



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
College of Arts & Sciences

**HUMANITIES
INSTITUTE**
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INSTITUTE

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Director's Statement

Fall 2021

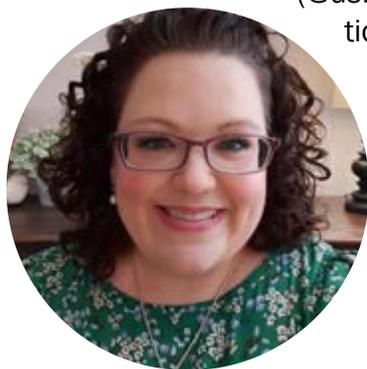
Writing the director's statement for this semester's newsletter, it seems likely that all our information could be out of date by the time the newsletter reaches the reader's hands. We move into this semester with fingers and toes crossed (and lots of contingency plans). The Humanities Institute will continue to follow the best practices recommended by USF and have adopted a hybrid model for our events this fall to allow us to quickly adapt if conditions change.

Despite the ongoing uncertainty due to the pandemic, HI has a wonderful semester planned. We are launching the USF Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship Program this fall, fulfilling a long-term goal of providing time and resources to USF faculty pursuing compelling scholarly or creative topics. Similar fellowships are offered by all of our aspirational peer institutions, and establishing this program is a major milestone.

Additionally, we have two incredible guest speakers who will give presentations on the real world applications of intersectional humanities scholarship, and we will resume our popular Humanities & Hops faculty speaker series as well as the community book group this fall.

One of the unexpected positive outcomes of doing so many events online has been the ability to include people who might otherwise be unable to participate in our events due to time or geographic limitations. Even as we attempt to transition back to in-person programs, we're doing our best to maintain digital options for those who prefer them.

I encourage you to connect with us on either Instagram or Facebook (@usfhuman) for the most up to date information on event times and locations. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy fall. Go Bulls!



Liz Kicak, M.F.A.
Director



Humanities Institute

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Aaron Augsburger (SIGS)
Aisha Durham (Communication)
Nicole Discenza (English)
Ylce Irizarry (English)
John Lennon (English)
Barbara Lewis (Library)
Karla Davis-Salazar (Anthropology)
Catherine Wilkins (Honors College)

The Humanities Institute Mission Statement

The Mission of the Humanities Institute at the University of South Florida is to generate critical dialogue about what connects us to each other and our world, facilitating those conversations through research, education, and community programs.

Faculty Fellowship Program

Establishing a faculty fellowship program is major achievement for the Humanities Institute. Fellows will receive instructional release time, space in the HI suite, and other resources to support a year-long research or creative project. The program is open to all full-time permanent faculty in the USF system. To encourage interdisciplinary, three faculty members apply as a cohort united by a central question or topic that each will explore both individually and as a group. Additionally, the cohort plans regular graduate student seminars and will assist at the Undergraduate Humanities Conference in the spring. Special thanks to the CAS Dean's Office, the HI Faculty Advisory Board, and department chairs for their support and input while developing this new program.

Meet the 2021-22 Cohort!



McArthur Freeman II
Associate Professor
School of Art and Art History



Tangela Serls
Instructor I
Women's and Gender Studies



David Ponton III
Assistant Professor
School of Interdisciplinary Global
Studies-Africana Studies

Re-imagining Blackness: Storytelling the End of the (Racialized) World

The faculty fellows are studying the theoretical underpinnings and legacy of legal scholar Derrick Bell's provocative 1980s claim that racism is a permanent feature in American society and how that claim might inform USF's goal to "understand and address blackness and anti-black racism." Central to each faculty member's research is the role of storytelling in subverting stubborn tales of race, gender, class, etc. that uphold inequality, replacing them with imagined worlds that may not exist, but are deeply yearned for. We're delighted to create space for scholars from different schools and colleges to collaborate, discuss, create, and share their work with the larger USF community.

THE 3RD ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE HUMANITIES CONFERENCE JANUARY 2022

Faculty, contact HI staff now to schedule an in-class information session. Applications open in November.

