

NEWSLETTER | FALL 2017

# Calgary Institute

## FOR THE HUMANITIES

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Canada's Oldest Humanities Institute





**Director**  
**Jim Ellis**

## The CIH: A Time for Change and Growth

This is an exciting time at the CIH, as we enter a new period of change and renewal. In September, the CIH welcomed a new group of fellows, along with four new working groups and four returning ones. We have also embarked on an ambitious development campaign that begins a new chapter in our history.

As you will see in the following pages, our new 2017-2018 fellows demonstrate the wide range of disciplines, approaches and topics we support here at the CIH. Our fellows are working on projects concerning radical reading groups in the Balkans, expropriation in the Mexican oil industry, and municipal politics in Western Canada. Our doctoral fellow is pursuing a creative dissertation that engages with the University archives, and our postdoctoral fellow is looking at Latin poetry from seventeenth-century Sweden.

Our working groups are similarly diverse. Four new groups are exploring social justice in smart cities; genomics and the environment; paleography; and data visualization. Our four returning groups will be exploring the history of energy transition; visual images in research; creative practice as research; and the philosophy of linguistics. These groups have already been holding meetings, hosting speakers and even, in one case, a day-long symposium. For more information on these groups, including how to participate, look to our website.

As for the Institute itself, we're working on bringing out a book of essays and images based on our 2017 Community Seminar on water, and busily planning for

the next community seminar, which will take place in May, 2018. Our Calgary Atlas project has three maps underway, and is in the planning stages for three more. Longer term, we're preparing to host the annual meeting of the Western Humanities Alliance in November 2018. This meeting will coincide with a conference entitled "Spectral Cities," which will look at how cities are haunted by their histories, at alternative and underground cities, at abandoned or failed city plans, at utopias, ghost towns, and boom-and-bust economies.

We continue to build on our history at the CIH, but this is also a time of positive change and growth. The CIH has been the beneficiary of a million-dollar gift from one of our advisory board members, Judy MacLachlan. Judy is a proud alumna of UCalgary, a former member of the U of C Senate, and an enthusiastic supporter of the CIH. Her support will allow us to strengthen and expand our existing programs, and to move forward with an endowment campaign that has as its goal making the CIH one of the leading humanities institutes in North America.

This is a fantastic gift, and a great vote of confidence in the CIH, its history of service and its mission to be a key site of civic and civil engagement for Calgarians. But it is also a challenge: both to the CIH, to continue to merit this confidence, and to our community, to help us reach our goals. I hope that you will join us at one of our events this year, and become a part of this vital community of conversation and inquiry.

# 2017-2018 CIH ANNUAL FELLOWS

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01. **AMELIA KIDDLE**  
ANNUAL FELLOW, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
*The Mexican Oil Expropriation of 1938 and the Roots of Resource Nationalism in Latin America*



02. **JACK LUCAS**  
ANNUAL FELLOW, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
*Political Authority and Democratic Reform in the Western Canadian City*



03. **SABRINA PERIC**  
ANNUAL FELLOW, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHAEOLOGY  
*Ilegala: Reading, Radicalism and Paramilitarism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1932 - 1942*



04. **ANURADHA GOBIN**  
WAYNE O. McCREADY FELLOWSHIP FOR AN EMERGING SCHOLAR, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ART

05. **JESSICA NICOL**  
GRADUATE FELLOW, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
*Lost in the Stacks: A Fictocritical Study of Material and Digital Objects in the Bob Gibson Collection of Speculative Fiction*



06. **JULIA SMITH**  
VISITING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW  
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NJ, USA  
*Labour Feminists in Western Canada*

07. **ELENA DAHLBERG**  
VISITING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW  
UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN  
*Latin Poetry in the Service of the Swedish State-Building Program, c. 1550-1650*

Clockwise from L-R: Amelia Kiddle, Jack Lucas, Sabrina Peric, Anuradha Gobin, Jessica Nicol, Julia Smith, Elena Dahlberg



WAYNE O. MCCREADY FELLOWSHIP  
FOR AN EMERGING SCHOLAR

## A NEW CIH FELLOWSHIP EMERGES

In 2016 the CIH received an anonymous donation of \$115,000 which made the Wayne O. McCready Resident Fellowship for an Emerging Scholar a reality. The CIH is thrilled to be able to offer this new fellowship in the 2018-2019 academic year.

