



# Society for Values in Higher Education

## Views and Values

[FM 2021](#)

[Society  
News](#)

[In Memory](#)

### SVHE Name Change

*letter from Melanie Howard, SVHE President*

Dear SVHE Members,

I am delighted to be writing to you to announce an exciting new change! The SVHE Board of Directors has just voted to change the name of the organization to “Society for the Future of Higher Education.” This refreshed name is augmented by a revitalized mission statement for the Society: “The Society for the Future of Higher Education (SFHE) is an incubator and advocate for ideas, strategies, and pedagogies to lead higher education to a more inclusive, just, and equitable future.”

These changes, supported unanimously by the Board of Directors, offer the Society a strong connection to its treasured traditions while maintaining a forward-looking perspective at the cusp of the organization’s Centennial celebration. We are excited about the possibilities that this new name and mission statement have to offer, and we look forward to seeing the ways that each of you will join us in implementing this robust mission.

Further information about the rationale for the name and mission change along with information about the process that led the change can be found [here](#). We hope that you will especially consider the invitation at the end of this document to participate in carrying the Society into its next century of existence.

Your support of the Society has led to the organization’s nearly century-long success. We look forward to seeing what we will accomplish together as we step into the organization’s bright future!

Yours in Fellowship, Melly Howard

President of SVHE/SFHE



97th Annual Conference

July 13-16 2021

*Can We Talk?*

*The University’s Role in Public Discourse*

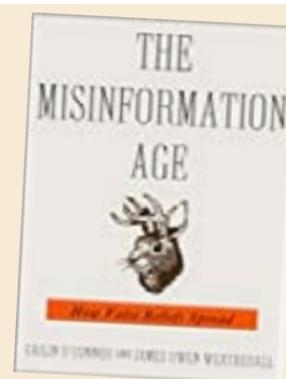
\*\*\* The conference will be virtual \*\*\*

### Meeting will be Virtual

Due to continued uncertainty related to COVID-19, the Board of Directors has decided that our conference will be virtual this year. The program committee will be meeting in the coming weeks to finalize the schedule. All of the Morning Groups will be running, we'll have our Town Hall and Memorial Service, and plenty of social opportunities. Complete information and registration will be on our website very soon!

### Chats with Change Agents

The Misinformation Age - How False Beliefs Spread  
Cailin O'Connor and James Owen Weatherall  
Day and time TBA



Why should we care about having true beliefs? And why do demonstrably false beliefs persist and spread despite bad, even fatal, consequences for the people who hold them?

Philosophers of science Cailin O'Connor and James Weatherall argue that social factors, rather than individual psychology, are what's essential to understanding the spread and persistence of false beliefs. It might seem that there's an obvious reason that true beliefs matter: false beliefs will hurt you. But if that's right, then why is it (apparently) irrelevant to many people whether they believe true things or not?

The Misinformation Age, written for a political era riven by "fake news," "alternative facts," and disputes over the validity of everything from climate change to the size of inauguration crowds, shows convincingly that what you believe depends on who you know. If social forces explain the persistence of false belief, we must understand how those forces work in order to fight misinformation effectively.

Cailin O'Connor is associate professor of logic and philosophy of science at the University of California, Irvine. James Owen Weatherall is professor of logic and philosophy of science at the University of California, Irvine, and author of the New York Times best-seller *The Physics of Wall Street*. Both are members of the Institute for Mathematical Behavioral Science. They reside in California.

### Celebrating the Search - [Carol Ochs](#), Convener

WITH LOSSES AND MOURNING, WHERE IS HOPE AND PEACEMAKING?

The recent past has seen political corruption at home and abroad, climate change/crisis, health issues (inequalities, dilemmas of aging), family conflicts, secularism vs. spirituality and religion, and more. Where do we find community, cooperation, opportunities for contributions, whether personal or in combinations?

We welcome personal reflections or short texts by others that have given comfort, inspiration, peace.

### Historical and Novel Fiction - [Mary Papke](#), Convener

In the summer of 2021, the group will discuss four novels selected at the last conference by the group. We will begin with David Mitchell's *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet*, set in Dejima in Nagasaki Harbor in 1799. Mitchell's novel was named the best novel of the year (2010) by numerous sources including the New York Times and NPR. Dave Eggers in the New York Times Book Review described it as "an achingly romantic story of forbidden love...[,] a novel of ideas, of longing, of good and evil and those who fall somewhere in between [that] confirms Mitchell as one of the more fascinating and fearless writers alive." The second novel is Marilynne Robinson's *Lila*, the third volume in Robinson's Gilead saga. The Wall Street Journal reviewer called it "a book whose grandeur is found in its humility. That's what makes Gilead among the most memorable settings in American fiction." We will then discuss Emma Donoghue's *The Pull of the Stars*, set in a maternity ward in Dublin in 1918 during the war and the flu pandemic, published in 2020 during our current pandemic. Our final text will be Thomas Mullen's *The Last Town on Earth*, set during the same time period and based on the historical account of small towns that quarantined themselves during the 1918 epidemic; published in 2006, it won the James Fenimore Cooper Prize for Historical Fiction. Discussion moderators will include Gay Harter, Nancy Cunningham, Tom Stockdale, Louis Reith, Joel Cunningham, Mary Papke, and David Dornan.

