SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR THE LIBERAL ARTS: A WORKSHOP

Tuesday, August 20th

12:00PM – 1:00PM  Setting the Stage over Lunch
Elizabeth H. Bradley, Vassar
Ely Hall, Aula

1:30PM – 3:30PM  Academic Session I: The Science of the Mind in Liberal Arts
Hadley Bergstrom, Assistant Professor of Psychological Sciences, Vassar
Lori Newman, Assistant Professor of Psychological Sciences, Vassar
Joshua de Leeuw, Assistant Professor of Cognitive Science, Vassar
New England, 105

In this session, several Vassar faculty members will explore different methodological approaches to understanding minds and brains. The discussion will illustrate how the liberal arts environment gives Vassar students and faculty the background and freedom to think deeply about the mind.

3:30PM – 3:45PM  Break
New England, 106

3:45PM – 4:30PM  The Institute for the Liberal Arts and New York State: Education as a Public Good
Michael Schmidt, Commissioner of the State Department of Taxation and Finance, New York State
Dan Fuller, Assistant Secretary for Education, New York State
New England, 105

During this session, participants will hear from two gubernatorial appointees regarding the state of education in New York. The session will explore how institutions of higher education like Vassar can support efforts to promote education in the Hudson Valley and the state more broadly.

4:30PM – 5:30PM  Facilitated Discussion

During this session, participants will reflect on the two earlier sessions and explore how the intellectual and academic programming of the Institute might engage with the broader conversation around education in the state and beyond.
New England, 105/106
Wednesday, August 21st

8:00AM – 8:30AM
Breakfast
Ely Hall, Aula

8:30AM – 9:45AM
The Art and Architecture of Convening
Frederick Fisher, Partner, Frederick Fisher and Partners
Matt Kelley, Associate, Frederick Fisher and Partners
New England 105

In this session, participants will hear from the architect of the Vassar Institute and Inn, and learn how the Institute and Inn went from being a simple idea to a complex project that embodies many of Vassar’s most important values.

9:45AM – 10:00AM
Break
New England, 105

10:00AM – 12:00PM
Academic Session II: Exploring Trauma through History and Language: Understanding Methods at the Margins
Sumita Choudhury, Professor of History, Vassar
Peipei Qiu, Professor of Chinese and Japanese, Vassar
New England, 105

In this session, two Vassar faculty members will raise questions and suggest methods for examining trauma with an emphasis on history. This session will include conversations about sexual assault in the French Catholic Church in the 17th and 18th centuries as well as conversations about the traumas of Imperial Japan’s “comfort women” – women who were coerced into military sexual slavery during the Asia Pacific war (1931-1945).

12:00PM – 1:00PM
Lunch
Ely Hall, Aula

1:00PM – 2:00PM
Poughkeepsie: Designing for an Inclusive Future
Michael Murphy, Executive Director, MASS Design
New England, 105

In this session, participants will hear from the Executive Director of a leading non-profit architecture firm about the firm’s portfolio of work in the city of Poughkeepsie. The discussion will include thoughts on how the Vassar
Institute for the Liberal Arts might fit into a larger vision for the city of Poughkeepsie.

2:00PM – 3:00PM  Bridging Arts & Humanities and Community Engagement  
(introduction by William Hoynes, Dean of Faculty)  
*Lisa Kaul*, Director of the Office of Community Engaged Learning, Vassar  
*Tom Pacio*, Director, Creative Arts and Community Engagement, Vassar  
New England 105

In this session, presenters will share examples and introduce tools as they explore the ways Vassar’s curriculum foregrounds learning through engagement with the community, and how the arts have been a central tool of engagement. Participants are invited to consider the Vassar Institute and Inn as a space for community engagement and to share ideas for innovative ways the Arts and Humanities can help Vassar to forge, strengthen and sustain community.

3:00PM – 4:30PM  Creating the Future: Mapping new ideas for the Institute  
During this session participants will integrate the inputs from the previous two days and work in groups to imagine and subsequently pitch (to fellow participants) a program that might take place at the Institute in the future. This exercise will be a lively and interactive conclusion to the workshop.