



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
LEARNED SOCIETIES

ACLS

ANNUAL REPORT
2023



Support Connect Amplify Renew

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Mission

The American Council of Learned Societies supports the creation and circulation of knowledge that advances understanding of humanity and human endeavors in the past, present, and future, with a view toward improving human experience.

Purpose

SUPPORT CONNECT AMPLIFY RENEW

We support humanistic knowledge by making resources available to scholars and by strengthening the infrastructure for scholarship at the level of the individual scholar, the department, the institution, the learned society, and the national and international networks. We work in collaboration with member societies, institutions of higher education, scholars, students, foundations, and the public. We seek out and support new and emerging organizations that share our mission.

We commit to expanding the forms, content, and flow of scholarly knowledge because we value diversity of identity and experience, the free play of intellectual curiosity, and the spirit of exploration—and above all, because we view humanistic understanding as crucially necessary to prototyping better futures for humanity. It is a public good that should serve the interests of a diverse public.

We see humanistic knowledge in paradoxical circumstances: at once central to human flourishing while also fighting for greater recognition in the public eye and, increasingly, in institutions of higher education. Located at the center of various flows of activity and knowledge among the learned societies and other academic associations, colleges, universities, libraries, and individual scholars, we serve the needs of all these constituencies, strengthen relations among them, and pioneer and amplify collaborative solutions to challenges facing humanistic scholars and scholarship.

We celebrate and support the engagement of scholars with their fellow citizens and with the issues of the world that shape and affect people's daily lives.

We advance public understanding of the importance of humanistic knowledge to the enrichment of individual lives and to the robust resilience of democratic societies.

We believe that the circulation of knowledge through scholarship and teaching is best supported by just and equitable practices in institutions of higher education, notably the prioritization of full-time employment. We uphold equity, fairness, integrity, scholarly excellence, and care for scholars' needs and concerns in general and in our own practice.

Message from the President

Greetings From ACLS!



The university, with roots extending up to 2,000 years old across the globe, stands as one of humanity's most enduring institutions. Today in the United States, its resilience is being severely tested. Political pressure, financial constraints, and public skepticism all grew in intensity in 2023.

These worrying developments are bound up with the long-term consequences of the pandemic; persistent economic and opportunity gaps based on gender, race, and social background; and an increasingly polarized society. But we are also tasting the bitter fruit of our framing of the value of our institutions of higher education in terms of narrow outcomes—such as the earnings of college graduates in their first job after college—and corresponding rankings.

At ACLS, we are keenly aware of the need to tell compelling, inspiring stories about the value and impact of scholarship in the humanities and interpretive social sciences. This report is an important expression of our effort to meet that need, and we hope you will share it, along with our other reports, papers, and digital content, within your professional as well as your social communities.

Of our many accomplishments in 2023, I encourage you to keep a sharp eye out for news of our [new three-year pilot fellowship and grant program](#) for faculty at Historically Black Colleges

and Universities, which is currently funded by the ACLS endowment. We hope to secure long-term external funding for that program in the coming years.

In 2024, we look forward with excitement to announcing the first cohort of ACLS HBCU Faculty Fellows and Grantees, along with the first group of winners of our new ACLS Open Access Book Prizes and Arcadia Open Access Publishing Awards, made possible through a generous grant from Arcadia, which rewards both authors and publishers of open access titles by humanistic scholars.

Thanks to the support of Shelly C. Lowe (Navajo), chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, ACLS convened a gathering of philanthropic organizations in New York City in early December, the first time in living memory such a group had come together to discuss the future of funding for humanistic scholarship. We look forward to strong relations and future collaborations with the participating funders. (See page 39.)

We are very grateful to the Mellon Foundation for its generous support of six major programs: the Commission for Fostering and Sustaining Diverse Digital Scholarship (also sponsored by the NEH), the ACLS Digital Justice Grants, the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship, the ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship, the Intention Foundry, and the Leadership Institute for a New Academy, known familiarly as LINA. In 2023, the Intention Foundry ran its third and final successful summer workshop series, having worked closely over three years with more than 100 early career scholars and leaders from 52 societies.

In addition, the Buddhism Public Scholars program continues to blossom as one of the several successful elements of our Buddhist Studies partnership with The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global. The program, now in its third year, places PhDs in Buddhist studies in professional positions at museums, libraries, and publications to help better disseminate knowledge of Buddhist traditions to broad publics. As Frederick Ranallo-Higgins F'22 explained, “Am I just doing this for this little bubble of academics who all already know what I’m talking about? It was difficult to figure out how to do what I was doing in any other way or any other fashion ... As soon as I saw the Buddhism Public Scholars opportunity, I thought, this is the perfect match for me.”

In addition, thanks to the Henry Luce Foundation, we introduced a refreshed program of support for early career scholars of China studies this fall. An extraordinary gift from ACLS board member Carl Pforzheimer and his spouse, Betty, allowed the first of three cohorts of scholars of eastern and southeastern Europe to participate in a summer residency in Bulgaria, undertaking local fieldwork and accessing regional archives and museum collections while also building close relationships that persist in ongoing scholarly collaborations and cross-institutional visits.

2023 also marked the establishment of a new department at ACLS, [Intentional Design for an Equitable Academy](#), or IDEA, which is the home of our efforts to advance meaningful change in academia, including recognition of a broader range of faculty work as deserving of merit and institutional support. As IDEA Director Jovonne Bickerstaff noted in introducing her department this fall, “We take this moment as a call for cultivating opportunities for reparative intervention and transformative engagement that further ACLS efforts to enhance equity, justice, and well-being in the academy.”

This is just a taste of the stories that excite us about the future of humanistic scholarship.

This year marked my fifth at ACLS. I am grateful to the Board for offering me a second five-year term as president of this great organization. By the end of 2024, we will report on our own progress on the first published strategic priorities for ACLS. We are already engaged in consultation on the next plan.

“We are grateful for the widespread participation by HBCU faculty and academic leaders in the design of the program in 2022 and 2023—from virtual focus groups to in-person listening sessions and workshops at HBCUs—and the enthusiastic response to our first call for applications. As one focus group member told us at a meeting at Morgan State University in March to preview the new program: ‘This is just what we asked for in the focus groups: a program that recognizes the specific needs of HBCU faculty.’”

John Paul Christy

Senior Program Director, US Programs
American Council of Learned Societies

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues for their dedication and the intelligence and insight they bring to our work. I also thank our Board, our member institutions and societies, and the many individuals who support us and our work, particularly past ACLS fellows and grantees. In what Howard Nemerov called a “bad time when faith in study seems to fail,” your vote of confidence bolsters our effort to reward outstanding scholars and to work for renewed public faith in humanistic scholarship. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions at president@acl.org.

Thank you and best wishes,



Joy Connolly

The Painter Dreaming in the Scholar's House (excerpt)

by Howard Nemerov

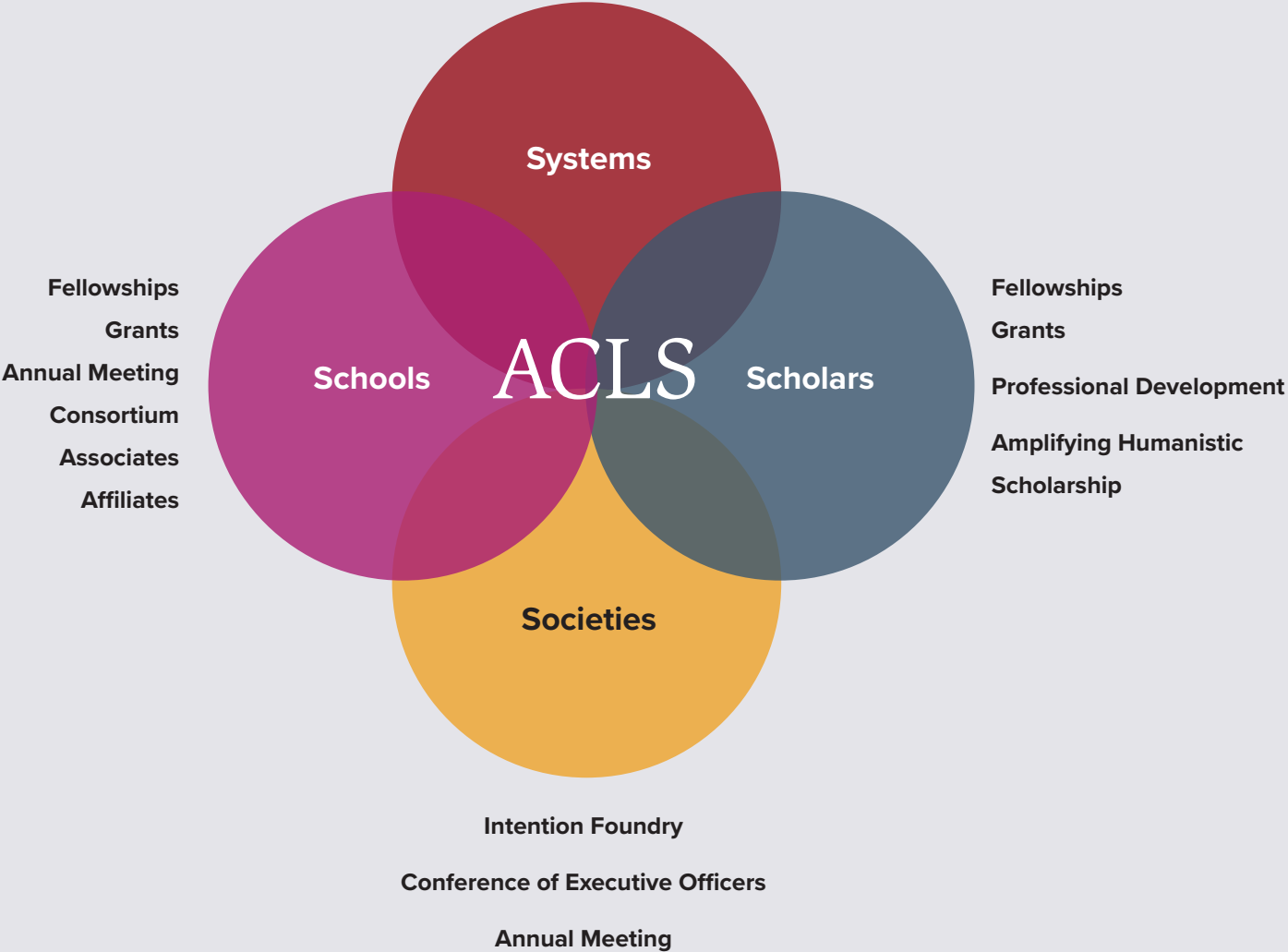
These thoughts have chiefly been about the painter Klee,
About how he in our hard time might stand to us
Especially whose lives concern themselves with learning
As patron of the practical intelligence of art,
And thence as model, modest and humorous in sufferings,
For all research that follows spirit where it goes.

...

So may it be to all of us, that at some times
In this bad time when faith in study seems to fail,
And when impatience in the street and still despair at home
Divide the mind to rule it, there shall be some comfort come
From the remembrance of so deep and clear a life as his
Whom I have thought of, for the wholeness of his mind,
As the painter dreaming in the scholar's house,
His dream an emblem to us of the life of thought,
The same dream that then flared before intelligence
When light first went forth looking for the eye.

Our Relationships

Intentional Design for an Equitable Academy (IDEA)
Intention Foundry
Commission on Fostering and Sustaining Diverse Digital Scholarship
Leadership Institute for a New Academy (LINA)



*Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow Amelia
J. Dietrich F'15 participates in
a discussion at the 2023 ACLS
Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.*



Our Community, Our Work, Our Impact.

As scholars in the humanities and interpretive social sciences continue to work through the consequences of the pandemic and face institutional and political challenges, community is more important than ever. The American Council of Learned Societies takes seriously our obligation to support our member societies by gathering them together to work on problems; enabling smooth communication at all times; offering access to advice on legal issues, communications, and development; working with society boards upon request; and other activities.





“The ACLS CEO group has been an invaluable hub and network of people. I’ve been able to share and be a part of a supportive network of people who have unique insights into the executive director role. Our society is new to having an executive director role, and so this has been both a professional and personally supportive group to be a part of. Recently, I’ve been able to share, support, and receive feedback from ACLS in fundraising and HR matters as our organization diversifies its funding strategy, and professionalizes the Society’s relationship building.”

Amanda Windle
Managing Director
Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
Managing Editor
Engaging Science, Technology, and Society (ESTS)

Member Societies

In 2023, the ACLS federation of learned societies grew to 80 members as it welcomed the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) in May.

Throughout the year, ACLS continued to expand its support for its member societies through a variety of sharing, capacity building, and networking opportunities for the Council of Executive Officers (CEO) and member society staff.

We introduced the CEO Communications Lead Meet Up series in fall 2023 to provide a space for resource sharing and technical support focused on social media, storytelling to support engagement, website content management best practices, and newsletter strategy.

The annual CEO Leadership Seminar in September included a session led by ACLS Program Officer Keyanah Nurse on equipping society leaders with tools to understand and engage with their diverse constituencies.

In addition to the Leadership Seminar, member society leaders gathered in Philadelphia for the annual spring convening and the annual fall meeting in Dulles, Virginia. ACLS also continued to host a weekly virtual “happy hour” for CEO members, which remains a popular way to discuss complex topics on a regular basis.

ACLS Member Societies

African Studies Association
American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Academy of Religion
American Anthropological Association
American Antiquarian Society
American Association for Italian Studies
American Association for the History of Medicine
American Association of Geographers
American Comparative Literature Association
American Dialect Society
American Economic Association
American Folklore Society
American Historical Association
American Musicological Society

American Numismatic Society
 American Oriental Society
 American Philosophical Association
 American Philosophical Society
 American Political Science Association
 American Society for Aesthetics
 American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies
 American Society for Environmental History
 American Society for Legal History
 American Society for Theatre Research
 American Society of Church History
 American Society of Comparative Law
 American Society of International Law
 American Society of Overseas Research
 American Sociological Association
 American Studies Association
 Archaeological Institute of America
 Association for Asian Studies
 Association for Jewish Studies
 Association for Slavic, East European,
 and Eurasian Studies
 Association for the Study of African American
 Life and History

Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies
 Association of American Law Schools
 Austrian Studies Association
 Bibliographical Society of America
 College Art Association
 College Forum of the National Council of
 Teachers of English
 Dance Studies Association
 Dictionary Society of North America
 Economic History Association
 German Studies Association
 Hispanic Society of America
 History of Science Society
 International Center of Medieval Art
 Latin American Studies Association
 Law and Society Association
 Linguistic Society of America
 Medieval Academy of America
 Metaphysical Society of America
 Middle East Studies Association of North America
 Modern Language Association
 National Communication Association
 National Council on Public History

Conference of Executive Officers Executive Committee

Chair

Steven Rathgeb Smith
 American Political Science
 Association

Steven Boutcher
 Law and Society
 Association

Lynnette Cook
 Association for Research
 on Nonprofit Organizations
 and Voluntary Action
 (ARNOVA)

Lisa Fagin Davis
 Medieval Academy of
 America

Beth English
 Organization of
 American Historians

Erin McGuirl
 Bibliographical
 Society of America

Stephanie Rowe
 National Council on
 Public History

Executive Committee of the Delegates

Chair

Suzanne Preston Blier
 College Art Association

Sharon Herbert
 American Society of
 Overseas Research

Erik Rau
 Society for the History of
 Technology

Hugh Rockoff
 Economic History
 Association

Shelley Rodrigo
 College Forum of the
 National Council of
 Teachers of English

Judith Tucker
 Middle East Studies
 Association

Barbara Weinstein
 Latin American Studies
 Association

National Women's Studies Association
North American Conference on British Studies
Oral History Association
Organization of American Historians
Philosophy of Science Association
Renaissance Society of America
Rhetoric Society of America
Shakespeare Association of America
Sixteenth Century Society & Conference
Society for American Music
Society for Cinema and Media Studies
Society for Classical Studies
Society for Ethnomusicology
Society for French Historical Studies
Society for Military History
Society for Music Theory
Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study
Society for the History of Authorship,
Reading and Publishing
Society for the History of Technology
Society of Architectural Historians
Society of Biblical Literature
World History Association

Member Institutions

In 2023 Tulane University, University of California, Riverside, and University of California, Santa Cruz joined the ACLS Research University Consortium. The network also introduced a steering committee to contribute to the agenda for the group's annual convenings. The inaugural committee included representatives from Arizona State University, Brown University, Rutgers University, and the University of California, Riverside.

The 2023 Consortium Meeting took place in October in New York City. Representatives from 28 members of this 44-school network joined this annual convening, which opened with a roundtable discussion with foundation leaders Sean Buffington, vice president of the Henry Luce Foundation; Adam Falk, president of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation; and Phillip Brian Harper, program director for Higher Learning at the Mellon Foundation. The talk, followed by a reception, was held at LGD, an art gallery where participants were invited to continue the discussion amidst rare works by Pierre Soulages.

The meeting continued the following day with a full slate of sessions addressing vehicles for change within the academy. Highlights included Maurie McInnis, president of the State University of New York, Stony Brook, speaking on the challenges of collaborative leadership, nurturing the next generation of leaders, and the current divide between faculty and administrators; a discussion on faculty reward structures and enrollment enhancement with James Grossman, executive director of the American Historical Association, and Heather Washington, deputy director of the American Sociological Association; and a discussion on strengthening the position of humanities faculty led by Consortium representatives Jeffrey Cohen, dean of humanities in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University; Sara Guyer, dean of Arts & Humanities at the University of California, Berkeley; and Rebecca Walkowitz, dean of Humanities at Rutgers University–New Brunswick.

In addition, ACLS continued to provide monthly virtual meetings for Consortium and Associate member

institutions on a variety of topics, including guidelines for community engaged scholarship with Paula Krebs, executive director of the Modern Language Association; finance basics and best practices with Matthew Sapienza, chief financial officer at ACLS; and the pros and cons of AI with Mona Sloane, senior research scientist at the New York University Center for Responsible AI.

