

A Y E A R O F
F O R W A R D
T H I N K I N G



»»»»»»»» What Is A Year of Forward Thinking? »»»»»»»»

A Year of Forward Thinking spans the 2020–21 academic year and engages the entire Princeton University community — alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends — in a global conversation about pioneering solutions for today’s challenges.

forwardthinking.princeton.edu

F O R W A R D >>>>>>>>>>>>>>> F E S T

What Is Forward Fest?

Forward Fest is a monthly online series of discussions with Princeton faculty, students, staff, alumni and other interested thinkers who will explore, engage and develop bold thinking for the future.

How to Use This Resource Guide

Binge as background reading to prepare for the Forward Fest discussions, follow along during the programming and use the information to fuel conversations with Princetonians and others about ideas that merit Thinking Forward together.

forwardthinking.princeton.edu/festival

FORWARD

THINKERS



Beatriz Colomina

Howard Crosby Butler Professor of the History of Architecture; Professor of Architecture; Co-Director, Program in Media and Modernity



Rachael Z. DeLue

Christopher Binyon Sarofim '86 Professor in American Art; Professor of Art and Archaeology and American Studies; Chair, Department of Art and Archaeology



Elizabeth Margulis

Professor of Music; Director, Music Cognition Lab



Autumn Womack

Assistant Professor of African American Studies and English; Charles G. Osgood University Preceptor



Rakesh Satyal '02

Novelist, writer, Executive Editor at HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins; Forward Fest moderator

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

4:00 PM – 5:15 PM EST

**Thinking Forward
Arts and Humanities**

8:00 PM – 9:00 PM EST

Performing Arts Showcase

Featuring selected works in dance, film and music by students and other Princeton-sponsored performers

forwardthinking.princeton.edu/forwardthinkers

THINKING FORWARD: ARTS AND HUMANITIES

IN AN AGE when technology offers dazzling new possibilities and cultures collide in ways both exciting and dangerous, the arts and humanities provide crucial insight into the nature of being, into the character of civilization, and into the capacity — and the limits — of our ability to understand what it means to be human. The humanities are the vital core of Princeton's liberal arts mission, bringing together many disciplines to help us understand multiple perspectives, and reconceiving academic and artistic practice in response to rapid change. Princeton's commitment to the arts and humanities is represented by 48 academic programs, ranging from classics to architecture to music. The Humanities Council is a lively hub that fosters creative scholarship, transformative teaching and intellectual collaboration. It recently awarded [27 Rapid Response David A. Gardner '69 Magic Mini-Grants](#) inviting faculty and research staff to experiment with new forms of scholarly exchange in direct response to seismic societal shifts.

“Make up a story...For our sake and yours
forget your name in the street; tell us what the
world has been to you in the dark places and in the
light. Don't tell us what to believe, what to fear.
Show us belief's wide skirt and the stitch that
unravels fear's caul.”

— TONI MORRISON (1931-2019), Robert F. Goheen
Professor in the Humanities, Emeritus, Princeton University



FORWARD

THINKER

Beatriz Colomina

Beatriz Colomina is the Howard Crosby Butler Professor of the History of Architecture in the School of Architecture and the founding director of Princeton's Program in Media and Modernity. She writes and curates on questions of design, art, sexuality and media. She has authored nine books, most recently "X-Ray Architecture," and her work has been published in more than 25 languages. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, she has published articles and given interviews about the pandemic and its effects on architecture, including the series "[Sick Architecture](#)," which she edited this fall and published online in "e-flux architecture." "What the pandemic has dramatically, even shockingly, made visible is the invisible city," she recently told the [BBC](#). "Not just the invisible urbanism of hyper-social micro-organisms but the invisible urbanism of inequities, hidden workers and uneven access to care or empathy."

MORE FORWARD THINKERS OF NOTE



Johann Frick, associate professor of philosophy and the University Center for Human Values — a [moral and political philosopher](#) who studies population ethics, the ethics of risk, the notion of interpersonal justification and the ethics of immigration and national partiality.

