Chicago Humanities Events

Tickets for each event can be found here: http://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/

**Event: Garry Wills and the Qur'an**  
**Date:** Saturday, October 28 | 1-2 PM  
**Location:** Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St. Evanston, IL 60208

Garry Wills has been a leading commentator on political and religious life in America for decades, winner of a Pulitzer for *Lincoln at Gettysburg*, and two National Book Critics Circle Awards for Criticism. In his new book, *What the Qur'an Meant*, he offers a timely reconsideration of the sacred text. Reading with sympathy and rigor, Wills takes us back to the words themselves to discover how they have guided people down through the centuries and what other non-Muslims—such as Pope Francis—have found so inspiring.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/202-%20garry%20wills%20and%20the%20qur'an/events

**Event: When God Talks Back**  
**Location:** McCormick Auditorium, 1999 Campus Dr. Evanston, IL 60208  
**Date:** Saturday, October 28 | 1-2 PM

Tanya Luhrmann, a psychological anthropologist, focuses on the edge of experience: on voices, visions, the world of the supernatural, and the world of psychosis. She has done ethnography on the streets of Chicago with homeless and psychotic women, and worked with people who hear voices in Chennai, Accra, California, and Chicago. *When God Talks Back* was the result of four years fieldwork, and concluded that the ability to hear God speaking to one was enabled in part by mental training.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/203-%20when%20god%20talks%20back/events

**Event: Beyond Religious Freedom**  
**Location:** McCormick Auditorium, 1999 Campus Dr. Evanston, IL 60208  
**Date:** Saturday, October 28 | 3-4 PM

In recent years, policymakers in Europe and North America have rallied around the notion that religious freedom, interfaith dialogue, religious tolerance, and protections for religious minorities are the keys to combating persecution and discrimination. Northwestern University’s Elizabeth Shakman Hurd doesn’t think so. A recipient of a Buffett “Big Ideas” grant, Hurd argues in *Beyond Religious Freedom* that the powerful global networks that seek to regulate and moderate religion create the very social tensions and divisions they mean to overcome.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/205-%20beyond%20religious%20freedom/events
Event: The Social Vision of William Blake
Location: Mary & Leigh Block Auditorium, 40 Arts Circle Dr. Evanston, IL 60208
Date: Saturday, October 28 1 3-4 PM
Why has the work of William Blake remained such a vital resource for dissenters, activists, and utopians? Michael Ferber, an anti-war activist during the Vietnam War and a defendant in the “Spock Trial,” is a leading expert on Blake. Coinciding with the Block Museum’s exhibition “William Blake in the Age of Aquarius,” Ferber will discuss and explore how the work of the Romantic poet and printmaker reveals the connections between imagination, belief, and action. Audience members will be invited to tour the exhibition following the talk.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/206-%20the%20social%20vision%20of%20william%20blake/events

Event: Shortlist, Matt Taibbi
Location: Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St. Evanston, IL 60208
Date: Saturday, October 28 1 7:30 PM
From hailing Goldman Sachs as “great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity” in the depths of the Great Recession to his recent investigative work into police violence and the death of Eric Garner, Rolling Stone reporter Matt Taibbi has rightfully earned his place as “Hunter S. Thompson’s heir,” as the Seattle Post-Intelligencer called him.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/207-%20i%20can't%20breathe-%20matt%20taibbi/events

Event: Evolution and Beauty
Location: Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E Randolph St Chicago, IL 60602
Date: Sunday, October 29 1 4-5 PM
In thirty years of fieldwork, ornithologist Richard Prum has seen quite a bit of ostentatious sexual display. To explain it all, he dusts off Darwin’s long-neglected theory of sexual selection, which posits that the act of choosing a mate for purely aesthetic reasons—for the mere pleasure of it—is an independent engine of evolutionary change. His The Evolution of Beauty is a fascinating mixture of biology, philosophy, sociology, and the rich story of human sexuality.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/304-%20evolution%20and%20beauty/events

