

# Humanities and Public Life

A symposium of the Illinois 150 conference on The 21st Century University and Research for the Public Good

**April 11, 2018 | 8:30am-5:30pm**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
I Hotel and Conference Center  
1900 S. First Street, Champaign

As John Dewey reminded us, we must not confuse democracy with its political machinery. At root, democracy “is more than a form of government; it is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience.” This means that a democratic society is only as viable as its educational institutions, tasked with fostering in citizens the dispositions needed to engage productively across difference. In fulfilling this crucial public function, the university relies especially on the arts and humanities, those practices of critical inquiry and creative production devoted to addressing the precarity and promise of public life by cultivating the arts of conversation and the rigors of self-knowledge.

This symposium is part of the CAS Learning Publics initiative co-directed by CAS Resident Associates Chris Higgins (Education Policy, Organization & Leadership) and Anke Pinkert (Germanic Languages & Literatures)



**Cosponsors:**  
Center for Advanced Study  
College of Education  
Department of Education Policy, Organization & Leadership  
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures  
Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities  
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research  
School of Literatures, Cultures, & Linguistics

[150.illinois.edu/conference/](http://150.illinois.edu/conference/)



8:30am	Coffee and Arrivals
8:45am	<b>Welcome</b> Anke Pinkert (Germanic Languages & Literatures)
9am-10:30am	<b>The Humanities and Public Imagination</b> Chair: Wail Hassan (Comparative & World Literature)  Keynote Lecture: Elaine Scarry (English, Harvard University), <i>Unheard Warnings: Nuclear Tyranny Requires a Sleeping Citizenry</i> Respondent: Hina Nazar (English)
10:45am-12:15pm	<b>Rethinking Social Justice in the 21st Century</b> Chair: Allyson Purpura (Krannert Art Museum)  Keynote Lecture: Carolyn Rouse (Anthropology, Princeton University), <i>Rethinking Social Justice in the 21st Century: The Case Against Reparations</i> Respondent: Colleen Murphy (Law)
12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch
1:45pm-3:15pm	<b>Engaged Scholarship and Transformative Publics</b> Chair: Rini Bhattacharya Mehta (Comparative & World Literature)  Keynote Lecture: Romand Coles (Institute for Social Justice, Australian Catholic University), <i>Engaged Scholarship and Transformative Publics in the Face of Political and Ecological Catastrophe</i> Respondent: Melissa Orlie (Political Science)
3:30pm-4:15pm	<b>Public Humanities and Community</b> Chair: Dan Steward (Sociology)  Undergraduate research presenters from the Education Justice Project, Odyssey Project, Public History, and Spanish in the Community
4:30pm-5:30pm	<b>Humanities and Public Life</b> Chair: Chris Higgins (Education Policy, Organization & Leadership)  Closing reflections from Carolyn Rouse, Elaine Scarry, and Romand Coles

## Happenings

(courtesy of the Learning Publics seminar)

12:15pm, *Collective Reading* (Angela Baldus, Art Education)

1:30pm, *Reporters At Large* (Alyssa Jaje, Urban Planning; Jennifer Jenson, German; Michael Ruby, History)