

## CHCI-MELLON GLOBAL HUMANITIES INSTITUTES 2021: CALL FOR INTERESTED CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

### Background

Since 2012, the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, has advanced multiple forms of international, collaborative research designed to foster new knowledge and new networks. Building upon the first phase of this project (2012–2017), in which 26 member centers and institutes contributed to four distinct projects, and with the support of a new grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, CHCI launched, in 2017, the **Global Humanities Institutes**, a new program for a second generation of international collaboration. In the first phase of this new initiative, CHCI selected two pilot projects, now involving 10 centers and institutes from all parts of the world that will convene two Institutes in July of this year—one on [“Translation’s Theoretical Issues, Practical Densities: Violence, Memory, and the Untranslatable”](#) to be held in Santiago, Chile, the other on [“Crises of Democracy through the Prism of Cultural Trauma”](#) in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Last year, we invited humanities centers and institutes to propose their own themes and two teams are now working on Institutes to be held in the summer of 2020—the first one on “Childhood and Social Suffering in Global Africa” in Tanzania, the second one on “Migrant Workers, Global Logistics and Unequal Citizens in Contemporary Global Context” in Taiwan.

This year again, we invite humanities centers and institutes around the world to propose the themes around which they will plan and host a two-week Institute in the summer of 2021. We expect to fund one Institute in this third round.

### What are CHCI Global Humanities Institutes?

CHCI Global Humanities Institutes are multi-year projects devoted to a research theme, method, practice, or problem in the humanities that would benefit directly from a sustained international and collaborative approach. CHCI will support a team of scholars representing three or four humanities centers or institutes, preferably located in three different world regions to develop a research program and models for collaborative work in the humanities. The heart of each collaboration will be an in-person meeting (a summer or winter institute), flexible in format, that will last approximately two weeks and include both members of the

convening research team (up to three scholars from each of the core institutions) and 10-15 additional participants affiliated with CHCI member centers. We prefer projects that are convened by scholars across career stages. Participants in each Global Humanities Institute should include graduate students and early-career scholars. The four current Global Humanities Institutes provide examples of successful proposals (see below), although they should not prevent applicants from envisioning new approaches to the model.

CHCI expects that core members of the research team of the 2021 Global Humanities Institute will convene at least once in the spring of 2020 to organize collaborative activities that will take place during the period of the grant. We also expect that participants will continue their exchange beyond the meeting through related programming on their campuses and across the CHCI network, as well as through the shared project of collaborative publication. Participants will be encouraged to explore publishing in different formats and regions with the understanding that publication projects will focus on journals and publishing houses in more than one region and in multiple languages, as a means towards sustaining the international spirit of the projects. A third meeting of the core participants focused on these activities may also be funded. The 2-3 meetings convened by the 2021 Institute should be hosted by different project partners — if at all possible.

## Who can participate?

CHCI is requesting expressions of interest from member centers and institutes from all parts of the world.

A humanities center or institute that is not currently a member of CHCI but wishes to propose a Global Humanities Institute should contact Guillaume Ratel ([ratel@wisc.edu](mailto:ratel@wisc.edu)) as soon as possible to discuss their options. At this stage, research teams need not be formed.

Both directors of individual centers and institutes seeking partners with whom to collaborate and established transcontinental teams of centers and institutes may submit proposals. Directors should work with interested members of their faculties to articulate compelling approaches to their proposed area of inquiry. Proposals should list up to three other scholars from each center or institute, one of whom could serve as a co-PI with the director. Centers and Institutes that do not yet have partners in mind should contact Guillaume Ratel to discuss their plans.

