



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 6/18/2015

CONTACT: Emily Clark: eclark2@wisc.edu; (608) 890-3487

Sara Guyer Named Next President of the Consortium for Humanities Centers and Institutes

Center for the Humanities' Director and Professor of English Sara Guyer has been selected to be the next president of the Consortium for Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI). CHCI is a leading international network for humanities research, education, and public scholarship. Founded in 1988, the Consortium includes 220 members from 25 countries from across North America, Western Europe, the Mediterranean, East Asia, Australia, and Africa; UW-Madison's Center for the Humanities is a member organization. Currently CHCI is housed at Duke University's John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute under the leadership of CHCI President Srinivas Aravamudan. Guyer will assume the presidency in 2017, at which point CHCI operations will move from Duke to the Center for the Humanities at UW-Madison.

Current CHCI President Srinivas Aravamudan cites Guyer's visionary leadership and commitment to the bridging the global scope of humanities scholarship with the concerns of local institutions. Guyer notes CHCI's two most recent presidents' successful efforts to imbue CHCI with a thoroughly global vision. "UW-Madison is especially well positioned to continue to sustain and expand upon the global focus of CHCI," Guyer says. Along with the global humanities, the CHCI International Advisory Board says their decision to move CHCI to UW-Madison was made in part because of Wisconsin and Guyer's commitment to the public humanities. "We are especially drawn to the University of Wisconsin because we regard it as one of the great public universities in the United States, and one of the most distinguished universities in the world by any measure. The "Wisconsin Idea"--that education should influence people's lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom--has been an inspiration not only to American land-grant universities whose explicit mission is to serve the citizenry at large, but to every institution of higher education that seeks to serve the public good," members of the international advisory board said in a statement announcing the decision.

CHCI produces a major annual meeting of its membership, which was hosted by UW-Madison in June, 2015 and included keynote addresses by Jill Lepore, Khalil Gibran Mohammad, and Franco Moretti, along with William Adams, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Earl Lewis, President of the A.W. Mellon Foundation. Along with the annual meeting, CHCI facilitates member partnerships and collaborations in the form of fellowships, international seminars, summer institutes, and most recently received significant grant funds from the Mellon Foundation to support four interdisciplinary projects: Humanities for the Environment; Religion, Secularism, and Political Belonging; Integrative Graduate Humanities Education and Training; and the Medical Humanities Network Program.

Prior to its residence at Duke, CHCI was housed at the Humanities Center at Harvard, and the Center for 21st Century Studies at UW-Milwaukee before that.
