

# THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON HUMANITIES FORUM

## Jim Miller – “Can Democracy Work?” [Video]

MAY 13, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

Did you miss Prof. Jim Miller’s talk from this spring? Watch it here. For more lectures from our Humanities Forum, please visit our [SoundCloud page](#).

Can Democracy Work? A Short History of a Radical Idea, from Ancient Ath...

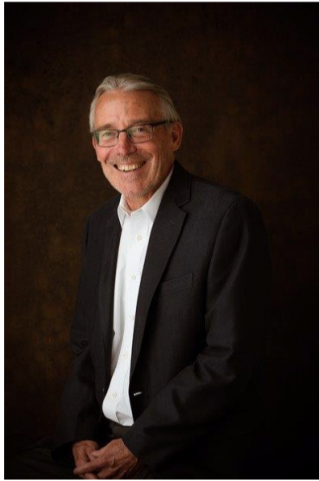


[https://youtu.be/vL\\_BkDoy3oU](https://youtu.be/vL_BkDoy3oU)

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# Tonight! Brian Conniff on Bruce Springsteen and the Catholic Imagination

APRIL 16, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS



# How Souls Get Lost: Bruce Springsteen, Flannery O'Connor, and the Catholic Imagination

Brian Conniff

When asked in a recent interview to name the “one book” that has had the greatest influence on his career, Bruce Springsteen chose the short stories of Flannery O'Connor. In O'Connor's fiction, he found characters who are “confounded” by “the unknowability of God” and “the intangible mysteries of life,” much like people he has found “by his side” throughout his life. In this presentation, Conniff considers O'Connor's enduring influence on Springsteen's “Catholic imagination.” He begins by describing recent developments in Springsteen's career, including his autobiography, *Born to Run*, and his show, *Springsteen on Broadway*, in which he has reflected much more extensively than ever before on his own Catholic faith. Conniff then traces Springsteen's reading of O'Connor, beginning in the later 1970s, particularly as her fiction clarified and deepened his understanding of Catholicism in relation to people struggling in “communities under siege” in the face of economic decline. In particular, he explores the general connections between O'Connor's story “The River” and Springsteen's song of the same title, as well as the more direct influence of O'Connor's “A Good Man is Hard to Find” on Springsteen's *Nebraska*. Most of all, Springsteen's reading of O'Connor leads him to a fuller depiction of limited and “confounded” people who sometimes find redemption, and sometimes get lost.

Tuesday, April 16 at 5:30 pm in LSC 133



Tonight, CAS Dean Brian Conniff will be speaking on the enduring connection between legendary American singer-songwriter Bruce Springsteen and seminal modernist writer Flannery O'Connor at 5:30 pm in LSC 133.

Brian Conniff has been the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences since 2010. Previously, he served as dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences at Radford University in Radford, Va. Prior to that, he served as a professor and chair of the Department of English at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio.

Dr. Conniff's academic areas of expertise and research are lyric and modern poetry and prison writing. His book “The Lyric of Modern Poetry: Olson, Creeley, Bunting” was published in 1988 and his book entitled “Before the Law: Race, Violence and Morality in Contemporary American Prison Writing” is currently under consideration for publication.

Dr. Conniff has published more than two dozen articles in academic books and scholarly journals including, most recently “John Tracy Ellis and the Figure of the Catholic Intellectual” in *Catholic Education*; “Answering ‘The Waste Land:’ Robert Hayden and the Rise of African American Poetic Sequence” in *The African American*

Review; and “Live from Death Row as Post-legal Prison Writing” in Literature and Law. He frequently writes book reviews for Religious Studies Review and Christianity and Literature.

During his career, he received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ohio Humanities Council, the Forum on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition Today and Campus Compact among others.

