



THE HOUSTON SEMINAR

The Houston Seminar was founded in 1977 for the purpose of stimulating learning and cultural awareness. Each spring and fall the nonprofit group offers lectures and study tours focused on varied topics that may include art, architecture, literature, music, theater, history, politics, philosophy, psychology, religion, the natural environment, and current trends and events.

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A Note To Our Patrons

As we continue to navigate changing circumstances in the world of Covid-19, this fall the Houston Seminar is offering a combination of courses on Zoom and in-person experiences around Houston. Most Zoom courses will be recorded, and you will be able to register for and view them on our website for the duration of the semester. Please note that by registering for Zoom courses, you are understood to be giving your permission to be recorded. Visit us at https://www.houstonseminar.org to learn more and to register online.

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Tipping the Balance: Women Legislators, Reporters, and Voters

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 5:00-6:30 P.M.

Zoom information will be emailed to subscribers.

Observers of the 2020 U.S. elections can't help but have noticed the increased visibility of women in all aspects of our political process, particularly as office holders, voters, and news pundits. What effect might this visibility have on legislation and legislative paralysis, on candidate success, and on understanding of current events? Elizabeth Gregory will guide us in an exploration of the recent history of women's expanding representation in policy-making roles in business and government. Why did it take so long, how do gender, race, and ethnicity intersect here, and what could this expansion of voices mean for the future?

Elizabeth Gregory directs the Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies Program and the Institute for Research on Women, Gender & Sexuality at the University of Houston. A professor of English, she publishes on American modernist poetry and received her Ph.D. from Yale. Her book Ready: Why Women Are Embracing the New Later Motherhood (Basic Books, 2007) was based on interviews with more than 100 new later mothers. Her next project—on building a culture and economy of care—explores the intersectional economics of gender, race, and age, and the way forward.

©GoogleMaps





TUESDAY. SEPTEMBER 21. 5:00-6:30 P.M. Zoom information will be emailed to subscribers. **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25,** 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Study tour, transportation, boxed lunch, and afternoon reception. Meeting place will be provided to subscribers.



The East End, lying east of downtown, south of Buffalo Bayou and the Houston Ship Channel, and north of the Gulf Freeway, got its start in the 1830s. Beginning in the 1850s, the construction of railroad lines divided the plain between Houston and the older town of Harrisburg, downstream on Buffalo Bayou, into subdistricts which are still visible today. The opening of the Houston Ship Channel in 1914 reinforced the patchwork pattern of differential development, attracting industry and manufacturing to the corridor between the ship channel and Harrisburg Boulevard. The East End is where Houston's Mexican-American community took shape in the 1910s and 1920s. As industry moved out of the area, digital fabrication workshops and innovative entrepreneurial ventures have sought affordable space in the East End. The retreat of industry has also made it possible for the Buffalo Bayou Partnership to launch ambitious plans for reclaiming the banks of the bayou as public green space.

Tuesday, September 21: Welcome to the East End! 5:00-6:30 P.M.

In preparation for the East End study tour, Kyle Shelton and Stephen Fox will set the stage with a lively Zoom discussion of the urban development of the East End.

Saturday, September 25: East End Study Tour, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Highlights include a bus tour led by **Celeste Ponce** and Stephen Fox and site visits to Villa de Matel, Buffalo Bayou Partnership East End Expansion, and the 1910 Fire Station No. 2. Some walking required.

Kyle Shelton is the director of strategic partnerships at Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research, where he leads research on urban development, transportation, and placemaking, as well as on urban and metropolitan governance. He is the author of Power Moves: Transportation, Politics, and Development in Houston (University of Texas Press, 2017).

Stephen Fox is an architectural historian and a lecturer at the Rice School of Architecture. He is also a lecturer at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture of the University of Houston and a fellow of the Anchorage Foundation of Texas. In his scholarship he examines the ways that architecture engages such social constructs as class identity, cultural distinction, and regional differentiation.

Celeste Ponce is the founding principal of Ponce Architecture. She is a faculty member at Wonderworks Houston and an adjunct professor at the University of Houston. She has earned recognition for her research about the Texas-Mexico border, including a solo exhibition at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning.

Courtesy: Buffalo Bayou Partnership

Villa De Matel Convent. ©Primer Gray/On The Grid





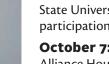
Courtesy: Andrea Roberts













Bakeyah Nelson

A House and a Home: Reckoning with Racial Disparity in Property Ownership

THREE THURSDAYS, SEPTEMBER 23, 30, AND OCTOBER 7, 5:30–7:00 P.M. Zoom information will be emailed to subscribers.