ACLS Research University Consortium

Members for the 2022–2023 academic year

Arizona State University
Brown University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Duke University
Emory University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Indiana University Bloomington
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New York University
Northwestern University
Princeton University
Rice University
Rutgers University–New Brunswick
Stanford University
The Ohio State University
Tulane University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Southern California



“It has been tremendously beneficial for Brown University to participate in a larger national conversation about the continued value of the arts and the humanities in higher education. Being part of the ACLS Research University Consortium gives us the chance to contribute to important discussions and initiatives that support the visionary, forward-looking work of humanistic scholars everywhere. ACLS provides an invaluable platform for the exchange of ideas and the sharing of knowledge among leaders in higher education. I have learned so much from colleagues at ACLS about supporting faculty, building community, and advocating for positive change.”

Zachary Sng

Senior Associate Dean of the Faculty, Professor of German Studies, and Professor of Comparative Literature
Brown University (ACLS Research University Consortium Member)

2023 ACLS Annual Meeting

ACLS hosted its 2023 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia Thursday, April 27, and Friday, April 28. Among the more than 250 attendees were delegates representing our federation of learned societies, University Consortium and Associate member institutions, past fellows, and supporters. The meeting opened Thursday afternoon with the launch of a new competition for open access books (the dual ACLS Open Access Book Prize and Arcadia Open Access Publishing Award), followed by a live conversation between ACLS President Joy Connolly and National Endowment for the Humanities Chair Shelly C. Lowe (Navajo).

On Friday, featured panel discussions addressed urgent issues facing the academy:

Leading Change in Academic Norms: Societies, Initiatives, Networks

With Kal Alston, Syracuse University; James Grossman, American Historical Association; Paula Krebs, Modern Language Association; David Scobey, Bringing Theory to Practice; James Shulman, ACLS; moderated by ACLS President Joy Connolly.

HBCUs: Legacy and Future

With David Canton, University of Florida; Jelani Favors, North Carolina A&T State University; Eileen Kane, Connecticut College; Melanye Price, Prairie View A&M University; moderated by Jovonne Bickerstaff, ACLS.

ACLS Scholars Panel

With presentations by Cassius Adair, ACLS Fellowship 2021; Monica Bravo, Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowship 2021; Yige Dong, Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellowship in China Studies 2020; Stacie McCormick, Mellon/ACLS Scholars and Society Fellowship 2021; Marcus Pyle, Intention Foundry Participant 2022; moderated by Michele Moody-Adams, ACLS Board of Directors.

The 2023 meeting closed with the 41st Charles Homer Haskins Prize Lecture, delivered by historian Henry Louis Gates, Jr. of Harvard University. Gates's lively, dramatic speech explained how his early interest in his own family history and his scholarship on race fueled his bold leap into television with the enormously successful PBS show *Finding Your Roots*.





University of Texas at Austin
University of Utah
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Yale University

ACLS Associate Members

Members for the 2022–2023 academic year

American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University*
Auburn University
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College
Baylor University
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brigham Young University
Brown University*

Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
California Institute of Technology
California State University, Fullerton
California State University,
Long Beach
California State University,
Los Angeles
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Center for Advanced Study in the
Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art
City University of New York,
City College
City University of New York,
Guttman Community College
City University of New York,
John Jay College
City University of New York,
LaGuardia Community College
City University of New York,
Lehman College
City University of New York,
Queensborough Community
College
City University of New York,
The Graduate Center

Claremont McKenna College
Clark Atlanta University
Clemson University
Colby College
Colgate University
Columbia University*
Cornell University*
Dartmouth College*
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Duke University*
Dumbarton Oaks Research Library
and Collection
East Carolina University
Eckerd College
Emory University*
Fisk University
Florida A&M University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida State University
Folger Shakespeare Library
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
Furman University
George Mason University
Georgetown University*
Georgia State University
Getty Research Institute



Attendees in discussion at the Leadership Institute for a New Academy 2023 Summer Institute at Sarah Lawrence College.



“Being part of the ACLS Associate Member network has provided significant opportunities to participate in creative and innovative conversations about the humanities and social sciences. It has provided a platform to understand how other institutions address pressing issues revolving around humanistic education, and to learn from and share information with scholars who have a vital interest in promoting the thriving and flourishing of the humanities and social sciences.”

Kimberly R. Kellison

Associate Professor of History and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
Baylor University (ACLS Associate Member)

Grinnell College
Harvard University*
Haverford College
Howard University
Huntington Library
Indiana University Bloomington*
Institute for Advanced Study
Jackson State University
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University*
Lafayette College
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University
Macalester College
Marquette University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Mills College at Northeastern University
Montclair State University
Morehouse College
Morgan State University
Mount Holyoke College
National Humanities Center
New York University*
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina Central University

Northeastern University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University*
Oakwood University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Ohio University
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Prairie View A&M University
Princeton University*
Purdue University
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University
Reed College
Rice University*
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University—New Brunswick*
Rutgers University—Newark
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San José State University
Sarah Lawrence College
Scripps College
Smith College
Soka University of America
Southern Methodist University
Spelman College
St. Mary’s College of Maryland

St. Olaf College
Stanford University*
State University of New York, Stony Brook
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Temple University
Tennessee State University
Texas A&M University
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
The Clark Art Institute
The George Washington University
The New School
The Newberry
The Ohio State University*
The University of Iowa*
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Tougaloo College
Trinity College
Trinity University
Tufts University
Tulane University*
Tuskegee University
University at Buffalo, State University of New York
University of Arizona
University of California, Berkeley*

University of California, Davis*
 University of California, Irvine*
 University of California, Los Angeles*
 University of California, Merced
 University of California, Riverside*
 University of California, San Diego*
 University of California,
 Santa Barbara*
 University of California, Santa Cruz*
 University of Chicago*
 University of Connecticut
 University of Denver
 University of Florida
 University of Georgia
 University of Illinois at Chicago
 University of Illinois,
 Urbana-Champaign*
 University of Kansas
 University of Maryland Eastern Shore
 University of Maryland,
 Baltimore County
 University of Massachusetts Amherst
 University of Massachusetts Boston
 University of Miami
 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*
 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*
 University of Missouri
 University of Nebraska—Lincoln
 University of Nevada, Reno
 University of New Hampshire
 University of North Carolina at
 Chapel Hill*

University of North Carolina at
 Charlotte
 University of Notre Dame*
 University of Oklahoma
 University of Oregon
 University of Pennsylvania*
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Richmond
 University of Rochester
 University of Southern California*
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 University of Texas at Austin*
 University of Texas at El Paso
 University of Texas at San Antonio
 University of the South
 University of Toronto
 University of Utah*
 University of Virginia*
 University of Washington
 University of Wisconsin—Madison*
 Vanderbilt University*
 Vassar College
 Villanova University
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute &
 State University
 Wake Forest University
 Washington and Lee University
 Washington University in St. Louis*
 Wayne State University
 Wellesley College
 Wesleyan University

West Virginia University
 William & Mary
 Williams College
 Yale University*
 York University

**Member of the ACLS Research
 University Consortium*

ACLS Affiliate Members

Association for Research on
 Nonprofit Organizations and
 Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)
 Association of American Colleges
 and Universities
 Association of Research Libraries
 Association of University Presses
 Canadian Federation for the
 Humanities and Social Sciences
 Center for Research Libraries
 Community College Humanities
 Association
 Consortium of Humanities Centers
 and Institutes
 Federation of State Humanities
 Councils
 International Society for Third-Sector
 Research
 Phi Beta Kappa



ACLS President Joy Connolly in discussion with participants at the Leadership Institute for a New Academy 2023 Summer Institute at Sarah Lawrence College.

Structure and Governance

The ACLS Board of Directors welcomed Desiree Pedescleaux, dean of undergraduate studies and an associate professor of the political science department at Spelman College, as its newest member in 2023.

In addition, Melani McAlister, professor of American studies and international affairs at The George Washington University, assumed the role of treasurer with the departure of Michele Moody-Adams, who concluded her term of service in May. ACLS is most grateful for the many contributions made by Moody-Adams, including her efforts in establishing the Board Finance Committee, which met for the first time in January 2023 with the aim of reviewing the newly developed ACLS multi-year financial plan. In August, Dana Williams was named chair of the Board Nominating Committee.

ACLS Board of Directors

Chair

William C. Kirby

Harvard University

Vice Chair

Jimena Canales

Independent Scholar

Secretary

Marwan M. Kraidy

Northwestern University in Qatar

Treasurer

Melani McAlister

The George Washington University

James H. Averill

Wellington Management (retired)

Peter Baldwin

University of California, Los Angeles

Joy Connolly

American Council of Learned Societies, President

Frances Daly Fergusson

Vassar College, President Emeritus

Michèle Lamont

Harvard University

Malinda Maynor Lowery

Emory University

Desiree Pedescleaux

Spelman College

Carl Pforzheimer III

Carl H. Pforzheimer & Co. LLC

Richard J. Powell

Duke University

Dana A. Williams

Howard University

Ex officio:

Suzanne Blier

Chair, Executive Committee of the Delegates
College Art Association

Steven Rathgeb Smith

Chair, Executive Committee of the Conference of
Executive Officers
American Political Science Association

ACLS Board Committees

Advancement Committee

Chair

Frances Daly Fergusson

Vassar College, president emeritus

James H. Averill Jr.

Wellington Management (retired)

Peter Baldwin

University of California, Los Angeles

Jimena Canales

Independent Scholar

Joy Connolly

American Council of Learned Societies

William C. Kirby

Harvard University

Marwan M. Kraidy

Northwestern University at Qatar

Alexandra Lord

National Museum of American History, Smithsonian

Carl H. Pforzheimer III

CHIPCO Asset Management, LLC (retired)

Dana A. Williams

Howard University

Investment Committee

Co-Chair

Julia Brody

East End Advisors LLC

Co-Chair

Ilene F. Spitzer

Brown Brothers Harriman

James H. Averill Jr.

Wellington Management (retired)

Jimena Canales

Independent Scholar

Joy Connolly

American Council of Learned Societies

Jon-Michael Consalvo

Carnegie Corporation of New York

William C. Kirby

Harvard University

Charlotte V. Kuh

National Academy of Sciences

Melani McAlister

The George Washington University

Carl H. Pforzheimer III

Carl H. Pforzheimer & Co. LLC

Daniel Stoddard

American Museum of Natural History

Westley M. Hays, Advisor

Monticello Associates

Finance Committee

Co-Chair

Marwan M. Kraidy

Northwestern University in Qatar

Co-Chair

Melani McAlister

The George Washington University

James H. Averill Jr.

Wellington Management (retired)

Julia Brody

East End Advisors LLC

Frances Daly Fergusson

Vassar College, president emeritus

William C. Kirby

Harvard University

Ilene F. Spitzer

Brown Brothers Harriman

Dana A. Williams

Howard University

Nominating Committee

Chair

Dana A. Williams

Howard University

Lisa Fagin Davis

Medieval Academy of America

Theodore S. Gonzalves

Smithsonian Institution

Malinda Maynor Lowery

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Rogelio Saenz

University of Texas at San Antonio

Working Group on Fellowships

Chair

Jimena Canales

Independent Scholar

Desiree Pedescleaux

Spelman University

Steven R. Smith (ex officio)

American Political Science Association

Michèle Lamont

Harvard University

Working Group on Societies

Suzanne Preston Blier (ex officio)

College Art Association

Theodore S. Gonzalves

Smithsonian Institution

Michèle Lamont

Harvard University

Steven R. Smith (ex officio)

American Political Science Association

In October, ACLS introduced a new departmental unit, Intentional Design for an Equitable Academy (IDEA), led by Dr. Jovonne Bickerstaff, promoted from senior program officer, Higher Education Initiatives, to unit director, with Program Officer Dr. Keyanah Nurse and Program Associate Kathryn Reis, together advancing programmatic efforts for the Intention Foundry (IF), the ACLS Digital Justice Grant Program, and the Leadership Institute for a New Academy (LINA). IDEA draws on human-centered design as a methodology for developing activities and convenings where ACLS can re-envision academic culture, policies, and practices with the goal of enhancing equity, justice, and well-being in the academy.

In addition, Dr. Deena Ragavan, who served for nearly two years as senior program officer in International Programs, was promoted to director of International Programs.

In 2023, ACLS also welcomed nine new staff members: Addie Gordon, research associate; Jordan Baptista, administrative associate; Dr. JM Chris Chang, special projects researcher for international programs; LaToya Jackson, events manager; Edelyn Lau, program associate for US programs; Laura Mowry, program manager for international programs; Dr. Nike Nivar Ortiz, program officer for US programs; Kathryn Reis, program associate for IDEA; and Melissa Sakow, development coordinator.

ACLS said farewell to Sandra Bradley, director of governance and society relations, who retired from ACLS in June after almost 28 years. In addition to overseeing relationships with the member societies, including meetings of the Conference of Executive Officers (CEO) and the Executive Committees of the CEO and the delegates, Sandra also managed activities of the ACLS Board and coordinated the ACLS Annual Meeting.

ACLS also introduced the LGBTQIA+ and Allies Employee Affinity Group in October. Spearheaded by Desiree Barron-Callaci, senior program officer for US programs, the new affinity group will strategize and implement initiatives supporting these communities.

ACLS Staff

As of December 31, 2023

Office of the President

Joy Connolly, President

Kelly Buttermore, Chief of Staff

Emily Carroll, Grants Officer

Heather Hewett, Program Officer, Higher Education Initiatives

Mona Rad, Executive Assistant to the President

Office of the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

James Shulman, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Sarah McKee, Project Manager, Publishing Initiatives

Tina Li, Human Resources Manager

LaToya Jackson, Events Manager

Risca Putri, Executive Assistant and Special Projects Coordinator

Jordan Baptista, Administrative Associate

US Programs

John Paul Christy, Senior Director of US Programs

Desiree Barron-Callaci, Senior Program Officer

Alison Chang, Program Officer

Nike Nivar Ortiz, Program Officer

Jessica Taylor, Research Fellow

Tami Shaloum, Program Manager

Jaelen Floyd, Program Manager

John Zepke, Program Associate

Edelyn Lau, Program Associate

Addie Gordon, Research Associate

International Programs

Deena Ragavan, Director, International Programs

JM Chris Chang, Special Projects Researcher

Laura Mowry, Program Manager, International Programs

Morgan Day, Program Associate

Intentional Design for an Equitable Academy (IDEA)

Jovonne Bickerstaff, Director, Intentional Design for an Equitable Academy

Keyanah Nurse, Program Officer

Kathryn Reis, Program Associate

Development

Mary Richter, Chief Development Officer

Melissa Sakow, Development Coordinator

Communications

Heather Mangrum, Director of Communications

Anna Polovick Waggy, Communications Manager

Finance and Administration

Matthew Sapienza, Chief Financial Officer

Cindy Grant, Senior Accountant

Irvin Lozano Campos, Accounts Payable Accountant

Andrea Griffith, Staff Accountant

Tsering Dolkar, Accounts Receivable Accountant

Servio Moreno, Office Manager

Digital and Information Technology

Zachary Shuster, CRM Specialist



ACLS US Programs Staff at the Luce/ACLS/AAR Symposium on Public Scholarship in May 2023.

Supporting Outstanding Scholarship

Competitions

In 2023 ACLS demonstrated its commitment to inclusive excellence by building more paths for opportunities for support for humanistic scholars from a wider variety of fields, institutions, backgrounds, and perspectives.

ACLS launched the HBCU Faculty Fellowship and Grant Program in March. The program offers financial support, research development opportunities, and scholarly networking for faculty at historically Black colleges and universities while attending to the unique teaching and service commitments at their schools. The launch came after more than a year of consultations with dozens of HBCU faculty and administrators that shaped the goals, design, and implementation of this program. (learn more about the launch of this innovative fellowship program see page 34)

In September, ACLS also introduced AVDF/ACLS Fellowships for Research on the Liberal Arts, made possible by a generous grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations. In addition to funding for research, the program provides access to and training on the College and Beyond II Database at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan. Awarded projects will examine the impact of the liberal arts on a variety of learners at different stages of their lives and careers.

In March, the Mellon Foundation approved funding to continue the ACLS Digital Justice Grant Program through 2026. Launched in 2021, the program supports digital projects across the humanities and interpretive social sciences that engage with the interests and histories of people of color and other historically marginalized communities. The program also addresses persistent inequities in access to tools and support for digital work among scholars working with nontraditional materials

“As a #HumanitiesPhD myself, [the ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship Program] is near to my heart. Career transitions like this one are not easy and I’m proud to be part of an organization that recognized the amazing opportunity to partner across sectors and leverage the expertise this person will bring.”

Jocelyn Frelief

Former Program Manager

Vital Voices Global Partnership (ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship host organization)



Attendees of the 2024 Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe at the American University in Bulgaria.

and scholars based at institutions with limited resources for humanists working with digital techniques. With the renewal, the program will seek to fund capacity building efforts, including projects that train students in digital humanities methods; publicly engaged projects that develop new technological infrastructure with community partners; and trans-institutional projects that connect scholars across academic and cultural heritage institutions.

ACLS President Joy Connolly joined 13 scholars from Eastern Europe and the United States for the inaugural Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe (SISECSE) at the American University in Bulgaria in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. The two-week residency, a collaboration with the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia (CAS), led by Dr. Diana Mishkova, convened talented scholars to undertake research and fieldwork at regional archives, museum collections, communities, and historic sites. Participating scholars joined collaborative writing workshops and engaged

in a series of interdisciplinary discussions on “Scholarly Writing in the Digital Age” and a guest lecture from Jessie Labov, Corvinus University of Budapest, on the consequences of the public accessibility of scholarship on the Internet. The 2023 session was the first of three summer institutes in the region made possible by generous support from Carl and Betty Pforzheimer.

Reimagining China Studies: A Collaborative Journey



ACLS and the Henry Luce Foundation have partnered in advancing the field of China studies for 40 years. This successful alliance began in 1984 with an initiative to help support the Universities Service Center, established by ACLS in Hong Kong in 1963 and now part of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Since then, with the shared aim of expanding understanding of Chinese culture and history through research, education, and international scholarly collaboration, the Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies has emerged as a cornerstone of ACLS international programs.



