THE SOCIETY OF FELLOWS AND HEYMAN CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2018–2019

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

THE SOCIETY OF FELLOWS
AND HEYMAN CENTER
FOR THE HUMANITIES
Mail Code 5700
Columbia University
2960 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212) 854-8443
Fax: (212) 662-7289

sof-fellows@columbia.edu
www.societyoffellows.columbia.edu

By FedEx or UPS:
THE SOCIETY OF FELLOWS
AND HEYMAN CENTER
FOR THE HUMANITIES
74 Morningside Drive
Heyman Center, First Floor
East Campus Residential Center
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027

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Page 59: Women MAs, Trinity College, Dublin, courtesy of the Mistress and Fellows, Girton College, Cambridge

The Lionel Trilling Seminar: ***Lydia Davis on "Arles"***

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2018–2019 Fellows at the annual year-end Spring gathering (from left): JM Chris Chang (2018–2021), Arden Hegele (2016–2019), Rachel Nolan (2018–2019), María González Pendás (2016–2019), Whitney Laemmli (2016–2019), Joelle M. Abi-Rached (2017–2019), Christopher Florio (2016–2019), and Ardeta Gjikola (2018–2021). With Dr. Heglele is her daughter Maud.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR
AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As Reinhold Martin, Chair of the Governing Board, noted in last year's report, the Society of Fellows has joined with the Heyman Center to become one entity: The Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities (or SOF/Heyman). At the time of its founding, the Heyman Center was known primarily as the building that housed the Society and several affiliated scholars. In 2005, at the request of then Provost Alan Brinkley, the single administrative staff of the Society of Fellows and the Heyman Center began to produce public events, under the name of the Heyman Center, that highlighted the interdisciplinary humanistic inquiry to which the Society itself had all along been dedicated. Acting on the recommendation of a self-study undertaken by the Society of Fellows in 2016, the Governing Board voted unanimously to amalgamate with the Heyman Center, recognizing the latter's programming as fulfilling the public-facing aspects of its own mission.

Today, the SOF/Heyman serves as the central site for humanities programming and collaboration at Columbia. Overseen by the Governing Board and under Eileen Gillooly's guidance as Executive Director, the SOF/Heyman continues to appoint postdocs to the Society of Fellows, but now it also runs a number of other grant competitions, such as the Heyman Center Fellowships (providing course relief to Columbia faculty and research allowances to graduate students) and the Heyman-Hub Fellowship (a short-term faculty exchange fellowship with Trinity College Dublin). It advances special initiatives—such as the Justice-in-Education Initiative (which provides educational opportunities to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals)—and supports the development of cross-disciplinary programs (in the fields of medical humanities and the public humanities, for example). Drawing its faculty members from across the Morningside and Medical campuses (including Barnard College), the Governing Board participates in the activities of the SOF/Heyman more fully than ever before. Board members now organize public events, chair SOF writing workshops and lectures, serve as seminar directors for the Heyman Center Fellows, sit on selection committees, and otherwise further the mission of the SOF/Heyman.

Even as the remit of the SOF/Heyman has expanded, the Society of Fellows remains its primary focus. This past year, our Fellows were as active as ever in teaching and publishing, as well as engaging in a growing array of public humanities programming on the Columbia campus and beyond. They taught courses across the Core Curriculum and offered seminars and offered innovative seminars in their disciplines. Last year, Fellows Arden Hegele and Heidi Hausse created the event series "Explorations in the Medical

Reinhold Martin, Chair of the Governing Board

Humanities," which continued this year under Arden's direction, with support from Heidi (now an Assistant Professor of History at Auburn University) and current Fellow Joelle Abi-Rached. These "Explorations" included a two-day workshop that drew in scholars from numerous institutions and disciplines to share works-in-progress, a performance of *Lipstick Lobotomy*, a roundtable discussion occasioned by the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Frankenstein*, and, in collaboration with Columbia Global Centers—Europe, the fifth annual summer institute of the Medical Humanities Network of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, on the topic "Health Beyond Borders."

Other Fellows took the lead in organizing SOF/Heyman events in collaboration with the departments in which they hold their teaching appointments. Whitney Laemmli, for example, organized a panel discussion on "The Digital Future of the History of Science" and a roundtable on Deborah Coen's *Climate in Motion*, as Rachel Nolan did a workshop on "The History of Gossip and Falsified Documents in the Archive in Latin America" and a roundtable on Katherine Marino's *Feminism in the Americas*. Christopher Florio brought together a number of scholars for the workshop "We the People: Public Workers in the Service of America." And as part of an international consortial project on the "Crises of Democracy," María Gonzáles Pendás and Whitney Laemmli, alongside Murad Idris (SOF '14–'15) and Hagar Kotef (SOF '09–'12), organized the Society's first Alumni Conference, which was hosted by the Columbia Institute for Ideas & Imagination at Reid Hall in Paris. Along with several current Board members, presenters included Ilana Feldman (SOF '02–'04), Will Slauter (SOF '07–'09), and Andrew Zimmerman (SOF '98–'00).

The SOF/Heyman recently established a "New Books in the Society of Fellows" series, which celebrates recent work by our alumni Fellows. This past year, we hosted book panels for Maggie Cao (SOF '14–'16), Dalia Judovitz (SOF '81–'82), William Sharpe (SOF '81–'83), Jordanna Bailkin (SOF '99–'01), Will Slauter, Murad Idris, and Ilana Feldman. The current Fellows have been remarkably active as well, obtaining research and travel grants, giving conference papers, publishing essays, and acquiring book contracts. Please see the "Fellows in Residence" profiles for more details.

As in years past, the Fall Thursday Lecture Series was devoted to the ongoing research of our current Fellows, offering a window on the exceptional range of their scholarship. Topics included: liquor rations in the Atlantic World, adoption networks and state terror, Maoist dossiers, bituminous poetry, techniques of dance notation, the Elgin marbles and taste culture, Lebanon's 'Asfuriyyeh psychiatric hospital, and fascist architecture in Spain. The Spring Thursday Lecture Series, organized by the Fellows, featured presentations by distinguished visiting speakers on the theme of "Observation and Obfuscation"—a subject generous enough to include such topics as Krakow under Nazi occupation, photography and the steam engine, and the practices of the Romanian Secret Police.

In its new formation as a single entity, the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities cosponsored more than a hundred events in 2018–19. Among these was the "New Books in the Arts and Sciences" series, now in its third year, which is co-sponsored by the Office of the Divisional Deans of Arts and Sciences and celebrates

recent publications by Columbia faculty across the humanities and humanistic social sciences. Another was *13/13: Critique & Praxis*—the latest in an annual series of thirteen seminars imagined and organized by Bernard Harcourt, a former SOF Board Member and the director of Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought, which cosponsored the series. Since its founding four years ago, the 13/13 series has proved to be extremely popular among faculty and graduate students at Columbia and at other local universities, filling to capacity its various campus venues and reaching an international live-streaming audience. Other noteworthy SOF/Heyman events over the past year included two Edward Said Memorial Lectures, given respectively by the award-winning authors Hisham Matar and Viet Thanh Nguyen; the Lionel Trilling Seminar with Lydia Davis (winner of the 2013 Man Booker International Prize); and "Entangled Spirits," a conversation with Mickalene Thomas, Darnell Moore, and Kellie Jones (visual artist, writer, and curator, respectively), organized by Board Member Josef Sorett. For further details about these and other events too numerous to list here, we invite you to read the "Event Highlights" section of this report and to consult the Heyman Center website (www.heymancenter.org), where many of these events are available for viewing under the "Media" menu tab.

We were excited to welcome three new members to the Society of Fellows this year: JM Chris Chang (Columbia PhD), Lecturer in East Asian Languages and Cultures; Ardeta Gjikola (Harvard PhD), Lecturer in History; and Rachel Nolan (NYU PhD), Lecturer at the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. This cohort joined our continuing Fellows: Joelle Abi-Rached (Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies), Christopher Florio (History), Arden Hegele (English), Whitney Laemmli (History), and María González Pendás (Art History). While we look forward to having María and Arden with us next year to help build our Public Humanities Initiative, we shall miss those who are moving on. Starting in Fall 2019, Christopher Florio will be Assistant Professor of History at Hollins University; Whitney Laemmli will be Assistant Professor of History at Carnegie Mellon University; and Rachel Nolan will be Assistant Professor of International Relations in the Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University. Joelle Abi-Rached (MD/PhD) will be in Paris, affiliated with both the École normale supérieure and the EHESS next year, as she studies for the US Medical Licensing Examination.

