

# Society for Values in Higher Education

## Views and Values



### *Executive Director's Corner*

As usual, we're busy getting ready for another thought-provoking, action-packed Fellows Meeting in July. The University of Washington will be our host, and Seattle the backdrop for our inquiry into personal identity, freedom, and power in American pluralism. And, of course, we'll have plenty of opportunities to catch up with old friends, make new ones, and return to the comfort of our favorite Morning Group Seminars and Interest Groups.

Some folks might think the summer meeting is all we do, but SVHE is really quite active all year. For years now we have sent a group of members and colleagues to China to run summer teaching workshops. For five straight years SVHE has sponsored a seminar conversation on education and values issues at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges and Universities. And the Board of Directors meets twice a year to steward the organization and plan future meetings and events.

This year, the Society also is collaborating with Indiana University to sponsor a symposium entitled The New Populism and the Politics of Dissensus. The symposium is a continuation of a long tradition of Soundings symposia, and we're grateful to Indiana University for providing a generous New Frontiers/New Currents grant that has made the symposium possible. An impressive group of sixteen scholars will participate as either presenters or respondents. The papers will be gathered into a special issue of Soundings.

The symposium will be held on the campus of Indiana University Kokomo from March 29-31, and is open to the public. If you are in the area and would like to attend, just e-mail me ([bain-selbo@svhe.org](mailto:bain-selbo@svhe.org)) for information. We'll also be posting information to the Society's website and Facebook page.

The summer meeting undoubtedly is the heart of our organization. It rejuvenates and inspires so many of us who return year after year. But that energy and passion goes beyond the summer meeting, and finds expression in so many other good projects and initiatives

FM 2018

Fellows  
News



**Freedom, Power, and Personal Identity in American Pluralism**  
**94th Annual Fellows Meeting**  
**July 18-22, 2018**  
**University of Washington - Seattle**  
**Registration will begin soon!**

## Soundings to Co-Sponsor Symposium at IU Kokomo

### The New Populism and the Politics of Dissensus



On March 29-31, Indiana University Kokomo will be hosting a symposium entitled The New Populism and the Politics of Dissensus. The symposium will bring together 16 scholars to grapple with some of the most important questions about our politics and political theory.

Consensus provides the foundation for most liberal democratic theories. Such theories assume that a process of public deliberation that moves the polity toward consensus should both guide and legitimate the institutions of a democratic government. Thus, consensus is a necessary good for society. Recently, however, these fundamental assumptions have been challenged by a politics of dissensus. Political theorists like Ernesto Laclau, Chantal Mouffe, and Jacques Ranciere have argued that antagonism and conflict are ineradicable parts of the democratic process which need to be acknowledged and even celebrated rather than somehow overcome. They claim that the kinds of consensus that are extolled by liberal democracies are themselves part of the machinery of oppression. Indeed, Ranciere insists that any attempt to legitimate any exercise of power will inevitably support an oppressive status quo that institutionalizes problematic asymmetries of power.

The populist movements that are currently gaining strength in both Europe and America seem to share these theorists' distrust of liberal democratic institutions and the kinds of deliberation on which they depend for their legitimacy. Despite their nostalgic longing for the politics of a by-gone era, these populists assume that only those who break completely with political institutions as they are currently constituted can hope to restore legitimacy to the political system. Rather than placing hope in deliberation, the populist political program is frequently expressed as support for charismatic leaders who show a minimal regard for institutions of any kind and present themselves as the necessary exceptions to the norms of democratic rule.

Both the theorists of dissensus and the populists are motivated by a strong resentment of the ways that liberal democracies have normalized and institutionalized inequities of power and wealth. Is a politics of consensus still viable in the face of these theoretical and practical challenges? Does our politics of consensus need to be amended, and, if so, what would such a revitalized politics of consensus look like? If it cannot be revitalized, what can we expect of our future politics?

