

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

BRIDGE HUMANITIES CORPS

2017 - 2018 Program Directory



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

ABOUT THE BHC:

Now in its second year, the Bridge Humanities Corps (BHC) is an innovative program that enables members to engage in advanced training in the pedagogy of interdisciplinary humanities, teach SAEL 200 or its Carolina Core equivalents, and participate in a required professional development program. The BHC is organized by UofSC's Graduate School in cooperation with the Office of the Provost and College of Arts and Sciences.

All BHC members participate in a cohort-based program while serving as the instructor of record for SAEL 200 sections and/or its Carolina Core equivalents. Through the required professional development program, BHC members receive constructive feedback and develop their career skills in order to improve their odds of employment in a variety of sectors, both within and outside of academia.

To date there have been 15 BHC members representing 8 different departments.





Heather Brandt, PhD, CHES
Associate Dean for Professional Development, Graduate School
Associate Professor, Arnold School of Public Health

WELCOME!

2017-2018 marks the second year of the University of South Carolina's Bridge Humanities Corps program. Eight doctoral candidates and one newly-minted PhD comprised the inaugural cohort in 2016-2017. This year, we welcome six new members to the program – five newly minted PhDs and one doctoral candidate – from five departments in the Humanities.

The Bridge Humanities Corps program provides needed support for you to either complete your dissertation research and/or secure a position as a newly-minted PhD. The professional development sessions held on selected Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m. in Byrnes 311 (or other designated location) are designed to enhance your preparation for a meaningful career. We strive for the programming to be experiential and matched to your needs. I look forward to working with you to learn how these sessions can provide you with opportunities to help you improve.

I am excited to begin my second year directing the Bridge Humanities Corps program with Dr. Cynthia Davis, Associate Dean for Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Emily Rendek in the Graduate School. If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me. Along with Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Cheryl Addy, and our colleagues in the Graduate School, we are always available to assist you.

I look forward to sharing an enriching and productive year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather M. Brandt".

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MARC DEMONT

Department: Comparative Literature

Hometown: Lille, France

What brought you to UofSC?

Love story...

What are you most looking forward to in the BHC?

Professional development and teaching opportunities.

Fun fact about yourself

I made a pact with a snail when I was 5 years old that I would never eat a snail. Considering that I am French, it is a great achievement that I am still holding my promise.

Sum up your dissertation or research program in 3 sentences (or less!)

My book project focuses on offering a psychoanalysis of the sense of touch from a Lacanian perspective. Theoretical developments are supported by close readings of movies (*May*, 2002) and texts (*Moby-Dick*, 1851) in which tactility is the dominant mode of relation with others.

Research key words

psychoanalysis, horror movie, Lacan, queer theory, ethics, touch

What are your career goals at this time – or in what type of a career are you most interested?

I would like to find a tenure track position in a Department of French, Comparative Literature, or Film Studies.



JENNIFER GUNTER

Department: History

Hometown: Jackson, Mississippi

What brought you to UofSC?

The chance to work with the wonderful historians who live and work here.

What are you most looking forward to in the BHC?

The chance to share my passion for learning with new students.

Fun fact about yourself:

My favorite writer is Kurt Vonnegut.

Sum up your dissertation or research program in 3 sentences (or less!)

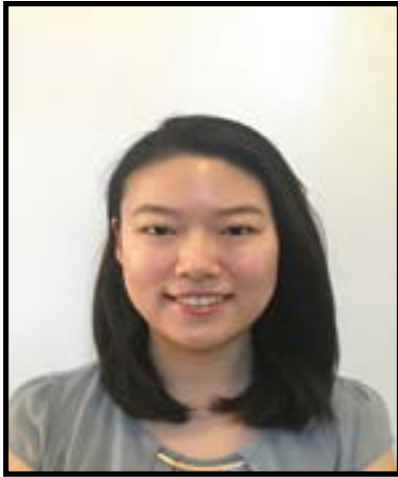
Southern women in the 1970s took control of their bodies and both fought and manipulated the state to secure their goals for physical safety and reproductive rights.

Research key words:

feminism, Southern, civil rights, social movements, 1970s

What are your career goals at this time – or in what type of a career are you most interested?

I hope to continue to teach and research in a university setting.



