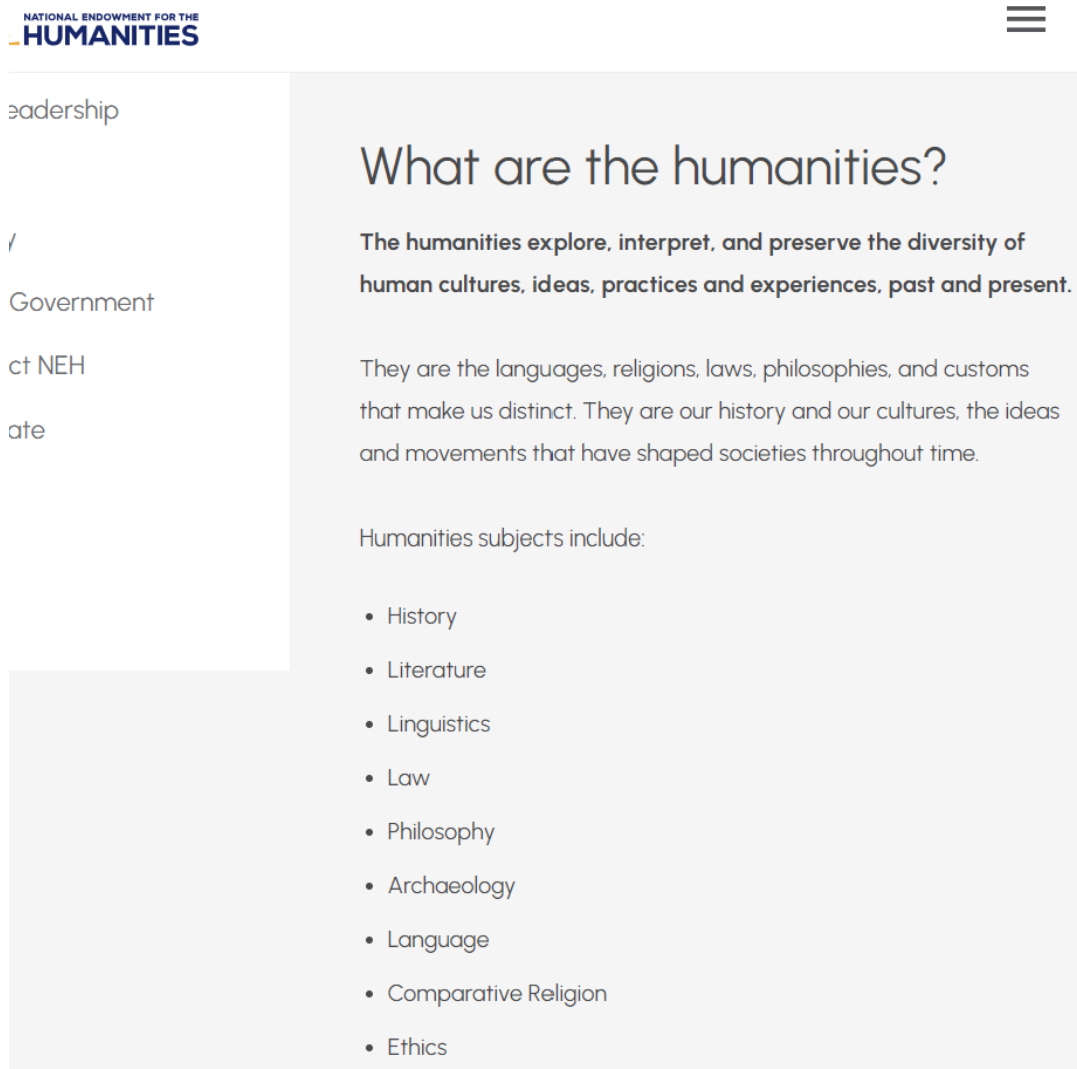


CHAP Speaker Fee Request

From the JOHN REID MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM – FUND #41745

Criteria for use of the fund as defined by the National Endowment for the Humanities:



The screenshot shows the National Endowment for the Humanities website. The logo is in the top left, and a hamburger menu icon is in the top right. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links: Leadership, Government, and NEH. The main content area features the heading "What are the humanities?" followed by a definition: "The humanities explore, interpret, and preserve the diversity of human cultures, ideas, practices and experiences, past and present." Below this, it states: "They are the languages, religions, laws, philosophies, and customs that make us distinct. They are our history and our cultures, the ideas and movements that have shaped societies throughout time." A section titled "Humanities subjects include:" lists the following subjects: History, Literature, Linguistics, Law, Philosophy, Archaeology, Language, Comparative Religion, and Ethics.

We are asking for the JOHN REID MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM Fund to pay an honorarium (which will cover a speaker's fee and travel) in the amount of **\$3,000**. This sum is for **Benjamin Mitchell-Yellin, PhD** to make a presentation on the current CHAP theme "Don't Stop Believing?" Mitchell-Yellin will speak on February 7, 2025 and discuss the philosophies surrounding near-death experiences.

Mitchell-Yellin's lecture will meet the criteria for the use of the funds, specifically in regard to the "**... religions...philosophies, and customs that make us distinct.**" Through "**...practices and experiences, past and present.**" Specifically in the areas of **Philosophy, Comparative Religion, and Ethics**.

Benjamin Mitchell-Yellin, PhD, Sam Houston State University

EDUCATION

UC Riverside: Postdoc on the Immortality Project (Fall 2012 - Spring 2015)

PhD: UC Riverside (2012)

MA: Boston College (2007)

BA (w/Honors): Residential College, UM Ann Arbor (2002)
(Major: Creative Writing and Literature)

BOOK

Near-Death Experiences: Understanding Visions of the Afterlife(w/ John Martin Fischer), New York: Oxford University Press (2016).

Website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/benjaminmitchellyellin/home>

BRIEF BIO

I am Director of the Teaching & Learning Center and Associate Professor of Philosophy at Sam Houston State University. Before coming to SHSU, I was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Philosophy at the University of California, Riverside. Before taking up my postdoc, I received my PhD (in Philosophy) from the University of California, Riverside, my MA (in Philosophy) from Boston College and my BA (in Creative Writing & Literature) from the University of Michigan.

My main areas of research are in ethics, the philosophy of action, racism, death and dying, and the philosophy of education.

I have written about ghost stories in *The Atlantic* and systemic racism in *Liberal Currents*. I blogged regularly at *Psychology Today* about issues at the intersection of philosophy and psychology. You can check it out here. My piece, "The Mirror Test and the Problem of Understanding Other Minds," was selected as a winner of the 2019 APA Public Philosophy Op-Ed Contest. I have published on issues such as elite capture, climate change, educational gag orders, Large Language Models, and inequality. And I have talked to the media about issues related to my work on immortality and near-death experiences. Here is an interview with my Houston NPR station. And here is one in which I discuss near-death experiences and acid trips.