In April 2021, we submitted a book proposal to Bloomsbury Press. One of their editors had attended our MLA paper in January and solicited it from us.

**GRAPHIC NARRATIVE BEYOND THE GUTTER**

The research cluster Graphic Narrative Beyond the Gutter ran two public events this year, both conducted online. In January 2021, I hosted a podcast conversation with David Annandale about his new novel *The Harrowing of Doom* (Aconyte), part of the *Marvel: Untold* series. This podcast was platformed on the UMIH home page and advertised through the cluster’s Twitter account (@UMIHGraphicNarr).

In March 2021 the cluster was a major funder of the Kateri Indigenous Comics Creators Symposium. Three cluster members (Lucas Tromly, Sean Carlton, and Niigaan Sinclair) were organizers. This event, held online, was co-organized with Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm (University of Toronto Scarborough). The Symposium featured an opening plenary, a keynote address from Winnipeg-based author David Alexander Robertson, and two panels, the first with creators of independent Indigenous graphic novels and the second with creators involved in Marvel Comics’ *Indigenous Voices* anthology. We also held an evening session featuring contributors to the important anthology *This Place: 150 Years Retold* (Highwater).

The Symposium brought together 16 North American Indigenous creators. It had over 300 registered visitors who signed on over 1000 times, indicating that visitors attended multiple parts of the Symposium as their schedules allowed. Recordings of the event will be platformed on the UMIH Youtube channel.

The cluster was also able to showcase undergraduate work. Students in my course “The Graphic Novel” (ENGL 2900) were given the option to submit graphic
adaptations of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* or Kurt Vonnegut’s *Slaughterhouse-Five* as part of their final essay. Many of the students who chose to do so gave me permission to post the visual components of their assignments on the cluster’s Twitter account. Their work received a good deal of positive recognition, including from Ryan North and Albert Monteys, whose award-winning adaptation of *Slaughterhouse-Five* (Archaia) was an assigned course text.

**CLUSTER MEMBERS**

**FACULTY**

Luke Tromly (ETFM), cluster organizer
David Annandale (ETFM)
Brenda Austin-Smith (ETFM)
Melanie Braith (ETFM)
Alison Calder (ETFM)
David Camfield (Labour Studies)
Warren Cariou (ETFM)
Sean Carleton (History and Native Studies)
Tina Chen (History)
Brandon Christopher (English, U of Winnipeg)
David Churchill (History)
Lyle Ford, (Libraries)
Jonah Corne (ETFM)

Erin Keating (ETFM)
Kenneth MacKendrick (Religion)
Daniel McCafferty, (School of Art)
Candida Rifkind (English, U of Winnipeg)
Niigaanwewidam Sinclair (Native Studies)
Julia Smith (Labour Studies)
David Watt (ETFM)

**STUDENTS**

Camilla Dascal (Ph.D Candidate, ETFM)
Amy-Leigh Gray (Ph.D Candidate, ETFM)
Emily Maggiacomo (Ph.D Candidate, ETFM)
UMIH PROGRAMMING

2020-2021

Wearable art/costume by Tanja Faylene Woloshen (CARE Microgrant recipient)
The Institute maintains three on-going series: Arts of Conversation, Futures in the Humanities, and Public Humanities. Arts of Conversation also features lectures organized by Research Clusters and Research Affiliates.

ARTS OF CONVERSATION

This year’s Arts of Conversation series featured a vibrant lecture series, including presentations from our Research Affiliates and guest scholars’ virtual visits in classrooms across the Faculty. The UMIH worked with faculty in English, Theatre, Film & Media; Native Studies; Religion; and History to secure virtual lectures on topics ranging from North Korean literature, folklore and storytelling in the digital age, horror fiction, Star Trek, petropoetics, Indigenous and Indigiqueer futurisms, Asian American speculative fiction, feminisms and mysticism, and Middle Eastern historiography. All programming this year was streamed live on the UMIH Facebook page, with some events archived online.

