

A photograph of a forest scene. In the foreground, a large, textured tree trunk is visible on the left side. In the background, a group of people is standing on a path, surrounded by lush green trees. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

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**





**500+**

**Public Programs**  
Since 2012



**\$6.2**

MIL

Research Fellowships  
Distributed Since 2009



**199+**

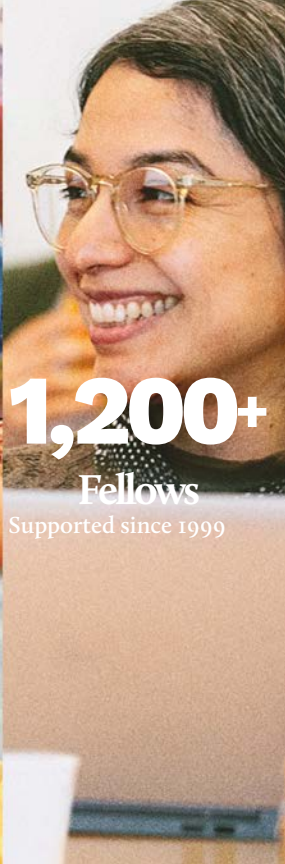
Research Projects  
Incubated Since 1999



**\$11.6**

MIL

Extramural Funds  
Raised Since 2009



**1,200+**

**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.

**The  
Humanities  
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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  

# Leading Public Engagement

We are engaging broad communities in vital Humanities scholarship through public events, campus-community partnerships, and experiential learning programs.

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## Community Impact by the Numbers

**138**

**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**

**25**

**PUBLIC  
FELLOWS**

**37**

**COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS**

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## Programming Highlights

### DEEP READ

THI's Deep Read program brings together students, staff, faculty, alumni, and members of the public to explore a compelling book by a living author. In 2024, we read *Trust* by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Hernan Diaz. Together, we considered how the technologies of finance and fiction overlap in this novel about capitalism and its social, cultural, and political power in the U.S. Over 10,000 Deep Read subscribers were given the opportunity to read together, share their insights, attend presentations from UCSC faculty on the book, and see Diaz in conversation with Associate Professor of Literature, Zac Zimmer.

### TECHNOLOGY

We dedicated 2023–2024 to the theme of Technology and hosted dozens of interdisciplinary events with scholars and public intellectuals that reached thousands of households around the world. Our theme opened up forums for discussions, promoted critical reflection, and offered fresh perspectives on Technology to highlight the power of the Humanities to make sense of our complex world and motivate new approaches for a more just future.

### PUBLIC FELLOWSHIPS

Our Public Fellowships create opportunities for faculty and students to work with partners in our community. 25 scholars collaborated with more than two dozen partners, including Lookout, the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, and the GLBT Historical Society

# 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

**\$409,639**

### GRADUATE SUPPORT

60 graduate fellows and researchers

**\$127,550**

### FACULTY SUPPORT

61 faculty, 30 projects

**\$135,650**

### UNDERGRADUATE SUPPORT

37 fellows and research assistants

## Recent Grant Highlights

### UCSC MOVING IMAGE LAB

Isaac Julien and Mark Nash

Mellon Foundation

**\$1,000,000**

### OAXACAN LANGUAGES OF THE TRANSNATIONAL CENTRAL COAST

Pranav Anand et al.

Institute of Museum and Library Services

**\$607,783**

In 2024, THI was honored as one of the two inaugural winners of the “Public Humanities Award for Leadership in Practice and Community” from the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), a global network of centers and institutes.