

The University Seminars
Newsletter



Fall 2023

Letter from the Director

Dear Seminars Community,

As the 2023-2024 academic year begins, there are several exciting new developments to report. The office team has planned and brought to fruition new platforms that are being rolled out this fall. Gesenia Alvarez-Lazauskas created a new administrative portal to consolidate and simplify the many processes involved in the organization and execution of seminars. The website is being redesigned with a new look and added functionality, a long-term project spearheaded by Summer Hart and Pamela Guardia. We are fortunate indeed that our team has so thoughtfully conceived these invaluable resources and devoted time to developing them over the summer months.

Three new University Seminars started meeting this fall: Drama, Theatre, and Performance (811); Cuba (813); and Current Studies in Microeconomics (815). In addition to these new seminars, one of the Seminar Workshops has become the University Seminar on Public Humanities: Expanding Scholarship and Pedagogy (805). Some seminars are organizing joint meetings which hold promise for future interdisciplinary collaborations.

We look forward to a year of lively public programs in addition to seminar meetings. Farah Jasmine Griffin will present the Schoff Lectures on November 13, 20, and 27. The Tannenbaum Lecture will be delivered by Steve Coll at our Annual Dinner on April 17.

Since our last newsletter, two of the most valued people in our community have retired from the University. Robert Pollack, Professor of Biological Sciences and former Director of the University Seminars, retired in May and was honored with a festive party that Alice Newton organized for The Seminars. Bob remains active as the co-chair of the University Seminar on Science and Subjectivity. On August 15, Alice Newton retired from her position as Deputy Director. We remain forever in her debt for bringing The Seminars through the pandemic in her leadership role as Interim Director. We wish Bob and Alice all the best for the next chapter in their lives!

Sincerely,

Susan Boynton,
Director

RAPPORTEUR OPPORTUNITY Douglas Chalmers Graduate Scholars Lectureship

[READ MORE / APPLY](#)

In 2002, EPIC (Emeritus Professors in Columbia) established the Douglas Chalmers Graduate Scholars Lectureship to elevate scholarship and promote vibrant exchange between young researchers and retired faculty. The Lectureship provides doctoral candidates preparing to defend their dissertations, post-docs, medical doctors, and legal scholars with an opportunity to make a presentation on their research to a cross-disciplinary audience of educators and scholars ready to listen carefully and ask probing questions. The presentations, which run 45 minutes with time for questions, offer doctoral students and post-docs a useful learning experience and allow EPIC members to learn about topics beyond their scholarly interests. EPIC Graduate Scholars are awarded a \$1,000 honorarium.

Announcements from the Office

Monday,
October 30th

4-6 pm
ZOOM

GENERAL MEETING OF SEMINAR CHAIRS

This is the only organized opportunity for all chairs to meet and hear updates on The University Seminars policies and news. The General Meeting may require voting on issues or nominations. All Seminar Chairs are expected to attend or send another seminar member as proxy. Only Chairs are invited; rapporteurs are not allowed to attend. In advance of the meeting, Chairs are encouraged to email agenda items to The University Seminars Director, Susan Boynton: slb184@columbia.edu.

[GENERAL MEETING REGISTRATION LINK](#)

SCHOFF MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES: NOVEMBER 13, 20, 27 | FARAH JASMINE GRIFFIN

SAVE THE DATES

LEONARD HASTINGS SCHOFF

LECTURE I, November 13, 2023

People in Me: Mapping Maya's Circle,
Following Abbey's Road

LECTURE II, November 20, 2023

A Timeless Tale: Paule Marshall's
Underappreciated Great Work,
"The Chosen Place, The Timeless People"

LECTURE III, November 27, 2023

To Be a Part of the Future:
The Quiet Quest of Sylvia Ardyn Boone



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FARAH JASMINE GRIFFIN, William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American and African Diaspora Studies



THE UNIVERSITY SEMINARS COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

People ▾ Seminars and Workshops ▾ Services ▾ Community ▾ Conferences Feedback

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE PORTAL
FOR CHAIRS AND RAPPORTEURS

