

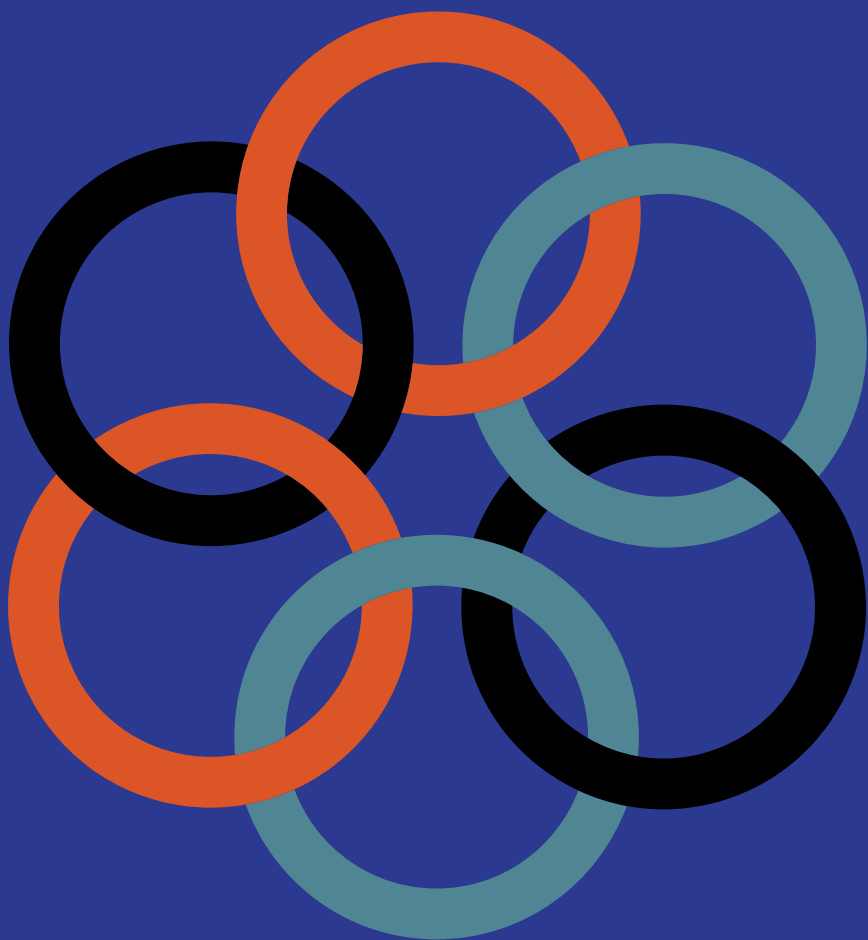
BUFFALO
HUMANITIES
FESTIVAL



COMMUNITIES: TRUST

SEPT. 22-24

FREE EVENTS | FOR REGISTRATION & DETAILS
VISIT [BUFFALOHUMANITIES.ORG](https://buffalohumanities.org)



2023

COMMUNITIES: TRUST

What is the Buffalo Humanities Festival? An annual celebration of ideas, art, and activities featuring talks and panel discussions by scholars, artists, and community activists designed to provoke thought, spur new encounters, and introduce you to new friends in our city. This year’s festival celebrates our interdependence on one another. Join us as we explore topics on comfort food, indigenous languages, ecological loneliness, Black Studies in the university, human-animal bonds, prisons, policing, and renewable energy while keeping an eye on local landscapes from Love Canal to the Waterfront. By sharing our stories, histories, and art we hope to uncover how our interrelatedness binds us—and challenges us—as collectives, publics, neighborhoods, and families.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Buffalo Humanities Festival’s mission is to foster dialogue, the sharing of ideas, and the enjoyment of the humanities among the public, scholars, and artists. We believe that the understanding of history, culture, literature, arts media, and the diverse traditions of the humanities are an essential part of life and that this greater understanding fosters civic engagement. Each year, the festival draws on our city’s many rich academic institutions and resources to engage the most pressing questions of our time.

This annual event was started in 2014 and is presented by the University at Buffalo’s Humanities Institute in cooperation with Canisius University, Daemen University, Niagara University, and SUNY Buffalo State University. The Buffalo Humanities Festival is made possible with support from Humanities New York. Additional support provided by the University at Buffalo Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development.

KEEP THE FESTIVAL FREE TO ATTEND

Donate now to support a fee-free festival. Suggested donation amounts are \$10, \$25, or \$50 – whatever you are comfortable contributing. Every bit helps! [Click here to donate](#) now or scan:



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PEOPLE

STEERING COMMITTEE

- Holly Bewlay, SUNY Buffalo State
- Dorothea Braemer, SUNY Buffalo State
- Anthony Chase, SUNY Buffalo State
- Michael Durfee, Niagara University
- Julie Gibert, Canisius University
- Ruth Goldman, SUNY Buffalo State
- Christina Milletti, University at Buffalo

- Sara Ogger, Humanities New York
- Elizabeth Otto, University at Buffalo
- Daniel Shanahan, Daemen University
- Robert Waterhouse, Daemen University
- Amy Wolf, Canisius University

