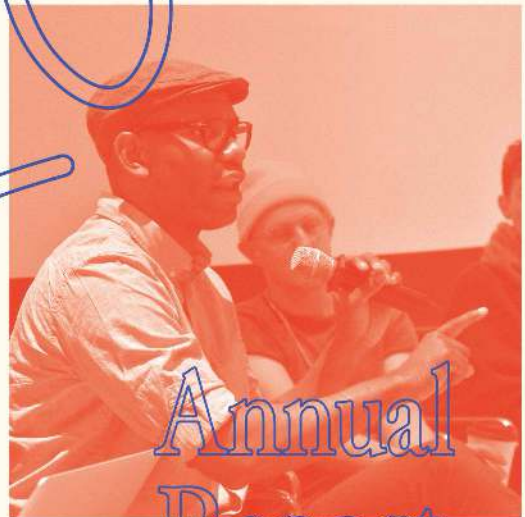




The Center for the Humanities

THE GRADUATE CENTER
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



Annual
Report

Cover images, left to right, top to bottom: James Luna at the "Scales of Visibility in Global Indigenous Art" conference; "The Power of Publishing;" Performers Robert Trevisan and Amber Hutchinson in Marco Millions; Sarah Maitland, Saïd Sayrafiezadeh, Richard Prioleau, Stanley Bahorek, Debra Caplan, Cheryl Smith, Yelena Shmulenson, and Lindsay Roberts at "The World on Stage: Readings from Micro-Plays in Translation;" Amy Rahn at the "Art, Institutions, and Internationalism: 1933-1966" conference; Collaborative Research Seminar at NYPL, photo by Alycia Sellie; Audience at "Souffles-Anfas: A Critical Anthology from the Moroccan Journal of Culture and Politics: An Introduction and Reading;" Audience at "A Tribute to C.D. Wright;" Kenyon Farrow and Ted Kerr at "A Matter of Urgency and Agency: HIV/AIDS Now"



Performers Lindsay Roberts and Stanley Bahorek in "The World on Stage: Readings from Micro-Plays in Translation"

Table of Contents

Reflections on the 2016-2017 Academic Year	5
Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research 2015-2017 Recap	8
Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research 2017-2019	22
Working Groups, Student Conferences, & Collaborations @ CUNY	30
<i>Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative</i>	41
Public Programming	50

Center Mission



The Center for the Humanities at the Graduate Center, CUNY encourages collaborative and creative work in the humanities at CUNY and across the city through seminars, conferences, public programming, publications, and exhibitions. Free and open to the public, our programs aim to inspire sustained, engaged conversation and to forge an open and diverse intellectual community.

Reflections on the 2016-2017 Academic Year

The Center for the Humanities divides its work across four key platforms—the [Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research](#) (p.8), [Working Groups in the Humanities](#) (p.30), [Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative](#) (p.41), and [public programming](#) (p.50). In 2016–2017, these platforms empowered the Center to:

- Expand support for student and faculty research and programming emerging from CUNY senior and community colleges, thereby creating stronger networks between colleagues across CUNY
- Provide fellowships for three doctoral students with a focus on the digital humanities and four doctoral students implementing public humanities practices in CUNY classrooms; 16 archival research stipends through *Lost & Found*; Public Humanities Fellowships for two doctoral students in Music and Geography through a collaboration with Humanities New York; and course releases for nine faculty from CUNY community and senior colleges
- Initiate five new Working Groups in the Humanities on topics ranging from ecocriticism to community archives
- Build long-term legacy projects into our award-winning, student-research-driven publication series *Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative*
- Strengthen inter-institutional relationships and interdisciplinary collaborations with arts, humanities, and activist organizations such as MoMA, Danspace Project, Words Without Borders, The Collaborative to Advance Equity through Research, Damayan Migrant Workers Association, and more



LEFT: Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research 2017-2019 participants Rose Kim, Jonah Brucker-Cohen, Janet Werther, Diane Yoong, Grace M. Cho, Karen Okigbo, and Terrie Epstein

ABOVE: Alex Cuff, Jessica Michel, Erica Deberry, and Mirene Arsanios at “The Power of Publishing”

- Innovate methods of producing and circulating public knowledge through performances, films, digital platforms, and more
- Champion the public humanities by bringing together diverse communities around common goals through the Andrew W. Mellon Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research

The Center for the Humanities has become a hub of inquiry and action that inspires and supports diverse intellectual, creative, and activist communities at CUNY and across New York City. In the year ahead, we will expand our efforts and establish new networks and initiatives that respond to the evolving landscape of our exemplary public university.

We hope you will join us!



Linda Stein at the "Jayne Cortez, Adrienne Rich and the Feminist Superhero: The Poetics of Women's Political Resistance" conference

Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research



p. 8-20

The Seminar on Public Engagement



& Collaborative Research

The Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research champions the role of the humanities in public life and as a public good. Made possible through the generous support of the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**, the seminar promotes intellectual and creative work that bridges public and digital humanities, humanities-related social sciences, and social justice.

Participants work in interdisciplinary teams to develop scholarship that faces both outward, toward the city, and inward, toward CUNY faculty and students, connecting the largest urban university in the country to its broader constituencies. Each team invites the participation of faculty, doctoral and undergraduate students, adjuncts, and community partners. The seminar structure activates a strong, networked system of collaboration and mentorship. The goal of each team is to identify and develop reciprocal research and advocacy goals of practical relevance to a diverse range of community partners. Teams produce and mobilize knowledge through community-engaged research projects, while the overall seminar aims to examine and expand public humanities practices at CUNY and across the city.

The Pilot Seminar

The pilot Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research (2015-2017) brought together over 40 faculty, students, and—uniquely—civic, cultural, and community partners to produce and circulate interdisciplinary research through publicly engaged scholarship at CUNY and throughout New York City.

Organized into four integrated research themes, participants created powerful community alliances and developed a remarkable range of projects and programs including films, translations, theatrical productions, exhibitions, digital platforms, curricula, public events, workshops, and archival interventions, with reverberations that continue to grow.