# WAYNE O. McCREADY EMERGING SCHOLAR

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**ANURADHA GOBIN**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF ART

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Anuradha Gobin joined the University of Calgary as an Assistant Professor of Art History in 2016. Prior to this, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Sainsbury Institute for Art and received her PhD in art history from McGill University.

Gobin is currently working on a SSHRC funded book manuscript which examines representations of the criminal body as it moved in, out and through publicly accessible spaces in the city during punishment rituals in the seventeenth-century Dutch Republic. Criminal punishments in the early modern Dutch Republic were carefully formulated public spectacles aimed at providing maximum visual impact to viewers. Depending on the severity and nature of the crime, the criminal body could be encountered in a number of publicly accessible spaces throughout the city. Unlike contemporary punishments of criminals which generally occur behind closed doors with limited audience, early modern punishments were rituals that attracted spectators and prompted the production of a range of both official and unofficial visual culture.





In contrast to the perceived life cycle of virtuous men and women, the premature death of criminals doomed them to a different afterlife. The condemned corpse was believed to be barred from entering heaven after death, and did not find rest and reward through burial and resurrection. Instead, the criminal corpse was reactivated, reanimated and in many ways reintegrated into civic life.

The transgressive body was put on view at a number of public sites such as the Town Hall and Town Square where criminal trials and executions occurred; the gallows field where dead criminal bodies were placed on display; and the anatomy theatre where selected cadavers were dissected in search of new anatomical knowledge. Gobin investigates the social, religious and legal importance of spaces of criminal punishment, placing particular emphasis on the uses of various media to advertise and transmit information about public executions and dissections. The main objects of analysis include paintings, drawings, prints, anatomical illustrations, sculpture, flap-sheet anatomies and preserved body parts, which were actively circulated during the seventeenth century.

Visual media related to criminal punishments served a key role in asserting republican ideals and demonstrating the ability of civic officials to maintain order and control. Conversely, the wide circulation

of some types of visual culture had the potential to subvert official messages through their ability to engage an expanded audience in discussion and debate. Visual culture related to criminal punishments thus opened up a space in which dissenting positions could be formulated. Dr. Gobin's research interrogates the mechanisms through which the dissemination of visual culture related to the delinquent body brought together seemingly disparate groups of people and solicited their participation, especially in the generation of new knowledge about the body. This participation, however, may have been an unintended outcome of punishment rituals and, as such, demonstrates the increasingly collective and public nature of knowledge acquisition in the seventeenth-century Dutch Republic.



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2017-2018  
Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow

Julia Smith

# Labour Feminists in Western Canada



My research project at the Calgary Institute for the Humanities (CIH) examines the different politics, strategies, and experiences of women who tried to advance gender equality through and within the labour movement in Western Canada between 1965 and 1985. While the term “women’s movement” is often used to describe feminist activity, distinct differences exist between the people and groups who engage in feminist activism. Scholars have documented how women in Canada used unions and labour organizations to improve their wages and working conditions, but there have been few studies of the independent feminist unions and labour organizations that women established to foment social change beyond the workplace. Moreover, we know

little about the regional dimensions of the “second wave” of feminist activism that occurred in Canada in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. What factors contributed to the establishment of independent feminist unions in British Columbia in the early 1970s? Why did they spread to Saskatchewan but not Alberta? How did female labour activists in Alberta work to address gender inequality in Canadian society during this period? By answering these questions, my research project provides a much-needed regional analysis of labour feminism; contributes to the international scholarship on the diversity of feminist and union activism; sheds light on historical and contemporary problems concerning women, work, and the Canadian labour movement; and deepens

