

An abstract painting composed of numerous overlapping, textured brushstrokes. The dominant color is a vibrant blue, which is interspersed with streaks of green, yellow, and red. The strokes vary in length and direction, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is a rich, multi-layered composition that suggests a complex, interconnected world.

LEVAN INSTITUTE
FOR THE HUMANITIES

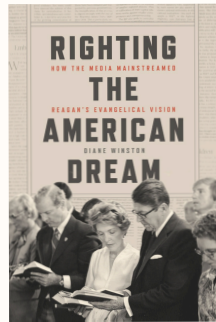
UHH

2023–2024 Annual Report

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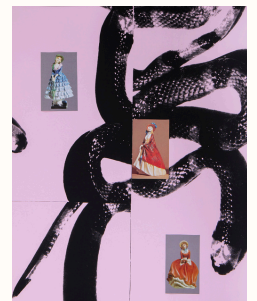
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About the Levan Institute

LIH

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.

Levan Institute for the Humanities

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

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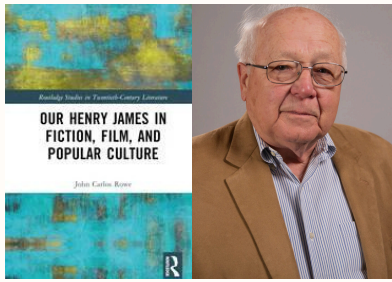


BOOK CHATS

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



Click to watch recordings of Book Chats
series events on our website.



John Carlos Rowe, *Our Henry James in Fiction, Film, and Popular Culture* (Routledge, 2022)

Co-organizer: USC Department of English

With Beverly Haviland (Brown University) and David McWhirter (Texas A&M), moderated by Melissa Daniels-Rauterkus (USC).

Our Henry James in Fiction, Film, and Popular Culture addresses the interesting revival of Henry James’s works in Anglo-American film adaptations and contemporary fiction from the 1960s to the present. James’s fiction is generally considered difficult and part of high culture, more appropriate for classroom study than popular appreciation. However, this volume focuses on the adaptation of his novels into films, challenging us to understand James’s popular reputation today on both sides of the Atlantic.

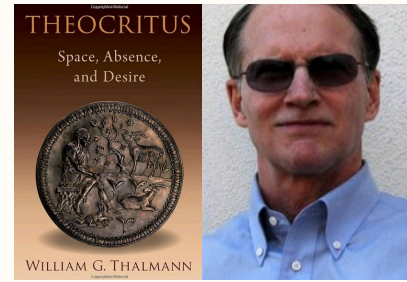


Olivia C. Harrison, *Natives against Nativism: Antiracism and Indigenous Critique in Postcolonial France* (University of Minnesota Press, 2023)

Co-organizers: USC Equity Research Institute, USC Francophone Research and Resource Center, USC Max Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies.

With Abdellali Hajjat (Université libre de Bruxelles) and Cécile Alduy (Stanford University), moderated by Hajar Yazdiha (USC).

Natives against Nativism analyzes a wide range of texts—novels, memoirs, plays, films, and militant archives—that mobilize the twin figures of the Palestinian and the American Indian in a crossed critique of Eurocolonial modernity. Harrison argues that anticolonial solidarity with Palestinians and Indigenous Americans has been instrumental in developing a sophisticated critique of racism across imperial formations—in this case, France, the United States, and Israel.



William G. Thalmann, *Theocritus: Space, Absence, and Desire* (Oxford University Press, 2023)

Co-organizers: USC Department of Classics and USC Retired Faculty Association and Emeriti Center.

With Frederick T. Griffiths (Amherst College) and Susan Stephens (Stanford University), moderated by Vincent Farenga (USC).

Theocritus: Space, Absence, and Desire discusses many of Theocritus's Idylls with emphasis on how these poems construct space—its contours and borders, along with the people, animals, and objects that fill it—and the equally important role of absence. Drawing on spatial theory from anthropology and cultural geography, author William G. Thalmann studies each poem in itself and in its connections with other poems, so that a loose coherence emerges among them.



Cristina Mejia Visperas, *Skin Theory: Visual Culture and the Postwar Prison Laboratory* (New York University Press, 2022)

Co-organizers: Institute for Diversity & Empowerment @ Annenberg, Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life

With Thuy Linh Nguyen Tu (NYU) and Anthony Hatch (Wesleyan University), moderated by Nayan Shah (USC).

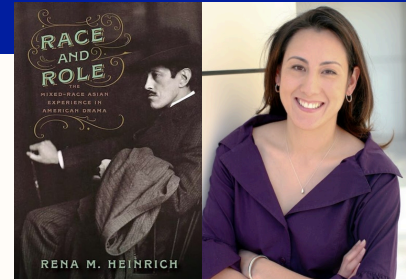
In this highly original work, Cristina Mejia Visperas approaches science as a fundamentally racial project. She theorizes the skin as visual technology, as built environment, and as official discourse, developing a compelling framework for understanding the intersections of race, incarceration, and medical science in postwar America.



