

The Institute for the Arts and Humanities announces the **UNC-Duke Exchange Fellowships** for 2010-2011:

Call for Fellowship Proposals from UNC Faculty in the
Humanities, Interpretive Social Sciences, and Arts

Expression/Performance/Behavior Rethinking the Humanities

**The 2010-11 Franklin Humanities Institute Seminar
Co- Convened by Paul Griffiths & Toril Moi**

Deadline: Friday, December 4, 2009

Questions about language, meaning and interpretation, and about the relationship between individual acts of expression (performances, behaviors) and their social, political and institutional contexts are fundamental to the humanities. Humanists analyze, historicize, theorize and celebrate the records and traces of human expressions, performances and behaviors.

Traditionally, we have worked with records of the way human beings communicate and act, above all with documents and texts. Yet every kind of expression is important to the humanities: our interests range from voice, language, gesture and movement to every form of art (painting, literature, theater, film, music, etc.) and philosophy. What we humanists do and make — our words, our texts, our own performances, behaviors, and expressions — are also what we study. Thus the university, and its humanistic disciplines, must themselves be inquired into by humanists.

The 2010-11 Franklin Humanities Institute Seminar at Duke University proposes to gather a group of scholars interested in reconsidering fundamental paradigms of meaning and practice in the humanities. While the co-conveners' own starting point is inspired by Wittgenstein's question of how one knows how to go on, to perform the next move, to behave in the appropriate way, to express what needs to be expressed as it ought to be expressed, the seminar will not be limited to one philosophical project.

Rather, we want to make space for three kinds of work: work on fundamental theoretical issues concerning meaning and language; work that connects questions of meaning, language, expression (etc.) to fundamental questions of art and aesthetics (what painting, literature, theater, film, music, and other art forms are; what these art forms can do); and work attempting to analyze and theorize the expressions, behaviors, and performances of humanists themselves.

To give the work of the seminar a coherent frame, we suggest focusing on three terms: **performance, behavior and expression**. Each of these refracts attention to what humanists study differently; together they embrace the linguistic (literature, talk, texts), the gestural, visual and nonvisual artifacts, disciplines, and institutions.

Each of these three terms of art has accrued a large theoretical literature of its own, and each has a broad semantic range in ordinary language.

Performance and performativity range from the theatrical to the musical to the political, and also include the notion of performative utterance (Austin), which has in turn been applied to spheres of discourse as varied as the economic, the political and the gender-constituting.

Behavior's resonances may sound more immediately empiricist: entomologists talk of ant behavior, rational-choice theorists of economic behavior, and studies of academic behavior have been undertaken by sociologists (Bourdieu). Yet Wittgenstein and Freud thought that human behavior reveals (or conceals) our innermost thoughts.

While critics of literature and other arts often consider a work of art a form of **expression**, poststructuralist thinkers have claimed that expression carries with it dubious overtones of an inner-outer dichotomy. Others (Wittgenstein, Cavell, Freud) think that human beings are “doomed to expression.”

Faculty Fellowships

We seek applications from humanists working in any discipline (including those who doubt the continued usefulness of the idea of a discipline), and on materials of any (humanistic) kind, from any time or place.

The principal qualifications are an eagerness to arrive, through close conversation with others, at a deeper understanding of the possibilities open to the humanities today, and an interest in how those possibilities are informed and shaped both by what humanists direct their attention to and by our most basic assumptions about human expressions, performances and behavior.

We welcome applications from scholars who wish to begin new projects in the seminar's areas of interest, as well as those whose current projects may benefit from or be reshaped by attention to the seminar's concerns. In either case, applicants should explain how what they'll be working on during the seminar year relates to the topic of the seminar.

The seminar will meet weekly throughout the academic year 2010-2011. Some meetings will be devoted to presentations by participants, some to discussion of shared readings, and some to visits by non-participants, whether from Duke or beyond.

The 2010-11 FHI Seminar will comprise: (a) up to eight faculty fellows from the College of Arts & Sciences, including the co-conveners; (b) one faculty member from Duke's professional schools; (c) a professional librarian from the Duke libraries; (d) up to two Duke graduate fellows; and (f) a fellow from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

For information on all fellowships supported by the Institute for the Arts and Humanities, visit our Web site at www.iah.unc.edu. Specific questions about this call for proposals should be addressed to John McGowan at jpm@email.unc.edu.

Eligibility and Participation

All tenured, tenure-track and regular rank UNC faculty members in the humanities, fine arts and interpretive social sciences are eligible to apply for this exchange Fellowship. Faculty fellows will be appointed for the 2010-11 academic year. In exchange for participation in the seminar, the Institute for the Arts and Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences, UNC will arrange for release from two courses and will provide each Fellow's department with a subvention to offset teaching replacement costs.

The seminar is provided with funding to support visiting speakers, small conferences/symposia, and other programs. FHI staff members provide logistical and technical support, programmatic support and administrative support.

Faculty fellows will be expected to participate actively in weekly meetings and programs; to provide input and suggestions on visiting speakers, readings, and topics; and to contribute as needed in the coordination of seminar programs and projects. Fellows are strongly encouraged to draw from their seminar experience to develop an interdisciplinary course designed to have an impact on curriculum development in the humanities.

The Proposal and Selection Process

Fellowship proposals from UNC faculty members should include the following components:

1. A letter-form proposal, with original signature, of 1,500 words or less that describes: (a) your current or new research project; (b) the ways in which your work connects with the theme of the seminar; (c) your teaching goals and the ways in which your participation in the seminar might support your work in the classroom; and (d) a description of a course or special project you might develop as a result of your participation in the seminar.

Please address your letter-form proposal to John McGowan at the address below.

2. A current curriculum vitae and a short biographical summary.
3. A letter, with original signature, from your department chair agreeing to release time equivalent to two courses in academic year 2010-11.

The complete proposal with original signatures, **plus three copies**, must be received by the Institute for the Arts and Humanities by noon on Friday, December 4, 2009.

Deliver proposals to:

Professor John McGowan
c/o Martha Marks, Program Assistant
Institute for the Arts and Humanities
CB# 3322
Hyde Hall
Carolina Campus

Fellowship appointments will be announced by February 15, 2010.

If you have questions about this call for proposals, or if you need additional information, please write to John McGowan at jpm@email.unc.edu.