LEFT: Cast of *Marco Millions*: Seika Takeuchi, Mayurakshi Sen, Randy Lopez, Amber Hutchinson, Robert Trevisan, and Hildegard Hoeller

ABOVE: Benjamin Haber and Sandy Stone at "Queer Circuits in Archival Times," photo by Sasha Wortzel

Mediating the Archive

John Bernd, publicity still for Lost and Found, PS122, 1983. Photo by Dona Ann McAdams. Courtesy of the artist

RIGHT: Kenyon Farrow and Ted Kerr at "A Matter of Urgency and Agency: HIV/AIDS Now"

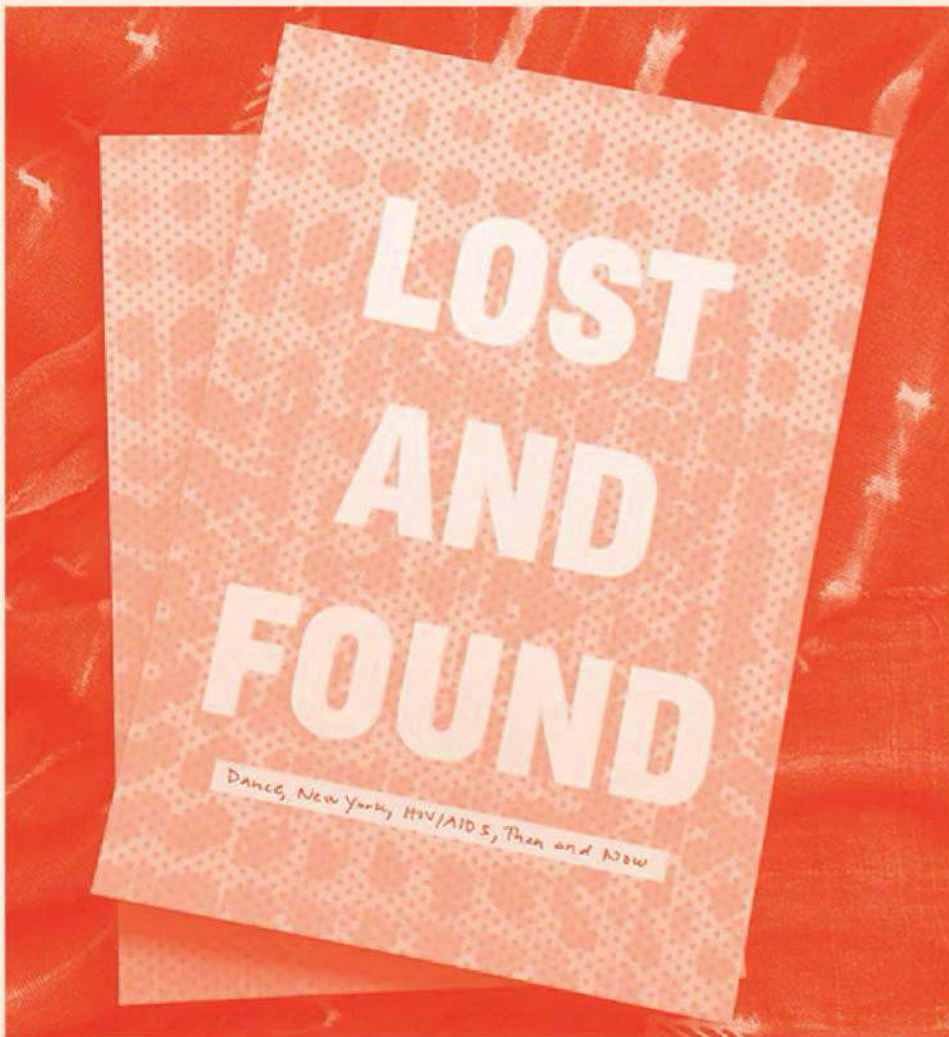


Led by Professors Amy Herzog and Edward Miller, with the support of Fellows Benjamin Haber, Jaime Shearn Coan, and Janet Werther, **Mediating the Archive** focused on how archival studies dovetail with the scholarly and artistic legacy of queer activism through visual art, film, digital media, and dance. Their community partners included filmmakers Zoe Beloff, Reina Gossett, Tara Mateik, and Sasha Wortzel; the Sylvia Rivera Law Project; and Danspace Project. The following are just a few of the multifaceted projects generated and supported by the seminar.



Seminar Highlights

- Mediating the Archive collaborated with Danspace Project on their **Platform 2016: Lost & Found**, a series of performances, conversations, and a catalogue, curated by Ishmael Houston-Jones and Will Rawls, that considered the lasting impact of HIV/AIDS on the downtown dance community from the 1980s to today. GC PhD students Janet Werther and Jaime Shearn Coan provided extensive archival and curatorial research as well as editorial work for the Platform and organized three public conversations on the urgency of HIV/AIDS healthcare, past and present.



LEFT: *Lost & Found: Dance, New York, HIV/AIDS, Then and Now* catalogue, Danspace Project, edited by Ishmael Houston-Jones, Will Rawls, and Jaime Shearn Coan, 2016
RIGHT: Candace Ming, Amy Herzog, Snowden Becker, Johanna Fernández, Nicole Martin, Yvonne Ng, Samuel Sinyangwe at "On Janus and Justice"; "Still from *Doll Closest*", dir. Amber Hawk Swanson, 10 min excerpt from 60 hour performance, 2014. Courtesy of the artist. Screened in the series "Recording and Performing."



- **On Janus and Justice: Archives, Access, and the Ethical Use of Video Evidence** brought together a brilliant panel which included human rights activists, scholars, data scientists, and a former archivist of the NYPD's training video archive to discuss the conflicting uses of police-worn body cam footage, the corporate race to monopolize the storage of this footage, and the challenges of archiving and taking legal action based on video evidence.
- The screening and discussion series **"Recording and Performing"** brought together artists and filmmakers, who use documentary both to evoke the camera as an apparatus of capture and to make space where subjects might resist capture. Reimagining a mode of presentation practiced by late curator, artist, and writer Ian White, the audience selected various livestreamed videos to accompany and interrupt each conversation.



Narrating Change,



"Stories of Struggle: Histories of
Childcare Activism at CUNY"

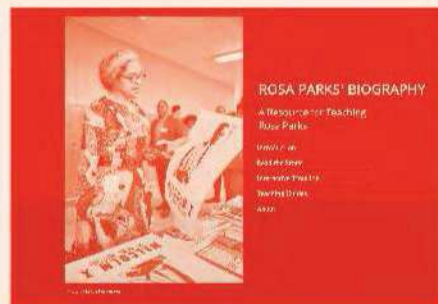
Changing Narratives

Led by Professors Colette Daiute, Sujatha Fernandes, and Jeanne Theoharis, with the dedicated work of Digital Fellow Jessica Murray and Graduate Center PhD student Courtney Frantz, **Narrating Change, Changing Narratives** developed three interdisciplinary research teams that examined the ways in which narration serves (and does not serve) social justice. Their community partners included Damayan Migrant Workers Association; Domestic Workers United;

Sadie Nash Leadership Project; the Teaching and Learning Center at the Graduate Center, CUNY; the Collaborative to Advance Equity through Research; and Conversations in Black Freedom Studies at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Seminar Highlights

- Through **Whose Movement Is It?: Narratives & Strategies from the Domestic Workers Labor Movement**, Fernandes and Frantz established a peer working group with Damayan Migrant Workers Association and Domestic Workers United that included domestic and immigrant workers, organizers, and Graduate Center staff. While meeting weekly, they organized panel discussions, public forums, screenings, a political education workshop, and a reading and performance of workers' own writing.
- Daiute organized two ambitious initiatives with the help of Murray, **WritingCUNY**, an ongoing blog project that promotes collaborative student writing and analysis across community college campuses, in collaboration with the Teaching and Learning Center at the Graduate Center, CUNY; and **Narrating America**, a series of public forums and an interpretative roleplay video game focused on the meaning of community college to faculty, students, and administrators throughout CUNY.
- Theoharis developed a **website for teaching Rosa Parks' biography** and the broader context of her activism. She also partnered with Sadie Nash Leadership Project on a **Rosa Parks curriculum**. Theoharis collaborated with poverty scholars from around the country to study the ongoing ramifications of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act with **#WelfareReformSyllabus**, as part of **Unsettling Histories: Rethinking Popular Fables about the Civil Rights Movement and Welfare Reform**.



