

The University Seminars
Newsletter



Fall 2021

Letter from the Director

Dear Seminars Community,

Welcome to a new academic year! I say this with a bit of irony since we are not where we hoped to be. This pandemic is clearly an endurance test.

Columbia University is doing an excellent job at keeping its community safe. And while all seminar members are part of the community, many are in the outer ring and not yet fully welcome on campus. I am hopeful about the spring and the chance of meeting in person however, I have learned to temper my optimism.

I believe our office has done a fantastic job is supporting our new virtual reality. I hope chairs will share any concerns and ideas for improvement with our office at the upcoming General Meeting of Chairs.

The pandemic started in the spring of 2020. Our hope is that we will meet together in person in the spring of 2022. It is not what many of us thought would happen. It has been a tragic and curiously cathartic time.

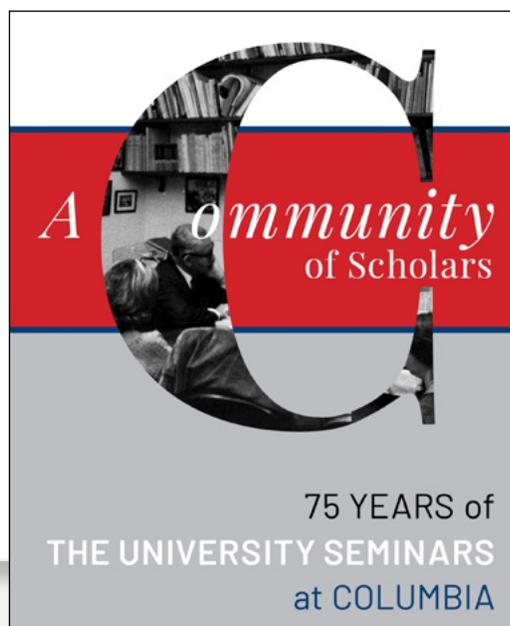
If you have not yet gotten a copy of our book, *A Community of Scholars: Seventy-Five Years of The University Seminars at Columbia*, you can still order a copy. We get a discount and it is a good way to reconnect generally with the Seminars. We will have a book launch party as well as other events next semester (or the following semester). Use the discount code: CUP50.

[LINK TO PURCHASE](#)

So it is a longer home stretch than we hoped. I very much look forward to seeing many of you in person individually and in groups. Please continue to be careful. Let us know how we can help.

Alice Newton

Interim Director



WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE 2021 UNIVERSITY SEMINARS WORKSHOPS!

