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Center for the Book
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Reading lists and materials for programming on our four themes are being developed in consultation with:

- Samaa Abdurraqib, Community Engagement Coordinator, Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
- Virginie Akimana, Facilitator and Community Interpreter, Catholic Charities Maine
- Libby Bischoff, Professor of History and Executive Director of Osher Map Library, University of Southern Maine
- Paul Buck, Associate Professor of History and Education, University of Maine Fort Kent
- Meredith Eaton, Literacy Volunteers of Bangor
- Shoshana Hoose, ESOL Instructor, Portland Adult Education
- Kristie Littlefield, Executive Director, Western Maine Education Collaborative
- Darren Ranco, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Coordinator of Native American Research, University of Maine Orono



FALL 2019

How SHOULD LIFE BE?

Maine at 200



We connect...people with books, communities with ideas, and strangers with one another.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Maine's bicentennial is right around the corner. Many individuals and communities around the state are coming together to plan how best to celebrate and commemorate 200 years of Maine statehood. For others, the upcoming anniversary is more complicated, even painful. There are plenty of Mainers who aren't thinking about it at all.

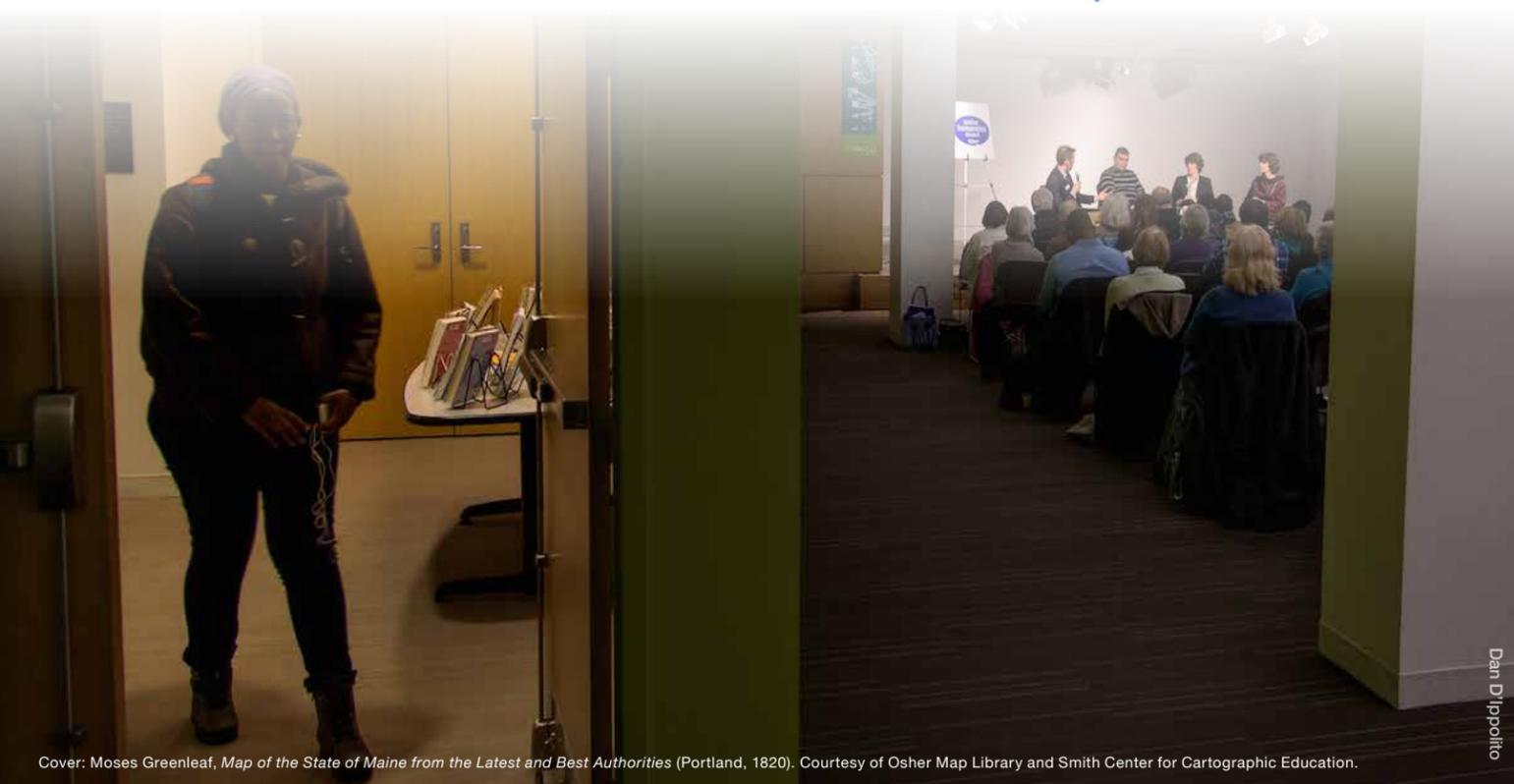
Our goal here at the Maine Humanities Council is to help connect Mainers with one another, to cultivate and encourage individual agency, and to inspire increased community engagement. We believe the bicentennial can be an important opportunity for Mainers to come together to envision how life here should be.

