The University Seminars
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

FOR CHAIRS, MEMBERS, & RAPPORTEURS

2020-2021
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The University Seminars at Columbia University is an ongoing community of partnerships each of which is constituted by scholars from multiple academic departments and disciplines, often including experts from outside academia, and is devoted to the study of an institution, practice, or issue of theoretical and/or practical importance. The University Seminars originated in, and maintains its vitality through, spontaneous intellectual initiatives and is therefore considered a movement. The mission of The University Seminars collectively is to enable the intellectual missions of its individual constituent seminars.

Seminars are closed to the general public. Seminars invite members from CU and other institutions including, but not limited to, colleges and universities. Members attend regularly through the academic year. To be invited to attend a seminar, please write to the seminar chair expressing your interest and qualifications in the seminar’s area of study.
When communicating with The University Seminars office, please include the seminar’s full name and number, as well as a short explanatory note (e.g., “Meeting Notification”), in the subject line of the email. The University Seminars website contains a complete listing of active seminars.

For archival information, see also: List of All Seminars, Past & Present.

We are here to help! Please contact the office with any questions.

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The University Seminars Archive is a valuable compilation of intellectual history spanning nearly 75 years. In academic year 1944-1945, five seminars began to meet on an ongoing basis; three of those original seminars remain active. Since these WWII-era beginnings, scholars have founded over two hundred seminars, and the questions, concerns, and challenges of the intervening decades can be traced through the development of new seminars. Today over 90 seminars meet, and The University Seminars continues to provide venues for open and unfettered intellectual exchange among peers, allowing attendees the freedom to try out ideas without the inherent limitations of a public discussion.

In 2003, then Director Robert L. Belknap began the project of scanning the first fifty years of the pre-digital meeting minutes of the seminars. Under his supervision, over a half million pages were digitized. The original documents were organized, boxed, and entrusted to Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library. In 2011, Summer Hart was hired to work with Robert Belknap and Robert Pollack to unify the various components of the archive.

On December 1st, 2015, The University Seminars Digital Archive was launched, opening up full-text searchable files to scholars on dedicated laptops in the RBML reading room on the 6th Floor of Butler Library. Researchers can browse, keyword search, and view the records of seminars. Boxes containing original materials, housed offsite, may also be requested.

**Library Access:**

For scholars using Butler Library, librarians can offer assistance. The University Seminars finding aid can be used to locate and request a laptop or specific boxes from the collection.

The date range of the archive is 1944-2014, with documentation from 194 seminars. Additional files are incorporated on a yearly basis, keeping in-line with the Seminars’ five-year privacy policy.

**Remote Access:** At the start of each fall semester, Summer Hart updates a list of permissions for remote access to The University Seminars Digital Archive. See: Digital Archive Quick Guide.

The University Seminar's material is sorted into the following series:

- Series I: Minutes and Notes
- Series II: Related Papers
- Series III: Books Based on University Seminars
- Series IV: Digital Archive
The University Seminars provides venues for chairs, university affiliates, associates, and guests for private discussions among peers on matters of serious interest and importance to those in attendance.

The following statements are pulled from the “Visiting Scholars/Scientists and Seminar Associates” of the Columbia University Faculty Handbook which states:

“\textit{The University is host to many visitors who do not hold academic appointments but use its facilities and participate in its activities. To accommodate the needs of these individuals and recognize their contributions to its intellectual life, the University has created two courtesy designations, visiting scholar/scientist and seminar associate...}

\textit{Regardless of whether they receive a courtesy designation, visitors may not be paid for providing services to the University and may not engage in work that would normally be performed by officers or staff. Those who are engaged in research at Columbia are expected to comply with the University’s policies designed to ensure that their work is conducted safely and in a professional manner.”}

The office has only rarely found it necessary to set boundary conditions on seminars. But, because in these cases persistent failure to observe one or more of these boundaries would render a seminar inoperative under our charter and endowment, the office and the Advisory Committee of The University Seminars have mapped out guidelines on public representation.

- **Honoraria:** The University Seminars do not pay honoraria. A seminar may not collaborate nor have its name associated with a conference or meeting where speakers are paid. Chairs may request funds to cover a speaker’s airfare and accommodation.

- **Public Advocacy & Partisan Activity:** The University Seminars is dedicated to the free expression of ideas, and encourages chairs, university affiliates, and associates in their individual capacities to participate fully in the political process during campaigns by candidates for public office. However, all such political action must neither overtly nor implicitly involve Columbia University or The University Seminars. Columbia University is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; as such, it is prohibited from participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office. For more information, please see: The Columbia University Policy on Partisan Activity.

- **Seminar Affiliation:** Seminar chairs, university affiliates, and associates may represent their affiliations freely in communication with other seminar members. Such identification is also acceptable in scholarly articles and books where a seminar’s discussion is relevant to the argument. However, seminar affiliation may not be used to publicly legitimate a position (e.g., “As ex-chair of The University Seminar on Antarctica, Prof. X claims...”).

- **Attribution of Affiliate Status by Membership:** The University Seminars takes pride in its place in members’ intellectual lives and is grateful for the acknowledgements that often appear in scholarly books and articles. However, membership does not signify faculty status at Columbia University, but rather falls under the category of “courtesy designation.”
The University Seminars office maintains a departmental website containing historical information, a listing of all current seminars, a virtual library of books supported by The Seminars, and all administrative guidelines, procedures, and forms. Each seminar has an individual page with a statement of purpose, contact information for the current chairs and rapporteurs, and a schedule of meetings. The University Seminars office does not post minutes or speakers’ papers to this site.

Should a seminar wish to publish additional material on the central website, Columbia University’s Information Technology Department (CUIT) offers various options for members of the Columbia community. Information can be found at: CUIT Web Publishing.

