

The University Seminars
Newsletter



Fall 2022

Letter from the Director

Dear Seminars Community,

We are finally meeting in person, but not without some understandable trepidation. Since our 76th Annual Dinner was postponed three times, we decided to have the dinner and lecture as soon as possible, rather than waiting until the spring of 2023. So, our Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on November 16, 2022. Everyone connected to The Seminars is welcome to attend: seminar members, family, friends, colleagues. Please see in this newsletter more information about the upcoming Annual Dinner.

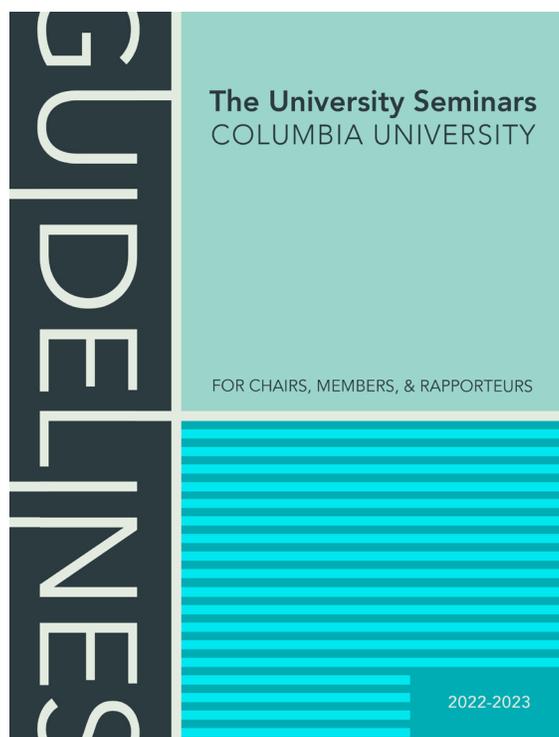
Our Schoff lectures, held in October this year, were given by Robert Gooding-Williams. Robert's lectures were profoundly relevant for America today. I found myself reflecting on the value of The University Seminars. We are one of Columbia's largest outreach programs, engaging with many hundreds of associates from other academic institutions; and independent scholars; and practitioners in areas that call for knowledge across the boundary of the academe. We play an important role in expanding the community, bringing the 'real' world in and getting Columbians' work out. That has always been a useful project and is more important in these divisive times in our country.

In January, Susan Boynton will take over the directorship of The University Seminars. I plan to stick around to ease the transition and because I love my job and I am not ready to leave! I very much hope that we will be meeting in person in the year ahead and that the scourge of this pandemic will ease up significantly. I know many of us have used the COVID time productively and have had a chance to think about life and work and balance. For many seminars, technology and physical isolation have opened up new avenues of connection and community.

Warmly,

Alice Newton,
Interim Director





Questions about meeting procedures? Travel funding? Membership? The answers are here.

[2022-2023 GUIDELINES](#)

Meet The University Seminars Administrative Assistant, Giran Ceballos!

Giran joined The Seminars office staff in late September 2022—just in time for our first in-person programming in over two years!



Giran provides support for day-to-day operations, evening seminar groups and special events, and is the point person for arranging travel and processing reimbursements.

Welcome, Giran!

SEMINARS WORKSHOPS SPOTLIGHT

805W Public Humanities: Expanding Scholarship and Pedagogy

The Public Humanities Workshop has enjoyed a productive inaugural year. Our workshop brings together over forty academics, artists, curators, and organizers from institutions across the northeast and serves as a forum to disseminate dynamic models of engaged scholarship. Recent sessions have focused on themes such as "Public Humanities and Doctoral Education," "Public Art and Curatorial Practice" and "Humanities is Local: Public History, Storytelling, and Social Justice." Working closely with partners in the IUDC Consortium, our workshop continues to experiment with cross-institutional collaborations in developing new pedagogies and research methods for a common public humanities curriculum. At Columbia, we further aspire to work with others in the coming years to make engaged scholarship a standard feature of humanities education, defining its methods, aims, and urgencies.



Bridget Bartoloni, Five Boro Story Project

SAVE THE NEW DATE 76th Annual Dinner

The University Seminars
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

76th



DINNER

November
16
2022

Meeting

[REGISTER HERE](#)

2023 Incoming Director

Susan L. Boynton, Professor of Music, Columbia University, has been appointed as the next Director of The University Seminars. Her term will begin January 2023.



Travel Fund Requests

The deadline for Spring 2023 travel fund requests is January 17, 2023.