Courtesy of the Department of Philosophy



Photo: Chris Fascenelli

Rosina Lozano, associate professor of history — a scholar of Latino history with a research and teaching focus on [Mexican American history, the American West](#), migration and immigration and comparative studies in race and ethnicity.



Photo: Denise Applewhite

»» So much of what is shocking in the current situation is what was already there but buried, overlooked or forgotten. »»

FORWARD

THINKER

Rachael Z. DeLue

Rachael DeLue is an art historian who studies American art, history and culture with a particular focus on intersections among art, science and the history and theory of knowledge. As the Christopher Binyon Sarofim '86 Professor in American Art, professor of art and archaeology and American studies, and chair of the Department of Art and Archaeology, she teaches courses on a wide range of topics, including American modernism, African American art, critical race theory, picture theory, landscape representation, and the visual and material culture of science. She partnered with Nathan Arrington '02, associate professor of art and archaeology, to teach “Battle Lab: The Battle of Princeton,” a course where students used metal detectors and ground-penetrating radar to unearth artifacts from Princeton Battlefield State Park. “Excavation here is literal as well as metaphorical,” she said. “It’s a matter of what it means to produce knowledge, but also self-awareness and a sense of ourselves as humans in the 21st century.”

MORE FORWARD THINKERS OF NOTE



Deana Lawson, professor of visual arts in the Lewis Center for the Arts — a renowned, [award-winning artist](#) whose photographs speak to the ways that sexuality, violence, family and social status may be depicted in images of the human body.

Photo: Dru Donovan



Photo: Andrew Wilkinson

Wendy Heller, the Scheide Professor of Music History and [chair of the Department of Music](#), as well as the director of the Program in Italian Studies — a recognized authority in the study of 17th- and 18th-century opera from interdisciplinary perspectives, and the driving force in the performance of baroque operas at Princeton.



» Working on the history of American art means that I have to be a specialist in American history, so I’m always thinking about the larger contexts in which art is produced. »

FORWARD

THINKER

Elizabeth Margulis

Elizabeth Margulis approaches music from the combined perspectives of music theory/musicology and cognitive science. A pianist and professor of music, she directs the Music Cognition Lab at Princeton, where she uses theoretical, behavioral and neuroimaging methodologies to investigate the dynamic, moment-to-moment experience of listeners. “The most sophisticated technology we have available to peer inside the brain suggests that listening to music calls on a broad range of faculties, testifying to how deeply its perception is interwoven with other aspects of human experience,” she wrote on [Aeon](#). “Beyond just what we hear, what we see, what we expect, how we move, and the sum of our life experiences all contribute to how we experience music.”

MORE FORWARD THINKERS OF NOTE



Photo: Sameer A. Khan/Fotobuddy

Michael Gordin, the Rosengarten Professor of Modern and Contemporary History and the director of the [Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts](#) — a scholar who [illuminates the history of science](#) through the study of modern physical sciences, languages, and Russian, European and American history.



Photo: Nick Donnoli

Eric Gregory, professor of religion and chair of the Council of the Humanities — [a religious philosopher](#) who examines modern politics and the ethics of humanitarianism in light of secular and religious perspectives on global justice.



»» I love the way music challenges the sciences and the humanities to work together. »»

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THINKER

Autumn Womack

Autumn Womack is an assistant professor of African American studies and English and the 2020-2023 Charles G. Osgood University Preceptor. Her research focuses on the intersection of Black cultural life and visual technologies, and she is currently at work on two book projects. The first, “Un-disciplining Data: Race, Visuality, and the Making of African American Literary Aesthetics, 1880-1930,” charts the relationship between emergent visual technologies – such as photography, motion pictures and social surveys – and Black literary and intellectual culture. The second project, “The Reprint Revolution,” considers the politics and practices that brought many 19th-century African American literary texts into the marketplace in the 1960s. “My work ultimately begins by asking new questions of the past,” she said, “questions that are always emerging directly from the archive itself and the people whose lives have been consigned to its margins and footnotes.”