After another exacting Fellowship competition, we look forward to welcoming in Fall 2019 five new Fellows: Nisrin Elamin (Stanford PhD), who will be a Lecturer in the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies; Zaid Jabri (Academy of Music, Krakow), who will be a Lecturer in Anthropology and Music; Fernando Montero (Columbia PhD), who will be a Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race; Tyrone Palmer (Northwestern PhD), who will be a Lecturer in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies; and Allison Turner (Chicago PhD) who will be a Lecturer in the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

Reinhold Martin
Chair of the Governing Board

Eileen Gillooly
Executive Director

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Eileen Gillooly, Executive Director

MEMBERS OF THE 2018–2019 GOVERNING BOARD

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French and Romance Philology

Jennifer Wenzel
English and Comparative Literature
Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies

Gareth Williams*
Director, Friends of the Heyman Center
Classics

* *ex-officio*

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION

The forty-fourth Society of Fellows in the Humanities fellowship competition closed on 5 October 2018, with 838 applicants vying for the five fellowship positions available for 2019–20. Representatives from twenty-two departments, institutes, and centers conducted the first round of vetting. Each application recommended for advancement to the next level of competition received three readings: two by members of the Governing Board and one by a current Fellow. Each applicant was ranked on a scale of one to five and subsequently reviewed by the selection committee, a sub-committee of the Governing Board. In mid-December, the committee invited fourteen applicants to campus for interviews, which were held in January 2019 at the Heyman Center.

The five available fellowships for 2019–20 were offered to, and accepted by: Nisrin Elamin, PhD in Anthropology, Stanford University; Zaid Jabri, DA in Composition, Interpretation and Musical Education, Academy of Music in Kraków; Fernando Montero, PhD in Anthropology, Columbia University; Tyrone Palmer, PhD in African American Studies, Northwestern University; Allison Turner, PhD in English, University of Chicago.

The five Fellows, whose appointments begin 1 July 2019, bring to the Society a number of different perspectives and approaches within the humanities. Dr. Elamin is an anthropologist focusing on the relationship between land, belonging, migration, and geopolitics in post-secession Sudan; Dr. Jabri is a composer whose work explores the histories of shared and reworked harmonic and instrumental strategies across the East/West divide; Dr. Montero is an anthropologist specializing in security regimes and the War on Drugs in the Americas; Dr. Palmer is a critical theorist whose work interrogates the centrality of affect to modern conceptions of the Human through readings of key Black diasporic literary texts; Dr. Turner is a literary scholar who studies the emergence of a modern sense of waste in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Nisrin Elamin

Zaid Jabri

Fernando Montero

Tyrone Palmer

Allison Turner

COMPETITION NUMBERS
FELLOWSHIPS STARTING IN 2019–2020

Department	No. of Applicants	Percent of Total
Anthropology	57	6.80%
Art History and Archaeology	49	5.85%
Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race	21	2.51%
Classics	21	2.51%
East Asian Languages and Cultures	33	3.94%
English and Comparative Literature	123	14.68%
Film Studies	22	2.63%
French and Romance Philology	17	2.03%
Germanic Languages	8	0.95%
History	137	16.35%
Institute for Comparative Literature and Society	30	3.58%
Institute for Research in African-American Studies	14	1.67%
Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality	24	2.86%
Italian	9	1.07%
Latin American and Iberian Cultures	28	3.34%
Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies	36	4.30%
Music	45	5.37%
Philosophy	39	4.65%
Political Science	50	5.97%
Religion	45	5.37%
Slavic Languages and Cultures	13	1.55%
Sociology	17	2.03%
Total	838	100%

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FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE
2018–2019

Research project:

‘Asfuriyyeh: A History of War, Madness, and Modernity in the Middle East

JOELLE M. ABI-RACHED 2017–2019

Harvard University, Department of the History of Science, PhD 2017

Dr. Abi-Rached is a trained physician, philosopher, and medical historian. Since beginning her fellowship, she has been working on her second book manuscript, which draws on her doctoral dissertation and examines the history of modern psychiatric thinking and practice in the Middle East. In 2019, Dr. Abi-Rached secured a contract with MIT Press for her book, which is tentatively titled “‘Asfuriyyeh: A History of War, Madness, and Modernity in the Middle East.” Her book project and doctoral work received the 2019 Jack D. Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Development Award in 20th Century History of Medicine or Biomedical Sciences from the American Association for the History of Medicine, “for outstanding work in twentieth-century history of medicine or medical biomedical sciences.”

In 2018–2019, Dr. Abi-Rached presented work from her book at Columbia University, notably at the Society of Fellows and at the Arabic Studies Seminar. She also organized a panel (“Medical Archives: A Postmortem”) for the “Explorations in the Medical Humanities” workshop (co-organized with Fellow Arden Hegele, among others) that took place at the Heyman Center on March 29–30, 2019. She was also invited to participate in “The Cultural Turn in Arabic Literary Production,” a major conference that took place at Columbia University on April 19–21, 2019. She co-organized a roundtable in memory of the late Roger Owen (A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle East History at Harvard University) for the Fall 2019 annual conference of the Middle East Studies Association.

Dr. Abi-Rached has also been heavily invested in teaching and advising and was gratified to see one of her students win the James P. Stenton Prize in Contemporary Civilization, while another was accepted into Columbia University’s dual Master’s degree in International and World History.

She wrote two book reviews: one on *Being Brains: Making the Cerebral Subject* by Fernando Vidal and Francesco Ortega in *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society* 109.4 (2018): 819–820; and another on *As The World Ages: Rethinking a Demographic Crisis* by Kavita Sivaramakrishnan in *Medicine, Anthropology, Theory* (2019). She also reviewed articles for several journals, including the *Journal for the History of the Behavioral Sciences.*

Dr. Abi-Rached has also begun preparing for the United States Medical Licensing Examination, which she hopes to take before the end of 2020.

JM CHRIS CHANG 2018–2021

Columbia University, East Asian Languages and Cultures, PhD 2018

Dr. Chang is a historian of modern China. His current project, "Communist Miscellany," is a history of file-keeping and bureaucratic paperwork in Maoist China, examined through the institution of individual dossiers on Chinese subjects known as *dang'an*. His research draws upon "grassroots sources"—files previously discarded from official archives and since resold in old book and paper markets—in order to address the intersection of political surveillance and human resources management in the lives of everyday Chinese subjects in the socialist period.

In March, 2019, Dr. Chang presented a portion of his work-in-progress at the annual conference of the Association of Asian Studies in Denver. The basis of that talk, a chapter on the information management practices of communist personnel forms, is being prepared as a journal article for submission in the coming year. Dr. Chang was the recipient of an ACLS-Luce Foundation Collaborative Reading Grant to convene an intensive workshop on new sources and methodologies in China studies. That workshop is scheduled to take place in September 2019 and will bring together Chinese scholars from Shanghai's Fudan University and a group of North American scholars of China to explore a newly unveiled collection of grassroots sources compiled at Fudan. In the Fall of 2019, Dr. Chang will publish an article in a special issue of the journal *Administory* on a case study of dossier justice titled "Paper Affairs: Discipline by Dossier in a Mao-era Work Unit."

In addition to research on his current project, Dr. Chang recently taught two courses, a survey of Chinese Civilization (Fall 2018) and a new seminar called, "Technology and Power in Modern China" (Spring 2018). The seminar was an interdisciplinary reflection on the interwoven development of political and technological systems in China's recent past and present, and explored such topics as Chinese medicine and public health, photography and propaganda, and emerging tools of digital state surveillance. Course activities included museum visits, guest lecturers, and student-driven final projects that engaged some of the very technologies under study in an applied exercise.

In the upcoming year, Dr. Chang plans to develop long-term collaborations with overseas and US-based scholars to promote open access and digital curation of Chinese historical resources. He is looking forward to working closely with a large cohort of new Fellows on their many areas of shared interest.

Research Project:

The Dossier: Archive and Ephemera in Mao's China

Research Project:

Poor Freedom: The Problem of Poverty in an Age of Slave Emancipation

CHRISTOPHER M. FLORIO 2016–2019

Princeton University, Department of History, PhD 2016

Christopher M. Florio is a historian of the United States, focusing on early America. His research interests include the history of slavery and emancipation, the history of capitalism, and the history of the US and the world. In his third and final year as a Fellow, Dr. Florio continued to make progress toward completing a book manuscript titled "Poor Freedom: The Problem of Poverty in an Age of Slave Emancipation." On a transnational canvas that stretches from Philadelphia to London, from Barbados to Liberia, from Mississippi to Madras, the book depicts how a wide range of Americans and Britons grappled with the problem of poverty during the era of chattel slavery's abolition. In 2018, Dr. Florio conducted further archival research for his book project at the New-York Historical Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphia City Archives. In 2019, he signed a book contract with Yale University Press.

In July 2018, Dr. Florio published an op-ed in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* addressing the ongoing debate over Confederate monuments. He also served as a guest editor for a special issue of *EuropeNow* focused on the theme of "crime and punishment." The issue was published online in November 2018, and Florio co-authored its introduction.

In Fall 2018, Dr. Florio taught a newly designed seminar on "Histories and Theories of Human Rights" at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women. He also participated in the New York Consortium for Higher Education in Prison Conference.

