



CHARLES PHELPS

TAFT
RESEARCH
CENTER

2013-2014
ANNUAL
REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF
Cincinnati



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR, TAFT FACULTY CHAIR

I would like to thank the Taft family, Trustees, and Executive Board for their continuing support in my first year as the Director of the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati and as the Chair of Taft Faculty. It has been an exciting and busy time for all the Taft faculty, students, and Center staff.

The humanities as a form of civic engagement continues to play a central role in my Directorship. The advancement of ideas, theoretical frameworks, creative thinking, and the exercise of imagination all benefit from humanities based research and scholarship. Fostering the research and scholarship of Taft faculty and students is my primary focus, though always with an eye toward ends within and beyond the academy. As such, we have expanded our programming, successfully sought out co-sponsorship in support of events, and reached out directly to the Cincinnati community to form meaningful relations.

Two recently launched programs have been gaining attention, within the UC community and beyond. With the aim of bringing the humanities to the general public in the most accessible way possible, **TAFTtalks** initiative began as a pilot project. The aim was to produce a series of filmed interviews with leading scholars, showcasing their research and its connection to contemporary issues, leading to open, public conversation, and awakening the contemporary relevance of humanities based research. This series provides humanities scholarship to the public, with the hope of advancing humanistic inquiry and discussion on common values, knowledge, and innovation in the world of today. We have thus far completed four videos: Henry Giroux speaking on neoliberalism, Gustavo Esteva discusses the Zapatistas and the critical role played by women, Paula Banerjee providing analysis on forced migration, and Slavoj Žižek discussing the idea of disposability and utility. Since the launch of the **TAFTtalks** in the Fall of 2013, the Center has expanded its reach, with over 100,000 original hits

for videos, and we have received praise by numerous faculty beyond UC. These videos are online, freely available to anyone with an internet connection.

The new **TAFTco-labs** program encourages outside partnerships, offering matching or seed funds for collaborative events. In partnership with community leaders, private organizations, and public institutions, the Center's co-sponsored events aspire to generate public conversation, civic engagement, and debate. The co-labs initiative is a partnership and event accelerator, affording collaborations between Taft and outside organizations, in celebration of public humanities scholarship. These events advance humanistic inquiry and discussion on common values, knowledge, and innovation in the world of today.

In conjunction with our **TAFTtalks** program, we have partnered with several universities and centers on the "Disposable Life" Series. This series interrogates the meaning of mass violence and human destruction in the 21st Century. Featuring critical reflections from renowned public intellectuals, artists and writers, this three year project will feature a series of monthly filmed reflections from our illustrious list of participants (see contributors below); a subsequent feature film for public broadcast; accompanying book of complementary essays and associated publications/media articles; along with a series of global events that will bring together the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences to offer innovative and publicly engaging forums to inform debate and rethink the ideals of global citizenship. Project partners include the Global Insecurities Centre, University of Bristol; Global Thought research group at Columbia University; Humanities Corridor Central New York; the Center for Critical and Cultural Theory, Rice University; McMaster Centre for Scholarship in the Public Interest, McMaster University; the Humanities Research Institute, University of California-Irvine; and the Centre for Critical Research on Race and Identity, University of Kwazulu-Natal.

As part of **TAFTco-labs**, we are currently spearheading the effort to bring Louder Than a Bomb to Cincinnati. Spitting original poetry, oral story-telling, and hip-hop spoken word in an Olympic-style (live, dueling) competition for teens (13-19), we have recruited almost

a dozen schools, public and private, and approximately 100 teenagers from across the Cincinnati region. Stay tuned for more on this exciting event series.

The above initiatives, along with other Taft programming, are spurring a broad network of local and international partnerships, providing intellectual excitement and energy surrounding the center, lending Taft the recognition as an incubator and protector of intellectual and community activity. We are very excited to continue developing and expanding our public programming. Our relationships with outside entities have yielded nearly \$40,000 of direct, external support for Taft projects. This number does not include faculty or student projects that have leveraged Taft awards for larger grants both in and outside the university.

We are just getting started. We have great plans for the upcoming years. Anticipating animated and intellectually energized faculty, students, and community members, we are very excited for the year ahead.

In appreciation.

ADRIAN PARR, PH.D.

Chair of Taft Faculty, Director

Charles Phelps Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati

MAJOR INITIATIVES

THE RELOCATION OF THE TAFT RESEARCH CENTER

The move to our new location on the campus of the University of Cincinnati was completed over the course of July and August, 2013. A Ribbon Cutting ceremony was held at the Center on August 26, 2013. The jam-packed event hosted over one hundred individuals from UC and the wider Cincinnati community. UC President Santa Ono, then McMicken College of Arts and Sciences Dean Ronald Jackson, Taft Trustee Dudley Taft, and the Center Director Adrian Parr all participated in the Ribbon cutting ceremony. Taft Trustee Robert Rich was also on hand for the ceremony.

Our new location at 47 Corry Boulevard, 1110 Edwards One, suite 1110, has received praise from many that have stopped by or attend events at the new facility. Although the move from Stratford Heights resulted in the loss of residential space for visiting scholars, the improved convening spaces and layout afford greater opportunities for intellectual and interdisciplinary synergy following our events.

WEBSITE

During the late summer we undertook the redesign and development of a new website. As perhaps the most public face of the Center, the new design presents a coherent identity, which is fresh, engaging, user-friendly, and easy to navigate. The updated site presents new content while subtly underscoring the contemporary relevance of humanities based research. If you have not yet visited the site, be sure to take a look at www.uc.edu/taftcenter.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

The Foreign Correspondent series was designed to showcase international research sponsored by Taft. 2013-14 featured Dr. Rina Williams, then of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Dr. Amy Lind, Mary Ellen Heintz Endowed Chair & Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Dr. Williams discusses her most current project, focusing on religion, gender, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP); the development of her interest in political science; the importance of understanding the politics of India, and the part Taft has played in advancing her research. Dr. Lind discusses the development of her research interests in Ecuador, the role of critical development theory in her work, and the role Taft has played in support of her research. The interviews were conducted by Taft Faculty Chair and Center Director, Adrian Parr, and Program Coordinator, Sean Keating. Soon to be featured are Dr. Ari Finkelstein of Judaic Studies, Dr. Ken Tankersley of Anthropology, and Dr. Steve Bowman of Judaic Studies.



DR. RINA WILLIAMS, pictured in India.



DR. AMY LIND, pictured in Ecuador.

TAFT UNDERGRADUATE SENIOR RESEARCH AWARD

The undergraduate senior research award has undergone significant revision over the course of this year. In 2012/2013, the overall budget liability was trimmed from \$42,000 to \$13,000, or \$1,000 for each Taft department to disperse as they saw fit. Unfortunately, this formulation provided little visibility for Taft and its value was unclear. Coupled with the call from Taft faculty and previous awardees to revise the program, we carefully crafted a new formulation. This program now offers \$2,000 to students, on a competitive basis, to be determined by the student awards committee. Conditions of the awards include:

1. *Application to nationally competitive awards in the summer/ fall;*
2. *Regular meetings with the faculty advisor;*
3. *Regular meetings as a cohort;*
4. *Regular meetings with Taft dissertation fellows;*
5. *Presentation of their work at the Undergraduate Research Conference in the Spring, as part of a panel dedicated to Taft supported research.*

The newly reformulated program also carries a \$500 supplement for the faculty mentor serving on the project, as an incentive for taking on additional work. We anticipate that this reformulation will help build a stronger intellectual culture amongst students, as well as contribute to the intellectual culture of the Center. Furthermore, it is expected that this new formulation will increase the Center's visibility and raise our public profile.

