



PACIFICA
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

M.A. IN ENGAGED HUMANITIES AND THE CREATIVE LIFE
WITH EMPHASIS IN DEPTH PSYCHOLOGY

M.A. IN ENGAGED HUMANITIES AND THE CREATIVE LIFE

WITH EMPHASIS IN DEPTH PSYCHOLOGY



The Engaged Humanities and Creative Life program is a unique low-residency Master of Arts program that invites students to discover for themselves—and within themselves—the eternally rich sources of inspiration long-associated with the arts and humanities; including the study of psychology, mythology, philosophy, history, literature, and ecology as they inform the art and craft of living and working with deep purpose, enlivened creativity, and devoted service. Students in this program learn strategies for tapping into the deep well of the collective unconscious as the ultimate source of creativity. In addition, students discover the value and necessity of working together in creative collaboration, which as reflected in the concept of emergence, inspires and influences new, and unexpected creative expression. Students learn to enhance their inherent creative powers and aesthetic sensibilities through serious and prolonged engagement with the archetypal energies of the creative psyche.

Our program is built upon a transdisciplinary worldview, which blurs the artificial boundaries between disciplines. Transdisciplinarity is radically inclusive and non-hierarchical; this allows us to approach marginalized ways of knowing such as indigenous wisdom traditions, astrology, alchemy, and the sacred with the same depth as our commitment to great literature, visual art, film, performance, new media and the sciences. Students completing this Masters of Arts program will present two substantial creative projects and critically reflect upon their creative processes as they take their experiences out into the world at large.

Creativity is an enigma. As poet and psychoanalyst Clarissa Pinkola Estés has observed, it is a “shapeshifter,” a “dazzling spirit” that appears in all our lives while eluding our attempts to explain its radiance. C.G. Jung regarded creativity as a vital human instinct; a force akin to nature itself, which drives the unfolding and shaping of every life. Creativity is also a calling, one that makes its claim upon individuals who in turn devote themselves to crafting the stories, objects, and experiences that illuminate and transform our world. **The knowledge-making traditions of depth psychology, the arts, and the humanities can inform and nourish every type of creative endeavor, including those dedicated to social justice, climate activism, and communal healing.** In fact, the world itself has its own creativity, manifested in the archetypes of the collective unconscious, whose symbols, images, metaphors, and movements are the *prima materia* of our co-creative and inexorably interconnected lives.

This M.A. program’s approach is broad, highly transdisciplinary, and satisfying for those who seek to combine intellectual exploration with creativity. Honoring Pacifica’s mission to tend

soul in and of the world, the program emerges from the depth psychological perspective that artmaking is soul-making as it supports students who crave deeper levels of understanding and devotion in their creative lives. Intellectual rigor is combined with creative expression, encouraging dialogue between students and faculty with a focus on expanding individual and collective potentials as contributors to the unfolding of a more just, vibrant, and soulful world. **The program is designed for those who seek to live and work more intuitively, meaningfully, and expansively** while fostering the same qualities in others. This program attracts individuals from the visual, performing, narrative, film, video, and media arts; advertising, marketing, architecture, fashion, and design; teachers of every grade level from K-12 to college, plus many from diverse and overlapping fields such as social services, community organization, corporate leadership, somatics, yoga, the healing arts and ministry. A previous professional creative background is not required for admission.



MARY A. WOOD, PH.D.
Program Chair

SUSAN ROWLAND, PH.D.
Core Faculty, Advisor in
Research and the Humanities

How can the psychology of the creative unconscious help you find the numinous, offer spiritual inspiration, and deepen your creative instincts? The M.A. in Engaged Humanities and the Creative Life is a unique program designed to develop creativity through a potent combination of the soul of the imagination, humanities resources, and arts practice.

~ MARY A. WOOD & SUSAN ROWLAND

ACADEMIC FORMAT

This hybrid degree program takes advantage of online distance-learning technologies that allows students to work and learn in online classrooms and in their home environments. Additionally, once each quarter, students gather on Pacifica's Ladera Lane Campus for a four-day weekend (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) in a retreat-style residential. During these on-campus sessions, students have access to the Institute's extensive resources and are able to deepen community involvement and professional collaboration. They join classmates from around the world in forming professional relationships and networks of like-minded creative individuals. This convenient format brings Pacifica's graduate degree programs to global citizens and the life-long learners who otherwise might not be able to fulfill their educational calling.

