

Humanities Crossroads:
Dialogues for the Future

November 13, 2026 8:30am - 6:15pm

Strasser Legacy Room (220 Eggers Hall)
Syracuse University

We are living through profound change, as social, political, cultural, ecological, and technological forces converge to reshape our lives and our shared world. At this crossroads, the humanities are essential to how we understand where we are, determine what matters, and imagine where we might go next. The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences invites our community to come together to explore what the humanities can do and become at this consequential moment.

Crossroads are places of encounter and transition, but also decision points, where we bring different histories, experiences, and ways of knowing into relation and consider the futures we want to build. To that end, the College is convening a day of dialogues and keynotes to center the humanities as a public good; highlight how collaboration sparks innovation; explore humanities infrastructures to support shared thriving; and examine the importance of community-engaged work.

Syracuse University experts will join leading regional and national scholars to explore innovative next steps as we create a generative future for humanities research, teaching, and public engagement. This day of dialogues will offer a springboard for continued exploration in Spring 2027, with engagements around shared readings and exchanges. Faculty, staff, students and community members all have a stake in this work — and all are welcome. We hope to see you there!

CART transcription will be provided.

Schedule:

8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. **Continental breakfast - *Strasser Legacy Room (220 Eggers Hall)***

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. **Welcome Remarks**

- Behzad Mortazavi, *Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences*
- Planning Committee Members

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. **Keynote, The Humanities as the Crossroads: Creativity, Collaboration, and the Public Good**

- Kathleen Fitzpatrick, *Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, College of Arts & Letters, and University Distinguished Professor of English and Digital Humanities, Michigan State University*

10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Humanities at the Crossroads: Choices for a Robust Future**

Moderator - Gwendolyn Pough, *Associate Dean of Strategic Initiatives, Dean's Professor of the Humanities, Professor of Women's & Gender Studies, Interim Chair of African American Studies and Women's & Gender Studies - College of Arts & Sciences at Syracuse University*

- Collin Gifford Brooke, *Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Writing Studies, Rhetoric and Composition, Syracuse University*
- Amanda Brown, *William P. Tolley Distinguished Teaching Professor and Professor of Linguistics, Syracuse University*
- Thomas Keck, *Professor, Political Science, Syracuse University*
- Danika Medak-Saltzman, *Associate Professor, Women's & Gender Studies; Co-Director, Center for Global Indigenous Cultures and Environmental Justice, Syracuse University*

Respondents-

- Kathleen Fitzpatrick, *Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, College of Arts & Letters; University Distinguished Professor of English and Digital Humanities, Michigan State*
- Katina Rogers, *Independent scholar, consultant, and author at Inkcap Consulting*

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Lunch - *Strasser Commons, Eggers Hall***

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Keynote, Towards a Mycelial University: Conditions for a Flourishing Humanities Ecosystem**

- Katina Rogers, *Independent scholar, consultant, and author at Inkcap Consulting*

1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. **Break**

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. **Building Infrastructures of Support for Humanities Researchers**

Moderator - Sarah Workman, *Director of Research Development, Arts & Humanities, Office of Research at Syracuse University*

- Peter H. Christensen, *Arthur Satz Professor of the Humanities; Professor of Art and Art History; Senior Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences; Ani and Mark Gabrellian Director, Humanities Center at University of Rochester*
- Kathleen Fitzpatrick, *Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, College of Arts & Letters; University Distinguished Professor of English and Digital Humanities, Michigan State*
- Shelome Gooden, *Professor of Linguistics, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research in the Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Related Fields, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement and Leadership Development, Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Pittsburgh*
- Vivian May, *Director, Humanities Center; Director, CNY Humanities Corridor; Professor, Women's & Gender Studies, Syracuse University*

2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **The Public Work of the Humanities**

Moderator - Brice Nordquist, *Director, Engaged Humanities Network; Dean's Professor of Community Engagement; Associate Professor of Writing Studies, Rhetoric and Composition, Syracuse University*

