THE UNIVERSITY SEMINARS

2026

2026

DIRECTORY OF SEMINARS, SPEAKERS, & TOPICS

THE UNIVERSITY SEMINARS | **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

2025 2026

DIRECTORY OF SEMINARS, SPEAKERS, & TOPICS

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CONTACTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

David Johnston (Chair), Professor of Political Philosophy, Columbia University

George Andreopoulos, Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Lynn Garafola, Professor Emerita of Dance, Barnard College

Allan S. Gilbert, Professor of Anthropology, Fordham University

Lisa Keller, Professor of History, Purchase College

Lauren Mancia, Professor of History, Brooklyn College

Dustin Rubenstein, Professor of Ecology, Columbia University

Robert Remez, Professor of Psychology, Barnard College and Columbia University

Gary Sick, Senior Research Scholar, Middle East Institute, Columbia University

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Susan Boynton



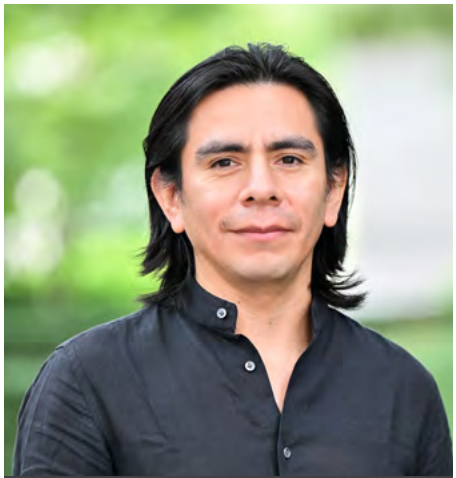
Pamela Guardia



Gesenia Alvarez-Lazauskas



Summer Hart



Gary M. Mayta Lizarraga



Giran Ceballos

HISTORY OF THE SEMINARS

In the 1930's, Professor Frank Tannenbaum and Columbia University President Nicholas Murray Butler discussed the idea of creating ongoing groups of Columbia professors and experts from the region to explore matters no single department had the breadth or the agility to study. Butler saw the idea as a quick way to mobilize the intellectual resources of the University to confront suddenly emerging problems, but World War II supervened. It was 1944 before Butler's successor, Frank Fackenthal, approved the first five University Seminars.

Since their inception, the number of seminars has grown. Two of the five founding seminars are still meeting: Studies in Religion and The Renaissance.

The University Seminars continue to serve Tannenbaum's and Butler's purposes. The Seminars have also become an intrinsic part of the enterprise that Columbia excels more than any other university: the ongoing education of its own faculty. Most of this education takes place within the academic departments, but Tannenbaum was continuing a tradition of General Education in a Core Curriculum that Columbia had been developing for thirty years. The Contemporary Civilization and the Humanities courses are famous for the breadth they give Columbia undergraduates, but the demands of teaching such wide-ranging material are astonishingly unrecognized for imparting rigor and sophistication to the professors themselves: at few universities would one find an economist teaching Plato.

This tradition positioned Columbia professors to invent the interdisciplinary regional institutes that trained graduate students to handle post-war complexities beyond their departments, and forced political scientists, economists, and literary scholars to learn from each other. The University Seminars have offered specialists from Columbia and elsewhere the chance to learn and discover together.

Tannenbaum (1893-1969) and his wife, Jane Belo, (1904-1968) willed The Seminars a portion of their estate to be invested and reinvested as a dedicated part of Columbia's endowment. Tannenbaum wrote a charter to "protect the spontaneity of The Seminars from an unstructured situation [in which] interference is inevitable, because the desire for general rules and uniformity is irresistible."

James Gutmann was Director from 1969 to 1975; Aaron Warner from 1976 to 2000; Robert Belknap from 2001 to 2011; and Robert Pollack from 2011 to 2019. Alice Newton was Interim Director from 2019 to 2022. Susan Boynton is the current Director of The University Seminars.



Frank Tannenbaum, historian of Latin America, Slavery, and Prison Systems; founder and first Director of The University Seminars



Jane Belo, teacher, painter, and anthropologist

Photograph by Carl Van Vechten



Left to right: **James Gutmann**, Director, 1969-1975; **Aaron Warner**, Director, 1976–2000; **Robert L. Belknap**, Director, 2001–2010; **Robert Pollack**, Director, 2011–2019



Alice Newton, Interim Director, 2019–2022



Susan Boynton, Director from January 2023

INTRODUCTION

The University Seminars at Columbia University is an ongoing community of partnerships each of which is constituted by scholars from multiple academic departments and disciplines, often including experts from outside academia, and is devoted to the study of an institution, practice, or issue of theoretical and/or practical importance. The University Seminars originated in, and maintains its vitality through, spontaneous intellectual initiatives and is therefore considered a movement.

Some seminars are tight, restricted discussion groups, while others actively seek new members. Frank Tannenbaum, the founder of The University Seminars, believed that uniformity imposed from above would destroy them.

As independent entities, seminars can take intellectual risks the schools and departments of the University might not otherwise assume. They provide something every great institution needs: private, autonomous venues where intellectual activity is fast, cheap, and beyond central control. Columbia is one of the few universities, or businesses, with the courage to institutionalize such independence.

Minutes are taken at all seminar meetings and are kept private for five years, after which time, they are incorporated into The University Seminars Digital Archive, which is available to scholars through the Columbia University Rare Book and Manuscript Library. The central office maintains a website and each seminar has a dedicated page.

The University Seminars subsidizes the publication of certain books written under its auspices and may help individual seminars arrange conferences, either to make discoveries public or to work privately with scholars too distant to be regular seminar participants.

Seminars are closed to the public. To be invited to attend a seminar, please write to the seminar chair expressing your interest and qualifications in the seminar's area of study.

For a complete list of current seminars and chairs, please visit: **universityseminars.columbia.edu**.



Drawing of Faculty House, 1923

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The 2025-2026 academic year saw the establishment of several new University Seminars initiated by Columbia faculty. The University Seminar on Artificial Intelligence for Social Good and Society (823), founded by Nabila El-Bassel (Social Work) and Tian Zheng (Statistics), provides a forum for multifaceted discussion of research and policy related to AI. Crossing disciplinary and professional boundaries, the seminar addresses the questions that the pervasive role of AI raises about equity, accountability, relationships between institutions, communities, and systems. The Seminar on Latinx Studies (825), founded by Lori Flores (History and Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race) and Carlos Alonso Nugent (English and Comparative Literature and Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race) focuses on people with ties to Latin America who have become part of the United States through colonization and/or migration. The seminar draws on media studies and performance studies as well as a range of traditional disciplines. The Seminar on Sleep and Circadian Rhythms (827), was founded by Marie-Pierre St-Onge (Professor of Nutritional Medicine at CUMC). This newest seminar will foster dialogues on sleep health and circadian science, aiming to translate research into practice through policy-related discussion, public health initiatives, and community engagement.

To mark the 80th year of The University Seminars I organized Open Seminar Day held on October 17, 2025. In planning this event I took inspiration from the Open Seminar Day held in 1995 for the 50th anniversary. Our afternoon program brought the chairs of eight different seminars together for wide-ranging conversations. The participants represented the full diversity of The Seminars, and also created new connections among those meeting for the first time. The discussion was truly memorable. The first panel combined chairs from the seminars on Death, founded in 1971 (Christina Staudt and Karla Rothstein), Full Employment, Social Welfare, and Equity, founded in 1987 (Trudy Goldberg), Public Humanities, founded in 2021 (Eileen Gillooly), and Shakespeare, founded in 1982 (Lauren Robertson). In the second panel, the panelists were chairs of the seminars on Brazil, founded in 1976 (Vânia Penha-Lopes), Human Rights, founded in 1978 (George Andreopoulos), Law and Politics, founded in 1963 (Simon Baatz), and The Ancient Near East, founded in 1966 (Allan Gilbert). Each speaker gave a lively account of their seminar's history and impact on research, addressing how the individual seminars have generated cross-disciplinary exchange, fostered collaboration, and bridged differences of opinion. Catherine Tinker, a former rapporteur of the Seminar on the Problem of Peace, was welcomed to make impromptu remarks about the historic importance of the Peace seminar.

The final part of Open Seminar Day celebrated the edited volume *A Community of Scholars: 75 Years of The University Seminars at Columbia,* which was published for the 75th anniversary of The University Seminars in 2020. The speakers were Alice Newton, who heroically brought the volume to publication as Interim Director of The University Seminars and wrote the introduction, Sidney Greenfield (co-chair of the Seminars on Brazil; Contents and Methods in the Social Sciences; and Studies in Religion, who contributed the chapter on the Brazil seminar), and Cynthia Pyle (co-chair of the Seminar on the Renaissance, who coauthored the chapter on the Renaissance seminar). Open Seminar Day was a joyous occasion that renewed memories of The Seminar's history and generated momentum for future intellectual exchange.

On April 29, 2026, members of The Seminars community gathered for the Annual Dinner. Lynn Garafola (Professor Emerita of Dance, Barnard College and Chair of the Seminar on Studies in Dance) gave the Tannenbaum lecture, "Arthur Mitchell: The Extraordinary Life of Harlem's Ballet Visionary," which was based on her 2018 exhibition at Columbia's Wallach Gallery and her 2026 book published by Yale University Press. The compelling presentation was illustrated with fascinating images and concluded with some rare video excerpts. Several of Arthur Mitchell's former artistic collaborators, who were guests at the lecture, were invited by Professor Garafola to speak about their own memories of Mitchell. Their perspectives were a fitting complement to Garafola's elegantly nuanced account of the dancer and his times.

The Annual Dinner was also the occasion for the presentation of the Tannenbaum-Warner Award to David Johnston, Professor of Political Science. An active member of The University Seminars community for several decades, Professor Johnston has chaired the Seminar on Studies in Political and Social Thought and has served on the Executive Committee (formerly the Advisory Board) since 2006. He has made crucial contributions to the governance of The Seminars as a whole, most recently by revising the bylaws and chairing the Executive Committee until 2025. His deep involvement and dedication culminated in his appointment as Director of The University Seminars in July 2026, following the conclusion of my term.

It was a singular honor for me to serve as Director of The University Seminars from January 2023 through June 2026. I am grateful to a great many people – the members of the office, the Executive Committee, and the seminar chairs – for everything they do to make The Seminars the vibrant intellectual community that it has been for 81 years.

Long may it thrive!

Susan Boynton
Director, The University Seminars

The Leonard Hastings Schoff and Suzanne Levick Schoff Memorial Fund is used for indexing, translating, technical editing, illustrating, or other publication costs of manuscripts or monographs produced under the auspices of The University Seminars in the fields of economics, sociology, psychology, penology, or the behavioral sciences which have already been approved for publication.

The Aaron Warner Fund was created in honor of Aaron Warner—the social scientist who was director of The University Seminars for decades and whose devotion to music on the one hand, and to the world of physics at Columbia, on the other, carried him far beyond the social sciences, supports the publication of materials that emerge from a University Seminar. These publications do not need to fall under a specific field.

In 2025-2026, the following books were published with the assistance of either **The Leonard Hastings Schoff and Suzanne Levick Schoff Memorial Fund** or **The Aaron Warner Fund.**

Body Language:
Medicine and the Eighteenth-Century Comic Novel
Kathleen Tomayo Alves (417)

African Pharmakon:
The Asylum as Shrine from Slavery to the Return
Nana Osei Quarshie (435)

The Meeting of Rivers:
Translating Religion in Early Modern India
Elaine M. Fisher (477)

Cracked Foundations:
Debt and Inequality in Suburban America
Michael R. Glass (503)

Yuppies:
The Bankers, Lawyers, Joggers, and Gourmands Who Conquered New York
Dylan Gottlieb (503)

Irish Lacemaking:
Art, Industry and Cultural Practice
Molly-Claire Gillett (535)

Sally Rooney:
Perspectives and Approaches
Ellen Scheible and **Berry Devine** (eds.) (535)

Quantum Screens:
Nonlinear Universes in Film and Television
Martha P. Nochimson (539)

Boundaries of Belonging:
Sectarianism and Statecraft in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire
Ayşe Baltacıoğlu-Brammer (551)

Poetic Desire and Literary Thievery:
Economies of Intertextuality in Arabic Literature
Muhsin J. al-Musawi (559)

Crabgrass Catholicism:
How Suburbanization Transformed Faith and Politics in Postwar America
Stephen M. Koeth (661)

The Jew, the Beauty, and the Beast: Gender and Animality in Modernist Hebrew Fiction
Naama Harel (769)

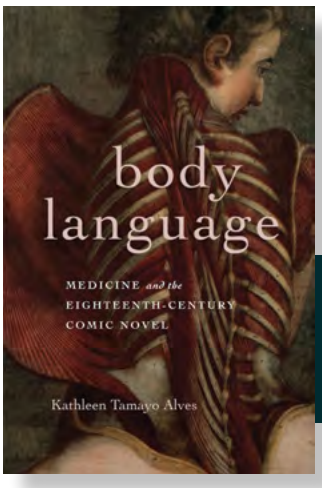
La Nación Monkox de Bolivia en la educación nacional y global
Romina Quezada Morales (771)

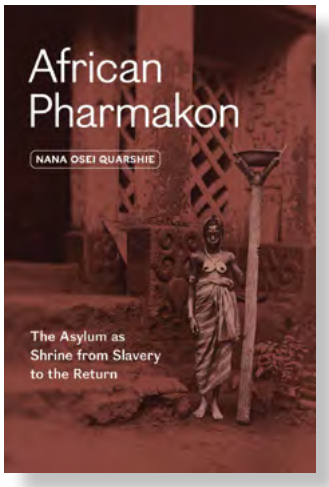
Les Volontaires:
Roman familial de la Révolution française
Thomas Dodman (777)

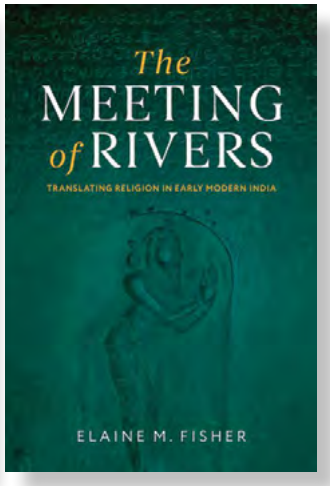
The Inner Life of Mrs. Dalloway
Edward Mendelson (2017 Schoff Lectures)

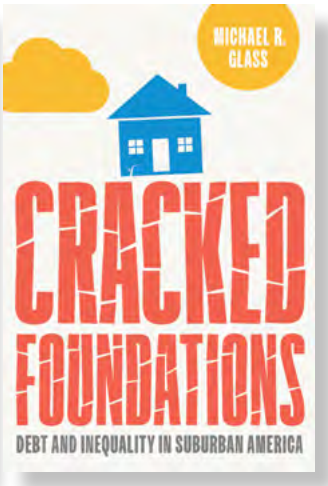
The Sounds of Poetry Viewed as Music
Fred Lerdahl (2018 Schoff Lectures)

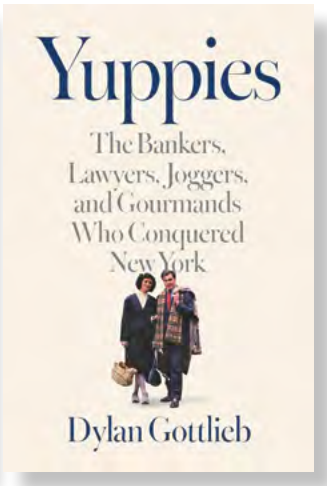
Democracy and Beauty:
The Political Aesthetics of W. E. B. Du Bois
Robert Gooding-Williams (Fall 2022 Schoff Lectures)

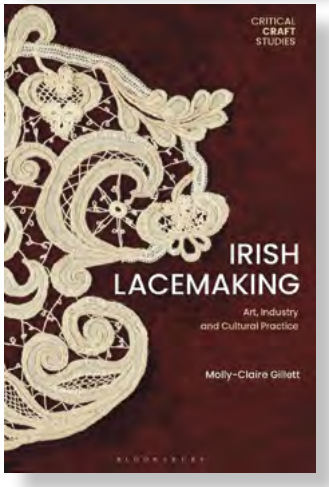


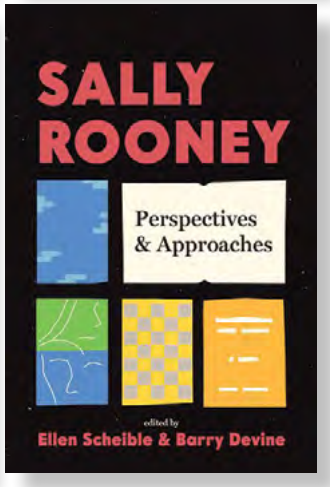

African Pharmakon
NANA OSEI QUARSHIE
The Asylum as Shrine from Slavery to the Return

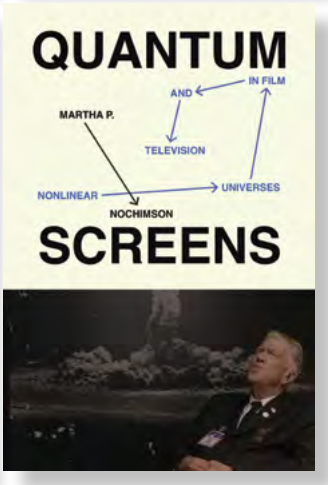

The MEETING of RIVERS
TRANSLATING RELIGION IN EARLY MODERN INDIA
ELAINE M. FISHER

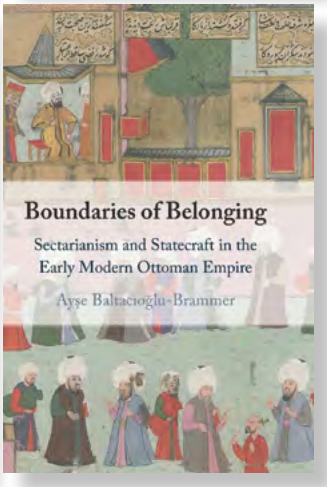

MICHAEL R. GLASS
CRACKED FOUNDATIONS
DEBT AND INEQUALITY IN SUBURBAN AMERICA

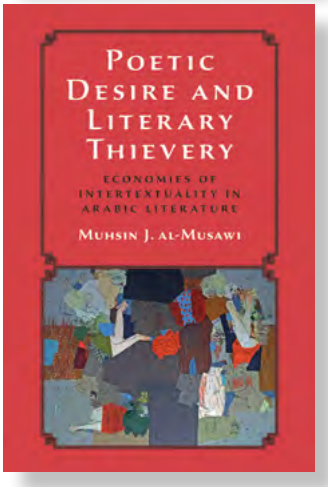

Yuppies
The Bankers, Lawyers, Joggers, and Gourmands Who Conquered New York
Dylan Gottlieb

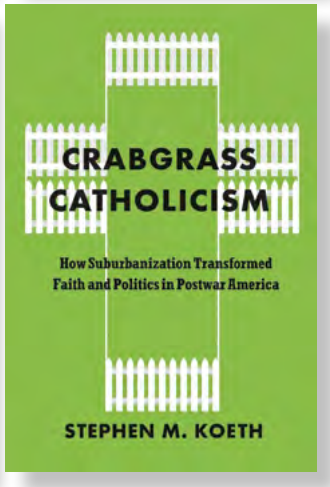

CRITICAL CRAFT STUDIES
IRISH LACEMAKING
Art, Industry and Cultural Practice
Molly-Claire Gillett

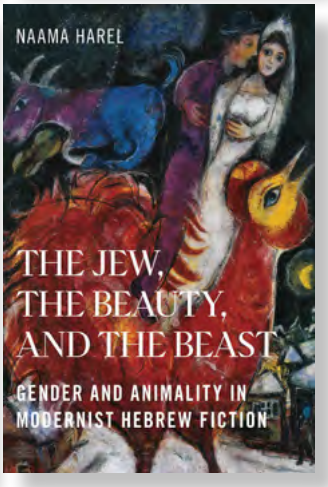

SALLY ROONEY
Perspectives & Approaches
edited by
Ellen Scheible & Barry Devine

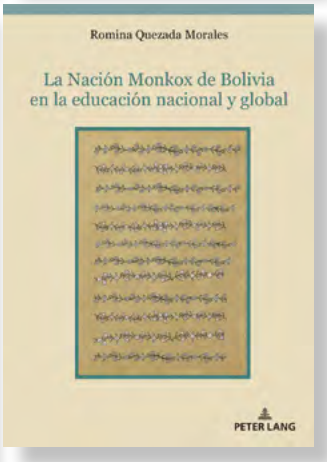

QUANTUM
AND
IN FILM
MARTHA P.
TELEVISION
NONLINEAR
UNIVERSES
NOCHIMSON
SCREENS


Boundaries of Belonging
Sectarianism and Statecraft in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire
Ayse Baltacioglu-Brammer

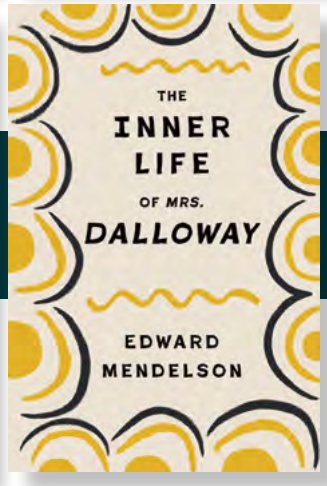

POETIC DESIRE AND LITERARY THIEVERY
ECONOMIES OF INTERTEXTUALITY IN ARABIC LITERATURE
MUHSIN J. AL-MUSAWI

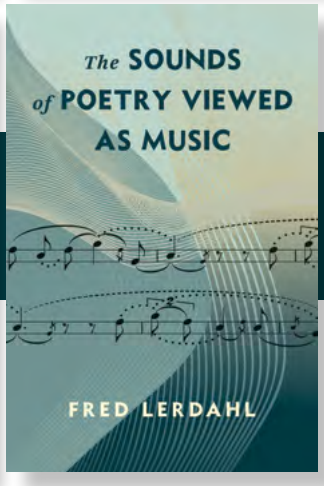

CRABGRASS CATHOLICISM
How Suburbanization Transformed Faith and Politics in Postwar America
STEPHEN M. KOETH

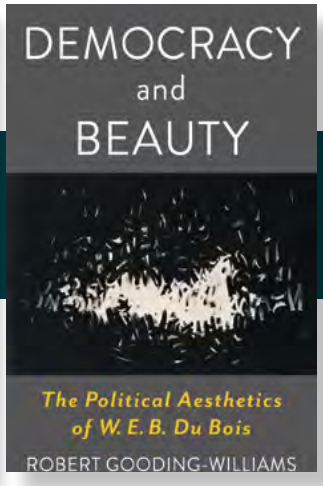

NAAMA HAREL
THE JEW, THE BEAUTY, AND THE BEAST
GENDER AND ANIMALITY IN MODERNIST HEBREW FICTION


Romina Quezada Morales
La Nación Monkox de Bolivia en la educación nacional y global
PETER LANG


THOMAS DODMAN
LES VOLONTAIRES
Roman familial de la Révolution française


THE INNER LIFE OF MRS. DALLOWAY
EDWARD MENDELSON


The SOUNDS of POETRY VIEWED AS MUSIC
FRED LERDAHL


DEMOCRACY and BEAUTY
The Political Aesthetics of W. E. B. Du Bois
ROBERT GOODING-WILLIAMS

2026 TANNENBAUM LECTURE

"Arthur Mitchell: The Extraordinary Life of Harlem's Ballet Visionary"

Lynn Garafola

Professor Emerita of Dance at Barnard College

Born in 1934 to parents who came to Harlem during the Great Migration, Arthur Mitchell fell in love with ballet as a teenager and against all odds became New York City Ballet's first African American star. Like Jackie Robinson and other civil rights heroes, Mitchell stood on the front line of integration, even as he left a lasting mark on ballets such as *Agon* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by George Balanchine that defined a new era in American dance. Outraged by the assassination of Martin Luther King at the height of the Black Arts Movement, in 1969 Mitchell founded Dance Theatre of Harlem, the first enduring majority-Black company. Under Mitchell's inspired direction, DTH quickly became a racial and artistic change-maker, enabling large numbers of Black dancers to pursue a professional career in ballet for the first time, even as the company became the incubator of ballets that spoke directly to the Black experience. Mitchell seldom spoke of the racism he had encountered, his closeted life as a gay man, or the toll that DTH took on his private and professional life. Heroic, mercurial, and complex, he was a larger-than-life figure, blessed by higher powers to remake his chosen art.

