

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



2020-2022

SEMINAR 6

# Recommended Resources



**William C. Friday**  
**Fellowship** FOR HUMAN  
RELATIONS



# Recommended Resources

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The William C. Friday Fellowship for Human Relations 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.

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 full convening guide for Seminar Two can be accessed at [this link](#). Recommended Resources from the second seminar weekend can be accessed at [this link](#).

Seminar Three was held from July 22–July 25, 2021, at the Trinity Center on Pine Knoll Shores. The first residential experience of the 2020–2022 fellowship class took advantage of a different kind of access to both time and place. In preparation for this third convening, Fellows considered a series of invitations designed to call attention to both individual and shared questions surfacing along an unfolding fellowship journey. Seminar Three paired the question “What is my gift?” with the object of incense and invited Fellows to consider the value of things that burn hot on their way to burning up and burning out. In contrast to the formal, full-weekend convening guides designed to promote virtual connection in Seminars One and Two, Seminar Three’s residential experience invited a different approach. All Seminar Three materials can be accessed in the Recommended Resources that detail all sessions offered. That guide can be accessed at [this link](#).

Seminar Four was held from October 21–24, 2021, across the state of North Carolina. Building on seated, virtual, and hybrid modalities offered in previous seminars, this convening brought the full cohort together in one central location before inviting Fellows to journey closer to home for the remainder of the weekend. Regardless of location and modality, the cohort considered a question W.E.B. Du Bois raised at the turn of the twentieth century: How does it feel to be a problem? In addition to considering the relationship between different kinds of birthright burdens, blessings, and abominations, Fellows shared time with special guests in regional workshop sessions. Across the weekend, Fellows solved for their particular understanding of fellowship by considering the difference and distance between program, practice, and purpose. The full convening guide for Seminar Four can be accessed at [this link](#). Recommended Resources for the fourth seminar weekend can be accessed at [this link](#).

Seminar Five was held from January 27–30, 2022. With a global pandemic continuing to shape the 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship experience, Seminar Five unfolded in two concurrent tracks: one residential, one virtual. Some Fellows convened at the Eastern 4-H Center in Columbia, North Carolina, while others gathered via Zoom from homes across the state. All Fellows considered these invitations to prepare for their penultimate seminar weekend. Spanning places and pixels, Seminar Five was an object lesson about the choices that shape the work of both relationship and fellowship. Working together — and also apart — Fellows raised questions about life and death,

heaven and earth, and all manner of people, places, and things in between. The full convening guide for Seminar Five can be accessed at [this link](#). Recommended Resources for the fifth seminar weekend can be accessed at [this link](#).

Seminar Six was held at Wildacres Retreat from May 19–22, 2022, following an afternoon of virtual connection on May 15 to honor Fellows unable to convene in person. Making their way to a residential gathering for the second or third time in their two-year journey, some in the cohort retreated on a McDowell County mountaintop where Fellows retraced (footsteps) and remembered (fellowship) together. Pairing “objects” representing beloved people, places, and things with the question “What’s next?,” Seminar Six moved from firsts and lasts to something beyond beginnings and endings. In contrast to the formal, full-weekend convening guides designed to promote connection in virtual and hybrid seminars, documentation for this final seminar weekend aligns with practices calibrated to in-person convening. All Seminar Six materials can be accessed in the Recommended Resources that follow below.

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 Six 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.

Seminar Six concludes the formal convening of the 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship for Human Relations. Will you join the seated class in taking things (people and places, too) from the top? What kind of remembering carries or challenges you from one season to another? And what happens on the other side of all kinds of comings and goings?

**What’s next? And why? And if not now, then when?**

## Coming Full Circle

The first session of the 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship convened virtually in October 2020. Almost two years later, Fellows keep returning to a now-familiar Zoomscape to honor the many things – people and places, too – that come full circle. Over the long arc of the Covid-19 pandemic, Friday Fellows practiced being (together) in a variety of modalities. This final virtual session honored one of the spaces that has made connection pandemic-possible for all cohort members. In contrast to previous fellowship classes that spent significant time in chairs circled close together, most full-group sessions of the 11th cohort have convened via Zoom on screens and in virtual breakout rooms. How better to come full circle than to return to one of the many starting points of this two-year journey? **Pixels matter.**

## Resources

Andrew Cole. "[Circular Thinking: How to Think a Figure; or Hegel's Circles](#)," *Representations*, January 9, 2018.