In 2020, driven by the changing needs of China studies scholars, barriers to field research driven by geopolitical tensions, and the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to reassess the design of the program became urgent and clear. With generous support from the foundation, ACLS embarked on an intensive three-year assessment of the program to determine how to better meet current issues in the field.

The first year focused on a survey-based study under the guidance of an advisory group:

Keisha Brown

History, Tennessee State University

Dorothy Ko

History, Columbia University

Yingyi Ma

Public Affairs and Sociology, Syracuse University

Michael Szonyi

History, Harvard University

Wang Feng

Sociology, University of California, Irvine

Paola Zamperini

Literature and Culture, Northwestern University

As a result of these efforts, in December 2021, ACLS published the report [China Studies in North America](#), which drew on information collected through two online surveys of China scholars: one to faculty who have supervised PhD dissertations at institutions of higher education in North America, and the second to PhDs who had applied to the Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellowships in China Studies Program over its eight competitions, 2012–13 to 2019–20.

From 2021 to 2023, working closely with the program steering committee and faculty advisors, Emily Baum F'15 of the University of California, Irvine, and Yingyi Ma of Syracuse University, ACLS convened more than 100 scholars, experts, and practitioners in a series of live and virtual discussions, covering topics from diversity, equity, and inclusion to the co-creation of knowledge and writing accessible scholarship. Highlights from these

meetings include a Summer Institute in June 2022, to help define recommendations for action that could be taken by ACLS, followed by a series of focus groups and convenings to refine these suggestions. At the same time, Baum and Ma led a series of in-depth interviews to secure a deeper understanding of the individual experiences of China studies scholars.

Across these discussions, common themes surfaced: the desire for more training in and recognition of public facing scholarship; the need for more scholarly community, particularly for those in language and literature fields who may be the only such persons at their institutions; and concerns about the rising bilateral tensions between the United States and China and their impact on research, travel, and academic exchange with China. The needs for flexible support, funding for graduate students and early career scholars, and funding for travel were also emphasized.

Additionally, ACLS challenged participants to reflect on a number of essential questions: how best to define China studies; what impact scholarship can have beyond the academy; how to foster a more equitable, inclusive, and diverse field; and the biggest obstacles to research on China.

In 2023, ACLS published a collection of narratives and actionable recommendations captured by Baum and Ma in [China Studies in an Uncertain Age](#).

Thanks to renewed support by our partners at Luce, ACLS introduced a reimagined Program in China Studies in August 2023. Directly informed by the needs identified by the scholars, administrators, journalists, librarians, curators, artists, and readers of research and writing on China who generously contributed their insights during our assessment, the new Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies aims to foster more inclusivity in the field, support publicly engaged scholarship, and develop effective strategies for long-term change in the field.

The redesigned program also includes the return of travel grants, which now specifically support non-tenured faculty in addition to doctoral candidates, as well as both long-term and flexible fellowships for early career scholars. In 2024, the program will expand with a Collaborative Grant competition, which will support

2023 Steering Committee

Co-Chair

Emily Baum

History, University of California, Irvine

Co-Chair

Yingyi Ma

Public Affairs and Sociology, Syracuse University

Ryan Hass

John L. Thornton China Center, The Brookings Institution

Michael Gibbs Hill

Modern Languages & Literatures, William & Mary

Tobie Meyer-Fong

History, Johns Hopkins University

Shellen Xiao Wu

History, Lehigh University

Guobin Yang

Sociology, University of Pennsylvania

Emily Yeh

Geography, University of Colorado Boulder

innovative pilot projects that have the potential for long-term transformative change in the field.

This responsive approach reflects the ACLS ongoing commitment to inclusive excellence in scholarship and supporting the growth and impact of emerging humanistic fields. Our efforts to advance and grow the field of China studies align directly with our mission to support the creation and circulation of knowledge that advances understanding of humanity and human endeavors in the past, present, and future, with a view toward improving human experience.



Documenting Impact

A major theme for ACLS in 2023 was capturing the voices and experiences of fellows and grantees to inform and improve programs and help influence the future of the academy.

Following the success of the NEH-funded ACLS Sustaining Public Engagement Grants program in 2022, which awarded funds to 24 outstanding public humanities projects across the United States and Puerto Rico, ACLS Vice President James Shulman; Senior Director, US Programs John Paul Christy; Program Consultant Dipo Oyeleye; and Program Officer Keyanah Nurse spent the first half of 2023 on virtual and in-person site visits with grantees and meeting with project teams to better understand the impact of the grants and how best to serve collaborative efforts between higher education institutions and community-based projects and teams.



With funding from the Mellon Foundation, ACLS undertook an extensive effort to document the impact of the Mellon/ ACLS Scholars and Society and Public Fellows programs. This yearlong initiative, led by ACLS Senior Program Officer Desiree Barron-Callaci and Research Fellow Jessica Taylor, will yield two comprehensive reports to be published in 2024 with recommended approaches and best practices for funding and improving doctoral education and the cultures of scholarly associations.



2023 also saw the welcomed return of in-person site visits to assess the progress and learn more about the administration of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (MMUF), which aims to increase diversity in the faculty ranks of institutions of higher learning. ACLS administers the annual reporting, renewal, and regranting process for this Mellon-funded program, and for much of the COVID-19 era, engagement with participating institutions was almost entirely virtual. In addition to joining Mellon Foundation colleagues on site visits to some of the 50-plus participating colleges and universities across the country, ACLS Chief of Staff Kelly Buttermore and Program Manager Jaelen Floyd attended the MMUF Coordinators Conference in April, the first in-person group convening of the network since 2019, to celebrate the successes and collectively navigate challenges participants are facing.

Charting the Course for a New Academy



2023 saw the launch of the Leadership Institute for a New Academy (LINA) programming, a yearlong pilot initiative designed to galvanize faculty to forge career paths in administration that will strengthen the humanities and drive forward-looking change. The pilot year hosted a series of workshops with sitting and recent deans that aimed to shape the development of a future comprehensive program for change-oriented faculty as they consider administrative roles at the dean level. This program is generously funded by the Mellon Foundation.



From January through March 2023, more than 60 scholars with recent experience as deans or in comparable posts and a demonstrated commitment to enacting or accelerating transformational change in the academy met in virtual small groups and half-day sessions co-led by members of the LINA steering committee, including:

Robin Means Coleman

Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, Northwestern University

Elizabeth Engelhardt

Kenan Eminent Professor of Southern Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Richard Flores

Deputy to the President for Academic Priorities, The University of Texas at Austin

Tyson King-Meadows

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, University of Massachusetts Boston

Kathryn Stockton

Inaugural Dean of the School for Cultural & Social Transformation, University of Utah

Henry Turner

Vice President for Academic Initiatives, Rutgers University–New Brunswick

Dana A. Williams

Dean of the Graduate School, Howard University
ACLS Board of Directors

In July, ACLS hosted the LINA Summer Institutes, a series of three-day in-person gatherings in New York. These events offered participants a vibrant community of support and encouraged collaboration in driving change within the academy. The institutes featured informative presentations on a variety of topics, including Nancy Cantor, chancellor, Rutgers University–Newark, on partnerships between universities and local communities; Antoinette Burton, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and Teresa Mangum, the University of Iowa, on public humanities and humanities centers; Bonnie Thornton Dill, University of Maryland, College Park, on methods for values-inflected approaches to change; and Michael Jacobs, Monroe Community College, on lessons for four-year institutions from community colleges.



2022–23 Leadership Institute for a New Academy

PARTICIPANTS

Javier Acosta-Hernandez

Universidad del Sagrado Corazon

Jasmine Alinder

University of California, Santa Cruz

Chadwick Allen

University of Washington

Ann Ardis

George Mason University

Estella Atekwana

University of California, Davis

Mitch Avila

California State University, Channel Islands

César Braga-Pinto

Northwestern University

Kathleen Canning

Rice University

Rita Chin

University of Michigan

Joel Christensen

Brandeis University

Jeffrey Cohen

Arizona State University

Amy Cook

State University of New York, Stony Brook

Clare Crowston

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Pawan Dhingra

Amherst College

Jeffrey Di-Leo

University of Houston-Victoria

Sheryl Fontaine

California State University, Fullerton

DoVeanna Fulton

Norfolk State University

Bonnie Guzenhauser

John Carroll University

Sheila Hassell Hughes

Saint Mary's College of California

Taja-Nia Henderson

Rutgers Law School

Rosilie Hernández

University of Illinois, Chicago

Bessie House-Soremekun

Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

Florence Hsia

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Dorie Jewel Gilbert

Prairie View A&M University

Cherisse Jones-Branch

Arkansas State University



Peniel Joseph
University of Texas, Austin

Ifeoma Kiddoe Nwankwo
San Francisco State University
(previously with Sarah Lawrence
College)

Renata Kobetts Miller
City College of New York

Anne Lambright
Carnegie Mellon University

Deandra Little
Elon University

David Long
Durham Technical Community
College

Rachel Marie-Crane Williams
University of North Carolina

Celia Marshik
State University of New York, Stony
Brook

Glenn Martinez
University of Texas at San Antonio

Andrew McMichael
Auburn University at Montgomery

Shaily Menon
University of New Haven

Alexandra Minna Stern
University of California, Los Angeles

Kristy Nabhan-Warren
University of Iowa

Joy Pierce
University of Utah

Lori Poloni-Staudinger
University of Arizona

Daina Ramey Berry
University of California, Santa
Barbara

Dana Renga
The Ohio State University

Andrew Rich
City College of New York

Ramón Rivera-Servera
The University of Texas at Austin

Nils Roemer
The University of Texas at Dallas

Jason Schmitt
Clarkson University

Wendy Smooth
The Ohio State University

Cynthia Neal Spence
Spelman College

Brian Stipelman
Frederick Community College

Nicole Stokes
Pennsylvania State University,
Abington

Lisa Tedesco
Emory University



Stephen Trzaskoma

California State University, Los Angeles

James Van Wyck

Princeton University

Lynn Vidler

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Janet Ward

University of Oklahoma

Myra Washington

University of Utah

Daryle Williams

University of California, Riverside

Tracyann Williams

Fordham University

Rafael Zapata

Fordham University

INSTRUCTORS

Randy Bass

Georgetown University

Antoinette Burton

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Nancy Cantor

Rutgers University–Newark

Bonnie Thornton Dill

University of Maryland, College Park

Tim Eatman

Rutgers University–Newark

Mike Jacobs

Monroe Community College

Stacy Hartman

Independent Scholar

John Isaacson

Isaacson, Miller

Cristle Collins Judd

Sarah Lawrence College

Sam LaFrance

PEN America

Teresa Mangum

University of Iowa

Khanjan Mehta

Lehigh University

Marisa Parham

University of Maryland, College Park

Cybele Raver

Vanderbilt University

David Scobey

Elon University

Kristen Shahverdian

PEN America

Michelle Stephens

Rutgers University

Shelly Storbeck

Diversified Search Group

Supporting Scholars Before, During, and Beyond Their Awards

ACLS is committed to supporting scholars at every career stage, from dissertation development to creating opportunities for tenured scholars for new research projects. We also recognize the challenges that face scholars who are first generation, employed at less resourced institutions, and those working in emerging fields of study. We design our programs with the goal not only to support excellence in humanistic research and writing during the award period, but to provide free resources to all applicants as they develop their proposals, including detailed feedback post-competition. We have expanded opportunities for awardees to join scholarly networks and engage in professional development activities beyond the fellowship or grant year.

In continuing to support scholars after the award period, ACLS hosted several virtual and in-person gatherings that allowed fellows to meet, present and give updates on their work, and contribute to strong and growing communities of scholars across a variety of fields. These included:

- A virtual networking event in March where 2022 ACLS Leading Edge Fellows heard from four outstanding past fellows from the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellowship and Leading Edge Fellowship programs
- The Luce/ACLS/American Academy of Religion symposium in May in New York for fellows and grantees of the Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs
- The Luce/ACLS China Studies Summer Institute, which welcomed program fellows and grantees from around the world for a two-day convening in New York City in June

- An in-person Leading Edge Fellowship Career Seminar in Chicago in August
- The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies retreat in August in Laramie, Wyoming, featuring a Dissertation Seminar and a Manuscript Development Workshop, as well as evening workshops on finding a publisher and navigating the job market as a recent PhD (Through the New Professorships grant, ACLS was instrumental in placing Catherine Hartmann F'18 as professor at the University of Wyoming, the state's sole Buddhist scholar.)
- A gathering of Mellon/ACLS Scholars and Society fellows at the National Humanities Conference in Indianapolis in October

In addition, ACLS hosted several in-person and virtual events for current and past fellows of the Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellows in the History of Art (2017–2023), offering opportunities to network across the six cohorts of the program. These included a gathering at the 2023 College Art Association Annual Meeting in New York in February, which featured a focus group session led by ACLS and the Getty Foundation on scholarly publishing for early-career scholars. In July ACLS co-hosted the annual residency for Fellows at the Getty Foundation in Los Angeles, which featured presentations by Fellows on the status of their research projects and highlighted opportunities at the Getty Research Institute.

In October, ACLS also hosted a webinar for Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellows and Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellows in American Art on working ethically and responsibly with Indigenous communities, featuring Teresa Montoya of the University of Chicago, Emily Buhrow Rogers F'20 of Indiana University Bloomington, and Revati Prasad F'21 of the Benton Institute for Broadband and Society.

Many ACLS fellowship and grant programs also offer support to applicants, from detailed webinars on the application process to “office hours” where applicants are invited to bring questions to program managers in a live virtual setting, to best practices workshops on writing proposals and applications. In 2023 these resources were made available during application periods for the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowships, ACLS

HBCU Faculty Fellowships and Grants, Leading Edge Fellowships, the AVDF/ACLS Fellowships for Research on the Liberal Arts, and the ACLS Open Access Book Prizes and Arcadia Open Access Publishing Awards.

Application support and resources were also offered through virtual series for several programs, including a fall 2023 webinar series for the ACLS Digital Justice Grants Program, which featured sessions on data ethics and capacity building.

“Thank you for the time the ACLS staff takes to clarify the program to applicants and help make the application process accessible. Underscoring the value of the grant writing process in the broader context of our projects (whether they are funded or not) is an important aspect to appreciate about the opportunity. Thank you!!”



Past awardees at the 2023 Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies Early Career Retreat in Laramie, WY.

Creating New Avenues of Support for HBCU Faculty

March 2023 saw the launch of the first-ever ACLS fellowship and grant competition designed to support the work of faculty at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

The program is the result of an extensive series of listening sessions and consultations with HBCU faculty and administrators from a wide range of institutions about opportunities and needs for research support at their colleges and universities that began in 2021 and continued through early 2023, with in-person visits by ACLS staff to Prairie View A&M University, Morgan State University, North Carolina A&T State University, and North Carolina Central University.

Directly informed by this consultation process, ACLS designed the program to build capacity for applicants, as well as support the scholarship of awardees. In the months leading up to the November 2023 application deadline, ACLS offered informational webinars, “office hours” where applicants could get answers to questions about the program and application process from program officers, and feedback on draft applications, proposals, work plans, and budgets.

Centered on the specific teaching, research, and service contexts of HBCU faculty, the program offers two award types: grants of up to \$10,000 for research project development, and fellowships of up to \$50,000 to support more sustained time and engagement with a significant research project. Both allow applicants to structure their budgets and work plans in ways that best fit their research goals and professional commitments. In addition, each awardee is invited to participate in networking and mentorship opportunities that align with their scholarly goals and institutional circumstances. ACLS also designed the program to recognize and encourage excellent proposals that are not selected for one of the program’s limited number of awards. Applicants who advance to the finalist round of review also receive a \$500 stipend to support their research, in addition to access to project and proposal development workshops.

Each award also comes with an additional institutional grant of \$2,500 to the awardee’s home institution to support humanities programming or infrastructure.



Jubilee Hall at Fisk University.

These efforts yielded more than 150 applications for the inaugural year of the program and exposure of ACLS programs to a more diverse community of scholars.

This program is funded primarily by the ACLS endowment as part of our commitment to inclusive excellence in supporting, advancing, and sharing humanistic scholarship. We look forward to sharing the outcomes and continuing to grow this initiative in the coming years.

“ACLS drew on seasoned peer reviewers from a range of disciplines to provide guidance for potential applicants to this new program, with the goal of offering targeted support grounded in disciplinary expertise as well as knowledge of the ACLS review process. As one applicant wrote, “Thank you for the terrific feedback! I was really looking for ways to incorporate more historiography and was hesitant because I wasn’t sure how much I needed to get into it, but this reviewer is letting me know to put it in there. I am going to work on these suggestions and hopefully have a fantastic proposal!”

Fellowship Among Community College Faculty



From 2019 through 2022, the Mellon/ACLS Community College Faculty Fellowship Program (CCFF) supported 110 faculty in the humanities and interpretive social sciences from two-year colleges across the United States.

The restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic limited opportunities for awardees to share their work and network across cohorts around the distinct areas of shared concern in research, pedagogy, and community engagement in the humanities at community colleges.



In October 2023, 88 of these fellows, representing 49 community colleges from across the United States, joined ACLS in New York City for the largest program-related convening ACLS has ever hosted. Over two days of networking, sharing, and learning, participants shared approaches, challenges, and success stories related to their awarded projects. Participants also heard from academic society leaders and deans on urgent topics including engaging with disciplinary societies and learning about fellowship resources for community college faculty in the humanities and interpretive social sciences.

Building on the success of the convening and the enthusiasm of this newly active network, with generous support from the Mellon Foundation, additional virtual forums will be held in 2024. ACLS has also commissioned a set of essays and reflections from selected Community College Faculty Fellows on their experiences conducting research and teaching on their campuses and the unique possibilities these insights can offer to the broader humanities research enterprise.

