

## Kick Off Events

MINI CONFERENCE

### Contesting Public Education: Opting Out, Activism, and Dissent in Education Policy

Friday, September 22, 8:30am–3:00pm  
Levis Faculty Center, Room 210

LECTURE & DISCUSSION

**David Blacker**

(University of Delaware)

### The Educational Needs of Erstwhile Humans: Identity Fluidity in a Post-Work World

Monday, September 25, 4:00pm  
Levis Faculty Center, Room 210

**Reception to Follow**

## Join the Learning Publics Salon

Please join us for an exploration of all things public at Illinois, and beyond. The salon meets monthly and is open to all interested in the public humanities, intersectional activism, community collaboration, and the future of public higher education.

**Monday, September 25** • Levis, Music Room • 6:00–7:30pm

Please join us for a Colloquium with David Blacker following his lecture and reception. He will introduce the thesis of his new book, *The Identity Factory*.

**Monday, October 30** • Bread Company • 5:00–6:30pm

Join us for discussion in the backroom. Pizza on us.

**Monday, November 27** • Levis, Music Room • 5:00–6:30pm

An exploratory panel on the current state of UIUC-community relations.

If you would like to be on the Learning Publics Salon email list, just drop us a line: **Chris Higgins** ([crh4@illinois.edu](mailto:crh4@illinois.edu)) and **Anke Pinkert** ([pinkert@illinois.edu](mailto:pinkert@illinois.edu)).

## The Center for Advanced Study

### Learning Publics

**A 3-semester interdisciplinary initiative  
starting in Fall 2017**

**Learning Publics** explores questions about public life and its current conditions, about public universities and the contemporary landscape of higher education, and about what special role the arts and humanities might have in “calling the public into being” (John Dewey). The goal is to build a conversational community around these questions and explore the viability of a new, cross-sectional public humanities program, here at Illinois. The phrase “Learning Publics” signals the twofold connection between education and the public: that public life is inherently educative and that educational goods have an ineliminably public dimension.

**Chris Higgins** (Education Policy, Organization & Leadership) and **Anke Pinkert** (Germanic Languages & Literatures) have been appointed CAS Resident Associates overseeing this initiative, which continues the dialogue they developed in the IPRH Research Cluster Public Humanities. A graduate seminar (CAS 587) will be offered in Spring 2018.

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## Save the Date

SYMPOSIUM

### The Humanities and Public Life

**April 11, 2018** • iHotel

**Learning Publics** is pleased to announce that one of the six symposia featured in “The Research University at 150” (the culminating event of Illinois’ sesquicentennial celebration) will be devoted to an exploration of the power of the arts and humanities to illuminate the precarities and possibilities of public life, to help the land-grant university reconnect with its publics and its democratic mission.

“The Research University at 150” opens on Tuesday evening, April 10, 2018, with a plenary address by Amitav Ghosh. Our symposium will run on Wednesday, April 11, with a possible concluding panel on Thursday morning, April 12.

**Stay tuned for more details.**

For more information please contact [cas.illinois.edu](http://cas.illinois.edu)