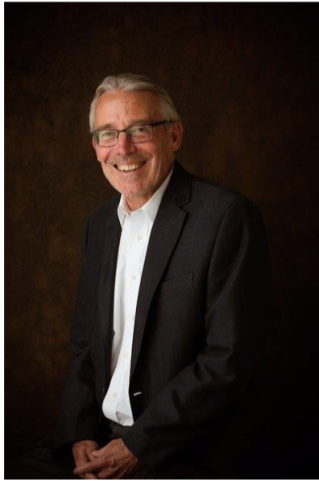
Dr. Conniff earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology from Rutgers University and his master’s degree in English literature from The University of Scranton. He earned a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Notre Dame.

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# **Brian Conniff, “How Souls Get Lost: Bruce Springsteen, Flannery O’Connor, and the Catholic Imagination,” Tuesday, April 16 at 5:30pm**

APRIL 8, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS





# How Souls Get Lost: Bruce Springsteen, Flannery O'Connor, and the Catholic Imagination

Brian Conniff

When asked in a recent interview to name the “one book” that has had the greatest influence on his career, Bruce Springsteen chose the short stories of Flannery O'Connor. In O'Connor's fiction, he found characters who are “confounded” by “the unknowability of God” and “the intangible mysteries of life,” much like people he has found “by his side” throughout his life. In this presentation, Conniff considers O'Connor's enduring influence on Springsteen's “Catholic imagination.” He begins by describing recent developments in Springsteen's career, including his autobiography, *Born to Run*, and his show, *Springsteen on Broadway*, in which he has reflected much more extensively than ever before on his own Catholic faith. Conniff then traces Springsteen's reading of O'Connor, beginning in the later 1970s, particularly as her fiction clarified and deepened his understanding of Catholicism in relation to people struggling in “communities under siege” in the face of economic decline. In particular, he explores the general connections between O'Connor's story “The River” and Springsteen's song of the same title, as well as the more direct influence of O'Connor's “A Good Man is Hard to Find” on Springsteen's *Nebraska*. Most of all, Springsteen's reading of O'Connor leads him to a fuller depiction of limited and “confounded” people who sometimes find redemption, and sometimes get lost.

Tuesday, April 16 at 5:30 pm in LSC 133



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## Humanities Alumni Panel, Wednesday April 10 at 5pm in DeNaples 405

APRIL 4, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

# Humanities Alumni Panel

Wednesday, April  
10<sup>th</sup>

DeNaples 405  
5:00pm

Questions? Contact Lori Moran at [lori.moran@scranton.edu](mailto:lori.moran@scranton.edu)

Hear from alumni and how  
their majors helped prepare  
them for their careers!

History

Theatre

World Languages & Cultures

Theology

Philosophy

English

Join us on Wednesday, April 10th as we bring a group of illustrious Humanities alums back to campus for a special panel on careers, their majors, and life after being a Royal!



*Suzy Krugulski (2011, English), Boyds  
Mills Press, an imprint of Highlights  
Magazine*



*Jason Brubaker (2009, Criminal Justice, minor in Theatre), The Irish Repertory Theatre*



*Frank Castellano (1993, History), Court Administrator, Lackawanna County*



**Cathy Seymour** (1990, Theology), The  
University of Scranton, Campus  
Ministries



**Stephanie Longo** (Italian and French, BA  
2003; History, MA 2009), Expert/author  
of books on Italian American history in  
NEPA; Director of Marketing &  
Communications at the Greater Scranton  
Chamber of Commerce

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# Today! Catherine Cornille on Interreligious Empathy at 7pm in Brennan 228

APRIL 3, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

The 2018-19 Humanities Forum



## Interreligious Empathy: Possibility and Limits

Catherine Cornille

Catherine Cornille is the Newton College Alumnae Chair of Western Culture and professor of comparative theology at Boston College. From 2008-2013, she organized the Boston College Symposia on Interreligious Dialogue, bringing together scholars from different religions and various parts of the world to focus on fundamental questions in Interreligious Dialogue. She is the author of *The Im-Possibility of Interreligious Dialogue*, the founding and managing editor of the book series *Christian Commentaries on Non-Christian Sacred Texts*, and the editor of *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Inter-Religious Dialogue*.

Wednesday, April 3 at 7 pm in Brennan 228

Co-sponsored by the Humanities Initiative and  
The Department of Theology and Religious Studies

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@scrantonhumanities

Tonight at 7pm, Catherine Cornille will be presenting on interreligious empathy and dialogue at 7pm in Brennan 228.