"[The Asheville Drum Circle and Percussion Festival](#)," NC Weekend, UNC-TV, June 16, 2017.

Ralph Waldo Emerson. "[Circles](#)." Originally published 1841.

Gangstagrass. "[Will the Circle be Unbroken?](#)" Live Performance at Space, Chicago, Illinois, March 2018.

Ann B. Knox. "[Circles](#)," *Poetry*, Volume 159, Issue 5, February 1992.

Daniel Lane. "[The Devil's Tramping Ground](#)," UNC-TV Science.

[Listening Circles](#). The Co-Intelligence Institute.

Manuel Lima. "[Why do we find circles so beautiful?](#)" *BBC Science Focus Magazine*, July 31, 2017.

"[North Carolina Has Its Own Stonehenge and You'll Want to Visit](#)," Only In Your State.

Parker Palmer. "[The Circles of Trust Approach](#)," Center for Courage and Renewal.

Emily Payne. "[Do Perfect Circles Exist? Maybe](#)," Mellon College of Science, Carnegie Mellon University. March 14, 2019.

[Talking Circles](#). North Carolina American Indian Health Board.

## Guiding Questions

Do you see and/or sit in and/or serve circles that might be communities, too?

What practices ground the circles and communities in your life?

Is "coming full circle" possible? What lessons (and directions) do circles gift?

Which circles remain "unbroken"? Which need to be recast and reformed?

## Moving Mountains

While most Friday Fellowship classes began at Wildacres Retreat, the 2020–2022 class arrived at the fellowship's homebase at the end of its two-year experience. Even so, a McDowell County mountaintop tended by generations of Blumenthal family members served as anchor for a journey that scaled tremendous heights and plumbed powerful depths often across great distance – difference too. COVID-calibrations made for a Seminar Six "homecoming" both bitter and sweet, as Fellows finally relaxed into rocking chairs built to nurture a particular combination of rest, reflection, reckoning, and relationship. Having made it to the mountain, the 11th class of Friday Fellows considered the politics and possibilities of being at Wildacres – as Friday Fellows and as North Carolinians committed to "the betterment of human relations."

**Peaks matter. Philanthropy, too.**

## Resources

Blumenthal Family Papers. Manuscript Collections, J. Murrey Atkins Library Special Collections and University Archives, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Herman Blumenthal Oral History Interview. J. Murrey Atkins Library Special Collections and University Archives, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, February 2, 1989.

Philip Blumenthal. On Life and Meaning with Mark Peres. Podcast episode, January 31, 2018.

"Conservation of Wildacres Retreat Promises Clean Water and Pristine Parkway Views," Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina, January 2018.

Georgann Eubanks. "Off the Beaten Path at Wildacres Retreat," Our State, October 14, 2014.

Rosie Molinary. "In the Woods," June 6, 2016.

T. Edward Nickens. "[Away From It All, We Cherish Our Sacred Places](#)," *Our State*, May 1, 2015.

North Carolina General Assembly. Resolution 16, Senate Joint Resolution 205. "[A Joint Resolution Congratulating I. D. Blumenthal On His Eightieth Birthday](#)."

"[The Story of Wildacres Retreat](#)." Wildacres Retreat.

[Wildacres Retreat](#). North Carolina Conference Center. Little Switzerland, North Carolina.

## Guiding Questions

Are you navigating a season of mountaintops or valleys? What is the relationship between those spaces and seasons?

What kinds of places can you access to nurture rest, reflection, reckoning, and relationship – for yourself and others?

How can generational stewardship – of people, places, and things – serve the "betterment of human relations"?

