# 2023-2024 Annual Report

## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President's Letter</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meetings</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Humanities Institutes / Humanities Research Collaborations</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Activity Fund and Fellowships</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networks</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Members and Membership Highlights</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Report</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Year Ahead</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photo by Juan Monsalve, University of Chile
Dear colleagues:

Over the years, CHCI has grown into an organization with a dual mission. One half of our mission supports research in the humanities, through forms of international collaboration designed to foster new knowledge and expanded networks. The other half entails support for humanities infrastructure and leadership. Practically, our model of global collaboration has enabled select partner HCl’s from different world regions to focus their research and exchanges within the arc of a particular project; deeply valuable to the participants, but necessarily limited in terms of their impact throughout our broader membership. Conversely, our support for humanities infrastructure has been institutionally and demographically expansive, helping humanities center directors, associate directors, and staff in all manner of operations. These missions are not in tension, but they live in separate parts of the organization. We certainly want to hold onto our research mission and our leadership mission as we move forward, but in my time as president of CHCI I hope to draw these separate wings of the organization into closer alignment.

In that spirit, we are looking to evolve our research collaboration programs to broaden participation and increase their impact. Our aim is to take the model of the Global Humanities Institutes (GHIs) into its next phase, to broaden as much as possible the number of centers and institutes participating in and benefiting from our research collaboration programs. As the facilitator of these programs, CHCI will seek to consolidate the research and programming output of HCl’s into a platform to advocate for the critical role of the humanities in addressing urgent domestic and global issues, both within the university of ideas and amongst its various publics.

As well, it remains my hope that the theme of this year’s annual conference—on risk and the forces tearing at the fabric of higher education, within the United States and globally—will provide opportunities to draw our scholarly and administrative missions into closer purpose. I have the membership to thank, in fact, for planting the seeds for this year’s conference, during our informal conversations a year ago back in Santiago. But what started as a concern with the risks to individual scholars for their scholarly work and speech has over the past year broadened immensely in scope, with issues of academic freedom, freedom of expression, the right to assembly, the right to protest, even the idea of the “university of ideas” (as a key element of a vibrant public sphere) seriously up for question by those of an illiberal bent. How are humanities centers coping at the moment? I look forward to discussing how we are each responding administratively and intellectually to one of the largest and most significant social movements of the last half century.

Looking forward to welcoming you to Berkeley,

Stephen

Stephen Best
President, CHCI
Director, Townsend Center for the Humanities
Professor, English, UC Berkeley
From June 20–24, 2023, the Interdisciplinary Center for the Studies of Philosophy, Arts, and Humanities at University of Chile hosted the CHCI Annual Meeting. CHCI President Stephen Best and Director Pablo Oyarzún welcomed us to CHCI’s first international conference since our last in Dublin in 2019, and we were very pleased to design this meeting as both a meeting of our membership and a regional Latin American meeting.

The theme Conmociones: Critical Distance and Construction of the Common addressed the pressing global phenomenon of revolts and revolutions alongside the question of critical distancing and our present capacity to construct the common, “lo común.” Our membership contributed greatly to lively CHCI Network sessions focused on best practices for humanities centers, public humanities, critical humanities spaces, and medical humanities. Keynotes included Verónica Gago from the University of Buenos Aires, Sandro Mezzadra from the University of Bologna, and María del Rosario Acosta López from UC Riverside.

We were proud to present a conference that was accessible to local and Spanish-speaking participants, which included simultaneous interpretation and free registration to many sessions for local scholars and community members. The week was also enlivened by the presence of our inaugural cohort of Annual Meeting scholarship recipients, which included a variety of center directors, staff, and early career scholars.

From May 28–June 1, 2024, the Townsend Center for the Humanities at UC Berkeley will host the next CHCI Annual Meeting. The conference theme, “... at Risk,” will allow us to examine the multiple challenges encountered by scholars operating within increasingly hostile environments at home and abroad, as well as other aspects of risk in the humanities. Keynotes will include Judith Butler from UC Berkeley; Robin D.G. Kelley from UCLA; and a poetry reading by Solmaz Sharif (UC Berkeley), Polina Barskova (UC Berkeley), and Aracelis Girmay (Stanford). The meeting will mark the launch of CHCI Initiatives, an evolution of our Global Humanities Institutes, as well as the re-launch of the CHCI Administration Network, a member-led group focused on practical challenges and opportunities for humanities center staff and leadership.
With support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, CHCI launched its first Global Humanities Institutes in 2017. Since then, the GHIs have advanced multiple forms of international, collaborative research designed to foster new knowledge and new networks.