Catherine Cornille is the Newton College Alumnae Chair of Western Culture and professor of comparative theology at Boston College. From 2008-2013, she organized the Boston College Symposia on Interreligious Dialogue, bringing together scholars from different religions and various parts of the world to focus on fundamental questions in Interreligious Dialogue. Her research interests include the Theology of Religions and concrete questions in the Hindu-Christian and Buddhist-Christian dialogues. She is the author of *The Im-Possibility of Interreligious Dialogue*, the



founding and managing editor of the book series *Christian Commentaries on Non-Christian Sacred Texts*, and the editor of *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Inter-Religious Dialogue*. She holds a licentiate in theology, a B.A. in Philosophy, and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), as well as an M.A. in Asian Religions from the University of Hawaii.

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# Catherine Cornille: “Interreligious Empathy: Possibility and Limits,” April 3 at 7pm

MARCH 29, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

The 2018-19 Humanities Forum

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## Interreligious Empathy: Possibility and Limits

Catherine Cornille

Catherine Cornille is the Newton College Alumnae Chair of Western Culture and professor of comparative theology at Boston College. From 2008-2013, she organized the Boston College Symposia on Interreligious Dialogue, bringing together scholars from different religions and various parts of the world to focus on fundamental questions in Interreligious Dialogue. She is the author of *The Im-Possibility of Interreligious Dialogue*, the founding and managing editor of the book series *Christian Commentaries on Non-Christian Sacred Texts*, and the editor of *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Inter-Religious Dialogue*.

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# Today! James Miller on Democracy at 5:30pm in the Heritage Room

MARCH 28, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS



The 2018-19 Humanities Forum

## Can Democracy Work? A Short History of a Radical Idea, from Ancient Athens to Our World

James Miller

James Miller is Professor of Politics and Liberal Studies, and Faculty Director of the MA in Creative Publishing and Critical Journalism at The New School for Social Research. His latest book, *Can Democracy Work? A Short History of a Radical Idea from Ancient Athens to Our World*, has been published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. He is the author of six other books, including *Flowers in the Dustbin: the Rise of Rock & Roll, 1947-1977*, winner of an ASCAP-Deems Taylor award and a Ralph Gleason BMI award for best music book of 1999; *The Passion of Michel Foucault* (1993), an interpretive essay on the life of the French philosopher and a National Book Critics Circle Finalist for General Nonfiction, which has been translated into nine languages; "Democracy is in the Streets": From Port Huron to the Siege of Chicago (1987), an account of the American student movement of the 1960s, also a National Book Critics Circle Finalist for General Nonfiction; *Rousseau: Dreamer of Democracy* (1984), a study of the origins of modern democracy; and *History and Human Existence - From Marx to Merleau-Ponty*, an analysis of Marx and the French existentialists.

Thursday, March 28 at 5:30 pm in the Heritage Room  
(Weinberg Memorial Library, 5th Floor)

Sponsored by the Humanities Initiative in collaboration with the Schemel Forum

<https://sites.scranton.edu/humanities/>

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IG: @scrantonhumanities



Today, James Miller will present "Can Democracy Work? A Short History of a Radical Idea, from Ancient Athens to Our World," at 5:30pm in the Heritage Room on the 5th floor of the Weinberg Memorial Library. This event is co-sponsored by the Humanities Initiative and the Schemel Forum.

James Miller is Professor of Politics and Liberal Studies, and Faculty Director of the MA in Creative Publishing and Critical Journalism at The New School for Social Research. His latest book, *Can Democracy Work? A Short History of a Radical Idea from Ancient Athens to Our World*, has just been published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

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The original editor of *The Rolling Stone Illustrated History of Rock and Roll* (1976), he has written about music since the 1960s, when one of his early record reviews appeared in the third issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine. Subsequent pieces on music have appeared in *The New Republic*, *The New York Times* and *Newsweek*, where he was a book reviewer and pop music critic between 1981 and 1990. Pieces on philosophy and history have appeared in *The London Review of Books*, *The New York Times Book Review*. In 2000, the magazine *Lingua Franca* published his best-known essay, “Is Bad Writing Necessary? George Orwell, Theodor Adorno, and the Politics of Language.”

