

PERSON, PLACE, & THING:
BEYOND THE NOUN OF LEADERSHIP



2020-2022

SEMINAR 2

Recommended Resources



William C. Friday
Fellowship FOR HUMAN
RELATIONS

Recommended Resources

Wildacres Leadership Initiative (WLI) welcomes any and all to continue journeying with the current class of William C. Friday Fellows on a path toward rest, reflection, reckoning, and relationship. The 11th fellowship cohort began its two-year journey with a formal InGathering ceremony on September 30, 2020 before spending Seminar One grappling with the prospect of arriving, being, and becoming during a global pandemic. The full convening guide for Seminar One can be accessed at [this link](#). Recommended Resources from the first seminar weekend can be accessed at [this link](#).

Seminar Two was held from March 10–14, 2021, when Fellows gathered both virtually and in socially-distant, outdoor regional convenings to build on fellowship foundations laid in October 2020. In preparation for this second convening, Fellows considered a series of invitations designed to pave the way for their return to the work of the fellowship and to one another. Seminar Two took up the question “Why am I here?” with sessions and conversations exploring how purpose plays out in particular places. In addition to probing with curiosity at core beliefs that can be cornerstones and stumbling blocks alike, Fellows continued to engage people, places, and things that matter to communities across North Carolina.

The following list of materials extends the offerings of the 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship beyond the seated class. Compiled and curated by curriculum designer, lead faculty, and WLI deputy director Meredith Doster, this guide shares keywords, core values, and critical questions as they emerge and evolve across the 2020–2022 fellowship journey. All materials are rooted in the critical thoughtwork of the 2020–2022 fellowship framing “*Person, Place, Thing: Beyond the Noun of Leadership*” co-designed by Doster with Dr. Georgette “Jojo” Ledgister. From first to final convening guide, Doster authored all remaining materials in a role generously funded by Wildacres Leadership Initiative (WLI), a program of Wildacres Retreat in Little Switzerland, North Carolina. Doster shares her words and the public scholarship they represent as gift with the 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship cohort, the greater WLI community, and all others. Specifically, Doster shares this curriculum as an open access educational resource (OER) via a [CC BY-NC-SA](#) license. (For a full statement on authorship and citation, please see “*Words, Work, and Witness*” in the 2020–2022 framing.)

The Seminar Two resource guide that follows includes and references a wide variety of materials. Inclusion herein (as either link or citation) does not constitute permission to reprint or re-use. Instead, it signals engagement with someone else’s work. Please honor the licensing and copyright terms of any materials cited.

The Friday Fellowship fosters the kind of learning and unlearning made possible in the in-between spaces where individual truth claims and deep-seated beliefs are both nurtured and challenged by practices of relationship. The work of recognizing and bracketing assumptions—about ourselves and others; about pasts, presents, and futures—grows individual and collective capacities to see, hear, and know differently.

Will you join Friday Fellows in circling back, not to recreate beginnings, but to keep on building? Seminar Two moved the seated class from the *who* of their being to the *why* of their here.

We hope to meet you here and there – again and again.

What does it take to return?

CORNERSTONES AND CORE VALUES.

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CALLING IN, COMING TOGETHER.

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WILLIAM C. FRIDAY FELLOWS INTERVIEW SERIES.

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MAKER SPACE. PUZZLING AND PLANTING.

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THE SPIRIT OF CLAY WITH SENORA LYNCH.

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Guiding Questions

PANDEMIC PLAY.

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Guiding Questions

STONE SOUP: GATHERING ONE ANOTHER'S GIFTS.

Resources

Guiding Questions

PROPHETS AND POETS.

WHAT'S NEXT? – WLI LOOKS TO SEMINAR THREE AND BEYOND.

Hunter Corn, WLI Director

Meredith Doster, WLI Deputy Director and Lead
Faculty

Darin Waters, 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship
Faculty Fellow

Cornerstones and Core Values.

The 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship experience coheres around a six-step convening process grounded in commitments to curious inquiry, courageous dialogue, and creative responses to systemic challenges and injustices. Calling In, Centering, Naming and Claiming Core Values, Conversing, Clearness, and Closing move Friday Fellows through an intentional practice that nurtures relationships ready to hear, hold, and honor the work at hand. As they call themselves together, Fellows select from a growing list of “P” values to share what they both bring to and anticipate from one another. Once they select a core value, Fellows articulate what it means to them. In so doing, those gathered build a shared vocabulary of people, places, and things that matter to both the convening and to communities across the state.

