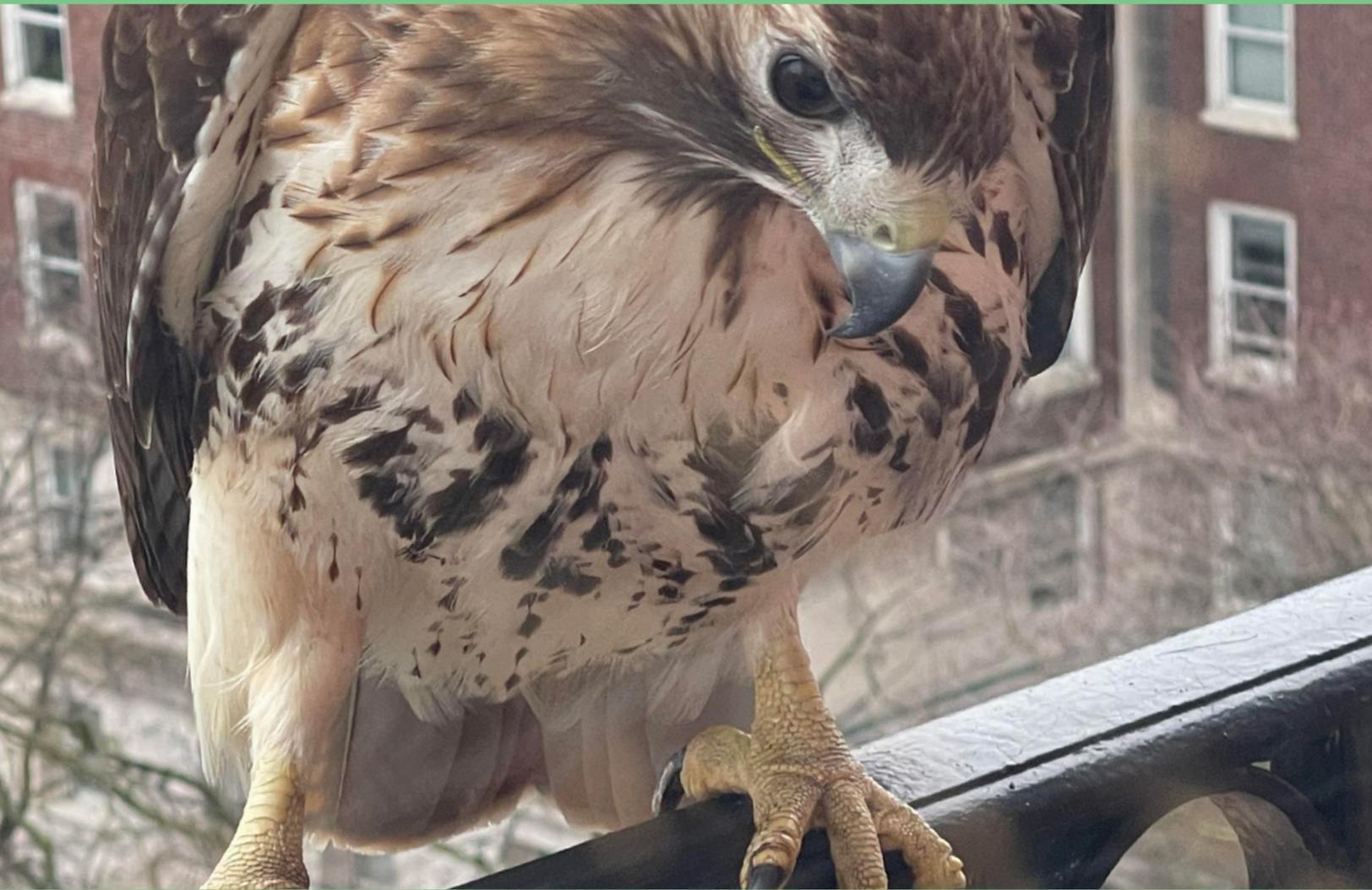


The University Seminars Newsletter



Spring 2022

Letter from the Director

Dear Seminars Community,

As you know, our long-anticipated reunion was not to be. I made the decision to cancel our Annual Dinner because I did not believe we could safely convene with rapidly spreading COVID-19 variants. Our office brainstormed additional precautions, but decided instead to defer it to the fall. Hopefully, fall 2022 will provide us this and many other occasions to celebrate!

