

A black and white photograph of three young women sitting together. The woman in the center is holding a microphone and speaking, with her mouth open and a joyful expression. She is wearing a patterned sweater. To her left, a woman wearing a white hijab and a dark jacket is smiling. To her right, a woman with glasses and a dark hoodie is looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a curtain or wall.

Student & Community Impact Report September 2021

The
Humanities
Institute
UC SANTA CRUZ

See the forest *and* the trees

A Snapshot of Impact

The Humanities Institute (THI) at UC Santa Cruz prepares the next generation of engaged leaders in the Humanities and beyond. We are a hub for new directions in Humanities research and teaching, cross-discipline collaboration, and public engagement.

The following report offers a snapshot of some of THI's core areas of impact, focusing on student success, public programming, and our community engagement efforts.

Nathaniel Deutsch, Faculty Director, The Humanities Institute
Irena Polić, Managing Director, The Humanities Institute



Undergraduate Programs

The Humanities Institute cultivates critical thinkers and prepares undergraduate students to grapple with a complex world. Our focus on experiential scholarship promotes student success and encourages our undergraduate students to take charge of their education. We provide hands-on training and professional development opportunities beyond the classroom, including our innovative Public Fellows program that places Humanities students in internships that prepare them for rich and lasting careers. We offer opportunities for undergraduate students to pursue independent research projects, navigate college, and engage with the campus and broader community through programs such as THI's Deep Read.

Programs

- THI Questions That Matter Course
- Deep Read Program
- THI directly funds undergraduates involved in the Living Writers series, The Dickens Project, the College Scholars Program, and multiple initiatives with residential colleges
- **Additional Opportunities:** Center for Jewish Studies, Intra-American Slave Trade Database, and Human Rights Investigations Lab

Research

- THI Undergraduate Research Fellowships
- Coha/Gunderson Prize in Speculative Futures

Employing Humanities

- THI Undergraduate Public Fellowships (MAH, Senderos, Watsonville is in the Heart)
- THI Undergraduate Student Assistants

"Working as a Language Education Developer [at Senderos] has allowed me to help present an indigenous language to the public by creating content to spread knowledge and understanding of Zapoteco de Santiago Laxopa ... Being able to independently create learning materials so audiences can easily learn Zapotec has been fulfilling work that allows me to be immersed in a beautiful culture and learn about incredible people."

MIKAYLA FALK
UNDERGRADUATE PUBLIC FELLOW

"This class ... had, by far, my favorite reading that I have ever done in school. Our close analysis we did with *There There*, and then getting to meet Tommy Orange was amazing. I really liked the set up of this class to really interrogate a new genre and focus really deeply on one text."

UCSC UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT
DEEP READ CLASS (PORTER 151 N, WINTER 2021)

2020-21 Undergraduate Support

- THI Undergraduate Research Fellowships—\$5,500 (10 students: Film & Digital Media, Intensive History, Literature, Religious Studies, Spanish Studies)
- Coha/Gunderson Prize in Speculative Futures—\$1,000 (1 student: Art)
- Diarna Fellows funded by Center for Jewish Studies and THI—\$12,000 (4 students: Humanities Division)
- THI Undergraduate Public Fellowships—\$19,000 (2 students: LALS, Literature)
- Questions that Matter Courses—three seminars in the colleges (50-75 students)
- Deep Read—seminar with 25 students, free books for 1,000 students
- OMI Undergraduate Fellows—\$10,800 (4 students: History, History/Anthropology)
- THI Undergraduate Assistant—\$2,000 (1 student: Legal Studies)

Graduate Student Programs

THI's graduate programs provide scholars with vital support to pursue their research interests and engage in Humanities projects that prepare them for meaningful careers. THI helps graduate students throughout their academic programs, from the beginning of their PhD to the end of their dissertation. We reduce financial burdens and address social inequalities by offering additional resources to students who have been historically underrepresented in higher education. We help students navigate the university and plan for life beyond it with training and professional development, including our innovative Public Fellows program that allows students to explore the value of a Humanities Ph.D. for a range of careers. Our research fellowships give graduate students much-needed time and funding to pursue groundbreaking scholarship.

Graduate Student Success Program

- Students in their first and second year can participate in THI's Graduate Student Success (GSS) program, which offers fellowships, workshops, mentorship, and cohort-building activities. This program fosters graduate success in the Humanities, especially among students who have confronted structural barriers to higher education and intend to use their degree toward addressing social inequalities.