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](#)

Paid In-Person Dinners

Dinners at the first 4 in-person meetings of all seminars (FALL 2022 SEMESTER ONLY) will be funded by The University Seminars. Additionally, going forward, The University Seminars will cover the dinners of the speaker, rapporteur and the chairs.

COVID-19 Updates

Masking is now optional but is still strongly recommended for all indoor events. For up-to-date campus guidelines and policies, refer to the University's COVID-19 website:

[COVID-19 Resource Guide for the Columbia Community](#)

CALENDAR

Fall 2022

Tuesday	October 25	General Committee Meeting
Monday	November 7*+	Academic Holiday
Tuesday	November 8*+	Election Day – University Holiday
Wednesday	November 16	Annual Dinner / Tannenbaum Lecture
Wednesday-Friday	November 23-25*+	Thanksgiving Break
Friday	December 23	Autumn Term Ends

The University Seminars office will be closed from 6 pm on Friday, December 23 until 10 am Monday, January 2, 2023.

Spring 2023

Saturday	January 1*+	New Year's Day
Monday	January 16*+	Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
Tuesday	January 17	Spring Term Begins
Monday-Friday	March 13-17*+	Spring Break
Mondays	March 20, 27, April 3	Schoff Memorial Lecture Series
Friday	May 12	Spring Term Ends
Wednesday	May 17	Commencement
Monday	May 29*+	Memorial Day

The University Seminars office will be closed on Fridays from June 2 until August 25, 2023.

*Dates shown with asterisk indicate days when offices on Morningside Campus are closed.

+ Dates shown with cross indicate days when the Faculty House is closed for seminars and events.

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

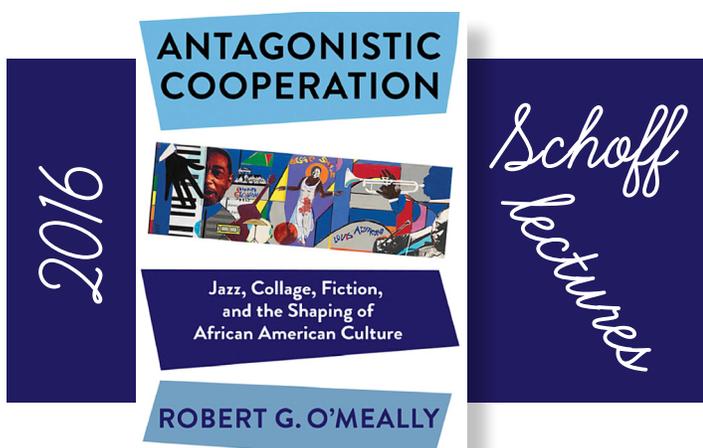
News and Events

EPIC YOGA

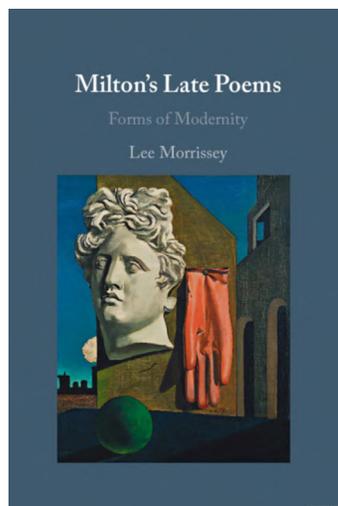
A yoga program for EPIC members led by Virginia Papiouannou which takes place weekly over Zoom.

[Learn more...](#)

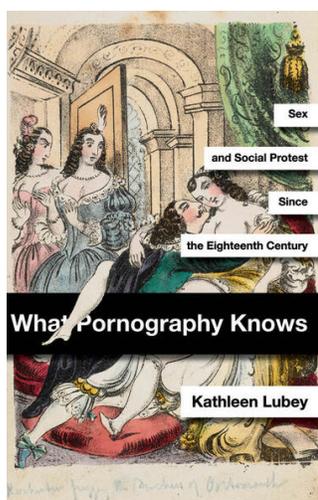
Robert O'Meally, *Antagonistic Cooperation: Jazz, Collage, Fiction, and the Shaping of African American Culture* was published by Columbia University Press.



417 | Eighteenth Century



Lee Morrissey's *Milton's Late Poems: Forms of Modernity* was published by Cambridge University Press.



Kathleen Lubey's *What Pornography Knows: Sex and Social Protest Since the Eighteenth Century* was published by Stanford University Press.

