

College of Humanities and Social Sciences
2019-2020 Scholarship Support Grant Recipients Project Summaries

Amy Donahue, Associate Professor of Philosophy

Title: Vada Public Deliberation Project

Summary: To develop a critical thinking software prototype based on Indian traditions of truth-directed debate (*vāda*) and logic (*nyāya*), and to support summer preparation of two publications addressing contemporary applications of these traditions. The project is central to the applicant's scholarly agenda, and will generate scholarship that is meaningful and significant: in research, to the fields of Indian philosophy, critical thinking pedagogy, and social epistemology; in teaching, to Critical Thinking and Indian Philosophy curricula; and in service, to philosophy student organizations and the promotion of open critical debate at KSU and neighboring universities.

Awarded: \$10,000

Debarati Sen, Associate Professor of Conflict Management and Anthropology

Title: Protracted Ethnic Conflicts and Competing Visions of Health and Wellbeing Along India's North East Border

Summary: My proposed project examines the relationship between competing cultural notions of well-being and health among minority populations in India's North East Border states and its relationship to protracted but low intensity ethnic conflicts. In recent years the Indian government invested in health infrastructure (hygiene, sanitation and well-being in both urban and rural areas) for poverty alleviation. While there are some studies on the effectiveness of these projects, a critical piece of research is missing, namely, how state led initiatives (at times with partner international and local NGOs) have impacted the management of ethnic conflict in India's North East Borders states.

Awarded: \$10,000

Jun Tu, Associate Professor of Geography

Title: Exploring the Spatiotemporal Variations in the Associations of Preterm Birth with Ambient Air Pollution in Georgia

Summary: Preterm birth (PTB) is a major cause of infant morbidity and mortality. Previous studies never analyzed how the associations of PTB with air pollution varied across space and time simultaneously. This project will explore the spatiotemporal variations in the associations in Georgia using a recently developed spatial statistical technique, Geographically and Temporally Weighted Regression (GTWR). It will be the first study to incorporate time dimension into the PTB modelling. It will be a strong pilot study aiming to attract external funds because I will extend the fresh approaches to be developed in this project to broader fields of health studies.

Awarded: \$10,000

Miriam Brown Spiers, Assistant Professor of English and American Studies

Title: Contesting the Margins: Form and Genre in Indigenous Women's Writing

Summary: This project examines the ways that Indigenous women writers challenge national, generic, and formal borders in order to confront the marginalization of Native women's voices in comics and genre fiction. Situated at the intersections of multiple systems of oppression, these writers must simultaneously confront the myth of the Vanishing Indian and the reality that Indigenous women experience a disproportionately high incidence of violence in North America. I argue that, as they appropriate genre conventions and the means of production, these authors challenge colonial structures and establish a safe space, both physically and intellectually, for Indigenous women's voices and concerns.

Awarded: \$10,000

Sergio Figueirdo, Associate Professor of English

Title: Inventing the Avant-Garde: A Translation of "L'Artiste, Le Savant, et L'Industriel"

Summary: "L'Artiste, Le Savant, et L'Industriel" (1825) is often cited as the first published reference to the literary, artistic, and rhetorical avant-garde,¹ yet it remains unavailable to non-French speaking audiences. This project aims to rectify this oversight in arts and humanities research and to offer a critical introduction to the work of Henri Saint-Simon and the Saint-Simonian social movement. This book-length translation project will contribute to a long-term research project exploring the potential of adapting the early-nineteenth century avant-garde practices to the future of the arts and humanities in higher education and public/civic life.

Awarded: \$5,000

Tom Okie, Associate Professor of History and History Education

Title: Old Fields: A History of the American South in Five Ordinary Plants

Summary: This book retells the southern story as a co-creation of its human and non-human inhabitants in five brisk chapters, each anchored by the biography of a particular plant: sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), muscadines (*Vitis rotundifolia*), magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*), broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*), and loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). In doing so, the book argues for the environmental, aesthetic, and historical importance of southern old fields and the plants that have inhabited them. The book will present a public history of southern old fields and argue for greater attention to similarly overlooked places around the world.

Awarded: \$10,000