THE UNIVERSITY SEMINARS ADMINISTRATIVE PORTAL

We are excited to introduce the new University Seminars Administrative Portal, a valuable resource designed to enhance your experience and streamline administrative processes. In our continuous effort to support the community, we have expanded the concept of our Guidelines and are thrilled to offer this dynamic platform for your reference. Our team has worked diligently to create a comprehensive portal to provide you with all the information and tools you need. One of the key advantages of this website is its flexibility. We can update it as needed to ensure you have access to the latest information. We encourage you to make the University Seminars Administrative Portal your primary source of information. Should you require additional assistance or have specific inquiries, you can reach our office at: univ.seminars@columbia.edu.

PORTAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Meals

Booking Travel

Reimbursements

CHAIR TRAINING

Training is recommended for all chairs and mandatory for all new chairs or chairs of seminars returning from hiatus. We offer organized Zoom orientations in the fall and spring semesters. Please contact Pamela Guardia for more information.

CHAIR ORIENTATION SLIDES

RAPPORTEUR TRAINING

Rapporteur orientations are recommended for all rapporteurs and mandatory for all incoming rapporteurs. We offer several sessions in the fall and spring semesters over Zoom. Please contact Pamela Guardia for more information.

RAPP ORIENTATION SLIDES

Calendar

Fall 2023

Monday, 10.30	GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING FOR CHAIRS
Monday, 11.6 *+	ACADEMIC HOLIDAY
Tuesday, 11.7 *+	ELECTION DAY – UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY
Mondays, 11.13, 11.20, 11.27	SCHOFF LECTURE SERIES
Wednesday-Friday 11.22-11.24 *+	THANKSGIVING BREAK
Monday, 12.11	LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Spring 2024

Monday, 1.1 *+	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Monday, 1.15 *+	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
Tuesday, 1.16	SPRING TERM BEGINS
Monday-Friday, 3.11-15 +	SPRING BREAK
Wednesday, 4.17	ANNUAL DINNER
Monday, 4.29	LAST DAY OF CLASSES
Wednesday, 5.15	COMMENCEMENT
Monday, 5.27 *+	MEMORIAL DAY

*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

407 | The Renaissance

Pamela H. Smith has published *From Lived Experience to the Written Word: Reconstructing Practical Knowledge in the Early Modern World*.

417 | Eighteenth-Century European Culture

Kathleen Lubey has published *What Pornography Knows: Sex and Social Protest Since the Eighteenth Century*. Elizabeth Powers has published a review of David Waldstreicher's new Phillis Wheatley biography in the *TLS*. Dustin Stewart has an article in the current issue of *New Literary History* "Coupling Men in Couplet Space: Pope to Gunn." Michael McKeon has published *Historicizing the Enlightenment, 2 Volumes*. Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina was awarded three prestigious fellowships in the spring: a Guggenheim, Conti, and a Radcliffe Fellowship, which was declined. She will be on leave for two years to work on a new book. Sylvia Kasey Marks has a book review of Devoney Looser's *Sister Novelists* (2022) in the September, 2023, ns 37.2, issue of *The Eighteenth-Century Intelligencer*, pp 53-56; an article "Arthur Miller and Shakespearean Forgery" in the Spring, 2023, 18.1, issue of *The Arthur Miller Journal*, pp. 14-26; and another article "What Did Playwright Arthur Miller Do to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*?" in the Fall, 2021, 16.2, issue of *The Arthur Miller Journal*, pp. 160-170.

435 | Studies in Contemporary Africa

Robyn d'Avignon has published *A Ritual Geology: Gold and Subterranean Knowledge in Savannah West Africa*.

Anooradha Siddiqi, co-chair of the seminar, has a book forthcoming in December: *Architecture of Migration: The Dadaab Refugee Camps and Humanitarian Settlement*.

445 | Modern East Asia: Japan

Seiji Shirane has published *Imperial Gateway: Colonial Taiwan and Japan's Expansion in South China and Southeast Asia, 1895–1945*.