New Directions in African Diaspora Studies

Co-Chairs: Natasha Lightfoot, Rochelle Malcolm

Prison Education and Social Justice Curricula

Chair: Jean Howard

Public Humanities: Expanding Scholarship and Pedagogy

Co-Chairs: Amy Chazkel, Eileen Gillooly, María González Pendás

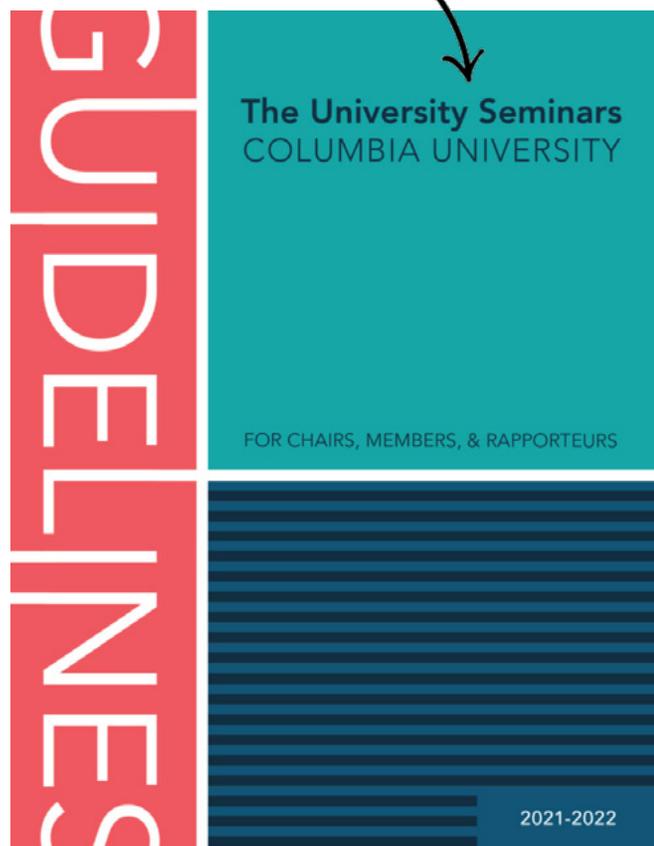
The University and Society

Co-Chairs: Chelsea Abbas, Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann, Frances Negrón-Muntaner

The **University Seminars Workshops** are 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. We look forward to the work of these Seminar Workshops.

Welcome, workshops!

Read Me



2021-2022 Guidelines

We are cautiously optimistic as we look forward to in-person events resuming in spring 2022, but so much is still up in the air. Our office has been working with Faculty House to update meeting spaces with audio-visual equipment, defining best practices for meeting together on campus, and working to support hybrid/hyflex meeting options.

Travel Fund Requests are due by **January 18, 2022**. Travel and conference funds are limited, and are not guaranteed. Do not book speakers before securing funding. To share costs, we strongly encourage seminars to begin and replenish gift funds. Conference funding requests should be submitted months ahead.

TRAVEL FUND REQUESTS

Keep up the good work!

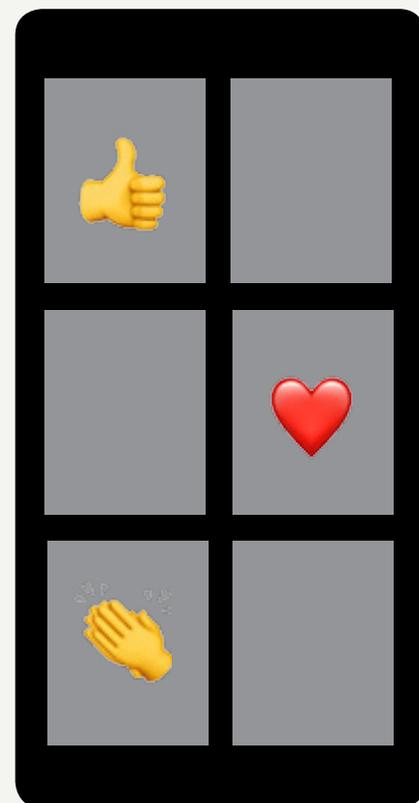
Keep on Zooming...

All University Seminars should plan on meeting virtually through fall 2021.

The University Seminars office is supporting seminars that meet virtually. If you do not have the **premium** version of Zoom, contact Pamela Guardia for help. Instructions for using Zoom are online.

[GUIDELINES For HOSTS](#)

[GUIDELINES For ATTENDEES](#)



Returning to Campus

For information on campus reopening procedures, public health, students, and university updates, go to CU's **COVID-19 Resource Guide for the Columbia Community**:

[Required Protocol for Returning to Campus](#)

[Reopening FAQs](#)

REQUIRED PROTOCOL FOR RETURNING TO CAMPUS

These rules—and [related policies and guidelines](#)—apply starting this fall.

You must follow all **University Public Health Protocols**, which include masking and distancing where appropriate.