Vice Provost Gigi Escoe graciously provided \$2,500 to help re-start this program. Currently, the program budget provides for up to 10 undergraduate awardees per year.

The 2014/2015 cohort has now met several times and we are confident that this outstanding class and their research production will establish this program as a model of undergraduate research funding.

DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

In February 2014, we received word that the Dissertation Fellowship would be reclassified as Graduate Incentive Awards (GIA) rather than a Graduate Assistant Scholarship (GAS). The GIA award covers up to 90% of eligible tuition and fees. The outstanding 10%, equating to roughly \$30,000 across 14 fellowships, is typically covered by local funds (endowments, gifts, designated funds, and grants), third-parties, or the student. Among the possible solutions discussed, we considered (1) reducing the number of dissertation fellows, allowing us to use the stipend monies to cover the increased cost, (2) passing this cost on to the fellows themselves, effectively reducing the actual stipend amount, or (3) change the GIA categorization to a GAS and adopt new criteria to conform to the GAS description.

After lengthy conversation with A&S Administration and the Taft Faculty Executive Board, all parties agreed to maintain the GAS classification for our dissertation fellows. This solution affords the ability to fund the same number of dissertation fellows without negatively impacting their take-home pay, while completely covering all tuition and fees previously covered. However, this classification requires a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) FTE, or ~10 hours of work per week. In consultation with the Taft Faculty Executive Board it was decided that fellows would work 10 hours per week as a research assistant to their faculty mentor in order to satisfy this requirement. Payment for these 10 hours is managed through payroll, which adds additional costs totaling \$9,350.

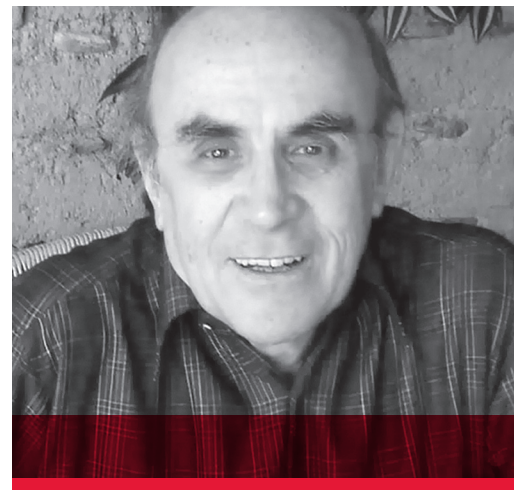
The above solution was deemed the most fiscally responsible approach for the fellows, Taft and its programs, and also affords greater fellow support. In addition to the above benefits, this solution has the potential to positively impact the completion rate during the fellowship year, which has historically hovered around 50%, by having fellows work more closely with their faculty advisor. In addition, we feel that this is a significant opportunity to foster an intellectual community within Taft, among Center Fellows and the Undergraduate Fellows. To this end, all fellows are required to attend periodic meetings at Taft, as a cohort and in conversation with each other.

ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

In 2013-2014 the Taft Center hosted the 8th Annual Research Symposium, featuring Center and Dissertation Fellows, as well as a plenary presentation by Gustavo Esteva Figueroa and a keynote address by Sonia Alvarez.

Gustavo Esteva Figueroa

An environmental activist, and one of the best known advocates of "Post-Development" or rethinking the modern conception of development, Professor Esteva has authored and co-authored numerous books, chapters, and articles, notably *Grassroots Post-modernism: Remaking the Soil of Cultures* (with Madhu Suri Prakash), Zed Books (1998), and recently *The Future of Development: A Radical Manifesto* (with Salvatore Babones, and Philipp Babczyk), Policy Press (2013). His presentation, titled "The Future of Development: A Radical Manifesto," explored the idea of future development and constructing an economically feasible, socially just, and ecologically sensible world for living well.



Sonia Alvarez

Our Keynote speaker is the Leonard J. Horwitz Professor of Latin American Politics and Studies and Director of the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Professor Alvarez has written extensively on social movements, feminisms, NGOs, civil society, transnational activism, and democratization, and has taken part in Latina/women of color feminist, social justice, international solidarity, and anti-racist activism since the 1980s. Her current research centers on the articulation of race and anti-racist politics among feminist movements in Brazil and the "sidestreaming" of feminist discourses and practices into parallel social movements throughout the Latin American region. Professor Alvarez is the author of *Engendering*



Democracy in Brazil: Women's Movements in Transition Politics and co-editor of several texts, including *The Making of Social Movements in Latin America: Identity, Strategy, and Democracy* (with Arturo Escobar), and *Translocalities/Translocalidades: Feminist Politics of Translation in the Latin/a América* (with Claudia de Lima Costa, Verónica Feliu, Rebecca Hester, Norma Klahn, and Millie Thayer, with the assistance of Cruz C. Bueno), from Duke University Press (2014). Professor Alvarez's lecture, "Re-visioning the Political: Movements, Fields, Ontologies," was followed by a discussion of her work with Amy Lind, Mary Ellen Heintz Endowed Chair and Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

I would like to thank the interim Director, Anne Runyan, of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department, for her work in securing Sonia Alvarez as the keynote speaker for this year's Research Symposium.

While we estimate an attendance increase of approximately 20%, attendance continues to lag behind our expectations, and is generally only comprised of individuals from the presenting fellow's department. Coupled with the fact that this symposium has not garnered much attention beyond the Taft departments, we have been forced to rethink the purpose and structure of this event. Following the completion of the 2013-2014 Annual Research Symposium, we began planning a new set of events to begin in 2014-2015. The Dissertation Fellows will now present their work in an annual graduate conference, 1 week prior to presentations by the Center Fellows. Following the three-day graduate conference, the Center Fellows will present their work on successive days, with a selected interlocutor, expert in the area of the fellow's research project. This new approach allows for (1) more attendance and participation by UC faculty and students, and the general public; and (2) increased conversation between the fellows and other experts in their subdiscipline; and (3) increased support for eventual publications; and (4) increased recognition for the center as we host these events.

2013-2014 CENTER FELLOWS



ERYNN MASI DE CASANOVA / *sociology*
Dress Blues: Men's Work Clothing in Corporate America

Based on interviews with white-collar men in three U.S. cities (Cincinnati, New York, and San Francisco), this project examines the intersection of gender, work, and identity using the body and dress as a starting point. Through men's personal accounts, this study explores how they are reflecting, navigating, and shaping ideas about masculinity and bodily self-presentation in the contemporary corporate workplace. Although white-collar work is often seen as cerebral rather than embodied, bodies matter in this "professional" environment, in both material and symbolic ways. Even seemingly trivial matters such as changing dress codes are perceived and experienced as meaningful by men at all levels of corporate hierarchy, and their perceptions and experiences have much to tell us about conformity, resistance, power, and mobility in corporate cultures.