Lynn Garafola is Professor Emerita of Dance at Barnard College, Columbia University. A historian and critic, she is the author of *Diaghilev's Ballets Russes*, *Legacies of Twentieth-Century Dance*, and *La Nijinska: Choreographer of the Modern*; editor of *José Limón: An Unfinished Memoir*, *The Diaries of Marius Petipa*, and other books, and curator of several exhibitions, including *Dance for a City: Fifty Years of the New York City Ballet*, *New York Story: Jerome Robbins and His World*, and *Arthur Mitchell: Harlem's Ballet Trailblazer*. A former Getty Scholar and recipient of fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers, she has just completed her second biography, *Arthur Mitchell: The Extraordinary Life of Harlem's Ballet Visionary*, scheduled for publication by Yale University Press in September 2026.

2026 TANNENBAUM-WARNER AWARDEE

David Johnston

Professor of Political Philosophy at Columbia University

David Johnston has taught at Columbia since 1986, specializing in political philosophy and the history of moral and political ideas. He has served as President of the New York State Political Science Association and as Chair of the International Conference for the Study of Political Thought as well as several leadership roles within Columbia. His books include *The Rhetoric of Leviathan: Thomas Hobbes and The Politics of Cultural Transformation*; *The Idea of a Liberal Theory*; and *A Brief History of Justice*. He is editor of *Equality* (a selection of readings on equality); co-editor, with Nadia Urbinati and Camila Vergara, of *Machiavelli on Liberty and Conflict;* editor and translator of *Thomas Hobbes's Leviathan: A Norton Critical Edition, 2nd ed*. and (most recently) of *Hobbes's Leviathan: A Norton Library Edition*. His current research focuses on the role of the idea of individual autonomy in modern political/economic/social imaginaries.

THE UNIVERSITY SEMINARS *at* COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

79th ANNUAL DINNER

APRIL 29, 2026

Reception at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm,
and the lecture at 8:00 pm

FACULTY HOUSE



TANNENBAUM LECTURE

"Arthur Mitchell:
The Extraordinary Life of Harlem's Ballet Visionary"

given by

Lynn Garafola
Professor Emerita of Dance at Barnard College

TANNENBAUM-WARNER AWARD

For distinguished scholarship and exceptional service to The University Seminars

presented to

David Johnston
Professor of Political Philosophy at Columbia University

Occasionally, a seminar's central concerns involve scholars too distant for regular participation or a seminar wants to engage a broader audience. On such occasions, the seminar may wish to organize a conference or public symposium. Conferences and public symposia on issues of paramount interest to the seminar members and the seminars community are an exciting part of The University Seminars programming.

In academic year 2025–2026, individual seminars organized the following events.

BLACK EUROPE: A FIELD ON THE MOVE







Wednesday, November 12, 2025
Heyman Center for the Humanities (East Campus)

BLACK EUROPE: A FIELD ON THE MOVE

801 • New Directions in African Diaspora Studies

November 12, 2025

Theoretical perspectives on Black European studies within academic discourse have long been unfolding, and recent efforts have increased the representation of this field of study in US institutions (Vanderbilt, Yale, Carnegie Mellon–CBESA, etc.). Yet, Black Europeans are still understudied relative to other regions within the worldwide African Diaspora. This workshop, intended to expand and advance discussions about cultural production, historical transformations, and theorizations of identity and community among the African diaspora in Europe, was a culminating event developed from the insights gleaned from the New Directions in African Diaspora Studies workshop series (801W).

WELCOME ADDRESS

PANEL I: *Defining Black Europe*

Annabelle Gilmore, Lambeth Palace Library, London (United Kingdom)
Jenaba Samura, Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research, Berlin (Germany)
Olivia Wyatt, University of Edinburgh, Scotland (United Kingdom)

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

Kesewa John, Goldsmiths University of London (United Kingdom)

PANEL II: *Studying Black Europe*

Frankie Chappell, Institute of the Americas London (United Kingdom)
Jordan Rogers, University of Miami
Malika Stuerznickel, University of Michigan
Sue Lemos, University of Warwick (United Kingdom)

PANEL III: *Institutionalizing Black Europe*

Deanna Lyncook, Queen Mary University of London (United Kingdom)
Jessica de Abreu and **Mitchell Esajas**, The Black Archives (Netherlands)
Jonelle Twum, Black Archives (Sweden)

PANEL IV: *Expanding Black Europe*

Faith Macharia, Yale University
Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon, University of Pennsylvania
Montaz Marché, Independent Scholar
Runnie Exuma, Princeton University

EVENING KEYNOTE

Audrey Célestine, Institute of French Studies, New York University


INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
Conference organized by
Patricia Dailey,
(Columbia University)
Caroline Sauter,
(NYU/GU Frankfurt)
Co-sponsored by
THE UNIVERSITY SEMINAR
on AFFECT STUDIES
ICL&S
INSTITUTE FOR COMPARATIVE
LITERATURE AND SOCIETY
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
THE INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION,
CULTURE AND PUBLIC LIFE
Desire, Unreason, & Truth in Affect
Talks by
Adam Lipszyc
Agata Bielik-Robson
Amir Engel
Caroline Sauter
Elias Dakwar
Emily Apter
Gilad Shenhav
Gil Anidjar
Ilit Ferber
Marcus Coelen
Michael Levine
Millie Forman
Orr Scharf
Patricia Dailey
Willem Styfhals
Yael Attia
2026
Feb. 04 -
Feb. 06
Common Room & Board Room,
Heyman Center for the Humanities,
Columbia University
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DESIRE, UNREASON, AND TRUTH IN AFFECT

777 • Affect Studies

February 4-6, 2026

Co-sponsored by The University Seminar on Affect Studies; Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University; and The Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life

This workshop explored the tension between the universal normative claim to truth and the singular claim to truth in affect, focusing on one of the strongest human emotions and experiences: erotic desire. In the absence of an absolute in a post-secular society, the role of affect has stepped in to substantivize many normative claims—either culminating in a 'politics of feeling' or in prioritizing individual emotions and affective economies over normative categories such as justice or freedom. This has major implications for two of the most contested concepts in religious, philosophical, political, and literary thought: truth and reason. Erotic desire is often thought to unsettle those very concepts: conceived as inevitably singular moments of rapture and ecstasy and often associated with the loss of (self-)control, desire is believed to be located at the edge of ratio and language and therefore without viable claims to truth. This three-day workshop highlighted the subversive power of desire and/or affect and its inherent, even if problematic relation to truth and reason.

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Patricia Dailey, Columbia University
Caroline Sauter, GU Frankfurt (Germany)/New York University

SESSION I
Chair: **Caroline Sauter**, GU Frankfurt (Germany)/New York University

The Politics of Eros: Susan Sontag's Columbia Seminar
Willem Styfhals, KU Leuven (Belgium)

Scenes of Mutilation: on Jewish and Black Masculinities in Hélène Cixous and Saidiya Hartman
Yael Attia, University of Potsdam (Germany)

SESSION II
Chair: **Patricia Dailey**, Columbia University

Love Your Enemies? The Affective Turn (The Prequel)
Gil Anidjar, Columbia University

Shivers: A Meditation on R.D. Laing's "Life is a sexually transmitted disease and the mortality rate is one hundred percent"
Emily Apter, New York University

Thursday, February 5, 2026

SESSION III
Chair: **Orr Scharf**, University of Haifa (Israel)

Unfaithful Fidelity. Desire and Truth in Franz Rosenzweig and Barbara Cassin
Caroline Sauter, GU Frankfurt (Germany)/New York University

On Being Tired of Oneself: Jean Améry and the Aging Body (online)
Ilit Ferber, Tel Aviv University (Israel)

SESSION IV
Chair: **Caroline Sauter**, GU Frankfurt (Germany)/New York University

The Singular Enigma: Seduction, Sexuality, and Love in Jean Laplanche (online)
Agata Bielik-Robson, University of Nottingham (United Kingdom)

Remembering, Repeating, Working Through"—And Being Haunted? Spectral Affects in the Psychoanalytic Clinic
Marcus Coelen, University of Munich (Germany)

SESSION V
Chair: **Yael Attia**, University of Potsdam (Germany)

The Tangent of Desire: Affect, Truth and Narrative in One Story by Clemens J. Setz
Adam Lipszyc, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw (Poland)

Literature as Magic: The Strange Case of Bebquin and his Miracle Makers
Amir Engel, HU Berlin (Germany)/Hebrew University, Jerusalem (Israel)

SESSION VI
Chair: **Willem Styfhals**, KU Leuven (Belgium)

Apprehension: The Fabulous Textuality of Nuclear Conflict
Michael Levine, Rutgers University

The Desire for Heresy and Its Potent Failure: Reflections on the Negation of Exile
Gilad Shenhav, LMU Munich (Germany)

Friday, February 2, 2026

SESSION VII
Chair: **Gilad Shenhav**, LMU Munich (Germany)

Reading Affect/Ethics with J. Hillis Miller
Patricia Dailey, Columbia University

All Chemical? Drug Effects, Affects, and Intimacies
Elias Dakwar, Independent Scholar

SESSION VIII
Chair: **Amir Engel**, HU Berlin (Germany)/Hebrew University, Jerusalem (Israel)

Fantasies of Photosynthesis: Desiring Light in Simone Weil's Cahiers
Millie Forman, Columbia University

Desire and Subversion in the Early Hannah Arendt
Orr Scharf, University of Haifa (Israel)

NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE HISTORY OF KNOWLEDGE AND MATERIAL CULTURE

533 • The History and Philosophy of Science

March 27, 2026

Recent scholarship in the history of art and science has highlighted various aspects in the study of materiality, including material culture, agentive matter, and the itineraries of materials, objects, and knowledges across geographic and epistemic borders. This workshop introduced and discussed some of these approaches. Invited historians of art, science, and material culture presented new research in conversation with the work of Columbia graduate students and NYC-based scholars.

VISITING SPEAKERS

Anna Grasskamp, University of Oslo (Norway)
Dana Leibsohn, Smith College
Alisha Rankin, Tufts University

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Roya Chu, Columbia University
Sheena McKeever, Columbia University
Stephanie Reitzig, Columbia University
Elizabeth Branscum, Columbia University

MORNING SESSION

OPENING REMARKS
Pamela Smith, Columbia University

"Reincarnated" Matter: Early Modern Practices of Reuse
Anna Grasskamp, University of Oslo (Norway)

Of Prussian Blue and Magnetite: From Adulteration to Transnational Reinvention in Chinese Tea Production, c. 1800–1942
Roya Chu, Columbia University
Respondent: **Amanda Wunder**, City University of New York

artificiato con archimia: Material Transformations of Verdigris in Early European Painting
Sheena McKeever, Columbia University
Respondent: **Gregory Bryda**, Barnard College

AFTERNOON SESSION

When is a Candle?
Dana Leibsohn, Smith College

"Here you see, of coral, enclosed in the cabinet…": Women's Artistic Practices, Gendered Materialities, and the Collector's Cabinet in the Poems of Margareta van Godewijck (1627-1677)
Stephanie Reitzig, Columbia University
Respondent: **Andrew Morrall**, Bard Graduate Center

"Medicine married to the Midwives industrie": A Printing History of The Compleat Midwife's Practice
Elizabeth Branscum, Columbia University
Respondent: **Susanna Berger**, Columbia University

Objects of Expertise: Eye Surgeons and Material Culture in Early Modern Germany
Alisha Rankin, Tufts University

UNSETTLED IN DAKAR: ARCHITECTURAL MODERNITY IN 20TH CENTURY SENEGAL

763 • Beyond France

March 27, 2026

This symposium on architecture and urban planning in Twentieth-Century Senegal spotlit new research on how the built environment in and around Dakar registered the continuities and ruptures between French rule and independence, indigenous heritage and colonial legacies. What role did the built environment play in constructing citizenship? What opportunities did Senegal's independence usher in for French and African designers? What effect did Léopold Sédar Senghor's emphasis on the arts as a path to Négritude have on architectural production and training? Each panel addressed one architectural scale: urban, housing, and monumental.

INTRODUCTIONS

FROM URBANISM TO URBAN PLANNING

Creating Colonial Dakar: Architecture and France's Imperial Ambition
Steven Nelson, University of California Los Angeles

The Makings of the Wooden Barrack House: A Marker of the Policy of Segregation and the Material Flows of the Colonial Administration
Nzinga Mboup, Worofilia, Dakar (Senagal)
Respondent: **Ralph Ghoche**, Barnard College

CONCRETE DOMES AND MORTGAGED HOMES

Mobilities: Dakar's Maisons-ballons*, 1948-1952*
Lucia Allais, Columbia University

Dakar's El Dorado: SICAP and the Promise of Prosperity
Gregory Valdespino, University of Iowa
Respondent: **Rosalind Fredericks**, New York University

"Ghost Fair Trade" FILM SCREENING (dir. Laurence Bonvin, Cheikh Ndiaye 38 min.)

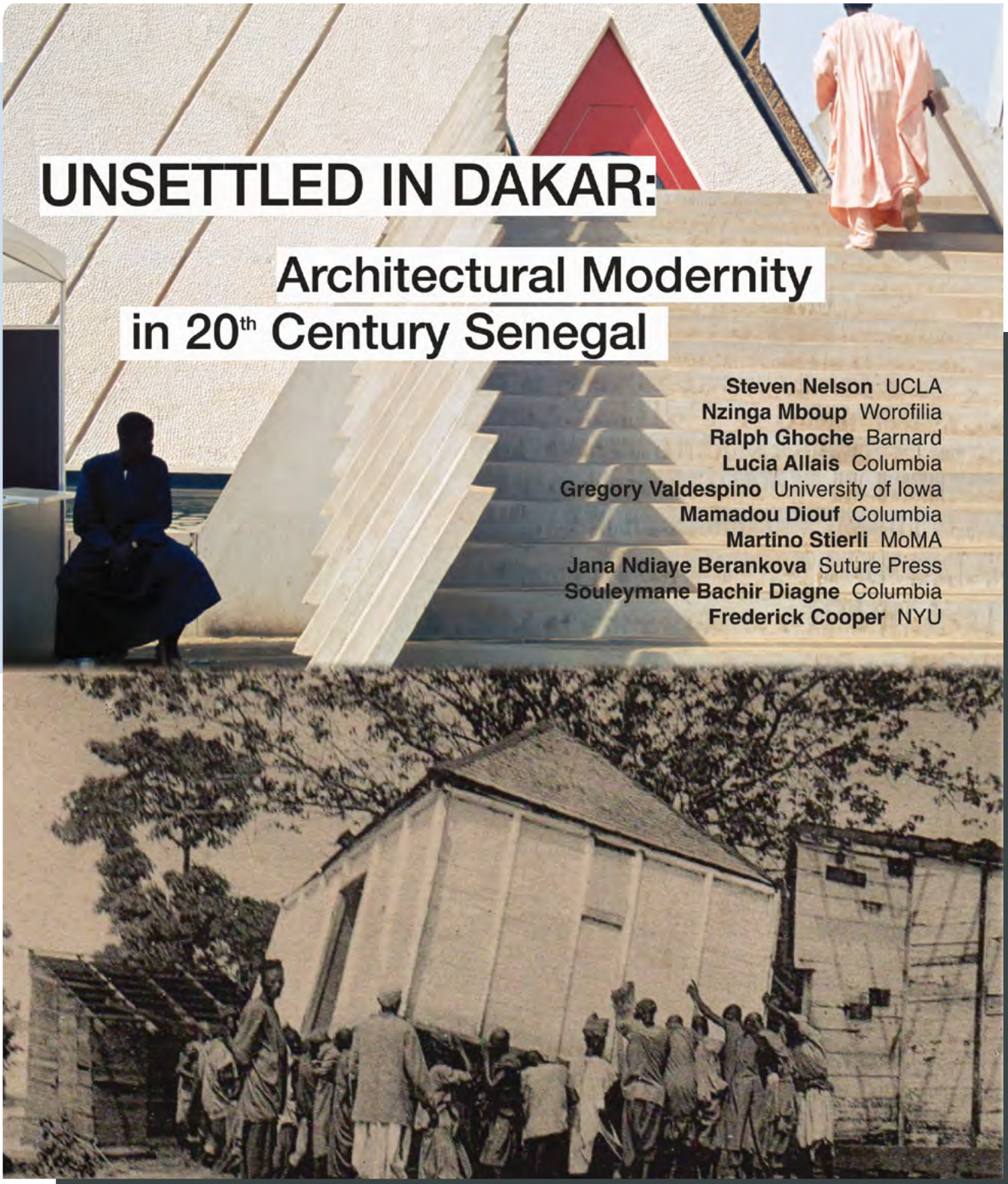
MODERNISM IN THE POST-COLONY

The Asymmetric Parallelism of the Centre International du Commerce Extérieur du Sénégal (CICES)
Martino Stierli, Museum of Modern Art

Architecture as Objet-Témoin: Bureau d'Études Henri Chomette in Dakar
Jana Ndiaye Berankova, Czech Academy of Sciences (Czechia); Suture Press (France)
Respondent: **Souleymane Bachir Diagne** (Columbia University)

CLOSING REMARKS

Frederick Cooper, New York University


UNSETTLED IN DAKAR:
Architectural Modernity
in 20th Century Senegal
Steven Nelson UCLA
Nzinga Mboup Worofilia
Ralph Ghoche Barnard
Lucia Allais Columbia
Gregory Valdespino University of Iowa
Mamadou Diouf Columbia
Martino Stierli MoMA
Jana Ndiaye Berankova Suture Press
Souleymane Bachir Diagne Columbia
Frederick Cooper NYU

ITALIANS IN/AND THE MAGHREB

BETWEEN INTEGRATION AND ISOLATION



THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2026

3-7 PM | THE ITALIAN ACADEMY
1161 AMSTERDAM AVE, NEW YORK, NY 10027
AND ON ZOOM

SPEAKERS: Sarah DeMott, Valerie McGuire, Gabriele Montalbano, Erica Moretti, Luca Peretti
RESPONDENTS: Youssef Ben Ismail, Naor Ben-Yehoyada, Claudio Fogu, Mia Fuller.

ITALIANS IN/AND THE MAGHREB: BETWEEN INTEGRATION AND ISOLATION

483 • Studies in Modern Italy

April 2, 2026

Co-sponsored by The University Seminar on Studies in Modern Italy; the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute; Johns Hopkins University; Department of Italian Studies, New York University; The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, Columbia University; Columbia University Department of Anthropology

Italians in/and the Maghreb expanded discussions of colonialism, migration, race, decolonial movements, and postcolonial issues in Italian and Italian diaspora studies. While the study of Italian colonialism has blossomed in recent years with the country's official colonies in Eritrea, Somalia, Libya, Ethiopia, and the Dodecanese Islands now the topic of many scholarly studies, the history of Italians in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia has tended to remain marginal, and mostly examined as an example of Italy's aggressive emigration policies and attempts to pursue informal colonies. This three-hour workshop explored the exchanges between Italy and French North Africa, focusing on imperial ambitions, migration, and the wide-ranging intellectual dialogues between the two regions. Papers spanned in focus and time frame—from the period of peak diaspora in the late nineteenth century to "repatriations" during long decolonization (Ballinger 2020)—and conversed with recent studies such as L'Italia e Africa: Strategie e visioni dell'età postcoloniale, 1945–1989 (Borruso 2024), Migration at the End of Empire. Time and the Politics of Departure between Italy and Egypt (Viscomi 2024); Storia del colonialismo italiano (Deplano and Pes 2024), and Italiani d'Africa. Racconti del Ritorno (Vigo 2025).

Archives of Grace: Kinship and Marriage Practices in Tunisia, c. 1838-1965
Sarah DeMott, Harvard University

Between the Colonizer and the Colonized: Italians in the Maghreb and the Limits of Postcolonial Italy
Valerie McGuire, University of Texas, Austin

Reuniting Families to Displace a Community: Repatriation Schemes to French North Africa
Erica Moretti, Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York;

Latin Africa: A Euro-African Colonial Project the Case of Southern Europeans in French North Africa (Algeria, Tunisia: 1880-1922)
Gabriele Montalbano, University of Bologna (Italy)

Les Mains libres: Algerian Film, Italian Director
Luca Peretti, University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) and St. John's College

Respondents: **Naor Ben-Yehoyada**, Columbia University; **Youssef Ben Ismail**, Amherst College; **Claudio Fogu**, University of California Santa Barbara; **Mia Fuller**, University of California Berkeley

ENVIRONMENTAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE IN SHAKESPEARE STUDIES

581 • Shakespeare

April 24, 2026

This symposium brought together scholars and artists to consider the intersections of racial, social, and environmental justice in the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. The interlinked racial and environmental crises of our time seem to compound faster than mitigating efforts, let alone the human imagination, can keep up. The reparative work they demand requires a deep investigation of the early modern past. As the imaginative literature from this period demonstrates, premodern ideas of racial difference were inseparable from questions of geographical distance, understandings about "nature," and the complexity of the more-than-human world more broadly. By bringing together scholars and artists who have been considering questions of racialization and environmental issues in early modernity, this symposium helped envision new methods and practices that enable us to engage ethically with the complex entanglements of racial and environmental injustice in Shakespeare's world and in ours.

