

The University Seminars Newsletter



Spring 2023

Letter from the Director

Dear Seminars Community,

It's been a great few months since the last newsletter! An unprecedented number of complex and resoundingly successful events were expertly (and indefatigably!) orchestrated by Alice Newton. The Annual Dinner in November—the first in years —included the presentation of the Tannenbaum Award to Marianne Hirsch and an engrossing lecture by Deborah Paredez. Exceptionally, we had a second Leonard Hastings Schoff Memorial Lecture series in the spring semester this year. In March and April, John McWhorter spoke on the phenomenon of creolization in language and music, eliciting extended and lively discussion after each of the three lectures. We are grateful also to our inspiring fall Schoff Lecturer, Robert Gooding-Williams, for making the public programming of 2022-2023 academic year so vibrant and stimulating. The fall 2023 Schoff Lectures will be delivered by Farah Jasmine Griffin.

As Director of the University Seminars since January 2023, I witness every day the exceptional contributions of those who have resourcefully and graciously carried the organization through the worst of the pandemic. With the arrival of Giran Ceballos in fall 2022, the office is once again fully staffed. And thanks to the ingenuity and determination of Pamela Guardia, seminars can now choose to hold hybrid meetings in Faculty House. In the coming months you will hear about a new, online system that Gesenia Alvarez is putting in place for meal payments and the redesign, overseen by Summer Hart, of The Seminars website. Please look out for announcements about these exciting developments.

Since becoming Director, I have been holding meetings with seminar chairs to hear about the work and the needs of their seminars. We hope to see you at the receptions we have organized to express our appreciation to the chairs (April 24) and the rapporteurs (April 28). Planning for next year is already starting, and we're looking forward to working with you in the coming months. Please feel free to get in touch with questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Susan Boynton,
Director

Announcements from the Office

Spring Events



4.24.23

Reception for Chairs
5 to 7 pm | Faculty House

4.28.23

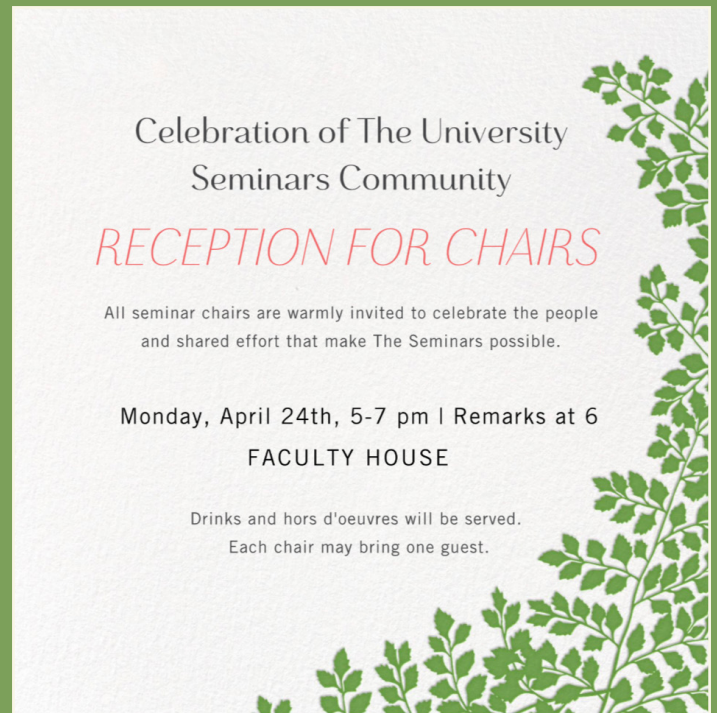
Rapporteur Reception
4 to 6 pm | Faculty House

A Celebration of Bob Pollack

May 23 5-8pm

RSVP by May 15, 2023

an2113@columbia.edu



Bob Pollack and Seminars staff during his directorship.
Left to right: John Jayo, Summer Hart, Bob Pollack,
Alice Newton, Pamela Guardia, Gesenia Alvarez

End-of-Year Reminders for Chairs

New Academic Year Planning Form (found on the Guidelines page of the website) by the end of June.

