



University at Buffalo
Humanities Institute
College of Arts and Sciences

THESE TOXIC TIMES

2025-26 Annual Conference

/ What counts as toxic?

The term's rich material and metaphorical history includes everything from consciousness-changing substances purposefully ingested, to dumped unregulated industrial chemicals affecting unwitting neighbors, to financial instruments, to legal proceedings—everything including the kitchen sink, with various relations to life, death, work, leisure and public policy. Amid deepening knowledge of the pesticides and PFAS chemicals we all live with, widespread metaphorical use of the term “toxic” shows that the term feels incisive, material and true. However, this widespread metaphor often seems phatic: intensifying rather than denoting. It also seems to reference a state of purity by wistfully implying that a life free of toxins is possible and desirable—that a veritable Eden of masculinity or personalities or workplaces would be within reach if only . . .? And yet, metaphors carry weight, and ideas of purity come with political baggage such as dire implications for people with disabilities. A conference on toxicity offers a chance to examine responses to actual poisons alongside the material effects of our metaphors.

What all these situations have in common, reflected in the term “toxicity,” is a breaching of borders: borders of biological bodies to be sure, but also of communities, trust, identities, and cultural norms. This figuration, along with the changing scope of what counts as toxic, indicates that toxicity is ultimately about power—the power to create, violate, maintain or repair those borders. Conference presentations will critically examine that power and responses to it.

A range of scholars, artists and activists working in a range of disciplines, media and lifeworlds will assemble for this work. Over two days, we aim to produce knowledge about the complications, politics, history and practices surrounding the term “toxicity.” Rather than restore “toxicity” to any perceived unity or integrity of meaning, or attempt a return to a mythical Eden, we will instead draw attention to the many ways we can, must and do live with toxicity.

Convened by Elizabeth Mazzolini, Associate Professor, English

The Humanities Institute, a unit of the College of Arts and Sciences, gratefully acknowledges our partners and sponsors: UB Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation and Economic Development, UB Office of Inclusive Excellence, and UB Archives. The 2025-26 conference is convened by Elizabeth Mazzolini, Associate Professor, department of English at the University at Buffalo.

/ Overview

Tuesday, March 10 | Conference Day 1

📍 Student Union Landmark Room (210 SU)

8:30 a.m. | Breakfast (provided)

8:45 a.m. | Welcome and Acknowledgments

9:00 a.m. | Session 1: Experience

11:00 a.m. | Session 2: Emergence

12:45 p.m. | Lunch (provided)

1:30 p.m. | Session 3: Environment

3:30 p.m. | Keynote: Alexis Shotwell, "Working with Toxicity: Disability, Pace, and Anti-Productivism"

5:00 p.m. | End of Day 1

Wednesday, March 11 | Conference Day 2

Multiple Locations

📍 Silverman Library (3rd floor Capen)

10:00 a.m. | Exhibit Tour of *Toxic Archives: Voices from Love Canal*

📍 Student Union Landmark Room (210 SU)

10:45 a.m. | Check-In (coffee and mid-morning snack)

11:15 a.m. | Welcome and Acknowledgments

11:30 a.m. | Session 1: Embodiment

1:15 p.m. | Lunch (provided)

2:00 p.m. | Session 2: Enormity

📍 Center for the Arts Atrium + Screening Room

3:30 p.m. | Reception and Viewing of *Those Toxic Times: A Pop-Up Art Exhibit*

4:30 p.m. | Closing Session: Fighting for a Toxic-Free World: A Conversation with Professor John Fiege and Mike Schade of Toxic-Free Future

Thursday, March 12 - Bonus Day | Bus tour of Love Canal with Luella Kenny

📍 Center for the Arts Loop - bus pick-up/drop-off

9:00 a.m. | Bus departure

1:00 p.m. | Bus return (approx. latest time of return)



/ Tuesday, March 10

Conference Day One

 Student Union Landmark Room (210 Student Union)