PANEL I: ***Echoes of Early Modernity***

Ruben Espinosa, Arizona State University
Lowell Duckert, University of Delaware

PANEL II: ***The More-than-Human World***

Patricia Cahill, Emory University
Dennis Britton, University of British Columbia (Canada)

PANEL III: ***Race and Place***

Vin Nardizzi, University of British Columbia (Canada)
Eli Cumings, Columbia University

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION: ***Environmental Racism and Narratives of Settlement***

Madeline Sayet, Arizona State University
Scott Manning Stevens, Syracuse University



ENVIRONMENTAL & RACIAL JUSTICE IN SHAKESPEARE STUDIES

DATE: APRIL 24, 2026
TIME: 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.
LOCATION: FACULTY HOUSE
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

A CONFERENCE
SPONSORED BY THE
UNIVERSITY SEMINAR
ON SHAKESPEARE

FEATURING A CONVERSATION BETWEEN AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT MADELINE SAYET AND PROFESSOR SCOTT MANNING STEVENS

Hendrick Hondius, Nova Anglia Novvm Belgivm et Virginia, 1639. Picture provided by Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education.

THE UNIVERSITY SEMINAR
on SHAKESPEARE

INDIGENOUS BOTANY: THE CRUZ-BADIANO CODEX IN DIALOGUE

533 • The History and Philosophy of Science

April 7, 2026

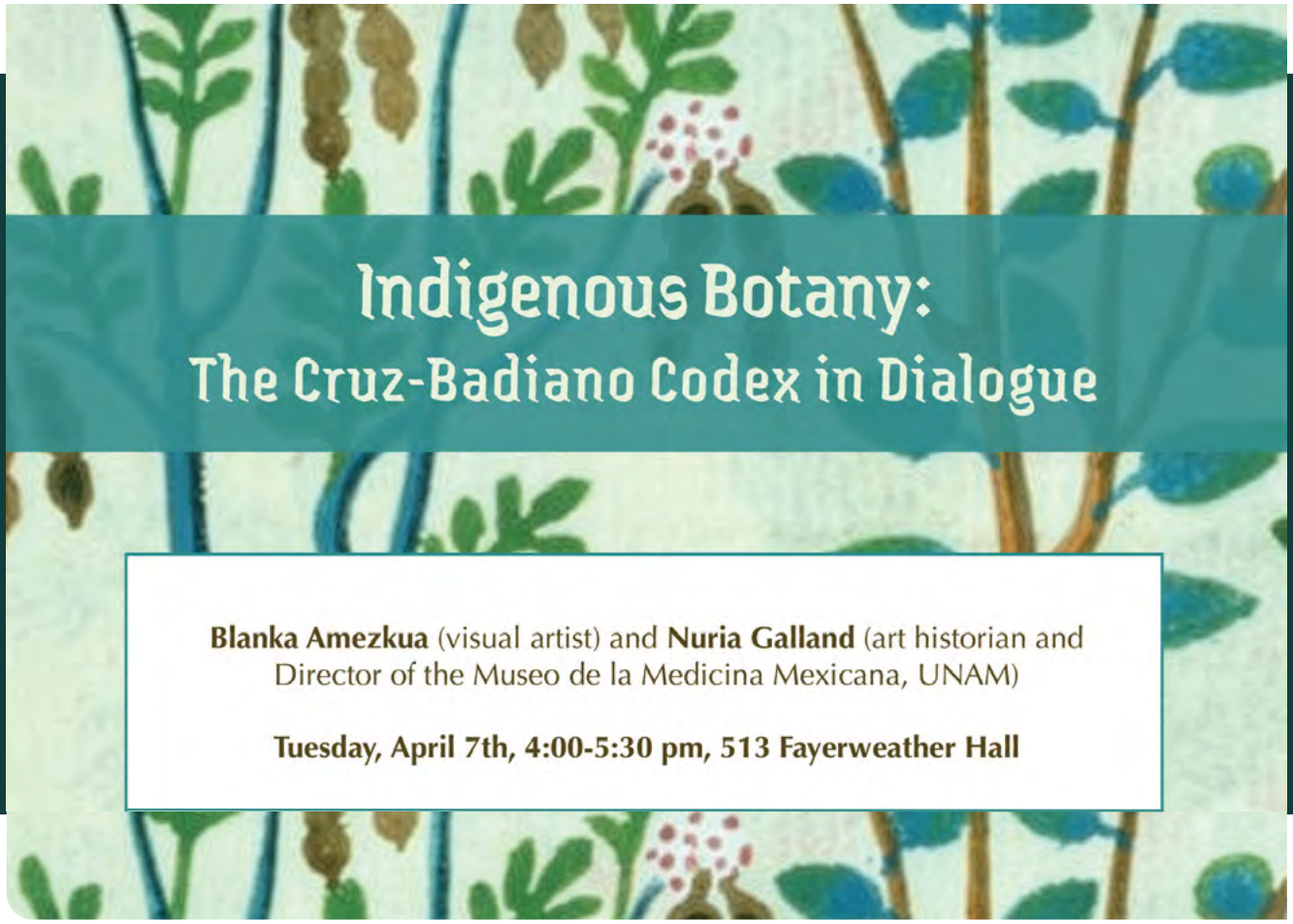
Co-sponsored by the Center for Science and Society, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and the University Seminar on the History and Philosophy of Science

This event was conceived and organized by The University Seminars Director Susan Boynton and hosted by the Center for Science and Society, the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, and the University Seminar on the History and Philosophy of Science.

The Cruz-Badiano Codex, which transmits Nahua medicinal recipes translated into Latin, was compiled in 1552 by Indigenous scholars of the College of Santa Cruz de Tlatelolco, among them the physician Martín de la Cruz and the translator Juan Badiano. It is decorated with 184 vivid illustrations of curative plants that have inspired works by artist Blanka Amezkua.

The conversation included an introduction to the Codex by Nuria Galland, Director of the Museum of Mexican Medicine and Amezkua's discussion of the Codex in relation to her works.

Blanka Amezkua, Visual Artist
Nuria Galland, Art Historian and Director of the Museo de la Medicina Mexicana, UNAM (Mexico)



2025–2026 SEMINARS

The following pages list The University Seminars that were active in 2025-2026, with their topics and speakers. The seminars are listed in order of their seminar number, which roughly follows their chronological founding. They are also listed alphabetically in the index. Our seminars span a wide range of interests, from contemporary and historical topics in religion, literature, and law, to technical and administrative issues in contemporary society, area studies, Shakespeare, and the sciences.

Two new seminars were inaugurated in academic year 2025-2026. For a complete list of current seminars, please visit our website.

universityseminars.columbia.edu

STUDIES IN RELIGION (405) • Founded: 1945

The approaches to religion in this seminar range from the philosophical through the anthropological to the historical and comparative. We concern ourselves with religion in all of its manifestations—ancient and modern, primitive and civilized, heretical and orthodox, individual and cosmic. The guiding thread is whatever subjects are uppermost in the minds of those composing the membership at a given time. Since members come from different disciplines as well as different traditions and have a variety of personal orientations, we are assured maximum openness and flexibility.

CHAIR/S: **Sidney M. Greenfield**; **Tony Carnes** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Elijah Ferrante**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18	Joint meeting with (411, 557) *Apocalypse in the Tropics* **Sidney M. Greenfield**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Emeritus **Vânia Penha-Lopes**, Bloomfield College
October 15	Joint meeting with (411) *Dreams Achieved and Denied: The Second Generation of Mexican Americans in New York City* **Robert Smith**, City University of New York
November 17	Joint meeting with (411) *Embracing Exile: The Illustrated Manuscripts and Books of the Jewish Diaspora* **David Kraemer**, Jewish Theological Seminary
December 18	Joint meeting with (411, 557, 689) *Afro-Religious Praxes: A New Lens for Examining Urban Climate Transformations in Salvador, Brazil* **Chazelle Rhoden**, Columbia University
January 15	Joint meeting with (411, 445, 557) *Afro-Brazilian Religions as a Space of Care, Healing and Affect for Brazilian Immigrants in Japan* **Daniela Calvo**, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University (Japan)
February 19	Joint meeting with (411, 557) *Rewards and Risks of Social Value Investing in Brazil* **William Einicke**, Columbia University
March 11	Joint meeting with (411) *The Potential for Liberal Christianity in the Republic of Georgia* **Dana Fenton**, Lehman College, City University of New York
April 1	Joint meeting with (411, 557) *Religion and Politics in Brazil: Identitarian Movements and Christianity in Brazil* **Donizete Rodrigues**, University of Beira Interior (Portugal)
May 6	Joint meeting with (411) *Reflections on the Micro-City Project* **Richard Cimino**, State University of New York at Old Westbury **Hans Tokke**, New York College of Technology, City University of New York

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Sidney M. Greenfield**, sidneygreenfield@gmail.com; **Tony Carnes**, editor@nycreligion.info

THE RENAISSANCE (407) • Founded: 1945

Founded in 1945 by Paul Oskar Kristeller and John Herman Randall, Jr., this seminar features roughly 50-minute talks on Renaissance thought—including Renaissance humanism—and its influence across the arts (painting, sculpture, architecture, music, literature), the sciences (physical, natural, historical, and philological), history, and philosophy. The Renaissance period is defined broadly, spanning roughly 1350 to 1650. Sessions are held on the second Tuesday of each academic month (and late January by Zoom). Since the pandemic began in April 2020, meetings have shifted to an earlier hybrid format—in person and via Zoom—running from 4 to 6 pm New York time, followed by dinner and further discussion at Faculty House. This format has allowed participation from colleagues around the world. The 2025–26 season includes nine meetings, one of which (late January) is Zoom-only.

CHAIR/S: **Cynthia M. Pyle**; **Alan Stewart** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Mackenzie Fox**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 9	*The Eye as Camera Obscura: Marsilio Ficino's Optics, Cosmology, and Metaphysics* **Denis Robichaud**, University of Notre Dame
October 14	*Luigi Parma, Spy, Prisoner, Historian of the Mediterranean (1543–1552)* **Pier Mattia Tommasino**, Columbia University
November 11	*Giordano Bruno: Apocalypse and Kabbalah* **Dilwyn Knox**, University College London (United Kingdom)
December 9	*Surviving the Renaissance: La Boétie, Lyric, and the Life of Desire* **Emma Claussen**, Trinity College, University of Cambridge (United Kingdom); Princeton University
January 20	*Tools of Erudition: Instruments, Maps, and Books in the Ducal Library of Vila Viçosa (1564)* **Samuel Gessner**, Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)
February 10	*Migrations, Knowledge, Being During the Renaissance* **Peter Carravetta**, Stony Brook University, State University of New York
March 10	*Juan Navarro's Quatuor Passiones (1604): Music for Holy Week in Post-Tridentine Mexico* **Lorenzo Candelaria**, Vanderbilt University
April 14	*Arcangela Paladini, Artist, Singer, and Medici Protégé* **Barbara Russano Hanning**, The City College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York
May 12	*Thomas More's Utopia in the Italian Seicento* **Antonio Donato**, Queens College, City University of New York

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Cynthia M. Pyle**, c.m.pyle@nyu.edu; **Alan Stewart**, ags2105@columbia.edu; **William Stenhouse**, stenhous@yu.edu

CONTENT AND METHODS OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (411) • Founded:1947

This seminar addresses methodology and theory in the social sciences alongside its substantive findings. Members and, at times, guest speakers typically present their current research in ways that illuminate theoretical and methodological advances for the group, helping the researcher work through difficulties and arrive at a codified view of ongoing social-science research.

CHAIR/S: **Tony Carnes**; **Sidney M. Greenfield** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Elijah Ferrante**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18	Joint meeting with (405, 557) *Apocalypse in the Tropics* **Sidney M. Greenfield**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Emeritus **Vânia Penha-Lopes**, Bloomfield College
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2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Tony Carnes**, editor@nycreligion.info; **Sidney M. Greenfield**, sidneygreenfield@gmail.com

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY EUROPEAN CULTURE (417) • Founded: 1962

This interdisciplinary seminar hosts speakers ranging from established scholars to early-career researchers presenting works-in-progress that explore and redefine eighteenth-century European culture. Interests span material culture to textual history, national traditions to colonial formations, and historicist practice to theoretical investigation. Membership is drawn from a wide array of institutions and disciplines—history, literature, philosophy, political science, music, history of science, and art—alongside varied national traditions. The seminar occasionally hosts special events and roundtables, having previously covered topics such as freedom of speech (2007, 2008), science studies (2011), comparative orientalisms (2011), the quantitative eighteenth century (2016), rediscovering race (2017), and human rights (2019), and it marked its 50th anniversary with a retrospective in 2014.

CHAIR/S: **Carrie Shanafelt** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Benjamin Weisgall**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18	*Women's Work: The Gendered Labor of Emotion Regulation in the Eighteenth Century* **Lauren Kopajtic**, Fordham University
October 23	*Heiresses: Marriage, Inheritance, and Slavery in the Caribbean* **Miranda Kaufmann**, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, SAS, University of London (United Kingdom)
November 20	*Homuncular Personhood: Reading Tristram Shandy after Dobbs* **Stephanie Hershinow**, Baruch College; The Graduate Center, City University of New York
February 19	*In Transit: Excavating Erased Identities in Charlotte Smith and Phillis Wheatley Peters' Poetry* **Mona Narain**, Texas Christian University
March 26	*The End of Care Work at the End of the Century* **Lilith Todd**, University of Pennsylvania
April 16	*Biocultural Myths About Poverty* **Lennard Davis**, University of Illinois Chicago

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Carrie Shanafelt**, carrie.shanafelt@yu.edu

STUDIES IN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL THOUGHT (427) • Founded: 1968

This seminar reflects the current diversity and vitality of political theory as a field. In recent years it has explored a broad range of topics and modes of discourse, including methodological analyses in historiography and the philosophy of social science, historical and conceptual studies of particular thinkers and ideas, and exercises in applied political theory addressing contemporary issues of social and public policy.

CHAIR/S: **David Johnston**; **Karuna Mantena**; **Daniel Luban** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Mayaki Kimba**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 31 — *Natasha Wheatley's* The Life and Death of States
—

November 14 — *The German Question*
Clara Maier, Columbia University

December 12 — *Bruno Leipold's Citizen Marx*
—

February 6 — *Jacob Abolafia's* The Prison before the Panopticon
—

March 13 — *Brandon Terry's* Shattered Dreams, Infinite Hope
—

April 17 — *The Rise and Fall of Liberal World Orders*
Isaac Nakhimovsky, Yale University
Discussants: **James Stafford**, Columbia University
Susan Pedersen, Columbia University
Karuna Mantena, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **David Johnston**, dcj1@columbia.edu; **Karuna Mantena**, km3510@columbia.edu; **Daniel Luban**, dhl2140@columbia.edu

MEDIEVAL STUDIES (431) • Founded: 1954

This seminar addresses subjects of common interest to all branches of medieval studies, particularly encouraging interdisciplinary topics and approaches that stimulate discussion of issues in the study of medieval culture. It brings together representatives of medieval disciplines, from Columbia and elsewhere, who would otherwise have only rare opportunities to discuss questions of common interest.

CHAIR/S: **Hannah Weaver**; **Jeffrey Wayno** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Lennox Németh**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 24 — *Crusade and Communications: Louis IX's Letter to the French of August 1250*
Cecilia Gaposchkin, Dartmouth College

October 22 — *Ghosts in the Text: Tracing the Thousand-Year Adventures of a Scribal Error*
Loraine Enlow, Jewish Theological Seminary

November 19 — *Interweaving Texts and Contexts in the History of Ideas: Roots of Relativistic Thinking in the Fourteenth Century*
Joel Kaye, Barnard College, Emeritus

January 28 — *New Perspectives on Power in the Medieval Mediterranean*
Marcel Elias, Yale University
Nathanael Aschenbrenner, Bard College
Joel Pattinson, Williams College

February 11 — *Pearls of Literature: The Rhetoric of Preciousness in Medieval England's Poetry*
Valerie Allen, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York

March 11 — *Embedded Objects: Sacred Intermediality in Medieval Murals*
Alexis Wang, Binghamton University, State University of New York

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Hannah Weaver**, hmw2147@columbia.edu; **Jeffrey Wayno**, jeffrey.wayno@columbia.edu

STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY AFRICA (435) • Founded: 1956

This seminar provides a lively forum for scholars engaged in the advanced study of Africa. Faculty and visiting scholars from Columbia University, Barnard College, and neighboring institutions actively participate in its regular series of sessions. Discussions focus on theoretical and comparative approaches to the study of colonial and contemporary states, built environments and ecologies, gender, the arts, media, cultural studies, and processes in political mobilization and leadership.

CHAIR/S: **Casey McNeill**; **Rhiannon Stephens** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Mylkah Djacko**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 17 — *Who Will Use Your History? How Will It Be Interpreted in Future Years?*
Winifred Armstrong
Lauren Stark, New York University Libraries
Lydia Walker, The Ohio State University

October 15 — *Sediments of Meaning: A Military History of Mapungubwe National Park, 1932–Present*
Jacob Dlamini, Princeton University

December 3 — Joint meeting with (769) *An Interspecies Contact Zone: Locusts and Humans in Colonial Burundi (1924–1939)*
Benoît Henriet, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)

January 28 — *Mistaking Order for Anarchy: Territory, Mobility, and Security in the Sahel*
Casey McNeill, Fordham University

February 25 — *Socialist De-Colony: Black and Soviet Entanglements in Ghana's Cold War*
Nana Osei-Opare, Rice University

April 8 — *"A Model C School in the Township": Cape Town's Marketplace of Schools and the Reproduction of Racial Capitalism*
Amelia Simone Herbert, Barnard College; Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Casey McNeill**, cmcneill5@fordham.edu; **Rhiannon Stephens**, rs3169@columbia.edu

CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION (441) • Founded: 1957

This seminar exists to further, in the New York area, the study of the literature, art, archaeology, and history of the ancient world. Seven meetings are held each year, attended by twenty to sixty members drawn from universities and colleges within reach of New York. There is no set theme to the seminar for a given semester or year.

CHAIR/S: **Marcus Folch**; **Joel Lidov** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Jazmín Novoa Lara**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18	*The Rhetoric of Power: The Words of a Tyrant* **Martina Russo**, Columbia University
October 16	*The Greatest Stories Ever Told: Reading Pagan Myth in Christian Constantinople* **Tim Whitmarsh**, Cambridge University (United Kingdom)
November 20	*Aristotle on the Value of Comedy* **Pierre Destrée**, University of Louvain (Belgium)
January 22	*Aristotle on the Interpretation of Dreams* **Mirjam Kotwick**, Princeton University
February 26	*Greeks and Other Achaemenids: Pivots of the Fifth Century BCE* **Reviel Netz**, Stanford University
March 26	*Bad Romans* **Greg Woolf**, New York University
April 16	*Atlantic Georgics: Enslaved Labor in Eighteenth-Century Spanish, Portuguese and British America* **Erica Valdivieso**, Yale University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Marcus Folch**, mf2664@columbia.edu; **Joel Lidov**, jbl104@caa.columbia.edu;
Joseph Howley, jah2220@columbia.edu

MODERN EAST ASIA: CHINA (443) • Founded: 1957

This seminar is concerned with the politics, society, culture, and international relations of China from the early nineteenth century to the present, exploring the evolution of Chinese civilization over the past century of revolution and rapid social change. Papers—works in progress—are circulated to members and associates in advance of each meeting. Authors give a brief oral introduction, after which a discussant comments, and the remainder of each session is devoted to members' reactions to the paper and the author's responses.

CHAIR/S: **Nicholas Bartlett**; **Ying Qian**; **William Charles Wooldridge** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **John Payne**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18 — *Fictitious Computing: Data Processing, Rural Economies, and the Matrices of Cinema in Cold War Taiwan*
Shaoling Ma, Cornell University
Discussant: Ying Qian, Columbia University

October 23 — A World without Money: Demonetization and Everyday Life in Collective-Era Rural China
Jacob Eyferth, University of Chicago
Discussant: **Mark Selden**, Binghamton University, State University of New York, Emeritus

November 6 — *Gender, Industrial Work, and Postindustrial Memory in Taiwan*
Anru Lee, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York
Discussant: **Chuck Wooldridge**, Lehman College; Western Economic Association International

December 4 — *Dispossession and Countermovement in the Longue Durée: Agricultural Collectivization, Urbanization, Nostalgia*
Jesse Rodenbiker, Rutgers University
Discussant: **Nick Smith**, Barnard College

February 12 — *Food Infrastructure and Porcine Necropolitics in Modern Taiwan*
I-yi Hsieh, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (Taiwan)
Discussant: **Soonyi Lee**, Mercy University

March 26 — *Shanghai's Textbook Monopoly, Linguistic Territoriality, and the Limits of Nationalism*
Robert Culp, Bard College
Discussant: **Eugenia Lean**, Columbia University

April 16 — *A Japanese Sailor, Fourteen North Korean Factory Trainees, and One 'Counter-Revolutionary Element': A Microhistory of June 14, 1966, Shanghai*
Gavin Healy, Columbia University; University of Michigan
Discussant: **Rebecca Karl**, New York University

May 7 — *Her Story (2024) and the Cultural Logic of Contemporary Chinese Women's Stand-Up*
Zhuoyi Wang, Hamilton College
Discussant: **Ying Qian**, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Nicholas Bartlett**, nbartlet@barnard.edu; **Ying Qian**, yq2189@columbia.edu; **William Charles Wooldridge**, william.wooldridge@lehman.cuny.edu

MODERN EAST ASIA: JAPAN (445) • Founded: 1960

This seminar is concerned with the history, politics, society, and culture of Japan from the late nineteenth century to the present, emphasizing interdisciplinary dialogue among historians, anthropologists, sociologists, literary critics, and other scholars from New York-area institutions. The seminar meets regularly to discuss a paper from a work in progress by a member or invited speaker; pre-circulation of papers and discussant comments encourage in-depth discussion and debate.