Screengrab of RosaParksBiography.org, *Rosa Parks at the Black Political Convention in Gary, Indiana, March, 1972*, photo by LeRoy Henderson

Social



Wanda Nanibush at the "Scales of Visibility in Global Indigenous Art" conference

Choreography

The **Social Choreography** seminar led by Professors Paul Ramirez Jonas and Gregory Sholette worked with artist-activist organizations—including a blade of grass, Occupy Museums, SOMA, Gulf Labor Coalition, Open Engagement, Social Practice Queens, Aaron Burr Society, and SOMA—to build on the rich legacy of socially engaged art in New York City since the 1960s. This seminar also produced an independent student working group devoted to studying how movement and movements are conditioned by larger cultural infrastructures.

Seminar Highlights

- Gregory Sholette partnered with a number of other artist-activist organizations to stage the **Precarious Workers Pageant**, an intervention at the Venice Biennale that contested the exploitative labor conditions of workers at major museums under construction in the Persian Gulf.
- Paul Ramirez Jonas and a group of students developed **The Hidden Curriculum**, a course open to art and art history students from across CUNY. Students made their own colloquial and creative translations of texts deemed significant to artistic and cultural production, compiled in an online library. The class travelled to the Open Engagement conference in Oakland, CA to present on the project.



Precarious Workers Pageant, Venice Biennale

- The Social Choreography student working group organized the **“Scales of Visibility in Global Indigenous Art”** conference—with Keynote James Luna and presentations by Jolene Rickard, Wanda Nanibush, and Candice Hopkins—in which artists and scholars considered the relationships of Indigenous artists to contemporary art as well as how art practice and art history might approach questions of heritage, commodification, and difference in the careers of Indigenous artists working today.



Students at CUNY's Baruch College use WWB Campus in the classroom

Translation

In the **Translation** seminar, Professors Debra Caplan and Cheryl C. Smith worked closely with Digital Fellows Bess Rowen and Casey Henry as well as community partners from Words Without Borders, Ledig House Translation Lab, and Target Margin Theater to consider how translation might be understood as a process of transformation that deepens engagement with places, people, cultures, and languages.

Seminar Highlights

- In collaboration with Target Margin Theater, Rowen and Claire Moodey worked with six international students and faculty from across CUNY campuses to create their own extraordinary rendition of Eugene O'Neill's *Marco Millions*. Each actor took turns playing every role, translating the text into their own languages, interpretations, music, and choreography.
- Caplan and Smith collaborated with Words Without Borders to implement a pilot curriculum, **Words Without Borders Campus**, across CUNY campuses; edit an issue of WWB magazine on theater in translation; and stage an evening of readings of micro-plays in translation.
- Caplan and Smith also convened the local and international translation community through a series of monthly seminars with renowned translators and activated a website that facilitated group translation exercises, readings, and questions.



Sarah Maitland, Saïd Sayrafiezadeh, Richard Prioleau, Stanley Bahorek, Debra Caplan, Cheryl Smith, Yelena Shmulenson, and Lindsay Roberts at "The World on Stage: Readings from Micro-Plays in Translation."



Performers Amber Hutchinson, Mayurakshi Sen, and Randy Lopez in *Marco Millions*

Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research



p. 22-27

The 2017–2019 Andrew W. Mellon Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research launched this spring, bringing together nine faculty from eight different CUNY senior and community colleges and seven students from five different Graduate Center departments.

Over the course of the spring semester, the cohort met weekly to participate in workshops and conversations about best practices in community engagement, participatory budgeting, digital humanities and collaborative partnerships. Branching out from four research themes—on archiving and activating community narratives; art, activism, and the environment; the interplay of philosophy, poetry, and performance; and racial and educational justice—faculty and students will work closely with community partners throughout New York City and students in classrooms across CUNY to develop and present workshops, public discussions, podcasts, writing groups, oral history projects, publications, websites, theatrical productions, and performances over the next two years.



Seminar participants Terrie Epstein, Grace Cho, and Prithi Kanakamedala

Our Stories, Our Voices: Community Archives



Community members, neighbors, and friends listen to the oral history project "Story Block" by The Laundromat Project's Create Change Artists-in-Residence Sasha Phyers Burgess and Alison Kibbe at the annual Kelly Street Block Party in Hunts Point/Longwood, South Bronx (August 2015). Photo by Melissa Salas.

The **Our Stories, Our Voices: Community Archives** seminar is devoted to producing and providing access to archives of the present in partnership with diverse communities across New York City, whose histories might otherwise go unrecorded.

Research Teams:

The City Amplified: Oral Histories and Radical Archiving will consider how oral historians and place-based researchers might engage with issues of reciprocity, transparency, and accessibility in creating community archives. This team is led by Prithi Kanakamedala, Assistant Professor, History, Bronx Community College, CUNY.

The Labor of Care Archive: Changing the Narrative for Family and Paid Caregivers will build a digital archive that houses and showcases narratives by and about family caregivers and home health workers, who tend the elderly, ill, and disabled in New York City. This team is led by Kathlene McDonald, Associate Professor and Chair, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, City College of New York.

Student Projects:

In *Building Racial Equity and Expanding Community Engagement in NYC Dance and Performance Networks*, Digital Publics Fellow Jaime Shearn Coan will produce a roundtable event and a digital writing platform, in conjunction with JACK Performance Space's project *Reparations365: From Memory to Movement*, and will lead an ongoing dance writing workshop for CUNY undergraduates as part of the CUNY Dance Initiative.

Digital Publics Fellow Diane Yoong's project *Where are the Asians? Queering the Archives* will provide a digital space for an ongoing intergenerational dialogue that questions the absences of Asian (American) LGBTQ figures in queer histories and narratives of the present.

On Display: Activating Networks, Systems, and Environments



1 m² large Terrarium built 2010 for Reticulated python at Kolmarden Tropicarium, photo by Dan Koehl (own work). CC BY 3.0 <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

The **On Display: Activating Networks, Systems, and Environments** seminar seeks to instigate public discourse and positive change around emerging geopolitical and environmental realities by developing collaborative and interpretive projects.