28 May: History Painted Red: A Discussion of Jeff Barnaby’s Blood Quantum. Featuring Dr Jacob Floyd (Visual Studies, University of Missouri), Kali Simmons (English, University of California–Riverside), Roger Boyer (filmmaker), Dr Shaawano Chad Uran (English, Cornell University), Dr Mike Truscello (English, Mount Royal University), and moderated by Dr Murray Leeder (UMIH Research Affiliate).


4 February: Dr Laura Robson (History, Penn State University), “The Politics of Mass Violence in the Middle East.” In collaboration with Dr Jennifer Dueck (Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in the Modern History of the Middle East and North Africa).

24 February: Johanna Hedva (writer and artist), film screening of "A Decade of Sleep" and discussion of Minerva: A Miscarriage of the Brain. Public lecture as part of Dr Lisa Alexandrin’s class, RLGN2680: Women and Religion. In collaboration with Religion.

24 February: Dr Leslie McMurtry (School of Arts and Media, University of Salford), "Podcasts and Digital Storytelling." Public lecture as part of Dr Murray Leeder’s class, ENGL2190: books and Bytes: Literature in the Digital Age.
18 March: Dr Immanuel Kim (East Asian Languages and Literatures, George Washington University), "Friend, a Novel from North Korea." Public lecture as part of Dr Jeongmin Kim’s class, HIST3110: Korea and the Global Cold War.

24 March: Indigenous Comics Symposium. Co-organized by Graphic Narrative Beyond the Gutter (UMIH Research Cluster). In collaboration with Faculty of Arts and the University of Toronto Scarborough Department of English.

31 March: Jeffrey A. Tolbert (American Studies and Folklore, Penn State University-Harrisburg), "Slenderman and Belief in the Digital Age." Public lecture as part of Dr Murray Leeder’s class, ENGL2190: Literature in the Digital Age.

5 April: Gemma Files (author), “Horror Fiction.” Public lecture as part of Dr Murray Leeder’s class, ENGL1400: Monstrosity in Literature.

19 April: Dr Melanie Dennis Unrau (UMIH Research Affiliate), "Ducks, Syncrude Ducks, and Father Goose: Reading Waterfowl in the Tar Sands."

27 May: Dr Murray Leeder (UMIH Research Affiliate), "But is it Star Trek?: Prestige, Fandom & the Return of Star Trek to Television."

3 June: Launch of GU ES T issue 17 edited by Dr Melanie Dennis Unrau (UMIH Research Affiliate). With readings by contributors to the poetry chapbook.
FUTURES IN THE HUMANITIES

Much of our regular Futures in the Humanities programming was suspended for the pandemic year. We anticipate the regular return of workshops and public talks on professionalization topics such as academic publishing, grant writing, and digital skills training, as well as programming that addresses the ongoing precarity of sessional labor in higher education. For this year, we focused on hosting an end-of-week, online happy hour to discuss remote teaching experiences and strategies in a casual environment. Our regular Write-on-Sites were also hauled online for the entire year.


Mondays and Thursdays, Fall and Winter Terms: Write-on-Sites. Hosted and facilitated by the UMIH director and Assistant.

Regular Write-on-Sites are held in the UMIH boardroom throughout the academic year, to promote writing and foster community. In March 2020, Write-on-Sites shifted online, with regular participation from Research Affiliates, the Research Fellow and other graduate students, UMIH staff, and several colleagues from afar who took advantage of the remote format to join us. It was one small way in which we built community throughout the year. The UMIH has plans to organize a more formal writing retreat for faculty once a year, based on the experiences and feedback from these Write-on-Sites.

PUBLIC HUMANITIES

The UMIH continued its commitment to public humanities by bringing university programming to our communities, and showcasing the humanities research being conducted outside of our campus walls. As in-person programming remained difficult or impossible, and those inside the university struggled with the new demands of remote learning and work, the UMIH turned to our many local and regional connections to join forces and share resources.

As Black Lives Matter protests spread across the continent in the summer of 2020, including recording the largest protest rally in Winnipeg (Justice4BlackLives), the UMIH teamed up with numerous organizations devoted to prison abolition. In June, we joined forces with Free Lands Free Peoples (Alberta), QPOC Winnipeg, and Prison Libraries Committee to host an online fundraiser (which the director
presented at) for the Prairie Province Prisoner Support Fund, a mutual aid-inspired project devoted to providing swift cash support for people who were recently released. The event raised nearly $50,000 and inaugurated the founding of SMAAC (Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta Abolition Coalition), a Prairie-wide coalition of anticolonial abolitionists. The livestream is archived at www.smaac.org.