STAFF

- Hannah Quaintance, University at Buffalo
- Maki Tanigaki, University at Buffalo

SPOTLIGHT SPEAKER

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22, 6:00PM

CANDY CHANG

“The Power of Public Art to Engage Communities”

📍 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Central Branch Auditorium, 1 Lafayette Square

Candy Chang is most known for her public installation Before I Die, which reimagines how the walls of our cities can help us grapple with mortality and meaning as a community today. Over 5,000 Before I Die walls have been created by communities in over 75 counties, and *The Atlantic* called it “one of the most creative community projects ever.” Trained in architecture, urban planning, and design, she started creating street art while running a record label and then used the same tactics to create participatory art addressing the state of our neighborhoods. After struggling with grief and depression, she used this medium to reflect on the state of our psyches. She has created a monument of over 50,000 anxieties and hopes, secular spaces for confessions, and electrified shrines on emotional barriers. Her ritual on loss was a 2021 New York Times Critic’s Pick. She has worked with organizations including Art Production Fund, the Rubin Museum of Art, Mural Arts Philadelphia, and the Annenberg Foundation. She often collaborates with James A. Reeves to merge participatory art with site-specific video installations.

She is a TED Senior Fellow, Urban Innovation Fellow, and World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, and was named one of the Top 100 Leaders in Public Interest Design. She is a recipient of grants from the National Endowment of the Arts, Hemera Foundation, and Rockefeller Foundation. Her work has been exhibited in the Venice Architecture Biennale, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. After years in New York, New Orleans, and Helsinki, she now lives in the Mojave Desert.

Welcome by **Elizabeth Otto** (Director, UB Humanities Institute) and **Sara Ogger** (Executive Director, Humanities New York). Introduction by **Anna Wager** (Curator of Exhibitions, UB Art Galleries). Post-talk conversation with **Christina Milletti**, (Executive Director, UB Humanities Institute).



“BEFORE I DIE” BUFFALO



📍 Buffalo-Niagara Hostel



📍 Five Points Neighborhood



📍 UB Center for the Arts



📍 Torn Space Theater

Fabrication of the “Before I Die” walls by UB School of Architecture and Planning Fabrication Workshop.

The languages represented* on the “Before I Die” walls are: Arabic**, Bangla, English, French, Kinyarwanda, Burmese***, Spanish, Swahili, and Tuscarora.

*The languages represented are only a small sampling of the many different languages spoken in Buffalo/Western New York. For more information on languages and

translation services in Buffalo, NY please visit the International Institute of Buffalo website.

**[Correction] قبل ان اموت اريد ان is the correct translation however the small diacritic hamza (ء) above the letter alif (I) was erroneously included.

***A Karen translation was not available in time for production of the walls.



| TIME | ROCKWELL 301 | ROCKWELL 302 | ROCKWELL 305 | ROCKWELL 306 | CIMINELLI RECITAL [312] | OUTSIDE |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| OPENING SESSION 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM | | | | | Welcome + Performance by Buffalo String Works Teaching Artists | CEPA Gallery Mobile Darkroom Tent cyanotype/sun-print making |
| -----BREAK----- | | | | | | |
| SESSION 1 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM | Love Canal Beyond the Parable: Art of Sound and Dirt Elizabeth Mazzolini | Communities of Care: Environments and Incarceration Kathleen Contrino Jesse Miller | Human-Animal Bonds and Building Communities Christina Corfield Chirantana Mathkari | The Public Trust and Everybody's Waterfront? Jay Burney Shauntel Douglas Ruth Goldman John Torrey Margaret Wooster | Spark Filmmakers Collaborative Micro-Short Films Screenings Rose Dies Friday (2018) Annette Daniels Taylor Savage Future (2022) Terry Jones The Sidewalk (2018) Edreys Wajed | Library on Wheels Buffalo & Erie County Public Library mobile truck Tiny Thai Thai food truck with vegetarian and gluten-free options available |
| -----BREAK----- | | | | | | |
| SESSION 2 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM | Black Studies, the University and the Future of Democratic Life Rinaldo Walcott | Breaking Bread: Bridging Divides With Culture, Conversation and Comfort Food Roy W. Bakos Camilo Trumper | Indigenous Language and Lived Experience Joe Baiz-Elm Montgomery Hill Karin Michelson | Community Challenges in Energy Transitions Holly Jean Buck Jaume Franquesa Nicholas Rajkovich | Mrs. Snow (2017) Annette Daniels Taylor Harlem Nights (2022) Kaitlyn Lowe Her Own Hero (2022) Lukia Costello & Tilke Hill [repeated loop] | Greene's Smokin BBQ BBQ food truck |
| -----BREAK----- | | | | | | |
| SESSION 3 2:45 PM – 4:00 PM | Ecological Loneliness and Community Science: A Work in Progress Talk Laura Marris | Reforming Police Through a Pedagogy of Unity Anita Butera | E Pluribus Unum: Struggling for Pluralism in Religion and Education Shawn Kelly Penny Messinger Respondent: Bob Waterhouse | Theaters of Change Carolyn Guzski Melissa Meola Shanahan | | |
| CLOSING RECEPTION 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM | | | | | | Performance by Genkin Philharmonic Complimentary light fare and alcohol-free beverage, cash beer/wine bar |