In the coming months, the MHC will focus our energy and resources to support communities in their efforts for meaningful commemoration. We will help communities large and small dig into issues of Maine's history to better understand how our past has shaped our present, and to use that understanding to help us begin together to create a future for our state that is ever more prosperous, thriving, and just.

To start with, we listened to communities around the state – what topics they felt were important and worthy of discussion, but potentially difficult to get a hold of – and chose four interrelated themes for our engagement with the bicentennial: **Many Maines, Migration & Borders, Race & Ethnicity, and Wabanaki Voices.**

As you'll see, we aim to be a resource for a wide range of rich discussions – through book group programming, grants, public events of all kinds, in partnership with people and organizations all over Maine. We invite you to join in.

 Hayden Anderson
Executive Director



Dan D'ippolito

Cover: Moses Greenleaf, *Map of the State of Maine from the Latest and Best Authorities* (Portland, 1820). Courtesy of Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education.



HOW SHOULD LIFE BE?

Saturday | October 19, 2019 | 10:00 am to 4:00 pm | Portland, Maine

Approaching Maine's bicentennial, we invite Mainers to join us in asking: 'How should life be?'

Maine's bicentennial year, just a few months away, is an invitation to take stock, to look back with new eyes at what's already happened, to look around with renewed care at what's happening now, and to grapple with big questions like 'How should life be?'

Like any really big question, 'How should life be?' raises still more questions: How *is* life here, now? What do we mean when we say the word 'life'? Whose lives are we imagining? And that word should ...what does *that* word do?

At *The Big Question* this October, the MHC will jump-start a year of curiosity, inquiry, and close attention to how we live, where we live, and what it might mean. Please join us. The discussion will be richer with you there.

Learn more and register at mainehumanities.org

Lunch and cake included | Travel reimbursements available | Donations welcome

Wabanaki Voices

Wabanaki communities have lived on the land now called Maine for over 10,000 years.

After just 200 years of Maine statehood, how are Wabanaki people and communities asking and answering the questions 'Who are we?' 'Where are we?' 'How did we get here?' and 'Where might we be going?'

How did the articulation of statehood continue the legacy of colonization, and how do state policies continue to do so? How have and do the ethics and politics of colonization shape the lives of all Maine communities – including Wabanaki communities?



Migration & Borders

Lines between here and there.

Lines between here and there contribute to the shaping of communities – Maine and Canada; Maine and New Hampshire; Maine-land and the sea; as well as ecological, topographical, and political lines within the state.

