

# Initiative on Climate and Environmental Justice International Working Group Convening November 1-3, 2018

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## Overview

The [Humanities Action Lab](#) (HAL) is a coalition of universities, issue organizations, and public spaces in 23 cities and growing, now led from Rutgers University-Newark, that collaborates to produce community-curated public humanities projects on urgent social issues. Through project-based courses, in which students collaborate with local organizations, students and stakeholders in each city develop local chapters of collective international traveling exhibits, web projects, public programs, and other platforms for civic engagement. Projects travel internationally to museums, public libraries, cultural centers, and other spaces in each of the communities that helped create them. Past projects include the [Guantánamo Public Memory Project](#) and [States of Incarceration](#), in which students worked with returning citizens and others impacted by incarceration in 20 cities around the US to create a [traveling exhibit](#), web platform, and series of public dialogues on the roots of mass incarceration in each of their communities, and how to address it today.

In October 2017, the Humanities Action Lab (HAL) coalition hosted a convening at its hub at Express Newark, a collaboratory between Newark arts organizations and Rutgers University-Newark, to launch its Initiative on Climate and Environmental Justice. Students and front-line communities in 23 cities across the United States and the world will explore the history and contemporary realities of climate and environmental justice in their locality--from memories of environmental degradation in Newark's Ironbound neighborhood to situating Hurricane Maria as part of a much longer legacy of intentional neglect in Puerto Rico. The initiative will result in an exhibit and web platform connecting these stories, that will travel to each of the communities that created it, with public dialogues and actions in each place.

This November 1-3 2018, partners will return to Newark to share preliminary work on their local stories, and strategize for how to integrate them into a public project that activates collective memory to foster public engagement in climate and environmental justice. Register for the convening [here](#).

Sessions will:

- Explore how history and memory can provide a deeper understanding of climate and environmental justice, and naming who is accountable for injustice;
  - Exchange local stories of environmental and climate justice and map how to connect them into a global public project;
  - Explore how students and frontline communities can collaborate in equitable ways to engage local histories and share them with global publics;
  - Explore strategies for exhibition design, and strategies for public events and actions, that the project can use to inspire public engagement in environmental and climate justice in each locality where the exhibit travels;
  - Provide immersive learning experiences that partners can potentially use in their own communities, including an art-making opportunity to explore new storytelling techniques, and a "toxic tour" of Newark's Ironbound neighborhood.
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## Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, November 2, 6pm-8pm  
Paul Robeson Gallery, Express Newark  
54 Halsey Street, 3rd Floor | Newark, NJ 07102

Exhibit Reception: [Olde Soul](#), Kevin Blythe Sampson. Refreshments provided.

Meet and mingle with Humanities Action Lab partners from across Newark, around the country, and around the world at a reception at artist Kevin Blythe Sampson's exhibit, [Olde Soul](#). This solo show highlights Sampson's work with found objects and refuse, showcasing ways of creatively engaging questions of environmental sustainability. Sampson will be conducting an art-making workshop with convening participants on Saturday, November 3.

### Post-reception

Optional meet-up at the bar at [Maize Restaurant](#) at the Robert Treat Hotel

Day 2: Friday, November 2, 8:30am-5:30pm  
Lecture Hall, Express Newark  
54 Halsey Street, 2nd Floor | Newark, NJ 07102

### 8:30-9:00am

Doors open for check-in and breakfast

### 9:00-9:30am

Welcome and Introductions

HAL staff provide a brief orientation to the Humanities Action Lab, its Initiative on Climate and Environmental Justice, and goals for the international convening.

### 9:30-10:15am

Plenary Session

*The Shared Responsibility of Humanities and Climate & Environmental Justice*

Environmental justice issue leaders and scholars participating in the HAL project frame the histories and current realities of key climate and environmental justice issues. Together they suggest ways a public memory initiative can inspire new kinds of public engagement and accountability critical for this particular moment, which calls for drastic intervention.