Perhaps the pandemic experience has taught us patience, to be “Zen” about everyday annoyances. The state of the world puts any minor troubles into perspective while also generating a state of urgency. Maybe these are hallmarks of ‘inflection points’ in history: the need to act simultaneously with urgent purpose ... and patience.

Happily, some seminars have met in person and the gatherings have indeed been jolly – channeling Bob Belknap here. More seminars will meet in person in the fall. It is great fun to see the Faculty House people again.

At this time of year, all chairs and members have some housework to do. Thinking and planning next semester’s seminar meetings, of course. And perhaps also reflecting on the path of your seminar. Part of this is holding elections.

Chairs are elected or reelected annually. Article II, Number 5 of our bylaws states: *Each Seminar elects a Chair annually using its own procedures. Each Seminar may also elect additional officers at its discretion.*

It is our policy that each seminar determines for itself who may vote in a chair election and how the election is held. Please note that it is up to the seminar members to determine what procedures are used, not any individual chair.

And another reminder: any member, including the chair, can propose a conference, to the seminar. The seminar, in turn, can agree to sponsor the conference, and request support from The Seminars office. It is important that all seminar members be made aware of the proposed, or planned, conference, and have an opportunity to comment and participate. If you are even thinking about planning a conference, think about where and when. Holding a conference involves a lot of planning and detailed work. Don’t hesitate to write to the office if you want some help early on in the effort.

Wishing you peaceful, safe, productive, and fun summers.

I'm very much looking forward to seeing you all.

Alice Newton, Interim Director



Rescheduled Fall Events

* SAVE THE NEW DATES *

Annual Dinner:

November 16, 2022

Schoff Memorial Lecture Series:

Robert Gooding-Williams

October 10, 17, 24, 2022

A Community of Scholars Book Party:

Date TBD.

Minutes Submission Deadline

The FINAL deadline for Academic Year 2021-2022 minutes is JUNE 30, 2022.

Contact [Summer Hart](#) with any questions.

Travel Fund Requests

The deadline for Fall 2022 travel fund requests is September 6, 2022.

Travel and conference funds are limited and are not guaranteed. Do not book speakers before 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 REQUEST FORM](#)

In-Person 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.

SEMINARS WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP SPOTLIGHT

803W Prison Education and Social Justice Curricula

It has been a productive year for the Prison Education and Social Justice Curricula working group. With input from faculty and graduate students at Columbia and people involved in prison education in the New York area, we have developed courses in the sciences and the humanities—from earth studies to gender studies, and physics to Shakespeare—that will be taught in prisons in the coming academic year. Looking ahead, we hope to finalize ways to involve graduate workers in prison courses; expand course offerings in the social sciences; and set up an undergraduate minor under the title "Frontiers of Justice."

Spring Housekeeping

FOR CHAIRS, MEMBERS, & RAPPORTEURS

2022 GUIDELINES

Review these!

CHAIR 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.

RAPPORTEUR HIRING:

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 rapporteurs themselves. Once chairs have selected a rapporteur candidate, chairs must email University Seminars office the rapporteur's contact information to begin the on-boarding process as specified by Columbia University's Human Resources department. Rapporteur candidates are considered officially hired once they receive HR approval.

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.

Special Note: Applicants to and employees of most private employers, state and local governments, educational institutions, employment agencies and labor organizations are protected under **Equal Employment Opportunity Federal law** from discrimination.

2022-2023 PLANNING:

Please complete the **2022-2023 NEW YEAR ACADEMIC PLANNING FORM** and return it to the office by June 30, 2022.

2022-2023 NEW YEAR ACADEMIC PLANNING FORM

Friday	5/13	SPRING TERM ENDS
Wednesday	5/18	COMMENCEMENT
Monday	5/30 *+	Memorial Day

* 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 office closes on Fridays from June 3 - August 26, 2022.

COVID-19 Updates

ColumbiaDoctors will be facilitating access to oral treatment for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and who meet certain medical criteria. Paxlovid is one of the oral medications that has been shown to reduce the likelihood of hospitalization. Since it does need to be taken within five days of symptom onset, we are providing quick access to physicians who can prescribe this medication.

Paxlovid is available to anyone who meets the criteria for emergency use as authorized by the FDA. This includes the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults and children (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kilograms, or about 88 pounds) who have tested positive and are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 which includes anyone age 65 or older.

