



HUMILITY

IN THE AGE OF
SELF
PROMOTION



Welcome

Colloquium on HUMILITY IN THE AGE OF SELF-PROMOTION

What is the significance of humility in this time of billionaire entrepreneurs, pervasive reality television, social media, and Donald Trump? How does humility feature as a part of the human experience? Thank you for joining us to explore the nature of humility, its benefits and costs, and its role “in the age of self-promotion.”

The colloquium is primarily a closed event with individuals from within and outside the academy participating. The sole public lecture connected with the colloquium is a keynote presentation on Friday evening, October 20, by NY Times Op-Ed columnist Charles M. Blow on the topic of Donald Trump, arrogance, and American democracy.

We welcome you to the colloquium on Humility in the Age of Self-Promotion and look forward to investigating humility, its enabling conditions and effects, as well as discovering ways to interpret and respond constructively to our present social and political moment.

—Humility in the Age of Self-Promotion planning members:
Aaron Ahuvia, Sarah Buss, Rebekah Modrak, Jamie Vander Broek

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 10/20

SATURDAY 10/21

DAY 1:

Humility in the Age of Self-Promotion Colloquium

The New Center, 1100 N Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

8:15am	Bus departs for The New Center for guests staying at Weber's
8:40am	Bagels and coffee
9:00am	Introductions and welcome
9:45am-10:45am	Moral Psychology Aaron Ahuvia, Valerie Tiberius, Jennifer Cole Wright
11:00am-12:30pm	Workshop: Rick Boothman
12:30pm-2:00pm	Lunch held during: Journalism + Social media Lynette Clemetson
2:15pm-3:15pm	Identity Russ Belk, Ruth Nicole Brown, Achmat Salie
3:30pm-4:30pm	Workshop: Nick Sousanis
5:30pm-6:30pm	Charles M. Blow lecture + Q&A Rackham Auditorium, 915 E Washington St, Ann Arbor, MI
7:00pm- 9:00pm	Charles M. Blow reception Vandenberg Room on the 2nd floor of the Michigan League 911 N. University, Ann Arbor, MI
9:00pm	Bus leaves Rackham Auditorium for Weber's

DAY 2:

Humility in the Age of Self-Promotion Colloquium

Shapiro Undergraduate Library, Room 2160, University of Michigan

8:15am	Bus departs for Shapiro for guests staying at Weber's
8:40am	Bagels and coffee
9:00am-10:00am	Consumerism Elif Izberk-Bilgin, Rebekah Modrak, Aric Rindfleisch
10:15am-11:45am	Hatcher Graduate Library Gallery, Room 100 Ignorance Agnes Callard, Tyler Denmead, Eranda Jayawickreme, Troy Jollimore
11:45am-12:45pm	Lunch — Zingerman's Ari Weinzwieg
1:00pm-2:00pm	Power Kevin Hamilton, Gilbert Rodman
2:15pm-3:15pm	Workshop: Captain Christopher Dennis
3:30pm-4:30pm	Listening / Hearing Jamie Vander Broek, Sheryl Oring, Ami Walsh
5:30pm	Bus leaves UM campus for Green Things Farm
6:00pm	Dinner hosted by Jill Lada of Green Things Farm 3825 Nixon Rd, Ann Arbor, MI
8:30pm	Bus leaves Green Things Farm for Weber's

CHARLES M. BLOW LECTURE

Charles M. Blow will present a keynote lecture on Friday October 20, 5:30-6:30pm at Rackham A-uditorium. Doors open at 5pm. The event is free and open to the public. There are no tickets.

Following Charles M. Blow's presentation, Wallace House, home of the Knight-Wallace Fellowships for Journalists and Livingston Awards, will sponsor a private reception. Please join us for a hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and dessert reception from 7-9pm, at the Vandenberg Room on the 2nd floor of the Michigan League, 911 N. University. There will be a table outside the Vandenberg room with name tags of guests, which will function as "tickets" for the reception.



Aaron Ahuvia, Ph.D., is a Professor of Marketing at the University of Michigan-Dearborn College of Business; with cross appointments at the UM Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design and the UM Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. In 1993 he published the first major scientific study on the psychology of non-interpersonal love and has continued to work actively in this area. His research also focuses on the relationship between money and happiness, and he has participated in and written about the social marketing of peace. A published study of research productivity ranked him 22 in the world for research influence in consumer behavior. Professor Ahuvia is a former associate editor for the *Journal of Economic Psychology* and has been quoted in *Time*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and has appeared on NPR and television shows such as *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

“ I'm currently finishing a qualitative grounded theory on the study of pride. This study consists of in depth interviews with Americans, Australians, and Indians about objects and experiences they are proud of. Not surprisingly, issues around humility come up. I will share some of the more relevant findings from this study, for example, how is humility linked to obedience, authority, and pride? Can humility be linked to defiance? ”



Russell Belk is Kraft Foods Canada Chair in Marketing and York University Distinguished Research Professor. His research involves the extended self, meanings of possessions, collecting, gift-giving, sharing, digital consumption, and materialism. This work tends to be qualitative, visual, and cultural. He has received the Paul D. Converse Award, two Fulbright Awards, and the Sheth Foundation/ Journal of Consumer Research Award for Long Term Contribution to Consumer Research. Together with colleagues he initiated the Consumer Behavior Odyssey, the Association for Consumer Research Film Festival, and the Consumer Culture Theory Conference. His research involves the extended self,

meanings of possessions, collecting, gift-giving, sharing, digital consumption, and materialism. This work tends to be qualitative, visual, and cultural.

