



Through the program in Higher Education and Scholarship in the Humanities, the Foundation assists colleges, universities, and research institutes. Among these institutions are research universities, liberal arts colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic-Serving Institutions. In practical terms, this means helping institutions train scholars and produce scholarship in the humanities broadly conceived; fostering practices of diversity and inclusion and promoting the social value of the humanities; responding to the economic, demographic, financial, and technological challenges affecting higher education; and expanding access and support degree completion.



Lincoln University President Brenda A. Allen submitted a proposal to The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which resulted in a \$500,000 grant to invest in Lincoln University's teaching pedagogy and humanities programs.

"This generous gift from the Mellon Foundation represents a major step toward garnering the resources we need to achieve our educational goals and reinvest in our roots as a liberal arts institution," said Allen. "With this grant, we will work with faculty on incorporating active learning pedagogies and enhancing curricular and co-curricular opportunities for our students."

Special thanks to . . .

Sharone Jones
Assistant Vice President, Student Success & Experiential Learning

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Director, Center for Undergraduate Research

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Director, Office of Internship Services

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Senior Grants Accountant, Office of the Controller

Mellon Summer 2021 Research Institute



Opening Symposium in the Arts and Humanities

June 8, 9, 10

10:00 a.m. - Noon & 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Virtual via Zoom



Lincoln University
LEARN. LIBERATE. LEAD.

Primary Investigator
President Brenda A. Allen



Assistant Primary Investigators

Dr. Mahpiua Deas

Upperclassman Dean and Associate Professor, Department of Languages & Literature



Mr. Fred-Rick Roundtree

Assistant Provost and Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



AGENDA

Tuesday, June 8
10:00 a.m. - Noon

Welcome

Dr. Mahpiua Deas

Dr. Gershun Avilez

Professor of English
University of Maryland

Tuesday, June 8
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Sumi Tonooka

Jazz Pianist and Composer

Wednesday, June 9
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Ersula J. Ore

Associate Professor of
African American Studies
Arizona State University

Thursday, June 10
10:00 a.m. - Noon

Dr. Corey D.B. Walker

Professor of Humanities
Wake Forest University

Thursday, June 10
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Ruha Benjamin

Associate Professor of
African American Studies
Princeton University



Dr. Gershun Avilez is a Professor and Director of Graduate Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. He is a cultural studies scholar who specializes in contemporary African American and Black Diasporic literatures and visual cultures. Much of his scholarship explores how questions of gender and sexuality inform artistic production. He has published two books: *Radical Aesthetics and Modern Black Nationalism* (2016) and *Black Queer Freedom* (2020). He has written essays on a range of historical and cultural subjects, including the Cold War, segregation narratives, early African American writing, race & terror, social death, queer life, experimental poetry, Black women's writing, the Harlem Renaissance, Black Power gender politics, and the Black Arts Movement.

He received his PhD in English from the University of Pennsylvania, where he also earned a Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies. He has held professorships at Yale University and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He also held the Frederick Douglass Post-doctoral Fellowship at the University of Rochester.



Ms. Sumi Tonooka (pronounced To-NO-ka) has been called a “fierce and fascinating composer and pianist” (*Jazz Times*), “provocative and compelling” (*New York Times*), and “continually inventive, original, surprising, and a total delight,” (*Cuadranos de Jazz, Madrid*). During a career spanning more than 35 years that has taken her from home bases in Philadelphia & Boston, to New York & Seattle, Tonooka has been developing a body of work that surprises and delights audiences worldwide—quietly piling up accolades from jazz writers, fellow musicians, and fans.

Currently, Tonooka is a recipient composer of the Chamber Music America's New Jazz Works Grant in 2019. The new work is scheduled to be premiered in the Fall of 2021. In February 2016, NorthWest Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Anthony Spain, premiered, *For Malala*, Tonooka's most recent work for Orchestra and jazz trio, featuring Tonooka on piano. In November 2015, Tonooka received the honor to serve as composer in residence with the South Dakota Symphony. The award was through Music Alive, New Music USA. In 2013, the American Composers Orchestra and The Center for Jazz Studies at Columbia University, presented Tonooka's first work for symphony orchestra, *Full Circle*, as part of the second Jazz Composers Orchestra Institute (JCOI) Readings in NYC.



Dr. Corey D. B. Walker is a distinguished scholar and public intellectual. He is the Wake Forest Professor of the Humanities in the department of English and the Interdisciplinary Humanities Program and inaugural director of the Program in African American Studies at Wake Forest University. He returns to Winston-Salem, NC, where he previously served as Dean of the College and John W. and Anna Hodgin Hanes Professor of the Humanities at Winston-Salem State University. His research and teaching interests span the areas of Africana philosophy, critical theory, ethics, religion and American public life, and social and political philosophy.

Dr. Walker is the author and editor of four books including the well-received *A Noble Fight: African American Freemasonry and the Struggle for Democracy in America*. He has published over sixty articles, essays, and book chapters in a wide variety of scholarly journals and publications including the *New York Times* bestseller *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019*, edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain.



Dr. Ersula J. Ore is an Associate Professor of African and African American Studies at State University and Lincoln Professor of Ethics in The School of Social Transformation. Her research interrogates how the relationship between antiblack violence and discourses of American citizenship and belonging. Her book, *Lynching: Violence, Rhetoric, & American Identity* (University Press of Mississippi, 2019), which examines lynching as a rhetorical strategy and material practice interwoven with the formation of America's national identity, received the 2020 Book Award from the Rhetoric Society America.

Dr. Ore's more recent work includes a multi-journaled co-edited special issue called “Diversity is not Justice,” which explores equity discourse and institutionalized performative allyship in higher education, and two monographs, respectively titled *Civility While Black & Female* and *The Case of Sandra Bland*. Research for these two book projects engages Black feminist literary and cultural theorists and Black feminist historians in criminology and carcerality, women and girlhood studies, philosophy, and communication to interrogate the dialogics of gendered antiblack policing and how charges of incivility are used to legitimate lethal force.



Dr. Ruha Benjamin is Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University. Ruha Benjamin specializes in the interdisciplinary study of science, medicine, and technology; race-ethnicity and gender; knowledge and power. She is author of *People's Science: Bodies and Rights on the Stem Cell Frontier* (Stanford University Press 2013), *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code* (Polity 2019), and editor of *Captivating Technology: Race, Carceral Technoscience, and Liberatory Imagination in Everyday Life* (Duke University Press 2019), as well as numerous articles and book chapters.

Professor Benjamin received her BA in sociology and anthropology from Spelman College, MA and PhD in sociology from UC Berkeley, and completed postdoctoral fellowships at UCLA's Institute for Society and Genetics and Harvard University's Science, Technology, and Society Program. She has been awarded fellowships and grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, National Science Foundation, Ford Foundation, California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and Institute for Advanced Study. In 2017, she received the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton.



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