### 10:15-10:30am

Coffee and snack break

## Day 2: Friday, November 2, continued

### **10:30am-12:30pm**

Moderated panel + Workshop

*University-Community Partnerships: Leveraging Public Memory for Climate and Environmental Justice*  
Three university-CJ/EJ organization teams share their plan for co-creating their local “chapter” of the international initiative -- including curriculum, multi-media storytelling, and local community engagement -- and how their joint efforts fulfill both of their goals. Facilitators then lead participants through a process to begin developing their own co-creation plans, based in the “Types of Community Partnerships” in the HAL [partnership guidelines](#).

### **12:30-1:15pm**

Lunch

### **1:15-3:15pm**

Workshop

*Media and Memory: Activating Local Stories of Climate and Environmental (in)Justice to Mobilize Broad Publics*

Partners with projects already underway share their local histories of climate and environmental (in)justice and their plans for engaging diverse publics in their lessons for the future. Presentations include strategies for using different media to tell those histories through the traveling installation and web platform, and for engaging local communities through public dialogues and actions. Participants then use this inspiration to: refine their own local history, begin planning media they will use to share that history, and explore ways local stories can connect with each other in the collective traveling installation.

### **3:15-3:30pm**

Coffee and snack break

### **3:30-5:30pm**

Presentation and training

*Designing Local Stories for Global Impact*

Project exhibit designers and multimedia producers will share preliminary directions for frameworks local university-community teams can use to create their pieces of the collective traveling exhibit and digital media, and provide hands-on training on potential media, including virtual reality and audio. Participants will discuss what directions will be most effective for communicating their local stories, and linking them together into a collective project.

### **6:30-8:00pm**

Group dinner for out-of-town participants: Maize Restaurant, 50 Park Place Lobby, Robert Treat Hotel

Day 3: Saturday, November 3, 8:30am-3pm  
 Specific locations listed with each session

**8:30am-9:00am**

Breakfast: Express Newark-Lecture Hall, 2nd Floor

Concurrent sessions 9:00am-9:45am		
<p><i>The Laughing Archive</i>            Express Newark-Paul Robeson Gallery, 3rd Fl</p> <p>Founder of <a href="#">The Laughing Archive</a> Amalia Mallard shares how to identify and analyze creative media for public humanities project.</p>	<p><i>Troubleshooting for HAL partners</i>            Express Newark-Lecture Hall, 2nd Fl</p> <p>HAL Staff facilitates an open session, answering questions about the project, schedule and logistics.</p>	<p><i>Media training for HAL partners</i>            Express Newark-Lecture Hall, 2nd Fl</p> <p>Media partners Talking Eyes Media demonstrate how to use audio and 360 equipment.</p>

Concurrent sessions: 9:45am-12:00pm		
<p><b>9:45am-12:00pm</b>  <i>Shaping Newark's CJ/EJ Public Memory Project</i>            Express Newark-Lecture Hall, 2nd Fl            Register <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Join community leaders, stakeholders, and students from Newark and around New Jersey to identify ways New Jerseyans are addressing climate and environmental justice issues. Envision how to use the project's Fall 2019 international launch and three-month programming to strategically connect local cultural and political activities, from the fight to clean up the New Jersey/New York seaport to the <a href="#">Water/Ways</a> exhibition, which will travel to six different cultural and historic sites around New Jersey. This session is co-sponsored by the <a href="#">New Jersey Humanities Council</a>.</p>	<p><b>10:30am-12:00pm</b>  <i>Ironbound Community Corporation Toxic Tour</i>            Meet at Robert Treat Hotel main entrance, 50 Park Pl</p> <p>HAL partner Ana Baptista (Board Member, Ironbound Community Corporation, Chair of Environmental Policy + Sustainability Management Program, The New School) leads a tour of the Ironbound neighborhood of Newark, identifying sites of environmental injustice and the community's resistance to it.</p>	<p><b>10:00am-12:00pm</b>  <i>The Study of Ugly Artmaking Workshop</i>            Express Newark-Paul Robeson Gallery, 3rd Fl</p> <p>Newark sculptor <a href="#">Kevin Blythe Sampson</a> leads partners through an artmaking workshop using found materials. The workshop centers the study of ugly or finding the beauty in discarded materials. Participants glue, paste, and mount collected materials to a white Bristol board with the intention of creating something beautiful or interesting, with a focus on recycling.</p>

