



HANNAH ARENDT HUMANITIES NETWORK

**GRANT YEAR 2-3 FINAL REPORT
JULY 2021-DECEMBER 2023**

PREPARED BY:
HILLARY HARVEY
HAHN Program Manager

APPROVED BY:
ROGER BERKOWITZ
Founder and Academic Director,
Hannah Arendt Center

IMAGE: PROF. ZANICE BOND, SHAVON LUCKEY, AND PROF. LISA BRATTON OF
TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY AT THE SYMPOSIUM ON FLOURISHING IN SWEDEN, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
ABOUT US	4
OUR TEAM	5
OUR IMPACT	6
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	11
ACTIVITIES TIMELINE	15
OUR PROGRAMS	19
<i>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</i>	
PHD IN THE GLOBAL HUMANITIES	20
THE YEHUDA ELKANA FELLOWSHIP	21
THE ANNUAL TEXT SEMINAR	22
<i>COALITION BUILDING</i>	
FROM AI WORKING GROUP TO DIGITAL HUMANISM SUMMIT	24
FROM PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY TO DEMOCRACY INNOVATIONS	26
WORKING GROUP ON DEMOCRATIZING GLOBALIZATION	27
<i>NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES</i>	
HAHN-ALPINE FELLOWSHIP SYMPOSIUM	29
BI-ANNUAL WRITING RETREAT: HUMANITIES FOR THE PEOPLE	31
OSUN AMBASSADORS PROGRAM	32
<i>STUDENT-CENTERED</i>	
BHSEC AMBASSADORS PROGRAM	33
IDEAS FORUMS	34
CAMPUS PLURALISM FORUMS	36
NETWORK FACULTY SEMINARS	37
OUR NETWORK GRAPH	39
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	40

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hannah Arendt Humanities Network (HAHN) has flourished with the past two years of funding, nurturing the humanities as the bedrock of an open society and fostering wider access to humanities thinking and scholarship across the Open Society University Network (OSUN). This report highlights HAHN's diverse initiatives in professional development, coalition building, networking opportunities, and student-centered programming, spotlighting the intellectual contributions, tangible outcomes, and transformative impact on students, faculty, and partner institutions.

HAHN programs foster a horizontal network that brings together scholars from across OSUN to enrich the academic landscape of OSUN institutions, empower engaged global citizens through interdisciplinary research, amplify voices and bridge gaps in humanities access, and strengthen OSUN. Our overall focus on public engagement and civic empowerment allows OSUN scholars to forge meaningful connections and develop coalitions that equip our alumni with the tools to develop thoughtful solutions to real world challenges. We provide unique experiences for interdisciplinary exploration and intellectual exchange, inspiring new collaborations, shared resources, publications, course development, and opportunities for public engagement.

HAHN provides dynamic spaces for focused work and cross-institutional collaboration, such as the 16-member PhD in Humanities Planning Committee. Sixteen OSUN scholars from over 10 institutions met regularly to develop collaborative courses for a OSUN Ph.D. that will revolutionize public-facing and engaged academic thinking. We amplify voices through programs like the Yehuda Elkana Fellowship, one of OSUN's biggest prizes. This prestigious award recognizes exceptional scholarship and allows OSUN scholars to meet and engage with leading intellectuals. Finally, through our Annual Text Seminar, scholars at all career stages and backgrounds participate in focused study to discuss key philosophical texts which inform their teaching and research, translating to the development of their students. All of our programs are building a network of similarly engaged OSUN scholars who can then collaborate on new OSUN courses and global humanities scholarship.

HAHN fosters civic engagement through programs on Participatory Democracy and Innovations, which equips students, faculty, and civic leaders with groundbreaking tools and best practices for public engagement. Through programs like the AI Working Group and Digital Humanism Summit, HAHN is making meaningful connections between OSUN faculty, students, and experts in the field to create coalitions capable of responding to the challenges of our times. With the Working Group on Democratizing Globalization, HAHN unites scholars across OSUN in explorations of democratic practices, the challenges of governing at scale, and the evolution of citizenship models and political action in a globalized world. All of our programs are building capacity to expand humanities discourse into real world responses to contemporary challenges.

HAHN fuels intellectual discourse and cross-collaboration within the humanities. The HAHN-Alpine Fellowship Symposiums have been forums for interdisciplinary exploration of the

humanities and artistic expression, and sparked imaginative collaboration across diverse fields. The HAHN Writing Retreat has served as a seeding ground for integrating new humanities resources across OSUN, while the OSUN Ambassadors serve as crucial bridges - representing their universities and enhancing the visibility of OSUN - who enrich the discourse of the Hannah Arendt Center's annual conferences with unique global perspectives. Our programs foster greater accessibility to humanities studies throughout OSUN.

HAHN bridges OSUN institutions and amplifies voices through its student-centered programming like the Network Faculty Seminars, which facilitate knowledge exchange and cross-cultural learning between OSUN institutions. The Ideas Forums create intimate spaces for informal conversations on key contemporary questions among prominent figures in politics, culture, and activism. By bringing together students, faculty, and renowned thinkers from diverse backgrounds, these forums enrich academic discourse, and empower participants to engage with the humanities as a means to solve real world problems. Similarly, the Campus Pluralism Forums, partnering with the Mercatus Center, provide crucial learning spaces for students to hone their skills in respectful dialogue and critical thinking across ideological divides. The BHSEC Ambassadors Program empowers OSUN's youngest student scholars to meaningfully participate in an international conference at Bard College, which tackles the issues of our times. These initiatives empower the next generation of informed citizens, capable of navigating the complexities of our diverse world with open minds and constructive engagement.

Taken all together, our 13 programs over the past two years of funding have provided unique experiences which inform classrooms around OSUN, enriching the academic landscape, inspiring pedagogy, and empowering a new generation of thought leaders, teachers, and engaged citizens. Students across OSUN have gained invaluable skills in civic engagement, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary exploration. They have traveled beyond the borders of their institutions, their majors and, sometimes for the first time, their countries. Faculty have found new opportunities for collaboration and exchange, and new inspiration to inform their research and teaching. They have visited and connected with OSUN campuses around the globe, sharing their research and expertise, and strengthening their cultural competence. HAHN's partners have benefitted from strengthened relationships throughout OSUN and the unique support, resources, and program management infrastructure that HAHN at Bard College can provide.

HAHN has made significant progress on the achievement of our overarching goals to nurture a culture that values and strengthens the humanities as the foundation of an open society and to support the integration and accessibility of humanities study across OSUN. Over the past two years, HAHN has woven a vibrant tapestry of intellectual exchange and public engagement, solidifying its role as a vital force in strengthening the humanities within OSUN and the wider world. By fostering collaboration, empowering future generations of scholars and engaged citizens, and amplifying diverse voices, OSUN's humanities network through HAHN paves the way for the humanities to flourish as a crucial pillar of an open society.

ABOUT US

The Hannah Arendt Humanities Network (HAHN) is a collaborative initiative that connects scholars and institutions within the Open Society University Network (OSUN) to promote professional collaborations, intellectual exchange, and increased access to new thinking and expertise in the humanities. Through a diverse range of programs, HAHN has significantly contributed to the overarching objectives of OSUN by enriching its scholarly landscape through student and faculty development, and advancing the core principles that underpin an open and inclusive educational community.

OVERVIEW

The humanities play a vital role in preparing individuals for an increasingly interconnected and challenging world, providing the intellectual foundation for critical thinking, ethical judgment, and cross-cultural understanding. Recognizing the importance of the humanities in fostering an open society, HAHN collaboratively designs and implements programs that unite faculty, staff, and students from across the OSUN network, building capacity to expand humanities discourse into real world response to contemporary challenges.

HAHN organizes conferences, symposiums, seminars, and working groups which foster meaningful connections among a vibrant community of scholars who, in turn, develop courses, publications, research, and shared resources. By hosting a diversity of programs in a variety of global locations, we are able to reach more OSUN scholars and expand access to humanities programming.

“I wanted to get a different experience than I would get in my core classes.”

- Oceane Ingram, a sophomore at ASU, on her participation in the Ideas Forum on the Future of American Leadership at Bard DC, May 2023

HAHN has played a key role in promoting the humanities across OSUN, both through its own programming and by supporting the initiatives of partner OSUN institutions. HAHN provides opportunities for OSUN scholars to develop their skills, expertise, and research, while also expanding the humanities' reach and visibility within OSUN.

OUR TEAM

OSUN's Hannah Arendt Humanities Network at the Hannah Arendt Center at Bard



Roger Berkowitz
FOUNDER &
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



Hillary Harvey
PROGRAM MANAGER



Christine
Gonzalez Stanton
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
& SENIOR ADVISOR

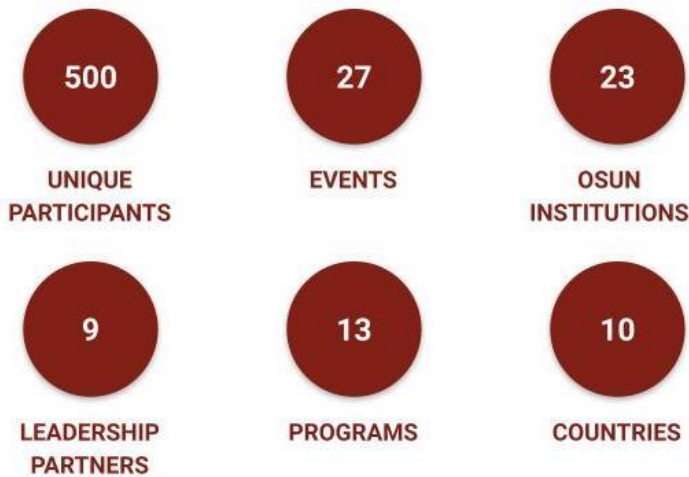


Phil Lindsay
COMMUNICATIONS
& DEMOCRACY
INNOVATIONS

OUR IMPACT

During the Year 2-3 funding period, HAHN has made significant strides in fostering a vibrant network of OSUN faculty and students dedicated to exploring the foundations of an open

YEAR 2-3 FUNDING: \$981,510



society. Through 27 events held in 10 different countries and online, HAHN has engaged 500 unique participants from 23 different OSUN institutions, cultivating meaningful connections and intellectual exchange. These 27 programs were co-organized by 9 OSUN institutional leadership partners (we additionally worked with non-OSUN institutional leadership partners), ensuring a range of perspectives and approaches to our humanities programming.