451 | New Testament

John Edwards, co-chair of the seminar, has published

Crucified: The Christian Invention of the Jewish Executioners of Jesus.

477 | South Asia

Shailaja Paik has published *The Vulgarity of Caste: Dalits, Sexuality, and Humanity in Modern India*.

Travis Zadeh has published *Wonders and Rarities: The Marvelous Book that Traveled World and Mapped the Cosmos*.

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

10.26.23 | *Why Open Space Matters*, Ronald Gross and Elizabeth Cohn, co-chairs of (511) and (585), will co-host a webinar on October 26th on "Why Open Space Matters," with Setha Low, Distinguished Professor at the CUNY Graduate Center. The session will be co-sponsored by (495A) and (689). It follows an earlier session with Dr. Mindy Fullilove on her book *Main Street: How a City's Heart Connects Us All*, based on 11 years of investigating Main Streets in 178 cities. Professor Low's thesis is that Public Spaces—where people from all walks of life play, work, meet, talk, read, think, debate, and protest—are vital to a healthy civic life. She shows how we can work to promote public space protection and expansion at both the grassroots and global levels. To participate on 10.26.23, contact: Ron Gross: grossassoc@aol.com.

525 | The Middle East

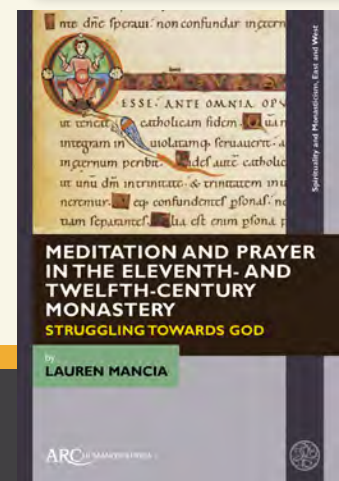
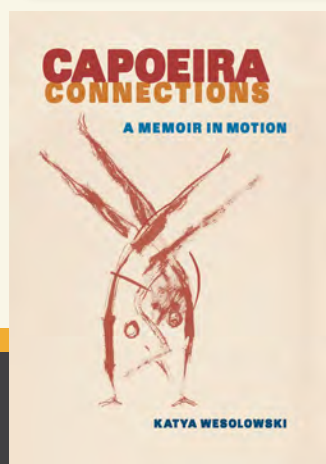
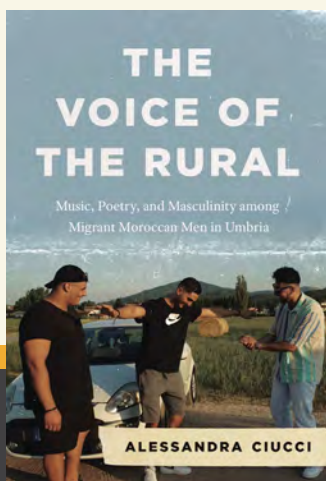
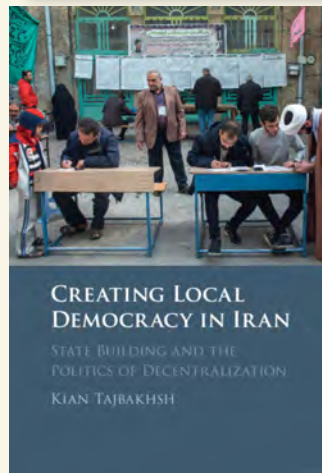
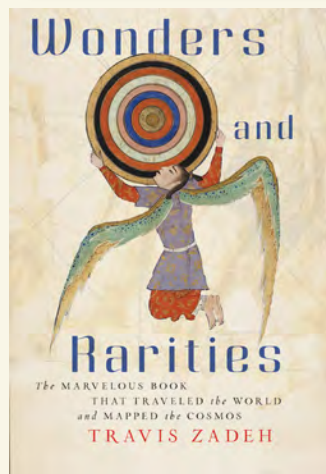
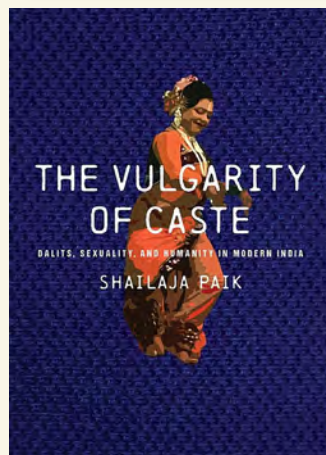
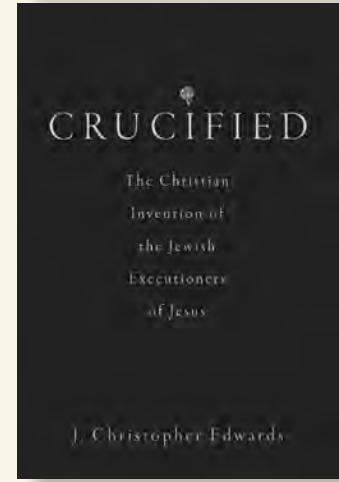
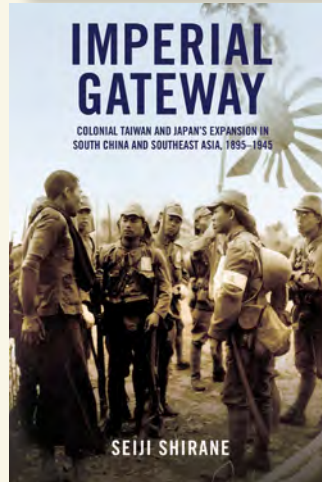
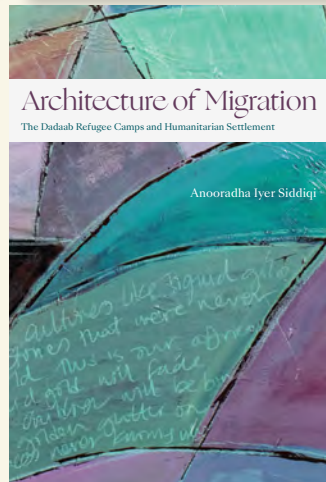
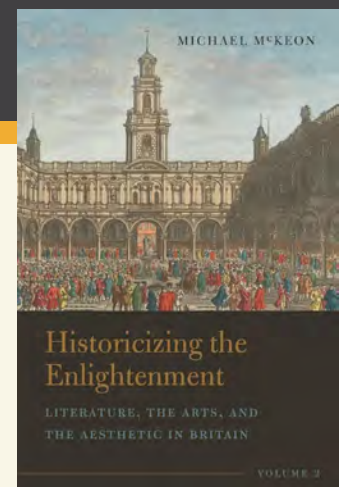
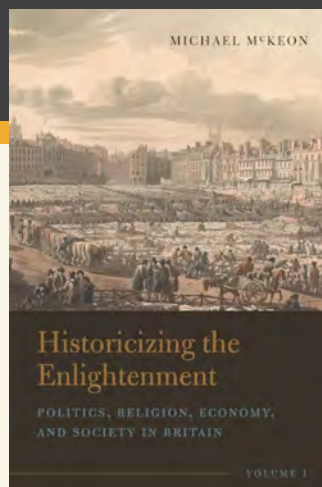
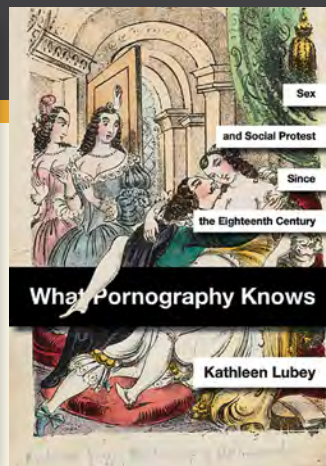
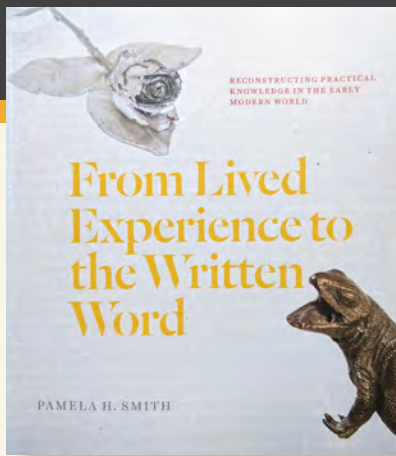
Kian Tajbakhsh has published *Creating Local Democracy in Iran: State Building and the Politics of Decentralization*.

