

[Huminst] Humanities Institute Weekly Digest 10/26 - 11/2

Huminst <huminst-bounces+huminst=osu.edu@lists.osu.edu>

on behalf of

Spitulski, Nick via Huminst <huminst@lists.osu.edu>

Mon 10/26/2020 4:36 PM

To: huminst@lists.osu.edu <huminst@lists.osu.edu>

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Greetings Affiliates,

Below please find this week's Humanities Institute bulletin. Stay safe and enjoy your week!

Humanities Weekly Digest

Humanities Institute Spotlights of the Week



October 26, 1:00p.m. - 2:30p.m.: A Conversation with Dr. John Fenn

Dr. John Fenn will discuss his career trajectory from the academic to public sector, focusing especially on the skills he acquired to pursue public folklore. Along with others at the Library of Congress, Dr. Fenn contributes to the [Folklife Today blog](#) and [podcast](#).

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEqd-yvqj4qH9fLJDyRx4PaL5A9HTsv6_HT

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Dr. John Fenn is the Head of Research and Programs at the American Folklife Center, a position that entails leading a team of staff involved in public programming, publications, research, and training in the field of folklife. His academic background is in folklore and ethnomusicology, and he holds a Ph.D. from Indiana University (2004). Prior to taking his position at the Library of Congress, John was an Associate Professor in the Arts and Administration Program at the University of Oregon. He was also a core faculty member in the Folklore Program, and served on the Executive Advisory Committee for the Oregon Folklife Network, which has its administrative offices at the University of Oregon. While a graduate student, John worked for the Lotus World Music and Arts Festival as Assistant Festival Producer and was heavily involved in programming at WFHB, Bloomington's community radio station. He has conducted fieldwork on expressive culture in Malawi (Southeast Africa), China, Indiana, and Oregon—exploring a wide range of practices, traditions, and communities. Throughout his career he has merged training in folklore and ethnomusicology with a commitment to documentation, public presentation, stewardship, and interpretation of cultural forms and expressions.

If you require an accommodation such as live captioning or interpretation to participate in this event, please contact Cassie Patterson at Patterson.493@osu.edu.

**Technologies of
Transgression? Questioning
'Religious Opposition'
to Vaccines**

Dr. Ben Kasstan, Hebrew University
of Jerusalem; University of Sussex
October 29, 2020, 12:00pm-1:30pm

Hosted by the Center for the Study of Religion and
the Center for Folklore Studies, supported by the
Global Arts + Humanities Discovery Theme

To register for this online event, please visit
religion.osu.edu/events/ben-kasstan



This event is free and open to the public. If you require an accommodation, such as live captioning, to participate in this event, please contact Sarah Dove at dove.76@osu.edu.

October 29, 12:00p.m. - 1:30p.m.: "Technologies of Transgression? Questioning 'Religious Opposition' to Vaccines" with Dr. Ben Kasstan

Please join us for the first Living Well, Dying Well lecture, a series of events focused on religion, health, and healing:

Technologies of Transgression? Questioning 'Religious Opposition' to Vaccines

Dr. Ben Kasstan (Hebrew University of Jerusalem; University of Sussex)

Thursday, October 29, 12:00pm-1:30pm

This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. [Please click here](#) to register for this event and receive the link to join the virtual meeting.

Abstract: From Orthodox Protestants in The Netherlands to Amish and Orthodox Jews in the USA, lower-level vaccination coverage among religious minorities in the global north has emerged as a major public health challenge. Recent measles epidemics, too, have raised questions about managing religious difference or 'exemption' in liberal societies, notably concerning legislation and mandates in the USA. Yet, to what extent is it appropriate to conceptualise this issue as a case of 'religious opposition' to vaccination? Drawing on an ethnographic study of vaccine decision-making among Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel-Palestine, this paper explores how vaccines are entangled in contested and shifting ideas of religious transgression and authenticity. Whereas parents broadly condemned non-vaccination as a transgression of Jewish law, parents who refused vaccines on the grounds of safety consolidated their positions by drawing on the same laws to frame non-vaccination as a religious imperative. Common criticism surrounding biomedical technologies then discursively 'converts' in religiously Orthodox settings, producing evolving claims of moral opposition and rights to religious freedom.

