

# COMPARATIVE HISTORY OF IDEAS PROGRAM

Comparative History of Ideas is an interdisciplinary program that examines ideas and their cultural, historical, and political contexts. Our students engage thoughtfully in critical inquiry, creative work, and critical reflection. The program encourages students to adopt a nuanced awareness of their own subjective position relative to texts, cultures, societies, and historical periods.



CHID Faroe Islands students play a set with renowned Faroese jazz artist Kristian Blak

## Highlights

The Comparative History of Ideas Program (CHID) is a unique interdisciplinary undergraduate program at the University of Washington. We encourage students to be the agents of their own education. Through direct contact with faculty, staff, and local and international organizations, CHID offers students the creative freedom to tailor their education to their own interests and professional goals. CHID students have gone on to postgraduate studies in the humanities and social sciences, as well as professional careers in a wide variety of fields including law, education, and new media.

CHID offers a wide range of study abroad programs, all of which offer rigorous and collaborative experiences for students and faculty alike. From Autumn 2014 through early Fall 2015, we sent 253 students abroad.

CHID's academic adviser is a recipient of the UW's 2009 Distinguished Staff Award for her extraordinary accomplishments and contributions to the University.

## Education

The program offers a Bachelor of Arts and a minor in the Comparative History of Ideas but is also popular with non-majors. While the number of CHID majors and minors continues to grow, CHID works to maintain its identity as an intimate learning community.

As an interdisciplinary program, CHID encourages students to explore different academic disciplines, gaining an understanding of how diverse styles of inquiry engage experience and knowledge. Similarly, the international orientation of the program emphasizes an understanding of different cultural, political, and social contexts. Additionally, CHID foregrounds an intersectional approach to learning, highlighting the convergences of class, race, gender, sex, ability, and other vectors of difference.

CHID's commitment to project-based learning culminates in the senior thesis, which helps students develop their own interests and increase the depth of their scholarly engagement. The process of arriving at a research question, connecting with UW faculty on shared research interests, performing research, and writing are each integral parts of this capstone experience.

### STUDENTS (Autumn 2015)

119	Undergraduate majors
26	Undergraduate minors

### DEGREES AWARDED (Autumn 2014-Summer 2015)

79	Bachelor of Arts degrees
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### SELECTED STUDENT AWARDS (Since 2009)

2	Beinecke Scholars
4	Bonderman Travel Fellows
2	Fulbright Scholarships
1	Gates Foundation Grand Challenges Explorations Grants
1	Humanity in Action Fellow
1	Jennifer Caldwell Human Rights Fellowship
1	Martin and Ann Jugum Scholarship in Labor Studies
29	Mary Gates Research Awards
1	National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship
1	Scan Design Fellowship
1	Sophomore UW President's Medal
1	UW President's Medal
2	UW Arts & Sciences Dean's Medals in the Humanities
4	UW Library Reserach Awards

## Faculty

CHID's faculty represent a broad range of disciplines within the academy, including Anthropology; Art History; Comparative Literature; Education; English; Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies; History; Latin American and Caribbean Studies; Native and Indigenous Studies; Philosophy; and Rhetoric. CHID faculty honors include:

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| 1 MacArthur Fellowship  | 2 Fulbright-Hays Awards  |
| 3 UW Distinguished Teaching Awards  | 1 Giovanni and Amne Costigan<br>Endowed Professorship in History   |
| 1 UW Arts and Sciences Alumni Distinguished<br>Term Professorship           | 1 Joff Hanauer Distinguished Professor<br>for Western Civilization |
| 1 UW Faculty Lecture Award  | 1 Solomon Katz Distinguished<br>Lectureship in the Humanities      |
| 1 Animals and Society Institute-Wesleyan<br>Human-Animal Studies Fellowship | 1 Harlan Hahn Disability Studies Award                             |
| 1 Critical Animal Studies Faculty Project of the<br>Year Award              | 1 International Faculty Exchange Grant                             |
| 2 Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau                                     | 1 International Mobility Grant                                     |

## International Study

CHID's study abroad and study away programs are distinguished by their academic rigor, interdisciplinary scope, and thorough grounding in their site locations. Students pursue complex intellectual questions raised by their experiences through independent research and/or engaged community learning. Through engagement with local scholars, artists, political leaders, activists, and other community members, students are encouraged to think about studying abroad/away as a reciprocal, collaborative experience, rather than as a consumptive act of tourism. Students in CHID's international programs are therefore asked to think critically and reflexively about the process and politics of studying abroad and away as a crucial part of the learning experience.

## Collaborations

A key component of the CHID Program is the cultivation of new connections both within the University and between the University and outside organizations, including nonprofits, schools, and businesses, both regionally and globally. Our core faculty hold shared appointments in History, Latin American and Caribbean Studies in the Jackson School of International Studies, and English. They also have adjunct and affiliate appointments in American Indian Studies; Anthropology; Geography; and Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies. CHID housed the Disability Studies Program's first classes on campus and continues to cross-list all of their permanent course offerings as CHID courses. We also currently co-sponsor two innovative interdisciplinary projects on campus—the Critical Animal Studies Working Group and the Critical Gaming Project.

CHID students have also worked with a variety of local organizations, including the Pongo Publishing Teen Writing Project, the World Affairs Council, the Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas, Washington Middle School, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Foundation, El Centro de la Raza, Casa Latina, BaaHaus Animal Rescue Group, Pigs Peace Sanctuary, and the Gatewood GONZO Kid Newspaper + Radio Project. Each summer we offer a 12-credit Local-Global Engagements Internship Project, which offers students who are unable to study abroad or away the opportunity to engage in an intensive learning-community-based program that explores the links between local and global forces within Seattle. Several of our international programs (including our Viet Nam and Bangalore, India, programs) incorporate an Engaged Community Learning component, in which students are required to work with local community groups, non-governmental organizations, or school groups that deal with the issues covered in the academic portion of the program.

## CHID INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS SINCE 2010

Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Athens, Greece  
Australia  
Bangalore, India  
Berlin, Germany  
Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia  
Cuba  
Faroe Islands  
Himalaya  
Iceland  
Ioannina, Greece  
Italy  
Mexico City  
Munich, Germany  
New York City  
Norway/Sápmi  
Oaxaca, Mexico  
Peru  
Philippines  
Prague, Czech Republic  
Romania and Georgia  
Rome, Italy  
San Sebastian, Spain  
Sardinia, Italy  
Venice, Italy  
Viet Nam

## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

*interSections*, an interdisciplinary journal, provides a forum for the free expression of intellectual ideas and inquiry

*Neither Here Nor There* is an online, multimedia collection of critical reflections on the experience of travel

last update: November 2015