Consumed: Colonialism, Climate Change, and Consumerism in the Fashion Industry

Aja Barber



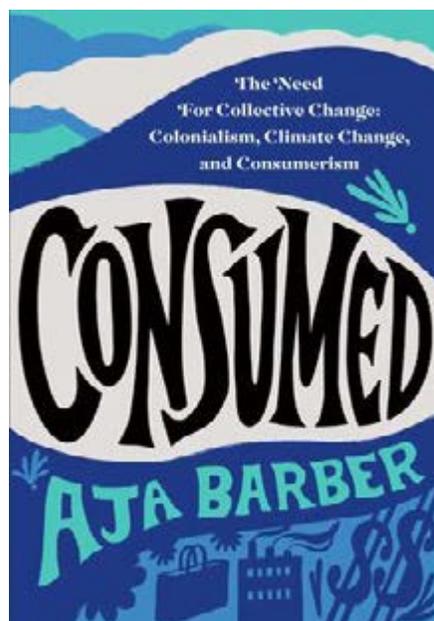
How do our clothing selections relate to colonialism, wealth inequality, and climate change? Join HI's conversation with writer and industry consultant, Aja Barber, on September 14 to learn about the intersection of these and other factors within the fashion industry. Textile production is among the leading causes of environmental damage and climate change. Additionally, most of this production takes place in areas of the world deeply scarred by the legacy of colonialism and continued exploitation based on race, gender, and wealth inequalities.

Barber is a regular contributor to publications like *Eco-Age*, *The Guardian*, CNN, and Selfridges and runs incredibly popular social media sites of her own. Her new book, *Consumed: The Need for Collective Change: Colonialism, Climate Change, and Consumerism* explores the culture of fast fashion, greenwashing, sustainability, and social justice. Visit our website for more information.

TUES **09.14.21**
12pm (ET) | ONLINE

WHAT IS “FAST FASHION”

Fast fashion describes the design, marketing and production of mass amounts of poor quality, inexpensive clothes that replicate designer trends. Items are often worn just a few times before they are discarded and the massive increase in consumption, waste, and pollution are major contributors to environmental damage and climate change.



YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS!

HELP THE HUMANITIES THRIVE

If you enjoy the USF Humanities Institute's events and programs, please support our work by making a gift online today: <https://giving.usf.edu/online/gift/f/420019/>

Would you like to learn more about making a lasting difference with a planned gift? Please contact Liz Kicak: ekicak@usf.edu | 813-974-3657



Scan here to register

Representations of Disability in Popular Culture



Alice Wong



THURS **10.28.21**
7pm (ET) | ONLINE

Scan here to register



Photo of an Asian American woman in a power chair. She is wearing a blue shirt with a geometric pattern with orange, black, white, and yellow lines and cubes. She is wearing a mask over her nose attached to a gray tube and bright red lip color. She is smiling at the camera. Photo credit: Eddie Hernandez Photography

HI is delighted to host an online conversation with disabled activist, writer, media maker, and consultant, Alice Wong on October 28. Wong is the founder and director of the Disability Visibility Project, an online community dedicated to creating, sharing, and amplifying disability media and culture. She has been published in dozens of print and online mediums including the *New York Times*, *Vox*, *PEN America*, *Uncanny Magazine*, *Teen Vogue*, *Rooted in Rights*, and others.

Her activism and work in the areas of popular culture, media, politics, disability representation, Medicaid policies and programs, storytelling, and social media have made her one of the leading voices in disability studies. From 2013 to 2015 Alice served as a member of the National Council on Disability, an appointment by President Barack Obama. In 2020 Alice was named by *Time Magazine* as one of 16 people fighting for equality

in America. In 2021, she was named a changemaker by *Marie Claire* magazine. Alice is the editor of *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century*, an anthology of essays by disabled people. She is currently working on her memoir, *Year of the Tiger* (Vintage Books, 2022).

ASL interpreters and captioning will be provided for the live event. A recording and transcript will be available for 1 week following the event. Visit our website for more information. For accommodations or questions about access, please email Jade V. at jvonwerder@usf.edu or call 813-974-2913.



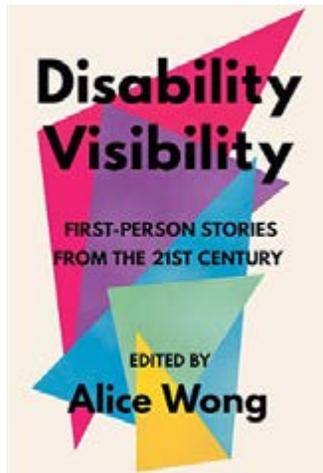
We are looking for faculty and students who conduct research in disability studies for brief podcast-style interviews. Tell us about your work, your reaction to Alice Wong's presentation, or any other topic you'd like to share. Please email Jade V. at jvonwerder@usf.edu.

