The Obermann Humanities Symposium provides support for one or more UI faculty members to host a conference of national, even international, significance. The symposium may feature scholars from a single discipline or gather interdisciplinary scholars and should include visiting speakers.

The objectives are to engage the participants and the audience in lively, energetic discussion of an issue critical to the humanities and to have a sustained impact through publication and other means of sharing knowledge beyond the immediate event. We welcome directors to experiment with creative programming, to engage with public audiences, and to advance both the University’s research and teaching missions. Therefore, some sessions should be open to a public audience, and we encourage the director(s) to offer a 1-hr. Obermann graduate-level course to prepare students for the symposium.

It was thrilling to work on a project that integrated public engagement, hands-on student experience, and cutting-edge scholarship so seamlessly. Bringing symposium participants to the museum exhibit, which had built on student research—and which is now touring the state—sparked a lot of discussion about the Obermann Center and UI as a model for this kind of work!

Elizabeth Heineman
(History, CLAS)
Co-director:
German Iowa & the Global Midwest (2016–17)

We welcome inquiries as you prepare your proposal. Contact Erin Hackathorn: erin-hackathorn@uiowa.edu or 335-4034.
Read about recent Humanities Symposia at obermann.uiowa.edu/programs/humanities-symposium.