Over the winter, we also partnered with Bar None, Winnipeg Police Cause Harm, Police Free Schools Winnipeg, OPK Manitoba, Strength in the Circle, and Elizabeth Frye Society (all Winnipeg-based) to support two public information panels, one on the topic of eliminating police in schools and the other on the conditions inside prisons during COVID-19.

Public interest—including student interest—has grown immensely on the topic of abolition recently, and the UMIH was proud to support public programming to provide important information and resources to our communities. These types of hyperlocal connections serve to expose the UMIH to different pockets of the city, and to show our commitment to locally-based community research.

As well, summer of 2020 also witnessed the founding of Prairie Asian Organizers! (PAO!), a Winnipeg-based collective of Asians committed to antiracism and liberation for all. Further an opportunity to reach new audiences, the UMIH provided support for two hands-on “model minority mutiny” workshops to explore Asian identity and community formation, co-hosted a film screening, and helped organize two teach-ins after the mass shooting of six Asian women in Atlanta. The UMIH provided some financial support (film licensing, materials, etc.), assisted with organization and promotion, and the director shared her research in Asian American studies to a wide audience.
We also partnered with **QPOC Winnipeg** and later **MAWA (Mentoring Artists for Women’s Art)** to host a series of microgrants. Eager to provide swift support for students and community members in need during the early days of COVID-19, our call for proposals was simple, asking merely for contact information, a description of the proposed project, and its ties to any aspect of the humanities. We deliberately did not include “feasibility,” mindful of capacity during the early days of the pandemic. We chose instead to prioritize inspiration and creativity. As you can see from the images below and throughout this report, the results speak for themselves, attesting to the power of art in providing us with ways to stay connected, expose social injustices, and imagine better worlds.

**CARE MICROGRANTS**

QPOC Winnipeg and UMHI announce 10 microgrants worth $300 each to support creative projects addressing CARE during Covid-19. CARE microgrants are aimed at providing swift support for small projects influenced by the humanities (literature, film, theatre, history, philosophy, fine arts, law, music, etc.).

We seek project proposals from students and community members that will explore the multiple dimensions of care, caring, and being careful. This may include the (gendered and raced) labor of healthcare, the physical and/or emotional aspects of care, caring for or about a certain cause, or what it means to be careful in this moment of social distancing, for example. Projects that center critical race and queer approaches will be prioritized.

Possible creative projects include:
- A poem (or a collection of poems)
- An essay (or a collection of essays)
- A song
- A brief drag performance
- A brief stand-up comedy set
- A photograph (or a collection of photographs)
- A personally meaningful recipe and accompanying tutorial video
- A painting, drawing, or cartoon
- A sculpture, collage, short film, or multimedia project

Projects must adhere to Manitoba social distancing guidelines. Open to students and all residents of Manitoba (Indigenous peoples, settlers, and visitors). QTBIPOC applicants are especially welcome.

**MICROGRANT PROJECTS**

Still from drag performance by Feather Talia
"COVID, Colonialism, Coping & Caring" by Linda Diffe, beaded kaleidocycle

Still from drag performance by Thiané Diop entitled "Mr. Whistle Blow–Me"

"Land Back" by Jessie Jannuska

"Portrait of Brian Sinclair" by Stephanie Phillips

"Bipolar" by Clea August

By Wendy Lee

Care work mask by Adriana Alarcón, seed beads on leather

Still from short film "How High Is the Moon" by Chukwudubem Ukaigwe

Still from short film "Queer Fear" by Carla E. Hernandez
Non-visual projects

"Golden Hour," original song written and composed by Ashley Au

"Wednesday, June 17th, 2:03am," and other poetry by Kay

GIF by Omid Moterassed

Pumpkin pie recipe and video tutorial by Nichol Marsch

"The Shadows of European Body Standards," writing by Ominous Whisperer

"Connect. Disconnect," poetry by Nicole Jowett

All projects can be found on the UMIH blog: https://umhumanities.com/
Public Humanities
List of Events

13 May: CARE Microgrants Round 1. In collaboration with QPOC Winnipeg.

18 June: Talkin' SMAAC!: A night of poetry, song and abolition. Hosted by Issa Kixen. In collaboration with Free Lands Free Peoples, SMAAC, and QPOC.