Dr. Florio will begin a position as Assistant Professor of History at Hollins University in August 2019.

ARDETA GJIKOLA 2018–2021

Harvard University, Department of the History of Science, PhD 2018

Ardeta Gjikola is a cultural historian of early modern science. Her work brings perspectives from the history of science to the study of subjects such as aesthetics that have not traditionally fallen under the purview of the discipline. In her first year as a Fellow, Dr. Gjikola developed her book project, entitled "'The Finest Things on Earth': The Elgin Marbles and the Sciences of Taste," revising chapters and conducting new research for an additional chapter. Dr. Gjikola focuses on the reception of the Elgin Marbles in Britain to provide a detailed study of various aspects of aesthetic value: how such value is discerned; how aesthetic judgments are endowed with certainty; how they are shared by communities, and whether aesthetic judgments are comparable to judgments of truth, as some writers in the long eighteenth century claimed.

One of the greatest intellectual pleasures for her this year has been to share part of this work with other Fellows and members of the Society. It is thanks to formal and informal conversations with them that Dr. Gjikola is now refining her approach.

Teaching "Contemporary Civilization" has been an equally productive experience, even more than anticipated. A part of the Core Curriculum, the year-long course is rich philosophically and challenging pedagogically, providing the perfect ground for developing a repertoire of teaching strategies. In the Spring semester, Dr. Gjikola was one of the speakers on a panel on "Aesthetic Science: A History of Taste, Judgment, and Affect in Scientific Practice," organized by the Center for Science and Society.

Research Project:

'The Finest Things on Earth': The Elgin Marbles and the Sciences of Taste

Research Project:

Romantic Autopsy: Literary Form and Medical Reading

ARDEN HEGELE 2016–2019

Columbia University, Department of English and Comparative Literature, PhD 2016

Arden Hegele is a literary scholar who specializes in the medical humanities and British literature of the long nineteenth century. In her final year at the Society of Fellows, she submitted to publishers her book manuscript, titled "Romantic Autopsy: Literary Form and Medical Reading," which examines how medicine influenced British Romantic literature in themes, motifs, and forms. The book's most distinctive contribution is the concept of *medical formalism*, which refers to the congruences between critical reading and the practices that Romantic-era physicians used to interpret the body in the emergent fields of anatomy, pathology, psychiatry, and semiology.

Dr. Hegele submitted articles on *Wuthering Heights*, the Victorian fairy tale, and Romantic medicine to literary journals. She also organized a panel called "Probing the Victorian Corpus" for the MLA's annual conference. At the SOF/Heyman, Dr. Hegele presented new work on the Romantic-era formalist associations of bitumen and organized and chaired an English Department faculty roundtable on the 200th anniversary of *Frankenstein*. In Spring 2019, Dr. Hegele taught a seminar, "Medical Fictions, Romantic to Modern."

With Dr. Rishi Goyal (Columbia), she serves as co-founder and co-editor of an online journal in the medical humanities, *Synapsis: A Journal of Health Humanities*, which publishes new writing weekly by experts in the field. Dr. Hegele and Dr. Goyal submitted a proposal for an essay collection based on writing published in *Synapsis*. Dr. Hegele also collaborated with Dr. Heidi Hausse, Dr. Joelle Abi-Rached, and other organizers on the "Explorations in the Medical Humanities" conference, a two-day event that followed on the lecture series this group developed in 2017–2018. The conference featured a dramatic reading of Krista Knight's new play *Lipstick Lobotomy*, which Dr. Hegele staged at the Maison Française. Dr. Hegele also presented a new paper, "Medical Frauds and the Romantic Novel," at the Center for Science and Society "Narrative" conference.

Additionally, Dr. Hegele served as Columbia's representative to the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) Medical Humanities Network. She has redesigned and continues to maintain the network's website and, in collaboration with Dr. Loren Wolfe (Columbia Global Centers | Paris), she organized the CHCI Summer Institute on "Health Beyond Borders," which was held at Reid Hall in June 2019. This major professional conference was followed by a three-day Summer School for early-career researchers, at which Dr. Hegele served as faculty respondent.

In 2019–2020, Dr. Hegele will be a Medical Humanities Fellow at Columbia, a position co-sponsored by the SOF/Heyman, the Department of English and Comparative Literature, the Department of Medical Humanities and Ethics, and the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society—Medicine, Literature and Society.

WHITNEY LAEMMLI 2016–2019

University of Pennsylvania, Department of History and Sociology of Science, PhD 2016

Research Project:

Measured Movements: The Human Body and the Choreography of Modern Life.

Whitney Laemmli is a historian of science and technology whose work investigates the ways in which technologies designed to measure, control, and mechanize the human body have been used to negotiate key issues at the heart of twentieth-century life. This past year, she continued work on the revisions to her book manuscript, "Measured Movements: Notation, the Human Body, and the Choreography of Modern Life," which explores how a tool developed to record dance on paper in Weimar Germany found new life in the corporate boardrooms, robotics laboratories, and psychiatric hospitals of the mid-century US and UK.

In April of 2019, Dr. Laemmli published material drawn from her book manuscript in a special issue of *History of the Human Sciences* on the subject of "The Total Archive." In "The Living Record: Alan Lomax and the World Archive of Movement," Dr. Laemmli told the story of the famous folklorist Alan Lomax's "Choreometrics" project, uncovering the political mission underlying Lomax's quixotic attempts to collect the totality of the world's dance styles. Dr. Laemmli also received the 2018 Abbot Payson Usher Prize from the Society for the History of Technology, for her 2015 article, "A Case in Pointe: Romance and Regimentation at the New York City Ballet." The Usher prize is awarded to the author of the best scholarly article published during the preceding three years in *Technology and Culture*.

Additionally, Laemmli presented her work in multiple forums throughout the year, including conference presentations at the History of Science Society and an invited lecture at the New York Academy of Sciences. Continuing an ongoing collaboration with Fellow María González Pendás, the two organized a stimulating and much-discussed panel on "Technological Rituals" at the 2018 Society for the History of Technology meeting. Dr. González Pendás and Dr. Laemmli also served as the organizers for an inaugural Society of Fellows alumni conference, centered on the theme of the "Crises of Democracy" and held in collaboration with the Institute for Ideas & Imagination at Reid Hall in Paris.

Dr. Laemmli's other activities included teaching a seminar in the Department of History on the subject of "Technology, Work, and Capitalism" and co-organizing a two-day editorial workshop for the newly-launched *Encyclopedia of the History of Science* (*ETHOS*), an online, open-access, peer-reviewed resource intended both for scholars and the broader public. In the Fall of 2019, she will begin a new position as Assistant Professor of History at Carnegie Mellon University.

Research Project:

Children for Export: Adoptions from Guatemala to the U.S.

RACHEL NOLAN 2018–2019

New York University, Department of History, PhD 2018

Rachel Nolan is a historian of modern Latin America who specializes in Central America in the twentieth century. During her year at the Society of Fellows, she made progress toward her book, "Children for Export: Adoptions from Guatemala to the U.S." This manuscript is based on her doctoral dissertation, which won two university-wide prizes from New York University, including a prize for the best humanities dissertation defended in the previous year. Dr. Nolan published an article based on this research, "Destined for Export," in the April issue of *Harper's Magazine*.

Dr. Nolan has also developed material from a side project on the history of social welfare in Guatemala during and immediately after the Guatemalan Revolution (1945–1954). This resulted in a chapter in an edited collection which is under contract at the University of New Mexico Press.

Dr. Nolan was invited to give a talk, "The Ethics of International Adoption," at the Centre for Ethics at the University of Toronto. She also presented her work at the Latin American Studies Association Meeting in Boston, and the Society for the History of Children and Youth in Sydney, Australia. At the SOF/Heyman, Dr. Nolan moderated a New Book Panel with alumni Fellow Will Slauter, as well as a panel on journalists at risk as part of the *Crisis of Democracy* conference. She also organized a discussion of *Feminism for the Americas: The Making of an International Human Rights Movement* by Katherine Marino of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Columbia Professor Claudio Lomnitz invited Dr. Nolan to participate in a conference on Central American migration, where Dr. Nolan gave a paper titled "Indigenous Migrants from Guatemala and Deportation as Mass Migration." She developed a new course on "History of Deportation to Latin America," which she taught at the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race in Spring 2019.

With her colleagues Vanessa Freije (University of Washington) and Sarah Foss (Oklahoma State University), Dr. Nolan organized a two-day workshop at the Heyman Center titled "Rumors, Falsified Documents, and Other Interpretative Challenges in the Latin American Archive." The revised papers will be submitted as a special issue to the *Journal of Latin American Studies*.

Dr. Nolan wrote an essay on the disappeared teenagers of Ayotzinapa and the work of Mexican journalist Anabel Hernández for the April 4, 2019 issue of the *London Review of Books*. She also reviewed a major new history of the Shining Path guerrilla insurgency in Peru for the July issue of *Harper's Magazine*.