Website Publishing

- The University Seminars neither endorses nor judges material on a seminar’s website.
- The University Seminars does not provide funds for external websites.
- The University Seminars office is not responsible for the administration of external websites. The chair or seminar rapporteur must maintain these sites with the help of CUIT. Exiting rapporteurs and chairs must pass along ownership, any site permissions, and maintenance instructions to the next rapporteur and chair.
- A link to an external webpage must be made available to The University Seminars office in a timely fashion, so that it may be added to the seminar’s page on the central website.
- Seminars may not place any material presented at a seminar on social media, a blog, or other site independent of the seminar with the intention of continuing the conversation beyond the physical meeting.
- Distribution of minutes to a seminar’s membership, via printed copy, email, or an external website is at the discretion of the seminar; however, it is also the responsibility of the chair to obtain informed consent from all participants at the beginning of each meeting.

The University Seminars is intended to foster an open and unfettered intellectual exchange among peers, allowing attendees the freedom to try out ideas without the inherent limitations of a public discussion; therefore, seminars choosing to publish minutes online must: only post to websites under their seminar’s direct control; consider redacting politically sensitive remarks; and review minutes for potential intellectual property and copyright infringements. Chairs can consult The Copyright Advisory Office for information on copyright principles.
Virtual Meetings

All seminar meetings are to be held virtually through at least until the end of fall 2020. Some seminars will take this time to enjoy a hiatus. The University Seminars office will support any seminar that decides to meet virtually while all in-person meetings are suspended. Virtual Seminars will be supported via Zoom. (All Columbia University affiliates are responsible for obtaining their own premium Zoom account from the university.

Virtual Meeting Moderator

The University Seminars office will assign a moderator to each virtual seminar meeting precisely in order to read The University Seminars privacy policy statement and record the acknowledgement of the privacy policy by each attendee and to collect the names and affiliation of attendees.

Moderators will join the seminar meeting before the scheduled start time as [FirstName (Moderator)]. The meeting host may be the rapporteur or chair; this should be decided in advance. The host will introduce the moderator at the beginning of the session. The host must make the moderator a co-host so that they can view the full list of participants and see who has a hand raised. No attendee may have a hand raised before the privacy policy acknowledgement is read.

The moderator may also help with any technical issues, if any, and make sure the meeting is recording. Once the meeting begins, the moderator will leave the meeting to run on its own.

Rapporteurs are still responsible for all other duties, especially, but not limited to, taking the minutes of the meeting. Rapporteurs are responsible for hosting or co-hosting the meetings.

Meals

The University Seminars traditionally pays for the meal that the rapporteur enjoys with their seminar. This has always been considered part of the rapporteur pay. We will continue to pay for the rapporteur’s dinner or lunch on meeting days. Submit a reimbursement to John Jayo for your meal up to $35. The meal must be purchased on the same date as the meeting is held and cannot be grocery store items. It must be dine-in or take-out.

Email Lists

Seminars maintain their own email lists. Email lists include university affiliates, associates, and guests, including students. The University Seminars office does not maintain email lists or listservs. Rapporteurs have the option of submitting a copy of the email list via Submittable.
None of CU’s resources, including electronic databases, may be used for for-profit activities.

Columbia University Affiliate and Associate Membership

Columbia University affiliate membership is reserved for faculty and other experts of Columbia University. Associate membership may be offered to faculty and experts from other academic and non-academic institutions; external scholars may also contact the seminar’s chair and ask to apply for associate membership.

Columbia affiliate and associate members may be nominated to the seminar’s roster at any time by the seminar chair. Seminar chairs submit a letter of nomination to Alice Newton for review. If the nomination(s) is (are) accepted, the nominee(s) will be sent a UNISEM Membership Form via Google to complete. Members retain their appointments to the seminar until they resign from Columbia, resign their membership, or are asked to withdraw due to lack of participation. Seminar chairs are asked to review their roster of members on an annual basis during the spring term. On rare occasions, the director may reject an applicant for lack of qualifications.

Informal Attendance

Seminars are by invitation. Guest attendance is at the discretion of the chair and seminar members. Guests can be faculty, experts, or students. Some attendees of seminars never bother officially joining the seminar. Regardless of how often they attend, all guests must acknowledge the privacy policy of the seminar. For virtual meetings, the meeting moderator will read the policy and ask for acknowledgement by raise of hand. Individual seminars maintain records of these guests, i.e., on email lists.

Associate membership is awarded when the following have occurred:

- The seminar’s chair submits a letter of nomination to Alice Newton.
- Nomination is reviewed and the nominee is asked to complete the UNISEM Membership Form via Google.
- Alice approves the appointment, following review of the nomination and google form. In rare cases, Alice may reject the nomination or request additional information before approving the appointment.
- A formal notice of appointment is sent to both the seminar chair and the new member or associate.

To access membership privileges, associates must:

Obtain an ID Card

Associate members who request Columbia ID cards in their UNISEM Membership Form via Google will be added to the ID system. Associates will receive an email confirmation when this is done with instructions to go to the ID Center at 204 Kent Hall to receive an ID card.
Activate UNI

Associates may go to the Manage my UNI section on the CUIT Website and select “Activate My Uni.” They will be prompted to accept terms and create a password. **NOTE:** The password for each seminar associate must be recent. For security purposes, every two to four months the system will require a password change.

UNI Password Issues

Columbia UNI password issues are addressed by CUIT staff at 212-854-1919 or by visiting room 202 Philosophy.

Columbia University Alumni may need to go to the Alumni website.

**Associate membership privileges (with ID Card and UNI /password) include:**

- **Library Access:** Free reading and borrowing privileges at the University’s libraries, including physical and remote access. Note that some electronic books are available only to Columbia University students. Specific library databases can be found on CLIO.