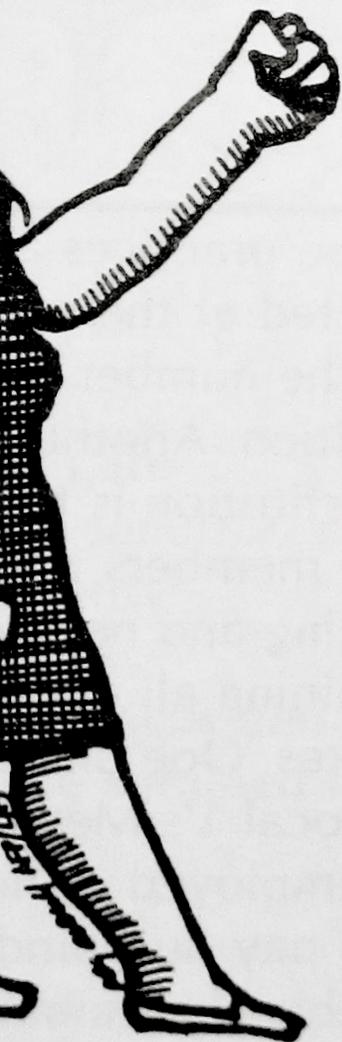


Image from the Service, Office, and Retail Workers' Union of Canada pamphlet. Source: Canadian Women's Movement Archives, University of Ottawa.

our understanding of how people organize for social change.

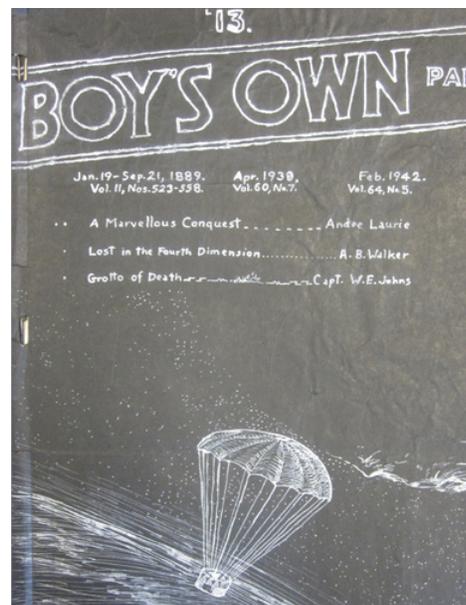
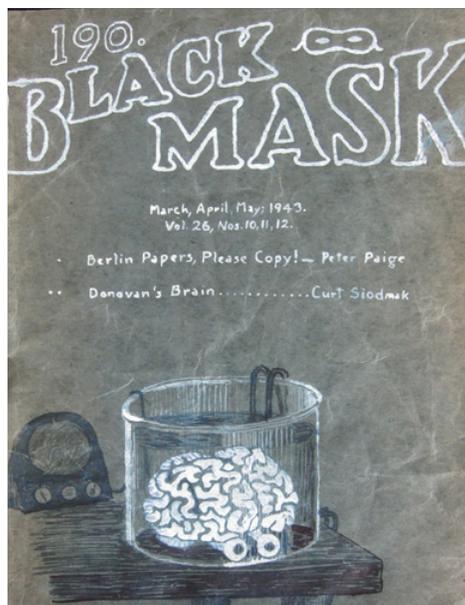
I am excited to be completing my research project at the CIH. The Institute's interdisciplinary scholarly environment will allow me to connect with other scholars who share my interests in feminism and labour activism in Canada. As well, the support and resources provided by the CIH will be of great assistance as I complete my research. I look forward to contributing to the intellectual life of the Institute and the University of Calgary, and I thank the CIH for providing me with the opportunity to be a Visiting Fellow.

## FALL EVENTS

- OCT 16**    **BRITT WRAY, 12 PM, BI 561**  
*(Re)born to be wild? De-extinction and the issues it creates*  
 The lecture is free and open to the public.
- OCT 18**    **CIH OPEN HOUSE, BI 588**  
 Interested faculty & graduate students are invited to attend to find out more about the Institute, Annual Fellowships and becoming a CIH Working Group.
- OCT 25**    **CHARLES TEPPERMAN, 3 pm, BI 561**  
*Mapping an Alternative Film History: The Amateur Movie Database Project*  
 A reception will follow and all are welcome.
- NOV 14**    **APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
 ANNUAL, GRADUATE and VISITING FELLOWSHIPS
- NOV 14**    **PAULA MITCHELL, 11.30 am, BI 587**  
*Wars Begin in the Minds of Men:” Psychiatry and the Antinuclear Movement*  
 A reception will follow and all are welcome.
- NOV 16**    **ANURADHA GOBIN, 7 pm, TFDL GALLERY HALL**  
*The Material Afterlife of the Criminal Body in the Dutch Republic*  
 The CIH presents the second annual McCready Fellow Lecture. A reception will follow and all are welcome.
- NOV 30**    **TIMOTHY DAVID CLARK, 4 pm, BI 561**  
*The Regulation of Indigenous Knowledge in Alberta's Oil Sands: Power and Perspective*  
 The lecture is free and open to the public.

