

ISSUE 3 - OCTOBER 24

GLOBAL HUMANITIES INITIATIVE

Official Newsletter of the Global Humanities Initiative

Director's Welcome

BY PROF ESRA ÖZYÜREK

Greetings from the Global Humanities Initiative! GHI had quite a productive summer. We had a fantastic **summer school** on Water, Climate, and Global Humanities at Nanjing University.

Our initiative now has its own series and its editors are in place in the **Elements series** of Cambridge University Press.

The exciting project **Classics Without Borders**, a collaboration between Classics Departments at the University of Ghana and Cambridge is well under way. Similarly, The **Multilingualism Initiative** brings together scholars from Cambridge and their partner institutions working on endangered languages, multilingualism and language contact.

For this issue we have the team from the **Diego Portales University** (Santiago de Chile) in focus. Please check it out!

We accomplished these impressive projects in a short period of time, because we all have been energized with the possibility of learning from from each other and keep thinking about our common and yet diverse humanity together. I cannot wait to see what exciting projects 2024/25 will bring.



Esra Özyürek

Sultan Qaboos Professor of
Abrahamic Faiths and Shared Values
(Faculty of Divinity)

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GHN - Summer School 2024

BY DIAN FAN

PHD Student at Shanghai Jiao Tong University

The two-week-long Summer School on Water, Climate, and Global Humanities, organized by [Institute of Global Humanities](#) at Nanjing University and the [Global Humanities Network](#) was successfully completed on July 7, 2024. The program brought together 33 graduate students from various countries, fostering a rich exchange of knowledge on pressing global issues of water, climate change and their influences on human society.



Throughout the event, participants were engaged in a combination of lectures and field visits, designed to provide a rich experience of both academic exploration and cultural immersion. Prominent scholars from esteemed institutions and diverse academic backgrounds delivered the lectures, which covered a wide array of topics. From the Gondwanaland continental drift and Northern Norwegian Literature, to Chinese waterscapes and the art of Kunqu opera.



“We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations”

Katie Unwin quoting
DAVID BROWER



Annabel Langdon, Katie Unwin and
Amory Zhao

University of Cambridge Students



GHN - Summer School 2024

BY KATIE UNWIN

PHD Student in German & Comparative Literature at Cambridge University

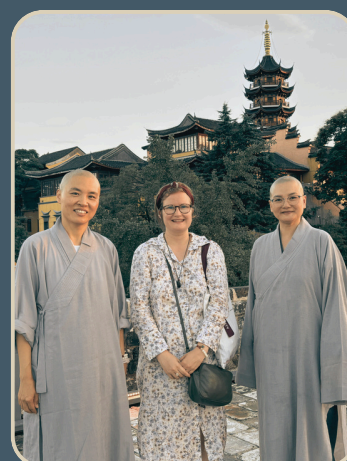
My experience in China with the Global Humanities Initiative was unforgettable. Firstly, I want to express my gratitude to Cambridge and the GHI for making this happen as well as our host institution, Nanjing University, whose immaculate campuses and dedicated staff and students made us feel welcome immediately.

The programme brought together students from all over the world around the theme of **'Rhythms of Water'** for a series of lectures and cultural visits. Our research interests ranged from animals in contemporary literature to climate justice to women of the Bedouin tribes and so much more. Each morning, we had a lecture from international professors and in the afternoon, we usually visited a museum or cultural centre to learn more about the Jiangsu region and Chinese history.

Our first stop was **Suzhou**, a water town with canals criss-crossing which is frequently compared to Venice or Amsterdam, but for me it was completely unique. Walking along bustling Pingjiang Road, a shopping street selling traditional Chinese clothes and street food, or floating down the canal in a traditional boat was an excursion back in time.

Nanjing was the second and last stop after a week in and around Suzhou. We stayed at Nanjing University's Xianlin campus on the outskirts of the city and we had lectures on water activism and street art, tourism and ethics, water and philosophy and more.

The **Summer School** was an absolute success. We were able to exchange so much more than just our research interests. What brought us together was a shared investment not only in the future of our discipline, but the future of the planet. This showed itself in the commitment every participant demonstrated to tackling topics like climate change, global inequality, the effects of colonial rule and voices from the Global South. Hearing perspectives from international colleagues from countries where political instability threatens daily life, brought home that education is a privilege, as is the freedom to travel and to exchange ideas openly. The humanities is an arena in which real change can be made, ideas and philosophies are born and developed and people come together to think critically about the world around them and how to change it, hopefully for the better. We were all extremely fortunate to have been part of the Summer School.



