

# HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

**FALL 2023**

GILMAN HALL



**20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION**



CELEBRATING

20  
Years

est. 2003

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2003, the University of South Florida Humanities Institute launched its first year of public programming and research support. It was the culmination of years of work by a team of dedicated faculty and administrators who dreamed of creating a collaborative space to advance research in the humanities.

This year, the Humanities Institute enters its 20th year, and we continue to advance those goals established by our founding director, Dr. Bill Scheuerle, and his team. We have several exciting new initiatives we're launching this year and special events planned to celebrate HI's 20th Anniversary. My sincere thanks to all the donors, faculty, staff, students, and community members that have empowered HI to thrive, and are helping to set us up for another 20 years of success.

As you've no doubt heard, on June 1, the University of South Florida accepted an invitation to join the Association of American Universities (AAU), an elite group of 71 research universities in the United States and Canada. This is a major milestone for USF and is based on outstanding research activity, quality education, graduation rates, and other factors. Joining the AAU will increase USF's ability to recruit the best faculty and students, and makes us more competitive for funding opportunities. It's a university-wide achievement and one that will elevate USF and the Tampa Bay Area. All AAU institutions have vibrant humanities centers or institutes,

and we're looking forward to elevating the work we do at USF to be competitive in our new peer group. Below you can read about some of the steps we're taking:

### DeBartolo Endowed Chair Position

In 1984, Edward J. DeBartolo, Sr. established the Edward DeBartolo Chair in Liberal Arts in, what is now, the College of Arts and Sciences. Beginning this year, the Humanities Institute will be selecting and hosting the DeBartolo Chair. Open to all tenured CAS faculty who work in the humanities, the chair will be appointed for two years, provided with significant financial support for both their individual research efforts as well as projects that support strategic areas of growth within HI.

### New Space

The College of Arts and Sciences is facilitating HI's growth by letting us expand into a suite of offices down the hall from our main Cooper Hall suite. These new offices will feature more space for the Faculty Fellows, a private office for the DeBartolo Chair, offices for student interns or graduate assistants, a reading room, and a conference room with modular furniture and a full A/V setup for presentations and video conferencing. Once complete, this space will be available for faculty and students use.

## Excellence in Undergraduate Research

For the last four years, HI has hosted our annual Undergraduate Humanities Research Conference. Participation has grown exponentially, and in Spring 2023, we offered a new incentive to students who completed HI's conference: funding to present at the National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium at Johns Hopkins University. Last March, 23 USF students were accepted to present at this national conference and HI was able to cover each student's airfare, lodging, and registration costs.

These young scholars joined students from across the country and had a wonderful three-day experience in Baltimore. We are excited to continue this support in the upcoming academic year.



*Elydette Kicak*

Liz Kicak, M.F.A.  
Director



**READ MORE ONLINE**

"The Humanities Institute trip to Johns Hopkins Conference was arguably the **highlight of my entire college career.** This experience was so valuable because of the opportunity to present an essay, that was written for one of my classes, at one of the most prestigious conferences in the country."

—**Aaron Carbone**  
*History*

"Attending the Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Research Symposium at Johns Hopkins University and representing the University of South Florida was nothing short of a **life changing experience.** As an undergraduate student, I would not have been able to afford the entirety of the event if not for the generous financial support from the Humanities Institute."

—**Dane Clarke**  
*English, Film & New Media Studies*

"I was able to speak with people from a variety of disciplines concerning a matter of great importance that I am incredibly passionate about. I heard so many ideas from a variety of perspectives, and the **diversity at this conference made it all the richer.**"

—**Peyton McManus**  
*English*

"I had assumed that my topic of research was not significant enough to deserve a presentation slot but being a presenter at USF's Humanities Institute **helped me gain confidence as a researcher and presenter,** which was only elevated by the opportunity to present my research at an institution like Johns Hopkins University."