Remember to hold chair elections. The results of the elections should be recorded in the minutes and communicated to the office via the **NAYPF**.

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR PLANNING FORM

If your rapporteur is going to graduate this spring, start working on getting a new one. It is the responsibility of chairs to interview and choose rapporteurs for their seminar. The office can post the rapporteur jobs online with the graduate school. However, often the outgoing rapporteur or chair will have an appropriate replacement in mind.

Make any modifications to the description of the seminar that appears on the website. Email changes to: univ.seminars@columbia.edu.

Summer Hart will reach out to you over the summer to review your seminar's page in the 2022-2023 Directory. Since the Directory is a collection of events that occurred the previous year, please respond to her even if you are no longer a chair.

Before June, please make sure you have sent **Summer Hart** all the information from your seminar's 2022-2023 meetings, if it is not already posted on the Seminars website.

Travel Fund Requests

Fall 2023 travel fund request deadline is June 30, 2023.

Travel fund requests are welcome on a rolling basis and ideally by June 30, for travel to take place in the fall of 2023. Please send all initial funding requests (forms are found on the Guidelines page of the website) by email to **Susan Boynton**. Chairs are encouraged to send travel budget requests for both fall and spring at the same time. Please send budget requests for spring 2024 travel by September 5, 2023. Once the overall budget has been approved, speakers may start planning travel by submitting a Travel and Accommodation Request Form.

TRAVEL FUND REQUEST FORM

End-of Year Reminders for Rapporteurs

Please submit minutes by May 15th. Hard deadline June 30th.

After that date, you can still be paid but it will take a little longer. Much later can be difficult.

As you may have noticed, you are no longer required to submit an archival announcement (Yay!) Less work for all of us.

If your seminar has a meeting after **May 15th**, please submit those minutes as soon as possible, but no later than **June 30, 2023**. This is a hard deadline. You will no longer have access to the submissions form after this date.

Please review Submittable for any sets of minutes marked "open for edits," read the notes, and correct as necessary. Minutes are not complete until they have been accepted.

Calendar

Spring 2023

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.

Monday	September 4 *+	Labor Day
Tuesday	September 5	Autumn term begins
Tuesday	October 24	General Committee Meeting (tentative date)
Monday	November 7 *+	Academic Holiday
Tuesday	November 8 *+	Election Day
Mondays	November 13, 20, 27	Schoff Memorial Lecture Series (tentative dates)
Wednesday-Friday	November 22-24 *+	Thanksgiving break
Friday	December 22	Autumn term ends

*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

The University Seminars office will be closed from 6 pm on Friday, December 22 until 10 am Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Seminars Community

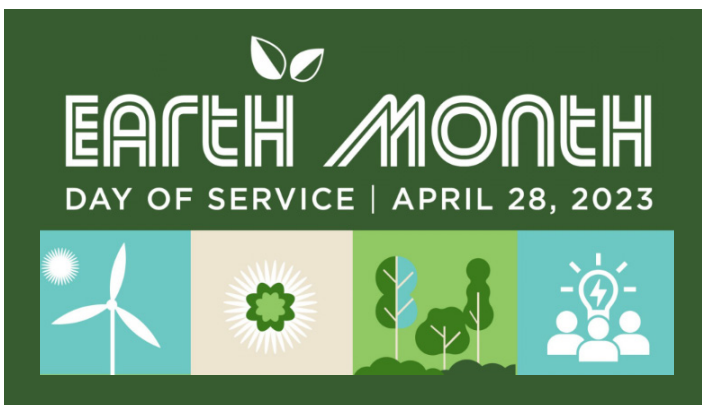
News and Events

EPIC YOGA

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

[Learn more ...](#)

Earth Day is April 22, 2023. Community Earth Month events are featured at [Columbia Climate School](#).



