

# August 2023 Awards for Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities Grants

## Collaborative Teams

### Arizona State University

Outright: \$89,906

**Project Directors:** Sarah Florini; Erica O'Neil (co-project director); Elizabeth Grumbach (co-project director)

**Project Title:** Understanding Algorithmic Folk Theories: Tracing Community-Based Knowledge on TikTok

**Project Description:** An ethnographic study of social media content creators comparatively analyzing folk theories and current academic theories of algorithmic governance.

### Northeastern University

Outright: \$149,851

**Project Directors:** Ronald Sandler; Clare Palmer (co-project director)

**Project Title:** The Ethics of Conservation Biotechnology: A Conceptual Engineering Approach

**Project Description:** Research and writing a multi-author volume on the ethics of biotechnology.

### University of Chicago

Outright: \$149,815

**Project Directors:** Michele Friedner; Mara Mills (co-project director)

**Project Title:** The Global Cochlear Implant: Provincializing "Brain Implants" through Disability Technocultures

**Project Description:** A humanistic comparative study of cochlear implant technology as an early form of a neural-computer interface.

### University of Illinois

Outright: \$149,999

**Project Directors:** Rachel Kuo; Mark Calaguas (co-project director)

**Project Title:** Transnational Disinformation Networks and Asian Diasporic Politics

**Project Description:** Research and oral history workshops supporting the publication of a book analyzing the circulation of misinformation among Asian and Asian American community digital communication networks.

## University of Puget Sound

Outright: \$147,840

**Project Directors:** Ariela Tubert; Justin Tiehen (co-project director)

**Project Title:** Robot Existentialism: Artificial Intelligence and the Limits of Rationality

**Project Description:** Research and writing a co-authored book on existential philosophy and artificial intelligence.

## Wesleyan University

Outright: \$149,563

Project Director(s): Jennifer Tucker; Stephen Hargarten (co-project director)

Project Title: Engineering Safety into U.S. Firearms: Inventions, Manufacturers, Outcomes, and Implications, 1750–2010

Project Description: The historical analysis of how safety mechanisms for firearms have evolved and been marketed to consumers over time.

## Individuals

### Lewis and Clark College

Outright: \$74,956

**Project Director:** Jennifer Hubbert

**Project Title:** Gun Culture 4.0: Understanding the new Demographics of Gun Ownership in the United States

**Project Description:** The humanistic analysis of the changing demographics related to purchasing and owning firearms in the United States.

### San Francisco State University

Outright: \$74,879

**Project Director:** Mihaela Mihailova

**Project Title:** Synthetic Creativity: Deepfakes in Contemporary Media

**Project Description:** Independent research into the aesthetics, application, dissemination, and ontological status of deepfakes across media contexts, including digital artworks, social activism, museum exhibits, and film and television.

## Syracuse University

Outright: \$73,670

**Project Director:** Johannes Himmelreich

**Project Title:** Good Decisions: Data Science as a Moral Practice

**Project Description:** Research and writing a co-authored book on ethical considerations for the practice of data science.

## University of California, Irvine

Outright: \$75,00

**Project Director:** Bo Ruberg

**Project Title:** Live Streaming Identity: Opportunities and Challenges for LGBTQ Communities

**Project Description:** Research and development of a scholarly monograph examining the cultural tensions surrounding LGBTQ live streaming.

## University of California, Santa Barbara

Outright: \$74,470

**Project Director:** Kate McDonald

**Project Title:** The Rickshaw and the Railroad: Human-Powered Transport in the Age of the Machine

**Project Description:** Research and writing leading to a scholarly monograph about the modern history of transportation technology in Japan.

## University of Pittsburgh

Outright: \$66,329

**Project Director:** Alison Langmead

**Project Title:** Teaching Art History with AI

**Project Description:** A series of convenings among college and university educators and the development of open educational resources concerning the pedagogical use of computational image generation technologies in art history, visual culture, and media studies.

## University of Southern California

Outright: \$70,625

**Project Director:** Ciruce Movahedi-Lankarani

**Project Title:** Energy Technologies, Development, and the Environment in Modern Iran, 1935–2005

**Project Description:** Research and writing leading to a scholarly monograph about the modern history of the use of natural gas in Iran.

#### University of Virginia

Outright: \$75,000

**Project Director:** Zachary Irving

**Project Title:** The Spontaneity Deficit: Dangers and Opportunities of the Age of Distraction

**Project Description:** Research and writing a book on the ethical impact of distraction by digital technology.

#### Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Outright: \$75,000

**Project Director:** Fernanda Ribeiro Rosa

**Project Title:** Digital Inequalities in Latin America: The Effects of Code and Infrastructure in Indigenous Access to the Internet

**Project Description:** Research and development of an open access monograph analyzing internet infrastructure and digital access in Latin American Indigenous communities.

#### William Marsh Rice University

Outright: \$75,00

**Project Director:** Kirsten Ostherr

**Project Title:** The Visual History of Computational Health

**Project Description:** Research and development of a scholarly monograph on the history of the computational approaches to healthcare, 1960s–2000s.