Jonathan Leal, *Dreams in Double Time: On Race, Freedom, and Bebop* (Duke University Press, 2023)

With Daphne Brooks (Yale University) and Walton Muyumba (Indiana University Bloomington), moderated by Josh Kun (USC).

In *Dreams in Double Time* Jonathan Leal examines how the musical revolution of bebop opened up new futures for racialized and minoritized communities. Leal focuses on the stories and experiences of three musicians and writers of color: James Araki, a Nisei multi-instrumentalist, soldier-translator, and literature and folklore scholar; Raúl Salinas, a Chicano poet, jazz critic, and longtime activist who endured the US carceral system for over a decade; and Harold Wing, an Afro-Chinese American drummer, pianist, and songwriter who performed with bebop pioneers before working as a public servant. Leal foregrounds that for these men and their collaborators, bebop was an affectively and intellectually powerful force that helped them build community and dream new social possibilities.



Rena Heinrich, *Race and Role: The Mixed-Race Asian Experience in American Drama* (Rutgers University Press, 2023)

Co-organizers: USC School of Dramatic Arts, USC East Asian Studies Center

With SanSan Kwan (UC Berkeley) and Rebecca Chiyoko King-O'Riain (Maynooth University), moderated by Duncan Williams (USC).

Race and Role traces the shifting identities of multiracial Asian figures in theater from the late-nineteenth century to the present day and explores the ways that mixed-race Asian identity transforms our understanding of race. Mixed-Asian playwrights harness theater's generative power to enact performances of "double liminality" and expose the absurd tenacity with which society clings to a tenuous racial scaffolding.

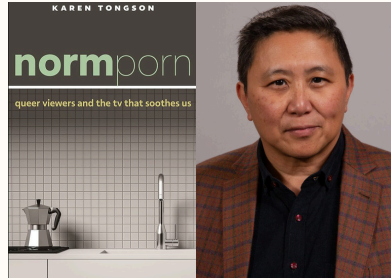


Diane Winston, *Righting the American Dream: How the Media Mainstreamed Reagan’s Evangelical Vision* (University of Chicago Press, 2023)

Co-organizer: USC Center for the Political Future

With Darren Dochuk (University of Notre Dame) and Lerone A. Martin (Stanford University), moderated by Kamy Akhavan (USC).

In *Righting the American Dream*, Diane Winston reveals how support for Reagan emerged from a new religious vision of American identity circulating in the popular press. Through four key events—the “evil empire” speech, AIDS outbreak, invasion of Grenada, and rise in American poverty rates—Winston shows that many journalists uncritically adopted Reagan’s religious rhetoric and ultimately mainstreamed otherwise unpopular evangelical ideas about individual responsibility. The result is a provocative new account of how Reagan together with the press turned America to the right and initiated a social revolution that continues today.

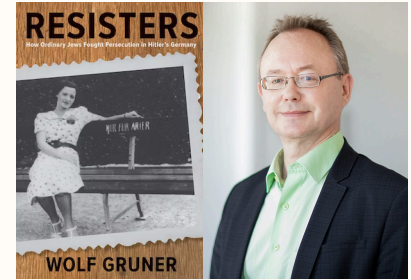


Karen Tongson, *Normporn: Queer Viewers and the TV That Soothes Us* (New York University Press, 2023)

Co-organizers: Division of Cinema and Media Studies, USC Department of English

With Scott Poulson-Bryant (University of Michigan) and Sarah Gertrude Shapiro (co-creator of *UnREAL*), moderated by Tara McPherson (USC).

Revisiting soothing network dramedies like *Parenthood*, *Gilmore Girls*, *This Is Us*, and their late-80s precursor, *thirtysomething*, *Normporn* mines the nuanced pleasures and attraction-repulsion queer viewers experience watching liberal family-centric shows. Karen Tongson reflects on how queer cultural observers work through repeated declarations of a “new normal” and flash lifestyle trends like “normcore,” even as the absurdity, aberrance, and violence of our culture intensifies.

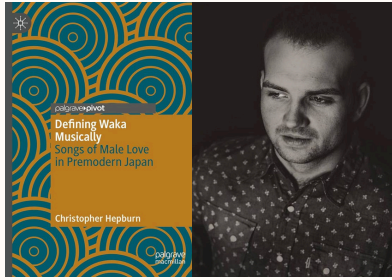


Wolf Gruner, *Resisters: How Ordinary Jews Fought Persecution in Hitler’s Germany* (Yale University Press, 2023)

Co-organizers: USC Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life, USC Dornsife Center for Advanced Genocide Research, UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies

With Avinoam Patt (New York University) and Wendy Lower (Claremont McKenna College), moderated by Steve Ross (USC).

Drawing on twelve years of research in dozens of archives in Austria, Germany, Israel, and the United States, *Resisters* tells the story of five Jewish people who bravely resisted persecution and defended themselves in Nazi Germany. These stories have not been told until now, and each case is one of many, as Gruner shows by resurfacing similar accounts of Jewish refusal to accept persecution and violence in Germany and Austria between 1933 and 1943, upending the notion of passive Jews and expanding the concept of resistance.

