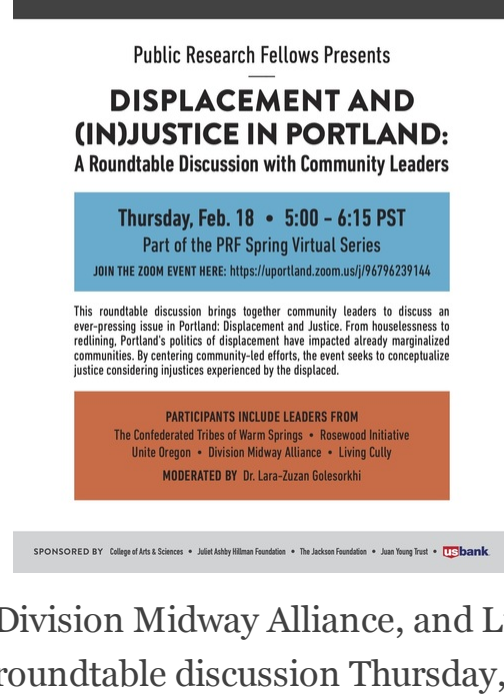


PUBLIC RESEARCH FELLOWS

HUMANITIES COLLABORATIVE • COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND

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Program Hosts Community Roundtable

To mark this year's theme, "Displacement and Justice," the Public Research Fellows has invited local community leaders from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Rosewood Initiative, Unite Oregon, Division Midway Alliance, and Living Cully to participate in a roundtable discussion Thursday, Feb. 18, at 5pm.

Click the flyer above for event details and Zoom link; share widely among colleagues, friends, and family; and plan to join us for this important conversation, moderated by Dr. Lara-Zuzan Golesorkhi.

[Roundtable event details and Zoom link here>>](#)

[Read More About PRF's Year 2 Theme >>](#)

PRF Syllabus Snapshot

Can scholars play a role in solving our nation's misinformation crisis? In their article "[How to Avoid a Post-Scholar America](#)," Keisha

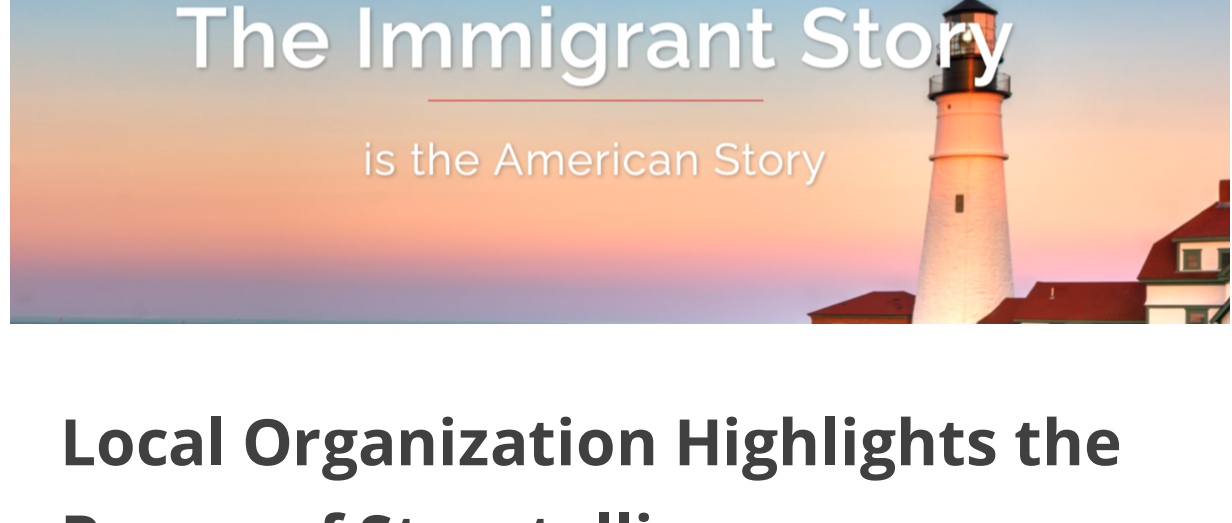


N. Blain and Ibram X. Kendi argue that academia not only can intervene in our world of "alternative facts," it must if it wants to survive. The authors insist that the work done on college campuses is crucial, but its scope must be widened and communicated clearly if scholars hope to make an impact beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Blain and Kendi's article is just one example of the kind of work student fellows discuss in CAS 391: Introduction to Public Humanities: Theory and Practice. Taught by Dr. Jen McDaneld, the year-long PRF reading course provides a foundation for students' research projects across the year. Students read widely in debates in higher education, engaged scholarship, and public humanities methods--groundwork that helps them in turn create publicly-engaged research projects that can, as Blain and Kendi put it, "touch lives far beyond the walls of the academe."

[Check out the PRF course syllabus>>](#)

[Participate in ReadUP, featuring Kendi's book *How To Be an Antiracist*>>](#)



Local Organization Highlights the Power of Storytelling

"Get out of my country." These words were spoken to Srinivas Kuchibhotla in a bar by the person who fatally shot him in February 2017. When Sankar Raman learned of this event, he became determined to transform his heartbreak over the ignorance, hate, and violence that countless immigrants have faced into something productive. Less than a year later, Sankar founded [The Immigrant Story](#), a Portland-based nonprofit dedicated to documenting and archiving the voices of immigrants in accessible forms. He recently visited the PRF course and shared the organization's vision: pure data is not enough to compel change, according to Sankar; instead, we need to humanize facts and numbers by sharing in the experiences of others. Sankar reminds us that stories are more than just words; they are powerful tools for creating the world we want.

[Learn about internship opportunities at the organization>>](#)

Student Fellow Spotlight

Student fellows Olivia Brimhall, Trevor Riedmann, and Emma Wells want to change the public narrative about migration and asylum seekers. The group, led by Dr. Lara-Zuzan Golesorkhi, is taking the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions as the occasion to tell a new story about migration that takes gender into account. To do this, the team is creating a multi-pronged publicly-engaged project that includes: an interactive timeline that Wells notes will be more accessible to the public than traditional academic research; a partnership with [The Rosewood Initiative](#) to create an oral history archive of migrant women's stories; and a series of workshops to help the community better understand the issues asylum seekers face. By centering the experience of asylum-seeking women, the group hopes to intervene in harmful negative depictions of migrants and show that the migrant experience is not monolithic, but deeply informed by gender and sexuality. For Brimhall, the ultimate goal is to "build empathy" through this work. Or as Reidmann puts it, "If the project can change one person's mind or opinions...then that's a win for me."

Watch the group discuss their project in more detail below.



Using Humanities Methods to Connect During Covid

Can conversation change the world? Adam Davis, Executive Director of

[Oregon Humanities](#), thinks so. Davis recently came by the PRF course to talk about The Conversation Project, a program that facilitates community conversations on vital and challenging topics across the state. Conversation topics range widely, from unconscious bias and kids, to housing and belonging, to aging in a time of uncertainty. Davis discussed the importance of listening, the challenges of our current polarized environment, and the promise in open-ended conversation that doesn't seek closure but instead increased understanding and broadened perspective. Like everything else this year, the program has shifted to a remote format--called Connect in Place--but Davis sounded a hopeful note: now more than ever, conversation, even through screens, is key to understanding others' experiences as well as our own.

[Learn more about Connect in Place and participate in a conversation>>](#)



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