**Advancing the Human Condition Symposium**An Initiative of Beyond Boundaries and  
The Equity and Social Disparity in the Human Condition Strategic Growth Area  
**November 28-30, 2017**Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

Tuesday, November 28

**Opening Lunch and Keynote**

**“The University and Our Human Future: Advancing Equity and the Human Condition”** Sylvester Johnson, Assistant Vice Provost for the Humanities and Professor of Religion and Culture  
Noon, Latham AB

*Introductory remarks begin at 12:45 pm*

**Open Space Discussion**Susanna Rinehart, Facilitating1:45-3 pm, Latham AB

Break  
3-3:30 pm

Breakout sessions:

3:30-5 pm

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| Duck Pond | **Emerging theories for understanding the human condition** |
| Drillfield | **Future visions of what it means to be human** |
| Latham D | **Story making as cultural work- Exploring ontological politics and social change in communities of struggle** |
| Cascades | **Learning experiences for empowerment, resilience, and engagement** |

**Evening Reception** *with cash bar*

5-6:30 pm

Latham C / Foyer

***Session descriptions begin on page 4***

***All sessions occur at the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center unless indicated by an asterisk\*.***

Wednesday, November 29th

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| 8:30 am-10 am | Solitude | **Robots and autonomous systems in society,** coordinated by the College of Engineering |
| 9 am- Noon | Latham AB | **Emerging research on the human condition: Graduate student poster exhibit** coordinated by the Graduate School |
| 9:30 am-  Noon | Smithfield | **Addressing the opioid epidemic and its consequences through translational research and community-based strategies**, coordinated by Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, and Radford University |
| 10:30-11:30 am | \*HABB1\* | **Student Roundtable with Navina Khanna, Director of HEAL Food Alliance**, coordinated by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences |
| 10:30 am -Noon | Solitude | **Interrogating what is meant by “Advancing the Human Condition”** coordinated by the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, the Adaptive Brain and Behavior DA, and the Policy SGA |
| 11 am-Noon | Latham AB | **Unspeakable: A panel discussion** coordinated by the Graduate School |
| Noon – 1:30 pm | \*HABB1\* | **Loyal to the soil: Cultivating movement from the ground up**, coordinated by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences |
| 1-5 pm | Smithfield | **Embracing one health to advance the human condition**, coordinated by the College of Veterinary Medicine |
| 1-2:30 pm | Latham AB | **Mobilities, geographies, and imaginaries: Human dimensions of the built environment**, coordinated by the College of Architecture and Urban Studies |
| 2-5 pm | Cascades | **World Café: Food Security and Systems** |
| 3-4:30 pm | Solitude | **Interconnected ecologies: Socio-environmental pressures and global systems of production,** coordinated by the Global Systems Science DA and the College of Natural Resources and Environment |
| 3-4 pm | Latham AB | **How are technologies advancing the human condition—or not?** Coordinated by the College of Engineering |
| 5-6:30 pm | Latham AB | **Our collaboration that advanced the human condition: Flint residents and flintwaterstudy.org**, coordinated by the College of Science |
| 6:30-7 pm | \*Alexander Black House\* | Reception |
| 7:15-8:15 pm | **To change everything it takes everyone: Building a multi-racial, multi-sector movement for transformation**, coordinated by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences |
| ***Session descriptions begin on page 4*** | | |

