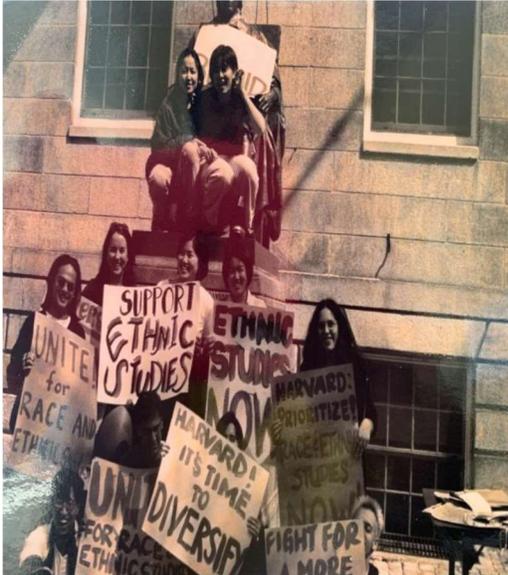


Humanities Center Seeking Faculty Fellows for 2022-2023

DECOLONIZING THE UNIVERSITY: ETHNIC STUDIES THROUGH TIME



The Humanities Center of the University of Hartford requests applications from full-time faculty interested in becoming one of the distinguished Faculty Fellows of the Humanities Center for the 2022-2023 academic year, by offering a lecture focused on their own project related to the seminar topic of “**Decolonizing the University: Ethnic Studies through Time**” during the **Spring 2023 Humanities Lecture Series**.

Karen Tejada-Peña, Associate Professor of Sociology, will lead the Humanities Center Seminar for this next year. She requests applications for faculty fellows from all disciplines and colleges in the University. Here is her vision of the seminar:

The inspiration behind this course dates back to my undergraduate years at the University of Santa Barbara. As some of you might now, the first Ethnic Studies department was established in San Francisco and soon after, other California universities followed suit. By the time I was an undergraduate, the struggles, challenges, and issues that encompass both the formation of Ethnic Studies as a department and the value placed on the discipline was seemingly a historical nod. Nevertheless, I was grateful to be a beneficiary of the interdisciplinary knowledge production that departments like the Chican@ and Black Studies had to offer. These departments always felt like ‘home’ to me because the professors were racially and ethnically diverse and taught subject matters that made me feel empowered and visible. I needed these perspectives to confront the mostly Eurocentric curriculum that I was being taught. I needed these departments because they spearheaded social justice initiatives on campus that grappled with anti-immigrant propositions (i.e. 187) and increases in tuition, among other initiatives. I also needed these viewpoints because I could use the knowledge gained to challenge my own discipline of Sociology and slowly build an intersectional lens to assess privilege and power. When I started my graduate program at the University at Albany, I instinctively became entrenched in the Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies Department to learn about Caribbean cultures and then followed up the journey on my own by becoming versed in Central American Studies as a result of my dissertation topic.

At the University of Hartford, I want to offer students the Ethnic Studies course as a possibility for what students can learn from being exposed to what is essentially the impetus for interdisciplinary work. The advantage of the Humanities Center Lecture Series is that it provides such an opportunity to bring that ‘knowledge’ to students and invite experts from the campus community to speak on their research and how it informs current day issues and challenges to Ethnic Studies. I hope students will appreciate the opportunity to ‘think’ outside of the mainstream box and learn from texts written by minoritized

scholars. I want us to reimagine our world in more 'colorful' lenses and push back against those who see no value in Ethnic Studies or say it is in crisis mode or wonder about the caliber of academics whose work transcends Westernized roots. Finally, I hope to build a team of UHart scholars whose work focuses on oppressed groups and build a community of rebels, agitators, co-conspirators and allies.

We would be looking for proposals from faculty in art, art history, architecture, music, dance, communication, cinema, theatre, psychology, business, history, sociology and criminal justice, philosophy, literature, politics, education and the sciences.

The advantages and responsibilities of being a Faculty Fellow include the following:

- Faculty Fellows will be working on a scholarly or pedagogical project in a context that will offer encouragement and a testing site for the development of their ideas. Successful applicants will address how the research produced during the fellowship will be disseminated beyond the Humanities Center (a publication, conference presentation, curricular development, etc.).
- Each Fellow will give a talk as part of the Spring 2023 series of lectures associated with that year's theme. The lecture will give each Fellow an opportunity to present the results of his or her research on the project. Lectures will be Monday evenings 5:00-6:30.
- Fellows receive a stipend of \$1,500 to enable them to read, write, do research, and prepare their spring lecture.
- Fellows may be asked to speak to the students taking the honors course in the fall term and are encouraged to attend the Monday evening talks by other fellows during the spring lecture series.



All faculty interested in becoming a Faculty Fellow of the Humanities Center for the 2022-23 academic year, please email a one-page proposal that describes the focus of your interest as it is related to the course topic, "Decolonizing the University: Ethnic Studies Through Time," and the material to be addressed in your spring talk, along with a CV, to Nicholas Ealy (ealy@hartford.edu) and Karen Tejada-Peña (tejada@hartford.edu) **no later than April 8, 2022.**

The Humanities Center at the University of Hartford supports interdisciplinary scholarship focusing on the humanities through arts, sciences, technology, media, music, psychology, history, film, philosophy and literature. **For more**

information, contact Nicholas Ealy, director, at ealy@hartford.edu or follow us on Facebook at "University of Hartford Humanities Center."