

# LEVAN INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

2022–2023 Annual Report



# Contents

3	Letter From the Director
4	Levan Institute Staff
5	Levan Institute Advisory Board
7	Working Groups
11	How To... Series
13	Book Chats Series
15	Dornsife-EHESS Partnership
17	Co-Sponsored Events
21	Campus Humanities Calendar
23	The Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences at USC
25	About the Levan Institute

## Levan Institute for the Humanities

Daniela Bleichmar, *Founding Director*  
Zachary Mann, *Associate Director*  
Isabella Carr, *Assistant Director*

3501 Trousdale Parkway, THH 348  
Los Angeles, CA 90089  
[usclevan@usc.edu](mailto:usclevan@usc.edu) | 213.740.0009



The Levan Institute for the Humanities serves as a hub for the humanities and humanistic social sciences at the University of Southern California, connecting faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and students across disciplines, departments, programs and institutes.

# Letter from the Director

This was the third year since the founding of the USC Levan Institute for the Humanities in Fall 2019, and yet in many ways, it felt like a first year all over again, since we finally got to experience a full, “normal,” in-person academic year.

I want to start by extending my heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful Levan staff for all their work and to share news of some changes. In Fall 2022, Assistant Director Isabella Carr left Los Angeles to start a Master of Divinity program at the Harvard Divinity School. Luckily for us all, she continues to work remotely part-time as the Assistant Director for the Levan and a Program Coordinator for the USC Society of Fellows in the Humanities. Isabella’s transition allowed us to welcome to the team this past fall Dr. Zachary Mann, who joined us as Associate Director for the Levan and Program Coordinator for the SoFH. Zach received a Ph.D. in English Literature from USC in Spring 2022.

In 2022–2023, the Levan Institute for the Humanities supported regular meetings and special events for seven interdisciplinary Working Groups, hosted three “How To” professionalization workshops, and organized five “Book Chats” celebrating new books by USC authors.

The Levan Institute also co-sponsored 22 additional USC events related to the humanities and humanistic social sciences, including symposia, guest lectures, roundtables, and a reception for all postdoctoral scholars in the humanities, broadly defined, across the university. Many of these events took place virtually and involved participants from around the world.

We shared information about these events, and all events at USC in the humanities and of interest to humanists, through our Campus Humanities Calendar. The CHC compiles information about programs organized across USC’s 23 schools, making them all easily available in one place. We also send information about CHC events in the coming weeks in our newsletter, which goes out every Friday to over 3500 recipients. To sign up for the newsletter or find recordings of past programming, please visit our newly redesigned website: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/levan-institute/>.

The Levan Institute also coordinates the USC Dornsife-EHESS Partnership, a collaboration with the *École des hautes études en sciences sociales* (EHESS), one of France’s leading institutions of higher education, focusing on the humanities and humanistic social sciences. Each year, the Partnership arranges for one professor from USC and one from the EHESS to visit the partner institution for one month to share their research and participate in scholarly conversations. This year, the Levan Institute coordinated the visit of EHESS Professor Frédéric Keck to Los Angeles, where he was hosted by the USC Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life. Janet Hoskins, Professor of Anthropology and Religion at USC, was the Dornsife visitor to the EHESS.

As we continue to foster scholarship and conversations across the humanities and humanistic social sciences at USC, I am grateful for the participation of so many faculty, postdocs, and students in our programs. We are always eager to hear from you about how the Levan can contribute to the humanities at USC; please drop us a line at [usclevan@usc.edu](mailto:usclevan@usc.edu).

Thank you for your support of the Levan Institute and of the humanities at USC.

Warmly,

Daniela Bleichmar  
Professor of Art History and History  
Founding Director, Levan Institute for the Humanities

# Levan Institute Staff



## Daniela Bleichmar, Founding Director

Daniela Bleichmar is Professor of Art History and History at the University of Southern California. She is the founding director of the Levan Institute for the Humanities as well as the past and future director of the USC Society of Fellows in the Humanities (2020–2023, 2024–2027). She previously served as the Associate Provost for Faculty and Student Initiatives in the Arts and Humanities (2015–2020). She is a member of the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute and the Visual Studies Research Institute.

Professor Bleichmar grew up in Argentina and Mexico before immigrating to the U.S. She studied at Harvard University (BA, 1996) and Princeton University (PhD, 2005). Her research and teaching address the histories of art and science in colonial Latin America and early modern Europe, focusing particularly on the histories of knowledge production; cultural contact and exchange; museums, collecting and display; and books and prints.



## Zachary M. Mann, Associate Director

Zachary M. Mann holds a PhD in English Literature at USC, where he also earned certificates in Visual Studies and Digital Media & Culture. His research focused on the history of punch card systems and intellectual labor, from eighteenth-century France to the heyday of IBM computers. While in a doctoral program, Zach's work was supported by a Mellon Humanities in a Digital World fellowship and a Mellon Council for European Studies fellowship, and his writing on technology, literature, and film has been published in *The Wordsworth Circle*, *Celebrity Studies*, *British Literature and Technology, 1600-1830*, and elsewhere. He has previously served in administrative roles for the Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, USC's Humanities and Critical Code Studies Lab, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *The Offing*.