“ Like gender performativity and flawed presentations of self, old age is something that is performed. But it is performed without the benefits of all the sets, masks, and props that are a part of living as thriving consumers during our younger years. I suggest that the difference between humility and humiliation in old age lies in retaining dignity. Furthermore, the ability to do so is related to health, wealth, family, support networks, and available services. These affordances affect our abilities to control our circumstances, privacy, appearance, mobility, and actions.



Charles M. Blow is an Op-Ed columnist at *The New York Times*. His columns tackle hot-button issues such as social justices, racial equality, presidential politics, police violence, gun control, and the Black Lives Matter Movement. Mr. Blow is also a *CNN* commentator and a Presidential Visiting Professor at Yale, where he teaches a seminar on media and politics. He is the author of the critically acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*. The book won a Lambda Literary Award and the Sperber Prize and made multiple prominent lists of best books published in 2014. *People Magazine* called it “searing and unforgettable.” Mr. Blow joined *The New York Times* in 1994 as a graphics editor and quickly became the paper’s graphics director, a position he held for nine years. Mr. Blow went on to become the paper’s design director for news before leaving in 2006 to become the art director of *National Geographic Magazine*. Before coming to The Times, Mr. Blow had worked at *The Detroit News*. Mr. Blow graduated magna cum laude from Grambling State University in Louisiana, where he received a B.A. in mass communications, and he holds an honorary doctorate from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston.

Charles M. Blow will present a keynote presentation on the topic of Donald Trump, arrogance, pride, and American democracy on Friday October 20, 5:30-6:30pm at Rackham Auditorium. Blow’s lecture will be followed by a Q&A and private reception for colloquium participants.



Richard C. Boothman, JD is the Chief Risk Officer at the University of Michigan Health System and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at the UM Medical School. He led development of the “Michigan Model”, a proactive response to patient injury founded on honesty and transparency. The Michigan Model has garnered national and international attention for reducing malpractice costs while improving patient safety. Boothman’s work has been featured on National Public Radio’s *Weekend Edition*, *All Things Considered* and *Marketplace*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *CBS News*, *CNN*, *MSNBC*, *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *BBC radio* and the *Korean Broadcasting System* among many others.

“ The practice of medicine is inherently risky and caregivers cannot control all the risks. I am responsible for leading the UM health system’s response to patients who have had adverse clinical outcomes from the medical care they receive from the UMHS. Sometimes patients experience injuries or unintended harm because of the intrinsic risks, but sometimes patients are injured because the health care providers and health care system were negligent in the patient’s care causing the harm. For decades, “Fortress Medicine” responded to unintended clinical outcomes with arrogance and secrecy, and stonewalled their patients who suffered an adverse clinical outcome and relegated the matter to the insurance industry and the legal profession. This paradigm has become known as “deny and defend”. The refusal to address the patient’s experience leads to cruel and inhumane consequences: it deprives patients and families of any explanation and leaves them abandoned, betrayed, bereft of any sense of justice, and worried that the same fate would befall other patients. Litigation is punishing to all concerned. It is costly, inefficient and highly uncertain, with outcomes dependent more on the theater of the courtroom than on the medical merits of the individual case. Worse, prioritizing litigation chilled any efforts at clinical improvement and peer review, leaving future patients exposed to the same injuries. Responding to these unintended clinical outcomes with honesty and transparency, the “Michigan Model” prioritizes our patient’s and staff’s needs over protection of our own financial interests.





Dr. Ruth Nicole Brown is an associate professor in the Gender and Women’s Studies and Education Policy, Organization and Leadership Studies Departments at the University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign. Her research looks at Black girls’ lived experience and explores the gender and racialized power dynamics of collectivity. She wrote two single authored books: *Black Girlhood Celebration: Toward A Hip Hop Feminist Pedagogy* and *Hear Our Truths: The Creative Potential of Black Girlhood*. Ruth Nicole Brown

is the co-editor of *Wish To Live: The Hip Hop Feminist Pedagogy Reader* and co-editor of *Disrupting Qualitative Inquiry: Possibilities and Tensions in Educational Research*. She founded SOLHOT(Saving Our Lives, Hear Our Truths) in 2006 and continues to co-organize spaces dedicated to the celebration of Black girlhood in all of its complexity.