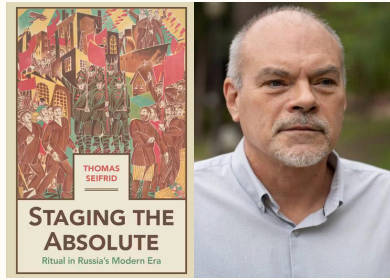


Christopher Hepburn,
*Defining Waka Musically:
Songs of Male Love in
Premodern Japan* (Palgrave
MacMillan, 2023)

Co-organizers: USC East Asian Studies
Center, Center for the Premodern World

With Jennifer Guest
(University of Oxford) and
Stacey Jocoy (Library of
Congress), moderated by
Kerim Yasar (USC).

Defining Waka Musically considers how music, musicality, and ideologies of musicality are working within the specific construction of *waka* on the theme of *male love* in Kitamura Kigin's *Iwatsutsuji* (1676) and Ihara Saikaku's *Nanshoku ōkagami* (1687) by using a modified generative theory of music. This modified theory seeks to get at the interdependent meanings that may exist among the music, image, and the text of the *waka* in question.



Thomas Seifrid, *Staging the
Absolute: Ritual in Russia's
Modern Era* (University of
Toronto Press, 2023)

Co-organizer: USC Department of
Slavic Languages and Literatures

With Galin Tihanov (Queen
Mary University of London)
and Nancy Condee
(University of Pittsburgh),
moderated by Colleen
McQuillen (USC).

Staging the Absolute argues that an array of practices and beliefs came together to define an essential aspect of Russian and Soviet culture in the twentieth century: the persistent desire to interrupt – or disrupt – history. Drawing on sources that define the nature of public rituals, the book reveals the pervasive presence of the impulse to impede history in Russia's modern era and the realization of the idea in the form of the Stalinist show trials of the 1930s.

WORKING GROUPS

The Levan Institute for the Humanities supports interdisciplinary working groups to foster intellectual exchange and advance research on topics in the humanities (broadly construed) 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.





Documenting the Undocumented

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

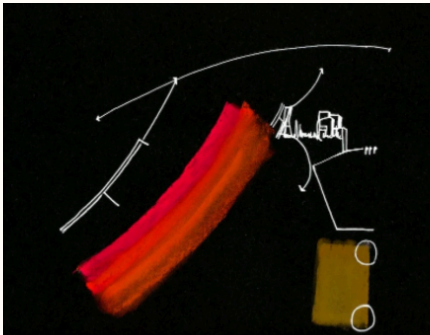
This group shapes historical and humanities scholarship on the residents of the United States who lack legal status, usually referred to as “undocumented.”



Environmental Humanities

Coordinators: 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.



Futurities

Coordinators: Ben Bush, PhD student, Creative Writing and Literature; Laura Nelson, Humanities and the University of the Future Postdoctoral Fellow; and Mary Sweeney, Professor of Media Arts + Practice

We think through the concept of “futurity” and collectively consider the stakes of future visions, asking: What do speculative visions reflect about the present and our current structures of society? What is at stake in different articulations of the future?



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.

Featured Working Group Events: Environmental Humanities

The Environmental Humanities Working Group featured works in progress by group members and others in the field.

The environmental humanities aim to better understand relationships between humans and the natural world, broadly construed. This area of inquiry draws on work from across the humanities and humanistic social sciences (including environmental philosophy, environmental history, ecocriticism, science and technology studies, and Indigenous studies) to ask new questions and explore new ontologies.



Work in Progress—Lauren Kelly, “Settling in After the California Water Wars: Los Angeles and Payahuunadü in the 1930s”

PhD Candidate in History



Work in Progress—Mahmoud Roshdy, Dissertation prospectus for “Apocalyptic Ecologies: Investigating Nomadic Narratives Across the Arab World and Latin America”

PhD Candidate in Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture



Work in Progress—Anna Flinchbaugh, Dissertation prospectus for “Home/Land: Nature and Nation in Turn of the Century Embroidery”

PhD Candidate in Art History



Work in Progress—Kate Flint, “The Mobility of Seaweed”

Professor of Art History



Work in Progress—Kimia Shah, “Indexing the Environmental Image: The Information Infrastructure of EPA’s Project Documerica”

Assistant Professor of Art History



Work in Progress—Grace Franklin, “‘The thralldom of gas’: Capitalist Gaslighting and the Victorian Coal-Gas Industry”

PhD Candidate in English

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 him at ehesspartnership@usc.edu.

2023–24 *Professeure invité* at the EHESS



Jessica Marglin

Ruth Ziegler Early Career Chair in
Jewish Studies and Associate
Professor of Religion, Law and History

Jessica Marglin is Professor of Religion, History, and Law, and the Ruth Ziegler Chair in Jewish Studies at the University of Southern California. She was the 2023–2024 Dornsife-EHESS *professeure invité* at the EHESS, in residence during the spring semester of 2024. During her residency, she presented on her new project, a history of extraterritoriality in the nineteenth century Mediterranean. Extraterritoriality was a legal status akin to diplomatic immunity today, except that it not only extended to diplomats, but also to ordinary foreigners living, trading, and traveling in the Middle East and North Africa. The book offers a new approach to both sovereignty and law in the modern period, both of which have generally been told as a European story—a dimension of domestic and international law whose origins are located in the West. The view from the Middle East and North Africa suggests that the evolution of both territorial sovereignty and modern citizenship were closely bound up with the rise of extraterritoriality. The prerogatives of the various states claiming jurisdiction demanded a constant negotiation of belonging and sovereignty on both sides of the Mediterranean—Western states’ jurisdiction over subjects abroad, and Muslim rulers’ authority over those residing in their territory.

