

The University Seminars
Newsletter



Winter 2022

Letter from the Director

Dear Seminars Community,

Happy Chinese New Year, belated New Year and MLK day.

As I look out at our first real snowfall of the year, my thoughts are with my grandson, Oscar, in Georgia. He was born on February 29, 2020, days before widespread shutdowns; masked adults are the norm in his life. My husband and I have spent a lot of time in central Georgia, where Oscar and his mom live, and where half his neighbors consider COVID precautions an attack on their liberties.

The pandemic has also coincided with growing Union movements; organized actions about climate change; and surging struggles for human rights and racial justice. We've also had the first anniversary of the violent attack on our nation's capital. Our time is both hopeful and dangerous; and I think of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the profound persistence of his work toward a beloved community.

The lifespan of a pandemic is typically 18-24 months. A year ago, science gave us incredible vaccines that have saved countless lives. Vaccines allowed us to reopen schools, return to work, and reconnect, albeit with great caution, with our loved ones. Ever more Americans are getting vaccinated, and the Omicron wave has begun to recede in New York City. Classes are back in person this week. There are indications that, in the months ahead, we will be able to get back to much that we love. Seminars will continue to meet over Zoom through February, while we cautiously make plans for our Annual Dinner, set for April 27. Regrettably, we have rescheduled our Leonard Hastings Schoff Memorial lecture series, as March is just too soon to predict the risks.

In other news, a pipe burst on the third floor of Faculty House, damaging many areas of the building, including our office. Perhaps it's just as well that we are online this month, as Facilities will need that time for repairs.

I am grateful for my family, my colleagues and for all of you. In the face of much to fear, we have buoyed each other up, thrived, and grown. I know our reunions will be joyful.

Alice Newton

Interim Director



Save the Dates:

Annual Dinner

April 27, 2022

Tannenbaum lecture by Deborah Paredez

Schoff Memorial Lecture Series

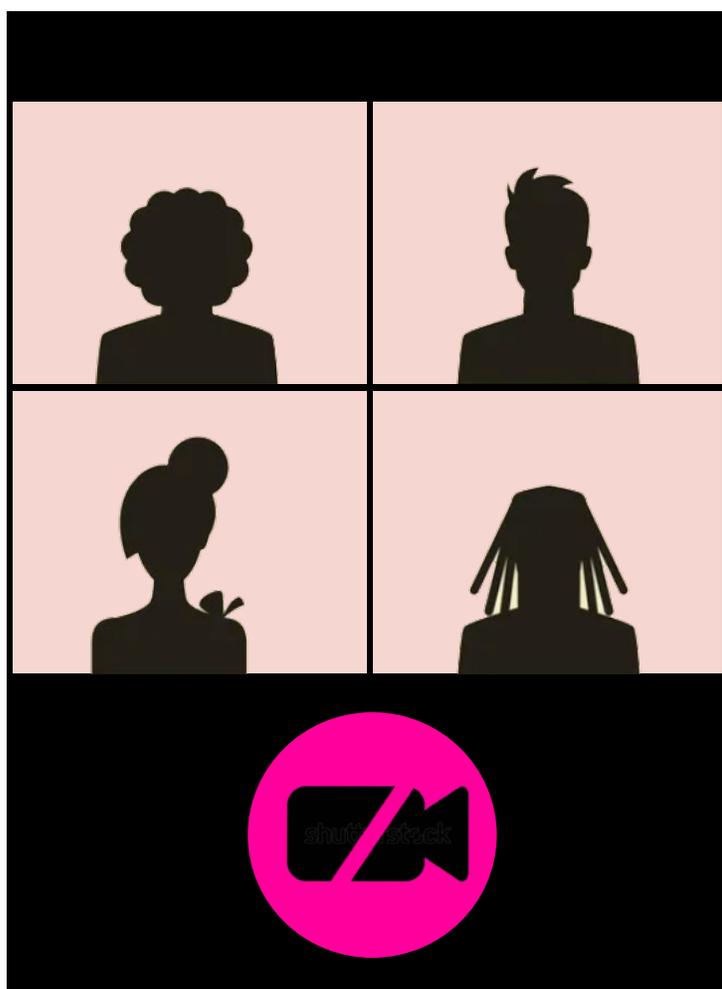
October 10, 17, 24, 2022

Robert Gooding-Williams

Travel Fund Requests for Fall 2022 are due by September 6, 2022.