In Fall 2019, Dr. Nolan will begin a tenure-track position at the Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University. In 2020 she will return to the SOF/Heyman as a co-organizer of a conference on journalism and the humanities with former Fellow Brian Goldstone.

MARÍA GONZÁLEZ PENDÁS 2016–2019

Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture, PhD 2016

Research Project:

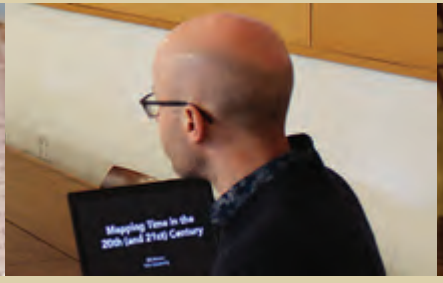
Forms of the Secular: Architecture, Politics and Religion in the Iberian World

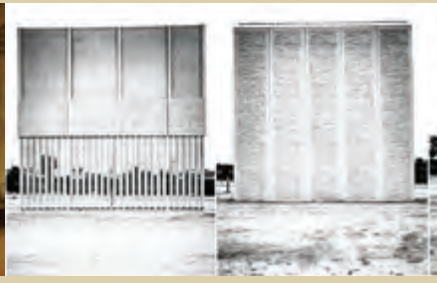
María González Pendás is an architectural historian whose work weaves together the history of modern architecture with histories and ideologies of fascism, Catholicism, and development to posit architecture as a unique mode of politics and knowledge production. Her book manuscript, "Holy Modern: Politics of Aesthetics, Technologies of Religion and the Architecture of Hispanic Fascism," unpacks the ways in which design and narratives of the built environment helped redefine and sustain fascism, both as a viable ideology and a political practice during the Cold War. The book charts the emergence of an enchanted modernism, or holy modern: a techno-aesthetic regime that put modernization in the service of the religious essentialism that was at the core of Spanish Fascism and its ideal for a future empire.

In the fall, she presented her work at the Collins Kaufman Forum and the Universidad Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM). In the spring, she presented on the relationship between colonial Africa and Franquista ideology in conferences in Lisbon and Providence. She also co-organized the panel "Architectural Conversions and Imperial Imaginations" for the annual conference of the College Arts Association where she presented a paper, "The Alhambra Manifesto and the Politics of Spirit in Fascist Spain."

Her recent work on the economic and social relations of concrete labor practices in mid-century Mexico was published in two journals: *Grey Room* and *Bitacora*. This work grounds her ongoing research for a second book, where she expands her thesis on the enchantment of modernism into issues of architectural labor at a global scale. Under the title "Constructs of Hispanicity," the book will chart the crossing of architects, theories, technologies, and labor practices between the Americas and the Iberian Peninsula from the late nineteenth century onwards, arguing for the ways in which these networks of relations built upon imperial history to imagine an alternative to the disenchanted modernization modeled by the Protestant North. She presented part of this research at Cornell University with the paper "Thin-Shell Technology and the Latin American Architectures of Cosmic Development." Dr. González Pendás also presented part of her newest research at a panel on "Technological Rituals" organized by Fellow Whitney Laemmli for the annual conference of the Historians of Technology.

Additionally, Dr. Laemmli and Dr. González Pendás led the first Society of Fellows Alumni Event, held in Paris in May of 2019 under the theme *Crises of Democracy*. In addition to planning the conference, she contributed the paper "Public Experts: Architecture and Amnesia in Fascist Spain." Dr. González Pendás has continued teaching the Core in the Art History Department at Columbia and maintained her engagement with the architectural professional world by participating as a guest critic at design studios across various schools in the New York area.





THURSDAY
LECTURE SERIES

Society of Fellows in the Humanities
Columbia University
Luncheon Lecture Series
Fall 2018
Talks begin at 12:15, in the HCH Common Room, unless otherwise noted.
Lunch begins at noon.
Thursday Lecture Series are open to Columbia faculty, students, and guests.
Others wishing to attend should email sof-fellows@columbia.edu
describing their interest and requesting registration.
societyoffellows.columbia.edu
September 20
Joelle M. Abi-Rached
Fellow/Lecturer in MESAAS and History
"Diagnosing Insanity in the Modern Middle East: The case of 'Asfuriyyeh"
Chair: John Ma
September 27
Elliot Ross
Heyman Center
Public Humanities Fellow ('17–'18)
"The World and Africa"
Chair: Sahar Ullah
October 4
Christopher Florio
Fellow/Lecturer in History
"Productivity Under the Influence: Liquor Rations and Labor Management in the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic World"
Chair: Gareth Williams
October 11
Rachel Nolan
Fellow/Lecturer in CSER and History
"Adoptions of Indigenous Children during State Terror: Guatemala 1982-1986"
Chair: David Scott
October 18
Hidetaka Hirota
Society of Fellows Alumnus
"Reliance on Unwanted Immigrants: Foreign Contract Labor as a Problem in American History"
Chair: Arden Hegele
October 25
JM Chris Chang
Fellow/Lecturer in EALAC
"The Dossier: Archive and Ephemera in Maoist China"
Chair: Eugenia Lean
November 8
Arden Hegele
Fellow/Lecturer in English
"Bituminous Forms: The Poetics of Tar from Milton to the Romantics"
Chair: Giuseppe Gerbino
November 15
Whitney Laemmli
Fellow/Lecturer in History
"Noise in the System: Recording Technologies in 20th C. American Dance"
Chair: Kavita Sivaramakrishnan
November 29
Ardeta Gjikola
Fellow/Lecturer in History
"The Formation of a Taste Judgment: How Benjamin Haydon Came To Observe and Evaluate the Elgin Marbles"
Chair: Nadia Abu El-Haj
December 6
María González Pendás
Fellow/Lecturer in Art History and Architecture
"Building Fascisms: Architecture, History, and the Right"
Chair: Robert Gooding-Williams

Fall 2018
Fellows' Talks

20 September

Diagnosing Insanity in the Modern Middle East: The Case of 'Asfuriyyeh
Joelle M. Abi-Rached, Lecturer in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies

In this talk, Dr. Abi-Rached used aggregate data of annual reports and other statistical material retrieved from various archives related to 'Asfuriyyeh (one of the main modern psychiatric hospitals in the Middle East at the turn of the twentieth century) as an indicator of mutations in the topography of mental illness in the region. The talk examined the patient population of 'Asfuriyyeh and analyzed trends in the shifting diagnosis and rationalization of mental illness in its relation to various socio-political and economic changes as well as the various therapeutic innovations deployed to treat them.

27 September

The World and Africa
Elliot Ross, Heyman Center Public Humanities Fellow

Elliot Ross spoke about "The World and Africa," his ongoing project to develop a model for using podcasting as a pedagogical tool in public humanities work. Public high school students from Wings Academy in the Bronx collaborated to produce episodes of a podcast in which they interviewed scholars in New York City on their subjects of expertise. As well as contributing to their program of learning in their Advanced Placement classes, the project encourages students to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to form questions, cultivate intellectual curiosity, gain confidence as interlocutors, and collaborate with one another to apply their class lessons to a public project. It gives scholars the chance to engage with aspiring undergraduates from underserved communities and bring their expertise to a broader public. The first two episodes feature Professor Souleymane Bachir Diagne (Columbia), on the topic of the Negritude movement, and Professor Marie Cruz Soto (New York University) on Puerto Rico's colonial experience.

4 October

Productivity Under the Influence: Liquor Rations and Labor Management in the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic World
Christopher Florio, Lecturer in History

Countless histories of alcohol have focused on efforts to restrict its consumption across the Anglo-American world in the nineteenth century. And yet the era that witnessed the rise of the temperance movement and the first calls for prohibition was also a period in which numerous anti-temperance arguments proliferated. This talk unpacked one such argument—the widespread but understudied contention that the working poor worked harder under the influence of regulated quantities of alcohol. By examining the practice of issuing liquor rations aboard British warships and on American slave plantations, Dr. Florio showed how labor supervisors in both settings operated on the assumption that alcohol could and did increase workplace productivity. In doing so, he suggested that making sense of managed intemperance as a strategy for extracting labor helps us to consider anew the historical relationship between extra-economic coercion and economic development in the nineteenth-century Atlantic world.

11 October

Adoptions of Indigenous Children During State Terror: Guatemala 1982–1986
Rachel Nolan, Lecturer in the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race

On December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution that legally defined genocide for the first time. The definition included five acts "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group." The fifth act deemed constitutive of genocide was: "Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." During the Guatemalan Civil War (1960–1996), the government forcibly disappeared at least five thousand children. The vast majority of these children were indigenous (Maya). An estimated five hun-

dred children were placed for adoption both domestically and internationally through state orphanages, and thousands more were placed through a private adoption system set up in 1977. In a war crimes trial following the conflict, adoption files were presented as evidence of genocidal acts. This talk considered the systematic separation of indigenous children from their families during the height of wartime violence, 1982 to 1986, as an aspect of Guatemalan state terror.