Resources

Pacing matters	Personhood matters.	Practice matters.
Pain matters.	People matter.	Pranayama matters.
Palpitation matters.	Place matters.	Praxis matters.
Pandemic(s) matter(s)	Play matters.	Prayer matters.
Passion matters.	Pleasure matters.	Presence matters.
Patience matters.	Poets matter.	Pretext matters.
Patterns matter.	Politics matters.	Process matters.
Participation matters.	Pondering matters.	Promise matters.
Patriotism matters.	Position matters.	Prophets matter.
Pause matters.	Positionality matters.	Protest matters.
Peace matters.	Possibility matters.	Purpose matters.
Performance matters.	Postage matters.	Pushing matters.
Permission matters.	Potential matters.	Remembrance matters.
Perspective matters.	Power matters.	Palpitation matters

Guiding Questions

What matters to you? What matters to those in your communities?

How might you define any or all of these words, terms, and values?

If this list represents something or someone, what or who might that be?

What kind of container, community, or conversation do these values build?

What would you add to this list?

Can you spot the outlier? What role does flexibility play in any framework or system?

Beginnings and Building Blocks.

2020–2022 Friday Fellowship invitations center practices of rest, reflection, reckoning, and relationship. These four building blocks can be traced across all materials that support the 2020–2022 Fellowship experience.

Rest

Alicia Keys, "[Good Job.](#)" Cover by the One Voice Children's Choir, August 21, 2020.

Tricia Hersey, "[Rest as Resistance.](#)" Interview with Ayana Young. For the Wild, podcast audio, April 2020. Released June 8, 2020.

Mary Oliver, "[Wild Geese.](#)" From *Wild Geese: Selected Poems* (Gardener's Books: 2004).

Reflection

Ali Fenwick, "[A Reflective Mindset.](#)" Ted Talks, TEDxHultAshridge, September 19, 2017.

Daniel Rubin, "[The Power of Rest and Reflection.](#)" Ted Talks, TEDx IDC, December 19, 2013.

Chloe Schwenke, "[Liberation Begins with Being There.](#)" First Monday Lecture, Pendle Hill, June 5, 2018.

Reckoning

Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., "[We Need to Begin Again.](#)" *The Atlantic*, July 18, 2020.

Shane Larson, "[Pluto's Day of Reckoning.](#)" Ted Talks, TEDxNorthwesternU, April 18, 2014.

Malinda Maynor Lowery, "[Imagine Otherwise: Malinda Maynor Lowery on Lumbee Storytelling.](#)" Interview with Cathy Hannabach. *Ideas on Fire: Imagine Otherwise*, podcast audio, December 11, 2019.

Erik Reece, "[Leaves Of Grass And The Kingdom Of God.](#)" Interview with Terry Gross. *Fresh Air*, National Public Radio, podcast audio, May 13, 2009.

Relationship

Steven Charleston, "[Honor Earth: Stewardship of the Earth](#)," The Guibord Center, October 26, 2014.

Robin Wall Kimmerer, "[Two Ways Of Knowing: Robin Wall Kimmerer On Scientific And Native American Views Of The Natural World](#)." Interview with Leath Tonino. The Sun Magazine, April 2016.

"[Living in Right Relationship](#)," Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Gordon Neufeld, "[Relationship Matters](#)." Ted Talks, TEDxWestVancouverED, November 15, 2015.

Getting Ready

[Summer 2020 Readings and Resources](#)

[Person, Place, and Thing: Beyond the Noun of Leadership](#)

Seminar One

[Convening Guide \(S1\)](#)

[News Brief Digest \(S1\)](#)

[Recommended Resources \(S1\)](#)

Seminar Two

[Pre-Seminar Readings and Reflections \(S2\)](#)

[Convening Guide \(S2\)](#)

[Cornerstones and Stumbling Blocks](#)

[Hearing \(your\) Here](#)

[This I Believe](#)

[This I Believe, How About You?](#)

[News Brief Digest \(S2\)](#)

[Recommended Resources \(S2\)](#)

Guiding Questions

What calls to you in this season: Rest? Reflection? Reckoning? Relationship?

Is there an order of operation for these building blocks of fellowship?

What are you learning from that which you need?

What about those things that do not resonate in this season?

What are they teaching?

Deepening with Discernment.

In the opening session of Seminar Two, Fellows encountered two core practices of the Friday Fellowship: the work of relationship and the art of dialogue. Lead faculty Meredith Doster (Friday Fellow 2017/2019) and Dr. Lynette Aytch (Friday Fellow 2008/2010) meet monthly to share in peer-to-peer conversation about their lives and leadership. Together, they offered insights into their experiences of building and modeling relationship as practice.

Resources

Alexis Pauline Gumbs, "[finding ceremony: a song for/from seven generations.](#)" Scalawag, January 31, 2018.

"[The Quaker Practice of Discernment.](#)" QuakerSpeak, April 28, 2016.

