Faculty-Led Research Projects in the Humanities (2019–2020)

Last updated: 7/19/19

If you are interested in applying for an HRI Collaborative Research Fellowship, here is a list of some major faculty-led research projects in the humanities that seek to involve undergraduates. All of these projects have agreed to give special consideration to HRI Fellows, so this list is an excellent place to start. It is possible that you may also discover other opportunities on your own. For instance, you might develop a close relationship with one of your seminar professors and ask if he or she might be willing to collaborate with you. Certain departments might also have projects primarily reserved for their majors or for students who have taken appropriate introductory courses. If so, ask your professor to contact us, and we will gladly fund these experiences as well.

1. Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA)

Overview
The Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA) is an internationally-renowned research center for the digital humanities, an interdisciplinary field that uses digital tools and computational methods to explore literary, historical, and other humanistic questions. CESTA has one of the most robust undergraduate humanities research assistant programs on campus, with extensive mentoring and a large interdisciplinary community of faculty, graduate students, postdocs, and undergraduates. The program includes an orientation, weekly discussions about various digital humanities topics, regular project meetings with research leads, and a limited number of brief assignments. Undergraduates are assigned to specific faculty projects (based on preferences you indicate in your application), where they collaborate closely with professors on archival research, designing interactive websites, developing databases, and more. Below is a potential list of projects for summer 2019. See the CESTA undergraduate research opportunities website for complete project descriptions and the latest updates.

Potential Research Projects for Summer 2019
1. CESTA Communications (Celena Allen).
2. Early Modern Mobility (Paula Findlen, Luca Scholz, Rachel Midura, and Leo Barleta).
3. Global Medieval Sourcebook (Kathryn Starkey).
5. Grand Tour Project (Giovanna Ceserani).
6. Imagined San Francisco (Ocean Howell)
7. Josquin Research Project (Jesse Rodin)
8. Land Talk (Deborah Gordon and Erik Steiner)
9. **Literary Lab** (Mark Algee-Hewitt)
10. **Sexual Harassment and Violence in the 19th Century** (Estelle Freedman)
11. **Social Network Analysis of Book of Governors** (Michael Penn)
12. **Text Technologies** (Elaine Treharne and Mateusz Fafinski)
13. **Undocumented Migrant Deaths and Patterns of Ancestry: Implications for Human Identification along the U.S.-México Border** (Bridget Algee-Hewitt)

**Application Details:**

- **Available Terms (Summer, Winter–Spring):** CESTA accepts full-time research assistants during the summer and part-time research assistants during winter and spring quarters. There is no undergraduate research program during fall quarter. If you apply for winter and spring, you are expected to commit to participating for both quarters.
- **Application (Online, mid-fall):** The deadline to apply for winter and spring 2020 will be in week 5 or 6 of fall quarter, 2019. Note that while CESTA’s undergraduate research opportunities page contains a link to an online application, they may create a separate online application for HRI Fellows.
- **Contact Person:** Amanda Bergado (amandawb@stanford.edu), CESTA Program Assistant

**Websites:**

- Application for HRI Fellows: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbAbIULolg-2eXBBMDIhB6UHeeSPJUaWH1gkzn6Fd1OmtbWw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbAbIULolg-2eXBBMDIhB6UHeeSPJUaWH1gkzn6Fd1OmtbWw/viewform)

**2. Stanford Humanities Center**

**Overview**
The Stanford Humanities Center (SHC) is Stanford’s primary hub for advanced research in the humanities. Each year the Center welcomes 50 visiting faculty researchers, hosts over 100 research workshops, and presents over 50 public events, on projects ranging from philosophy and art, to literature, music, history, and religion. The SHC offers a couple of exciting programs for undergraduates, including a Hume Honors Fellowship for seniors working on honors theses, and an Undergraduate Research Assistantship open to students in all class years, including freshmen and sophomores. Undergraduate RAs assist visiting faculty fellows with research projects over the winter and spring quarters. The faculty leader of each project provides guidance and mentorship (e.g., weekly meetings and reviews), and RAs are also invited to participate in specially-tailored events at the Humanities Center during their two quarters of research. The list of potential projects varies each year, depending on the interests of the faculty fellows: check with Kelda Jamison (kjamison@stanford.edu) in the fall for an updated list.
Details:

- **Available Terms (Winter–Spring):** The SHC accepts 7–9 part-time research assistants during winter and spring quarters. You are expected to commit to both terms.
- **Application (Online, Mid-Fall):** The SHC generally accepts applications from late October through December. Check their application page for updates, or email Kelda Jamison.
- **Contact Person:** Kelda Jamison, PhD (kjamison@stanford.edu), International and Academic Programs Manager
- **Website:** [http://shc.stanford.edu/research-assistants](http://shc.stanford.edu/research-assistants)

### 3. Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project

**Overview**

Between 1864 and 1869, thousands of Chinese migrants toiled at a grueling pace and in perilous working conditions to help construct America’s first Transcontinental Railroad. The Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project, directed by Professors Gordon Chang (History) and Shelly Fisher Fishkin (English and American Studies), seeks to give a voice to the Chinese migrants whose labor on the Transcontinental Railroad helped to shape the physical and social landscape of the American West. The Project coordinates research in North America and Asia in order to publish new findings in print and digital formats, support new and scholarly informed school curricula, and participate in conferences and public events. Each quarter, the project accepts a small cohort of undergraduate research assistants, who collaborate closely with faculty on archival research, designing interactive websites, and developing databases, and receive extensive mentoring in research methods.

