

Athena

HRG Newsletter

2021-22



Director's Message

It is a great honour and privilege to be taking over the HRG programming this year while Kim Nelson is on sabbatical. Last year Kim deftly moved all our activities to a virtual format. In doing so, she was able to extend the reach of HRG to a wider community and engage speakers from near and far. As we slowly emerge from lockdowns and enter back into society I am reminded of the quote by Albert Schweitzer, "All true living is face to face." As much as many of us are anxious to get back to living a face-to-face life, this year will be one of transitions. This fall we will be transitioning HRG events from virtual spaces to in person gatherings. We are in the process of planning events that are completely virtual to a hybrid format where some can still enjoy our content online, while others can go back to the live and in person experience. To that end, we have Sandy Gomes joining HRG while Yvonne Zimmerman takes on duties at Public Affairs.

The opening reception of Humanities Week will be an in person reception at the David Wilson Commons. We are hopeful that the weather will allow for the space for conversation and renewal. The theme for this year's Humanities week is boundaries, barriers, and barricades. Our diverse and broad speakers will give talks on cities, slavery, borders, and intersectionality — all of which relate in some way to our theme.

The Winter semester is just as exciting as we feature talks on Shakespeare, Indigenous Ways of Knowing, and how fabric has shaped civilization. Details on the Winter schedule will be posted on our website and social media.

—Lydia Miljan

Speaker Series

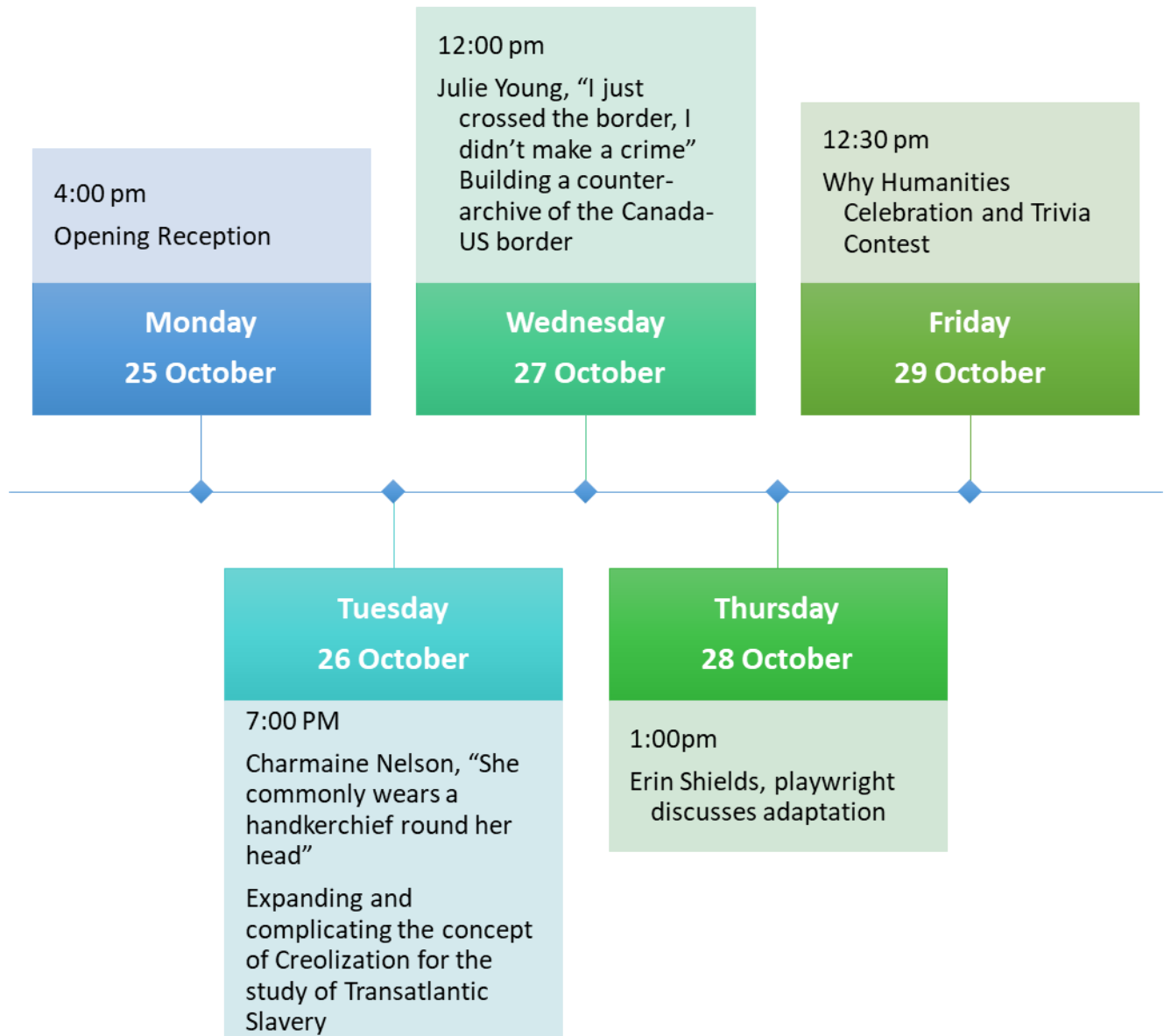
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Humanities Week

