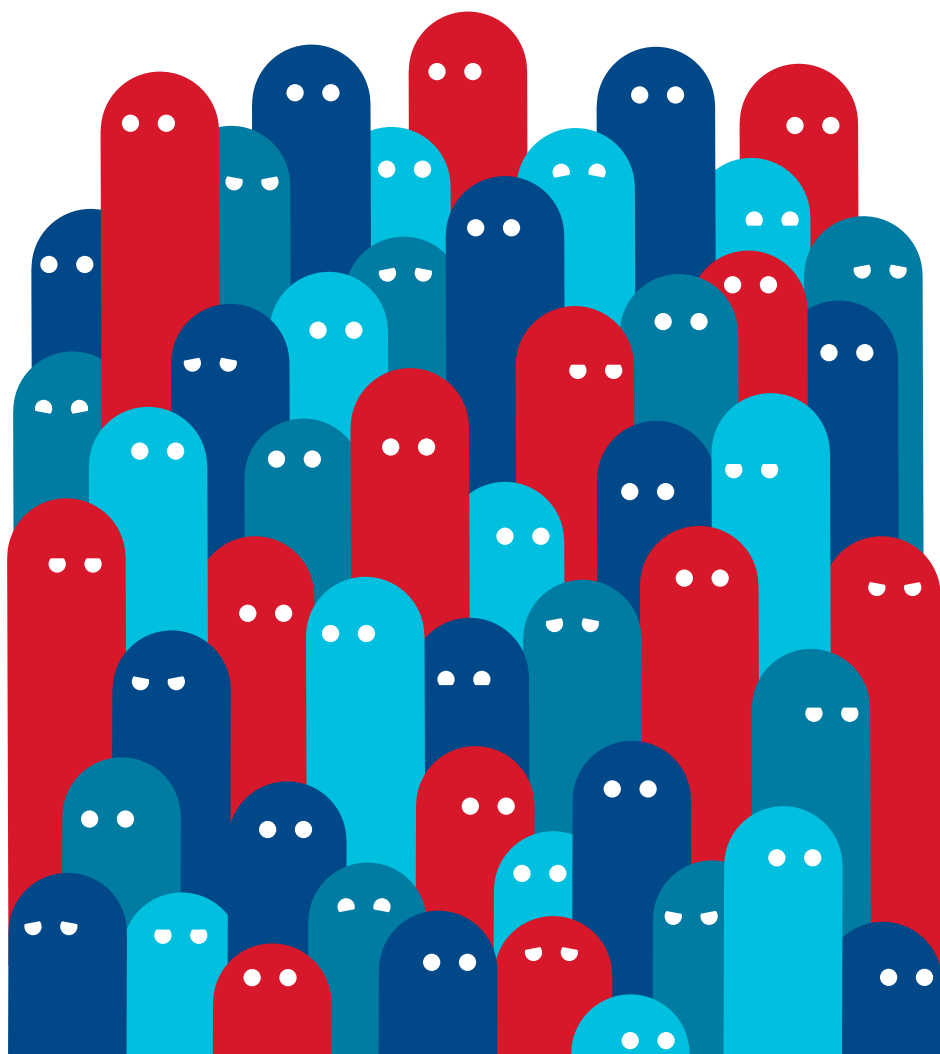


DEMOCRACY

OF THE PEOPLE? BY THE PEOPLE? FOR THE PEOPLE?



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The (re)emergence of nationalism, authoritarianism, and fundamentalism has given rise to a global crisis of democracy. While the alarming erosion of democratic institutions is arguably tied to the rise of entrenched informational silos in a media saturated environment, coming to grips with the crisis of democracy and reclaiming a democratic future will require a sense of history and a collective reinvestment in civic and cultural institutions, community conversations, education, dialectical inquiry, public ethics and political imagination. The 2019 Buffalo Humanities Festival will take on "democracy" with three days of conversations involving local activists and community organizers, nationally and internationally renowned authors, as well as scholars and artists from contributing institutions including Humanities New York, Canisius College, Niagara University, SUNY Buffalo State, and the University at Buffalo.

Humanities New York will kick off the Festival at Asbury Hall in Babeville on Thursday, Sept. 19, with a public conversation on "Democracy and the Legacy of Racism" featuring Ibram X. Kendi, author of *How to Be an Antiracist*, and Chenjerai Kumanyika co-creator and host of the thought-provoking history podcast *Uncivil*. The Festival continues at Asbury Hall on Friday evening with a keynote presentation by this year's spotlight speaker, Matt Taibbi, author of *New York Times* best-selling books *The Great Derangement*, *Griftopia*, *The Divide*, *Insane Clown President*, and *I Can't Breathe*. Taibbi co-founded the Buffalo-based alternative biweekly newspaper *The Beast* in 2002 before becoming a columnist for the *New York Press*. He has been covering politics for *Rolling Stone* since 2004. For the past 15 years, Taibbi's unique journalistic voice has provided insights into the world of politics, the growing wealth gap, racial injustice, and the role of mass media in the 21st century, among other timely issues.

