

# PUBLIC RESEARCH FELLOWS

HUMANITIES COLLABORATIVE • COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND

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## Program Wraps Up First Year with Fall Virtual Series

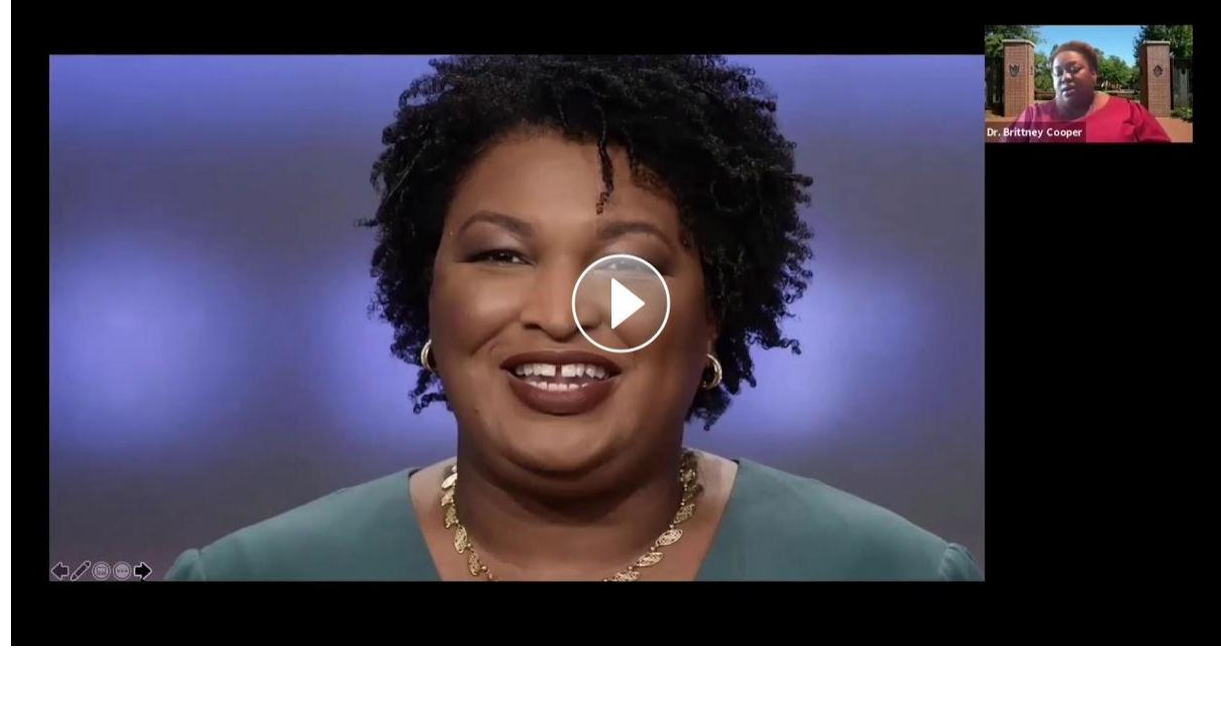
Last year, the Humanities Collaborative of the College of Arts & Sciences launched the Public Research Fellows, a new program that uses humanities concepts and methods to bring people together from across the university and beyond campus to explore a topic rooted in principles of human dignity, the common good, and social justice.

Our inaugural theme was the women's suffrage centennial. Across 2019-20, six teams of faculty and undergraduates worked together to explore issues related to gender, suffrage movements, and voting rights. Instead of writing a traditional scholarly article or presenting at an academic conference as a culmination of this work, **their projects resulted in very different kinds of outcomes:** an online quiz tool to help the public understand political candidates' views on immigration and voting; a podcast featuring Portland youth activists building voting rights campaigns; a library exhibit on the little-known suffrage work of Louisa May Alcott. Students, faculty, and community activists recently presented a selection of this work at a virtual roundtable titled **"The Fight to Vote: Engaging the Public In Suffrage Past, Present, and Future."**

[Check out the clips below or watch the full event here >>](#)



This semester the program also hosted a virtual event with Dr. Brittney Cooper, historian at Rutgers University, who gave a riveting talk titled **"Trust Black Women: The Importance of Black Women in U.S. Politics."** More than 300 people from across campus and across the country tuned in to hear Cooper's take on the history of black women's struggle for voting rights and its relationship to the contemporary era. Her talk blended scholarly analysis with pop culture references and historical inquiry with present-day politics; it was a prime example of the impact that public scholarship can make. The event enacted one of the goals of PRF: to widen the scope of academic work so that it can bring people together around timely issues. Watch clips of Cooper in action below.



## New Year, New Theme

The program is pleased to announce its 2020-21 theme: Displacement and Justice, proposed by Dr. Lara-Zuzan Gosesorkhi (Political Science and Global Affairs / Gender and Women's Studies). Gosesorkhi proposed this

year's topic to prompt exploration of another significant commemoration: the Geneva Convention's 70th anniversary in 2021. This anniversary coincides with record levels of displacement across the world: nearly 71 million people are forcibly displaced from their homes due to problems ranging from violence and famine to gentrification and exclusionary housing policies. Portland has its own complicated and troubled relationship to this theme, with its history of displacing marginalized groups through practices such as redlining, that have had lasting impacts on people of color in the city. The program will host a kick-off event on Friday, Nov. 13, 3:30-4:45 PST; [click here for the event flyer and Zoom link.](#)

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

## Introducing New Teaching Fellowships

PRF has expanded in Year 2 with nine faculty research fellows working with 19 students representing a wide range of disciplines: from Music, English, and Theater to Chemistry, Biology, and Psychology. The program also created a new teaching fellowship offered to faculty interested in connecting their courses to the theme and forms of public engagement. Five faculty from Spanish, English, and the Fine Arts are designing course modules and assignments for Spring 2021 that ask students to connect their learning with a public outcome.



[Read More About Dr. Matthew Warshawsky's PRF Work >>](#)



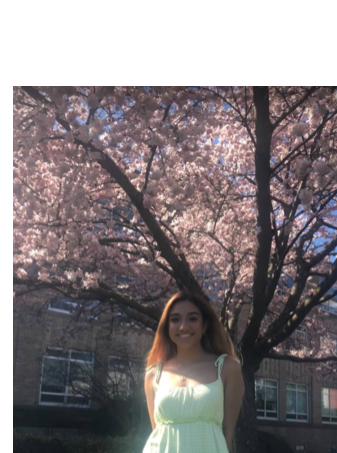
## Project Highlight

Faculty fellow Dr. Lezlie Cross will soon kick off her PRF project, titled "Where Is Home?" The project, inspired by the living newspapers of the depression-era Federal Theatre Project, addresses and exposes historic and current housing inequity in Portland. "Where is Home?" will be performed live via Zoom on Friday, November 13th and Saturday, November 14th, 7:30-9:30 PST.

[Read More and Reserve Tickets >>](#)

## Student Spotlight

Senior Alex Gonzalez, biology major, is working with Dr. Susan Murray and two other student fellows to examine COVID-19's effect on the BIPOC community. Alex enjoys the collaborative and intimate nature of this project; she feels like she's been given a space to raise ideas and to work in a tight-knit group.

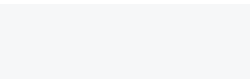


[Read More About Alex and Her PRF Project >>](#)



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