18 October

Reliance on Unwanted Immigrants: Foreign Contract Labor as a Problem in American History
Hidetaka Hirota, SOF 2013–16, Institute for Advanced Study Waseda University

Since the early nineteenth century, Americans opposed the immigration of poor foreign workers who they believed would degrade the dignity of labor and lower American wage standards. The opposition to immigrant labor became especially strong in the case of contract workers. In 1885, American workers' antipathy to "alien contract labor" resulted in the passage of the federal Foran Act, which banned the landing of foreign contract workers. In this talk, Dr. Hirota first traced the intellectual and legal origins of alien contract labor law by surveying the antebellum roots of opposition to imported labor in the United States. While labor radicalism in the late nineteenth century played a crucial role in the introduction of the Foran Act, the federal law was built upon earlier discourses on servile labor and the economic impact on Americans of immigration of certain kinds. The presentation moved on to examine the enforcement of the alien contract labor law. By analyzing repeated failures to implement the law due to demands for cheap labor, he suggested that alien contract labor law, which affected an enormous range of immigrants of diverse nationalities, was decisive in establishing the fundamental divide in American history between nativism and the nation's reliance on immigrant labor, a reality that still shapes America today.

25 October

The Dossier: Archive and Ephemera in Maoist China
JM Chris Chang, Lecturer in East Asian Languages and Cultures

What would a living archive of a revolutionary society look like? In Maoist China, one of the primary responsibilities of the local bureaucracy was to compile detailed individualized dossiers on party members, cadres, workers, and students under their jurisdiction. The dossier constituted a master record of a subject's social identity, probing issues of class status, personal background, family relationships, political activities and attitudes. A state project of immense ambition, the dossier system sought to facilitate governance of the population by archiving Chinese society in the Maoist image. This talk explored the history of the dossier to illuminate habits of paper, the neuroses of the socialist bureaucracy, and stories of individual lives subjected to file systems. Approaching the dossier as an everyday object of politics reveals the material limits of bureaucratic knowledge and what happens when revolution meets the archive.

8 November

Bituminous Forms: The Poetics of Tar from Milton to the Romantics
Arden Hegele, Lecturer in English and Comparative Literature

In our ecological moment, the extraction of bitumen (a semi-solid form of crude oil) from Canada's Athabasca tar sands has provoked an impassioned outcry. The Standing Rock protests over the Dakota Access Pipeline and more recent demonstrations against the Keystone XL and the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipelines have drawn attention to the environmentally destructive means of excavating and transporting bitumen, as well as to the colonialist imperatives of its extraction. And yet, these resonances are by no means new. The interdisciplinary turn of our moment asks us to reconsider the figurative and ethical charges of bitumen through its extensive treatment in literature, from biblical epics to Romantic lyrics. This talk turned to bitumen in English poetry—most notably, John Milton's *Paradise Lost* (1667), Percy Shelley's *Alastor* (1816) and Lord Byron's *Cain* (1821)—to reveal not only a deep literary substrate behind modern criticisms of the

tar sands, but also a new reading of bituminous excavation as a surprisingly productive model for formalist analysis.

15 November

Noise in the System: Recording Technologies in Twentieth-Century American Dance
Whitney Laemmli, Lecturer in History

In the early 1940s, a New York City organization known as the Dance Notation Bureau (DNB) began a decades-long effort to promote a system known as "Labanotation." Using a combination of shapes, shading, dots, and lines on an eleven-column vertical score, Labanotation was designed to capture the ephemeral, three-dimensional complexity of dance on the flat surface of paper. Eschewing notions that dance was too emotional, evanescent, or complicated to be documented, the women who ran the DNB saw the moving body as swarming with potential data points. To them, a dance was information, and—with the right system in place—that information could be "objectively" and "scientifically" recorded. Doing so would catapult dance into the modern era, finally freeing the field from its "primitive" and "illiterate" past. Focusing on the period between 1940 and 1975, this talk catalogued the DNB's efforts to record and preserve movement and explored how these efforts contributed to broader transformations in the definitions of creativity, preservation, authorship, and dance itself.

29 November

The Formation of Taste Judgement: How Benjamin Haydon Came to Observe and Evaluate the Elgin Marbles
Ardeta Gjikola, Lecturer in History

When the Elgin Marbles arrived in Britain in the early nineteenth century, they were objects of uncertain aesthetic value. Centuries-long Ottoman rule had limited European travel to Greece and restricted the study of antique Greek sculpture. The fragmentation of the marbles presented another obstacle to their evaluation. Not for Benjamin Haydon. A young historical painter, Haydon first saw the marbles in 1808 in London and later claimed to have immediately judged them the finest artworks ever made. The claim is not surprising—instantaneousness of opinion was often presumed to be the defining trait of refined taste. It was also what made taste subjective, frustrating contemporary and historiographical attempts to account for it. The diary Haydon kept for several years after 1808 and drawings he made during the same period indicate, however, that he took a long time to come to a judgment about the marbles. In this lecture, Dr. Gjikola examined how Haydon used anatomical knowledge and made drawings to observe the marbles and compare them with other artworks to determine their aesthetic value. She also analyzed how the overlapping of the medical and art worlds provided the crucial condition for Haydon's judgment. This talk aimed to delineate practices used in the period to render taste judgments objective, that is, to root them in the referential aspects of objects and to make them as certain as judgments of matters of fact.

6 December

Building Fascisms: Architecture, History, and the Right
María González Pendás, Lecturer in Art History

From the planning of entire city landscapes to the construction of monuments, walls and homes, fascist regimes have long held claim to the power of the built environment to promote their ideology. With Franquista Spain as a unique example for understanding the historical and ideological progression of fascism after its alleged demise in 1945, the talk argued for the capability of architectural history to bring to light some of the least evident and perhaps most efficient mechanisms through which nationalist regimes have put forward their systems of thought and forms of social organization. Architecture, situated at the intersection of processes of production and aesthetics, has been uniquely valuable to fascist regimes. Architectural aesthetics are here taken to encompass not only the realm of the image and the much-discussed relationship between style and nation-state but also, and more pressingly, the realm of the sensorial, the construction of social emotion and the production of a moral regime at every scale of everyday life. This was, as per Walter Benjamin's acute observation in the mid 1930s, fascism's defining thread, in that it activated politics and technology as sensorial experiences of daily life, and specifically not in terms of reasoned debate or the pursuit of truth, historical or otherwise.

Society of Fellows in the Humanities
Columbia University
Spring 2019 Thursday Lecture Series
Observation and Obfuscation
Talks begin at 12:15, in the Heyman Center Common Room, unless otherwise noted.
Visualizing Krakow under Nazi Occupation: Exploring Digital and Analog Methods to Analyze the Built Environment
Paul Jaskot / Duke University
chair: María González Pendás
Turner and the Untimely
Jonathan Crary / Columbia University
chair: Ardeta Gjikola
"An Engine, Not a Camera": Photography in/as the History of Combustion
Matthew C. Hunter / McGill University
chair: Ardeta Gjikola
Categories as Prisons
Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra / University of Texas at Austin
chair: María González Pendás
Testing Hearing with Speech
Mara Mills / New York University
chair: Whitney Laemmli
Mapping Time in the 20th (and 21st) Century
William Rankin / Yale University
chair: Whitney Laemmli
My Life as a Spy: Investigations in a Secret Police File
Katherine Verdery / The Graduate Center, CUNY
chair: JM Chris Chang
Maoist Bromides, a Presidente Gonzalo Cult, and an Andean Cultural Revolution: The Curious Allure of the Shining Path Ideology
Charles Walker / University of California, Davis
chair: Rachel Nolan
Paralysis as Willful Forgetting and Narrative Disruption in Victorian Literature
Heather Tilley / Queen Mary University
chair: Arden Hegele
Envisioning the Kibbutz: Americans and Israeli Cooperatives in the 1960s and 1970s
Nicole Sackley / University of Richmond
chair: Christopher Florio
"The world is full of obvious things which nobody by any chance ever observes."
- Arthur Conan Doyle, The Hound of the Baskervilles
Thursday Lecture Series are open to Columbia faculty, students, and guests. Others wishing to attend should email sof-fellows@columbia.edu describing their interest and requesting registration.
societyoffellows.columbia.edu

Spring 2019

Guest Lectures on "Observation and Obfuscation"

7 February

Visualizing Krakow under Nazi Occupation: Exploring Digital and Analog Methods to Analyze the Built Environment
Paul Jaskot, Professor of Art, Art History & Visual Studies, Duke University

Krakow became a key location within the National Socialist plan for military expansion and the implementation of genocide in Eastern Europe during World War II. Here Hans Frank and the General Government he led developed their policies by establishing a formidable military and SS presence as well as by claiming Krakow as "Germanized" again. These schemes included the plans for rebuilding Krakow, led by architect Hubert Ritter. At the same time, of course, Frank also established a ghetto (opened March 1941) in which to confine the Jewish population as part of the radicalization of policies that led to the genocide. Urban and architectural visualizations then and now help us to conceptualize these disparate histories together, seeing how the ambitions for establishing Nazi presence complemented and contradicted spatial planning for the Jewish community. This presentation analyzed anew historical visualizations by Ritter and his staff, emphasizing the importance of urban and architectural plans as a means to help clarify goals within the Nazi occupation. Drawing upon historical and digital visualizations, Professor Jaskot foregrounded how architectural evidence helps us to interrogate the visibility or invisibility of specific groups within the racial policies and built environment of Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe.