Marglin earned her PhD from Princeton University and her BA and MA (in Middle Eastern Studies) from Harvard University. Her research focuses on the history of Jews and Muslims in North Africa and the Mediterranean, with particular attention to law. Her first book, *Across Legal Lines: Jews and Muslims in Modern Morocco* (Yale University Press 2016), was awarded the Salo Wittmayer Baron Book Prize, a National Jewish Book Award, and the Norris and Carol Hundley Award. Drawing on sources in Arabic, Hebrew, and several European languages, *Across Legal Lines* traces the movement of Jews among the various legal institutions that together made up Morocco’s plural legal system. The book demonstrates that law could act as a force for Jews’ integration into the broader Islamic society. Marglin’s second book, *The Shamama Case: Contesting Citizenship across the Modern Mediterranean* (Princeton University Press, 2022), was awarded the Albert Hourani book award by the Middle Eastern Studies Association and the Hurst Award for socio-legal history by the Law and Society Association.

Marglin has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the Rome Prize, a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, and a Fulbright fellowship; she has been a resident fellow at the *Institut d’Etudes Avancées* in Paris and the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Her publications have appeared in *Annales: Histoire, Sciences Sociales*, the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Jewish Social Studies*, the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, and the *British Journal of Middle East Studies*. At USC, she has served as co-director of the Center for Law, History and Culture; she also founded and directs the Graduate Certificate in Jewish Studies.

Previous Dornsife-EHESS Partnership Faculty



Frédéric Keck, 2022–23
EHESS Visiting Professor at
Dornsife

CNRS research director at the
*Laboratoire d'anthropologie
sociale (Collège de France)*



Janet Hoskins, 2022–23
Professeure invité at the
EHESS

Professor of Anthropology and
Religion at the University of
Southern California




Nancy Green, 2021–22
EHESS Visiting Professor
at Dornsife

Professor (*directrice d'études*)
emerita of history at the *École des
hautes études en sciences sociales*



Pierrette Hondagneu-
Sotelo 2021–22 *Professeure
invité* at the EHESS

Professor Emerita of Sociology at
the University of Southern California



Explore our co-sponsored event archive on our website.

CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

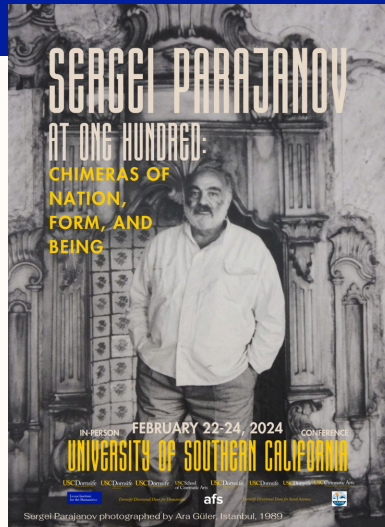
The Levan Institute provides modest grants to help co-sponsor lectures, conferences, and other public programming in the humanities at USC. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis.



Céline Bessière: “The Gender of Capital”

Sponsors: Department of Anthropology, Department of French and Italian, Levan Institute for the Humanities

“The Gender of Capital,” a lecture by Céline Bessière, professor of sociology at Paris Dauphine University and a senior member at the *Institut Universitaire de France*.



Sergei Parajanov at One Hundred: Chimeras of Nation, Form and Being

Sponsors: Institute of Armenian Studies, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Levan Institute for the Humanities

Drawing inspiration from Parajanov’s description of himself as a chimera, this centennial conference aims to examine the myriad border crossings and hybridities that characterize his life and oeuvre.



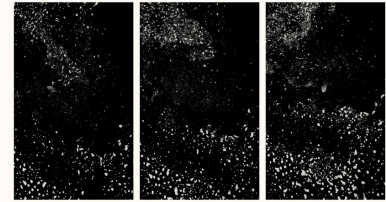
CHARM presents a screening of *Il Moro* (2023) with an online Q&A with director Daphne di Cinto

Sponsors: Civic Imagination, the Center for the Premodern World, the Levan Institute for the Humanities, the Department of French and Italian, Campus Humanities, and the Early Modern Studies Institute

A new film about the sixteenth-century Duke of Florence, Alessandro de' Medici, known as Alessandro il Moro.