## Isabella Carr, Assistant Director

Isabella Carr has worked with the Levan Institute for the Humanities since 2017 after graduating from USC with a degree in Religion and a minor in American Studies and Ethnicity. She is completing her Master of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School, specializing in end-of-life care. Her current project, "Deathfat: Fat Funerals and Futurities" explores theological and practical concerns of deathcare for deviant bodies.

# Advisory Board



## Vittoria Di Palma

Vittoria Di Palma is Associate Professor of Architectural History and Theory in the School of Architecture at USC. She specializes in modern European architectural history and theory, with particular concentrations in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century architecture, early modern land use and landscape, and contemporary landscape theory and design. Her research in architectural history is centrally concerned with how visibility and aesthetics inform the design, representation, and experience of buildings and environments, while her work in the environmental humanities focuses on the ways in which conceptions and images of landscape operate in the collective imaginary.



## Josh Kun

Josh Kun is Professor and Chair in Cross-Cultural Communication and an author and editor of many books and anthologies, and the curator of numerous art, music and public humanities projects. His research and practice focus on the arts, music and politics of cultural connection, with an emphasis on archives, global migration and Los Angeles. He has worked with The Getty Foundation, SFMOMA, the Grammy Museum, the California African American Museum, The Vincent Price Museum of Art, and more. From 2013–19, he led a trilogy of projects based on the special collections of the Los Angeles Public Library that resulted in a celebrated series of books, exhibitions, and public programs. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The New Yorker*, and more.



## Akira Mizuta Lippit

Akira Mizuta Lippit is Vice Dean of Faculty in the School of Cinematic Arts, and Professor in the Division of Cinema and Media Studies. He is also Professor of Comparative Literature and East Asian Languages and Cultures in USC Dornsife College. His interests are in world cinemas, critical theory, Japanese film and culture, experimental film and video, and visual studies. Lippit's published work reflects these areas and includes four books, *Ex-Cinema: From a Theory of Experimental Film and Video* (2012); *Atomic Light* (Shadow Optics) (2005); *Electric Animal: Toward a Rhetoric of Wildlife* (2000); and his most recent book, *Cinema without Reflection: Jacques Derrida's Echopoiesis and Narcissism Adrift* (2016). At present, Lippit is completing a book on contemporary Japanese cinema, which explores the physical and metaphysical dimensions of the "world," and another on David Lynch's baroque alphabets.



### Jessica Marglin

Jessica Marglin holds the Ruth Ziegler Early Career Chair in Jewish Studies and is Professor of Religion, Law and History. Her work is on the history of Jews and Jewish-Muslim relations in modern North Africa and the Mediterranean, with interests in the history of Jews in the Islamic world, in Sephardic history, and in Mediterranean Studies. She is particularly passionate about legal history; her first book project, *Across Legal Lines: Jews and Muslims in Modern Morocco*, is a study of Jews in the Moroccan legal system in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her second book, *The Shamama Case: Contesting Citizenship across the Modern Mediterranean* (Princeton University Press, 2022) tells the story of Nissim Shamama and the fabulously complicated lawsuit over his estate; in so doing, it argues for a new approach to the history of belonging on both sides of the Mediterranean.



### Natalia Molina

Natalia Molina is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. Her research explores the interconnected histories of race, place, gender, culture, and citizenship. She is the author of the award-winning books, *How Race Is Made in America: Immigration, Citizenship, and the Historical Power of Racial Scripts* and *Fit to Be Citizens?: Public Health and Race in Los Angeles, 1879-1940*. Her most recent book is *A Place at the Nayarit: How a Mexican Restaurant Nourished a Community*, on immigrant workers as placemakers—including her grandmother—who nurtured and fed the community through the restaurants they established, which served as urban anchors. In addition to publishing widely in scholarly journals, she has also written for the *LA Times*, *Washington Post*, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, and more. Professor Molina is a 2020 MacArthur Fellow.



### Lydie Moudileno

Lydie Moudileno is Marion Frances Chevalier Professor of French and Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity. Her research focuses on the contemporary cultures of France and the Francophone world, examined from a literary, cultural studies, postcolonial theory, critical race theory and decolonial perspective. Her books have examined issues of authorship and metaliterary representations in Caribbean literature (*L'écrivain antillais au miroir de sa littérature*, 1997), post-Negritude Congolese fiction (2007) and contemporary African fiction (2013). She is the co-editor of several volumes and special issues on literary representations of blackness in Francophone fiction, and on writers Maryse Condé and Marie NDiaye.

# Working Groups

The Levan Institute for the Humanities supports interdisciplinary working groups with the goal of fostering intellectual exchange and advancing research on topics in the humanities (broadly construed) that are not already addressed by an existing department or program. Working groups are primarily addressed to faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students. They may involve participants at other institutions.