The symposium is made possible by the generous support of a New Frontiers/New Currents grant from Indiana University as well as support from Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal, which is a publication of the Society for Values in Higher Education.

Symposium presentations will be open to the public.

## New Project for Mary Jo Small Fellows

The SVHE Board of Director's is excited to announce a new pilot program! As you may be aware, the Mary Jo Small Fellowship program was formed in 2010 to honor long-time Fellow Mary Jo Small and her commitment to early career faculty. Since it's beginning, the program has introduced 28 members to the Society for Values in Higher Education, including 2017's class of six Fellows. Of those Fellows, nine attended the Fellows meeting a second time, and five have attended more than twice. Three MJS Fellowship recipients are now Board members, and one has remained involved with SWCT. It is clear that the MJS fellows program is having a positive impact on the growth of the Society.

In light of this success, the Board of Directors has decided to extend the MJS Fellowship program to continue to encourage the recruitment of new Fellows. The MJS Fellows are, according to the requirements of the program, early career academics. Consequently, these Fellows often do not have access to sufficient travel funds and/or institutional support for interdisciplinary work. We believe that attending two Fellows Meetings builds relationships, and solidifies the MJS Fellow's understanding of the Society and the role they can play in it. This new program, the Mary Jo Small Scholars, will extend funding to former MJS Fellows for one additional year to cover conference registration, room and board, and travel costs. Invitations will be extended to previous MJS fellows who have not attended a second FM.

**Help us grow this program and Society membership by clicking [here](#) to donate to this program! Simply enter "Mary Jo Small" in the designated box and your contribution will go to this great project!**

## Reading for the Common Good

Our Reading for the Common Good program is now in it's fifth year. Over the years, the program has provided over 220 books to 15 different groups organized by Fellows across the country. The Reading for the Common Good program is designed to facilitate gatherings and conversation (a common good) in order to discuss issues or problems related to our lives together (the common good).

Any SVHE member can request to participate with the requirement that he or she will gather 8-10 colleagues during the fall or spring semester to discuss a book related to the theme of our summer meeting (we recommend monthly meetings).

The Spring semester's program is well underway with 4 different groups reading either *American Covenant: A History of Civil Religions from the Puritans to the Present* by Philip Gorski or *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*, by Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. Gorski will speak on Thursday, July 19 at the SVHE conference at the University of Washington in Seattle this summer.



## FM 2018

## Plenary Speakers

Wednesday, July 18, 2018 7:00pm

Ethnic Cultural Center Theatre - UW Seattle

**Sophia Pandya**

**“The War Took us Backwards: Women’s Activism in Yemen post Arab Spring”**

Dr. Sophia Pandya is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the California State University Long Beach with a focus on women and Islam. She is the author of the book *Muslim Women and Islamic Resurgence: Religion, Education and Identity Politics in Bahrain*, and was the co-editor of *The Gulen Hizmet Movement and Its Transnational Activities: Case Studies of Altruistic Activism in Contemporary Islam*.



Thursday, July 19, 2018 7:00pm

Ethnic Cultural Center Theatre - UW Seattle

**Philip S. Gorski**

**“In Search of our Better Angels: A Brief History of American Civil Religion”**

Philip S. Gorski is a Professor of Sociology and the Co-Director of Yale’s Center for Comparative Research. His empirical work focuses on topics such as state-formation, nationalism, revolution, economic development and secularization with particular attention to the interaction of religion and politics. He is the author of *American Covenant: A History of Civil Religion from the Puritans to the Present* and *The Disciplinary Revolution: Calvinism and the Growth of State Power in Early Modern Europe*.



### Morning Seminars

#### Historical Fiction

The Historical Fiction Morning Group will discuss four novels this summer. Janet Edwards will lead off with a discussion of Anthony Trollope’s *Can You Forgive Her?* Tom Stockdale will then moderate a discussion of George Saunders’ *Lincoln in the Bardo*, considered by many critics to be one of the best books of 2017. David Dornan will lead a discussion of Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony*, a central work in the Native American canon, and we will conclude the group with discussion of Wendell Berry’s *Hannah Coulter* facilitated by Joel Cunningham.