CHAIR/S: **Sarah Kovner** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Philippe Depairon**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 8 — *William E. Griffis and Katsu Kaishū: An Exchange of Their Views on Japan and Korea in the 1896 Correspondence*
Haruko Wakabayashi, Rutgers University
Discussant: **Seiji Shirane**, The City College of New York, City University of New York

November 12 — *Sound War: Air-Raid Sound, (Sonic) Media Infrastructure, Civilians' Sensory Experience, and War Memory*
Eun Jeong Choi, New York University
Discussant: **Cary Karacas**, College of Staten Island, City University of New York

December — *Frontier Geographies in the Ishikari Valley*
Michael Thornton, Northeastern University
Kirsten Ziomek, Adelphi University

January 15 — Joint meeting with (405, 411, 557) *Afro-Brazilian Religions as a Space of Care, Healing and Affect for Brazilian Immigrants in Japan*
Daniela Calvo, Kyoto University (Japan)

February 4 — *Serving Manchukuo: Buryat-Mongols and Empire*
Tatiana Linkhoeva, New York University

March 11 — *"Open the Doors to All": A Critical Examination of Townsend Harris's Enduring Legacy in the U.S. and Japan*
Robin Kietlinski, LaGuardia Community College
Discussant: **Haruko Wakabayashi**, Rutgers University

April 8 — *End of Empire, Revenge, and War Crimes: Injustice in the Time of Defeat*
Kirsten Ziomek, Adelphi University
Respondent: **Yoshi Igarashi**, Vanderbilt University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Sarah Kovner**, sck25@columbia.edu

THE STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (451) • Founded: 1959

This seminar focuses on texts from the Mediterranean world of late antiquity, particularly as they relate to Christian origins. While it studies the New Testament, it also considers the Dead Sea Scrolls, Nag Hammadi texts, patristic literature, rabbinic material, and Greco-Roman texts.

CHAIR/S: **Colleen Conway**; **Jeremy F. Hultin** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Karl M. Taps**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18	*Emissaries of the Gods* **Matthew V. Novenson**, Princeton Theological Seminary
October 23	*Standing Between Two Worlds: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Apocalypticism* **Lisa M. Bowens**, Princeton Theological Seminary
December 11	*Cephas and Peter: New Light on an Old Problem* **Jeremy F. Hultin**, Union Theological Seminary
January 22	*Using Rabbinic Sources for New Testament Interpretation: John 9:28 as a Case Study* **Adele Reinhartz**, University of Ottawa (Canada)
February 12	*Ekklēsia as Good-No-Place: Biblical Utopianism and Biblical Studies* **Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre**, Drew University Theological School
April 23	*The New Testament and Ritual Studies* **Michael Peppard**, Fordham University
May 7	*A Walk Through the Museum of Biblical Scholarship: Judging Books by Their Covers* **Yii-Jan Lin**, Yale Divinity School

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Colleen Conway**, colleen.conway@shu.edu; **Jeremy F. Hultin**, jhultin@uts.columbia.edu

THE CITY (459A) • Founded: 1962

This seminar undertakes a wide-ranging consideration of the city—its history, functions, problems, and glories. Sessions are devoted to urban cultural and social history, and to the meaning of physical form and landscape of both American and worldwide cities. The heterogeneous nature of the seminar's membership is reflected in the variety of subjects that the meetings address.

CHAIR/S: **Mary Rocco** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Elizabeth Milagros Alvarez**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 27	*Self-Help Housing: Incremental Approaches to Shelter Since 1965* **Cassim Shepard**, The City College of New York, City University of New York
November 5	*Constructing Community by Association: Registered Community Organizations and New Development in an Old Neighborhood in Philadelphia* **Aaron Passell**, Barnard College
February 17	*Road to Nowhere: How a Highway Map Wrecked Baltimore* **Emily Lieb**, Historian and Writer
March 5	Joint meeting with (503) *Displacement and Infrastructure Provision: Evidence from the Interstate Highway System* **Pablo Valenzuela-Casasempere**, Yale University
April 15	*A Reputation Restored: New York City Mayor William O'Dwyer and the Failure of History* **Chris McNickle**, Historian

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Mary Rocco**, mrocco@barnard.edu

LAW AND POLITICS (465) • Founded: 1963

Laws come and go, constantly shifting their meaning and significance to reflect the beliefs and traditions of the societies in which they are embedded, yet the law remains indispensable to the harmonious functioning of human relationships. Established at Columbia in 1963, the Law and Politics seminar focuses on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, examining topics that remain relevant for our understanding of the law in the twenty-first century.

CHAIR/S: **Simon Baatz** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Hedwig Lieback**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 16	*Dred Scott's Daughter: Birthright Citizenship and the Meaning of 'American'* **Amanda Frost**, University of Virginia Law School
October 7	*Between Fact and Fiction: Evidence, Proof and Reasoning in Colonial Criminal Detection* **Uponita Mukjerhee**, Department of History, Fordham University
October 16	*Academic Freedom in the American University: From Professional Norm to Constitutional Right* **David Rabban**, University of Texas Law School
November 19	*Extrajudicial Violence and the Judicial Process in Mexico* **Pablo Piccato**, Department of History, Columbia University
February 10	*War in the Pacific: China and the Invasion of Taiwan* **Rorry Daniels**, Asia Society Policy Institute
March 3	*Donald Trump and the Return of the Spoils System* **Kate Shaw**, Carey Law School, University of Pennsylvania
March 24	*Art Under the Nazi Regime: Legal and Ethical Dimensions of the Restitution of Stolen Art* **Nicholas O'Donnell**, Sullivan & Worcester LLP
April 14	*The New Conspiracism and the Destruction of Democracy* **Russell Muirhead**, Dartmouth College

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Simon Baatz**, sbaatz@jjay.cuny.edu

ECOLOGY AND CULTURE (471) • Founded: 1964

This interdisciplinary seminar brings together participants from Columbia University and the New York City area for discussions around a range of socio-ecological topics. Participants come from anthropology, law, geography, history, sociology, and ecology, with the seminar aiming to bring together scholars, activists, artists, and practitioners in its discussions.

CHAIR/S: **Veronica Davidov**; **Paige West** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Antara Chakrabarti**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

December 11 — *Conscripted for Flood Control: Engineering and the Dispossession of Security in Mexico City*
Dean Chahim, New York University

March 5 — *Affective Domestication: Becoming-with the Snow Leopard in Wildlife Tourism*
Karine Gagne, University of Guelph (Canada)

March 26 — *The Future Has Arrived: Infrastructure, Temporality, and Geopolitics in a Changing Climate*
Maira Hayat, University of Notre Dame

April 30 — *Our Ocean is Not Our Sacrifice Zone: Protecting the Mariana Trench and Deepening Climate Justice*
Tiara R. Na'puti, University of California Irvine

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Veronica Davidov**, veronica.davidov@gmail.com; **Paige West**, cw2031@columbia.edu; **Chazelle Rhoden**, c.rhoden@columbia.edu; **Stephanie Ratte**, smr2224@columbia.edu

THE STUDY OF THE HEBREW BIBLE (473) • Founded: 1968

This seminar is composed of scholars of different faiths and traditions with a common interest in research on and teaching of the Hebrew Bible, aiming to illuminate its cultural milieu, language, text, and interpretation. Research draws on a variety of methodologies, including historical-critical, literary, philological, archaeological, sociological, and ideological approaches, as well as history of interpretation, and regularly considers ancient Near Eastern cultures and languages relating to the Hebrew Bible.

CHAIR/S: **David Carr**; **Karina Hogan** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Larry Figueroa**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 1 — *Divine Justice and the Lessons of Genesis 18*
Joel Baden, Yale University

October 14 — *Uncertainty, Indeterminacy, and the Question of Ancient Identity*
Mahri Leonard-Fleckman, Princeton Theological Seminary

November 19 — Joint meeting with (769) *Recent Research on Biblical Beasts: Reflections on the Oxford Handbook of the Bible and Animals*
Suzanna Millar, The University of Edinburgh, Scotland (United Kingdom)
Respondents: **Beth Berkowitz**, Barnard College; **David Carr**, Union Theological Seminary; **Naama Weiss**, Jewish Theological Seminary

December 9 — *The Born Legacy? New Perspectives on Priestly Identity*
Yonatan Miller, University of Connecticut

March 25 — *"YHWH is a Man of War" (Exodus 15:3): The Depiction of God as a Warrior in Medieval Rabbinic and Christian Exegesis*
Robbie Harris, Jewish Theological Seminary

April 13 — *Is the Bible Bad at Math? The Case of Solomon's Molten Sea and* π
Liane Feldman, Princeton University

May 12 — *Psalm Titles as Evolving Paratexts*
AJ Berkovitz, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **David Carr**, dcarr@utsnyc.edu; **Karina Hogan**, kahogan@fordham.edu

SOUTH ASIA (477) • Founded: 1964

This seminar broadens and deepens understanding of the South Asia region by providing a forum to discuss ongoing research and special topics related to its complex and multiple societies, past and present. Drawing together scholars from many disciplines, it fosters cross-disciplinary discussion on a broad range of questions, having recently deliberated on religion and politics, the political function of violence in South Asia, national integration, language and community, pre-colonial South Asian identities, and religious iconography, among other topics. The seminar is a merger of the University Seminar on Tradition and Change in South and Southeast Asia (founded 1964) and the University Seminar on Indology (founded 1993).

CHAIR/S: **Carla Bellamy** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Ankush Bhuyan**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 22	*Islam Comes Alive After Every Karbala—Shifts in the Nature of Muslim Authority in Hindu Nationalist Times* **Anand Taneja**, Vanderbilt University
October 27	*The Work of Religion: Violence, Trauma and Refusal in the Lives of Muslims in Hindu India* **Zehra Shama Mehdi**, Columbia University
December 1	*Papers in Honor of Professor Frances W. Pritchett* **Pasha Khan**, McGill University **Amy Bard**, Independent Scholar **Owen Cornwall**, University of California Berkeley
April 6	*Tryambaka's Women* **Kashi Gomez**, University of Pennsylvania
April 20	*My Mother was Not a Goddess: Life and Struggles of a Jogini* **Chinnaiah Jangam**, Carleton University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Carla Bellamy**, carla.bellamy@baruch.cuny.edu

THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST (479) • Founded: 1966

This seminar was created to coordinate the archaeological chronologies of the regions of the Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean. It meets six to eight times a year to discuss new research and hear reports of recent fieldwork. Relevant papers were published in the American Journal of Archaeology from 1968 to 1988, and in the Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society in 1992; since then, the seminar's focus has widened to include all aspects of the ancient cultures of the Near East and its adjoining regions.

CHAIR/S: **Allan S. Gilbert**; **K. Aslihan Yener** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Shannon Oliver White**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 29 — *Exploring Metal Production and Exchange in the Greater Persian Gulf Region, c. 2000–1000 BCE*
Lloyd Weeks, University of New England (Australia)

November 17 — *The Rise and Development of Anatolian Hieroglyphic Writing: New Finds From Karkemish and Alalakh*
Hasan Peker, Istanbul University (Turkey)

December 3 — *Göbekli Tepe in Chronological, Cultural, and Paleoclimatic Context: Reassessing Its Place in the Longue Durée of Neolithization*
Lee Clare, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (Turkey)

January 28 — *Settlement, Irrigation, and Landscape Commemoration in the Heart of the Assyrian Empire: Sennach erib's Irrigation System in the Nineveh Hinterland and the Preservation of the Assyrian Faida Canal and Its Rock Reliefs (Iraq)*
Daniele Morandi Bonacossi, University of Udine (Italy)

April 16 — *Both Sides of the Story: Production of Syro-Cilician Ware in the Amuq and Cilicia during the Middle Bronze Age*
Müge Bulu, Ankara University (Turkey)

May 4 — *Pigments, Metals, and the Decorated Surfaces of Ancient West Asian Cylinder Seals: New Scientific Evidence from the Yale Babylonian Collection*
Avary Taylor, Yale University
Agnete Lassen, Yale University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Allan S. Gilbert**, gilbert@fordham.edu; **K. Aslihan Yener**, akyener12@gmail.com

STUDIES IN MODERN ITALY (483) • Founded: 1966

This seminar is concerned with political, social, cultural, and religious aspects of Italian life from 1815 to the present. In recent years it has stressed an interdisciplinary approach to Italian studies, increasing the participation of anthropologists and scholars of art, film, and literature. The seminar meets on the second Friday of the month, from September to May, to discuss a paper presented by a member or an invited speaker, covering a wide range of topics, approaches, and methodologies, and occasionally holds a day-long conference or more restricted symposium to explore a topic in depth.

CHAIR/S: **David Aliano** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Ricardo Andres Belisario**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 12 — *Le Chinois à Rome: Amelia Rosselli's Ideas of Chinese Writing and Linguistic Difference in Postwar Italy*
Isabella Livorni, New York University
Respondent: **Alessandro Giammei**, Yale University

October 10 — *Radical Italian Feminism: From Carla Lonzi's Sexual Difference to Adriana Cavarero's Anti-(Trans)Gender*
Alessandra Montalbano, University of Alabama
Respondent: **Valentina Moro**, Stony Brook University

November 14 — *Sewing Nets: Everyday Life and the (In)Visibility of Death on Lampedusa Island*
Alessandro Corso, Chr. Michelsen Institute (Norway); Columbia University
Respondent: **Naor Ben-Yehoyada**, Columbia University

December 5 — *Arturo Giovannitti's Passionate Politics: The Bread and Roses Strike, a Trial Against Labor, and the Rule of Love*
Luca Falciola, The City College of New York, City University of New York
Respondent: **Marcella Bencivenni**, Hostos Community College, City University of New York

January 16 — *Young and Dangerous in Mussolini's Italy, 1934–1945*
Paul Garfinkel, Simon Fraser University
Respondent: **Luigi Lacchè**, University of Macerata (Italy)

February 13 — *Solidarity Networks Across Southern Europe: Italian Trade Union Campaigns for Political Prisoners in Spain, Portugal, and Greece*
Silvia Salvatici, University of Florence (Italy)
Respondent: **Pamela Ballinger**, University of Michigan

March 6 — *'The State Has Lost': The Turin 'Red Brigades' Trial, 1976–1978. Institutions, Celebrity, Murder*
John Foot, Bristol University (United Kingdom)
Respondent: **David Forgacs**, New York University

April 17 — *Underground Belongings: Ecology, Folklore, and the National-Subaltern Nexus in Calvino's Fiabe italiane*
Luca Naponiello, Villanova University
Respondent: **Christy Wampole**, Princeton University

May 8 — *Malavita alla moda: Tracing Mythologies of Criminal Dress*
Rebecca Bauman, Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY
Respondent: **Giuseppe Gazzola**, Stony Brook University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **David Aliano**, david.aliano@umsv.edu

EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE (491) • Founded: 1966

This seminar is a forum for scholarly conversations and works-in-progress on early American history, broadly defined. It seeks both to support scholarship on the Anglo-American colonies and the early United States (pre-Civil War), and to situate these political entities within broader frameworks such as global history, early modern history, the Age of Revolution, hemispheric history, and the Atlantic World. The seminar aims to involve a wide range of historians, including specialists in Native American, Caribbean, and Latin American history, along with scholars of literature, religion, slavery and the African diaspora, Native American studies, anthropology, and sociology.

CHAIR/S: **Hannah Farber**; **Claire Gherini** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Connor Spencer**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 16 — *White Allies in Massachusetts?: Ezekiel Russell, Isaiah Thomas, and the Problem of Antislavery in Revolutionary America*
Grant Stanton, Drew University

October 14 — *Tryon's Travels and Franklin's Fish: From War Slavery to Antiwar Antislavery*
David Waldstreicher, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

November 5 — *Belonging in Barbados: Jewish Resettlement and Rights in the Seventeenth-Century English Caribbean*
John Dixon, College of Staten Island, City University of New York

December 9 — *John Peters, Litigant and Lawyer*
Cornelia Dayton, University of Connecticut

January 27 — *The Ordeal of the Longhouse on Trial: Early America, Canadian Courts, and the Articulation of Aboriginal Rights in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries*
Christopher Parsons, Northeastern University

February 24 — *Being Born a Woman and Distressed: The Female 'Sick Poor' and Nurses During New York's 1798 Yellow Fever Epidemic*
Carolyn Eastman, Virginia Commonwealth University

March 24 — *The Worcester County Regulators: The Ruptures within the Regulation*
VanJessica Gladney, University of Massachusetts

April 21 — *Keys and Heartlands: The Perils of Fictional Borders*
Rachel Herrmann, Cardiff University (Wales)

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **John Blanton**, jblanton@ccny.cuny.edu; **Claire Gherini**, cgherini@fordham.edu

POLLUTION AND WATER RESOURCES: SCIENTIFIC AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS (495A) • Founded: 1968

This seminar explores the effects of pollution and environmental regulation on water and related environmental resources. Forty-one volumes of the seminar's Proceedings, collections of its lectures, have been published, alongside more than forty articles in seven languages published abroad and in the United States. The seminar's research institute, the American Academy of Ocean Sciences, was actively engaged in research from 1969 to 1985. Since the seminar's founding, thirty-three graduate students have participated, with their participation credited toward their studies.

CHAIR/S: **Richard Lo Pinto** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Sarah Akhtar**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 9	*Control of Reverse Osmosis Membrane Bio Fouling by Controlling Membrane Concentration Polarization (CP)* **Harvey Winters**, Professor Emeritus, Fairleigh Dickinson University
February 19	Interpreting, Misinterpreting, and Misdirecting the Products of Science **Richard Lo Pinto**, Fairleigh Dickinson University
March 26	Light Pollution and Wildlife: How Artificial Light at Night Affects Chimney Swifts **Elise Morton**, Fairleigh Dickinson University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Richard Lo Pinto**, lopintor@fdu.edu

SLAVIC HISTORY AND CULTURE (497) • Founded: 1968

Founded on the initiative of renowned Dostoevsky scholar Robert Belknap, this seminar was initially conceived as a broad exploration of the history, literature, and arts of the Slavic peoples, spanning topics from economic development to religious and philosophic thought. Today, after many years bringing together the Slavic studies community in the New York City area, the seminar continues to bridge the disciplines of literature, language, and history, with a focus on original research across Russian and East European history and culture as well as a lively exploration of the contemporary literary and artistic scene.The seminar welcomes a dynamic group of participants to its meetings, including graduate students, current and emeritus faculty members, and independent scholars.

CHAIR/S: **Nathaniel Knight**; **Chloë Kitzinger** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Zachary Deming**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 12 — *Testing the New 'Laws of War': The Russian Army's Conduct on the Danube Front in the 1877–78 Russo-Turkish War*
Peter Holquist, University of Pennsylvania

November 7 — *On the Road to Class Power: Writers and Nations in the Late Soviet Era*
Rossen Djagalov, New York University

February 13 — *Why Are We Here? Russian Exiles on Exile (1924–1939)*
Yasha Klots, Hunter College; The Graduate Center, City University of New York

March 12 — *Sonic Shatterzones: Zaderatsky, Nosyrev, and (Re)Hearing the Soviet Gulag*
Alexandra Birch, Columbia University

April 17 — *(Pseudo-)Blackness as Radicality: Reform-Era Publitsistika, Chernyshevsky's Chto delat'? and Ira Aldridge*
Lindsay Ceballos, Lafayette College

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Yana Skorobogatov**, ys3668@columbia.edu; **Chloë Kitzinger**, csk2196@columbia.edu

ISRAEL AND JEWISH STUDIES (501) • Founded: 1968

This seminar brings together approximately forty scholars from Columbia and the greater New York academic community. It deals with the whole range of topics relating to Jewish studies and Israel—history, literature, sociology, religion, and political studies—and frequently presents distinguished lecturers from Israeli and European universities.

CHAIR/S: **Elisheva Carlebach**; **Rebecca Kobrin** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Jessica Spencer**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18 — *The Making of an Anglo-Jewish Scholar*
David Ruderman, University of Pennsylvania, Emeritus
Respondents: **Francesca Bregoli**, Queens College; The Graduate Center, City University of New York
Rebecca Kobrin, Columbia University

November 5 — *"Tsniut" Between Gender, Law, and Ideology*
Emmanuel Bloch, Jewish Theological Seminary

March 9 — *Printed in Ishmael's Realm: Hebrew Printing in Early Ottoman Constantinople*
Noam Sienna, Rutgers University

April 20 — *The Wandering Jew in Israel, 1952–1955*
Yair Mintzker, Princeton University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Elisheva Carlebach**, ec607@columbia.edu

ECONOMIC HISTORY (503) • Founded: 1969

The concerns of this seminar are wide-ranging in time, place, and method, with emphasis on European and American economic growth and development from feudal times to the present, and growing representation of contributions on Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Topics range from microeconomic studies of firms and households to macroeconomic topics concerned with national and regional economic growth performance, the economics of imperialism, and the political economy of the Great Depression. Given the breadth of the seminar's membership and interests, comparative economic history is often a central element in its discussions, and pre-circulation of papers permits vigorous discussion.

CHAIR/S: **Alan Dye**; **David Weiman** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Minwoo Kong**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 9	*Crisis Planning: Wassily Leontief, Leonard Woodcock, and the Initiative Committee for National Economic Planning in the 1970s* **Rohan Shah**, New York University
November 6	Legislating Longevity: State Public Health Laws and Mortality in the Early Twentieth Century **Martin Saavedra**, Rutgers University
December 3	*Reform Interrupted: The Limits of Cárdenas' Wager* **Jay Pan**, Columbia University, PhD Candidate
February 5	*Nixon's VAT: The Rise and Fall of the 1970s National Value-Added Tax to Fund Education* **Ajay K. Mehrotra**, Northwestern University
March 5	Joint meeting with (459A) *Displacement and Infrastructure Provision: Evidence from the Interstate Highway System* **Pablo Valenzuela-Casasempere**, Yale University
May 7	*Financing the African Colonial State: Fiscal Capacity and Forced Labor* **Marlous van Waijenburg**, Harvard University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Alan Dye**, adye@barnard.edu; **David Weiman**, dweiman@barnard.edu

DEATH (507) • Founded: 1971

This interdisciplinary seminar critically engages with aspects of death, dying, disposal, and grief. Presentations and discussions explore topics from both academic and clinical perspectives in areas as diverse as medicine, psychology, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, religion, law, politics, architecture, and the media. In recent years the seminar has focused on contemporary developments in technology, culture, and society, and attendance is maintained at a level that provides members with ample opportunity for active participation.