8:30 a.m. | Breakfast + Check-In

8:45 a.m. | Welcome and Acknowledgments

- **Christina Milletti** Interim Director, Humanities Institute
- **Jeff Grabill** Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
- **Elizabeth Mazzolini** Convener and Associate Professor, Department of English

9:00 a.m. | Session 1: Experience | A Decade After Standing Rock: Reflections on Pipeline Movements, State Power, and the Health Effects of Oil and Gas Development

- **Jason Corwin** Clinical Assistant Professor, UB Indigenous Studies
- **Kirk Jalbert** Associate Professor, UB Environment and Sustainability
- **Shannon Seneca** Research Assistant Professor, UB Indigenous Studies

10:45 a.m. | Break

11:00 a.m. | Session 2: Emergence

- **Gayathri Goel** Visiting Assistant Professor, Core Curriculum, Boston College
"Toxic Purities and Intoxicating Revolts: Cannabis as Resistance in Michelle Cliff's No Telephone to Heaven"
- **David Herzberg** Professor, UB History and Director of the Drugs, Health, and Society Program
"U.S. drug market segregation and the emergence of 'the addict'"
- **Olga Kuchinskaya** Associate Professor, Communications, University of Pittsburgh
"Mediatization of Risk"

12:45 p.m. | Lunch (provided)

1:30 p.m. | Session 3: Environment

- **Marisa Manhein** Assistant Professor, UB Environment and Sustainability
- **Laura Marris** Visiting Assistant Professor, UB English
"Reading the Ground Truth: Local Places as Archives of Ecological Memory"
- **Saguna Shankar** Assistant Professor, UB Information Science

3:15 p.m. | Break

3:30 p.m. | Keynote: Alexis Shotwell, "Working with Toxicity: Disability, Pace, and Anti-Productivism"

- Introduction by **Andrea Pitts** Interim Executive Director, Humanities Institute

5:00 p.m. | End Day One //

About Alexis Shotwell

Alexis Shotwell is a professor at Carleton University. Her academic work addresses impurity, environmental justice, racial formation, disability, unspeakable and unspoken knowledge, sexuality, gender, and political transformation.

Taking complicity and compromise as the constitutive and collective circumstances of our lives, rather than as things we can avoid, her current projects investigate how we might understand, bear witness, and respond to unjust histories and complex presents with an eye toward creating different futures.

Shotwell is currently writing and publishing on how speculative fiction connects with collective ecological movements and practices of direct democracy, with a manuscript in progress about Ursula K. Le Guin's anarchist environmentalism. She is the author of *Knowing Otherwise: Race, Gender, and Implicit Understanding* (Penn State Press, 2011), *Against Purity: Living Ethically in Compromised Times* (Minnesota University Press, 2016), and *Liberation is Other People* (Minnesota University Press, in production, forthcoming 2026).





/ Wednesday, March 11

Conference Day Two

 Silverman Library (3rd floor Capen)

10:00 a.m. | Guided exhibit tour of “Toxic Archives: Voices from Love Canal”

- Tour led by **Hope Dunbar** University Archivist, UB Archives

 Student Union Landmark Room (210 Student Union)

10:45 a.m. | Mid-Morning Snack + Check-In

11:15 a.m. | Welcome and Acknowledgments

- **Christina Milletti** Interim Director, Humanities Institute
- **Elizabeth Mazzolini** Convener and Associate Professor, Department of English

11:30 a.m. | Session 1: Embodiment

- **Jill Gatlin** College Faculty, Liberal Arts, New England Conservatory
“U.S. Toxic Nationalism, Dismissal, and Disturbance in Simon & Schuster’s Reading Group Guide to Indra Sinha’s *Animal’s People*”
- **Casey Ryan Kelly** Professor, Communication Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
“Bro-science and Fitness Nationalism”
- **Jayson M. Porter** Assistant Professor, History, University of Maryland, College Park
“Whiteness as Evidence of Cleanliness: Soap and the Racial Science of Saponification”

1:15 p.m. | Lunch (provided)