Ethnography Studio

8th Annual Ethnographic Salon: Shifting Matter(s), Slippery Maps



March 6th, 2024, 3pm

USC Taper Hall 309K and over Zoom

Zoom registration link: bit.ly/salon2024



For more info visit <http://ethnographystudio.org/>



8th Annual Ethnographic Salon: Shifting Matter(s), Slippery Maps

Sponsors: The Ethnography Studio, Anthropology, Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life, Levan Institute for the Humanities, Office of Research

Ethnographic Salon 2024 roundtable on mapping and shape-shifting, featuring Dr. Shannon Mattern (University of Pennsylvania) and Dr. Annette Kim (USC).

Book Discussion with Dr. Maya Wind
Killam Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia

Discussant: Prof. Laurie Brand
Monday April 1st, 2024 | 11:00am PST
online via Zoom
[register here](#)

USCDomsife
Division of Social Sciences
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Book Discussion: Maya Wind, *Towers of Ivory and Steel: How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom*

Sponsors: Department of Middle East Studies (MDES), Levan Institute for the Humanities

Dr. Laurie Brand and Author Maya Wind discuss her recently published book, *Towers of Ivory and Steel*. She investigates the complicity of Israeli universities in Israeli settler colonialism and apartheid. *Towers of Ivory and Steel* is a comprehensive study of how Israeli higher education institutions are complicit with violations of Palestinian rights.

University of Southern California, Center for Transpacific Studies sponsors the book launch of

Becoming Global Asia

Contemporary Genres of Postcolonial Capitalism in Singapore

Monday, October 30, 12pm PT / 3pm ET

Cheryll Narumi Naruse, author
Tulane University

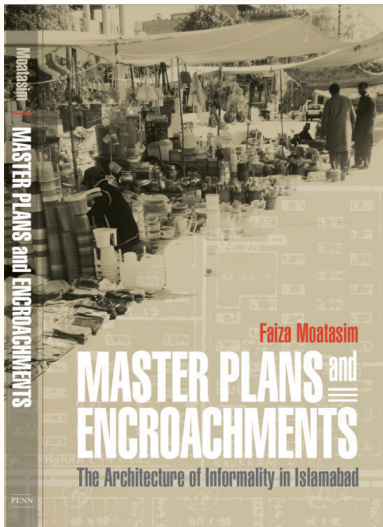
In conversation with:

Register at tinyurl.com/BeGlobalAsia

Becoming Global Asia is published by University of California Press as part of the Transpacific Studies series edited by Janet A. Hoskins and Viet Thanh Nguyen.

Book Launch—Cheryll Narumi Naruse, *Becoming Global Asia: Contemporary Genres of Postcolonial Capitalism in Singapore*

Sponsors: University of Southern California, Center for Transpacific Studies Levan Institute for the Humanities



Book Event: Faiza Moatasim, *Master Plans and Encroachments: The Architecture of Informality in Islamabad*

Sponsors: School of Architecture, Levan Institute for the Humanities, Office of Research

Author, Faiza Moatasim, Assistant Professor of Architecture in Urbanism and Urban Design at the USC School of Architecture in discussion with Vinit Mukhija, Professor, Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA.



Post45 Conference

Sponsors: USC Division of Cinema & Media Studies, CaMS Colloquium series, the Dean’s Office of the School of Cinematic Arts, Levan Institute for the Humanities

Post45 is a collective of scholars working on American literature and culture since 1945. The group was founded in 2006 and has met annually since to discuss new work in the field. In addition to its signature conference, Post45 publishes an award-winning journal (post45.org) and an award-winning book series (Stanford UP).



Visual Studies Research Institute (VSRI) Images Out of Time Seminar

Sponsors: Visual Studies Research Institute, Anthropology, Levan Institute for the Humanities

Professor Adam Kuper (London School of Economics) presents “The Crisis of the Museum of Other People.”



Monuments Fall: Decolonizing Memory Spaces in The Western US and Europe’s East

Sponsors: Van Hunnicks Department of History, Visual Studies Research Institute, Political Science and International Relations, Center for International Studies, Levan Institute for the Humanities, Department of Slavic Studies, CHARM, Max Kade Center, Institute of California and the West, Dornsife Dean of the Humanities.

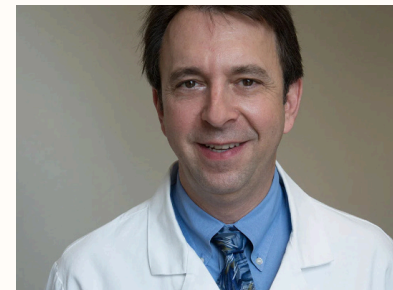
The workshop seeks to put in conversation debates over monuments, public space and decolonization that have unfolded, sometimes in similar, sometimes in dramatically different ways in the United States and in Eastern Europe, following Black Lives Matter and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.



Book Talk: Rui Hara

Sponsors: Van Hunnicks Department of History, Levan Institute for the Humanities, USC Thornton School of Music

In 1971, Japanese postwar composer Tôru Takemitsu (1930-1996) published his first collection of essays titled *Confronting Silence*. In this presentation, Hara, PhD, from Kyoto University, will read Takemitsu’s essays hermeneutically and reveal how Takemitsu was fascinated by Cagean world of unintentional sounds and thus struggled with the dichotomy between constructing the work and letting sound be the sound itself.