Convener: Mary Papke - [papke@utk.edu](mailto:papke@utk.edu).

#### Exploring Seattle

Interested in visiting some of Seattle’s attractions? This group will meet and head into the city via light rail to landmarks such as the the Space Needle and Pike’s Place Market. Let us know if you have any suggestions for what you’d like to see. Participants will be responsible for their own costs.

Convener: Jeremiah Howard – [society@svhe.org](mailto:society@svhe.org)

Society for Values in Higher Education

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## FM 2018

### Celebrating the Search

Celebrating the Search explores the many areas in the spiritual life that fascinate and baffle us and searches to find new ways to talk about spiritual growth. Already committed to share this year are David Dornan who will talk about the spirituality of mountain climbing and Ellen Maher who will share some lessons she’s learned in retirement.

\*Carol Ochs, convener of this group, is sad to share that she will not be able to join us in Seattle. This will be the first meeting she has not been able to attend in over 30 years. She asked that I share that she will miss everyone. We are working to confirm someone to step in for Carol this summer. Share any suggestions you may have with Sandy.

### Pop Culture

The Pop Culture Morning Seminar examines the values that are presented, and received, through every imaginable form of popular culture, from broadcast television to video games, from pot boilers to heavy metal.

This year, in keeping with the conference theme, we are addressing freedom, power and personal identity as depicted, and as created, by pop culture. Please note – this group’s participants will prepare a 10-minute presentation for the Sunday session.

- 1) Eric Ecklund (associate professor, Saint Francis University) will be leading the group in exploring Ada Palmer’s debut 2016 science fiction novel *Too Like the Lightning*. Professor Palmer (University of Chicago) introduces the reader to a richly detailed future (set in 2454) in which changes in concepts of political affiliation, nation/state loyalties, religion, and gender identity create an apparently peaceful utopian world teetering on the brink of dystopian dissolution.
- 2) Melissa Houghton (executive director, Women in Film and Video) will guide the group in a discussion of gender and objectification in film and television.
- 3) The group will do a field trip to the Museum of Pop Culture, to dive into some of Marvel’s most beloved characters – like Spider-Man, Black Panther, and Doctor Strange - and their connection to and impact on issues of gender, race and mental illness.
- 4) Each participant will prepare a 10-minute presentation on the general theme as reflected in their pop culture of choice.

Preparation - Attendees are asked to:

- 1) Read *Too Like Lightning* (and encouraged to read the second and third books in the soon-to-be four book Terra Ignota series) and come ready to discuss the implications of this future society to our own turbulent present. Attendees may want to visit [Professor Palmer’s site](#) and this [interview](#) for a deeper background on its exceptionally gifted author.
- 2) Gender homework is TBD
- 3) Watch and read
  - a. Black Panther (2018 film) and [http://marvel.wikia.com/wiki/T'Challa\\_\(Earth-616\)](http://marvel.wikia.com/wiki/T'Challa_(Earth-616))
  - b. Doctor Strange (2016 film) and [http://marvel.com/universe/Doctor\\_Strange\\_\(Stephen\\_Strange\)](http://marvel.com/universe/Doctor_Strange_(Stephen_Strange))
- 4) Present 10 minutes on an example, in the pop culture genre of your choice, where a plurality of identities actuality strengthens or reinforces collective/national identities.