2:00 p.m. | Session 2: Enormity

- **Shannon Dowd** Associate Professor of Spanish, Modern and Classical Languages, Niagara University
“Ammonia to Zyklon-B: Labatut’s Toxic Fiction”
- **Jenny Rice** Professor, Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies, University of Kentucky
“Operation INFEKTION”
- **Elia Vargas** Visiting Assistant Professor, UB Media Study

3:45 p.m. | Move to Center for the Arts

📍 Center for the Arts Atrium and Screening Room Hallway

3:30 p.m. | These Toxic Times: A Pop-Up Art Exhibit viewing + reception

- These Toxic Times: A Pop-Up Exhibition of Works by Chantal Calato and Joan Linder



Chantal Calato

Reproductions of selected works from *Life: a work on progress*

Lead Poisoning, Life: a work on progress [original: Giclee photographs on cotton, 40" x 60", 2024]

Toxic, Life: a work on progress [original: Giclee on cotton, 26.6" x 40", 2020]

Joan Linder

Reproductions of selected works from the *Toxic Archives* series, part of *Operation Sunshine*, 2013 – 2017.

[Originals: a series of pen and ink drawings displayed in cases; over 100 drawings of facsimile archival documents gathered, relating to research on Love Canal, the Manhattan Project and human radiation testing.]

Chantal Calato Artist's Statement

I grew up next to the infamously toxic Love Canal. The woods and creek I played in at my dad's house as a child were only a mile from the world's largest dump of uranium, a remnant of the Manhattan Project that has yet to be cleaned up. With more than 800 known waste sites, Western New York's industrial history has left a lasting scar on the land, its community, and me. Environmental destruction has been the driving force in my work for the past two decades.

The two photographs presented here are part of an ongoing series called LIFE: a work on progress. At a first glance viewers may think they are looking at real objects within the photos. Upon closer inspection, one will notice undue texture, hand scribbled labels, and scale that is slightly askew - the objects within the photographs are actually hand built miniatures printed to appear roughly life-size.

"Toxic" is a reflection of the painful consequences of growing up surrounded by toxic waste. My most recent photo "Lead Poisoning" highlights the objects from my daughter's first birthday after she tested positive for lead poisoning. We tested our house and found it was full of lead dust from the old windows, and the soil outside had brownfield levels of lead from decades of rainwater runoff.

/ Wednesday, March 11 (cont'd)

 Center for the Arts Screening Room (112 CFA)

4:30 p.m. | Closing Session: Fighting for a Toxic-Free World: A Conversation with **Mike Schade** of Toxic-Free Future and **John Fiege**

- Introduction by **Hope Dunbar** University Archivist, UB Archives

Join us as Media Study Professor John Fiege interviews Mike Schade of Toxic-Free Future live on-stage for the Chrysalis podcast. In this wide-ranging conversation, they will explore Mike's experiences over decades campaigning to reduce plastics and eliminate toxic chemicals including PFAS. Fiege and Schade will discuss working for a toxic-free world now and in the future. They will consider what role students can play in securing a healthier tomorrow.

Presented in partnership with the Humanities Institute Spring Conference "These Toxic Times," this event is part of the University at Buffalo Archives exhibition and programming series on Love Canal and environmental justice.

6:30 p.m. | End Day Two //

/ (+ More) Thursday, March 12

 Center for the Arts Loop

9:00 a.m. | Special Programming: Bus Tour of Love Canal with **Luella Kenny**

Join us for a bus tour of the Love Canal neighborhood with activist Luella Kenny. The bus will depart from the Center for the Arts loop at 9:00 a.m. and return to the same location by 1:00 p.m.

Luella Kenny is a native Western New Yorker, born in Niagara Falls. She graduated from Niagara University and worked as a research scientist at Roswell Park studying chemotherapeutic agents. Amidst the Love Canal crisis, Luella's son Jon died in 1978 at the age of 7, after repeated hospitalizations but no diagnosis. Luella's demand for answers was met with lies and gaslighting. Since those events, Kenny has been an environmental activist, speaking to students, community groups and book clubs, especially since the publication of Keith O'Brien's *Paradise Falls*. Her guiding principle in this work is for no other child to die of corporate and government irresponsibility.

