

See the forest and the trees

Understanding the Humanities Today

→ Humanities are not a luxury; they are a necessity. We live in an era of fake news, big data, and debates over free speech.

That is why we are committed to engaging with the broadest community possible—from first-generation students and scholars in every discipline, to local residents and anyone interested in making sense of our complex world.

History, Literature, Language, Philosophy—the core elements of the Humanities—are also basic building blocks of a liberal arts education. And this kind of education, for which UC Santa Cruz is justly famous, remains more important than ever as science and technology increasingly shape our world.

The Humanities have always played a crucial role in producing engaged citizens and critical thinkers.





Cultivating a New Kind of Institute

→ The Humanities Institute at UC Santa Cruz is a global hub for academic research, cross-discipline collaboration, and public engagement.

We support the work of faculty and students, and collaborate with our community partners to tackle the questions that matter to all of us. We incubate ideas and foster collaboration by funding projects, centers, and research clusters that connect different scholars (often in different disciplines) to work on some of the biggest problems of our day. We see the big picture and the details.



Today more than ever, we need critical thinking, human understanding, abstract thought, and curiosity. These tools are essential to our understanding of the world and will help us chart our way in a constantly evolving culture and society.

What we do is as diverse as UC Santa Cruz's student body. On any given day, the work we support could help frame breaking news from China, Algeria, or Venezuela. An understanding of Shakespeare's use of language informs how we think of identity, gender, even humor. And responsible progress in Artificial Intelligence needs ethical thinking and humanistic underpinnings.

The skills of the Humanities are critical. The work of the Humanities is a public good and it's up to our most inclusive public institutions, and their supporters, to advance this research and share it with a wide audience.



YEAR IN REVIEW 2018-2019

Engaging the Santa Cruz Community

The Humanities Institute is dedicated to cultivating critical thinking in the community by bringing engaging events and scholars to spark conversations across Santa Cruz.

Community Impact by the Numbers

122 COMMUNITY EVENTS 14

PUBLIC FELLOWS 18
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

Programming Highlights

DATA AND DEMOCRACY

As our society navigates shifting definitions of fake news, targeted ad programs, and compromised voting systems, it is essential that we work to understand the complex and often obscured relationship between data and democracy. All year long, THI investigated this theme, presenting six public events with luminaries such as Jaron Lanier on campus and community conversations in downtown Santa Cruz and Silicon Valley.

ENGAGING THE SANTA CRUZ COMMUNITY

THI co-sponsored over twenty events in 2018-2019 with our community partners, including Community Night with Cabrillo Music Festival, Madeleine Albright with Bookshop Santa Cruz, and Zakir Hussain with Kuumbwa Jazz Center. THI also engaged our Public Fellows – fourteen exceptional graduate students – to work with community partners around the Bay Area and the world.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2018-2019

Connecting the Dots

The Humanities Institute at UC Santa Cruz is a hub for academic research, cross-discipline collaboration, and public engagement. We incubate ideas by funding projects, centers, and clusters that enable faculty and students to ask innovative research questions.

Campus Impact by the Numbers

\$403,500

GRADUATE AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

73 graduate fellows

\$107,500

FACULTY RESEARCH SUPPORT

29 faculty fellows, research clusters, centers, and projects

\$50,000

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT

32 undergraduate fellows

Recent Grant Highlights

EXPANDING HUMANITIES IMPACT AND PUBLICS

Nathaniel Deutsch and Tyler Stovall The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation \$1.500.000

MUSEUMS: HUMANITIES IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE

Karen Bassi and Gretchen Henderson
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
\$200,000

SYNTAX-PROSODY IN OPTIMALITY THEORY

Junko Ito and Armin Mester National Science Foundation (NSF) \$200,000