“As an artist-scholar, I am positively obsessed with Black girlhood and creating spaces of being for and with Black girls in ways that activate Black girlhood as a praxis and politic from which there is nothing we (and those who love us) can’t do. To do this work, humility is required. In my talk, I outline how humility (and the differences among and between humility and Black abnegation) constrain and enable Black girlhood as a radical sociality. Relying on the scholarship of Layli Maparyan (2011), Gloria Anzaldúa (2015), and the artistry of Princess Nokia (2015), Jamila Woods (2016), and Zina Saro-Wiwa (2017), I discuss various definitions of humility to which Black girls and women might be accountable, as a way to theoretically ground my ideas. Then, through disruptive anti-disciplinary unethnographic observations of nature and other ecologies of living, I offer a landscape of Black girlhood humility that 1) shows how it feels to interrogate dominant capitalist conditions of individuated selfhood and body-sense-centricism so often schooled and mediated as success in “the Age of Self promotion” 2) allows me to name and revel in the specific “outside” and “outsider” affective qualities and conditions of humility in favor of diverse (Black girl) life formations and 3) makes a place of togetherness for the scholars, artists, girls, homegirls, and nature I am bringing together in conversation. I conclude by speculating what such a radical sociality, as evidenced in praxis, might mean as a new direction for (engaged) scholarship related to Black girlhood, critical pedagogy, and environmental humanities.



Thomas Burnett, is the Assistant Director of Public Engagement, The John Templeton Foundation. He is responsible for identifying thought-provoking, under-appreciated, and potentially beneficial findings from recent research initiatives in order to enhance public engagement with “Science and the Big Questions.” Before joining the Foundation, Mr. Burnett worked in communications at the National Academy of Sciences. Prior to that, he worked for BioLogos as well as the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and

Religion. Mr. Burnett received his B.A. in philosophy from Rice University and pursued his doctoral studies in the history of science at University of California, Berkeley.



Sarah Buss is a Professor in the Department of Philosophy, at the University of Michigan. Professor Buss is interested in issues at the intersection of metaphysics and ethics. She is the author of articles on autonomy, moral responsibility, practical rationality, and respect for persons. In her work, she has developed accounts of weakness of will, our moral obligations to the needy, the rationality of our concern for our own happiness, the relationship between intentional action and evaluative commitments, the

relevance of childhood deprivation to assignments of blame, the moral importance of etiquette, and the metaphysical significance of illness. Her current projects address the normative significance of formal principles of practical rationality, the nature of reasons for action, the will’s contribution to action, and the moral implications of certain basic human capacities.



Agnes Callard is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Director of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Chicago. She received her MA in Classics, and her PhD in Philosophy, both from UC Berkeley. She has just written a book titled, *Aspiration: the Agency of Becoming*, which offers an account of how we work to acquire new values. In the book, she argues that value-acquisition should be understood as a learning process, and thus that there is a distinctively practical form of learning. She also works in ancient

philosophy, having written articles on Plato’s Protagoras, Gorgias, Hippias Minor and Meno, and on Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics.

“ How can humility--the view that one is nothing special--be what makes a person great or extraordinary? Plato took on this paradox in the *Apology*, presenting Socrates as the wisest of men on the grounds that he alone took himself to have no wisdom. Plato encourages us to connect the paradox of how humility can be a virtue with the paradox of how ignorance can make a person wise. In both cases, the key seems to be a kind of self-understanding--the humble person is facing with her eyes open a situation to which the rest of us are willfully blind.



Lynette Clemetson is director of the Knight-Wallace Fellowships and Livingston Awards at UM, –two of the country’s most prestigious programs for journalists. She joined the University from *NPR*, where she was Senior Director of Strategy and Content Initiatives. Prior to working in media strategy, Clemetson was a domestic correspondent for *The New York Times*, and a national correspondent and Asia correspondent for *Newsweek* magazine. She was a Knight-Wallace Fellow in 2010. She is interested in the challenges facing journalists in the era of follows, shares and personal brand.

“ The need for a strong social presence today requires a tough balancing act for reporters, whose work relies to a considerable extent on the ability to recede into the background, to be astute observers, questioners, and listeners. More often than not, reporters seek to keep themselves out of the story. The disruption of traditional distribution platforms requires journalists to develop broad personal recognition in order to ensure their work reaches people. These same new platforms offer valuable new ways to source information and connect with readers, viewers, and listeners. They also put reporters a mere tweet away from poor judgment and the loss of credibility on a daily basis. Striking that balance between being a humble but bold observer, analyst, and storyteller while also building a compelling personal brand requires skills that don’t necessarily come naturally. This powerful and potentially perilous landscape makes it a particularly meaningful time to run programs that support the essential work of journalism.



Nadia Danienta is a third year doctoral student in marketing at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign specializing in consumer behavior research. Her current research interests include consumer-brand relationships, judgment and decision making, and consumer psychology. Prior to the doctoral program, Nadia received her B.S. in biopsychology, cognition, and neuroscience and her M.S. in psychology from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Nadia will be co-presenting with Aric Rindfleisch.



Tyler Denmead is an Assistant Professor at the School of Art and Design, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His current research examines youth and the political economy of creative cities. He is the founder of the nationally acclaimed, New Urban Arts, a nationally acclaimed youth arts collective for high school students and artists based in Providence, Rhode Island, which was recognized by First Lady Michelle Obama in 2008 as one of the premiere arts and humanities programs for youth in the country.

His publications can be read in *Visual Arts Research*, *Art Education*, *International Journal of Education through Art*, and the *International Journal of Education and the Arts*. He is the co-editor for *Visual Arts Research* and on the editorial review board for the *Journal of Cultural Research in Art Education and Art Education*.