## Remembering Fellowship

On the first full day of their final seminar weekend, Friday Fellows remembered the work of remembering itself. From start to finish, Fellows circled up in the configurations that structured their two-year journey, reconsidering: Lattimore, Tarboro, Rockingham (Seminar One); Wilson, Chimney Rock, and Lexington (Seminar Two); Pine Knoll Shores (Seminar Three); Sedalia, Black Mountain, Raleigh, and Charlotte (Seminar Four); Columbia (Seminar Five) and so many virtual connections across all weekends. Even as map – memory, too – remains distinct from territory, the work of retracing one's footsteps can materially shape the way we understand and integrate experience. The Fellows spent a full day sitting with and sifting through the complexity of their own, others', and shared memories before contributing to Dr. Darin Waters' final session as 2020–2022 Faculty Fellow. In conversation with the class, Waters introduced memory itself as a "place" that can make or break the worlds we inherit and inhabit. **Pasts matter. Presents, too.**

## Resources

Paul Bisceglia. "[Retracting Our Steps](#)," *The Atlantic*, March 2016.

Dave DeWitt. "[Remembering Bill Friday](#)," North Carolina Public Radio, October 12, 2012.

[How Memory Works](#). *The Science of Learning*. The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning. Harvard University.

[Memory is Ritual: A Remembrance of Ourselves](#). The Beautiful Project. North Carolina Museum of Art, September 4, 2021-February 13, 2022. Creative director Khayla Deans featuring filmmaker Pasha Gray, poet Aeran Baskin, and photographers Damola Akintunde, Jamaica Gilmer, Kaci Kennedy, and Winnie Okwakol.

Jaki Shelton Green. [Keynote Lecture](#). North Carolina Writers Network. Fall Conference 2021. Durham, North Carolina.

Michael Greshko. "[Human memory: How we make, remember, and forget memories](#)," *National Geographic*, March 4, 2019.

Roger Howell. "[Memory Collection](#)," Digital Library of Appalachia. A digitization program headed by UNC-Chapel Hill's Southern Folklife Collection.

David Kortava. "[A Neuroscientist's Poignant Study of How We Forget Most Things in Life](#)," *The New Yorker*, March 30, 2021.

Andrew Lewis. "[Why memories matter more than experiences](#)," *Mainframe*. The Research Agency.

[Memorial Service for William C. Friday](#). North Carolina People. Season 12, Episode 1232. PBS NC. Aired October 16, 2012.

Robinson Meyer. "[In the Brain, Memories are Inextricably Tied to Place](#)," *The Atlantic*, August 2014.

Julie Suk. "[Remembering the Plot](#)," *Poetry*, Volume 159, Issue 5, February 1992.

## Guiding Questions

What is the relationship between experience and memory?

How do individuals and communities remember?

What does the work of memorializing serve?

Whom and what do you remember? And why?



## Baking (and Being/Becoming) Together

Seminar Six brought all modules begun and borne across the 2020–2022 fellowship journey to a close. In each of the previous seminars, Fellows considered objects that have shaped the meaning-making of cultures across both time and space. From stones and their stumbling blocks, to incense and its burning, to drums and their beating, to crosses and their crossing, Fellows considered the “things” of fellowship. Leaning into a final invitation to honor the work of hearts and hands, Fellows made and broke bread together, continuing to solve for a kind of fellowship that sits at tables intentionally and expansively set. **Proof(ing) matters.**

### Resources

Margaret Atwood. “All Bread.” Poetry Unbound. On Being. September 27, 2021. Margaret Atwood, “All Bread,” from *Two Headed Poems*. Copyright 1978 Margaret Atwood. Used with the permission of Simon & Schuster.

Breadmaking. Library Guide. LIU Palmer School of Library and Information Services. Last updated December 14, 2021.

Sheri Castle. “All Rise,” *Our State*, March 27, 2018.

Patrick Brantlinger. *Bread and Circuses: Theories of Mass Culture as Social Decay*. Cornell University Press. 1983. This work can be downloaded for non-commercial purposes under a Creative Commons BY-NC-ND License.

Bronwen Everill, “On Bread and Circuses” (review), *Foreign Policy Insider*, October 1, 2021.

Fela Kuti. No Buredi (Bread), Soundworkshop Records, 1976.