CHAIR/S: **Karla Rothstein**; **Christina Staudt** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Sarah Akhtar**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 23	*The Harm of Death for Animals, Plants, and Fungi* **Jeff Sebo**, New York University
November 20	*Unpacking: Dead/Alive, Dying/Living* **Jerry Nessel**, Independent Scholar
December 11	*Measuring Consumer Preferences for New Methods of Disposition* **Tanya D. Marsh**, Wake Forest School of Law
February 24	*Beyond Grief: Earth Emotions at the Edge of Collapse* **Glenn Albrecht**, Walter Murdoch University
April 16	*Re-thinking Natural Organic Reduction (NOR) with Green-Wood Cemetery and in a Larger Socio-Cultural Context* **Jean F. Bonhotal**, Cornell University
May 5	*End-of-Life Communication in a Changing World: Digital Legacies, Divided Families, and Collective Loss* **Ágnes Zana**, Semmelweis University, Budapest (Hungary)
June 10	*"Legacy League" - Starting Conversations about Death* **Mandi Zucker**, End of Life Choices New York (EOLCNY)

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Karla Rothstein**, kmr16@columbia.edu; **Christina Staudt**, christinastaudt@gmail.com

INNOVATION IN EDUCATION (511) • Founded: 1970

The process of learning—in individuals, organizations, and society—is the subject of this seminar. Its scope includes learning throughout the lifespan and via major institutions such as mass media, libraries, voluntary organizations, and educational systems.

CHAIR/S: **Elizabeth Cohn**; **Ronald Gross** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Lorna Jepkoech Kimaiyo**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 9	Joint meeting with (585) *Celebrating Our Human Rights*
November 4	Joint meeting with (585) *Living Under Autocracy*
December 9	Joint meeting with (585) *You, the Ethicist*
January 13	Joint meeting with (585) *You Were the One Who Could Do It!*
February 10	Joint meeting with (585) *Socrates Salon Hosted by Ronald Gross & Peter Gross*
March 10	Joint meeting with (585) *Sharing Our Ways of Coping with Disinformation, Fake News, AI, and Divisiveness*
April 14	Joint meeting with (585) *Status and Privilege in Our Lives*
May 12	Joint meeting with (585) *Empathy*

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Elizabeth Cohn**, ec2341@columbia.edu; **Ronald Gross**, grossassoc@aol.com

LATIN AMERICA (515) • Founded: 1971

This seminar is devoted to developing a better understanding of the region, presenting current research and thinking in disciplines that range from anthropology to economics, history, human rights, political science, religion, literature, and the arts. In addition to scholars affiliated with the academic community, speakers are invited from the private sector, international organizations, and governments. The seminar, whose membership also reflects a broad range of disciplines, offers a framework for a lively exchange of ideas on Latin America—its past, present, and future.

CHAIR/S: **Ken Erickson**; **Elizabeth Hansen**; **Peter Winn** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Victoria Korzin**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 2	*"We Touched the Monster. Now the Monster Is Fighting Back." Anti-Impunity Efforts in Post-Genocide Guatemala* **Jo-Marie Burt**, Princeton University; George Mason University
November 6	*Forensic Identification and Error in Chile's Democratic Transition* **Eden Medina**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
February 5	*Immigration and U.S. Imperialism: Notes on Recent Venezuelan and Cuban Immigration* **Julia Preston**, Journalist and Author
March 5	*Serpentine Memory: Andean Visions of Tupac Amaru and Tupaj Katari, 18th to 21st Centuries* **Sinclair Thomson**, New York University
April 23	*No End in Sight: The Unwinding and Afterlife of the Latin American Cold War* **Gilbert M. Joseph**, Yale University, Emeritus

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Ken Erickson**, kpe973@gmail.com; **Elizabeth Hansen**, egrhansen@gmail.com; **Peter Winn**, pwinn2@gmail.com

POPULATION BIOLOGY (521) • Founded: 1971

This seminar covers all aspects of population biology, broadly defined to include ecology, evolution, and other aspects of modern organismal biology. It also encompasses studies of animal behavior in the field and laboratory, paleontology, theoretical and experimental biology, genetics, and genomics.

CHAIR/S: **Alison Cucco**; **Michael Tessler** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Victor Lievens**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 14 — *How Non-Native Trees Gain Species Interactions Over Time*
Michael Tessler, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York

November 13 — *Genetic Entanglements Between Dogs and Wolves*
Audrey Lin, American Museum of Natural History

December 1 — *What We Talk About When We Talk About Microbial Species*
Apurva Narechania, American Museum of Natural History

March 3 — *Are Chipmunks Exchangeable? Linking Ecological Differentiation to Genomic Change*
Katy Rush, PhD Candidate, Fordham University

April 7 — *Temporal and Spatial Dynamics of Urban Floristic Change in New York City: Two Centuries of Persistence and Loss*
Lydia Paradiso, Cornell University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Alison Cucco**, alisoncuc@gmail.com; **Michael Tessler**, MICHAEL.TESSLER61@mec.cuny.edu

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF SOCIETY AND NATURE (523) • Founded: 1971

This seminar was founded to study the most compelling questions of the day, which then related to the war in Southeast Asia, its causes, and consequences. Today it continues to examine vital current issues from the perspective of critical and social theory, with an emphasis on their economic, political, and philosophical dimensions and roots in political economic structures. It focuses particularly, though not exclusively, on the relationship between political economy and the transformation of the natural world, addressing issues like climate change, the rights of nature, and resource extraction, while also attending to how nature and society are represented in core concepts of political economy like scarcity, growth, and property.

CHAIR/S: **Omar Dahbour**; **Alyssa Battistoni** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Sara Wexler**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 21 — *The New Great Game: How Deindustrializing Europe Powered India's Carbon Takeoff*
Elizabeth Chatterjee, University of Chicago

November 11 — *Whither Economic Rights?*
Akeel Bilgrami, Columbia University

February 17 — *Sovereignty Against the State: The Case for Ecosovereignty*
Omar Dahbour, Hunter College and Graduate School, City University of New York

April 14, 2026 — *The Making of an Indebted Planet: An Ecological Critique of Capital Beyond the Limit*
Andreas Folkers, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Omar Dahbour**, odahbour@hunter.cuny.edu; **Alyssa Battistoni**, abattist@barnard.edu

THE MIDDLE EAST (525) • Founded: 1971

This seminar meets once a month during the academic year, with a prominent expert leading a ninety-minute discussion at each session. It provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences among Middle East experts across business, banking and investment, federal service, foundations, the media, the liberal professions, and academia. The seminar has become a medium for carefully defined and informed evaluation of persistent problems in a region marked by instability and proliferating crises, with detailed minutes prepared for archival purposes.

CHAIR/S: **Gary Sick**; **James Ketterer**; **Frank Stewart** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Sara Godfrey**; **Ruby Topalian**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 17	*Decoding Iran's Foreign Policy* **Ross Harrison**, Middle East Institute; University of Pittsburgh
October 22	*From Beirut to Damascus: War and Change in the Levant* **Steven A. Cook**, Council on Foreign Relations
November 19	*From Apartheid to Democracy: A Blueprint for Peace in Israel-Palestine* **Sarah Leah Whitson**, DAWN
December 10	*The Realm: Muhammad bin Salman and the Transformation of Saudi Arabia* **Bernard Haykel**, Princeton University
January 21	*Iran After the Twelve-Day War* **Mohsen Milani**, University of South Florida
February 11	*Update on Morocco: Legislative Elections, the Abraham Accords, Football Diplomacy, and GenZ 212* **Gregory White**, Smith College
March 11	*From Cairo to Columbia: The Life and Legacy of Shaykh Imam, an Egyptian Performer and Political Dissident* **Andrew Simon**, Dartmouth College
April 15, 2026	*The Iran War* —

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Gary Sick**, ggs2@columbia.edu; **James Ketterer**, jkettere@bard.edu;
Frank Stewart, henfew@gmail.com

APPETITIVE BEHAVIOR (529) • Founded: 1972

This seminar is comprised of professors, research scientists, and physicians from institutions of higher learning and industry in the greater New York area with a common interest in the biological and behavioral bases of appetitive behavior. Four major areas of interest are found within the group: 1) the control of food and fluid intake in humans and animals and their effects on variation in body composition; 2) disorders with links to ingestive behavior such as obesity, bulimia, anorexia nervosa, and diabetes; 3) the role of the brain from pharmacological, physiological, and neuroanatomical perspectives on the control of ingestive behavior; 4) cognitive, social, and environmental controls of ingestive behavior. The seminar thus combines interests in basic control mechanisms with clinical applications. To be added to our mailing list and receive monthly communications on the Appetitive Behavior seminars, please contact us at apbsem@gmail.com.

CHAIR/S: **Allan Geliebter**; **John Glendinning** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Faris Zuraikat**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 25	*Food, Drugs, and Homeostasis: Fifty-Plus Years of Following the Data* **Stephen Woods**, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Emeritus
October 16	*Ultraprocessed Foods and Neuroimaging* **Valerie Darcey**, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
November 13	*Studying the Brain Before, During, and After Eating to Understand Extremes of Control in Bulimia Nervosa* **Laura Berner**, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
December 11	*Control of Thirst by Central GLP-1* **Derek Daniels**, State University of New York at Buffalo
January 22	*Fuel for Thought: Hypothalamic Nutrient Sensing in Metabolism Regulation* **Sabrina Diano**, Columbia University
February 19	*Parallel Gut-Brain Pathways in the Control of Appetite* **Ivan de Araujo**, Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics
March 12	*Semaglutide Drives Weight Loss through cAMP-dependent Mechanisms in GLP1R-Expressing Hindbrain Neurons* **Michael Krashes**, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
April 16	*Incretin Agonists, GI, and Liver: Mechanisms, Benefits and Managing Potential Adverse Effects* **Michael Camilleri**, Mayo Clinic
May 7	*How Do Individual Difference Factors Explain Variability in the Stress-Eating Cycle?* **Rebecca Klatzkin**, Rhodes College

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Allan Geliebter**, allan.geliebter@mountsinai.org; **John Glendinning**, jg263@columbia.edu

THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE (533) • Founded: 1973

This seminar is devoted to exploring substantive and methodological issues in the history and philosophy of science, broadly construed, ranging from epistemic and historiographic questions to issues of relevance and accountability. Topics span the presuppositions and practice of the life sciences, earth sciences, social sciences, physical sciences, and mathematics—from antiquity to contemporary quantum theory in the physical sciences, and including historical and evolutionary inquiry, biotechnology, ecology, economics, psychology, cognitive science, and interpretive social inquiry. Membership includes scientists, philosophers, and historians, and many sessions take place in conjunction with the New York City History of Science Working Group.

CHAIR/S: **Pamela Smith**; **Marwa Elshakry** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Stephanie Reitzig**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 15 *Familiar Bodies: Household Spirits, Money, and Magic in Early Modern Saxony*
Tara Nummedal, Brown University

October 27 *The Zebro and the Tlacuatzin: Animals in the Patchwork Columbian Exchange*
Mackenzie Cooley, Hamilton College

November 17 *The Anatomy of Work: Occupational Diseases Between Social Satire and the State*
Paola Bertucci, Yale University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Pamela Smith**, ps2270@columbia.edu

IRISH STUDIES (535) • Founded: 1973

This seminar serves as an interdisciplinary forum on all aspects and periods of Irish culture. Participants come from a wide variety of fields, including history, literature, art history, film studies, political science, sociology, anthropology, music, and folklore. These scholars bring a diversity of background to any topic under discussion that is stimulating and informative for all present, and the seminar's concern for Irish studies as a field of scholarly inquiry is reflected in the collegial sharing of information about resources and repositories for research in the field.

CHAIR/S: **Mary McGlynn**; **Seamus O'Malley** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Audrey Siraud**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 12	*'Tomorrow, Lord Tomorrow': Narratives of Spirituality and Belonging Among Queer Irish Activists in the Late 20th Century* **Bridget Keown**, University of Pittsburgh
October 3	*Famine Chronotopes: Digital Humanities and the Great Famine* **Anelise Shrout**, Bates College
October 24	*'Some of Seamus Heaney's Schmaltz (4)': Parody and Northern Irish Poetry* **Eve Patten**, Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)
December 5	*Tramp Press & Contemporary Irish Fiction and Publishing* **Mary Burke**, University of Connecticut **Tara Harney**, Caldwell University
February 6	*What is 'Slightly Magical' Irish Poetry?* **Lucy McDiarmid**, Montclair University
March 6	*The Suffering of Others: Care, Vulnerability, and Injurability in the Gothic Novel* **Matthew Reznicek**, University of Minnesota
April 17	*'Artistic Bombs in Ireland': The Shemus Cartoons in the Freeman's Journal (1920–1924)* **Felix Larkin**, Independent Scholar
May 1	*Irish Women's Prison Writing: Mother Ireland's Rebels, 1960s–2010s* **Red Washburn**, The Graduate Center, City University of New York
May 5	Joint meeting with (717) *The News from Dublin: A Reading and Discussion with Colm Tóibín* **Colm Tóibín**, Columbia University **Andreas Huyssen**, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Mary McGlynn**, mary.mcglynn@baruch.cuny.edu; **Seamus O'Malley**, seamusomalley@gmail.com

CINEMA AND INTERDISCIPLINARY INTERPRETATION (539) • Founded: 1974

This seminar is devoted to exploring interdisciplinary influences in the ever-changing, ever-expanding field of cinema and media studies. Internationally acclaimed scholars from the New York metropolitan area and well beyond present works in progress, sharing innovative and groundbreaking insights and receiving valuable input from seminar members. These presentations have led to numerous pioneering publications as well as further presentations at international conferences, and as a center for ongoing face-to-face and hybrid scholarly exchanges in the field, the seminar enjoys an international reputation among film and media scholars.

CHAIR/S: **Cynthia Lucia**; **William Luhr** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Alan Ke**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 25	*PLURAL TV: Notes Toward a Comparative Approach to Global Serial Drama* **Giancarlo Lombardi**, The Graduate Center, City University of New York Respondent: **Jacqueline Reich**, Marist University
October 23	*'A Highly Romantic and Dangerous Identity': The Accidental Hero in Cold War Thrillers of the 1960s* **Steven Cohan**, Syracuse University Respondent: **Paula J. Massood**, Brooklyn College, City University of New York
November 13	*Native Americans in Classical Hollywood Ballyhoo, Movie Premieres, and Local Film Exhibition* **Jacob Floyd**, New York University Respondent: **Kiara Vigil**, Amherst College
December 11	*The Mysteries on the Nashville Contact Sheets* **Justin Wyatt**, University of Rhode Island Respondent: **Joe McElhaney**, Hunter College, City University of New York
January 22	*Baseball History on Film for the Smartphone Gambler* **Aaron Baker**, Arizona State University Respondent: **Alex Kupfer**, Vassar College
February 26	*Jews, Film, and Stereotype: A Bigger World of Jewish Film* **Olga Gershenson**, University of Massachusetts Respondent: **Jim Hoberman**, Former Village Voice Film Critic
March 12	*Four-Color Cowboys: Dell Comics and the Postwar Western Star* **Bart Beaty**, University of Calgary (Canada) Respondent: **Naja Later**, Swinburne University of Technology (Australia)
April 23	*Quarterly Review of Film and Video (QRFV) 50th Anniversary Panel* **Vera Dika**, Pratt Institute

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Cynthia Lucia**, cindylucia@aol.com; **William Luhr**, luhrwg@aol.com

WOMEN AND SOCIETY (545) • Founded: 1974

This seminar is devoted to the interdisciplinary study of women in their historical and social contexts, as well as feminist historiography. Among the topics the seminar considers are the status and function of women historically; cross-cultural and sociological perspectives on women; representations of women in literature, media, and the arts; women and ethics; and feminist theories of class, race, and sexuality.

CHAIR/S: **Amy Adamczyk**; **Emily Sohmer Tai** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Katy Habr**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 29 — *Critical Male Gaze on History, Culture, Masculinities and Music in Trinidad and Tobago and the Rest of the Diaspora*
Meagan A. Sylvester, Queens College, City University of New York
Respondent: **Fredara Mareva Haldley**, Julliard School of Music

October 27 — *The Ancestors' Weave: The Diaspora of Resistance*
Terry McGovern, The Graduate School, City University of New York
Respondent: **Kimberly Mutcherson**, Rutgers Law School

December 15 — *The Relegation of Black Women in Northern Cities to Domestic Work, 1900 to 1950*
Julia Wrigley, The Graduate Center, City University of New York
Respondent: **Philip Kasinitz**, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

February 23 — *"More Than a Label": The Kings' Political Partnership and Coretta Scott King's Activism During MLK's Lifetime*
Jeanne Theoharis, Brooklyn College, City University of New York
Respondent: **Traci L. Parker**, University of California at Davis

March 30 — *One Cannot Do Everything for One's Self: Pragmatic Collaboration and Artistry in the Career of Sarah Freeman Clarke*
Katherine Culkin, Bronx Community College
Respondent: **Linda M. Grasso**, York College; The Graduate Center, City University of New York

April 29 — *Wage Suppression in the U.S. Home Care Market*
Ruth Milkman, The Graduate Center, City University of New York
Heidi Gottfried, Wayne State University
Respondent: **Zoë West**, Cornell University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Amy Adamczyk**, aadamczyk@jjay.cuny.edu; **Samantha Majic**, smajic@jjay.cuny.edu

DRUGS AND SOCIETY (553) • Founded: 1975

This seminar provides a forum for the scholarly exchange of information among key representatives of the chemical dependency research, treatment, prevention, and policy development communities. It seeks to address important and complex questions relating to the root causes of chemical dependency and abuse, to examine and evaluate epidemiological studies, to determine the effectiveness of various treatment and prevention strategies, and to discuss the wisdom and value of current international, national, and local policies. Membership is comprised of prominent researchers, established leaders in the treatment and prevention fields, and government policymakers, with speakers drawn from the membership itself and by invitation from other institutions.

CHAIR/S: **Frank McCorry**; **Steve Rabinowitz** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Lynder Atieno Ogembo**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 16	*Using Sudors Data to Understand Social and Epidemiologic Circumstances of Fatal Drug Poisonings* **David R. Holtgrave**, Department of Health, Special Advisor to the Commissioner Respondent: **Frank McCorry**, Independent Researcher
October 21	*OSF in Action: Opportunities, Challenges, and Strategic Pathways* **Debbie Patin**, NYS Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board
November 18	*Changing the World: Welcoming Integrated Systems for People with Co-Occurring MH/SU Conditions* **Kenneth Minkoff**
December 16	*States Helping States Improve Substance Use Service Systems* **Robert Morrison**, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Agency Directors Respondent: **Frank McCorry**, Independent Researcher
January 20	*Cannabis Use and Cannabis Use Disorders in a Changing Cannabis Landscape* **Deborah Hasin**
February 17	*The Shock of the New: Peer Professionals Bringing Non-Clinical Value to Addiction Treatment* **Ruth Riddick**, Certified Addiction Recovery Coach Respondent: **Frank McCorry**, Independent Researcher
April 21	*Policy is Only as Good as Your Control of the Outliers: How the Methadone Revolution and Counter Revolution Anticipated the Opioid Crisis* **David T. Courtwright**, University of North Florida, Emeritus

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Frank McCorry**, famcc127@gmail.com; **Steve Rabinowitz**, steverabinowitz55@gmail.com

BRAZIL (557) • Founded: 1976

Recently completed field studies and research from primary sources on Brazil constitute the main interest of this seminar. Brazilian, U.S., and other visiting scholars participate, contributing their interpretations of recent events, and Portuguese may be spoken whenever convenient.

CHAIR/S: **Diana Brown**; **John F. Collins**; **Sidney M. Greenfield**; **Vânia Penha-Lopes** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Chazelle Rhoden**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18	Joint meeting with (405, 411) *Apocalypse in the Tropics* **Sidney M. Greenfield**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Emeritus **Vânia Penha-Lopes**, Bloomfield College
October 23	*Teaching Performance as a Strategy for Remote Education: A Collaboration Between Brazil and Uruguay* **Fernando Salis**, The Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) **Verenka Parentelli**, The University of the Republic (Uruguay)
November 13	Joint meeting with (561) *A Project to Protect the Legal and Human Rights of a Traditional Brazilian Fishing Community* **Raquel Coelho de Freitas**, Federal University of Ceará (Brazil) **Danilo Santos Ferris**, Christus University, Ceará (Brazil)
December 18	Joint meeting with (405, 411, 689) *Afro-Religious Praxes: A New Lens for Examining Urban Climate Transformations in Salvador, Brazil* **Chazelle Rhoden**, Columbia University
January 15	Joint meeting with (405, 411, 445) *Afro-Brazilian Religions as a Space of Care, Healing and Affect for Brazilian Immigrants in Japan* **Daniela Calvo**, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University (Japan)
February 19	Joint meeting with (405, 411) *Rewards and Risks of Social Value Investing in Brazil* **William Einicke**, Columbia University
March 12	Joint meeting with (689) *Writing by Ear, Drawing from Memory, Shaping What the Eye Cannot Hold: Afro-Brazilian Visual Arts and Transatlantic Imaginaries* **Isis Barra Costa**, The Ohio State University
April 1	Joint meeting with (405, 411) *Religion and Politics in Brazil: Identitarian Movements and Christianity in Brazil* **Donizete Rodrigues**, University of Beira Interior (Portugal)
April 16	*Inside Criminalized Governance: "How and Why Gangs Rule the Streets of Rio de Janeiro"* **Nicholas Barnes** University of St Andrews, Scotland (United Kingdom)
May 14	*Cândido Inácio da Silva (1799/1800–1838): Composer of Songs, Master of Slaves* **Marcelo Campos Hazan**, University of South Carolina

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Diana Brown**, dbrown@bard.edu; **John F. Collins**, John.Collins@qc.cuny.edu; **Sidney M. Greenfield**, sidneygreenfield@gmail.com; **Vania Penha-Lopes**, penhalopesv@montclair.edu

ARABIC STUDIES (559) • Founded: 1977

The concerns of this seminar are interdisciplinary and humanistic. In addition to Arabic language and literature, the range of interests includes topics of significance for Islamic studies: religion, philosophy, science, law and history of the Muslim world, and modern social and cultural history. The seminar affords an opportunity to members and guest speakers to discuss research in progress, and because members come from several disciplines, the substantive discussions draw upon various fields to expand the sources, help reformulate questions, and anticipate future publications.