“ My ethnographic research examines how a youth arts and humanities program that I founded, *New Urban Arts*, is entangled in creative city politics and urban renewal in Providence, Rhode Island. I argue that the conventional creative city script does contribute to the expansion of critical and recuperative spaces for working class and low-income youth of color to make art and experience collective joy, while putting these young people in a position where they revitalize their city at their own expense. My interest in foregrounding the perspectives of alumni who participated in *New Urban Arts* led me to this critique, but choosing to focus on them has demanded that I be willing to critique my record and do so publicly. Using a collage style of presentation, I plan to discuss how I have both embraced and doubted humility as a useful concept throughout this research journey.





Captain Christopher Dennis, an Auburn University and Naval War College graduate and three-decade naval officer/aviator, joined UofM summer '16 after serving as Commander, Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily, Italy. In Sicily, he was centrally responsible for the safety, security, operations and conduct of all U.S. forces, employees, and families, U.S. diplomacy, and all aspects of leading the community. Highlighting his tenure was Sigonella's role in the July 2014 successful evacuation/recovery of U.S. Embassy- Libya personnel and his leadership in confronting the anti-US/NATO "NoMUOS" protest movement. Dennis has operated the world-over from Somalia to the Balkans to Asia, ashore & afloat.

“ I will demonstrate that people are more positively inspired by people who: can admit mistakes, take others ideas when they are better, willing to be criticized. In this sense humility is authentically demonstrating respect for others and simultaneously disciplining oneself. There is a military requirement for trust in one another —simply put, the stakes are huge on a personal level (one's life and welfare) and the national level (at the extreme end our national survival). Sharing my personal experience —a testimony of sorts— I will discuss how I came to be convinced of the correctness of humility as service before self and explain how this looks at a macro(ish) level when as base commander we successfully accomplished the things mentioned in my bio.



Kevin Hamilton is a Professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and serves as Senior Associate Dean in the College of Fine and Applied Arts. Kevin co-directs the Center for People and Infrastructures, an effort currently focused on the ethics and civics of algorithmic culture through research, design, and outreach. He has worked in largely collaborative roles over the years on dialogic, interdisciplinary inquiries into such subjects as computing and cybernetics, race and space, rhythmanalysis, walking, slowness, and the history and policy of nuclear weapons technologies. His forthcoming book with Ned O'Gorman traces the history of the Air Force's most famous film unit, Lookout Mountain Laboratory, from 1948 through 1969.

“ My interest in humility lies in part with my convictions about the truth of nonviolence. As a scholar, I wonder what “non-coercive” forms of argumentation might be; does humble, nonviolent scholarly argumentation wait for an invitation to dialogue, rather than propose avenues of entry and argument? As political actor with convictions about nonviolence, I am also suspicious of how often my fellow artists, activists, and scholars adopt languages of aggression. (Must we always talk in terms of tactics and strategies? Can't we talk in terms of movements and mobility without conquest?) Lastly for now, as an administrator and leader I look to build humility into how organizations conduct their business, trying to “make the last first” wherever I can. Through the ways I run meetings and conduct banal business everyday, I try to develop approaches that encourage people to put others first. I am eager to co-develop such strategies. I have even sought out training to this end.



Elif Izberk-Bilgin is Associate Professor of marketing at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Her research focuses on consumer activism, religious ideology in the marketplace, Islamic marketing, branding, and sociological aspects of consumerism in emerging countries. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Consumer Research*, *Journal of Academy of Marketing Science*, and *Consumption, Markets and Culture*. She is the recipient of the 2015 *Journal of Consumer Research* Best Paper award and 2012 Sidney J. Levy research award. Her research has been featured in *Time* and has garnered international attention.

“ The notion of humility is so far removed from the reality of a consumer society that it seems to be a more befitting defining feature of our nostalgically imagined premodern societies than our contemporary life. After all, the cultural zeitgeist of a consumer society is self-promoting and participating in perpetual status games through the pursuit of the elusive cool, whether it is the trendiest apparel, hair-do, or cell phone. Is it then even possible to talk about humility in a consumer society? This talk will address how humility may be interpreted and exercised in various ways in contemporary society with a wide range of examples from the consumption practices of the Islamist bourgeoisie to the recent interest in environmentally friendly and humble mushroom burial suits.





Eranda Jayawickreme is an Assistant Professor of psychology at Wake Forest University and Project Co-Leader of the Pathways to Character Project, a \$3.4 million initiative funded by the John Templeton Foundation examining the possibilities for the strengthening of character following adversity, challenge or failure. His research focuses on well-being, moral psychology, psychological growth following adversity, wisdom, and integrative theories of personality, and has worked with populations in

Rwanda, Sri Lanka and various populations in the USA. His awards include the 2015 Rising Star award from the Association for Psychological Science, a Mellon Refugee Initiative Fund Fellowship, and grants from the John Templeton Foundation, and the Asia Foundation/ USAID. His work has been featured in publications such as *The New York Times* and *Slate*.

