

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



JEANNETTE K. WATSON DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR IN THE HUMANITIES

Please [download the full application form \(.docx\)](#) to propose a **Spring 2028** Watson Professor residency, submitted to humcenter@syr.edu by noon on Friday, November 20, 2026.

About: The [Jeannette K. Watson Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities](#) was established by the Watson family to support on-campus residencies of prominent humanities scholars, writers, and artists. Previous holders of the professorship include: Linda Infante Lyons, Krushil Watene, Gabrielle Foreman, Cherríe Moraga, Saul Bellow, Angela Davis, Hans Mommsen, Toni Morrison, Mario Vargas Llosa, Leo Steinberg, Stephen Greenblatt, Anthony Grafton, Margaret Atwood, and others.

Qualities of a Successful Watson Professor Residency Proposal:

- The nominated scholar's work should meaningfully engage the humanities, broadly conceived.
- The residency generally spans two business-weeks at the Syracuse campus.
- The Watson Professor generally engages in a manageable combination of public lectures / readings / performances; a mini-seminar or workshop; class visits and/or small group dialogues.
- Public events organized around the Watson Professor's visit should be designed to attract a diverse audience from across campus and the wider community.
- Describe how this scholar's engagement will advance research outcomes (e.g., generating new knowledge, artifacts, publications, etc.) and/or create research opportunities for SU students or faculty, in ways that foreground the humanities as a public good.

Requirements of Hosting a Watson Professor Residency:

- Proposals may originate from individual faculty members or pairs / groups of faculty organizers, from single units or from across a combination of departments / programs / colleges. The individual or collective serves as the principal organizer of the residency and functions as the primary point of contact and host(s) for the Watson Professor's visit.
- Organizers often seek ancillary support (e.g., an exchange of labor, space, curricular overlap, modest contributions, etc.) from other units and programs to broaden participation and impact.
- If your proposal is awarded, you/your team will envision and manage all details of the residency in close coordination with the Humanities Center's programming and publicity support.

Budget: If approved, the Humanities Center will award up to \$55,000 toward the total residency cost. Sample expenses can include:

- Travel, lodging, honoraria + per diem incidentals for the proposed professor;
- Facility fees, production costs, book purchases, hospitality / catering for public programming;
- Supporting research-related costs – student assistant hours, digitizing materials, publication outcomes;
- Note that award funds may NOT be used for teaching replacement costs or to "buy out" courses.

Be prepared to complete a budget planning sheet, with rationales, as part of your proposal.

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A word from the faculty host of the Spring 2026 Jeanette K. Watson Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities ...

Thank you for your generous support throughout the 2026 Watson Distinguished Visiting Professorship. I extend my deepest thanks for your help in making Linda Infante Lyons' visit such a meaningful and successful experience.

One of the original deliverables in our Watson proposal was a book on Linda's work: the manuscript is now officially completed and currently under review with University of British Columbia Press / external reviewers. If all proceeds as planned, the book will be published in Fall 2027, and it will include a dedicated acknowledgment of the Humanities Center and Linda's reflections on her residency as Watson Professor!

-Chie Sakakibara
SP26 Faculty co-host, with Timur Hammond

Image on stamp: "Isuwiq Suwa: Spirit Of The Seal," one of two original works created by Linda Infante Lyons for the SU Art Museum's permanent collection, in conjunction with her residency.



Humanities Center
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