ERIKA GASSER / *history*
Vexed with Devils: Manhood, Demonic Possession, and Witchcraft in Old and New England

This project examines cases of demonic possession and witchcraft in England and New England from roughly 1563-1715. It is relatively well known that 80-90% of Anglo-American witches were female, but few have analyzed the implications of gender for the men who exhibited possession symptoms, were accused of being witches by possessed accusers, and who published religious propaganda about the cases. Rather than attempt to explain the causes of these cases, this research focuses on the ways that gendered power permeated the discourse of demonic possession and witchcraft-possession, providing a powerful language for people to use strategically in moments of crisis. Instead of understanding the decline of official confidence in demonic and witchcraft-possession cases as change over time, we can see it rather as an indication of continuity in patriarchy, or a mechanism for the ordering of power to which both early modern England and colonial New England remained committed.

ANGELA POTOCHNIK / *philosophy*
Doing Science in a Complex World

Two fashionable ideas in today's philosophy of science frame this project. First, science is ultimately the project of limited human agents, and second, the world we inhabit is incredibly complex. Despite the popularity of these ideas, tracing out their full implications leads to surprising conclusions. Most basically, a science practiced by human beings in a complex world results in rampant and unchecked idealization—idealization in most every scientific project and product, for a range of purposes; idealization that outstrips what most philosophers expect. The full scope of the use of idealizations in science has significant implications for our best theories of the aims of science, what science shows us about the world, and scientific explanations. Perhaps surprisingly, the resulting conception of science provides a way to both incorporate and constrain the influence of social values and other sources of pluralism.



ARMANDO ROMERO / *romance languages & literatures*

Discrediting Order: An Insider's view of Latin American literary movements of the '60's and '70's.

Encompassing specific groups of writers and poets over twenty-plus years, this project outlines a detailed study of the development of literary power centers and the literary world in seven key Latin American countries (Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina) during two decades 1960-1970.





KATHERINE SORRELS / *history*
*The Evolution of Europe: social Darwinism
and the ideal of integration in fin de siècle Austria.*

The well-known story of the European Union's origins is here complicated by the story of two pacifists before and after the First World War in Austria who saw in European unity both a solution to national conflict and to their own dilemma of exclusion. Though the problems they sought to solve through European unity were different, the ideas they elaborated are remarkably like the ideas that drove the post-1945 integration process. In order to understand the origins of the European Union, we need to go further back in history than attempts by French and German statesmen to ensure security and shore up Europe's global standing after the Second World War. We need to look to regions and individuals at the margins of the integration process that began with the founding of the Coal and Steel Community in 1951.

2013-2014 DISSERTATION FELLOWS



JENNIFER DYE / *political science*
Food Security and Entitlements

Food security is often misunderstood as an issue of not enough food but at its core, food security rests on underlying social and political questions of power and entitlement. This project examines how large-scale land acquisitions affect food security and property rights, both on the local and national levels, of the developing African state. Study of Tanzania and Zimbabwe reveal how large-scale land acquisitions in developing states in Africa have a primarily negative impact on both food security and property rights at the local and national levels in the host state, thus maintaining a system of social and political entitlements that sustain only low levels of food security in these states.

MICHAEL DUCEY / *philosophy*
On the Possibility of Objective Interpretation of Literature

Although it is generally held that utterance meaning is an intentionalist model, relying on the intentions of the speaker to determine what has been said, this project proposes an objective, anti-intentionalist model of meaning determination in literature. This project argues that the correct meaning of the work can be determined without consulting the intentions of the author, real or hypothesized.



VANESSA PLUMLY / *german studies*
*BLACK-Red-Gold in der bunten Republik:
Post-Wende (Black/Afro-) German Cultural Productions*

Encompassing specific groups of writers and poets over twenty-plus years, this project outlines a detailed study of the development of literary power centers and the literary world in seven key Latin American countries (Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina) during two decades 1960-1970.





KATHERINE ZLABEK / *english & comparative literature*

Their Apocrypha

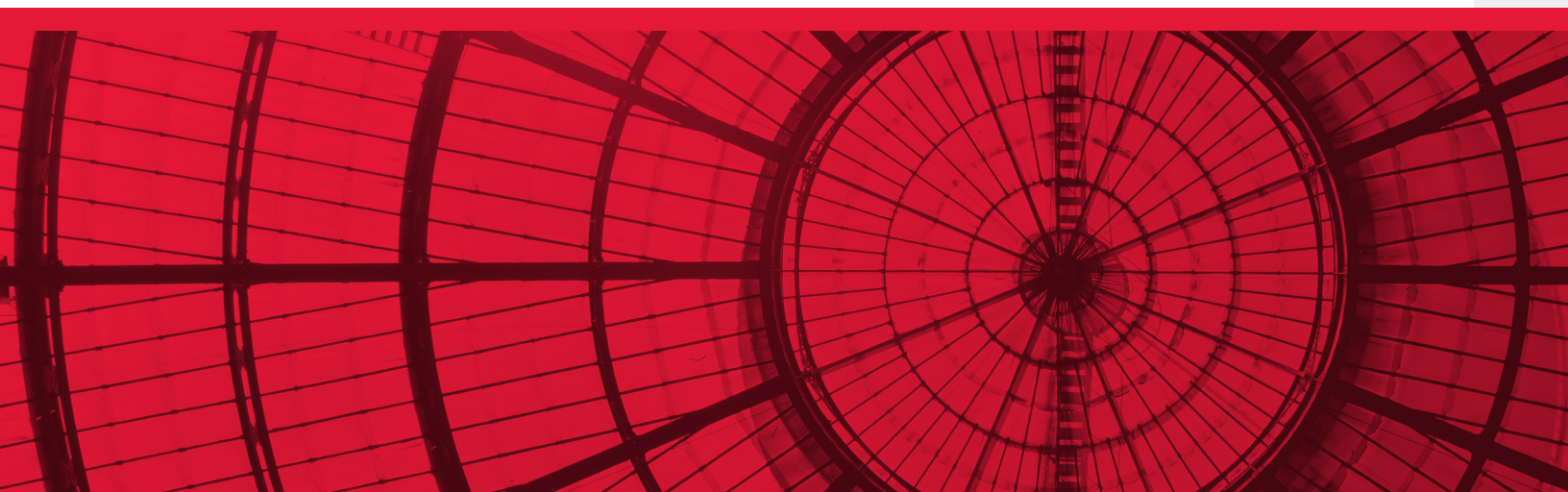
A creative novel, *Their Apocrypha* explores how people manipulate fact in order to create an “apocryphal” past. Set in the abandoned, once-forgotten town of Galena, Illinois, where only the elderly and children remain, the novel integrates supernatural elements, employing the Gothic notion that behind a bucolic façade, a troubling truth often resides. The novel’s landscape is haunted with spiritual anxiety, repressed memories—or memories that characters are desperate to repress, and personal connections that the characters are eager to shuck.