Stay tuned for our Winter lecture series and follow us on twitter. @HumanitiesYYC

# DIGITAL HUMANITIES: PROJECT UPDATES

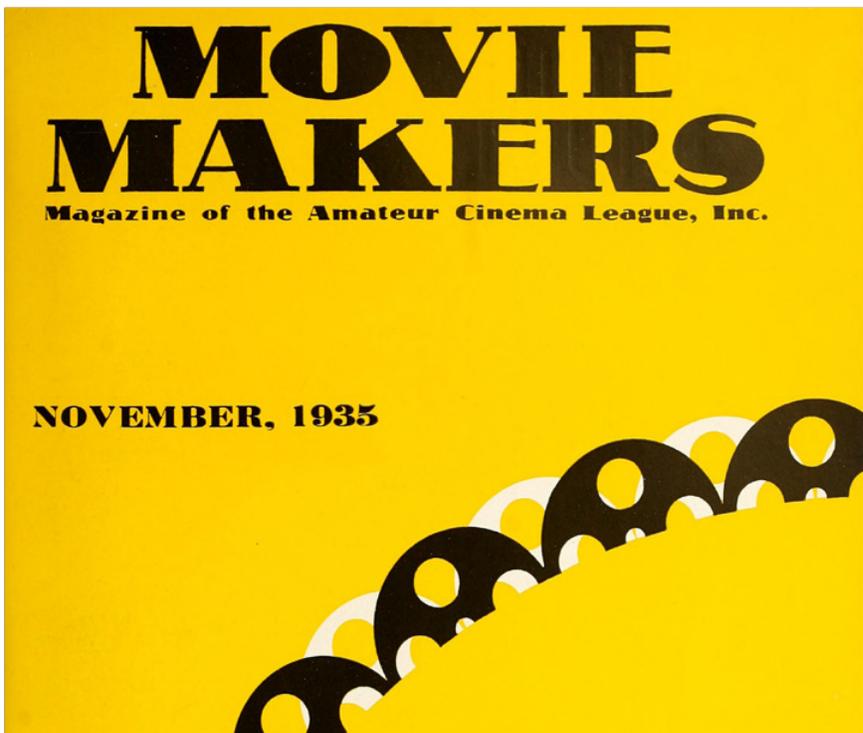


**STEFANIA FORLINI**  
**CIH 2016-17 ANNUAL FELLOW**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT ENGLISH

Together with her collaborator, Dr. Uta Hinrichs (School of Computer Science, University of St Andrews), Dr. Forlini recently completed a pilot study entitled “The Stuff of Science Fiction: An Experiment in Literary History”, supported by a SSHRC Insight Development Grant. This study combined more traditional archival work with methods grounded in computer science (especially interactive information visualization) to explore hundreds of early periodical-based science fictional works compiled into handcrafted booklets, known as the Gibson anthologies of speculative fiction (University of Calgary’s Special Collections). Working with a subset of 72 digitized anthologies and detailed information they carefully gathered by reading their contents (including complete bibliographic details, thematic motifs, formal features, and abstracts) for more than 1,500 individual items contained therein, Forlini and her team developed The Speculative W@nderverse. Through

this interactive visualization interface they explored trends across these items and made numerous discoveries, including the works of dozens of women writers not included in authoritative bibliographies of the genre. Crucially, this pilot study also demonstrated the effectiveness of incorporating interactive visualization into humanistic research processes while also contributing to research in information visualization.

This first study also made it abundantly clear that while digitization – and the computational analyses it allows – offers unprecedented opportunities for large-scale literary histories based on vast, previously unexamined collections, it also introduces a critical blind-spot. It preserves the semantic content of print artefacts, but it largely obscures meaningful physical features (size, paper types, bindings, etc.) that contain valuable historical traces of print technologies, markets, and readers.