SATURDAY, SEPT. 23 BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY

11:00AM - 11:30AM | OPENING SESSION

📍 Rockwell 312 | Ciminelli Recital Hall

Welcome

Anthony Chase, Assistant Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, SUNY Buffalo State

Elizabeth Otto, Director, UB Humanities Institute

Performance by Buffalo String Works Teaching Artists

Alex Cousins, Cello

Evan Courtin, Violin

Amy Kelly, Viola

Isabel Ong, Viola

BREAK

11:45AM - 1:00PM | SESSION 1

Love Canal Beyond the Parable: Art of Sound and Dirt

📍 Rockwell 301 | Talk

Elizabeth Mazzolini, Associate Professor, English, University at Buffalo

Communities of Care: Environments and Incarceration

📍 Rockwell 302 | Panel

Kathleen Contrino, Associate Professor, Sociology, Criminal Justice, & Environmental Studies, Canisius University

Jesse Miller, Site Director, Bard Prison Initiative

Human-Animal Bonds and Building Communities

📍 Rockwell 305 | Panel

Christina Corfield, Visiting Assistant Professor, Media Study, University at Buffalo

Chirantana Mathkari, Assistant Professor, Animal Behavior, Ecology, & Conservation, Canisius University

The Public Trust and Everybody's Waterfront?

📍 Rockwell 306 | Roundtable

Jay Burney, Executive Director, Pollinator Conservation Association

Shauntel Douglas, Holistic Health/Wellness Coach and Secretary, Colored Girls Bike Too

TALKS + PERFORMANCES

Ruth Goldman, Interim Coordinator, Center for Social Justice and Associate Professor, Communication, SUNY Buffalo State University

John R. Torrey, Assistant Professor, Philosophy, SUNY Buffalo State University

Margaret Wooster, Author and Activist

BREAK

1:15PM - 2:30PM | SESSION 2

Black Studies, the University, and the Future of Democratic Life

📍 Rockwell 301 | Talk

Rinaldo Walcott, Professor and Chair, Africana and American Studies, University at Buffalo

Breaking Bread: Bridging Divides with Culture, Conversation, and Comfort Food

📍 Rockwell 302 | Panel

Roy W. Bakos, Adjunct Instructor, English, SUNY Buffalo State University and University at Buffalo

Camilo Trumper, Associate Professor, History, University at Buffalo

Indigenous Language and Lived Experience

📍 Rockwell 305 | Panel

Joe Baiz-Elm, PhD Candidate in Linguistics, University at Buffalo

Montgomery Hill, Assistant Professor, Indigenous Studies, University at Buffalo

Karin Michelson, Professor Emeritus, Linguistics, University at Buffalo

Community Challenges in Energy Transitions

📍 Rockwell 306 | Panel

Holly Jean Buck, Assistant Professor, Environment and Sustainability, University at Buffalo

Jaume Franquesa, Associate Professor and Chair, Anthropology, University at Buffalo

Nicholas Rajkovich, Associate Professor, Architecture, University at Buffalo

BREAK

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

2:45PM - 4:00PM | SESSION 3

Ecological Loneliness and Community Science: A Work in Progress Talk

📍 Rockwell 301 | Talk

Laura Marris, Visiting Assistant Professor, English, University at Buffalo

Reforming Police Through a Pedagogy of Unity

📍 Rockwell 302 | Talk

Anita C. Butera, Associate Professor and Director of Criminal Justice, Canisius University

E Pluribus Unum: Struggling for Pluralism in Religion and Education

📍 Rockwell 305 | Panel

Shawn Kelley, Professor, Philosophy/Religious Studies, Daemen University

Penny Messinger, Associate Professor, History, Daemen University

Robert Waterhouse, Associate Professor, Theatre, Daemen University

Theaters of Change

📍 Rockwell 306 | Panel

Carolyn Guzski, Associate Professor, Music, SUNY Buffalo State University

Melissa Meola Shanahan, Associate Director, Torn Space Theater; ELA Teacher, Lafayette International Community High School; Adjunct Instructor, SUNY Buffalo State University and University at Buffalo

4:00 PM - 5:00PM | RECEPTION

📍 Rockwell Front Plaza | Outside

Complimentary light fare and cash beer/wine. Beer by **Community Beer Works**.

Performance by the Genkin Philharmonic

Steve Baczkowski – baritone saxophone, reeds

Tim Clarke – trumpet

Matthew Felski – drums

Harry Graser – keys

Dan Lamancuso – sousaphone

Brendan Lanighan – trombone

Zane Merritt – guitar

Jon Nelson – direction, arranging, trumpet

Isabel Ong – violin

Ravi Padmanabha – percussion

Yuki Numata Resnick – violin

Dalton Sharp – tenor, soprano saxophone

Michael Wagner – bass

MICRO-SHORT FILMS

11:30AM - 2:30PM | MICRO-SHORT FILM SCREENING (LOOPED)

📍 Rockwell 312 | Ciminelli Recital Hall

Spark Filmmakers Collaborative micro-short films, curated by Lukia Costello.