KELLI CHAPMAN / *sociology*

***Dating In and Out of the Closet:
Negotiating Relationships as an LGBT Teenager***

While there is substantial research on the dating practices and sexual decision making of heterosexual teenagers, far less is known about how lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) teenagers negotiate intimate relationships, including dating and sex. Where do you meet other LGBT teens? Where do you go on a date if you are not ‘out’? How do you decide when you are ready for sex? This study is a qualitative exploration of how LGBT teens manage, negotiate, and make sense of their dating and sexual lives. Through a combination of focus groups and interviews, this study investigates how LGBT teens make decisions about forming relationships, disclosing relationships, engaging in sexual activity, and how school environments and participation in LGBT youth groups impact their decisions.



ANGELICA GRACIELA CAICEDO-CASSO / *mathematical sciences*

Mathematical Modeling and Sensitivity of Representative Models of Circadian Rhythms in Neurospora Crassa

Circadian rhythms are daily cycles that occur in numerous species, including humans, and provide temporal information to various biological processes. Recent discoveries indicate that disruptions may result in certain pathologies such as sleep disorders, cancer and diabetes. The mechanistic blue prints of circadian rhythms are similar from *Neurospora crassa* (filamentous fungus) to mammals. This suggests that findings in *Neurospora* are translatable to mammalian systems. The mechanisms of circadian rhythms involve complex molecular interactions that determine physiology. Mathematical modeling and sensitivity analysis are sophisticated methods that facilitate detailed simulations and allow changes to be made more easily than in the experiments. This project builds biologically relevant models of circadian rhythms in *Neurospora Crassa*, aiming to discover novel molecular insights by means of scientific computing. Understanding the dynamics of circadian rhythms will facilitate development of treatments for some contemporary diseases or disorders.



PAUL ANDERSON / *sociology*

***Rural-Urban Differences in Educational Outcomes:
Does Religious Social Capital Matter?***

Sociologists have long been interested in the impact religion has on adolescent well-being. In recent years, researchers have turned to religious social capital in an effort to predict educational outcomes for youth. Despite research indicating that religious social capital improves educational achievement, the mechanisms involved in religious effects on adolescent educational outcomes remain unclear, and this uncertainty has led to contradictory findings in the literature. This project employs data from The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health and multilevel modeling techniques to examine differences in the effects of religious social capital on educational achievement. The findings of this study will fill the gap in the current body of literature by focusing on the previously neglected influence of community-level factors.





MICHELLE BURKE / *english & compartive literature*
Animal Purpose

Animal Purpose explores the lives of men and women as they stand poised between the desire to love and the compulsion to harm. These poems are both pastoral and feminist. In one poem, a woman teaches a farmhand the proper way to slaughter a truckload of chickens. In another, a couple confronts the recent loss of a loved one when a stranger makes an unexpected confession in a crowded restaurant. Set in both rural and urban spaces, these poems interrogate received ideas about work, gender, and place. This work considers the feminist critique implicit in the work of contemporary pastoral poets such as Maxine Kumin and Brigit Pegeen Kelly.



ZACHARY STUART GARRISON / *german studies*
Fugitives for the Sake of Freedom: German Immigrants, Anti-Slavery, and the Civil War in the Lower Middle West during the American Civil War era

This project focuses on the ideas and expectations of German immigrants and their influence upon antebellum debates over western expansion, slavery, and the war. Through disparate voices in letter collections, diaries, newspapers, and census materials, different conceptions of nation, democracy, and freedom are articulated, providing new insight into the role of German immigrants as the West's most ardent defenders of the Union.



OSPINA NIDIA HERRERA / *romance languages & literatures*
Jose Donoso in Cinema: Perception of Space and Body in Literary and Cinematographic Discourses

Focused on the aesthetic experience of an actual interlocutor, this project explores how perception, as articulated by French philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty, is a spatial and experiential phenomenon. Using Donoso's novels and their cinematographic adaptations, this project examines the relationship between literature and cinema in terms of aesthetic experience.

NICOLE LYON / *history*
Perception of Calendar Time in Early Modern Germany (1450-1750)

This project sheds light on the perception of time (Zeitwahrnehmung) in 16th- and 17th-century German lands, an epoch in which calendars and "calendar time" underwent some of the most profound changes in the realm of time measurement in western history. Lyon examines the relationships between individuals, urban communities and calendars in the Holy Roman Empire, especially within the two urban centers of Nuremberg (Protestant after 1525) and Munich (Catholic). In the early modern period, calendar time was experienced through various avenues. The specific focus of this project is on annual liturgical cycles, natural seasons, and numerical calendar systems. Historians have explored the early modern German "calendar war" (Kalenderstreit), referring to the conflict of time reckonings engendered by the Gregorian calendar reforms in 1582. Calendar reform began with Pope Gregory XIII, who set out to reform the flawed Julian calendar that had been in use since before the time of Christ (which "lost" nearly eleven days in two millennia). The German speaking territories of the Holy Roman Empire adopted the new calendar at different times, such that written sources throughout the early modern period often contain multiple dates simultaneously. The Gregorian calendar is still in use throughout the world today. The early modern period was not merely a bridge between "medieval" and "modern" concepts of time, or a point on the linear trajectory towards the systematization of time. Rather, it was an epoch in which unique and far-reaching perceptions competed for social legitimacy through confessional, regionalized and multivalent systems of time reckoning and experiencing. Many outcomes of these changes continue to shape our own perception of time in the 21st century.





JONATHAN MARTIN / *philosophy*
Cognitive Science and the Challenge of Anti-representationalism

Representation is one of the most historically important notions in cognitive science. Models of cognition in which representations of various forms are transformed or manipulated have been dominant in both classical computational psychology, artificial intelligence, and rival approaches such as artificial neural network modeling. Recently, however, there has been a growing distrust of representational approaches - particularly from proponents of dynamical systems theory and embodied-cognition. Martin investigates the plausibility of eliminating representational posits from models of perception and cognition. Traditional philosophical defenses of the need for representational models underestimate the force of the primary arguments coming from recent anti-representationalist approaches. Instead, Martin argues, representation ought to be justified by identifying the unique explanatory role played by representational structures in existing empirical work. Cases from cognitive neuroscience and neuroethology provide the resources for a defense of representational modeling which is equal to the anti-representationalist's challenge.



SUAYIP TOPRAKSEVEN / *mathematical sciences*
Error Estimates for an Enriched Finite Element Scheme

This work develops numerical approximations of solutions to mathematical models of physical processes involving high frequency components, analyzing their accuracy. Problems of this sort arise in many applications including cancer therapy (Simulation of High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound), Nanomaterials, and Quantum Mechanics. This projects lays the ground work for improving accuracy, even in the more difficult case of high frequencies.

ERIKA GARCIA GONZALEZ / *political science*
The role of external factors in genocide and politicide

Including external factors in the analysis of causes of genocide and political mass killings (politicide) provides new variables to explain and predict these events, and contributes to more comprehensive prevention policy. A mixed-method approach used here refines Barbara Harff's model of geno-/politicide, which is heavily weighted on internal variables. A brief case-study approach is used to extract the external factors present in different cases of genocide and politicides to determine if external variables improve Harff's statistical model and thereby more accurately explain the onset of these crimes.



