



The  
Humanities  
Institute  
UC SANTA CRUZ

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.



“The Humanities Institute is an essential community partner in producing innovative programming that addresses our shared values of intellectual inquiry, thoughtful dialogue, and cultural relevance.”

**CASEY PROTTI**  
OWNER, BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ

“We think that one of the main tasks of the Humanities today is to understand our present in order to be able to re-imagine it.”

**BANU BARGU AND MASSIMILIANO TOMBA**  
UCSC HISTORY OF CONSCIOUSNESS FACULTY





**250+**  
Public Programs  
Since 2012



**\$2.6**<sup>MIL</sup>  
Research Fellowships  
Distributed Since 2009



**110+**  
Research Projects  
Incubated Since 1999



**\$8.7**<sup>MIL</sup>  
Extramural Funds  
Raised Since 2009



**700+**  
Fellows  
Supported since 1999

## 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.


We see the forest *and* the trees.

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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.



STAY CURIOUS

Get involved with  
The Humanities Institute

**THI.UCSC.EDU**

@UCSCTHI   

# Impactful Community Events

Compelling events are at the core of our public mission. This year we reached more than 13,000 households around the world, for conversations with thought-leaders including Ezra Klein, Morgan Parker, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Dwayne Betts, and Saidiya Hartman.

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## Community Impact by the Numbers

**169**

**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**

**10**

**PUBLIC  
FELLOWS**

**23**

**COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS**

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## Programming Highlights

### DEEP READ

The Deep Read is an annual program that brings together students, staff, faculty, alumni, and members of the public to explore an acclaimed book by a living author. Our 2021 Deep Read was centered on Tommy Orange's novel *There There*, a novel about Native Americans living in and around Oakland, CA. 6,000 subscribers were given space to read together, share their insights, and hear presentations from the book author, as well as UC Santa Cruz the faculty, and members of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band—the Indigenous tribe native to the Santa Cruz region.

### MEMORY

THI's 2020–2021 theme was Memory, and we led conversations in Santa Cruz and beyond on the many facets of memory and its significance in our lives. We co-sponsored over 165 events with community and campus partners. Our Memory Series shared UC Santa Cruz research with a wide audience and we launched a new course on "Memory and the Americas" in three colleges. Meanwhile, our Public Fellows program created experiential learning opportunities for students to work with community organizations, including Senderos, Catamaran Literary Reader, and the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History.

# Cultivating Excellence

The Humanities Institute provides scholars with vital support to pursue groundbreaking research and public humanities projects. We incubate ideas by funding projects, centers, and clusters that enable faculty and students to ask innovative research questions.

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## Campus Impact by the Numbers

**\$648,223**

### GRADUATE SUPPORT

95 graduate fellows, mentors, and instructors

**\$186,550**

### FACULTY SUPPORT

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

**\$74,279**

### UNDERGRADUATE SUPPORT

44 fellows, researchers, and project participants

## Recent Grant Highlights

### **ANIMACY AND RESUMPTION AT THE BORDER OF COGNITION AND GRAMMAR**

Maziar Toosarvandani, Ivy Sichel, Matthew Wagers  
National Science Foundation (NSF)

**\$411,058**

### **REVISING REVOLUTION**

Massimiliano Tomba  
Princeton University

**\$93,100**

### **THE ESCAPES OF DAVID GEORGE: AN ODYSSEY OF SLAVERY AND FREEDOM IN THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA**

Greg O'Malley  
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

**\$60,000**