Parker J. Palmer, "[What Moves and What Stays: The Essential Wisdom of Discernment.](#)" On Being blog post, June 1, 2016.

Marge Piercy, "[To Have Without Holding.](#)" From *The Moon is Always Female*. Copyright © 1980 by Marge Piercy.

Guiding Questions

What does it mean to go deeper? With yourself? With others?

What tools allow you to hear and honor that which is speaking, surfacing, or even silencing?

How would you describe discernment in your own words? What might it matter?

What does it mean to hold something lightly?

Calling In, Coming Together.

In October, the 2020–2022 Fellowship cohort hosted NC poet laureate Jaki Shelton Green and singer-songwriter and peace activist David LaMotte to mark the occasion of the fellowship's launch. In Seminar Two, Fellows welcomed one another as honored guests. As they called themselves back together, they considered a series of questions, including: Who have you been since we last convened? And who do you still hope to be?

Resources

Scott Holmes (Friday Fellow 2006/2008), "[Blessed Unrest: The Radical Act of Gathering](#)," *Quaker Theology* 24, Winter/Spring 2014.

David LaMotte, "[Where the Kindness Went](#)," Personal blog, September 10, 2019.

Loretta Ross, "[Calling In, Not Calling Out](#)," Keynote Address, Wang Symposium, Pacific Lutheran University, March 18, 2020.

Guiding Questions

Who might you call together? What might you need to gather in?

Who is journeying with you? Who do you need to go back for?

What are you learning along the way?

Journeying Together, Staying Apart.

As in their first seminar, Fellows journeyed primarily via Zoom, with some opting into one day of outdoor regional connection. Across different places and modalities, what mattered most in Seminar Two was a spirit of return. Instead of inviting Fellows to travel far and wide to engage the particularities of a given place, WLI is collaborating with partners whose outdoor facilities can accommodate the work of COVID-calibrated fellowship. Five out of six regional convenings for Seminars One and Two were hosted in counties designated Tier 1 by the North Carolina Department of Commerce (as directed by state statute) and included communities East of I-95 and west of I-77. In addition to considering questions of place-equity, the fellowship invites reflections on the processes and systems that sort and classify people, places, and things, often determining how we engage the world and one another.

Resources

Brian Gordon, "[Pandemic shifts economic health rankings for tourism-driven counties in NC.](#)" *The Fayetteville Observer*, December 2, 2020.

Cory Vaillancourt, "[Economic development ranking system 'cuts both ways.'](#)" *Smoky Mountain News*, December 22, 2020.

North Carolina Department of Commerce, "[County Distress Rankings \(Tiers\).](#)" 2021 County Tier Designations.

Guiding Questions

What is the relationship between traveling and journeying?

What does it take to convene during a global pandemic?

What is the relationship between pixels and places and proxies?

How do designators—or labels of any kind—determine how we engage people, places, and things? Where else do you see tiers at work?

The Power(s) of Belief – Yours. Mine. Ours. Theirs.

During Seminar Two, Fellows participated in three structured conversations about beliefs they cherish and those that chafe. Drawing on Chapter One ("Stones") of S. Brent Plate's The History of Religion in 5 ½ Objects, Fellows considered first the relationship between cornerstones and stumbling blocks. If, as Plate asserts, "stones, like so many religious symbols, can mean one thing and also the opposite" (44), what can we learn from the things upon which our lives rest and those that trip us up? What about things we resist?

Fellows next shared personal reflections about their own beliefs that can, likewise, be both building or stumbling blocks. Some are both. Sharing essays written in alignment with the public history project "This I Believe," Fellows heard from one another about things that matter.

Lastly, Fellows extended conversations about their personal beliefs in the paired talk "This I Believe, How About You?" Anthropologist Susan Harding proposes that "the membrane between belief and disbelief is much thinner than we think." The relationship between difference and disbelief will continue to shape the 2020–2022 fellowship journey.

Resources

Joseph Blankholm, "[belief](#)," *The Immanent Frame*. The Social Science Research Council, January 31, 2020.

Benjamin Clementine, "[Cornerstone](#)." Ted Talks, TEDxSalford, 2014.

Mayanthi L. Fernando and Susan Harding, "[Practices of Relation](#)," *The Immanent Frame*. The Social Science Research Council, April 27, 2020.

Susan Harding, "[A We Like Any Other](#)." Hot Spots, *Fieldsights*, January 18, 2017.

Eric Liu, "[How to Revive Your Belief in Democracy](#)." Ted Talks, TED 2019.

Hans Rosling, Anna Rosling Rönnlund, and Ola Rosling, "[Cultures, nations and religions are not rocks — they're always changing](#)," We Humans Series, Ideas. Ted.com.

[This I Believe](#). A Public Dialogue about Belief. One Essay at a Time.