If you meet these criteria and have tested positive for Covid, please contact your existing health care provider right away. Alternatively, you may make a virtual or in-person appointment with Columbia providers at **Columbia Primary Care**, the **Nurse Practitioner Group**, as well as with our **virtual urgent care team**. Be sure to state that the appointment is for Covid treatment with a positive test.

Columbia affiliates who need further assistance in obtaining appointments for Paxlovid treatment have access to a dedicated line: (212) 305-3105, Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

See also, **City of New York Treatment Resources**.

For up-to-date campus guidelines and policies, refer to the University's COVID-19 website:

COVID-19 Resource Guide for the Columbia Community

News and Events

EPIC YOGA

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

[Learn more...](#)

429 | American Studies

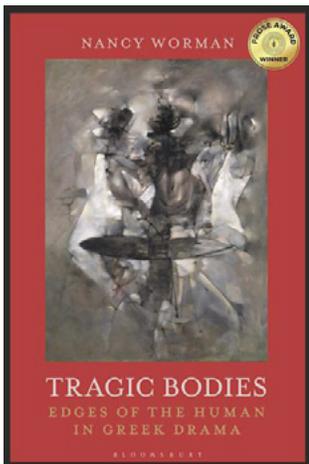
Farah Jasmine Griffin, William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies and Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies, has been named the winner of the 2022 PROSE Award in Literature, given by the Association of American Publishers.

431 | Medieval Studies

Elizabeth Brown made a generous donation to The University Seminars in honor of John Hines Mundy.

She writes: *The University Seminars is one of my favorite institutions in the world. It was Herbert Deane who made me a member in 1964, when Ralph and I moved here from Cambridge, and I left my instructorship at Harvard for Brooklyn College. I had written Professor Deane a fan letter about his book, "The Political and Social Ideas of Saint Augustine" when I was lecturing on Augustine in a course at Harvard I taught with Charles Wood. When he learned that I was coming to New York, he kindly saw to it that I became associated with the Medieval Seminar, which has been a joy and support for almost 60 years now.*

441 | Classical Civilization



Nancy Worman, member and former co-chair of the University Seminar on Classical Civilization and professor of classics and comparative literature at Barnard College, won the Association of American Publishers' PROSE Award in Classics for her book, *Tragic Bodies: Edges of the Human in Greek Drama*.

[Read more...](#)

459A | The City

Lisa Keller served as historical consultant for *The Automat*, a documentary shown at Film Forum last February. The *Automat*, or as some knew it, Horn and Hardart, was the biggest restaurant chain in New York and served as a level ground for people of all backgrounds. Director Lisa Hurwitz interviews many famous people and has combed numerous archives for superb photos and illustrations. Later in the year it will be broadcast on Turner Classics.

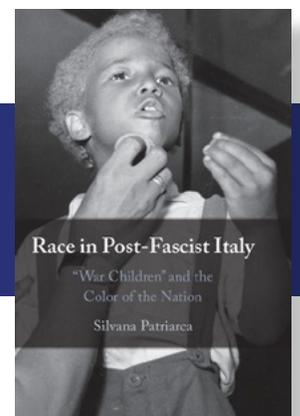
[Read more...](#)



483 Studies in Modern Italy

Silvana Patriarca of Fordham University published *Race in Post-Fascist Italy: 'War Children' and the Color of the Nation* with Cambridge University Press. The Italian translation, *Il colore della Repubblica: «Figli della guerra» e razzismo nell'Italia postfascista*, was published with Einaudi in 2021.

Erica Moretti of Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY published *The Best Weapon for Peace: Maria Montessori, Education, and Children's Rights*, with University of Wisconsin Press.





Attendees from L to R: Allan Geliebter, vice chair; Marshall Curson; Laurence Nolan; Harry Klssileff, chair; Laura Wilkinson; Michael Lewis; Giada Benasi; rapporteur, and John Glendinning, next chair

507 | Death

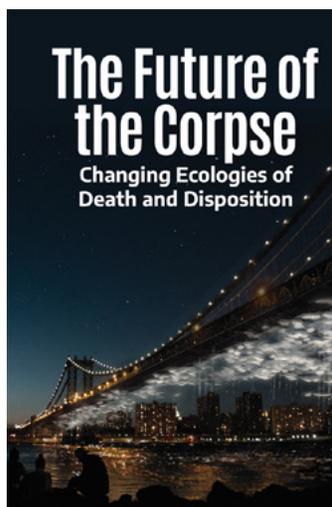
Christina Staudt and **Karla Rothstein** were interviewed for CU News regarding their seminar's recently published book, *The Future of the Corpse: Changing Ecologies of Death and Disposition*.