The Festival will conclude on Saturday with a full day of talks, conversations, panels, and performances that examine democracy from a multiplicity of perspectives, including a 10:30am discussion panel in which Taibbi joins several local journalists to discuss the future of information and democracy. After, enjoy the delicious lunch provided by West Side Bazaar and then stay for the closing reception with The Performance Truck, live music and beer hour, courtesy of Community Beer Works. ¡Salud!



David Castillo

David Castillo, Director
University at Buffalo, Humanities Institute

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PEOPLE

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 With invaluable assistance from:
Asbury Hall at Babeville, Events Team
SUNY Buffalo State Events Management, with special thanks to Bernadette Gilliam
UB Special Events team
Andrew Borchik, Manager, Ciminelli Recital Hall, SUNY Buffalo State
 Graphic design by **Julian Montague**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 6:30PM

Humanities New York presents,

DEMOCRACY AND THE LEGACY OF RACISM: IBRAM X. KENDI AND CHENJERAI KUMANYIKA IN CONVERSATION

Asbury Hall at Babeville
341 Delaware Avenue

FREE (register at www.buffalohumanities.org)

How has the development of American democracy accepted and even relied on the reality of American racism? Is it possible for American democracy to move beyond what feels like insurmountable racial division and acrimony?



Ibram X. Kendi is one of America's foremost historians and leading antiracist voices. He is a *New York Times* bestselling author and the Founding Director of The Antiracist Research & Policy Center at American University in Washington, DC, where he is professor of history and international relations. He is the author of *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, which won the National Book Award for Nonfiction, and the recently published *How to Be an Antiracist*.



Chenjerai Kumanyika is a researcher, journalist, and artist who works as an assistant professor in Rutgers University's Department of Journalism and Media Studies. His research and teaching focus on the intersections of social justice and emerging media in the cultural and creative industries. Kumanyika is the Co-Executive Producer and Co-Host of Gimlet Media's *Uncivil*, a podcast on the Civil War.

Humanities New York (formerly the New York State Council for the Humanities) provides leadership and support across the state's intellectual and cultural sectors through grants, programs, networking, and advocacy in order to encourage critical thinking and cultural understanding in the public arena.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 8:00PM (7:00PM VIP RECEPTION)

MATT TAIBBI



on Democracy in the Age of Post-truth

Asbury Hall at Babeville
341 Delaware Avenue

VIP Festival Passes include wine & hors d'oeuvres reception with the author in the Ninth Ward at Babeville at 7:00pm

Introductions by:

- **David Castillo**, Director, University at Buffalo Humanities Institute
- **Robin Schulze**, Dean, University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences
- **Geoff Kelly**, *Investigative Post* reporter, Co-founder and Editor *The Public*

New York Times Best-Selling Author, Matt Taibbi offers riveting, and often scathing insights about our media-saturated political landscape, presenting a portrait of kleptocracy and corruption in late-stage American democracy. "In a society governed passively by free markets and free elections," he laments, "organized greed always defeats disorganized democracy." The author of multiple *New York Times* Best Sellers, Taibbi's forthcoming book *Hate Inc: Why Today's Media Makes Us Despise One Another* builds on a noteworthy career characterized by bold and relentless investigative reporting. Often described as "our country's most fearless journalist," Taibbi is a regular political commentator known for speaking truth to power and for his searing accounts of political and financial corruption in the highest offices in the land.

A Q+A session with Geoff Kelly will follow the talk.

The evening will close with a book signing session with Matt Taibbi.

Talking Leaves Books will be on-site to sell copies of Taibbi's books.

OPENING / 10:30AM – 11:15AM

DON'T STOP THE PRESSES! A PANEL DISCUSSION ON HOW THE RISE OF FAKE NEWS AND THE DECLINE IN LOCAL NEWS IS THREATENING OUR DEMOCRACY AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO STOP IT.

Ciminelli Recital Hall (Rockwell 312) | Panel Discussion

Elizabeth Licata, Associate Publisher and Editor-in-Chief *Buffalo Spree Magazine*
[Moderator]

Maki Becker, Chief of the Breaking News and Criminal Justice Desk of *The Buffalo News*

Geoff Kelly, Reporter at *Investigative Post*, Co-founder and former Editor of *The Public*, and former Editor of *Artvoice*

Charlie Specht, Chief Investigator for the 7 Eyewitness News I-Team

Matt Taibbi, Contributing editor at *Rolling Stone*, author of the forthcoming *Hate Inc.: Why Today's Media Makes us Despise One Another*

The local news business model is broken. Media outlets can't afford to pay reporters to cover city councils, school boards, higher education and other critical local organizations. Fake news proliferates, leaving us unsure what to believe or even whom to trust. What role can citizens play to make sure local reporting continues to exist? Does a reduced commitment to local news threaten our democracy?