Now thanks to the support of a Libraries and Cultural Resources sub-grant made possible by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Forlini and Hinrichs will explore how the involvement of cheap pulp paper magazines and slick, more expensive glossy magazines shaped the evolution of SF. They will do this by examining relationships between the content of early SF works included in the Gibson anthologies and the kinds of paper materials on which they were printed. With the help of LCR expertise and services and of Dr. Christopher Collins (director of the Vialab at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and Canada Research Chair in Linguistic Information Visualization), they will produce a more textured history of how literary innovation was tied to changes in periodical publishing in the formative years of science fiction while also exploring how university libraries can better represent physical features of print artefacts in digital environments.



**CHARLES TEPPERMAN**  
**CIH 2016-17 ANNUAL FELLOW**  
 ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, CMF

Long before YouTube revolutionized the distribution of non-professional motion pictures, a movement of amateur filmmakers created an alternative world of small-scale movie production and circulation. In the middle decades of the twentieth century, amateur filmmaking consisted of more than rough home movies: it also included polished and accomplished fictional, documentary and experimental works. From the

1920s to the 1970s, local, national, and international organizations emerged to promote and advance amateur filmmaking activities, and in doing so created an alternative film culture distinct from the profit-oriented mass culture of the film industry.

The Amateur Movie Database (AMDB) was launched in March 2017 and marks the first systematic effort to trace the scope and extent of amateur moviemaking in North America. The Database currently includes information about more than 1600 films, and provides a valuable tool for researchers and archivists. In collaboration with several archives, we have located many of the films in the database and continue work together in order to draw attention to other unheralded amateur works.

[www.amateurcinema.org](http://www.amateurcinema.org)



01

### Genomics, Bioinformatics and the Climate Crisis

The goal of this working group is to facilitate learning and communication among researchers and students interested in the environmental humanities. Our specific focus is to examine the present climate crisis together with critical scholarship on the promise of DNA – as gene and genome – as a potential solution to this crisis.

02

### Thinking Data, Data Thinking

The “Thinking Data, Data Thinking” working group will cultivate the synergistic possibilities of combining humanistic critical interrogations of data structures and representations with the cutting-edge research being done in computer science (especially information visualization and computational media design).

03

### Paleography Reading Group

The aim of this working group is to bring together interested individuals who need paleographical skills for basic research in order to provide a supportive, collaborative environment in which we can learn from each other and help students gain the appropriate skills in a more effective way.

04

### Social Justice and the Smart City

This working group has been established to advance research on what has been termed the “smart city.” The groups primary concern is with social and environmental justice in the smart city, an area needing further research and development to answer critical questions related to political economy, sustainability, resilience, participation, democracy, discrimination and justice as they get wound up and embedded in cities and technologies.

# Introducing the 2017-2018 Working Groups

05

## Creative and Practice-based Working Group: Year 2

Over the last decade, a literature on “art-based” and “practice-based” research has integrated creative research in the visual and performing arts with the strategic research directions of postsecondary institutions. This interdisciplinary working group would be positioned at the centre of such an exchange.

06

## Energy In Society (EIS): Year 2

The EIS working group seeks to build on its successful collaboration with the CIH during the 2016-2017 academic year. This year, we aim to grow our working group by building links with fellow faculty members and graduate students at the University of Calgary and to showcase the research being done here on energy transitions to an international audience.