M, 9.6	Labor Day
T - W, 9.7 - 9.8	Rosh Hashanah (begins sunset on the 6th)
T, 9.7	AUTUMN TERM BEGINS
Th, 9.16	Yom Kippur (begins sunset on the 15th)
T - M, 9.21- 9.27	Sukkot (begins sunset on the 20th)
T, 10.26	General Committee Meeting 4-6pm (ZOOM)
M, 11.1	Academic Holiday
T, 11.2	Election Day – University Holiday
W - F, 11.24 - 11.26	Thanksgiving Break
M - M, 11.29 - 12.6	Hanukkah (begins sunset on November 28th)
Th, 12.23	AUTUMN TERM ENDS
F, 12.24	University Holiday
S, 12.5	Christmas Day
F, 12.31	University Holiday

NOTE: The University Seminars staff are still working mostly remotely. The office voicemail is checked regularly, but for any time-sensitive requests email: univ.seminars@columbia.edu.

The office will be closed from 6pm F, 12.17.21, until 10am M, 13.22.

Stay tuned!

The University Seminars office is **tentatively** planning to host the following in-person or hybrid events in spring 2022.

- 75th Anniversary Book Launch party
- Leonard Hastings Schoff Memorial Lecture Series
- Annual Dinner and Tannenbaum Lecture
- Party for Robert Pollack

We are following all CDC and Columbia University guidelines carefully.

News and Events

2021 General Meeting of Seminar Chairs

RSVP to **Alice Newton**

October 26, 4-6
(ZOOM)

EPIC YOGA

A yoga program for EPIC members led by Virginia Papiouannou which takes place weekly over Zoom.

[LEARN MORE...](#)

417 | Eighteenth-Century European Culture

The latest issue of the *Eighteenth-Century Intelligencer*, the publication of EC/ASECS contains a warm tribute to our late friend and long-time associate member **Manny Schonhorn** beginning on p. 17, and his involvement with the seminar is discussed on p. 21. A quotation from Al Coppola particularly reminds us of Manny's energy, intellect, and generosity.

[READ ISSUE...](#)

511 | Innovation in Education, 585 | Ethics, Moral Education, and Society

Ronald Gross, the co-chair of the Seminar on Innovation in Education (511), addressed the National Coalition of Independent Scholars on October 16th, based on his books in the field: *Independent Scholarship: Promise, Problems, and Prospects*, published by The College Board, and *The Independent Scholar's Handbook*.

511 | Innovation in Education, 585 | Ethics, Moral Education, and Society | Memory and Slavery

"Learning from the Germans" was the subject of a webinar on Oct. 7, co-sponsored by three seminars.

The guest speaker was **Susan Neiman**, director of the Einstein Forum in Berlin, and author a book with that title which was acclaimed in *The New York Review of Books* and *The New Yorker*. Prof. Neiman makes the case for an American version of the decades-long process through which Germany has come to terms with Nazism and the Holocaust, and finds promising models in projects like the National Lynching Memorial in Montgomery.

559 | The Middle East

The University Seminar on the Middle East returns this semester for its fiftieth consecutive year! Congratulations on this significant milestone!

759 | Defense and Security Studies

4.8.22

Defense & Security: The Next Generation is a one-day program that will showcase the work of the next generation as well as broaden the audience of participants. It will create an exceptional opportunity for emerging scholars and practitioners to present their work to a highly engaged and expert audience. Success will be defined not only by the immediate results of the conference, but also the scholarship which we seek to encourage for many years to come.



On October 11th, 2021, 14 states and over 130 cities celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Four years ago, Columbia University proudly placed a plaque in the courtyard in front of John Jay Hall, recognizing that the campus was built on traditional Lenape territory.

Last fall, Columbia University Senate passed a resolution officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day to be celebrated on the second Monday of October every year. [READ MORE...](#)

Photo by Christian Balmer

Publications and Awards

471 | Ecology and Culture

David McDermott Hughes, *Who Owns the Wind?: Climate Crisis and the Uncertain Hope of Renewable Energy*. In the lives of a community freighted with centuries of exploitation—people whom the author comes to know intimately—clean power and social justice fit together only awkwardly. A green economy will require greater efforts to get ordinary people such as these on board. Aesthetics, livelihood, property, and, most essentially, the private nature of wind resources—all these topics must be examined with fresh eyes.

