

Humanities Interest Group Application

The ISSOTL Interest Group for the Humanities is an international network of teachers and scholars in the various disciplines of the humanities (literature, philosophy, religion, communication, history*, et al). Our mission is to explore through inquiry, conversation, and collaboration the position and potential of the humanities in SoTL/ISSOTL and SoTL in the humanities. We will facilitate activities that make SoTL (and ISSOTL) more inviting for humanities teacher-scholars who come with habits of mind, ways of knowing, and approaches to research that may be different from the social science approaches of much SoTL work. The ultimate goal of the ISSOTL Humanities IG is to share in the work of improving teaching and learning in the humanities.

To fulfill its mission, this Interest Group will facilitate a variety of activities, such as the following:

- use an electronic forum to facilitate communication and establish an online presence
 - We're already active at <http://issotlhumanities.pbwiki.com/>, but it's a private site right now. We'll make it public once we're official.
- organize member submissions to *The International Commons* to explore the role and value of the humanities in SoTL,
 - For example, see Nancy Chick's January 2009 article "In Search of Humanities in (IS)SOTL" ([http://www.issotl.org/International Commons 4 1.pdf](http://www.issotl.org/International_Commons_4_1.pdf), page 11).
- provide support for members who attend the ISSOTL conferences by holding special meetings and organizing panels or symposia highlighting the humanities in SoTL,
 - For example, we are proposing a Humanities Panel for the 2009 conference (Stephen Schulman, Tony Ciccone, Sherry Linkon, and Nancy Chick) and would like to say that it's sponsored by the ISSOTL Humanities Interest Group, if we're approved by the May 15 deadline.
- provide support for members who don't attend the ISSOTL conferences by providing summaries of relevant conference events,
- initiate an international conversation about the humanities in different regions of the world,
- identify resources for researching and publishing SoTL in the humanities and its specific disciplines,
- build bridges between ISSOTL and different humanities professional organizations.

The Humanities IG's goals and activities listed above fit well within ISSOTL's overarching goal to "foster inquiry and disseminate findings about what improves and articulates post-secondary learning and teaching." This IG's plans also reflect ISSOTL's specific strategies, such as the following: "Recognize and encourage scholarly work on teaching and learning in each discipline, within other scholarly societies, and across educational levels," "Promote cross-disciplinary conversation to create synergy and prompt new lines of inquiry," "Facilitate the collaboration of scholars in different countries and the flow of new findings and applications across national boundaries," and "Advocate for support, review, recognition, and appropriate uses of the scholarship of teaching and learning."

The founding members of the ISSOTL Interest Group for the Humanities are the following**:

1. Nancy Chick, English, University of Wisconsin-Barron County (USA)
2. Pat Michaelson, English, University of Texas at Dallas (USA)
3. Stephen Schulman, Philosophy, Elon University (USA)
4. Paul W. Ranieri, English, Ball State University (USA)
5. Monica F. Jacobe, English, Catholic University of America (USA)
6. Irwin Mallin, Communication, Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne (USA)
7. Lesley Smith, Integrative Studies/New Media Composition (History & English), George Mason University (USA)
8. Tony Ciccone, French, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (USA)
9. Peter Felten, History, Elon University (USA)
10. David Concepcion, Philosophy, Ball State University (USA)
11. Jan Parker, Open University (UK)
12. Megan Isaac, English, Elon University (USA)

13. Sherry Linkon, English, Youngstown State University (USA)

* Even though there is already a History-SOTL External Affiliate to ISSOTL, we've included history in our group for several reasons. First, the History-SOTL group is an External Affiliate; their members do not have to be ISSOTL members, and their activities don't necessarily occur within ISSOTL, whereas the Humanities Interest Group will be populated solely by ISSOTL members, and all of our activities will always be explicitly connected with ISSOTL. Next, history is a cornerstone of the humanities, and this IG is broadly inclusive of all humanities disciplines without focusing on just one. Excluding historians and giving them only the External Affiliate option seems illogical, at best.

** We recognize that the IG needs to reflect the international nature of ISSOTL. We've tried inviting members from other countries through the newsletter and ISSOTL-Discuss listserv, but we've gotten little response thus far. Our plan is to seek out specific people at the 2009 conference by looking in the participants list; without such a public list before the conference, we have thus far been limited in our success. We are committed, however, to becoming a more fully international group, and we suspect that our activities in the coming year will make us more visible and thus more inviting to members and potential members not yet noticing our calls in ISSOTL emails and the newsletter.

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