## Capitalism in the Global South

*Coordinators: Daniel Delgado, PhD student, Department of History; Wolf Gruner, Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies and Professor of History; and Issay Matsumoto, PhD student, Department of History*

What is the Global South? This group discusses its historical and contemporary formation, with a focus on capitalism, race, empire, and the modern state.



## Confronting the Second Space Age: From Cosmic Speculation to Astro-Capitalism

*Coordinators: Meredith Hall, 2021–2023 USC Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Fellow; Ella Klink, 2021–2023 USC Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Fellow; and Jennifer Petersen, Associate Professor of Communication*

This working group examines the challenges and concerns associated with the resurgence of interest in interplanetary exploration, space tourism, speculative mining, and extraterrestrial colonization.



## Documenting the Undocumented

*Coordinators: George Sanchez, Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity and History; and Julia Brown-Bernstein, PhD student, Department of History*

This group shapes historical and humanities scholarship on the residents of the United States who lack legal status, usually referred to as “undocumented.”



## Environmental Humanities

*Devin Griffiths, Associate Professor of English; and Sean Patrick Fraga, Assistant Professor (Teaching) of Environmental Studies and History*

This group fosters discussion of foundational and cutting-edge scholarship in the environmental humanities. We aim to better understand relationships between humans and the natural world, broadly construed, across the past, present, and future. We are motivated by an increasingly urgent need to analyze and address anthropogenic ecological change in all its complexity.



## Latinx Media

*Coordinators: Elda Maria Roman, Associate Professor of English; and Laura Isabel Serna, Associate Professor of History and Cinema and Media Studies*

This working group studies Latinx Media in its various manifestations: TV, film, music, art, theater, journalism, etc... We read classic and recent texts on Latinx Media and discuss works in progress presented by members.

---



## Sound in Sacred Spaces

*Coordinators: Chris Kyriakakis, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering; and Scott B. Spencer, Assistant Professor of Musicology*

An exploration of sound in sacred spaces, with perspectives from performance, sciences, humanities, and religious tradition.

---

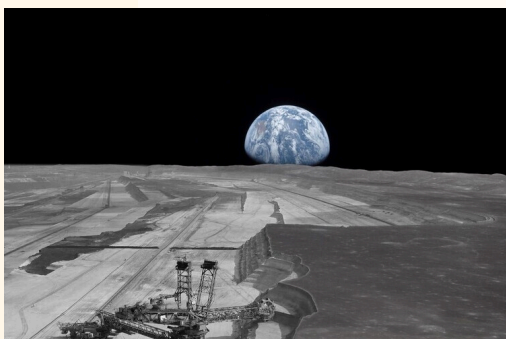


## Sound Studies Working Group

*Coordinators: Sarah Kessler, Assistant Professor of English; and Anna Sbitneva, PhD Student, Slavic Languages and Literatures*

We are scholars from a range of disciplines with a focus on media and culture within Sound Studies frameworks. Our group's interest lies in the emergence of sound, hearing versus listening of voice and sound, and sonic reproduction.

## Selected Working Group Events



### Fred Scharmen — Space Forces: A Critical Toolkit for Life in Outer Space

Organizer: Confronting the Second Space Age: From Cosmic Speculation to Astro-Capitalism Working Group; Sponsors: Anthropology, Levan Institute for the Humanities



### Katarzyna Sadej Talks About her “Earth Singing” Project

Organizer: Sound in Sacred Spaces Working Group; Sponsor: Levan Institute for the Humanities

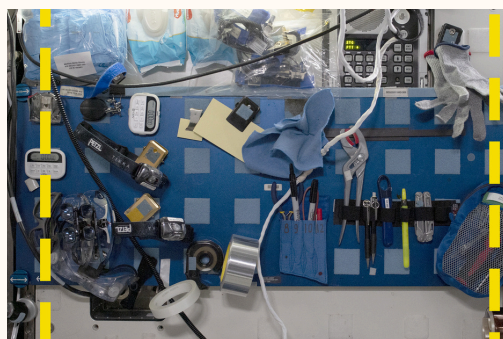
“Unexpected connections are one of the joys of scholarly life. The conversations we have in the Environmental Humanities Working Group always surprise me, and have usefully expanded how I think about my research and teaching.”

—Sean Fraga,  
Environmental Humanities Working Group Coordinator



### Environmental Humanities Reading Group—Etienne Benson, *Surroundings: A History of Environments and Environmentalisms* (Chicago University Press, 2020).

Organizer: Environmental Humanities Working Group; Sponsor: Levan Institute for the Humanities



### Justin Walsh — Space Archaeology

Organizer: Confronting the Second Space Age: From Cosmic Speculation to Astro-Capitalism Working Group; Sponsor: Levan Institute for the Humanities

# How To...

An ongoing series of workshops on how to do what we do.

“The session was the most compact, substantive treatment of the whole process that I've ever seen, and I have already shared the online link with colleagues outside USC as a valuable resource on an essential—perhaps *the* essential—component of a junior scholar's academic activity... The Levan has created something extremely valuable here.”