## How does my Center or Institute get involved?

The Global Humanities Institute themes are open and to be developed by the applicants. If your center or institute is interested in participating in this program please send a very brief (1-2 page) expression of interest to propose a theme, method or practice in the humanities that would benefit directly from a sustained international and collaborative approach, including ideas for how you would approach and organize a Global Humanities Institute around your proposed topic. Please be sure to include names of two or three other CHCI member centers or institutes with whom you might want to collaborate. You need not have made contact in advance of your application, but if you have discussed your project with them, please let us know. Names of suggested co-PIs at other member centers or institutes are helpful but not required. The CHCI member directory can be found here: <http://chcinetwork.org/members/directory>. Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to collaborate with an institution that is not currently a CHCI member. In your proposal, you also may wish to explain how your proposed project could lead to new opportunities for your center or institute and your campus.

All Global Humanities Institutes will include:

- A two-week long summer or winter institute that will be open to participants from other CHCI member centers and institutes (including graduate students and emerging scholars);
- Three to four convening centers and institutes, preferably from different world regions each of which will be represented by at least two co-PIs;
- A contribution both to the proposed theme and to the broader project of developing models for international research collaboration in the humanities.

Together with the 1-2 page narrative described above, please include: the director's CV and CVs of up to three other participants, at least one of whom could serve as a co-PI.

Please use the electronic form available at <https://chcinetwork.org/ghi-2021-call> to provide all the above information.

We will consider submissions through September 15, 2019.

## What are the next steps?

Upon receiving expressions of interest, the CHCI-Mellon Program Committee will identify Institutes that will contribute to new knowledge in the humanities; exemplify forms of collaboration across institutional and national boundaries; and promise to establish a new model for CHCI. This select group of applicants will then be asked to provide a full proposal by **November 30, 2019**, including:

- a more developed description of the Institute's theme, including a discussion of the specific ways in which it will be addressed.
- a two-page bibliography
- a final list of partner centers and institutes including the names of the core research-team participants at each institution and identifying those who will serve as co-PIs
- detailed plans for the pre-Institute meeting to take place by May 31, 2020
- a budget and scope of work, including subawards to partner centers and institutes. This will serve as the basis for a subaward agreement that we hope to execute by January 31, 2020.

## What if we have questions?

On June 20, 2019, the CHCI Mellon Programming Committee together with members of the research teams for the current Global Humanities Institutes will participate in a session of the CHCI Annual Meeting in Dublin dedicated to a discussion of the program and general questions from future applicants. For members who are not able to attend the Dublin meeting or who have more urgent inquiries, please contact Guillaume Ratel, CHCI Director of Programs, [ratel@wisc.edu](mailto:ratel@wisc.edu).

## Current Global Humanities Institutes

### **Translation's Theoretical Issues, Practical Densities: Violence, Memory, and the Untranslatable**

July 15-26, 2019 – Santiago, Chile

Partners Centers: Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios en Filosofía, Artes y Humanidades (University of Chile), UC Irvine Humanities Commons (UC Irvine), The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (Oxford University), Centre for Humanities Research (University of the Western Cape).

More information at: <https://chcinetwork.org/programs/ghi-2019-translation>

**Crises of Democracy through the Prism of Cultural Trauma**

July 15-24, 2019 – Dubrovnik, Croatia

Partner Centers: Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (Trinity College Dublin), Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Citizenship and Migration (University of Zagreb), Heyman Center for the Humanities (Columbia University), Jawaharlal Nehru University, Institute of Advanced Studies (University of São Paulo).

More information at: <https://chcinetwork.org/programs/ghi-2019-democracy>

**Chronic Conditions: Childhood and Social Suffering in Global Africa**

Summer 2020 – Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Partner Centers: Hall Center for the Humanities (University of Kansas), Instituto de Humanidades, Artes e Ciências (Universidade Federal da Bahia, Brazil), College of Humanities (University of Dar es Salaam), Institut Fondamental d’Afrique Noire (Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar).

**Migrant Workers, Global Logistics and Unequal Citizens in Contemporary Global Context**

Summer 2020 – Taiwan

Partner Centers: Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies (National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan), International Center for Cultural Studies (National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan), Institute for Culture and Society (Western Sydney University), The Group for Inquiries and Social Theory (Ton Duc Thang University, Vietnam), Institute for Population and Social Research (Mahidol University, Thailand), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology (Polish Academy of Sciences).