Rose Dies Friday (2018)

by Annette Daniels Taylor – In 1818, Rose Butler was the last person hung for arson in New York State. She was nineteen years old. She was born and died a slave.

Savage Future (2022)

by Terry Jones – Editing to the soundscape of shaking Iroquois white corn and tapping, Seneca filmmaker Terry Jones uses personal and historical still images to link his family and the American Indian Boarding School experience.

The Sidewalk (2018)

Director/Writer/Actor Edreys Wajed – Life from the perspective of a sidewalk.

Mrs. Snow (2017)

by Annette Daniels Taylor – They say you want to work uptown.

Harlem Nights (2022)

by Kaitlyn Lowe – A love letter in the form of a visual poem dedicated to the radical artists from the Harlem Renaissance.

Her Own Hero (2022)

by Lukia Costello & Tilke Hill – A brief history of women's self-defense based on the work of Wendy Rouse. Narrated by Wendy Rouse, Associate Professor of History, San Jose State University.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23 AND MORE!

11:00 AM - 2:30PM | ACTIVITIES AND FOOD

📍 Rockwell Front Plaza | Outside

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's "Library on Wheels"



With more than 3,000 books, movies, and music for all ages – with an emphasis on popular fiction and non-fiction – there will be something for everyone! On the Library on Wheels, you can:

- check out books, movies, music, audiobooks;
- use free WiFi;
- get a library card or update your account;
- pickup holds and return items – just like at any library!
- have questions answered and be helped with a variety of needs.

CEPA Gallery Mobile Darkroom



CEPA GALLERY
CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY & VISUAL ARTS CENTER

Experience the science and magic of light, water, and chemical reaction, the natural phenomena that make photography work! The CEPA mobile darkroom will be on-site at the festival to "expose" attendees to cyanotype (a.k.a. sun) printing in this hands-on workshop.

Greene's Smokin BBQ Food Truck

Serving up classic BBQ offerings including pulled pork, smoked chicken, and more!

Tiny Thai Food Truck

Serving creative Thai food, including vegetarian and vegan options.

PARTICIPANTS

Joe Baiz-Elm, PhD Candidate in Linguistics, University at Buffalo

Joe Baiz-Elm (he/they) is a PhD Student in Linguistics at the University at Buffalo, with an interest in the relationship between language, consciousness, and embodied experience. They are an enrolled citizen of the Comanche Nation, and a Haudenosaunee and Ojibwe-Missouria descendant. They enjoy reading and writing poetry, cooking, and wondering whether plants are self-aware.

Roy W. Bakos, Adjunct Instructor, English, SUNY Buffalo State University and University at Buffalo

Roy W. Bakos earned his BA and MA in English from Buffalo State. He teaches and tries to practice hospitality every day. Roy likes to wander and experience bits of culture; he thinks living in a place with all four seasons is wonderful. He is a proud working-class Buffalonian who believes that service to our fellow humans is the pinnacle of existence. Cats, golf, skiing, hockey, seeing the world, sailing, cooking, eating, reading, experiencing sunsets, conversation, faith, playing music, hearing music, comedy, movies, walking around, bowling, talking with friends, talking with strangers, making new friends, the process, the theatre, looking up, and finding wonder are all really excellent. He is humbled and grateful to be here today.

Holly Jean Buck, Assistant Professor, Environment and Sustainability, University at Buffalo

Holly Jean Buck is an Assistant Professor of Environment and Sustainability at the University at Buffalo. She is an environmental social scientist whose research focuses on public engagement with emerging climate technologies. She is the author of the books *Ending Fossil Fuels: Why Net Zero Is Not Enough* and *After Geoengineering: Climate Tragedy, Repair, and Restoration*. She holds a Ph.D in Development Sociology from Cornell University and a M.Sc. in Human Ecology from Lund University.

Jay Burney, Executive Director, Pollinator Conservation Association

Jay is a father, conservation and community activist, writer, photographer, media producer, and organizer. He is the executive director of the Pollinator Conservation Association; Founder and International Chair of Birds on the Niagara which promotes conservation, birds, and social inclusion; Advocacy Chair of Western New York Environmental Alliance; Co-founder Buffalo Our Outer Harbor Coalition; Founder and Chair Friends of Times Beach Nature Preserve; and Co-founder WNY Native Plants Collaborative. He is a long time activist promoting public access to places like Buffalo's Outer Harbor. He is the founder of Greenwatch, the Learning Sustainability Campaign and recipient of awards including the Sierra Club Conservationist of the Year (2014). He has worked in government, the private sector, and the not-for-profit sector.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

Anita C. Butera, Associate Professor and Director of Criminal Justice, Canisius University

Anita C. Butera is an associate professor and Director of Criminal Justice at Canisius University. She holds a PhD in sociology from The American University in Washington, DC, and a JD from the University at Buffalo, where she was the international law fellow. An active member of the New York State Bar, she has represented migrant workers and victims of domestic violence and human traffic. Anita has published in the fields of globalization, NAFTA, immigration, refugees' crisis, human rights, and bankruptcy reform. She has conducted field work in Saudi Arabia, Italy, Mexico, and the US. Her most recent book, *Saudi Arabia Through the Eyes of Saudi Women* (Lexington, 2021), discusses changing gender relations in Saudi Arabia as prompted by the legal and economic changes of Saudi Vision 2030. Currently, she is working on the importance of developing a pedagogy of unity as an essential step in promoting social reforms.

