Keynote Speaker Bios

Opening Keynote: "False Monsters, True Horror: The Uncanny Power of Dehumanization"
5:30 p.m.Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Museum of Art and History

David Livingstone Smith is professor of philosophy at the University of New England, in Maine. For the past two decades, his work has focussed on dehumanization, particularly in relation to race and genocide. He has written three books on this subject. The first is *Less Than Human: Why We Demean, Enslave and Exterminate Others* (St. Martin's Press, 2011), which won the 2012 Anisfield-Wolf award for nonfiction. The second, *On Inhumanity: Dehumanization and How to Resist* was published by Oxford University Press in 2020. The third, *Making Monsters: The Uncanny Power of Dehumanization*, won the Joseph B. Gittler Award for philosophy of the social sciences and was shortlisted for the Nayaf Al-Rodhan prize in Transdisciplinary Philosophy. It was published by Harvard University Press in 2021. Livingstone Smith speaks widely at both academic and non-academic settings, and his work has been featured extensively in the national and international media. He has been featured in several television documentaries, and is often interviewed for newspapers, magazines, podcasts, and radio. In 2012, he was a guest at the G20 economic summit, where he spoke on dehumanization and mass violence.

Conference Keynote: “Monsters: A Reckoning”
1:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Digital Arts Research Center

Kimberly J. Lau is Professor of Literature at UC Santa Cruz. She is the author of *Specters of the Marvelous: Race and the Development of the European Fairy Tale* (2025); *Erotic Infidelities: Love and Enchantment in Angela Carter's "The Bloody Chamber"* (2015), *Body Language: Sisters in Shape, Black Women's Fitness, and Feminist Identity Politics* (2011), and *New Age Capitalism: Making Money East of Eden* (2000), as well as articles in a number of interdisciplinary journals. Her research interests include fairy tales, folklore, and fantasy; feminist theory and critical race studies; the intersection of popular and political cultures; and monster studies.

Conference Keynote: "Monster Theory at 30"
1:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17, at the Digital Arts Research Center

Jeffrey J. Cohen is Dean of Humanities at Arizona State University and former co-president of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, the largest professional organization in the environmental humanities. His research examines strange and beautiful things that challenge the imagination, phenomena that are alien and intimate at once. Cohen is widely published in the fields of medieval studies, monster theory, and the environmental humanities. His book *Stone: An Ecology of the Inhuman* received the 2017 René Wellek Prize in comparative literature from the American Comparative Literature Association. In collaboration with Lindy Elkins-Tanton he co-wrote the book *Earth*, a re-examination of our widest home from the perspectives of a planetary scientist and a literary humanist. With environmental humanities scholar Stephanie Foote he co-edited The Cambridge Companion to Environmental Humanities. With Julian Yates he co-wrote *Noah's*

Arkive (2023).