

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 2019-2020

Celebrating 20 Years

Over the past 20 years we have fostered a vision for the Humanities at UC Santa Cruz and beyond that includes connecting some of the most compelling figures in art and culture with our community on campus, in town, and beyond.

Community Impact by the Numbers

124
COMMUNITY
EVENTS

13
PUBLIC

FELLOWS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Recent Highlights

THE DEEP READ

Our new initiative, The Deep Read, is a platform for intellectual engagement, undergraduate classes, and major events with top writers and thinkers. We launched our annual program with over 4,000 people—on campus and around the world—discussing Margaret Atwood's *The Testaments* with insights from UC Santa Cruz professors in Literature, Feminist Studies, Engineering, and Anthropology. The Deep Read invites curious minds to think deeply about books and their implications on our politics, inner lives, and communities.

ENGAGING THE SANTA CRUZ COMMUNITY

THI co-sponsored over forty events in 2019-2020 with our community partners, including Community Night with Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, an art exhibit at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, an evening of Sephardic music at Kuumbwa Jazz, and Colson Whitehead with Bookshop Santa Cruz. We also connected students with partners around the Bay Area and the world through our Public Fellows Program.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2019-2020

Futures

The Humanities Institute is a hub for academic research, cross-discipline collaboration, and public engagement.

For our 20th anniversary year we explored the theme of Futures. We drew connections between speculative fiction, historical analysis, and feminist frameworks-elements of the Humanities that help us contend with uncertain futures and constant change.

Campus Impact by the Numbers

\$776,806

GRADUATE SUPPORT

85 fellows, mentors, and instructors

\$152,657

FACULTY SUPPORT

82 faculty fellows, research clusters, centers, mentors, and projects

\$**60,82**5

UNDERGRADUATE SUPPORT

39 fellows, researchers, and project participants

Recent Grant Highlights

POST-COLONIAL SCIENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

lennifer Derr National Science Foundation (NSF)

\$480,779

INTRA-AMERICAN SLAVE TRADE DATABASE

Gregory O'Malley American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) \$184,000