### Modes of Teaching - [Melanie Howard](#), Convener

The Modes of Teaching group will feature an interactive, collaborative, and encouraging space for instructors to learn with one another and share ideas to enhance teaching practices. The group will focus especially on prioritizing and practicing instructor self-care in the midst of teaching, but other topics related to pedagogy will be addressed depending on participant interest. All are welcome.

## Pop Culture - [Eric Ecklund](#), Convener

This year the Pop Culture morning group will look at society's far future from the distant past, the near future from the present, and the microcosm of society that is higher education from the perspective of here and now, with a healthy dose of humor! More detailed descriptions of our source material and discussion topics to follow!

### Day One

The Pop Culture morning group will meet to discuss the novella *The Machine Stops* (E.M. Forster, 1909). (Full novella at the link below)

<https://www.ele.uri.edu/faculty/vetter/Other-stuff/The-Machine-Stops.pdf>

### Day Two

The Pop Culture morning group will meet to discuss the novella *Unauthorized Bread* (Doctorow, 2020). (Full novella at the link below)

<https://arstechnica.com/gaming/2020/01/unauthorized-bread-a-near-future-tale-of-refugees-and-sinister-iot-appliances/>

### Day 3

The Pop Culture morning group will meet to discuss the novel *The Shakespeare Requirement* (Schumacher, 2019). (Amazon link below)

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B077LQXBGR/ref=db\\_a\\_def\\_rwt\\_hsch\\_vapitkin\\_p1\\_il](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B077LQXBGR/ref=db_a_def_rwt_hsch_vapitkin_p1_il)

## Reclaiming Your Writing Time and Space - [Julie Phillips](#), Convener

*Full details regarding this session will be available soon. The description below is from last year.*

Join us for four morning sessions dedicated to reclaiming your writing time and space. Each day, we will 1) convene to explore the daily topics, 2) adjourn for individual or interdisciplinary team writing; and 3) reconnect for support, accountability, sharing, and celebration. Participants are encouraged to bring works-in-progress. One-on-one consultations and peer feedback will be available.

Discussion topics may include: understanding your own writing process; developing strategies to protect your writing time and space; writing without inhibition; sparking creativity during slow periods; and personal goal-setting and accountability. Participants will leave with a better sense of what works for them as writers, progress on their own writing projects, and new ideas to strengthen their writing habits.

## Theorizing Culture - [Eric Bain-Selbo](#), [Allen Dunn](#), Conveners

The past year has revealed an America divided by dramatic cultural, religious, and ethical differences. To what extent can these differences be overcome, and to what extent do we simply have to accommodate them as the new normal? When should we seek to convert those with whom we disagree and when should we learn to accept the difference? This year's readings will survey a variety of responses to these questions and compare the various kinds of political commitments on which they rely. In addition, we will turn a critical gaze on higher education—both in terms of how it should play a positive role in American public discourse (today and in the future) and how public discourse is exemplified or not on its campuses.

## Auction!

The Auction will be online again this summer. **The ever charming, Laura Bain-Selbo, has asked to take a break this year. We need SOMEONE to step in for her.** The online process is very simple, and we have fewer items than when we are in person. Last year, it ran during the FM, ending before the Town Hall.

The biggest, most important, job is soliciting donations! I'm sure Laura will be happy to share her list! Staff sets up and monitors the site. Let [Sandy](#) know if you are willing to take on this very important job!

## Society News

### Website Access

Though most of our website is accessible to all, some information is only available to members, including the by-laws and member directory.

You need to have a member profile to access member only information.

If you haven't logged in since sometime in 2017 when the website was updated, you will need to set up a member profile. If you have never logged in to the website you will also need a new member profile. You can make one by following the link below:

<https://www.svhe.org/create-member-profile/>

If you have logged into the new website can do so again here: <https://www.svhe.org/login/>  
There's also an option on this page to reset your password if you need to.

## Virtual Writing Retreat

May 14 - May 16

Writing can be a solitary process, even more so now. Join us for free, over a long weekend, to work on your writing and build community.

### Benefits

Dedicated time for writing, whatever kind you do

Help with goal-setting

Mentoring/review of your work

Opportunity to make personal and professional connections

Over the long weekend, you will have multiple opportunities for group discussion, individual feedback, and individual writing time.

Space is limited. Register by May 7th

For more information, contact [Christina Romero-Ivanova](#) or [Sarah Moore](#)

## SVHE Board Elections

We have 4 great people interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the upcoming term; Eric Ecklund, Stephen Baker, Sylvia Skaggs McTague, and Christina Romero-Ivanova have all agreed to run

Candidate statements can be found [here](#). The ballot will be sent electronically on March 15th.

## Dues/Annual Fund

It's that time of year again!

Dues and Annual Fund have been mailed! New this year, you can sign up for auto-pay online! You'll never have to worry about forgetting to pay your dues again! Sign up [here](#)! You can also set up a recurring contribution to the Annual Fund! SVHE depends on your dues and Annual Fund contributions to continue its good work!

