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.

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

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!

Eligibility

Directors must have a record of scholarship in the proposed area of the humanities. Applications are welcome from any faculty member whose appointment requires significant research, including scholarship and work in the arts.

Faculty who have received this award in the last 4 years are ineligible.

Award

One award of $30,000 (pending budget). The award is made 2 years in advance to allow for planning the event, building collaborations, and seeking additional funding.

Apply

For a list of required application items, visit obermann.uiowa.edu/programs/humanities-symposium.#apply.

The director/co-directors are selected by a group of UI faculty from a variety of disciplines based on the promise of the proposed symposium.

OBERMANN 2020–2021
HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM DIRECTORSHIP
Deadline: October 9, 2018, 5:00 pm

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.