“I want to thank ACLS for hosting such an inspiring, phenomenal event. It is so rare to feel “feted” and I really felt like ACLS honored and celebrated we community college professors—a group who really has been marginalized by the academy historically. I made wonderful contacts. This entire experience has been such a gift and the research that I have been able to do because of this terrific grant has been priceless.”

Nicole M. Slovak F’ 20
Mellon/ACLS Community College Fellow
Santa Rosa Junior College

The Future of the Academy

As part of our mission to support the best pathways toward and conditions for the creation and circulation of humanistic knowledge, ACLS continues to learn from and build on the experiences of our own programs, as well as those of our fellows and grantees, member institutions, and partners.

In 2023 ACLS hosted the third and final convening of the Intention Foundry (IF) as virtual sessions in March, as well as summer sessions at The Ohio State University and Emory University. With the culmination of IF and the Luce Design Workshop in 2021, as well as the continued development of the [Leadership Institute for a New Academy \(LINA\)](#), a new network of change-minded supporters has emerged. In fall 2023, ACLS launched Building Blocks for a New Academy, a new online resource centered on the feedback and ongoing needs of change-minded faculty and administrators participating in the Design Workshop and LINA. The initiative includes a listserv for the group to facilitate ongoing discussions from this summer's past LINA institutes.

The Commission on Fostering and Sustaining Diverse Digital Scholarship also concluded its year-long series of working groups, convenings, and interviews with scholars, librarians, and administrators. A comprehensive report, as well as an interactive site on the Manifold platform, will be released in spring 2024.

ACLS is also supporting the Path to Open pilot, hosted at JSTOR. The pilot tests a new library subscription model for funding open access books from university presses. Working with consultants at the Educopia Institute, ACLS developed (and will continue to administer) a cross-sector community board of publishers, libraries, and authors that will advise JSTOR through the six-year pilot period.

In September and October, ACLS presented “What Counts: MacArthur Fellows Reflect on Academic Reward Structures,” a public panel series examining promotion and tenure structures for humanities and interpretive social sciences faculty in higher education today. Each

panel featured three MacArthur Fellows discussing how their distinctive approaches to scholarship did or did not fit the “rules of the game” for career advancement in humanistic fields. The series was supported by an X-Grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s MacArthur Fellows Program.

Part One: September 12, 2023

Moderated by ACLS President Joy Connolly

Monica M. Martinez

University of Texas at Austin
2021 MacArthur Foundation Fellow

Natalia Molina

University of Southern California
2020 MacArthur Foundation Fellow

Dimitri Nakassis

University of Colorado Boulder
2015 MacArthur Foundation Fellow

Part Two: October 2, 2023

Moderated by ACLS Vice President James Shulman

P. Gabrielle Foreman

Pennsylvania State University
2022 MacArthur Foundation Fellow

Kellie Jones

Columbia University
2016 MacArthur Foundation Fellow
1994 Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art

Peter N. Miller

American Academy in Rome
1998 MacArthur Foundation Fellow



“What Counts: MacArthur Fellows Reflect on Academic Reward Structures” September 12, 2023 panel.

Organizations Supporting the Creation of Knowledge

ACLS received an NEH Chair's grant to convene a group of funders in December to discuss how best to support the humanities. With a focus on supporting the future of humanistic scholarship, ACLS hosted a funders' convening in December, made possible by a grant from the NEH. In addition to several attendees from the NEH, we welcomed participants representing a broad range of funders:

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Arthur Vining Davis Foundations
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Henry Luce Foundation
John Templeton Foundation
The Kresge Foundation
MacArthur Foundation
Mellon Foundation
National Endowment for the Humanities
Open Society University Network/Open Society Foundations
Teagle Foundation
Whiting Foundation

Given the clear needs we see, we hope to establish a permanent humanities funding network with more virtual and in-person convenings in 2024 and 2025.



Opening Doors to Open Access Publishing

ACLS launched the new Open Access Book Prizes at the 2023 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Made possible through support by Arcadia—a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin—this three-year initiative aims to raise the prestige of open access publishing by rewarding the authors and publishers of exceptional open books in the humanities and interpretive social sciences.

The inaugural prizes recognize open access monographs in two categories: history and born-digital, multimodal works (in any humanistic discipline). The Open Access Book Prizes are among the largest for academic humanities publications. Authors of the winning books will receive the ACLS Open Access Book Prize, with a cash award of \$20,000. Publishers of the same winning titles will receive the Arcadia Open Access Publishing Award, in the amount of \$30,000, to support at least two forthcoming titles that would not otherwise be published open access.

More than 100 titles were nominated by 46 commercial, library, scholar-led, academic society, and university press publishers from the United States, Canada, Europe, and Africa.

In December 2023 panels of scholars, librarians, digital humanities experts, and accessibility specialists selected five finalists in each category. Winners will be announced in May 2024.

History Category Finalists

Black Disability Politics (Duke University Press, 2022)
Sami Schalk, Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Committed: Remembering Native Kinship in and beyond Institutions (University of North Carolina Press, 2021)

Susan Burch, Professor of American Studies, Middlebury College

Freedom Seekers: Escaping from Slavery in Restoration London (University of London Press, 2022)
Simon P. Newman, Professor, School of Humanities, University of Glasgow

The Power of the Brush: Epistolary Practices in Chosŏn Korea (University of Washington Press, 2020)
Hwisang Cho, Associate Professor, Russian and East Asian Languages and Culture, Emory University

Reproductive Politics and the Making of Modern India (University of Washington Press, 2021)
Mytheli Sreenivas, Chair and Professor, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, The Ohio State University

First-Round Reviewers

Kimberly Gauderman F'19, University of New Mexico



ACLS OPEN ACCESS BOOK PRIZE

ARCADIA OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING AWARD

Alexandra Hui, Mississippi State University, co-editor, *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society*
Abigail Perkiss, Kean University, co-editor, *Oral History Review*
Amy Ransford, Indiana University, book review editor, *Journal of American History*
Eric Lindquist, University of Maryland Libraries

Second-Round Reviewers

Matthew P. Romaniello, Weber State University, editor, *Journal of World History*
Judith Allen, Indiana University, associate editor, *Journal of American History*
Emma Molls, University of Minnesota Libraries

Multimodal Category Finalists

As I Remember It: Teachings (ʔəms taʔaw) from the Life of a Sliammon Elder (University of British Columbia Press / RavenSpace, 2019)
Elsie Paul (Sliammon Elder), with **Davis McKenzie** (Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs at the First Nations Health Authority), **Paige Raibmon** (Professor, History, University of British Columbia), and **Harmony Johnson** (Vice-President, Policy, Planning and Quality at the First Nations Health Authority)

Cut/Copy/Paste: Fragments from the History of Bookwork (University of Minnesota Press, 2022)
Whitney Trettien, Assistant Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

i used to love to dream (University of Michigan Press, 2020)
A. D. Carson, Associate Professor of Hip-Hop and the Global South, University of Virginia

Shadow Plays: Virtual Realities in an Analog World (Stanford University Press, 2022)
Massimo Riva, Professor of Italian Studies, Brown University

Vidding: A History (University of Michigan Press, 2022)
Francesca Coppa, Professor, English and Film Studies, Muhlenberg College

First-Round Reviewers

Barbara McCaskill, University of Georgia
Monique O'Connell, Wake Forest University
Gwendolynne Reid, Emory University
Kayla Shipp, Yale University
Stephanie Rosen, University of Michigan

Second-Round Reviewers

Amy Earhart, Texas A&M University
Joycelyn Wilson, Georgia Institute of Technology
Mara Wade, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Thought Leadership

ACLS leadership and staff have had a consistent presence in conversations about issues concerning the academy, scholars, and the environments within which knowledge is created and shared.

In 2023 ACLS issued statements in support of academic freedom and New College of Florida (February); on the effort to undermine academic freedom in Florida House Bill 999 (March); on the SCOTUS ruling to remove Affirmative Action (July); and in response to proposing major cuts in its undergraduate and graduate programs at West Virginia University (September).

ACLS President Joy Connolly further wrote and presented on a number of urgent topics in higher education from a perspective reflecting ACLS values. In January, together with Anna Harvey, president of the Social Science Research Council, to the Advisory Board of the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), of which she is a member, about the challenges facing philanthropic funding for the humanities and social sciences. In April, she gave a presentation on

the value of the humanities to a large strategic planning group at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She joined ACLS Program Officer for Higher Education Initiatives Heather Hewett in November as a panelist at Washington University's Center for Humanities event, "Rethinking Tenure and Promotion Assessment in the Humanities: A Blueprint for Transformation and Innovation."

As she has in the past, in 2023 Connolly spoke out about the urgent need to support publicly engaged scholarship. "Especially at a time when the relevance of humanistic study is frequently called into question, the academy must do more to support, recognize, and reward research that expresses the interests and ideal audiences of the 21st-century scholar ... including first-generation scholars, women, scholars of color, and scholars pursuing approaches to scholarship that often encounter resistance."

In 2023, Connolly was invited to serve on a new committee for the American Academy of Arts and Sciences focused on the intersection of the arts (especially film and fiction) and the humanities. She also continued her service as a member of the National Humanities Alliance Board and Executive Committee and the CUNY Graduate Center Auxiliary Board. In November, Connolly was invited to offer welcoming remarks as part of the inauguration of Ben Vinson III as



Howard University president.

Connolly also remains an in-demand lecturer in the field of ancient studies, delivering the 2023 Peggy Downes Baskins Ethics Lecture at the University of California, Santa Cruz entitled, “A Connected Planet: Scholarship for the Global Good” in February; a lecture and workshops for humanities faculty at the University of Southern California in March; and two lectures and a seminar for graduate students and postdocs in Greek and Roman studies as part of the Advanced Seminar in the Humanities at Venice International University on the island of San Servolo in Venice in April.

In October 2023, ACLS Vice President James Shulman published *The Synthetic University: How Higher Education can Benefit From Shard Solutions and Save Itself* (Princeton University Press). The book argues for a mission-aligned approach to collective action in addressing the rising costs of higher education. *Forbes* named it as one of the best higher education books of 2023. Shulman also assumed Connolly’s membership on the Humanities Indicators committee for the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has also continued work with Eugene Tobin as a senior advisor to Ithaka S+R, working on a range of projects in educational transformation, editing the final draft of the World Humanities Report, and participating in a Pew Trusts meeting in Washington, DC, on academic incentives and societally impactful research.

Shulman was also a featured speaker at the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), convening in Denver in April, as a panelist for “The Path to Open Books Pilot: A Sustainable Model for Making University Press Frontlist Titles Open Access at Scale?” with colleagues from University of Michigan Press, JSTOR, and the University of Minnesota Libraries; and moderating the closing plenary, featuring three members of the Commission on Fostering and Sustaining Diverse Digital Scholarship: Maria Cotera F’18, Meredith Evans, and Maryemma Graham G’18, F’02.

In April, Program Officer for IDEA Programs Keyanah Nurse led a workshop for Howard University doctoral students on crafting strong grant applications as well as grantmaking as a professional trajectory post-PhD. She also delivered a “lighting talk” on the Digital Justice Grant Program, as well as the influence of the Commission on Fostering and Sustaining Diverse Digital Scholarship on the program’s newest inclusion of capacity building

as a program goal at the Mellon Foundation’s Digital Humanities Convening in May. In October, Nurse joined IDEA Director Jovonne Bickerstaff at Spelman College for the annual UNCF/Mellon Mays Programs Conference to lead an interactive plenary presentation on IDEA’s methodology, aims, and programs.

In June, ACLS Project Manager for Publishing Initiatives Sarah McKee presented at the Society for Scholarly Publishing on community-building for the Path to Open initiative and at the annual meeting of the Association of University Presses on a panel about transitioning books to open access. In October she published a blog post with Digital Science about Path to Open and co-produced a new episode for the Adventures in Digital Publishing web series, a collaboration among ACLS, the Association of University Presses, Brown University Digital Publications, and Emory University’s Digital Publishing in the Humanities. The live episode on October 26 featured the team behind the peer-reviewed podcast *Secret Feminist Agenda* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) and the Amplify Podcast Network. And finally, McKee was a featured panelist at the Charleston Conference for librarians, publishers, and resource managers in November, speaking on publishing as part of the humanities infrastructure, as well as community-building within the Path to Open pilot.

Chief Financial Officer Matt Sapienza moderated a panel discussion, “Measuring ROI: The Financial Return of Investment in Faculty & Quality Teaching,” at the National Higher Education Teaching Conference in New York in June.

ACLS hosted the 2023 Union Académique Internationale General Assembly, which took place in Philadelphia in October. Established in 1919 in Paris, the inaugural convening was the catalyst for the formation of ACLS, as representatives from 10 American learned societies established a coalition to represent the United States at the meeting. Today the UAI comprises more than a hundred academies from 63 countries and all continents. ACLS President Joy Connolly joined ACLS delegates Pauline Yu, ACLS president emeritus, and Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Chancellor’s Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Connolly also presented “Crossing Bridges and Borders: The Inclusive Study of the Past,” a panel discussion with Cord Whittaker, an expert in medieval English literature and the history of race, associate professor in the Department of English and Creative Writing at Wellesley College, and co-founder of Sagely,

a diversity, equity, and inclusion consulting group; Rhiannon Stephens, associate professor of history at Columbia University specializing in the history of precolonial and early colonial East Africa; and Roxanne Euben, a political theorist and Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg Professor in the Social Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania.

ACLS Presents

In 2023, ACLS presented several events designed to engage members of our community around specific areas of our work, as well as continuing the “Humanistic Knowledge in the 21st Century” series:

- **January 23—“ACLS Career Seminar: K–12 Teaching Careers,”** with panelists Colin Harte, PhD, world music curriculum faculty, the High School of Language and Innovation, Bronx, NY; adjunct instructor, CUNY; Sarah Lannom, PhD, classics faculty and coach, the Brearley School, New York, NY; and Nikki Willis, PhD, English faculty, Ethical Culture Fieldston School, Bronx, NY.
- **March 13—“Focus on China,”** a virtual conversation about the current issues related to the study of China with panelists Peter Hessler, staff writer for *The New Yorker*, and Kaiser Kuo, host of the “Sinica” podcast.
- **April 13—“ACLS Chat on ‘The End of the English Major,’”** a lively discussion with a group of 25 current and past board members, donors, and other ACLS supporters on Nathan Heller’s controversial *New Yorker* article, “The End of the English Major,” and the most effective and constructive responses to growing skepticism about the value of humanities majors.
- **May 9—ACLS Darwin Project Celebration** at the New York Public Library, marking the completion of *The Correspondence of Charles Darwin*, an ACLS supported project spanning the past 50 years.
- **September 12 and October 2—“What Counts: MacArthur Fellows Reflect on Academic Reward Structures,”** public panel series examining promotion and tenure structures for humanities and interpretive social sciences faculty in higher education today.



Steve Wheatley, former ACLS Vice President, speaks at the Darwin Correspondence Project Celebration at the New York Public Library.

2023 President's Report to the Council



2023 President's Report to the Council

2023 Annual Meeting American Council of Learned Societies

Friday, April 28, 2023

Philadelphia, PA

Joy Connolly

President, American Council of Learned Societies

Thank you for coming. Thank you for your support of ACLS as a Council delegate, executive director, ACLS Board member, member of staff, reviewer, fellow, participant in our initiatives, supporter, or friend. I'm happy and honored to speak to you today.

In past years, I would assign an exercise on the first day my classes met: I would ask the students to imagine and describe an artwork that embodied the ideal class. Some chose a symphony, others, improv theater or a jazz performance. One of my favored suggestions was the sculpture of Anthony Caro. Caro, a British artist who was active through the second half of the twentieth century and a bit beyond, liked to connect straight or curved steel extensions or tubes to I-bars or steel cutouts. The whole arrangement was often brightly colored, bold red, yellow, purple, or blue, and balanced directly on the ground—and rather radical for the 1960s and '70s, with no pedestal. Caro was my artistic instantiation of a good class because his works are about dynamic tension and balance. They draw our attention to the relation of one element to another. These things, it always seemed to me, constitute the essence of a good class.

When I think of what form ACLS might take if it were an artwork, I find myself thinking once again of Anthony Caro. As a federation of societies and a host of networks, we comprise a number of different elements and initiatives, both bold and grounded, we hope, and we seek to find the right balance among them.

A Caro sculpture also captures the dynamic tensions that characterize higher education today—and that we feel at ACLS as we go about our work. A more prosaic way of putting it is that we walk a number of tightropes.

At ACLS we avoid talking about the decline of the humanities or the liberal arts: first, because we don't want to reinforce a tired, centuries-old narrative of crisis, and second, because there truly are many great things going on in the humanities and interpretive social sciences everywhere you look.

I will name just six:

- Significant research into historically understudied areas and the growing visibility of fields like disability studies and indigenous studies, to name just two areas:
- The growth of multimodal, transcultural, collaborative, and applied work, like the Institute for Practical Ethics at the University of California at San Diego;
- Interdisciplinary and applied programs that are attracting and holding undergraduates, such as the applied humanities program at the University of Arizona;
- Majors combining the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, like those gathered in the report *Branches from the Same Tree*, published by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine;
- Exciting growth in general education programs like the Cornerstone Project at Purdue University, funded by the Teagle Foundation; and

- The growing reach and ambition of public humanities programs like those NEH Chair Shelly Lowe described in our conversation yesterday.

Still, we can't ignore the migration of undergraduates to STEM and business-related fields and the decline of the tenure track jobs available to new PhDs. So while we celebrate the success stories, we also inject a sense of urgency into our efforts to encourage and reward ambitious work in scholarship, teaching, and administration that promises to find broad readership, to attract greater numbers of students and majors, and to advocate for our fields.

Speaking of traditional academic practice raises another dynamic tension to our attention. We deeply value curiosity-driven and highly specialized scholarship. The unpredictability and free play of human curiosity is a crucial driver of understanding and for us is a *sine qua non* ("without which, nothing"). But from our perch at ACLS we also see how rare and difficult it is to ask critical questions about how our research questions are formed and which are most valued.