Thursday, November 30th

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| 9:30-11 am | Cascades | **Disability on Campus**, coordinated by the Adaptive Brain and Behavior Destination Area |
| 10-11:30 am | Latham AB | **Social equity and inclusion in education policy: Trends, research and communicating research findings to policymakers,** coordinated by the Policy Strategic Growth Area |
| 11-12:30pm | Solitude | **Understanding equity in the human condition through data analytics and decisions sciences**, coordinated by the Data and Decisions Destination Area |
| 12:30-2 pm | Latham AB | **Emerging questions on the human condition: Lunch and conversation** |
| 2-4 pm | Cascades | **Supporting adaptive brain and behavior: The Abecedarian approach to social disparities,** coordinated by the Adaptive Brain and Behavior Destination Area |
| 2-4 pm | Solitude | **The Beloved Community Initiative: Advancing the human condition through inclusive, sustainable economics** |
| 6-7 pm | \*The Cube\* Moss Arts Center | **Art and the human condition** |
| 7:30 pm |  | **Performance: Awadagin Pratt, piano** Street and Davis Performance Hall’s Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre Moss Arts Center  *Tickets may be purchased through the Moss Arts Center ticket office* |
| ***Session descriptions begin on page 4*** | | |

***Descriptions organized alphabetically by title***

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| **Addressing the opioid epidemic and its consequences through translational research and community-based strategies,** coordinated by Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, and Radford University | | | |
| Facilitator and Moderator  Speakers & Discussants | | Donna Boyd,Eminent Professor of Anthropological Sciences, Radford University; Co-Director, Radford University Forensic Science Institute; Professor of Biomedical Science Education, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine; Consultant, Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Roanoke, Virginia  Amy Tharp, Assistant Chief Medical Examiner and Lead Pathologist, Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (Western District); Assistant Professor of Biomedical Science Education, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine  Donna Boyd, Eminent Professor of Anthropological Sciences, Radford University; Co-Director, Radford University Forensic Science Institute; Professor of Biomedical Science Education, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine; Consultant, Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Roanoke, Virginia  Warren Bickel, Virginia Tech Carilion Professor of Behavioral Health Research; Director, Addiction Recovery Research Center, Co-Director, Center for Transformative Research on Health Behaviors, Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute; Professor of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Health Sciences, Virginia Tech; Professor of Psychiatry, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine  Robert Trestman, Professor and Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine; Senior Vice-President and Chair of Psychiatry, Carilion Clinic  Susan Giampalmo, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine 2nd year medical student Malek Bouzaher, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine 2nd year medical student  David Sallee, Associate Professor, Health and Human Performance, Radford University | |
| *This session focuses on current biomedical research and community-based strategies that address the opioid epidemic and its consequences. The depth and breadth of the opioid crisis is considered first from the perspective of the Virginia Medical Examiner’s office, illustrating that the consequences of the opioid epidemic research far beyond the overdosed decedent. Research related to opioid addiction treatment and prevention is then discussed; this includes transformative research on health behaviors (including youth risk assessment), skills-based psychotherapy adapted for use with outpatient based opiate treatment programs, and assessments of provider knowledge of appropriate opioid disposal. This research has the power to mitigate many of the issues surrounding the opioid epidemic and advance the human condition in a most meaningful way.* | | | |
| **Art and the human condition,** coordinated by the Moss Arts Center in partnership with the Lifelong Learning Institute | | | |
| Moderator  Panelists | | Jon Catherwood-Ginn, Associate Director of Programming, Moss Arts Center  Awadagin Pratt, Pianist  Erika Meitner, Associate Professor of English  Susanna Rinehart, Associate Professor of Performance and faculty chair of Theatre and Cinema | |
| *This panel discussion raises the questions of how the arts are advancing equity and eliminating social disparity, and how artists can further the work of social justice through their respective artistic fields.  \*This session is in The Cube in the Moss Arts Center.\** | | | |
| **Disability on campus**, coordinated by the Adaptive Brain and Behavior Destination Area | | | |
| Speaker  Respondents | | Dr. Marisa Fisher, Assistant Professor of Special Education, Michigan State University, board-certified behavior analyst-doctoral, and co-director of Spartan Project SEARCH.  Carolyn Shivers, Assistant Professor of Human Development Martina Svyantek, Doctoral student, Interdisciplinary Independent Elizabeth Spingola, Instructional Technology Support in the College of Engineering and President for the Disability Alliance and Caucus | |