“ I believe that humility is critical to the development of wisdom, and two of my current projects focus specifically on the measurement and promotion of intellectual humility (a key component of wisdom) and the role of life challenges and adversity in the development of wisdom. To provide one example of my ongoing work, one of my current projects is examining individual differences in daily manifestations of intellectual humility, and the situations that elicit intellectually humble behavior. There is a lack of clarity over how the trait is defined and assessed, as well as uncertainty concerning the validity of existing humility scales, and even the role of humility in the development of wisdom. I believe therefore that there is plenty of exciting conceptual and empirical work for psychologists to engage in around this topic.



Troy Jollimore is a professor of philosophy at California State University, Chico. His philosophical works include two books: *Love’s Vision* (Princeton, 2011) and *On Loyalty* (Routledge, 2012). His first book of poetry, *Tom Thomson in Purgatory*, won the National Book Critics Circle Award for poetry. His most recent poetry collection, *Syllabus of Errors*, was chosen by *The New York Times* as one of the ten best poetry books of 2015. He is a former External Faculty Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center, and was

a 2013 Guggenheim Fellow. Jollimore’s poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Believer*, *McSweeney’s*, and *Poetry*. He is also a frequent book reviewer, writing for *The*

Washington Post, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The Boston Review*, among others.

“ Socrates’ insistence that his wisdom consists in a kind of intellectual humility, in being aware of how little, in fact, he really knows—and that this knowledge makes him the wisest person in Athens—establishes, at the very beginning of our tradition, a linkage between humility, wisdom, and truth. And yet, despite this, intellectual humility seems to have struggled for recognition as a virtue, particularly in the context of American society. American culture—a culture grounded largely in the valorization of image, confidence, and promotion—is perhaps hostile to humility in all its forms. But intellectual humility, it seems to me, has been particularly undervalued here. This is no doubt due at least in large part to the nature of, and prevailing attitudes toward, religious belief in this country, and the influence of those attitudes on interpretations of democracy. The general view that religious convictions do not require defense or justification and indeed ought to be immune to criticism naturally encourages a kind of culture of entitlement regarding not only religious beliefs but belief in general, with the effect that demands for reasons or evidence come to be regarded with suspicion, to be rejected as inappropriate and impolite, and even, in some cases, to be seen as full-fledged violations of one’s democratic right to think and believe as one wishes. In a culture in which practices of asking for reasons and criticizing beliefs are viewed so negatively, it is almost inevitable that the capacity for self-criticism will find itself threatened. And yet, it is precisely that capacity on which intellectual humility, not to mention intellectual integrity in general, depends.



Jill Lada and her husband Nate Lada run Green Things Farm In Ann Arbor, Michigan. They started the farm in the spring of 2011 at the Tilian Farm Incubator Program. As of 2015 Green Things Farm is certified organic. The core of the farm is a CSA, which stands for Community Supported Agriculture, a model of food distribution which builds a relationship with your farmer. In the summer months Linda and her husband host community farm dinners.

They work with Thurston Elementary on their school garden and fundraising for the Nature Center as well as St. Joseph hospital to provide more access to fresh food and local flowers to folks in the hospital. Green Things Farm is hosting a dinner for colloquium guests on Saturday, October 20th, in which Jill will share more about her work.



Rebekah Modrak is a practicing artist and writer, who uses photography, the internet, and critical design to explore commerce, identity, and class. She is the lead author of *Reframing Photography* (Routledge 2011), a book of theory and process that reconsiders photography’s omnipresence throughout the arts and other disciplines. She is the creator of *Re Made Co.*, an artwork whose artisanal plungers parody the rhetoric around designer tools and the urban woodsman. Her current creative work, *Rethink Shinola*,

analyzes, critiques and exposes a complex and patronizing agenda of marketing blackness, labor, and authenticity with Detroit as the central subject. Her most recent writing, calling for critical artistic interventions to reclaim meaning by undermining brand rhetoric, will be published in *The Routledge Companion to Criticality in Art, Architecture and Design* (Routledge 2017). She is an Associate Professor in the Stamps School of Art & Design at the University of Michigan.

“ *The brands that I study and critique use class and race-based imagery to sell manual labor or urban resilience as consumable luxury goods for white collar, primarily white, consumers. Designer versions of tools, clothing, vehicles, camp gear and other products suggest that affluent consumers can buy the symbols of industry, thrift, and hardiness to associate themselves with these values. Brand media stages scenarios of actual workers and residents — farmers in the field, assembly workers building movements — performing labor for the benefit of an upper-class audience. I experiment with creative, interventionist projects that attempt to expose these narratives and recalibrate the virtues of humility, thrift, and industry.*



Sheryl Oring is an artist and assistant professor of art at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Oring’s work examines social issues through projects that incorporate old and new media to tell stories, examine public opinion and foster open exchange. In 2004, Oring initiated, *I Wish to Say*, a performance work that engages public dialogue about electoral politics and implicitly examines women’s historical role as listeners. This project was commissioned for the First Amendment Project and

has had two national tours with support from the Creative Capital Foundation. Peter Jennings named her “Person of the Week” on ABC’s *World News Tonight* for her work

on the project. Oring’s work has been shown at Bryant Park in New York; the Berlin Wall Memorial; the Jewish Museum Berlin; Smack Mellon gallery in Brooklyn; the Contemporary Art Museum in Raleigh; and the San Diego Museum of Art. She has also received major public art commissions from the San Diego and Tampa airports. Her book, *Activating Democracy: The I Wish to Say Project*, was recently published by Intellect Books.