## Day 3: Saturday, November 3, continued

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Afternoon: All Sessions at Express Newark - Lecture Hall, 2nd Floor

### **12:00-12:45pm**

Lunch

### **12:45-1:45pm**

Workshop

#### *Defining Audiences and Impact*

HAL staff facilitates small working groups to help partners identify their local beneficiaries, audiences, and participants, and their goals for short and longer-term impact with those groups.

### **1:45-2:00pm**

Coffee break

### **2:00-3:00pm**

Interactive workshop

#### *Planning for Next Steps*

HAL staff identify next steps for coalition teams, including designing community collaborations, structuring spring 2019 courses, design and curatorial processes, evaluation, and programmatic planning. In break out sessions, HAL staff facilitates discussions on logistical issues that partners wish to address.

## Working Group Convening Participants

Jason Allen, Director of Community Engagement, New Jersey Council for the Humanities  
Meg Arenberg, Managing Director, Penn Program in Environmental Humanities, University of Pennsylvania  
Francisco J. Artigas, Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute and Associate Research Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Rutgers University-Newark  
Ana Baptista, Chair of Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management Program and Assistant Professor of Professional Practice, and Associate Director, Tishman Environment & Design Center (TEDC), The New School  
Diana Bocarejo, Profesora Asociada, Escuela de Ciencias Humanas, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá  
Rosa Cabrera, Director, Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Ricia Anne Chansky, Professor of English, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez  
John Paul Christy, Director of Public Programs, American Council of Learned Societies  
John Clinton, Interim Dean, Milano School of Policy, Management, and Environment and Associate Professor, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management, The New School  
Jason Cortes, Program Director, American Studies and Associate Professor and Program Director, Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies and American Studies, Rutgers University-Newark  
Mayra Cruz, Climate Resilience Coordinator, Catalyst Miami  
Glen Cummings, Creative Director, MTWTF  
Victor Davson, Co-Director, Express Newark  
Lauren de Jesus, Development Associate, Chicago Cultural Alliance  
Rachel Dennis, Producer, Talking Eyes Media  
Justine D'Ooge, Program Manager, University of New Orleans  
Sarah Dunham, Managing Director, MTWTF  
Tim Eatman, Dean of the Honors Living-Learning Community and Associate Professor of Urban Education, Rutgers University-Newark  
Anne Englot, Co-Director, Express Newark  
Peter Englot, Senior Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs and Chief of Staff, Rutgers University-Newark  
Marta Esquilin, Associate Dean of the Honors Living-Learning Community, Rutgers University- Newark  
Laura Freyermuth, CIUDADania19s, Mexico City  
Kim Gaddy, Environmental Justice Organizer, Clean Water Action  
María Elvira García Ballesteros, Research Assistant, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá  
Eva Giloi, Senior Associate Dean of Faculty and Associate Professor of History, Rutgers University-Newark  
David Glassberg, Professor of History and Interim Co-Director of the Public History Program, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Cathy Gudis, Associate Professor of History, Director of the Public History Program, University of California Riverside  
Marcia Hale, Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
Reggie Jackson, America's Black Holocaust Museum, Milwaukee  
Onte Johnson, Clean Energy Campaign Coordinator, NC Sustainable Energy Association  
Valerie Johnson, Director of Africana Women's Studies and Mott Distinguished Professor of Women's Studies, Bennett College  
Tavar Jones, Arise for Social Justice  
Stephanie Khoury, Associate Producer, Talking Eyes Media  
Jennifer Kitson, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Planning & Sustainability, Rowan University  
Liz Kryder-Reid, Professor of Anthropology and Museum Studies, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Jamie Lew, Associate Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of Global Urban Studies, Rutgers University-Newark