RELATED EVENT HOSTED BY UB ARCHIVES

Thurs., Apr. 16 | 6:30 p.m. | Silverman Library, 3rd floor

Toxic Archives: Voices from Love Canal | Evening Keynote: A Conversation with Keith O'Brien and Luella Kenny (Hybrid)

/ Related Events

- Ongoing Spring 2026 | Toxic Archives: Voice from Love Canal
Silverman Library (3rd floor Capen)
- Mon., Mar. 2 | 6:00 p.m. | PLASMA Speaker Series: Jason Corwin
Center for the Arts Screening Room (112 CFA)
- Mon., Mar. 9 | 7:00 p.m. | Film Screening: *Une île et une nuit/An Island and One Night*, (2021-23, 1 hr 40 mins.) a film by Pirates des Lentillères
Burning Books (420 Connecticut St.) organized by Alexis Shotwell
- Thurs., Mar. 12 | 6:00 p.m. | UB HI Science in Society Research Workshop presents Fernando Domínguez Rubio, "Avowing Loss"
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center (341 Delaware Ave.)

/ Speaker Bios (alphabetical by last name)

Jason Corwin Clinical Assistant Professor, UB Indigenous Studies

Jason Corwin, PhD is a Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies at University at Buffalo's Department of Indigenous Studies. He is Onödowa'ga:' (a citizen of the Seneca Nation, Deer Clan) and earned his MS and PhD in Natural Resources from Cornell University. Jason was the founding director of both the Seneca Media & Communications Center and Green Guerrillas Youth Media Tech Collective and has produced several short and feature length documentaries. His scholarly and community work has focused on land-based learning's intersection with digital storytelling, Indigenous knowledges, sustainability, and social/environmental justice.

Shannon Dowd Associate Professor of Spanish, Modern and Classical Languages, Niagara University

Shannon Dowd is the author of *The Other Border Wars: Conflict and Stasis in Latin American Culture*. She is writing a book on the politics and aesthetics of toxicity in contemporary Latin America.

Hope Dunbar University Archivist, UB Archives

Hope Dunbar leads the operations of the University Archives and supports access through outreach, partnerships, and grant-funded projects. She previously served as Special Collections Archivist at SUNY Buffalo State University and holds an MLIS from the University of Illinois and a JD from DePaul University. A Certified Archivist, she has held leadership roles with the Society of American Archivists Foundation.

John Fiege Assistant Professor, UB Media Study

John Fiege makes films that delve into the cultural dimensions of ecological concerns and hosts the environmental podcast *Chrysalis*. His award-winning films have played at Hot Docs, SXSW, Big Sky, MoMA, Cannes, and many others, receiving distribution on Netflix, iTunes, Amazon, Sundance Now, and other platforms. He is a 2024/2025 recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities Media Projects Development Grant for his new film about consumption and waste in New York City. He has received numerous other fellowships, grants, and residencies, including from The Redford Center, Doc Society, Austin Film Society, Film Society of Lincoln Center, Princess Grace Foundation, Kodak, and Smithsonian Institution. He is Assistant Professor in the Department of Media Study and an affiliate of the Department of Environment and Sustainability.

Jill Gatlin College Faculty, Liberal Arts, New England Conservatory

Jill Gatlin teaches literature, cultural studies, environmental studies, and integrative arts courses in the Liberal Arts department at New England Conservatory. She is completing a manuscript titled *Reading Toxicity: Hierarchical Hazard, Reception Justice, and Narrative Form in American Literature and Beyond*. Her recent articles include “Climate Justice Pedagogy: Proximity and Empathy in Contexts of Privilege” (*Resilience*), “Toxic Sublimity and the Crisis of Human Perception: Rethinking Aesthetic, Documentary, and Political Appeals in Contemporary Wasteland Photography” (*ISLE*), and “Disturbing Aesthetics: Industrial Pollution, Moral Discourse, and Narrative Form in Rebecca Harding Davis’s ‘Life in the Iron Mills’” (*Nineteenth-Century Literature*). She has contributed teaching materials to digital archives including *The Existential Toolkit for Climate Justice Educators*, *100 Views of Climate Change*, and *Curriculum for the Bioregion*.