Kathleen Contrino, Associate Professor, Sociology, Criminal Justice, & Environmental Studies, Canisius University

Kathleen Contrino's research interests center around criminal theory, legal processes, sociology of law, and drug courts. Contrino's publications include a book entitled *Judicial Orientation: The Black Box of Drug Court* as well as articles related to drug court and domestic violence.

Christina Corfield, Visiting Assistant Professor, Media Study, University at Buffalo

Christina Corfield is a British-born multi-disciplinary artist and media scholar. Her work focuses on media history and the relationships between analog and digital media. She has had solo shows at Johansson Projects in Oakland, CA and the Western New York Book Arts Center, and has been part of group shows at the Bluecoat, Liverpool UK, MOCA North Miami, the Exploratorium in San Francisco, and Telematic Gallery also in San Francisco, among others. She has also taken part in several residencies, including at the Kala Institute, Berkeley, CA, and Western New York Book Arts Center in Buffalo. Her writing has been published online and in scholarly journals including articles about her creative practice and research in *Media Fields Journal*, *the Journal of Early Visual Media*, *Media, Culture and Society*, and a book chapter on peep boxes in *Provenance and Early Cinema* published by University of Indiana Press.

Shauntel Douglas, Holistic Health/Wellness Coach and Secretary, Colored Girls Bike Too

Please check the festival website for biography updates.

Jaume Franquesa, Associate Professor and Chair, Anthropology, University at Buffalo

Jaume Franquesa is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at the University at Buffalo. His research investigates

PARTICIPANTS

the process of energy transition from an ethnographic and historical perspective. He has conducted long-term fieldwork on the effects of renewable energy development upon rural communities in Spain and on the political debates stemming from it. He is the author of the monograph *Power Struggles: Dignity, value, and the renewable energy transition in Spain* (Indiana University Press, 2018; published in Spanish as *Molinos y gigantes: La lucha por la dignidad, la soberanía energética y la transición ecológica*, Errata naturae, 2023) and co-editor of two recent journal special issues: "Right-wing-populism in rural Europe" (*Sociologia Ruralis*, 2020) and "Producing capitalist natures" (*Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 2022). Franquesa is co-editor-in-chief of the journal *Dialectical Anthropology*.

Ruth Goldman, Interim Coordinator, Center for Social Justice and Associate Professor, Communication, SUNY Buffalo State University

Dr. Ruth Goldman (all pronouns) is an Associate Professor of Communication and the interim coordinator for the new Center for Social Justice at Buffalo State. Ruth is an award-winning, internationally exhibited filmmaker, educator, community activist, film programmer, and media scholar and combines these passions whenever possible. Dr. Goldman's scholarly and artistic interests include humanitarian storytelling, social justice, media activism, and community media. They co-founded and co-curate Buffalo State's award-winning film screening and discussion series, Beyond Boundaries, currently in its 10th season. Ruth is on the steering committee for Birds on the Niagara, a binational winter birding festival promoting the intersections between birds, conservation, and social justice. Dr. Goldman is also an active member of the Feminist Bird Club. In their spare time Ruth enjoys hiking with their dog and photographing birds.

Carolyn Guzski, Associate Professor, Music, SUNY Buffalo State University

Carolyn Guzski is Associate Professor of musicology at SUNY, Buffalo State University. A recipient of the Adrienne Fried Block Fellowship of the Society for American Music and research fellowships from the Ransom Center, University of Texas-Austin and the American Philosophical Society, she has presented papers at annual meetings of the American Musicological Society and at McGill, Oxford, and Boston universities. Publications include contributions to *The Grove Dictionary of American Music*, *American Music Review*, and *Les Cahiers de la Société québécoise de recherche en musique*. She received the Ph.D. in musicology from the CUNY Graduate Center, where her dissertation on American opera at the Metropolitan was a winner of the Barry S. Brook Award, and holds performance degrees in piano from the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University and The Juilliard School. Research for her presentation was supported by the Buffalo State E.O. Smith Arts & Humanities Faculty Development Fund.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

Montgomery Hill, Assistant Professor, Indigenous Studies, University at Buffalo

Dr. Montgomery Hill is a recent alumnus of the Linguistics Department of SUNY University at Buffalo, receiving a PhD in linguistics for his dissertation, *Tuscarora Morphology & Language Revitalization* in 2020. He is active in all forms of cultural and linguistic revitalization across the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations, Iroquois) Confederacy. He is interested in all forms of indigenous knowledge and indigenous knowledge creation, as well as the enactment of the knowledge in the forms of the revitalization of traditional governance structures (including such things as tribal wellness courts, traditional counseling, and so on).