Besides publishing in such peer-reviewed academic journals as *History and Theory* and *Political Theory*, he has contributed to a variety of reference works, from *Encyclopedia Britannica* and *A New Literary History of America*, published by Harvard in 2009, to the *Dictionnaire de philosophie morale* edited by Monique Canto-Sperber in 1996.

From 2000 to 2008, he edited *Daedalus*, the journal of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow, an NEH Fellow twice, and in 2006-2007 he was a Fellow at the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. A native of Chicago, he was educated at Pomona College in California, and at Brandeis University, where he received a Ph.D. in the History of Ideas in 1976.

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# H.I. Recommends: John Donaghy ('70) Speaking about Rural Honduras, Tonight!

MARCH 26, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

COME OUT TO HEAR SPEAKER

**John Donaghy** (Class of 1970)

**Rural Honduras: Poverty,  
Faith, & the People**

March 26th 6:00 pm

LSC 133

Sponsored by the Ellacuria Initiative,  
Political Science, and Latin American  
Studies

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## American Creed Community Conversation with Dr. Adam Pratt

MARCH 25, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

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This Thursday, March 28, H.I. Executive Committee member and Assistant Professor of History, Dr. Adam Prat, will host a community conversation following screening of the documentary film “American Creed” at 6:30 p.m. in the Albright Memorial Library’s Henkelman Room.

In the documentary film, former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David M. Kennedy come together from different points of view to investigate the idea of a unifying American creed. Their spirited inquiry frames the stories of citizen-activists striving to realize their own visions of America’s promise across deepening divides. At the heart of this film, Rice and Kennedy lead a moving discussion with first-generation college students about the question: what does it mean to be American today?

American Creed Community Conversations are film screenings and scholar-facilitated discussions that mirror the type of conversation Rice and Kennedy have in the film and are designed to engage Americans in reflection and dialogue about their own part in the American story and in acting to shape that story for the better.

Registration is free and required for all events. To register online, visit [albright.org](http://albright.org) or call Jessica Serrenti at the Albright Memorial Library at 570-348-3000 ext. 3023.

The events are made possible through a partnership with the University and the American Library Association’s American Creed: Community Conversations grant program, in partnership with Citizen Film, WTTW Chicago, Corporation of Public

Broadcasting, the National Endowment of the Humanities and the National Writing Project. This event is supported by the Humanities Initiative.

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# James Miller: “Can Democracy Work? A Short History of a Radical Idea, from Ancient Athens to Our World,” Thursday, March 28 at 5:30pm

MARCH 25, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS



The 2018-19 Humanities Forum

## Can Democracy Work? A Short History of a Radical Idea, from Ancient Athens to Our World

James Miller

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**Talk on Syphilis and Literature by  
Dr. Juan Carlos González Espitia**  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



**"On Syphilis, Orchestrions, and Other Imported Goods:  
Trademarks in the Infirm Writings of Silva and Casal."**

**March 20, 2019, 5pm  
Leahy Hall 235**

**Co-sponsors: Latin American Studies, Ellacuría Initiative, the Department of World Languages and Cultures  
and the Humanities Initiative**  
Contact information: Dr. Yamile Silva ([yamile.silva@scranton.edu](mailto:yamile.silva@scranton.edu))

Today, UNC professor Juan Carlos González Espitia will give a talk on syphilis and literature at 5pm in Leahy 235. Dr. González Espitia is an Associate Professor of Spanish and affiliated faculty in Comparative Literature. From a literary and historical perspective, his work is a diachronic approach to Latin American and Spanish literary production in dialogue with critical medical humanities and questions of public health from the eighteenth century to the present, with a strong focus on the associations between the discourses of disease, literature, and public policy. He is the editor of the established North Carolina Studies in the Romance Languages and Literatures book series as well as the editor of the journal *Hispanófila*.