- **Gym Access:** Use of Dodge Fitness Center for a monthly fee. For information on how to use these facilities, contact the Dodge Membership office at (212) 854-2546 or (212) 854-2547.

**SOME ON-CAMPUS LIBRARY SERVICES HAVE RESUMED, INCLUDING BOOK PICK-UP AND SCANNING SERVICES.**

**MANY OTHER SERVICES, TOOLS, AND COLLECTIONS REMAIN AVAILABLE ONLINE WHILE PHYSICAL LOCATIONS ARE CLOSED. READ MORE.**

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, DODGE FITNESS CENTER IS CLOSED. SEE THE COVID-19 PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION.**
DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, TRAVEL AND TRAVEL FUNDING ARE SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY.
Conference Guidelines and Procedures

Occasionally, a seminar’s central concerns involve scholars too distant for regular participation, or a seminar wants to engage a broader audience. On such occasions, the seminar may wish to organize a conference or public or private symposium. Conferences and symposia are an exciting part of The University Seminars programming.

In order for the Conference Committee to consider a proposal, conference guidelines must be acknowledged and a proposal must be submitted through our online system.

Additionally, the following requirements must be met:

- The conference must come from the work of a seminar.
- Members of the seminar must commit to being chief organizers of the conference and its planning; graduate students and post-docs should not be the primary organizers.
- Members must agree on the basic needs and goals of the conference.
- Conference arrangements must be made in a way that is transparent to The University Seminars office, and the office should be copied on all important communications.
- Conferences held in the Faculty House or that require travel or hotel accommodations, must submit a Conference Planning Worksheet to Pamela Guardia.
- Organizers must email hi-resolution files of any posters or promotional material as well as a final program to: Summer Hart.

The University Seminars Charter forbids support to any conference that pays honoraria, even if it comes from an outside source.

Conference Proposals

Conference proposals are accepted through The University Seminars Submittable site.

To submit a conference proposal, chairs can go to The University Seminars website and choose "Submittable" from the main navigation bar. This links to The University Seminars Submittable page. If new to Submittable, the site will ask them to create a login and password. Once logged on to The University Seminars page, they will select “Conference Proposal” from the list and follow the instructions, which will include downloading and completing the Conference Budget Worksheet and Conference Funding Agreement Form.
After the proposal has been submitted an email confirmation will be sent. It may take a week or two for the Conference Committee to review the submission and, if necessary, they may ask for additional materials or clarifications. The status of the proposal can be checked by logging in to Submittable or by contacting The University Seminars office.

Conference Planning

Once conference funding is secured, conference organizers must submit a Conference Planning Worksheet to Pamela Guardia and schedule a meeting to review budgets, travel and lodging policies, and to reserve a venue.

Travel and Hotel Accommodations for Conference Attendees

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, TRAVEL FUNDING FOR CONFERENCES IS SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY.

Expenses & Part-Time Hires

Use the Conference Budget Worksheet to track expenses and funding from other sources. Seminars may ask The Seminars to cover expenses beyond the allocated funds until later reimbursement if other sponsors have confirmed that they will provide additional funds. Only confirmed sponsors should be listed in the application.

The University Seminars will pay a rapporteur up to 20 hours of pay for a conference from our rapporteur budget. Additional hours will be discounted from the funds allocated to the specific conference. Be mindful of the 20 hours per week limit on work hours for graduate students. Seminar chairs may hire casual graduate students other than the seminar rapporteur. If hiring someone who is not a current rapporteur, please have the candidate contact Gesenia Alvarez to proceed with the hiring process. Casual graduate students who are not current rapporteurs will receive $25/hr. See: Rapporteur Compensation, p. 35 for further information.

Publicity & Acknowledgments

The conference will be featured in the Annual Directory of Seminars, Speakers, & Topics. Please cc: The University Seminars office on all email invitations. To be publicized on the website, email Summer Hart at least four weeks in advance of the event; the message should include the conference’s date, title, program, and a high-resolution version of any graphics produced to advertise the event.

Conference funding is awarded to the individual seminar; the seminar is the co-sponsor, not The University Seminars. Therefore acknowledge sponsorship by the seminar’s name, e.g., “The Columbia University Seminar on Eighteenth-Century European Culture.” A conference grows out of the work of a particular seminar, and so the specific seminar should be acknowledged, rather than The University Seminars as a whole.
Schoff & Warner Funds

**Funding requests are accepted through The University Seminars Submittable site.**

The Leonard Hastings Schoff and Suzanne Levick Schoff Memorial Fund is used for indexing, translating, technical editing, illustrating, or other publication costs of manuscripts or monographs produced under the auspices of The University Seminars in the fields of economics, sociology, psychology, penology, or the behavioral sciences which have already been approved for publication.

The Aaron Warner Fund supports the publication of materials that emerge from a University Seminar. These publications do not need to fall under a specific field. Our Advisory Committee named this new book subsidy fund the Aaron Warner fund, in honor of the social scientist who was Director of The University Seminars for decades, and whose devotion to music on the one hand, and to the world of physics at Columbia, on the other, carried him far beyond the social sciences.

The Seminars office keeps an archive of supported manuscripts. When making agreements with the publisher, authors should arrange to send two complimentary copies directly to the office.

Guidelines and Application Procedures

Publication funding is used for indexing, translating, technical editing, illustrating, or other publication costs. To qualify, the book or article must already be approved for publication by a peer-reviewed academic publisher, and a portion of the work must have been discussed at a University Seminar. The alternatives of self and print-on-demand publication may be recommended for consideration as an exceptional case by the Advisory Board. Submit via The University Seminars Submittable page.