Funding for this program was provided through a grant from the Florida Humanities with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of Florida Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Book Group

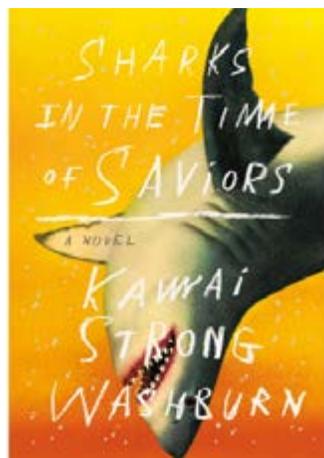
HI will resume meeting in-person for book group this semester. We've selected two great reads for the fall, so grab your copy and join us for a fun conversation.



Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the 21st Century Edited by Alice Wong

Thursday, Oct. 7 | 7pm | 7venth Sun Brewery 6809 N Nebraska Ave.

One in five people in the United States lives with a disability. Some disabilities are visible, others less apparent—but all are underrepresented in media and popular culture. Activist Alice Wong brings together this urgent, galvanizing collection of contemporary essays by disabled people. From blog posts, manifestos, and eulogies, to Congressional testimonies, and beyond, this anthology gives a glimpse into the rich complexity of the disabled experience, highlighting the passions, talents, and everyday lives of this community. It invites readers to question their own understandings. It celebrates and documents disability culture in the now. It looks to the future and the past with hope and love.



Sharks in the Time of Saviors by Kawai Strong Washburn

Saturday, Nov. 20 | 11am | The Independent 5016 N. Florida Ave.

In 1995 Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, on a rare family vacation, seven-year-old Nainoa Flores falls off a ship and into the Pacific Ocean. When Noa is gingerly returned to his mother in the jaws of a shark, his family hails the rescue as a sign of favor from ancient Hawaiian gods—a belief that appears validated after he exhibits puzzling new abilities. But as time passes, this supposed divine favor begins to drive the family apart. Nainoa, struggles to fathom the full measure of his expanding abilities; his older brother Dean hurtles into the world of elite college athletics; his risk-obsessed younger sister Kauai navigates an unforgiving academic workload in an attempt to forge her independence from the family's legacy. When supernatural events revisit the Flores family, they are all forced to reckon with the bonds of family, the meaning of heritage, and the cost of survival.



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Summer Grant Award Recipients

Congratulations to the ten faculty members from the College of Arts & Sciences who were awarded 2021 Humanities Institute Summer Grants. Project titles can be found on our website. The call for 2022 applications will be issued in November.

Kristin Allukian (English)

Travis R. Bell (Zimmerman School of Advertising & Mass Comm.)

John Fleming (English)

Peter N. Funke (School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies)

Diana Leon-Boys (Communication)

Jose Maldonado (English)

Zacharias Pieri (School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies)

Natalie Scenters-Zapico (English)

Yao Sun (Zimmerman School of Advertising & Mass Comm.)

Davide Tanasi (History)



Humanities & Hops

Cold Drinks. Hot Food. Smart People.

Southern Brewing and Winery | 4500 N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa, FL 33603

Everyone's favorite HI event is back this fall. Humanities & Hops gives USF faculty a fun and relaxed way to share their research with the community. Thanks to our wonderful partners, Southern Brewing & Winery in Seminole Heights for welcoming us back.

TUES 10.19.21 Meet the USF Center for Justice Research and Policy
7PM

The Center for Justice Research and Policy (CJRP) hosts an interdisciplinary team of scholars and practitioners focused on the study of crime, violence, and criminal and social justice policy. It is the first of its kind in Florida and several members of the leadership team will explain the center's current research and impact.

THURS 11.18.21 Community Partnerships and Service Learning
7PM

Learn how USF faculty members and community organizations come together to create unique learning opportunities that benefit both the students and the local partners. These student-driven projects get USF students off campus and into the community where they can put their skills to action.

Fall 2021 Calendar

*All times are listed in Eastern Time

- SEP 14** 12pm **Consumed: Colonialism, Climate Change, and Consumerism in the Fashion Industry**
Online | <https://ajabarberusf.eventbrite.com>
- OCT 07** 7pm **Book Group: *Disability Visibility***
7venth Sun Brewery (Tampa)
- OCT 19** 7pm **Humanities & Hops: CJRP at USF**
Southern Brewing & Winery
- OCT 28** 7pm **Representations of Disability in Popular Culture**
Online | <https://alicewongusf.eventbrite.com>
- NOV 18** 7pm **Humanities & Hops: Community Partnerships & Service Learning**
Southern Brewing & Winery
- NOV 20** 11am **Book Group: *Sharks in the Time of Saviors***
The Independent (Tampa)



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