—**Nafisa Uddin**  
*Biomedical Sciences,  
International Studies*



UNIVERSITY of  
**SOUTH FLORIDA**

College of Arts & Sciences

### Humanities Institute

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### DIRECTOR

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### FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD

Kristin Allukian (English)

Aaron Augsburger (SIGS)

Andrew Berish (HCS)

Karla Davis-Salazar (Anthropology)

Aisha Durham (Communication)

Matt Knight (History)

Natalie Scenters-Zapico (English)

Catherine Wilkins (Honors College)

### DEBARTOLO ENDOWED CHAIR

**Meredith Johnson**

maj5@usf.edu

### FACULTY FELLOWS

**Jennifer Dukes-Knight**

**Matthew Knight**

**Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones**

**Jerry Rumph**

IrishStudies@usf.edu

# AN EVENING WITH SILVIA MORENO-GARCIA

INTERVIEW BY CARMEN ALVAREZ

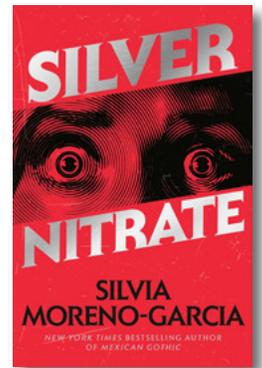


Photo by Martin Dee



Mexican by birth, Canadian by inclination. **Silvia Moreno-Garcia** is the author of a number of critically acclaimed novels, including *Gods of Jade and Shadow*, *Mexican Gothic*, *The Daughter of Doctor Moreau*, and *Velvet Was the Night*. She has won multiple “Best Books of the Year” awards from *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, NPR, Vox, Book Riot. *The Los Angeles Times* says “Moreno-Garcia works in a tradition in which chills and thrills tap into elemental cultural fears—runaway science, carnal passion.”

Her newest novel, *Silver Nitrate*, was released in July and is already being hailed as “a thrill ride into the underbelly of 1990s Mexican horror movies and occultism,” and “Hip as hell.”



This event is free and open to all students, faculty, staff, and the community. Books will be available for purchase. A book signing will follow the event. For questions or accommodations, contact Jade V. at [jvonwerder@usf.edu](mailto:jvonwerder@usf.edu) or visit our website: [www.humanities-institute.usf.edu](http://www.humanities-institute.usf.edu).



**Tuesday, October 10 | 7:00 PM**



**USF Marshall Student Center  
Oval Theater (MSC 2500)**

4103 USF Cedar Circle  
Tampa, FL 33620

Designated parking lots TBA

**Carmen Alvarez** is a Cuban-American book lover whose passion for books drove her to establish [@tomesandtextiles](https://www.instagram.com/tomesandtextiles) on Instagram in 2015 and Tik Tok in 2021. She uses her platforms to review and recommend Latinx books from across the diaspora and push back against the lack of representation in traditional publishing.



# EDWARD DeBARTOLO ENDOWED CHAIR

After a rigorous application process, the Humanities Institute is delighted to welcome Dr. Meredith Johnson as the 2023 - 25 DeBartolo Endowed Chair. Her energy, vision, and scholarship are going to be a tremendous addition to HI.



## Meredith Johnson

Professor // English

**Q:** *What are you most excited about as part of your new position as the DeBartolo Endowed Chair?*

**A:** As DeBartolo Endowed Chair, I will lead an innovative, interdisciplinary mentoring initiative that integrates evidence-based practices shown to cultivate and sustain well-being. I'm most excited to bring faculty and graduate students back together after such a sustained period of isolation and hardship. My work during the next several years will foster meaningful social connections among peers, help participants cultivate their sense of purpose, support behavioral and physical health, and aid in professional development.

**Q:** *How long have you been a faculty member at USF?*

**A:** I joined the faculty at USF in 2007. Previously, I studied here as an undergraduate in the 1990s. The transformation that has occurred during my 20+ years of coming to campus is remarkable. Walking under the flowering trellis bursting with bougainvillea, by the bronze bull statues in the Marshall Center's South Plaza, and into the spacious MSC atrium would have been unimaginable back then.