| *This session is a panel discussion on the experience of disability in higher education. What is [dis]ability? What does and does not "count" as disability in the classroom and on campus? What programs and supports does Virginia Tech have in place? How frequently are these supports actually implemented? What are some of the gaps in supports? Panelists discuss stereotypes of disability, experiences of disability and technology on campus, and the barriers to participation in higher education for individuals with intellectual disabilities.* | | | |
| **Embracing one health to advance the human condition**, coordinated by the College of Veterinary Medicine | | | |
| Facilitator  Panelists | | Kathy Hosig, Associate Professor of Population Health Sciences  *Rural and Underserved Populations in the United States 1:15-2:15 pm* Julia Gohlke, Associate Professor of Population Health Sciences Sophie Godet Wenzel, Assistant Director of the Center for Public Health Practice and Research  Kathy Hosig, Associate Professor of Population Health Sciences  *Human-Animal Interaction 2:15-3:15 pm* Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Professor of Large Animal Clinical Sciences Virginia Kiefer Corrigan, Assistant Professor of Small Animal Clinical Sciences  Megan Shepherd, Clinical Assistant Professor of Large Animal Clinical Sciences  Lauren Dodd, Resident in Biomedical Veterinary Sciences  *Global Underserved Populations 3:15-3:45 pm* Cassidy Rist, Assistant Professor of Practice, Population Health Sciences Kathy Hosig, Associate Professor of Population Health Sciences  *Student Presentations 3:45-4:45 pm* Naomie Guerin, Michael Bittner, Jojo Tucker, Maria Cristina Villafranca, and Yeonwoo Lebovitz | |
| *This session is a series of four focused panel presentations followed by audience interaction addressing rural and underserved populations in the United States, human-animal interaction, and global underserved populations. The panels are designed to foster audience interest and engagement in current and future projects. Student projects from the Masters in Public Health program are featured during the session as well.* | | | |
| **Emerging theories for understanding the human condition** | | | |
| Moderator  Discussant  Respondents | | Marcy H. Schnitzer, Assistant Provost for Diversity and Strategic Planning  Melinda Miller, Assistant Professor of Economics  Claudio D’Amato, Instructor of Philosophy  Olivia Lowery, Sociology major, Hollins University  Mary Ryan, Doctoral Candidate, ASPECT | |
| *There is a growing awareness that understanding the human condition today involves a nuanced exploration of the past—health, income, wealth, and social status all have components that are transmitted across generations. Some effects are almost mechanical: A person cannot inherit a trust fund if her or his relatives are poor. Others are more subtle, but can have devastating impacts. There is growing evidence that in utero exposure to stress hormones can negatively impact the health of person. Racist belief structures can be inculcated in one generation by the previous.*  *This session focuses on understanding the mechanisms by which the past can influence the human condition today and what this should mean for policy. Should governments remedy past disadvantages? How? Should they focus on improving conditions for future generations? Which programs could do this? How might they be implemented?* | | | |
| **Future visions of what it means to be human** | | | |
| Moderator  Discussant  Respondents | | Daniel Breslau, Associate Professor of Science, Technology and Society (STS)  Rebecca Hester, Assistant Professor of STS  Ashley Shew Heflin, Assistant Professor of STS  Philip Olson, Assistant Professor of STS | |
| *This panel draws from scholarship in Science and Technology, particularly regarding disability studies, transhumanism, death studies, cybernetic studies, and other related fields, to examine future visions of what it means to be human. Attendant to the ways that new categories of humanness, new notions of life, and new ideas of death, will be created at the human-computer interface, through technological advances and, as a result of scientific discoveries, the panelists present ethical, social, political, and educational issues related to future visions of what it means to be human. Issues related to inequity and discrimination are illuminated.* | | | |
| **How are technologies advancing the human condition—or not?** coordinated by the College of Engineering | | | |
| Discussants | | Deborah Tatar, Associate Professor of Computer Science Ali Butt, Professor of Computer Science Sylvester Johnson, Professor of Religion and Culture | |
| *This panel asks attendees to consider the ways that the technological systems that inform our lives are currently designed, and to begin to imagine how they could be designed differently.  Design challenges include reductionist engineering values, the push from capitalism, human malleability, and technological lock-in.  Attendees are encouraged to bring questions, issues and ideas and consider, together with panelists, how alternative visions can be created and pursued.* | | | |
| **Interconnected ecologies: Socio-environmental pressures and global systems of production,** coordinated by the Global Systems Science Destination Area and the College of Natural Resources and Environment | | | |
| Discussant  Respondents | | Jennifer Lawrence, Postdoctoral Research Associate for the Global Forum on Urban and Regional Resilience Andy Scerri, Assistant Professor of Political Science  Marcia Davitt, Postdoctoral Associate in Learning Systems Innovations  Daniel Hindman, Associate Professor of Sustainable Biomaterials | |