Research Teams:

Art, Activism, and the Environment will amplify ongoing work at the conjunction of art, ecology, and activism in the context of today's climate emergency, situating this work in a history of politically engaged and environmentally minded art production. This team will be led by Ashley Dawson, Professor of English, The Graduate Center, CUNY.

Collective Voice: Digital Conversations in Public Space will consider group dynamics and their relation to networked technologies, through the implementation of "WordPlay," a shared public display and conversation starter that will be used to examine how digital systems respond to and understand the feedback of people contributing to shared public displays. This team will be led by Jonah Brucker-Cohen, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism, Communication & Theater, Lehman College, CUNY.

Student Projects:

Digital Publics Fellow Kasey Zapatka will develop a website and app for NYC tenants to access comprehensive resources and information about rent regulation in the city for his project *Housing Literacy: Decoding NYC's Rent Regulations*.

mp3: Merging Poetry, Philosophy, Performativity



Constructive Interference, by Scott Robinson from Rockville, MD, USA, CC BY 2.0 <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>, via Wikimedia Commons. With added color filter.

The **mp3: Merging Poetry, Philosophy, Performativity** seminar considers the ways in which the act of making, receiving, and communicating through poetry might redress present inequalities in real-world politics.

Research Team:

Poetic Justice Today.mp3 will draw on creative, critical, and communal resources in the arts and humanities to produce a series of site-specific, open-ended experimentations around the interplay of social justice and poetry. This work will curate its own archival traces through blogs, performances, chapbooks, and anthologies. This team is led by Kyoo Lee, Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy/Gender Studies/Justice Studies, John Jay College, CUNY.

Student Projects:

Teaching Fellow Daisy Atterbury's project *Artists in Resistance @ CUNY* will work to mobilize the rich legacy of organizers, activists, and artists teaching at CUNY to establish a rotating group of writers/artists-in-residence in undergraduate classrooms across CUNY.

In *Theater as QPOC Activism Beyond the Script*, Teaching Fellow Janet Werther will work with CUNY undergraduate students to produce teaching resources and a digital platform for students to engage with and stage their own versions of non-canonical theater works by queer writers and writers of color.

Public Education and Racial (in)Justice



National Day of Action in Defense of Public Education, March 4, 2010, Minneapolis, MN, photo by Flickr user Fibonacci Blue. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>. Some rights reserved.

The **Public Education and Racial (in) Justice** seminar studies the legacies of movement-built education models and foregrounds students' own stories in considering how their lives and educations are shaped by their experiences of race. This seminar is inspired by the ongoing, independent work of the Public Education, the City, and Struggles for Racial Justice Working Group (see page 31).

Research Teams:

What is the Public(s) in Public Education? Research, Teaching, and the Arts brings together researchers, teachers, parents, students, and artists who engage with a diversity of mediums of expression and experience to reimagine who and what constitutes the public in public education. This team is led by Terrie Epstein, Professor of Education, Hunter College, and Debbie Sonu, Associate Professor of Education, Hunter College.

Autoethnographies of Public Education and Racial (In)Justice will present narrative and theater works created by students past and present that critically reflect on the role that public higher education—especially CUNY—has played in their lives. This team is led by Grace M. Cho, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology,

College of Staten Island, and Rose M. Kim, Associate Professor of Sociology, Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Student Projects:

Initiated by Teaching Fellow Karen Okigbo, *The Professional Development Pipeline: Transforming Students into Young Professionals* will seek to infuse professional development, mentoring, and networking into the classroom curriculum through guest speakers from various professions, who will recount their own career trajectories and share advice on how to navigate the post-baccalaureate world.

Teaching Fellow Jules Salomone's project, *A Racial and Educational Justice Podcast*, will document the fight for racial and educational justice in NYC and beyond through the narratives and collaboration of teachers, school staff, students, community organizers, civic leaders, and social workers.



Abigail Lapin Dardashti at the "Art, Institutions, and Internationalism 1933-1966" conference

Working Groups,
Student Conferences,
& Collaborations @ CUNY



p. 30–39

Working



Groups

ABOVE: Ryan LaLiberty performing at "The Vibrating World: Soundscapes and Undersongs" conference, photo by Christina Katopodis

Organized by faculty and graduate students at the Graduate Center, **Working Groups in the Humanities** provide the time, space, sociality, and institutional support necessary for participants to develop and implement sustained intellectual inquiry in extradisciplinary fields.

Ecocriticism explores various methods and entry points for ecocritical work in literature, including science studies, sound studies, posthumanism, animal studies, film studies, and pedagogy. They have met monthly for the last two years and organized "The Vibrating World" conference. Members include Stacey Balkan, Rebecca Fullan, Amelia Greene, Sarah Hildebrand, Christina Katopodis, Kaitlin Mondello, Alexander Schultz, and Elizabeth Weybright.



Audience at "Afterlives: Place, Memory, Story" conference

The CUNY Public History Collective seeks to create and engage with the public through new and innovative scholarship in museums, tours, digital history, archives, education, and many other forms. Last year, they organized the "Afterlives: Place, Memory, Story" conference and are organizing a new conference on public history this fall. Members include Scott Ackerman, Arinn Amer, Andrea Ausztrics, Alexander E. Baltovski, John Beekman, Amy Chazkel, Davide Colasanto, Madeline DeDe-Panken, Hannah Diamond, Krystle Farman, Sean Griffin, Jeanne Gutierrez, Todd Fine, Marc Kagau, Mounira Kephida, Stephen Klein, Sarah Litvin, John Kunicki, Molly Rosner, John Thayer, Katie Uva, and John Winters.

Public Education, the City, and Struggles for Racial Justice thinks through the ways that racial and economic justice, labor, policing, and gentrification intersect with and inform one another in struggles for educational justice. They have held meetings and forums to create a space for co-learning and collaboration among educators, organizers, artists, researchers, and activists that might strengthen work for educational and racial justice in New York City. The group was organized by Ujju Aggarwal, Brian Jones, Celina Su, and Jeanne Theoharis.

Bodies and Arguments Across Borders uses theoretical concepts from contemporary thinkers in rhetoric and transnational studies to discuss the ways that texts shape global social movement and relationships. This spring, their work culminated in the conference “Mapping the Discursive Landscape.” Members include Amy Wan, Vivian Liang, Seth Graves, Lindsay Albracht, Anna Zeemont, Lucas Corcoran, and Alexis Larsson.



Anthony Alves at the “Mapping the Discursive Landscape” conference

Primary Source provides a space for students, faculty, and staff who are interested in deep engagement with archives and special collections: for interrogating research methods, recovering histories and silences, and developing technical skills for professional experience. Primary Source is also home to the Collaborative Research Seminar on Archives and Special Collections, hosted in conjunction with the Graduate Center Library and the New York Public Library, with support from *Lost and Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative*, the Early Research Initiative, and Graduate Center Digital Initiatives. The group is organized by Mary Catherine Kinniburgh.



Collaborative Research Seminar at NYPL.
Photo by Alycia Sellie.

