

The University Seminars at Columbia University

75th Anniversary

Call for Essay Proposals Deadline for submissions is June 15th, 2018

In academic year 2019-2020, The University Seminars will turn 75. In lieu of the Leonard Hastings Schoff Memorial Lecture Series that fall, The Seminars will celebrate. In the spirit of Frank Tannenbaum, who intended The University Seminars to make a contribution to society, The Seminars have partnered with Columbia University Press to publish an edited collection of essays written by members of the University Seminars community, tentatively titled:

Keeping Speech Free: The University Seminars and the Preservation of Intellectual Conversation

The University Seminars 75th Anniversary Subcommittee is now soliciting essay proposals.

As you consider your proposals, please keep the following in mind:

- Your Keeping Speech Free essays, of 4,000 to 7,000 words apiece, should speak to the basic ideas that undergird the Seminars. We want to know about the origins, context and evolution of your seminars.
- We are not commissioning cut-and-dried histories. Rather, we anticipate stories about why and how certain seminars came into being, why they still exist, and why they matter. They should speak to what one of our ranks described as their "trans-conversational nature, for the benefit of the larger public." We are, in short, requesting intellectual excursions, much like the seminars themselves.
- We want to hear from as many of you as possible. Keeping Speech Free should use a blend and balance of subjects across the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences and their multiple intersections. The book will also range from the earliest Seminars to those of more recent vintage. By way of linking the essays we ask each author to respond to the question: "What have you learned from the past and how the 'lessons learned' shape your approach toward the future?"

[SUBMIT A PROPOSAL*](#)

*LINK TO THE UNIVERSITY SEMINARS SUBMISSIONS SITE:

<https://columbiauniversitytheuniversityseminars.submittable.com/submit/115031/keeping-speech-free-call-for-proposals>