October 25-29, 2021



Monday, October 25, 4:00pm

David Wilson Commons*

Humanities week opens optimistically with an outdoor in person reception at the David Wilson Commons. Come join us for a warm beverage and hear welcoming messages from President Gordon, and the Dean of FAHSS, Cheryl Collier. **Shawn Micallef** give a brief talk about cities post-Covid to start Humanities Week and will return in November for a full lecture.

We will also be featuring last year's Why Humanities Contest winner, **Mina Wiebe** from the Department of English and Creative Writing who will present her winning submission.

** In the event of inclement weather, opening reception will be held at Alumni Hall*

Shawn Micallef

Cities are over! Headlines during the first period of the pandemic screamed variations of this theme as offices and public transit were abandoned and tales of people moving to bucolic Nova Scotia work-from-home paradises were shared. As it turns out, cities are, in fact, not over and instead became places of resiliency during the pandemic but also where long-simmering inequities became starkly apparent. Long-delayed or near-impossible policy changes took place quickly and public space became more important than ever, a place where many of these tensions played out. We'll explore cities and the pandemic, and thoughts on how Windsor fits into all this, during this Humanities Week talk.

Shawn Micallef is the author of *Frontier City: Toronto on the Verge of Greatness*, *Stroll: Psychogeographic Walking Tours of Toronto* and *The Trouble With Brunch: Work, Class and the Pursuit of Leisure*. He's a weekly columnist at the *Toronto Star*, and a senior editor and co-owner of the independent, Jane Jacobs Prize-winning magazine *Spacing*. Shawn teaches at the University of Toronto and was a 2011-2012 Canadian Journalism Fellow at University of Toronto's Massey College. In 2002, while a resident at the Canadian Film Centre's Media Lab, he co-founded [murmur], the location-based mobile phone documentary project that has spread to over 25 cities globally.





Tuesday
October
26,
7:00 pm
([Teams](#)
[Webinar](#))

“She commonly wears a handkerchief round her head”: Expanding and Complicating the Concept of Creolization for the study of Transatlantic Slavery

Charmaine Nelson—Distinguished Speaker

Charmaine A. Nelson is a Professor of Art History and a Tier I Canada Research Chair in Transatlantic Black Diasporic Art and Community Engagement at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) University in Halifax, Canada where she is also the founding director of the Institute for the Study of Canadian Slavery.

Prior to this appointment she worked at McGill University (Montreal) for seventeen years. Nelson has made ground-breaking contributions to the fields of the Visual Culture of Slavery, Race and Representation, and Black Canadian Studies. She has published seven books including *The Color of Stone: Sculpting the Black Female Subject in Nineteenth-Century America* (2007), *Slavery, Geography, and Empire in Nineteenth-Century Marine*

Landscapes of Montreal and Jamaica (2016), and *Towards an African Canadian Art History: Art, Memory, and Resistance* (2018). She has given over 260 lectures, papers, and talks across Canada, and the USA, and in Mexico, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom, Central America, and the Caribbean. She is actively engaged with lay audiences through her media work including ABC, CBC, CTV, and City TV News, The Boston Globe, BBC One “Fake or Fortune,” and PBS “Finding your Roots”. She blogs for the Huffington Post Canada and writes for The Walrus. In 2017, she was the William Lyon Mackenzie King Visiting Professor of Canadian Studies at Harvard University.