Maria Lopez-Nunez, Community Organizer, Ironbound Community Corporation

Amalia Mallard, Program Assistant, Paul Robeson Galleries

Chief Mann, Turtle Clan, Ramapough Lunaape Nation

Camille Mays, Peace Garden Project MKE, Milwaukee

Tyler McDaniel, Graduate Student, University of Minnesota

Brian McGrath, Professor of Urban Design, The New School Parsons

Cynthia Mellon, Climate Justice Policy Coordinator, Climate Justice Alliance and Ironbound Community Corporation

Molly Mitchell, Ethel & Herman L. Midlo Chair in New Orleans Studies, Joseph Tregle Professor in Early American History, and Associate Professor of History, University of New Orleans

María Moreno Carranco, Profesora de la División de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa

Catalina Muñoz, Profesora Asociada, Departamento de Historia, Universidad de los Andes

Brian Murphy, Director of the Honors College and Associate Professor of History, Rutgers University-Newark

Kevin Murphy, Associate Professor of History, University of Minnesota

Asli Mwaafrika, Intern, Kheprw Institute

Aghilah Nadaraj, Equity Fellow, Kheprw Institute

Gigi Naglak, Director of Grants and Programs, New Jersey Council for the Humanities

Kacy O'Brien, Director of Programming, Creative New Jersey

Lisa Sun-Hee Park, Professor, Department of Asian American Studies and Department of Feminist Studies, University of California-Santa Barbara

Valerie Popp, Program Officer, American Council of Learned Societies

Ron Potvin, Assistant Director for Professional Programs and Curator, John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage, Brown University

Rachel Radvany, Student, Duke University

Tim Raphael, Associate Professor of Arts, Culture, and Media and Director of the Center for Migration and the Global City, Rutgers University-Newark

Gray Read, Professor, School of Architecture, Florida International University

Will Rhodes, Designer, MTWTF

Giulia Ricco, Doctoral student in Romance Studies, Duke University

Mary Rizzo, Professor of American Studies and Associate Director of Public and Digital Humanities Initiatives, Rutgers University-Newark

Seth Rumbley, MSW Intern, Church World Service, Graduate Student, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Phil Scarpino, Professor of History, Director of Graduate Program in Public History, and Director of Oral History, Tobias Center for Leadership Excellence

AJ Schneller, Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Skidmore College

Martha Schoolman, Associate Professor of English, Florida International University

Patrick Shafto, Henry Rutgers Term Chair in Data Science and Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, Rutgers University-Newark

Matthew Sima, Student, Duke University

Merton Simpson, Director, Sheridan Hollow Alliance

Lee Slater, Henry Rutgers Professor in Geophysics, Rutgers University-Newark

Sonnet Takahisa, Deputy Director for Engagement & Innovation, Newark Museum

Mónica Tapia, Executive Director, Ruta Civica, Mexico City

Mariah Tarvainen, Designer, MTWTF

Jack Tchen, Director, Clement A. Price Institute, Clement A. Price Chair in Public History and the Humanities,  
Rutgers University-Newark

Heather Van Uxem Lewis, Adjunct Professor, Honors College, Rutgers University-Newark

Chia-Chia Wang, Organizing and Advocacy Director, American Friends Service Committee

Ian Watson, Professor of Theater, Department of Arts, Culture & Media, Rutgers University-Newark

Julie Winokur, Arts, Media and Culture Faculty, Rutgers University-Newark, and Executive Director, Talking Eyes  
Media

Andre Zatta, Ironbound Community Corporation

## **Humanities Action Lab Team**

Aleia Brown, Program Manager, Initiative on Climate and Environmental Justice

Shana A. Russell, Program Manager, States of Incarceration

Liz Ševčenko, Director

Margie Weinstein, Associate Director

Maria J. Zamora, Administrative Assistant

## **Sponsors**

The HAL International Convening is sponsored by Express Newark and the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