YEAR 2-3 FUNDING: \$981,510



Since July 2021, 84.6% of participants have been new to HAHN programming (ie. first-time participants). This widespread interest can be attributed to the appeal of the unique opportunities we create for humanities scholars of varying career stages and research interests. We have also significantly increased awareness of our programs and the number of OSUN

institutions we work with through our collaborative marketing efforts with OSUN communications and targeted outreach efforts. In fact, we began regularly working with two new OSUN network institutions in 2023: **Tuskegee University** and the **University of the West Indies**. We are committed to reaching new audiences.

While HAHN's impact is substantial even for new participants, the network's success extends far beyond initial engagement. Our encouraging 15.4% repeat participation rate (the rate at which we accept alumni for attendance at a second or third program) demonstrates that participants find immense value in our activities and are eager to continue their involvement.

HAHN OUTCOMES/DELIVERABLES

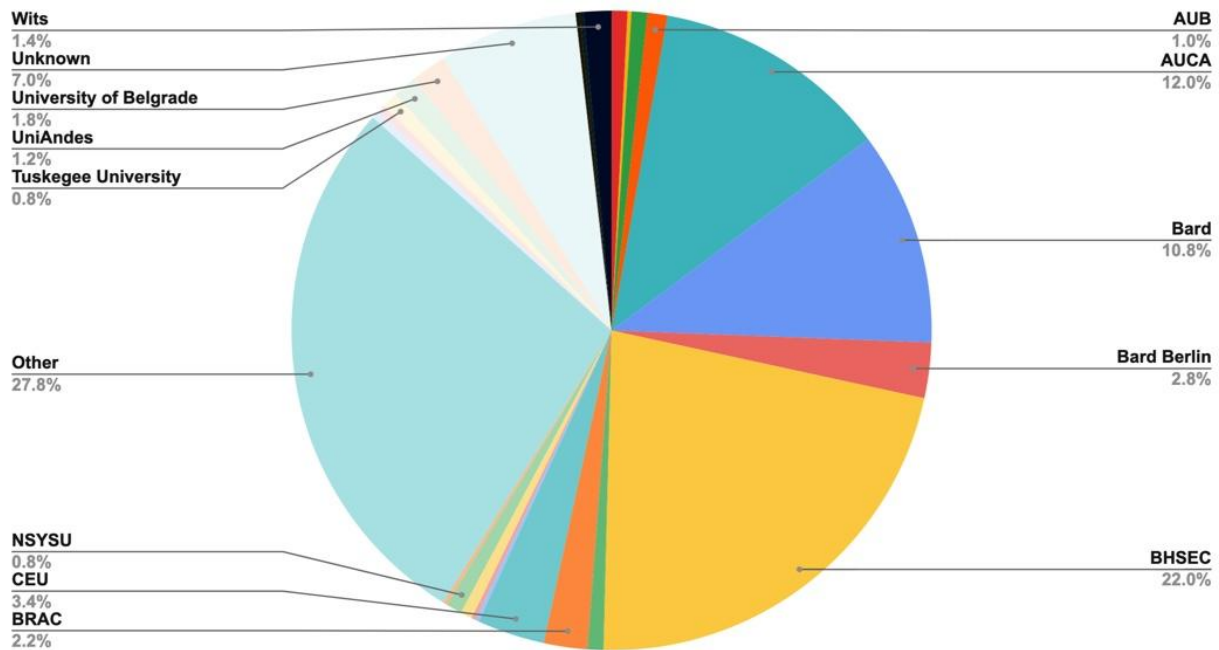


Notably, a significant portion of repeat participants are OSUN faculty members who subsequently become invaluable leadership partners. Leveraging their program experiences, these individuals actively contribute to HAHN's growth and development and translate their participation into tangible outcomes for OSUN. Within the grant period alone, alumni have developed 3 OSUN courses, established new working groups, published their learnings and research, and contributed to shared resources, demonstrating their commitment to and the lasting impact of our programming. These ongoing contributions by alumni demonstrate how our network empowers participants to become active agents of change, not only within their own institutions but across the entire OSUN

community. This ripple effect amplifies HAHN's reach and influence, ensuring that its positive impact continues to resonate long after first-time participation.

HAHN has experienced remarkable growth in Years 2-3, attracting a diverse and engaged community of OSUN faculty and students. Our programming generates high interest, with an average of 76 submissions per call for applications in 2023 alone for 10-15 slots, with a high of 121 applications for our 12-member OSUN Ambassadors program. Variations in application rates are generally due to the topic or theme, applicant availability during the program dates, and applicant eligibility based on their scholar status or research relevance.

PARTICIPANTS BY INSTITUTION



During the grant period, HAHN has demonstrated success in attracting OSUN faculty and staff from 23 geographically diverse institutions, cultivating a network of OSUN scholars dedicated to enriching their home institutional offerings with new perspectives and enhanced relevance.



DIGITAL HUMANISM OSUN GROUP WELCOME DINNER, VIENNA 2023

By connecting scholars from diverse regions and disciplines, HAHN fosters intellectual exchange and collaboration, leading to the development of new ideas and approaches to teaching and research. Our network's emphasis on meaningful connections and alumni-driven initiatives empowers OSUN faculty and staff to address global challenges with informed and critical perspectives.

IMPACT STORY

FROM SEED TO FRUIT: HOW HAHN PROGRAMS CONNECTED NSYSU AND BCB TO CREATE TANGIBLE OUTCOMES

The Hannah Arendt Humanities Network (HAHN) is committed to nurturing sustained collaborations between faculty from diverse regions across the OSUN network. For Chiahao Hsu, Assistant Professor at National Sun Yat-Sen University (NSYSU) and Ewa Atanassow, a Professor of Politics at Bard Berlin, this commitment came to fruition at the HAHN Ideas Forum at NSYSU in the fall of 2022, which Hsu co-organized. It was at this event that Hsu and Atanassow met, and recognizing the compatibility of their individual research fields and expertise on

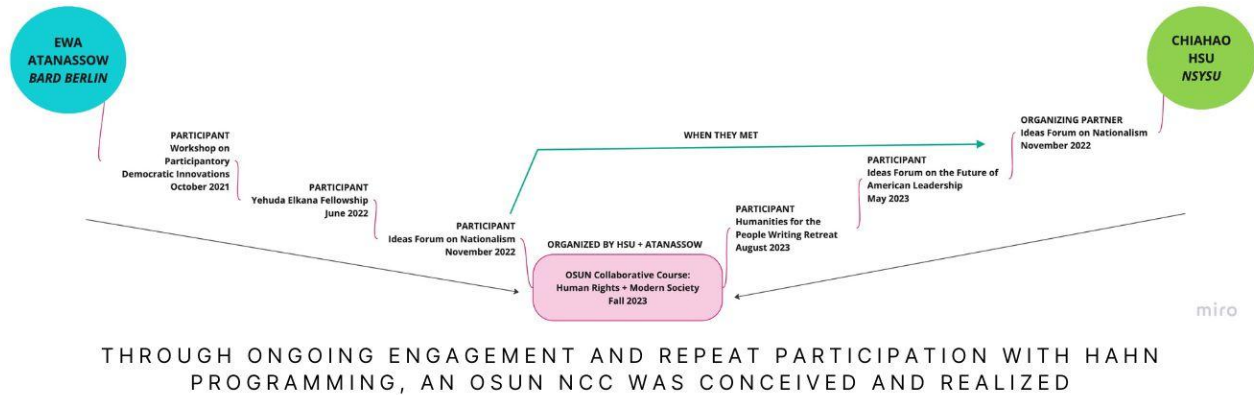
Tocqueville, began to explore the possibility of working together on a collaborative project.

This was Atanassow's third attendance at HAHN programming, and just the beginning of Hsu's participation in the humanities network. Their collaboration was further nurtured through HAHN's Bi-annual Writing Retreat, *Humanities for the People*, in July 2023. By this time, the scholars had determined to work together on an OSUN Network Collaborative Course (NCC), and the HAHN writing retreat



IDEAS FORUM ON NATIONALISM AT NSYSU, 2022

IMPACT STORY



provided Hsu with the time and space to focus on writing about the impact of Tocqueville translations on the Mandarin-speaking world - a topic that is central to the NCC he taught this fall with Atanassow.

The NCC, called *Human Rights and Modern Society: The Paths of China and Taiwan*, was taught across two campuses under the same course title. Open to NSYSU students and BCB students to select, there were 30 students from NSYSU and 5 from BCB in fall 2023. Recently, the course culminated in a one-day "Human Rights and Cross-Strait Relations" workshop at Bard Berlin on December 11th, 2023.

For a final project, the students are working to construct a public-facing, multimedia website which will feature five student-proposed topics related to the course. Unconfined by the classroom or the semester, the students are now taking on the role of teachers by making their learnings from the class widely accessible to the general public. "We never know if someday someone who is working on a related topic will stumble onto our website," Hsu explained.