Dr. Bradley P. Stoner—“Getting Burned”

Sponsors: Anthropology, Center for the Political Future, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Institute on Inequalities in Global Health, Keck School of Medicine, Levan Institute for the Humanities, Politics and International Relations (POIR), Price School of Public Policy, Sociology, USC Center for International Studies

Dr. Bradley Stoner is Professor and Head, Department of Public Health Sciences and Professor of Medicine at Queen’s University, Kingston, ON Canada. His research focuses on the clinical epidemiology of sexually transmitted diseases and sociocultural factors which influence infectious disease risk.



Andrey Ivanov—A Universal Man of Slavic Enlightenment: Science and Empire in the Works of Feofan Prokopovich

Sponsors: Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Early Modern Studies Institute, Levan Institute for the Humanities

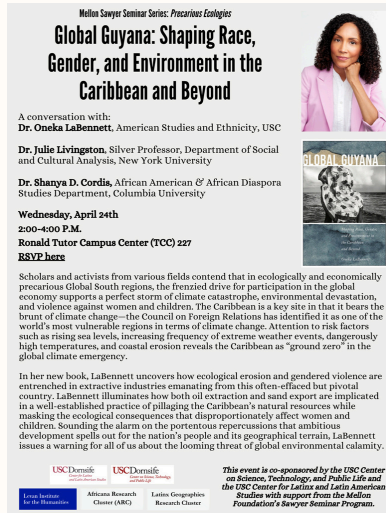
Archbishop Feofan Prokopovich (1681-1736) was a true “universal man” (to translate the Italian Renaissance term *uomo universale*) of the East Slavic Enlightenment. This talk by Prof. Ivanov (University of Wisconsin) will focus on the key intersections between science and empire found in the archbishop’s life, and the role his inquiry played in Petrine empire building.



Hajar Yazdiha—Book Talk on Reclaiming the Legacies of the Civil Rights Movement

Sponsors: Department of Sociology, Levan Institute for the Humanities

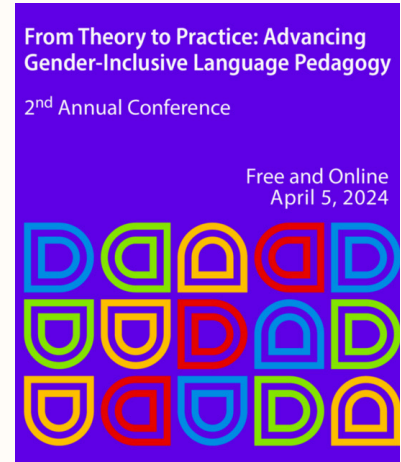
Hajar Yazdiha, Varun Soni, Walter J. Nicholls, and Marcus Anthony Hunter discuss Dr. Yazdiha’s new book: *The Struggle for the People’s King: How Politics Transforms the Memory of the Civil Rights Movement*.



Precarious Ecologies: Oneka LaBennett, *Global Guyana: Shaping Race, Gender, and Environment in the Caribbean and Beyond*

Sponsors: Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life, Center for Latinx and Latin American Studies, Levan Institute for the Humanities, Africana Research Cluster, Mellon Foundation’s Sawyer Seminar Program.

A conversation with author Dr. Oneka LaBennett, American Studies and Ethnicity (USC), Dr. Julie Livingston, Silver Professor, Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, (NYU), Dr. Shanya D. Cordis, African American & African Diaspora Studies Department, Columbia University.



Gender-Inclusive Language Conference—From Theory to Practice: Advancing Gender-Inclusive Language Pedagogy

Sponsors: Center for Languages and Cultures, Levan Institute for the Humanities, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Department of French and Italian, German Studies Program

This conference emerges from the expanding awareness among educators about the importance of gender diversity and inclusion in the classroom.



Lunch & Learn Series: Community-Engaged Research to Power Social Change

Sponsors: Center for Science, Technology, and Public Life, Latinx and Latin American Studies Center, Levan Institute for the Humanities, Center for Religion and Civic Culture, Public Exchange

Chancellor Nancy Cantor and Professor Manuel Pastor discuss how research centers can build structures for community-engaged research within university systems.



Book Launch—Adrian De Leon, *BUNDOK: A Hinterland History of Filipino America*

Sponsors: Department of American Studies and Ethnicity, Center for Transpacific Studies, Levan Institute for the Humanities, East Asian Studies Center

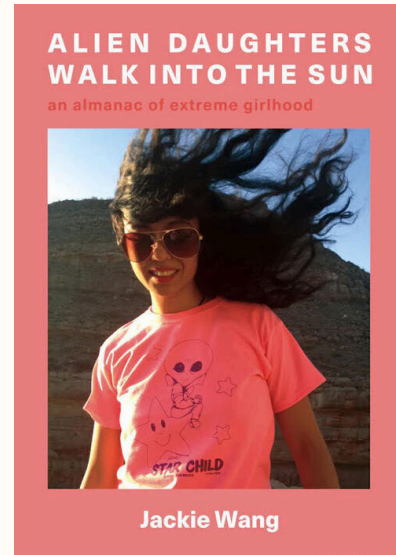
Author Adrian De Leon, Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity at USC in conversation with Ann Tran, PhD Candidate in American Studies and Ethnicity at USC, Brian Bernards, Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Comparative Literature at USC, and Sarita See, Professor of English at UC Riverside.