535 | Irish Studies

Mary M. Burke has published *Race, Politics, and Irish America: A Gothic History*.

559 | Arabic Studies

Alessandra Ciucci has published *The Voice of the Rural: Music, Masculinity and Migrant Moroccan Men in Umbria*.



557 | Brazil

Katya Wesolowski has published *Capoeira Connections: A Memoir in Motion*.

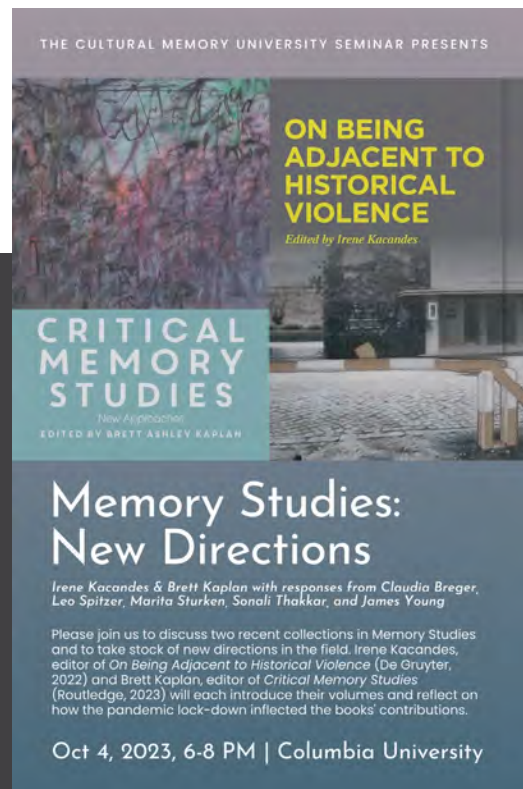
Vânia Penha-Lopes's *The Presidential Elections of Trump and Bolsonaro, Whiteness, and the Nation*. (Lexington Books 2022), which Choice Reviews has recommended as "highly readable" and "thought-provoking," is now available in paperback.

711 | Literary Theory

This fall semester, the University Seminar on Literary Theory will convene with two new co-chairs, **Emily Apter** (NYU) and **Bruno Bosteels** (LAIC/ICLS). We look forward to continuing the tradition of our seminar under Bruce Robbins' leadership of discussing literature in the broadest possible sense as a crossroads for questions of politics, ideology, and the emancipatory production of knowledge.

717 | Cultural Memory

10.4.23 | **Memory Studies: New Directions**, 6 - 8 pm



THE CULTURAL MEMORY UNIVERSITY SEMINAR PRESENTS

ON BEING ADJACENT TO HISTORICAL VIOLENCE
Edited by Irene Kacandes

CRITICAL MEMORY STUDIES
New Approaches
EDITED BY BRETT ASHLEY KAPLAN

Memory Studies: New Directions
Irene Kacandes & Brett Kaplan with responses from Claudia Breger, Leo Spitzer, Marifa Sturken, Sonali Thakkar, and James Young

Please join us to discuss two recent collections in Memory Studies and to take stock of new directions in the field. Irene Kacandes, editor of *On Being Adjacent to Historical Violence* (De Gruyter, 2022) and Brett Kaplan, editor of *Critical Memory Studies* (Routledge, 2023) will each introduce their volumes and reflect on how the pandemic lock-down infected the books' contributions.

Oct 4, 2023, 6-8 PM | Columbia University

[READ MORE ...](#)

777 | Affect Studies

Lauren Mancia has published *Meditation and Prayer in the Eleventh- and Twelfth-Century Monastery: Struggling towards God (Spirituality and Monasticism, East and West)*.