This sustained collaboration between faculty from diverse regions and the resulting NCC course which united students at their two campuses is a prime example of how HAHN programming seeds partnerships and produces meaningful outcomes for OSUN. By supporting opportunities for scholars to connect, share their work, and develop new ideas, HAHN is building a vibrant and interconnected humanities network within OSUN where students learn to address real world problems. This network within a network is working to address the challenges of our time while promoting cultural collaboration and exchange.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS WORKSHOP AT BCB, 2023

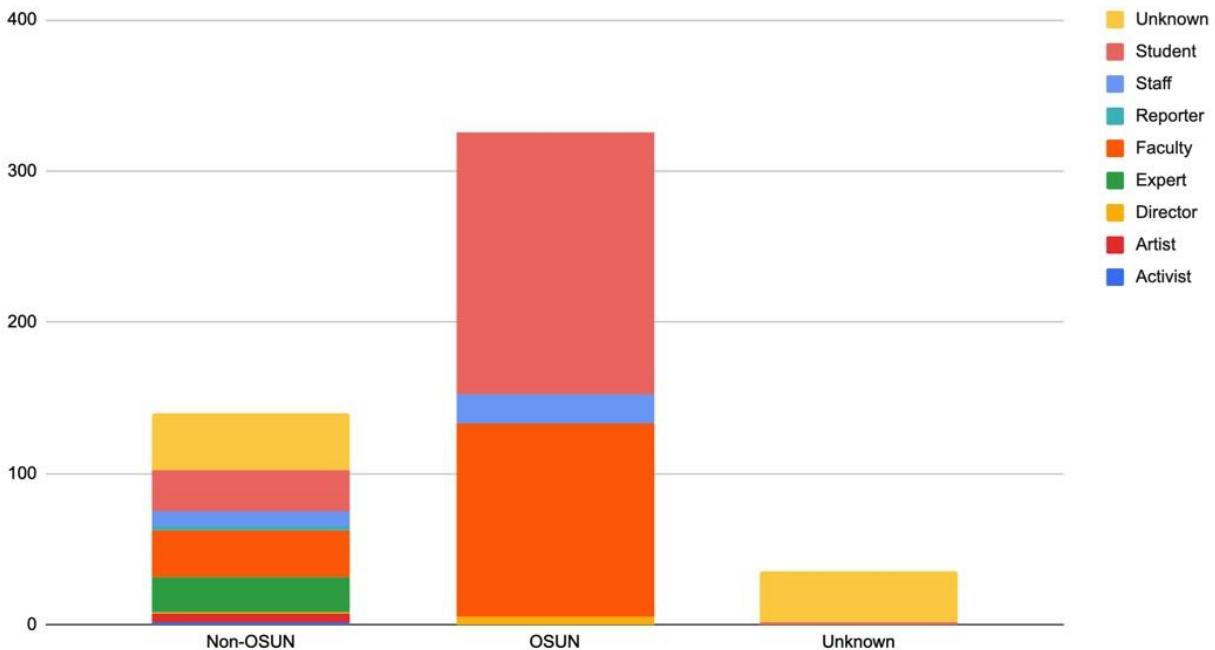
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

WHO WE SERVE

At the heart of HAHN's programming lies a commitment to serving OSUN faculty, students, and the broader humanities community. Our network's events, initiatives, and resources are specifically designed to cater to the needs and interests of OSUN scholars, providing them with platforms for intellectual exchange, professional development, and meaningful connections.

When bringing non-OSUN participants into our programming, we do so strategically, inviting outside experts who add critical exposure and diverse perspectives to our discussions. These experts broaden the horizons of OSUN scholars, exposing them to cutting-edge ideas and enriching their understanding of the humanities' global relevance. Additionally, the inclusion of non-OSUN faculty and students from a range of geographic and thematic backgrounds further enhances the diversity of our programming, fostering cross-cultural understanding and enriching the intellectual landscape. Similarly, during the Year 2-3 grant period, we brought undergraduate and graduate students to many of our programs along with faculty because we feel this adds to the diversity of ideas and perspectives HAHN always strives to promote.

PARTICIPANTS BY SCHOLAR STATUS



While HAHN does have programming dedicated predominantly to students, HAHN equally serves OSUN faculty because we believe in creating opportunities where faculty can continue their learning. Underpinning HAHN's programming is the impact hypothesis that by creating

opportunities for faculty development in the humanities, we are strengthening and broadening interest in engaging deeply with students and the public in open debate and plurality. Our diverse range of programming for faculty can sometimes take the shape of a retreat, providing necessary respite and time for scholars to focus on integrating their research into tangible ideas. These are essentially in-person company retreats for OSUN's global university. We believe this meaningfully supports the goals of the network by improving the culture and connection of OSUN faculty.

One of the major measures of quality assurance in higher education is teaching quality, effectiveness, and competence. Therefore, a professional development focused program for faculty in an open university is key to ensuring the quality of information and resources related to students' learning across campuses within the network.

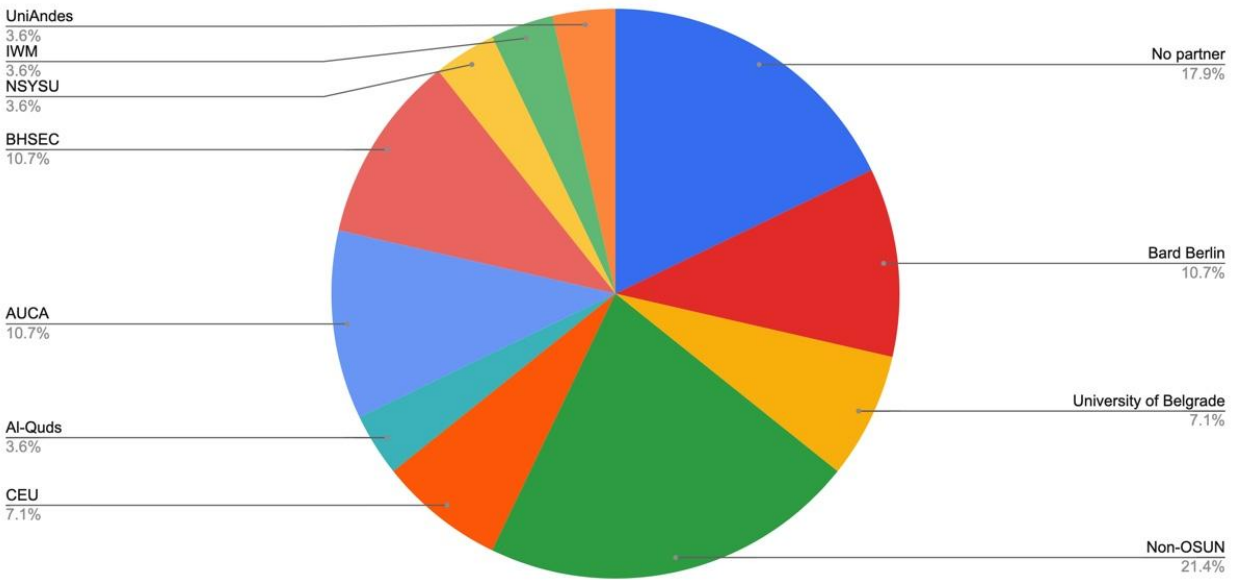
The quality of scholarship extends beyond any individual faculty member, and impacts a wider audience through their teaching and engagement with students. Based on a survey of faculty (which admittedly involved a small sample size and will need to continue to be tested and refined) we have found that by applying a multiplier assumption, the reach of any faculty member who participates in our programming extends to approximately 90 students per semester at their home institution. This multiplier effect highlights the profound and far-reaching impact of HAHN's faculty development programming, demonstrating how our efforts to equip faculty with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to engage in open discourse, directly translates into enriching the learning experiences of countless students.

SHARED LEADERSHIP

HAHN is dedicated to fostering collaboration and empowering leadership partners from across the OSUN network. In Year 2-3, we successfully co-organized events with diverse OSUN institutions, such as Al-Quds, American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Bard Berlin (BCB), Bard High School Early College (BHSEC), Central European University (CEU), Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (IWM), National Sun-Yat-Sen University (NSYSU), Institute of Philosophy and Social Theory at the University of Belgrade, and Universidad de los Andes (UniAndes). Additionally, we partnered with non-OSUN institutions, such as Alpine Fellowship Foundation, Hudson Institute, Mercatus Center, and TU Wien.

HANNAH ARENDT HUMANITIES NETWORK YEAR 2-3 FINAL REPORT

LEADERSHIP PARTNERS



However, in analyzing our shared leadership, we have identified areas where we can do more to empower other institutions to provide more substantial leadership for HAHN programming. In Year 4, we have expanded our OSUN leadership partners, particularly on programming where we traditionally had no partner outside of Bard College, and focused on outreach to OSUN institutions we have not worked with yet. This collaborative approach leverages the unique strengths and resources of each partner institution, resulting in enriched programming and a broader audience.

A key priority for HAHN is to increase funding directly disbursed to our leadership partners. In

Year 2-3, 23.33% of our grant funding was directly allocated to partner institutions. While this represents a significant step, we aim to further optimize financial distribution to partners for program leadership and development. However, we recognize that not all OSUN institutions have the administrative capacity to manage the complex logistics that accompany

YEAR 2-3 FUNDING: \$981,510



international program leadership. To address this challenge, we offer valuable support services, such as utilizing Bard's travel agency to handle travel arrangements for co-organized events. This allows partners to focus their energy on program content and local coordination and participation, ensuring a seamless and successful event experience.