Guiding Questions

What are the cornerstones of your life?

What stumbling blocks keep tripping you up? Where do they sit and come from?

Can you think of a moment or season when a cornerstone became a stumbling block or vice versa?

What do you believe? What about others?

What does it take to surface difference?

How does difference serve and shape both belief and believer?

What happens when your belief is someone else's stumbling block or even millstone?

How do you feel, act, and respond when your gospel truths are not shared by others?

Hearing (Your) Here.

In this COVID-calibrated session, Fellows spent time listening for the relationship between their "here" and its many layers. Building on Seminar One's emphasis on the sense of sight, this Seminar Two session drew attention to a practice of active and engaged listening. In addition to listening for the

many places from which any given “here” might speak, Fellows reflected on a number of triads at play—and at work—in their lives. This three-part invitation paired individual reflection with shared dialogue to consider Mark Nepo’s assertion that “beneath every there is a here.”

Resources

Allison Hedge Coke, “Placeholder: Carolina Poems of Love and Labor.” *Southern Spaces*, October 14, 2010.

William Christenberry, “Place, Time, and Memory.” *Southern Spaces*, September 28, 2007.

Pearce Godwin. *The Listen First Project*.

Jaki Shelton Green, “who will be the messenger of this land.” From *Breath of the Song: New and Selected Poems* (Carolina Wren Press, 2005). Copyright © 2005 by Jaki Shelton Green.

Kyesha Jennings, “Mic Check: Black Hip-Hop Artists Showcase A New Wave Of North Carolina Protest Music,” *Come Hear North Carolina*, December 6, 2020.

“The Map is Not the Territory,” fs – Mental Models, blog post, 2015.

Lipi Roy, “I Went To A Retreat About Radical Listening And This Is What I Learned,” *Forbes*, June 30, 2018.

Angel Sobotta, “Wisdom Sits in Places: The Nimiipuu Land,” Ted Talks, TEDxLCSC, 2013.

Guiding Questions

What kind of wisdom sits in places particular to you and your people?

If here is also home—and even if it’s not—what about any “theres” you might not claim?

What about a “there” that does not claim you?

What does radical listening look and sound like?

If you were to map, make sense of, or listen across the following triads, what would you find in the journey from here to there, between everywhere and nowhere?

yours, mine, ours.

self, story, system.

here, there, everywhere.

with, at, to.

past, present, future.

power, privilege, purpose.

Object Lessons – Sticks and Stones.

The 2020–2022 fellowship class works with objects to pick up, make, shape, and fashion the work of relationship into something they can hold in their hands. In Seminar Two, Fellows considered S. Brent Plate’s invitations to look and listen for the learning found in things rock hard, but not always set in stone. These hands-on invitations serve the purpose of integrating teachings across lines of difference. By holding space for a kind of learning that holds them, Fellows remember to not reduce themselves or one another to object lessons. Instead, the work of fellowship encourages each one to know themselves, and all others, as part of an interdependent community of living and learning.

Resources

Byrd Baylor, Everybody Needs a Rock, with pictures by Peter Parnall. Read and uploaded to YouTube by EDU Kid Space, July 21, 2020.

Seth Boyden, "An Object at Rest." Animated film, 2015.

"Colors of the Earth." Exploring North Carolina, Season 4, Episode 11, originally aired 2008.

James Darling and Lesley Forwood, Living Rocks: A Fragment of the Universe. An installation at the Biennale Arte 2019, Venice, Italy.

Meredith Doster, skipping stones, Word Made Life, May 3, 2021.

Generalized Geologic Map of North Carolina. North Carolina Geological Survey, 1991.

Tara Houska, "The Standing Rock Resistance and Our Fight for Indigenous Rights." Ted Talks. TEDWomen 2017.

Guiding Questions

S. Brent Plate uses the standing stone of the Onyota'a:ka people and "sorry rocks" taken from Uluru, a geological formation sacred to the Anangu people, to remind readers that not everything is theirs for the taking. What is the relationship between finders and keepers, between owners and stewards, and between collectors and colonizers?

What can rocks teach about relationships between people, places, things, and power?

Plate asserts that cairns and other collections of stones have much to tell and to teach. What are you listening to and for?

What are you picking up along the way?

What might need to be remembered, reclaimed, or returned?

Keys and Kingdoms.

During Seminar Two, some Fellows screened the 2021 release Theirs is the Kingdom: A Documentary about Poverty and Portraiture that explores the creation of a modern day fresco in an urban Asheville congregation. Similar to Stranger with a Camera (screened in Seminar One), this documentary challenges notions of object and subject, power and privilege, and representation and reparation. The documentary provides insight into two related, but distinct creative processes: the work of designing and creating a contemporary fresco, and the work of narrating that creative process in documentary form. Along the way, both processes raise questions about what we see and claim as "sacred," and about what it means to tell someone's story. Each documentary tackles the life-and-death realities that can be obscured or amplified by questions of representation.