Gayathri Goel Visiting Assistant Professor, Core Curriculum, Boston College

Gayathri Goel is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Environmental Humanities with a courtesy appointment in English at Boston College. Gayathri is animated by interdisciplinary work that calls for collaboration with environmental scholars from various disciplines. Her first monograph entitled *Past Plantations, Future Plots: Vegetal Regeneration and Revolt in the Caribbean Novel* looks at literary revolutions that resist monocultures and destabilize plantation economies.

David Herzberg Professor, UB History and Director of the Drugs, Health, and Society Program

David Herzberg’s research explores the nature and trajectory of drug commerce, drug use, and drug policy in America, with a primary focus on psychoactive pharmaceuticals. He is author of multiple books, articles, and public history pieces. Herzberg is a 2025–26 UB Humanities Institute Faculty Fellow.

Kirk Jalbert Associate Professor, UB Environment and Sustainability

Kirk Jalbert researches public engagements with environmental science and governance in the context of energy justice movements and how these are shaped by data mobilizations, community-driven scientific research efforts, and advocacy network resource mobilizations. Jalbert previously worked in the nonprofit sector, facilitating data transparency, mapping, and digital storytelling projects, and served on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s Environmental Justice Advisory Board from 2016 to 2018. He received his Ph.D. in Science and Technology Studies from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

/ Speaker Bios (cont'd.) (alphabetical by last name)

Casey Ryan Kelly Professor, Communication Studies, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Casey Ryan Kelly is Professor of Rhetoric and Public Culture in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. He is also the current editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*. He researches the rhetoric of the U.S. far-right.

Olga Kuchinskaya Associate Professor, Communications, University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Kuchinskaya's work sits at the intersection of communication, media studies, and science and technology studies. She has written about the politics of the in/visibility of environmental hazards and what it takes to render imperceptible hazards, understudied diseases, and other under-researched phenomena publicly visible and knowable.

Marisa Manheim Assistant Professor, UB Environment and Sustainability

Marisa Manheim is a researcher and educator who studies how communities understand and respond to environmental challenges. Her work looks at how people experience issues like contaminated soil, polluted water, and new sustainability technologies, and how these experiences shape decisions about health, safety, and environmental change. Trained as an interaction designer, she uses hands-on activities, interviews, and collaborative workshops to help people explore practical and meaningful solutions.

Manheim co-leads the Urban Soil Co-Lab, which works with community organizations to develop accessible ways to address soil pollution in cities. Her earlier research examined why people may hesitate to adopt practices like drinking water recycling or urine-based nutrient recovery, and how direct engagement with these systems can build trust and support healthier, more resilient communities.

She holds a PhD in Sustainability from Arizona State University and a master's degree in Human–Computer Interaction from Carnegie Mellon University.

Laura Marris Visiting Assistant Professor, UB English

Laura Marris is an essayist, poet, and translator whose current projects focus on more-than-human communication and archives of ecological memory. Her work has appeared in *The Kenyon Review*, *The Believer*, *Harper's*, *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *The Yale Review*, *Words Without Borders* and elsewhere. She has received fellowships from MacDowell, a Katharine Bakeless Fellowship from Bread Loaf, and a grant from the Robert B. Silvers Foundation. Her translations have been shortlisted for the Oxford–Weidenfeld Translation Prize, the Scott Moncrieff Prize, and the French–American Foundation Translation Prize. Her first book of essays, *The Age of Loneliness*, was published

by Graywolf in 2024. She teaches creative writing at the University at Buffalo.