Global Humanities Institute 2023: Global Racisms, Cold War Humanism, and the Imagination of Just Futures

“Global Racisms, Cold War Humanism, and the Imagination of Just Futures” drew on the strong transnational resonance of the Black Lives Matter movement and the compelling responses of global communities across distinct demographics and colonial histories to reflect more broadly on the global reach and relevance of humanistic scholarship on the study of subaltern pasts. The main institute meeting took place in Delhi, India from December 10-22, 2023.

Primary partners:
- Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University, United States
- The Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape
- Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi
- Tsinghua Institute of Advanced Study, Tsinghua University

Global Humanities Institute 2023: Post-Extractivist Legacies and Landscapes: Humanities, Artistic and Activist Responses

“Post-extractivist legacies and landscapes: Humanities, artistic and activist responses” took a humanities-centered, transdisciplinary, and transregional approach to analyzing the complex legacies and entanglements arising from mining as an extractivist process with massive environmental and socio-political impacts. Comprising three strands (methodologies, site studies and creative responses) and generating both artistic and academic outputs, the project drew on literary studies, anthropology, history, environmental studies, bio-archaeology and activist art practice to investigate former, ongoing and proposed sites of mining in Ireland, Germany, Estonia, South Africa, Oceania and the Gulf Coast of the United States. The main institute meeting took place in Dublin from July 4-8, 2023.

Primary partners:
- University College Dublin Humanities Institute
- University College Dublin Earth and Discovery Institutes
- The Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI)
- The Centre of Excellence in Intercultural Studies (Tallinn University, Estonia)
- The Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (University of Witwatersrand, South Africa)
- The School of Culture, History and Language (Australian National University)
- The Humanities Research and Environmental Studies Centers (Rice University, U.S.A.)
Membership Activity
Fund and Fellowships

‘What We Brought With Us’ Exhibition, Vanessa Agnew, Academy in Exile. This exhibit, which toured at the University of Cincinnati’s Taft Research Center, shares the objects, and resilience at the University of Cincinnati’s Taft Research Center.

CHCI Publication and Peer Review Working Group, Nicole Wellk-Joerger, Center for 21st Century Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Connecting the membership of CHCI in a larger conversation about the form and function of publishing for humanities centers and institutes.

Right: Judy Carroll Deeley (2023), artist in residence, Global Humanities Institute. 2023 Post-Extractivist Legacies and Landscapes Pond and Vanua Pororo Mining District. @judy.carroll.deeley
Membership Activity Fund

The CHCI Membership Activity Fund continued to support members seeking to create or bolster inclusive collaborations and activities with outcomes benefiting our membership. The amount of funding in 2023-24 totaled $57,500 and we thank the outgoing committee members for their extraordinary service in establishing this program: Irena Polić from UC Santa Cruz, Christina Chia from Duke University, and chair Teresa Mangum from the University of Iowa.

2023-2024 Recipients

CHCI Liberal Arts Colleges and Small Universities Network (LACSU) 2024 Conference. Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College. Supporting LACSU’s April 25–27, 2024 conference including an access fund for underrepresented institutions and participants.

Humanities in the Regions. Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University. Supporting a regional Community of Practice that contributes to disadvantaged scholars, institutions, and communities across regional Australia and to make an intellectual contribution to the emerging global field of critical regionalism.

Humanities as the Common Wealth of Kentucky (HCWK). Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society, University of Kentucky. Gathering humanities educators from Kentucky’s eighty-two universities and building productive relationships with humanities programs across the state.

Our History of Living with Water: A Tale of Two Cities—Venice and Miami. Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere University of Florida. Conducting a three-day center visit and workshop to Venice from April 10–12, 2024 to lay the groundwork for future collaborations and a prospective joint virtual project on the history and future of rising sea levels and environmental and cultural resilience.

100 Years of Citizenship: The Indian Citizenship Act (1924). Sovereignty, and Native Rights. Humanities Research Center, Virginia Commonwealth University. Creating an access fund for BIPOC graduate and junior faculty participation during this mid-2024 international symposium.

CHCI Critical Humanities Spaces Network. ‘Creating Utopic Spaces: Interruptions, Eruptions, Disruptions.’ Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape. Supporting a two-day workshop on utopia as a critical practice and as a propositional practice, tentatively set for September 2024.

Collaborative Writing on Gender Activism: Transdisciplinary and Trans-hemispheric Knowledges in Movement. Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis, USA. Co-creating a bilingual publication intended as a model for the integration of a hemispheric perspective on gender activism, in partnership with international scholars and practitioners in Mexico City at the Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico.

CHCI Public Humanities Network. William Center for Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia, USA. Supporting the Network’s pre-conference activities for the CHCI Annual Meeting 2024 and their program for the Annual Meeting itself, centering a new award in public humanities leadership.

Aspirational Infrastructure Research: Mobilities, Airports, Place (AIR-MAP). International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University. Forming a cohort of junior scholars and mid-career colleagues from the Global South to participate in an interdisciplinary two-day symposium examining the politics, imaginaries, and contestations of airports in the Global South, nested within the 5th annual Global Mobility Humanities Conference (GMHC) in Seoul, South Korea.