417 | Eighteenth Century



Abolitionism and the Arts

Opposition to slavery and the slave trade permeated the art worlds of literature, music, and visual art in the long eighteenth century. Europeans and Americans composed poetic critiques of the slave trade, sang songs of sympathy for enslaved people, and engraved images that asserted the common humanity of Africans and Europeans. This one-day interdisciplinary symposium, to be held at Columbia University on May 6, 2023, brings together musicologists, literary and theater scholars, art historians, and historians to think through the connections between the arts and the history of abolitionism in the Atlantic world.

[Read more ...](#)

495A | The City; 511 | Innovation in Education, Ethics, 585 | Moral Education, and Society; 689 | Memory and Slavery: Social and Human Consequences

Ronald Gross and Elizabeth Cohn, co-chairs of the Seminar on Innovation in Education and the Seminar on Ethics, Moral Education, and Society, co-hosted a webinar on January 17th on "Main Street: How a City's Heart Connects Us All" with author Dr. Mindy Fullilove. The session was conducted in collaboration with the Seminar on The City and the Seminar on Memory and Slavery: Social and Human Consequences. Dr. Fullilove's study was based on 11 years of investigating Main Streets in 178 cities, and her findings are currently being applied in numerous municipalities to re-design them for greater equity and healthfulness.

507 | Death

Karla Rothstein is founder and director of [DeathLAB](#), as well as co-chair of the University Seminar on Death. [DeathLAB](#) has received a grant partnership with New York Community Trust to further [DeathLAB](#)'s initiatives and latest project, *Civic Solidarity: A Proposal for Environmentally Sustainable Disposition of Human Remains and the Public Memorialization within New York City's Space-Constrained Urban Context*.



DeathLAB + @LATENTnyc design proposal included in the solo exhibition, "DeathLAB: Democratizing Death," 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan.

511 | Innovation in Education; 585 | Ethics, Moral Education, and Society; 561 | Human Rights; 689 | Memory and Slavery: Social and Human Consequences

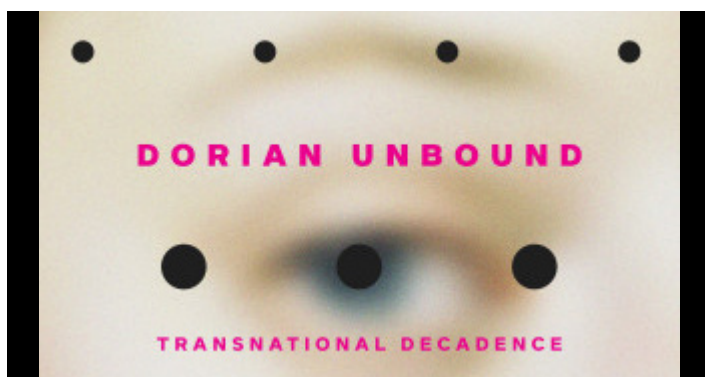
Exemplifying the potential advantages of collaboration among seminars with congruent interests, four groups met with Prof. Jack Snyder via Zoom on March 30th, for a discussion based on his latest book, *Human Rights for Pragmatists*. Prof. Snyder is the Robert and Renee Belfer Professor of International Relations at Columbia. His books include *From Voting to Violence and Human Rights Futures*. The collaborating Seminars were Innovation in Education; Ethics, Moral Education, and Society; Memory and Slavery; and Human Rights. The co-chairs of two of the collaborating Seminars, **Dr. Elizabeth Cohn** and **Ronald Gross**, reported that "Our discussion benefited enormously from contributions from each of the participating groups. The shared expertise and experiences were extraordinarily productive."

515 | Latin America

On April 27, 2023 at 7 pm in Faculty House, Professor María Victoria Murillo will speak on *Societal Change and Political Reactions in Latin America*. For more information or to join this meeting of the University Seminar on Latin America, email [Sara Pan Algarra](mailto:Sara.Pan.Algarra).