— Christian Flow  
USC Society of Fellows  
2020–2022 Postdoctoral Fellow



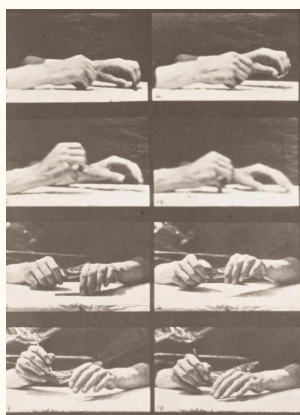
Watch recordings of How To...  
series events on our website.





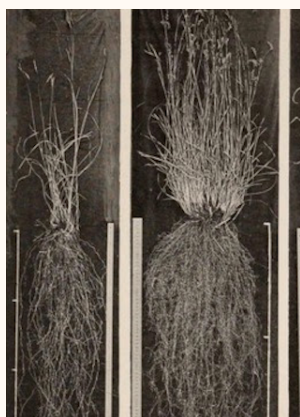
## How to Write a Book for General Readers with Author Mark Braude

A conversation with Mark Braude about writing compelling research-based trade books that draw on scholarly training. Dr. Braude received a PhD in History from USC in 2013. His latest work, *Kiki Man Ray: Art, Love, and Rivalry in 1920s Paris* (2022), was named an August 2022 Book to Read by *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Town & Country*, *LitHub*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, and others. He is also the author of *The Invisible Emperor: Napoleon on Elba from Exile to Escape* (2018) and *Making Monte Carlo: A History of Speculation and Spectacle* (2016). Co-Sponsored by the Visual Studies Research Institute.



## How to Respond to Peer Review

A conversation about responding to peer review and editorial feedback from journals in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. Two presenters provided brief comments and answered questions from the audience. Speakers: Sergio Sismondo, Professor of Philosophy, Queen's University, Canada, and Editor, *Social Studies of Science*; and Jessica Wolfe, Marcel Bataillon Professor of English and Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



## How to Cultivate a Network of Mentors

A conversation about cultivating a network of mentors in your field, institution, and beyond. Three presenters provided brief comments and answered questions from the audience. Speakers: Steven Epstein, Professor of Sociology, John C. Shaffer Professor in the Humanities, Northwestern University; Laura Kalba, Associate Professor of Art History, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; and Andrea Moore, Assistant Professor of Music, Smith College.



# Book Chats

A series celebrating new books by USC scholars in the humanities and humanistic social sciences.

“The Levan Book Chat for my new book was a wonderful event. It leveraged the affordances of remote participation to host eminent scholars to comment generously on my book while engaging a wide audience from across academic fields and the general public. I was so honored to launch *Oil Beach* this way.”

— Christina Dunbar-Hester  
Professor, USC Annenberg School of Communication

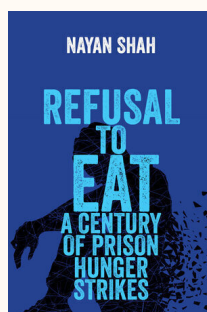


Watch recordings of Book Chats series events on our website.



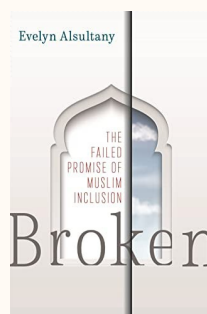
Jennifer Petersen, *How Machines Came to Speak: Media Technologies and Freedom of Speech* (Duke University Press, 2022)

The author was joined in conversation by Xiaochang Li (Stanford University) and Siva Vaidhyanathan (University of Virginia), moderated by Nitin Govil (USC). Co-sponsored by the Annenberg Center for Collaborative Communication, the Center for Law, History and Culture, and the Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life.



Nayan Shah, *Refusal to Eat: A Century of Prison Hunger Strikes* (University of California Press, 2022)

The author was joined in conversation by Antoinette Burton (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) and Lisa Hajjar (University of California, Santa Barbara), moderated by Ange-Marie Hancock Alfaro (USC).



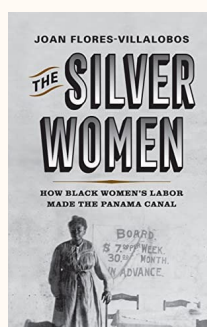
Evelyn Alsultany, *Broken: The Failed Promise of Muslim Inclusion* (New York University Press, 2022)

The author was joined in conversation by Su'ad Abdul Khabeer (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) and Alex Lubin (Pennsylvania State University), moderated by Sarah Banet-Weiser (USC). Co-sponsored by the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity and the Annenberg Center for Collaborative Communication.



Christina Dunbar-Hester, *Oil Beach: How Toxic Infrastructure Threatens Life in the Ports of Los Angeles and Beyond* (University of Chicago Press, 2023)

The author was joined in conversation by Ashley Carse (Vanderbilt University) and Deborah Cowen (University of Toronto), moderated by Juan De Lara (USC). Co-sponsored by the Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life and the Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies.



Joan Flores-Villalobos, *The Silver Women: How Black Women's Labor Made the Panama Canal* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023).