Event: The Geography of Madness
Location: Chicago Athletic Association, 12 S Michigan Ave, Chicago IL 60603
Date: Sunday, October 29 1 4-5 PM
Is there a connection between mental health, disease, and belief? In Geography of Madness, journalist Frank Bures offers a resounding yes. In tracking the delusion that one’s genitals can be stolen—a relatively common complaint in countries ranging from Nigeria to Singapore—Bures sought to uncover the roots of a whole range of “culture-bound syndromes,” and how people’s beliefs about their health shape their physical experiences of health. Join Bures for a conversation about penis theft, placebos, and the intersection of Western and Chinese medicine.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/305-%20the%20geography%20of%20madness/events
Event: Religion and the Media with The New York Times
Location: First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple, 77 W Washington St Chicago, IL 60602
Date: Sunday, October 29 | 4-5 PM
Empathy bridges divides, binds together community, helps us overcome cultural difference, and feels ever more important in our current rancorous and partisan moment. But is it religion that best fosters empathy? And how does media coverage shape the perception—and possibilities—of religion in public life? In this exclusive CHF/New York Times event, Times Chicago Bureau Chief Monica Davey leads a discussion between her Times colleagues Frank Bruni and Laurie Goodstein, along with Eboo Patel, leader of Chicago’s Interfaith YouthCore, about religious solutions to political and social divides.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/306%20%20religion%20and%20media%20with%20the%20new%20york%20times/events

Event: Shortlist, Liespotting Masterclass
Location: Cards Against Humanity, 1923 N Elston Ave Chicago, IL 60642
Date: Wednesday, November 1 | 6:30 PM
On any given day we’re lied to from 10 to 200 times. The clues to detect those lies can be subtle and counterintuitive. Pamela Meyer, author of Liespotting and an honesty advocate, will lead an interactive masterclass on the manners and “hotspots” used by those trained to recognize deception. Bring your best lie and see if you get found out.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/Sl3%20shortlist%20-%20liespotting%20masterclass/events

Event: Tod Williams/Billie Tsien: Architecture and Optimism
Location: Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, 375 E Chicago Ave Chicago, IL 60611
Date: Saturday, November 4 | 11 AM – 12 PM
Locals perked up when the New York-based firm Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects | Partners was announced as designers for Obama’s Presidential Center on Chicago’s South Side. Williams and Tsien, partners in work and life for the past three decades, are known for their elegant designs like the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia and the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts at The University of Chicago. Their work is focused on signature values and their buildings stand as powerful expressions of the place, the activities, and the people that inhabit them. Together they practice architecture “as an act of profound optimism.” Join them for a discussion about this approach and their architectural ambitions.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/500%20-%20tod%20williams%20billie%20tsien-%20architecture%20and%20optimism/events

Event: Luis Alberto Urrea
Location: Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, 126 E Chestnut St Chicago, IL 60611
Date: Saturday, November 4 | 11 AM – 12 PM
For a compelling primer on the political, cultural, and imaginative realities of the border between the U.S. and Mexico, read Luis Alberto Urrea. In richly detailed poetry, novels, short stories, and non-fiction, including The Devil’s Highway, Into the Beautiful North, and The Water Museum, Urrea has brought to life the landscape and people of the American and Mexican West, a world lined with borders physical and metaphorical, where, he says, “everybody is in transition.” Join him for a conversation about the current state of Mexico-U.S. relations.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/501%20-%20luis%20alberto%20urrea/events
Event: Dava Sobel: The Glass Universe
Location: Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, 375 E Chicago Ave Chicago, IL 60611
Date: Saturday, November 4 | 3-4 PM
In the mid-19th century, the Harvard College Observatory began employing women as “human computers” to interpret the observations their male counterparts made via telescope each night. As photography transformed the practice of astronomy, the women turned to studying the stars captured nightly on glass photographic plates. The “glass universe” of a half a million plates that Harvard amassed enabled the women to make extraordinary discoveries. Renowned science writer Dava Sobel (Longitude, Galileo’s Daughter) comes to CHF to tell the little-known true story of this group of remarkable women whose work forever changed our understanding of the stars and our place in the universe.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/506-%20dava%20sobel-%20the%20glass%20universe/events

Event: Seeking a Spiritual City
Location: Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, 126 E Chestnut St Chicago, IL 60611
Date: Saturday, November 4 | 3-4 PM
Architect Julio Bermudez asks you to expand your definition of a sacred space beyond mosques, cathedrals, and other religious sanctuaries. Cities, he argues, can be designed to elicit contemplation and empathy, concern for the environment, or even a reduction in violence. To explore and define the potential of “spiritual urbanism,” Bermudez studies the intersection of architecture and neuroscience, and modern life and religious practice, making a passionate case for the creation of urban environments that foster spiritual and civic development.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/507-%20seeking%20a%20spiritual%20city/events