Beyond financial support, HAHN is undergoing a fundamental shift to redefine partnership to prioritize OSUN institutional leadership, particularly from the Global South, as co-architects and drivers of our programs. We're actively searching out collaborators from OSUN institutions, especially those in the Global South, and building a framework where partners take the helm, designing and executing initiatives that meaningfully benefit their institutions, communities, and the wider OSUN network, and provide insight to visiting OSUN scholars. We've heard voices from the Global South yearn to share their diverse knowledge and expertise, not simply receive perspectives from the North. HAHN is here to amplify those voices by providing robust program infrastructure, resources, and a culturally sensitive and supportive network, empowering partners to become not just contributors, but architects of intellectual exchange. Our goal is to leverage this collective intellectual wealth for mutual learning and growth, enriching the OSUN landscape. Partner-driven programs, filled with unique local knowledge and expertise, will not only strengthen individual institutions but also spark innovative collaborations, foster dialogue, and shape a truly inclusive HAHN.

BUDGET EXTENSION

HAHN requested a six-month extension to its current grant period, stretching its completion date from June 30, 2023, to December 31, 2023. This extension proved critical, ensuring the successful execution of planned programming for Years 2-3 and paving the way for a smooth transition into Year 4.

The grant period wasn't without its challenges. Shifting partnerships, when scheduled program leaders underwent unexpected changes, impacted the scheduling and execution of several programs. HAHN navigated these disruptions by promptly identifying new leadership partners and reshaping program schedules. Additionally, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with travel restrictions persisting into 2021 and 2022, coupled with speaker cancellations due to illness, further disrupted planned activities within the initial time frame.

Despite these obstacles, HAHN demonstrated remarkable adaptability and resourcefulness, transforming challenges into opportunities for growth and expansion. Funding from Years 2-3 was strategically reallocated, and HAHN swiftly collaborated with new program leaders to realize the desired programming. Running the six-month extension concurrently with Year 4 funding ensured the seamless continuation of essential programs like staff salaries and successful execution of our OSUN Ambassadors program. HAHN's strategic execution of the six-month extension helped us to finalize outstanding activities from Year 2-3 without compromising Year 4 programming, and ultimately strengthened the network by bringing in new individuals with fresh energy and valuable insights to enrich our programming.

ACTIVITIES TIMELINE FOR JULY 1, 2021 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

YEAR 2-3 ACTIVITIES

August 2021-February 2023

PhD Planning Committee Meetings

Developing a PhD in the Global Humanities program for OSUN through a committee of 16 dedicated members

October 2021, May 2022

Participatory Democratic Innovations

A workshop and working group to explore innovative ways to revitalize democracy through deliberative models

November 2021, February 2023

Campus Pluralism Forums

Bringing together students from a wide spectrum of political orientations to engage in constructive dialogue and debate, guided by experts from various viewpoints

March 2022

AI Working Group

Bringing together scholars from diverse backgrounds to delve into the complex intersections of AI and society, focusing on government, the public, and consciousness

June 2022, June 2023

Text Seminar

Bringing together OSUN scholars and international experts to read closely a classic text on democratic thinking

August 2022, November 2022, May 2023

Ideas Forums

Bringing together leading figures in politics, culture, and activism with OSUN students to discuss the key questions of our time

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

July 2-6, 2023

Digital Humanism Summit

A summit in Vienna to bring together digital humanism leaders, computer scientists, and AI experts from around the world to develop AI policy recommendations

July 6-16, 2023

Biennial Writing Retreat

A writing retreat at the Gladstone Library, Wales, UK, for scholars interested in advancing the relevance and reach of social and cultural study

August 10-13, 2023

Alpine Fellowship Symposium

An interdisciplinary retreat in Sweden with presentations by internationally-acclaimed scholars and artists which explored the theme of human flourishing

October 12-13, 2023

BHSEC Students at HAC Conference

Supporting BHSEC students to participate in a preparatory course and attend the annual HAC fall conference

November 10-12, 2023

Democracy Innovations Workshop

A convening for public servants and democracy and civics leaders to learn about developing permanent models of deliberative democracy

ACTIVITIES TIMELINE FOR JULY 1, 2021 - DECEMBER 31, 2023
(continued)

YEAR 2-3 ACTIVITIES

April and May 2022

Network Faculty Seminar

*A unique faculty exchange program
between Bard Berlin and Al-Quds*

June 2022

Yehuda Elkana Fellowship

*A fellowship, awarded annually, recognizing
individuals whose work demonstrates a
remarkable breadth of knowledge,
encompassing the humanities, social
sciences, and science, and who also exhibit
a generous spirit as a teacher and mentor*

August 2022

Alpine Fellowship Symposium

*An interdisciplinary retreat in England with
presentations by internationally-acclaimed
scholars and artists which explored the
theme of freedom*

October 2022

BHSEC Students at HAC Conference

*Supporting BHSEC students to participate
in a preparatory course and attend the
annual HAC fall conference*

June 2022, May 2023, June 2023

Network Faculty Seminars at AUCA

*Providing for visiting lecturers in the
humanities to teach workshops and master
classes at AUCA*

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

November 30-December 2, 2023

**Democratizing Globalization Working
Group**

*Following virtual meetings, an in-person
convening of the working group to discuss
how globalization is being profoundly
restructured*

MEASURING IMPACT

In Year 3, HAHN embarked on a pilot project to develop process mapping tools to facilitate early consensus-building on programmatic roles and responsibilities with OSUN partners. This initiative aimed to address challenges related to redundancies in the onboarding process and ensure a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities required of partners and the division of labor between program leaders and HAHN staff. The implemented process fosters open communication and discussion during kickoff meetings with program leaders, enabling the early identification and resolution of potential discrepancies in expectations, and problem-solving around capacity restrictions and the complexities associated with short-term, international programming. This proactive approach has already proven effective in streamlining program administration and fostering better collaboration and communication among partners.



SLIDE FROM NEW HAHN ONBOARDING

Also in Year 3, HAHN piloted various feedback collection methods, such as formal debriefs, participant surveys, video interviews, and focus groups to learn more about the participant and program planning experience from our alumni. These qualitative data collection enhancements through a variety of touchpoints were analyzed and scored to develop quantitative data points, for refining our programming and demonstrating its effectiveness. We are focused on creating a culture of continuous improvement within HAHN, so we can continue to provide truly meaningful humanities programming that enhances OSUN campus offerings around the globe and builds capacity for developing real world response to today's most pressing challenges.

Moving forward, HAHN is committed to enhancing its impact measurement strategies. In Year 4, we will focus on refining our approach to analyzing participant outcomes, including:

- Clarifying expectations for continued reporting as a requirement of participation:** We will provide participants with clear guidelines for reporting the long-term impact of HAHN programs on their teaching, research, professional work, and collaborations. This will allow us to gain a deeper understanding of the program's lasting effects and showcase its broader value.
- Establishing a connected alumni network:** Building on existing ties, we will build infrastructure to facilitate meaningful networking opportunities among program participants, speakers, and program leaders long after their participation in our programming to serve as a platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and further engagement with HAHN initiatives.

- **Investing in technology and expertise:** To further strengthen our evaluation capabilities, we will invest in technology upgrades and expert support. This includes software for collecting qualitative data, microphones for improved audio on video recordings, and a consultant to make recommendations on our most pressing needs.
- **Host informational meetings:** An annual gathering will focus on clarifying/introducing our program offerings, showcasing alumni for inspiration, providing onboarding so we can develop leadership partners and source new ideas for programming from around the network, and providing information that encourages or supports the development of OSUN courses, publishing opportunities, and other outcomes.

As HAHN continues to grow and evolve, so does our ability to generate lasting impact and inspire further engagement with the humanities. By providing opportunities for intellectual engagement, professional development, and global collaboration, HAHN plays a vital role in nurturing a vibrant and interconnected humanities environment within the OSUN network.



STUDENTS DURING Q&A AT THE IDEAS FORUM, BHSEC DC, MAY 2023

Our Programs

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Programs which focus on professional advancement opportunities

- Yehuda Elkana Fellowship
- PhD in Humanities Planning Committee
- Annual Text Seminar

COALITION BUILDING

Programs which build capacity for collaborative response to global issues

- Digital Humanism
- Democracy Innovations
- Working Group on Democratizing Globalization

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Programs which focus on expanding collaborative relationships

- Alpine Fellowship Symposia
- Bi-annual Writing Retreat
- OSUN Ambassadors

STUDENT- CENTERED

Programs which focus on high school/early college, undergraduate, and graduate engagement in the humanities

- Ideas Forums
- Campus Pluralism Forums
- BHSEC Ambassadors
- Network Faculty Seminars

Ph.D. in the Humanities: Planning Committee

Co-organized by Bard College

The PhD in the Global Humanities represents a transformative initiative within the OSUN network, offering a unique doctoral program designed to equip a new generation of scholars with the tools and knowledge to address the most pressing challenges facing our world. Designed as a global program that draws on different intellectual traditions from around the world, the non-specialized and public-facing orientation sets it apart from traditional PhD programs; rather, the PhD in the Global Humanities encourages students to develop expertise with broad applicability. This is reflected in the program's dissertation requirement, which aims to produce a book manuscript or series of essays accessible to an educated but generalist audience. Similarly, the program's pedagogy is designed to prepare graduates for a diverse range of teaching opportunities within the liberal arts.

Through innovative teaching methods and a focus on interdisciplinary learning, the program equips students with the skills and knowledge necessary to engage effectively with students of diverse backgrounds and intellectual interests. It is a bold experiment, drawing inspiration from humanistic traditions while simultaneously seeking to place humanist ideas at the forefront of public conversations around crucial political and ethical questions.



The development of the PhD in the Global Humanities has been a collaborative effort, involving a dedicated 16-member OSUN PhD Planning Committee. After an initial exploratory meeting in Berlin in August 2021, the committee engaged in regular discussions over Zoom, culminating in a pivotal convening in NYC in January 2023, where the committee refined a preliminary program proposal and developed a comprehensive curriculum.

Subsequent weekly Zoom meetings facilitated the co-creation of a detailed syllabus, resulting in the finalization of a program proposal, which was approved by OSUN in 2023.

