



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
College of Arts & Sciences

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

Director's Statement

Spring 2022

When I left campus for the semester break, I thought I had the upcoming semester figured out. Our Undergraduate Humanities Conference was back to being in-person, our guest speakers would fly in and stay for a couple days visiting classes and giving their talks to live audiences. We would resume Blind Date with a Book. We would slowly, but steadily, move back toward our pre-COVID existence...and I was laughably wrong.

I returned to campus to find cancellation emails, requests to move speaking engagements online, or at least delay making the final decision about modality. Last week, I faced a classroom full of new faces and the number of questions I answered with, "I don't know. We'll just have to do our best," was staggering. It seems like the 2020 Trilogy is year after year of doing our best in the face of not knowing.

So, what will the Humanities Institute do in 2022? Like everyone else, we're going to do our best. We'll do our best to support the research of our students and faculty, and provide engaging programming for the community as safely as possible. If you don't follow us on social media yet, please connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter today; the physical/digital locations and times of events may fluctuate, and social media is the quickest way for us to share information.



We wish everyone a new year of increased health, stability, and happiness.

Liz Kicak, M.F.A.
Director



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Humanities Institute

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Aisha Durham (Communication)

Nicole Discenza (English)

Ylce Irizarry (English)

Matt Knight (History)

John Lennon (English)

Karla Davis-Salazar (Anthropology)

Catherine Wilkins (Honors College)

The Humanities Institute Mission Statement

The Mission of the Humanities Institute at the University of South Florida is to generate critical dialogue about what connects us to each other and our world, facilitating those conversations through research, education, and community programs.

Undergraduate Research

Supporting the research efforts of USF students and faculty is one of the most fundamental components of the Humanities Institute and, over the last three years, we've put particular emphasis on encouraging undergraduate research in the humanities. On January 27 and 28, over 50 student scholars will come together to present original research and creative projects at our 3rd Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference.

For many students, this conference will be the first time they've shared their research outside of the classroom setting, but it's often not their last. Previous conference participants have gone on to participate in the general USF Undergraduate Research Conference, the Florida Undergraduate Research Conference (hosted by UCF),



and the Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium (hosted by Johns Hopkins University). HI is proud to provide financial support to those students who are accepted to present their work at other universities.

This year's scholars represent 14 different schools and departments and cover an amazing range of topics

including literary criticism, food studies, and medical ethics. All poster sessions and panel discussions are open to the public. The full schedule is available on our website. Drop by and catch a session or two.



Why Undergraduate Research is Important

- » Undergraduate Research is one of 11 AACU High Impact Practices (HIP). HIPs are teaching and learning practices that significantly enhance educational benefits.
- » Undergraduate Research is included in the State of Florida's Performance Based Funding metrics.
- » Conference participation demonstrates employer-desired traits like ambition and independent inquiry.
- » Conference participation gives a competitive edge to students applying to graduate school.

Support USF students by making a contribution to the Humanities Institute. A \$200 gift will fund a student's trip to the Florida Undergraduate Research Conference, hosted by UCF. A \$1,000 gift will fund a student's trip to present at the National Undergraduate Research Conference at Johns Hopkins University. Donate online today or contact Liz Kicak for more information: ekicak@usf.edu | 813-974-3657

<https://giving.usf.edu/online/gift/f/420019>

3rd Annual
**UNDERGRADUATE
HUMANITIES
CONFERENCE**

*You're
Invited*

January 27-28, 2022
Marshall Student Center 3707

Faculty Fellowship

This year, the Humanities Institute met one of our long-standing goals of launching a Faculty Fellowship Program. A robust fellowship program is a hallmark of established humanities centers, and adding this program is a significant step in HI's commitment to supporting faculty research. The Faculty Advisory Board selected the inaugural cohort from a pool of outstanding applications.

The 2021-2022 cohort includes McArthur Freeman II (School of Art and Art History), David Ponton III (School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies–Africana Studies), and Tangela Serls (Women's and Gender Studies). Their theme is "Re-Imagining Blackness" and this fall they hosted several successful seminars on blackness and storytelling, as well as a screening and discussion of "Horror Noire." You can learn more about this year's cohort and watch a "Meet the Fellows" video, produced by Erin Vogel, on our website.

Call for 2022-23 Applications

The deadline to submit an application for the 2022-23 Faculty Fellowship Program is March 4, 2022. This program is designed to allow an interdisciplinary faculty cluster to build a customized year-long fellowship at the Humanities Institute. The Fellowship Cohort will design a program that facilitates intellectual freedom and independent inquiry, while enhancing the visibility of the humanities at USF.

Visit our website to review eligibility requirements and download the application.

www.humanities-institute.usf.edu



Tangela Serls



McArthur Freeman II



David Ponton III



An Evening with Ilya Kaminsky and Katie Farris

Monday, February 21 | 6:00pm

It's always exciting to have an opportunity to collaborate with one of the other institutes in the College of Arts and Sciences, and this spring HI will join the Institute on Russia (IOR) to host Ilya Kaminsky and Katie Farris on February 21.

Born in Ukraine, Ilya Kaminsky was granted political asylum by the United States in 1993. He has published a number of critically acclaimed books that imaginatively weave together the personal and the political. His most recent collection, *Deaf Republic* (2019), was a National Book Award finalist. He has won the Whiting Writer's Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Metcalf Award, the Dorset Prize, a Ruth Lilly Fellowship, and the *Foreword Magazine's* Best Poetry Book of the Year award. Recently, he was on the shortlist for the Neusdadt International Literature Prize.