Travel and conference funds are limited and are not guaranteed. Do not book speakers before first securing funding. To share the costs, we strongly encourage seminars to begin and replenish gift funds. Conference funding requests should be submitted months ahead of the proposed event date.

TRAVEL FUND REQUESTS



THE UNIVERSITY SEMINARS POLICY ON RECORDING ZOOM MEETINGS:

In keeping with The Seminars' commitment to unfettered speech, the Executive Committee has decided that recordings of Zoom meetings are for the purpose of taking minutes only and may **not be shared.** This includes speakers, chairs, and membership.

The rapporteur will have cloud access to recordings for 30 days only, after which time they will be deleted.

The University Seminars office does not save video or audio recordings of meetings. The library will only accept minutes and associated documents, such as announcements, correspondence, and with permission, speaker's papers and/or presentations.

Safety first...

All University Seminars should plan on meeting virtually through February 2022.

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](#)

February COVID-19 Update, Boosters and Spring Return to Campus

[RSVP HERE](#)

As we return for the Spring term, join University Life's forum, February COVID-19 Update, Boosters and Spring Return to Campus, on 2/2, from 4:00-5:30 PM ET for important updates on COVID-19 policies and planned activities as the Spring term gets underway. Registration is required.

[Required Protocol for Returning to Campus](#)

[Reopening FAQs](#)

Reminders for seminar chairs...

ELECTIONS:

Chairs are elected or re-elected annually. Each seminar may also elect additional officers at its discretion. Each seminar determines for itself who may vote in a chair election.

CONFERENCES:

Any member, including the chair, can propose a conference to the seminar. The seminar, in turn, agrees to sponsor the conference and designates a point-person to submit a proposal. Proposals must be submitted through Submittable, even if money isn't being requested.

DINNERS:

As we shared in the last General Meeting, the dinners at the first 4 in-person meetings of all seminars will be funded by The University Seminars. Additionally, going forward, The University Seminars will cover the dinners of the speaker, rapporteur and the chairs.

[WINTER 2022 CHAIR LETTER](#)



| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 1/1 *+ | New Year's Day |
| Monday | 1/17 *+ | Martin Luther King, Jr., Day |
| Tuesday | 1/18 | SPRING TERM BEGINS |
| Monday-Friday | 3/14-3/18 *+ | SPRING BREAK |
| Thursday | 3/17 | Purim (begins sunset on the 16th) |
| Friday | 4/15 | Good Friday |
| Saturday-Friday | 4/16-4/22 | Passover (begins sunset on the 15th) |
| Sunday | 4/17 | Easter Sunday |
| Wednesday | 4/27 | Annual Dinner / Tannenbaum Lecture |
| Friday | 5/13 | SPRING TERM ENDS |
| Wednesday | 5/18 | COMMENCEMENT |
| Monday | 5/30 *+ | Memorial Day |

PLEASE NOTE: * Dates indicate days when offices on Morningside Campus are closed.
+ Dates indicate days when the Faculty House is closed for seminars and events.

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.

Stay-tuned! F 2022, S 2023 Tentative Events

- Spring 2023 Leonard Hastings Schoff Memorial Lecture Series
- Celebration for Robert Pollack
- Community of Scholars Book Launch party

News and Events

EPIC YOGA

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

[Learn more...](#)

417 | Eighteenth-Century European Culture

Stephanie Insley Hershnow has joined *Digital Defoe* as co-editor. The journal publishes work on Defoe and his contemporaries (broadly conceived).

Elizabeth Powers, associate member and former chair, published the essay "The End of Epic: Camilla and the Revenge of Dido" in *Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics*, vol. 29, no. 1 (Spring/Summer 2021), pp. 91-112. In addition, her review of *Der Atem der Welt: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe und die Erfahrung der Natur*, by Stefan Bollmann, appeared in the June 25, 2021 issue of the *Times Literary Supplement*.

Sylvia Marks has two recent publications: "What Did Playwright Arthur Miller Do to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*?" in *The Arthur Miller Journal* (Fall, 2021) and "Tabula Gratulatoria," in *The Arthur Miller Journal* (Spring 2021, a festschrift issue honoring Arthur Miller scholar Christopher Bigsby).

Judith Stuchiner has an article forthcoming in *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, Vol. 51 called "Family Instruction in The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe: Consider the Children."