The City Amplified working group invites oral history practitioners, artists, archivists, and scholars to examine how radical archiving practices can amplify the rich range of oral history and place-based research projects occurring across the city. Led by Prithi Kanakamedala, this group brings together an exceptional range of colleagues and peers including the Laundromat Project, Interference Archive, Buscada, City Lore, South Asian American Digital Archive, Urban Democracy Lab, NYPL, American Social History Project, and others.



Videotape Archives, 2010, photo by Colin Harris, accessed via Flickr, Some rights reserved, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>.

The **VHS Archives** working group will bring together scholars, students, librarians, archivists, technologists and community members interested in discussing questions, concerns and best practices about the use, preservation, digitization, and research of VHS collections currently held by organizations, scholars, artists, and activists. The group will partner with the Media Ecology Project at Dartmouth College, Visual AIDS, and the XFR Collective and will host two public workshops. The group is organized by media archivist, activist, and Brooklyn College Professor Alexandra Juhasz.

4 Student Conferences



In Black and White: Photography, Race, and the Modern Impulse in Brazil at Midcentury

May 2, 6:00-8:00pm: Keynote Panel, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
May 3, 9:30am-6:00pm: Conference, The Graduate Center, CUNY

Image: Thomaz Farkas, Brazilian, born Hungary, 1924-2011, Rushing Water Number 1, c. 1945. Gelatin silver print, 9 9/16 x 15 9/16" (24.3 x 39.5 cm). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist © 2017 Estate of Thomaz Farkas



Marcio Siwi, Alise Tifentale, Lucas Menezes, Marly Porto, Claudia Calirman at the "In Black and White: Photography, Race, and the Modern Impulse in Brazil at Midcentury" conference

The Center for the Humanities supports the organization of student conferences on topics including feminist criticism in Victorian studies; global Indigenous art; public history methodologies; narratives of migration and asylum, and more. The Center provides students with not only pivotal logistical and financial support but also professional mentorship in planning and promoting conferences. Below is a list of the student conferences we supported in the 2016–17 school year:

Jane Marcus Feminist University

Plenary Roundtable: Linda Camarasana, Page Delano, Robin Hackett, Jamie Weida, moderated by Tracyann Williams

Organized by J. Ashley Foster, Cori Gabbard, Conor Tomás Reed

Cosponsored by Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative, the PhD Program in English, Global Studies Collective, Doctoral Students' Council (DSC), the Twentieth Century Area Studies Group, the Feminist Studies Group, the Women's Studies Certificate Program at the Graduate Center, CUNY; The International Rebecca West Society, Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature, The Feminist Press, Women's Studies Quarterly, Sandi Cooper, Michael Marcus, and Linda Camarasana

Scales of Visibility in Global Indigenous Art

Keynote: James Luna, Artist
Organized by Chris Green, Joseph Henry, Ian Wallace

Cosponsored by the PhD Program in Art History; the Rewald Endowment of the PhD Program in Art History; the Social Choreography Mellon Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research in the Humanities; and the Vera List Center for Arts and Politics at the New School

Afterlives: Place, Memory, Story

Organized by the CUNY Public History Collective

Cosponsored by the Mediating the Archive Mellon Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research and the PhD Program in History, the Graduate Center, CUNY

Fabrications of Reality

Keynote Lecture: Kyoo Lee, The Graduate Center, CUNY

Organized by Iziar De Miguel, Oliver Sage, Sarah Yahyaoui

Cosponsored by the Henri Peyre French Institute, DSC, and the PhD Program in French at the Graduate Center, CUNY

The Vibrating World: Soundscapes and Undersongs

Keynote Lectures: Joseph Straus, The Graduate Center, CUNY and David Rothenberg, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Organized by Lauren Bailey, Christina Katopodis, Kaitlin Mondello, Sophia Sunseri

Cosponsored by the English Student Association, the PhD Program in English, and the Ecocriticism Working Group

Mapping the Discursive Landscape

Keynote Lecture: Rebecca Dingo, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Organized by the Bodies and Arguments Across Borders Working Group

The Woman Card: Feminism and Victorian Studies, Past, Present, and Future

Keynote Lectures: Nancy Armstrong, Duke University and Elaine Showalter, Princeton University

Organized by the Victorian Committee of the PhD Program in English

Cosponsored by Dickens Studies Annual, the PhD Program in English and Advanced Research Collaborative (ARC)

Fictions of History

Keynote Lecture: Stephen Greenblatt, Harvard University

Organized by Jin Chang, Sara Salman, and Claire Sommers

Cosponsored by Critical Theory Certificate Program, Writers' Institute, Office of Public Programming, ARC, DSC, and Constance Old, in memory of her brother Lloyd Old

In Black and White: Photography, Race, and the Modern Impulse in Brazil at Midcentury

Keynote panel: Roberto Conduru, Helouise Costa, Heloísa Espada, Sarah Hermanson Meister, moderated by Edward J. Sullivan

Organized by Abigail Lapin Dardashti and Sarah Hermanson Meister

Cosponsored by The International Council at The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC), ARC, the Rewald Endowment of the PhD Program in Art History, Dominican Studies Group, the Feminist Studies Group, the Postcolonial Studies Group, and DSC

American Identities on Land and at Sea

Keynote lecture: Elizabeth Mankin Kornhauser, Alice Pratt Brown Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Organized by Bree Lehman, Eva McGraw, and Shannon Vittoria

Cosponsored by the PhD Program in Art History's Rewald Endowment and DSC

Art, Institutions, and Internationalism: 1933–1966

Keynote lecture: Katy Siegel, Stony Brook University

Organized by Chelsea Haines and Gemma Sharpe

Cosponsored by the Rewald Endowment of the PhD program in Art History and the DSC

Co-presented with Contemporary and Modern Art Perspectives (CMAP) at MoMA



Chelsea Haines at the "Art, Institutions, and Internationalism 1933-1966" conference

Collaborations @CUNY

Equally key to the work of the Center for the Humanities are **collaborations that strengthen relationships** with other centers, institutes, and departments at the Graduate Center and across CUNY senior and community colleges. The following examples stem from the work of Lehman College Department of English, along with the James Gallery, the Center for Place Culture and Politics, and the Futures Initiative at the Graduate Center, CUNY:

Organized by Olivia Moy and Dhipinder Walia, “**Activism in Academia**” was an interdisciplinary, one-day symposium organized to initiate a larger conversation between CUNY and non-CUNY faculty and students about the value of apolitical and political work in the classroom as it relates to activism within underrepresented communities. Among the symposium’s many engaging panels, Lehman College undergraduates presented their own work on black self-representation and navigating tensions between religious practices and secularism in the classroom. The symposium was cosponsored by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Management & Office of Recruitment and Diversity and the Lehman College Department of English.