- Tamar Carroll, *Professor of History, Rochester Institute of Technology*
- Katie Flowers, *Executive Director of Community Engagement and Service Learning, Hobart and William Smith Colleges*
- Tanisha Jackson, *Executive Director of the Community Folk Art Center and Assistant Professor of African American Studies, Syracuse University*
- Aaron Luedtke, *Assistant Professor of History and Native American and Indigenous Studies, Syracuse University*

4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. **Break**

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. **Building Infrastructures of Support for Graduate Education**

Moderator: Dan Olson-Bang, *Director of Career & Professional Development, Graduate School, Syracuse University*

- Anke Finger, *Professor of German and Media Studies and Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies, University of Connecticut*
- Thomas (Tal) A. Lewis, *Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Cornell University*
- Katina Rogers, *Independent scholar, consultant, and author at Inkcap Consulting*
- Emily Stewart, *Senior Director, Education and Curation, Museum of Science and Technology*
- Glenn Wright, *Executive Director of Career & Professional Development, Graduate School, Syracuse University*

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. **Reception - *Strasser Commons, Eggers Hall***

KEYNOTES



Kathleen Fitzpatrick [morning keynote] is Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Arts & Letters and University Distinguished Professor of English and Digital Humanities at Michigan State University. Prior to assuming this role, she was Director of DH@MSU and founding director of Mesh Research, a lab focused on the future of scholarly communication. She is project director of Knowledge Commons, an open-access, open-source network serving more than 60,000 scholars and practitioners across the disciplines and around the world, and she is author of several books, including *Leading Generously: Tools for Transformation,* (Johns Hopkins UP, 2024), *Generous Thinking: A Radical Approach to Saving the University* (Johns Hopkins UP, 2019) and *Planned Obsolescence: Publishing, Technology, and the Future of the Academy* (NYU Press, 2011). She is past president of the board of directors of the Educopia Institute and of the Association for Computers and the Humanities.



Katina L Rogers [afternoon keynote] is a writer, educator, and independent scholar. She is the author of *Putting the Humanities PhD to Work: Thriving in and beyond the Classroom* (Duke University Press, 2020); *Presence of Absence: Meditations on the Unsayable in Writing* (punctum books, 2024); and *Unexpected Flourishing: Growth from Decay in the Mycelial University* (forthcoming from punctum books). Her work has been featured in *The New York Times, LA Review of Books, The Chronicle of Higher Education,* and *Inside Higher Ed.* With over a decade of experience as a researcher, administrator, and educator, Dr. Rogers works with colleges and universities to design and implement creative, sustainable, and equitable structures for graduate education through Inkcap Consulting, which she founded in 2021. She holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

VISITING PANELISTS



Tamar W. Carroll [3:00 panel] is Professor of History at Rochester Institute of Technology, a scholar of the history of women, gender, and sexuality in the modern United States, and a public humanities practitioner. With community members and RIT undergraduate students, Carroll curated *Picturing Equality: The Lambda Network at Kodak,* on view at George Eastman Museum June 27-November 8, 2026, and the companion web exhibition, *Remembering the Lambda Network at Kodak*. Among other works, she is author of *Mobilizing New York: AIDS, Antipoverty, and Feminist Activism* and co-curator of the traveling photo exhibition, *Whose Streets? Our Streets! New York City, 1980-2000*, and its companion website.



Peter H. Christensen [1:45 panel] is Arthur Satz Professor of the Humanities; Professor of Art and Art History; Senior Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences; Ani and Mark Gabrellian Director, Humanities Center, University of Rochester. Research interests include 19th and 20th century international architectural history, particularly of Central, Southeastern Europe and Ottoman and post-Ottoman lands; history and aesthetics of infrastructure and industry; materiality and ecocriticism; and critical digital humanities.



Anke Finger [4:15 panel], Professor of German and Media Studies and Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies, University of Connecticut, directed the Humanities Institute initiative on Digital Humanities and Media Studies (DHMS) from 2016-2019 and inaugurated and directs the DHMS Graduate Certificate. She has published widely on comparative modernism, multimodal scholarship, aesthetics, and media philosophy. Her books include *Shaping the Digital Dissertation: Knowledge Production in the Arts and Humanities* (with Virginia Kuhn), 2021, and *Bias, Belief and Conviction in an Age of Fake Facts* (with Manuela Wagner), 2023. Current projects focus on "Humanities Diplomacy" (with the EMICC Network in Europe) 2027, a workshop at University of Bayreuth; and building infrastructures for Humanities Communication (HumComm). She co-founded the Center for Humanities Communication (CHC) where she co-directs the Scholars Program with Kath Burton.