Shawn Kelley, Professor, Philosophy/Religious Studies, Daemen University

Dr. Kelley's current research focuses on the impact of Holocaust and Comparative Genocide research on the study of religion. He has published on the role of racial and imperial categories in formative New Testament scholarship.

Laura Marris, Visiting Assistant Professor, English, University at Buffalo

Laura Marris is a writer and translator. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Believer*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *The Yale Review*, *The Point*, and elsewhere. Her recent translations include Albert Camus's *The Plague*, Geraldine Schwarz's *Those Who Forget*, and *To Live Is to Resist*, a biography of Antonio Gramsci. She is a MacDowell fellow and the recipient of a Grant for Works in Progress from the Robert B. Silvers Foundation. Her first solo-authored book, *The Age of Loneliness*, is forthcoming from Graywolf in 2024. In this collection of essays, she focuses on landscapes where personal and ecological loneliness entangle and inform each other—like flooded airports, disappearing lakes, or a fake city for self-driving cars. She is a Visiting Assistant Professor of creative writing at the University at Buffalo.

Chirantana Mathkari, Assistant Professor, Animal Behavior, Ecology, & Conservation, Canisius University

Dr. Chirantana Mathkari is a veterinarian-turned-anthrozoologist, whose academic interests lie in examining human-animal interactions through the interdisciplinary lens of One Wellbeing. Dr. Mathkari graduated as a veterinarian in India, and earned her Master's in clinical animal behavior from the University of Lincoln, UK and her Ph.D. in animal wellbeing from the University of Maryland, College Park. Throughout her career, she has worked with an array of animals including red footed tortoises, white tigers, Asian elephants, dogs, cats, guinea pigs, Japanese quail, cows, sheep, pigs, and humans! A human's treatment of an animal impacts not only the human's wellbeing, but also that of the animal and the environment. Dr. Mathkari studies the human, animal, and environmental aspects of conventional and non-conventional human-animal interactions. She utilizes

PARTICIPANTS

behavioral, physiological, psychological, sociological, and pedagogical measures to analyze, evaluate, and re-evaluate wellbeing scientifically. An ecofeminist at heart, Dr. Mathkari enjoys penning animal-centric short fiction and cooking healthy food for the homeless.

Elizabeth Mazzolini, Associate Professor, English, University at Buffalo

Elizabeth Mazzolini is Associate Professor of English at the University at Buffalo. She previously served as Director of the Academic and Professional Writing Program at UB. Her recently published work is about climate change and storytelling (in the *Cambridge Companion to Literature and Climate*), and drug addiction and geographical spaces (in the *minnesota review*). She is currently researching and writing about toxicity in American life in the late 1970s, with an article forthcoming about the tobacco industry and English departments (in *College Composition and Communication*). She is the author of *The Everest Effect: Nature, Culture, Ideology* (U of Alabama Press, 2015) and co-editor of *Histories of the Dustheap: Waste, Material Cultures, Social Justice* (MIT Press, 2012).

Penny Messinger, Associate Professor, History, Daemen University

Dr. Penny Messinger is Associate Professor of History at Daemen University, Amherst, NY. She teaches a wide range of courses in American history, women's history, and women's studies at Daemen. This summer, she taught a class on Appalachian history and culture at the University of Warsaw, Poland. Messinger's scholarship addresses the history of the Progressive Era, the Appalachian South, and reform and radicalism. One current research project focuses on Dr. Ann Mogilova Reinstein and Boris Reinstein, transnational revolutionaries based in Buffalo. Her presentation for the Buffalo Humanities festival is drawn from a collaborative project (with Phillip Payne and Gabriel Swarts) entitled *Explanatory Footnotes: Doing History in the 21st Century Classroom*, which explores the teaching of history, the role of the "history wars," and the relationship of popular and academic history. Messinger holds an MA and PhD from The Ohio State University and a BA from Marshall University.

Karin Michelson, Professor Emeritus, Linguistics, University at Buffalo

Karin Michelson is Professor Emerita of Linguistics at the University at Buffalo. She received her BA in Linguistics from McGill University (1975) and PhD from Harvard University (1983). Her research has focused on the languages of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (Iroquoian languages). She has co-authored a dictionary of Oneida (with the late Mercy Doxtator) and a volume of Oneida texts (with Norma Kennedy and Mercy Doxtator). She received the Exceptional Scholars Award for Sustained Achievement from the University at Buffalo in 2017, and in 2018 an official Recognition from the Oneida Nation of the Thames for continued linguistic service.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

Jesse Miller, Site Director, Bard Prison Initiative

Jesse Miller is Site Director for the Bard Prison Initiative program at Albion Correctional Facility. The Bard Prison Initiative (BPI) works to redefine the availability, affordability, and expectations typically associated with higher education in America. Since 2001, BPI has created groundbreaking opportunities for college within America's prison systems. These programs transform the negative impacts of criminal punishment and create radical inroads of access and opportunity to higher learning. He received his PhD from the University at Buffalo Department of English.

