

## Learning Publics

IPRH Research Cluster (2016-17) / CAS/IPRH Initiative (2017-18)

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- What is a public: a public matter, a public space, a public body? What are the conditions that support or inhibit the emergence of publics?
- Who are the publics for public universities? What is the role of the university in catalyzing public formations?
- What does it mean to think of public life itself as educative and education as a making public?
- What special role might be played by the arts and humanities in “summoning the public into being” (John Dewey)?



Mitsuru Hamada, Porous Drape (2006)

Learning Publics features ongoing dialogue punctuated by public events and two courses, a graduate seminar in Spring 18 and an undergraduate Grand Challenge Learning Gen. Ed. class on the public humanities in Fall 18.

Learning Publics is an effort to build, in and around UIUC, a public capable of facing up to these questions.

To *face up* to these questions, and not merely discourse about them, requires reflexivity, asking ourselves how we may be begging the questions by posing them in a particular place, given language, or certain group.



Paul Klee, Letter Ghost (1937)

If you would like to be part of this effort and these conversations, please email us.