Katie Farris is an accomplished poet and translator. Farris and Kaminsky worked with fellow poet, Valzhyna

Mort, to edit *Gossip and Metaphysics: Russian Modernist Poems and Prose* (2014). Her most recent book is *A Net to Catch My Body in its Weaving* (2021) which won the Chad Walsh Chapbook Series from Beloit Poetry Journal. She is also the author of the hybrid-form text *boysgirls* (2019).



This joint event is part of a series called Creative Horizons — a collaboration between the USF Institute on Russia, the Melikian Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at Arizona State University, and the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies at Miami University in Ohio. This joint venture gives audiences in Florida, Arizona, Ohio and beyond the opportunity to hear from working artists in the region as they discuss their methods, perspectives and aspirations.

The public event with Ilya Kaminsky and Katie Farris will be held at 6pm on February 21. It has not yet been determined if this event will be held in-person or online. Please check our website and social media for updates.



National Poetry Month

Kick off National Poetry Month with a free book! Find your “match” at our Blind Date with a Book event on April 1 at 12pm. We will have a table set up outside of the USF Library (Tampa campus) with wrapped books and “dating profile” clues to help you choose a book fit for you.

Friday, April 1 | 12:00pm

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK



Joshua Bennett

Thursday, April 7 | 6:00pm



Joshua Bennett and “An Aesthetic of Repair”

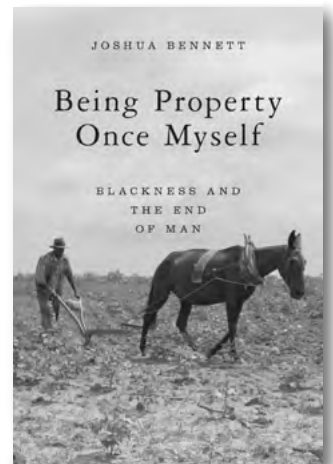
As the pilot year of HI’s Faculty Fellowship Program draws to a close, the inaugural cohort was asked to compile a list of writers and scholars they thought would benefit both their research, and the wider Tampa Bay community. One of their suggestions was Joshua Bennett, Professor of English and Creative Writing at Dartmouth College, and we’re delighted that he will be giving a public reading and discussion at USF on April 7, 2021.

Bennett is the author of three books of poetry and literary criticism. *The Sobbing School* (2016) was a National Poetry Series selection and a finalist for an NAACP Image Award. This powerful debut collection presents songs for the living and the dead that destabilize and de-familiarize representations of black history and contemporary black experience. His second poetry col-

lection, *Owed* (2020), is a book with celebration at its center. Its primary concern is how we might mend the relationship between ourselves and the people, spaces, and objects we have been taught to think of as insignificant, as fundamentally unworthy of study, reflection, attention, or care.

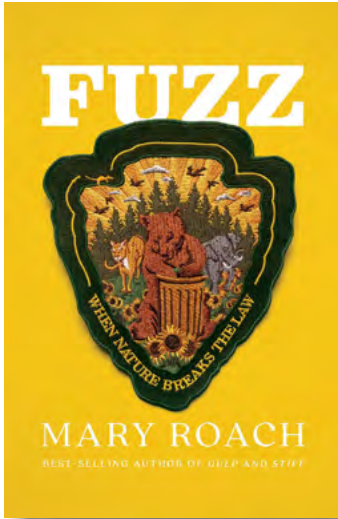
In addition to his poetry, Bennett recently published a book of literary criticism entitled, *Being Property Once Myself*. In each chapter Bennett tracks a specific animal figure—the rat, the cock, the mule, the dog, and the shark—in the works of black authors such as Richard Wright, Toni Morrison, Zora Neale Hurston, Jesmyn Ward, and Robert Hayden. He argues that animal figures are deployed in these texts to assert a theory of black sociality and to combat dominant claims about the limits of personhood.

The public event with Joshua Bennett will be held at 6pm on April 7. It has not yet been determined if this event will be held in-person or online. Please check our website or social media for updates.



Book Group: Brunch Edition

Book Group is open to the community, faculty, staff, and students. Grab your copy and join us for a fun conversation.



Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law by Mary Roach

Saturday, May 7 | 12:00pm | The Independent 5016 N. Florida Ave.

What's to be done about a jaywalking moose? A bear caught breaking and entering? A murderous tree? Three hundred years ago, animals that broke the law would be assigned legal representation and put on trial. These days, as *New York Times* best-selling author Mary Roach discovers, the answers are best found not in jurisprudence but in science: the curious science of human-wildlife conflict, a discipline at the crossroads of human behavior and wildlife biology. Fascinating, witty, and humane, *Fuzz* offers hope for compassionate coexistence in our ever-expanding human habitat.

Humanities & Hops

Cold Drinks. Hot Food. Smart People.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Faculty, if you would like to present your research this semester, please email Liz Kicak: ekicak@usf.edu



Spring 2022 Calendar

*All times are listed in Eastern Time

JAN 27-28		3rd Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference Marshall Student Center 3707
FEB 21	6pm	An Evening with Ilya Kaminsky and Katie Farris Location TBD
APR 1	12pm	Blind Date with a Book USF Library (Tampa)
APR 7	6pm	Joshua Bennett Location TBD
MAY 7	12pm	Book Group: <i>Fuzz</i> by Mary Roach The Independent (Tampa)



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