Photos courtesy of Katie Unwin

University of Cambridge



GHI - Elements Series

BY ALEX WRIGHT

Senior Executive Publisher & Head of Humanities at CUP

The three editors of our Elements series have already hit the ground running and have started to generate proposals. Malvika has submitted two outlines from authors [Suryanandini Narain](#) (Visualising Home: Domestic Visual Culture in India) and [Mandakini Dubey](#) (Esoteric Orientalism) while Frisbee in turn has submitted a prospectus in respect of Western Philosophy: A Critique by Cambridge-based writers [Lea Cantor](#) and [Josh Platzky Miller](#). Further projects, closely connected to the Cambridge Classics Faculty's 'Classics Beyond Borders' initiative, are imminent from [Michael Okyere Asante](#) (Decolonizing Classics: Lessons from Africa) and [Richmond Kwesi](#) (Consensual Democracy in Africa), both of the University of Ghana. Saul, meanwhile, has acquired – with Hans' good assistance – an intriguing looking Element titled Buffalo Regimes: Animal Labour on Asia's Sugar Frontiers, 1630-1800 by [Guanmian Xu](#). These initial projects give some sense of the rich diversity and globalised range that our new series will encapsulate. A formal 'welcome meeting' between our three editors and the CUP Elements team is scheduled for early October, which will give everyone involved the opportunity to review strategy and go over the mechanics of commissioning and production to ensure smooth and we hope trouble-free production. So, all in all, a very promising start!



Suryanandini Narain
Jawaharlal Nehru University



Guanmian Xu
Peking University



Michael Okyere Asante
University of Ghana



Mandakini Dubey
Ashoka University



Lea Cantor
University of Cambridge



Josh Platzky Miller
University of the Free State



Richmond Kwesi
University of Ghana



Elements Main Editors



Saul Dubow

Commonwealth History
University of Cambridge



Malvika Maheshwari

Political Science
Ashoka University
Delhi, India



Frisbee Sheffield

Ancient Philosophy
University of Cambridge



GHI - CLASSICS BEYOND BORDERS

BY DR FRISBEE SHEFFIELD

Faculty of Classics & Director of Studies at Downing College

Classics Beyond Borders is one of the [Global Humanities Research and Engagement Programmes](#) and is a collaboration between the Department of Philosophy and Classics at the [University of Ghana](#), the [University of Cape Coast](#) and the [Faculty of Classics](#) in Cambridge. Collaborating with universities across the world forms a crucial part of attempts to reclaim Classics from its colonial legacy and reinvigorate the discipline.



Classics Beyond Borders supported [Ghana's Classical Association 2024](#) conference in Legon, in collaboration with the University of Toronto and the Loeb Foundation.

This was the largest such conference ever held in West Africa, both in terms of numbers and diversity (106 participants). It not only had the biggest participation from Africa, but brought together scholars from across Africa (five countries) with scholars from across Europe, North America, Australia and Asia. This historic conference made national television and built networks to enable connections with Classicists around the world.



Legon, Ghana - Sep 2024



Legon, Ghana - Sep 2024



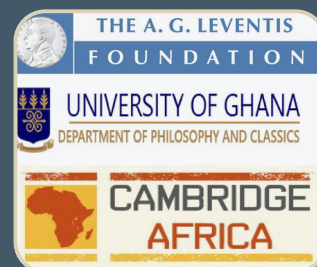
THE
CLASSICAL
ASSOCIATION
OF GHANA



Peter Grant
President



Frisbee Sheffield
Legon, Ghana - Sep 2024



GHI - MULTILINGUALISM

The [Multilingualism Initiative](#) is another of our [Global Humanities Research and Engagement Programmes](#) which brings together scholars from across the School of Arts and Humanities at Cambridge and their partner institutions working on endangered languages, multilingualism and language contact from a structural, sociolinguistic, historical and/or cognitive perspective.

Last April, [Prof Ioanna Sitaridou](#) curated an exhibition at [MOHA in Kavala, Greece](#) which presented her 16-year long research on the endangered language [Romeyka](#). In total more than 1000 people visited the exhibition, 38% were Turkish and 19% were non-Greeks. 100 schoolkids were guided through the exhibition which, along the feature in [Le Petit Quotidien](#), further contributed to its impact on education and improving accessibility as this opened up the research to a younger demographic. There was extensive media coverage of the exhibition and it featured in multiple major news outlets including Ioanna's front page of [Kathimerini](#), the [Guardian](#) and the [BBC](#). Enjoy the [tune](#) specially created for the exhibition by a young musician from the Black Sea and a famous Athens-based sound engineer; upload and listen to [crowd-sourced Pontic Greek data](#); and buy the [catalogue](#)!