8 July: CARE Microgrants Round 2. In collaboration with QPOC & MAWA.

18 July: Model Minority Mutiny Workshop 01. A workshop for Asians to explore identity, form community, and tackle anti-Black racism.

25 July: Model Minority Mutiny Workshop 02.

14 November: Free film screening and discussion of American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs. Featuring a panel of local BIPOC activists: Thiané Diop (CMHR Stop Lying), Ekene Maduka (UMIH), and Phoeniix Nakagawa (PAO!). In collaboration with PAO!

24 December: #FreeThemAll Panel. Online discussion on the conditions of confinement in provincial and federal institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. In collaboration with OPK, Bar None Winnipeg, MLA-Prison Libraries Committee, and Strength in the Circle.

6 January: The Case for Police Free Schools Panel. Featuring panelists Andrea Vasquez Jimenez (Abya Yala Education Network), Robyn Maynard (Author Policing Black Lives), Ella Taylor (Justice4BlackLives Winnipeg), Jennifer Reddy (Vancouver School Board trustee), Alex Johnstone (Hamilton Wentworth School District trustee), and moderated by Sadie-Phoenix Lavoie (Waniskatan/Red Rising Magazine)

19 January: Graphic Narrative Beyond the Gutter Podcast Episode 01: Conversation with Dr David Annandale, author of The Harrowing of Doom. Organized by Graphic Narrative Beyond the Gutter (UMIH Research Cluster).

COLLABORATIONS & CO-SPONSORSHIPS

Apart from the many local organizations we worked with this year, we also continued our long-term co-sponsorships with University of Manitoba Press and Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art. We were excited to work with the School of Art Gallery this spring to bring in esteemed scholar Dr Gayatri Gopinath for a stimulating public lecture, and look forward to more collaborations with SoAG in the new year. We are also seeking more formal partnerships with QPOC Winnipeg, Take Home, Patterns Collective, and Hildegard Gardening Society. Our relationship with Plug In has been terminated.
IN COLLABORATION WITH PATTERNS COLLECTIVE FOR PRAIRIE ART BOOK FAIR ONLINE: FILM STILL FROM “A BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE” BY DAFE OBORO

13 September: "A Beautiful Struggle": Film screening and discussion with director Dafe Oboro (Nigeria). In collaboration with Patterns Collective and Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art for Prairie Art Book Fair.

25 November: Book Launch of Aimée Craft and Paulette Regan’s Pathways of Reconciliation: Indigenous and Settler Approaches to Implementing the TRC’s Calls to Action. In collaboration with University of Manitoba Press.


5 April: Dr Gayatri Gopinath (Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University), "Unruly Visions: The Aesthetic Practices of Queer Diaspora." In collaboration with the University of Manitoba School of Art Gallery as part of programming for the exhibition "Cause to Become" curated by Christina Hajjar.
When we finalized our budget in April 2020, we were not able to anticipate how the upcoming year would play out in terms of COVID-19 restrictions, both on and off campus, both nationally and internationally, that would impact our programming. We remained hopeful and budgeted hopefully. However, 2020-21 turned out to be an entire year of working remotely, and the funds we spent this year reflects this. We continue to stay optimistic, and have budgeted for a hybrid year (remote in Fall 2021, in-person in Winter 2022). As of March 2021, our endowment totals $86,615.

All underspent categories reflect limitations imposed upon by COVID-19 restrictions, including on-campus offices, in-person public programming and guest lectures, in-person conferences/workshops, and research-related travel and expenses. Our asking budget anticipates conferencing and research travel to resume in 2021-22.