Convener: Judy Meschel - [meschelja@aol.com](mailto:meschelja@aol.com)

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### Theorizing Culture

This year the group will be exploring the deeper philosophical and historical dimensions of the concept of personal identity. We will focus on chapters from Gerald Izenberg's *Identity: The Necessity of a Modern Idea* and Derek Parfit's *Reasons and Persons*. Izenberg traces the historical development of contemporary concepts of personal identity. He argues that while these concepts are not simply given as facts that we discover through introspection, they do have an objective foundation in our lives as social beings. Parfit argues that many of our passionately held beliefs about identity are false and that they distort our ethical judgments and our self-understanding. Participants should get the Parfit book on their own, but electronic copies of select chapters from Izenberg will be provided to all participants. Conveners: Allen Dunn - [ardunn@utk.edu](mailto:ardunn@utk.edu) and Eric Bain-Selbo - [ebainsel@iu.edu](mailto:ebainsel@iu.edu).

### Vital Center

Discussions will center on the role of civil religion in fostering civility in public discourse. The group will be considering arguments put forth by Philip Gorski in his book *American Covenant: A History of Civil Religion from the Puritans to the Present*. Conveners: John Wilsey - [johndwilsey@gmail.com](mailto:johndwilsey@gmail.com) and David Stewart - [david.stewart@csulb.edu](mailto:david.stewart@csulb.edu)

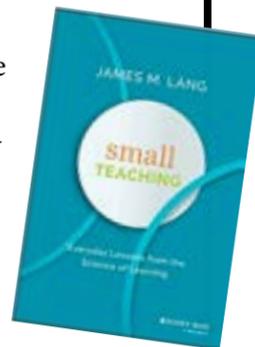
### Values Driven Teaching Workshop

Interested in exploring teaching methods grounded in fundamental values that drive your teaching? Want to receive honest feedback from your peers on your teaching strategies without the pressure of career evaluation? Excited about sharing teaching ideas with an interdisciplinary group of higher education instructors from institutions across the country? Need an excuse to justify conference travel? Participants in the Value-Driven Teaching Workshop will engage with practical pedagogical skills based on the fundamental values that drive their teaching, including:

- Values-Driven Pedagogy: Participants will discover the values that inform their teaching and how to capitalize on those values in their teaching
- Practical Pedagogical Skills: Participants will learn, share, and evaluate ready-to-use pedagogical techniques
- Teaching Practice: Participants will have the opportunity to practice a particular teaching skill in a low stakes, collegial setting
- Presentation Opportunity: Participants will share ideas, expertise, and experiences
- Peer Feedback: Participants will receive feedback on their teaching from supportive peers in a low pressure, interdisciplinary setting
- Certificate of Completion: Participants will receive a certificate certifying their successful completion of the workshop
- Free book: Participants will receive a complimentary copy of the book *Small Teaching*

by James Lang

Convener: Melanie Howard - [melanie.howard@fresno.edu](mailto:melanie.howard@fresno.edu)



### Writing Memory, Writing Life: The Crafting of Bio-Poetry

Historical, subversive, surreal, postcard, polaroid, embodied: bio-poetry or the poetry of identity can be deceptive, tough, and magically accessible. We all wonder who we are or who we were at different moments of our lives, in order to understand where we are going or what we can produce. Instead of trying to pin down this elusive form, we will examine several manifestations of it in order to expand our notion of what is possible in a bio-poem. We will play with appearance, discover potential source materials, and generate our own poems that bridge the ordinary and the extraordinary.

Convener: Roxana Cazan - [rcazan@francis.edu](mailto:rcazan@francis.edu)

### Children's Program

Once again we're making plans to get the kids to experience some of what makes the FM location unique. This year, they can expect to visit the Space Needle and Pioneer Square and maybe get out on one of the many bodies of water surrounding Seattle. As always, good walking shoes, sunscreen, and swimsuits are needed.



And the rest...

### Working Groups-

Groups composed of respondents to our Call for Papers will meet in the afternoon on Thursday and Friday. These groups provide scholars with an opportunity to present their work in a supportive collaborative setting. All are welcome to come, listen, and respond to the work of these members who have a particular interest in our theme.

### Interest Groups

The FM will have the usual afternoon interest group offerings. God Wrestling, the Womens Group, Poetry Circle, and LGBTQI+ will all meet during the meeting. Howard Carter will also lead two Qigong sessions. There is always room for more interest groups! Contact the office if you'd like to start one!