The author was joined in conversation by Sueann Caulfield (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) and Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof (Harvard University), moderated by Rhacel Salazar Parreñas (USC). Co-sponsored by the USC Center for Latinx and Latin American Studies and USC Van Hunnicks History Department.

# USC Dornsife-EHESS Partnership

The USC Dornsife-EHESS Partnership is a multi-year scholarly cooperation agreement with the *École des hautes études en sciences sociales* (EHESS; School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences). Housed in the Levan Institute for the Humanities, the partnership aims to build ties between scholars at the two institutions and to support collaborations in research and teaching. It involves a program for doctoral students and another for tenured faculty with primary appointments in Dornsife.



Nathan Perl-Rosenthal  
Director, Dornsife-EHESS Partnership

Nathan Perl-Rosenthal is Professor of History, Spatial Sciences, French and Italian, and Law. Questions about the Dornsife-EHESS Partnership should be directed to Professor Perl-Rosenthal at [ehesspartnership@usc.edu](mailto:ehesspartnership@usc.edu).



## Frédéric Keck, 2022–23 EHESS Visiting Professor at Dornsife



Professor Frédéric Keck of the *École des hautes études en sciences sociales* was the 2022–23 Dornsife-EHESS Visiting Professor at USC, in residence starting March 2023, hosted by the USC Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life. Frédéric Keck is Professor (*directeur de recherche*) at the CNRS, affiliated with the *Laboratoire D'anthropologie Sociale* at the EHESS. Keck studied philosophy at the *École Normale Supérieure* and anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley. He has published on the history of French anthropology in its relations with philosophy, particularly Comte, Lévy-Bruhl, Durkheim, Bergson, and Lévi-Strauss. Keck's work sits at the crossroads of the history of science, the sociology of risk, and the anthropology of nature, with particular interests in standards of "biosecurity" applied to humans and animals and to the forms of anticipation they produce with regard to health and ecological disasters.

Professor Keck gave four public lectures or presentations at USC:



### Planetary Health

Sponsors: Berggruen Institute, Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life



### The Visual Culture of Microbes

Sponsors: Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life, Visual Studies Research Institute, Levan Institute for the Humanities



### Rumors of Biosecurity: from the Pandemic in China to the war in Ukraine

Sponsors: Anthropology, Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life, Levan Institute for the Humanities



### Observing Birdwatchers — Owens Valley "Bird Festival"

Collaboration with the 2022-23 Mellon Sawyer seminar, "Precarious Ecologies."

---

## Janet Hoskins 2022–23 Professeure invité at the EHESS



Janet Hoskins, Professor of Anthropology and Religion in USC Dornsife, was the 2022–23 Dornsife-EHESS professeur invité at the EHESS. Hoskins's research interests are defined around several overlapping themes, each of which draws on a separate set of interdisciplinary connections: (1) indigenous representations of the past and of time, (2) the relation between gender, exchange and narrative, (3) colonial and postcolonial theory, with specific reference to Caodaism, a new universal religion born in French Indochina in 1926, and (4) migration and religious experience in Transpacific diasporic communities. She is the co-founder (with Viet Thanh Nguyen) of the Center for Transpacific Studies and was elected President of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion (a section of the American Anthropological Association) from 2011-2013. She has been a scholar in residence at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford, the Kyoto Center for Southeast Asian Studies, the Getty Research Institute, the National University of Singapore and the University of Oslo, Norway.



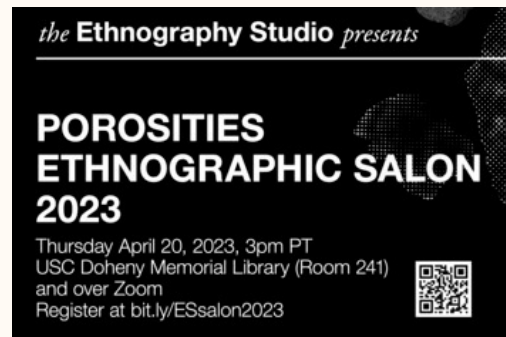
# Co-Sponsored Events

The Levan Institute provides modest grants to help co-sponsor lectures, conferences, and other public programming in the humanities at USC. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis. Explore our co-sponsored event archive on our [website](#).



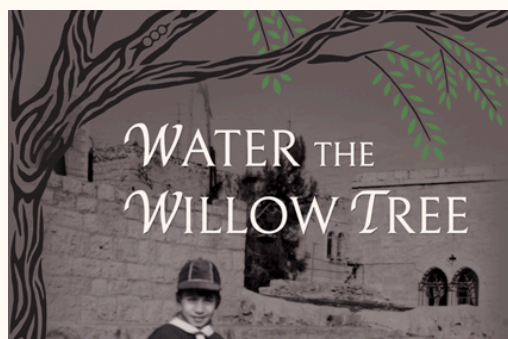
## Alternative Career Paths for Social Science and Humanities PhDs Beyond Academia