MORE FORWARD THINKERS OF NOTE



Tera W. Hunter, the Edwards Professor of American History and professor of African American studies – a specialist in the 19th and 20th centuries who focuses on gender, race, labor and [Southern histories](#).

Courtesy of the Department of African American Studies



Photo: Denise Applewhite

Beth Lew-Williams, associate professor of history – a historian of race and migration in the United States, specializing in [Asian American history](#) and the American West.

» I am hopeful that my research and teaching will chart some alternate historical trajectories from which we can better understand our historical present. »»



F O R W A R D

T H I N K E R S

A R T

Sing For Today

Grammy Award-winning mezzo-soprano [Joyce DiDonato](#) partnered with Princeton University Concerts and the University Musical Society of the University of Michigan for a digital initiative, “Sing for Today.” In each video episode in the series, DiDonato will respond to global concerns through the lens of song and conversation with people from a variety of different backgrounds, calling upon great music to permeate profound events of the present day.



María Berrío

Artist María Berrío created “[The Augur](#)” specifically for the third-floor reading room in Firestone Library, where it was installed earlier this year. At 8 feet tall and over 7 feet wide, the piece is made from hundreds of layered pieces of paper. Filled with symbolism from different cultures, places and times, the work is, in Berrío’s view, an image of hope and an inspiration for imagination: “I think whoever is sitting [in that reading room] is having thoughts of changing the world or is really having thoughts of creating a new world.”



Princeton Dance Festival

Six professional choreographers worked with Princeton students from the Program in Dance to challenge the limitations of dance in a socially distanced world. Their collaborations were presented at a virtual edition of the annual [Princeton Dance Festival](#), combining elements of dance, digital animation, filmmaking, site-based work and music to express and connect during this time of isolation.



FORWARD

THINKING

STUDENTS



Interdisciplinary Approaches to Western Culture

An intensive year-long introduction to the landmark achievements of the Western intellectual tradition, [Interdisciplinary Approaches to Western Culture](#) is notable for its towering pile of required readings and the camaraderie that evolves as the students absorb and debate the material. COVID-19 and virtual learning challenged that formula, but over the summer, [professors reformatted the course](#) in order to engage more fully with the current moment. Informal, unstructured meetings were organized online, and the students enthusiastically logged on to discuss how the racial and social implications of the texts resonate in 2020.



Jessica Lambert '22



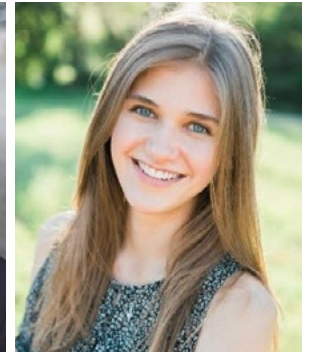
Keely Toledo '22

Indigenous Studies

Jessica Lambert '22 (Choctaw Nation) and Keely Toledo '22 (Navajo Nation) worked with the Program in American Studies to create a new website for Indigenous studies. The site launched in October, shortly before the University announced a new [professorship of Indigenous studies](#) and a grant was awarded for the formation of [a faculty working group](#) that will engage with Indigenous communities to reflect on conscious and ethical scholarship and teaching practices.



Gabriella Carter '22



Emma Harlan '22

Organizing Stories

Organizing Stories is a [workshop-driven project](#) that connects students with veteran activists who think politically, historically and ethically about storytelling in their organizing work. Founded and directed by Monica Huerta, assistant professor of English and American studies, and Autumn Womack, assistant professor of African American studies and English, the project enables graduate and undergraduate assistants to research the work of movement organizations, interview organizers, help to curate workshops and build connections between social justice work and scholarship.