Moving forward, the program will focus on securing accreditation and identifying a qualified Dean to spearhead its launch in 2025. Once implemented, the PhD in the Global Humanities is poised to become a cornerstone of the OSUN network.

The Yehuda Elkana Fellowship

Co-organized by CEU

The Yehuda Elkana Fellowship, established in honor of Central European University's former President and Rector, celebrates exceptional scholars and public thinkers who embody the spirit of intellectual curiosity and commitment to bridging the humanities with public discourse. As one of OSUN's biggest prizes, the fellowship, awarded annually, recognizes individuals whose work demonstrates a remarkable breadth of knowledge, encompassing the humanities, social sciences, and science, and who also exhibit a generous spirit as a teacher and mentor.

In 2022, Uday Mehta received the Yehuda Elkana Fellowship for his groundbreaking work on



Uday Mehta's forthcoming book, A Different Vision: Gandhi's Critique of Political Rationality, will be the focus of the 2022 Fellowship & Text Seminar

Gandhi's political philosophy. His residency at CEU included [a lecture](#) on his forthcoming book, "A Different Vision: Gandhi's Critique of Political Rationality," which offered invaluable insights and sparked stimulating discussions. Notably, Mehta's manuscript benefited from a unique workshop involving OSUN faculty and renowned experts in the field, who provided constructive feedback that enriched the final product. Additionally, Mehta's long-term stay in Vienna and the accompanying \$15,000 prize played a crucial role in facilitating the completion of his manuscript.

While unforeseen circumstances prevented the realization of the Yehuda Elkana Fellowship in 2023, necessitating the reallocation of funding to other HAHN initiatives, the program has made significant strides in the new grant period. In Year 4, we have reconstituted leadership of the prize among a selection committee composed of past prizewinners, OSUN faculty, and students of Yehuda Elkana, and OSUN institutions will alternate hosting the Yehuda Elkana Fellow and workshop in the future, signifying a pivotal step towards greater transparency and egalitarianism in the awards process. By promoting critical research, the fellowship enriches academic discourse with support for scholars and public intellectuals, and enhances the visibility of OSUN in humanities scholarship.

The Annual Text Seminars

Organized by the Hannah Arendt Humanities Network

Recognizing the importance of creating opportunities for sustained intellectual engagement with key texts in the humanities, HAHN has hosted two highly successful Annual Text Seminars during the grant period, each focusing on a specific work by Hannah Arendt and providing a platform for in-depth discussion and analysis, which scholars then use to inform their teaching and research.

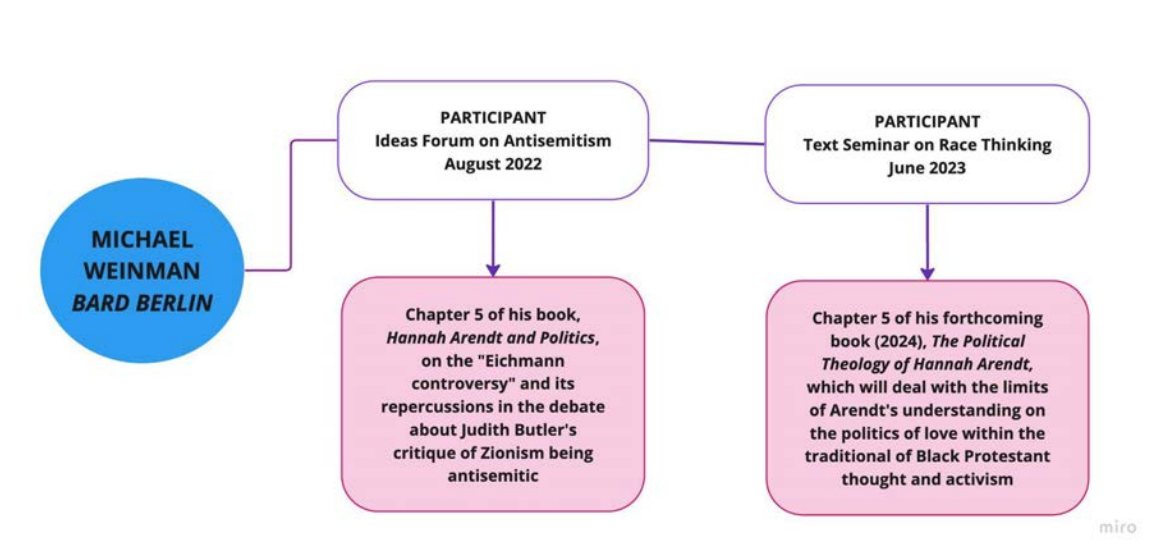
The 2022 Text Seminar convened 16 scholars from across the OSUN network for a week-long close reading of Arendt's seminal work, "The Human Condition." By engaging with both the original German ("Vita Activa") and English ("The Human Condition") versions, participants delved into the nuances of Arendt's thought and explored the key differences between the two editions. This unique approach provided valuable insights into Arendt's writing process and the evolution of her ideas. Participants reported gaining a deeper understanding of Arendt's complex and multifaceted work, feeling inspired to pursue further research, and acquiring valuable pedagogical skills.



The [2023 Text Seminar](#) brought together 12 Arendtian scholars from around the world for an exploration of Arendt's work on race and race thinking. This focused study included examining her writings from the late 1930s to the 1960s, providing a comprehensive overview of her evolving

perspectives on this critical issue. By engaging with a group of scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and at different points in their careers, the seminar facilitated a rich and multifaceted discussion, which included varying cultural perspectives and experience of colonialism. Participants explored the complexities of Arendt's ideas, considered the historical context of her work, and engaged in critical reflection on the contemporary relevance of her insights.

The Annual Text Seminars foster scholarly collaboration and intellectual growth within the OSUN network and regularly produce enthusiastic feedback from participants about inspired research projects and innovative pedagogical approaches. Michael Weinman of Bard Berlin reported that his participation in the 2023 Text Seminar informed a chapter of his forthcoming book, and traced past participation in HAHN programming to other of his published writing.



Building on the 2023 Text Seminar topic, HAHN is now [soliciting contributions from OSUN scholars](#), including those who participated in the 2023 Text Seminar, who wish to contribute their research and perspectives to its upcoming collaboration with DeGruyter Press for their new Arendt series. The volume will offer a valuable platform for OSUN scholars to share their insights on Arendt's complex and multifaceted engagement with race and race thinking. It will also serve as a testament to the lasting impact of HAHN's programming in fostering intellectual exchange and promoting critical scholarship within the humanities.

One of the key highlights of the 2023 Text Seminar was the fruitful discussion that emerged around the intersections between Arendt's work and that of postcolonial thinkers. Notably, the seminar revealed more common ground than anticipated between Arendt's ideas and those of Frantz Fanon and Cedric Robinson. This unexpected convergence provided a valuable lens for examining texts in relation to broader debates on racialism.

These ideas have prompted HAHN to further explore the connections in postcolonial thought. As a result, the [2024 Text Seminar](#) being co-organized by the University of the West Indies will focus on Frantz Fanon's seminal work, "Black Skin, White Masks," offering a deeper dive into the critical and complex ideas surrounding race, identity, and liberation. Through this continuity between seminars, HAHN seeks to contribute to broader discussions on racial justice.

From AI Working Group to Digital Humanism Summit

Co-organized by CEU; co-organized by the Digital Humanism Initiative and IWM

HAHN's journey with Artificial Intelligence (AI) began with the formation of the AI Working Group. Convening during this grant period in March 2022 at Central European University, scholars from diverse backgrounds delved into the complex intersections of AI and society, focusing on government, the public, and consciousness. These intellectually stimulating discussions broadened OSUN's access to leading experts in the field and laid the groundwork for further exploration. But with the aim of creating a collaborative OSUN network course on AI, the group's interest ultimately petered out.

Leadership changes in 2023 led to a shift in focus. Taking the helm, Professor Allison Stanger, a founding member of the Digital Humanism Initiative in Vienna and well-connected in the AI research community, steered the initiative towards a broader scope.



Working with collaborative partners, TU Wien and the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (IWM), the expansion was realized as a [Digital Humanism Summit](#) in Vienna in July 2023, which convened over 50 experts from more than 20 countries, to tackle the pressing challenges AI poses to democracy. Through insightful presentations and spirited discussions,

the participants considered recommendations for AI governance and explored the implications of Generative AI on education.

A key highlight of the summit was [the public presentation](#) of findings and a draft statement with regulatory recommendations, which was covered by Viennese TV news. Though the statement was not ultimately universally adopted by the diverse group of partners, it sparked students in the Digital Humanism Summer School to take up the question during their own convening in September.

For many OSUN participants, the summit provided an invaluable opportunity to deepen their understanding of AI and its implications for their disciplines. The exploration of AI's impact on education, in particular, offered educators insights into the future of learning and prompted discussions about adapting pedagogical methods to this evolving landscape. Some scholars have gone on to publish their research in various journals, participated in subsequent conferences on AI, and Professor Stanger has two books on the topic coming out and is working on an NEH grant proposal with Harvard Professor Danielle Allen for a Center for AI and Democracy that will highlight OSUN as a partner. Recently, the Austrian government renewed funding for two years and endowed a chair at TU Wien with co-leadership by IWM for the continuation of the Digital Humanism Initiative.

Pivoting HAHN's programming on AI to Digital Humanism allowed us to make significant strides in fostering a coalition, promoting dialogue, and generating valuable insights. We are connecting OSUN scholars working in this space with experts in the field, positioning them as a leading force in navigating the complex landscape of AI and its societal implications.

"I think spaces like this are hugely important because everyone is trying to build this plane while flying it. Because of the speed of technology's advancement, because of how quickly new forms of technology are emerging, we can't just say, 'Let's press pause so we're all on the same page.' I think there will be a convergence at some point, so all efforts to understand what AI technologies mean for the future, how they impact society, how they impact citizens, they all need to be worked on equally."