The University Seminars Publication Committee considers the value of the book and budget numbers in comparison with other requests. Funding requests are prioritized by a given monograph’s relation to The University Seminars: books produced entirely as seminar projects will be prioritized over monographs that were partly presented and discussed at a seminar meeting; work by involved members and associates will supersede those by guest speakers.

Acknowledgment

The author will acknowledge The University Seminars by using the following or similar format:

- “The (editor/author) expresses appreciation to the [NAME OF FUND] at The University Seminars at Columbia University for their help in publication. Material in this work was presented to the seminar on [x].”
- “The (editor)/(author) expresses appreciation to the [NAME OF FUND] at the University Seminars at Columbia University for their help in publication. The ideas presented have benefited from discussions in the University Seminar on [NAME OF SEMINAR.]”

Accessing Funding

Funding is paid to a vendor or supplier directly. Columbia University policy prohibits reimbursements to the awardee. Vendors must invoice The University Seminars office directly. For information on how to submit invoices to The University Seminars, see Payments & Reimbursements, p. 18.
Using Submittable

Submittable is a third party, cloud-based submission management system. It is not associated with nor managed by Columbia University. The University Seminars Submittable page can be accessed through the main navigation bar of The University Seminars website.

The University Seminars uses Submittable to manage the following submissions:

- New Seminar Proposals
- Conference Proposals
- Publication Funding Requests
- Seminar Meeting Documentation

Setting up a Password

First time submitters will be asked to create an account by entering their email address and choosing a password. Submittable is not connected to the Columbia UNI/password system. Users can set any password they like. If a password is forgotten, reset it from the Forgot Password page.

Submission Confirmation

Once a submission has been sent, submitters will receive an email confirmation from Submittable Notifications. Status of a submission can be cat any time by logging in to their Submittable account.
The University Seminars Charter forbids honoraria and dues, but members, foundations, institutes, and other contributors can make gifts to the seminars. Gifts made to a specific seminar are earmarked for that seminar and may be used for discretionary expenses approved by Columbia University and that the general fund cannot subsidize. For example, a seminar may wish to celebrate special occasions, invite more speakers, occasionally invite a speaker from afar, or, with Columbia’s approval, offer an extra night for a speaker. A seminar does not forfeit a fair share of travel or conference funding by having a gift account. These gift account expenses still need to abide by Columbia University’s accounts payable policies, and seminars are not permitted to maintain independent bank accounts.

Gifts are deposited in a separate bank account maintained by Columbia University’s Alumni and Development office and should not be combined with any other payments made to The University Seminars. No administrative costs are deducted from any gift.

Solicitations

Seminars may solicit gifts for their seminar gift account, but may not charge dues or fees of any sort. These include fees for attendance, receipt of papers, or to remain on the mailing list. By law, solicitations for funding may not promise any service in return for the contribution. All gifts must be voluntary, and no seminar can offer any quid pro quo.

Sample solicitation correspondence:

We ask for your financial support to help defray the seminar’s operational expenses. Although The University Seminars at Columbia University funds basic expenses, we rely on your generosity to enhance the seminar’s program. We suggest a tax-deductible gift of $______, but any amount you can afford is appreciated. Please make your check payable to “Columbia University” and specify “Seminar # and Name” and “gift” on the memo line. Please include your address on the check and mail it to _________________ or bring it to the next seminar meeting.

Use of any other language in a solicitation may obligate The University Seminars to refuse gift checks.
A gift to the University Seminars entitles donors to the most generous federal income tax charitable deduction—up to 60 percent of adjusted gross income. If all deductible gifts within a given year exceed the 60 percent limit, the excess amount may be carried over as a deduction for up to five years. Contact Gesenia Alvarez for information regarding wire transfers, gifts of securities, matching gifts, or to receive a Gift Account Report.

Ways to Give

DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED ONLINE ONLY FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021.

Credit Card

To make a credit card donation to a seminar gift fund, or to The University Seminars General Fund:

- Go to: Giving to Columbia, Columbia University’s secure online giving form.
- Type in “University Seminars Gift” in the search bar. Add the amount and answer yes or no if the gift is in honor or memory of someone. Press the “Add Gift” button. Review and choose whether or not to make the gift recurring.
- Add contact details: In the Special Instructions section, include the seminar number and name, or write general fund, to ensure proper allocation of funding.

Tax Receipts

Columbia’s Gifts System mails tax receipts for all gifts of $10 and above. However, if you give online, Gift Systems will only mail tax receipts at your request—but you will receive an e-mail confirmation with your gift.

Institutional Gifts

Institutional gifts must be accompanied by a letter of confirmation from the donating organization. The letter must include a contact person and mailing address, as well as specify the contribution amount and what the contribution will be used for.

Example:

This is to confirm that [Institution’s Name] provided funding in the form of an unrestricted gift to support the "Columbia University Seminar on [Seminar name and number]." [Institution’s Name] will not receive any goods and services in exchange for this gift.
PAYMENTS & REIMBURSEMENTS

The University Seminars will only process reimbursements that are approved in advance. All payees must be approved for reimbursement by Pamela Guardia.

Vendors for Payments for a Good or Service

All individuals and/or companies are subject to an approval process in order to become a vendor of the university. First-time payees will send their invoice to John Jayo. They will also provide him with either a W9 (US citizens and permanent residents) or a W8BEN (foreign entities or individuals) tax form. John will then initiate the creation an official vendor profile and the payee will receive an email directly from Columbia University Finance with a link to a secure webpage containing a brief questionnaire, which can be accessed via a temporary login. This questionnaire must be completed before the vendor profile can be approved. Payees will receive updates from Columbia Finance if there is additional information needed or if additional documents should be uploaded. Once a vendor relationship is established, invoices can be processed for payment.