Organized by the Center for Place Culture and Politics, "**Consciousness & Revolution II: Educating for Change in the Era of Authoritarian Populism**" brought together radical educators in and outside the academy to consider past and present movements for political transformation through consciousness-raising and education. This conference's organizers were Ujju Aggarwal, Sónia Vaz Borges, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, David Harvey, Peter Hitchcock, Malav Kanuga, Mamyrah Dougé-Prosper, and Mary N. Taylor; it was cosponsored by the Parsons First Year Program, The New School.

The Public and Publics conference considered various dimensions of public life and the production of public space in relation to scholarship, activism, and art. This conference was organized by Amy Chazkel and Setha Low and was cosponsored by Futures Initiative, Public Space Research Center, and Center for Human Environments at the Graduate Center, CUNY.

Through the Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research, the Mediating the Archive seminar supported and collaborated with the James Gallery on related public programs for Zoe Beloff's "**A World Redrawn: Eisenstein and Brecht in Hollywood**," an exhibition curated by Katherine Carl that explored and reimagined two of Brecht and Eisenstein's unrealized film scenarios through films, drawings, architectural models and archival documents, as well as on the exhibition "**A Christian Palestinian Archive: A Project by Dor Guez**," a growing archive of photographs, stories, and documents collected from the lives of Christian Palestinians living around the world, curated by Ohelsea Haines. Through the Social Choreography seminar, the Center also supported public programs, stemming from the exhibition "**Capture Practice: Arkadi Zaidés**," the first New York solo exhibition of the acclaimed choreographer, presenting a video installation and performances of Zaidés' work, which investigates inhabitation of gestures in discourses of human rights, curated by Katherine Carl.



Ted Joans and Joyce Mansour with Alain Jouffrey
reflected in the mirror at "A la cloche des halles" in
Paris © Marion Kalter. Used with permission

Lost & Found:

Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative publishes unexpected, genre-bending works by important 20th century writers that illuminate endangered aspects of literary, cultural, and political history.

The initiative promotes new, cooperative models of textual scholarship, archival research, and publication by working closely with doctoral student editors conducting research in personal and institutional archives here and abroad. With a focus on texts by figures central to and associated with New American Poetry, *Lost & Found* is characterized by careful attention to the interplay of poetry, poetics, friendship, and politics. Poised at the intersection of scholarly investigation, innovative publishing, and cultural preservation, each *Lost & Found* chapbook emphasizes the importance of collaborative and archival research.

The CUNY Poetics
Document Initiative

Lost & Found Public Programs

In addition to working on our forthcoming *Series VII*, the editors of *Lost & Found* organized and hosted numerous public programs including:

- Letters, Friendship, & Feminism:
Hettie Jones & Claudia Moreno Parsons
- Passwords: Margaret Randall
on Cuban Poetry
- Jayne Cortez, Adrienne Rich and the
Feminist Superhero: The Poetics
of Women's Political Resistance
- *Souffles-Anfas: A Critical Anthology*
from the Moroccan Journal of Culture
and Politics: An Introduction and Reading
- A Tribute to C.D. Wright
- In.On.Or About the Premises:
A Celebration of the Work of Paul Blackburn
- Jane Marcus Feminist University



Michèle Wallace at the "Jane Marcus Feminist University" conference

Raven press

This year, *Lost & Found* continued its ongoing partnership with **Raven Press**, a student-run small press, founded by high school sophomores at the Brooklyn public school Academy for Young Writers. After attending workshops in InDesign and bookbinding, these students created and published their own chapbooks while managing the publication of a school-wide anthology of post-election writing.

As part of our partnership with Raven Press, high school students came together from across New York City for “**The Power of Publishing**,” a day of poetry writing and publishing workshops, discussions, and readings at the Graduate Center. Together with an amazing panel of poets who double as publishers—including Mirene Arsanios from *Makhzin*, Mahogany L. Browne from Urban Word NYC, Farnoosh Fathi from YALDA, Adjua Greaves from *unschoolMFA*, Zakia Henderson-Brown from *The New Press*, Zohra Saed from *UpSet Press*, Nicole Sealey from Cave Canem, and Diamond Sharp from *Rookie*—students considered how publishing might be used to build community and create agency. Students also discussed strategies on how to confront the privileging of white and/or male perspectives in publishing.

We are delighted that a community partnership grant from Humanities New York will enable this project to grow in 2018.

Grants

This year, *Lost & Found* awarded 16 grants for Graduate Center student and CUNY community college faculty archival research.

***Lost & Found* Archival Research Grant Recipients**

Christopher Clarke
Brad Fox
Seth Graves
Laura Hillegas
Jojo Karlin
Alexis Larsson
José Alfredo Menjivar
Jaime Shearn Coan
Stephanie Vella

Poets House Special Collections Research and Writing Fellows

Jessica Fletcher
Sarah Ruth Jacobs

Diane di Prima Fellows

Iris Cushing
Mary Catherine Kinniburgh

Legacy Fieldwork Grant Recipients

Daisy Atterbury
Josh Schneiderman

Archival Research Grant for Community College Professors

Sara Rutkowski, Kingsborough
Community College





"The Power of Publishing"

Lost & Found

Forthcoming this fall, **Lost & Found Series VII** will include an exciting range of texts from the radical pedagogy movement led by poets and writers teaching at CUNY in the late 1960s and 1970s along with correspondences highlighting rich intimacies and friendships between landmark twentieth century writers, poets, and translators including:

- ☐ Memos, course syllabi, notes, and presentations by lauded black radical feminist, poet, and teacher **Audre Lorde**, edited by Miriam Atkin and Iemanjá Brown
- ☐ Teaching materials of writer, filmmaker, and radical pedagogue **Toni Cade Bambara**, edited by Makeba Levan and Conor Tomás Reed
- ☐ Memos, journal entries, poetry, and speeches by revered poet and teacher **June Jordan**, edited by Talia Shalev and Conor Tomás Reed
- ☐ Correspondence, articles, documents, and poetry by public scholar and radical pedagogue **Jack Forbes**, edited by William Camponovo
- ☐ Letters between the great Argentinian exile writer **Julio Cortázar** and his first English translator, American poet and Lower East Side poetry scenemaker **Paul Blackburn**, edited by Ammiel Alcalay, Silvia Beato, Alison Macomber, Alexander Pau Soria, and Jacqui Cornetta

