



**PROJECT TITLE:** The Humanities and Social Sciences Speaker Series

**PROJECT TAGLINE/CAPTION** (160 characters): What's your contribution?

**IMAGE:**

# THE HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES SPEAKER SERIES

## WHAT'S YOUR CONTRIBUTION?

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Name of Group/Organization: Humanities Graduate Student Association

### **PROJECT DETAILS**

Provide a description of the project.

Graduate Students in the Humanities and Social Sciences consistently work to produce scholarship that contributes to their respective disciplines, subjects of study, and the world around them. In hosting the Humanities and Social Sciences Speaker Series, the Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Student Associations aim to provide a space for graduate students to foster relationships among scholars with similar interests and communicate their research to a broader audience. By asking graduate student participants to answer the question, "What's your contribution?" in the form of a seven-minute, highly visual, presentation, participants will be able to contemplate and discuss the significance of their research, improve their public speaking skills, and network with other researchers whose work they would not normally be exposed to. By including students from across the Humanities and Social Sciences, the event will provide a crucial opportunity for graduate students to share their research with their fellow graduate students and faculty in a way that could foster communication and collaboration across disciplines.

**Timeline:** If the project will take place at a specific time and place, please give details. Is it a one-time event or a series?

# GRAD starter

The event will take place annually, in the spring semester of each year. This year will include an opening keynote on the evening of February 12, 2016 to be immediately followed by a mixer for participants, faculty, and students in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The talks will begin the morning of February 13 and continue throughout the day. We will end the event with a social at Valhalla for participants and graduate students in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

**Audience:** Who is your target audience? (e.g. program-specific, interdisciplinary, or university-wide? Will undergraduates, faculty, staff, or postdocs be involved? Any off campus participants?)

Our target audience includes Rice graduate students, undergraduates, and faculty in the Social Sciences and Humanities. Postdocs who express interest will also be allowed to participate.

How many people do you anticipate will participate?

We anticipate anywhere from 30 to 40 graduate student participants with up to 100 people in attendance throughout the day of the event.

**Marketing Plan:** How do you plan to publicize the project?

We will advertise through email newsletters, general meetings of the HGSA and SSGSA, communication between department representatives and graduate students, as well as flyers in Fondren, the RMC, the Humanities building, and the Social Sciences buildings on campus. We also hope to set up a general information session where we can discuss the format and goals of the event with students who are interested in participating. In the interest of exposing an even wider audience to ongoing research in the Humanities and Social Sciences at Rice, we hope to secure permission to film and upload the talks to YouTube. In terms of faculty participation, we would like to involve faculty members as moderators throughout the event. Rather than carry the burden of commenting on several presentations, faculty moderators would help lead conversation about presentations in a direction that's beneficial to the presenters. We also plan to encourage participants to consider which professors they would like to receive feedback from and invite them to attend the event. By involving faculty who can serve as moderators as well as observers, we hope that participants will receive the kind of feedback that's most beneficial to their ongoing research.

## **ADVANCEMENT**

What are the goals of the project?

To provide graduate students in the Humanities and Social Sciences with an opportunity to do the following:

- Communicate their scholarly work to a broader audience.
- Promote research being done in the Humanities and Social Sciences at Rice University.
- Improve their public speaking skills.
- Network with students and faculty in other departments in order to foster communication and scholarship across disciplines.

Briefly explain the need for the project and how it will promote excellence in scholarship, training, and/or development?

# GRAD starter

The Humanities and Social Sciences Speaker Series would be the only event on campus that provides a space for graduate students in the Humanities and Social Sciences to share their research with one another as well as benefit from the input of a broad and interdisciplinary audience. We understand the Series as a way to promote research being done in the Humanities and Social Sciences at Rice, foster communication and collaboration among graduate students in different departments, and allow for participants to improve their presentation skills as well as their ability to communicate the significance of their research to a broad audience. The event will provide graduate scholars with a unique opportunity to network with other researchers, further develop their own scholarship, and expose both participants and those in attendance to ongoing graduate student research in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

If this is an existing project/event or a similar one exists, describe how the project/event is being expanded or enhanced.

Over the past two years, the Humanities Graduate Student Association has hosted an annual conference geared towards showcasing graduate student research in the Humanities at Rice. In moving away from the usual panel driven conference format, bringing together graduate students in the Humanities and Social Sciences, and focusing on creating a dynamic environment where students can put their efforts towards creating a presentation that communicates their research to a broader audience, it is our hope that the Humanities and Social Sciences Speaker Series will become an event that allows for better communication and possible collaborative efforts between the disciplines.

If your proposal is for a pilot project, suggest how it might develop over a three-year period.

This is an event that the Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Student Associations hope to continue annually. It is our intention to create an event that allows for graduate scholars to engage in meaningful dialogue between different disciplines. Over the course of the next three years, we hope to garner even greater participation among graduate students, faculty, and possibly undergraduate researchers. We would ideally like the event to become a space where graduate students are able to network with faculty outside of their own departments and learn about both faculty and student research. This is beneficial because graduate students in the Humanities and Social Sciences require a dissertation committee member outside of their own department and could help students learn about potential committee members.

Describe how you will measure the success and impact of this project. Please, provide quantitative targets, if possible.

We plan to measure the success and impact of our project based on the number of students, as participants and audience members, that attend the event as well as by collecting post event feedback. Because this event is geared towards helping graduate students in the humanities develop as scholars, we'll be most interested in their feedback after the event. We plan to register each participant and audience member in a database so that we may send out post-event surveys in order to measure how effective the Speaker Series was at meeting our goals before deciding how to move forward and improve the event in the coming years.



## BUDGET

### **Itemized Budget**

Please, provide an itemized budget. List each item, a description, and the anticipated cost.

Item	Description	Cost
Breakfast	Catered Bagel Meal and Fruit	\$300.00
Lunch	About 100 Catered Sandwich Lunches	\$600.00
Coffee	Catered Boxed Beverage	\$60.00
Print	Poster Design and Printing by Rice IT	\$200.00
Miscellaneous Grocery	Plates, napkins, drinks etc.	\$100.00
Wine/Beer	Alcohol for post-keynote reception	\$200.00
Food	Food for post-keynote reception	\$300.00
Rental	Table (setup)	\$24.00
Valhalla, Bartender, Drinks, Space Fees	For post-event social for participants, those in attendance, and grad students	\$200
Pizza	For post-event social for participants, those in attendance, and grad students	\$200
Total Expenses		\$2,184.00

### **Funds from other sources**

Please, provide any information on funds from other sources that you have secured or potential funds that you plan to apply for.

Source	Status	Cost
Humanities Departments and Dean's Office	Potential	\$400
Social Sciences Departments and Dean's Office	Potential	\$400
GSA	Potential	\$250
Total Amount		\$1,050

# GRAD starter

If the project/event has been offered in the past, how was it supported?

Over the past two years, the Humanities Graduate Student Association's Conference was funded by donations from departments in the Humanities as well as the office of the Dean of the Humanities.