Submitting Invoices

All invoices can be sent to John Jayo directly for processing and must include all of the following:

- **Remit To:**
  - Name, address, phone number, and email address
- **Bill To:**
  - The University Seminars
  - 64 Morningside Drive, 2nd Floor
  - MC 2302, New York, NY 10027
  - (212) 854-2389
  - univ.seminars@columbia.edu
- **Invoice Number**
- **Date**
- **Amount**
- **Description of the good or service provided:** If the work was for a publication include the names of the publication, publisher, and author/editor.

Vendors for Reimbursements

Seeking reimbursement requires first establishing a vendor relationship with the university. All subsequent requests require only the standard reimbursement paperwork. First-time payees must reach out to John Jayo and provide him with either a W9 (US citizens and permanent residents) or a W8BEN (foreign entities or individuals) tax form. John will then initiate the creation an official vendor profile and the payee will receive an email directly from Columbia University Finance with a link to a secure webpage containing a brief questionnaire, which can be accessed via a temporary login. This questionnaire must be completed before the vendor profile can be approved. Vendors will receive updates from Columbia Finance if additional information is needed.

Anyone seeking reimbursement must also complete either a Travel & Business Expense Report (Columbia affiliates) or a Non-CU Expense form (non-affiliates) and submit it to John Jayo. Once a payee is an official vendor with the university, their reimbursement paperwork can be processed for payment.
Boundary Conditions

- Every seminar includes members from more than one academic department as well as non-Columbia associate members who link Columbia with the intellectual resources of surrounding communities.
- Seminars admit their own university affiliates, associates members, and guests by individual invitation.
- Participation is voluntary and unpaid—our charter forbids honoraria from any source.
- Seminars meet a minimum of four times per academic year.
- Minutes are taken at every meeting.
- Chairs must ensure that the privacy policy is acknowledged at each meeting with the help of the meeting moderator.
- All speakers must submit a "Speaker Acknowledgement of Privacy Policy" form.
- Guests and graduate students may be invited to attend meetings.

General Meeting

Each fall, chairs are invited to The General Meeting. This is the only organized opportunity for all chairs to be together and hear updates on Seminars policies and news. Some meetings involve voting on issues or nominations. All chairs are expected to attend or send another seminar member as proxy. Only chairs are invited; rapporteurs are not allowed to attend. In advance of the meeting, chairs are encouraged to email agenda items to Alice Newton. The 2020 General Meeting will be held over Zoom.

Directory

In early August, chairs will receive an email from The University Seminars office asking them to review their seminar’s page in the Annual Directory of Seminars, Speakers, and Topics. Since this publication records the previous year’s activity, this request goes out to the previous year’s chairs who are asked to respond with corrections, regardless of their current status within the seminar.

Newsletter

The University Seminars publishes an online and email newsletter three times per year: Fall, Winter, and Spring editions. Chairs may submit news items on behalf of themselves and their seminar members by email to Summer Hart. See: Newsletter Submission Guidelines.
Privacy Policy and Attendance

At the start of each meeting, all attendees must acknowledge the following privacy policy which is read out to the group by the host or the moderator:

Seminars are intended to foster an open and unfettered intellectual exchange among peers, allowing attendees the freedom to try out ideas without the inherent limitations of a public discussion. Minutes are taken at all seminar meetings. After five years, minutes are included in The University Seminars Digital Archive as part of Columbia University’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Each seminar has an individual privacy policy, which may be "open" or "closed." A seminar with a "closed" policy agrees to keep minutes private *prior* to their inclusion in the archive. With an "open" policy, the seminar decides when and how to circulate minutes. The University Seminars office encourages members to adhere to the privacy policy of their seminar, but cannot guarantee confidentiality, even with "closed" meetings. Copyright of meeting minutes belong to the Trustees of Columbia University. Speakers maintain full publication and all other rights to their papers and presentations.

The host or moderator will state whether the meeting is "open" or "closed." Attendees will be asked to acknowledge by virtual hand raise. Attendees may not raise hands prior to the policy being read. Attendees will be prompted by the moderator to type their names and affiliations in the chat. See Basic Zoom Instructions for Seminar Meetings, Version A.

THE PRIVACY POLICY STATEMENT, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, AND ATTENDEE NAMES AND AFFILIATIONS MUST BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES.

Speaker Acknowledgement

Speaker Acknowledgement of Seminar Privacy Policy: Prior to the meeting, the chair or rapporteur will direct all speakers to the Speaker Acknowledgement of Seminar Privacy Policy Google form. The speaker will complete and submit the form directly to The University Seminars office.
At the end of each academic year, chairs complete the following tasks

- Update Membership Lists
- Elect Chairs
- Budget for the next academic year
- Submit Travel Fund Requests
- Reappoint or Hire a Rapporteur
- Submit New Academic Year Planning Form
- Respond to Directory edit requests

**Updating Membership Lists**

By the end of each academic year, the office will send chairs a list of their current membership. Chairs send back a corrected list of active members, indicating whose term to extend and who to discontinue. Anyone who has not attended a meeting and has been out of touch with the seminar in the last year should be discontinued. Members are added by nomination by the chair with approval of the members. Forms must be filled out and sent in with the nomination. See: Membership, p. 9.

**Electing Chairs**

Seminars hold annual chair elections and include this information on the New Academic Year Planning Form. Some seminars elect a new chair every year. One has elected the same chair for over forty years. Several have co-chairs and a few have three. All members and associate members vote. A few seminars permit proxies or email votes, and some include votes from present guests. In the spirit of The Seminars, each seminar decides on its own system. The method of voting and results of the election must be noted in the minutes.