511 | Innovation in Education

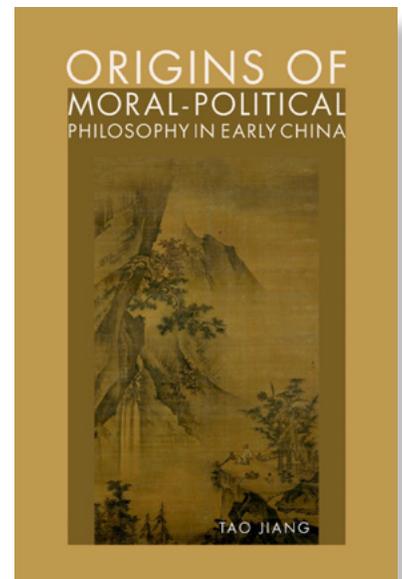
Dr. Elizabeth Cohn, co-chair of Innovation in Education (#511), is one of the co-directors of the newly-funded New York City Center to Reduce Health Disparities in Multiple Chronic Diseases. Dr. Cohn, who is associate provost for research at Hunter College-CUNY, partnered with colleagues at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York Presbyterian Hospital System, and the Physician Affiliate Group of New York. Projects to be launched under the grant from the National Insti-

tutes of Health, will address issues of colorectal cancer screening, cardiovascular risk for breast cancer survivors, patient adherence to multiple prescriptions, and sleep disorders.

567 | Neo-Confucian Studies

On Thursday, February 3, 8pm New York time (Friday, February 4, 9am Hong Kong time), there will be a book symposium on Tao Jiang's book, *Origins of Moral-Political Philosophy in Early China* (OUP 2021) organized by Sungmoon Kim (City University of Hong Kong).

Panelists include Karyn Lai (University of New South Wales), Hui-chieh Loy (National University of Singapore), and Hagop Sarkissian (City University of New York), with me responding at the end. The poster is attached to this email. If you are interested, please send an email to [Dr. Joogang Lee](#) to register.



[Read more...](#)

557 | Brazil

Ralph della Cava wrote "Outunno da ansiedade: celebrando 20 anos da queda das Torres Gêmeas," a solicited paper distributed through the social network component of the Associação Nacional de Pós-Graduação e Pesquisa nas Ciências Sociais (Brazilian Association of Social Sciences).

Sidney Greenfield presented "Might There Be An Inextricable Relationship Between Economics and Religion In The Way Countries Like Brazil Were Offered a Path to Modernization and Development?" at a joint meeting of the Columbia University Seminars on Studies of Religion and Contents and Methods in the Social Sciences, April 28, 2021, "Some Unanticipated, Negative Consequences of the Bolsa Família (Family Stipend) Program I Brazil" at the session "Administered

SEMINARS COMMUNITY

Insecurity and Urban-Poor Perspectives on Public Policy Practice” at the 2021 meeting of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), Nov. 11, 2021, and “The Brazilian Pastor as a Mobilizer of Votes” at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Nov. 18, 2021.

Marcelo Hazan was awarded one grant from the American Musicological Society (Thomas Hampson Fund for Research on Classical Song) and another from the Brazilian National Library Foundation (National Research Program) to research the songs of the Rio de Janeiro composer Cândido Inácio da Silva (ca. 1800-1838). His work (with Antonio Campos Monteiro Neto) on chapelmaster Father José Maurício Nunes Garcia (1767-1830) won second prize in the competition for the Otto Mayer-Serra Award in Latin American Musicology promoted by the Center for Iberian and Latin American Music of the University of California, Riverside.

Benjamin Jung was awarded 2021-22 School for Advanced Research (Santa Fe, NM), Resident Scholar Fellowship (9/21-5/22) and co-edited (with Alvaro Jarrin, Lucia Cantero, and Sean T. Mitchell), *Precarious Democracy: Ethnographies of Hope, Despair and Resistance in Brazil*, Rutgers University Press.

559 | Arabic Studies

Melis Hafez published *Inventing Laziness: The Culture of Productivity in Late Ottoman Society*

679 | Jazz Studies (2000-2005)

Robert G. O’Meally published *Antagonistic Cooperation* from the 2016 Schoff Lecture Series, “Fancy Sticks”: *The Action-Art of Toni Morrison, Romare Bearden, and Jazz*.