Jayson M. Porter Assistant Professor, History, University of Maryland, College Park

Jayson Maurice Porter is an Assistant Professor of History and environmental writer at the University of Maryland, College Park, who researches environmental histories of Mexico, the African Diaspora, food systems, agrochemicals, and environmental justice and injustice. You can find his writing in *The Washington Post*, *Environmental Humanities*, *Distillations Magazine*, *Environment and Society*, and more. He is currently working on a book manuscript with Duke University Press on the environmental history of the African Diaspora, violence, and environmental change in Guerrero, Mexico through oilseeds crops, such as cotton, sesame, and coconuts.

Jenny Rice Professor, Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies, University of Kentucky

Jenny Rice is the author of *Awful Archives: Conspiracy Theory, Rhetoric, and Acts of Evidence* (Ohio State University Press, 2020) and *Distant Publics: Development Rhetoric and the Subject of Crisis* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012). Her work has appeared in *Philosophy & Rhetoric*, *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, *College English*, among other publications. Her current research examines rhetorics of extremism and White nationalist violence.

Michael Schade Senior Director of Programs and Strategy, Toxic-Free Future

For eleven years Mike Schade led TFF's Mind the Store program, which challenges retailers to shift the marketplace away from hazardous chemicals and develop comprehensive safer chemicals policies. Prior to joining TFF Mike was Markets Campaign Coordinator with the Center for Health Environment & Justice (CHEJ) where he led campaigns to phase out PVC plastic, phthalates, and bisphenol A in consumer products and packaging, and led the Buffalo office of a statewide environmental health organization. He has a BS in Environmental Studies from the University at Buffalo. Mike lives in New York with his wife and dog, and regularly explores the region's mountains, lakes, and beaches.

Shannon Seneca Research Assistant Professor, UB Indigenous Studies

Dr. Shannon Seneca is a Haudenosaunee environmental engineer that is focused on healing the human relationship with the natural world. In 2023, Dr. Seneca joined the Indigenous Studies Department at the University at Buffalo as a Research Assistant Professor. She spent the prior two years working at the Center for Indigenous Cancer Research at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center after spending many years with the Seneca Nation Health System as



/ Speaker Bios (cont'd.) (alphabetical by last name)

the Environmental Health Director. Dr. Seneca's research is focused on the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples through the advancement of Indigenous knowledge systems and ways of knowing. Her work examines fate and transport of contaminants in our environment while analyzing exposure and health risk to Native American peoples.

Saguna Shankar Assistant Professor, UB Information Science

Dr. Saguna Shankar investigates care for communities and their data, especially in situations where the consequences of (in)action and (in)justice are significant. Recent projects include inquiries into the Love Canal toxic waste crisis and community responses to delay, denial, doubt sowing, and other dangerous practices with environmental data and information. Dr. Shankar emphasizes the need for responsibility in how data and information are used. She draws on traditions of information practice, feminist intersectional care ethics, and critical sociotechnical scholarship. Dr. Shankar aims to strengthen connections between these ethical and theoretical frameworks within library, archival, and information studies and science and technology studies. Her scholarship offers conceptual and practical contributions regarding how groups engage with data, information, and technology to better understand their circumstances, negotiate conflicts and value tensions, and express their visions of care.

Alexis Shotwell Professor, Sociology & Anthropology, Carleton University

Alexis Shotwell's academic work addresses impurity, environmental justice, racial formation, disability, unspeakable and unspoken knowledge, sexuality, gender, and political transformation. Taking complicity and compromise as the constitutive and collective circumstances of our lives, rather than as things we can avoid, her current projects investigate how we might understand, bear witness, and respond to unjust histories and complex presents with an eye toward creating different futures.

Shotwell is currently writing and publishing on how speculative fiction connects with collective ecological movements and practices of direct democracy, with a manuscript in progress about Ursula K. Le Guin's anarchist environmentalism. She is the author of *Knowing Otherwise: Race, Gender, and Implicit Understanding* (Penn State Press, 2011), *Against Purity: Living Ethically in Compromised Times* (Minnesota University Press, 2016), and *Liberation is Other People* (Minnesota University Press, in production, forthcoming 2026).016), and *Liberation is Other People* (Minnesota University Press, in production, forthcoming 2026).