**Budgeting and Travel Requests**

**TRAVEL FUNDING IS SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY.**

**Scheduling Meetings**

By May 1st of each academic year, every seminar must submit a New Academic Year Planning Form reporting the incoming chair, rapporteur, and schedule for the upcoming year. This form is required of all seminars regardless of whether you are meeting or not. If your seminar will not meet, you can communicate this to The University Seminars office via this form. The schedule on this form is used to populate all seminar schedules on our website and in The University Seminars annual Directory of Seminars, Speakers and Topics. Schedules will be posted on each individual seminar page with the speaker name (where applicable) and meeting title. Send schedule details to John Jayo for posting online.

New rapporteurs must be eligible. Before submitting paperwork, review Rapporteur Hiring, p. 23.
Rapporteurs serve as liaisons between an individual seminar and The University Seminars office. If a seminar needs a new rapporteur for the next academic year, the office suggests the chair identify a Columbia University graduate student before the end of the current term, so the incoming rapporteur will have an opportunity to meet with the outgoing rapporteur, and the seminar will have continuity in its proceedings.

The office can advertise open positions, but chairs interview and hire rapporteurs themselves. Incoming rapporteurs must attend a group orientation, typically at the beginning of the semester. Those who are unable to attend the orientation may request an individual orientation appointment with Pamela Guardia and Gesenia Alvarez. Orientations give rapporteurs an in-depth training, but since each seminar is organized differently, it is crucial that the chair meet with the rapporteur prior to the first meeting to discuss the particular needs of the seminar and to make sure that the expectations of the seminar line up with what is required by the office.

Full-time Columbia University graduate students may not work more than 20 hours per week at any on-campus employment, and University and academic holidays must be observed. Though seminar work hours per week are generally well below the 20-hour limit, some students may be employed by other departments within the University; chairs should therefore confirm that a student candidate has received approval to do casual work in addition to their University appointments before offering the position of rapporteur.

There are three possible payroll classifications for rapporteurs:

- **Graduate Student Officer – exempt**
  A graduate student who holds a student officer appointment as a departmental research assistant, teaching fellow, preceptor, or other exempt work at the University.

- **Casual Student Employee – non-exempt**
  A full-time or half-time graduate student employee at Columbia University, Barnard College, or Teachers College who does not hold a University appointment as a Student Officer.

- **Short-Term Casual Employee**
  A short-term casual employee is a part-time graduate student or non-student employee who performs non-exempt work for a limited period of time. Casual employees are limited to 560-hours or 4 months of employment, whichever comes first. This excludes full-time and half-time Columbia University, Barnard College, and Teachers College graduate students.
The University Seminars office believes that in order for the Seminars to thrive, the chair and rapporteur must have a mutually respectful relationship. Any rapporteur whose experience in a seminar is difficult or unfulfilling, may, without any ordeal, switch to a different seminar. Likewise, any chair may request a new rapporteur if the match is not right.

To request a change, contact Pamela Guardia.

New Rapporteur Welcome Letter

Each seminar has its own internal structure. In some seminars, the responsibilities normally associated with the rapporteur’s position may be shared with the chair or another member of the seminar. The University Seminars office; however, considers the rapporteur to be the seminar liaison and expects the rapporteur to perform certain tasks to ensure that meetings are successfully held and documented.

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, ALL FALL 2020 MEETINGS ARE HELD OVER ZOOM. THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES DIFFER FROM THOSE OF IN-PERSON MEETINGS.

For detailed instructions for holding online meetings, see Basic Zoom Instructions for Seminar Meetings, Version B.

- Maintaining an email list of seminar members, associates, & guests.
- Confirming information on The University Seminars website is correct, including schedule.
- Scheduling meetings in Zoom with the appropriate parameters (password requirement, auto-record).
- Announcing seminar meetings and sending out Zoom invitations.
- Directing speakers to the "Speaker Acknowledgment" form.
- Ensuring chair/s and moderators have hosting rights to Zoom meetings.
- Working with moderators to meet privacy policy requirements.
- Circulating handouts or background papers.
- Recording the minutes.
- Submitting all minutes and announcements via Submittable.
- Submitting a timesheet.
Rapporteur Virtual Meeting Procedures

Columbia University and The University Seminars are equipped to offer support for meetings held over Zoom. Any Seminar is welcome to use any other virtual meeting platform instead of Zoom, such as Skype, Google Meet, Google Hangouts or Microsoft Teams.

At the start of the academic year:

- Communicate with chair/s. Know your responsibilities.
- Confirm seminar schedule with The University Seminars office and with chair/s.
- Check seminar webpage. Email corrections to Summer Hart and John Jayo.
- Obtain an email list from the previous rapporteur or seminar chair and make updates and corrections as necessary.

Prior to the meeting:

- Communicate with speaker. Confirm the date and time of meeting. Obtain bio and paper for circulation to members, as appropriate.
- Send announcement three weeks prior to the meeting. Include the Zoom (or other videoconferencing) details in the announcement or send Zoom invitation separately upon RSVP.
- Check the seminar webpage for the correct speaker name and topic, event date and time.
- Schedule the Zoom meeting. You can schedule seminars as recurring meetings and use the same link every month. See Basic Zoom Instructions for Seminar Meetings, Version B for setting meeting preferences, such as muting participants upon joining, to allow joining before the host, and to automatically record the session. Make sure everyone is aware if the session is being recorded.

Immediately before the meeting:

- Make sure your environment is comfortable, your computer is charged, your internet connection is stable and you have everything you need to participate in the seminar.
- Log in to Zoom early to test audio and video. If you have trouble with connectivity, audio or video, leave Zoom, close your internet browser, and try again.
- When the assigned moderator joins, make them a co-host of the meeting.
During the meeting:

- The moderator or chair will read the privacy policy of the seminar. Record acknowledgement of the policy in the minutes (raise virtual hand). If the policy is contested or altered, record the change in the minutes.
- Every participant signs-in by typing their name, affiliation and email address directly into the chat. Record the attendees names and affiliations in the minutes.
- The rapporteur, chair or moderator is responsible for monitoring the discussion, tracking raised hands or comments in chat and muting and unmuting participants. This role is established in advance of the meeting.
- Take the minutes, following the steps outlined under: Minutes, p. 30. Use the session recording to complete the minutes, as necessary. (Recording expires after 30 days).
- Manage breakout rooms, if necessary. Reconvene in the larger meeting space before concluding.