As Peter Miller of the Bard Graduate Center points out in the introduction to his short book, *What Is Research?*, we spend, globally, over a trillion dollars on research, and there are roughly 164 million works categorized as "research" that you can consult in the United States Library of Congress catalog. But if you look in the Library of Congress under "the history of research," you will find a tiny number of works—just over 40—that give deep critical consideration to the historical arc of scholarly and scientific questions.

Miller is right on target when he suggests that we need to think more critically about the scholarship we are doing and valuing, partly because it advances familiar questions. We will improve our scholarship when we ask: For whom are we doing our work? Are we accountable to anyone other than ourselves? Might we ask better questions? How do we define "better" in the first place? Who is the "we" here? We need to ask these critical questions in constructive, generous ways, and those who want to advocate for traditional modes of scholarship need to avoid reacting defensively, as though asking these questions is equivalent to an attack. Again, I think of Anthony Caro: those arcs of steel, I-bars, and slabs.

One more example of tightrope walking. At ACLS, we don't want to be or be seen as partisan. We believe in dialogue across difference. But we also see the attempt to erase entire fields of study in Florida, the beginning of the end of tenure in Texas, the bans on teaching and studying concepts that have been misleadingly labeled as "divisive" in states including Georgia and Tennessee. The systematic challenges to academic freedom across the country demand that organizations like ACLS avoid party politics but boldly advocate on behalf of dialogue and the free exchange of ideas and against censorship. I hope you all stay tuned for a new statement of principles on this topic.

One thing we are absolutely certain of at ACLS: the value of scholarship, broadly defined. As I wrote in the January 2023 ACLS community newsletter, humanistic scholars make visible that which would otherwise remain invisible. They nourish care for things and people unknown to us before. If we are to understand the wicked problems of the world, we must create more space for humanistic study and teaching.

No single organization can achieve this ambitious goal alone. Working in collaboration with others, ACLS is ideally placed to strengthen the humanities and social sciences—and by doing so, we can help make academia a better profession where everyone can flourish. We hold a valuable spot in American higher education, as a hub of exchange among learned societies, schools, scholars, and groups like Imagining America and Bringing Theory to Practice. Our ability to connect and convene is all the more valuable at a moment when the forces of competition and financial austerity encourage the isolation of institutions and individuals. We are fortunate to have respect and visibility due to our grantmaking, which does good in and of itself and builds trust and confidence in us across fields, as we seek to encourage new directions and to support emerging and under-represented scholars. Our work with the learned societies and with our member universities allows us to circulate ideas and action plans that improve the professional experiences of doctoral students and faculty. Our excellent relations with organizations like the National Humanities

Alliance help us advocate for scholarship and its value in the world through public events and, increasingly, research into the state of higher education and advocacy for our fields.

In our first Strategic Priorities, which are guiding our work through the end of 2024, we announced our commitment to future-proofing humanistic scholarship by strengthening academic infrastructure and solving problems together in our several networks of societies and institutions. Most of our sustainable achievement in this area has taken place through convenings and workshops that tackle problems or weak points at the level of the academic system, transcending individual institutions or fields. To quote our second strategic priority, we are solving problems together.

How can we get more humanists into academic administration, to help fight the good fight in the offices of deans and provosts? How can we help equip administrators to humanize administrative processes?

The Luce Design Workshop for a New Academy created the platform for the Leadership Institute for a New Academy, or LINA, which this year is bringing together over 60 deans online and in summer workshops to share strategies and build sustainable networks of mutual support. We have begun circulating a quarterly newsletter on the New Academy initiatives, and Program Officer Heather Hewett and Research Associate Treviene Harris, based at the University of Pittsburgh, have produced an ACLS guide designed for beginning doctoral students and the faculty who teach them—a collection of best practices in doctoral education. At the LINA meetings in New York this summer, we will discuss “blueprints for change,” models of curricular and research practice that show the most promise of securing the humanities and the social sciences for the future.

How can we continue the work of legitimating and preserving digital scholarship, in the service of field building, and strengthen understudied areas of scholarship?

Our Commission for Fostering and Sustaining Diverse Digital Scholarship is answering those questions; we will make their work public in the coming academic year.

How can we advance equity and a sense of belonging across all fields and areas of study?

Senior Program Officer Jovonne Bickerstaff, who leads the Intention Foundry, asked Chair Lowe yesterday how we move from inviting more and different people to the table to empowering more and different people to set the agenda and design the solutions. The Intention Foundry and the society-specific projects it incubates do just that, by empowering scholars of color, most of them early career scholars, to set the agenda and design solutions in collaboration with learned society executive directors.

How can we ensure better access to fellowships and grants?

Our new HBCU faculty fellowship, led by Senior Director John Paul Christy and Program Officer Derisa Grant, is our latest effort on this front, and we're grateful for the generosity of many HBCU faculty and administrators who offered crucial guidance, helping us to design this program. In a recent visit to Morgan State University, I was asked by a faculty member: “Why focus on HBCUs?” Relying on what I have learned from Professor Jelani Favors of North Carolina A&T, who spoke to us earlier today, I answered: their historical under-funded status yet “over-achieving” profile, given the powerful contributions of HBCU faculty and students to scholarship and society; the crucial role of HBCUs in accelerating social and political change; and the ongoing impact and legacy of structural racism, which creates gaps of networking and access in the brutal hierarchy of American higher education. We look forward with excitement to the coming year, when we will launch this new program.

How can we assist the movement to ensure free access to scholarly knowledge?

The Arcadia Open Books Prize just announced yesterday is our latest effort in promoting access to knowledge:

it incentivizes both authors and presses to publish books open to all. Our work on making knowledge accessible develops earlier projects at ACLS. The Digital Commission builds on our many years of offering Digital Extension Grants; it also ties back to my predecessor Pauline Yu's convening, leading to the 2006 publication of *Our Cultural Commonwealth: The Report of the ACLS Commission on Cyberinfrastructure for the Humanities and the Social Sciences*. Other efforts represent new directions: the Intention Foundry, which seeks to increase the inclusivity of fields across the humanities and social sciences, was funded to the tune of \$2 million thanks to a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation in 2019.

Effective action for change requires accurate assessments of current conditions. The scarcity of reliable facts about doctoral outcomes and other matters means (as David Scobey of *Bringing Theory to Practice* said earlier today) that the humanities and social sciences must themselves be the object of well-designed research programs that identify strengths and weaknesses. We already benefit from the Humanities Indicators at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, led by Rob Townsend and his colleagues; we will soon benefit from the MLA's new research programs. ACLS is lucky to have strong allies doing research into current conditions in the humanities and social sciences.

This year, we took steps to better position ACLS as a known resource for research into selected elements of humanistic scholarship and practice. Program Officer Jessica Taylor, until recently a staffer at the Humanities Indicators, is conducting research on the outcomes of the Mellon Public Fellows Program. Program Officer Sarah McKee, who ran *Digital Publishing in the Humanities*, a Mellon-sponsored program at Emory University, is focusing on innovation in the area of open publishing.

The point of gaining knowledge is to circulate it. You are all key nodes in the circulation, whatever your society, field, organization, or school. Our networks are growing: since 2019, we have been expanding our membership groups, starting with the Council itself. Over the past few years, we have welcomed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and the National Women's Studies Association as well as Italian Studies and the Philosophy of Science Association. You vote on the membership of the Society for the Social Studies of Science today. With the help of our Board Working Group for Societies, we continue to seek out conversation with other vibrant scholarly communities, both in emerging areas of study and long-established fields, who would benefit from membership. We are confident that we will benefit from their presence! We are mindful that some groups already belong to our current member societies, so we move cautiously and consultatively, but our list of member societies sends a strong public message about our identity and values: we are committed to inclusive expansion.

We are in a spasmodic moment in American society and higher education. We see the erosion of the norms of democratic politics, respect for others, freedom of speech, the free quest for knowledge. I hope this overview of ACLS activities demonstrates our commitment to grand principles and also to the hard incremental work of the everyday.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead ACLS. It is an honor and pleasure to be working with smart colleagues on worthy goals and key issues in higher education. I welcome questions, and I ask that you take what you learn here back home with you. We are stronger together!



ACLS Fellow Carlos Macías Prieto F23 reads the manuscript of Codex Chimalpahin at the National Library of Mexico.

2023 Fellowship and Grant Competition Awardees

ACLS is committed to maintaining the highest standards in the administration of our programs and the ways we support the hundreds of fellows and grantees we award each year. ACLS continues to develop programming to increase engagement with and among fellows around the world, with the goal of providing networks of support concerning issues of societal engagement, public scholarship, and diverse career pathways for PhDs. We work closely with scholarly communities, partners, and allies in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America as part of our ongoing efforts to advance the growth and circulation of humanistic study. ACLS continually and intensively assesses and refines each of our programs—application materials, related outreach and promotion, nominating procedures, review processes, and support to awardees. As a result, our awardees are more diverse than ever, and we will continue to develop and expand programs that represent the highest standard of inclusive excellence in the quality of the scholarship we support.



ACLS Fellows

The ACLS Fellowship Program is the oldest and among the most popular in the ACLS portfolio. Reflecting our core belief that diversity enhances the scholarly enterprise, these fellowships recognize academic excellence among scholars working across all sectors of higher education as well as independent scholars. The program spans the broad spectrum of humanities and interpretive social sciences. For the 2022–2023 competition year, with the disproportionate effect the current economic downturn has on emerging, independent, and untenured scholars, ACLS continued to offer these fellowships solely to untenured scholars who have earned a PhD within eight years of the application deadline.

This program is funded primarily by the ACLS endowment, which has benefited from the generous support of esteemed institutions and individuals including the Mellon Foundation, Arcadia Charitable Trust, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the ACLS Research University Consortium and Associate members, past fellows, and friends of ACLS.

Mal Ahern

Assistant Professor, Cinema and Media Studies,
University of Washington
Factory Forms: Making Copies in the Age of Automation

Keitlyn Alcantara

Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Indiana University
Bloomington
Recipes of Resistance: An Archaeology of the Past and Present

Corinne Bayerl

Instructor, Clark Honors College, University of Oregon
The Stage on Trial: Transnational Opposition Against the Theatre in Early Modern Europe

Kalzang Dorjee Bhutia

Visiting Scholar, East Asian Studies, University of
Southern California
*Returning the Temple: Recovering and Repatriating
Sikkimese Buddhism from Colonial Structures*

Roya Biggie

Assistant Professor, English, Knox College
*Sympathetic Ecologies in Early Modern English
Tragedies*
ACLS Carl and Betty Pforzheimer Fellow in English and
American Literature

Brian E. Bond

Visiting Lecturer, Music, University of California, Berkeley
*Singing Islam: Sufi Music and Socio-religious Change
on India's Western Border*
ACLS Susan McClary and Robert Walser Fellow in Music
Studies

Hilary Buxton

Assistant Professor, History, Kenyon College
*Disabled Empire: Decolonizing Care and the First World
War in Imperial Britain*

Kendra Calhoun

Assistant Professor, Anthropology, University of
California, Los Angeles
*#BlackPeopleBeLike: Discursive constructions of
contemporary race, culture, and African American
identity on TikTok*

Tristan Call

Independent Scholar
Migration and Captive Labor in the Pandemic South

Zachary Cagle

Postdoctoral Scholar, Archaeology and Heritage Studies,
Aarhus University
*The Human Asteroid Strikes Florida: The Mining
Landscapes and Anthropogeochimistry of Phosphorus*

Sarah Aurelia Carson

Lecturer, History, Dartmouth College
*Weathering Prediction: Forecasts, Nature, and Political
Power in Modern India*

Melanie Chambliss

Assistant Professor, Humanities, History, and Social
Sciences, Columbia College Chicago
*History in the Making: Black Archives, Black Liberation,
and the Remaking of Modernity*
ACLS Oscar Handlin Fellow in American History

Sandy F. Chang

Assistant Professor, History, University of Florida
Across the South Seas: Gender, Intimacy, and Chinese Migration to British Malaya, 1877–1940
ACLS Frederic E. Wakeman, Jr. Fellow in Chinese History

Jerome Clark

Assistant Professor, New College, Arizona State University West
Bundling: A Diné Theory and Practice of Storying and Future-Making

Mali Collins

Assistant Professor, Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies, American University
Scrap Theory: Reproductive Injustice in the Contemporary Black Feminist Imagination

José A. de la Garza Valenzuela

Assistant Professor, Latina/Latino Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Queer in a Legal Sense: Brown Citizenship and Other Lawful Fictions

Nicholas Carby Denning

Visiting Assistant Professor, International Studies, Bryn Mawr College
Ecuadorian Visions of Post-Oil Futurity

Yuri W. Doolan

Assistant Professor, History, Brandeis University
America’s Comfort Women: Legacies of Military Prostitution in Cold War Asia and the Pacific

Guadalupe Escobar

Assistant Professor, English & Gender, Race, and Identity, University of Nevada, Reno
Decolonial Witnessing: The Post–Cold War Testimonio of Human Rights

Karma Frierson

Assistant Professor, African and African American Studies, Washington University in St. Louis
Yes, in Part: Expectations of Blackness in Multicultural Mexico
ACLS/Marwan M. and Ute Kraidy Centennial Fellowship in the Study of the Arab World and Latin America



ACLS Susan McClary and Robert Walser Fellow Brian Bond F'23 with the kâfi singer Arab Jat of Kachchh, Gujarat.

Hannah Clare Frydman

Assistant Professor, French and Italian Studies, University of Washington
Between the Sheets: Classified Advertising, Sexuality, and the Moral Threat to Press Freedom in France
ACLS Morton N. Cohen and Richard N. Swift Fellow

Linda R. Gosner

Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures, Texas Tech University
Mining Matters: Industry, Community, and Empire in Roman Iberia
ACLS Barrington Foundation Centennial Fellow

Eric J. Harvey

Independent Scholar
Blindness Lived and Imagined in the Ancient Middle East



ACLS Fellow Shoniqua Roach F'21 gives a lecture titled "The Black Bedroom" at Brown University's Pembroke Center.

Rebecca H. Hogue

Lecturer, History & Literature and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Harvard University
Nuclear Archipelagos: Radiation Empires and Indigenous Resistance in the Pacific

Sam Holley-Kline

Teaching Fellow, University Honors, University of Maryland, College Park
A Labor History of Mexican Archaeology

Mai-Linh K. Hong

Assistant Professor, Literatures, Languages, and Cultures, University of California, Merced
Perilous Telling: Story in the Shadow of the Refugee Regime

Jang Wook Huh

Assistant Professor, American Ethnic Studies, University of Washington
"Afro-Korean" Encounters: The Literary Intersections of Black Liberation Struggles in the US and Anticolonial Movements in Korea, 1910–1953

Bebel R. Ibarra

Adjunct Faculty, Professional Advancement, Tulane University
Empowering Voices of the Dead: The Role of Descendant Communities Decolonizing the Interpretation of Archaeological Data on Mortuary Practices in Peru

Hyeok Hweon Kang

Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Washington University in St. Louis
Artisanal Heart: The Vernacular Engineers of Early Modern Korea

Dana Kornberg

Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara
The Garbage Economy: Pursuing Money and Scrap in Urban India's Casted Institutions

Son Ca Lam

Postdoctoral Fellow, Geography, Dartmouth College
Lost (in) Time: Making Home in Diasporic Space and Time

Ashleigh A. Lawrence-Sanders

Assistant Professor, History, University of Colorado Boulder

They Knew What the War Was About: African Americans and the Memory of the Civil War

Sina Lee

Visiting Assistant Professor, Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, The College of Wooster

The Other Mother of My Child: Transnational Solidarity among Transnational Korean Adoptees, Adoptive Mothers, and Birth Mothers

Patrick Lozar

Assistant Professor, Native American Studies, Salish Kootenai College

Crossing Homelands: Native Nations and the US-Canadian Border on the Columbia Plateau

Carlos Macías Prieto

Assistant Professor, Romance Languages, Williams College

Nahua Writing at a Moment of Crisis: Domingo Chimalpahin's Preservation of the Cemanahuac Archive in Colonial Mexico

Elise Mitchell

Postdoctoral Fellow, History, Princeton University

Morbid Geographies: Enslavement, Epidemics, and Embodiment in the Early Modern Atlantic World

Jocelyn Rachel Moore

Visiting Scholar, Classics, University of Virginia

If the House Would Speak: The House and Greek Tragedy's Collective Vision

Nicholas C. Morgan

Lecturer, Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University

Busy Doing Nothing: Queer Anti-Work Experiments in Art, Film, and Life in the Cybernated 1960s

Isadora Moura Mota

Assistant Professor, History, Princeton University

On Their Own Terms: Literacy, Slavery, and the Archives of Afro-Brazilian History

Benjamin Kofi Nutor

Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Texas A&M University

The Peki in the Atlantic World: Landscapes, Power, and Identities of Slavery in West Africa

James Padilioni

Visiting Assistant Professor, Religion, Swarthmore College

To Ask Infinity Some Questions: San Martín de Porres and the Black Hagiographic Mysteries of Florida

Mezna Qato

Postdoctoral Fellow, Newnham College, University of Cambridge, UK

Education in Exile: Palestinians and Postwar Regeneration

Mariam Rahmani

Lecturer, Comparative Literature, University of California, Los Angeles

Queerness in Translation, from Persian to English and Back

ACLS Pauline Yu Fellow in Comparative Literature

Yuridia Ramirez

Assistant Professor, History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Indigeneity on the Move: Transborder Politics from Michoacán to North Carolina

Caleb Richard Scoville

Assistant Professor, Sociology, Tufts University

Stupid Little Fish: Extraction, Conservation, and the Politics of Environmental Decline

Angelica Serna Jeri

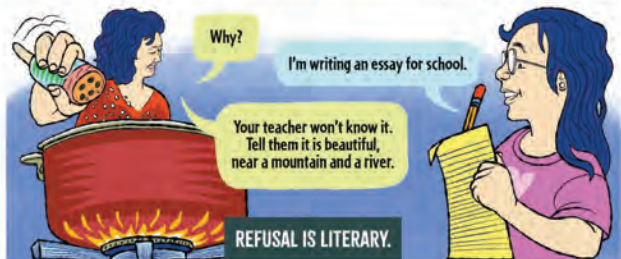
Assistant Professor, Spanish & Portuguese and Latin American Studies, University of New Mexico

The Huarochiri Manuscript Archive: the Experience of Writing, Speaking and Translating Quechua

Tatsiana Shchurko

Lecturer, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, The Ohio State University

Haunting Aspirations, Scattered Intimacies: Resonances of Black Women's Travels to the Soviet Union (1920–1980) for Anti-Imperialist Feminist Solidarities Today



CAN REFUGEE STORY HELP US ENACT A REFUGEE POLITICS OF CARE?



