

Agenda:

1. Introductions

- a. **Research Focus Group co-conveners** (Claudio Fogu, Alan Liu) and **research assistant / graduate-student coordinator** (Lindsay Thomas)
 - i. Alan:
 - Digital Humanities
 - Chair's Council / UCOF Research Mission and Principles working group (Research Strategies sub-group)
 - October 2010 threads on Humanist listserv on "Industrialisation" and "the Cuts"
 - 4Humanities
 - ii. Claudio:
 - Longstanding research interests in theories of advocacy, philosophical underpinnings of current crisis in the humanities, political philosophy and mass culture
 - 4Humanities lines up with some work he has done on the need to reform student evaluations of professors
 - iii. Lindsay:
 - 4Humanities RA, started working last spring with Alan as part of the collective
 - Grad student coordinator for 4Humanities@UCSB
- b. **List of participants unable to make first meeting**
- c. **Self-introductions of meeting participants**
 - i. Natural outreach of group? Humanities are differently configured in different parts of the world (i.e. relationship between the humanities and the social sciences is different depending on where you are)
 - ii. We want to tackle those kinds of questions in our meetings; we also want to start to recruit people, like those in 4Humanities@UCSB, who are interested in doing work for the collective

2. **Overview of 4Humanities and 4Humanities@UCSB** [*presented by Alan using the website as guide. NOTE: The server where the site is hosted went down two weeks ago and the site is still only running at about 75%; it is quite slow at the moment*]

- a. **The 4Humanities initiative** (<http://humanistica.ualberta.ca/>)
 - i. **"About" & "Mission"**

About: 4Humanities is a platform and resource for advocacy of the humanities, drawing on the technologies, new-media expertise, and ideas of the international digital humanities community. The humanities are in trouble today, and digital methods have an important role to play in effectively showing the public why the humanities need to be part of any vision of a future society.

Mission: 4Humanities is both a platform and a resource for humanities advocacy. As a platform, 4Humanities stages the efforts of humanities advocates to reach out to the public. We are a combination newspaper, magazine, channel, blog, wiki, and social network. We solicit well-reasoned or creative demonstrations, examples, testimonials, arguments, opinion pieces, open letters, press releases, print posters, video "advertisements," write-in

campaigns, social-media campaigns, short films, and other innovative forms of humanities advocacy, along with accessibly-written scholarly works grounding the whole in research or reflection about the state of the humanities.

As a resource, 4Humanities provides humanities advocates with a stockpile of digital tools, collaboration methods, royalty-free designs and images, best practices, new-media expertise, and customizable newsfeeds of issues and events relevant to the state of the humanities in any local or national context. Whether humanities advocates choose to conduct their publicity on 4Humanities itself or instead through their own newsletter, Web site, blog, and so on, we want to help with the best that digital-humanities experts have to offer.

4Humanities began because the digital humanities community—which specializes in making creative use of digital technology to advance humanities research and teaching as well as to think about the basic nature of the new media and technologies—woke up to its special potential and responsibility to assist humanities advocacy. The digital humanities are increasingly integrated in the humanities at large. They catch the eye of administrators and funding agencies who otherwise dismiss the humanities as yesterday’s news. They connect across disciplines with science and engineering fields. They have the potential to use new technologies to help the humanities communicate with, and adapt to, contemporary society.

ii. Who We Are

- Coordinators: Alan Liu, Geoffrey Rockwell, Melissa Terra
- Collective (U.S., Canada, UK, Australia)
- International correspondents
- Sponsors: ADHO (Alliance of Digital Humanities Organisations)
 - a. ALLC (Assoc. for Literary & Linguistic Computing)
 - b. ACH (Assoc. for Computers in the Humanities)
 - c. centerNet (international network of DH centers)
 - d. Circa (Canadian Institute for Research in Computing & the Arts)

iii. Advocacy Statements & Campaigns

- Catch-all category

iv. Student Voices

- This is a high-value category that involves statements and documents by students on why the humanities are important to them

v. Humanities Showcase

- This includes wow-factor public humanities projects, most of them digital, to showcase what the humanities can do.
- Needs much more development and hopefully our 4Humanities@UCSB can contribute to this.

vi. Humanities News

- This category involves not just posts on humanities in the news, but also posts on how news outlets are covering the current crisis in the humanities

vii. Draft for site reorganization on 4Humanities website:

Advocating the Humanities

Advocacy Statements & Campaigns

The Changing Humanities

Student Voices
Humanities Showcase
Scholarship on the State of the Humanities
International Correspondents

Special 4Humanities Projects
Humanities, Plain & Simple Initiative

4Humanities Local Chapters
4Humaniteis@McGill
4Humanities@UCI
4Humanities@UCSB
Form a 4Humanities chapter at your institution

Resources for Advocacy
How to be an Advocate for the Humanities [Other how-to guides as we develop them]
Bibliography on Humanities Advocacy
Other Advocacy Campaigns
Digital Tools