Evva Foltz Hanes Oral History Interview. “Mrs. Hanes’ Moravian Cookies.” Southern Foodways Alliance. June 15, 2020.

Alex Linehan. “How bread shaped human history,” *Sowing Seeds Magazine*, October 28, 2020.

David A. Norris. “Breads.” *The Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, University of North Carolina Press, 2006.

“The Original Collard Sandwich.” Long Swamp, North Carolina. My Home, NC. UNC-TV. 2016.

Kendall Vanderslice. “Power in the Bread.” *The Bitter Southerner*. Photos by KC Hysmith. February 25, 2021.

Martha Waggoner. "[District 12 of 'The Hunger Games' is now a historic place in North Carolina.](#)" ABC13 News, June 21, 2019.

Lina Zeldovich. "[14,000-Year-Old Piece Of Bread Rewrites The History Of Baking And Farming.](#)" The Salt, National Public Radio, July 24, 2018.

## Guiding Questions

In *A History of Religion in 5 ½ Objects*, S. Brent Plate explores bread as object, as body, as bridge, as culture, as metaphor, as sacrifice, as showpiece, as symbol, as memorial, as practice, as process, as mystery, as proof, as battle, as ritual. What does bread mean to you and your communities?

With whom do you make and break bread? Who is not (yet) present or welcome at your tables?

Why do food and fellowship pair together in so many different cultures?

What happens when we take the time to proof our work?

What kind of rising is on your horizon?

## Community (Closing)

The final morning of the 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship held space for a kind of closing that can be a beginning, too. For some, a two-year experience is finite. For others, that same journey turns into lifetimes. For others still, it will always be too soon to imagine how past, present, and future might be collaborating in this fellowship season. Some combination of rest, reflection, relationship, and reckoning were at the heart of all 2020–2022 Friday Fellowship invitations. Even as clearness gave way to closing, the metric – of so many things – remained and remains unfixed. As Fellows remembered the many communities to which they belong, they counted the Friday Fellowship among them. **People matter. Perceptions, too.**

## Resources

Joobin Bekhrad. "[The ancient symbol that spanned millennia](#)." BBC Culture, December 4, 2017.

Bryan Breedlove. "[Everything within a circle is one thing](#)." *Emergent Infectious Disease*. December 2017.

"[Do We All Experience Time Differently?](#)" *Tracks*. BBC Radio

Conor Feehly. "[Why Do Humans Perceive Time The Way We Do?](#)" *Discover Magazine*, November 3, 2021.

Lucy Lippard. "[Location/Dislocation](#)." CreativeTime Summit. 2013.

La Galleria Nazionale. "[The Circle Has No Beginning and No End](#)." Google Arts and Culture.

Lauryn Hill. "[Everything is Everything](#)." *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*. Sony Music Studios. 1998.

Emma Young. "[Which Human Experiences Are Universal?](#)" *Research Digest*. The British Psychological Society. September 15, 2020.

## Guiding Questions

How would you measure two years?

What metric of fellowship is legible to you and your communities?

How much learning and unlearning do you have time for?

## What's Next?

2020–2022 Friday Fellows have read and told stories, raised and answered questions, and traveled roads both real and proverbial. Where does it all lead? That depends. The final question posed with, for, and by the 11th class of Friday Fellows shifts focus to the future. If you have been following along, perhaps you, too, are ready to imagine: **What's next? And why? And if not now, then when?**



## Resources

Trinette Boone-Langley  
Lisa Bryant  
Dalton Dockery  
Ryan Emanuel  
Angie Flynn-McIver  
Becky Greer  
Merald Holloway  
Liam Hooper  
Tiffany Jacobs  
Lara Khalil  
Andrew Knoblich  
Annie Lord

Kelly McRell  
Jonas Monast  
LaTanya Patillo  
Kevin Rumley  
Tim Schwantes  
Tara Spivey  
Tim Tolson  
DeSandra Washington  
Willard Watson III  
Clinton Wilson  
Mary Wilson

## Guiding Questions

What kind of future are you living (for)?

Whose futures are you preserving?

Where are you seeding and sowing (into) good things – people and places, too?

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