González Espitia teaches courses and guides doctoral candidates in multiple periods and through an array of disciplinary perspectives, from Spanish American and Peninsular literature of the Enlightenment to Avant-Garde literary production, to LatinX literature, and from seminars on cultural representations of disease and (dis)ability to courses on the theory of poesis or literary creation. His research focuses on non-canonical, heterodox, or otherwise hidden literatures, ideas and authors that, although oftentimes absent from the canons, reveal profound trends in culture and society. More pointedly, his work deals with representations of disease, forms of writing that challenge the status quo, and nation building, including the complex dynamics from a colonial condition to one of budding independence.

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# Cristina Rivera Garza's Talk (3/21/19) is Cancelled

MARCH 19, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

Unfortunately, Cristina Rivera Garza's talks previously scheduled for this week have been cancelled. We will be working to reschedule the presentation for Fall 2019. Please [subscribe](#) to stay up to date with Humanities Initiative events and news.

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## "Peck Small Tracks": A Jesuit Reading of Tess Taylor's Work & Days and Pope Francis's Laudato Si' – Thursday, 3/7

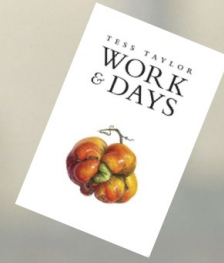
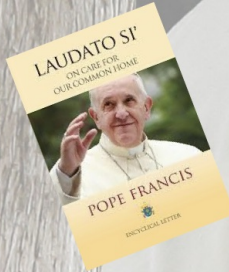
MARCH 5, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

This Thursday, come see a group of students from Sigma Tau Delta (the English Honors' society) as they present a round table on Tess Taylor and Pope Francis in Brennan 509. These students' research is supported by grants from the Humanities Initiative.



# Sigma Tau Delta

The English & Theatre Department with support from the Jesuit Center  
presents a Round Table discussion titled



*"Peck Small Tracks": A Jesuit reading of Tess Taylor's  
Work & Days and Pope Francis's Laudato Si'*

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Brennan Hall 509, The Rose Room

Free and open to public

Light refreshments will be served



MARCH 5, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

## Talk on Syphilis and Literature by Dr. Juan Carlos González Espitia University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



"On Syphilis, Orchestrions, and Other Imported Goods:  
Trademarks in the Infirm Writings of Silva and Casal."

March 20, 2019, 5pm  
Leahy Hall 235

Co-sponsors: Latin American Studies, Ellacuría Initiative, the Department of World Languages and Cultures  
and the Humanities Initiative

Contact information: Dr. Yamile Silva ([yamile.silva@scranton.edu](mailto:yamile.silva@scranton.edu))

# Sights and Sounds from the Cinzia Arruzza Humanities Forum

FEBRUARY 28, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

We were pleased to host Cinzia Arruzza, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the New School for a talk on Plato and Shamelessness on February 27, 2019. A recording can be found below. Thanks to all who came out to hear this enlightening presentation!







[soundcloud url="https://api.soundcloud.com/tracks/582758553"  
params="color=#aa0af7&auto\_play=false&hide\_related=false&show\_comments=true&show\_  
width="100%" height="166" iframe="true" /]

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# Cinzia Arruzza – “What’s the Need for Shame?: Plato on Shamlessness and Injustice”

FEBRUARY 21, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

The University of Scranton Humanities Initiative is proud to welcome [Cinzia Arruzza](#) to campus on Wednesday, February 27. Her talk will be at 5:30 in the 5th floor of the Weinberg Memorial Library.

Dr. Arruzza is the author of several books and co-editor of the forthcoming [Feminism for the 99%](#) (Verso Books). She currently teaches at The New School and is a member of the editorial collective for Viewpoint Magazine.





## What's the Need for Shame?: Plato on Shamlessness and Injustice

Cinzia Arruzza

Cinzia Arruzza is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the New School for Social Research. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Rome Tor Vergata and subsequently studied at the universities of Fribourg (Switzerland), and Bonn (Germany), where she was the recipient of an Alexander von Humboldt postdoctoral fellowship. She is the author of *Dangerous Liaisons: The Marriages and Divorces of Marxism and Feminism* (Merlin Press, 2013) and of *A Wolf in the City: Tyranny and the Tyrant in Plato's Republic* (OUP, 2018). She was one of the main organizers of the International Women's Strike in the United States and is a member of the editorial collective of Viewpoint Magazine.

