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 program for a second generation of international collaboration. In the first phase of this new initiative, CHCI selected two pilot projects, involving 10 centers and institutes from all parts of the world that convened Global Humanities Institutes on “Translation’s Theoretical Issues, Practical Densities: Violence, Memory, and the Untranslatable” held in Santiago, Chile and on “Crises of Democracy through the Prism of Cultural Trauma” in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Subsequently, we invited humanities centers and institutes to propose their own themes and three teams are now working on Institutes: “Migrant Workers, Global Logistics and Unequal Citizens in Contemporary Global Context” to be held in Taiwan in June 2021; “Childhood and Social Suffering in Global Africa” and “Climate Justice and Problems of Scale” in 2022.

After a challenging year, during which we suspended issuing new CFPs, we are thrilled to be able to invite humanities centers and institutes located around the world to submit proposals for two-week Institutes to take place in 2023. We will consider submissions through September 30, 2021.

Global Humanities Institutes Overview

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 supports teams of scholars representing three or four humanities centers or institutes, preferably located in at least three different world regions to develop a research program and model for inclusive collaborative work in the humanities. The centerpiece of each collaboration will be an in-person meeting (a summer or winter institute), flexible in format, that will last a maximum of two weeks and include both members of the convening research team (up to 50% of participants) and
additional participants from other organizations that are affiliated with CHCI member centers. As a guideline, past Institutes have convened 25 to 35 in-person participants. Projects should be convened by scholars across career stages. Participants in each Global Humanities Institute will include graduate students and early-career scholars. The five past and current Global Humanities 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 teams of the 2023 Global Humanities Institutes will meet at least once in the Spring of 2022 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, including regular contributions to IDEAS, CHCI’s online platform. Participants also are expected to publish or otherwise publicize project outcomes, and are 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, post-Institute meeting of the core participants focused on these activities may also be funded. The 2-3 meetings convened by the 2023 Institutes should be hosted by different project partners, in-person, virtually, or following a hybrid model. Plans for each aspect of the multi-year collaboration should be outlined in a proposal, including a pre-meeting, the main institute, post-meeting plans, a digital component, publications, connections to campus and CHCI.

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) 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 ten to fifteen-days 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/programs/ghi2023#form to provide all the above information.

We will consider submissions through September 30, 2021.
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. Through October and November 2021, the CHCI-Mellon Program Committee will host conversations with this select group of applicants to further discuss the proposed themes, as well as the specific ways in which the organizers plan to address them.

The PI for the selected project will then be asked to provide:

- 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 July 1, 2022
- a scope of work for a budget in the range of $200,000, including subawards to partner centers and institutes. This will serve as the basis for a subaward agreement to be executed by January 31, 2022.
- A communication and publication plan, including plans for the GHI online presence (website, social media, online events) as well as proposals for contributions to CHCI’s IDEAS and VOICES platform over the following 18 months.

What if we have questions?

On May 24, 2021, 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 2021 CHCI Annual Meeting online dedicated to a discussion of the program and general questions from future applicants. If you are interested in attending, please register first for the CHCI 2021 Annual Meeting (https://chcinetwork.org/2021-chci-annual-meeting/fees-and-registration), and then pre-register for this session here:

For members who are not able to attend this online session or who have more urgent inquiries, please contact Guillaume Ratel, CHCI Director of Programs, ratel@wisc.edu.
Past and 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).

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

Migrant Workers, Global Logistics and Unequal Citizens in Contemporary Global Context
June 1–10, 2021 – 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).
More information at: https://ghi2020.web.nctu.edu.tw

Chronic Conditions: Childhood and Social Suffering in Global Africa
Summer 2022 – 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).
Climate Justice and Problems of Scale
Summer 2022 – Pretoria, South Africa
Partner Centers: Humanities Institute (University of Texas at Austin), Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (University of Pretoria), the Sydney Environmental Institute (University of Sydney), the Center for American Studies and Research (American University of Beirut), the Institute for Humanities Research (Arizona State University), and the Humanities Center (Carnegie Mellon University).