Sovereign claims and counterclaims: Transdisciplinary approaches to the study of humanity’s global past. Linnæus University, Centre for Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies. Hosting a three-day cross-cultural workshop to explore the different ways in which sovereignty has been conceptualized, understood and exercised in different historical and cultural contexts, tentatively planned for October 2024, at the Swedish Institute in Istanbul.

Annual Meeting 2024 Scholarship

It is our pleasure to offer a limited number of in-person scholarships to the upcoming CHCI Annual Meeting hosted by UC Berkeley from May 28–June 1, 2024.

This year’s scholarship recipients:

Katie Corboy, Assistant Director
Institute for the Humanities, University of Illinois at Chicago

Denise Z. Davidson, Prof. of History and Director
Humanities Research Center, George State University

Kathy Goodkin, Graduate Assistant
Humanities Network and Consortium, UNC-Greensboro

Egemen Özbek, Academic Coordinator
Academy in Exile, Technische Universität Dortmund

Christine Gonzalez Stanton, Executive Director
Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities, Bard College

Melinda Takemura, Senior Centre Administrator
Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University

ACLS, SSHRC fellowships

CHCI continued in partnership with the U.S.-based ACLS and Canada-based SSHRC on respective fellowship programs. Both partnerships invigorated the intellectual climates of our member institutions with little or no cost to the host, and provided early career scholars stimulating environments and access to humanities workplaces where they created lasting ties.

https://chcinetwork.org/programs/chci-acls-fellowship
https://chcinetwork.org/programs/chci-sshrc-fellowship
Member Networks

Administration Network

The CHCI Advisory Board relaunched this network focused on the practical nuts-and-bolts of operating a humanities center or institute with the support of board member and chair Jennifer Ho (CU-Boulder) and steering committee members Aimee Germain (Central NY Humanities Corridor) and Caitriona Curtis (Trinity). Initial projects include a listserv to discuss common challenges and best practices for humanities centers, and also a peer mentorship program. This network will present a session at the Annual Meeting 2024 on administrative risk and resilience.

Critical Humanities Spaces Network

The network continued its series on the theme of Repair with two events: ‘Repair: Temporalities and Spaces of Undoing’ at the 2023 Annual Meeting and ‘Pedagogies of Repair: A Collective Conversation’ in conjunction with The Oxford Centre for Research in the Humanities (TORCH). They will hold a panel discussion at the Annual Meeting 2024 titled ‘Humanities As Risk’ featuring Ato Quayson, Jack Chen, and Maurits van Bever Donker. In this session, they will look at the work of the humanities, and its attention to the future of the human, as a wager: a risking of the unknown, a risking of the self; a welcoming, perhaps, of the stranger.

Health and Medical Humanities Network

With over 30 member institutions worldwide, this network continues to be one of the largest organizations forging new interdisciplinary networks and collaborations between campus, clinic, and community. Through its online Network and session at the 2024 Annual Meeting, scholars in the medical and health humanities and the general public can access directories of recent scholarship, projects, events and social media activity throughout the world. This network is hosted at the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia University.

Liberal Arts Colleges and Small Universities (LACSU) Network

LACSU gained new leadership under Christopher Grobe at Amherst College and Dean Allbritton at Colby College. They hosted their first network conference from April 25-27 at Amherst College called “Bringing the Humanities Back,” and the program included sessions focused on operations in light of the pandemic, including digital activities and (re)building community ties, as well as collaborations across institutions. They created an access fund to subsidize or fully cover the costs of attendance for representatives from underfunded or underrepresented institutions.

Public Humanities Network

This network established a new award, The Public Humanities Award for Leadership in Practice and Community Award, and the two recipients included ‘Pathways to Freedom’ (University of Tulsa), a series of programs developed in close collaboration with BIPOC communities across the state of Oklahoma; and ‘Watsonville Is in the Heart’ (UC Santa Cruz), a community-driven public history initiative to preserve and uplift stories of Filipino migration and labor in the city of Watsonville and greater Pajaro Valley. The network also hosted a virtual pre-conference prior to the 2024 Annual Meeting highlighting the editorial team of the new Public Humanities Journal and the staff of the Black Studies Collaboratory at UC Berkeley, as well as a network social.