CHAIR/S: **Muhsin al-Musawi**; **Matthew Lindfors Keegan** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Ruwa Mohammed Alhayek**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 9 — *"Between Arabia, al-Andalus, and Sicily, There Was Always the Maghrib!": Readings from Of Lost Cities: The Maghribī Poetic Imagination*
Nizar Hemes, University of Virginia

November 13 — *"The Measure of Your [Thinking] Is to Me Unknown:" Aḥmad Fāris al-Shidyāq's Theory of Comparison and Analogy in "Maqāmah on Chapter Thirteen"*
Rama Alhabian, Hamilton College

January 29 — The Serpent and the Fox, and the Bird in the Jar: Two Eye-Popping Fables by al-Maʿarrī
Kevin Blankinship, Brigham Young University

February 5 — *Eyes of Wonders: On the Inventions and Oddities in al-Mutanabbi's Poetry*
Ali Bin Tamim, Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (United Arab Emirates)

February 23 — *Why Wasn't Print Adopted in the Early Modern Middle East?: A New Perspective*
Nir Shafir, University of California San Diego

April 30 — *Dust That Never Settles: Literary Afterlives of the Iran-Iraq War*
Amir Moosavi, Rutgers University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Muhsin al-Musawi**, ma2188@columbia.edu; **Matthew Lindfors Keegan**, mlkeegan@barnard.edu

HUMAN RIGHTS (561) • Founded: 1978

This seminar addresses various human rights issues at monthly meetings, sometimes designating a theme to be followed during the entire academic year. Topics cover international and domestic areas of concern and reflect problems of both conceptualization and application, with emphasis placed on dialogue between advocates of western and non-western ideas and practices. This year, the seminar is focusing on Implementation of Human Rights Norms: Challenges and Prospects.

CHAIR/S: **George Andreopoulos** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Carolin Klein**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 6	*Alternative International Law Frameworks for Political Violence: Ukraine and Palestine* **Richard Falk**, Princeton University; University of California at Santa Barbara
November 6	*Australia, Timor-Leste and International Law* **Clinton Fernandes**, University of New South Wales (Australia)
November 13	Joint meeting with (557) *A Project to Protect the Legal and Human Rights of a Traditional Brazilian Fishing Community* **Raquel Coelho de Freitas**, Federal University of Ceará (Brazil) **Danilo Santos Ferris**, Christus University, Ceará (Brazil)
December 8	*Militarized Law Enforcement and Its Human Rights Implications: The Case of the US-Mexico Border* **Timothy Dunn**, Salisbury University
February 2	*Too Much Information? Harnessing Technology and Data in Transitional Justice and International Criminal Law Practice* **Keith Hiatt**, International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (Syria)
March 9	*Ethical Norms for Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* **John Kleinig**, City University of New York, Emeritus
April 20	*Whither World Order? Implications for Human Rights* Kavita Khory, Mount Holyoke College **Stephen Rosow**, State University of New York at Oswego, Emeritus **George Andreopoulos**, City University of New York
April 23	Joint meeting with (689) *White Conspiracy in the Mississippi Delta: The Trials and Triumph of Eddie James Carthan* **Sheila D. Collins**, William Paterson University, Emerita

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **George Andreopoulos**, chrights@jjay.cuny.edu

NEO-CONFUCIAN STUDIES (567) • Founded: 1979

This seminar examines the formation, development, and role of Neo-Confucian thought in China, Japan, and Korea. The relationship between Neo-Confucianism and other aspects of the history of East Asia is considered, and on occasion, intellectual responses to Neo-Confucianism are also examined. The seminar circulates copies of papers to its members prior to meetings.

CHAIR/S: **Ari Borrell**; **Tao Jiang**; **On-cho Ng** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Liuyu Ivy Chen**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 10	*How Orthodox (Neo-Confucian) Morality Trivializes Human Desires: Dai Zhen's Main Argument* **Justin Tiwald**, University of Hong Kong (China)
December 5	*Exploring Ancient China with the Book of Changes* **Geoffrey Redmond**, Independent Scholar
February 13	*Legality and Confucian Decline in Modern China* **Taisu Zhang**, Yale Law School
March 6	*Beyond "Shame Culture": Chi, Virtue, and the Way of Zheng in Early Chinese Political Thought* **Dandan Chen**, Farmingdale State College
April 3	*Towards a Comparison of Archaic Greece and Spring-and-Autumn China* **John Lombardini**, College of William and Mary
May 1	Joint meeting with (721) *Chinese and Korean Neo-Confucian Views on Not Transferring One's Anger* **Philip J. Ivanhoe**, Georgetown University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Ari Borrell**, arinborrell@gmail.com; **Tao Jiang**, tjiang999@gmail.com; **On-cho Ng**, oxn1@psu.edu

SHAKESPEARE (581) • Founded: 1982

This seminar explores issues of interest to current Shakespeare scholarship. Principal topics include the relation of playscript to performance, the implications of recent changes in textual study, the relevance of texts to the social and political world in which they were produced, and the impact of contemporary theory on Shakespeare criticism. A Bernard and Gloria Beckerman Lecture is presented annually in honor of the seminar's founders.

CHAIR/S: **Allison Deutermann**; **Lauren Robertson** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Steven Glavey**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 12	*Shakespeare and Practical Faith* **Donovan Sherman**, Seton Hall University
October 17	*Blackness and the Sonnet* **Stephanie Pietros**, University of Mount Saint Vincent
November 25	*Toward a Trans Petrarchism* **Gabriel Bloomfield**, Bates College
December 12	*The Pity of It: King Lear, Disability, and the Tragic Tradition* **Pasquale Toscano**, Vassar College
February 13	*These Our Actors: Performing Macbeth in Colonial Zimbabwe* **Eli Cummings**, Columbia University
March 13	*"Spice Islands": Amboyna's Imaginative Hydrography* **Benjamin VanWagoner**, Columbia University
April 17	*Of Busy Bees and Spinning Silkworms: Early Modern Energy Dreams* **Joseph Campana**, Rice University
May 8	*Fallible Choreographies of Royal Racialization* **Elisa Oh**, Howard University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Lauren Robertson**, lr2859@columbia.edu; **Gavin Hollis**, ghollis@hunter.cuny.edu

ETHICS, MORAL EDUCATION, AND SOCIETY (585) • Founded: 1983

This seminar, made up of theoreticians, researchers, and educators, examines the themes of ethics, moral education, and society in a genuinely interdisciplinary fashion, covering such topics as moral motivation, moral development, moral education, and moral theory. Membership is drawn from the fields of psychology, philosophy, sociology, education, political theory, and religion, and the seminar provides a meeting ground for communication and support unique to the New York metropolitan region.

CHAIR/S: **Elizabeth Cohn**; **Ronald Gross** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Lorna Jepkoech Kimaiyo**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 9	Joint meeting with (511) *Celebrating Our Human Rights*
November 4	Joint meeting with (511) *Living Under Autocracy*
December 9	Joint meeting with (511) *You, the Ethicist*
January 13	Joint meeting with (511) *You Were the One Who Could Do It!*
February 10	Joint meeting with (511) *Socrates Salon Hosted by Ronald Gross & Peter Gross*
March 10	Joint meeting with (511) *Sharing Our Ways of Coping with Disinformation, Fake News, AI, and Divisiveness*
April 14	Joint meeting with (511) *Status and Privilege in Our Lives*
May 12, 2026	Joint meeting with (511) *Empathy*

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Elizabeth Cohn**, ec2341@columbia.edu; **Ronald Gross**, grossassoc@aol.com

COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE (603) • Founded: 1986

For more than 100 years, comparative psychologists have sought to understand the evolution of human intelligence. New paradigms for studying cognitive processes in animals—in particular symbol use and memory—have, for the first time, allowed psychologists and neuroscientists to compare higher thought processes in animals and human beings. New imaging approaches have also facilitated exploring the neural basis of behavior in both animals and humans. Questions concerning the nature of animal and human cognition have defined the themes of this seminar, whose members include specialists in cognition, ethology, philosophy, and neuroscience.

CHAIR/S: **Christopher Baldassano**; **Herbert S. Terrace** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Craig Poskanzer**; **Elvinas Butkus**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 17 — *Mind in Motion: How Action Shapes Thought*
Barbara Tversky, Teachers College, Columbia University

October 15 — *The Origins of Linguistic Meaning: Micro-Semantics and Macro-Semantics*
Prashant Parikh, Founder and CEO of Noema, Inc.

November 12 — *Rationally Selected Utility—A New Theory of Choice*
Paul Glimcher, New York University

December 10 — *The Neural Dynamics of Good Conversation*
Diana Tamir, Princeton University

January 21 — *An Integrative Biology of Vocal Learning*
Asif A. Ghazanfar, Princeton University

February 17 — *Math, Monkey, and Mind*
Jessica Cantlon, Carnegie Mellon University

March 4 — *(No title listed)*
Marcelo Mattar, New York University

April 15, 2026 — *Mechanisms of Memory Stabilization Over Long Time-Scales in Mice*
Priya Rajasethupathy, Rockefeller University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Christopher Baldassano**, cab2304@columbia.edu

FULL EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE, AND EQUITY (613) • Founded: 1987

This seminar focuses on the analytical and policy issues related to full employment, social welfare, and equity, including cross-national perspectives, primarily in other industrialized economies. Its purpose is to identify and clarify the more difficult and central intellectual questions which relate to and affect the national commitment and capability to assure full employment, social welfare, and equity over long periods.

CHAIR/S: **Gertrude S. Goldberg**; **Charles Bell** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Carolin Klein**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 27 — *Baby Bonds, Job Guarantee, and Building a Just Economy*
David Radcliffe, The New School's Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy

November 10 — *The Fightback: Advocacy and Movement Building to Oppose Harsh Cuts to Public Services and Social Welfare Programs*
LaToya B. Parker, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
Deborah Weinstein, Coalition for Human Needs
Raina Hackett, Office of Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12)
Discussant: **Charles Bell**, National Jobs for All Network

December 1 — *What Will It Take to Implement a National Full Employment Policy?*
Demetra Smith Nightingale, Urban Institute

February 2 — *Green Growth or Degrowth? Tackling the Climate Crisis through Full Employment*
Mark Paul, Rutgers University

March 2 — *Systemic Injustice, Mass Homelessness, and the Debate over Incrementalism*
Dave Giffen, Executive Director of the Coalition for the Homeless

April 27 — *Revisiting FDR's Second Bill of Rights in Light of Modern Challenges*
Thomas Lininger, University of Oregon

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Gertrude S. Goldberg**, trudygoldberg@njfac.org; **Charles Bell**, charleswfbell@gmail.com

RELIGION IN AMERICA (661) • Founded: 1997

This seminar explores the role of religion in American society from cross-disciplinary perspectives: history, anthropology, literature, sociology, theology, material culture, and more. Both "religion" and "America" are broadly defined—"religion" takes into account multicultural and multifarious religious expressions in an increasingly pluralistic setting, while "America" includes not merely the United States but Canada and the Caribbean as well. Members are particularly interested in examining the religiously rich environment of New York City.

CHAIR/S: **Gale Kenny**; **Courtney Bender** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Kristin Perkins**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 15	*Polygamy and Free Exercise at the Border* **Jeffrey Turner**, University of Alabama
October 13	*To Touch the Face of God* **Courtney Bender**, Columbia University
November 17	*Income-Tax Evangelism* **Daniel Vaca**, Brown University
February 9	*Heavenly Arithmetic* **John Lardas Modern**, Franklin and Marshall College
March 9	*Urban Sexularism: Space, Sexuality, & the Production of the Sacred* **Babak Manouchehrifar**, Princeton University
April 13	*"Empty Speech:" Enregistering That Which You Should Not Hear* **Gabriella Lee**, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Gale Kenny**, gkenny@barnard.edu; **Courtney Bender**, cb337@columbia.edu

LANGUAGE AND COGNITION (681) • Founded: 2000

What can the study of language contribute to our understanding of human nature? This question motivates research spanning many intellectual constituencies, for its range exceeds the scope of any one of the core disciplines. The technical study of language has developed across anthropology, electrical engineering, linguistics, neurology, philosophy, psychology, and sociology, and influential research of the recent era of cognitive science have occurred when disciplinary boundaries were transcended. The seminar is a forum for convening this research community of broadly differing expertise, within and beyond the University. As a meeting ground for regular discussion of current events and fundamental questions, the University Seminar on Language and Cognition will direct its focus to the latest breakthroughs and the developing concerns of the scientific community studying language.

CHAIR/S: **Robert Remez** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Keying Wang**

2025-2026 MEETINGS

October 9 — *The Pragmatics of Linguistic Framing*
Stephen Flusberg, Vassar College

February 26 — *Difficult Concepts, Hard Words to Learn*
Susan Carey, New York University, City University of New York

March 12 — *Initial Knowledge of "two": The Origins of a Concept and a Word*
Anna Shusterman, Barnard College

April 23 — *The Centrality of Language in Cognitive Development*
Marie Coppola, University of Connecticut

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Robert Remez**, remez@columbia.edu

MEMORY AND SLAVERY: SOCIAL AND HUMAN CONSEQUENCES

(689) • Founded: 2001

This seminar addresses the legacy of slavery in the western hemisphere, focusing on African-American slavery in the United States. Presenters and discussants participate in dialogue on the history of slavery, its neurobehavioral and cultural underpinnings, the social, economic, and political factors facilitating ongoing racism and inequities, and the consequences for descendants of enslaved and enslaving peoples in the modern world. Members include anthropologists, clergy, historians, neuroscientists, psychologists, sociologists, and other scholars and guests who share an interest in learning from the collective memories of slavery, determining what must be done to heal the wounds it left behind, and determining how to move toward equitable and healthy societies in which all peoples can thrive.

CHAIR/S: **John Delfs** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Chazelle Rhoden**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 25	*"The Story of My Name": The Politics of Mis/Recognition and the Black Femme Self* **Brendane Tynes**, Wenner-Gren Foundation
December 18	Joint meeting with (405, 411, 557) *Afro-Religious Praxes: A New Lens for Examining Urban Climate Transformations in Salvador, Brazil* **Chazelle Rhoden**, Columbia University
March 12	Joint meeting with (557) *Writing by Ear, Drawing from Memory, Shaping What the Eye Cannot Hold: Afro-Brazilian Visual Arts and Transatlantic Imaginaries* **Isis Barra Costa**, The Ohio State University
April 23	Joint meeting with (561) *White Conspiracy in the Mississippi Delta: The Trials and Triumph of Eddie James Carthan* **Sheila D. Collins**, William Paterson University, Emerita

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **John Delfs**, John@GoodWolf.org; **Chazelle Rhoden**, c.rhoden@columbia.edu; **Michelle Webb**, michelle@ideasconyc.com

EARLY CHINA (691) • Founded: 2002

This seminar focuses on early Chinese civilization from the Neolithic Age to the Han Dynasty and brings together scholars from all Early China related fields: history, archaeology, art history, literature and language, religion and philosophy. The seminar facilitates interregional exchanges by inviting distinguished Sinologists from other parts of the country, and publicizes new archaeological discoveries.

CHAIR/S: **Glenda Chao**; **Ethan Harkness** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Songgu Cai**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 26 — *The Paradox of Hegemony: The Logics of Political (Dis)integration and Lineage Segmentation in Spring and Autumn China*
Chris Kim, New York University

October 17 — *Master, State and Patron: Three Models of Literati Engagement During the Warring States Period (481–221 BCE)*
Andrew Meyer, Brooklyn College, City University of New York

November 7 — *Digital Mawangdui: Visualizing the Art of Transformation through Scientific Imaging and Multimedia Storytelling*
Chenchen Lü, Harvard University

December 5 — *The Cult of the Yellow Emperor in China: Heritage, Identity, and Local Placemaking*
Shuli Wang, Museum of the Institute of Ethnology

February 27 — *Divergent Paths: Ritual, Power, and Collective Action in Liangzhu and Shijiahe*
Liye Xie, University of Toronto (Canada)

March 13 — *Conceptualizing Crisis in Early China*
Shirley Chan, Macquarie University (Australia)

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Glenda Chao**, gchao@ursinus.edu; **Ethan Harkness**, harkness@nyu.edu

MODERN BRITISH HISTORY (701) • Founded: 2004

This seminar brings together historians from New York area institutions, together with literary scholars, political scientists, philosophers and others working historically, to hear research papers by visiting scholars, discuss recent books in the field of modern British history (from the late seventeenth century to the present), or comment on work in progress by members of the group. Its Brown-Bag Book Club additionally provides a space for sharing thoughts, questions, and ideas about the latest literature in a friendly and informal setting; fully online and held around lunchtime, it offers an opportunity to engage with new academic work in a convivial atmosphere that builds a vibrant community of British Studies enthusiasts.

CHAIR/S: **James Stafford**; Ren Pepitone • RAPPORTEUR/S: Audrey Siraud

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 12	*Discussing Sam Wetherell's* Liverpool and the Unmaking of Britain Brown-Bag Book Club
September 25	*Authoritarianism and Empire: A Constructive Anachronism?* **Lisa Ford**, George Washington University Respondent: **James Stafford**, Columbia University
October 9	*Windrush Cricket: Imperial Culture, Caribbean Migration, and the Remaking of Postwar England* **Michael Collins**, University College London Respondent: **James Cantres**, Hunter College, City University of New York
November 19	*A Snapshot of England's Psychoactive Revolution at the End of the Seventeenth Century* **Phil Withington**, University of Sheffield Respondent: **Carl Wennerlind**, Barnard College
December 5	*Discussing Sadiah Qureshi's* Vanished: An Unnatural History of Extinction Brown-Bag Book Club
February 5	*Abolition and Abortion: The Pro-Slavery Origins of the Ellenborough Act* **Julia Burke**, Columbia University Respondent: **Ren Pepitone**, New York University
April 9	*Hidden Crimes: Sexual Violence and Britain's Navy in the Age of Sail* **Seth LeJacq**, Hunter College, City University of New York
May 15	*Joseph Harley & Vicky Holmes's* Objects of Poverty: Material Culture in Britain from 1700 Brown-Bag Book Club

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **James Stafford**, jms2533@columbia.edu; **Ren Pepitone**, ren.pepitone@nyu.edu

MODERN GREEK (703) • Founded: 2005

The seminar's title emphasizes the language—modern Greek—over the metropolitan nation-state, modern Greece, using the enduring and versatile nature of the language as a symbol for broader themes that depict the tension between sameness and difference, continuity and discontinuity, within the Hellenic world. The seminar is not limited to modern Greece; it provides a forum for original interdisciplinary perspectives on Byzantine, Ottoman, and modern Greece and the Greek diaspora, considering all aspects of the post-classical Greek world as well as the reception and creative appropriation of the classical Greek tradition, and tracing Greek relations with Western Europe, the Balkans, the Mediterranean, the Caucasus, and the Middle East.

CHAIR/S: **Dimitris Antoniou**; **Nikolas P. Kakkoufa** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Chloe Tsolakoglou**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 30	*Screening of Yorgos Zois'* Arcadia *(2024) and Discussion with the Director* —
October 28	*Screening of* Rap Divas *(Documentary-in-Progress by Khaleed and Tsobanaki) and Discussion with Khaleed* **Jazra Khaleed**, Independent Scholar
November 18	*The Stains Queers Leave Behind: Dance-Theatre, Poetry, and Archival Reimaginings* **Billie Mitsikakos**, University of Oxford (United Kingdom)
December 2	*Selling Sex in Interwar Salonica: Prostitution, Mobility, and Urban Space* **Dimitris Mitsopoulos**, Columbia University Respondent: **Seçil Yılmaz**, University of Pennsylvania
January 27	*Telling the Story of Markos: Public Archaeology and the Restoration of a Farmer's Home in Delos* **Ionas Sklavounos**, Boulouki
March 24	*Poetry in Motion: Running a Literary Workshop for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing in Greece* **Brikena Gishto**, The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Public Humanities Initiative Respondent: **Elaine Smolen**, Columbia University
April 21	*The Black Lover of the Queen* **Lilia Diamantopoulou**, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Germany)

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Dimitris Antoniou**, da2500@columbia.edu; **Nikolas P. Kakkoufa**, nikolas.kakkoufa@columbia.edu

CULTURAL MEMORY (717) • Founded: 2007

Beginning in 2005 as an interdisciplinary colloquium welcoming graduate students and faculty from Columbia and its neighbors, this seminar was formally incepted in 2007, building on that established community to further develop a vibrant interdisciplinary dialogue on contemporary issues of cultural and collective memory—including traumatic memory, collective and national forgetting, memorialization and museology, historical consciousness and historiography, embodied memory and performance, and archive and testimony. The seminar meets monthly and, in addition to discussing chapters and works-in-progress, hosts a series of distinguished visiting speakers, working in close cooperation with relevant departments and institutes at Columbia.

CHAIR/S: **Marianne Hirsch**; **Andreas Huyssen**; **Sonali Thakkar** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Isabel Blankfield**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 15 — *A Roundtable Discussion with Members of the Newly Formed Genocide and Holocaust Studies Crisis Network*
Atina Grossmann, The Cooper Union
Rashid Khalidi, Columbia University
Dirk Moses, The City College of New York, City University of New York
Raz Segal, Stockton University
Alisa Solomon, Columbia University
Moderator: **Marianne Hirsch**, Columbia University

October 14 — *German Holocaust Memory Culture from Model to McCarthyism*
Jonathon Catlin, University of Rochester
Respondent: **Adam Shatz**, London Review of Books (United Kingdom)

November 18 — *Reparations and the Human (2025)*
David L. Eng, University of Pennsylvania
Respondents: **Jack Halberstam**, Columbia University
Sonali Thakkar, New York University

April 15 — *New Work on the Jewish Left and Histories of Left Solidarity*
Benjamin Balthaser, Indiana University South Bend
Ben Ratskoff, Occidental College
Moderator: **Sonali Thakkar**, New York University

May 5 — Joint meeting with (535) *The News from Dublin: A Reading and Discussion with Colm Tóibín*
Colm Tóibín, Columbia University
Andreas Huyssen, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Marianne Hirsch**, mh2349@columbia.edu; **Andreas Huyssen**, ah26@columbia.edu; **Sonali Thakkar**, st4617@nyu.edu

COMPARATIVE PHILOSOPHY (721) • Founded: 2007

This seminar seeks to advance constructive philosophical projects by bringing together scholars with training in diverse areas of Asian (mostly Buddhist) thought and Western philosophy. Comparison here is not employed to lend authority to one set of ideas by revealing their resonances with others deemed less obscure, nor does it sociologize philosophy in search of general laws of human cultural and intellectual development; rather, the intent is to explicate and employ the fullness of an expanded philosophical toolset and see how that works. The seminar ordinarily invites respondents versed in the relevant field of philosophical inquiry who are not necessarily specialists in Asian thought, and meetings for a given year are loosely organized around a general theme that speakers are asked to address when possible.