Resources

Holland Cotter, "Who Owns Art?" *The New York Times*, March 29, 2006.

Malcolm Gladwell, "The Lady Vanishes." *Revisionist History*, podcast audio, June 16, 2016.

Lauren Michele Jackson, "When 'Representation Matters' Becomes a Meaningless Rallying Cry." *The Discourse, Vulture: Devouring Culture*, February 8, 2020.

Steven Roberts, "[How People Visualize God Predicts Who They Think is Fit For Leadership.](#)" Stanford News Video, January 31, 2020.

Aleksandra Sherman and Clair Morrissey, "[What is Art Good For? The Socio-Epistemic Value of Art.](#)" *Frontiers of Human Neuroscience*, August 28, 2017.

Maria Terrone, "[Ghost Frescoes.](#)" *From Poetry*, December 1999.

"[Why the Arts Matter.](#)" National Endowment for the Arts, September 23, 2015.

Guiding Questions

What is art? And whose is it?

What is the value of creation?

What is the relationship between what we see, revere, and worship?

What kind of representation matters?

What is the relationship between art and activism, between creativity and justice?

Should the arts - broadly defined - be a human right?

The Places that Make and Break Us.

In Seminar One, Faculty Fellow Darin Waters named the Edenton Tea Party (1774), the Regulator Movement (1765–1771), and the life and legacy of Harriet Jacobs (1813–1897) as moments and people important to a layered and nuanced understanding of North Carolina. In a Seminar Two session titled "Cornerstones of Democracy, Building Blocks of Fellowship," Dr. Waters named law, order, and liberty as three pillars central to the ideas and ideals of America. Over the course of the seminar weekend, Fellows reflected on building blocks of the fellowship they are creating together. If fellowship is also "place" (person and place, too), what happens at the intersection of rest, reflection, reckoning, and relationship?

Resources

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*. Originally published in 1835 & 1840.

[The Project Gutenberg EBook of Democracy In America](#), Volume 1 of 2

John Keane, "[Why Read Tocqueville's Democracy in America?](#)" *The Conversation*, April 27, 2015.

Adam Gopnik, *A Thousand Small Sanities: The Moral Adventure of Liberalism*. New York: Basic Books, 2019.

Adam Gopnik, "[A Thousand Small Sanities: The Moral Adventure of Liberalism](#)." Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, May 20, 2019.

David A. Bell, "[Lost Bearings: Adam Gopnik and the Search for a 21st-century Liberalism](#)." *The Nation*, June 12, 2019.

Russell Kirk, *The Roots of American Order*. Intercollegiate Studies Institute; 4th edition: July 1, 2003. Originally published in 1974.

Lee Edwards, "[The Many Roots of American Order](#)." The Russell Kirk Center, March 2, 2009.

Bradley J. Birzer, "[Russell Kirk Reconsidered](#)." *The Imaginative Conservative*, April 28, 2021.

Cornel West, *Democracy Matters: Winning the Fight Against Imperialism*, Penguin Books; Reprint edition: August 30, 2005. Originally published in 2004.

Cornel West, "[Democracy Matters are Frightening in Our Time](#)." (pre-publication excerpt)

Cornel West, "[Democracy Matters](#)." Address at Claremont McKenna College, September 16, 2004.

Other Select Resources on American Democracy

"[Democracy, Institutions, and Systems of Othering & Belonging](#)." Panel at the 2021 Othering & Belonging Summit with Astra Taylor, Taeku Lee, DeJuana Thompson, and Myrna Pérez and special spoken word introduction on "The Struggle to Belong" by North Carolina poet and scholar Dasan Ahanu.

Tom Gjelten, "[Can America's 'Civil Religion' Still Unite the Country?](#)" All Things Considered, National Public Radio, April 12, 2021.

Vincent Harding, "[Is America Possible?](#)" A conversation with Krista Tippett. On Being, recorded 2011, aired July 2, 2020.

"Susan Jacoby on American Ignorance." An interview with Bill Moyer, February 15, 2008.

George Packer, "The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America." Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, June 12, 2013.

Aaron Weinstein, "Rediscovering Civil Religion in America." Ted Talks, TEDxTufts, April 18, 2019.

Guiding Questions

What are the foundations of your America? What about "theirs"?

How can an understanding of political thought as an ongoing, historical process inform the way we understand and engage one another?

If the project of American democracy leaves open the possibility of the tyranny of the majority, how do you/we protect the rights of minorities?

What is the relationship between democracy and fellowship?

Movement Meditation.