The notion of home is powerful. We are ever more aware of this during pandemic quarantines, natural disasters, and times when people are excluded, displaced, or erased by the forces of capital. What happens when large and unfairly structured systems conspire to make a home unsafe, unlivable, or unobtainable? Our speakers will help us to understand the legacy and cost of land inequality and why it matters to all of us.

September 23: Andrea Roberts is an urban planner who researches intentional communities built by Black people. Her experience in community development under Houston mayors Bill White and Annise Parker inform her efforts to move disappearing African American communities—facing sprawl, gentrification, and resource extraction—from the margin to the center of public discourse. A scholar activist, she founded the Texas Freedom Colonies Project, a research and social justice initiative that has developed an online atlas of unmapped Black settlements in Texas.

Andrea Roberts is an assistant professor of urban planning at Texas A&M University and associate director of the Center for Housing & Urban Development. She earned her Ph.D. in community and regional planning at the University of Texas at Austin.

September 30: Assata Richards is founder and executive director of the Sankofa Research Institute, where she brings together nonprofits, local leaders, and funders to inform effective public policy. As cofounder of the Emancipation Economic Development Council (a community-led collaborative to revitalize the historic Third Ward), the Community Care Cooperative, and the Houston Community Land Trust, she has put theory into practice. Richards will outline barriers to land ownership, redistricting and gerrymandering, redlining, and the remedies to these injustices with a focus on Houston practices.

Assata Richards earned her Ph.D. in sociology from Pennsylvania State University, with a concentration in political and community participation, research methods, and mass incarceration.

October 7: Bakeyah Nelson is the executive director of the Air Alliance Houston, a 25-year-old organization founded to reduce the public health impacts from air pollution through equity-centered research, community education, and collaborative advocacy. A vocal supporter for environmental justice, she fights the vicious cycle that reduces health and diminishes the ability of people to build equity in their homes because of devaluation caused by air pollution, nearby



industry, poor drainage, and lack of political power. While this work is never complete, Nelson will outline efforts to improve quality of life for Houstonians.

Bakeyah Nelson received her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Among other commitments, she is a contributing faculty member with Baylor University's Department of Public Health.

Courtesy: John Fairey Garden





Courtesy: BeeWeaver Honey Farm

Gardens and Bees 🕑

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 9:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M. Transportation from Houston and back will be by luxury bus; location of bus departure will be given to subscribers. In the event of public transportation restrictions due to COVID-19, driving directions to the John Fairey Gardens and the BeeWeaver Honey Farm will be provided. (Rain Date, Wednesday, October 13.)

Enjoy a day out of the city and experience the delights of the John Fairey Garden, previously known as Peckerwood Garden, in Hempstead, and the BeeWeaver Honey Farm in Navasota, an hour away from Houston. Our day begins with a docent-led tour through the exceptional collection of over three thousand native and exotic plants of the John Fairey Garden, followed by a specially catered lunch on the garden's newly designed patio, surrounded by the custom mosaic mural by Dixie Friend Gay, renowned local artist. We will then join longtime beekeepers for a hive tour and honey tasting at the BeeWeaver farm, producing high-quality honey since 1888, through five generations of the Weaver family. The store will be open for purchasing honey and a selection of curated merchandise.







Doug J. Swanson



Chris Tomlinson



Stephen Harrigan

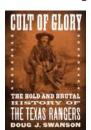
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TEXAS: Myth vs. Reality

THREE WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 13, 20, AND 27,
5:30-7:00 P.M. Zoom information will be emailed to subscribers.

Most Texans, when asked where they are from while traveling abroad, respond with "Texas," not "the United States." We love our state, our swagger, our larger-than-life persona, our "anything goes" attitude, our self-styled myths, and perhaps, most of all, we love our independence. That ain't working so well for us these days it seems. Neither are the tall Texas tales we have read, heard, and repeated. As they say in the press relations trade "when the client believes their own press release, trouble ahead." Trouble has arrived, and the two-hundred-year-old press release about the Great State needs an update.

To help with the rewrite are three authors who have spent hours in the dusty archives of Texas myths and reality. Each one upends the myths and shines a painful yet needed light on some of our beloved stories of the Texas Rangers, race relations in Texas, and Texas lore in general.