Bio: Dr. Ben Kasstan is a Research Fellow in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a Research Associate in the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex. A medical anthropologist with a research background in global and public health, he has conducted fieldwork in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Israel, Lesotho, The Gambia and Nigeria. Dr. Kasstan's first book, *Making Bodies Kosher: The Politics of Reproduction among Haredi Jews in England*, examines the ways in which Haredi Jews negotiate healthcare services; [Making Bodies Kosher](#) is available as an open-access publication through the publisher, Berghahn Books.

If you require an accommodation, such as live captioning, to participate in this event, please contact religion@osu.edu. Requests made at least one week in advance of the event will generally allow us to provide seamless access, but the university will make every effort to meet requests made after this date.

This event is supported by a grant from the [Global Arts + Humanities Discovery Theme](#).



November 2, 4:00p.m. - 5:30p.m.: CMRS Colloquium: Kirsten Mendoza (University of Dayton), "Racecraft through Discourses of Civility in the Second Part of 'The Countess of Montgomery's Urania'"

Please join the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies for its first colloquium of the 2020-2021 academic year! Kirsten Mendoza, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Dayton, will present her current research on *The Countess of Montgomery's Urania* (1621), the first prose romance written by an English woman, Lady Mary Wroth. Professor Mendoza will explore the ways that romance itself is part of the shifting contours of race discourses, and suggests that Wroth's *Urania* can be understood as an imaginative ordering of an expansive and diverse worldview, in which Christian civility and the interior space of women's erotic lives provide the grounds that accommodate the necessary cross-cultural relationships and politically and religiously inflected alliances that inevitably occur through increased travel, commerce, and trade in a global early modernity.

Bio: Kirsten Mendoza is an Assistant Professor of Early Modern Studies and Human Rights at the University of Dayton. Her research and teaching centers on British early modern drama and literature, consent, premodern critical race studies, gender, sexuality, and the intersections of law and literature. Her work has been supported through grants from the Huntington Library, Newberry Library, and the Folger Shakespeare Library and has been published in *Teaching Social Justice Through Shakespeare: Why Renaissance Literature Matters Now* and *The Rambling*. Her first book manuscript *A Politics of Touch: The Racialization of Consent in Early Modern English Drama* analyzes the intersections of bodies of alterity and sexual violence in theatrical performances from the Elizabethan to the Restoration periods.

Please find Professor Mendoza's project summary attached to this email.

Weekly Events Listing

October 26, 1:00p.m. - 2:30p.m.

Transitioning from Academia to the Public Sector: a Conversation w/ Dr. John Fenn

[Zoom](#)

Sponsored by the Center for Folklore Studies

October 26, 3:30p.m. - 5:00p.m.

Michael Sharp (Editor at Cambridge University Press)
University Hall, 448
Sponsored by the Department of Classics

October 27, 3:30p.m. - 4:30p.m.

Medieval Latin Reading Group
For Zoom link, contact lockett.20@osu.edu
Sponsored by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

October 29, 12:00p.m. - 1:30p.m.

"Technologies of Transgression? Questioning 'Religious Opposition' to Vaccines" with Dr. Ben Kasstan
[Zoom](#)
Sponsored by the Global Arts + Humanities Discovery Theme

October 29, 4:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.

Old French Reading Group
[Zoom](#)
Sponsored by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

October 30, 2:20p.m. - 3:40p.m.

[Confronting our own linguistic biases: An exploration of heritage speakers' sociophonetic perception](#)
[Zoom](#)
Sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese

October 30, 3:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.

A Virtual Afternoon with CFS
[Zoom](#)
Sponsored by the Center for Folklore Studies

November 2, 8:30a.m. - 10:00a.m.

Feldenkrais Method® Master Class with Alon Karniel
[Zoom](#)
Sponsored by Global Arts and Humanities Discovery Theme

November 2, 4:00p.m. - 5:30p.m.

CMRS Colloquium: Kirsten Mendoza (University of Dayton), "Racecraft through Discourses of Civility in the Second Part of 'The Countess of Montgomery's Urania'"

[Zoom](#)

Sponsored by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

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