Melvin A.C. Howell is a choreographer and creative director originally from Morganton, North Carolina, who has been evolving the art of dance for over 13 years. His approach is his purpose: to spread positivity, encouragement, and guidance through dance. During Seminar Two, Melvin led Fellows through a series of guided movement meditations. The fellowship invites Fellows to bring awareness to things both internal and external. Melvin A.C. Howell brought a practice of embodiment to a growing fellowship toolkit.

Resources

Melvin A.C. Howell. The Positivity Movement.

Donella Meadows, "Dancing with Systems." The Donella Meadows Project, Academy for Systems Change.

Madeline Schrock, "Watch These Famous Poems Reimagined Through Dance." Dance Magazine, November 16, 2019.

Sherrie Silver and Amanda Gorman, "Poetry and Dance Performance." Women in the World Summit, 2019.

"Dance of the People: The Green Grass Cloggers." Documentary film, 2014.

Guiding Questions

What does meditation look or sound like to you?

How can movement bring a deeper awareness of body, mind, and spirit?

Resmaa Menakem points to the body as carrier of personal and collective trauma and resilience. Bessel van der Kolk posits that the body “keeps the score.” What is your body teaching and telling?

Can we dance through systems to emergent worlds? What might that entail?

Who/what are you dancing with? What are you side-stepping? And why?

Breathing Beneath the Surface.

*Each seminar weekend, Fellows consider a variety of invitations; some to unpack and experience with one another, others to take up in their own time. In a self-directed Seminar Two session, Fellows began engaging Alexis Pauline Gumbs’ *Dub: Finding Ceremony*, the third volume in a trilogy that charts a powerful and poetic journey across time, space, and species. Among many things, *Dub* models a practice of return to all that surfaces when we listen deeply. Fellows will continue their work with *Dub* in Seminar Three.*

Resources

Alexis Pauline Gumbs, author website.

Dub: Finding Ceremony. Duke University Press, 2020.

“Left of Black with Alexis Pauline Gumbs.” John Hope Franklin Center, Duke University, February 8, 2017.

Mobile Homecoming.

“Undrowned—Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals.”
Alexis Pauline Gumbs and Adrienne Maree Brown with Charis Circle, November 19, 2020.

Tiffany Lethabo King, “*Dub: A Review*.” *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*,” September 2020.

Monet Noelle Marshall, “A Ritual for Reading Alexis Pauline Gumbs’ *Dub: Finding Ceremony*.” *Indy Week*, February 11, 2020.

Guiding Questions

What authorizes where and how you look for yourself, others, and this thing called "knowledge?"

How are you listening across texts and time to engage your own—and others'—lineages and learning?

How do we create ceremony? As humans? As leaders?

What does it mean to be human?

What does it take to be?

William C. Friday Fellows Interview Series.

All 2020–2022 Friday Fellows are participating in a two-part interview process with Faculty Fellow Dr. Darin Waters. Each seminar weekend includes one informal interview session with Fellows who later participate in an episode of the Waters and Harvey Show that airs on Blue Ridge Public Radio. A public-facing conversation about the work of relationship, these interviews pay homage to the fellowship's namesake, William C. Friday, who hosted "North Carolina People" for over thirty seasons.

Resources

The Waters and Harvey Show, National Public Radio.

From Relationship To Reparation: The Order Of Things, April 23, 2021.

More On Relationships & Building Relationships That Matter. With Dalton Dockery and Willard Watson III, March 5, 2021.

Relationships! And relationships that matter! With DeSandra Washington and Clinton Wilson, February 26, 2021.

Building Relationships that Matter Part Two. With Dr. Georgette "Jojo" Ledgister, September 25, 2020.

Building Relationships That Matter. August 28, 2020.

Guiding Questions

The Friday Fellowship convenes at the intersection of rest, reflection, reckoning, and relationship. These characteristics and qualities are the foundations of a living and breathing experiment in human relations. What can we glean from these foundations and invitations? What is their "right" order?

In Seminar Two, Darin Waters offered three foundations to the experiment of democracy: justice, order, and liberty. What other foundations of American democracy might we name and consider? How do they relate to the foundations of fellowship? What is failing? What is flourishing? Who travels the distance in between?

It always bears noting the relationship between words and worlds, between foundations and their failings, between cornerstones and stumbling blocks. In Seminar Two of the fellowship, Fellows considered where and how their personal beliefs show up as both cornerstone and stumbling block. This question can be extended/applied at different scales: What cornerstones of this thing called "America" or American democracy are, likewise, stumbling blocks?

If we take seriously the connection between rest, reflection, reckoning, and relationship, what remains? Seminar Two of the Friday Fellowship was an extended practice of return—to self, to story, to stone. What, then, of the work of reparation? Is that, too, a Sankofa journey? What is the relationship between reparation and relationship?