- Rekgotsofetse Chikane, Lecturer at the University of Witwatersrand, on his participation in the Digital Humanism Summit of July 2023

BUILDING CAPACITY TO EXPAND HUMANITIES
DISCOURSE INTO REAL WORLD RESPONSES TO
CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

From Citizen Jury Workshop and Participatory Democratic Innovations Working Group to Democracy Innovation Hub

Co-organized by the University of Belgrade; co-organized by TAP (The Assembly Project)

HAHN has been a dedicated champion of exploring innovative approaches to revitalize democracy. In 2021, we collaborated with the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory in Belgrade (IFST) and their Laboratory for Active Citizenship to offer a pre-conference workshop for OSUN members in conjunction with the 2021 Hannah Arendt Center Annual Conference on *Revitalizing Democracy: Sortition, Citizen Power, and Spaces of Freedom*. This workshop provided a valuable introduction to using citizen juries and democratic innovation, drawing upon IFST's extensive experience in organizing citizen assemblies in Belgrade.

Building on this initial collaboration, HAHN funded the participation of two OSUN scholars in the IFST's conference on Participatory Democracy the following year. This exchange further stimulated intellectual discourse and led to the formation of the Participatory Democracy Working Group within HAHN.

While the initial working group meetings focused on parallel projects and collaboration strategies, it ultimately lacked concrete outcomes. However, HAHN's commitment to fostering democratic innovation remained. We subsequently organized a workshop on citizens assemblies at Bard College and developed [an OSUN course](#) to introduce sortition as a valuable tool for engaging citizens.

These initiatives laid the groundwork for the development of the [Democracy Innovation Hub](#), and the expansion of the annual workshop into an international conference in November 2023. This three-day event convened over 120 participants, including international experts, OSUN colleagues, U.S.-based organizations working with deliberative processes, and local NYC stakeholders passionate about participatory governance.

The conference served to re-launch a Democracy Innovations Working Group, which aims to empower OSUN institutions to organize and implement participatory and deliberative processes, both within their institutions and in their local communities, and integrate deliberative democracy into education. The Working Group met for the first time in December 2023.

A highlight of the conference was the collaboration with colleagues from Universidad de los Andes and invited expert Felipe Rey from Bogotá. Their combined efforts have been instrumental in establishing Bogotá as one of eight globally recognized examples of successfully institutionalized deliberative democracy at the city level. HAHN's upcoming Democracy Innovations Workshop in Colombia during Year 4 will continue this momentum by building upon the valuable insights and connections established in New York City.

Working Group on Democratizing Globalization

Organized by Bard Berlin

The first in-person conference of HAHN's Working Group on Democratizing Globalization, held in Berlin from November 30 to December 2, 2023, marked a first milestone in its ambitious undertaking to reimagine democratic practices in the face of complex global challenges.



With scholars from across OSUN converging, the conference embodied the group's transdisciplinary and international spirit. Employing a dynamic mix of formats – book talks, panel discussions, breakout sessions, plenaries, and presentations – the event delved into a crucial question: *How do we navigate the intricate relationship between globalization and democracy in an era marked by illiberal trends and evolving scales of governance?*

Central to the discussions were explorations of democratic practices across diverse sites and institutions – courts, workplaces, boardrooms, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations. Attendees engaged in critical dialogue on federalism and the challenges of governing at scale, the state's role in shaping globalization and delivering public goods, and the evolution of citizenship models and political action in a globalized world.

Innovations in democratic procedures, alongside the crucial role of education in responding to these complexities, were also central focal points.

The conference highlighted the immense potential for collaboration. Recognizing the need for a shared vocabulary and understanding, the group laid the groundwork for developing a common framework for their topics of interest. This foundational work will be invaluable for structuring future meetings and guiding their collaborative research endeavors. Insights will be channeled into impactful projects, including:

- **Creating a collaborative OSUN network course:** Scheduled for Fall 2024 or Spring 2025, this course will offer a platform to share the group's collective knowledge and insights with a wider audience.
- **Creating a documentary film:** Linking the Working Group's themes to Berlin's rich history and political landscape, this documentary promises to engage viewers in a visually compelling exploration of complex global issues.
- **Open-source publications and an annotated bibliography:** By ensuring accessibility and fostering further dialogue, these resources will make the group's research readily available to scholars and the wider public.
- **A dedicated webpage:** Functioning as a central hub for information and ongoing discussions, the webpage will facilitate communication and collaboration within the Working Group and beyond.

The group's upcoming second conference in early fall 2024 will serve as a crucial platform to discuss interim findings and refine research directions. Smaller sub-group meetings will provide in-depth opportunities for focused discussions, paving the way for further collaborative progress. The final set of events in 2025 will mark the culmination of the group's work, showcasing the diverse range of outcomes and impactful contributions to public discourse and educational resources.

A NETWORK WITHIN A NETWORK

HAHN-Alpine Fellowship Symposiums

Co-organized by the Alpine Fellowship Foundation

The HAHN-Alpine Fellowship Symposiums serve as a unique platform for intellectual exchange and artistic exploration. Each year, renowned scholars and artists convene to address a central theme through interdisciplinary presentations that bridge the gap between various disciplines and spark meaningful dialogue. This collaborative approach fosters a community of thinkers and creators, providing a space for established figures and emerging talents to share their work and engage in thought-provoking discussions. The theme of "Freedom" for the 2022 symposium resonated deeply with audiences, offering a timely exploration of this multifaceted concept in the context of global crises and individual experiences.



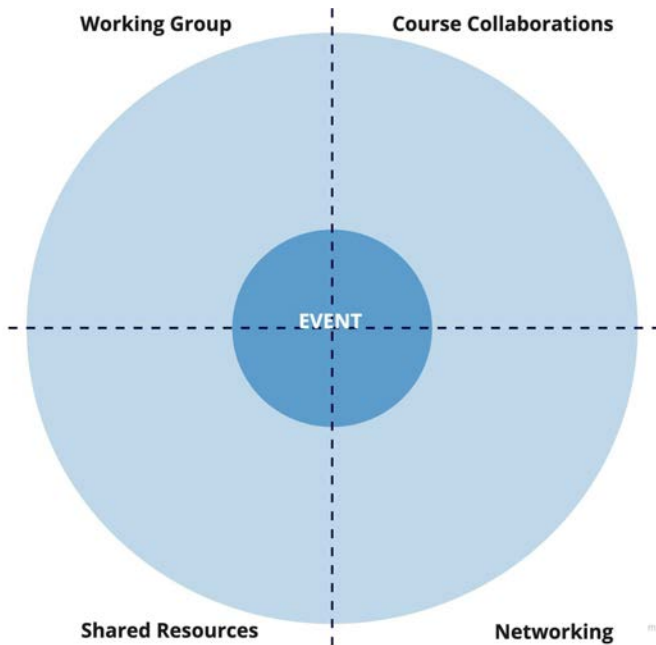
In 2023, the theme of "Human Flourishing" delved into the complexities of living a meaningful life, prompting critical reflection on conceptions of health, sickness, suffering, and their impact on individual and collective well-being. The integration of indigenous Swedish Sami culture and rituals furthered the theme.

Beyond captivating presentations by internationally renowned figures like Esther Perel, Yuval Noah Harari, and Aloe Blacc, the symposiums showcase the diverse talents within the OSUN

network. 2023 speakers like Dr. Lisa Bratton on reparations (Tuskegee University), Dean Deirdre d'Albertis on the importance of cultivating deep engagement with the evolving technologies of reading (Bard College), and Nazam Laila on the threat of AI to the Global South (BRAC) offered insightful perspectives, enriching the discussions and fostering connections across institutions.

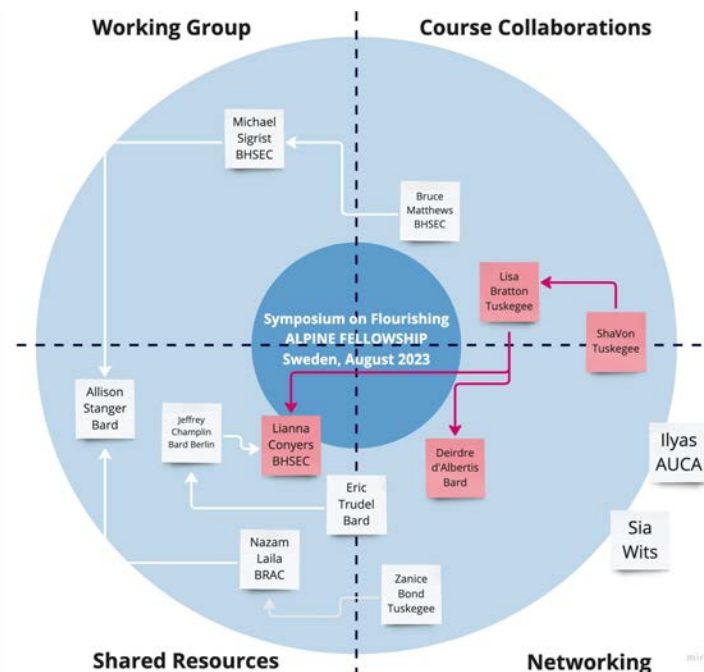
One of the most tangible outcomes of these symposiums are the [open-source archives](#) of all presentations. Furthermore, HAHN's partnership in the 2023 symposium catalyzed the creation of the [Refugee Scholar Prize](#), a collaborative effort between the Alpine Fellowship, and OSUN participant Jeffrey Champlin of Bard Berlin, which exemplifies the symposiums' enduring impact. This program is being run in partnership with Bard Berlin and the Open Society University Network, and is 'pledged' to the United Nations Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) with the goal of expanding refugee access to higher education.