Event: Religion, Race, and Partisanship: Understanding America’s Identity Crisis
Location: Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E 60th St Chicago, IL 60637
Date: Sunday, November 5 | 12-1PM
Drawing on decades of social science research, Robert P. Jones, CEO of the Public Religion Research Institute and author of The End of White Christian America, argues that today’s most divisive debates—over immigration, the rise of white supremacy groups, and police violence—can only be understood against the backdrop of demographic, religious, and cultural transformations that are challenging longstanding assumptions about what it means to be an American. These challenges are daunting, but Jones argues they also represent an opportunity to take up the work of weaving a new national narrative in which all Americans can see themselves.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/600-%20religion,%20race,%20and%20partisanship-%20understanding%20america%27s%20identity%20crisis/events

Event: Conspiracies and Common Sense: From Founding to the Trump Era
Location: International House, 1414 E 59th St Chicago, IL 60637
Date: Sunday, November 5 | 12-1 PM
Sophia Rosenfeld studies the history of civic beliefs—the convictions that ground our political lives. A specialist in European and American intellectual history, particularly Enlightenment thought's legacy in
modern democracy, Rosenfeld is best known for *Common Sense*, an exploration of the history of that concept as a political ideal. Currently studying how “choice” became central to our political lives, Rosenfeld will discuss the powerful modern enigma of our readiness to believe in “conspiracy theories.”

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/602-%20%20conspiracies%20and%20common%20sense-%20from%20founding%20to%20the%20trump%20era/events

**Event: The Legal Fight for Transgender Rights**  
**Location:** Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E 60th St Chicago, IL 60637  
**Date:** Sunday, November 5 1-3 PM  
ACLU staff attorney and trans-activist **Chase Strangio** is at the epicenter of the legal push for LGBTQ rights. He worked for marriage equality before the Supreme Court, was lead counsel in a civil lawsuit against the Department of Defense brought by Army whistleblower Chelsea Manning, who came out as transgender while in prison, and is part of the team representing Gavin Grimm’s demand for bathroom access at his high school, a case considered a landmark in civil rights. Strangio will discuss the challenges and rewards of combining his legal acumen and activist training to further equality in the U.S.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/603-%20%20the%20legal%20fight%20for%20transgender%20rights/events

**Event: Moral Combat**  
**Location:** International House, 1414 E 59th St Chicago, IL 60637  
**Date:** Sunday, November 5 1-3 PM  
Gay marriage, transgender rights, birth control: sex is at the heart of some of the most divisive political issues of our age. **R. Marie Griffith** has been writing about modern American religion and its impact on our political life since *God’s Daughters*, which explored how gender plays out in evangelical Christian communities. Her upcoming book, *Moral Combat*, starts when liberal Protestants began sparring with fundamentalists and Catholics on issues from obscenity to sex education in the 1920s and takes us to today’s ferocious and intractable culture wars.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/605-%20%20moral%20combat/events

**Event: Is There Anybody Out There?**  
**Location:** Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E 60th St Chicago, IL 60637  
**Date:** Sunday, November 5 4-5 PM  
With her sharp eye for the unseen and a passion for clarity, MIT astrophysicist **Sara Seager** is a pioneer in the search for signs of life—or Earth-like planets—in our galaxy. Using light and its absence, Seager locates ‘exoplanets’ around nearby stars and then studies their atmospheres. The next step is to use future telescopes to identify which planets might have the atmospheric conditions suitable for life. While her quest is now accepted, it wasn’t that long ago that such ideas were associated more with science fiction than science proper. Come hear how Seager, who claims “everything brave has to start somewhere,” had the courage to believe in her own work and to forge a new and exciting path for science.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/607-%20%20is%20there%20anybody%20out%20there_/events
Event: Bleak Liberalism
Location: International House, 1414 E 59th St Chicago, IL 60637
Date: Sunday, November 5 | 4-5 PM
Basic political beliefs guide our way of being in the world. For a long time, liberalism was one of the most powerful of these orienting ideas. But liberalism has been attacked from both the left and the right as inadequate to our time. In Bleak Liberalism, a deft blend of intellectual history and literary analysis, Brown University’s Amanda Anderson ranges from Charles Dickens to Doris Lessing to take a new look at the robustness and subtlety of liberal thinking and the fate of those ideas in the past century.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/609-bleak-liberalism/events