[A note from the organizers: Our thanks to **Jody Kleinberg Biehl**, Director, Journalism Certificate Program, University at Buffalo, for her work in organizing this panel. Originally slated to moderate the panel, Jody is unable to be present and we thank Elizabeth Licata for assuming the role of moderator.]

SESSION 1 / 11:30AM – 12:30PM

NEW FORMS OF DEMOCRACY, POWER, AND REPRESENTATION

Rockwell 301 | Panel Discussion

Andrea Ó Súilleabháin, Executive Director, Partnership for the Public Good
[Moderator]

Kristin Ksiazek, Research and Collaboration Specialist, Cornell ILR Buffalo CoLab & Partnership for the Public Good

Tori Kuper, Founder and Cooperative Developer, Cooperation Buffalo

India Walton, Executive Director, FB Community Land Trust

This panel will explore new forms of power and representation that bring democracy closer to the people. From neighborhood assemblies in Catalonia to community congresses in Buffalo, we'll look at new and renewed models of decision-making in politics and public policy, in neighborhoods and community planning, and in the workplace. These examples of direct democracy are designed to correct the deficits of representation that many people experience in our current systems. We'll also learn about and reflect on the democratic governance created by the Indigenous people of Western New York, who practiced "new forms of democracy" centuries ago.

#TIMESUP HOLLYWOOD! OR IS IT?

Rockwell 302 | Ruth Goldman, Associate Professor, Communication, SUNY Buffalo State and **Meg Knowles**, Associate Professor, Communication, SUNY Buffalo State

Film industry hiring and storytelling practices remain stubbornly inequitable and undemocratic. Despite the success of recent films like *Black Panther*, *Moonlight*, and *Selma* and initiatives designed to promote filmmakers from marginalized communities, both casting and staffing of feature films are entrenched in arcane traditions. Why aren't things changing? Part presentation, part interactive casting and staffing workshop, we will work together during this session to explore the current state of the mainstream film industry and imagine what an equitable and inclusive future film industry might look like.

THE MORAL ECONOMY OF NEOLIBERALISM

Rockwell 305 | Chad Lavin, Associate Professor of English and Research Associate Professor of Political Science, UB College of Arts & Sciences

This talk examines critiques of capitalism from moral philosophers like Peter Singer and Kwame Appiah, in order to demonstrate how ethical values like empathy, tolerance, and responsibility are inadequate to deal with global problems like poverty and climate change. The talk argues that neoliberalism is an economic system designed to absorb ethical critique, in that these critiques ask individuals to confront political problems via

DEMOCRACY

market solutions like boycotts and philanthropy. The talk points to the need for a political critique of neoliberalism—one that invokes collective and institutional action, rather than personal and voluntary choice.

DANCING DEMOCRACY: EMPATHY REHEARSALS IN CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE

Rockwell 306 | Ariel Nereson, Assistant Professor of Dance, Department of Theatre & Dance, UB College of Arts & Sciences

In our contemporary moment, with its resurgence of populism and stark ideological oppositions within diverse democratic formations, many commentators, including activists, scientists, politicians, educators, and community members and organizers are turning to the language of empathy to describe what is missing in our current discourse. This talk looks to artists, particularly the renowned choreographer Bill T. Jones, for practices of empathy-building that align with current cognitive scientific understandings of how humans relate to others whom they perceive as different from themselves. Exploring dance works as “empathy rehearsals” may offer ways to revitalize democratic principles of equality and differentiated solidarity as they come increasingly under threat.

SESSION 2 / 1:15PM – 2:15PM

THE GENDER OF DEMOCRACY

Rockwell 301 | Panel Discussion

Susan Spierre Clark, Director for the Sustainable Urban Environments Initiative, UB College of Arts and Sciences [moderator]

Bronwyn Keenan, Director for the Arts Collaboratory, UB College of Arts and Science [moderator]

Naila Ansari, Faculty Fellow in Theatre, SUNY Buffalo State and MFA Candidate in Dance (2020), UB College of Arts and Science

Pam Glick, Local Artist and Educator

Ramla Karim Qureshi, Founder and CEO, Women Engineers Pakistan

Jasmina Tacheva, University at Buffalo PhD candidate in the School of Management and founder of Eunalytics

Gender equality is essential for sustainability because no society can develop economically, politically, or socially when half of its population is marginalized. In a similar vein, gender equality is a crucial feature of democratic

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societies, because women's political empowerment is crucial to ensuring decisions are credible and legitimate. This panel features local artists, scholars, educators, and leaders who are passionate about equal opportunities for women. Each speaker will discuss their unique perspectives and work related to this important issue, followed by a facilitated discussion.

“THE PEOPLE” INCLUDES IMMIGRANTS, BUT FOR HOW LONG?