14 February

Turner and the Untimely
Jonathan Crary, Meyer Schapiro Professor of Modern Art and Theory, Columbia University

Jonathan Crary's lecture presented some of his ongoing research on problems of vision, history, and temporality in the paintings of J.M.W. Turner. He examined the significance of Turner's anomalous and often aberrant relation to influential accounts of nineteenth-century art and visual modernism and explored ways in which his art might be engaged through its "untimeliness."

21 February

"An Engine, Not a Camera": Photography in/as the History of Combustion
Matthew C. Hunter, Associate Professor of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University

In late 1862, a curator from London's Patent Museum named Francis Pettit Smith traveled to Birmingham on a collecting mission. Seeking to acquire a prototype of James Watt's steam engine from the Soho manufactory established by Matthew Boulton in the mid-1760s, Smith unearthed an unusual set of chemo-mechanical images. Claiming the images (then identifiable as replicas after paintings by Angelika Kauffman, Benjamin West, and other leading Georgian Academicians) as photographs, Smith's story re-routed the medium's invention from the 1820s/30s back to Soho in the final decades of the eighteenth century. While Smith's intervention was convincing to many leading photographers in the 1860s, it found its greatest opponent in Matthew Piers Watt Boulton, grandson of the Soho industrialist. Boulton's antagonism is surprising on many levels. Not only did he effectively destroy Smith's story, he simultaneously integrated the curator's chemo-mechanical findings into his own aircraft designs. In this talk, Professor Hunter argued that these contested, material appropriations of eighteenth-century chemical experimentation by Smith and Boulton disclose some broader, inconvenient truths. They allow us to observe the extensive imbrication between major programs of what would come to be called "photography" and combustion-engine research.

28 February

Categories as Prisons
Jorge Cañizares Esguerra, Alice Drysdale Sheffield Professor of History, The University of Texas at Austin

In this talk, Professor Esguerra addressed the extent to which dominant historiographical categories that work well for a handful of western European societies have come to stand for general theories of knowledge and modernity. He addressed such categories as the public sphere, print culture, and the republic of letters, which led to alleged breakthroughs: the Scientific Revolution, centers of calculation, the Enlightenment, namely, the vast accumulation of new empirical knowledge that transformed the global economy and led to the Industrial Revolution. He used the example of petitioning in sixteenth-century Peru and Mexico to demonstrate the opposite, namely, that vertical manuscript communication and cyphered secrecy between multiethnic vassals and the monarchy played a far more important role in ushering modernity than any printing press or public sphere. Yet, he argued, the problem is much larger. It lies ultimately in the hardening and reifying of the category of the "West," made worse by the provincializing of "Europe." This type of postcolonial discourse has ceded to three tiny countries in Europe the global construction of early modern knowledge as "Western." These moves, in turn, have rendered invisible vast provinces of the history of the global south.

7 March

Testing Hearing with Speech
Mara Mills, Associate Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University

The measurement of hearing is fraught with unique uncertainties. If to measure means to "assign numerals to events," audiologist Ira Hirsh asked in 1952, while his field was professionalizing in the United States, "what are the observable events in hearing?" The key attributes of sound had first to be enumerated before they could be turned into probes for "sounding out" the ear. It's one thing to calibrate pitch and loudness, but quite another to take on timbre and intelligibility, the definitions of which remain topics of immense debate. In the case of speech audiometry—the subject of this talk—Professor Mills argued that the quantification of "hearing loss for speech" derives from articulation testing in the field of telephone engineering. More specifically, the molding of speech sounds into yardsticks of "useful hearing" arose in the historical context of Quality Control, as did the notion that human hearing should be "screened" and inspected in industrial fashion.

14 March

Mapping Time in the 20th (and 21st) Century
William Rankin, Associate Professor of the History of Science, Yale University

In the last ten years, maps have come under attack. With the rise of the digital humanities and spatial history, traditional two-dimensional graphics are now seen as woefully inert and retrograde. We hear that "a map is just a bad graph" that "cannot handle time"; we are told that "maps [are] static while movement is dynamic." But these statements fundamentally misunderstand the temporality of maps—both from a theoretical and a practical point of view. In response, this talk offered a historical argument and a forward-looking proposal. Historically, mapmakers since the mid-nineteenth century have used many distinct strategies for showing time on maps, and Professor Rankin offered a new vocabulary for describing these techniques, especially in comparison to the temporality of photography and cinema. Some maps may indeed be "snapshots," but this does not make them timeless, and the interactive maps of today still have much to learn from earlier approaches. Beyond this historical research, Professor Rankin also made a case for mapping time in new ways—or at least in ways that have remained quite rare—with examples from his own mapping work.

28 March

My Life as a Spy: Investigations in a Secret Police File
Katherine Verdery, Julien J. Studley Faculty Scholar and Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, The Graduate Center, CUNY

"There's nothing like reading your secret police file to make you wonder who you really are." With these words Katherine Verdery

begins her book *My Life as a Spy*, an attempt to understand the practices and mind-set of the Romanian Secret Police, who had kept her under constant surveillance for over three years of research between 1973 and 1989. In this talk, Professor Verdery described what reading this file was like and meditated upon her relations with friends who informed on her, as well as with secret police officers she tracked down.

11 April

Maoist Bromides, a Presidente Gonzalo Cult, and an Andean Cultural Revolution: The Curious Allure of the Shining Path Ideology
Charles Walker, Professor of History, UC Davis

The Shining Path led a vicious guerrilla war in Peru from 1980–1992 that culminated in more than 70,000 dead, over half of them at the hands of the Shining Path itself. A small Maoist party that defended the Cultural Revolution, the Shining Path developed an ideology that seemed to run against history and have little prospects for success. It not only vilified other leftist parties and their heroes (from Fidel Castro to Peru's Juan Velasco Alvarado), but also sustained a stark class analysis. Their pamphlets and brochures reproduced Maoist formulas and rhetoric, barely adjusting them to the Peruvian reality. This presentation examined how this derivative and harsh discourse helped attract thousands of followers.

18 April

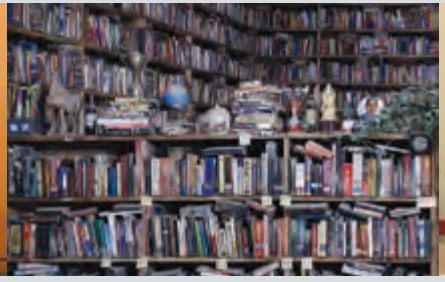
"To Stop the Clock of Busy Existence": Paralysis and Temporal and Spatial Modes of Observation and Obfuscation in Victorian Literature
Heather Tilley, Lecturer in Victorian Literature, Queen Mary University

This lecture explored how literary writers invoke paralysis to comment on anxieties about the relationship between mental and embodied knowledge, in light of neurological debates on organic versus functional causes of paralysis, and the problems of interpreting the legible signs presented by the paralyzed body. Specific examples were drawn from the fiction of Charles Dickens and George Eliot in addition to children's literature.

25 April

Envisioning the Kibbutz: Americans and Israeli Cooperatives in the 1960s and 1970s
Nicole Sackley, Associate Professor of History and American Studies, University of Richmond

In the late 1960s, tens of thousands of Americans toured, sojourned, or moved permanently to a kibbutz in Israel. These communal and cooperative agricultural communities captured the imaginations of Americans for a variety of reasons. Some sought out the kibbutz as a symbol of Zionism, or an experiment in communal living, or simply a curious feature of modern Israel. But for a number of Americans, the kibbutz offered up the promise of economic independence and prosperity at a moment of increasing economic crisis. This lecture explored how Israel's kibbutzim became embedded into the developmentalist designs of African Americans in the 1960s and 70s. At the height of the Black Power era, and amidst rising anxieties about "black Jewish relations," a prominent group of US civil rights leaders, Jewish American groups, and Israeli policymakers sought to extract the kibbutz from its Zionist roots and plant it in the soil of the American South.