PROF SITARIDOU IN NORTH EAST TURKEY

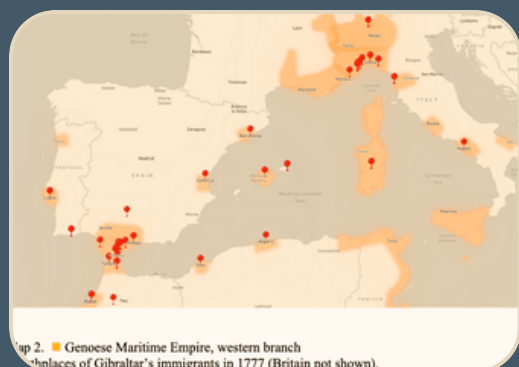


[WATCH HERE](#)



ROMEYKA EXHIBITION - @ YANNIS GOUZIDIS 2024

The “[Cambridge Gibraltar Llanito Project](#)” lead by [Prof Laura Wright](#) investigates Gibraltar's dying language, Llanito, the contact-variety of Andalusian Spanish spoken by Gibraltar's civilian population. In August, Prof Wright and Gibraltar National Archives mounted a Llanito Exhibition explaining the input languages. Plotting the birthplaces of Gibraltarians born outside Gibraltar in the 1777 census reveals correlation with the territories of the western branch of the Genoese Maritime Empire. Llanito's linguistic heritage is thus the speech of civilians hailing from around this maritime network, including Andalusian Spanish, Genoese, Darija Arabic, Menorcan Catalan, Portuguese and the language of Sephardic Jews, as well as English. The exhibition received 776 visitors (about 2.45% of the population) including c.100 schoolchildren. Gibraltar TV is now broadcasting a series on [Llanito](#).

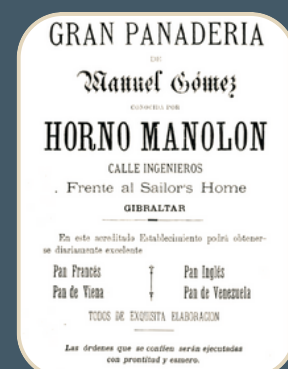


Genoese Maritime Empire, Western Branch

“Llanito” featured in Gibraltar TV



[WATCH HERE](#)



Lutgardo López Zaragoza (1899)

MEET THE TEAM: Diego Portales University (Santiago de Chile)

In this edition we shine a light on our network partners in Santiago de Chile: Universidad Diego Portales (UDP). The Center for the Humanities at [Diego Portales University](#) is a space for the exchange of ideas and collaborative work between the world of academia and various cultural actors at work beyond the university. It aims to generate dialogue and confluences between different disciplines and professions, and between those who produce creative works and those who reflect on them, in order to energize intellectual life in its expressive and critical aspects. The [Center for the Humanities](#) has a group of collaborators ranging from philosophers, journalists and historians to visual artists, architects and writers. In the context of today's university, marked by the intense specialization of research and the consequent withdrawal of academic debate from external audiences, the Center for the Humanities represents an effort to strengthen the public dimension of thought and cultural criticism.

In the Spotlight . . .



Dr Manuel Vicuña - Director
(Center for the Humanities)
U.D.P



New York City



Trekking and Reading



"Complete Works: Antipoetry"
by Nicanor Parra

- **What is your Alma Matter?**

PhD in History from the University of Cambridge

- **What is your main area of research?**

Cultural history, relationships between history and literature and the global sixties.

- **What do you enjoy most about being part of the Global Humanities Network?**

Being part of the network has enabled us to establish partnerships with first-class international universities, broadening our horizons, bringing new research topics into the discussion, and forcing us to think about issues of common interest from perspectives that were very different at the outset.



Dr Felipe Alarcón - Coordinator
(Center for the Humanities)
U.D.P



Any Warm Coastal Town



Analog Photography



"Our Lady of the Flowers"
by Jean Genet

- **What is your Alma Matter?**

PhD in Philosophy from the École Normale Supérieure in Paris & MPhil in Contemporary Thought from UDP

- **What is your main area of research?**

The link between philosophy and literary theory in post-war France, taking a deconstructive approach

- **What do you enjoy most about being part of the Global Humanities Network?**

Being part of the network is a tremendous opportunity to meet colleagues from other parts of the world and other disciplines. Sometimes academic work locks you into one language, one discipline, one tradition. The GNH has shown us that even if we come from different places, different disciplines, or speak different languages, we can meet and build great things together.