



DIS/UNITY AND DIFFERENCE

Can we celebrate difference *and* promote unity?

Difference is a reality of community life—as is disagreement about how to negotiate the tensions of celebrating difference and promoting unity. Does focusing on unity paper over difference? Does focusing on difference promote disunity, undermining the possibility of solidarity? In 2018-2019, the Center for the Humanities will host a variety of guests who will present topics and approaches that can help us think through these pressing questions in our communities.

Advisors: The Center is also sponsoring a year-long Humanities-Social Studies seminar around the annual theme, Dis/Unity and Difference. Participants will read and discuss the work of the Center's guests both before and after the visit and will have the opportunity to visit with the speakers while they are on campus. The seminar is open to *all* members of the Grinnell College community. Student participants will earn two credits per semester. Participation in one or both semesters of the course is possible. Contact Tyler Roberts [robertst] with questions about the course.

Please partner with the Center for the Humanities as we explore Dis/Unity and Difference
as our annual theme for 2018-19

Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project

Performance: September 14, 2018

Members of the Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project will be in residence the week of September 10, 2018, working with a range of students to create a site-specific performance of DIS/UNITY: A SERVICE, the company's interactive performance seeking to prod the conscious, building on movements of social protest. The Baker & Tarpaga Dance describe their work in the following terms: "We as artists, people of color, and white people use art and social justice actions to work to undo institutional racism, sexism, and classism... We believe that live art is a tool to transgress borders between people and has the potential to create spaces for radical transformation."

Katherine Ibbett,

Professor of French at Trinity College,
University of Oxford

Public talk: September 25, 2018

Katherine Ibbett will draw from her recent project *Compassion's Edge*, to discuss the history of compassion as a force for reinforcing divides rather than overcoming difference. Ibbett's work centers of the role of compassion in and around wars of religion in early modern Europe, providing important historical context of thinking about how compassion functions today as a means of engaging and managing difference.

Gina Caison,

Assistant Professor of English, Georgia State University
Public talk: November 6, 2018

Gina Caison specializes in Southern Studies and Native American Studies. In addition to work in cultural and media studies, Caison

co-produced *Uneasy Remains*, a documentary examining the history of the collection and study of Indigenous human remains within the University of California system. Dr. Caison teaches classes in southeastern Native American literatures, documentary practices, and southern drama.

Karen Tabb Dina,

Assistant Professor, University of Illinois Social Work
Public talk: February 12, 2019

Karen Tabb Dina works at the intersection of race, gender, and public health to understand the causes and effects of health disparities in the United States and abroad. Her research approaches range from community-based clinical engagement to quantitative methods. She is especially interested in women's health and mental health.

Tony Miyambo & Phala O. Phala

Performances: February 25 – 28, 2019

Kafka's Ape is an award-winning solo performance adaptation of Franz Kafka's 'A Report To An Academy.' The play engages in an allegorical observation of South African society through the ape Red Peter. Adapted by South African-Botswanan playwright Phala O. Phala and performed by South African actor Tony Miyambo, *Kafka's Ape* is a challenging play in which traditional boundaries, categories, and norms are questioned; in which beauty, harmony, and symmetry are usurped by cruelty, dissonance, and abnormality as it highlights the complexities of human identity.

Contact the Humanities Center to discuss
integrating our visitors into your courses.