Much like fellowship, reparation—or more specifically, reparations—are hard to define and even harder to enact. How do we stage fellowship and reparations as meaningful and ongoing acts of relationship? What is the relationship between reparation and repatriation? How might acts of reparation do the work of bringing entire groups of people "home" to something beyond a nation state?

Maker Space. Puzzling and Planting.

Each seminar weekend includes activities that connect Fellows to the work of their hands and the meditations of their hearts. In their first seminar weekend, Fellows made baked goods that nourished and pinch pots that continue to carry the work of this fellowship. In Seminar Two, Fellows pieced puzzles and sprouted seeds. As in Seminar One, both activities were curated to support either solo retreat time or a household-friendly activity. By design, puzzling and planting were not necessarily completed during Seminar Two, but only just begun. As they puzzled and planted, Fellows considered relationships between sums and all parts while extending the work of fellowship into their everyday lives. With pictures and patterns emerging, the world is watching and waiting

as seeds keep sprouting. Fellows are partnering between Seminars Two and Three to keep growing toward one another.

Resources

Shorlette Ammons, "[Food Sovereignty: A Case for a 'New Normal' in the Wake of Two Pandemics.](#)" *Southern Cultures*, Spring 2021.

Elizabeth Blair, "[Puzzle Business Goes 'Bonkers' As People Seek Pandemic Pastimes At Home.](#)" *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio, November 9, 2020.

"[Food Sovereignty.](#)" The Center for Environmental Farming Systems, North Carolina State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Ann Hamilton, "[Making, and the Spaces We Share.](#)" A conversation with Krista Tippett, *On Being*, November 19, 2015.

Taheshah Moise, "[Triad jigsaw puzzle maker sees business double during stay-at-home order.](#)" *wfmynews2.com*, May 19, 2020.

Justin Petrone, "[Tuscarora Seek Food Sovereignty Through Seed Bank.](#)" *Indian Country Today*, September 13, 2018.

Shell Silverstein, "[Picture Puzzle Piece.](#)" From *A Light in the Attic*, animated and narrated by Rebecca Lads. Uploaded to YouTube by Jose Martinez, December 12, 2013.

Jack Williams, "[Emergence,](#)" *akesis*, Volume 2, Issue 3: 2017.

Guiding Questions

What are you piecing or puzzling together?

Can you see pictures or patterns emerging – at home? at work? in the world?

What is the relationship between the sum and all parts?

While you watch and wait and water, what is happening?

What does it take to grow yourself? And others?

What and who are you sowing into and why?

What is sovereignty and why does it matter?

The Spirit of Clay with Senora Lynch.

Senora Lynch is a renowned maker of handmade pottery. A member of the Haliwa-Saponi nation, many of her designs feature living traditional stories and beliefs of her people revealed to Ms. Lynch through the Night Sky and in her dreams. Ms. Lynch describes her process as one of inspiration: "The spirit of clay has always inspired me. Working in clay takes me back to my childhood days of playing in mud, a free spirit." In Seminar Two, Fellows brought their pinch pots to a session during which Ms. Lynch shared the teachings of her craft.

Resources

"The Gift." American Indian Center, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Senora Richardson Lynch. American Indian Made in North Carolina.

Senora's Statement. "The Last Drop: Intoxicating Pottery, Past and Present." North Carolina Pottery Center. Copyright 2016–present.

"Senora Lynch, Artist and Potter." American Indian Heritage Celebration, North Carolina Museum of History, recorded on November 20, 2020, uploaded to YouTube on January 13, 2021.

Guiding Questions

What spirits do you listen to and for?

How are you creating? And what can your creation(s) hold?

What is the relationship between creativity and creation?

What is the work of your hands? How does it relate to the work of your heart?

Where do you look for knowledge, wisdom, and tradition?

Pandemic Play.

The practice of fellowship is hard work. To balance deepening and discernment with down-time, Fellows were invited to create or to be creative together. In preparation for their Saturday evening “performance,” Fellows spent time in small groups imagining how and what they might share with one another. Gathering on Zoom with North Carolina kernels popped on stove tops across the state, Fellows brought game shows, interactive quizzes, readings, and more to one another. The diversity of offerings reflected the many different ways we hear and honor invitations to community, to connection, and to good cheer.

Resources

The National Institute for Play. Carmel Valley, California.

North Carolina New Play Project. Creative Greensboro.

Martin Reeves and Jack Fuller, “We Need Imagination Now More Than Ever,” *Harvard Business Review*, April 10, 2020.

Omid Safi, “The Disease of Being Busy,” On Being blog post, November 6, 2014.

Miguel Sicart, Play Matters. MIT Press, 2014.

