

# 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 2016 through Early Fall 2017, we sent 209 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

CHID offers a Bachelor of Arts and a minor in the Comparative History of Ideas and works to maintain its identity as an intimate learning community. As an interdisciplinary program, CHID encourages students to explore different academic disciplines to gain an understanding of how diverse styles of inquiry engage experience and knowledge. Similarly, the program's international orientation 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 processes 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 2017)

- 62 Undergraduate majors
- 23 Undergraduate minors

### DEGREES AWARDED (Autumn 2016-Summer 2017)

- 34 Bachelor of Arts degrees

### SELECTED STUDENT AWARDS (Since 2010)

- 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 Research Awards

## Faculty

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 MacArthur Fellowship   | 1 Giovanni and Amne Costigan Endowed Professorship in History   |
| 3 UW Distinguished Teaching Awards                             | 3 Joff Hanauer Distinguished Professors in Western Civilization |
| 1 UW Arts and Sciences Alumni Distinguished Term Professorship | 1 Solomon Katz Distinguished Lectureship in the Humanities      |
| 2 Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau                        | 1 Harlan Hahn Disability Studies Award                          |
| 2 Fulbright-Hays Awards  |   |
| 1 Fulbright Specialist   |   |

## 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; Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies; and English. They also have adjunct and affiliate appointments in American Indian Studies, Anthropology, and Geography. CHID housed the Disability Studies Program's first classes on campus and continues to cross-list all Disability Studies permanent course offerings as CHID courses. We also currently co-sponsor the Critical Animal Studies Working Group, an innovative interdisciplinary campus project.

CHID students have also worked with a variety of local organizations in which they conduct independent and public-facing research. Many of our international 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

Australia  
Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia  
Cuba  
Czech Republic  
Faroe Islands  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Himalaya  
Iceland  
India  
Italy  
Mexico  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway/Sápmi  
Peru  
Philippines  
Romania and Georgia  
Spain  
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



FAR LEFT: A CHID student working with Roma and non-Roma youth on an art project at the UW's Rome Center during a study abroad in Italy.

LEFT: Faculty, staff, and students in Mexico for CHID's LGBTQ Communities, Public Health, and Migration in Mexico program.

last update: April 2018