| *We are witnessing an extraordinary struggle for social, economic, and environmental justice. Such a momentous interval warrants renewed attention to the ways that inequitably-distributed environmental benefits and burdens impact all of society.  This calls for outside-the-box thinking in search of creative ways to address glaring disparities.  The contemporary relationship between society and the environment reflects longstanding structural inequalities.  As climate change exacerbates unequal access to resources, the concerns of environmental scholars—fairness, truth, equity, and concern for future generations—permeate public discourse and are forming part of a larger conversation. Contemporary environmental pressures are proliferating in a range of material contexts including the quest for energy security, and the struggle for just infrastructures, and all of these circulate through extractive governing rationalities. Join us in a conversation as we address these intersections and draw links to larger global phenomena such as environmentally forced migration and displacement, loss of biodiversity, and failures of environmental regulatory regimes. ​* | | | |
| **Interrogating what is meant by “Advancing the Human Condition”,** coordinated by the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, the Adaptive Brain and Behavior Destination Area, and the Policy Strategic Growth Area | | | |
| Moderator  Panelists | | Anisa Zvonkovic, Professor of Human Development and Family Science  Gena Chandler-Smith, Associate Professor of English  Pamela B. Teaster, Director, Center for Gerontology and Professor in Human Development  Christian Matheis, Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Public and International Affairs / Graduate School Ashley Shew Heflin, Assistant Professor of Science, Technology, and Society | |
| *This session problematizes the phrase “advancing the human condition.” While the meaning and the intent of the phrase may seem self-evident, similar phrases have been used to justify eugenics, genocide, cultural revolution, colonialism, and other activities. Who gets to decide what advancing the human condition is? Whose conditions are to be improved, by what metric, and at what costs? How can we work to advance the human condition ethically? How does a goal of advancing the human condition pose unique benefits and consequences for historically underrepresented and under-served groups? Which kinds of power dynamics need close attention?* | | | |
| **Learning experiences for empowerment, resilience, and engagement** | | | |
| Moderator  Discussants    Respondents | | David Brinberg, Professor of Marketing  Catherine Cotrupi, Assistant Director for Student Engagement  Mary Case, Service Learning Coordinator  Jessica Davis, Student Engagement Coordinator  Mae Hey, Postdoctoral Research Fellow  Miguel Andres Guerra, PhD Candidate, Civil Engineering | |
| *Discussants share with attendees the intentional and evolving work of VT Engage, Virginia Tech’s service learning and civic engagement center.  Utilizing a discussion regarding the differences between “traditional” service learning and “critical” service learning, attendees are encouraged to consider the goals and outcomes associated with direct community engagement through the curriculum. An exploration of the importance of community-identified need, authentic community partnership, the awareness of self and civic identity, resources for responsible action grounded in scholarship and opportunities for collaboration will be presented as a springboard for further discussion on pedagogies that advance the human condition.* | | | |
| **Loyal to the soil: Cultivating movement from the ground up**, coordinated by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences | | | |
| Speaker | | Navina Khanna, Director of HEAL Food Alliance | |
| *Student roundtable at 10:30 a.m. followed by a university seminar and reception. For more than 15 years, Navina Khanna has worked toward ecological and equitable food systems, using popular education, community and electoral organizing, writing, facilitation, and policy advocacy as tools for change. She brings together leaders and organizations across many sectors of the movement to develop shared multi-issue campaigns for real food.  \*This event is in the Human and Agricultural Biosciences Building 1.\** | | | |
| **Mobilities, geographies, and imaginaries: Human dimensions of the built environment,** coordinated by the College of Architecture and Urban Studies | | | |
| Moderator  Discussant  Respondents | | C.L. Bohannon, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture  Sharone Tomer, Assistant Professor of Architecture  Michael Borowski, Assistant Professor of Photography Vanessa Guerra, PhD candidate in Environmental Design and Planning | |
| *This panel discusses the intersections of how built environments get imagined and inhabited as sites of structures of power and terrains for negotiating inclusion and resistance to inequalities. In particular, we explore these realities through the lenses of social and spatial justice and the production and representation of space.* | | | |
| **Our collaboration that advanced the human condition:  Flint Residents and Flintwaterstudy.org,** coordinated by the College of Science | | | |
| Speakers | | Marc Edwards, Charles P. Lunsford Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering  Lee-Anne Walters, Community Activist, Flint, MI | |
| *This presentation demonstrates the collaborative potential of bench scientists and local communities to enact transformative social change. Flintwaterstudy.org supports citizen scientists concerned about public health by empowering residents and stakeholders with independent information about their tap water.* | | | |
| **Robots and autonomous systems in society**, coordinated by the College of Engineering | | | |