[LINK TO PRESS](#)

483 | Studies in Modern Italy

Erica Moretti, *The Best Weapon for Peace: Maria Montessori, Education, and Children's Rights*. The Italian educator and physician Maria Montessori (1870–1952) is best known for the teaching method that bears her name. In *The Best Weapon for Peace*, **Erica Moretti** reframes Montessori's pacifism as the foundation for her educational activism, emphasizing her vision of the classroom as a gateway to reshaping society.

[LINK TO PRESS](#)

491 | Early American History and Culture

Hannah Farber, frequent co-host of the University Seminar on Early American History and Culture, is publishing her first book, *Underwriters of the United States*, in November 2021 with the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and UNC Press. The book discusses the role of marine insurance in Atlantic merchant self-governance and in the political economy of the early United States. Available for pre-order.

[LINK TO PRESS](#)

507 | Death

The Future of the Corpse: Changing Ecologies of Death and Dying, edited by the co-chairs of the Seminar on Death, **Karla Rothstein** and **Christina Staudt**, will be published this Fall. This interdisciplinary book is the outgrowth of a colloquium organized jointly by the Seminar and Columbia GSAPP DeathLAB. The book's chapters span topics of history, social ritual, disposition, ethics, law, technology, evolving industry stakeholders, and design, presenting a spectrum of past, present, and future death care rituals and innovative new practices and projects supporting communities and the planet. A University Seminar Schoff award supported the indexing of the book.

[LINK TO PRESS](#)

559 | Arabic Studies

Mushin al-Musawi, *The Arabian Nights in World Culture: Global Commodification, Translation, and the Culture Industry*. This book offers a rich and wide-ranging analysis of the power of this collection of tales that penetrates so many cultures and appeals to such a variety of predilections and tastes.

[LINK TO PRESS](#)

567 | Neo-Confucian Studies

Tao Jiang, *Origins of Moral-Political Philosophy in Early Modern China* tells a dramatic and often unexpected story about early Chinese moral-political philosophy through a new interpretative framework that brings to light a new arc and dialectic of its development.

[LINK TO PRESS](#)

775 | The Future of Aging Research

Co-Chair, **Jennifer Manly**, PhD was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Her research has explored how early life inequalities, including school policies and educational opportunities, influence the risk of cognitive decline among Black and Hispanic older adults.

[READ MORE...](#)

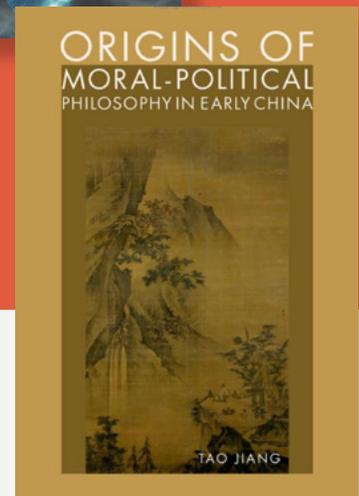
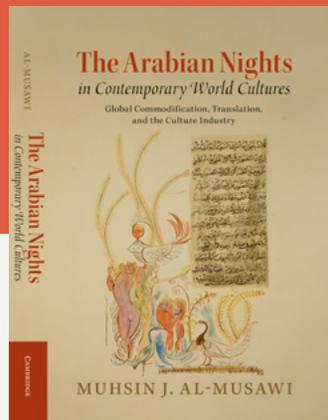
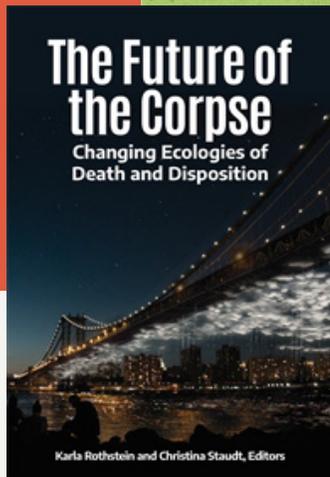
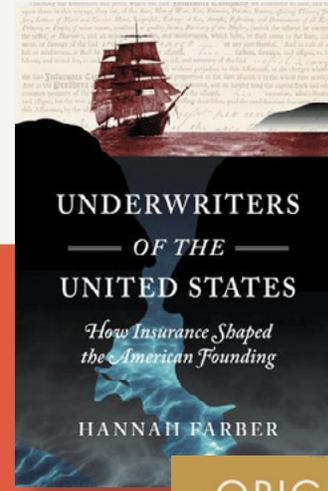
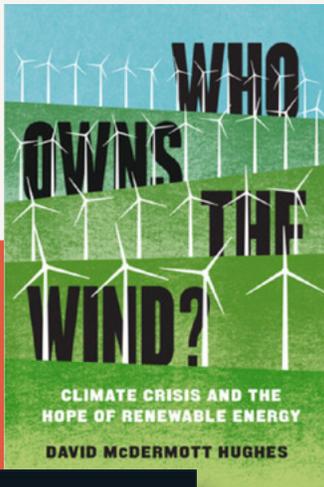
799 | Menstruation and Society