FRONT ROW (Left to Right) Sean Keating, Adrian Parr, Erika Gasser, Katherine Sorrels, Angela Potochnik, and Erynn Masi De Casanova.
BACK ROW (Left to Right) Zachary Garrison, Suayip Toprakseven, Kelli Chapman, Jonathan Martin, Angelica Graciela, Michael Ducey, Nicole Lyon, Erika Garcia Gonzalez, Ospina Nidia Herrera



FEATURED TAFT PROFESSOR

As we close out 2014 and enter into the 2015 year, we want to make some space for recognizing the work of Charles Phelps Taft Professor David Minda, who will retire in the forthcoming year.

Since earning his PhD from the University of California San Diego in 1970, Dr. Minda's research has focused on conformal metrics, especially the hyperbolic metric, and their role in complex analysis. Roughly speaking, many classical results in complex analysis are analytic in nature; as such they do not readily extend to other contexts. Dr. Minda's work seeks to obtain a conformal geometric understanding of these classical results, and then use this geometric understanding to generalize them to new contexts

In his career, Dr. Minda has published over 125 articles in research journals and conference proceedings. An accomplished scholar, Dr. Minda received NSF research funding for nearly half of his career, and recently was awarded two fellowships to conduct research at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Cape Town, South Africa. He became a Fellow of the Graduate School in 1994. In addition, Dr. Minda has been recognized for his distinguished scholarship in the form of the McMicken Dean's Award for Distinguished Scholarship in 1997, and was selected to be Charles Phelps Taft Professor of Mathematics in 1999.

Dr. Minda has received numerous honors for his teaching, including the Dolly Cohen Award for Excellence in Teaching at UC (2001), UC Honors Program Teacher of the Year (2002), and the Mathematical Association of America's award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics (Ohio section, 2002). For the past quarter century he has been actively involved with the Department's highly regarded Master of Arts for Teachers of Secondary Mathematics program. He received NSF and OBR support for several educational projects. In particular, in 2003 he received an NSF MSP subgrant through the Park City Mathematics Institute, a part of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, NJ, to support work with secondary mathematics teachers in Cincinnati Public Schools.



RESEARCH SEMINAR PROGRAM CLOSES WITH SPANISH PLAYWRIGHT

2013 was witness to our last Research Seminar, hosting Professor Ignacio García May. One of the most important playwrights in Spain today, Professor Ignacio García May is a senior member of the Playwriting Department at the Royal Academy of Drama in Madrid (RESAD), as well as director and consultant for Madrid's National Theatre program "Writing for the Stage." In addition to his seminar, Professor Ignacio García May also gave two public lectures. The first, held on Friday, October 4, and titled "On Recent Stagings by the Compañía de Teatro Clásico," discussed recent activities of this Spanish counterpart of the Royal Shakespeare Company. The second public lecture, "Contemporary Theater in Spain," was held on Friday, November 15.

Following Ignacio's stay with Taft, a new digital repository "New Drama in Spanish" has been born. Using a non-exclusive license (the authors are free to explore other ways to exploit their intellectual property), the Ohio Digital Resource Commons (DRC) will preserve these texts, which can be accessed and distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons (CC) license "Attribution -NonCommercial-NoDerivative 3.0." The creation of this repository was overseen by Arlene Johnson, Associate Senior Librarian & Digital Humanities Strategist, and Nathan Tallman, Assistant Librarian & Digital Content Strategist, in collaboration with Professor Andres Pérez-Simón. This highly interdisciplinary project is global in scope, aligning with two pillars of the UC2019 Strategic Plan. The repository also contains the videos of the two lectures delivered by Ignacio Garcia May at the Taft Center, available for free download.

PROFESSOR IGNACIO GARCIA MAY



TAFTtalks

Featuring prominent visiting scholars and lecturers, as well as the very best and brightest minds within our own ranks at UC, these short videos are designed to draw out issues of interest beyond the academe and focus on big, contemporary ideas and concerns. 2013-2014 launched this initiative with Henry Giroux speaking with then Arts and Sciences Dean Ronald Jackson on issues of neoliberalism, education, and critical thinking. Over the course of the summer, Executive producer, interviewer, and Center Director Adrian Parr and Producer, Program Coordinator Sean Keating completed production on three additional videos featuring Paula Banerjee, Gustavo Esteva, and Slavoj Žižek. These talks represent a significant turn towards public humanities for Taft, and our engagement with the wider community.



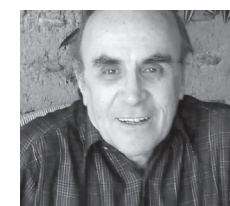
HENRY GIROUX / *neoliberalism & critical pedagogy*

http://sitecentral.uc.edu/taftcenter/events-programs/taftTalks_Giroux.aspx



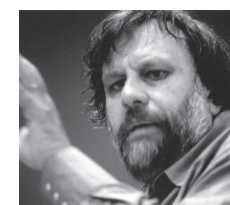
PAULA BANERJEE / *forced migration, relief, & enforcement*

http://sitecentral.uc.edu/taftcenter/events-programs/taftTalks_Banerjee.aspx



GUSTAVO ESTEVA / *freedom, women, and the Zapatista movement*

http://sitecentral.uc.edu/taftcenter/events-programs/TAFTtalks_GustavoEsteva.aspx



SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK / *viewing others as disposable instruments*

http://sitecentral.uc.edu/taftcenter/events-programs/taftTalks_zizek.aspx

TAFTco-labs

Collaborative partnerships with community leaders, private organizations, and public institutions – the Center’s co-sponsored events aspire to generate public conversation, civic engagement, and debate. The co-labs initiative is a partnership and event accelerator, offering seed or matching funds for collaborative events, affording collaborations between Taft and outside organizations, in celebration of public humanities scholarship. These events advance humanistic inquiry and discussion on common values, knowledge, and innovation in the world of today. Since the launch of the TAFTco-labs in the Fall of 2013, the Taft Research Center has rapidly lifted its profile in the national and international academic community. We have heard positive reviews from several highly revered humanities centers and institutes around the United States and abroad. In 2013, Taft sponsored several events under this programming line. Highlights include:



FUTURE CITIES, LIVABLE FUTURES

With an ever increasing majority of the world’s population living in cities, we are now facing complex challenges as a result of increasing population, inadequate infrastructure, poor social services, escalating health problems, and the challenges posed by climate change. This one-day interdisciplinary conference explored the challenges currently facing American cities. Held at the Contemporary Arts Center, this event was the result of a collaboration between soapbox, Architectural Foundation of Cincinnati, The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation, Kroger, CAC, McMicken College, and DAAP. This free event, open to the public, brought together select visionaries, from across disciplines and continents, to share and discuss the future of urban living. For more, visit the official website at <http://www.futurecitieslf.com/>.