| Moderator  Panelists | | John Greene, Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, Director of National Security and Program Development  David Schmale, Professor in Plant Pathology and Physics Science Craig Woolsey, Professor of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering Keven Kochersberger, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering | |
| *This session explores the challenges and benefits of innovations in the areas of robotics and autonomous systems, and their impacts on the human condition.* | | | |
| **Social equity and inclusion in education policy: Trends, research and communicating research findings to policymakers,** coordinated by the Policy Strategic Growth Area | | | |
| Moderator  Discussant  Panel | | Isabel Bradburn, Research Director in Human Development, Institute for Society, Culture and Environment, and the Policy SGA  Benjamin Katz, Assistant Professor of Human Development  Tod Massa, Director of Policy Analytics, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia  Karin Kitchens, Assistant Professor of Political Science  Claire Kathleen Robbins, Assistant Professor of Higher Education Gabriel Ramón Serna, Assistant Professor of Higher Education  Dave Dickinson, Administrator of Social Studies, Montgomery County (VA) Public Schools  Gunin Kiran and Penny Franklin, Montgomery County Public Schools-School Board | |
| *In the United States, education is considered the primary mechanism by which families can improve their socioeconomic status and well-being.  Equal student access to high-quality education – equity and inclusion - are thus central education policy concerns.  The panel will present overviews of selected types of research, as well as local school system actions, currently being undertaken to address equity and inclusion in the K-12 and higher education systems.   How research is framed and ways that results are presented and interpreted can also affect policy, and this theme will be highlighted and discussed throughout the session.  The panel includes researchers from several fields and local school system policymakers.  A panel-led discussion, followed by general audience discussion, will proceed from brief presentations.  The aim is to share some current research in the field, while mainly discussing (and debating) the complex interplay between academic research traditions and policymakers needs in the fields of equity and inclusion within education.  The inclusion of both researchers and active education* *policymakers on the panel will facilitate a lively, productive exchange.* | | | |
| **Story making as cultural work: Exploring ontological politics and social change in communities of struggle** | | | |
| Moderator  Discussant  Respondents | | Kim Niewolny, Associate Professor of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education  Max Stephenson, Jr., Professor of Public and International Affairs and Director, Institute for Policy and Governance  Thomas Archibald, Assistant Professor of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education  Bob Leonard, Professor of Theatre and Cinema  Rachel Lin Weaver, Assistant Professor of Creative Technologies, School of Visual Arts | |
| *This session engages with individuals who are interested in the generative quality of narratives and storytelling as a form of cultural work and learning for social change in communities of struggle. This includes sharing and exploring examples of cultural community development in communities that have experienced social, cultural, and/or environmental distress, transition, or conflict rooted in historical inequities and injustices. Faced with the complex and contested contexts for inquiry and action that characterize social change in communities of struggle, standard social scientific methods are increasingly found lacking. We need to push methodological boundaries to engage with the cultural questions of story making and narratives to better craft productive, life affirming possibilities in our understanding of community work, and to reconsider the threads and tendrils linking methodology, epistemology, and ontology, all rooted in an appropriate ethic for our praxis. Doing so opens up a conversation about ontological politics, whereby we can discuss not just the multiple perspectives of identity in our work and communities, but also the material ways in which different ways of knowing the world actually makes some realities more real and others to be less so.* | | | |
| **Supporting adaptive brain and behavior: The Abecedarian approach to social disparities,** coordinated by the Adaptive Brain and Behavior Destination Area | | | |
| Speaker  Discussant | | Craig T. Ramey, Distinguished Research Scholar, Virginia Tech Research Institute and Professor of Psychology, Neuroscience, Human Development, and Pediatrics Maria Stack Hankey, Research Assistant Professor, VTCRI | |
| *This presentation places the Abecedarian Approach in theoretical and historical context and reviews the results from three randomized controlled trials that have tested an experimental protocol. Results affirm that cognitive disabilities can be prevented in early childhood and subsequent academic achievement enhanced via a multipronged comprehensive approach that contains individualized and responsive early childhood education starting in early infancy, coupled with pediatric health care, good nutrition, and family oriented social services. Additional important findings reveal that the most vulnerable children benefited the most and that cognitive gains were not at the expense of children’s socio-emotional relationships with their mothers. Teenage mothers especially benefited from their children participating in the early education treatment group. The overall pattern of results support a multidisciplinary and long-term longitudinal perspective on human development and prevention science. Recent structural and functional brain imaging in the fifth decade of life reveals persistent effects of intensive early intervention. Independent recent cost-benefit analysis in adulthood reveals a 7.3 return on investment with a 13.7% average annual rate of return. The presentation concludes with a discussion of implications of the Abecedarian Approach to today’s high-risk population in the U.S. and with recommendations for further tailoring the protocol to better meet the multiple needs of vulnerable families.* | | | |