“ *For the past 12 years, I have crisscrossed the country with a manual typewriter and invited thousands of people to sit across from me at my pop-up office and dictate a message to the President (or next President) of the United States. In Fall 2016, when I was typing postcards at the Creative Time Summit in Washington, DC, there was a man who watched from the sidelines on both days of the annual arts conference. Toward the end of the second day, he finally sat down at my desk to dictate a message. “I am an immigrant,” he said. “I love America. I thank God for the opportunities it has given me, but I am heartbroken at the gap between your words and your ideals on the one side and your action on the other. Please bridge your ideas of democracy and human rights with your national interests, and make human rights your national interest.” When he finished speaking, he asked if he could hug me. What this man and thousands of others seemed to be longing for as they sat down and shared their thoughts with me was a chance to be heard, and by being heard, a chance to be counted, a chance to matter. Listening, it seems, has become something relegated to therapy sessions, not something we incorporate into our daily routines. Over and over this year, I have experienced the power of listening and why it is essential to a vibrant democracy. It seems that in today’s screen-centric world, we have grown used to tweeting and posting our thoughts and ideas, all the while spending less and less time listening to each other.*



Aric Rindfleisch is the John M. Jones Professor of Marketing and Executive Director of the Illinois MakerLab at the University of Illinois. Aric’s research focuses on consumers and brands, interfirm relationships, and new product development and has been published in several leading academic journals including the *Journal of Marketing*, *Journal of Marketing Research*, *Journal of Consumer Research*, *Journal of Operations Management*, *Strategic Management Journal*, among others. His research has won

numerous awards and has been cited by the *Chicago Tribune*, *New York Times*, and

Huffington Post. Aric is also an award-winning teacher and was named by Princeton Review as one of the Best 300 Professors in America. He teaches two popular Coursera classes (*Marketing in a Digital World* & *The 3D Printing Revolution*). Both of these classes have been listed among The Top 50 MOOCs of All Time.

“ The recent development of accessible and low-cost manufacturing tools such as digital design software and desktop 3D printers have empowered a growing number of individuals to make (rather than buy) the products they consume. Prior research suggests that makers often exhibit a strong sense of pride in their making accomplishments. The humility literature indicates that pride is the antithesis of humility. Our research questions this assumption by proposing that pride exhibited by makers is actually positively associated with humility. We plan to test this hypothesis via a survey of 250 makers who are actively engaged in the 3D printing community. We believe that this research has the potential to enrich understanding of the association between pride and humility and also enhance our understanding of the virtues associated with making activities such as 3D printing.



Gilbert B. Rodman is Associate Professor of Communication Studies at the University of Minnesota, Chair of the Association for Cultural Studies and the founder of the CULTSTUD-L listserv. Dr. Rodman’s major research interests include popular culture, communication technologies, intellectual property, and the politics of race and ethnicity. He is the author of *Why Cultural Studies?* (Wiley Blackwell, 2015) and *Elvis After Elvis* (Routledge, 1996), the editor of *The Race and Media Reader* (Routledge, 2014), and co-editor of *Race in Cyberspace* (Routledge, 2000). He serves on the editorial boards of *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, *Communication +1*, *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, *Cultural Studies*, and *European Journal of Cultural Studies*. Rodman is currently working on a book entitled *Creating While Black: A Racial History of Copyright in the US*.

“ We don’t know anywhere near as much about how to fight against racism as we think we do. On the positive side, we know a great deal (though certainly not anywhere near as much as we should) about how racism works. But we know next to nothing about how to bring racism to an end. Or even how to slow it down significantly. For all our skill at pointing out the flaws in the institutions and

practices that help to keep racism alive, we remain deeply ignorant about how to repair those broken structures —or, perhaps more crucially, how to build new ones that could replace them completely. And we need to admit to this sizable gap in our knowledge more openly and honestly than we usually do. To be clear, such an admission is not (or at least it should not be) a sign that we are conceding racism’s inevitable victory —far from it— as much as it is a recognition that we need to find better ways to attack racism if we ever hope to make even a little bit of meaningful headway against it.



Achmat Salie has lived in Michigan with his wife and four children—now ages 18-25 for the last 17 years; he has studied Islamic jurisprudence, classical Arabic, education, and business leadership; Salie has a six-year professional degree in Islamic jurisprudence and Arabic, a doctorate in business leadership and a PhD in Islamic Studies. He is involved with environmental, peace, interfaith, philanthropic, educational, health, and banking institutes. Salie has served at four mega mosques and founded two centers; he also founded two Islamic Studies programs at local universities. Recent efforts include the successful launch of a masters degree program in social justice and the creation of a liberal studies, and religion studies masters. Salie conducts many interfaith marriages. He is also a member of the Qadari spiritual order or Sufi Tariqah.