Recognizing the inherent networking opportunities presented by the HAHN-Alpine Fellowship Symposiums, which bring together two distinct organizations, HAHN this year piloted a follow-up



feedback session to delve deeper into the connections formed within OSUN. This one-hour focus group, with a remarkable 57.14% participation rate among the OSUN scholars funded to attend the symposium, provided valuable insights and another touchpoint for the participants to further strengthen the connections made at the symposium and expand their partnerships. By analyzing the qualitative feedback, we were able to map the interactions on a social graph, aligned with four key outcomes: *course collaborations*, *working groups*, *shared resources* (pedagogy and research), and *forming meaningful connections and friendships for networking*.

The below is a visualization of a network of collaboration revealed in the focus group discussion, highlighting how student participant, ShaVon Luckey of Tuskegee, sparked the creation of a new course at her university when she talked to her professor, Dr. Bratton, about being inspired by the Alpine Fellowship's visual art prize winner, Tara Abdullah. The focus group further identified a connection with Lianna Conyers of BHSEC, who was asked to be a visiting lecturer to Dr. Bratton's new course. The engagement was enriched when Dr. Bratton connected during the



focus group with another speaker who teaches a similar theme at another OSUN institution. HAHN followed up with additional resources on submitting the course to OSUN for consideration as an OSUN online course or NCC. Meanwhile, this is just one example of the fruitful networking that is rippling through the OSUN network as a direct result of the 2023 symposium.

The pilot focus group also provided another touchpoint for the participants to strengthen the connections made at the symposium and expand their partnerships within OSUN.

Bi-annual Writing Retreat: Humanities for the People

Organized by Universidad de los Andes

While pandemic travel restrictions and circumstances around program leadership initially challenged the implementation of HAHN's [Bi-annual Writing Retreat](#), the program was ultimately realized during the budget extension period. Originally envisioned as an event focused on collaborative work around a specific theme, the focus shifted into a transformative deep-work opportunity for faculty when Gregory Lobo, a UniAndes faculty member who had participated in our first Annual Text Seminar, stepped in to lead the writing retreat, under the banner "Humanities for the People." With the goal of providing a retreat-like experience for 13 scholars at different career stages, focused writing time was coupled with writing exercises, talks, and informal group discussions, and provided an opportunity for the scholars to sit with their research and translate its relevance to a wider audience.

"I'm a social scientist by training, so I thought it would be an interesting challenge to make that research communicable to a lot of other people."

- Sharmistha Ghosh of BRAC University, talking about her participation in the Writing Retreat

The short-term impact of the writing retreat was clear: strengthened relationships and connections among participants, and heightened focus and productivity. Notably, plans were made for sharing pedagogical models for the development of a first-year seminar at BRAC based on those of other OSUN institutions; Chiahao Hsu used the structured time to prepare for his upcoming OSUN Network Collaborative Course (see Impact Story).

The long-term impact of the program was the creation of a new publishing platform for public humanities, also titled [Humanities for the People](#). A monthly Medium feature promoting social and cultural scholarship for a broader audience, this platform provides a valuable outlet for scholars to share their work, fostering greater public understanding and appreciation of the humanities. Edited by Lobo, the platform has already featured essays by writing retreat participants on the topics of thinking beyond the binary, reflections on the relationship between China and Taiwan, and Ideology and Settler Colonialism.



By providing this valuable space for both focused writing, connecting scholars across disciplines, and bridging the gap between academia and the public, this HAHN programming holds immense promise for enriching the humanities landscape within OSUN and fostering a more informed and engaged world.

OSUN Ambassadors Program

Organized by the Hannah Arendt Humanities Network

The annual Hannah Arendt Center conference at Bard College attracts hundreds of scholars, authors, activists, students, tech workers, and politicians each October, creating an inspired space for intellectual exchange and critical engagement with pressing global issues. HAHN funding not only supports the participation of renowned speakers at this defining event but also fosters wider accessibility through two key initiatives: online participation to OSUN members and in-person participation through the OSUN Ambassadors program.

Launched in 2022, the OSUN Ambassadors program embodies HAHN's commitment to inclusivity and diversity of thought. Modeled after the successful BHSEC Ambassadors program, it brings scholars and students from OSUN institutions into the heart of conference programming. These ambassadors serve as crucial bridges - representing their universities and enhancing the visibility of OSUN - and enrich the discourse with unique perspectives from around the globe.

The inaugural year saw two distinguished OSUN scholars, a professor from AUCA and a staff member from Bard Berlin, participating in the *Rage or Reason: Democracy in the Age of Social Media* conference. They actively contributed to stimulating discussions and injected valuable insights from their regional contexts.

"As a young scholar, I had a chance to listen to and meet distinguished experts and academicians. I've got 20 pages of notes! At the dinner, I got to talk to them, share contacts, even share some materials for my classes, and invite them to be a guest lecturer. As an ambassador, I came there with an agenda to spread the word about the network. And a lot of attendees and participants of the conference have learned about OSUN through me, and were invested in what it does, and how it works to bring me all the way from Kyrgyzstan to New York. They learned about Kyrgyzstan as well."

- Chymara Bakyt Kyzy, Professor at AUCA, on her experience as an OSUN Ambassador

Building upon the initial success, we have expanded the OSUN Ambassadors program in Year 4 with the 2023 *Friendship & Politics* conference, where twelve ambassadors, including [three undergraduate students](#) from Tuskegee University (Alabama), Asheshi University (Ghana), and Bard College, brought fresh perspectives and ignited stimulating conversations.

The OSUN Ambassadors program exemplifies HAHN's dedication to fostering a more inclusive and engaged global academic community. By bringing in diverse voices and perspectives, the program enriches the conference experience for all participants and contributes to shaping a more nuanced understanding of pressing global challenges.

BHSEC Ambassadors Program

Organized by BHSEC

HAHN is especially proud to highlight the success of the BHSEC Ambassadors Program, an initiative funded by the Year 2-3 grant that provided Bard High School Early College (BHSEC)



students with a unique learning opportunity. Recognizing the potential of early colleges to nurture exceptional young minds from diverse backgrounds, the program has integrated over 60 BHSEC students into the 2021, 2022, and 2023 Hannah Arendt Center annual conferences, similar to the OSUN Ambassadors program: they simultaneously have the opportunity to participate in a specialized online course with other early college students from around the

network, where they engage with the themes of the Arendt Center's annual conferences, and travel to Bard College to attend the conferences as active, informed contributors to the discourse.

In addition to preparing students for conference participation; the BHSEC Ambassadors Program also motivates them to actively engage with the conference themes through a culminating research project. The project serves as a platform for students to deepen their understanding of the discussion concepts, apply them to real-world issues, and contribute their own unique perspectives. Each cohort member delves into conference texts and presentations, then identifies a burning issue they care about and want to investigate further, and produces a final paper. This independent research journey fosters critical thinking, sharpens research skills, and empowers students to develop their voices as emerging scholars.

The impact of the BHSEC Ambassadors extends beyond the intellectual development of each participant. Integrating students from around the BHSEC network into one cohesive cohort, the program empowers BHSEC students to confidently navigate both the complexities of contemporary issues and the networking skills required to engage meaningfully with conference speakers and other attendees. HAHN considers this one of our cornerstone programs.

Ideas Forums

Co-organized by NSYSU; co-organized by BHSEC

Convened by Bard College Professor and Global View columnist for the *Wall Street Journal*, Walter Russell Mead, in collaboration with rotating OSUN program partners, these informal yet intellectually stimulating gatherings aim to elevate global discourse by bringing together leading figures in politics, culture, and activism with OSUN students. These forums focus on key questions of our time, examined through the lens of the humanist tradition.

Our initial plan envisioned hosting one Ideas Forum per year, rotating between various OSUN campuses. While COVID-19 travel restrictions hindered the realization of our first forum on populism, we successfully convened three impactful sessions within the 30-month grant period.

In 2022, the first Ideas Forum at Bard College Annandale tackled the complex issue of Antisemitism. A group of 12 OSUN scholars engaged in thought-provoking discussions with renowned experts like Susie Linfield, a social theorist from NYU, and Dr. Shadi Hamid, author and fellow at the Brookings Institution. Their diverse perspectives highlighted the potential for respectful and productive dialogue, even when addressing sensitive topics.



The second Ideas Forum, held at National Sun-Yat Sen University (NSYSU) in Taiwan, focused on nationalism, particularly within the Chinese-Taiwanese context. This session hosted 18 scholars, experts, and OSUN students, sparking insightful discussions about the nuances of nationalism in different regions, including comparisons with Europe and other parts of the world.



In 2023, [the forum at Bard DC](#) (an early college for promising young students from disadvantaged backgrounds) introduced students to career paths in foreign policy. The enthusiastic engagement from students sparked interest in doing more such forums, potentially combined with internship opportunities or guest lecturer-led courses at BHSEC campuses on foreign policy.

The impact of these Ideas Forums transcend the immediate participants and venues. At Bard, students gained valuable tools to enhance their research and develop more robust and nuanced perspectives. In Taiwan, the forum produced published articles in leading national news outlets, contributing to a broader understanding of nationalism in the region. At Bard DC, the forum ignited many students' interest in foreign policy.

“When I walked in, I was like, ‘What is foreign policy?’ Brian was talking about climate, and Greg was talking about weapons and technology. That led me to ask, ‘If they could do different things, but under the same umbrella, is there a chance for me in this?’ I wasn’t thinking about a career in foreign policy until now.”

- Aniela, Year 1 student at BHSEC DC, on her participation in the Ideas Forum 2023

By prioritizing student participation and empowering them to contribute to meaningful discussions on critical global issues, the Ideas Forums fulfill a key HAHN mission: to ensure that students have access to diverse perspectives and opportunities to engage with leading experts and scholars in the humanities.