Wednesday, February 27 at 5:30 pm  
Heritage Room (Weinberg Memorial Library, 5th Floor)

[scrantonhumanities.wordpress.com](http://scrantonhumanities.wordpress.com)



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## Cancelled — Dr. Brian Conniff

FEBRUARY 11, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

Dr. Conniff's scheduled talk for this Tuesday (2/12/19) has been cancelled due to inclement weather. We will reschedule at a later date.

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FEBRUARY 4, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS



The 2018-19 Humanities Forum

## How Souls Get Lost: Bruce Springsteen, Flannery O'Connor, and the Catholic Imagination

Brian Conniff

When asked in a recent interview to name the “one book” that has had the greatest influence on his career, Bruce Springsteen chose the short stories of Flannery O’Connor. In O’Connor’s fiction, he found characters who are “confounded” by “the unknowability of God” and “the intangible mysteries of life,” much like people he has found “by his side” throughout his life. In this presentation, Conniff considers O’Connor’s enduring influence on Springsteen’s “Catholic imagination.” He begins by describing recent developments in Springsteen’s career, including his autobiography, *Born to Run*, and his show, *Springsteen on Broadway*, in which he has reflected much more extensively than ever before on his own Catholic faith. Conniff then traces Springsteen’s reading of O’Connor, beginning in the later 1970s, particularly as her fiction clarified and deepened his understanding of Catholicism in relation to people struggling in “communities under siege” in the face of economic decline. In particular, he explores the general connections between O’Connor’s story “The River” and Springsteen’s song of the same title, as well as the more direct influence of O’Connor’s “A Good Man is Hard to Find” on Springsteen’s *Nebraska*. Most of all, Springsteen’s reading of O’Connor leads him to a fuller depiction of limited and “confounded” people who sometimes find redemption, and sometimes get lost.

Tuesday, February 12 at 5:30 pm in LSC 133  
Sponsored by the Humanities Initiative



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## Announcing the Spring 2019 Humanities Forum

JANUARY 30, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS

We’re excited to announce our Spring 2019 Humanities Forum. This semester’s forum will feature a wide array of guests writing on subjects such as shame, inter-religious dialogue, the future of democracy, and The Boss. We’re also honored to host one of the foremost writers working the Americas, Cristina Rivera Garza.



# HUMANITIES FORUM

Spring 2019

## **Brian Conniff**

*How Souls Get Lost: Bruce Springsteen, Flannery O'Connor, and the Catholic Imagination*

February 12 at 5:30pm in LSC 133

## **Cinzia Arruzza**

*What's the Need for Shame?: Plato on Shamlessness and Injustice*

February 27 at 5:30pm in the Heritage Room, Weinberg Memorial Library, 5th floor

## **Cristina Rivera Garza**

*A Domestic Archaeology of Repatriation*

March 21 at 5:30pm in the Moskovitz Theatre, DeNaples Center (4th Floor)

## **James Miller** (in collaboration with the Schemel Forum)

*Can Democracy Work? A Short History of a Radical Idea, from Ancient Athens to Our World*

March 28 at 5:30pm in the Heritage Room, Weinberg Memorial Library, 5th floor

## **Catherine Cornille**

*Interreligious Empathy: Possibility and Limits*

April 3rd at 7pm in Brennan 228



for more information visit [scrantonhumanities.wordpress.com](http://scrantonhumanities.wordpress.com)



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# Thank you Dr. Homer!

JANUARY 16, 2019 / DR. HANK WILLENBRINK / 0 COMMENTS



*Professor Emeritus, Dr. Frank Homer*

Historian and professor emeritus of the University of Scranton, Frank Homer, has donated \$100,000 to the Humanities Initiative. Read more about Dr. Homer's generous donation [here!](#)

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