YUE LIU

Department: Sociology

Hometown: Beijing, China

What brought you to UofSC?

As a social psychology major, I came to UofSC to pursue my graduate study because the sociology department here is among the top programs in the U.S. that offers state-of-the-art training in social psychology.

What are you most looking forward to in the BHC?

I am most looking forward to inspiring the students to engage in ethical discussions and to getting inspired by their thoughts and ideas.

Fun fact about yourself:

As an experimental social psychologist, I like to incorporate experiments in teaching ethics. Once I conducted an experiment with one of my SAEL students in class to empirically look at how moral debates in SAEL influence one's moral values.

Sum up your dissertation or research program in 3 sentences (or less!)

My dissertation answers the question of when social diversity is beneficial or detrimental to social integration in neighborhoods and workplaces. Specifically I use experiments to examine how increasing perceived positive interdependence and jointness can mitigate the possible negative impact of social diversity on social integration outcomes, such as trust, cooperation, and social cohesion.

Research key words:

social diversity, cooperation, trust, interdependence

What are your career goals at this time – or in what type of a career are you most interested?

After completing my dissertation I plan to become a researcher in social psychology or related fields, such as organizational studies.



STEPHANIE MOSHER

Department: English

Hometown: Ona, West Virginia

What brought you to UofSC?

I came to UofSC when I was accepted into the PhD program in English, Composition and Rhetoric.

What are you most looking forward to in the BHC?

I am looking forward to teaching the SAEL course; I have friends who have taught it and speak highly of it. I think it will be a good learning opportunity and way for me to add to my teaching skills.

Fun fact about yourself:

I started learning French in my mid-twenties by listening to audio lessons in the car and have since developed fair communicative competence in the language. I often read the news in French to keep my skills from getting too rusty (and for a bit of a filter when the news is bad).

Sum up your dissertation or research program in 3 sentences (or less!)

My dissertation focused on how college writing instructors develop their/our beliefs about language correctness, in light of growing research on the role of linguistic diversity in college writers' work. I used existing literature in composition studies to trace trends in the field; I also used IRB-approved semi-structured interviews with college writing instructors to explore their responses to student writing and to scholarship on language diversity and pedagogies. I ultimately make proposals for professionalization in incorporating knowledge of linguistic diversity into college writing courses.

Research key words:

pedagogy, composition, professionalization, translingualism, ideology, anti-racism

What are your career goals at this time – or in what type of a career are you most interested?

I hope to obtain a tenure-track position in composition at a university or college in the U.S. or Canada.



NEAL POLHEMUS

Department: History

Hometown: Charleston, South Carolina

What brought you to UofSC?

My desire to study Atlantic history in greater depth drew me to UofSC.

What are you most looking forward to in the BHC?

I am looking forward to developing new teaching methodologies, honing new communication skills, and building new relationships.

Fun fact about yourself:

I have visited 39 of the 50 states in the U.S.

Sum up your dissertation or research program in 3 sentences (or less!)

Based on primary sources from over three countries and more than thirty archives, my dissertation explores the structure and organization of the transatlantic slave trade to analyze the transformation of relationships and the commercial operation of the trade in West Africa, the circum-Caribbean, and more broadly the Atlantic world. This study of the transatlantic slave trade from the seventeenth to the eighteenth centuries is framed through the analytical concept of “Labor Wars” between rival empires (Spain vs. Britain); between merchants (European, African, and New World merchants) and between masters and slaves themselves on plantations, ships, and slave dungeons.

Research key words:

Transatlantic slave trade, African diaspora, capitalism, British and Spanish Caribbean

What are your career goals at this time – or in what type of a career are you most interested?

I would like to have a tenure-track teaching position within a university setting.



RYAN STRICKLER

Department: Political Science

Hometown: Charleston, South Carolina

What brought you to UofSC?

One reason was geography. I'm from Charleston, and my wife and I have family and good friends there, so being able to pursue a political science degree within shouting distance of Charleston was a plus. Another reason, though, was the support and development that UofSC could provide. The political science faculty are phenomenal researchers and mentors. Also, coming in as a Presidential Teaching Fellow, I was able to get great pedagogical training and start teaching my own classes much earlier in my grad student career than I would at another institution.

What are you most looking forward to in the BHC?