Sponsors: Sociology, Levan Institute for the Humanities



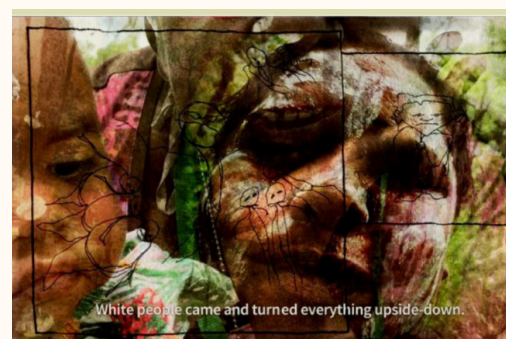
## Ethnographic Salon: Porosities

Sponsors: Anthropology, Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life, Levan Institute for the Humanities



## George Kiraz, *Water the Willow Tree*

Sponsors: History, Classics, Religion, Graduate Program, Levan Institute for the Humanities



## Bending Aesthetics to a More-than-Human Askesis: The Collapse of Abstracted Creativity

Sponsors: Anthropology, Levan Institute for the Humanities



## Experimenting with Ethnography Book Birthday Party

Sponsors: Anthropology, Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life, Levan Institute for the Humanities



## Removing Statues in the Age of the War in Ukraine with Professor Linda Kaljundi

Sponsors: History Department, Max Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies, Levan Institute for the Humanities

## CO-SPONSORED EVENTS



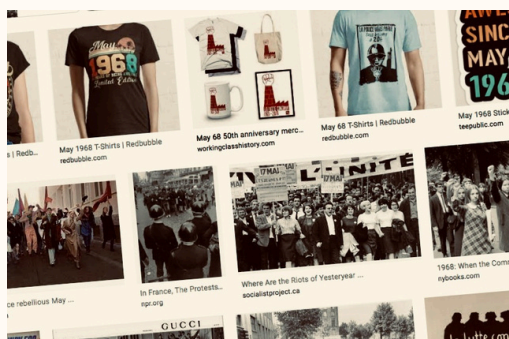
### Culture's Photodermic Enjoyment: A Talk by Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature Mlondolozzi Zondi

Sponsors: Comparative Literature,  
Levan Institute for the Humanities



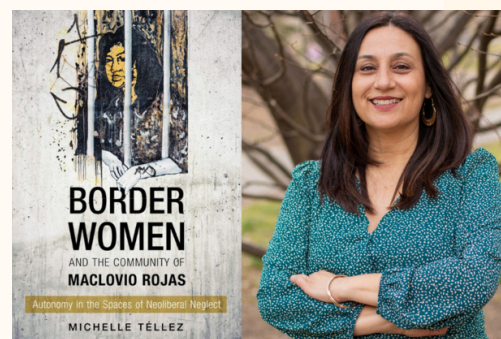
### The Politics of Hormones (one-day conference)

Sponsors: American Studies and Ethnicity,  
Center for Latin American and Latinx  
Studies, Center of Science, Technology, and  
Public Life, Gender and Sexuality Studies,  
Levan Institute for the Humanities



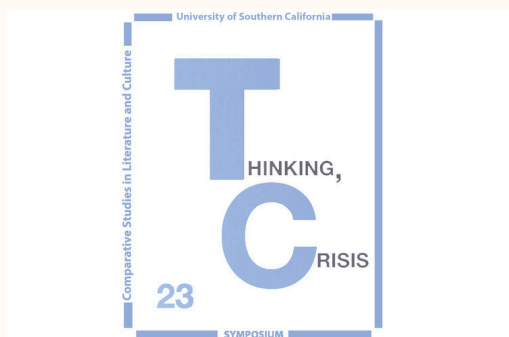
### Unsettled Debts: 1968 and the Problem of Historical Memory | Special Issue Launch

Sponsors: Annenberg School of  
Communication, International Journal of  
Communication, Annenberg Center for  
Collaborative Communication, Levan  
Institute for the Humanities



### Book Talk with Dr. Michelle Tellez

Sponsors: American Studies and Ethnicity  
Commons, Latinx Geographies Research  
Cluster, Center for Feminist Research,  
Equity Research Institute, Levan Institute  
for the Humanities



### Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture Annual Symposium [Thinking, Crisis]

Sponsors: Comparative Literature, Levan  
Institute for the Humanities



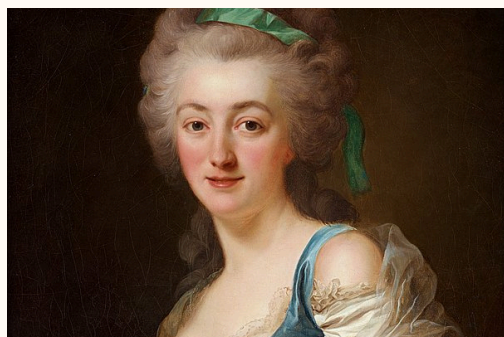
### Lecture by Keith Howard | Songs for “Great Leaders”: Ideology and Political Agitation in the Music of North Korea

Sponsors: History, Shinso Ito Center for  
Japanese Religions and Culture, USC  
Libraries, Levan Institute for the  
Humanities



