

The University Seminars
Newsletter



Spring 2021

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Seminars Community,

Happy spring! May the season bring us all a sense of joy, renewal, and rebirth.

I hope that everyone has gotten at least an appointment for vaccination. If you have not, please email me. I keep hearing about different resources in NY and NJ.

Many of us are feeling hopeful about being able to see people, hug loved ones, and generally get back to a kind of normal. We are still uncertain about the fall and what will be possible for seminar meetings. We will see what NYC and Columbia University officially recommend. Some seminars may choose to continue virtual meetings through the fall semester, which is fine. We will continue to support you.

If seminars can meet in person, we will have to slowly ramp up. We will be sensitive to what Faculty House can offer regarding space and food. We are also looking into new technology that will allow seminars to hold some hybrid or HyFlex meetings. We will do our best to accommodate as many seminars as possible, but these resources may be limited. Our office will reach out again when we know what is possible. Please share any information, suggestions or concerns you may have about fall meetings with our office.

The national and global impact of the pandemic is difficult to grasp. The extraordinary number of deaths is tragic. There is a shared trauma and individual sorrow. The awfulness of not being able to be with family members and friends as they were dying and the necessity of postponing community mourning adds to individual grief and isolation.

The next year will involve a good amount of healing and understanding and patience.

I very much look forward to seeing many of you in person individually and in groups. Please continue to be careful. We are entering the home stretch.

Alice Newton

Interim Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE OFFICE

The University Seminars seeks proposals for our pilot program: The University Seminars Workshops, to begin Fall 2021. Workshops will be formed around the in-depth study of an intellectual problem or task for a set period of time (one to three years), culminating in one or more scholarly works—e.g. a book, issue of a scholarly journal, website or online publication, conference, colloquium, or other scholarly meeting.

The submission deadline is April 30, 2021. The Proposal Committee will aim to respond to all submitters by June 15, 2021. Submissions are accepted online through [SUBMITTABLE](#).

Read full call for proposals [HERE](#). ←

Deadline reminder

APRIL 30TH!

**The University Seminars Workshops
Pilot Program**

[SUBMIT A PROPOSAL](#)

New Year Planning

New for May 2021: **Webinar**

The University Seminars has acquired a Webinar account for seminars to use beginning May 1.

For more information or to schedule a Webinar, contact Pamela Guardia.

Survey

The University Seminars is working to integrate the technology necessary to allow seminars to meet virtually or in a hybrid format when the Faculty House reopens. Please let us know how else we can support your seminar by submitting this survey.



[SURVEY](#)

Directory

All **2020-2021** chairs will receive an email in early summer asking for Directory revisions for the 2020-2021 academic year. To ensure an accurate listing, please respond by the deadline even if you are no longer seminar chair.

Keep on Zooming...

All University Seminars will continue to meet virtually until further notice.

The University Seminars office will notify chairs of any changes by August 2021. Though we all hope to return to in-person meetings in the fall, there is no certainty that we will be able to do so. Therefore, all chairs should plan to continue to meet virtually through the upcoming fall semester.

Travel funding is not available until further notice.

Any questions about scheduling and meetings should be directed to [Pamela Guardia](#).

[ZOOM GUIDELINES For HOSTS](#)

[ZOOM GUIDELINES For ATTENDEES](#)

**Submit your New Year Planning Form
for academic year 2021-2022 to Pamela
Guardia.**



[2021-2022 NEW YEAR PLANNING FORM](#)

COVID-19 RESOURCE GUIDE FOR THE COLUMBIA COMMUNITY

[Reopening](#) ▾ [Public Health](#) ▾ [Students](#) ▾ [University Updates](#) ▾ [Videos](#) [I Need Information About](#) [Documents](#)

Vaccine eligibility is expanding.

[Are You Eligible?](#) ↗



For information on campus reopening procedures, public health, students, and university updates, see Columbia University's [COVID-19 website](#).

Additional information, including how to get vaccinated in the fall, deadlines for when students must be vaccinated, how to document that you have been vaccinated by a non-Columbia provider, and how to apply for a religious or medical exemption will be posted on the COVID-19 website in the coming weeks.

Everyone over 16 who lives, works, or studies in New York City is eligible to receive a Covid-19 vaccine.

Read the [VACCINE FAQs](#).

See also: [NYC COVID-19 VACCINE FINDER](#).

Columbia Climate School Leadership

"...Columbia is meeting this moment of climate action by marshalling its vast intellectual assets in a first-of-its-kind Climate School, structured to facilitate transformational transdisciplinary solutions. This Earth Day we invite you to explore our world-leading work and to join us in our commitment to creating a more sustainable planet."