**Q:** *Do you have a favorite class(es) you've taught?*

**A:** My work with the Judy Genshaft Honors College (JGHC) has been especially rewarding. I recently taught an ethics seminar that emphasized civic engagement with its semester-long focus on health equity and service-learning. My JGHC students designed accessible and inclusive documents for visually impaired readers now in use by our client, the Florida Department of Health-Hillsborough. In fall 2023, I am teaching a new honors course, The Science of Happiness and Well-Being, which dovetails with my work as the DeBartolo Endowed Chair.

**Q:** *What are you reading right now?*

**A:** Listening to audiobooks is one of my favorite hobbies. I lean heavily towards fiction in my free time, most recently Hanya Yanagihara's novels *A Little Life* and *To Paradise*. Both books offer deeply moving stories about the impulse to protect our loved ones and the suffering we endure when we aren't up to the task.

**Q:** *Why do you think the humanities are an important area of study?*

**A:** What does it mean to live a good life? Under which conditions do people flourish personally and collectively? These questions are central to my work as the DeBartolo Endowed Chair, and they cannot be fully addressed without the insights contributed by those studying language, philosophy, history, ethics, religion, the arts, and other humanistic fields of inquiry.

# FACULTY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Global Irish Studies at USF

Meet the 2023-2024 Cohort



**Jennifer Knight, Ph.D**

Associate Professor of Instruction  
History



**Matthew Knight, Ph.D**

Associate Librarian  
USF Libraries



**Elizabeth  
Ricketts-Jones, Ph.D**

Assistant Professor of Instruction  
English

This year the Humanities Institute welcomes its third cohort of Faculty Fellows for a year-long collaborative research experience. Jennifer Knight, Matthew Knight, and Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones will spend the year developing their research in “Global Irish Studies.” The group approaches Ireland and the Irish diaspora from a comparative standpoint, exploring what these past lessons can teach us about current global migration experiences as well as how they overlap or differ from other diasporas.

This work builds on existing research and the cohort plans to work with the “Irish Culture and Language Club Student Organization,” develop an interdisciplinary course on the Celtic Revival,

and host the 2023 American Conference for Irish Studies Southern Regional Meeting. Drawing attention to USF’s significant holdings in Irish Studies, in particular the Dion Boucicault Theatre Collection, is a goal of the cohort, as is integrating these collections into to the curriculum.

Faculty Fellows are provided with time and resources to pursue both individual research goals and the unique opportunity to work side-by-side with colleagues from outside their home department. Fostering this interdisciplinary collaboration is an essential function of the Humanities Institute and we hope to continue to expand this program as we grow.

# 2023 American Conference for Irish Studies Southern Regional Conference

## “Inclusivity in Irish Studies: A Community For All”

OCTOBER 26 - 28, 2023

USFSP  
UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA  
ST. PETERSBURG

### “Mislike me not for my complexion”: Three Black Artists in Ireland, 1829 - 1860

This year’s Faculty Fellowship Program is honored to welcome Dr. Christine Kinealy of Quinnipiac University to deliver a public lecture on Thursday, Oct. 26th as part of this year’s Southern Regional American Conference for Irish Studies. Her talk is titled “‘Mislike me not for my complexion’: Three Black Artists in Ireland, 1829 to 1860” and will feature her most recent research on the work of Black abolitionists and artists in Ireland. She will draw on her research of the Irish Abolition movement including her 2018 publication *Frederick Douglass and Ireland: In His Own Words*, and *Black Abolitionists in Ireland*, published in 2020.

Dr. Kinealy is the founding Director of Ireland’s Great Hunger Institute and a preeminent scholar of the Great Famine in Ireland. She has published extensively on the topic and has been involved in numerous public outreach efforts including presenting on the Famine before the British Houses of Parliament and in the U.S. Congress. She has also participated in the 100-mile walk from Roscommon to Dublin, following in the footsteps of tenants forced to sail to Canada in 1847 that now forms The National Famine Way. She has been named one of the top educators in Irish America and was inducted into the Irish America Hall of Fame in 2014. Her 2017 documentary, *The Great Hunger and the Irish Diaspora* received an Emmy award.

This lecture is free and open to the public. For questions or more information, the Fellows can be contacted at [IrishStudies@usf.edu](mailto:IrishStudies@usf.edu).