### A Conversation with Karina Longworth

Sponsors: Consortium for Gender, Sexuality, Race, and Public Culture, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Levan Institute for the Humanities



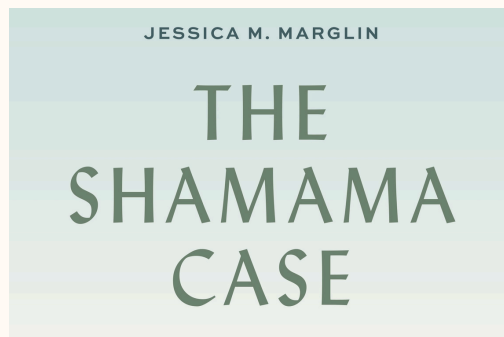
### EMSI Early Modern Visual and Material Culture Seminar: Women in the Making of Early Modern Art and Science

Sponsors: Early Modern Studies Institute, Visual Studies Research Institute, Levan Institute for the Humanities



### Suely Rolnik (PUC-SP) | On Spiders, the Guarani and Some Europeans: More Notes on Decolonizing the Unconscious

Sponsors: Comparative Literature, French and Italian, Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Visual Studies Research Institute, Dornsife Dean of Humanities, Dornsife Office of Graduate Professional Programs, Levan Institute for the Humanities



### Center for Law, History and Culture Book Talk: Jessica Marglin, *The Shamama Case: Contesting Citizenship across the Modern Mediterranean* (Princeton University Press, 2022)

Sponsors: Center for Law, History and Culture, Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life, Levan Institute for the Humanities.



### The Future of Writing:

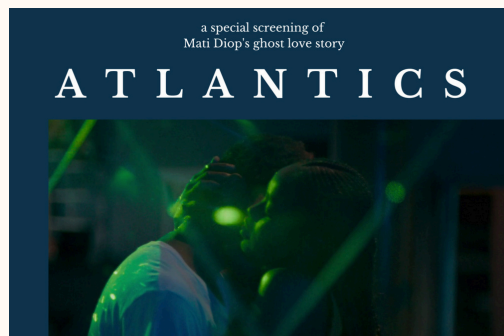
Pedagogy, Practice, and Potential

**Date:** May 1, 2023, 9 am - 5 pm PDT

**Location:** USC Annenberg and Online

### Future of Writing Symposium

Sponsors: Dornsife Writing Program, Annenberg, Marshall, Viterbi Engineering in Society, Ahmanson Lab, Levan Institute for the Humanities



### Film Screening of Mati Diop's *Atlantics*

Sponsors: Dornsife Writing Program, Annenberg, Marshall Business Communication Department, Viterbi Engineering in Society, Ahmanson Lab, Levan Institute for the Humanities

# Campus Humanities Calendar

The Levan Institute maintains two resources with information on events of interest to the humanities—The Campus Humanities Calendar and the Levan Institute newsletter. The online Campus Humanities Calendar provides a thorough list of events in the arts, humanities, and humanistic social sciences across the university.

“The Campus Humanities Calendar and weekly Levan Institute newsletter are a wonderful resource for the USC community. At long last, we have a centralized calendar of what in the past were fragmented and, at times, redundant events in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences.”

—Erin Graff Zivin

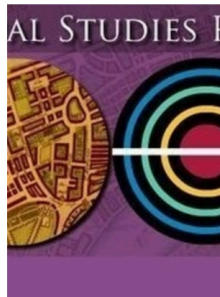
Professor of Spanish and Portuguese and Comparative Literature



Every week, the Levan newsletter lists upcoming events from the Campus Humanities Calendar, calls for applications or proposals, funding opportunities, and other relevant information.



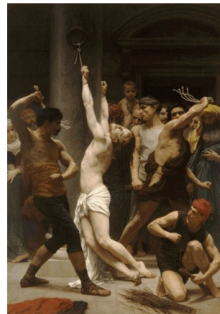
Sign up to receive news of funding opportunities and upcoming humanities events.



**Saturday, October 1 | 10:00 AM**  
**CV and Grant Writing Workshop**  
 A workshop designed to help graduate students from diverse disciplines prepare successful applications for fellowships and positions. In the morning, students at all stages are welcome to attend strategies for preparing CVs and applications. In the afternoon break-out sessions, selected students will workshop their proposals in small groups with mentors with experience screening applications. [MORE](#)



**Saturday, October 1 | 1:00 PM**  
**EMSI British History with Andy Wood**  
 EMSI British History, Andy Wood, Durham University. [MORE](#)



**Monday, October 3 | 12:30 PM**  
**Images Out of Time Seminar: Sex, Race, Religion, Politics through the Lens of BDSM**  
 With J. Lorand Matory, Lawrence Richardson, Distinguished Professor of Cultural Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley. The Enlightenment's promises of equality before the law, and bodily autonomy, generated a sometimes-unconscious craving for the opposite. BDSM shines a light on the most anachronistic and physically enforced hierarchies of race, sex, and politics. [MORE](#)