DISPOSABLE LIFE

In conjunction with our TAFTtalks program, we have partnered with several universities and centers on the “Disposable Life” Series, which interrogates the meaning of mass violence and human destruction in the 21st Century. Featuring critical reflections from renowned public intellectuals, artists and writers, this three year project will feature a series of monthly filmed reflections from an illustrious list of participants; a subsequent feature film for public broadcast; accompanying book of complementary essays and associated publications/media articles; and a series of global events. Partners include the Global Insecurities Centre, University of Bristol; Global Thought research group at Columbia University; Humanities Corridor Central New York; the Center for Critical and Cultural Theory, Rice University; McMaster Centre for Scholarship in the Public Interest, McMaster University; the Humanities Research Institute, University of California-Irvine; and the Centre for Critical Research on Race and Identity, University of Kwazulu-Natal. To date, this project has received nearly 500,000 original hits from over 152 different countries. For more, visit the official website at <http://historiesofviolence.com/specialseries/disposable-life/>.

CAROL COHN & CYNTHIA ENLOE

As part of a collaboration between the US Institute of Peace, the departments of Political Science and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, the Taft Global Humanities and Human Rights Studies Research Groups, the University of Dayton Human Rights Program, the UC College of Law’s Center for Race, Gender and Social Justice and the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights, Taft was honored to host distinguished feminist scholars Carol Cohn & Cynthia Enloe.

TAFT-SPONSORED INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GROUPS

Taft sponsored research groups began in 2009, with the explicit intent of drawing together faculty from different fields and overlapping interests. Groups were formed around the themes of Human Rights, Medical Humanities, and Urban Humanities. Subsequently, Global Humanities and Visual Studies were added. Two research groups were added in 2013-2014: Humanities for the Environment (H4E) and the Digital Humanities. These groups capture an emerging trend in humanities studies and overlap with initiatives at the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) and a number of other humanities centers around the world. These groups represent a significant source of interdisciplinary collaboration and a potential incubator for college-level programing and grant activities, as evidenced by the new graduate certificate in Medical Humanities, created by members of the Medical Humanities Research Group.



HUMANITIES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (H4E)

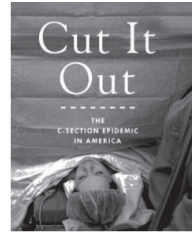
The Humanities for the Environment (H4E) Research Group at the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center draws on studies in the humanities and liberal arts to better understand our relation to an ever-changing environment. Climate change and widespread environmental degradation present new challenges for humanities and liberal arts scholarship. In particular, the controversial nature of environmental change and especially the problem of how to effectively and equitably respond to these changes are central concerns for the H4E research group. The Taft H4E Research Group is committed to bringing the quantitative data and statistics of the natural sciences to life. The group promotes public discussion and debate, builds awareness of environmental issues, and provides the framework to develop a network of institutional and academic collaborations.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES RESEARCH GROUP

At the intersection of scholarly studies in technology and the liberal arts, the Digital Humanities examine digital tools such as electronic literary analysis, digitization, visualization, and mapping technologies to enrich research in the humanities; new media forms such as digital publications, digital archives, and interactive media to disseminate and share information; and the aesthetics and cultural impact of new technologies and new media. The Digital Humanities Research Group welcomes scholars in all fields and at all levels

The Digital Humanities group sponsored "Surveillance, Privacy, and the Public Good," a workshop and lecture devoted to the recent and deep issues in cybersecurity. Fourteen faculty from across UC met with a representative of the National Security Agency (NSA) to discuss matters of public policy, privacy, and security. Following the workshop, Emily O. Goldman, a strategic adviser to the NSA director Keith B. Alexander, presented on the controversy and law surrounding surveillance, in reflection of the Snowden-leaks. As you might imagine, with approximately 40 faculty and students in attendance, the ensuing discussion was lively. This research group is currently planning an international faculty and student workshop on issues of surveillance and privacy, along with public (off-campus) fora on the same topic.

FEATURED RESEARCH GROUP EVENTS



Tuesday, February 11

THERESA MORRI / Trinity College

CUT IT OUT: THE C-SECTION EPIDEMIC IN AMERICA

Sponsors: Taft Medical Humanities Research Group, and the Departments of Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



Thursday, February 27

MARK MAZOWER / Columbia University

**THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE
IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

Sponsors: Taft Research Center, Taft Global Studies Research Group, UC History (Von Rosenstiel Fund), Classics, and Judaic Studies



Friday, February 28

BRUCE LINK / Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

**UNDERSTANDING THE ORIGINS AND
CONSEQUENCES OF STIGMA FOR HEALTH**

Sponsors: Taft Medical Humanities Research Group and the Department of Sociology



Thursday, March 13

PAULA BANERJEE / Professor of South & Southeast Asian Studies, Calcutta University, Fulbright Scholar, 2013-14, President, International Association for the Studies in Forced Migration

**WOMEN AND FORCED MIGRATION:
THE SOUTH ASIAN CONTEXT**

Sponsors: Taft Human Rights Research Group

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

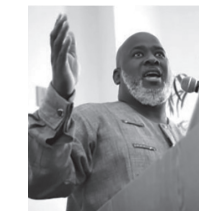


Thursday & Friday, September 5 & 6

**DISCOURSES OF HEALTH, MEDICINE, AND SOCIETY:
EMERGING ROLES AND EVOLVING PRACTICES
(SYMPOSIUM).**

Experts on health communication and medicine gathered for a two day symposium exploring medical rhetoric research, including practical hurdles, theoretical challenges, and the ethical issues facing the field.

Sponsors: Taft Research Center, Urban Health Research Center, Taft Research Center Medical Humanities Group, and the Faculty Development Council.



Thursday, October 10

AKINYELE UMOJA / Georgia State University
**WE WILL SHOOT BACK: ARMED RESISTANCE
IN THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM MOVEMENT**

Sponsors: Taft Research Center and the Department of Africana Studies.



Wednesday, October 16

MAE NGAI
**A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS? HISTORY, POLITICS,
AND IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Sponsors: Taft Research Center, UC History, and the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights in the College of Law, and the Taft Global Humanities Research Group.



Wednesday, October 23

DAVID FLATTO / Professor of Law, Penn State University
**THE CONCEPT OF A SEPARATION OF POWERS:
A NOVEL DOCTRINE IN EARLY JEWISH
JURISPRUDENCE AND ITS ANALOGS IN MODERN
WESTERN JURISPRUDENCE**

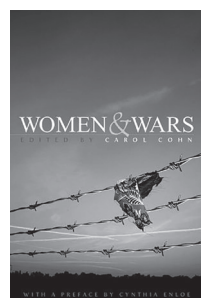
Sponsors: Taft Research Center, Judaic Studies,
Lichter Lecture Fund



Friday, October 25

DR. KAMALA KEMPADOO / Department of Social Science,
York University, Toronto, Ontario Canada.
**SAVING THE WORLD FROM "SEX TRAFFICKING":
THREE CONTEMPORARY CAMPAIGNS**

Sponsors: Taft Research Center and Women's, Gender,
& Sexuality Studies



Monday, November 4

CYNTHIA ENLOE & CAROL COHN
**IF YOU IGNORE WOMEN, YOU CAN'T BE SMART ABOUT
MILITARIZED MASCULINITIES: A FEMINIST WARNING;
IF YOU IGNORE POLITICAL ECONOMY, YOU CAN'T BE
SMART ABOUT WOMEN AND PEACEBUILDING**

Sponsors: US Institute of Peace, the departments of Political
Science and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, the
Taft Global Humanities and Human Rights Studies Research Groups,
the University of Dayton Human Rights Program, the UC College
of Law's Center for Race, Gender and Social Justice and
the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights, and the Taft
Research Center.