Pages of ACLS Fellow Mai-Linh Hong's F'23 visual project, a four-page comic related to her forthcoming book "Perilous Telling: On Refugee Story." Art credit: Eli Africa.

Amanda Shubert
 Lecturer, English and Communication Arts, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Seeing Things: Virtual Aesthetics in Victorian Culture

Emily Sibley
 Affiliated Scholar, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Whitman College
The Poetics of Incivility: Satire and Subversion in Arab Culture

Gabriella Soto
 Lecturer, Honors College, Arizona State University
Boundary Work: Ruination, Forensic Evidence, and Care for the Dead at the US-Mexico Border

Stephanie Michelle Strauss
 Adjunct Professor, Art History, University of St. Thomas, MN
Inscribing Power: The Materiality of Script in Early Mesoamerican Art
 ACLS H. and T. King Fellow in Ancient American Art and Culture

Sara Ann Swenson
 Assistant Professor, Religion, Dartmouth College
Near Light We Shine: Buddhist Charity and Urbanization in Vietnam

Kathryn Takabvirwa
 Assistant Professor, Anthropology, University of Chicago
Citizens in Uniform: Policing Everyday Life in Zimbabwe

Michael Sy Uy
 Lecturer, Music, Harvard University
Endowing Equity: The NEA's Expansion Arts Division and Funding the Underfunded, 1971–1995

Pamela N. Walker
 Assistant Professor, Communication, History, and Philosophy, Texas A&M University-San Antonio
Signed, Sealed, Delivered: How Black and White Mothers used the Box Project and the Postal System to Fight Hunger and Feed the Mississippi Freedom Movement

Joshua Williams

Visiting Assistant Professor, English and Theater Arts,
Brandeis University
*The Animal Subaltern: Performing Race and Species in
East Africa*

Kim Williams-Pulfer

Independent Scholar
*The Black Center: Tracing the Strategies and Capacity
of African Diasporic Arts and Cultural Networks*

Diane Wong

Assistant Professor, Political Science and Global Urban
Studies, Rutgers University–Newark
*You Can't Evict a Movement: Intergenerational Activism
and Housing Justice in New York City, 1960–2020*

Terrance Wooten

Assistant Professor, Black Studies, University of
California, Santa Barbara
*Registered: Homelessness, Sex Offense, and Carceral
Sexuality*

Duygu Yildirim

Assistant Professor, History, University of Tennessee,
Knoxville
*Uncertain Knowledge: The Making of Slow Science
between the Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe*



“I come from a Mexican American working-class background. I was a first-generation college student. I am a rare breed in my discipline and in academia writ large. When I entered my PhD program, I knew I would need research support beyond the five years of funding I was guaranteed. The ACLS Susan McClary and Robert Walser Fellowship in Music Studies provided me the time off from teaching to complete my book first book, *Immaculate Sounds: The Musical Lives of Nuns in New Spain* (Oxford University Press, 2023) as well as to begin research on a second book project.”

Cesar D. Favila F’22

ACLS Susan McClary and Robert Walser Fellow in
Music Studies
Assistant Professor of Musicology
University of California, Los Angeles



“My experience working with writing and writers in a variety of contexts helps me approach relationships, opportunities, and projects with curiosity rather than an agenda. Just as every piece of writing ‘teaches’ a reader how to read it, every step of a community-driven process needs to come from the community rather than be imposed from the outside.”

Alison Turner F’22

ACLS Leading Edge Fellow/Research and Data Coordinator
Operation Shoestring

ACLS Leading Edge Fellows

In 2023, ACLS named the fifth cohort of Leading Edge Fellows, and in September they began two-year career-building positions at nonprofits advancing social justice. This program demonstrates the value of advanced training in the humanities and interpretive social sciences and its applicability to work and careers advancing justice beyond the academy. Partners and positions in the 2023 competition offered a range of professional experiences as well as opportunities to advance reproductive justice, amplify the voices of young women, and advocate for the rights of elders, all while applying the diverse skills earned in course of the PhD.

This program is made possible by a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation.

Kevin Salvador Alejandro

PhD, Sociology, University of Kentucky
Appointed as Learning and Impact Manager, Center for Cultural Power

Elaine Kathryn Andres

PhD, Culture & Theory, University of California, Irvine
Appointed as Manager of Learning and Evaluation, Destiny Arts Center

Cruz A. Arroyo

PhD, English, University of Southern California
Appointed as Movement Building and Capacity Strategist, Movement Advancement Project

Jessica E. Auer

PhD, History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Appointed as Tribal Broadband Policy Analyst, Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Christine B. Case

PhD, English, University of Pittsburgh
Appointed as Narrative Strategy Specialist, Children’s Defense Fund



Desiree Barron-Callaci, ACLS Senior Program Officer of US Programs (center), with ACLS Leading Edge Fellows Elizabeth Melton F'21 and Justine Esta Ellis F'21.

Kiara M. Childs

PhD, Communication, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Appointed as Editor, Data & Society

Ebenezer Concepcion

PhD, Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Studies, University of Chicago
Appointed as Community Engagement and Advocacy Manager, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Johnathan Favini

PhD, Sociocultural Anthropology, University of Virginia
Appointed as Data Inclusion Specialist, Open Environmental Data Project

Tiara Giddings

PhD, Sociology, Georgia State University
Appointed as Research and Policy Analyst, Campaign for Southern Equality

Tina Grandinetti

PhD, Global, Urban, and Social Studies, RMIT University (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology)
Appointed as Associate, Housing Futures, PolicyLink

Lisa Gulya

PhD, Sociology, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Appointed as Advocacy and Research Specialist, Gender Justice

Mimi Howard

PhD, Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge, UK
Appointed as Program Specialist, University Settlement Society of New York

Corey Masao Johnson

PhD, Modern Thought and Literature/Anthropology, Stanford University
Appointed as Research Manager, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Corinne Kentor

PhD, Anthropology, Teachers College, Columbia University

Appointed as Policy and Communications Associate, Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration

Brittney Knotts

PhD, English, University of Pittsburgh

Appointed as Program Coordinator, Youth Activation, Vital Voices

Nicole Navarro

PhD, History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Appointed as Research Associate, Thurgood Marshall College Fund

Amber T. A. Reid

PhD, Humanities, Clark Atlanta University

Appointed as Research Analyst, The Afriya Center

ACLS Project Development Grantees

ACLS Project Development Grants provide flexible seed funding to support faculty at teaching-intensive colleges and universities pursuing research projects with the potential to significantly advance areas of humanistic study. At a time when many smaller colleges and public institutions face pandemic-related budget constraints, this program reinforces the ACLS commitment to support promising scholars whose dedication to classroom teaching ensures that future generations can benefit from the insights gained through innovative new research.

This program is funded primarily by the ACLS endowment, which has benefited from the generous support of esteemed institutions and individuals including the Mellon Foundation, Arcadia Charitable Trust, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the ACLS Research University Consortium and Associate members, past fellows, and friends of ACLS.

Edward Brudney

Assistant Professor, History, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Changing the Rules of the Game: Labor, Law, and Citizenship in Argentina, 1973–1983

Francisco Chen-López

Assistant Professor, World Languages and Cultures, Spelman College

Mapping the Chinese Diaspora: Chinatowns in Latin American Narratives

Adam Lee Cilli

Assistant Professor, Behavioral Sciences, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

Necessary for My Release: Racial Policing and Criminal Justice Reform during the Great Migration

Christabel Devadoss

Assistant Professor, Global Studies and Human Geography, Middle Tennessee State University
Rust Belt Representation: Race, Rurality, and Everyday Experiences

Nick Dorzweiler

Visiting Assistant Professor, Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies, Wheaton College (MA)
On Air: Harold Lasswell, NBC Radio, and the Psychotherapy Program for the American Masses

Gaby Greenlee

Adjunct Faculty, Art History, Santa Clara University
Inka Borders and the Power of Volatility: at the Fringes and Edges of Textile and Territory

Larissa Kopytoff

Associate Professor, History, University of South Florida
Contested Claims: Law, Islam, and Citizenship in French Colonial Senegal

Juan Pedro Lamata

Assistant Professor, English, California State University, Los Angeles
Masterless Renaissance: Rogue Form from Utopia to Hell

Judith Mansilla

Instructor, History, Florida International University
The Legal and Social Limits of Corruption and Dishonest Behavior in Early Modern Lima, Peru

Nicholas McLeod

Assistant Professor, History, Rider University
Practicing Pan-Africanism: West Indians, Governance, and Nation Building in Kwame Nkrumah's Ghana, 1949–1966

Diana Moore

Adjunct Associate Professor, History, City University of New York, John Jay College
Navigating the Culture Wars: Religion and Feminism in Late Nineteenth-Century Italy

Josh Mund

Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Tulane University
The Ethics of Humane Animal Agriculture



Rebecca L. Walkowitz F'02 speaks at an ACLS Research University Consortium meeting.

Osama Rehan Siddiqui

Assistant Professor, History and Classics, Providence College
A Science of Society: Languages of Economic Thought in Colonial India

Monica Styles

Assistant Professor, World Languages and Cultures, Howard University
Afro-Peruvians in the Colonial Latin American Literary Canon

Mimi Winick

Affiliated Scholar, English, Virginia Commonwealth University
Ecstatic Inquiry: Religion, Literature, and the Feminist Mythological Imagination, 1870–1980

Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellows in the History of Art

The Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowships in the History of Art support outstanding early-career art historians worldwide whose projects stand to make substantial and original contributions to the understanding of art and its history.

This program is made possible by a generous grant from the Getty Foundation.

Bimbola Akinbola

Assistant Professor, Performance Studies, Northwestern University

Transatlantic Disbelongings: Anti-Respectability, Queer Kinships, and Diasporic Homemaking in Nigerian Women's Art

Petya Andreeva

Assistant Professor, Art and Design History and Theory, Parsons School of Design

Visualizing the Early Soviet East: Posters, Politics and Pioneers in Central Asia (1917–1939)

Irene Brisson

Assistant Professor, Architecture, Louisiana State University

Kreyòl Architectures: Design in Dialogue in Haitian House Building

An Jiang

Independent Scholar

Painted Ceramic Vases in Ancient Greek Sanctuaries: Rethinking the Human Experience

Aparna Kumar

Assistant Professor, History of Art, University College London

The Museum and Its Fragments: Dispossession and Writing the Border

Julia Lum

Assistant Professor, Art History, Scripps College

Landfalls: Art Between Britain and Polynesia



2022 Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellows in the History of Art at their fellowship residency at the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

Maria Lumbreras

Assistant Professor, History of Art and Architecture,
University of California, Santa Barbara
*The Fracture of Evidence: Replication and the Past in
Early Modern Iberia*

Arathi Menon

Assistant Professor, Art History, Hamilton College
*Hipped & Gabled: The Sacred Art and Architecture of
Malabar*

Mira Xenia Schwerda

Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies,
University of Edinburgh
*Between Art and Propaganda: Photographing
Revolution in Modern Iran*

Jessica A. Varner

Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Humanities,
University of Southern California
*Chemical Desires: When the Chemical Industry Met
Modern Design (1870–1970)*



“The Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowship benefited me in many ways. First, I was able to finish my book manuscript, which is already in the editing process with a university press in Mexico. Second, I was able to meet a group of fantastic young scholars who are rethinking art history from new directions. The cluster of Getty/ACLS fellows I had the opportunity to meet gave me certainty about the importance of our work and the need to keep thinking about/from images in the 21st century. Third, the prestige of this award helped make my work more widely known.”

Luis Vargas-Santiago F'20

Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of Art)
Researcher, Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México



“ACLS gave me a way into the world of academic research. It also exposed me to some great mentors who pushed me in my work, making it sharper. Because the fellowship program has a built-in mentoring component, it gave me a space to experiment with my thinking, testing some new ideas. The space of supportive experimentation and critical feedback has been really helpful in building out the shape of my current project.”

Darren Byler F’21, G’14

Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellow in China Studies,
Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies Predissertation-
Summer Travel Grantee)
Assistant Professor, International Studies
Simon Fraser University

Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellows in China Studies

The Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies seeks to promote and sustain excellence in research on China in the US and Canada, with a special emphasis on early-career scholars and the strengthening of scholarly networks. Early Career Fellowships support outstanding scholars preparing PhD dissertation research for publication or embarking on new research projects.

The program is made possible by the generosity of the Henry Luce Foundation, with additional funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Chloe Estep

Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages and
Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania
*Print Classicism: Poetry, Politics, and Media in
Republican China, 1911–1949*

Adam K. Frost

Postdoctoral Fellow, Business Humanities and Law,
Copenhagen Business School
*Reimagining Informality: A Microhistorical Study of
Shifting Formal/Informal Boundaries in Post-Socialist
China*

Xiaofei Gao

Assistant Professor, History, University of Colorado
Denver
*The Blue Revolution: Maritime Connections and Coastal
Communities in Modern China, 1910–2010*

Yidong Gong

Assistant Professor, Division of Social Sciences, New
College of Florida
*On the Fringe of Care: The Terrain of China’s Medical
Engagement in South Sudan*

Aynur Kadir

Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Studies,
University of British Columbia
Safekeeping Culture



Jue Liang F'23, F'19, G'16, awardee of the Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies and The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies, researching at Larung Gar in Tibet.

Ja Won Lee

Assistant Professor, Art, California State University, East Bay

Culture on Display: Collecting and Representing Chinese Antiquities in Korea, 1700–1910

Lin Li

Assistant Professor, History, University of St. Thomas, MN
Fighting the Memory War in China and Beyond: A Transnational History of Remembering “Comfort Women”

Yifei Li

Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, New York University Shanghai
Environmentalism of, by, and for the Chinese State

Jue Liang

Assistant Professor, Religion, Denison University
A Library of Her Own: The Literary Everyday of Tibet’s First Female Philosophers

Yun-chen Lu

Assistant Professor, History of Art and Architecture, DePaul University
Paths to Artistic Eccentricity: Artists with Disabilities and Their Art in Eighteenth-Century Yangzhou

Xu Ma

Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Lafayette College
Boudoir, Buddha, and Body: Re-Imagining Social and Religious Spaces for Women in Late Imperial China

Chelsea Zi Wang

Assistant Professor, History, Claremont McKenna College
Logistics of Empire: Governance and Spatial Friction in Ming China, 1368–1644

Matthew West

Lecturer, Global Affairs, George Mason University
Written Property, Public Secrets, and the Re-Making of Global Flows: The Production of Taiwanese Semiconductor Patents between the United States and China

Andrew Womack

Assistant Professor, Asian Studies; Anthropology, Furman University
The Tao River Archaeological Project: Mapping Proto–Silk Road Interactions in Northwestern China

Hong Zhang

Postdoctoral Fellow, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
Chinese State Capital and Global Infrastructure Development

Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellows in American Art

The Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowships in American Art are awarded to promising doctoral candidates as they pursue dissertations on the history of the visual arts of the United States, including all facets of Native American art.

This program is made possible by a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation.

Dusti Cheyenne Bridges

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, Cornell University
(Re)lating Archaeological Collections: Hodinöhsö:ni' Art, Colonialist Histories, and Indigenous Futurities in Archaeological Research

Ashley E. Kim Duffey

Doctoral Candidate, Art History, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
(Re)visioning Kinship: Photographies of U.S.-Korean Adoption since 1953

Sonja Elena Gandert

Doctoral Candidate, Art History, City University of New York, The Graduate Center
La resolana: Chicano Artistic Imaginaries of Place, Race, and Activism in New Mexico and Texas, 1969–1985

Emma McMath Kennedy

Doctoral Candidate, Art History, Northwestern University
Entangled Lives: The Representation of Blackness and Indigeneity in Contemporary Art

Phillippa Pitts

Doctoral Candidate, History of Art & Architecture, Boston University
Pharmacoepic Dreams: Art and America's Medical Democracy, 1800–1860

Elizabeth Driscoll Smith

Doctoral Candidate, History of Art & Architecture, University of California, Santa Barbara
Build/Live/Work: Artist-Built Environments and the Expanded Vernacular in the Twentieth Century
Ellen Holtzman Fellow

Meshell Lea Sturgis

Doctoral Candidate, Communication, University of Washington
The Political Aesthetics of Black Girl Magic: Self-Representation in Alternative Media

Luce/ACLS Collaborative Programming Grantees in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs

The Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs aims to deepen public understanding of the role religion plays in global public life by allowing fellows to pursue significant scholarly research on religion and to connect their specialist knowledge directly with journalists and media partners.

This program is made possible by the generous support of the Henry Luce Foundation.

Arizona State University

Muslims in the Media: Empowering Youth Engagement through Global Perspectives

Yasmin Saikia, Professor, History, Arizona State University

Chad Haines, Associate Professor, Religious Studies, Arizona State University

Syed Ali Hussain, Assistant Professor, College of Communication, Arizona State University

Northeastern University

The Sacred Writes Extended Fellowship Program for Untenured Scholars

Elizabeth Bucar, Professor, Religious Studies, Northeastern University

Jeb Sharp, Associate Teaching Professor, School of Journalism, Northeastern University

Brook Wilensky-Lanford, Associate Director, Sacred Writes Public Scholarship on Race, Justice, and Religion, Northeastern University

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellows

These fellowships provide support at the formative stage of dissertation development, allowing time and support for emerging scholars to apply innovative approaches to their work. The program seeks to expand the range of research methodologies, formats, and areas of inquiry traditionally considered suitable for the dissertation, with a particular focus on supporting scholars who can build a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable academy.

