

Center for Humanities & the Arts Newsletter

March 2020

Dear CU Boulder Community & Supporters of the CHA,

This is the second March newsletter I'm writing; the first was going to be sent out today, but then we received [Chancellor DiStefano's message](#) alerting us to the changes happening on campus in response to COVID-19 (you can find information about [CU Boulder's COVID-19 resources here](#)). Instead of talking about our upcoming events, this newsletter has to sadly inform everyone that for the time being the CHA is cancelling our second [Tea Talk with Erika Randall](#) (chair of Theater and Dance and CHA faculty steering committee member) that was supposed to take place on April 15th as well as the [LEAP-CHA Women Faculty](#) reading group meetings. However, we do have two upcoming deadlines (see below) and are still accepting proposals for our [Climate Change proposal grant](#)—we're re-attaching the flyer to this email. Please share widely!

We can also share that the CHA is hard at work on a 3-year strategic plan, and here's where I must applaud our dedicated [faculty steering committee](#) and [external advisory board members](#) who have met frequently to talk about the vision, mission, and goals for the CHA. We hope to unveil details in the fall, but you can go to our website and see some of the infrastructural changes we've made, including the continuing tweaking of our fellowships and grants—in particular, please see the page for the [CHA Small Grants](#). On the advice of the faculty steering committee we've tried to make the language clearer about what we are able to fund and where faculty should seek funding if they aren't able to apply to the CHA Small Grant. And we have included the "[Best Practices](#)" that guide our selection committee as they review various grant and fellowship applications.

And speaking of hard working faculty, we are starting a new series, "Faculty Spotlight" where we ask a faculty in arts and humanities 4 questions—for this first post we highlight Yumi Roth (Art & Art History)—please check out [her answers on this link](#).

Finally, I want to take a moment to share a statement I drafted for my home department, [Ethnic Studies](#). As an Asian American studies/Critical Race Theory scholar, I am concerned both by the global spread of the coronavirus and by the global rise of anti-Chinese/anti-Asian violence. For those of you reading this in the CU Boulder community, I would urge you to either have your units craft your own statements or please link to the [Ethnic Studies statement](#). Sadly, our CU Boulder community has already recorded instances of anti-Asian harassment and racism, so I think it's crucial that we all stand in solidarity to remember that **frequent handwashing and not anti-Asian harassment will prevent the spread of the coronavirus.**

Ethnic Studies Statement about Anti-Asian Harassment and the COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus

[The Centers for Disease Control](#) recently announced that the COVID-19/novel coronavirus may spread in the United States. As people take [precautions to stay healthy](#), the Ethnic Studies department wants to also acknowledge the [rise of anti-Asian \(especially anti-Chinese\) harassment](#) that many Asian Americans (particularly those who look East Asian) are experiencing. As a department dedicated to the study of race and racism, we want to be very clear that harassment of Asians due to fears of the coronavirus are not only unwarranted but sadly part of a [longer history of stereotypes associating Asians, especially Chinese, with disease](#). As a department, we stand firm in rejecting anti-Asian bigotry in the guise of people expressing fear of COVID-19. We also urge people to [find resources](#) that will educate them about staying healthy, as well as why their prejudices/biases in assuming all Asians have the coronavirus are rooted in a history of [Yellow Peril rhetoric](#), xenophobia, and anti-Asian racism. For more, please see this [open-source syllabus](#) on resources for addressing anti-Asian bias associated with the coronavirus. And please remember: **frequent handwashing not anti-Asian stereotypes/harassment are your best means of staying healthy.**

Don't Ignore It:

CU Boulder policy prohibits discrimination and harassment based on protected-class identity. All members of the campus community should report any acts involving unfair treatment, abusive words or expressions, or intimidating behavior aimed at any member of the campus community based on an aspect of identity. For additional resources and reporting options go to colorado.edu/dontignoreit/.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ho

PS. Though I'm not holding in-person office hours for the remainder of the semester, I'd be more than happy to chat by phone with anyone who would like to do remote office hours with me Wednesdays, 10-12pm—here's the [link to my office hours](#) to sign up for a phone slot.



CHA SPRING 2020 DEADLINES

--**Wednesday, April 1:** Small Grant Applications (<https://www.colorado.edu/cha/faculty-opportunities/cha-small-grants>)

--**Wednesday, April 1:** Climate Change and the Arts & Humanities Proposal (<https://www.colorado.edu/cha-opportunities/faculty-opportunities/climate-change-and-arts-humanities-proposal>)

And one more from a friend of the CHA:

--**Friday, May 29:** [CALL FOR PAPERS: “BORDERS / BOUNDARIES / FRONTERAS: RE-THINKING AMERICAN MUSIC”](#) (Susan Thomas, editor) – sponsored by American Music Research Center. For more details go to: <https://www.colorado.edu/amrc/2020/01/10/call-papers-borders-boundaries-fronteras-rethinking-american-music-editor-susan-thomas>