Nicholas Rajkovich, Associate Professor, Architecture, University at Buffalo

Nicholas B. Rajkovich is an Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University at Buffalo (UB). His work at UB focuses on the intersection among climate change, energy efficiency, and community development. Nicholas is currently the buildings sector co-chair for the New York State Climate Impacts Assessment, examining how the built environment of the Northeastern U.S. will need to adapt to climate change. He has also supported organizations like the American Institute of Architects and the U.S. Green Building Council as they incorporate resilience into their programs. He is a licensed architect, and holds a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan, a Master of Architecture from the University of Oregon, and a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University.

Melissa Meola Shanahan, Associate Director, Torn Space Theater; ELA Teacher, Lafayette International Community High School; Adjunct Instructor, SUNY Buffalo State University and University at Buffalo

Melissa Meola Shanahan is an educator and theatermaker. She has worked at Lafayette International High School for over two decades, exploring language, identity, and agency with her students in the English Language Arts classroom. Melissa is dedicated to activating students' potential and forming their place in the world. Melissa is the founder and advisor of two extracurricular clubs. The Future Teachers Club is a space to explore teaching and learning and assist students in transitioning from high school to higher education. The Cultural Awareness club explores culture through dance, fashion, music, and performance. Melissa serves as an adjunct professor at Buffalo State University and University at Buffalo, where she teaches courses to preservice English Teachers. Melissa is the co-founder and Associate Director of Torn Space Theater, a contemporary performance company.

John R. Torrey, Assistant Professor, Philosophy, SUNY Buffalo State University

John Torrey is Assistant Professor of Philosophy and a contributing professor in the Africana Studies unit at SUNY Buffalo State. He holds a BA in Philosophy from Morehouse College and a PhD in Philosophy from the

PARTICIPANTS

University of Memphis. His research is primarily on reparations for Black people in America. He's a member of Buffalo's Board of Ethics and a member of the New York State Commission on African-American History.

Camilo Trumper, Associate Professor, History, University at Buffalo

Camilo Trumper is the author of *Ephemeral Histories: Public Art, Politics and the Struggle for the Street in Chile* (Berkeley: The University of California Press, 2016), a cultural history of political change in late twentieth-century Chile. His second project builds on research conducted with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It takes up one of *Ephemeral Histories'* most compelling subplots regarding urban politics in democracy and dictatorship, but pivots to explore childhood, schooling, and activism in Pinochet's Chile.

Rinaldo Walcott, Professor and Chair, Africana and American Studies, University at Buffalo

Rinaldo Walcott is Professor and Chair in the Department of Africana and American Studies at the University of Buffalo; there he is also the Carl V. Granger Chair in Africana and American Studies. Rinaldo's research focuses on the cultural expression of Black life with an interest in the transnational, diasporic and the national crosscurrents of Black creativities. Rinaldo is the author of numerous single authored, co-authored, and co-edited books. His more recent work is *The Long Emancipation: Moving Toward Black Freedom* (Duke, 2021) and *On Property: Policing, Prisons, and the Call for Abolition* (Biblioasis, 2021) which was short-listed for the Toronto Book Award in 2021. Currently Rinaldo is working on two monographs, one on freedom and the sea, and another on Black queer expressive culture. A third work seeks to grapple with the possibilities of achieving utopia from the grips of the catastrophe that threatens to consume all of planetary life. Rinaldo was born in Barbados. He divides his time between the city of Buffalo and the city of Toronto.

Robert Waterhouse, Associate Professor, Theatre, Daemen University

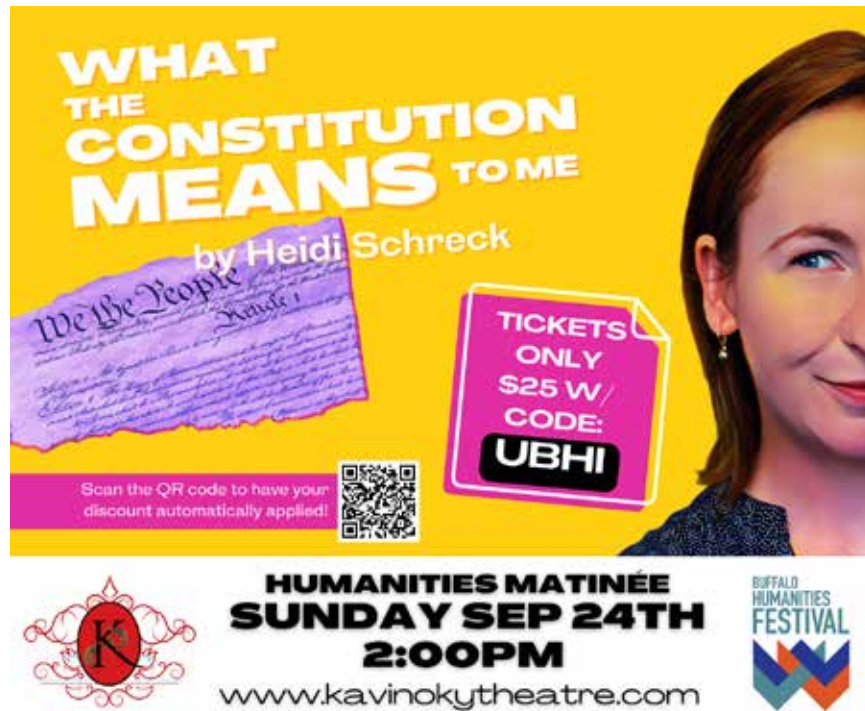
Please check the festival website for biography updates.