Monday, December 2

PROFESSOR MOSCA / University of Waterloo
QUANTUM COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SECURITY

Sponsors: Political Science and the Taft Research Center



Friday, February 7

ALEX MYERS / St. George's School
**EXPLORING HISTORICAL GENDER IDENTITIES THROUGH
THE STORY OF DEBORAH SAMPSON GANNETT**

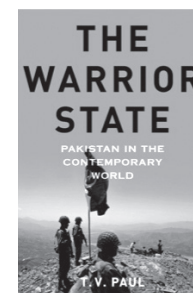
Sponsors: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
and the Taft Research Center



Friday, March 28

C. K. WILLIAMS, Princeton University
**"INFLUENCES: A READING AND DISCUSSION OF SOME
POEMS THAT PERMITTED ME TO MAKE MY OWN**

Sponsors: English & Comparative Literature
and the Taft Research Center



Tuesday, April 1

T.V PAUL, JAMES MCGILL / Professor of International
Relations, McGill University, and Vice President, International
Studies Association
**THE WARRIOR STATE: PAKISTAN IN THE CONTEMPORARY
WORLD, AND ITS IMPACT ON AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY**

Sponsors: Political Science and the Taft Research Center



Friday, April 11

VANESSA SCHWARTZ / University of Southern California
**OBSOLESCENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE AESTHETIC
OF EXPENDABILITY AT THE DAWN OF THE JET AGE**

Sponsors: History, the Taft Research Center, and the Graduate
Student Governance Association



Tuesday, April 15

KATE BROWN / University of Maryland
**PLUTOPIA: NUCLEAR FAMILIES, ATOMIC CITIES, AND THE
GREAT SOVIET AND AMERICAN PLUTONIUM DISASTERS**

Sponsors: History and the Taft Research Center

AWARDS BUDGET OVERVIEW

FACULTY AWARDS: 35%

Among awards programs (less operations), faculty awards hold an approximately 35% share of the total Taft awards budget, with Center Fellows comprising the largest faculty program, at \$125,000, or 10% of the total Awards budget.

STUDENT AWARDS: 40%

Among awards programs (less operations), student awards enjoys a 40% share of the total Awards budget, almost 50% of which is dedicated to Dissertation Fellowships, at \$245,000. This is the largest budget line for Taft programs. The next largest Taft budgetline is Graduate Enhancements, also a student award program. \$131,500 is allocated to Graduate Enhancements, which is 10% of the total Awards budget.

GENERAL AWARD PROGRAMS: 25%

Other award programs, including lectures, symposia, conferences, collections, and research groups, less operations, comprises an approximately 20% share of award programming.

Application rates for eight programs increased by an astounding average of approximately 70%; three programs remained static, and four programs declined, though only one showed a significant reduction in applications (graduate travel). Overall, the applications rates continue to increase at a significant rate, across most programs.

Given this increase, and the overall large demand on the student awards committee (approximately 40% of applications and awards are for students), a second student awards committee has been created, which will adjudicate undergraduate enrichment, undergraduate summer fellowships, undergraduate research award, and graduate travel. Although this last program doesn't provide a clean boundary between the two committees, this presents the most even division of labor and affords each committee the power to adjudicate awards which enjoy the

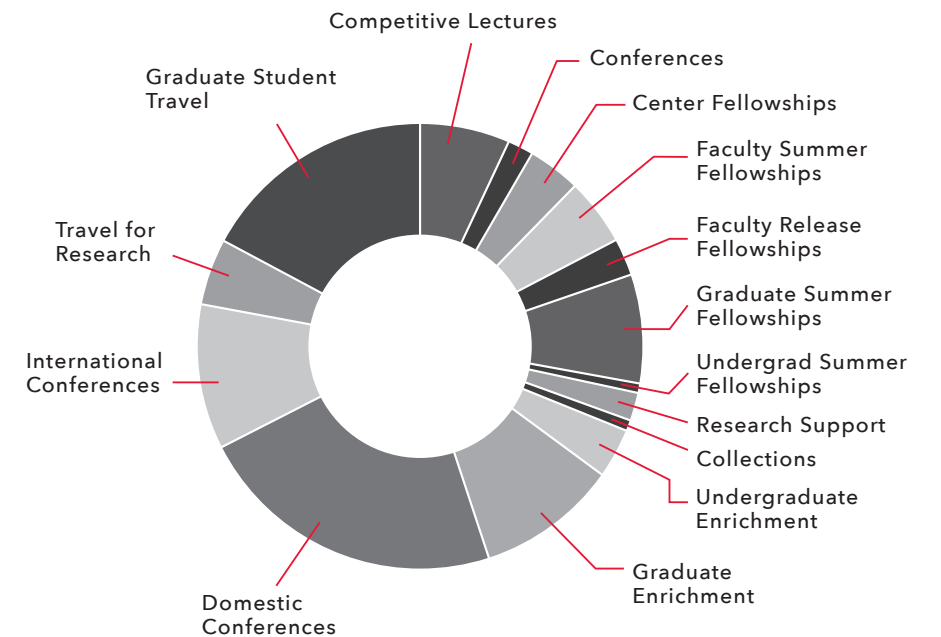
greatest overlap in applicants. In addition to the above, we have adopted the student awards committee's suggestion and reduced the number of graduate travel and graduate enrichment deadlines.

Although student awards holds a majority share of budget dollars, application rates for three programs declined this year. Such decreases in competitiveness require further examination as to the causes and levels of funding provided to student awards.

Faculty travel continues to hold the single largest share of applications (130), though only accounts for less than 10% of the budget.

Competition rose steeply for competitive lectures, conferences, and center fellowships. Money underspent in other categories offset for some programs for which awards exceeded the program budget lines.