[PAY DUES](#)

[CONTRIBUTE](#)

## Forum

The Forum for Values in Higher Education is an online publication of the Society for Values in Higher Education that provides a public venue for the discussion of ethical and political issues that impact higher education in the United States.

Authors are invited to submit short position papers of about 750 words (500-1000), or a brief video, on a challenging issue within, and impinging upon, higher education

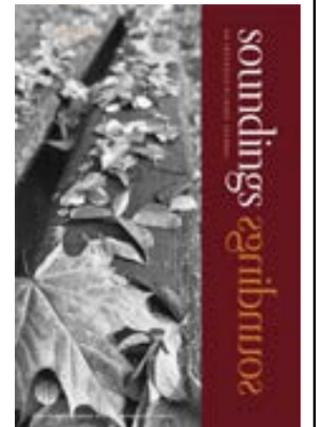
In our latest post, Eric Bain-Selbo considers the possible effects of the democratization of university governance.

For more information, or to submit an article for consideration, please contact us at [forum@svhe.org](mailto:forum@svhe.org).

## Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal

The next issue of Soundings will contain the work of our Theory of Public Higher Education group. The group spent two years considering possible futures for higher education, by starting from square one and taking everything we know about student success, projections about the future of knowledge and work, and envisioning higher education in radically new ways. The issue of Soundings will arrive in early summer.

More information about *Soundings*, including how to submit, can be found [here](#).



Keep up with us on social media!

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Linked In.

Click the links below to join our network!



## In Memory

### Thanks for all your financial contributions in 2020!

#### Builder

Bennett and Cathy Bao Bean  
 Joel and Trudy Cunningham  
*in honor of Hal and Agnes Jackson*  
 Dick and Gay Harter  
 David and Nancy Jones  
 Pat Kendall  
 James Longstreth and Maria Viktoria Abricks  
 Ellen Maher  
 Phil O'Mara  
*in memory of Joan O'Mara*  
 David Stewart

#### Sustainer

Howard and Nancy Corson Carter  
 Melanie Howard  
 Danny Kodmur  
 Harland Nelson  
*in memory of Corinne Nelson*  
 Edward Ordman  
 Stephen Sfekas  
 Axel Steuer  
 Glenn Van Haitsma  
*in memory of Ruth Van Haitsma*  
 jon Wiant  
*in memory of Catherine Wiant*

#### Friend

Eric and Laura Bain-Selbo  
 Lynore Banchoff  
 Jerry Berberet  
 Maria Bolton  
 Gayle Bray  
 Reynold Feldman  
 Marianne Gikbert Finnegan  
 Erik Goodman  
 B Goodman

#### Partner

Nancy Cunningham  
 Eric Ecklund  
 Carl and Janet Edwards  
 Gregory Robbins  
 Dan Sack  
 Kurt Schmeller  
 Mary Treanor  
 Fiona Tolhurst  
*in memory of Mary Jo Small*

#### Contributor

Sid Bremer  
 Bernard Dobroski  
 Reade Dornan  
 William Bolton

#### Albert Rabil

1934-2021

Albert Rabil, Jr., a native of Rocky Mount, passed away peacefully in his sleep January 8th. He was the son of the late Albert and Sophie Rabil.

After graduating from Rocky Mount High School, he continued his studies at Duke University (BA), Union Theological Seminary (BD), and Columbia University (Ph.D.), where he was awarded the Ansley Award for the year's best dissertation, "Merleau-Ponty: Existentialist of the Social World." He was a founding member of SUNY College at Old Westbury and taught there from 1970 until his retirement in 1998. He earned "Best Teacher" status from students despite his challenging courses. At SUNY, he was the youngest professor named Distinguished Teaching Professor. Based in Humanities, he taught across a wide spectrum of disciplines, regularly offering new courses and challenging both himself and his students. His scholarly focus was the Renaissance. Although he never taught a college course on that subject, he directed intense month-long institutes in Renaissance Studies, sponsored by NEH, which attracted educators from nationwide.

Albert was elected to the Society in 1961. His full obituary can be found [here](#).

#### Albert Meyer

1929-2020

Albert J. Meyer, educator, administrator, and churchman, died at his home on July 31, 2020, from Parkinson's Disease.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the son of Jacob Conrad and Esther (Steiner) Meyer. He grew up in Wayne County. At age 16 he went with a group of "seagoing cowboys" to deliver horses to Gdansk, Poland.

Albert graduated from Smithville High School. He received his B.A. in physics and mathematics from Goshen College in 1950. The summer after college he led a voluntary service team at a mental hospital in Delaware.

He received his Ph.D. in physics from Princeton University in 1954. In addition to his doctoral studies he taught third-grade Sunday school at the Presbyterian church on campus and helped form an inter-denominational Bible study group of graduate students.

In 1953-54 he studied theology on a fellowship in Basel (Switzerland). During this time he enjoyed many biking, rock-climbing, and mountain-climbing excursions.

Albert came into the Society as Kent Fellow in 1953.

His full obituary can be found [here](#).