SCHEDULE A

A new laptop was purchased for general UMIH use (staff, interns, RA) as editing podcast recordings and videos require this equipment. Pending our return on campus in Winter 2022, several infrastructural purchases will be made: a desktop computer for the UMIH office to be used by undergraduate student interns and/or research affiliate; AV equipment for recording and archiving our programming on our new website and blog; and office furniture for a permanent work station for the undergraduate student interns (as per their recommendation on how to better support student interns).

One standing desk lift was purchased by Arts for remote working for the director. Printing for 2021-22 include costs associated with physical reproduction of the annual report for distribution. Postage for 2021-22 include costs associated with mailing copies of the GUEST poetry chapbook (edited by UMIH Research Affiliate Dr Melanie Dennis Unrau).

SCHEDULE B

With the support of the Board, the DIRECTOR’S RESEARCH fund has been adjusted to a more relevant amount in order to make more substantial impact on research. Some of this funding has been allotted for image reproduction costs of a special journal issue the director is guest editing, to be published in 2021.

The UMIH supported four RESEARCH AFFILIATES this year, one of whom was not residing in Canada during the year (international graduate student) and thus could not take advantage of funding. Research Affiliates were unable to travel for conferences or research, the usual expenses they claim. They instead provided innovative public programming for the UMIH, including organizing panels, hosting guest lectures, and editing a poetry chapbook. We anticipate housing 3 Research Affiliates in 2021-22.

The awarding of the GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP was deferred to 2021-22 due to complications with transferring funds (the board approved of UMIH funding to top up our endowment to help the endowment grow) and the student going on
leave in Winter 2021. Two fellowships will be awarded in 2021-2022, with one of the fellowships coming out of the 2020-21 budget.

Some funding for INSTITUTE TRAVEL AND COURSES will be earmarked specifically for UMIH staff and/or undergraduate student interns to participate in workshops on restorative justice and healing.

Pending the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in 2022, we are planning to host a small pilot summer institute with the long-term goal of running one annually as part of regular UMIH programming. The pilot year will remain mostly local, and will consist of academics, activists, artists, and other interested community members. We anticipate expanding this event to eventually include guests and participants from outside of the province and the nation. Funding for the summer institute will draw from the CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS budget line and the director will be submitting a SSHRC Partnership Engage grant as well.

Our two RESEARCH CLUSTERS were very active, but one was unable to reconcile expenditures before March 31 due to a colloquium that was held in late March. There is about $2500 that will be carried over into 2021-22. We anticipate housing four research clusters in 2021-22.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING remains a core vision of the UMIH. Scheduled funding for 2021-22 includes $500 toward an in-person exhibit of CARE Microgrant artworks at MAWA (June-July 2021), $350 for a collaboration with PAO! for a guest lecture and discussion on being Queer and Asian (July 2021), $350 for a public lecture at Take Home, and $1000 for a proposed Community Engagement Grant focused on a teach-in series on anti-racism (2021-22). Our numerous community connections ensure a robust and innovative public programming schedule for the new year. We estimated a larger budget for in-person programming in Winter 2022.

The GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT was on leave for Winter 2021, resulting in underspending. The UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT INTERNSHIPS remain a pilot program as we continue to adjust to match student needs to UMIH capacity. STUDENT PROGRAMMING will be encouraged again when we return to campus in Winter 2022. We plan to reach out to the student-activist panel on Wet’suwet’en solidarity that was cancelled in March 2020, to ask panelists if they would be interested in a follow up/reschedule.

A separate line for HONORARIA enables the UMIH to top up honoraria/fees to secure in-demand guest lecturers and speakers. Ethical programming, especially community programming, requires this type of care, attention, and compensation.

We continued our CO-SPONSORSHIP with University of Manitoba Press, who successfully pivoted their programming online and we also co-sponsored one Plug In event. We will continue to work with University of Manitoba Press, as well as School of Art Gallery and Veg Fest if they
return in 2021. Other potential long-term collaborations are listed under Collaborations and Co-Sponsorships.

COVID-19 restrictions strained applications for in-kind support of academic conference CONNECTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS, but we anticipate a returned interest in these in the new year.

NEW EXPENSES

Virtual event programming has prompted us to more actively implement ACCESSIBILITY features at our events, including live ASL (American Sign Language) interpretation for larger public-facing events. We will continue with this practice, with the goal of making it a standard part of our larger public events.