791 | Science and Subjectivity

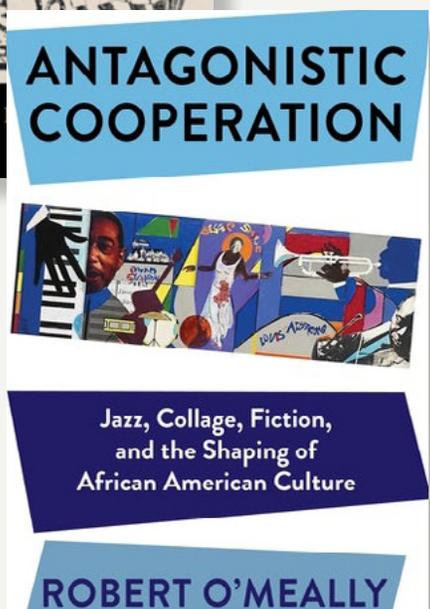
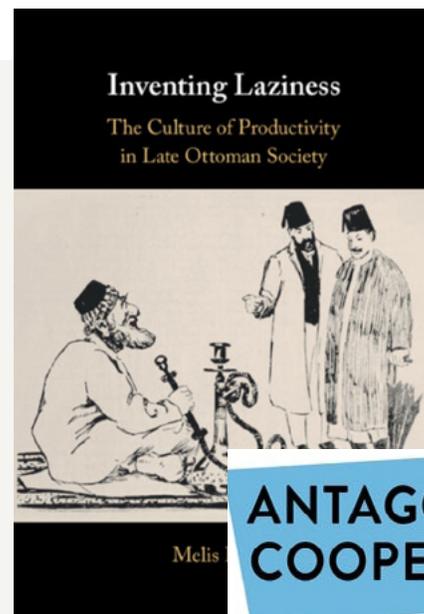
This seminar began in 2014 as a colloquium taught by **Bob Pollack**, co-chair, in the Heyman Center. The Colloquium read a book every month, and class time was spent in a serious discussion of the book’s contents and the ways in which it touched on matters of science and subjectivity. Since 2017, and at the suggestion of **Peter Gruenberger**, co-chair, it has been a seminar, still retaining the structure of a colloquium: we contin-

ue to read and discuss a book each month. Link below for a full list of the books discussed in the seminar. To attend a session (ZOOM), email Nataly Shahaf.

Science and Subjectivity Book List

799 | Menstruation and Society

Several seminar members and presenters including **Marcy Karin**, **Valeria Gomez**, **Margaret Johnson**, **Marni Sommer**, and **Inga Winkler** contributed to a special issue of the Columbia Journal of Gender and Law on “Are you there law? It’s me, menstruation.” They discussed work that was presented in the seminar on topics including menstrual justice, menstruation and human rights, menstruation in detention and in the context of homelessness. The special issue is open access and includes rich insights into how menstruation and the law interact.



In Memoriam

491 | Early American

With enormous sorrow, we write to inform you of the passing of **Dr. Jennifer Steenshorne**, longtime seminar member.

Notice by Robert Platt of NYU:

Dr. Jennifer Steenshorne worked at NYU Libraries in several capacities. Starting as clerical staff at the Graduate School of Business in 1990, she also worked as a reference associate at Bobst after the closure of GBA, moving on to the Institute of Fine Arts. After receiving her PhD in History from University of California, Irvine, she returned to NYU and worked as Manager of the Stephen Chan Library at IFA, and also taught history at John Jay College, LaGuardia Community College, St. Francis College, and Queens College.

She served as an editor of the John Jay Papers at Columbia University, where she trained future editors in the Rare Books and Manuscript Library, and was Director and Editor-In-Chief of the George Washington Papers at University of Virginia. She also published on topics as diverse as cemetery removal in Manhattan, and James Bond films.

Besides her many professional accomplishments, Jennifer was a supportive colleague and great friend to many of us, and was always ready with a precisely relevant fact from her encyclopedic knowledge of New York City. Her vast array of interests ranged from fashion and design (having worked for Perry Ellis), to music, (having interned with Electra Records), to horse racing, and public health. She brewed stouts and porters. A fan of the Rolling Stones, she worked for jazz legends Max Roach and Dizzy Gillespie. She also followed Metallica across the globe, and a thoroughbred race was named The Steenshorne on the occasion of her 50th birthday in New Orleans.

For those of us who knew her, she was an unforgettable friend and colleague, always kind and understanding, but also firm in her opinions.

For the community of libraries, archives, and classrooms, she was a passionate advocate and formidable leader.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Brant Vogel.

667 | The History of Columbia University

***SAVE THE DATE* JUNE 14, 2022**

Memorial and reception. Details to follow.

Chauncey G. Olinger, Jr., 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.

Got news?

Deadline for the Spring 2022
issue is **April 8, 2022.**

Please review our
submissions guidelines.

[MAKE A DONATION](#)