Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes
Associate Directors and Administrators Network Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2020
12:00pm – 2:00pm Eastern Daylight

Purpose

We originally planned to hold a workshop to explore forms of advocacy in relation to the work of Humanities Centers/Institutes or in relation to our roles as humanities administrators, particularly in connection to the 2020 conference theme of “Borders, Mobilities, and Displacements.” So much has changed in the past several months, but the need for advocacy remains. Through a series of break-out discussions, this meeting will offer network members a chance to share and reflect on how our centers have responded to the pandemic programmatically and institutionally, how we have responded personally, and what challenges and possibilities we see on the horizon.

Throughout the session, we hope participants will update the shared Google Doc found here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qXtYESxfRywepipJ44zE2_13eNpV_oZb77sP7USlVU/edit

Presenters

• Christina Chia, Associate Director, Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University
• Noemí Fernández, Program Manager, Hurford Center for the Arts and Humanities, Haverford College
• Susannah L. Smith, Managing Director, Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
• Amanda Jeanne Swain, Executive Director, Humanities Center, University of California, Irvine

Agenda

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Meeting Format and Management

II. Getting Centered

Individual reflection:
• What are 2-3 words that express key values, central mission of your center and/ or humanities more generally?

Breakout Conversations
• Given these values and the current global crisis, how do you see your center or your position:
advocating for cultural and social needs that have emerged (e.g. for art and cultural “content,” for pandemic contexts and analyses, for community and sense of connection)?  
○ Responding to structural inequities that have been revealed (e.g. in health, labor, technological infrastructure)?  
○ Grappling with ethical issues in institutional, professional, and personal contexts?

III. Breakout Group #1 (random) - 15-20 minutes  
Discussion questions:
- Programmatically, how do you see your center responding to the issues revealed by the pandemic, including structural inequities locally and globally?  
- How have you brought humanistic perspectives to understandings of the pandemic (historical, cultural, critical) and to the ethical decisions that have to be made in a time of global public health, economic, social and political crises?

IV. Breakout Group #2 (random) - 15-20 minutes  
Discussion question:
- Institutionally, what are the ways you see the need to advocate for the humanities center in terms of resource allocation, making hard decisions when faced with budget cuts, and communicating the value of the work of the center?

V. Breakout Group #3 (random) - 15-20 minutes  
Discussion questions:
- Personally, how are you thinking about your own job and how to advocate for yourself to do your job well?  
- How are you/ your center creating community and support systems for the center’s staff and affiliated people and partners?

VI. Wrap-up
- Final thoughts re: break-out discussions (shared Google Doc)  
- Possible name change to “Humanities Administration Network”

Accessibility
- We are expecting a large crowd (over 50)
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- Please re-name yourself to include your institutional affiliation
- Please mute so as to avoid unintentional audial interference
- If you have a question about a presentation or wish to make a remark, please use the Chat function, which must be turned on and which will be monitored throughout the session.
- Please avoid using the Raise Hand function, as the group is too large
- Please avoid using the public Chat function for side or casual conversation
- Please be aware that the audio, video, and chat of this conversation will be recorded
- Please be aware that sections or the entirety of this virtual meeting may be shared publicly on the CHCI website

Technical Support

There will be three CHCI staff on this meeting providing technical and logistical support. Please contact them via Zoom's Private Chat function or by e-mail.

- Guillaume Ratel - ratel@wisc.edu (monitoring waiting room, monitoring registration, monitoring chat, highlighting questions)
- Bill Warner - warner@humanities.wisc.edu (muting/unmuting participants, monitoring chat, highlighting questions)
- Melissa Ulbricht - maulbricht@wisc.edu (monitoring chat, additional support)