“ *The three cardinal virtues of Islam are truth, charity, and humility. Muslims have the equivalent of systematic theology in the Maqasid Shari’ah approach; this approach underscores axiom-atic universal Adamic rights that include all God’s creation. Native Americans share this respect and humility towards the flora and fauna. My environmental activism has deepened my appreciation of creation rights and the need for humility as God’s stewards. The Arabs have a saying, ‘al adab fauqal ‘ilm’ —respect/humility is superior to knowledge; humility is a sin quo non for character and there is no spirituality or Islam without refined character. As a former anti-apartheid activist, I realize that much of our national and global conflict stem from racial and class arrogance. My studies in business leadership revealed that humility is the cornerstone of Level V leaders—the highest form of leadership. The blatant disrespect for minorities stem from suicidal ignorance or murderous arrogance or both. I will speak about racial and class based arrogance.*



Nick Sousanis is an Assistant Professor of Humanities & Liberal Studies at San Francisco State University. He is the author of *Unflattening* from *Harvard University Press*, originally his doctoral dissertation written and drawn entirely in comics form. *Unflattening* received the 2016 American Publishers Awards for Professional and Scholarly Excellence (PROSE Award) in Humanities, the Lynd Ward Prize for best Graphic Novel of 2015, and was nominated for an Eisner Award for Best Scholarly/Academic work. *Unflattening*

was featured in *The New York Times*, *Paris Review*, and *The LA Review of Books*, and was named the best graphic novel of 2015 by numerous critics. *The Boston Globe* and *Nature* have commissioned original comics by Sousanis. His work can be seen at www.spinweaveandcut.com

Nick Sousanis will work with two Stamps School BFA students to create graphic illustrations of ideas presented and discussed throughout the essays. These graphic comics will introduce essays within the published book or will represent passages of the event. Nick will also guide all writers in creating drawings about their perspectives on humility.



Valerie Tiberius is the Paul W. Frenzel Chair in Liberal Arts and the Chair of the Philosophy Department at the University of Minnesota. Her work explores the ways in which philosophy and psychology can both contribute to the study of well-being and virtue. She has published numerous reviewed papers and is the author of, *The Reflective Life: Living Wisely With Our Limits* (Oxford 2008), *Moral Psychology: A Contemporary Introduction* (Routledge 2015), and *Well-Being as Value Fulfillment: How We Can Help Others to Live Well*

(Oxford, forthcoming). She is currently working on several collaborative projects with personality and developmental psychologists funded by grants from the Templeton Foundation.

“ I will discuss humility as characterized in three mutually reinforcing factors:

- *De-centeredness: not being self-absorbed*
- *Awareness of limitations: Acknowledges the limitations of his or her knowledge of, and capacity to judge accurately, the situation and values of another person.*
- *Forbearance of high-handedness: disposed not impose his or her own values on others, not to be “judgy”.*

I am interested in two sorts of questions about this kind of humility: First, how does humility serve people’s goals or values? (I have argued that humility is a virtue of friendship, which is something most people value). Second, what is the relationship between this kind of humility and epistemic development in children? (Are the traits that developmental psychologists study in young children relevantly similar to adult virtues so that we can trace an illuminating developmental path? And can this help us think about the goals that are served by virtues such as epistemic humility and vigilance?)



Jamie Lausch Vander Broek is a Librarian for Art & Design at the University of Michigan. She holds a tailored Master’s degree from the U-M School of Information in Art and Art Museum Librarianship, and received a B.A. in Art History with a minor in Italian Studies from Wellesley College. Since arriving in Ann Arbor, she has been active in the local art and book communities. She has served on the boards of the Kerrytown BookFest and the Ann Arbor Book Festival, and is currently on the board of the Ann Arbor District Library. She

is also active in ARLIS/NA, the Art Libraries Society of North America, and was most recently the secretary of the ARLIS/NA Executive Board.

“ I will discuss humility in terms of libraries as community spaces geared toward shared collective interests: If you ask people to tell you what libraries are for, they’ll probably tell you one thing: books. Instead, I think libraries are about sharing. In an environment focused on hyperpersonalization and entrepreneurship, libraries radically focus on the needs of a community rather than the individual. They answer the question, what do we want to come together to share?



Ami Walsh is a writer-in-residence with the Gifts of Art Program at the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor. She helped to start a bedside storytelling program for hospitalized patients in 2012. She is a fiction writer and a graduate of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College and her writing has received support from many arts organizations, including the Banff Arts Centre, Vermont Studio Center, Ragdale Foundation and Ox-Bow School of Art.

“While it may be good for the soul, living in a constant state of humility can lead to a refusal to take responsibility for the work or to pursue fully one’s ambitions. Constantly asserting authority can lead to being far too sure of oneself, to the detriment of true discovery. Our task is not to avoid the two entirely, but to steer between them, making the most of the currents they create.’ One of my writing teachers, Peter Turchi, wrote these lines in the opening chapter of his beautiful 2007 book “Maps of the Imagination: The Writer as Cartographer.” He framed a question I’ve been asking myself ever since: How do artists navigate between states of knowing and not knowing? What role does humility play in deepening or diminishing our creative work? If we undertake socially “good” community service projects, how does the shift in our intentions to honor others first change how we pursue our ambitions? How does public recognition change our relationship with humility? I look forward to exploring these questions with others and sharing some surprising discoveries I’ve made in my work helping hospital patients to record personal narratives.



