Why do we do what we do? In our increasingly corporatized higher education with more and more emphasis on profits and finding a job, we often have to justify why what we do matters.

As humanities students, we are often asked to justify the value of our discipline. The Arts in general are significantly underfunded and undervalued due to the perception that our work is irrelevant beyond the walls of the classroom. The public often judges the relevance of a discipline based on how it might translate into a viable source of income. As a result, the humanities are becoming increasingly geared towards practical application. Have we shifted towards job security and away from aesthetic appreciation? As the goals and aims of the field changes, does its roles and responsibilities also change?

This conference aims to explore the values inherent and provided by the pursuit of higher education in literary studies and the humanities. What do we seek to gain through our education and does it benefit others? What responsibility do we, as scholars of the humanities, have in our society? How has the humanities changed to address these questions?

**POSSIBLE TOPICS**

**DEADLINE: FEB 27TH, 2019 BY MIDNIGHT**
Submit work to uwaterloocfp@gmail.com