Details:

- **Available Terms (All):** The Chinese Railroad Workers Project accepts full-time research assistants during the summer and part-time research assistants during all academic quarters. They expect to have at least one position available for HRI Fellows every term. Participation for multiple terms is encouraged, but not required.
- **Application (Email, due 4/19/19):** To apply, send a brief email to Roland Hsu indicating your interest and your status as an HRI Fellow. He will ask for follow-up materials or steps, including a likely interview. The deadline to apply for summer is 4/19/19. For fall, winter, or spring quarters, apply by week 5–6 of the preceding quarter.
- **Contact Person:** Roland Hsu, PhD (rohsu@stanford.edu), Director of Research
- **Website:** [https://web.stanford.edu/group/chineserailroad/cgi-bin/website/](https://web.stanford.edu/group/chineserailroad/cgi-bin/website/)
4. Ethics in Society Podcast Project

Overview:
The McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society is an interdisciplinary research and teaching center committed to bringing ethical reflection to bear on important social problems. It offers, among other things, an undergraduate minor and honors program. In summer 2019, they are seeking to recruit two HRI Fellows to work with Collin Anthony, the Associate Director of Undergraduate Outreach, to be writers, researchers, and participants in a new ethics podcast. The research fellows will have some autonomy in determining episode content and will gain rare and valuable skills in learning to communicate complex ethical problems to a wider audience. The goal of the summer will be to write and record several podcasts that will be aired throughout the 2019-2020 school year. The opportunities are open to all majors and students in any year and without any podcasting experience. It is recommended, however, that applicants have taken at least one course in ethical reasoning before applying.

Details:
- **Available Terms (Summer):** This is a full-time summer opportunity.
- **Application (Email, 4/19/19):** To apply, send a brief email to Collin Anthony indicating your interest and your status as an HRI Fellow. He will ask for follow-up materials or steps. The application deadline is 4/19/19.
- **Contact Person:** Collin Anthony, PhD (canthony@stanford.edu), Associate Director of Undergraduate Outreach
- **Website:** [https://ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu](https://ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu)

5. Philosophy Talk

Overview:
Philosophy Talk is a radio program and podcast co-hosted by Stanford Professors Ken Taylor, Debra Satz, and Josh Landy. It deals both with fundamental problems of philosophy and with the works of famous philosophers, especially as these relate to our contemporary, day-to-day lives. Some of the wide range of topics of past programs include terrorism, misogyny, intellectual humility, democracy, Descartes, genetic engineering, and virtue. The program is broadcast from the studios of KALW, 91.7 FM, San Francisco, California and is nationally syndicated, airing on radio stations around the country as well as on SiriusXM. Each year, Philosophy Talk recruits a handful of undergraduate research assistants, who work with the faculty to research material for the show. This opportunity is open to all students, although some background in philosophy is preferred. There are also occasional opportunities for undergraduates to contribute to the production, design, and marketing of the program.
Details:

- **Available Terms (varies):** Philosophy Talk usually recruits new research assistants at the beginning of fall quarter or before summer, depending on how many of their current assistants plan to continue, but you should contact the program directly to see when openings might be available. They strongly prefer students who are able to commit to a full year or longer on the program.

- **Application and Contact People:** To inquire about potential research assistantship openings, and to apply, email Director of Research Laura Maguire, PhD (lmaguire@stanford.edu). To inquire about opportunities in production, email Senior Producer Devon Strolovitch (devon@philosophytalk.org), and for opportunities in design and marketing, email Marketing Director Cindy Baum (cindypb@stanford.edu).

- **Website:** [https://www.philosophytalk.org](https://www.philosophytalk.org)

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**6. Bill Lane Center for the American West**

**Overview:**
The Bill Lane Center for the American West is dedicated to advancing scholarly and public understanding of the past, present, and future of western North America. The Center supports research, teaching, and reporting about western land and life in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, focusing especially on three broad areas: 1) History, Arts, and Culture; 2) Environment and Energy; and 3) Western Governance and Policy. The Center regularly accepts students from a wide variety of disciplines to collaborate with faculty on their research projects.

- **Available Terms (All):** The Center accepts full-time research assistants over the summer, as well as part-time assistants during the academic year.

- **Contact Person:** Stephanie Burbank (sburbank@stanford.edu), Events and Education Manager

- **Website:** [https://west.stanford.edu/students/stanford-undergraduates/research-opportunities](https://west.stanford.edu/students/stanford-undergraduates/research-opportunities)