**Christine Kinealy, Ph.D.**  
*Quinnipiac University*  
Professor of History

Director of Ireland’s Great Hunger Institute



**Thursday, October 26**



USF St. Petersburg campus



[www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/conferences/acis](http://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/conferences/acis)

# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual UNDERGRADUATE HUMANITIES CONFERENCE

 **January 25-26, 2024**  
MARSHALL STUDENT CENTER 3707

Undergraduate research is a **High Impact Practice** (HIP) that has proven to enhance the undergraduate student experience as well as provide excellent experience for both aspiring graduate students and those who are preparing to enter the workforce. Five years ago, the Humanities Institute ran a pilot program to provide USF undergraduates a space to present research on any humanities-based topic. That little program has now grown into a two-day conference featuring over 100 student poster sessions and paper presentations.



This year's conference will be held January 25 – 26 on the third floor of the USF Marshall Student Center. In addition to welcoming applications from all USF undergraduates, we will be opening this year's conference to local community college students as well.

Students are encouraged to apply using a project they have recently completed as part of their coursework. Q&A sessions and other resources are made available so students can feel prepared and confident on the day of their presentation. For most students, this will be their first conference experience, but it's usually not their last. HI provides resources and support for students to leverage their experience at the Humanities Conference and apply to other state and national conferences.

## Ways to Get Involved

**Faculty:** Share the application information in your class and encourage students to apply using an existing midterm or final project from your class. To schedule an in-person visit from HI, email Jade von Werder. An informational video on the conference will be on our website to share with students.

**Undergraduate Students: Apply!** *(And get one of your friends to apply too)*

**Graduate Students:** Volunteer to serve as a **panel moderator**. We'll give you everything you need and it's a great addition to your C.V.

**Family and Friends:** Plan to attend a poster session and meet the student scholars or attend a panel discussion and ask a question or two. Show your support by showing up.



# HUMANITIES & HOPS

## “Diversity and Human Experience”

While it's always wonderful to invite visiting scholars to USF, one of our favorite activities is bringing USF faculty into the community to share their research with local residents. Humanities and Hops is an ongoing series that rotates to various independently owned businesses for an evening of interactive conversation with USF faculty.

This semester, our Humanities and Hops speakers are **Alex Levine**, **Lorena Madrigal**, **Adriana Novoa**, and **Christina Richards**, and they will be discussing the outcomes of their research as last year's HI Faculty Fellows. During the 2022 – 23 academic year, these scholars pooled their knowledge of biology, philosophy, anthropology, and history to explore human diversity through an interdisciplinary lens. The Fellows developed a successful seminar class that studied the emergence of scientific fields and how they impacted the philosophical understanding of **what it means to be “human”** as well as how those discoveries inform our current understanding of diversity.

Thanks to this semester's host, New World Brewery. The event begins at 7:00PM but come early to get your seat, grab some food, and relax. This event is free to attend and open to all students, faculty, staff, and the community.

**Any faculty interested in presenting their research at a future Humanities and Hops event can email [Liz Kicak](mailto:Liz.Kicak@usf.edu).**