| **The Beloved Community Initiative: Advancing the human condition through inclusive, sustainable economics** | | | |
| Moderator  Discussants  Respondents | | Anne Khademian, Director of School of Public and International Affairs  Ralph Hall, Associate Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning Christian Matheis, Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Public and International Affairs / Graduate School Sue Ge, Associate Professor of Economics David Bieri, Associate Professor of Urban Affairs Max Stephenson, Jr., Professor of Public and International Affairs and Director, Institute for Policy and Governance  Brian Britt, Chair of Religion and Culture Sylvester Johnson, Professor of Religion and Culture | |
| *Binary economics presents an alternative economic model to advance broad capital ownership. Is this a viable solution to foster a more fair, just and accessible economic system? What role can global and national and local institutions play in fostering a more inclusive economic system, and what roadblocks and impediments do these institutions pose? What innovations in foundational ideas and in practice can inform this discussion? What role does political agency play in the potential for change, and what role does government play, and what role do communities and individual agents play? Panelists offer opening remarks focusing on insights and research on questions of access/inclusion to the economic system. A facilitated roundtable engaging with the audience follows.* | | | |
| **To change everything it takes everyone: Building a multi-racial, multi-sector movement for transformation,** coordinated by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences | | | |
| Speaker | | | Navina Khanna, Director of HEAL Food Alliance |
| *Navina Khanna directs the HEAL Food Alliance (Health, Environment, Agriculture, Labor), a national cross-sector food and farm justice coalition. With a background in sustainable agriculture and food justice, she has worked as an educator, community organizer, and policy advocate, organizing across sectors and communities.*  *\*This public lecture is at the Alexander Black House at 204 Draper Road SW, downtown Blacksburg\** | | | |
| **Understanding equity in the human condition through data analytics and decisions sciences,** coordinated by the Data and Decisions Destination Area | | | |
| Moderator  Presenters | Tom Ewing, Professor of History    Christine Tysor, Program Manager at the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science  Tom Ewing, Professor of History Tina Savla, Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Science  Hongxiao Zhu, Assistant Professor of Statistics  Students with the Computational Modeling and Data Analytics Capstone Project Team | | | |
| *This session examines how the skills, ethics, and practices of data analytics informs understanding of equity and disparity in the human condition. Research by undergraduate student teams, graduate research assistants, and faculty scholars will examine health analytics, race in medical history, and regional disparities in southwest Virginia. Audience members are invited to share insights and examples from their own research and teaching fields related to health, disparity, and data in the human condition.* | | | | |
| **Unspeakable – A panel about what is not discussed in research** | | | | |
| Facilitator  Panelists | Marcia Davitt, Destination Areas Project Director  Megan Shepherd, Clinical Assistant Professor of Large Animal Clinical Sciences  Chantel Simpson, Doctoral Candidate in Agricultural Leadership and Community Education  Jennifer Turner, Doctoral Candidate in Sociology | | | |
| *Do you have a burning research question that you would love to pursue but you are holding back because you know that your question would lead to other questions that your discipline and/or institution is not prepared to embrace? Perhaps your students are raising provocative questions that you believe merit further inquiry, yet you hold back because the prevailing disciplinary and/or institutional culture does not provide a safe space for pursuing these kinds of questions. If these challenges resonate with your experiences or those of your colleagues, join our discussion where you will have an opportunity to share your experiences and insights.* | | | | |
| **World Café: Food Systems and Security** | | | | |
| Facilitator | Eric Bendfeldt, Extension Specialist for Community Viability, Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension | | | |
| *This session uses a modified World Café method to facilitate dialogue around the broad theme of food security and systems. Discussions will focus on discovering what already exists in food systems research and work, imagining a preferred future where people and communities are food secure, and designing and organizing systems for how the preferred future will happen. The session closes with appreciative reflections.* | | | | |