Rockwell 302 | Nicole Hallett, Associate Professor of Law and Director, Community Justice Clinic, UB School of Law

We are always told that the United States is a nation of immigrants. Yet that fundamental self-conception is under attack from the current Administration, which has taken a series of actions designed to decrease the political power of immigrants in our democracy. These actions include adding a citizenship question to the U.S. Census, which would have had the effect of decreasing participation by non-citizens; changing apportionment of Congressional and legislative seats to exclude the non-citizen population, making it harder for immigrants to obtain lawful permanent residence and citizenship; and targeting immigrants who exercise their First Amendment rights.

DEMOCRACY IN ANCIENT ATHENS AND ROME

Rockwell 305 | Kathryn Williams, Associate Professor and Chair of the Classics Department and Co-Founder and Co-Director of ICMS, Canisius College

DEMOCRACY: from the Greek *demos* (“people”) and *kratos* (“power”). Yet how did democracy manifest itself in fifth- and fourth-century Athens? Who were “the people”? How did they exercise power? What role did the courts play? What role ostracism? Why did they favor sortition for selecting most officials? Why did many Athenians regard democracy with such disapproval—a sentiment that continued into the 19th century? What elements of Greek democracy existed in Rome’s republic? How “democratic” was the republic? This lecture explores these and other such questions in pursuit of a more profound understanding of the history and nature of democracy.

DEMOCRACY

DOOMED FOR CIVIC DEATH IN TURKEY

Rockwell 306 | Mustafa Gökçek, Associate Professor, Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Master's Program and Founding Member of the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies program, Niagara University

Turkey under Erdogan's rule has turned from a democratic to an authoritarian model. Especially since the pseudo coup of July 2016, tens of thousands from all walks of life have faced trumped up charges of terrorism and were deprived of their most basic human rights. This talk will present the various categories of government oppression in Turkey and the ordinary individuals who have faced civic death as a result.

SESSION 3 / 2:30PM – 3:30PM

THEATRE/ER: RIOTS, CENSORSHIP, RACISM, AND THE DEMOCRATIC IMPULSE

Rockwell 301 | Anthony Chase, Assistant Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, SUNY Buffalo State; Host of WBFO/WNED's *Theater Talk*; Senior Contributing Theater Writer at *The Buffalo News*

Because it is live and spontaneous, live theater is well positioned for outlaw behavior and the testing of conventional wisdom. The American theater has been a locus of boundary pushing, from the arrest of the original New York cast of Bernard Shaw's "Mrs. Warren's Profession" to the two arrests of Mae West; from the 1821 closing of the African Grove production of Shakespeare's "Richard III" to Jackie Sibblies Drury's 2019 Pulitzer Prize winning play, "Fairview," the American theater has reflected the challenges to and competition for inclusion in American democracy.

WALT WHITMAN, POET OF DEMOCRACY

Rockwell 302 | Jennifer Desiderio, Associate Professor of English, Canisius College

Americans celebrated the 200th anniversary of Walt Whitman's birth this past summer. In commemoration of the event, the Brooklyn Public Library held standing-room only readings of patrons' favorite Whitman poems, the Library of Congress featured exhibits showcasing Whitman's time in Washington D.C., and Bells Brewery launched the Leaves of Grass

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series of beers with poems printed on labels. 200 years after his birth, Whitman remains a beloved American poet who has earned the moniker the "poet of democracy" by readers and scholars alike. This talk will explain why Whitman is remembered in this way, and explore reasons why he remains such an integral part of our national imaginations.

THE RACIAL ALLEGORIES OF FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S PRAIRIE STYLE ARCHITECTURE

Rockwell 305 | Charles L. Davis, II, Assistant Professor of Architecture, UB School of Architecture & Planning

This presentation examines the racial politics of space that were manifest by Frank Lloyd Wright's vision of a Prairie Style architecture. While the American prairie was spatially defined by the wide-open spaces that inspired the horizontal massing and flowing interior spaces of this style, it was also the site of a dramatic social struggle between white settlers and non-white natives competing for land. Davis argues that Wright's separation of the symbolically 'white' served spaces and the 'non-white' servant spaces of the home constitutes a spatial allegory of the racial competitions that defined life in the Midwest. This reading invites a reassessment of the ways Wright's style represents the central values of American democracy.

SCHEDULE

Registration – Rockwell Hall Lobby (10:00–4:00)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21 / 2019