At the request of the board, a new BOARD-DIRECTED INITIATIVE funding line has been created to provide flexible programming and research support for innovative ideas that may arise out of board meetings and discussions. This is one way to further stimulate board member activity and responsibilities as the UMIH grows.
BUDGET
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Flagged in blue: Expenses Pending Return to Campus in Winter 2022.
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*funds will draw from ongoing UMIH funding first, then from new funding*

Asking from ongoing Arts funding: $35,000
Asking from UMIH new funding: $41,850.32
PUBLIC LECTURE
THE POPPY WAR IN CONTEXT: ASIAN AMERICAN SPECULATIVE FICTION

R.F. Kuang
Award-winning author of The Poppy War

Includes a Q&A with the author.

Brought to you by:
Faculty of Arts Department of English, Theatre, Film & Media

PUBLIC LECTURE
FRIENDS: A NOVEL FROM NORTH KOREA; A CONVERSATION WITH
TRANSLATOR IMMANUEL KIM

Professor Immanuel Kim
George Washington University

THURS., MARCH 18TH, 2021
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Via Livestream on the UMH Facebook page

SYMPOSIUM
INDIGENOUS COMICS CREATORS

Featuring:
Nigaamnewidam James Sinclair, Kateri Akwekwe-Daddm, Sean Carleion,
Daniel Alexander Robertson, Tasha Taitler, Natasha Donnocaen, Noah Shaminacage,
Kyle Charles, Weshoyot Alvitre, Darrie Little Badger and creators from the
Winona State University collection.

Event sponsored by the University of Manitoba Department of Native Studies, the UHM Graphic
Narrative Research Chair, the University of Toronto Scarborough Department of English,
Highbridge Press and Acrobat Press.

Brought to you by:
Institute for the Humanities

PUBLIC LECTURE
PODCASTS & DIGITAL STORYTELLING:
A Decade of Sleeping

Johanna Hedva
Writer & Filmmaker

WED., FEBRUARY 24TH, 2021
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
Live streamed on the UMH Facebook page

PUBLIC LECTURE
SLENDER MAN AND BELIEF IN THE DIGITAL AGE:
A special guest lecture for ENGL 2190: Books and Bibles in the Digital Age

Brought to you by:
University of Manitoba, Department of History

PUBLIC LECTURE
THE POLITICS OF MASS VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST:
This talk will explore how the contemporary political violence in the Middle East can be understood through the lens of historical and contemporary mass violence in the region.

Laura Robson
Oliver McBurney Professor of History, Penn State University

THURS., APRIL 29TH, 2021
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Via Livestream on the UMH Facebook page

Brought to you by:
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UMIH AFFILIATE TALK
Ducks, Symmetry, and the Story of Everglades: Reading Waterfowl in the Tar Sands

Dr. Melanie Dennis Unrau (Columbia University)

THURS., APRIL 29TH, 2021
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Via Livestream on the UMH Facebook page

PUBLIC LECTURE
THE POLITICS OF MASS VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST:
This talk will explore how the contemporary political violence in the Middle East can be understood through the lens of historical and contemporary mass violence in the region.

Laura Robson
Oliver McBurney Professor of History, Penn State University

THURS., APRIL 29TH, 2021
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Via Livestream on the UMH Facebook page

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CALL FOR COLLABORATORS

The UMIH is committed to public humanities programming. If you are interested in collaborating with us on a project that engages our larger community outside of the university please contact us:

umiheumanitoba.ca

The University of Manitoba Institute for the Humanities (UMIH) was established in 1990 to foster research and scholarship in the humanities at the University of Manitoba, promote interdisciplinary research in the humanities, and help obtain external funding for humanities research.

The Institute addresses the needs and interests of researchers in a broad range of subjects including literature and languages, philosophy, history, and religion; and also the literary, philosophical, theological, and historical aspects of the social and physical sciences, mathematics, fine arts, and professional studies.

The UMIH is located within the Faculty of Arts, but is intended to serve the entire humanities constituency in the university and the general community. The Institute is, accordingly, committed to community outreach through programs and lecture series for the general public.

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