2013/2014 Applications

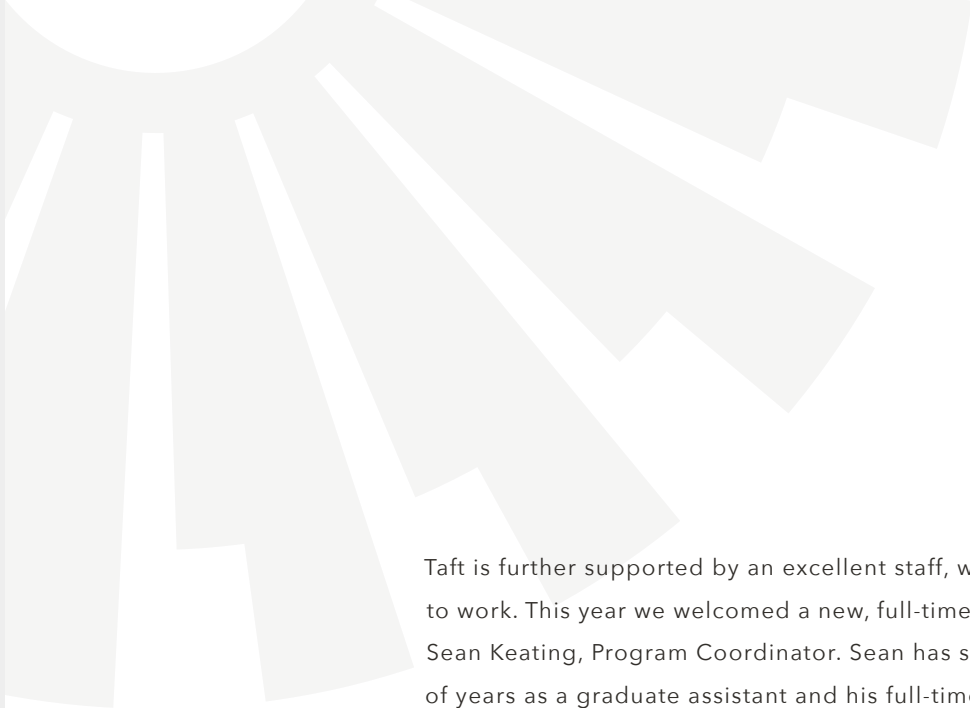


ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

The Charles Phelps Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati and the Memorial Endowment Fund of the same name are administered by the Taft Faculty Chair and Center Director, Adrian Parr, who presides over the Taft Faculty Executive Board and Taft committees. The Chair also prepares the annual budget for approval by the Taft Faculty Executive Board and the center's Board of Trustees. Selected by a search committee, recommended by the Dean of McMicken College, the Chair is appointed for a five-year non-renewable term. Eighteen tenure-track faculty from the Taft departments serve on the executive board, for four-year, overlapping terms. In addition, the Board is served by five ex officio members of UC: UC President, Vice President for Research, Vice President and Dean of the Graduate School, Provost, and Dean of the McMicken College of Arts and Science. The Taft Faculty Executive Committee also establishes policy, procedures, and guidelines, writes and implements the Taft Bylaws, and makes recommendations to the Taft Trustees.

Five award committees (faculty travel, faculty fellowship, center fellowship, research support, and conferences and lectures) of the eight (publications, 2 student awards committees) present their recommendations to the Taft Faculty Executive Board, which then votes on the approval of the award recommendations. Award committees are comprised of tenure-track faculty from the Taft departments and serve one-year, renewable terms.

Without the continued support of faculty and their willingness to serve in the above roles, the Taft mission would be impossible. We are extremely grateful to all those that served in this capacity and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues again in the coming year.



Taft is further supported by an excellent staff, with whom I am privileged to work. This year we welcomed a new, full-time staff member to the family: Sean Keating, Program Coordinator. Sean has served Taft for a number of years as a graduate assistant and his full-time presence at the Center has allowed us to pursue several projects that were not previously possible. Sean's optimism and calm have solidified his place in the hearts of many Taft faculty and his diligence and hard work have made him a true asset to the Center. Much of what we have accomplished in my first year as a Director is thanks to Sean's ability and willingness to execute my vision for the center.

In her 27th year of service to the University of Cincinnati, Joy Dunn continues service to Taft as the Financial and Administrative Coordinator. Joy coordinates all payments (including awards) and invoices and Taft's progress would not be possible without her diligent work.

Taft was fortunate to have Courtney Harchaoui and Mattie Griffin serve as graduate assistants in 2013/2014. Courtney and Mattie are students in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department. Thank you to the both of them and their home department for working with and in service to the Center.



CHARLES PHELPS TAFT RESEARCH CENTER 2013-14 BUDGET

	APPROVED BUDGET	12-13 SURPLUS	13-14 WORKING BUDGET
COMPETITIVE LECTURES	30,000.00	2,000.00	32,000.00
CONFERENCES	20,000.00	5,000.00	25,000.00
ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM	20,000.00		20,000.00
TAFT PROFESSORSHIPS	20,000.00		20,000.00
FACULTY SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS	80,000.00		80,000.00
SRF - RSRCH SUPLMNT	2,500.00		2,500.00
FACULTY RELEASE FELLOWSHIPS*	40,000.00	8,000.00	48,000.00
FRF - RSRCH SUPLMNT*	2,500.00	500.00	3,000.00
CENTER FELLOWSHIPS*	125,000.00		125,000.00
TAFT DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS*	245,000.00		245,000.00
GRADUATE SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS	15,000.00		15,000.00
UNDERGRAD SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS	10,000.00		10,000.00
UNDERGRAD RESEARCH AWARD	13,000.00	10,000.00	23,000.00
MEDICAL STUDIES	3,000.00	2,000.00	5,000.00
URBAN STUDIES	3,000.00	5,000.00	8,000.00
HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES	3,000.00	1,412.00	4,412.00
GLOBAL STUDIES	3,000.00	3,485.00	6,485.00
VISUAL STUDIES	3,000.00	5,000.00	8,000.00
DIGITAL HUMANITIES			
HUMANITIES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT			
TAFT RESEARCH SEMINARS	35,608.00	40,000.00	75,608.00
COLLECTIONS	50,000.00		50,000.00

RESEARCH SUPPORT	22,500.00	2,500.00	25,000.00
UNDERGRADUATE ENRICHMENT	20,000.00		20,000.00
GRADUATE ENRICHMENT	30,000.00		30,000.00
PUBLICATIONS	5,000.00		5,000.00
DOMESTIC CONFERENCES	30,000.00	5,000.00	35,000.00
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES	50,000.00	2,500.00	52,500.00
TRAVEL FOR RESEARCH	25,000.00	15,000.00	40,000.00
GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL	25,000.00	5,000.00	30,000.00
DARS	39,000.00		39,000.00
DEPARTMENTAL LECTURES	39,000.00		39,000.00
GRADUATE ENHANCEMENTS	131,500.00		131,494.00
WORKSTUDY / PARTIAL GA (MATTIE)	7,000.00	854.00	7,854.00
ADMN COORD (SALARY + BENEFITS)	89,000.00	17,271.00	106,271.00
PROGRAM COORDINATOR (SALARY+BENEFITS)	60,000.00		60,000.00
TAFT GA (PUBLICITY) (COURTNEY)	15,000.00	1,151.00	16,151.00
CENTER FACULTY CLUB MEMBERSHIP	240.00		240.00
CHAIR STIPEND SUPPLEMENT	3,000.00		3,000.00
CHAIR COURSE RELEASE	8,000.00		8,000.00
CHAIR'S CONTINGENCY	10,000.00	2,737.00	12,737.00
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/ OPERATIONS	8,000.00		8,000.00
PROMOTIONS/PUBLICITY-HOSTING	5,000.00	1,740.00	6,740.00
TAFTTALKS			
CHCI CONFERENCE	5,000.00	3,628.00	8,628.00
TOTAL ALLOCATED	\$1,350,848	\$139,778.00	\$1,490,620.00



CHARLES PHELPS

TAFT
RESEARCH
CENTER



STAFF

ADRIAN PARR

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