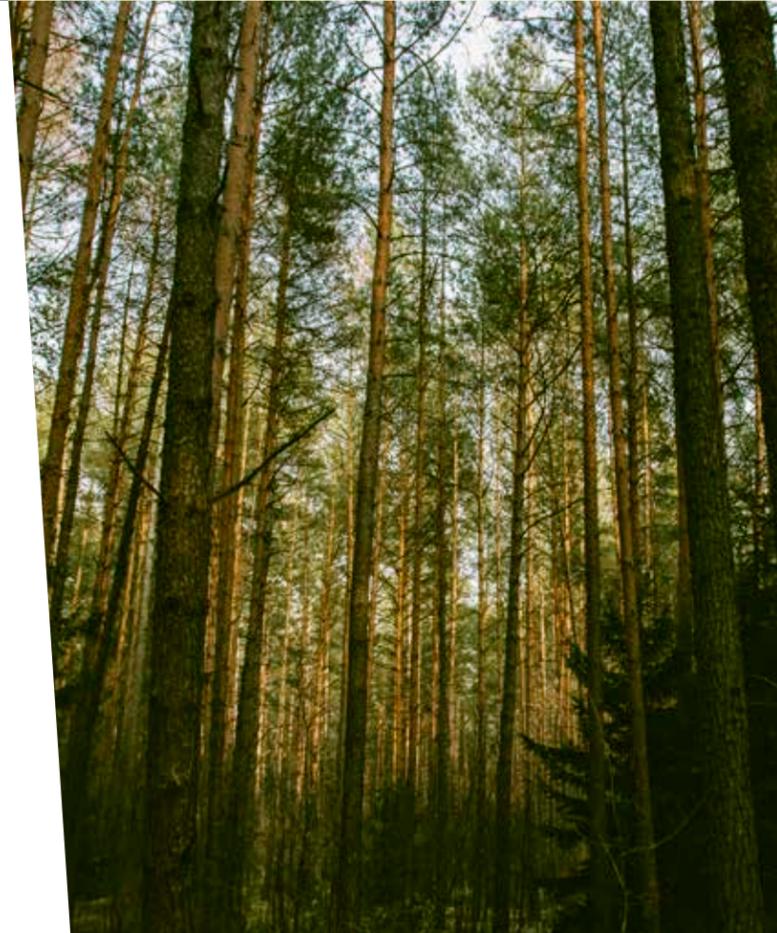
How clear, fixed, or fluid have these borders been? How are they now? Where have they been, and where are they now? How have people made, lived within, crossed and recrossed Maine's borders?

Race & Ethnicity

How has the politics of race shaped Maine and the lives of people who live here?

Since the beginning of statehood the national politics of race has influenced Maine's own politics, and from long before statehood cultural diversity has been a constant, changing feature of life in Maine.

How has the politics of race shaped Maine and the lives of people who live here? How have people maintained, adapted, shared, and innovated their own ways of life here? With what helps and hindrances from others? How have people and communities asked and answered in their own ways the questions 'Where are we?' 'How did we get here?' and 'Who is we?'



Many Maines

'There are two Maines', people sometimes say...but why two?

Divisions in people's experience of things like economics, education, geography, religion, culture give rise to 'Maines' that feel distinct.

How have people and communities thought about their own and other Mainers' experience as characteristic of life in the state – as 'Maine'? And how do versions of 'Maine' interrelate and define or change each other? Where are we, when we are in Maine?



Photo: Kyle Dubay

GRANTS

Our grants help people in Maine develop community projects that use the humanities to encourage a deeper understanding of self, community, and the world around us.

We invite you to apply.

In this bicentennial year, we are especially eager to support projects that help communities engage with issues important to them and find creative ways to connect people with various histories.

What are you working on?
How is your community talking about what matters to them?
How can we help?

Learn more and apply: mainehumanities.org
 Contact **Jerome Bennett**, Program Officer
jerome@mainehumanities.org

EVERY GIFT MATTERS

Our bicentennial programming is made possible by support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Maine State Bicentennial Commission and **generous Mainers like you!**

The Maine Humanities Council will explore Maine's bicentennial by supporting communities in our signature way: through initiatives that encourage Mainers to explore deep topics. In this case, our shared history—including parts that are hard to talk about.

With our bicentennial programming, we're creating entry points for communities statewide to start discussions about Maine's past, present, and future.

Please join us with a gift as we delve into this exciting work.

Donate online at mainehumanities.org or fill out the enclosed envelope.

Contact **Diane Magras**, Director of Development
 (207) 773-5051 or diane@mainehumanities.org



Dan DiIppolito

BOOK GROUPS

Host a book group in your community, at your work, or in your library.

Maine Humanities Council book groups bring people together to discuss what matters to them as they navigate the opportunities and challenges of life in Maine. This year our book groups offer a rich opportunity to engage with the bicentennial themes we've highlighted in these pages.

People meet in places like hospitals, schools, domestic violence prevention agencies, libraries, recovery centers, and correctional facilities across the state.

Join the discussion! Host a book group!

Learn more and apply: mainehumanities.org
 Contact **Kyle Volland**, Program Assistant
kyle@mainehumanities.org



Become a FACILITATOR

We are looking for exceptional people to facilitate our book groups.

We encourage applications from candidates with diverse backgrounds, particularly those from historically underrepresented groups, whose professional and personal experiences can help us work toward realizing our vision of the communities of Maine transformed by the power and pleasure of ideas.

Our facilitators value, enjoy, and are really good at reading and exploring poems, stories, and ideas in conversation with other curious, interested people.

Learn more and submit an interest form:
mainehumanities.org



Dan DiIppolito