Series VII

Announcing Our Collaboration with

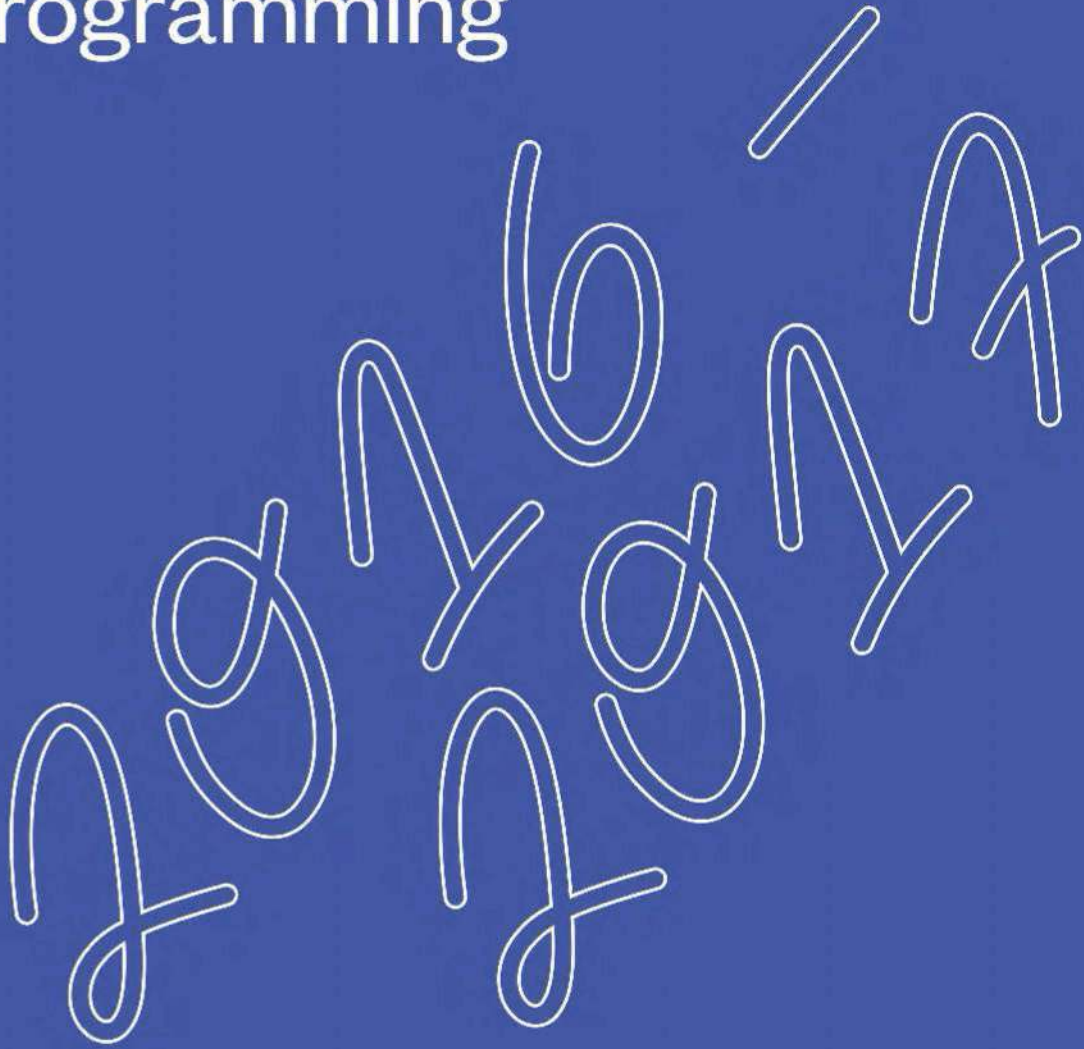
Lost & Found, along with the PhD Program in English at the Graduate Center, CUNY is thrilled to announce that we will be hosting Professor Dorothy Wang of Williams College, recipient of an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship. This highly competitive fellowship provides "leaders in their fields with resources to pursue long-term, unusually ambitious projects." Author of the award-winning *Thinking Its Presence: Form, Race, and Subjectivity in Contemporary Asian American Poetry* (Stanford University, 2013), after which an annual conference, "Thinking Its Presence: Race, Creative Writing and Literary Study," has been named, Professor Wang plans to pursue a project titled: "Things Unintelligible, Yet Understood": Race and the Genealogies of American Poetics." In addition to continuing an ongoing dialogue on poetics and cultural politics with Ammiel Alcalay, *Lost & Found* General Editor and Professor at Queens College and the Graduate Center, Professor Wang intends to work with *Lost & Found* editors and other graduate students in order to further explore new approaches to literary history through the collaborative approach to archival work initiated by *Lost & Found*.

Professor
Dorothy Wang



Audience at "A Tribute to C.D. Wright"

Public Programming



p. 52–54

Public Programming

The Center for Humanities hosted over 70 public events this academic year. These events ranged from public conversations on the surveillance and policing of Muslim communities to workshops on access and disability in cultural institutions. Events included: “Narrating Life: Afro Colombian Experiences with Marta Quiñónez and Héctor Marino Carabalí,” “Eleanor Roosevelt: The War Years and After, A Conversation with Blanche Wiesen Cook,” “Judicial Truth and Cinematographic Truth: The Filming of the Eichmann Trial,” and “The Protestant Reformation and Human Rights.” The following is a more detailed selection of just a few of our public events.

TOP TO BOTTOM: Moustafa Bayoumi, Michael Oreskes, Linda Sarsour and Matt Apuzo, “The Anatomy of Change: NYPD’s Surveillance of Muslim Communities;” Sara Morgulis and JW Guido at “In Theory and Practice: Accessible Cultural Education;” Charity Scribner, Bela Shayevich, and Philip Boehm in conversation, “Revisiting Eastern Europe: The Politics of Translation”



The Anatomy of Change: NYPD's Surveillance of Muslim Communities

Matt Apuzzo, Michael Oreskes, and Linda Sarsour in conversation, moderated by Moustafa Bayoumi

This conversation centered on the impact of the NYPD's ongoing surveillance of Muslim communities in NYC and journalist Matt Apuzzo's Associated Press investigation on the NYPD's use of racial profiling in the wake of 9/11.

Cosponsored by Humanities New York, the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center (MEMEAC), and the Writers' Institute at the Graduate Center, CUNY



In Theory and Practice: Accessible Cultural Education

Annie Leist, Cindy Vanden-Bosch, JW Guido, Mariette J. Bates, Sara Morgulis, Vida Sabbaghi

This workshop, co-organized with the Museum Access Consortium, brought together disability scholars and accessible programming practitioners to cultivate dialogue about making accessibility central to cultural institutions.

Cosponsored by the Museum Access Consortium



Revisiting Eastern Europe: The Politics of Translation

Translators Philip Boehm, Bela Shayevich, and Matvei Yankelevich explored the social and political implications of their craft and how translating Eastern European literature changes the global conversation on the 20th and 21st-century histories of this region. The conversation was moderated

by writer and Professor Charity Scribner and introduced by translator and Professor Esther Allen.