- b. **Concept for 4Humanities@UCSB:**
 - i. Two-part structure for RFG: 1) Reading/discussion group; 2) Production shop; practical building emphasis
- c. **Reading/Discussion Meetings** (led by facilitators, catalyzed by small set of readings or browsings).
 - i. **Proposed initial meeting topics:**
 - "Public Advocacy and Discourse" (Leader: Claudio Fogu. Proposed readings to be sent to listserv soon for suggestions) [*explained by Claudio*]
 - What kinds of resources have worked/captured our interest? What arguments for humanities have worked? Not worked?
 - Do we want to invite guests, start new projects?
 - Merge the "theoretical" with the "practical" in first meeting
 - Send proposals for readings to Claudio directly
 - We will send out current draft list of readings through the listserv and give out Claudio's email
 - Doodle poll of participants to find next meeting time
 - "New Media and Humanities Advocacy" (Leader: Alan Liu)
 - Survey or sampling of relationship between new media technologies and advocacy movements both in the humanities and elsewhere
 - Show and tell of platforms and tools that will get us a head start in what kinds of things we might be able to do
 - Work on site: Explain backend of site, get accounts if you are interested, so you can begin adding posts to the site
 - Production planning meetings (and practicum) to be scheduled after the above meetings (see below on "Ongoing Production Shop for Humanities Advocacy")

- Ideas for collaborative and individual projects group may want to run
 - Ex: Humanities, Plain & Simple Initiative run by Christine Hensler
 - Ex: Alan's UCOF Research Strategies Working Group site, and sample document of showcase humanities research examples
- ii. **Sample ideas for future topics (included in the original IHC RFG proposal):**
 - History and contemporary state of public advocacy in other disciplines (e.g., arts, social sciences, STEM sciences) and in other social sectors (e.g., NGO's)
 - The evolving relation of expertise (e.g., the humanities in the academy) to networked public knowledge (e.g., Wikipedia)
 - "Public goods" issues (e.g., current problems in the humanities related to intellectual property, public domain, fair use, open access, privatization, etc.)
- d. **Ongoing Production Shop for Humanities Advocacy** (the current plan is to include in each of the above-described reading/discussion meetings a project-planning and status-update agenda item; but then also to schedule special meetings focused on production activities)
 - i. **Possible production activities:**
 - Posts by 4Humanities@UCSB members to 4Humanities
 - Participation in existing 4Humanities projects (e.g., "Humanities, Plain and Simple")
 - Collaboration with 4Humanities@UCI on creating showcases of humanities research & teaching with public impact. (Raw example of showcase from Alan's work on the Research Mission & Principles working group of UC Commission on the Future.)
 - Creation of video interview series
 - Creation of video, music, or other non-document and "non-talking-head" formats for humanities advocacy
 - Ways to recruit students and student content in a way that naturally draws from discussion and materials produced in the classroom that can be shown to the public
 - Creation of a means of recruiting undergraduate and K-12 student advocacy for the humanities
 - e. **Possible Colloquium**
 - i. From the original 4Humanities@UCSB IHC RFG proposal: "Budget allowing, 4Humanities@UCSB will also host one face-to-face colloquium each year with members of its extramural affiliates. Like the group's regular meetings, this colloquium will also have a dual nature as a scholarly research meeting and a planning/project meeting. Budget allowing, it will include a keynote guest-participant (e.g., such well-known and/or strategically well-placed spokespeople for the humanities or digital humanities as Cathy Davidson [Duke U.], Todd Presner [UCLA], Robert N. Watson [UCLA], Jeffrey Schnapp [Stanford U.], Tara McPherson [USC], Anne Balsamo [USC], David Theo Goldberg [UCI], Kathleen Woodward [U. Washington])."
- 3. **Discussion**
 - Have we thought about audience, the audience we want to address? Have we thought about the theoretical background to discussions of audience (action-theory)?

- Perhaps have Linda Adler-Kassner lead a meeting next quarter on the topic of audience. This is something we need to think about much more.
- Can we discuss issues of the humanities with “opponents” of the humanities (comments on forums, etc)?
 - We want to try to move “beyond” or outside of this kind of “letter to the editor” oppositional stance because it tends to be insular.
- Possible project idea: Develop a short document that would come out of this group to counter de-institutionalization; writing a document that organizes our thinking, that frames our positions
 - Such a document might be a way to think through audience, and a way to think through our object (what is the humanities?). Can’t start with the humanities as a given; have to put some thought into what the humanities are. The humanities is both the more “traditional” or cultural approach (Great Books series, canonical authors) and the more “cutting-edge” interdisciplinary approach (literature and neuroscience, science studies, etc)
- Multiple cases for multiple audiences and multiple purposes. What are some immediate goals of our group? Question of audience is key.
 - Usual audience is our students: how do we make our material relevant to our students? We should think about doing the same for the public.
 - There is a reflexivity and abstraction that goes along with usual public and academic discussions of the humanities. We need to simplify and streamline; we need to make a case for how the humanities are already involved in and central to existing objects and phenomena. How they are already important to and active in our knowledge today.
 - An archive of the ordinary
 - We need to allow our work to be organically and naturally available to the public
- Should one of the things we address be the perceived disconnect between scholarly work and teaching?
 - We need to think about issue of framing; frame we often have to resist is the economic frame, but we need to shift discussion to frame of meaning
 - We need to be able to open up the issue of instrumentality, go back to the idea of service. The humanities serve the public. We need to fuse this idea of service with the instrumental mindset that is so important to the public.
 - Need to develop some kind of calculus that lets people tabulate long-term benefits and impacts. Need to work within instrumental mode. How can we develop a non-quantitative tabulation?
- Add a thinking tool to website: Alan’s 8-point bullet list about core or basic research in the humanities

4. Immediate Action Items

- a. Participants to be enrolled in listserv
- b. Date/time of next meetings (to be set via Doodle poll). Possible meeting dates (5-7 pm time slot due to scheduling constraints of co-conveners in fall quarter):
 - i. Monday Nov. 7
 - ii. Thursday Nov. 10
 - iii. Thursday Nov. 17