On Wednesday, November 29th the Office for Inclusion and Diversity and the Graduate School Office of Recruitment and Diversity Initiatives will host a research poster session on topics relevant to the theme of advancing the human condition.

In particular, we encourage and welcome interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary presentations across fields in the humanities, liberal arts, social sciences, sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics, design, health, and so forth. We welcome research projects at any stage, including formative, preliminary, in-progress, and completed.

At least one researcher-presenter must be a currently enrolled graduate student.

On the date of the conference (Thursday 11/29) posters must be ready and set up at the Smithfield Room, Inn at Virginia Tech by/before 8:30am and taken down by 12:30pm. Presenters should plan to be available, in attendance at the conference.

Proposals must include:  
1) Cover sheet outlining the title of your presentation, and the following for each contributor - name, departmental/program affiliation, email address.  
2) Abstract of your proposed poster - 200-275 words, title, and indication of the predicted stage of research by the date of the final presentation: formative, preliminary, in-progress, and completed, or some other relevant indicator.

Submit proposals by email to Christian Matheis at matheisc@vt.edu no later than 5:00pm on Friday, November 10th.

Final presentations:  
1) Research posters.  
2) One PowerPoint Slide that summarizes your project (title, presenters, abbreviated abstract, research questions, images, graphs, etc.) and directs audience attention to your full poster. We will request PowerPoint slides sent by email in advance, no later than 5:00pm on Monday, November 27th.