Cosponsored by Feminist Press at CUNY, Polish Cultural Institute New York, and n+1



Mapping Time: History of the Lower East Side

Organized by Professor Andre Aciman and Graduate Center PhD student Claire Sommers, Bard High School Early College students, who participated in the interdisciplinary digital humanities course “Mapping Time,” showcased their final projects on the history of the Lower East Side. The course aimed to teach high school students the rich history of the school’s neighborhood and to foster digital literacy with the newest archival and digital research techniques. Students used the New York Public Library’s new Space/Time Directory, its digital collections, and archival holdings to explore the history of their school’s

neighborhood through photographs, maps, building plans, oral histories, government records, newspaper articles, art, and literature, and by making personal visits to a site of their own choice around the school’s neighborhood. The goal of this project was for high school students to immerse themselves in primary material to uncover and ultimately narrate the history and evolution of the city, with their findings becoming a permanent fixture of NYPL’s digital resources.

Cosponsored by The New York Public Library and Bard High School Early College



Environmental Insecurities

Scholars, architects, writers and curators Felicity D. Scott, Keller Easterling, and Mark Wasiuta took part in a timely conversation on how militarization and related political technologies control human environments, moderated by Chelsea Haines.

Cosponsored by Zone Books and Verso Books

David Burr, Map of New York City. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons; Felicity D. Scott at “Environmental Insecurities”

Public Humanities Fellows

The Center for the Humanities is proud to be one of nine partner schools collaborating with Humanities New York in awarding annual **Public Humanities Fellowships**. These year-long Fellowships provide training in public scholarship methodologies and give Fellows resources to explore the public dimensions of their own scholarship. Each Fellow implements a public humanities project in collaboration with a community-based partner.

2016–2017 Fellows

Our 2016–2017 Fellows were **Sarah Litvin** and **Johnathan Thayer**.

Litvin’s project was a collaboration with Geoffrey Miller on a proposal to convert the historic bakery building at the Reher Center in Kingston, NY into a museum that will engage visitors in conversations about immigrant communities and entrepreneurship, ethnic foodways, and urban change.

In his project, “Making the Public History Classroom Public,” Thayer developed a curriculum involving public libraries, nonprofits, and community stakeholders, designed around fieldwork at the Olde Towne of Flushing Burial Ground.

2017–2018 Fellows

Our 2017–2018 fellows are **Denisse Andrade** and **Elaine Chang Sandoval**.

Andrade will create a people’s library at La Marqueta in East Harlem, where passersby can have access to primary and secondary sources pertaining to Black and Latino social justice struggles in New York City.

Sandoval’s project seeks to share her fieldwork findings with El Sistema-inspired music education programs in the New York area, specifically to cultivate discussion around efforts to diversify music curricula.

New Executive Director and Supporting the Center

Announcing Our New Director

The Center for Humanities is delighted to announce the appointment of **Keith Wilson** as our new Acting Executive Director.

Keith Wilson is an artist with a longstanding interest in the cultural status of sculpture and the extent to which sculpture can play a part in social transformation. His curatorial, exhibition, and public projects have been hosted at a range of venues including the Royal Academy of Arts London; the MAC Belfast; the Park Hill estate in Sheffield, England; and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. He retains a research affiliation with Sheffield Hallam University as Professor of Sculpture.

We'd also like to thank our outgoing Director, Professor Andre Aciman, for his dedicated work, which resulted in several successful initiatives including a partnership with the NYPL and Bard High School Early College on an interdisciplinary humanities course "Mapping Time: History of the Lower East Side," along with conferences, residencies, and events with renowned international thinkers, artists, and musicians including Stephen Greenblatt, Homi K. Bhabha, Amy Sillman, Shahzia Sikander, and David Greilsammer.

Support the Center for the Humanities

We depend on the generous support of our publics and donors to continue our extensive programming! We hope you might help make possible the important role we play in the intellectual life of the city by donating to the Center for the Humanities this year. No matter the amount, your support will sustain and strengthen public humanities in New York City.

If you would like more information on how to get involved with our various programs and initiatives, please contact our Associate Director Kendra Sullivan at ksullivan@gc.cuny.edu.

We thank you for reading and hope to see you at one of our events next year!

Center for the Humanities Staff

Events Coordinator

Alisa Beshler

Deputy Director and James Gallery Curator

Katherine Carl

Managing Editor, *Lost & Found*

Stephon Lawrence

Administrator & Web Editor

Jordan Lord

Publicity Coordinator

Sampson Starkweather

Associate Director

Kendra Sullivan

Acting Executive Director

Keith Wilson

Digital Publics Fellowship Recipients

Jaime Shearn Coan

Department of English

The Graduate Center, CUNY

Diane Yoong

Department of Critical Social/

Personality Psychology

The Graduate Center, CUNY

Kasey Zapatka

Department of Sociology

The Graduate Center, CUNY

Teaching Fellowship Recipients

Daisy Atterbury

Department of English

The Graduate Center, CUNY

Karen Okigbo

Department of Sociology

The Graduate Center, CUNY

Jules Salomone

Department of Philosophy

The Graduate Center, CUNY

Janet Werther

Department of Theater

The Graduate Center, CUNY

Center for the Humanities Board

Advisory Board

Edith Everett
Founding Trustee

Sue Lonoff DeCuevas
Founding Trustee

Joanna S. Rose
Founding Trustee

Margo Viscusi
Founding Trustee

The Graduate Center, CUNY Faculty Board

Herman Bennett
History
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Claire Bishop
Art History
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Emily Braun
Art History
The Graduate Center
and Hunter College, CUNY

Joshua Brown
Art History
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Mary Ann Caws
English, French, Comparative Literature
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Vincent Crapanzano
Comparative Literature, Anthropology
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Morris Dickstein
English
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Dagmar Herzog
History
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Wayne Koestenbaum
English
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Nancy K. Miller
English
The Graduate Center, CUNY

David Nasaw
History
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Helena Rosenblatt
History
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Gary Wilder
Anthropology
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Lost & Found Board

Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative National Advisory Board

David Abel

Neil Baldwin

Michael Basinski

Jennifer Benka

George Bowering

Sandra Braman

Steve Brier

Steve Clay

Blanche Wiesen Cook

Fred Dewey

Steve Dickison

Brent Edwards

Henry Ferrini

Sesshu Foster

Isaac Gewirtz

David Greetham

Kimiko Hahn

Jan Heller-Levi

Juan Felipe Herrera

Bob Holman

Erica Hunt

Elaine Katzenberger

Nancy Kuhl

Megan Mangum

James Maynard

Thurston Moore

Bill Morgan

Kate Tarlow Morgan

Aldon Lynn Nielsen

Polly Thistlethwaite

Peter Quartermain

Alice Quinn

Archie Rand

Eugene Redmond

Joan Richardson

Amy Scholder

Jill Schoolman

André Spears

Stacy Szymasek

Fred Wah

Anne Waldman

Melissa Watterworth-Batt

Al Young



Janet Werther at "Interventions in Narrativizing the AIDS Crisis"

Center for the Humanities
The Graduate Center, CUNY

365 5th Ave., Room 5103
New York, NY 10016

CITY UNIVERSITY
OF NEW YORK
**THE
GRADUATE
CENTER**