October 13: Doug J. Swanson is a novelist, journalist, and professor. He was an investigative reporter and editor at the Dallas *Morning News* and is a member of the Texas Institute of Letters. He was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in feature writing and currently teaches writing at the University of Pittsburgh. *Cult of Glory: The Bold and Brutal History of the Texas Rangers* (Viking Press, 2020) is his most recent book. About it, the New

York *Times* wrote, "Swanson has done a crucial public service by exposing the barbarous side of the Rangers."

October 20: Chris Tomlinson is a columnist for the Houston Chronicle with a focus on business, energy, and their larger cultural effects. His New York Times best seller, Tomlinson Hill (St. Martin's Press, 2014), tells the story of two Texas families, one white, one black, that share the Tomlinson name. He takes a flinty look at his own family and gives the reader no comfort in stories such as the happy slave or benevolent slaveholder. Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of an American Myth (Penguin Press, 2021) is his newest book, co-written with Bryan Burrough and Jason Stanford. Before returning to Texas in 2009, Tomlinson was a foreign correspondent with the AP in Africa, the



October 27: Stephen Harrigan is a novelist, journalist, historian, and screenwriter. His books include *The Gates of the Alamo* (Penguin Press, 2000) and the 2019 history *Big Wonderful Thing: A History of Texas* (University of Texas Press). This volume is "brimming with sass, intelligence, trenchant analysis, literary acumen, and juicy details . . . It is popular history at its best." Another reviewer wrote, "It's hard

to think of another writer with as much Lone Star credibility as Stephen Harrigan. . . . Harrigan, essentially, is to Texas literature what Willie Nelson is to Texas music."



Courtesy: University of Houston

Under the Radar: Tracing Houston's Music History Z P

THREE FRIDAYS, OCTOBER
15, 29, AND NOVEMBER 12,
10:00–11:30 A.M. Limited
in-person enrollment. Detailed
parking information will
be provided to subscribers.
Subscribers may also choose to
attend virtually through a livestreamed Zoom meeting.

Houston's music scene tends to fly under the radar, which may be why a unique "Houston sound" has emerged over and over, across multiple genres, to influence national and international musicians. Over time, memory of these pivotal home-grown moments has faded, but that history lives on in rare recordings, photographs, and other documents in local special collections. In this course, subscribers will visit three special-collection libraries to discover how jazz, folk, and hip hop music have been shaped by Houston musicians who carved out a distinctive, visionary Houston sound.



Townes Van Zandt Courtesy: Rice University

Arnett Cobb signed postcard

Courtesy: Houston Public

Library, HMRC

October 15: The Texas Jazz Archive at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library

The "Big Wide Open Texas Sound" of Houston jazz was spearheaded by Arnett Cobb (1918–1989), the legendary Wild Man of the Tenor Sax. Join Cobb's daughter **Lizette Cobb** and **Abra Schnur**, processing archivist of the Texas Jazz Archive from 2017 to 2019, as they give an insider's tour of materials from 22 Houston jazz musicians. We will listen to recordings of the "Texas Tenor Sound" shaped by Arnett Cobb and his contemporaries and discover how these Houston talents would go on to play on the world stage with jazz legends such as Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, and Dizzy Gillespie.

October 29: The Houston Folk Music Archive at Woodson Research Center, Rice University

In 1961, the Jester Lounge, the first folk venue in Houston, fostered what began as a celebration of traditional folk music in the city. In only a few years, members of the burgeoning scene like Townes Van Zandt and Jerry Jeff Walker began writing their own songs. They paved the way for subsequent singer-songwriters who merged folk and country music, such as Nanci Griffith, Lyle Lovett, and Lucinda Williams. **Norie Guthrie**, the archivist and librarian for the Houston Folk Music Archive, will present some of the journals, scrapbooks, photographs, lyrics, posters, and other ephemera that date from Houston's local folk

posters, and other ephemera that date from Houston's local folk scene from the 1960s through the 1980s.

Vince Bell and Lyle Lovett

Courtesy: Rice University

PAGE

November 12: The Houston Hip Hop Collection at the University of Houston Libraries

Houston hip hop has a unique sound that has influenced contemporary artists such as Beyoncé, Drake, and Solange Knowles. That sound was developed primarily by the late DJ Screw,



DJ Screw. Courtesy: University of Houston



Beyoncé. ©Nat Ch Villa

who created the innovative production technique of "chopped and screwed" for his underground cassettes in the 1990s. Among the riches of the Houston Hip Hop Research Collection are original mixtages created by DJ Screw (1971–2000), notebooks of rap lyrics by the late rapper HAWK, promotional photographs, fliers, T-shirts, and recordings. Julie Grob, the founder and curator of the collection, will present materials that capture the creativity and drive of the musicians, producers, visual artists, and entrepreneurs who built an independent music scene of global influence.