Margaret Wooster, Author and Activist

Margaret is a watershed planner and writer on issues and wonders related to water in its natural habitat. A founding member of the Friends of the Buffalo River, now Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, and Executive Director of Great Lakes United (1996 to 2003), she has worked with local governments on stream and groundwater protection and is currently involved in a new bi-national NGO start-up: the Great Lakes Ecoregion Network. Margaret is the author of two books: *Living Waters: Reading the Rivers of the Lower Great Lakes*, and *Meander: Making Room for Rivers* both published by SUNY Press.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

A special Buffalo Humanities Event by our partners at D'Youville Kavinsky Theatre | [\\$25 SPECIAL PRICING \(promo code: UBHI\)](#)



2PM - 4:30PM | HUMANITIES MATINEE AT THE D'YOUVILLE KAVINOKY THEATRE

 D'Youville Kavinsky Theatre
320 Porter Avenue

[Click here for free shuttle UB Center for the Arts - D'Youville Kavinsky Theatre](#)

What the Constitution Means to Me

by Heidi Schreck, starring Lindsay Brandon Hunter (Associate Professor, Theatre & Dance, University at Buffalo), directed by Robyn Lee Horn (Visiting Assistant Professor, Niagara University). Post-performance conversation with Brian E. Herrera (Associate Professor of Theater and Gender & Sexuality Studies, Princeton University), moderated by Ariel Nereson (Associate Professor, Theatre & Dance, University at Buffalo).

INFO

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library – Central Branch Auditorium (1 Lafayette Square)

Please enter using the Clinton Street entrance of the Central Branch Library.

Getting There/Parking Info

ENTRANCE: Enter using the Clinton Street entrance for the auditorium (accessible).

CHECK-IN: Doors open at 5:30pm. Please check-in or register at the registration table in the auditorium library.

METRO RAIL: The Lafayette Metro Station is walking distance to the Central Branch Library.

PARKING: A limited amount of street parking is available in the vicinity of the Central Branch Library. A pay-to-park lot is located on Broadway between Washington and Ellicott Streets.

FREE SHUTTLE UB CFA-CENTRAL LIBRARY: A free shuttle is available leaving UB Center for the Arts at 5:00pm with the return trip leaving the Central Library at 7:45pm. To sign-up for the free shuttle, register for this add-on via the [registration system](#).

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

 Rockwell Hall, SUNY Buffalo State University (1300 Elmwood Avenue)

Getting There/Parking Info

ENTRANCE: All doors will be open. An elevator entrance to Rockwell Hall is located on the Iroquois Drive side of the building, accessible from Parking Lot I-30.

CHECK-IN: Doors open at 10:30am. Please check-in or register at the registration table in the lobby of Rockwell Hall (Elevator level 2).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: [Visit the NFTA website](#) for information.

PARKING: Festival guests are invited to park in lots I30, I32, and R2. Ticketing will be suspended in these lots.

FREE SHUTTLE UB CFA-ROCKWELL HALL: A free shuttle is available leaving UB Center for the Arts every hour beginning at 10:00am (with the return trips leaving Rockwell Hall on the xx:30). Final departure from Rockwell Hall to CFA will be at 4:30pm. To sign-up for the free shuttle, register for this add-on via the [registration system](#).

[Click here](#) for the interactive campus map.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to all the individuals and organizations whose generous support, investment of time, and sharing of talent have made the 2023 Buffalo Humanities Festival possible.

To our wonderful presenters and performers, we are honored to have you join us as we celebrate – and grapple with – notions of communities and trust.

To our attendees, we thank you for spending your valuable time with us and hope you leave the festival with new friends, ideas, and inspiration.

To our partners and collaborators, we thank you for all your efforts in making the 2023 festival a special event:

- Buffalo-Niagara Hostel
- Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
- Community Beer Works
- Julian Montague (Montague Projects)
- Spark Filmmakers Collaborative
- Torn Space Theater
- UB Architecture + Planning Fabrication Workshop
- UB Center for the Arts

We would like to acknowledge the land on which the Buffalo Humanities Festival takes place, which is the territory of the Seneca Nation, a member of the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations Confederacy. This territory is covered by The Dish with One Spoon Treaty of Peace and Friendship, a pledge to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. It is also covered by the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua, between the United States Government and the Six Nations Confederacy, which further affirmed Haudenosaunee land rights and sovereignty in the State of New York. Today, this region is still the home to the Haudenosaunee people, and we are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and share ideas in this territory.