Immediately following the meeting:

- Download and save the meeting recording from Zoom. (Zoom will save all recordings to the cloud for up to 30 days).

Immediately following the meeting:

- Submit minutes and announcements via Submittable.
- Submit timesheet via the Google form timesheet (request link from Gesenia Alvarez).
- Send pre-approved reimbursements to John Jayo. See Payments & Reimbursements, p. 18.
Announcements

Announcements serve multiple purposes in addition to reaching out to membership. Each seminar has an individual page on The University Seminars departmental website, with a statement of purpose, contact information for the current chairs and rapporteurs, and a schedule of meetings. When the office receives an email announcement, John Jayo cross-checks and updates this information on the website.

Seminars may decide to send out their announcement with the Zoom meeting link to their entire email list. Other seminars will choose to reserve the Zoom meeting link for all those who respond to the meeting announcement.

Announcement Format:

Email: The subject line must include the full seminar name and number, name of speaker, and meeting date and time; the body of the email.

PDF: A copy of the announcement must be saved as a PDF and submitted via The University Seminars Submittable page. See also: Announcement Template and Submittable, p. 15.

Both versions must contain the following information:

- Full Seminar Name and Number
- Meeting Date, Time, and Location
- Speaker’s Name, Title, and Affiliation
- Title of the Presentation
- Abstract or Description of the Talk
- Reply Request: Specify the name and email address of the seminar’s contact person (usually the rapporteur) for RSVPs due a week prior to the meeting.
- Note Regarding Donations: Due to COVID-19, donations are only accepted through Columbia University’s secure online giving form, Giving to Columbia. See Donations, p. 17 for more information.
- Accessibility Statement: Columbia University encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. The University Seminars participants with disabilities who anticipate needing accommodations or who have questions about physical access may contact the Office of Disability Services at 212.854.2388 or disability@columbia.edu. Disability accommodations, including sign-language interpreters, are available on request. Requests for accommodations must be made two weeks in advance. On campus, seminar participants with disabilities should alert a Public Safety Officer if they need assistance accessing campus.
Privacy Policy and Attendance

At the start of each meeting, all attendees must acknowledge the following privacy policy which is read out to the group by the host or the moderator:

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The host or moderator will state whether the meeting is "open" or "closed." Attendees will be asked to acknowledge by virtual hand raise. Attendees may not raise hands prior to the policy being read. Attendees will be prompted by the moderator to type their names and affiliations in the chat. See Basic Zoom Instructions for Seminar Meetings, Version B.

Speaker Acknowledgement

Speaker Acknowledgement of Seminar Privacy Policy: Prior to the meeting, the chair or rapporteur will direct all speakers to the Speaker Acknowledgement of Seminar Privacy Policy Google form. Speakers will submit the form themselves and will have the option to upload a paper or presentation.

Library Naming Convention

Rapporteurs name all files using The University Seminars | RBML naming convention. Please review the naming convention carefully before uploading files. The only approved file format is PDF.

The file content must be noted in the file name, using the following codes:

The file naming format is: [Seminar #].AY[academic year].[meeting date].[file content].pdf

- a = announcements
- e = email
- h = handouts
- m = minutes
- sn = speaker’s notes
- sp = speaker’s papers

Example: Minutes for Seminar #123, meeting on January 4th, 2021, would be named:

123.AY20202021.0104.m.pdf
Minutes

Minutes of seminar meetings are maintained in archives at The University Seminars office and Butler Library. Writing up the minutes from seminar meetings is an important part of a rapporteur’s job, and the part that has the most longevity—75 years and counting! Minutes taken by rapporteurs are an integral part of the intellectual history of The University Seminars and Columbia University.

Since, each seminar operates as an independent entity, expectations for minutes will vary from seminar to seminar. The office, however, has certain requirements. See: Minutes Template.

The University Seminars office requires, at minimum, the following:

- Full Seminar Name and Number
- Meeting Date and Location
- Name and Affiliation of Speaker(s): It is important to use the speaker’s full name, title, and affiliation(s) in both the minutes and email announcements. The central office refers to this information when preparing copy for the annual Directory of Seminars, Speakers, & Topics.
- Title of Meeting Presentation: This is the title of the presentation as it is to appear in the Directory; if there is a discrepancy between the title given in the meeting announcement and the title listed in the minutes, the directory will use the latter.
- Name(s) of Presiding Chair(s)
- Name of Rapporteur
- Name and Affiliation of Attendees
- Summary of Presentation: This is a narrative description of the speaker’s presentation, not an outline. If the speaker has provided a paper with an abstract, the abstract may be used as the summary, but it should be clearly identified as the speaker’s work.
- Summary of Discussion: The major work of the seminar takes place in the discussion period, making this the most important part of the minutes. The discussion need not be recorded verbatim, but the summary should clearly convey the specific issues addressed.
- Copyright Language: Please add the following to your minutes document footer: “©[Current Year], The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York”
Submitting Minutes and Announcements

The University Seminars uses Submittable as a one-year repository for minutes, announcements, and related materials from seminar meetings. After the academic year closes, files are moved to The University Seminar’s server. After five years, materials are made available to scholars through The University Seminars Digital Archive. It is the responsibility of the rapporteur to upload a PDF copy of the meeting announcement and minutes for every seminar meeting prior to submitting a timesheet. Additional materials, such as a background papers and email lists may be uploaded as well. See *Submittable, p. 15.*

Link to *The University Seminars Submittable page* from the main navigation bar of The University Seminars website. First time users will be asked to create a user name and password. From The University Seminars landing page, choose the form, *Meeting Documentation.*

- **Minutes and announcements**
  These are required for every meeting. Please follow the naming convention carefully. The only file format accepted is PDF.