Dissertation Development Program

- Incoming students can apply to the UCSC SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Program and receive funding support, training, and professional skills to progress towards candidacy and dissertation research/writing.

"The collaborative aspect was a highlight of the program. It was so important to have that support to create a meaningful and well-rounded syllabus, especially as I think about going on the academic job market."

QUESTIONS THAT MATTER TEACHING FELLOW

"[The GSS Program] wasn't about policies and requirements, but has got me thinking about HOW to be a PhD student, and it has also made me reflect on the importance of doing my work with intention."

GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM FELLOW

Fellowships

- Summer Research and Travel
- Dissertation Fellowships: Summer and Yearlong
- Public Fellowships: Summer and Yearlong
- C.L. Barber Fellowship
- Coha/Gunderson Prize in Speculative Futures
- CART Fellowship, co-funded with the UCSC Library
- National Humanities Center Fellowship

Career Training and Mentorship

- PhD+ Workshops
- Graduate Student Instructors
- Peer Mentor Positions (GSS, Public Fellows)
- Research Development Support (GSR, Grant Writing Committee, Funding Snapshots)
- **GSR Opportunities:** THI Communications, THI Research Development, and positions with the Center for Cultural Studies, Jewish Studies, Human Rights Investigations Lab
- **Other Funding Opportunities:** Sawyer Seminar Fellowships, Hayden White Fellowship, CITL Fellowships, research opportunities with THI affiliated research centers, clusters, and projects

2020-21 Graduate Student Support

- Yearlong Dissertation Fellow—\$42,789 (1 student: Feminist Studies)
- Yearlong Public Fellows—\$128,241 (3 students: HistCon, Linguistics, Literature)
- Summer Public Fellows—\$24,000 (4 students: History, Literature)
- Summer Research Fellows—\$21,458 (12 students: Feminist Studies, History, HistCon, Linguistics, Literature)
- Summer Dissertation Fellows—\$25,000 (5 students: History, HistCon, Literature)
- GSI Stipends—\$57,747 (3 students: Feminist Studies, HAVC, HistCon, LALS)
- GSI Peer Mentors—\$11,250 (3 students: Literature)
- GSS Fellows—\$35,500 (20 students: Feminist Studies, History, HAVC, HistCon, LALS, Linguistics, Literature, Philosophy)
- GSS Peer Mentors—\$8,000 (4 students: Feminist Studies, History, Literature)
- Barber Fellow—\$5,000 (1 student: Literature)
- SSRC Fellows—\$60,000 (12 students: Film and Digital Media, History, HAVC, HistCon, LALS, Literature, Music, Political Science, Sociology)
- Coha/Gunderson Prize—\$1,000 (1 student: HAVC)
- NHC Fellows—\$6,000 (8 students: Film and Digital Media, History, HAVC, Literature)
- CART Fellows—\$800 (2 students: Literature)
- Sawyer Seminar Fellows—\$87,494 (2 students: Film and Digital Media, HAVC)
- Creative Ecologies—\$18,000 (5 students: Film and Digital Media, HAVC)
- CITL Fellows—\$5,000 (2 students: Feminist Studies, Literature)
- Hayden White Fellowship—\$5,000 (1 student: HistCon)
- Public Fellows Mentor—\$6,000 (1 student: History)
- Jewish Studies GSR—\$7,311 (1 student: Sociology)
- GSRs—\$96,577 (3 students: HAVC, HistCon)
- OMI—\$17,514 (4 students: History)

“Thanks to this program I have built a community of brilliant scholars and friends who have become an amazing support system. We have also started to do amazing academic and activist work together.”

GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS FELLOW

“It has helped me to think ahead rather than just live quarter to quarter. We’ve been exposed to students who have advanced to candidacy and they have helped me to think about what I can do to help me finish.”

GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS FELLOW

“Since the THI fellowship has covered my summer stipend and research expenses, I could solely focus on my dissertation during the summer. This was the first time I did not have to do extra work, such as teaching, translating, and doing a part-time job.”

THI RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT

“I have created a new professional network that I believe will allow me to access future career opportunities... I have learned much about the value of my skills as a literary researcher and how they are applicable beyond a strictly academic setting.”