| SUNY Buffalo State | Ciminelli Recital Hall | Rockwell Hall 301 | Rockwell Hall 302 | Rockwell Hall 305 | Rockwell Hall 306 |
|---------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM | Don't Stop the Presses! A panel discussion on how the rise of fake news and the decline in local news is threatening our democracy and what we can do to stop it. (Ciminelli Recital Hall) Moderator: Elizabeth Licata Panelists: Maki Becker, Geoff Kelly, Charlie Specht, and Matt Taibbi | | | | |
| 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM | | New Forms of Democracy, Power, and Representation Moderator: Andrea Ó Súilleabháin. Panelists: Kristin Ksiazek, Tori Kuper, and India Walton | #TimesUp Hollywood! Or is it? Ruth Goldman and Meg Knowles | The Moral Economy of Neoliberalism Chad Lavin | Dancing Democracy: Empathy Rehearsals in Contemporary Performance Ariel Nereson |
| | LUNCH (provided by West Side Bazaar with festival passes purchased by Sunday, September 15, 11:59pm) | | | | |
| 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM | | The Gender of Democracy Moderators: Susan Spierre Clark and Bronwyn Keenan. Panelists: Naila Ansari, Pam Glick, Ramla Karim Qureshi, and Jasmina Tacheva | 'The People' Includes Immigrants, But For How Long? Nicole Hallett | Democracy in Ancient Athens and Rome Kathryn Williams | Doomed for Civic Death in Turkey Mustafa Gökçek |
| | BREAK | | | | |
| 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM | | Theatre/er: Riots, Censorship, Racism, and the Democratic Impulse Anthony Chase | Walt Whitman, Poet of Democracy Jennifer Desiderio | The Racial Allegories of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style Architecture Charles L. Davis, II | |
| 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM | CLOSING RECEPTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE TRUCK, MUSIC, AND BEER BY COMMUNITY BEER WORKS | | | | |

SPEAKERS & PERFORMERS

Naila Ansari is a graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts program. Naila has performed works for the legendary Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Robert Battle, Kyle Abraham, Camille Brown, and Darrell Grand Moultrie. Her research focuses on building community through the arts and anti-racist practices. [Session 2 | RM 301]

Maki Becker is the chief of the Breaking News and Criminal Justice Desk of *The Buffalo News*. She has worked at *The News* since 2005, covering crime, immigration and breaking news. Before that, she worked as a staff reporter at the *New York Daily News* and the *Charlotte Observer*. She was also a special correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*, covering South Central Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. Her first stint in journalism was as an unpaid fact-checker at the *LA Weekly*. She is the co-author of *The Bike Path Killer*, a true crime book about a serial rapist and murderer. [Opening | RM 312]

Anthony Chase is assistant dean of the School of Arts and Humanities at Buffalo State. He holds a PhD in English from the University at Buffalo, and a BA in theater and English from Trinity College Hartford, where he studied 17th century poetry, film theory, semiotics, and psychoanalytic literary theory with Kaja Silverman. Chase is the host of the weekly "Theater Talk" segment on WBFO radio, where, in 2017, a studio was named in celebration of his 25th year. He is currently senior theater critic for *The Buffalo News* and host of the website, theatertalkbuffalo.com. [Session 3 | RM 301]

Susan Spierre Clark is working to lead significant growth and prominence for sustainability scholarship, education and practice across disciplines within the College of Arts and Sciences at UB. Previously, she worked as a research scientist for UB's interdisciplinary RENEW institute. Dr. Clark received her PhD from the School of Sustainability from Arizona State University in 2013. She also holds an MS in Earth System Science from the University of New Hampshire and a BS in Atmospheric Science from the University at Albany. [Session 2 | RM 301]

Charles L. Davis, II is an assistant professor of architectural history and criticism at the University at Buffalo. He received his PhD in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania and has an MArch from the University at Buffalo. His academic research examines the integrations of race and style theory in modern architectural debates from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. His current book manuscript, *Building Character: The Racial Politics of Modern Architectural Style* is forthcoming in the *Culture, Politics and the Built Environment* series of the University of Pittsburgh Press. This intellectual history traces the historical integrations of race and style theory in paradigms of 'architectural organicism,' or movements that modeled design on the generative principles of nature. [Session 3 | RM 305]

Jennifer Desiderio teaches and writes on early American literature at Canisius College. She lives in Amherst with her three daughters and husband (and two cats). [Session 3 | RM 302]

Pam Glick was formally trained at the Rhode Island School of Design where she received a BA in painting. Glick was widely exhibited during the 1980s and 1990s, most notably in New York City with solo shows at Ramnerine Gallery (Long Island City), White Columns and Wolff Gallery as well as a solo show at Michael Kohn

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Gallery in Los Angeles. Glick's work has also been included in important group shows alongside works by artists such as Jean Michele Basquiat, George Condo and Christopher Wool and in 2016 Glick had a solo exhibition at White Columns, NY. Glick's work is a part of many collections, both public and private, including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Burchfield Penney Art Center, M&T Bank, Eli Broad Foundation and Citi Bank. [Session 2 | RM 301]

Mustafa Gökçek received his BA and MA degrees in International Relations at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. He then pursued his PhD in history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research interests include Russian-Ottoman intellectual relations in early 20th century and contemporary social movements in Muslim societies. He serves as the Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies master's program and founding member of the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies program at Niagara University. [Session 2 | RM 306]