791 | Science and Subjectivity

Members of the seminar celebrated the completion of PhD studies by **Nataly Shahaf**, rapporteur, with dinner and cake at Faculty House. Joining Nataly at the celebration were her family and **Tara Ann Hillman**, the current rapporteur of the seminar, along with members of the seminar who convened for dinner.



799 | Menstruation & Society

Members of the University Seminar on Menstruation & Society had an opportunity to meet up at the conference of the Society for Menstrual Cycle Research in Bethesda, MD, in July. **Margaret Johnson** gave the keynote on "The Period is Political: Menstrual Justice, Abortion Rights & Reproductive Justice". Other members also presented their work, including **Nancy Reame, Marcy Karin, Sara Baumann, Laura Strausfeld**, and **Inga Winkler**. The conference was an opportunity to deepen the discussions that had already taken place in the seminar and to recruit new members who will enrich the seminar with perspectives from history, anthropology, sociology and sports management.



805 | Public Humanities: Expanding Scholarship and Pedagogy

10.5.23 | *Crooked Plow: Translating Social Justice in Brazil*, 6:15 pm - 8:30 pm

Crooked Plow:
Translating Social Justice in Brazil

Join us for a discussion of Brazilian author Itamar Vieira Junior's best-selling novel *Crooked Plow*, now available in English. Our speakers will explore translation, literary writing, social justice work, and the long shadow that slavery casts.

Thursday, October 5, 2023 | 6:15pm
Columbia University, Faculty House
Seminar Level (2nd Floor)

Free and open to the public
Register at sofheyman.org

Speakers

Itamar Vieira Junior
author, *Crooked Plow*

Johnny Lorenz
translator, *Crooked Plow*

Keisha-Khan Perry
author, *Black Women against the Land Grab: The Fight for Racial Justice in Brazil*

CO-SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY SEMINAR ON PUBLIC HUMANITIES

THE SOCIETY OF FELLOWS AND HEYMAN CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES
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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS
BRIAN K. JARSHINE

Institute of Latin American Studies
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Scan For Event Details And To Register
Thursday, October 5 @ 6:15pm
Faculty House, Seminar Level (2nd Floor), Columbia University
<https://sofheyman.org/seminar/crooked-plow>

Scan For Book Details
Crooked Plow by Itamar Vieira Junior, translated by Johnny Lorenz
Available now from Verso Books

Please contact Amy Chazkel at ac2227@columbia.edu with questions or media inquiries.

[READ MORE ...](#)

811 | Drama, Theatre, and Performance

Co-chairs **Shonni Enelow**, **Rebecca Kastleman**, and **Derek Miller** are pleased to announce the launch of a new University Seminar that welcomes performance scholars, critics, and practitioners across disciplines and historical periods. Those interested in attending our events this fall should contact the seminar's Rapporteur, **Adrian Guo Silver**: aas2250@columbia.edu.

**MAKE A DONATION
TO THE SEMINARS**

509 | The Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas

We are heart-broken to share the news that our beloved co-chair **Dr. Francesco Pellizzi** passed away unexpectedly on August 18th, 2023 at home in Italy. We send our deepest sympathies to his wife Gini Alhadeff and to his children and grandchildren.

We do not have the words yet to express the depth of this loss. For now, we take some comfort in having had the privilege to share so many engaging hours with a magnificent and generous colleague and friend.

Details will come, as they develop, of how we will gather as a University Seminar to remember Francesco and celebrate his tremendous legacy. [READ MORE ...](#)

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Seminar chairs and / or rapporteurs are encouraged to submit seminar, chair, member, and rapporteur news to be featured in the The University Seminars newsletter. The newsletter is published three times a year: fall, winter, and spring.

Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis. To be considered for the next issue, please review the current submission guidelines [HERE](#).

NOTE: The newsletter submission process is changing! Later this fall, we will launch *The University Seminars redesigned website,* and our Winter 2024 issue will be the first published with a new look and new dedicated page on the site.

Beginning Spring 2024, submissions will be collected via web form on the newsletter page of the website.