**Alex Levine**

Professor, Chair  
Philosophy



**Lorena Madrigal**

Professor  
Anthropology



**Adriana Novoa**

Associate Professor  
History



**Christina Richards**

Associate Professor  
Integrative Biology



**Tuesday, September 26**  
**7:00 PM**

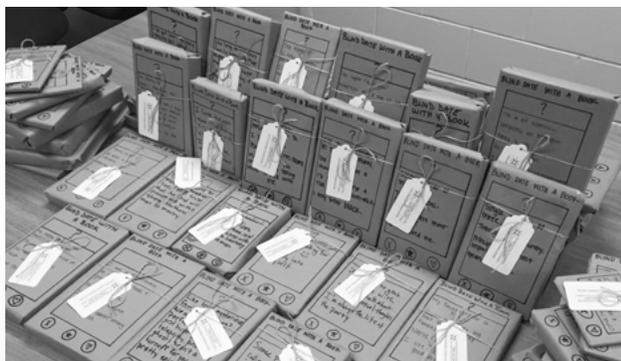


**New World Brewery Tampa**  
*810 East Skagway Avenue*  
*Tampa, FL 33604*

# Blind Date with a Book

It started with a Pinterest post—a trend called “Blind Date with A Book.” Bookstores and libraries were wrapping up books and writing the book’s most attractive qualities on the obscured cover. Readers search through the options and decide which is most likely to be their “perfect match.” It looked fun and we thought a USF option might be a nice way to connect with students, so we tried it out in 2017. We assumed 50 books would be plenty...we were so wrong.

Blind Date with A Book (BDWAB) is one of our most beloved traditions. Each semester we host this pop-up event in front of the USF Tampa Library with hundreds of books (300 books will last about an hour). It’s a swarm of eager students excited to find their ideal book, and we love watching the intensity of the selection process. Students text their friends for advice,



form groups to guess at the titles, and seek suggestions from the HI staff. We love putting good literature in the hands of our students and it’s worth the hours of organizing, wrapping, and writing clues. We began running themed editions of BDWAB and letting our interns spearhead the project each semester. Previous editions of BDWAB have included Banned Books, International Authors, Monsters, Mystery, Poetry, Sci-Fi/Fantasy, and Women Authors. Watch our social media channels to find out where we’ll be this fall and what our theme is.



# Summer Grants

Since 2005, the USF Humanities Institute has awarded 197 Summer Grants totaling \$985,000

Congratulations to the 2023 Humanities Institute Summer Grant Award Recipients. From archival research in Spain and Argentina, to visiting library collections in New York, D.C., and Berlin, these faculty have been working on exciting projects and contributions to the humanities this summer.

The Humanities Institute Summer Grants are open to tenure-earning and tenured faculty whose research falls under the NEH definition of the humanities. Awards are up to \$5,000. These funds may be used for travel for research, archival work, essential project-driven equipment, publishing support, research assistance, or summary salary.

## Zaib un Nisa Aziz (History)

*Nations Ascendant: The Global Campaign Against Empire and the Making of Our World*

## Gil Ben-Herut (Religious Studies)

*"Rav Yehuda the Hindua": Identity Building at the Margins of the Rabbinic World*

## Scott Ferguson (Humanities & Cultural Studies)

*Affordance: What Counts as Technology*

## J. Michael Francis (History)

*Native Bound/Unbound: Indigenous Enslavement in the Americas, 1492-1607*

## David Johnson (History)

*"This is no laughing matter": Gay and Lesbians in the 1972 U.S. Presidential Election*

## Dillon Mahoney (Anthropology)

*Trails to Indigenous New Hampshire*

## Alejandro Márquez (SIGS)

*Building solidarity: Fighting the Odds in the Immigrant Rights Movement*

## Rachel May (Humanities & Cultural Studies)

*Collective Memory in Post Conflict Colombia*

## Adriana Novoa (History)

*Masculinity and scientific thought in Argentina*

## Adrian O'Connor (History)

*Assassination: On concepts and killings*

## Joshua Rayman (Philosophy)

*"Kant's Nietzscheanism/Nietzsche's Kantianism: Resonances in their Political Theory"*

## Nicolas Thompson (SIGS)

*The Fed's Quest to Save the Postwar Monetary Order*



## FALL 2023 CALENDAR

SEP 26	7:00 PM	<b>Humanities &amp; Hops: "Diversity and Human Experience"</b> New World Brewery Tampa
OCT 1		<i>Applications open for 5th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference</i>
OCT 10	7:00 PM	<b>An Evening with Silvia Moreno-Garcia</b> USF Marshall Student Center Oval Theater (MSC 2500)
OCT 26	TIME TBA	<b>Irish Studies Conference   Christine Kinealy</b> USF St. Petersburg campus
NOV 10		<i>Early Bird Application Deadline for 5th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference</i>
Test Free Week	TIME TBA	<b>Blind Date with a Book</b>
DEC 8		<i>Standard Application Deadline for 5th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference</i>

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