

SVHE
97th Annual Conference
Seminars

*The meeting dates of the seminars may vary. Please check the schedule to confirm.
Contact the convener with any questions about specific seminars.*

Celebrating the Search - [Carol Ochs](#), Convener

WITH LOSSES AND MOURNING, WHERE IS HOPE AND PEACEMAKING?

The recent past has seen political corruption at home and abroad, climate change/crisis, health issues (inequalities, dilemmas of aging), family conflicts, secularism vs. spirituality and religion, and more. Where do we find community, cooperation, opportunities for contributions, whether personal or in combinations? We welcome personal reflections or short texts by others that have given comfort, inspiration, peace.

Historical and Novel Fiction - [Mary Papke](#), Convener

In the summer of 2021, the group will discuss four novels selected at the last conference by the group. We will begin with David Mitchell's *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet*, set in Dejima in Nagasaki Harbor in 1799. Mitchell's novel was named the best novel of the year (2010) by numerous sources including the New York Times and NPR. Dave Eggers in the New York Times Book Review described it as "an aching romantic story of forbidden love...[,] a novel of ideas, of longing, of good and evil and those who fall somewhere in between [that] confirms Mitchell as one of the more fascinating and fearless writers alive." The second novel is Marilynne Robinson's *Lila*, the third volume in Robinson's Gilead saga. The Wall Street Journal reviewer called it "a book whose grandeur is found in its humility. That's what makes Gilead among the most memorable settings in American fiction." We will then discuss Emma Donoghue's *The Pull of the Stars*, set in a maternity ward in Dublin in 1918 during the war and the flu pandemic, published in 2020 during our current pandemic. Our final text will be Thomas Mullen's *The Last Town on Earth*, set during the same time period and based on the historical account of small towns that quarantined themselves during the 1918 epidemic; published in 2006, it won the James Fenimore Cooper Prize for Historical Fiction. Discussion moderators will include Gay Harter, Nancy Cunningham, Tom Stockdale, Louis Reith, Joel Cunningham, and Mary Papke.

Modes of Teaching - [Melanie Howard](#), Convener

The Modes of Teaching group will feature an interactive, collaborative, and encouraging space for instructors to learn with one another and share ideas to enhance teaching practices. The group will focus especially on prioritizing and practicing instructor self-care in the midst of teaching, but other topics related to pedagogy will be addressed depending on participant interest. All are welcome

Pop Culture - Eric Ecklund, Convener

This year the Pop Culture morning group will look at society's far future from the distant past, the near future from the present, and the microcosm of society that is higher education from the perspective of here and now, with a healthy dose of humor! More detailed descriptions of our source material and discussion topics to follow!

Tuesday - The Pop Culture morning group will meet to discuss the novella *The Machine Stops* (E.M. Forster, 1909). (Full novella at the link below)

<https://www.ele.uri.edu/faculty/vetter/Other-stuff/The-Machine-Stops.pdf>

Wednesday - The Pop Culture morning group will meet to discuss the novella *Unauthorized Bread* (Doctorow, 2020). (Full novella at the link below)

<https://arstechnica.com/gaming/2020/01/unauthorized-bread-a-near-future-tale-of-refugees-and-sinister-iot-appliances/>

Thursday - The Pop Culture morning group will meet to discuss the novel *The Shakespeare Requirement* (Schumacher, 2019). (Amazon link below)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B077LQXBGR/ref=db_a_def_rwt_hsch_vapi_tkin_p1_i1

Reclaiming Your Writing Time and Space – [Christina Romero-Ivanova](#), Convener

The discussion topic will center on the use of digital storytelling to write and/or teach writing in your classroom. We will begin each day with the process of digital storytelling and read the research on digital storytelling and its ability to privilege experiential knowledge. We'll also learn about how to use a digital storytelling guide and script writing. By the end of our time in the morning group you should develop your own digital story.

Theorizing Culture - [Eric Bain-Selbo](#), [Allen Dunn](#), Conveners

The past year has revealed an America divided by dramatic cultural, religious, and ethical differences. To what extent can these differences be overcome, and to what extent do we simply have to accommodate them as the new normal? When should we seek to convert those with whom we disagree and when should we learn to accept the difference? This year's readings will survey a variety of responses to these questions and compare the various kinds of political commitments on which they rely. In addition, we will turn a critical gaze on higher education—both in terms of how it should play a positive role in American public discourse (today and in the future) and how public discourse is exemplified or not on its campuses.

Reason and Public Discourse

Tuesday -July 13

John Rawls, "The Idea of Public Reason" from *Political Liberalism* (PDF)

Jurgen Habermas, "Reconciliation Through the Public Use of Reason: Remarks on John Rawls's *Political Liberalism*" (PDF)

Wednesday – July 14

John Rawls, "Reply to Habermas" from *Political Liberalism* (PDF)

John Rawls, "The Idea of Public Reason Revisited" from *Political Liberalism* (PDF)

Thursday – July 15

Rahel Jaeggi, *Critique of Forms of Life*, pp. 1-33, 173-175, 315-319 (PDF)

Friday – July 16

Wendy Brown and Rainer Forst, *The Power of Tolerance: A Debate* (purchase text)