Gretchen Gerzina's *Black England: A Forgotten Georgian History* has been reissued in the UK by John Murray Press with a new forward by Zadie Smith.



435 | Studies in Contemporary Africa

Robyn d'Avignon, co-chair of "Seminar on Studies in Contemporary Africa," just published her first book, *A Ritual Geology: Gold and Subterranean Knowledge in Savanna West Africa* with Duke University Press. Set against the ongoing corporate enclosure of West Africa's goldfields, *A Ritual Geology* tells the untold history of one of the world's oldest indigenous gold mining industries: Francophone West Africa's orpillage. In so doing, this book introduces transnational geological formations as a new regional framework for African studies, environmental history, and anthropology. *A Ritual Geology* is available as an **Open Access edition**.



483 | Studies in Modern Italy

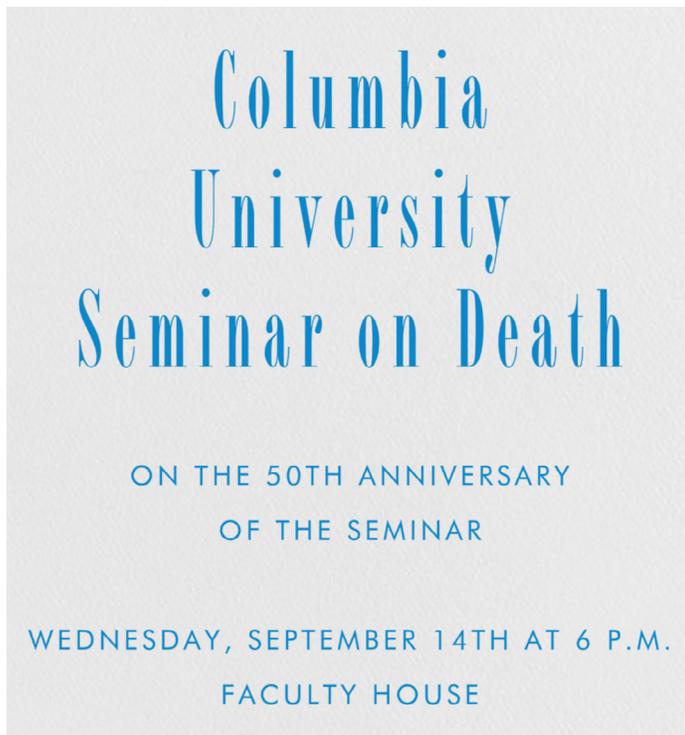
Marching on Rome: Contesting the Eternal City Trough Centuries, 10.28.22, full day conference at the Italian Academy, Columbia University. Free and open to the public. [REGISTER HERE](#).



507 | Death

50th Anniversary Celebration

The Seminar on Death founded by Austin Kutscher in 1971 observed its 50th anniversary with a festive dinner at Faculty House on September 14, 2022. Two of the founder's sons, past and current Members and Associates, representative speakers, Seminar Office staff, and rapporteurs were present to celebrate the Seminar's long history of explorations and achievements and to view a video with excerpts from the Seminar's commemorative Oral History project featuring almost twenty narrators.



[View photos of the celebration here ...](#)

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

Ron Gross and Elizabeth Cohn, chairs of the Seminar on Innovation in Education (511) and the Seminar on Ethics, Moral Education, and Society (585) respectively, will co-host a celebration of the National Day of Dialogue at their online seminar meeting on Thursday, Jan. 5th, 2023, 1:00-2:30 pm EST. NDD is supported by over 20 national and international organizations working to build trust, connection, and a more empathic future through the transformative power of dialogue. To join the session on Jan. 5th, 2023, contact

Ron Gross at grossassoc@aol.com.

[Learn more...](#)

Ronald Gross, letter in the TIMES, Thursday, September 25, 2022 on p. A25.

To the Editor:

Here in Great Neck, N.Y., we have recently designated “conversation stations” at sidewalk seating around town, inviting passers-by to “please sit here if you’d welcome some friendly conversation.” According to the local press, it’s working just as David Brooks envisages: “Once you get used to filling your day with social exercise, it gets easier and easier, and more and more fun.”

Ronald Gross
Great Neck, N.Y.