The Art of Translation



TWO MONDAYS, NOVEMBER 1 AND 15, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

Limited enrollment at private residence; location will be provided to subscribers.

Translation of literary texts is a subtle and exacting art requiring a broad command of vocabulary in both languages, an appreciation for nuances of style and character, familiarity with the culture from which the book arose, and a "feel" for the original author's voice. Translators give readers a window into another nation's people and culture, creating an empathy and connection that might not otherwise exist. Translating a text may also be the closest thing to a literary apprenticeship: it is worth noting that authors such as Javier Marias, Haruki Murakami, and Vladimir Nabokov invested a significant part of their careers in translating masterworks of other cultures into their native languages.

Philip Boehm and Samantha Schnee, skilled translators at the top of their profession, will appear in conversation together at both sessions, acting in turn as major focus and interlocutor, to bounce ideas off one another and to provide rare insights into their craft, their favorite projects, and their major challenges.

Philip Boehm is an American playwright, theater director, and literary translator. He has translated over thirty novels and plays by German and Polish writers, including Franz Kafka, Hanna Krall, and Herta Müller, and is the recipient of a number of translation awards as well as National Endowment for the Arts and Guggenheim fellowships.

Samantha Schnee translates literary texts from Spanish to English. She is founding editor of the international magazine Words Without Borders, dedicated to publishing the world's best literature translated into English; in the past ten years, Words Without Borders has published more than 2,000 stories, excerpts from novels, and poems from over 120 countries. Ms. Schnee's translation of Carmen Boullosa's Texas: The Great Theft (Deep Vellum, 2014) was a candidate for several international prizes.







THREE THURSDAYS, NOVEMBER 4, 11, AND 18, 5:00-6:30 P.M.

700m information will be emailed to subscribers.

November 4: The U.S. Congress

Democrats were handed the Congressional levers of government in January, though by the slimmest of margins. Sean Theriault will discuss how Democrats have risen—or not—to that challenge. What path has the Republican Party pursued in the minority? What do these records suggest about the 2022 midterm elections? What other key questions currently loom large for Congress?

November 11: The President and the Nation

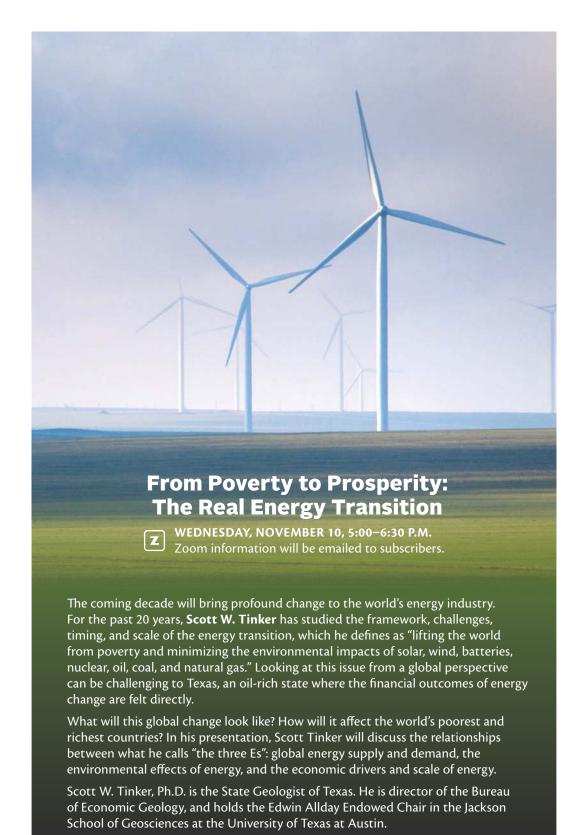
A year after the 2020 Election, an assessment of the Biden Administration's record is in order. Richard Murray will assess how the 46th president is handling the Covid-19 pandemic, the economy, climate change, and relations with a closely divided Congress. Are there any signs of ending the "uncivil war" Mr. Biden addressed in his inaugural address? And what are his party's prospects for avoiding major reversals at the polls next year as typically happens in midterm elections after a turnover in party control?