FORWARD

THINKING

ALUMNI



Anthony Roth Costanzo '04

singer, actor, producer

An accomplished countertenor who has sung on Broadway and nearly every opera house you can name, Costanzo partnered with the New York Philharmonic to give live music back to a wounded city during the pandemic. “I had this idea — a crazy idea — to put members of the orchestra on a pickup truck and reach different communities and different audiences throughout New York City,” he told [NPR](#). He produced the NY Phil Bandwagon tour, more than 80 live, outdoor “pull-up” shows across New York City in which classical musicians and singers [performed in parks and street corners](#).

Indrani Pal-Chaudhuri '01

photographer, filmmaker, social justice advocate

Indrani is one of the [most honored celebrity photographers](#) in the world, having snapped album covers for David Bowie and Beyoncé. But even as she’s thrived in a glamorous profession and as a multimedia artist, she uses her platform to [advocate for social justice](#) and causes she believes in. She established a free, all-girls school in Bengal, India, to “inspire young women and girls to be educated and be able to create a new life for themselves;” worked with the United Nations on female empowerment issues; and directed several films, including “Girl Epidemic,” an award-winning short film about the millions of missing girls in Asia. At Princeton this fall, she taught the seminar, “Moving Millions with Art and Film for Human Rights and Social Justice.”



FORWARD

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ALUMNI

Nathan Pell '12

cellist, composer, music theorist

Pell believes that representation matters, especially in the world of classical music. Not only were the masters that originally composed the hallowed operas and symphonies predominantly white and male, but so too are the modern musicians who perform the most popular recorded versions that are taught to students. Pell curated a [Discography of Underrepresented Classical Musicians](#), featuring more than 1,100 performances by musicians who have been marginalized and discounted on the basis of race and sex, so that students from different backgrounds could imagine themselves performing Beethoven or Schubert.



Photo: Melisa Melling '02

Rakesh Satyal '02

*novelist, writer, executive editor at HarperOne,
an imprint of HarperCollins*

Satyal is an [award-winning novelist](#) whose first book, “Blue Boy,” told the semi-autobiographical tale of a gay Indian American growing up in 1990s Cincinnati. As an author and an editor, he always challenges himself to capture something completely fresh and original. “I think that you can assume that your readers, who are already so smart and eager for fresh writing, want innovation more than confirmation,” [he said](#), “that they want you to be taking the kind of creative risks that afford them something distinctive and eye-opening as they read.”



Lucretia West sings Schubert.

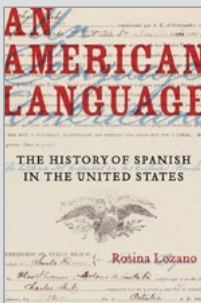
RECOMMENDED READING



ARCHITECTURE ITSELF AND OTHER POSTMODERNIZATION EFFECTS, by **Sylvia Lavin** (2020): Lavin, a professor of history and the theory of architecture, looks at a series of canonical buildings of the late 20th century to offer a subversive take on postmodernism and the architects who defined the style.

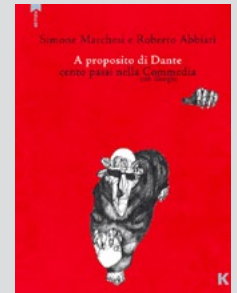


THE CHINESE MUST GO: VIOLENCE, EXCLUSION, AND THE MAKING OF THE ALIEN IN AMERICA, by **Beth Lew-Williams** (2018): Lew-Williams, an associate professor of history, examines how imperialism, anti-Chinese immigration policy and racial violence in the mid- and late-19th century produced the modern American “alien.”

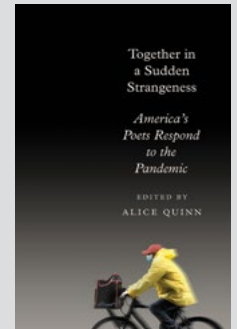


AN AMERICAN LANGUAGE: THE HISTORY OF SPANISH IN THE UNITED STATES, by **Rosina Lozano** (2018): Lozano, an associate professor of history, argues that the United States always has been a multilingual nation, since Spanish settlers colonized vast sections of what became our country.