Find out more at: earthday.columbia.edu



CALENDAR

Spring & Fall 2021

Friday	5.3	Spring Term ends
Wednesday	5.19	Commencement
Monday	5.31	Memorial Day

Monday	9.6	*+Labor Day
Tuesday-Wednesday	9.7 -9.8	Rosh Hashanah (begins sunset on 9.6)
Tuesday	9.7	AUTUMN TERM BEGINS
Thursday	9.16	Yom Kippur (begins sunset on the 9.15)
Sunday-Monday	9-21-9.27	Sukkot (begins sunset on the 9.20)
Tuesday	10.26	USEMS General Meeting (4-6pm)
Monday	11.1	*+Academic Holiday
Tuesday	11.2	*+Election Day
Wednesday-Friday	11.24-11.26	*+Thanksgiving Break
Monday-Monday	11.29-12.6	Hanukkah (begins sunset on 11.28)
Thursday	12.23	AUTUMN TERM ENDS
Friday	12.24	*+University Holiday
Saturday	12.25	*+Christmas Day
Friday	12.31	*+University Holiday

The University Seminars office will be closed on Fridays from 6.3 through 8.26.21 and from 6 pm on Friday, 12.17, until 10 am on Monday, 1.3.22.

*Indicates days when offices on Morningside Campus are closed.

+Indicates days when the Faculty House is closed for seminars and events.

We are tentatively planning the following events for the 2021-2022 academic year:

- Book celebration for *A Community of Scholars*
- Schoff Memorial Lecture Series
- Annual Dinner

We are monitoring the CDC and Columbia's re-opening guidelines for in-person events closely.

Seminars Community

EPIC YOGA

A yoga program for EPIC members led by Virginia Papaioannou, Professor of Genetics and Development, and a registered teacher with the Yoga Alliance Registry. [Learn more...](#)

417 | Eighteenth Century European Culture

A special issue of *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* (Vol. 61, No. 2) is newly out on the topic "The Novel as Theory," co-edited by **Kathleen Lubey** and **Rebecca Tierney-Hynes**. It includes contributions from our co-chair **Stephanie Hershinow**, associate members **Wendy Lee** and **Jonathan Kramnick**, and (semi-)recent seminar presenters **Sue Lanser** and **Eugenia Zuroski** (as well as Sara Landreth, Sandra Macpherson, and Peter DeGabriele).

451 | New Testament

Emma Wasserman has been awarded a Fellowship at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

471 | Ecology and Culture

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation selected **Paige West**, the Claire Tow Professor of Anthropology at Barnard College, to be a **2021 Guggenheim Fellow**. [Read more...](#)

511 | Innovation in Education

The advocacy organization **Nurses Who Vote**, initiated by **Dr. Elizabeth Cohn**, co-chair of Innovation in Education (#511), has been designated a Civic Health Champion for Civic Health Month, a nationwide celebration to highlight the strong connections between health care, healthy communities, and civic participation.

615 | Iranian Studies

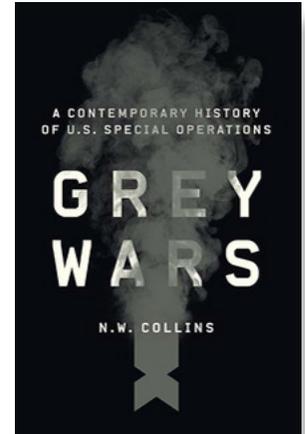
Mahnaz Moazami's *Laws of Ritual Purity* was published in January 2021 by **Brill Publishing**.

Laws of Ritual Purity: Zand ī Fragard ī Jud-Dēw-Dād (A Commentary on the Chapters of the Widēwdād) describes the various ways in which Zoroastrian author-

ities in the fifth-sixth centuries CE reinterpreted the purity laws of their community.

759 | Defense and Security

Grey Wars: A Contemporary History of U.S. Special Operations by **Nancy Collins** was published by **Yale University Press**.