Ruth Goldman has a passion for filmmaking, film programming, community activism, and education and combines all four whenever possible. Ruth has a book chapter on Squeaky Wheel and media activism coming out soon and is working on a multimedia project on LGBTQ lives in the U.S. Ruth teaches Media Production, Film Studies, and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies at Buffalo State. [Session 1 | RM 302]

Nicole Hallett directs the Community Justice Clinic at the University at Buffalo School of Law, which represents low-income residents of Buffalo on issues relating to immigration, workers' rights, civil rights, and housing. She also directs the US-Mexico Border Clinic, which takes students to the border to represent asylum-seekers. [Session 2 | RM 302]

Bronwyn Keenan has more than 25 years experience in the arts. Earlier this year, she joined the University at Buffalo after serving as head of special events for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. She previously was director of special events at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and also managed a namesake gallery for emerging artists from 1995-2006. [Session 2 | RM 301]

Geoff Kelly joined *Investigative Post* in 2019 after four years as editor and publisher of *The Public*, a weekly newspaper he co-founded, and 10 years as editor of *Artvoice*, another Western New York weekly. Kelly was also editor of *Pulp*, an alternative newsweekly in Pittsburgh, for two years. His reportage focuses on regional politics and government, with an emphasis on Buffalo's City Hall, as well as environmental issues. [Opening | RM 312]

Meg Knowles is an award-winning documentary and experimental video artist of more than 40 short films, which have screened at festivals, galleries and museums including the Museum of Modern Art and PBS. Meg just completed her first feature documentary, "Runaway." [Session 1 | Room 302]

Kristin Ksiazek is the Collaboration and Research Specialist for the Buffalo Commons project of Cornell ILR Buffalo Co-Lab and PPG. A native western New Yorker, she is Seneca, hawk clan, and Polish. Kristin has worked on Indigenous education initiatives in New Mexico, developing and supporting community-designed and led schools for Native students. [Session 1 | RM 301]

SPEAKERS & PERFORMERS

Tori Kuper is a Cooperative Developer and Steering Committee member at Co-operation Buffalo and is also the Operations Coordinator for the New Economy Coalition. She is the founder of BreadHive Worker Cooperative; former member, President, and Treasurer of Nickel City Housing Cooperative; and founder of The Buffalo Barn Raisers. [Session 1 | RM 301]

Chad Lavin has a PhD in Political Science and has published two books of political theory, *The Politics of Responsibility* (2008) and *Eating Anxiety: The Perils of Food Politics* (2013). In 2015, he changed fields and became an English professor. [Session 1 | RM 305]

Elizabeth Licata has been a journalist for more than 30 years. Since becoming editor of *Buffalo Spree* in 1999, Licata has overseen a complete makeover of the magazine, which is now an award-winning city/regional monthly. Licata's writing has been published in the *Village Voice*, *The Buffalo News*, *Art in America*, *Art News*, and many other publications. She has been a garden writer for 20 years, and wrote the book *Garden Walk Buffalo*, as well as published articles in *Fine Gardening* and *Horticulture* magazines. She has blogged for the award-winning gardenrant.com since 2006. Licata has received awards from Young Audiences of WNY, Preservation Buffalo Niagara, the Twentieth Century Club, and other organizations. Her most recent book is *100 Things to Do in Buffalo Before You Die*. [Opening | RM 312]

Ariel Nereson directs the MFA in Dance and is Associate Director of Graduate Studies for the University at Buffalo's Department of Theatre & Dance. Her current book project, *Democracy Moving: Bill T. Jones, Contemporary Performance, and the Racial Past*, demonstrates how formations of aesthetics and genre and questions of how and why we remember the past interanimate one another in movement-based practices. At UB, Ariel teaches courses across the undergraduate and graduate curricula centered on performance, history, embodiment, and race. Ariel is also a practicing choreographer and dramaturg. [Session 1 | RM 306]

Andrea Ó Súilleabháin is Executive Director at Partnership for the Public Good, leading PPG's annual democratic Community Agenda process and broader research and advocacy on behalf of 295 community partners. Andrea is a public interest lawyer who previously worked internationally on United Nations peacebuilding and gender policy, death penalty abolition, and refugee cases. [Session 1 | RM 301]

The Performance Truck | Ron Ehmke and Paula Watkins [Closing | outside, front of Rockwell Hall]

- **Ron Ehmke** is a writer, performer, media artist, curator, and educator who has made Western New York his home since 1982. Regardless of the medium he is working in at any given time, his work tends to be created in collaboration with other artists from a variety of fields (painting, film, video, dance, etc.), its subject matter is generally drawn from lived experience, and its look is often deliberately unpolished.
- **Paula Watkins** is a Buffalo-based performer. She attended the University at Buffalo's Media Study program in the mid-1990s. During the same period she was the Technical Coordinator at Squeaky Wheel/Buffalo Media Resources and then worked in local broadcast television. Around the turn of the new century she moved to Providence, Rhode Island, and joined the Pork Chop Lounge comedy

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troupe at AS220, playing the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with the group in 2001 as well as performing solo standup sets. From Rhode Island she moved to Florida for several years, then returned to Buffalo in 2014, where she began collaborating with old friend Ron Ehmke on such elaborate public events as "If You Love Buffalo So Much, Why Don't You Marry It?," a mass wedding to the city of her birth.