This program is made possible by a grant from the Mellon Foundation.

Sergio Alarcón Robledo

Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University

From Archives to Soundscape analysis: Architectural change and power display in Early Dynastic Egypt

Gokh Amin Alshaif

Doctoral Candidate, History, University of California, Santa Barbara

Native Outsiders: The Black Muhamasheen of Yemen

Aja J. Antoine-Jones

Doctoral Candidate, Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

Policing, Pollution, Plague: Breath and Death in an Unequal Society

Musa K. Azimli

Doctoral Candidate, History, University of Virginia

The Imperial Slave Market in Istanbul

Nicola Chávez Courtright

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles

Archive, memory and emotion in Salvadoran LGBTQ+ organizing

Janessa M. Chinana

Doctoral Candidate, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington
Xaadlāa Gwáay.yaay: Indigenous Border Nationhood and Haida Governance Across Settler-States

Danielle Davis

Doctoral Candidate, Musicology, Florida State University
Virginian Hip-hop in Hampton Roads: Investigating the Production of Place in the Tidewater Trio's Music from 1990–2005

Ash Duhrkoop

Doctoral Candidate, Art, University of Virginia
When the Dust Unsettles: Modernism and Extractivism in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Taaja El-Shabazz

Doctoral Candidate, History, Brown University
The Many-Threaded Hydra: A Patchwork Labor History of the American Womenswear Industry, 1924–1941

Alfredo Escudero

Doctoral Candidate, History, Florida International University
The Land Is the Laboratory: Indigenous Labor, Land Inspections and the Engineering of the Colonial Andes

Nohely Guzmán Narváez

Doctoral Candidate, Geography, University of California, Los Angeles
Intimate Encounters and the Conquest of the Amazon: The Affective Infrastructures of China's Geopolitical Frontier-making in Bolivia

Tiên Dung Hà

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, Stanford University
Science and Spirit: Searching for the remains of Vietnam's MIAs four decades later

Johanna Hernández-Pérez

Doctoral Candidate, Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
Negotiating Blackness: How Jamaica and Puerto Rico Represent Race for Tourism

Alaba Ilesanmi

Doctoral Candidate, Musicology, Florida State University
The Sound of Black Solidarity: (Re)Incarnations of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti in the Global Black Politics and Soundscapes

Larissa A. Juip

Doctoral Candidate, Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University
Re-Storying an Industrial Landscape: Moving Beyond Traditional Approaches to Heritage Interpretation

Rae Ke'ala Kuruhara

Doctoral Student, English, University of California, Los Angeles
Man(g)a, Mo'olelo, and the Many Bodied Forms of Indigenous Comics

Anthony A. Landers

Doctoral Candidate, Sociology, Rutgers University–New Brunswick
Prisons as Sinks: Mapping the Slow Violence of Carceral Spaces

Jessica R Locklear

Doctoral Student, History, Emory University
The Other Lands We Know: Intergenerational Histories of Lumbee Mobility, 1880–1980

Elsa Lora

Doctoral Candidate, African and African American Studies, Harvard University
Mothers of Crime: Family and the Making of the US Carceral State, 1877–2016

Joyce Sauann Lu

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, Rutgers University–New Brunswick
“Se embolsan los animalitos”: the changing biosocial life of antibiotics in the western highlands of Guatemala

Khadeeja M. Majoka

Doctoral Candidate, Religion, Columbia University
Faqiri: Subaltern Religion in a Neoliberal City

Andreina Malki

Doctoral Candidate, Geography, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Tracing Racial Capitalism in Place: Indigenous Dispossession, Plantations, and Private Immigrant Incarceration in North Carolina



Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellow Alaba Ilesanmi F'23 (middle) with members of the Afrobeat band Eparapo as part of his fieldwork in London.

Edward Kenneth Lazaro Nadurata

Doctoral Candidate, Global and International Studies, University of California, Irvine
Reimagining Care: Aging, Retirement and Neoliberal Governance in the Philippines

Ayaan Natala

Doctoral Candidate, American Studies, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Recovering Freedom Dreams: Black Lives Matter and New Visions of Black Liberation in Minnesota

Jermani Ojeda-Ludena

Doctoral Candidate, Spanish and Portuguese, University of Texas at Austin
The Indigenous Rhetoric's Resurgence: The Quechua Radio Broadcasting Creates a Sonorous Community and Challenges Settler Voices

Joel Daniel Olea-Calixto

Doctoral Candidate, History, University of California, Davis
Studying for Corporate Imperialism: Mining Colleges, Racial Capitalism, and the Rise of Mexico's Mining Technocrats, 1908–1996

Chijioke K. Onah

Doctoral Candidate, Literatures in English, Cornell University
Toxic Intimacies: The (Bio)Politics of Waste and Disposability in Africa and African Diaspora

Nnenna Onuoha

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, Harvard University
Monumental Silences: de/post/Colonial Remembrance along the Wilhelmstraße and the M-Straße, Berlin, Germany

Michele D. Pflug

Doctoral Candidate, History, University of Oregon
Hidden Histories of Insect Collections: Women, Empire, and Entomology in the Early Eighteenth Century

Joshua K. Reason

Doctoral Candidate, Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania
Brazil After Dark: Memory, Haunting, and Desire in Northern-Northeastern Brazil



Left: Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellow Brandon Scott F'23 explores bald cypress stands in Big Thicket National Preserve, TX, as part of his fieldwork; Right: Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellow Sanggay Tashi F'23 (right) participates in community-engaged research training at University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

Kristen Reynolds

Doctoral Candidate, American Studies, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

The Human in the Machine: Black Speculation and Revolutionary Technoculture Beyond the Human

Maurice Rippel

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, Yale University
"A Different Type of Time": Modernity, Mobility, and Quiet Violence in the Black Atlantic

Soyoon Ryu

Doctoral Candidate, History of Art, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

We Live Here: Collectivization and Art in the Field in East and Southeast Asia, 1972–1992

Ha'āni Lucia Falo San Nicolas

Doctoral Candidate, Political Science, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Famalao'an CHamoru, Reproductive Liberation, and Resurgent Poetics

Carine Schermann

Doctoral Candidate, Modern Languages and Linguistics, Florida State University

Under the Skin: Monstrosity, Myth-Making, and Resistance Across and Beyond the Haitian-Dominican Border

Brandon O. Scott

Doctoral Candidate, Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The American Grove: On Nineteenth Century Vegetal Aesthetics

Brayan Serratos Garcia

Doctoral Candidate, Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University

Navigating the Cross and Crossing the Sea: Collaborative Knowledge-Production, Visual Literacies, and Racial Formations in Spanish Asia and America

Destry Maria Sibley

Doctoral Candidate, English, City University of New York, The Graduate Center

After Mother: Genres of the Maternal in Twenty-First Century American Memoir

Margie Tang-Oxley

Doctoral Candidate, History, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

The "Oriental Julia Child": Chinese American Cuisine, Gendered Orientalism, and the Cold War

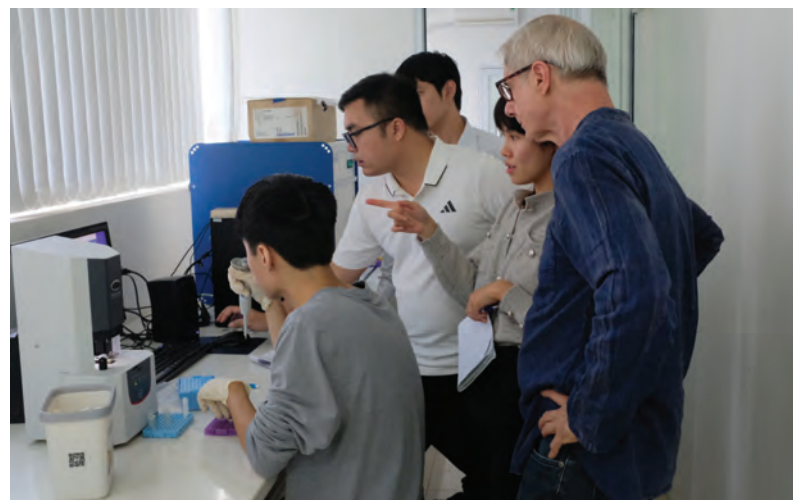
Sanggay Tashi

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder

Indigenous Innovations: Nomadic Agency, State Intervention, and Community-Based Research in Amdo Tibet, China



Left: Photo from Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellow Sanggay Tashi's F'23 community-engaged research training at University of Hawai'i at Manoa; Right: Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellow Tièn Dung Hà F'23 attends scientific training with a Vietnamese forensic scientist at a forensic lab in the Netherlands.



Merve Tekgürler

Doctoral Candidate, History, Stanford University
Crucible of Empire: Danubian Borderlands and the Making of Ottoman Administrative Mentalities

Nic Vigilante

Doctoral Candidate, Music, Cornell University
Rethinking Ethnography in a Pandemic and Beyond: Sonic Performances of the Unreal in QTAPI Nightlife, Virtual Reality, and Esports

Anca Wilkening

Doctoral Candidate, The Study of Religion, Harvard University
Red Sisters, Womanly Fathers, and Queer Domesticities: Radical Pietism, Kinship, and Intimacy in Lenape and Mohican Homelands

Travis Wright

Doctoral Candidate, History, Indiana University
 Bloomington
You Can Help: SNCC, the Friends of SNCC and the Struggle for Black Freedom

Alan T. Yeh

Doctoral Candidate, French, University of California, Berkeley
Con ăn cơm chưa? Refugee Lessons on Feeding and Care in the Vietnamese Diaspora

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies

This program offers an articulated set of fellowship and grant competitions that will expand the understanding and interpretation of Buddhist thought in scholarship and society, strengthen international networks of Buddhist studies, and increase the visibility of innovative currents in those studies. Awards showcase a rich diversity of languages, historical periods, and locations of research, which reflect the wide variety of Buddhist traditions around the world.

Each of the competitions in this program is made possible by a generous grant from The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global.



“The Buddhism Public Scholar fellowship offered through ACLS has opened a new career path to me, allowing me to learn an entirely new skill set and preparing me for a career in public humanities in the sphere of curatorial or other museum work.”

Hillary Langberg F’22

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholar
National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian Institution

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholars

This innovative program places early-career scholars of Buddhism in professional positions for up to two years with host organizations, including museums and publishers, that study the traditions of Buddhism. Awardees use their academic knowledge and professional experience to bolster the capacity of host organizations in sharing knowledge in Buddhist art and thought across all traditions and locations in which Buddhism is practiced.

Jesse Drian

PhD, East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Southern California
Appointed as a Public Scholar to the Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library, University of California, Los Angeles

Dessislava Vendova

PhD, Religion, Columbia University
Appointed as a Public Scholar to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



Past awardees attend the 2023 Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies Early Career Retreat in Laramie, WY.

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellows in Buddhist Studies

Dissertation Fellowships enable outstanding doctoral candidates around the world to devote a year to preparing dissertations on Buddhist traditions.

Kelly Marie Carlton

Doctoral Candidate, Religion, Princeton University
Children in Medieval Chinese Buddhism: Discourses on Ethics and Practice

Bianba Deji

Doctoral Candidate, Centre of Buddhist Studies, University of Hong Kong
Lojong Literature in The Sakya School: The Evolution of the Parting from the Four Attachments through Its Tibetan Commentaries

Guttorm Norberg Gundersen

Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University
A Home Away from Home: The Upper Tianshu Monastery and the Institutionalization of a Public Teaching Monastery in Song Dynasty China

Thupten Kelsang

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology & Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford

Reanimating Tibet in the Museum: Contentions in Collections and Their Contemporary 'Afterlives'

Petra Lamberson

Doctoral Candidate, South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley
Identities in Situ: The Contested Sacred Sites of Nepal

Patrick Ryan Magoffin

Doctoral Candidate, Religious Studies, Brown University
An Alternative Tiantai Vision: Buddha-Nature in the Heretical Writings of Qiantang Tiantai Monks

Rachel Deborah Quist

Doctoral Candidate, Art History, University of Kansas
Forging Bonds through Icons and Ritual: Imperial Patronage of Daigoji

Matthew Schissler

Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Cultivating Islamophobia: Fear, Revulsion, and a Buddhist Movement Against Muslims in Myanmar

Jackson B. Stephenson

Doctoral Candidate, Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
The Afterlife of Indian Esoteric Buddhist Poetry

Daniel Wojahn

Doctoral Candidate, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford
Living Law Between the Lines: The Evolution of Buddhist Legality in Thirteenth Century Central Tibet



Left: The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Buddhist Studies Daniel Wojahn F'23 researches at Kalimpong Sakya Monastery in India; Right: Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Buddhist Studies Dendup Chopel F'23 conducts fieldwork.



“ACLS played a pivotal role in facilitating my dedicated focus on writing my thesis, ensuring its timely completion and submission. The program provided me with invaluable academic exposure through a range of talks and the opportunity to attend a Buddhist Studies retreat in Wyoming. This experience not only enhanced my scholarly knowledge, but also allowed me to establish connections with esteemed American academics. The one-on-one consultations with mentors during the retreat proved instrumental in clarifying potential career paths following the completion of my doctoral studies.”

Sonam Choden F'21

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellow in Buddhist Studies Doctoral Candidate in Tibetology
Universität Hamburg, Germany

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Early Career Research Fellows in Buddhist Studies

This program awards pre-tenure faculty working full-time at higher education institutions around the world to enable them to focus on advancing promising research and writing projects.

Dendup Chophel

Fellow, Center for Advanced Studies, Friedrich Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany

The Pandemic Buddha: Social Recalibration and Post-pandemic Buddhist Engagement in Bhutan

Nils Martin

Postdoctoral Scholar, East Asian Civilizations Research Centre, École Pratique des Hautes Études, France
Art History and Epigraphy of Early Tibetan Buddhist Rock Carvings in Ladakh and Baltistan, from ca. eighth century to early eleventh century

Rachelle Saruya

Postdoctoral Scholar, Historical Studies, University of Toronto, Mississauga
Wishing at the Banyan Tree: Wishing-for-children Rituals in the Buddhist Scriptures and in Contemporary Myanmar Buddhist Women's Practices

Parjanya Sen

Assistant Professor, English, Deshbandhu College for Girls
Bengal and Tibet: Travels, Encounters and Sacred Geographies

Mengxiao Wang

Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Southern California
Buddhism and Theatricality in Early Modern China

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation New Professorship in Buddhist Studies

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation New Professorships in Buddhist Studies provide multiyear grants to colleges and universities seeking to establish or expand teaching in Buddhist studies. Since 2016, the grants have provided seed funding for full-time faculty positions at 11 schools in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

University of Utah

The New Professorship grant will help establish the first tenure-line position focused on teaching and research in Buddhist studies in the College of Humanities at the University of Utah. The appointment will not only strengthen the University's Asia-related research and teaching, it will also help them better serve the growing ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity of their students. The successful candidate will be housed in either History, Philosophy, or World Languages and Cultures, depending on their disciplinary training, and affiliated with the federally funded Asia Center. Ultimately, the hope is that the creation of this position will pave the way for the future development of a new Department of Religious Studies at the institution.

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Translation Grantees in Buddhist Studies

Grants for Translations support work of crucial importance to the study of Buddhism and to its wider appreciation, particularly translation of canonical texts into modern vernaculars and the translation of scholarly works on Buddhism from one modern language into another. Priority is given to translations of important Buddhist texts for the benefit of contemporary audiences who currently do not have access to them in their own languages.

Aruna Keerthi Gamage

Postdoctoral Fellow, Indology and Tibetology, Philipps-Universität Marburg

An Annotated English Translation of the Exegesis of the First Grave Offense (parajika) in the Vajirabuddhi-Tika

Yogesh Raj

Senior Fellow, , Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya

Critical Edition and Translation of Popular Caryā Songs from Kathmandu Valley, Nepal

Janine Tasca Anderson Sawada

Professor, East Asian Studies and Religious Studies (joint), Brown University

A Zen Buddhist Defense of the Dharma

Peter Daniel Szanto

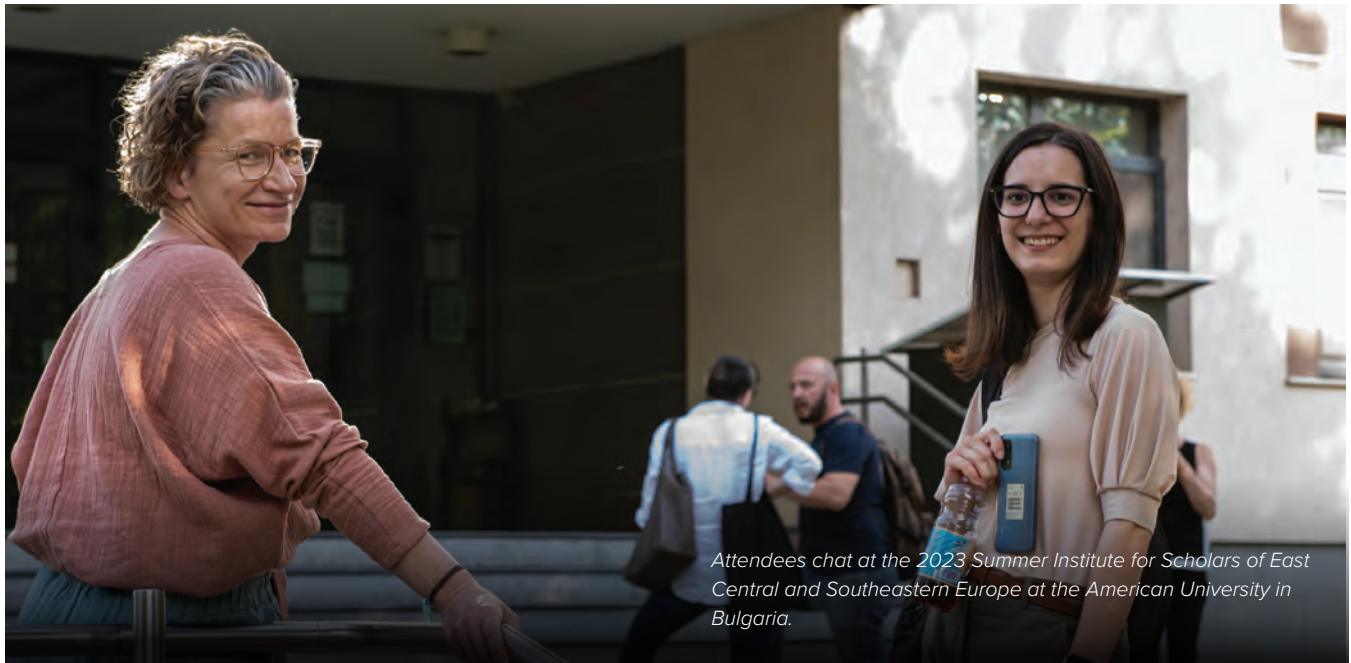
Associate Professor, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, Eötvös Loránd University

The Mañjukirti Corpus

Jay Holt Valentine

Associate Professor, History and Philosophy, Troy University

Revealing the Northern Treasures: The Life and Works of Rigdzin Gödem (ca. 1337–1409)



Attendees chat at the 2023 Summer Institute for Scholars of East Central and Southeastern Europe at the American University in Bulgaria.

Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe Awardees

In June 2023 ACLS, in partnership with the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia (CAS), hosted 13 scholars from Eastern Europe and North America for a two-week residency at the American University in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. In addition to undertaking local fieldwork at regional archives, museum collections, communities, and historic sites, awardees joined collaborative writing workshops and a series of interdisciplinary discussions on “Scholarly Writing in the Digital Age.” Other highlights included an overnight trip to Plovdiv, Bulgaria, and a guest lecture from Jessie Labov, associate professor, communication, and Senior Research Fellow at Corvinus University of Budapest. Her talk, “Are We All Public Intellectuals Now?” addressed the consequences of the public accessibility of scholarship on the Internet.

This program is made possible by a generous donation from Carl and Betty Pforzheimer.

Winson W. Chu

Associate Professor, History, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

The Criminal Police and the Lodz Ghetto

Gabrielle Cornish

Assistant Professor, Musicology, University of Miami

Socialist Noise: Sound and Soviet Identity after Stalin

Polina Dimova

Assistant Professor, Languages, Literatures & Cultures, University of Denver

At the Crossroads of the Senses: Synaesthesia in Art and Science—A Digital Companion

Olena Fomenko

Associate Professor, Educational and Scientific Institute of Journalism, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Ukraine’s Image in Media Discourse: Cultural Icons and the Impact of the Russia-Ukraine War

Magdalena Grabowska

Associate Professor, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, The Polish Academy of Sciences

Reproductive Agency, Social Reproduction, and (Re-) Democratization Processes in Poland and Eastern Europe

James Graham

Assistant Professor, Architecture, California College of the Arts

Settler Constructivism: Architecture, Agriculture, and the “National Question” under the Soviet First Five Year Plan

Kristina Hook

Assistant Professor, School of Conflict Management and Peacebuilding, Kennesaw State University

Losing and Finding a Nation: Ukrainian Holodomor Narratives as Wartime Resistance and Reclamation

Klejd Kellici

Lecturer, Political Science, University of Tirana

Identity, Political Reburials, and Regimes of Memory in Albania

Emil Kerenji

Independent Scholar, Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, US Holocaust Memorial Museum

The Houses of Novi Sad, or the Book of Shame

Wiktor Marzec

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Institute for Social Studies, University of Warsaw

Post Imperial Field of Power in the Second Republic of Poland, Greater Romania and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes after the First World War

Ehlimana Memisevic

Assistant Professor, Department of Legal History and Comparative Law, University of Sarajevo

A Search for Belonging: Migrations of Bosnian Muslims in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries and Responses of the Islamic Scholars

Julia Sushytska

Visiting Assistant Professor, Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture, Occidental College

On Truth in the Age of Postmodern Propaganda: Views of Five Eastern European Philosophers

Snejana Ung

Affiliated Scholar, Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies & Research, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

The Inter-Peripheral Circulation of the Novel in Post-Imperial Southeastern Europe, 1918–1989



“Discussing my research project with the scholars of East Central and Southeastern Europe had an invaluable impact on understanding different perspectives, theoretical frameworks, and methodological approaches. Besides contributing to my research, the Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe broadened my intellectual networks, which will lead to valuable future collaborations.”

Ehlimana Memisevic G’23

Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe

Assistant Professor

University of Sarajevo

Selection Committees for 2022–2023 Fellowship and Grant Competitions

The American Council of Learned Societies is committed to supporting scholarship that has the potential to significantly advance fields in the humanities and interpretive social sciences. We are equally dedicated to ensuring that the scholars and research we support truly reflect the broad spectrum of perspectives represented in the global community of humanistic studies. Peer review is a vital part of ensuring these high standards in both quality and inclusive excellence. Each year, we recruit more than 600 reviewers with expertise in a wide variety of disciplines, representing institutions, learned societies, and independent research initiatives from around the world, to evaluate fellowship and grant applications and select awardees.

ACLS Fellowships

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Julia Q. Bryan-Wilson, Columbia University
Megan Bryson, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
James Doyle, Pennsylvania State University
Carolyn Eastman, Virginia Commonwealth University
Tarek El-Ariss, Dartmouth College
Victor Goldgel-Carballo, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Christopher A. Grobe, Amherst College
Jennifer Wyatt Kyker, University of Rochester
Brook Danielle Lillehaugen, Haverford College
Shannon Mariotti, Trinity University
Gregory C. Mitchell, Williams College
Melissa Y. Mueller, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Neeti Nair, University of Virginia
Laura S. Nasrallah, Yale University
Marguerite Nguyen, Wesleyan University
Falguni Sheth, Emory University
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Elizabeth W. Hutchinson, Barnard College
Drew Sawyer, Brooklyn Museum

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The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies Dissertation and Early Career Research Fellowships

Jacob P. Dalton, University of California, Berkeley
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The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies New Professorships, Translation Grants, and Buddhism Public Scholars

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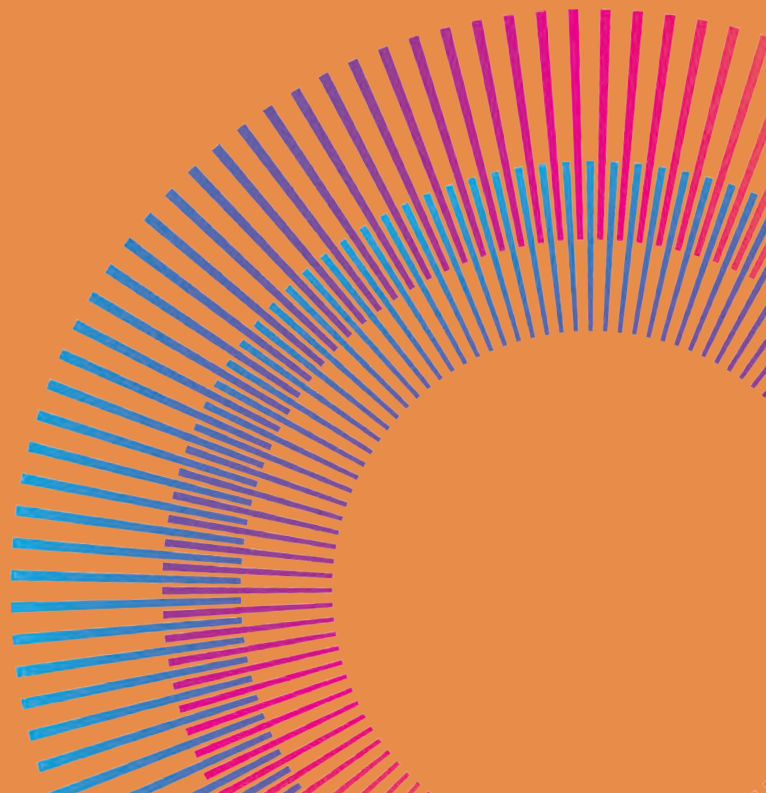
Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe

Galina Tihanov, Queen Mary University of London
Balázs Trencsényi, Central European University
Maria Sonevsky, Bard College



Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow Nicole Ivy F'15 participates in a discussion at the 2023 ACLS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

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Named for the year of our founding, the 1919 Society and its members celebrate ACLS's past achievements and future promise as the foremost proponent for academic humanities in the United States. Through planned gift commitments made during estate planning, supporters of ACLS can ensure that they will be leaving a legacy. The 1919 Society recognizes the following generous donors who have included ACLS in their wills or estate plans:

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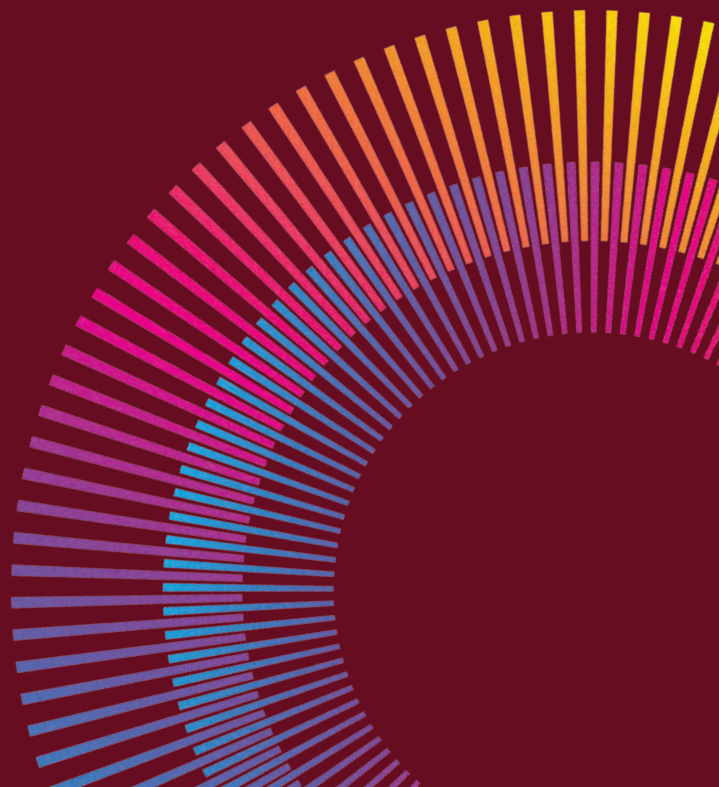
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Financial Statements



2023 By the Numbers

\$179,897,869 Endowment as of
December 31, 2023

\$22M+

Awarded Annually
across a Variety of
Humanistic Disciplines

13,000+

Scholars Supported
Since 1957

600+

Scholars Contribute to
the ACLS Peer Review
Process Each Year

300+

Fellows and Grantees for the
2021–22 Academic Year

Membership



44 Research
Consortium
Members

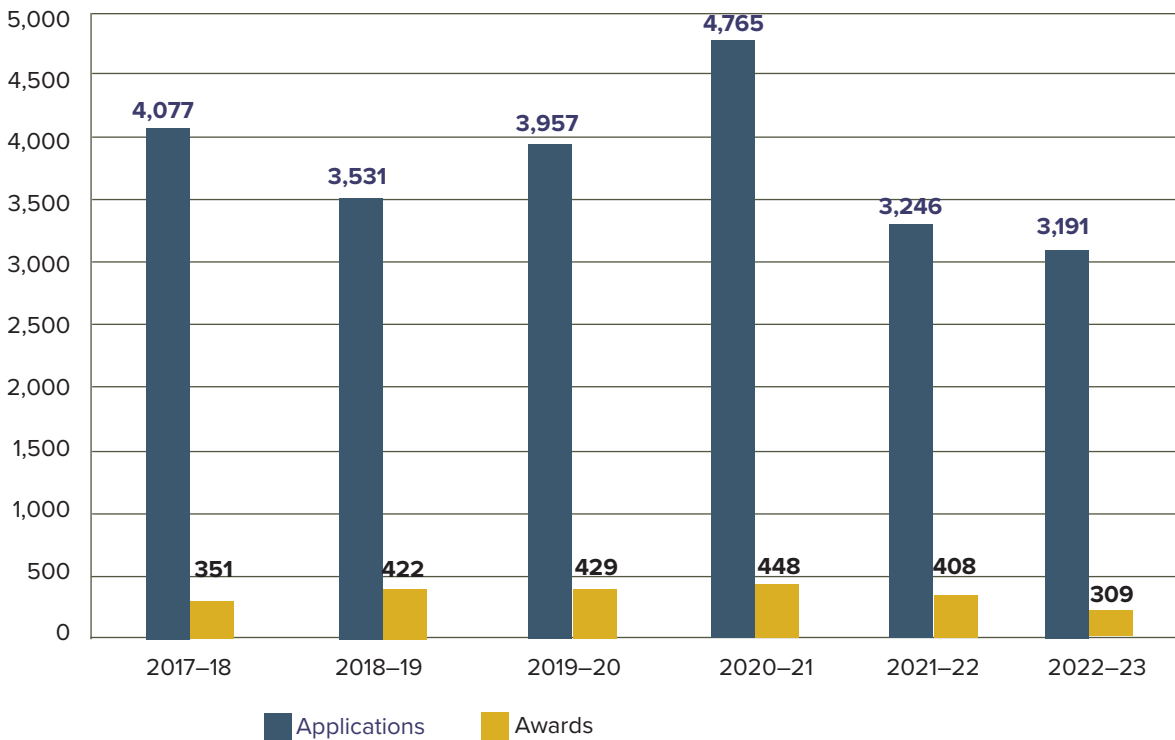


200+ Associate
Members

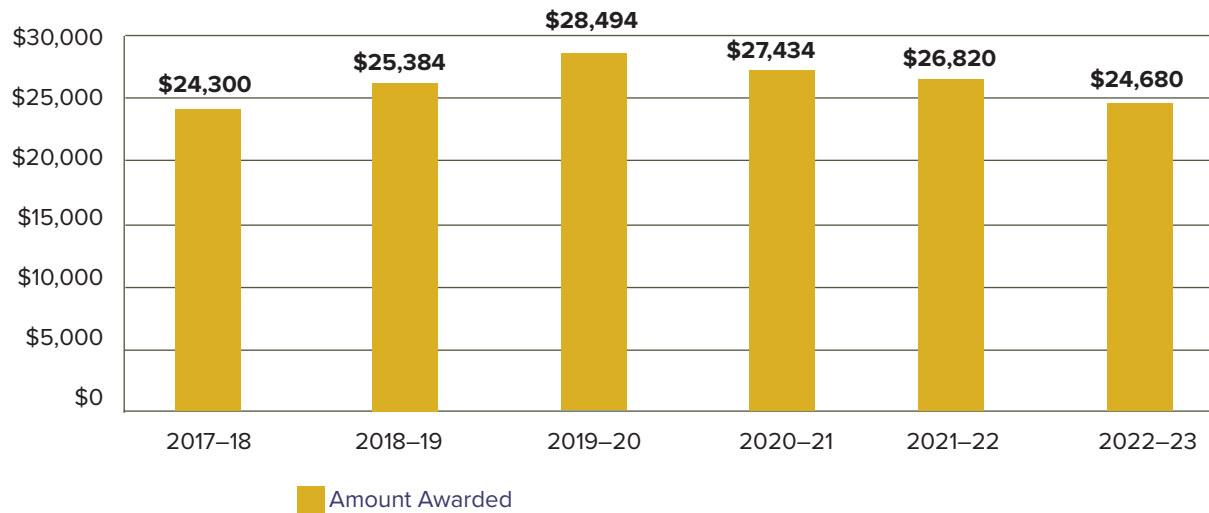


80
Learned
Societies

ACLS Fellowship Programs Applications and Awards*



ACLS Fellowship Programs Total Amount Awarded



* This data represents total dollars awarded during the specific competition year. Fellowship payments by fiscal year may differ based on the timing and term of individual awards.

A Message from Melani McAlister, ACLS Board Treasurer

To the ACLS community:

In support of various uses of funds, the American Council of Learned Societies relies upon a range of sources of funds to ensure that we can reliably plan and carry out our support of humanistic scholarship. Some degree of investment in our internal capacity enables us to take on activities that we believe to be urgent; this was the case with the Leading Edge Fellowship Program (for which we were able to raise external support from the Henry Luce and Mellon Foundations) and for the Emerging Voices Fellowship Program (which we funded internally). In this note, I report on how we are financially structured to conduct this work.

Sources of Funds:

The ACLS endowment (which stood at \$179,897,869 as of December 31, 2023) consists of roughly 29% that is permanently restricted to supporting fellowships, 7% that is permanently restricted to supporting administration of the organization, and the rest—about 64% of the endowment—that is subject to the designation of the Board. Grant support for programs have continued to hold steady over the past two decades, though new programs and activities have supplanted some others. In the 2023 fiscal year, ACLS provided scholars and institutions with over \$22 million in direct support.

Our 44 Research University Consortium members, our 200-plus Associate members, and 80 learned societies provide additional funding through their membership fees that support our fellowship and grants programs as well as our work with member societies.

ACLS also generated about \$300,000 in philanthropic contributions in Fiscal Year 2023. While our endowment is subject to market conditions, it has been positioned to mitigate against downside risk.

As of December 2023, the finances of ACLS have not been significantly affected by the fallout from the pandemic, but various grant-funded programs are expected to run their course in coming years. If we continue to demonstrate that we are a strong partner for conducting programs that benefit the evolution of the sector, we have every reason to believe that new programs will earn their place in our work and in the community's support even as some other programs are concluded.

Uses of Funds

The total operating expenditures of ACLS reached \$28,499,969 in FY 2023; roughly 78% was disbursed to our fellows and grantees. Increasingly, our work also includes community-convening efforts to explore and foster new directions for institutions or to build cohorts of various kinds.

Conclusion:

We are grateful for the extraordinary support of the following foundations: the Arcadia Trust, the Mellon Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Getty Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global, as well as significant support from individual donors.

We continue to devote considerable time and resources to carrying out and communicating work that provides our various constituencies with a clear sense of the value of working with ACLS.

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