719 | Injury Prevention and Control

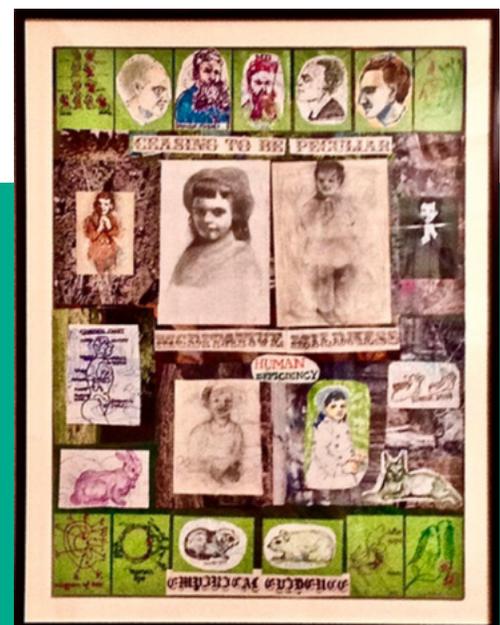
Applying an Equity Lens to Injury and Violence Prevention Symposium

The Columbia University Seminar on Injury Prevention and Control and the Columbia Center for Injury Science and Prevention will co-sponsor a free virtual symposium on **Thursday, May 6th**. The symposium, *Applying an Equity Lens to Injury and Violence Prevention*, will feature keynote speaker, Law Professor Ekow Yankah. [LINK TO REGISTER.](#)

791 | Science and Subjectivity

Amy Pollack writes, "...I have always been an artist with diverse interests; my career in art has been as multi-layered as the paper and fabric hangings I have created."

Read and see more on her new **WEBSITE**.



Ceasing to be Peculiar, Amy Pollack

In Memoriam

407 | Renaissance

Elizabeth K. Hill (1935-2021)

We are saddened to hear of the passing of our long-standing member and long-serving chair, Elizabeth K. Hill, who died in New York on March 28, 2021 after a brief illness.

Liz Krohne grew up in Wheaton, IL, and graduated from Lake Forest College. Moving to New York city to pursue graduate studies at Columbia, she wrote her MA dissertation on the English emblemist poet Francis Quarles, and her PhD on uses of the Song of Songs in seventeenth-century English poetry. She went on to teach English at Skidmore, Queen's College, and St John's University. Liz was a key member of the Seminar in the Renaissance for many years, serving as co-chair with Richard Harrier from 1996 to 2004, and then as chair from 2004 to 2014 (latterly as co-chair with John Wing and Alan Stewart). Her son Nicholas tells us that "participating in the Renaissance Seminar filled her with happiness and pride." In addition to her passion for Renaissance poetry, especially that of John Milton, Liz was known to friends for her skill as a painter (studying in later years at the Art Students League), jewelry-maker, and seamstress.

A full funeral service is planned for the fall of 2021.

Anecdotes and remembrances can be emailed to:

RememberingLizHill@gmail.com

[Link to Obituary.](#)

Susan Field Senneff (1942-2021)

Susan Field Senneff, one of our longest-standing members, who was invited to attend the Renaissance Seminar as a graduate student in the 1970s, and who also served for six years at the turn of this century as Secretary of the Seminar passed away on March 6th in a hospice north of Manhattan.

Born on 21 May 1942, she was a graduate of Emma Willard School and Smith College. At Columbia—from which she held an M.A. with Honors and an M.Phil. degree—she was the student, in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, of Mar-

jorie Hope Nicolson, William Nelson, George Parks and Edward Tayler, and, beyond that department, of Eugene Rice and Matthew L. Jones (History), and of Paul Oskar Kristeller (Philosophy).

She took Kristeller's Techniques of Research in Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy in 1970-71, That course formed a special bond among those lucky enough to have had the privilege of taking it. Her incomplete dissertation was on Milton and his Circle in Italy, for which she travelled to Rome in the early seventies to do research in the Vatican Library (and perhaps the Vatican Archives as well). In October 2002, she offered a talk to our Seminar: "One of John Milton's Friends in Rome: Alessandro Cherubini."

Her other career was in writing and editing for medical and pharmaceutical publications and organizations, including Medical Tribune (on whose masthead she appeared), *Medical World News*, Roche, Warner-Lambert/Pfizer, and others.

Her inquisitive and retentive mind always had brilliant questions to offer our speakers. Her presence among us will be greatly missed.

Thomas J. Vinciguerra The Columbia College community mourns the passing of an outstanding journalist, editor and author, 57, who greatly enriched the life

of the university; he died February 22 in Garden City, NY, following a year of failing health. The longtime associate editor of the alumni magazine *Columbia College Today*, Tom later served as deputy editor of *The Week* and executive editor of *Indian Country Today*. He was a prolific freelancer who contributed many pieces to the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and other publications. His books include *Cast of Characters: Wolcott Gibbs, E.B. White, James Thurber and the Golden Age of the New Yorker*, and *A Community of Scholars: Seventy-Five Years of The University Seminars at Columbia*, which he edited. [Link to Obituary.](#)



Got news?

Deadline for the Fall 2021
issue is **September 7th.**

Please review our
submissions guidelines.

[MAKE A DONATION](#)