Ramla Karim Qureshi—a Fulbright Scholar—initiated Women Engineers Pakistan (WEP): a grass-roots organization catalyzing participation and enabling retention of women in STEM fields, now transformed into a nationwide movement, buttressed by the overwhelming support of women all over the globe. Mirroring Ramla's passion, WEP now works at leveling the playing field for women in STEM, helping recruit more diverse talent, and advocating for better, safer workplaces within Pakistan. When not advocating for gender equality, she is a structural and earthquake engineer, and a PhD researcher for structural fire safety and resilience. [Session 2 | RM 301]

Charlie Specht is the Chief Investigator for the 7 Eyewitness News I-Team. He started his career as a reporter for *The Buffalo News* and since moving to television, he has earned two regional Edward R. Murrow Awards and two first place AP awards for Investigative Reporting and Public Service. His stories about the Buffalo Catholic Diocese have led to state and federal investigations and calls for Buffalo's bishop to resign. He is a graduate of St. Bonaventure University. [Opening | RM 312]

Jasmina Tacheva is a writer and doctoral candidate in the UB School of Management focused on promoting the use of data science as an agent for social good through the Eanalytics initiative—a platform seeking to bridge social science and the humanities. Eanalytics applies advanced data analytics techniques such as social network analysis, text mining, and machine learning to publicly available social media data in order to study systematic social problems such as poverty, homelessness, discrimination, and inequality. [Session 2 | RM 301]

Matt Taibbi | Contributing editor at *Rolling Stone* and author of the forthcoming *Hate Inc.: Why Today's Media Makes us Despise One Another* (see page 5 of this program for additional details). [Opening | RM 312]

India Walton is a fierce advocate for labor and community, working diligently with the Community First Alliance, Fruit Belt Advisory Council, and a broad coalition of partners in Buffalo's historic Fruit Belt neighborhood. She is the first Executive Director of the FB [Fruit Belt] Community Land Trust and formerly served as Community Organizer at Open Buffalo. [Session 1 | RM 301]

Kathryn Williams, Associate Professor and Chair of the Classics Department and Co-Founder and Co-Director of ICMS at Canisius College, works on Roman historiography, primarily the writings of Tacitus and Sallust, and on Roman diplomacy. She recently contributed a chapter to *Historiography, Culture and Religion in Classical Antiquity: Papers in Honor of Carin M.C. Green* (2018) on envoys in *Sallust's Bellum Catilinae*. [Session 2 | RM 305]

...AND MORE

Saturday Lunch by West Side Bazaar

LUNCH 12:30PM - 1:15PM

Full festival or day passes purchased by 11:59PM, Sunday, September 15, include a boxed lunch from the West Side Bazaar. Pre-selected lunches will be available for pick-up on the third floor of Rockwell Hall. A limited number of boxed lunches will be available for purchase on-site.



Closing Reception with the The Performance Truck, live music and Beer by Community Beer Works | RECEPTION 3:30PM - 4:30PM



Stay for a ****free beer**** (for attendees over 21), live music, and **“DEMOCRACY ON WHEELS, OR WE’RE AN AMERICAN VAN”** by The Performance Truck.

The Performance Truck | Ron Ehmke and Paula Watkins present a brand-new ongoing experiment in art & commerce. Just like a food truck—but serving up tasty, one-of-a-kind live performances instead of food. Catering and takeout also available!



The Performance Truck
BITE-SIZED ART EXPERIENCES



TICKETS

PRICING (Adult/Student)

THURSDAY | Humanities New York presents “Democracy and the Legacy of Racism: Ibram X. Kendi and Chenjerai Kumanyika in Conversation”

FREE – registration required

FESTIVAL PASSES FOR FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Purchase a Festival Pass to attend Friday and Saturday of the festival (best value). VIP passes include the Friday, 7pm pre-talk reception with Matt Taibbi in the Ninth Ward at Babeville.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Festival Pass | \$30 / \$20 |
| VIP Festival Pass (includes Ninth Ward VIP reception) | \$60 / \$40 |
| 2-pack VIP Festival Pass | \$100 / \$70 |

À LA CARTE OPTIONS

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Thursday Only Democracy and the Legacy of Racism | FREE |
| Friday Only Spotlight Speaker: Matt Taibbi | \$20 / \$15 |
| Saturday Only Full Festival Day | \$15 / \$10 |

Festival or day passes purchased by 11:59PM, Sunday, September 15, include a boxed lunch on Saturday from the West Side Bazaar.