THE SOCIETY OF FELLOWS AND HEYMAN CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

EVENTS 2018–2019

Event Highlights

The Society of Fellows has been a significant financial supporter of Heyman Center events ever since the latter began producing public programming in 2005. Now that the Society and Heyman Center have become a single entity, all Heyman Center programming is a product of their joint efforts. Both SOF Fellows and Board Members have been especially active this past year in organizing lectures, workshops, roundtables, and performances for audiences on campus and beyond—events that explore, from the perspectives of the humanities and humanistic social sciences, issues of particular urgency and interest. Many of these are highlighted below. Additional programming and further details—including information about speakers and cosponsors—may be found at heymancenter.org/events.

15 September

Justice-in-Education Initiative
Educating for Justice

Participants in this workshop learned about mass incarceration and the challenges and rewards of working with incarcerated populations. Participants addressed the realities of educational programs in correctional facilities, the challenges of re-entry, and what success feels like. Speakers included Robert Wright, Ivan Calaff, Jarrell Daniels, Brianna Baker, Patricia Yoon, and Taryn Hughes. This event was sponsored by the Justice-in-Education Initiative, a collaboration between the SOF/Heyman and the Center for Justice, with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

25 September

A Conversation with Cory Doctorow

Novelist, blogger, and technology activist Cory Doctorow joined Dennis Tenen, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, in a conversation about science fiction, the changing material conditions of contemporary authorship, copyright, and surveillance. The discussion showed the breadth of Doctorow's interests, which ranged from mobile devices to Disney World. Doctorow is the co-editor of the popular weblog Boing Boing

Cory Doctorow and Dennis Tenen

(boingboing.net), and a contributor to multiple magazines, websites, and newspapers. He is a special consultant to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (eff.org), a non-profit civil liberties group that defends freedom in technology law, policy, standards, and treaties. He holds an honorary doctorate in computer science from the Open University (UK), where he is a Visiting Professor; he is also a MIT Media Lab Research Affiliate. The SOF/Heyman was the lead organizer of this conversation, which was one in a slate of events with Cory Doctorow sponsored by Columbia's Brown Institute for Media Innovation.

6 October

Justice-in-Education Initiative
What Does Justice Look Like? A Celebration of the Arts and Social Justice

This celebration of the inaugural cohort of the June Jordan Fellowship asked participants to break out of their comfort zones and stretch their imagination to envision new ways of thinking about justice. The event commemorated the work of the June Jordan Fellows and celebrated the many arts organizations that are engaged in social justice work in New York City. The event highlighted art by the June Jordan Fellows, by participants in their workshops, and the visual art, music, literature, and spoken word contributions of local activist artists. It was also an opportunity for community members to interact with cultural institutions around the city that are engaged in social justice-centered art practices and outreach. This event was co-sponsored by the Center

for Justice and the SOF/Heyman as part of the Mellon-funded Justice-in-Education Initiative.

18 October

Black-Palestinian Solidarity 1968 / 2018

The late 1960s saw the emergence of a militant Black-Palestinian solidarity, epitomized by the meeting between members of the Black Panthers and members of the Palestinian Liberation Movement at the Pan-African Cultural Festival in Algiers in 1969. Fueled by anti-imperialism, they saw their struggles as revolutionary, militant, and internationalist. Fifty years on, new forms of solidarity and new politics on the ground have emerged. How should we understand these solidarities across different historical moments, sites, and racial formations? This conference was organized by SOF/Heyman Board Member Nadia El-Haj. Participants included Robyn Spencer (CUNY), Hamzah Baig (Yale), Nora Akawi (Columbia), and Lila Abu-Lughod (Columbia).

19 October

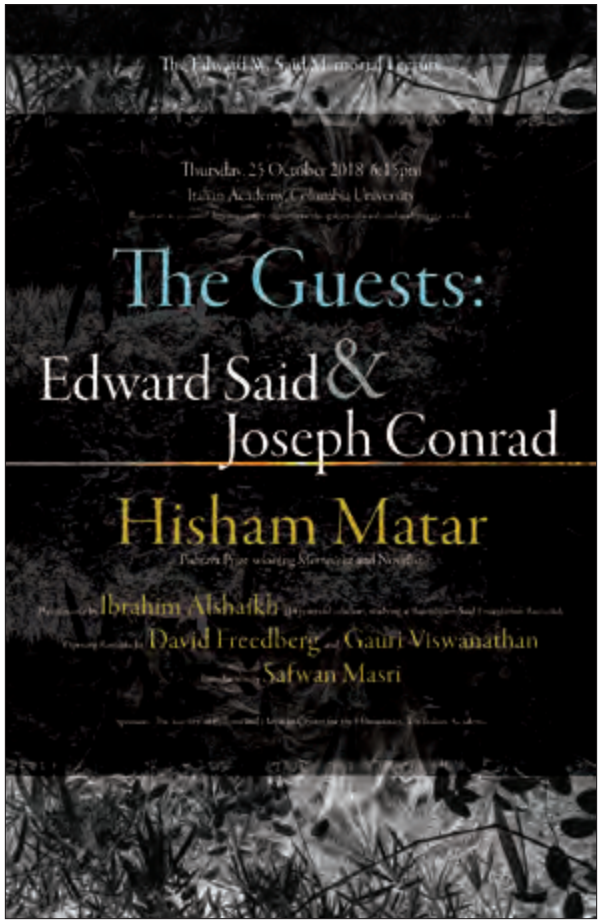
It's Simple: Histories of Architecture and/for the Environment

Some individuals profit from climate change, but many more suffer its consequences. It's that simple; any history of anthropogenic planetary transformation is also a history of inequality, injustice, and struggle. Arguing that architecture needs an environmental history, the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) organized, with generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the multidisciplinary, collaborative research project "Architecture and/for the Environment." As a part of the CCA's research project and in conjunction with the Buell Center's "Power: Infrastructure in America" research initiative led by Reinhold Martin (Chair of the Society of Fellows' Board), this event offered new directions and agendas for environmental histories of architecture that combine a planetary perspective with an assertion that national centers of power, particularly those in the United States, continue to hold outsized influence and responsibility.

25 October

The Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture
The Guests: Edward Said and Joseph Conrad

For more than forty years, Edward W. Said (1935–2003) returned to the works of Joseph Conrad (1857–1924). His writing on Conrad was wide-ranging, touching on aesthetics, displacement, and empire, and sheds an interesting light on the present moment. The 2018 Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture was given by author Hisham Matar on these connections between Said and Conrad. Matar is the author of two novels and a memoir, *The Return: Fathers, Sons and the Land in Between* (2016), which won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Autobiography, the PEN America Book of the Year Award, and the Rathbones Folio Prize. The



lecture was preceded by a performance by Ibrahim Alshaikh, a fourteen-year old clarinetist with the Barenboim-Said Foundation, Ramallah. The Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture, given once a year in honor of the public intellectual and literary critic who taught in the English and Comparative Literature Department at Columbia from 1963 until 2003, pays tribute to Professor Said by bringing to Columbia speakers who embody his beliefs and the legacy of his work.

1–2 November

Undead Texts: Grand Narratives and the History of the Human Sciences

This two-day conference examined works that once bestrode disciplines like colossi: assigned on every reading list, endlessly discussed and debated. These ambitious and erudite books covered many centuries and languages. They set forth big ideas and strong narratives. Those qualities made them vulnerable to specialist rebuttals; there is probably not a single claim in any of these texts that subsequent scholarship has not queried, criticized, or refuted. No accredited scholar still believes them, but no one escapes the spell they once cast. These texts refuse to die. They have never been out of print, continue to be translated, and still appear on the syllabi of undergraduate courses—not infrequently assigned by the very scholars who made their reputations challenging them. "Undead Texts" brought together scholars across disciplines to ask why these texts persist. The event marked the beginning of an ongoing partnership between the SOF/Heyman and *Public Books*, an online magazine of ideas, scholarship, and the arts.

9–10 November

Transnational Counterrevolutions: Ideas and Practices of the Right in Latin America's Cold War

During the Cold War era, an array of new economic, cultural, religious, and military ideas circulated among Latin America's ruling elites and conservative middle classes. Against a backdrop of vertiginous social change, these concepts drove new forms of repression within and across the countries of the region, and they continue to shape its societies today. Unlike the region's revolutionary movements, however, Latin America's fundamentally transnational counterrevolution is only starting to be treated as a distinct and multivalent object of study. This two-day conference, organized by Heyman Center Fellow Paul Katz, helped consolidate a deeper understanding of the role that transnational right-wing networks played in molding authoritarian ideologies and practices during Latin America's Cold War.