CHAIR/S: **Allison Aitken**; **Jonathan C. Gold**; **Hagop Sarkissian** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Helen Han Wei Luo**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 19 — *Engineering the Dao: Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Trust the Mengzi*
Hagop Sarkissian, Baruch College, City University of New York
Respondent: **Tao Jiang**, Rutgers University

October 17 — *Nāgārjuna, PSR and Madhyamaka Antifoundationalism*
Ricki Bliss, Lehigh University
Respondent: **Allison Aitken**, Columbia University

November 7 — *A Buddhist 'Empirical Stance' for an Age of AI*
Charles Goodman, Binghamton University, State University of New York

December 5 — *Understanding Doubt: A Debate in Indian Philosophy*
Rosanna Picascia, Swarthmore College
Respondent: **Peter Tan**, Fordham University

January 30 — *The Golden Cage: Kingship as Epistemic Catch-22*
Michael Hunter, Yale University

February 27 — *Coercion as the Externalization of Trauma: A Buddhist Reading of the Political Demand for Certainty*
Jonathan Gold, Princeton University
Respondent: **Annabella Pitkin**, Lehigh University

March 27 — Is It Our "Nature" to Become Good? Aristotle and Mengzi on Putative "Sprouts" of Virtues
Gustin Law, Duke University
Respondent: **Iakovos Vasiliou**, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

May 1 — Joint meeting with (567) *Chinese and Korean Neo-Confucian Views on Not Transferring One's Anger*
Philip J. Ivanhoe, Georgetown University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Allison Aitken**, allison.aitken@columbia.edu; **Jonathan C. Gold**, jcgold@princeton.edu; **Hagop Sarkissian**, hagop.sarkissian@baruch.cuny.edu

THEORY AND HISTORY OF MEDIA (727) • Founded: 2009

This seminar brings together scholars from the humanities and social sciences to examine emerging concepts in media theory. Media, in this conception, refers to material technologies that (re)produce, store, and transmit information—a conception broad enough to move from the role of print technologies in early modern Europe, through spirit photography, to the emergence of contemporary digital media. The seminar is especially interested in how technologies shape and are shaped by cultural practices and social sensibilities, treats a historical dimension as central to this effort, and is committed to moving beyond the specifics of media in the U.S. to incorporate the different histories and trajectories of media in Europe and elsewhere. Each year is organized around a specific theme that sets the frame for questions and conversation.

CHAIR/S: **Stefan Andriopoulos**; **Debashree Mukherjee** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Hannah Pivo**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 22 — *Tales of Militant Chemistry: The Film Factory in a Century of War*
Alice Lovejoy, University of Minnesota
Respondent: **Rachel Hutcheson**, Rochester Institute of Technology

October 20 — *Kew's Networks*
Zeynep Çelik Alexander, Columbia University
Respondent: **Kavita Sivaramakrishnan**, Columbia University

November 10 — *Processive Technics: Industrial Documentary, Audio-Visual Education, and New Cinemas in Postwar Japan*
Takukya Tsunoa
Respondent: **Dan Striebel**, New York University

February 9 — *Designing Wavelength: Production in a Vacuum, c. 1930*
Reinhold Martin, Columbia University
Respondent: **Richard R. John**, Columbia University

March 30 — *Resolving Nebulae: Aesthetic Arguments of Early Astrophotography*
Brooke Belisle, Stony Brook University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Debashree Mukherjee**, dm3154@columbia.edu; **Reinhold Martin**, rm454@columbia.edu

SITES OF CINEMA (735) • Founded: 2010

This seminar takes a new approach to the question of cinema at a moment when cinema is said to be in decline, even facing its "death." Rather than focusing on the convergence of moving image forms into a single delivery system, the seminar takes up divergence over convergence—asking not André Bazin's question "What Is Cinema?" but rather "Where Is Cinema?" Where has it been seen to be, and where will it be sited in the future, as theoretical construct, national culture, material object, artistic work, social practice, and space of exhibition? Cinema has moved and is still moving—from theatrical stages to museum walls, in and on buildings, as well as within historical nations and regions of the world—and the seminar signals interest in site-specific cinemas in the plural, as well as cinema as a total apparatus.

CHAIR/S: **Racquel Gates**; **Jane Gaines** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Haoze Guan**; **Leon Li**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18 — *The Mother of Soviet Documentary: Esfir Shub Between Theory and Practice*
Anastasia Kostina, Columbia University
Respondent: **Alexandra Juhasz**, Brooklyn College, City University of New York

October 16 — *Finding God in All the Black Places*
Beretta Smith-Shomade, Emory University
Respondent: **Brandy Monk-Payton**, Fordham University

November 20 — *Cinema and Solidarity*
Masha Salazkina, Concordia University
Respondents: **Anna McCarthy**, New York University
Naeem Mohaiemen, Columbia University

December 4 — *Contested Realities: Documentary Across Left and Right*
Joshua Glick, Bard College
Respondent: **David Fresko**, Rutgers University

January 29 — *Reading Jameson: Cinema and Jameson's World*
Gayatri C. Spivak, Columbia University
Philip Rosen, Brown University, Emeritus

February 12 — *Distributing Blackness: America's 'Heartland,' Film Distribution, and The Wiz*
Alfred Martin, University of Miami
Respondent: **Paula Massood**, Brooklyn College

March 5 — *The Discontinuous Long Take in Contemporary World Cinema*
Jason McGrath, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Respondent: **Jiwei Xiao**, Fairfield University

April 2 — *Esther Eng and Film Distribution in the Chinatown Network*
S. Louisa Wei, City University of Hong Kong (China)
Respondent: **Vito Adriaensens**, New York University

May 7, 2026 — *The Future of Film & Media Studies*
—

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Racquel Gates**, rjg2184@columbia.edu; **Ron Gregg**, rg3121@columbia.edu

NARRATIVE, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (737) • Founded: 2010

This interdisciplinary and inter-institutional seminar explores the connection between narrative, health, and social justice. If disease, violence, terror, war, poverty, and oppression all manifest themselves in narrative, then resistance, justice, healing, activism, and collectivity can equally be products of a narrative-based approach to ourselves and the world. The seminar draws from fields such as journalism, performance arts, law, public health, trauma studies, anthropology, sociology, literary studies, medicine, writing, and cultural studies, exploring how narrative understanding unpacks complex power relations—from the macro level between the resource-rich and resource-deprived, to the individual level of self and other—with the aim of expanding shared understanding of the intertwined realities of health, narrative, and social justice.

CHAIR/S: **Mario de la Cruz**; **Zahra Khan** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Khalid Antonio Taylor**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18 — *Mirrors and Doorways: Theater as a Vehicle for Exploring the Past and Present*
Renée Saindon Russas, Poor Mouth Theatre Company

November 20 — *The Grammar of Care: Integrating Narrative Medicine into a Pediatric Health System*
Nicole Robinson, Akron Children's Hospital

March 26 — *The Rewards of Reflective Storytelling*
Donna Bulseco, *Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine*

April 16 — *From Burnout to Thriving: Interrogating Systemic Barriers to Recruitment and Field Longevity*
Janice Haskins, American Psychological Association
Panelists: **Lisa Haileselassie**, New York County District Attorney's Office
Bianca Jones Marlin, Columbia University
Ovita Williams, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Mario de la Cruz**, md2998@columbia.edu; **Zahra Khan**, zhk2107@columbia.edu

COLUMBIA SCHOOL LINGUISTICS (739) • Founded: 2011

This seminar series continues the line of research established by Professor of Linguistics William Diver. In contrast with formal linguistics, this approach aims to account for observed language use, with authentic text as the main source of data: for grammar, this typically entails hypotheses about linguistic signals and their meanings; for phonology, hypotheses about the relevant phonetic characteristics of phonological units. The roles of communication and a human factor are explicitly acknowledged as supporting the explanations offered. The series was begun in 1968 by Diver for graduate students working on doctoral theses under his guidance, and since his death in 1995 has continued under the auspices of the Columbia School Linguistic Society, with participants presenting analyses or work in progress, occasionally hosting invited presenters doing compatible work outside the Columbia School tradition.

CHAIR/S: **Daan van Soeren**; **Joss Sackler**; **Andrew McCormick** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Chazelle Rhoden**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 19 — *Spanish, English and Dutch Versus Guaraní: Prosody and Sound Patterns*
Daan van Soeren, Universiteit van Amsterdam (Netherlands)

October 24 — *Participant "Optionality" as a Signaling Feature in Spanish Grammatical Systems*
Eduardo Ho-Fernández, City University of New York

November 14 — *The Map and the Territory: A Case of Multimodal Speech and Gesture Repair in Mopan (Mayan)*
Eve Danziger, University of Virginia

December 12 — *The Distribution of ἐάν, εἰ, and ἄν: Conditional and Other Messages in the New Testament*
Emmanuel Bawa, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

January 23 — *A CS Study of 'Number' Forms in Mapudungun*
Ludmila Novotny, Universidad Nacional de la Plata (Argentina)

February 20 — *AI in Linguistic Analysis*
Albert Ventayol-Boada, Meta

March 27 — *A Columbia School Analysis of 'They' in the Work of George Orwell and Virginia Woolf*
Tanisha Pandey, University of Bern (Switzerland)

April 17 — *Para, a and por in Spanish: A Corpus-Based Quantitative Analysis from a Columbia School Perspective*
Lucía Zanfardini, Universidad Nacional del Comahue (Argentina)

May 1 — *Synthetic and Analytic Forms in the Belarusian "Imperfective Future"*
Igor Dreer, Ben-Gurion University (Israel)

May 22 — *BEFORE as Meaning of -ł- in A. Kuśniewicz's "Król Obojga Sycylii"*
Ilia Afanasev, University of Vienna (Austria)

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Daan van Soeren**, dpvansoeren@gmail.com; **Andrew McCormick**, A.mccormick081@gmail.com

GLOBAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY CORE CURRICULA (741) • Founded: 2011

This seminar collectively explores the pedagogical purpose and best-practice approaches to interdisciplinary and global humanities "core" curricula at the level of higher education, addressing how to rethink humanities pedagogy so that students not only learn about different cultures of the world but learn from them to think critically about how each of us understands, experiences, and broadens our own culture. The seminar welcomes faculty, administrators, and select invested students from Columbia and beyond to help frame the questions that most demand humanity's collective concern in this new age of interdependence, identify classics from the world's traditions that bring those concerns into sharpest focus, and rethink the institutional structures by which a new generation of interdisciplinary "core" courses may be most effectively implemented.

CHAIR/S: **Rachel E. Chung**; **Gareth D. Williams** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Veronica Hylton**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 16	*Introducing Symposium* **Rachel E. Chung**, Columbia University **Gareth Williams**, Columbia University
October 14	*The Bacchae* **Gareth D. Williams**, Columbia University
November 12	*Reading Shun* **Rachel E. Chung**, Columbia University
February 12	*Discussion of the Ramayana* **Rachel McDermott**, Barnard College
March 5	*Bacchae, Story of Shun, Ramayana* **Rachel E. Chung**, Columbia University **Gareth D. Williams**, Columbia University
April 23	*Pedagogy* **Rachel E. Chung**, Columbia University **Gareth D. Williams**, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Rachel E. Chung**, ec61@columbia.edu; **Gareth D. Williams**, gdw5@columbia.edu

STUDIES IN DANCE (749) • Founded: 2011

This seminar takes a broad, interdisciplinary approach to dance scholarship while serving as an ongoing forum for discussion by established and younger scholars. It embraces all forms of dance scholarship, regardless of discipline, research area, and methodology, with the long-term goal of encouraging academic publication and new research. Members include Barnard College and Columbia University faculty as well as independent scholars and faculty from other New York institutions, although speakers may come from outside the metropolitan area.

CHAIR/S: **Lynn Garafola** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Juliana Ariel DeVaan**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 29 — *Arthur Mitchell: The Extraordinary Life of Harlem's Ballet Visionary*
Lynn Garafola, Barnard College, Columbia University

October 27 — *The Kinesthetic Turn: Ruth Page, Jessie Redmon Fauset, and the Machinery of Dance Modernism*
Zoë L. Henry, Columbia University

November 19 — *'Blood Memory' in Movement: The Black Dance Legacy of Porgy and Bess*
Lena Leson, Oberlin College & Conservatory

December 8 — *Filming Merce Cunningham Events*
Nancy Dalva, Merce Cunningham Trust Scholar in Residence

February 2 — *Dancers and Their Film Cameras: Rediscovering the Artifacts of a Symbiotic Relationship*
Maria Vinogradova, Pratt Institute

March 2 — *'Sport Becoming an Art': Dance Pedagogy, Cultural Pride, and Community Engagement at HBCUs*
Emily Hawk, Dickinson College

March 30 — *'Magical' Motions: The Enchantment of Ecstatic Dance in California*
Kathryn Dickason, Simmons University, Boston

April 27, 2026 — *'Sidetracked': Arlene Croce Before the New Yorker*
Eva Resnikova, Independent Scholar

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Lynn Garafola**, lg97@columbia.edu

RELIGION AND WRITING (751) • Founded: 2011

This seminar investigates the roles of literacy and writing in religious traditions, serving as a research group for the comparative study of literacy and the uses of writing as a form of communication technology in world religions. Approaching the relationship between religion and writing through the lenses of literacy and communication technology, the seminar strives to address all media—from inscriptions on stone and clay tablets to internet websites—and all literary genres—from myths and commentaries to divine revelations and hymns—as well as the theoretical and practical implications of the absence, or rejection, of writing.

CHAIR/S: **Dagmar Riedel** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Heidi Hansen**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 14	*Canon and Cultural Capital: Scriptural Education in a Taiwanese Lay Buddhist Community* **Justin Ritzinger**, University of Miami
November 18	*"No Writer Is Capable of Fully Describing It": Visualizing Hell in the Speculum Humanae Salvationis* **Malena Ratzke**, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena (Germany)
April 21	*Religion and Power: Reconsidering Religious Roots of Antisemitism* **Magda Teter**, Fordham University
May 7	*From Pachomius to Francis of Assisi: The Rise of the Monastic Pastor* **Neslihan Şenocak**, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Dagmar Riedel**, dar2111@columbia.edu

GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH (757) • Founded: 2012

Historically, the global health agenda has prioritized communicable and non-communicable diseases other than mental health; however, the data now unequivocally and overwhelmingly point to the essential need to make mental health an integral component of the global health agenda. This will require innovative thinking, multidisciplinary collaboration, and strategic initiatives. The seminar is supported by faculty from across multiple departments at Columbia, providing the opportunity for intellectual discourse on essential issues in global mental health and serving as a seminal component of the multidisciplinary program in global mental health at Columbia University, aiming to facilitate professional collaborations and contribute to the field by hosting programs that address and advance the scientific, policy, and practical aspects of making mental health a core component of the global health agenda.

CHAIR/S: **Claire Greene**; **Kathryn L. Lovero** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Rachel Groth**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 23 — *Advancing Suicide Prevention in a Digital World*
Kathleen Sikkema, Columbia University
Hanga Galfalvy, Columbia University
Katherine M. Keyes, Columbia University
Kathryn Lovero, Columbia University

November 13 — *Child Protection in the Era of Localization: Context, Voice, and Ownership*
Mike Wessells, Columbia University, Emeritus
Arturo Harker Roa, IMAGINA, Universidad de los Andes (Colombia)
Elen Costigan, Columbia University

March 12 — *Mental Health and Displacement in Ukraine*
Oleksandra (Sasha) Sled, Alliance for Public Health Ukraine (Ukraine)

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Manaswi Sangraula**, ms4983@cumc.columbia.edu;
Ale Paniagua-Avila, mp3856@cumc.columbia.edu

DEFENSE AND SECURITY STUDIES (759) • Founded: 2013

Defense & Security Studies advances understanding of global security through research, analysis, and programs. Since its establishment in 2013, the DSS Program has led and convened conferences, workshops, and seminars on contemporary defense challenges. DSS emphasizes interdisciplinary methods, integrating the security advancements of several fields, to include development, diplomacy, economics, history, law, management, and technology.

CHAIR/S: **Whitney Kassel** • VICE CHAIR/S: **Rachel Kim**, **Thomas Wedell-Wedellsborg**, **Michael Irving** •
CHAIR EMERITUS: **N. W. Collins** • RAPPORTEUR: **Vikram Vinod**

2025-2026 MEETINGS

October 7

Assessing Security in Today's Tech Infrastructure and Operations
Whitney Kassel, Columbia University

New Paradigms in Security Studies
Thomas Wedell-Wedellsborg, Harvard University

April 7

Economic Statecraft in the Contemporary Era
Rachel Kim, United States Military Academy West Point

Responses to New Forms of Statecraft
Michael Irving, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR: **Whitney Kassel**, defensesecurity@columbia.edu

BEYOND FRANCE (763) • Founded: 2014

This seminar focuses on the transnational material, intellectual, and symbolic exchanges that have characterized the regions that once composed successive French empires since the seventeenth century. Rather than an exercise in colonial or imperial history organized around the opposition between "center" and "periphery," it explores connections and lines of fragmentation within that space—France's global expansion and retraction in the modern period, and no less significantly, the after-lives of the French empire in various post-colonies, networks, and institutions. Inherently interdisciplinary, the seminar brings together scholars in the humanities and social sciences from Europe, North America, Asia, and Africa to understand these complex exchanges that reach "Beyond France."

CHAIR/S: **Ralph Ghoche**; **Madeline Woker** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Hugo Logez**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 19 — *Integrationism and the Algerian Revolution: French Efforts to Measure Racism and to Use Statistics to Fight Racism*
Todd Shepard, Johns Hopkins University
Respondent: **Clifford Rosenberg**, The City College of New York, City University of New York

October 31 — *Imperial Modernities, Syncopated Selves: Rubber, Temporal Fixes and the Tempo of Jazz-Age Capitalism*
Elizabeth Heath, Baruch College, City University of New York
Martina Thucnhi Nguyen, Baruch College, City University of New York

November 21 — *Racism, Psychosis, and a West African Practice of Psychoanalysis in 1960s Paris*
Mischa Suter, Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Switzerland)
Gregory Mann, Columbia University

March 5 — *The Martyrdom of Geronimo, the Politics of Conversion, and the Making of Colonial Catholicism in Algeria*
Ralph Ghoche, Barnard College
Respondent: **Joseph Peterson**, University of Southern Mississippi

April 24, 2026 — *Floating City: Empire, Urbanity, and the Steamship Journey "Beyond Suez"*
Charles Bégué Fawell, Williams College
Respondent: **Edward Berenson**, New York University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Ralph Ghoche**, rg2169@columbia.edu; **Madeline Woker**, madeline.woker@princeton.edu

HUMAN-ANIMAL STUDIES (769) • Founded: 2014

This seminar is open to faculty and professional membership in the field of Human-Animal Studies, an area of vibrant new scholarship. The field's focus is on how humans and (other) animals have interacted across cultures and histories: how the protein, work, and products derived from animals have contributed to human projects; how cross-species relationships have shaped human histories; and how animals' imaginative and aesthetic roles in cultures are connected to the living presence of animals. Work in this field tends to be interdisciplinary, drawing on the social sciences and the humanities as well as on the already interdisciplinary fields of environmental and posthumanist studies.

CHAIR/S: **Brian Boyd**; **Naama Harel** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Elena G. Vanasse**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

November 19	Joint meeting with (473) *Recent Research on Biblical Beasts: Reflections on the Oxford Handbook of the Bible and Animals* **Suzanna Millar**, The University of Edinburgh, Scotland (United Kingdom) Respondents: **Beth Berkowitz**, Barnard College; **David Carr**, Union Theological Seminary; **Naama Weiss**, Jewish Theological Seminary
December	Joint meeting with (435) *An Interspecies Contact Zone: Locusts and Humans in Colonial Burundi (1924–1939)* **Benoît Henriet**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)
February 11	*Zoopolitics in the Past* **Hannah Chazin**, Columbia University
March 31	*Good Mothers Kill Too: Human-Nonhuman Relations of Food in Contemporary Egypt* **Noha Fikry Ismail**, University of Toronto (Canada)
April 21	*What Animals Teach Us About Families: Kinship and Species in the Bible and Rabbinic Literature* **Beth Berkowitz**, Barnard College

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Brian Boyd**, bb2305@columbia.edu; **Naama Harel**, nh2508@columbia.edu

INDIGENOUS STUDIES (771) • Founded: 2014

This seminar provides the opportunity for sharing research on critical and unsettling issues in the field of Indigenous studies, including debates over retributive justice, restitution, and the legal, political, and moral consequences of the acknowledgment of past wrongs; the ramifications of the right to self-determination for Indigenous Peoples; tensions between collective and individual identities and human rights; and questions surrounding the relationship between Western and Indigenous epistemologies, ontologies, and methodologies. Discussions revolve around contentious and emerging issues in the field and contribute to its ongoing advancement.

CHAIR/S: **Pamela Calla** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Isaiah Cruz**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 15 — *Indigenous Peoples in the International Arena: The Global Movement for Self-Determination*
Elsa Stamatopoulou, Columbia University
Discussant: **Tim Wyman-McCarthy**, Columbia University

November 19 — *Bridging Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives and UN Leadership: My Journey as an Indigenous Woman*
Mirian Masaquiza Jerez, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Respondent: **Elsa Stamatopoulou**, Columbia University

March 10 — *Indigenous Hip Hop as Edutainment and Decolonizing Practice*
Renzo S. Aroni Sulca, New York University

March 30 — *Indigenous Studies without Guarantees*
Lou Cornum, New York University

April 6 — *By the Rivers' Shores: Indigenous Interdependence in Times of Crisis*
Paulina Pineda, New York University

April 13 — *Indigenous Studies in Dark Times*
Shannon Speed, University of California Los Angeles
Shane Dillingham, Arizona State University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Pamela Calla**, pc1210@nyu.edu; **Timothy Wyman-McCarthy**, tw2468@columbia.edu

THE INTEGRATIVE STUDY OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOR (773) • Founded: 2014

Animal behavior is the ultimate complex and integrated trait, shaped not only by gene, protein, neural, and endocrine interactions but also by interactions among animals of the same and even different species. This seminar takes an integrative approach to explore animal behavior by bringing together scientists who work in the lab and field to study neuroscience, behavioral ecology, behavioral endocrinology, functional genomics, population genetics, comparative physiology, and more.

CHAIR/S: **Dustin Rubenstein**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 15 *New York City as a "Laboratory" for Studying Animal Behavior*
Bobby Habig, Mercer University

Evolutionary History and Conservation of Uakari Monkeys (Genus Cacajao) in the Amazonian Flooded Forests
Felipe Silva, New York University

October 20 *Social Competition Shapes Lifetime Outcomes and Physiology in Rewilded Mice*
Mike Sheehan, Cornell University

Social Evolution in Clonal Raider Ants
Tomas Kay, Rockefeller University

April 20 *Scales of Risk and Adaptive 'Dread'*
Sasha Dall, University of Exeter (United Kingdom)

The Drivers and Mechanisms of Structural Color Variation in Avian Plumage
Frane Barbarovic, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Dustin Rubenstein**, dr2497@columbia.edu

THE FUTURE OF AGING RESEARCH (775) • Founded: 2014

Initiated by the Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center, this seminar has as its mission to provide an interactive interdisciplinary forum for scientists to engage with one another, to generate new ideas and new methods, and to stimulate new approaches to the science of aging. The format emphasizes dynamic exchanges and dialogue, catalyzed by brief presentations of new work by Columbia University and Columbia University Medical Center researchers, with discussions sparked by leaders in complementary areas spanning contextual, individual, and organismal/biological perspectives.