### The Auction

Our annual Auction will once again be held on Saturday night and organized by the lovely and competent Laura Bain-Selbo. Start thinking now if you have things to offer - she is especially interested in finding out early about the vacation spots some have offered. Early promotion leads to higher bids!

### Socials

As always there will be ample opportunities to socialize! This year we will have an opening event, including dinner to kick-off the conference and, for the first time, dinner will be served at the Auction!

## SVHE BOD Elections!

It's time to elect new members of the Board of Directors. You should receive in an email which contains a link to the online ballot. The ballots are anonymous and each link can only be used once. Candidate statements can be found [here](#). New Board members will take office at the FM this summer

FM 2018

Fellows  
News

*Thanks to all who contributed to the Society last year!*

Maria Viktoria Abricka	<i>in honor of Betsy Williams</i>
Cynthia Amerman	James Merz
Martha Bailey	Elizabeth Minnich
<i>in honor of Nick Tison</i>	William Mowat
Bennett and Cathy Bao Bean	Harland Nelson
Sherman Beverly	Phil O'Mara
Sidney Bremer	Carol Ochs
Howard and Nancy Corson Carter	Linda Olds
Trudy and Joel Cunningham	Edward Ordman
Susan Cunningham	Thomas Poole
Bernard Dobroski	Albert Rabil
Reade Dornan	John Raby
Jane Douglass	<i>in memory of Jeanne Carlson</i>
Allen Dunn	William Richter
Reynold Feldman	Dan Sack
Peter Fergusson	Judy Saltzman-Saveker
Marianne Gilbert Finnegan	Stephen Sfekas
Dick and Gay Harter	Richard Sherrell
Margaret Healy	Robert Spivey
Melanie Howard	<i>in memory of Martha Spivey</i>
Nancy and David Jones	Axel Steuer
Patricia Kendall	David Stewart
<i>in memory of Robert Kendall</i>	Fiona Tolhurst
Edward Langerak	Mary Treanor
James Longstreth	Glenn Van Haitsma
Ellen Maher	Robert Wenger
Joan McKee	Robert Woodworth

### Martha Bailey

Two Portland Community College faculty are all about continuous learning. Now, that dedication has paid off.

Philosophy and Religious Studies instructor Martha Bailey and Philosophy faculty Joseph Corrado were two of a small group of teachers selected from U.S. community colleges to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Institute. The four-week symposium, "Islam in Asia: Traditions and Transformations," was hosted by the Asian Studies Development Program at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, and attracted mostly four-year college and university faculty from across the country.

Find the rest of the story at the [Portland Community College News site](#).

### Nancy Corson Carter

Nancy's latest book, *The Never-Quite-Ending War*, explores the impact of her father's service in WWII on both herself and her family. It is a memoir that explores the personal and universal impact of war. Her own comments continue below. The book is available from [Amazon.com](#), [indiebound.org](#), and your local bookstore.

I'll begin with heartfelt thanks to you all; you've practiced the best of midwifery for this book! You've given me so much hospitality and so many insights in SVHE at large and especially in the Morning groups, "Forms of Autobiography" and last year in "Celebrating the Search." I shared my first short draft of this writing at our August 2005 meeting in Portland Oregon—your responses encouraged me to keep on. In the time since, I've struggled with how I might best share the truths I've learned in relation to my father, my family, myself, and our larger, on-going world as it relates to World War II. Now, finally, this book is born! I dedicate these stories—prose marked with poems, letters, and photos/illustrations, to all who have suffered, and continue to suffer, in wars, and to all peacemakers.



### Matthew Diomedede

Matthew published a poem "To an Indian Cornfield" in Chronogram, 11/16. It is also available online at [chronogram.com](#)

### Reynold Feldman

Reynold just finished drafting a new book, his 11th. It's called *Wisdom for Living - Learning to Follow your Inner Guidance*. Co-authored with Sharon Clark, it should be available in early spring.