Elia Vargas Visiting Assistant Professor, UB Media Study

Dr. Elia Vargas is an artist and a scholar working across multiple mediums focused on naturecultural media practices. He is currently a visiting assistant professor of Media Study at the University at Buffalo. Vargas holds a PhD from the University of California, Santa Cruz in the praxis-based Film and Digital Media program. He is a recipient of 2025 and 2024 NYSCA awards, was shortlisted for the 2025 Creative Capital Grant, and collaborated with the Goethe Institute in 2022 to create a monthly podcast on global technocultural exchange. Vargas is the co-founder of the San Francisco Bay Area art and technology organization, the Living Room Light Exchange (LRLX). His writing has been published by *Bloomsbury*, *Journal of Environmental Media*, *UC Press Media + Environment*, *Vice Motherboard*, *Leonardo Journal*, BALTIC Center for Contemporary Art, and other publications; his work has been featured in the *LA Times*, LitHub, NPR, *Vice Noisey*, *OFluxo*, *Terremoto*, *Brooklyn Rail*, *Rhizome*, and he has co-edited six annual LRLX publications collected by major institutions.

/ **Artist Bios** (alphabetical by last name)

Chantal Calato

In 2025 Calato was awarded the Anonymous Was A Woman Environmental Arts Grant and a Generator Fund Grant through BICA. She has received multiple Creative Impact Fund Grants to develop new sculptures. Calato was named Artist of the Year Finalist in 2021 by Arts Services Inc for her solo environmental show UNSEEN at the Burchfield Penney Art Center. In 2018 she received the Global Warming Art Project grant. Her environmental works have been shown at the Castellani Art Museum, Artist Archives of the Western Reserve, Art Park and the Buffalo Museum of Science. Calato's environmental work has been the subject of talks on NPR, in humanities festivals and was recently written about in *The Age of Loneliness*, by author Laura Marris, published by Graywolf Press in 2024.

<https://www.chantalcalato.com>

Joan Linder Professor, UB Art

Linder was born and bred in suburban New York. She lives with humans and non-humans in Buffalo. A Professor of Art at University at Buffalo SUNY, she is represented by Cristin Tierney Gallery in NYC.

<https://www.joanlinder.com>

/ Acknowledgments

The University at Buffalo acknowledges that our campuses operate on land that is the traditional territory of the Seneca Nation, a member of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the region remains the home of the Haudenosaunee people. Further, we responsibly acknowledge the continuing impact of settler colonialism on the Haudenosaunee and their territories.

Our scholarly community values Indigenous cultures, histories, traditions, knowledge systems, and political entities and deeply appreciates the important role of Indigenous people in the history, the present, and the future of our region, this country, and the world.

/ About the UB Humanities Institute

Team Members

Christina Milletti Interim Director and
Assoc. Prof., Dept. of English

Maki Tanigaki Program Administrator

Andrea Pitts Interim Executive Director and
Assoc. Prof., Depts. of Comparative Literature
and Global Gender and Sexuality Studies

Claire Tranchino Graduate Assistant and
Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of English

The University at Buffalo Humanities Institute (HI), founded in 2005 as a unit of the College of Arts and Sciences, exists to support three fundamental functions: cultivating interdisciplinarity, fostering research, and promoting public engagement with the humanities. Through our programs and opportunities, HI develops pathways for humanities-based examinations of our world and our times. Among these pathways is a commitment to our community to create open forums for collaboration and conversation.



The Humanities Institute is generously supported, in part, by the UB Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development.

Additional resources dedicated to advancing HI's mission include the Robert & Carol Morris Fund for the Humanities and the support of individual donors for which we are grateful.

Learn more about HI by visiting our website at: <https://arts-sciences.buffalo.edu/humanities-institute.html>