CHAIR/S: **Jennifer Manly**; **Elizabeth Bradshaw**; **Kavita Sivaramakrishnan** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **E.J. Kelley**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 6 — *Investigating Support Networks of Older Women with HIV with Mixed Methods and Community-Based Participatory Research*
Jasmine Manalel, Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging, Hunter College, City University of New York

December 8 — *Labor Organizing in Long-Term Care Facilities: Preliminary Results on Take-up and Union Avoidance*
Suresh Naidu, Columbia University
Adam Reich, Columbia University

April 13 — *Improving Healthy Longevity by Leveraging Transportation Technologies*
Sharon Di, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Jennifer Manly**, jjm71@cumc.columbia.edu; **Kavita Sivaramakrishnan**, ks2890@cumc.columbia.edu; **Matthew Yousefzadeh**, mjy2118@cumc.columbia.edu

AFFECT STUDIES (777) • Founded: 2015

This seminar brings together scholars in the fields and subfields touched by a growing interest in the emotional or affective experience, whether understood as embodied or incorporeal, emotional or impersonal, quantifiable or escaping measurement. This inter/multidisciplinary seminar on affect incorporates a wide range of approaches and topics across disciplines and periods, providing a forum for discussion of affect in the arts, sciences, history, psychology, philosophy, ecology, queer/feminist studies, and social theory, among others, as well as a means to historicize how affect and emotion have served in religious, social, and political contexts in different periods and locales, from Antiquity to contemporary life.

CHAIR/S: **Patricia Dailey**; **Thomas Dodman**; **Lauren Mancia** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Jianna Rose Walker**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 16 — *Embodied Epistemology as Rigorous Historical Method*
Lauren Mancia, Brooklyn College; The Graduate Center, City University of New York
Katherine Hejtmanek, Brooklyn College, City University of New York

April 16 — *Where Is Affect in the Making and Knowing Project?*
Pamela Smith, Columbia University
With graduate students **Stephanie Reitzig**, **Umrat Khan**, and **Ninive Vargas de la Pena**

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Patricia Dailey**, pd2132@columbia.edu; **Thomas Dodman**, td2551@columbia.edu;
Lauren Mancia, laurenmancia@brooklyn.cuny.edu

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE (783) • Founded: 2016

The world is facing unprecedented systemic challenges of both ecological and economic nature that are straining not only our resources but also the intellectual frameworks and finance/economics theories on which we have relied for generations. This seminar provides a platform for careful, curated conversations aimed at breaking through the disconnects between short-term market pressures and long-term social and environmental sustainability, working toward new understandings of the systems of interdependence, correlation, and causality that link and drive the global economy.

CHAIR/S: **Caroline Flammer**; **Robert K. Massie** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Yangyang (Kira) Wang**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 2 — *Advances in Impact Investing: Triggering Systems Change*
Fran Seegull, United States Impact Investing Alliance
Sean Gilbert, Global Impact Investing Network

October 7 — *How to Catalyze More Private Capital Through Blended Financing Structures to Finance Innovative Solutions*
Abhisheik Dhawan, United Nations Capital Development Fund
Nnamdi Igbokwe, Columbia University

November 4 — *The Future of Multicapitalism and Integrated Reporting*
George Dallas, European Corporate Governance Institute
Jonathan Labrey, International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation
Leigh Roberts, Integrated Reporting Institute (South Africa)

December 2 — *Taking Externalities into Account: Assumptions, Limitations, Pathways, and Integrating Opportunities*
Jeremy Nicholls, Social Value International
James ("Jim") Hawley, Externality Investment Research Network

February 4 — *The Impact of AI+ On Fiduciary Duty, System-Level Investing, and Measurement & Disclosure*
Robert K. Massie, Columbia University
Tom Hedrick, Dillon Joyce Ltd.

March 4 — *AI, Impact, and Trust: Redefining Measurement and Verification in Sustainable Finance*
Mikael Homanen, The Upright Project
Daniel Lobo, The Upright Project
Sarah Gelfand, BlueMark

April 1 — *How Can Reporting Frameworks Best Support the Low-Carbon Transition?*
Richard Tarboton, World Resources Institute
Toby Heaps, Corporate Knights

May 6 — *Buried Treasure: How Experts Uncover Financial Value and Hidden Risks in Sustainability Data*
Michiel van der Lof, Ernst & Young (Netherlands)
Jeremy Stuber, Corporate Reporting Users' Forum (United Kingdom)
Renati Suzuki, KPMG in Brazil (Brazil)

June 3 — *When Visibility Changes Responsibility: Governance, Duty, and the Future of Sustainable Finance*
Cynthia Williams, Indiana University
Catherine Howarth, ShareAction (United Kingdom)
Paul Rissman, Rights CoLab

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Caroline Flammer**, cf2870@columbia.edu; **Robert K. Massie**, rkm2158@columbia.edu

SCIENCE AND SUBJECTIVITY (791) • Founded: 2018

This seminar continues a format developed in an earlier iteration as a class in the Hovde Seminar series at the Heyman Center: members read a book in advance of each session and then discuss it together, historically continuing the conversation over dinner. Since Covid, the group has met by Zoom earlier in the day, with those in the area continuing the discussion over dinner at Faculty House. The seminar has begun inviting authors of the books discussed, along with other scholars focused on the relevant work, while remaining a convivial group of interested and articulate readers willing to delve deeply into the intersection of science and individual subjective experience.

CHAIR/S: **Robert Pollack**; **Elaine Bernstein** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Tara Anne Hillman**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

August 28	*Discussion of Hannah Arnedt,* On Lying And Politics –
September 18	*Discussion of David Brooks,* How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Seen Deeply –
October 23	*Discussion of Simon Schama,* Foreign Bodies: Pandemics, Vaccines and the Health of Nations –
November 20	*Discussion of Patricia Williams,* The Miracle of the Black Leg: Notes on Race, Human Bodies, and the Spirit of the Law –
December 18	*Discussion of Renee Bergland,* Natural Magic: Emily Dickinson, Charles Darwin, and the Dawn of Modern Science –
January 22	*Discussion of Octavia Butler,* Pattern Master, A Patternist Novel –
February 26	*Discussion of Saul Bellow,* Ravelstein –
March 26	*Discussion of Daniel Chamovitz,* What a Plant Knows: A Field Guide to the Senses –
April 16	*Discussion of Jeremy DeSilva,* First Steps: How Upright Walking Made Us Human –
May 14	*Discussion of Jamieson Webster,* On Breathing –

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Robert Pollack**, pollack@columbia.edu; **Elaine Bernstein**, esbern@aol.com

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES (793) • Founded: 2018

This seminar explores and examines the intersection of scholarship and practice around higher education institutions' (HEIs) civic engagement, with a specific focus on youth and families within their communities. Membership consists of researchers and practitioners from Columbia University as well as the community who share this common interest, uniquely positioning the seminar to cultivate an intersection of scholarship and practice through discussions focused on HEIs' approaches to defining, fulfilling, and assessing their roles as engaged anchor institutions within their communities, and the implications of their efforts for the community and the institutions.

CHAIR/S: **Shaba Keys**; **Alissa Mayers** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Patrícia Santana da Silva**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 25	*Columbia University Collaborative for Youth & Family Programs—Meeting (Discussion & Spring Planning)* —
December 4	*Columbia University Collaborative for Youth & Family Programs—Meeting (Discussion & Spring Planning)* —
February 19	*Columbia University Collaborative for Youth & Family Programs—Meeting (Discussion & Spring Planning)* —
April 23	*Columbia University Collaborative for Youth & Family Programs—Meeting (Discussion & Spring Planning)* —

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Alissa Mayers**, am4459@columbia.edu

KOREAN STUDIES (797) • Founded: 2019

This interdisciplinary forum brings together scholars, artists, and professionals working on Korea-related subjects from a wide variety of disciplines: history, literature, art history, visual and media studies, architecture, religion, sociology, anthropology, music, and performance studies. The seminar discusses current research and issues in the study of Korea drawn from the dynamic intellectual community in and around New York City.

CHAIR/S: **Hosu Kim**; **Dong-Sei Kim**; **Sohl Lee** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Hetty Lee; Ye Lim Oh**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 25 — *Reactivating the Korean Studies Seminar: What Is Everyone Working On?*
—

October 23 — *Worldly Ecologies: Landscape, History, and Decolonial Environmentalism on Jeju Island*
Jeongsu Shin, Cornell University

February 13 — *Aesthetics of Protest and Democracy in South Korea, 2014–2025*
Areum Jeong, Arizona State University
Gowoon Noh, Chonnam National University
Discussant: **Sohl Lee**, Stony Brook University

March 26 — *Modernist Survival: O Changhwan's Poetic Journey to Moscow*
Janet Poole, University of Toronto (Canada)

April 2 — *Conversation with Ilrhan Kim and Jawni Han*
Ilrhan Kim, Filmmaker and Founder of PINKS (연분홍치마)
Jawni Han, Writer and Translator

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Hosu Kim**, Hosu.Kim@csi.cuny.edu; **Sohl Lee**, sohl.lee@stonybrook.edu;
Ruth Barraclough, rb3029@columbia.edu

MENSTRUATION AND SOCIETY (799) • Founded: 2021

Recent years have brought a tremendous diversity of menstrual-positive expressions—from the artistic to the practical, the serious to the playful, the provocative to the educational, the local to the global. This seminar was established as an interdisciplinary forum for advancing conversations and research around menstruation from a range of different angles, exploring the current state of research, engaging new audiences and fields of study, and discussing how collaboration across disciplines can advance the field of menstrual studies and translate to improved programs and policy.

CHAIR/S: **Marni Sommer**; **Inga Winkler** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Isabella Wegner**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 30 — *Perimenopause in the Workplace: Lived Experiences and Standard-Setting*
Emily Cherenack, Duke University
Lachean Humphreys, British Standards Institution (United Kingdom)

November 11 — *Heavy Menstrual Bleeding: Recent Recognition as a Global Challenge*
Jackie Maybin, The University of Edinburgh, Scotland (United Kingdom)
Talat Uppal, Women's Health Road

February 4 — *Supporting Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain in the Workplace—New Developments*
Mike Armour, Western Sydney University (Australia)
Danielle Howe, Interdisciplinary Feminist Scholar

April 15 — *Disrupting the Abject: Bloody Politics of Resistance and Performativity*
Karen Zivi, Grand Valley State University
Miren Guilló-Arakistain, University of the Basque Country (Spain)

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Marni Sommer**, ms2778@cumc.columbia.edu; **Inga Winkler**, inga.winkler@wur.nl

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CONTEMPORARY FOREIGN POLICY (809) •
Founded: 2021

This seminar explores topics in international relations that have direct implications for contemporary issues of foreign policy. Through regularly hosting a community of scholarly experts engaged in analyzing current events through the lens of the existing academic conversation, the seminar strives to produce rigorous academic analysis of contemporary developments in foreign relations, synthesizing international relations theory and real-world events.

CHAIR/S: **Peter Clement** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Ingrid Gerstmann**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 30 *The US-Israeli Strategic and Military Relationship*
Charles Freilich, Columbia University
Moderator: **Stephen Biddle**, Columbia University

February 10 *Tilting the Field: How Autocracies are Shaping Global Sports*
Alexander Cooley, Barnard College and Columbia University
Callum McFarlane, University of Cambridge
Moderator: **Peter Clement**

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Stacie Goddard**, seg25@columbia.edu; **Peter Clement**, pc2630@columbia.edu

DRAMA, THEATRE, AND PERFORMANCE (811) • Founded: 2023

This seminar aspires to spark and sustain new scholarship in drama, theatre, and performance studies, recognizing that such research frequently spans disciplines. It features the full spectrum of research in the field while focusing particularly on three areas: critical methods in the study of drama, theatre, and performance; work that probes the intersection of performance and literary or textual practice; and theatre and performance cultures in and around New York City. The seminar facilitates critical engagement among scholars from multiple fields—including cultural studies, dance studies, history, anthropology, sociology, and classics—supporting generative, cross-disciplinary encounters with current research, and connects issues of concern to theatre and performance artists and critics with emerging scholarship on these subjects.

CHAIR/S: **Derek Miller**; **Rebecca Kastleman**; **María José Contreras** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Wesley Franklin Cornwell**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 17	*Roundtable of Emerging Scholars* **Emma Adler**, Harvard University **Khristián Méndez Aguirre**, Princeton University **Adrian Guo Silver**, Columbia University **Stephanie Vella**, Baruch College, City University of New York
October 15	*Making Broadway Harder: How Virtuosos Reshaped Musicals* **Ryan Donovan**, Duke University
December 4	*Noah Purifoy's Assemblage Theaters* **Martin Harries**, University of California Irvine
February 26	*Viscous Performances: The Persistence of Creative Resistance in Neoliberal Chile* **María José Contreras Lorenzini**, Columbia University
March 26	*On Coziness* **Tina Post**, University of Chicago
April 9	Seagull: True Story *at the Public Theatre* —

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Derek Miller**, dmiller@fas.harvard.edu; **W. B. Worthen**, wworthen@barnard.edu; **Stephanie Vella**, stephanie.vella@baruch.cuny.edu

CUBA (813) • Founded: 2023

The history of Cuba is a highly complex and controversial topic, having been the locus of repeated encounters between diverse cultures and subcultures since the sixteenth century. As the Spanish presence expanded in subsequent centuries, so did Cuba's role as an economic and political linchpin of the Spanish empire, and the increased importation of Africans as slave labor in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries diversified the island demographically and culturally even further. Proximity to the United States resulted in increased US influence, circumscribing Cuban independence and helping feed movements to eliminate that influence, culminating in the 1959 emergence of a revolutionary government and ongoing tensions between the island and the US ever since. This seminar focuses on the political, economic, social, and cultural issues and complexities of the island, as well as its relationship with the United States.

CHAIR/S: **Margaret E. Crahan**; **Gabriel Vignoli** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Elijah Ferrante**; **Jazmín Novoa Lara**; **Victoria Korzin**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 29 — *US Cuba Policy: Past, Present, and Future*
Jeffrey DeLaurentis, Ambassador, ex-Chief of US Embassy Havana (Cuba), Dartmouth College
William LeoGrande, School of Public Affairs, American University
Geoff Thale, Ex-President of the Washington Office on Latin America

December 2 — *Maria Antonia – Classic Cuban Film Recently Restored*
Sergio Giral, Film Director
Jerry Carlson, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

February 19 — *Reimagining the United States Through Cuban History*
Ada Ferrer, Princeton University
Discussant: **Gabriel Vignoli**, The New School

April 7 — *Cuban Influence on Dominican Progressive Movements, 1960s–1990s*
Diogenes Abreu, Award Winning Artist, Writer, and Photographer
Dario Tejeda, Journalist
Antonio A. Mendez, Historian

April 21 — *Rethinking the Cuban Revolution from Within*
Michael Bustamante, University of Miami
Katrin Hansink, Baruch College, City University of New York

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Margaret E. Crahan**, mec55@columbia.edu; **Gabriel Vignoli**, gabrielvignoli@gmail.com; **Jeffrey DeLaurentis**, delaurentisjeff@yahoo.com; **Jerry Carlson**, jwc3467@gmail.com

CURRENT RESEARCH IN APPLIED MICROECONOMICS (815) • Founded: 2023

This seminar explores recent research in applied microeconomics. Through regularly hosting a community of women researchers doing cutting-edge work in applied microeconomics, broadly defined, the seminar strives both to increase the voice of women in the research community and to foster a collaborative environment among female researchers.

CHAIR/S: **Elizabeth Ananat**; **Judith Scott-Clayton**; **Ebonya Washington**; **Anja Tolonen** •
RAPPORTEUR/S: **Kamelia Stavreva**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 30 — *The Diversity Paradox: Evidence from College Coeducation*
Ashley Wong, Barnard College

November 20 — *Removing Race from Representation*
Ebonya Washington, Columbia University

May 5 — *Recruiter Identity and Access to Elite Jobs: Evidence from Campus Recruiting*
Ashley Wong, Barnard College

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Elizabeth Ananat**, eananat@barnard.edu; **Judith Scott-Clayton**, scott-clayton@tc.columbia.edu; **Ebonya Washington**, ebonya.washington@columbia.edu

WORLD PHILOLOGY (817) • Founded: 2024

This seminar aims to unite humanistic and social-scientific scholars across a range of departments and schools around the discipline-based study of texts. Philology, defined over the course of its history as everything from text criticism to "slow reading" to "all erudition in language," is at base the practice of making sense of texts. This history includes modern European projects explicitly called philology, as well as those belonging to older and more diverse textual traditions around the world. The seminar seeks to learn about these histories, simultaneously aware of the sordid colonial past of modern European philologies and philology-derived disciplines, and also of the elitism that characterized their precolonial antecedents the world over, proposing to confront these inheritances openly as it moves forward.

CHAIR/S: **Mana Kia**; **David Lurie** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Isolde Artois**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

November 21 *The Sacred Grammar of Persianate Islam*
Alexander Jabbari, University of Minnesota

April 1 *Adab, Orientalism, National Philology*
Samuel Hodgkin, Yale University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Mana Kia**, mk3586@columbia.edu; **David Lurie**, dbl11@columbia.edu

COMICS AND GRAPHIC ALBUMS (819) • Founded: 2024

This seminar is devoted to the medium of comics, across multiple languages and (trans)national cultures. Research includes familiar forms like comic books or graphic novels, as well as precursors in popular print culture, early iterations, popular veins such as editorial cartoons and webcomics, and non-fiction forms like graphic memoir and comics journalism. Long an interdisciplinary field originally housed in art history and popular culture studies, comics studies now reaches into multiple humanistic fields and subfields, including queer, disability, memory, and Black studies. Columbia University has a long history of supporting, teaching, and legitimizing scholarship in comics studies, and holds an unparalleled collection of graphic albums including over 19,000 titles in two dozen languages; the seminar envisages future partnerships with publishers, non-profit organizations, and institutions throughout New York City and the tristate area.

CHAIR/S: **Aubrey Gabel** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Ethan Fraenkel**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 12 *Afrofuturism and Ecological Vulnerability in Damian Duffy and John Jennings's Black Feminist Parable of the Sower: A Graphic Novel Adaptation (2020)*
Marie Dücker, University of Graz
Respondent: **Javiera Irribarren**, Sarah Lawrence College

November 14 *Speculating on the Frozen Planet of the Snowpiercer Graphic-Novel Series: Nuclearity, Climate Change, and Energy*
Sean Singh Matharoo, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Respondent: **Chris Reyns-Chikuma**, University of Alberta (Canada)

November 21 *Research With Comics at Columbia University During the 1940s*
Jordi Giner Monfort, Universitat de València (Spain)

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Aubrey Gabel**, aag2188@columbia.edu

FAMILIES AND INEQUALITY (821) • Founded: 2024

This seminar seeks to foster an interdisciplinary community of scholars who research the causes and consequences of inequality among families, as well as possible solutions. Sessions feature discussions of new work on families and inequality by members, with occasional external speakers. Members include faculty and researchers from a broad range of disciplines, including economics, education, history, law, psychology, political science, public health, social work, and sociology, and the seminar provides a forum for interdisciplinary conversation and learning for Columbia and Barnard affiliates as well as researchers and scholars at other colleges and universities in the New York City area.

CHAIR/S: **Clare Huntington**; **Chris Wimer** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Demre Ianoglu**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18	*September Seminar* **Elizabeth Ananat**, Barnard College **Jennifer Hirsch**, Columbia University
October 30	*Mothers' Work* **Ajay Chaudry**, New York University
February 5	*February Seminar* **Lena Edlund**, Columbia University
March 26	*March Seminar* **Kacie Dragan**, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Clare Huntington**, ch104@columbia.edu; **Kacie Dragan**, kld2128@cumc.columbia.edu

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SOCIAL GOOD AND SOCIETY (823) • Founded: 2026

Artificial intelligence increasingly impacts how we live, work, diagnose, communicate, learn, and respond to social and environmental challenges. Its influence reaches far beyond technical innovation, raising questions about equity, fairness, accountability, and the relationships between institutions, communities, and the systems that shape everyday life. This seminar brings together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and community partners to explore these intersections through discussion-based sessions focused on case studies, governance dilemmas, and community-centered approaches to AI research and design. Each year, meetings will have a thematic focus to drive research and cultivate exchange of ideas that may lead to white papers, special issues, and collaborative projects.

CHAIR/S: **Nabila El-Bassel**; **Tian Zheng** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Arjun Balaji**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

May 5 *From Job Descriptions to Occupations: What Social Scientists Can Teach and Learn from LLMs?*
Xi Song, Columbia University
Respondent: **Nabila El Bassel**, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Nabila El-Bassel**, ne5@columbia.edu; **Tian Zheng**, tzheng@stat.columbia.edu

LATINX STUDIES (825) • Founded: 2026

This seminar is devoted to the study of people with ties to Latin America who have become part of the US through colonization and/or migration. Rejecting the top-down dynamics that often animate area studies, the seminar instead draws on the grassroots efforts of Latinx communities to center their histories, cultural production, and political interventions. It is interdisciplinary, with founding members approaching Latinx studies from traditional fields like history, English, and anthropology, as well as from newer fields such as media studies, performance studies, and the environmental humanities, leveraging this interdisciplinarity to understand pressing problems ranging from local struggles over gentrification to national tensions around labor and immigration to the global effort to survive climate change.

CHAIR/S: **Lori Flores**; **Carlos Alonso Nugent** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Evelyn Giron-Aguilar**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

March 12 — *Reconstructing the Field of Latinx Modernism: The Case of C. Ana de León*
John Alba Cutler, University of California, Berkeley
Respondent: **Laura Lomas**, Rutgers University

April 9 — *Haunted Echosystems: Sonic Afterlives of Puerto Rican Nationalism, 1950–1974*
Alejandra Bronfman, University of Albany, State University of New York
Respondent: **Lázaro Lima**, Hunter College, City University of New York

May 6 — *Revisiting Gregorio Cortez: An (Un)Likely Cross Class, Transnational Alliance*
Sonia Hernández, Texas A&M
Respondent: **Karl Jacoby**, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Lori Flores**, laf2200@columbia.edu; **Carlos Alonso Nugent**, can2162@columbia.edu

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