07

## Vendler Reading Group: Year 2

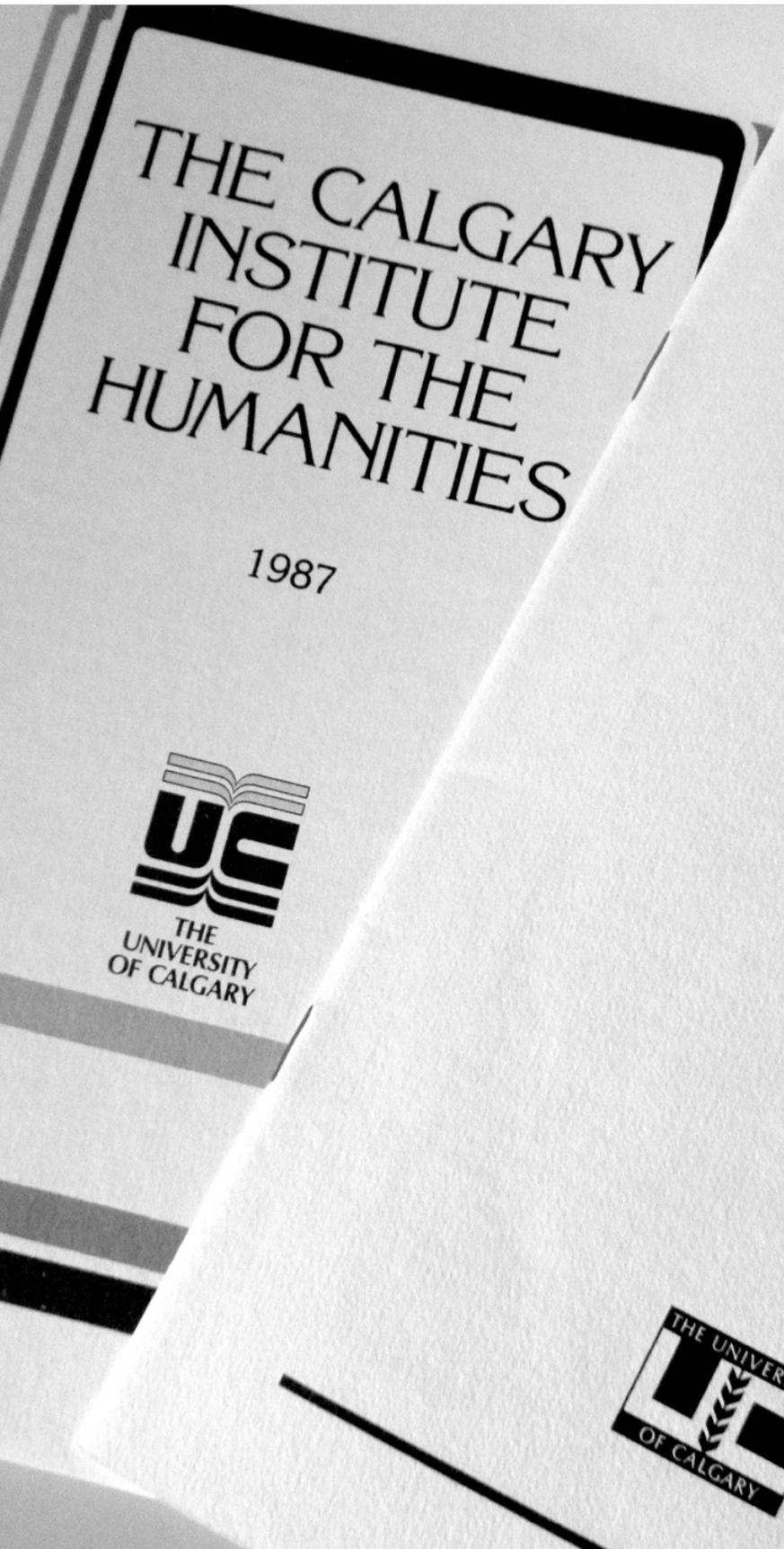
The group’s main goal is to facilitate communication between researchers working on issues related to the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of natural languages. The group meets approximately once a month to discuss current research, work in progress by reading group members, and to host visiting scholars.

08

## Visual Research Working Group: Year 3

The Visual Research Working Group has been supported by the CIH for the past two years (2015/16 and 2016/17). In our third year, we will develop plans for presenting our collaborative work to the public. We will create opportunities to organize conference presentations, exhibitions, and panel discussions, in addition to writing and other potential joint projects.





# OVER 40 YEARS AND COUNTING

As Canada's oldest Humanities Institute, the CIH has a long history of supporting the humanities, promoting interdisciplinary research and inspiring community engagement.





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**WE SUPPORT**  
**WE PROMOTE**  
**WE INSPIRE**



Keep up to date with CIH events and join our mailing list. Email us! [cih@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cih@ucalgary.ca)

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