The M.A. program in Engaged Humanities and the Creative Life with Emphasis in Depth Psychology provides a transdisciplinary education informed by depth psychology, literature, mythology, philosophy and creative practice. The program's unique learning format combines the best aspects of a connected, soulful, and transformative interpersonal experience with the convenience of distance-learning technologies.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

FIRST YEAR

- Creativity and Aesthetic Sensibility – HMC 100, 3 Units
- Comparative Mythology and Contemporary Mythopoesis – HMC 110, 3 Units
- The Complex Nature of Inspiration – HMC 120, 3 Units
- Creative Influence Across the Humanities – HMC 130, 3 Units
- The Expressive Power of Archetypes – HMC 140, 3 Units
- C.G. Jung, Individuation, and the Symbolic Life – HMC 150, 3 Units
- The Purpose and Power of Image – HMC 160, 3 Units
- Project Workshop I: Creative Dialogue and Design – HMC 170, 3 Units
- The Multicultural, Multimedia, Transformative Fairy Tale – HMC 190, 3 Units

SECOND YEAR

- Active Imagination, Dreams, and Psychic Creativity – HMC 200, 3 Units
- Mythic Narratives: Eternal Sources and Contemporary Inflections – HMC 210, 3 Units
- Time, Place, Space, and the Ecology of Creative Expression – HMC 220, 3 Units
- The Healing Power of Creativity – HMC 230, 3 Units
- The Artist as Activist and Agent of Social Change – HMC 240, 3 Units OR
- The Purpose and Power of the Moving Image – HMC 3 Units
- Technology and the Psyche – HMC 250, 3 Units
- Creativity, Vocation, and Alchemical Work – HMC 260, 3 Units
- Project Workshop II: Creative Expression and Reflection – HMC 270, 3 Units
- Selected Topics in Engaged Humanities – HMC 280, 3 Units*

*This course may replace any of the above, and the curriculum may vary depending upon evolving academic needs.

This degree program is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

For gainful employment information, visit pacifica.edu/gainfulemployment

Your life is much deeper and broader than you conceive it to be. What you are living is but a fractional inkling of what is really within you, what gives you life, breadth, and depth. But you can live in terms of that depth. And you can experience it.

~ JOSEPH CAMPBELL



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CREATIVE PRACTICE AS INCLUSIVE INQUIRY

“I am stuck,” said C.G. Jung. This is the theme of every fairytale and myth, and it is what everyone says when beginning therapy. Creative individuals understand this theme, and our M.A. in Engaged Humanities and Creative Life program begins right here. By animating the humanities through creative practice and depth psychology, our program combines creativity and critical thinking necessary for the twenty-first century. HMC develops imaginative spontaneity as psychological resilience. In a time of rapid change, this M.A. prepares us for a future that cannot be wholly predicted.

In addition to increasing intuition, insight and personal transformation, the program also offers students a radical new initiative in Arts-Based Research (ABR), which restores artmaking to knowledge-making. ABR reverses the marginalization of the arts and humanities. Now creative practice can be recognized as central to being and indigenous to making meaning that counts as knowledge.

Pacifica’s M.A. in Engaged Humanities and the Creative Life pioneers Jungian Arts-Based Research, or JABR, in bringing archetypes and creativity into knowledge making. JABR can be used to research anything from the psychic impact of weapons of war to the intimate traces of a person’s identity. Along with other significant projects, students on this program design JABR projects to inform, and transform, the heart of academic disciplines. By doing so, students take their place in a major paradigm shift; that of transdisciplinarity.

Transdisciplinarity replaces the subject/object split paradigm that privileges one kind of science, with a paradigm that offers a rightful place to creativity and the imagination, welcomes non-Western cultures, and embraces traditional embodied forms of knowing. Transdisciplinarity fosters diversity in knowing as the foundation for eradicating hierarchies between cultures and consequent racism. Through transdisciplinarity, our M.A. degree is distinctive, empowering, anti-racist, diverse, and forward looking. It is for anyone who longs to develop and share their fullest potentials in tumultuous times.





ALUMNI OF THIS PROGRAM



ROLAND PALENCIA
M.A. Engaged Humanities
and the Creative Life

Roland Palencia is the Community Benefits Director and a corporate trainer at L.A. Care Health Plan, the largest public health plan in the nation. In the early 1980s, he became one of the early founders of the LGBTQ Latin@ movement in the greater Los Angeles area. He has received numerous awards acknowledging his decades of activism and advocacy on behalf of marginalized and under resourced populations. His work includes being the former Executive Director at Clinica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero and Equality California, Chief of Operations and V.P at the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, and his current board member activity with ONE Archives Foundation, the longest existing LGBTQ organization in the U.S. He is also Treasurer of Teatro Akabal Theatre, a socially conscious theater group collective. His greatest pride is being a mentor to future generations of progressive activists.



GELAREH KHOIE
M.A. Engaged Humanities
and the Creative Life

An artist, writer, DJ, impresario and budding Jungian scholar. "The Humanities program at PGI is nothing short of a two-year project of transformation. I was one person when I entered, and a vastly different, and better, person when I left.

The growth and learning I experienced were exponential, with each new quarter doubling the ante, leading to more and more insights and awakenings. The scholarship is fierce and beautiful, the environment, sublime. I am now living the cohesively integrated creative and professional life I always dreamed of because of the extraordinary two years I spent in this program."