Event: Robert Shiller: Belief and the Economy
Location: Francis W. Parker School, 2233 N. Clark St Chicago, IL 60614
Date: Wednesday, November 8 | 6-7 PM
Professor of economics at Yale University and co-creator of the Case-Shiller Index of U.S. home prices, Robert Shiller has written extensively on just how large a role belief plays in economic behavior: on stock market bubbles in Irrational Exuberance, on Keynesian psychological forces in the economy in Animal Spirits, on trickery in marketing in Phishing for Phools. Shiller, a 2013 Nobel laureate in economics for his work on predicting asset markets, will deliver this year’s Franke Lecture, sharing some of his latest thinking about the role narrative plays in economic life.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/701-robert-shiller-belief-and-the-economy/events

Event: Shortlist, Joe Swanberg
Location: Dovetail Brewery, 1800 W Belle Plaine Ave Chicago, IL 60613
Date: Wednesday, November 8 | 6:30 PM
Joe Swanberg is the director of many feature films, including Drinking Buddies, All the Light in the Sky and Win it All. Since 2005, the indie filmmaker has averaged a feature a year and recently launched the Chicago-based Netflix series Easy. Enjoy a beer and food with Joe and your fellow Shortlist members during this intimate behind the scenes look at Season 2 of Easy.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/sl4-shortlist-joe-swanson/events

Event: Kevin Young: Bunk, Humbug, and Fake News
Location: South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S South Shore Dr. Chicago, IL 60649
Date: Thursday, November 9 | 6-7 PM
Kevin Young, director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and Poetry editor of The New Yorker, joins us for a timely conversation about his latest book, Bunk: The Rise of Hoaxes, Humbug, Plagiaryists, Phonies, Post—Facts, and Fake News, which traces a peculiarly American history, woven from stereotype and suspicion, with race as the most insidious hoax of all. From Joice Heth, a black woman whom P.T. Barnum presented as George Washington’s 161–year–old nursemaid, to the made–up memoirs of James Frey, to the identity theft of Rachel Dolezal, Young reveals how forgers and frauds sell us lies.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/703-kevin-young-bunk-humbug-fake-news/events
Event: Fugitive Science  
Location: South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S South Shore Dr. Chicago, IL 60649  
Date: Thursday, November 9 | 6-7 PM  
In what’s been hailed as a “tour de force of scholarly recovery,” Britt Rusert reveals in *Fugitive Science* a fascinating if little-known intersection of art and science in 19th-century America, when African-American writers and poets, performers, and visual artists sought to rebut the era’s claims of scientific racism. Excluded from the institutions of science, Rusert demonstrates how, for these artists and intellectuals, cultural spaces from books to stages became sites of experimentation and refutation.  
[https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/704%20-%20fugitive%20science/events](https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/704%20-%20fugitive%20science/events)

Event: Khalil Gibran Muhammad: Reflecting on Civil Rights  
Location: South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S South Shore Dr. Chicago, IL 60649  
Date: Thursday, November 9 | 8-9 PM  
Khalil Gibran Muhammad is one of America’s leading public intellectuals on civil rights and the African-American experience. Currently at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Muhammad directed the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the world’s leading library and archive of global black history, for five years. His work examines the broad intersections of race, democracy, inequality, and criminal justice in the modern U.S. A Chicago native, Muhammad will discuss the successes and failures of civil rights, and their relation to the ideals and convictions at the heart of our republic.  
[https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/705%20-%20khalil%20gibran%20muhammad-%20reflecting%20on%20civil%20rights/events](https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/705%20-%20khalil%20gibran%20muhammad-%20reflecting%20on%20civil%20rights/events)