- **Email List**
  The office does not require an email list; however, we highly recommend rapporteurs upload an updated email list once a year as back up. The University Seminars does not maintain email listes for individual seminars otherwise.
At the end of the academic year, rapporteurs must:

- Upload any outstanding minutes and announcements.
- Communicate resignation or intention to stay on with seminar chair and office.
- Submit any reimbursement paperwork.
- Submit all timesheets.
- Submit *New Academic Year Planning Form* (if necessary/on behalf of chair.)
- Respond to *Directory* edit requests (if necessary/on behalf of chair.)
Payroll

All incoming rapporteurs must contact The University Seminars office for approval and instructions on submitting necessary paperwork. Graduate students holding other recent or current appointments at Columbia University typically do not need to fill out tax forms if there are no changes to address or marital status, but they must update any I-9 (Immigration) form that is more than three years old.

Newly employed Columbia University graduate students must complete several administrative forms, tax forms, and an I-9 (Immigration) form, either before or on their hire date. International students with F or J visas will need to apply for a Social Security number and present an I-20 form, passport, visa, and any Tax Treaty information.

Incoming rapporteurs must attend a group orientation typically at the beginning of the semester. Those who are unable to attend the orientation may request an individual orientation appointment with Pamela Guardia and Gesenia Alvarez.

Full-time Columbia University students may not work more than 20 hours per week at any on-campus employment, and University and academic holidays must be observed. Though seminar work hours per week are generally well below the 20-hour limit, some students may be employed by other departments within the University; rapporteurs must therefore receive approval to do casual work in addition to their University appointments before accepting the position of rapporteur.

There are three possible payroll classifications for rapporteurs

- **Casual Student Employee** – non-exempt
  A full-time or half-time student employee at Columbia University, Barnard College, or Teachers College who does not hold a University appointment as a Student Officer.

- **Graduate Student Officer** – exempt
  A graduate student who holds a student officer appointment as a departmental research assistant, teaching fellow, preceptor, or other exempt work at the University.

- **Short-Term Casual Employee**
  A short-term casual employee is a part-time student or nonstudent employee who performs non-exempt work for a limited period of time. Casual employees are limited to 560-hours or 4 months of employment, whichever comes first. (This excludes full-time and half-time Columbia University, Barnard College, and Teachers College students.)

Work for a seminar meeting is complete when a rapporteur has done the following:

- Submitted minutes and announcements via Submittable.
- Completed the Google form timesheet (request link from: Gesenia Alvarez).
Timesheets should be submitted no later than a month post-meeting date, even if submitted minutes are still in draft form and will require later revision. Columbia University’s Payroll Department requires timely reporting of hours worked. CU Payroll will drop student employees from the time entry system if there is a prolonged period of inactivity. If this happens, rapporteurs must undergo the rehiring process to be reinstated in the payroll system.

To ensure payment for services, rapporteurs must submit minutes from the last meeting of the fall term prior to MLK day; minutes from the last meeting of the spring term must be received by the closing date for the last payroll of the fiscal year, usually in mid-June. Rapporteurs should also contact Gesenia Alvarez with any changes to their employment status or personal information.

Teaching Fellows, DRAs, Research Assistants and other student officers usually receive payment as “Added Compensation.” Payment delays may occur because of appointment end dates, in which case a paper retro payment form will be submitted to the rapporteur’s office of academic appointment.

Hourly rates increase with a rapporteur’s years of service: first and second year rapporteurs are paid $25/hour, third-year and beyond rapporteurs $30/hour. Rapporteurs typically report an average of 6–10 hours of work per seminar meeting. If more than 10 hours of work per seminar meeting is reported, the seminar chair will be contacted to confirm the reason for the extra hours.

The University Seminars recommends that rapporteurs sign up for direct deposit. Enrollment instructions are available at: hr.columbia.edu.

**Submitting Timesheets**

Work for a seminar meeting is considered complete with the submission of all meeting documentation **Before submitting a timesheet**, go to The University Seminars Submittable page and select the Meeting Documentation Form to upload minutes, announcements, and any associated materials. See Meeting Documentation, p. 28.

To complete a seminar meeting timesheet, the rapporteur will receive a link to a Google form. Data from this questionnaire is used to record time worked. A link to the form will be emailed to the rapporteur post-orientation. The link can also be obtained through Gesenia Alvarez via an email request.

**Conference Payment**

If a rapporteur assists with a seminar’s conference, they must keep track of their hours worked, whether only on the day of the conference or for an extended period of time. The University Seminars pays rapporteurs up to 20 hours for work on a given conference; additional hours are discounted from the funds allocated to the conference. Those working on conference logistics over a period must report hours on a regular basis (at least once a month) by submitting monthly timesheets via the Google form.

**Viewing Pay Stubs and Tax Information**

Rapporteurs can view their pay stubs via the my.columbia.edu portal by logging in with their UNI and password and clicking “View Your Paycheck” under the “Faculty and Staff, Self-Service” tab.

Call the Payroll Department at (212) 854-2122 with any tax withholding questions. Information can also be assessed at: Columbia University Finance Gateway.
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<tr>
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<td>403</td>
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<td>417</td>
<td>Eighteenth-Century European Culture*</td>
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See also: Seminars.

* On hiatus

Updated: 9.1.20