### Sherry Magill

Sherry will be retiring from the presidency of the Jessie Ball Dupont fund in June of this year. Initially hired in 1991 as a program director, she was named Executive Director in 1993 and President of the Fund in 2000. The Jessie Ball DuPont Fund has provided financial support for many of the Society's Programs over the years.

## Fellows News

**J. Hillis Miller**

Hillis' recent books include *The Conflagration of Community: Fiction before and After Auschwitz* (Chicago:2011). A book co-authored with Claire Colebrook and Tom Cohen, *Theory of the Disappearing Future: On de Man on Benjamin* was published by Routledge in 2011, and his *Reading for Our Time: Adam Bede and Middlemarch* appeared from Edinburgh UP in Marhc 2012. A book on Communities in Fiction, with essays on novels by Trollope, Hardy, Conrad, Woolf, Pynchon, and Cervantes, appeared in early 2015. *An Innocent Abroad: Lectures in China* (Northwestern UP:2015) gathers fifteen of the more than thirty lectures Miller gave at various universities in China between 1988 and 2012. A Chinese version of this book appeared in 2017 from Nanjing University Press. Miller is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the American Philosophical Society.

**Marianne Novy**

I officially retired from the University of Pittsburgh in August 2016, after teaching there since 1971. I was fortunate to have congenial colleagues, and chairs who encouraged me when I wanted to teach and write in new and unusual directions. It was important to me that people outside university faculties said they found personal meaning in my books about adoption in literature or enjoyed reading my books on Shakespeare. Since retiring I finished and published another book, *Shakespeare and Feminist Theory* (Bloomsbury) and an article, "Transcultural Adoption Literature for Pediatricians and Parents", to appear in a journal, *Adoption and Culture*, published by Ohio State University Press in cooperation with the Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture, which I helped to start about 20 years ago. I hope to do some more writing about recent adoption memoirs and novels, and am trying to educate about adoption in other ways. I have also been working with church-related groups to arrange panel discussions of issues ranging from race to fracking.

My second-last book, *Shakespeare and Outsiders*, was published by Oxford University Press in fall 2013, and is available in paperback. Some of Shakespeare's most memorable characters are treated as outsiders in at least part of their plays--Othello, Shylock, Malvolio, Katherine (the 'Shrew'), Edmund, Caliban, and many others. Marked as different and regarded with hostility by some in their society, many of these characters have become icons of group identity. While many critics use the term "outsider," this is the first book to analyse it as a relative identity and not a fixed one, a position that characters move into and out of, to show some characters affirming their places as relative insiders by the way they treat others as more outsiders than they are, and to compare characters who are outsiders not just in terms of race and religion but also in terms of gender, age, poverty, illegitimate birth, psychology, morality, and other issues.

**Judy Saltzman-Saveker**

Judy published an article, "Desire Nothing: Nirvana is Nowhere" in the journal "International Communication of Chinese Culture."

**Mary Evelyn Tucker**

Mary Evelyn Tucker, with John Grim, both of Yale University, are offering a six-week online course under a specialization titled *Journey of the Universe: A Story for our Times*. This specialization includes two courses on *Journey of the Universe* and a course view on the *Worldview of Thomas Berry*. Courses can be audited free of charge and can be taken and completed at your own pace. The next enrollment date is March 12, 2018. Click [here](#) for more details and to register. The full *Journey of the Universe* film can be accessed [here](#) with the password - whowouldyoube619.

**William Richter**

William was recognized in May of 2017 with Rotary International's "Service above Self" award. The award is Rotary's highest recognition of Rotarians, about 150 are recognized each year worldwide. He also edited a new publication, *Framing Asian Studies: Geopolitics and Institutions* (Singapore: TSEAS, 2018) along with Albert Tzeng and Ekterina Koldinova. William co-authored the Introduction and authored a chapter on maps as illustrations and logos.