Julie Young



Wednesday October 27, 2021—
12:00pm ([Teams Webinar](#))

“I just crossed the border, I didn’t make a crime”: Building a counter-archive of the Canada-U.S. Border

This talk will share insights from *Remembering Refuge: Between Sanctuary and Solidarity*, a multi-media digital counter-archive that starts from oral history interviews with people originally from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Haiti who crossed the Canada-US border to seek refuge (1980s-present) and members of advocacy groups working at this border. The project situates these stories as foundational rather than peripheral to the histories and geographies of this border, building on research about how “unofficial” archives illuminate the ways in which communities have always contested borders. The collaborative project was designed to activate the research: it focuses on how individual stories can be a point of entry into interrogating how the border functions and contesting assumptions about migration, beyond the idea of migration as a “crisis.”

Dr. Julie Young is Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Critical Border Studies and Assistant Professor in Geography and Environment at the University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Much of her research to date has focused on how migrants and advocates in Canada-US and Mexico-Guatemala border communities interact with and challenge those borders. Her current collaborative project with Grace Wu and Johanna Reynolds is entitled, *Remembering Refuge: Between Sanctuary and Solidarity*, an open access counter-archive of the Canada-US border as told through the oral histories of Central American and Caribbean migrants and migrant justice advocates working in the Windsor-Detroit and Plattsburgh-Lacolle border regions. Julie is co-editor, with Dr. Susan McGrath, of the open-access book, *Mobilizing Global Knowledge: Refugee Research in an Age of Displacement* (University of Calgary Press).

Thursday, October 28, 1:00pm

([Teams Webinar](#))

University Players is staging *If We Were Birds* by Erin Shields from October 22-31. Erin will join HRG for an interactive discussion on how she adapts classical texts for a modern audience.

If We Were Birds is a shocking, uncompromising examination of the horrors of war, giving voice to a woman long ago forced into silence, and placing a spotlight on millions of female victims who have been silenced through violence. Erin Shields' award-winning play is an unflinching commentary on contemporary war and its aftermath delivered through the lens of Greek Tragedy.



"The writing is both poetic and muscular, the images are vivid, breathtaking and heart-squeezing ... pulsing with life and emotions."

— Lynn Slotkin, CBC Radio

Erin Shields

Erin Shields is a Canadian playwright, actor and educator based in Montreal. Most of her work highlights the negation or misrepresentation of women in classical texts by adapting these stories through an intersectional feminist lens for a contemporary audience. She likes making large plays for large stages. Her work has played across Canada and beyond.



Friday, October 29, 12:30 pm ([Teams Webinar](#))