Event: Reza Aslan: god  
Location: Francis W. Parker School, 2233 N. Clark St Chicago, IL 60614  
Date: Friday, November 10 | 6-7 PM  
Bestselling author of *Zealot* and *No god but God*, Reza Aslan comes to CHF to deliver a wide-ranging account of humanity’s struggle to make sense of the divine, and how the idea of god—from its prehistoric origins to a single divine personality—continues to offer new ways of connecting people of different faiths. In his most personal book to date, *god: A Human History*, the host of CNN’s “Believer” sounds a call to embrace a deeper, more expansive understanding of God with the concept of a “humanized god”—a supercharged, divine version of ourselves—at its nucleus. More than just a history of our understanding of God, Aslan gets to the root of this humanizing impulse in order to develop a more universal spirituality.  
[https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/707%20-%20reza%20aslan-%20god/events](https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/707%20-%20reza%20aslan-%20god/events)
Event: Jow Swanberg Films Chicago
Location: Francis W. Parker School, 2233 N. Clark St Chicago, IL 60614
Date: Friday, November 10 l 8-9 PM
If filmmaking in Chicago is having a renaissance, one of the people most responsible is Joe Swanberg. Since 2005, the indie filmmaker has averaged at least one feature a year and recently launched the Netflix series Easy. Swanberg’s casts feature a rising generation of stars, including Jake Johnson, Anna Kendrick, Greta Gerwig, and Marc Maron, mingling with real Chicagoans in some of the city’s most beloved neighborhoods and cultural scenes. Never has the city looked so real. Join Swanberg for a review of his career and what’s to come.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/708-%20joe%20swanberg%20films%20chicago/events

Event: Tony Kushner and Jeremy McCarter: Radical Stories
Location: Art Institute of Chicago, 230 S Columbus Dr. Chicago, IL 60603
Date: Saturday, November 11 l 11 AM-12 PM
How has America been made and remade by men and women who dream of a better world? Why do we tell and retell their stories? Jeremy McCarter, author of Young Radicals: In the War for American Ideals and co-author with Lin-Manuel Miranda of Hamilton: The Revolution, comes to CHF for an urgently needed conversation about the challenge and the necessity of depicting American dreamers with Tony Kushner, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Angels in America, the Academy Award-nominated screenplay of Lincoln, and the forthcoming The Intelligent Homosexual’s Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures. Join us for a timely discussion about American ideals and the people who fight for them.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/800-%20tony%20kushner%20and%20jeremy%20mccarter-%20radical%20stories/events

Event: Matthew Desmond: 2017 Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize for Nonfiction
Location: First United Methodist Church, 77 W Washington St Chicago, IL 60602
Date: Saturday, November 11 l 11 AM – 12 PM
For Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, Harvard sociologist and MacArthur Fellow Matthew Desmond spent years living with those on the edge of homelessness in Milwaukee. This heartbreaking, landmark book, winner of accolades from the 2017 Pulitzer Prize to the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction, transforms our understanding of extreme poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving a devastating, uniquely American problem. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible. Chicago Tribune publisher and editor-in-chief Bruce Dold joins Desmond in conversation.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/800-%20tony%20kushner%20and%20jeremy%20mccarter-%20radical%20stories/events

Event: The Revolutionary Art of John Singleton
Location: Venue SIX10, 610 S Michigan Ave Chicago, IL 60605
Date: Saturday, November 11 l 11 AM – 12 PM
One of the clearest windows into the complexities of America’s revolutionary period can be found through its paintings. In her prize-winning book, A Revolution in Color: The World of John Singleton Copley, Harvard University professor Jane Kamensky dives into the life and times of a man who was
both colonial America’s premier painter and a British loyalist, whose art and letters reveal what she deems an “unheroic, sometimes anti–heroic” man. Join the unofficial “American historian laureate” for a conversation about how revolutionary upheaval shaped Copley’s life, world, and work, and how Copley’s life in turn reshapes our understanding of the American Revolution.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/802-20
%20the%20revolutionary%20art%20of%20john%20singleton%20copley/events

Event: Painting the Black Gospel
Location: Venue SIX10, 610 S Michigan Ave Chicago, IL 60605
Date: Saturday, November 11 l 1-2PM

In Painting the Gospel: Black Public Art and Religion in Chicago, art historian Kymberly Pinder provides a fascinating survey of some of the stunning religious iconography central to black belief, worship, and resistance. Beginning with images of black-Christ in key Chicago churches, Pinder explores murals, sculpture, and even t-shirts, including works by William Walker, Richard Hunt, and Damon Lamar Reed. Along the way she uncovers how and why African-American faith communities have remade religion in their own images. Join her for a fascinating, image-rich lecture.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/805-20
%20painting%20the%20black%20gospel/events