525 | The Middle East

Gary Sick, Middle East seminar chair, was quoted in a New York Times story that is the most detailed report to date of any senior official about the efforts of Bill Casey and the Reagan campaign to persuade Iran to hold the American hostages until after the election. A raft of individuals around Casey and Reagan have denied repeatedly that they would ever have even considered such a thing. The original story is available at [The New York Times website](https://www.nytimes.com).



535 | Irish Studies

Mary McGlynn published, *Broken Irelands Literary Form in Post-Crash Irish Fiction*.

Sean O'Toole published *Dorian Unbound*.

557 | Brazil

On March 6, **Vânia Penha-Lopes**, co-chair of the Brazil Seminar, was a speaker in the two-person panel titled "Mulheres Negras, Educação e Ciência" (Black Women, Education, and Science), an event sponsored by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), an organ of the Brazilian federal government, in honor of Women's Month. On March 14-17, she attended the annual meeting of the International Studies Association in Montreal, Canada. She chaired a panel on the politics of vulnerability and exclusion (March 15), presented a paper on hegemonic masculinity in a panel on international political sociology and feminist theory and gender studies, and co-led an innovative session on the use of music and poetry in the classroom. She has also been selected to renew her tenure as Research Fellow of the Washington Brazil Office (2023-24).

615 | Iranian Studies

Elton Daniel, Mohsen Ashtiany, Marie McCrone, and Mahnaz Moazami are co-editors of the third fascicle of Volume XVII of *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, the Yarshater Center's flagship publication. The printed Fascicle 3 of Volume XVII contains entries from "King of the Benighted" to "Kokand Khanate." It also includes a series on "Kingship," the concept and institution in the Iranian world. Full table of contents [HERE](#). Copies are available from [Brill Publishers](#).



NEW DIRECTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY ART

Memory Art in the Contemporary World

717 | Cultural Memory

Memory Art in the Contemporary World: Confronting Violence in the Global South (London: Lund Humphries, 2022,) Andreas Huyssen.

Andreas Huyssen

771 | Indigenous Studies

On Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7 pm, Anya Montiel will speak on *Masked Identities: The Life and Art of Don "Chief Lelooska" Smith* at the University Seminar on Indigenous Studies. For more information or to join this meeting, email [Sara Pan Algarra](mailto:Sara.Pan.Algarra).



Masked Identities: The Life and Art of Don "Chief Lelooska" Smith

Anya Montiel

Curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

Tuesday, April 18
7:00 - 8:30 PM
Faculty House at
Columbia University

791 | Science and Subjectivity

Effective July 1 2023, **Robert Pollack**, co-chair, will be a professor emeritus, as he is in line to retire from his position as professor of Biological Sciences, which he has held since the Fall of 1978.

Click [HERE](#) for a listing of all books discussed in The University Seminar on Science and Subjectivity to date.

Click [HERE](#) for the 2023 schedule.

In Memoriam

459A | The City



Chair and one of the longest serving members of the University Seminar on The City, **Jeffrey Kroessler** passed away at home on February 5, 2023 in Sunnyside, Queens, NY.

[Read more ...](#)

577 | Brazil

Eleanor Greenfield, longtime friend of The Seminars, died on March 3, 2023 on the Upper West Side. El-lie was the wife, of 68 years, of Sidney Greenfield, a dedicated chair and member of the seminars on Brazil, Studies in Religion, and Content and Methods of the Social Sciences.

[Read more ...](#)

479 | Ancient Near East



Oscar White Muscarella, member of the University Seminar on The Ancient Near East, passed away on November 27, 2022, age 91, at his home in Pennsylvania.

[Read More ...](#)

491 | Early American History and Culture

Member of The University Seminar on Early American History and Culture, **Herb Sloan** died on October 23, 2022.

[Read more ...](#)



Got news?

We'd love to share it.

Deadline for the Fall 2023 issue is **September 15, 2023.**

Please review our [submissions guidelines.](#)

[MAKE A DONATION](#)