I'm excited about the workshops, and the subject matter of SAEL is very interesting (and very helpful in thinking about my research agenda). Most of all, though, I'm excited to teach SAEL 200; they are very fun classes to teach, and I've been able to make strong connections with students in these courses.

Fun fact about yourself:

I eat peanut butter and jelly every day...well, maybe not every day, but at least 350 out of 365 days in the year.

Sum up your dissertation or research program in 3 sentences (or less!)

I study partisan polarization in the U.S. public and its impact on democratic ideals. Through a series of survey experiments, my dissertation demonstrates that polarization has exacerbated party-based biases in public political deliberation. I also have work examining the consequences of polarization for both Congressional representation, as well as public philanthropic behavior.

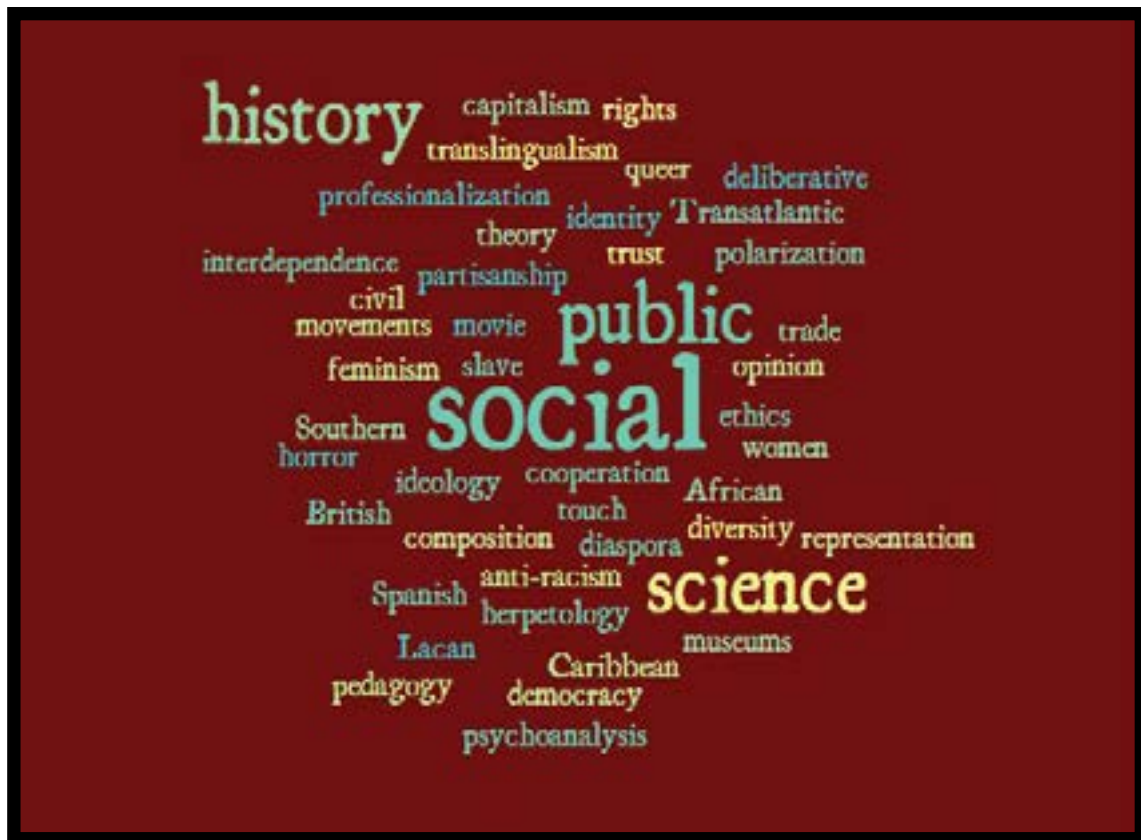
Research key words (provide up to ten key words)

polarization, partisanship, deliberative democracy, social identity, public opinion, representation

What are your career goals at this time – or in what type of a career are you most interested?

I hope to secure a tenure-track position next academic year—ideally, at a liberal arts school where I could spend equal time teaching and researching.

BHC RESEARCH WORD CLOUD



This word cloud is a compilation of all the BHC fellows' research interests in order to highlight common interests.

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