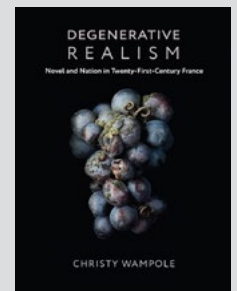
A PROPOSITO DI DANTE, by **Simone Marchesi** *02 (2020): Marchesi, an associate professor of French and Italian, reexamines the legacy of Dante Alighieri, whose “Divine Comedy” Marchesi has taught to students for 20 years.



TOGETHER IN A SUDDEN STRANGENESS: AMERICA'S POETS RESPOND TO THE PANDEMIC, edited by **Alice Quinn** (2020): Susan Stewart, the Avalon Foundation University Professor in the Humanities and professor of English, and 106 other poets give voice to the fear, grief and hope that the world collectively feels during quarantine.



DEGENERATIVE REALISM: NOVEL AND NATION IN TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY FRANCE, by **Christy Wampole** (2020): Wampole, an associate professor of French and Italian, investigates the dystopian themes of disintegration and decline that are currently common in France’s popular literature, adding to actual national anxieties.



WATCH AND LISTEN



ALUMNI POV: The Lewis Center of the Arts website hosts a series of videos that profile alumni who work in the creative or performing arts.



COMBAHEE EXPERIMENTAL: BLACK WOMEN'S EXPERIMENTAL FILMMAKING: The Program in Visual Arts hosted a trio of conversations and film screenings that celebrated the work of Black women filmmakers and their unique cinematic contributions to contemporary visual culture.



Photo: Brigitte Lacombe

THE FUTURE OF NEWS: David Remnick '81, the longtime editor of The New Yorker magazine, discusses the health of journalism in the digital age.



Illustration by Golden Cosmos

HILTON ALS'S "HOMECOMING": Als, Princeton's inaugural Presidential Visiting Scholar, connects the protests that followed the killing of George Floyd to a memory of his childhood in 1960s Brooklyn on The New Yorker Radio Hour podcast.

JEWEL OF THE DELTA: The students of Joe Richman's audio journalism class traveled to the Deep South to report and produce a nine-part podcast about Mound Bayou, Mississippi, the oldest all-Black town in America.



LIFE MAGAZINE AND THE POWER OF PHOTOGRAPHY: The Princeton University Art Museum adapted its spectacular exhibit of LIFE's photo archives for virtual tours, with videos and an interactive digital module.



J.R. EyermanLife Pictures/Getty Images

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CONCERTS: Until Richardson Auditorium reopens its doors, PUC is fulfilling its mission to "educate, challenge, inspire and unite audiences through the presentation of exceptional classical musicians" with online video and audio clips and the [Collective Listening Project](#), a series of playlists curated by performers and music scholars.



DISCUSSION

As you continue to think forward about the arts and humanities, brainstorm these questions in order to extend and deepen the conversation.

1. How do the arts and humanities help us imagine the future? How do they help you understand yourself and what it means to be human?
2. Has your appreciation for, and involvement in, the arts and humanities changed over time? Why? How has it changed just in the past year?
3. How do you think the seismic shifts we've experienced — through the pandemic, reckoning with racial justice and widening cultural rifts — will change academic and artistic practice in the arts and humanities?
4. How has the quarantine had an impact on your personal relationship with the arts and the humanities?
5. Is there a work of art or creative inquiry that made a profound impact on your life? What was your experience and what were the qualities of that work that resonated with you?

A YEAR OF FORWARD THINKING



Forward Fest is a monthly online event series open to the public.

January's theme:

EQUITY IN EDUCATION

Thursday, January 14, 2021

What Are YOU Thinking Forward?

Share it now.

forward@princeton.edu

[#PrincetonForward](https://twitter.com/PrincetonForward)

For more information on future programming, visit

forwardthinking.princeton.edu/festival

forwardthinking.princeton.edu