TRIVIA EVENT

Friday October 29, 2021 | 12:30 PM EST |



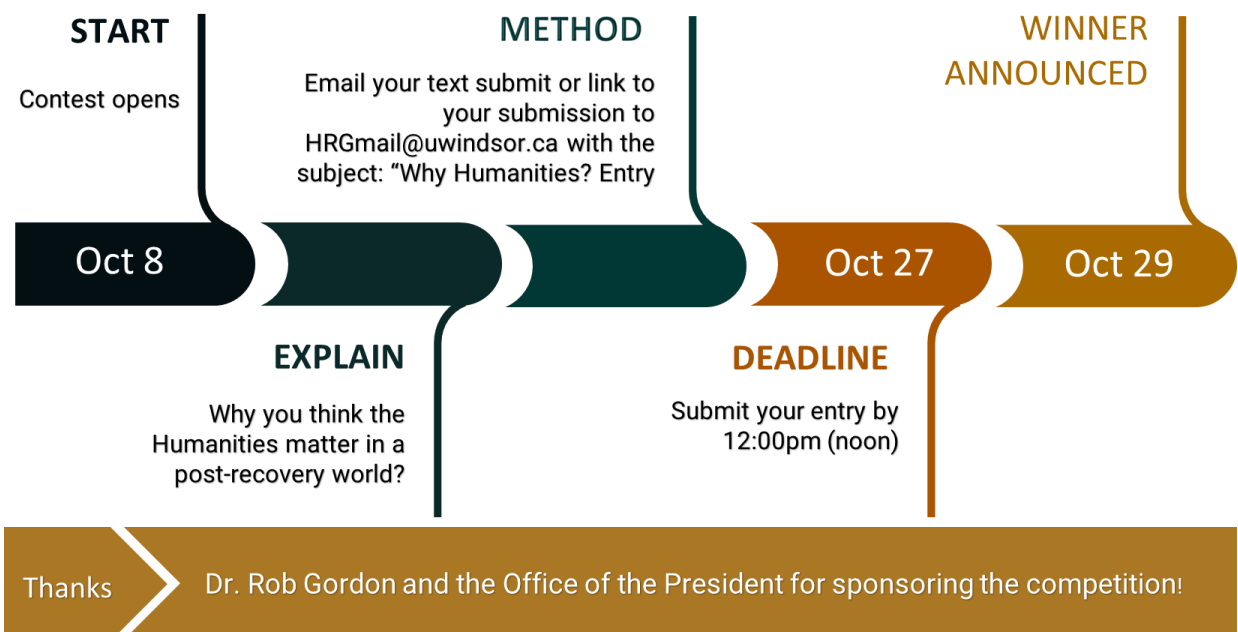
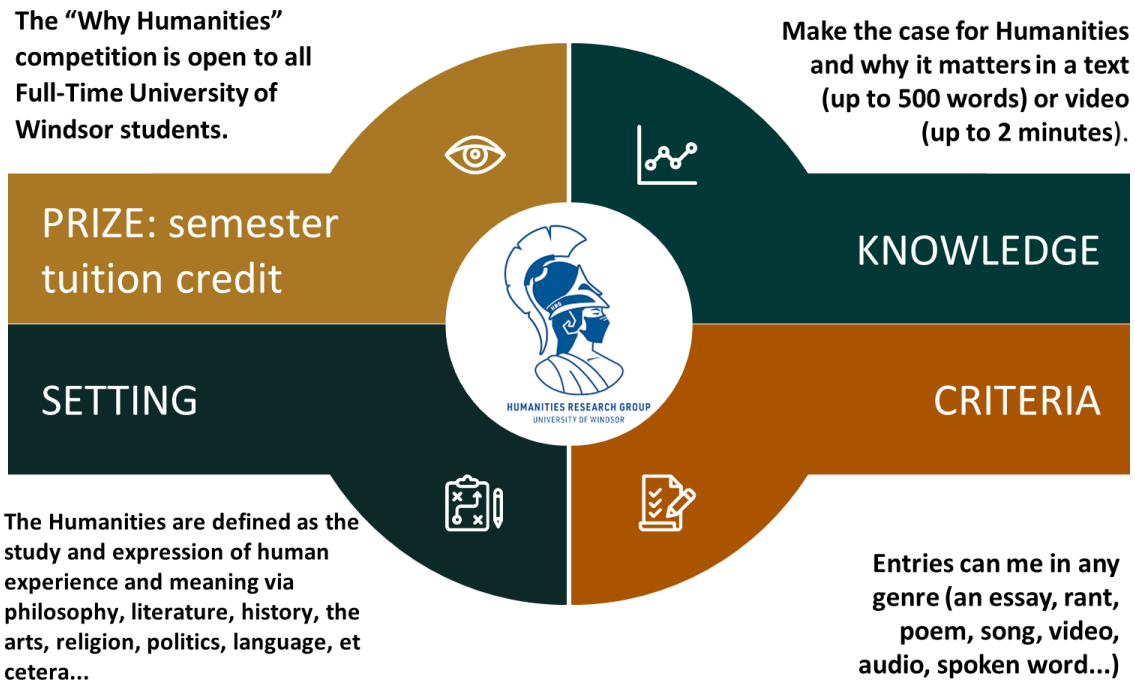
Three \$25 Gift Card giveaway

Gift Card by Choice of Winners - Starbucks/UWindsor bookstore

Please check our social media pages for detail instruction for the giveaway



Why do the Humanities matter in a post-recovery world?



January 25, 2022

Robert Weir—On Shakespeare

Scholars of Shakespeare have long known that he was inspired by what he read in books. Given that the Elizabethans annotated their books heavily, and that many books survive from this period, it was reasonable to suppose that a book once owned and annotated by Shakespeare would come to light eventually. Such a discovery has now happened for the first time since scholars started looking in the 1700s. The book in question resides in a private, Canadian collection and is a 1575 copy of the works of the Roman poet Horace, a well-known source for Shakespeare. This volume contains signatures and annotations by Shakespeare and some of his colleagues that answer some vexed questions (e.g. the identities of the Dark Lady, the Fair Youth, and Will's birthday) as well as pointing out some Horatian sources for his plays, a few which were not previously recognized as such. My presentation will lay out the methodology by which I arrived at this unique and startling attribution of Shakespearean ownership.

