

WHY SUPPORT RESEARCH AT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES?

SO YOU CAN DISCOVER HIDDEN LANGUAGES, ANALYZE LITERATURE IN SECONDS, AND ILLUMINATE THE PAST.

And that's just for starters. Through generous research grants, Boston University has been helping the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) learn more about how the past affects our present when it comes to politics, religion, and education.

■ A HIDDEN LANGUAGE—AND CULTURE—REVEALED

For centuries, understanding of sub-Saharan Africa derived from the records of European colonialists who suggested the region was void of written language. A BU anthropologist says not so fast. Fallou Ngom, who grew up in Senegal, insists sub-Saharan Africans used a writing system known as Ajami, derived from classical Arabic, to record details of their daily lives since at least the 10th century. With the help of an NEH grant, Ngom and his team are transcribing, translating, and preparing multimedia resources to offer scholars and the public new insight into African history, literature, culture, medicine, and everyday life.

■ AN ALGORITHM TO ANALYZE LITERATURE—AND ITS VARIED INFLUENCES

What do 19th-century novels have to do with high school dropouts, forgotten in the postindustrial economy? BU political scientist Cathie Jo Martin is using an NEH grant to delve into the struggles of fiction writers, and policymakers, in the development of British and Danish education systems between 1700 and 1920. Using computational linguistics and archival research, Martin finds that British and Danish authors offered radically different pictures of schooling. It turns out that those novels of long ago influenced the development of educational systems—and how both nations treat their most vulnerable youth.

■ A PERSONAL LOOK AT WORLD WAR II

The most popular American histories of World War II are stories about victory, following frontline fighters as they storm beaches and liberate towns. Utilizing an NEH Public Scholars grant, BU historian Brooke Blower took a different approach: narrating the first half of the war with intimate biographies of seven Americans who traveled on the doomed Yankee Clipper seaplane that crashed in Lisbon. Her book, *American World Wars*, recalls how quickly the international order can collapse, how perilous the state of the world was before 1943, and how uncertain the future seemed before the allies gained the upper hand.

We hope you'll give strong consideration to supporting research funding for the NEH. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the role that NEH research plays in our daily lives, please visit bu.edu/federal.

اَيْتَالِيْبِ التَّيَاجِ اَيْتَدَار كِيَلَا
اَنَسْكَوْرَا تَلُوْلَا عَمَشَدَا نِيَقْمُوْلَا

اَنْي قَوْمِي كَشُوْلَا فَرْكَا بَقَا كِيَلَا

اَكْرَنْقُوْلَا سِيْبِيَا اَبِي سِيْدِي طُوْبِيَا

اَبِي رِيْدِي هَالَا اَيَا سِيْدِي كِيَلَا