Campus Pluralism Forums

Co-organized by the Mercatus Center

In collaboration with the Mercatus Center, HAHN hosted a series of Campus Pluralism Forums designed to empower students with the essential skills of intellectual openness, personal resilience, and effective problem-solving in diverse political environments. These forums bring together students from a wide spectrum of political orientations to engage in constructive dialogue and debate, guided by experts from various viewpoints.

The impact of the forums was demonstrated through pre- and post-event surveys, where participants reported a marked increase in their ability to:

- Share their views with people who disagree with them (100%)
- Feel comfortable being with people who hold differing political beliefs (66%)
- Recognize the right of others to live with freedom and security, even when holding opposing political views (100%)
- Articulate the reasoning behind viewpoints they may disagree with
- Engage productively in civil discourse with those holding different opinions



These findings underscore the forums' success in fostering a culture of open-mindedness, respectful dialogue, and critical thinking among participants, equipping them with valuable skills for navigating the complexities of our diverse world.

While the initial grant period aimed to hold three forums and expand the program to OSUN

campuses worldwide, unforeseen circumstances limited this implementation. Two impactful forums were successfully hosted, tackling the crucial topics of capitalism/socialism, and healthcare. While the current grant period necessitated a shift in focus towards collaborating with OSUN leadership partners, the positive impact on participating students shows progress on HAHN's goal to empower future leaders to engage in meaningful and respectful dialogue across diverse perspectives and foster a more nuanced understanding of the challenges of our world.

Network Faculty Seminars

Co-organized by Bard Berlin and Al-Quds; organized by AUCA

HAHN Network Faculty Seminars facilitated a unique exchange program enriching both student experiences and professorial perspectives. In 2022, this initiative provided a platform for professors from Al-Quds and Bard Berlin to share their expertise and engage with students across diverse cultural contexts. Providing access to humanities programming to supplement OSUN institutions' offerings where there is less access.

Professor Jana Lozanoska from Al-Quds visited Bard Berlin and presented Hannah Arendt's "On Revolution" to students enrolled in Jeffrey Champlin's "Thinking Revolution" course. This insightful exchange allowed students to gain exposure to different pedagogical approaches and deepened their understanding of complex philosophical concepts. Professor Lozanoska herself noted the valuable interactions with both students and faculty, which sparked new research ideas related to legitimacy and justice in ancient societies.

Similarly, Professor Ahmed Hmeedat from Al-Quds introduced Bard Berlin's creative writing students to Palestinian literature and art of resistance. Through his engaging analysis, students gained invaluable insights into the literary tools employed to represent national struggles and inspire activism.

Our goals for these network faculty exchange programs was to leverage the reach of the network's diverse faculty to offer students a global classroom experience, which is particularly useful for campuses like Al-Quds and AUCA where humanities courses and scholars are underrepresented.



Because partners at Al-Quds and BRAC did not hold all of the seminars planned for their institutions, and some of the programming was held online instead of in-person, HAHN strategically reallocated unused funding to AUCA, and also disbursed 100% of the planned funding for their Faculty Network Seminars for Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 classes in Central Asian cinema and Literature and History. This funding was provided for visiting lecturers from the OSUN network to teach workshops and in-person classes at AUCA.

Sean Homer, a respected literary and film critic, visited AUCA in January for a master class with students on short form films, where an emphasis on storytelling inspired students to script and produce their first films. A second forum with Marina Razbezhkina, a documentary filmmaker, provided four master classes and special sessions with students, who went on to produce six short films that explored the local community of Bishkek. This culminated in a screening of student films. OSUN faculty Dina Hossain (BRAC), Laura Menchaca (Al-Quds), Seamus Heidi (Bard), and Julia Titova (EHU) provided students with master classes for the workshop.

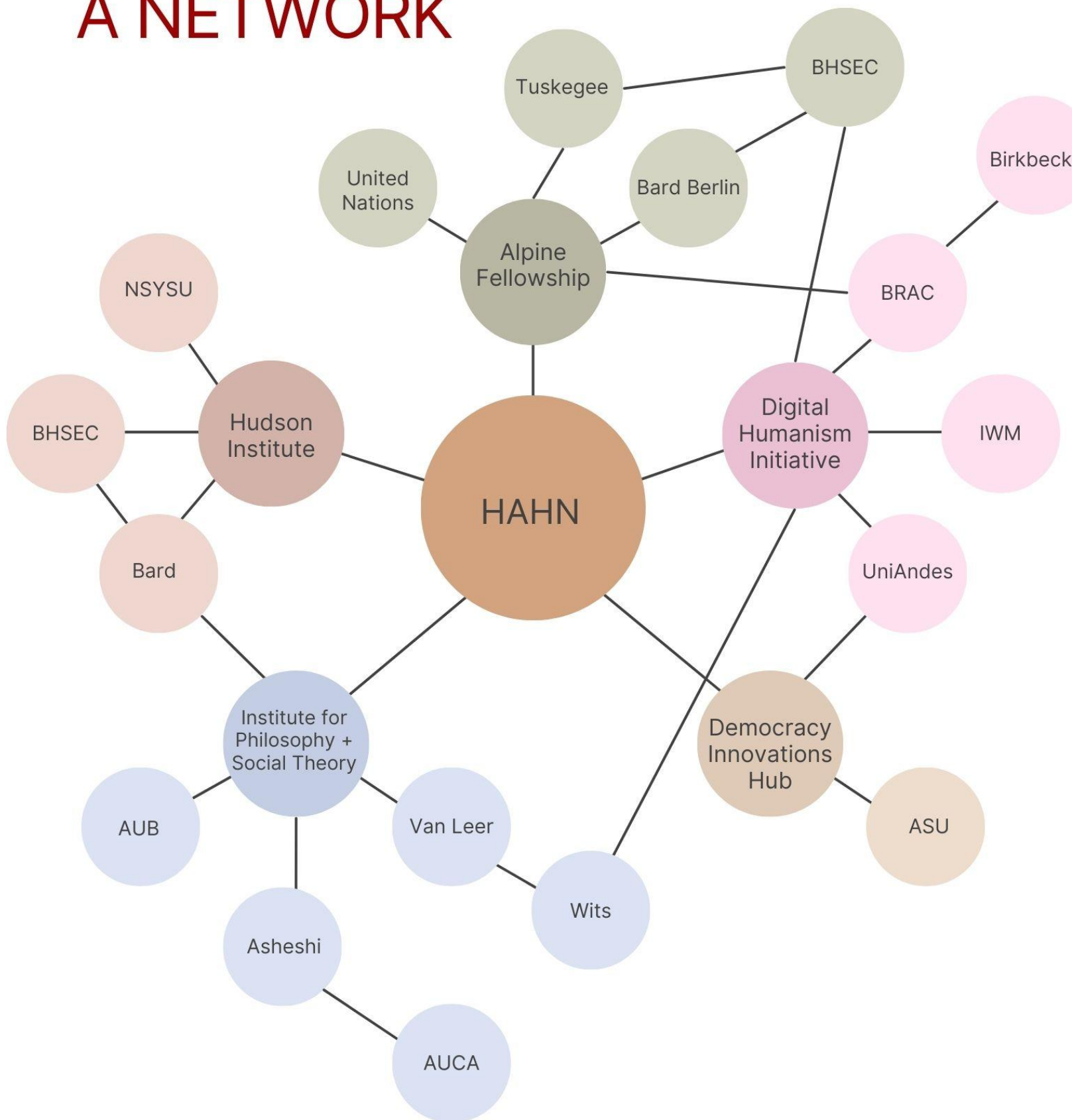
“It would be difficult to overestimate the resonance of the Cinema Forum in the local filmmaking community in Bishkek. The funding that HAHN has provided, and the ability of AUCA to mobilize network cinematic expertise through this grant, has helped put AUCA and its film department at the center of cinematic discourse in Kyrgyzstan, and amplified the achievements of its filmmakers and the students they are training. It has elevated the humanities at AUCA and put a spotlight on the university’s expertise in cinematic art.” - Christopher Baker, AUCA Program Lead

Furthermore, the Literature and History Teaching Workshop hosted by AUCA provided a valuable platform for OSUN faculty to showcase diverse teaching methods and equip students with tools to engage critically with literary and historical texts. The workshop's strong attendance by MAT students further amplified its impact, ensuring that these innovative teaching practices will be disseminated throughout Kyrgyz classrooms.

The Network Faculty Seminars program bridged cultural divides, empowered students through diverse learning experiences, and supplemented OSUN campuses with humanities offerings to which students would otherwise not have had access. By facilitating cross-cultural exchanges and promoting innovative teaching methodologies, the program enriched the learning experience for over 100 students across the network, while also fostering valuable professional development opportunities for faculty.



A NETWORK WITHIN A NETWORK



We thank you for your ongoing support of our humanities network!

Acknowledgements

The Hannah Arendt Humanities Network's success is thanks to our dedicated program leaders and admin partners around the world, OSUN leadership and staff, Bard College leadership and staff, Hannah Arendt Center fellows and members, and HAHN advisors. With special thanks to:

Daniel Calingaert

Managing Director, OSUN, Bard
and Dean for Global Programs

Bonnie Goad

Director, OSUN Program Development & Communications

Jana Mader

Director of Academic Programming, HAC

Jana Schmidt

former Director of Academic Programming, HAC
and Assistant Professor of German Studies, Bard

Thomas Wild

Research Director, HAC
and Professor of German Studies and Literature, Bard

Thomas Bartscherer

Senior Fellow, HAC
and Peter Sourian Senior Lecturer in the Humanities, Bard

Jacob Rivers

former Program Manager, HAHN

**Hannah Arendt Humanities Network
at the Hannah Arendt Center
at Bard College**

PO Box 5000,
Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504
845-758-7884

www.hac.bard.edu
hharvey@bard.edu