Online tickets/registration:

<https://buffalohumanities.org/2019-democracy/tickets/>

or call (716) 645-2592

PARTNERS

The Buffalo Humanities Festival is organized by the UB Humanities Institute in partnership with Canisius College, Niagara University, and SUNY Buffalo State; with additional support from Humanities New York.



COMMUNITY PARTNER



2018 Buffalo Humanities Festival: Revolutions Spotlight Speaker Angie Thomas in front of a sell-out crowd.

SUPPORT THE BUFFALO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL

The Buffalo Humanities Festival graciously welcomes the financial support of our community through two channels:

- Individual Donations
- Corporate Sponsorships

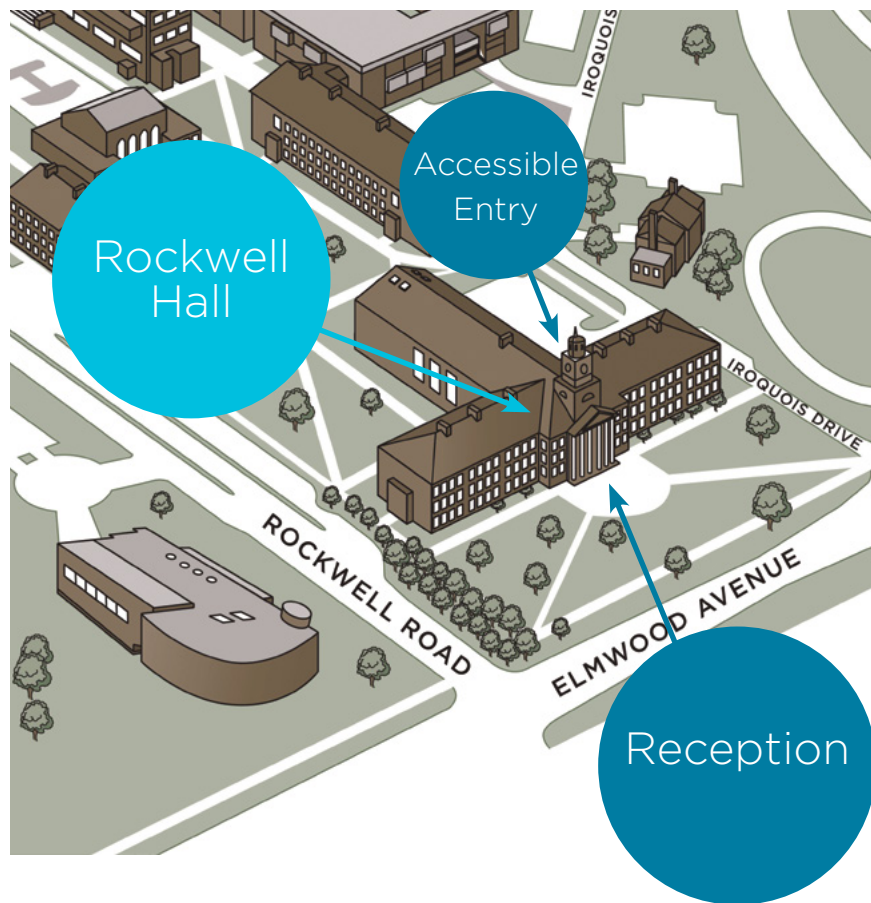
With your generous support, the Buffalo Humanities Festival will endeavor to expand our program offerings and reach—bringing together an ever more diverse audience to engage in meaningful dialogue and positioning the humanities as a central component of public discourse.

For more information on making a contribution, visit:

<https://buffalohumanities.org/support/>

MAP

SUNY BUFFALO STATE



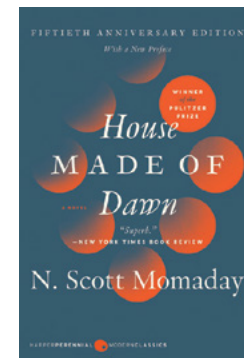
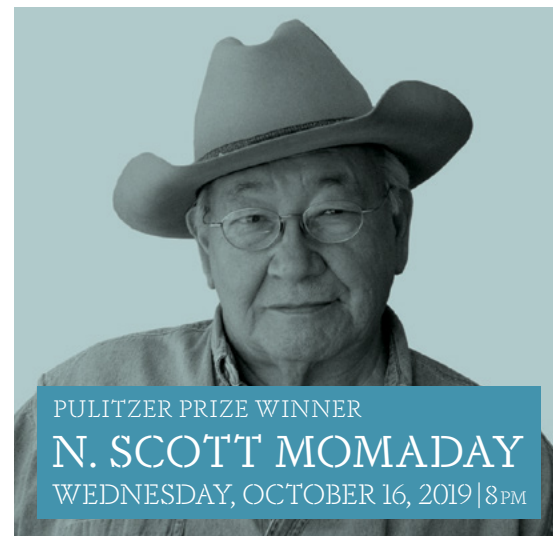
SATURDAY PARKING

Free parking available in the following parking lots, in proximity to Rockwell Hall: I30, I32, R2

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