THI PUBLIC FELLOW

“I learned skills that I will carry forward in my work, whether at a university or any other kind of public-facing institution. This meant reaching outside of my comfort zone to try things I wouldn’t have or couldn’t have without the institutional support of the organization, and especially the mentorship of the managing director. I would absolutely encourage graduate students to take this opportunity seriously”

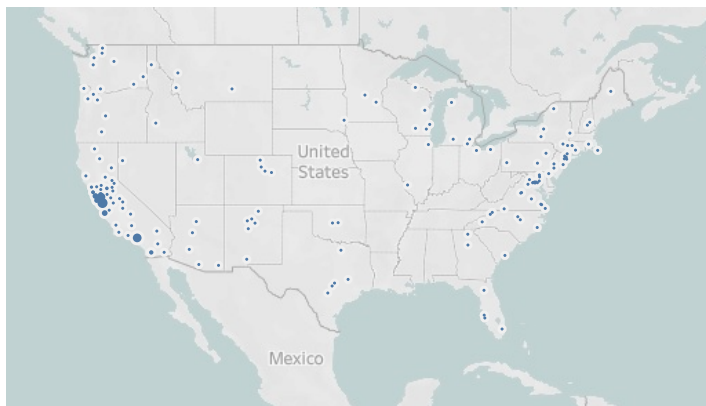
THI PUBLIC FELLOW

Impactful Community Events

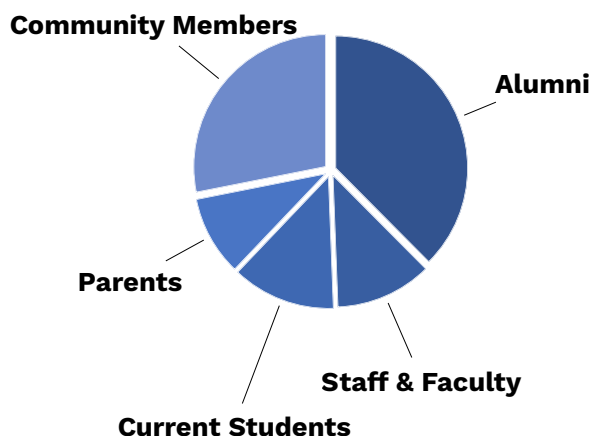
Compelling events are at the core of THI's public mission. The transition to a year of online events enabled new and broader audiences to join the THI community and engage with our programming. In 2020-21, we hosted speakers, including alumnus Ezra Klein, Tommy Orange, Morgan Parker, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Dwayne Betts, and Saidiya Hartman, to name just a few.

2020-21 Programming Numbers

- **169** total events hosted
- **12,773** households reached
- Attendees from **44** US States + DC (see map below) and more than 20 countries around the world

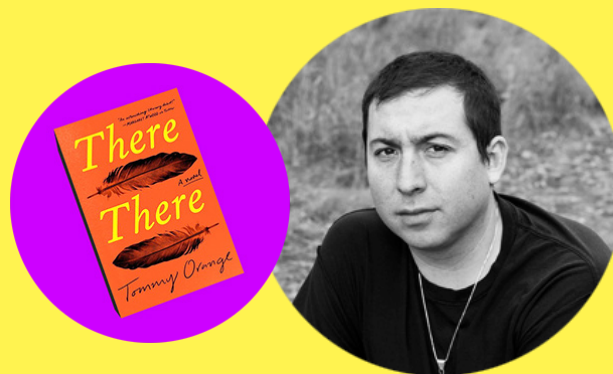


2020-21 Audience Breakdown



The Deep Read 2021

The Deep Read is an annual THI program that invites students, staff, faculty, alumni, and members of the public to explore an acclaimed book by a living author. Consisting of guided discussions, salons led by campus faculty, a community message board, and a credit-bearing course for undergraduates, it fosters critical reflection and lively conversation about questions of broad human concern in our contemporary moment. The Deep Read culminates each year in a public event featuring the author of the chosen book. The 2021 Deep Read Program explored Tommy Orange's novel *There There*, which depicts a variety of urban Native American characters living in Oakland, CA.



- **6,088** Total Community Members
- **1,481** Santa Cruz Deep Readers
- **999** Oakland Deep Readers
- **452** Los Angeles Deep Readers