Dr. Weir was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and was raised by itinerant, academic parents in a variety of places before they settled down in Canada (ie. Scotland, Switzerland, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ohio, Ontario, then British Columbia). After working for the Cypriot Department of Antiquities during a gap year between high school and university, this convinced him to seek a career in Mediterranean archaeology rather than astronomy. Dr. Weir then enrolled into the Honours Classics program at the University of British Columbia and earned his BA in 1990. He then went to Princeton University and earned both an MA and a PhD in Classical Archaeology in the years 1993 and 1998, respec-

tively. After a few years of working in Ontario and British Columbia on limited-term contracts, Dr. Weir came to the University of Windsor in 2002. He has been interested in ancient coins since 1983, and in most summers since 1999, he has been working on excavations in Greece or Cyprus to identify and publish their numismatic finds. Researching the provenances of old, mostly 16th-18th century books has been a hobby of Dr. Weir's for about twelve years now and uses many of the same skills in this hobby that he has used in the archaeological field.





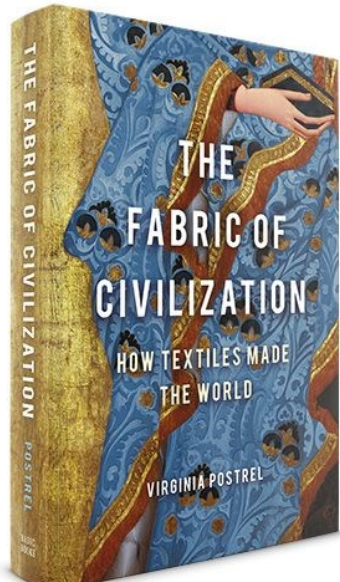
February 22,
2022

Andrea Sullivan-Clarke is a member of the wind clan of the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma. She is a first-generation college student and holds a PhD (2015) and MA (2009) in Philosophy from the University of Washington – and a BA (1999) from Oklahoma State University. Andrea is the chairperson of the American Philosophical Association’s Committee on Native American and Indigenous Philosophers and she is currently working on a textbook about Indigenous Philosophy, *Ways of Being in the World*.

Andrea Sullivan-Clarke—HRG Fellow

I cannot help but be saddened by the acts of violence against Indigenous people reported in the media on a daily basis. I hope that by coming to appreciate the philosophical teachings of the Indigenous people on Turtle Island, current attitudes may change. I envision my research sitting squarely at the intersection of Indigenous and Settler relations. To that end, I consider myself to be an ambassador for my people, and as such, the work done to improve those relations and to increase understanding to be of key import. This isn’t going to be your standard academic talk. Instead, I will walk the

audience through a typical class on Indigenous philosophy. I invite you to join me to learn about some of the current themes in Indigenous philosophy and examine how those themes apply to being in the world. Our topic will be Indigenous conceptions of the Good Life, a topic covered in most introductory courses in philosophy. I sincerely believe that if we can come together to learn about the philosophical thought of Indigenous people, perhaps then truth and reconciliation can truly begin and concepts like flourishing will actually be possible for us all.



Textiles are one of humanity's oldest and most influential technologies, but nowadays most people take them for granted. Drawing on her widely praised new book *The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World*, author Virginia Postrel will take us on a tour of some of the innovations--in fiber, spinning, weaving, and dyeing--that gave us today's textile abundance and the ways textiles shaped civilization as we know it.

Virginia Postrel is a Los Angeles-based author, columnist, and researcher whose latest book is *The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World*. She is a visiting fellow at the Smith Institute at Chapman University and a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. Her previous books include *The Power of Glamour*, *The Substance of Style*, and *The Future and Its Enemies*. During her research for *The Fabric of Civilization*, she learned to weave and is now the program co-chair for the Southern California Handweavers' Guild.



HRG Advisory Board

Lydia Miljan, Acting Director, HRG

Kim Nelson, Director (on sabbatical)

Cheryl Collier, Dean, FAHSS

Ronnie Haidar, Student Representative

Nick Hector, School of Creative Arts

Michelle MacArthur, School of Dramatic Art

Jaclyn Meloche, School of Creative Arts UWindsor and the Department of Art and Art History WSU

Judy Sinanga-Ohlmann ,

Faculty Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Dan Wells, Biblioasis, Community Member

Who We Are

The Humanities Research Group is an interdisciplinary council comprised of University of Windsor faculty, students, staff, and community members. We support humanities research and facilitate events where thinkers and audience members grapple with issues relating to the human condition.

Our goal is to bring people together to challenge, inspire, and stimulate, in a space of open dialogue, sharing, and exchange.

Our Thanks

HRG succeeds through the generous support of the Office of the President, the Dean of FAHSS, and the team at Public Affairs. We are especially grateful to our Ignite students: Michael Critchley, Candice Szaniszlo, and Jabid Raiyan. We also wish to acknowledge the Outstanding Scholars Program and Noelle Dupret Smith who have amplified our message



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