Transit Asia Research Network (TARN)

Since the TARN Launching Meeting in August 2023, this network has hosted several innovative conferences and virtual events to engage its members focused on addressing transnational forms of conflict and social inequality. This includes a Taiwan Port Cities field trip, a conference on decolonization titled ‘People in Motion: Bridging Borders and Building Futures,’ an online forum discussing industrial-scale scam centers, a virtual 30-minute methods series, and several film-focused events on Palestine and activism. They will next meet in person in Bangkok from 1-3 August, 2024 under the theme, ‘Industry-led Operations of Capital in the 21st century.’
New Members

Humanities Research Institute - Brock University

The French National Network of Houses for the Social Sciences and Humanities, Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), French national center of scientific research

Institute for Policy Ethics and Culture - Michigan Technological University

The London Centre for the Humanities

The Clemente Course in the Humanities

Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory - University of Chicago

The Council of American Overseas Research Centers

Arts and Humanities in Healthcare Program - University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Center for Literary and Comparative Studies - University of Maryland College Park

Margaret Walker Center - Jackson State University

The Academy of Mobility Humanities - Konkuk University

The Arts & Humanities for Social Action Lab (AHALab) - Northeastern University

“I first heard about CHCI during a trip in South Africa, well before my appointment as center director. The attraction then and now is the affordance of connectivity across interdisciplinary fields, regions, and across institutional types. This commitment to global humanities drives my sense of CHCI, where I am interested in deepening engagements between institutions in Euro-America and those in the Global South, especially Africa and the Caribbean.”

— Cajetan Iheka, Director, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University.

Financial Report

Here is a general overview of the Consortium’s finances for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2023.

A more detailed report is available on our website at: https://chcinetwork.org/governance

Additional resources are available on the Governance page of our website

- Board Committees
- Board Meeting minutes
- Bylaws
- Share your center’s news and opportunities
Board

The CHCI Nominations Committee welcomed five new members of the CHCI International Advisory Board:

Bianet Castellanos, Director, Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota Twin-Cities

Wendy Chun, Founding Director, Digital Democracies Institute, Simon Fraser University

Cajetan Iheka, Director, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University

Patricia Parker, Director, Institute for the Arts & Humanities, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Cristina Stanciu, Director, Humanities Research Center, Virginia Commonwealth University

We also warmly welcome the following board members for their second term:
Paul Fleming, Jennifer Ho, Amy Lind, and Richard Near


The committee welcomed nominations from the entire membership from the 2023 Annual Meeting to the end of November 2023. The board approved a slate of candidates, and this slate was presented to the membership for a vote in February 2024 and was approved. We expect that the committee will again begin accepting nominations after our next Annual Meeting in June 2024.
Global Humanities Institutes 2024-25

Global Humanities Institute 2024: Design Justice AI
Design Justice AI will explore community-centered, humanistic, and interdisciplinary engagement of “Generative AI,” the statistical modeling of human languages, communication, arts, and cultures. The main institute meeting will be held at the University of Pretoria, with anticipated dates of July 7-21, 2024.

Primary partners:
The Rutgers Center for Cultural Analysis
The Center for Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria
The Humanities Research Centre at Australia National University
The Humanities Institute at the University of Connecticut

Global Humanities Institute 2025: Indigenous Mobilities, Tourism, and Racial Capitalism
Indigenous Mobilities, Tourism, and Racial Capitalism will explore how Indigenous communities creatively respond to the cascading effects of mega-development projects and mass tourism—such as neglect of local needs, dispossession and displacement, destruction of local ecosystems, and other consequences—at various sites around the world. The main institute meeting will be hosted by Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán and held in Yucatán, Mexico, with anticipated dates of January 5–17, 2026.

Primary partners:
The Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Minnesota
The Unidad de Proyectos Sociales (Center for Social Projects) at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (UADY)
Humanities Research Centre at Australian National University

Initiatives

In 2024-25, our flagship program, the Global Humanities Institutes (GHIs), will transform into a new and expansive framework: the CHCI Initiatives. This evolution marks a significant leap forward in our collective endeavor to champion and facilitate global humanities research, addressing urgent global challenges, and reorienting the mission of universities worldwide. The CHCI Initiatives represent a broader commitment to specific issues or themes, which will guide our research and activities annually. Unlike GHIs, the new call under CHCI Initiatives is not a call for proposals, but for participation. This opens the door for all interested CHCI members to join Consortium-wide initiatives, whether or not their projects apply for and receive CHCI funding. The inaugural call for participation will be published at the 2024 Annual Meeting.
Membership Activity Fund

The Membership Activity Fund welcomes funding proposals from the membership with deadlines on October 7, 2024, and February 7, 2025. This small grant opportunity supports inclusive collaborations among CHCI members and their partners, as well as activities with outcomes that will benefit our membership. We expect to fund 5–10 requests per deadline, with most at a maximum of $5,000.

CHCI 2025 Annual Meeting

The CHCI 2025 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Dahlem Humanities Center in Berlin in June 2025. Thank you to Director Karin Gludovatz and the Dahlem staff for welcoming us to Germany, and thank you to CHCI board member Kader Konuk for making this critical reengagement with Europe possible.