Kathleen (Katie) Flowers [3:00 panel] is Executive Director of Community Engagement and Service Learning at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. An AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) alumna, principles of servant leadership guide her work. Ms. Flowers is active in the local community, serving on several nonprofit advisory boards. Among her professional highlights are collaborative efforts with community stakeholders to create the Geneva Community Lakefront Playground and contributions to various publications on student civic engagement and leadership development. Her work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Geneva Boys and Girls Club's Honorary Club Member of the Year (2019) and the Agnes Slosson Lewis Award from the League of Women Voters of New York State (2023).



Shelome Gooden [1:45 panel] is Professor of Linguistics, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research in the Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Related Fields, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement and Leadership Development, Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Pittsburgh. Gooden collaborates with faculty in Linguistics and Pitt's Schools of Medicine, Education, and the David Berg Center as part of the Humanities in Health group. During her tenure as Chair of Linguistics, she worked with faculty to increase the number of women in the tenure-stream. In addition, she led in reorganizing and overhauling department research infrastructure to expand the experimental and computational methods capabilities, while also providing support for teaching-related research for appointment stream faculty.



Thomas A. Lewis [4:15 panel], Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education at Cornell University, is a distinguished scholar and academic leader committed to advancing excellence in graduate education in close collaboration with faculty and students and enhancing access for students from diverse backgrounds. Before joining Cornell, Lewis led graduate education at Brown University as dean of the Graduate School from 2023 to 2025, following a year as interim dean. His scholarship examines transforming conceptions of religion, society, and the individual in Western modernity, with a focus on German intellectual traditions. His contributions include *Freedom and Tradition in Hegel: Reconsidering Anthropology, Ethics, and Religion* (2005); *Religion, Modernity, and Politics in Hegel* (2011); and *Why Philosophy Matters for the Study of Religion–and Vice Versa* (2015), along with numerous articles and chapters. Lewis has been an influential voice in the American Academy of Religion and has lent his expertise as a reviewer for the National Science Foundation. He is currently chair elect of the Board of Directors of the Council of Graduate Schools.



Emily Stewart [4:15 panel], Senior Director, Education and Curation, Museum of Science and Technology, trained as an interdisciplinary American historian. Prior to joining the MOST in 2017, she served as a Mellon Research Fellow at the University of Pittsburgh as well as an adjunct professor, research assistant, and museum docent at various institutions, including the Oneida Community Mansion House. She currently leads a team of museum staff and community partners to design, develop, and deliver STEM education programs and interactive exhibits at the MOST, with emphasis on the museum's core values of inclusion, access, and enhancing the public understanding of science.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY DISCUSSANTS



Collin Gifford Brooke
Associate Professor and Chair, Writing Studies, Rhetoric and Composition



Amanda Brown
William P. Tolley Distinguished Teaching Professor and Professor of Linguistics



Tanisha Jackson
Executive Director of the Community Folk Art Center
and Assistant Professor of African American Studies



[Thomas Keck](#)
Professor, Political Science



[Aaron Luedtke](#)
Assistant Professor of History and NAIS, SU



[Vivian May](#)
Director, Syracuse University Humanities Center; Director, CNY Humanities Corridor; Professor, Women's & Gender Studies



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Planning Committee / Conference Partners:

- **Gwendolyn Pough,** *Associate Dean of Strategic Initiatives, Arts and Sciences; Dean's Professor of the Humanities; Professor of Women's & Gender Studies*
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- **Sarah Workman,** Director of Research Development, Arts and Humanities
- ***Special thanks for planning support*** - Jessica Allman, *Assistant Director of Events, College of Arts and Sciences* / Diane Drake, *Assistant Director, Humanities Center*