Ari Weinzweig is CEO and co-founding partner of Zingerman’s Community of Businesses, which includes Zingerman’s Delicatessen, Bakehouse, Creamery, Catering, Mail Order, ZingTrain, Coffee Company, Roadhouse, Candy Manufactory and the newest business—Cornman Farms. Zingerman’s produces and sells all sorts of full flavored, traditional foods in its home of Ann Arbor, Michigan to the tune of \$60,000,000 a year in annual sales. Ari was recognized as one of the “Who’s Who of Food & Beverage in America” by the 2006 James Beard Foundation and has awarded a Bon Appetit Lifetime Achievement Award among many recognitions. Ari is the author of a number of articles and books, including *Zingerman’s Guide to Better Bacon* (Zingerman’s Press), *Zingerman’s Guide to Giving Great Service*, *Zingerman’s Guide to Good Eating* (Houghton Mifflin), *Zingerman’s Guide to Good Leading, Part 1: A Lapsed Anarchist’s Approach to Building a Great Business*, and *Zingerman’s Guide to Good Leading, Part 2: A Lapsed Anarchist’s Approach to Being a Better Leader*. *Zingerman’s Guide to Good Leading, Part 3: A Lapsed Anarchist’s Approach to Managing Ourselves*, was released in December of 2013. *Zingerman’s Guide to Good Leading, Part 4: A Lapsed Anarchist’s Approach to the Power of Beliefs in Business* was released in summer of 2016. In 2017 Ari was named one of “The World’s 10 Top CEOs (They Lead in a Totally Unique Way)” by *Inc. Magazine*.

“Does anyone realize how much the hierarchical thinking that’s so pervasive in society is leading to unhumble behavior? Do people even realize that so many of the common beliefs about what makes great leaders demands of those leaders anything but humility? Take a look at some standard social beliefs

- leaders never show fear
- great leaders aren’t ever even afraid
- leaders are born not made
- some people are just natural born leaders

All of these, I believe, lead a whole range of behaviors that are anything but humble. With that in mind, could my anarchist approaches—in which I hold a belief that everyone is a creative, intelligent human being from whom I have a lot to learn; in which we’re all here to help each other—help change things? Can you even have a conference on humility and still be humble?



Jennifer Cole Wright is Associate Professor of Psychology at the College of Charleston, USA. Her area of research is moral development and moral psychology more generally. Specifically, she studies humility, metaethical pluralism, the influence of individual and social “liberal vs. conservative” mindsets on moral judgments, and young children’s early moral development. She has published papers on these and other topics journals like *Cognition*, *Mind & Language*, *Journal of British Developmental Psychology*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *Journal of Moral Education*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, *Personality and Individual Differences*, *Social Development*, *Personality & Social Psychology Bulletin*, and *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*. She co-edited, with Hagop Sarkissian, *Advances in Experimental Moral Psychology* and is currently co-authoring a book *Understanding Virtue: Theory and Measurement* with Nancy Snow, as well as editing an interdisciplinary volume on *Humility: Reflections on its Nature and Function* (both with Oxford Press).

“We argue that humility, at its core, is an existential capacity. It is an epistemically and ethically aligned state of awareness in which we experience ourselves in relation to all else (everything and everyone)—allowing us to experience those relations objectively. And while, as a state of awareness, humility is something we can “come into and go out of” (i.e., we can be temporarily or momentarily humble), the virtue of humility requires these states of awareness to stabilize into a sort of

Research Assistants and Interns

“standing” or baseline phenomenological disposition, such that our mental lives and behaviors are continuously informed and influenced by it. By “epistemically aligned,” we mean that humility is the experience of oneself, at any given moment, within the context of one’s full existence. One experiences oneself as a finite, fragile, and fallible being, a small part of something vast and infinite. This can be experienced spiritually, as a connection to God or a higher universal consciousness, and/or as an awareness of one’s place in, and connection to, the natural world or the cosmos. And by “ethically aligned,” we mean that humility is the experience of “all else”—e.g., the vast web of interconnected beings whose needs/interests are as morally relevant, as worthy of attention and concern as one’s own. This account offers a number of important implications, which will be discussed.



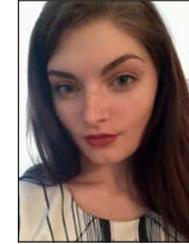
We would also like to introduce Maureen Martin, Executive Director of Foundation Relations and Program Initiatives at the University of Michigan, who will join us for the Friday evening and Saturday events.



Graphic Illustration Interns



Marjorie Gaber



Ana Vincent

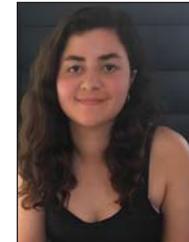


Nick Tobier
Professor, Stamps School of Art & Design,
University of Michigan

Undergraduate Research Assistants



Tori Essex



Mara Ezekiel



Maggie Johnson

Graduate Research Assistant



Carolyn Gennari