“Women, Innovation, and the Making of Modernity” —Workshop on Russian and Eurasian Modernisms.

Sponsors: Slavic Languages & Literatures, Levan Institute for the Humanities

Started in 2012 at the University of Illinois at Chicago, this annual event has a new topic every year. This year’s Workshop on Russian & Eurasian Modernisms examines women’s cultural innovations that complement, problematize, and/or challenge narratives of modernity as a male-driven phenomenon.



Book Talk: *Alien Daughters Walk into the Sun* with Author Jackie Wang and Christopher Soto

Sponsored by: The American Studies and Ethnicity Department’s Creativity, Theory, and Politics Research Cluster and the Levan Institute for the Humanities

Jackie Wang in conversation with Latinx poet Christopher Soto. A virtual event for the publication of Jackie Wang’s *Alien Daughters Walk into the Sun: An Almanac of Extreme Girlhood*.

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.


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.

Levan Institute for the Humanities

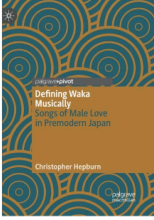
Upcoming Levan Institute Events



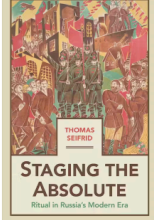
Wednesday, April 17 | 1:00 PM | Virtual
Levan Book Chats—Wolf Gruner, *Resisters: How Ordinary Jews Fought Persecution in Hitler's Germany*
Wolf Gruner is Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies and Professor of History. The author will be joined in conversation by Avinoam Patt (New York University) and Wendy Lower (Claremont McKenna College), moderated by Steve Rasmussen (USC). Co-organized by the USC Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life, the USC Dornsife Center for Advanced Genocide Research, and the UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies. [MORE](#)



Monday, April 22 | 12:00 PM | In-Person
Levan Environmental Humanities Working Group—Work in Progress: Kimia Shahi
Kimia Shahi is Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Southern California. She researches, teaches, and writes about art and visual culture of the United States and its oceanic surroundings in the long 19th and 20th centuries, with a focus on environmental and multidisciplinary perspectives. [MORE](#)



Monday, April 29 | 12:00 PM | Virtual
Levan Book Chats—Christopher Hepburn, *Defining Waka Musically: Songs of Male Love in Premodern Japan*
Christopher Hepburn is a Postdoctoral Scholar and Teaching Fellow in the Van Huen Department of History and the East Asian and Music Libraries. The author will be joined in conversation by Jennifer Guest (University of Oxford) and Stacey Jocoy (Library of Congress), moderated by Kerim Yasar (USC). Co-organized by the USC East Asian Studies Center and the Center for the Premodern World. [MORE](#)



Monday, May 6 | 12:00 PM | Virtual
Levan Book Chats—Thomas Seifrid, *Staging the Absolute: Ritual in Russia's Modern Era*
Thomas Seifrid is Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures. The author will be joined in conversation by Galin Tihanov (Queen Mary University of London) and Nancy Condee (University of Pittsburgh), moderated by Colleen McQuillen (USC). Co-organized by the USC Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. [MORE](#)

THE HUMANITIES 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 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 \(2007–2019\)](#).

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Ruth Ziegler Early Career Chair in Jewish Studies; Associate Professor of Religion, Law and History



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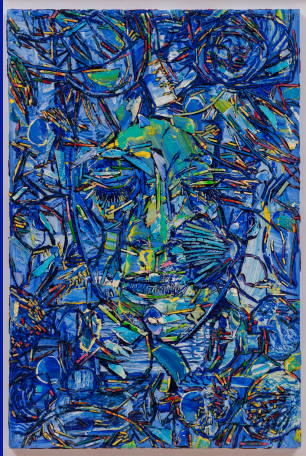


Lydie Moudileno

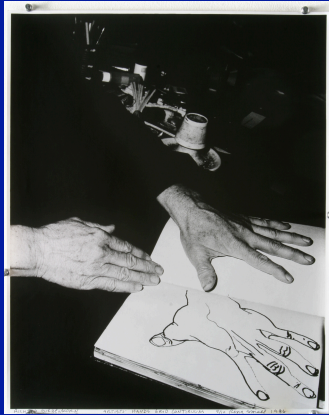
Marion Frances Chevalier Professor of French and Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity

IMAGE CREDITS

This annual report features images courtesy of the USC Fisher Museum of Art. We extend our gratitude to the museum for their generosity. For more information about the USC Fisher Museum please visit them online at <https://fisher.usc.edu/>.