Professors **Marni Sommer**, **Kim Hopper** and **Andrew Maroko**, co-chair and members, respectively, of the University Seminar on Menstruation and Society (799) published a new paper in *Health and Place*: "Menstruation and homelessness: Challenges faced living in shelters and on the street in New York City." The paper is one of three published on the findings that emerged from a joint study conducted by the Mailman School of Public Health, CUNY School of Public Health and the Coalition for the Homeless in New York City, which explored the challenges around managing menstruation facing those living on the street and in shelters.

[READ MORE...](#)



Jennifer Manly



In Memoriam

Elizabeth Hill

Elizabeth was the Chair of the Renaissance Seminar for decades. She was a reliable and welcome visitor to our office. Professor Elizabeth Hill died in New York on Sunday March 28, 2021 after a brief illness. Liz lived a full life in bright colors and on her own terms. She was a scholar and artist, wife, mother to four, grandmother to two and friend to many.



[LINK TO OBITUARY](#)

667 | The History of Columbia University

Chauncey G. Olinger, Jr.

Chauncey, former Naval Officer, Philosophy Instructor, retired American investment company executive, editorial consultant, retired Certified Financial Planner, and Chair of The University Seminar on the History of Columbia University. Chauncey began his tenure at The Seminars in 1968 as rapporteur for the Seminar on The Nature of Man, chaired by Dr. Margaret Mead. He loved the Seminars and Columbia University.



Former Columbia Seminars Director Robert Pollack and Advisory Board chair, Robert E. Remez present the Tannenbaum-Warner Award to Chauncey G. Olinger, Jr. in 2015.

[LINK TO OBITUARY](#)

689 | Memory and Slavery: Social and Human Consequences

Rev. Donald W. Shriver, Jr.

Donald W. Shriver, Jr., was one of the earliest members of the University Seminar on Memory and Slavery, and a long-time participant and contributor. Don's commitment to and work toward justice, equity, and racial healing was an important part of his life and career. Don was an inspiration, mentor, and friend to many of us.



[LINK TO OBITUARY](#)

613 | Full Employment, Social Welfare, and Equity

Helen Lachs Ginsburg,

life-long advocate for full employment or a Job Guarantee, died on October 8th at the age of 91. A Professor Emerita of Economics from Brooklyn College, Helen gained distinction in a field dominated by men, particularly some seventy years ago when she launched her career as an economist. She was a chair of the Seminar on Full Employment, Social Welfare, and Equity.



[LINK TO OBITUARY](#)

Thomas Vinciguerra

Journalist, editor and author, 57, died February 22 in Garden City, NY, following a year of failing health. 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 Winter 2021
issue is **January 7th.**

Please review our
submissions guidelines.

[MAKE A DONATION](#)