[Read more...](#)

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

Ron Gross and **Elizabeth Cohn**, chairs of the Seminar on Innovation (511) and the Seminar on Ethics, Moral Education, and Society (585) respectively, are co-hosts of the 8th annual Conversation Day on Saturday, June 11th, which is celebrated in-person in Bryant Park in Manhattan, and online globally. The free event has been described as "a unique opportunity to talk together about things that matter."

Learn more at: [conversationsnewyork.com](https://www.conversationsnewyork.com)



529 | Appetitive

The Appetitive seminar which has been meeting via zoom since September 2020, had its first live meeting on April 7, 2022, with guest speaker, **Laura Wilkinson**, from Swansea University in the UK. Thanks to The University Seminars, and particularly **John Jayo**, for technical assistance, we were able to bring colleagues from as far as Europe. We had an earlier in-person meeting, but with remote speaker, **Kathleen Melanson**, March 10, 2022, one day after our annual seminar birthdate and 50-year anniversary. We are planning an in-person celebration of our 50-year anniversary in Fall 2022.

557 | Brazil

Vânia Penha-Lopes launched *The Presidential Elections of Trump and Bolsonaro, Whiteness, and the Nation*, on February 11. The event was co-sponsored by the Columbia Global Center in Rio de Janeiro and the University Seminar Office. She was also interviewed for the **New Books Network podcast**. On March 11, she presided over a panel on Bolsonarismo and neo-conservatism at the XVI International Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association and presented "Branquitude e Masculinidade Hegemônica: As Eleições de Trump e Bolsonaro" (March 11), and published "Affirmative Action and the Brazilian Presidential Election of 2022." **Washington Brazil Office Newsletter, no.5** on March 11, 2022.

SEMINARS COMMUNITY

557 | Brazil and 805W | Public Humanities: Expanding Scholarship and Pedagogy

Amy Chazkel, member of seminar #557 and co-chair of seminar workshop #805W, Bernard Hirschhorn Associate Professor of Urban Studies, has received the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians prize for her article, "Toward a History of Rights in the City at Night: Making and Breaking the Nightly Curfew in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro."

585 | Ethics, Moral Education, and Society

Elizabeth Cohn, chair, will lead the Workshop Team for "Using Photovoices to Tell Your Community Health Story", an on-line training for NYC's community health workers, sponsored by Columbia University, Weill Cornell Medicine, the Mellon Foundation, and Hunter College.

603 | Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience

Daphna Shohamy, the Kavli Professor of Brain Science and a researcher at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute, has been named associate director of the Institute

621 | Homosexualities (1989-1997)

James Anderson, former member of 621, has received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

615 | Iranian Studies

Mahnaz Moazami is co-editor of the most recent publication of the *Encyclopædia Iranica*, Fascicle 1 of Volume 17. This fascicle covers entries from "Khorasan XV" to "Khotan III."

Order copies at [Brill Publishers](#).

757 | Global Mental Health

Myrna Weissman, Diane Goldman Kemper Family Professor of Epidemiology (in Psychiatry), won the 2021 American Psychiatric Association's Research Prize and the 2020 Pardes Humanitarian prize from Brain and Behavior Foundation.



Trillium, Alice Newton; Cherry Blossoms, Nataly Shahaf

In Memoriam

Douglas A. Chalmers, a beloved and esteemed professor of political science at Columbia University, died on April 4, 2022, from complications of Parkinson's disease. He was a member of the following University Seminars:

467, Knowledge, Technology, and Social Systems; 515, Latin America; 557, Brazil; and 667, The History of Columbia University.

[Read Obituary...](#)



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.

A celebration of Thanksgiving

will be offered for the life of

Chauncey Greene Olinger, Jr.

Tuesday, June 14, 2022, 11 am

St. Paul's Chapel, Columbia University
1160 Amsterdam Avenue
(Amsterdam Avenue at 117th St)
New York, NY 10027

A reception will follow at
Faculty House, Columbia University
64 Morningside Drive, New York, NY 10027

We hope you will join us!

Carla Olinger

&

The University Seminars

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required.

For questions, please call 718-549-5518.

got news?

Deadline for the Fall 2022
issue is **September 9, 2022.**

Please review our
submissions guidelines.

MAKE A DONATION