

## **Possibility – Questions of Personhood**

Friday, October 22, 2021

*In your own timing*

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### **People matter.**

The William C. Friday Fellowship centers the work of relationship. Each Fellow is invited to share fully in the holding and maintaining of space for self and others. Practicing presence together and sharing in both structured dialogues and informal conversations, the Friday Fellowship nurtures and supports the flourishing of all people, including—but not limited to—those who journey as Fellows on behalf of communities across the state.

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### **Questions of Personhood – *How does it feel to be you?***

Would you revisit this pre-seminar invitation to consider human universals and human rights?

*Music is sometimes considered a universal language. And yet, Plate notes: “If we quickly fall into language that asserts music transcends all difference and can be universally understood, we have missed much.” (111) Keeping all kinds of difference in mind, would you draft a list of human universals? What do you share in common with others? Would you also compile a list of human rights? What should be extended to and shared with all? What do universals and rights teach us about being human? What do human(e) relations require?*

Returning to how you framed the human and humane (or perhaps turning there now), would you move through a self-assessment of your own humanity? Consider pulling out your fellowship journal and spending some quiet time in thought-work.

- Where and how do you honor the human in you/yourself?
- What about those human rights? How do they extend to you, too?
- Beyond an invitation to reflect on practices of self-care, would you sit with your own self-and/or personhood?
  - What does it feel like to live in a body defined by your conception of the human and of humanity?
  - What does it feel like when others’ conceptions of the human infringe on your personhood and/or humanity?
  - Where do your conceptions of the human and humane (or self or person) infringe on the humanity of others? What does *that* feel like?

### *Need some inspiration or dialogue partners?*

Consider Meghann Plunkett’s [reflection](#) on the human in relation to [this life](#) of a rock. What do we/they share in common? What about Buddy Wakefield’s [Information Man](#)? Or Solli Raphael’s encouragement [to be more](#)?

[Meredith Doster](#). Wildacres Leadership Initiative. Fall 2021.