

Retirement Symposium: Professor John Toews

Friday, April 8: 2-5 p.m. Burke Room, Burke Museum

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## Imagining the Future of Undergraduate Education in the Liberal Arts: Is the CHID Model Still Viable?

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The discussion will be initiated by presentations from some of John Toews's colleagues, former colleagues, students and former students who are deeply involved in the process of rethinking undergraduate education. The presentations and discussion will focus broadly on three issues that have been at the core of the educational initiatives shaping the Comparative History of Ideas Program (CHID) over the past forty years.

**Symposium moderator:** Nick Barr Clingan

- 1) Do we need to rethink the core concept of education as a path to active, productive and collaborative citizenship in an inclusive public community (and thus also reimagine CHID's traditional focus on democratic learning communities, study "away" and local-global relations) in the context of the increasing expansion and structural transformation of "society" and the "public sphere" through globalization?

**Discussion facilitators:** Tracie Matysik, Anu Taranath, David Fenner

- 2) Do the interdisciplinary relations among the sciences, arts and humanities, and thus the boundaries between nature and culture, body and mind, animal and human need to be reimagined in the light not only of the economic model favoring STEM disciplines but also in response to the growing cultural awareness at both the macro and micro levels of the symbiotic relations between biological changes and human history in the age of the "Anthropocene"?

**Discussion facilitators:** Uta Poiger, Phillip Thurtle, María Elena García

- 3) Is it possible to sustain the creative and collaborative agency of learners, facilitators and teachers in the context of the managerial practices of an increasingly corporatized educational institution? Can the value of self-actualization nurtured by project-oriented collaborative learning be sustained against pressures for self-commodification?

**Discussion facilitators:** Joseph Lawrence, Nat Mengist, Michael Beach - CHID 390/498  
Corporate U students

**Closing remarks from John Toews**

Presented by: **COMPARATIVE HISTORY OF IDEAS**  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

### Invited presenters:

**Tracie Matysik**, Associate Professor of History, University of Texas at Austin

**Joseph Lawrence**, Professor of Philosophy, College of the Holy Cross

**Uta Poiger**, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Northeastern University

**Tuska Benes**, Associate Professor of History, College of William and Mary

**Anu Taranath**, Lecturer in Comparative History of Ideas and English, University of Washington

**David Fenner**, Affiliate Faculty, Middle East Center, Jackson School of International studies, University of Washington

**Phillip Thurtle**, Associate Professor in Comparative History of Ideas, University of Washington

**María Elena García**, Associate Professor and Chair, Comparative History of Ideas

**Nick Barr Clingan**, Director of International Programs, Comparative History of Ideas, University of Washington

**Students from CHID 390/CHID 498:** Corporate U? Rethinking the University in the Context of the Neoliberal Assault on Public Higher Education, who will present their collaboratively created website on the undergraduate experience of corporatized higher education.