Event: The Russian Revolution as Utopian Leap
Location: Art Institute of Chicago, 230 S Columbus Dr. Chicago, IL 60603
Date: Saturday, November 11 l 3-4 PM

2017 marks the centenary of the Russian Revolution, one of the great transformations of political belief. In his new book, The Russian Revolution, 1905-1921, University of Illinois historian Mark Steinberg gives a powerful sense of living through those turbulent times, drawing from public art, discourse on the streets and in the press, and literature ranging from worker poetry to Mayakovsky. Exploring inequality, power, resistance, justice, and ideas about possibility and the future, Steinberg talks about events in ways that speak to our times.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/808-20
%20the%20russian%20revolution%20as%20utopian%20leap/events

Event: 500 Years of the Protestant Reformation
Location: Venue SIX10, 610 S Michigan Ave Chicago, IL 60605
Date: Saturday, November 11 l 3-4 PM

A mere five hundred years ago Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to a church door in Wittenburg, Germany, the first step of his excommunication, the wholesale transformation of the then Roman Catholic Church, and an entirely new political, social, and cultural era for Europe. The University of Chicago Divinity School's Martin Marty, a foremost expert on Lutheranism, returns to CHF for a wide-ranging conversation on the implications of the Protestant Reformation for contemporary religious practice and thought.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/809-20
%20500%20years%20of%20the%20protestant%20reformation/events
Event: The Social Life of DNA  
Location: Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E Randolph St Chicago, IL 60602  
Date: Saturday, November 11 | 5-6 PM  
DNA testing isn't just for crime shows. Tracing genealogy and genetic ancestry has become increasingly popular in this country, particularly among African Americans. In her recent book *The Social Life of DNA*, Alondra Nelson, a sociologist at Columbia University and the President of the Social Science Research Council, explains how cutting-edge techniques are being used to grapple with the unfinished business of slavery, foster reconciliation, establish ties with ancestral homelands, and more. Hear about the mix of race, science, history, and how reckoning with the past can help chart a more just course for tomorrow.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/812%20-%20the%20social%20life%20of%20dna/events

Event: Lifeworlds of Islam  
Location: Chicago Sinai Congregation, 12 W Delaware Pl Chicago, IL 60610  
Date: Sunday, November 12 | 2-3 PM  
Starting with his first book, *The Social Origins of Islam*, Mohammed Bamyeh has situated Islam within political, sociological, historical, literary, anthropological, and economic contexts. He comes to CHF to discuss his forthcoming work, *Lifeworlds of Islam*, which traces Islam's broad historical trajectories and explores the faith not as a singular set of beliefs, but as a flexible system that has been put to use in everyday life in different times and places as a force for social movements, public philosophy, and global order.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/902%20-%20lifeworlds%20of%20islam/events

Event: Cents and Sensibility: Morton Schapiro and Gary Saul Morson  
Location: Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, 375 E Chicago Ave, Chicago IL 60611  
Date: Sunday, November 12 | 4-5 PM  
Economic behavior is not just rational; it also turns on emotions, ethics, culture, and narrative, as behavioral economists are increasingly making clear. For years, Morton Schapiro, president of Northwestern University and a professor of economics, has taught a class with his friend, literary scholar Gary Saul Morson, that shows Adam Smith in Jane Austen and Anton Chekhov in Morton Friedman. In their new book *Cents and Sensibility*, the two explain how the humanities offer economists ways to make their models more realistic, their predictions more accurate, and their policies more effective and just.

https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/904%20-%20cents%20and%20sensibility-%20morton%20schapiro%20and%20gary%20saul%20morson/events
Event: Virtue, Happiness, and The Meaning of Life
Location: Chicago Sinai Congregation, 12 W Delaware Pl Chicago, IL 60610
Date: Sunday, November 12 | 4-5 PM
Research suggests that individuals who feel they belong to something bigger than just themselves—an extended family, a spiritual practice, work for social justice—often feel happier and have better life outcomes than those who do not. This sense of connection has a name in academia: “self-transcendence.” Candace Vogler from the University of Chicago philosophy department joins CHF to talk about her work as principal investigator of a project on self-transcendence as the key to the connections between virtue, happiness, and the meaning of life.
https://tickets.chicagohumanities.org/shows/906%20-%20virtue,%20happiness,%20and%20the%20meaning%20of%20life/events