HUMANITIES TEXAS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
Joe C. Thompson Conference Center • 2405 Robert Dedman Drive • Austin, Texas

7:30–8:15 a.m. Check-in and Breakfast
8:15–8:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
Eric Lupfer, Humanities Texas
8:30–9:15 a.m. The Evolution of Journalism and News in U.S. History
David Ryfe, The University of Texas at Austin
9:20–10:05 a.m. The State of Things: Journalism, Democracy, and Texas
Evan Smith, Texas Tribune
10:05–10:25 a.m. Break
10:25–11:10 a.m. Teaching Students to Become Expert Readers of the News
Meghan McGlinn Manfra, North Carolina State University
11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Teaching Strategies, Assignments, and Classroom Activities
Gwynne Ash, Texas State University
12:00–12:50 p.m. Lunch
12:50–1:00 p.m. Humanities Texas Educational Resources
1:00–3:15 p.m. Afternoon Seminars
3:15–3:30 p.m. Closing Announcements


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GWYNNE ASH is a professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Texas State University. She earned her BA and MA in English from Trinity University and Texas A&M University and her doctorate in reading education from the University of Georgia. She holds teaching certification in Texas in three areas: middle and secondary English language arts and reading, master reading teacher, and reading specialist. She also has an ESL credential. A former middle school teacher in San Antonio, Dr. Ash teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in literacy methods, literacy assessment and interventions for students who struggle with school-based literacies, and children’s and young adult literature. Her research has recently been published in the Handbook of Research on Reading Comprehension, Literacy Research Methodologies, the Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy, the Middle School Journal, and Children’s Literature in Education. She recently served on the board of directors of the International Literacy Association, and she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Service at Texas State University in 2018.

MEGHAN McGLINN MANFRA is a professor in the Department of Teacher Education and Learning Sciences in the College of Education at North Carolina State University. She attended Elon College as a North Carolina Teaching Fellow and began her career as a high school history teacher. She completed a master’s degree (MA) in history at the University of North Carolina – Greensboro and received her doctorate (PhD) in education at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on social studies teacher education, teacher professional learning, and the integration of digital technologies into instruction. She is the editor of the Handbook of Social Studies Research and author of Action Research for Classrooms, Schools, and Communities.

DAVID RYFE is the director of and professor in the School of Journalism and Media at The University of Texas at Austin. During his career, he has published widely in the areas of presidential communication, political communication, public deliberation, and the history and sociology of news. These days his work mostly concerns the ongoing disruption of American journalism. His book, Can Journalism Survive? (Polity, 2012) presents the most sustained ethnographic study of American newsrooms in a generation. His answer to the question raised in the book’s title is that journalism is and will survive but will adapt in ways that change both large and small elements of the practice. His most recent book, Journalism and the Public (Polity, 2017) explores the many ways in which journalism is shaped by the particular configuration of public life in which it is embedded. This fact is why journalism everywhere around the globe shares a family resemblance but is nowhere practiced the same. Previously, Professor Ryfe served as director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Iowa. In his years as an academic administrator, he has worked with faculty and staff to help prepare the next generation of journalists to thrive in the rapidly changing industry of journalism.

EVAN SMITH is the CEO and co-founder of The Texas Tribune, a pioneering nonprofit, nonpartisan digital news organization whose deep coverage of Texas politics and public policy can be found at its website, texastribune.org, in newspapers and on TV and radio stations across the state, and in the print and online editions of the Washington Post. Since its launch in 2009, the Tribune has won international acclaim and numerous honors, including a Peabody Award, twenty-five national Edward R. Murrow Awards from the Radio Television Digital News Association, and three general excellence awards from the Online News Association. Evan is also the host of Overheard with Evan Smith, a weekly half-hour interview program that airs on PBS stations around the country. Previously, he spent nearly eighteen years at Texas Monthly, including eight years as the magazine’s editor and a year as its president and editor-in-chief.