Difficult to Hide, Arnaldo Roche Rabell, Gift of the Estate of Dr. and Mrs. James L. Sheehy, Collection of the USC Fisher Museum of Art © 2014 Walter Otero Contemporary Art



Artists' Hands Grid Continuum: Richard Diebenkorn, Rena Small, Purchase Fund, Museum Studies Program, Class of 2002. Collection of the USC Fisher Museum of Art © Rena Small



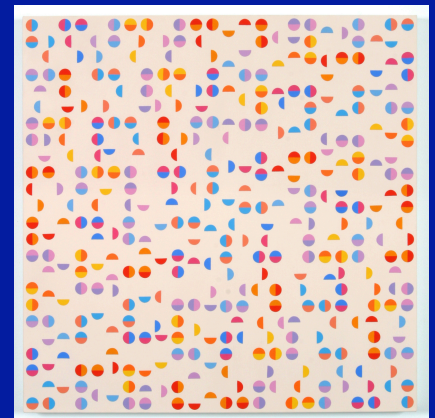
Vicente, Javier Carrillo, Museum Purchase, Collection of the USC Fisher Museum of Art © Javier Carrillo



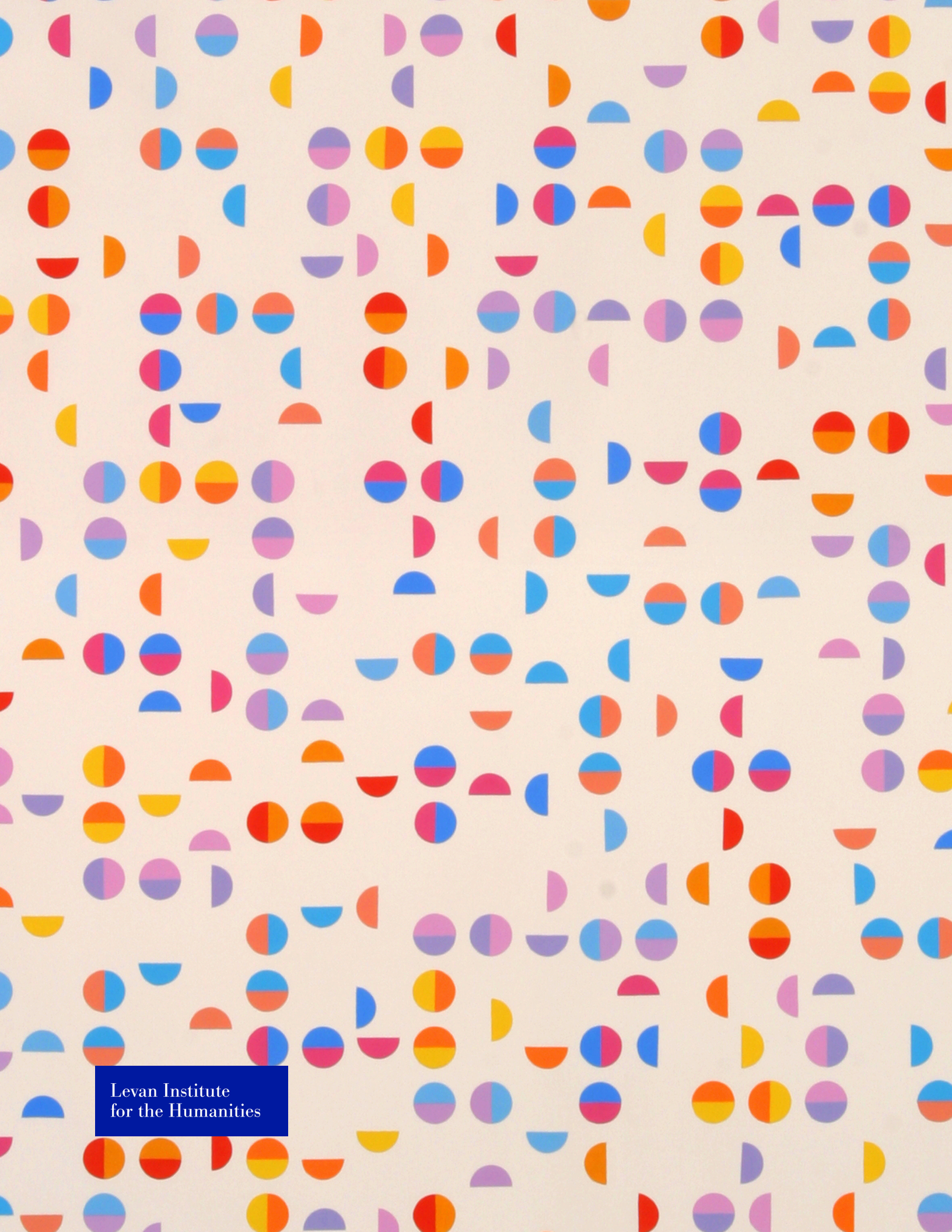
Echo Park at Night, Carlos Almaraz, Gift of the Estate of Dr. Eugene Rogolsky, Collection of the USC Fisher Museum of Art © Estate of Carlos Almaraz



Untitled, James hd Brown, USC Fisher Museum of Art © 2021 The Estate of James hd Brown



Be-bop, Betty Cleeland Purchase Fund, Collection of the USC Fisher Museum of Art. © Betty Cleeland



Levan Institute
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