**Monday, October 3 | 4:30 PM**  
**Regenerate: Art, Culture, and S**  
 Workshop and Panel  
 The USC community is invited to join an alliance of student creators for an evening of sustainable art making and conversation about cultural strategies to defend the environment. [MORE](#)

## Levan Institute for the Humanities

### Upcoming Levan Institute Events



**Friday, September 30 | 2:00 PM | Virtual**  
**Levan Working Group—Confronting the Second Space Age: From Cosmic Speculation to Astro-Capitalism**  
 This working group will explore the challenges and pressing concerns that the resurgent interest in space exploration, extraterrestrial mining, and expansionism beyond Earth poses for humankind. [MORE](#)



**Monday, October 3 | 12:00 PM | Hybrid**  
**How to Write a Book for General Readers with Author Mark Braude**  
 A conversation with author Mark Braude and Levan Institute director Daniela Bleichmar (USC Professor of Art History and History) about writing compelling research-based trade books that draw on scholarly training. Dr. Braude received a PhD in History from USC in 2013. His latest work, *Kiki Man Ray: Art, Love, and Rivalry in 1920s Paris* (2022), was named an August 2022 Book to Read by *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Town & Country*, *LitHub*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, and others. [MORE](#)



**Tuesday, October 11 | 12:00 PM | Virtual**  
**Book Chats—Jennifer Petersen, *How Machines Came to Speak: Media Technologies and Freedom of Speech***  
 Dr. Petersen is an Associate Professor of Communication at USC. She will be joined in conversation by Xiaochang Li (Stanford University) and Siva Vaidyanathan (University of Virginia), moderated by Nitin Govil (USC). Co-sponsored by the Annenberg Center for Collaborative Communication, the Center for Law, History and Culture, and the Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life. [MORE](#)



# The Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences at USC

USC is home to numerous schools, departments, centers and institutes which support scholarship and event programming the humanities and humanistic social sciences.

### **Humanities Departments & Programs**

- Departments, Centers & Institutes in the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
- Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism
- Roski School of Art and Design
- School of Architecture
- School of Cinematic Arts
- School of Dramatic Arts
- Sol Price School of Public Policy
- Thornton School of Music

### **Humanities Centers & Institutes**

- Black Studies Initiative
- Brain and Creativity Institute
- Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life
- Center for Advanced Genocide Research
- Center for Diversity and Democracy
- Center for Feminist Research
- Center for International Studies
- Center for Law and Philosophy
- Center for the Political Future
- Center for the Premodern World
- Center for Religion and Civic Culture
- Center on Science, Technology and Public Life
- USC Equity Research Institute: Data and Analysis to Power Social Change
- Center for Transpacific Studies
- Consortium for Gender, Sexuality, Race and Public Culture
- East Asian Studies Center
- Experimental Humanities Lab
- Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West
- Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies
- Institute of Armenian Studies
- International Museum Studies Institute
- Korean Studies Institute
- Latinx and Latin American Studies Center
- Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities
- Max Kade Institute for Austrian, Swiss and German Studies
- Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture
- Unruh Institute of Politics
- USC Shoah Foundation
- USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute
- Visual Studies Research Institute

### **The Society of Fellows in the Humanities**

The USC Society of Fellows in the Humanities is an interdisciplinary community that supports advanced research by postdoctoral fellows and faculty members, promoting intellectual exchange and interdisciplinary approaches to research and teaching in the humanities and humanistic social sciences.

# About the Levan Institute

The Levan Institute for the Humanities serves as a hub for the humanities and humanistic social sciences at the University of Southern California, connecting faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and students across disciplines, departments, programs, and institutes. The Institute complements and coordinates efforts across the humanities, broadly conceived, and develops new initiatives that support research and teaching. The institute's activities include event series with visiting and local scholars, working groups, career mentorship, and the promotion of humanities work at USC.

The Levan Institute for the Humanities has four priorities:

- 1 Promoting, supporting, and increasing community engagement with humanities research at USC that is rigorous, creative, bold, and innovative.
- 2 Fostering connections and collaboration across and beyond the humanities at USC, as well as with partners in other institutions and organizations locally, nationally, and internationally.
- 3 Pursuing a global focus through research and scholarly collaborations that examine diverse topics from cultures both local and around the world.
- 4 Supporting public facing scholarship that connects university-based humanities expertise with publics beyond the university and engages with contemporary issues.

The Institute is endowed through a generous gift made to USC by Dr. Norman Levan in 2007. Dr. Levan was a literature major as an undergraduate at USC College (now USC Dornsife), and he also received a Master of Liberal Arts from St. John's University. After earning his medical degree from USC in 1939 and serving in the Army Medical Corps during World War II, Dr. Levan began a long and distinguished career in medicine. Dr. Levan's gift reflects his lifelong belief in the importance of the humanities. The gift originally funded the [USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics \(2007–2019\)](#).

## Levan Institute for the Humanities

3501 Trousdale Parkway, THH 348  
Los Angeles, CA 90089  
[usclevan@usc.edu](mailto:usclevan@usc.edu) | 213.740.0009