November 18: Future Prospects for Texas

Texas filing deadlines for state and federal races in the 2022 elections are fast approaching. Richard Murray will discuss what we might expect in those elections: will the Lone Star State be solid red once again, or will it follow Georgia and Arizona in becoming a Sun Belt battleground? Democrats had high hopes of making big gains in Texas in 2020 but fell well short of their aspirations. What were the causes of their disappointment in 2020? Will things be any different next year?

Sean Theriault, a Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, has received numerous teaching awards and is the author of several books on congressional decision making.

Richard Murray taught political science at the University of Houston from 1966 until his retirement in 2020 and consulted on more than two hundred political campaigns. He remains a senior research associate at the university's Hobby Center for Public Policy, specializing in political parties and elections, polling operations, surveys, and national, state, and local political developments.





Courtesy: Rice University



DATE AND TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Parking information will be provided to subscribers.

Robert Yekovich, dean of Rice University's Shepherd School of Music for 18 years until his retirement in June 2021, and **Miah Im**, professor of opera and director of the Opera Studies Program, will welcome us to Houston's newest performing arts venue, Brockman Hall for Opera, which together with Alice Pratt Brown Hall forms Rice University's Brockman Music and Performance Arts Center, home of the Shepherd School of Music.

A long-time dream of Dean Yekovich, the arts center includes acoustically superior performance spaces for students at the Shepherd School as well as rehearsal halls, teaching studios, and practice rooms. Yekovich will share his vision for the project while he leads us on a tour of the 84,000-square-foot structure, designed by acclaimed architect Allan Greenberg. Our visit will be planned to coincide with a late afternoon rehearsal in the Lucian and Nancy Morrison Theater, a three-tiered, six-hundred-seat, European-style theater with an orchestra chamber for 70 musicians.

This year, Robert Yekovich returns to the composition faculty as the Elma Schneider Professor of Music at Rice. He received B.M. and M.A. degrees from the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver and his D.M.A. from Columbia University.

Miah Im joined the faculty of the Shepherd School in July 2020. She is also music director of the Houston Grand Opera Studio. Professor Im comes to Houston from the Los Angeles Opera, where she was the head of music staff, an assistant conductor, and pianist working with conductor James Conlon.





:Vamos! SAN ANTONIO, FEBRUARY 10-13, 2022

©Casey Dunn. Courtesy: Confluence Park

Texas's oldest city, San Antonio is steeped in history and culture. Join the Houston Seminar as we learn how this three-hundred-yearold community is transforming in the twenty-first century. New greenspaces, restoration efforts, and cultural reinterpretations are defining a new era for "the Alamo City." On this study tour, we will hear from the people who are guiding these visionary efforts.



Crystal Bridges Redux

BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS, TWO NIGHTS IN SPRING 2022

This spring, the Houston Seminar returns to the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art for the first time since 2011. We will explore new additions and exhibitions at Crystal Bridges, including The Dirty South, curated by Valerie Cassel Oliver. Led by local experts and Houston architectural historian Stephen Fox, we will traverse northwest Arkansas by motorcoach to see the enormous investment made by community leaders and visit architecturally significant buildings designed by Marlon Blackwell and Fay Jones.

To place your name on an interest list, please call 713-666-9000 or email registrar@houstonseminar.org.

Discounts:

Teachers and students with a school I.D. may attend classes for a discounted fee. Please call the registrar for details.

Refunds:

For refund requests that occur at least two weeks before 20% cancellation fee will be charged. If others have been turned away from a limited-enrollment course, no refund will be issued unless your place can be filled. Refund policies for courses involving travel will differ.

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Sign up for our email list to receive announcements of pop-up events, course updates, and other news.

houstonseminar .org/contact

Course **List and** Reservation **Form**

Please send reservation form and payment to

THE HOUSTON SEMINAR

P.O. Box 22764 Houston, TX 77227-2764

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registrar@ houstonseminar.org

Register online at houstonseminar .org

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3	Study Tour: Crystal Br Bentonville, Arkansas Two nights, Spring 2022, date		l'm interested	
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enrollment information.

PLEASE ENROLL ME/US IN THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

5:00-6:30 P.M.: \$25

East End Rising

Tipping the Balance: Women Legislators,

Reporters, and Voters Monday, September 13,

Tuesday, September 21, 5:00-6:30 P.M. and Saturday,

September 25, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.; \$150 bus tour and

September 13

September 21

September 21 &

Amount **Enclosed**

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Houston, TX 77227-2764 P.O. Box 22764

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Fa|| 2021

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Houston's Newest Opera Venue