Sebastian Deterding, “A Manifestor, With Footnotes. A Review of Miguel Sicart’s ‘Play Matters.’” *Game Studies*, Volume 15, Issue 1, July 2015.

Guiding Questions

Does play matter?

What does play look, feel, and sound like to you?

What kind of time do you have for things like play?

What kind of work does play do in the world?

Stone Soup: Gathering One Another's Gifts.

On the final morning of Seminar Two, Fellows gathered for a session on fellowship and leadership offered by lead faculty Meredith Doster. Following Doster's reflections, Fellows were invited to give and receive, to be and to bless. In small groups, Fellows named and celebrated the gifts they are seeing and hearing in one another. What happens when we listen deeply and attend fully? Fellowship, and leadership, too.

Resources

adrienne maree brown, "[Excerpt: 'Love as Political Resistance' From *Pleasure Activism*](#)," The Root, March 29, 2019.

Meredith Doster, [Labor\(s\) of Love](#), Word Made Life, 2021.

"[The Gift: A Lecture and Conversation with Lewis Hyde & Robin McKenna](#)," Fondation PHI pour l'art contemporain, L'OFFRE October 5, 2017 – March 11, 2018.

Yo-Yo Ma and Allison Kraus, "[Simple Gifts](#)," Written and composed by Elder Joseph Brackett. Uploaded to YouTube January 2, 2015.

Courtney Martin, "[The Gifts We Give, The Gifts We Are](#)," On Being Project blog post, June 8, 2017.

Joe Ricciardi, "[At the Intersection of Love and Leadership](#)," Center for Values-Driven Leadership, December 4, 2014.

Mark Rittenberg, "[Leadership is Love: The Power of Human Connections](#)," Ted Talks, TEDxCincinnati, August 3, 2017.

Paul Simon and Stevie Wonder, "[She Loves Me Like a Rock](#)," With the Dixie Hummingbirds, 2009.

Guiding Questions

What is fellowship? Relationship? Leadership? How are they interrelated?

How do we discern our own gifts? What about those of others?

What is the value of a gift?

What kind of accompaniment fosters relationship?

What kind of humanity are we shaping (up to be)?

Prophets and Poets.

The Friday Fellowship draws inspiration and creativity from poets and wordsmiths whose language invites new ways of seeing and believing. Sessions, conversations, convenings, and engagements often open and close with words that deepen complexity and invite pause. Fellowship readings intentionally balance a variety of genres, lifting up the voices of those whose words offer pathways to critical engagement and celebration alike. The following were read and engaged over the course of Seminar Two.

Meredith Doster, skipping stones

Eileen, Is mac n'cheese yellow better than pink flamingo?

Jack Myers, Sticks and Stones: Another Story about the Buddha (included in guide)

Natasha Trethewey, Theories of Time and Space

Naomi Shihab Nye, Next Time Ask More Questions

William Stafford, A Ritual to Read to Each Other

Steven Charleston, Ladder to the Light (selections)

What's Next? – WLI Looks to Seminar Three and Beyond.

WLI staff, faculty, Fellows, and friends are always practicing the work of fellowship. Already anticipating Seminar Three, the following materials are structuring ongoing thoughtwork and conversation among WLI leadership. Feel free to follow along! All are welcome!

Hunter Corn, WLI Director

Denali & Kahmora's "100% Pure Love" Lip Sync." RuPaul's Drag Race, Season 13 Episode 4, January 23, 2021.

John Mohawk, "How The Conquest Of Indigenous Peoples Parallels The Conquest Of Nature." E.F. Schumacher Lecture, Schumacher Center for New Economics. October, 1997.

Strategy + Business Magazine, Leadership & Organizations and People.

Hugh Masekela, Grazing in the Grass (1968).

Meredith Doster, WLI Deputy Director and Lead Faculty

Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own* (Penguin Random House, 2020)

Keith Payne, *The Broken Ladder: How Inequality Affects the Way We Live and Die* (Penguin Random House, 2017)

Marilynne Robinson, *The Givenness of Things: Essays* (Picador 2015)

Lauren Taub. *Meta Minds*. Trauma-Sensitive Mindfulness Meditation.

Tao Te Ching Power for the Peaceful. A translation by Marc Mullinax (Fortress 2021).

Darin Waters, 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship Faculty Fellow

W.E.B DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)

Sylvia Fry, *Water from the Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age* (Princeton University Press, 1991)

Paul Fussell, *Bad, or the Dumbing of America* (1991)

Lewis Hyde, *A Primer for Forgetting: Getting Past the Past* (Macmillan, 2019)

C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* (Oxford University Press, 1955)

Person, Place, & Thing:

Beyond the Noun of Leadership



William C. Friday
Fellowship FOR HUMAN
RELATIONS