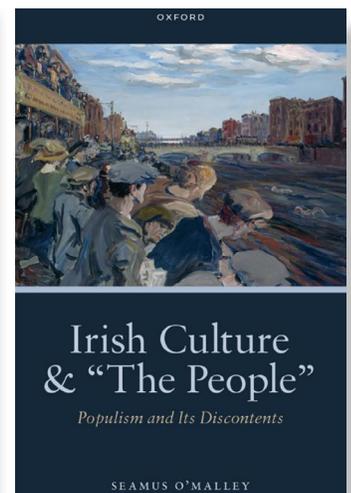
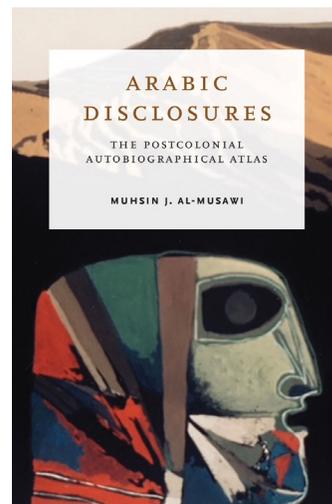
The writer, director of Conversations New York, organized the conversation stations.

535 | Irish Studies

Seamus O'Malley, *Irish Culture and 'The People': Populism and its Discontents*, comes out this month from Oxford University Press.

559 | Arabic Studies

Muhsin al-Musawi, *Arabic Disclosures: Postcolonial Autobiographical Atlas* was published by University of Notre Dame Press.



791 | Science and Subjectivity

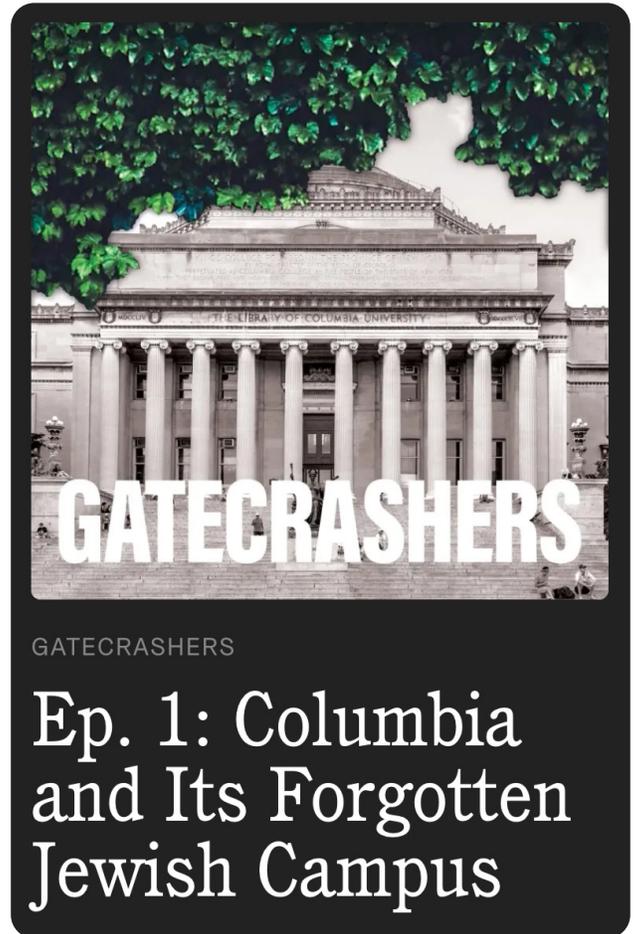
Robert Pollack, seminar co-chair, appeared on the podcast, "Columbia and Its Forgotten Jewish Campus Gatecrashers Ep. 1: What was Seth Low Junior College, and why did the brilliant Jewish writer Isaac Asimov get sent there?" [Tablet Magazine](#)

[Listen here ...](#)

The **2022 issue of the RCSS Journal** is entirely the work of the undergraduate intern scholars of the RCSS, whose projects are often supported by the University Seminar on Science and Subjectivity.

799 | Menstruation and Society

Dr Elaine Moir, a civil servant at the Scottish government who was instrumental in developing the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021, and Prof. Bettina Bildhauer (University of the St Andrews) from the Menstruation Research Network UK presented a University Seminar on Menstruation & Scottish Policy Developments in January. They traced the factors that led to the passing in Scotland of the first law that makes access to period products a universal right of every citizen. The underlying research together with a briefing paper has just been published [Open Access](#) with the [Open Library of Humanities](#).



got news?

Deadline for the Spring 2022 issue is **January 20, 2022.**

Please review our [submissions guidelines](#).

[MAKE A DONATION](#)