12 November

Science and Capitalism: Entangled Histories

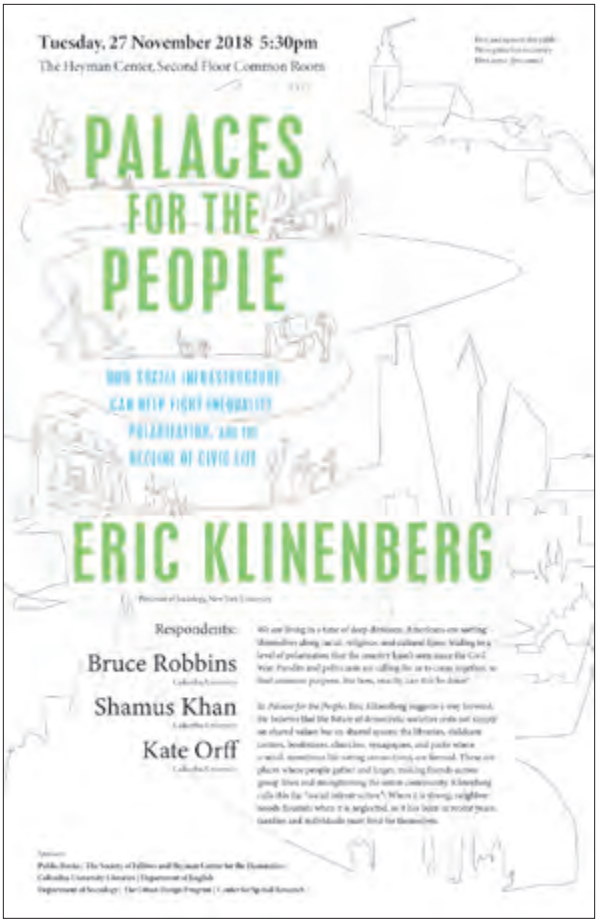
This Roundtable invited historians Marwa Elshakry (Columbia), Michael Gordin (Princeton), Malgosia Mazurek (Columbia), and Carl Wennerlind (Barnard) to discuss *Osiris 33*, a special issue on "Science and Capitalism: Entangled Histories," with co-editors Will Deringer (MIT, SOF 2012–13), Eugenia Lean (Columbia), and Lukas Rieppel (Brown). Taking inspiration from the recent surge of scholarly interest in the "history of capitalism," as well as from renewed attention to political economy by historians of science and technology, this *Osiris* volume foregrounds the *entanglements* between these two powerful and unruly historical forces and traces the diverse ways they mutually shaped each other. The assembled papers excavated an array of tangled nodes at the science/capitalism nexus, stretching from the seventeenth century to the twenty-first, from Nevada to Central Asia to Japan, from microbiology to industrial psychology to public health.

Carl Wennerlind, Malgosia Mazurek, and Michael Gordin

15 November

"Keywords for Today" and "Political* Concepts*": A Dialogue on the Terms We Use

This afternoon event brought together scholars working on two complementary projects: the first is a new edition of *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*, a project that extends and updates Raymond Williams's original forty entries from his 1976 classic with eighty-five more short essays from scholars across the US, UK, and the globe; the second is *Political Concepts: A Critical Lexicon*, a project housed, in part, at Columbia. Organized by Bruce Robbins (Columbia), this event brought together the two head editors of *Keywords*, Colin MacCabe (University of Pittsburgh), and Holly Yanacek (James Madison University), as well as two members of the editorial collective, Jonathan Arac (University of Pittsburgh) and Arjuna Parakrama (University of Colombo, Sri Lanka). Other commentators included Susan Buck-Morss (CUNY), Miriam Ticktin (The New School, SOF 2002–04), and Emily Apter (NYU). The event brought the Keywords Project into dialogue with representatives of a kindred and ongoing project: *Political Concepts: A Critical Lexicon*. Political Concepts speakers included Étienne Balibar (Columbia), Akeel Bilgrami (Columbia, SOF 1983–85), Stathis Gourgouris (Columbia), and Ann Stoler (The New School). The event format asked speakers from each project to direct comments to the projects of others.



27 November

Palaces for the People

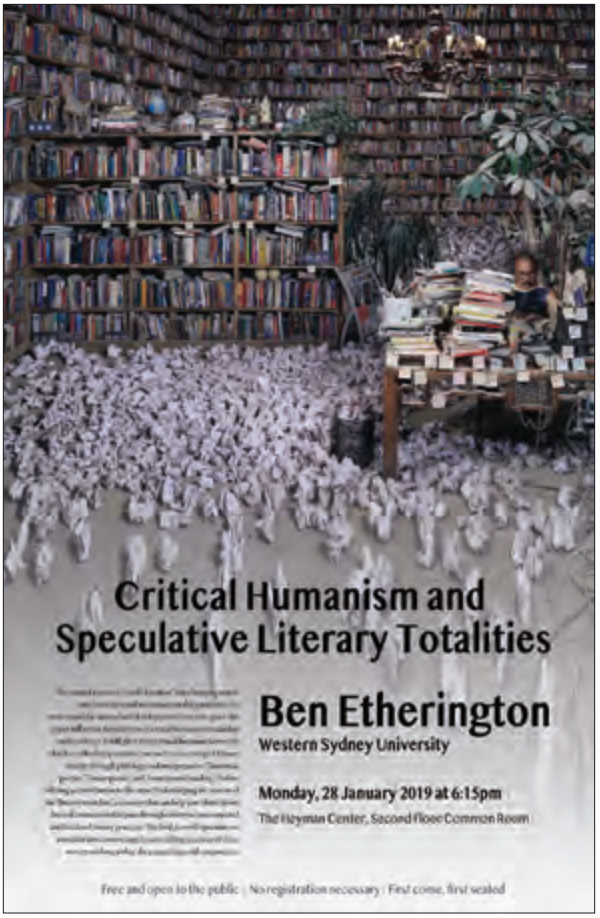
We are living in a time of deep divisions. Americans are sorting themselves along racial, religious, and cultural lines, leading to a level of polarization that the country hasn't seen since the Civil War. Pundits and politicians are calling for us to come together, to find common purpose. But how, exactly, can this be done? In a talk on his recent book, *Palaces for the People* (Penguin), Eric Klinenberg suggests a way forward. He believes that the future of democratic societies rests not simply on shared values but on shared spaces: the libraries, childcare centers, bookstores, churches, synagogues, and parks where crucial, sometimes life-saving connections, are formed. These are places where people gather and linger, making friends across group lines and strengthening the entire community. Klinenberg calls this the "social infrastructure." When it is strong, neighborhoods flourish; when it is neglected, as it has been in recent years, families and individuals must fend for themselves.

3 December

Staging War: Theatrical Ventures, Quandaries, and Prospects

Dramatic art arose as a means of reckoning with war. The earliest known Greek plays were written by military veterans and performed by a chorus of young conscripts, dramatizing episodes from the Trojan War, before an Athenian audience whose lives

were directly touched by military conflict. The twenty-first century has seen a profusion of plays that grapple with war on North American stages, though written and performed under very different conditions. This roundtable event, organized by Heyman Center Fellow Warren Kluber, brought together a panel of playwrights whose innovative work has stimulated the expanding corpus of "war plays"—Judith Thompson (*Palace of the End*), George Brant (*Grounded*), and Stephan Wolfert (*Cry Havoc*). They reflected on the enduring power of live dramatic performance for thinking through contemporary culture's relationship to war, and considered what new forms and strategies are needed to face war's new realities.



28 January

Critical Humanism and Speculative Literary Totalities

In this lecture, Ben Etherington (Edward W. Said Fellow) revisited the tradition of critical humanist approaches to world literature. He glossed three critical humanist keywords: "historical poetics," "Ansatzpunkt," and "contrapuntal reading." The discussion of the latter term drew upon research undertaken in the Edward W. Said archive. In addition to these keywords, he put forward the notion of the "literary meridian," a term adapted from Paul Celan, to think about the ways in which lines of connection pass through otherwise unconnected and localized literary practices. The talk

concluded with a speculation on meridian lines connecting the storytelling practices of three writers working within the current imperial conjuncture: Alexis Wright, Alai, and Patrick Chamoiseau. Etherington claimed that in our day world literature is necessarily localist and localizing: "a universal enriched by every particular: the deepening and coexistence of all particulars" (Aimé Césaire).

30 January

Climate in Motion: Science, Empire, and the Problem of Scale

In this talk, organized by SOF Fellow Whitney Laemmli, Professor Deborah Coen (Yale) discussed her new book, *Climate in Motion: Science, Empire, and the Problem of Scale*. In current practice, predicting the impact of human activities on the earth's climate hinges on tracking interactions among phenomena of radically different dimensions, from the molecular to the planetary. *Climate in Motion* shows that this multiscalar, multicausal framework emerged well before computers and satellites. Extending the history of modern climate science back into the nineteenth century, Professor Coen uncovers its roots in the politics of empire-building in central and eastern Europe. *Climate in Motion* presents the history of modern climate science as a history of "scaling"—that is, the embodied work of moving between different frameworks for measuring the world. In this way, it offers a critical historical perspective on the concepts of scale that structure thinking about the climate crisis today and the range of possibilities for responding to it.

6 February

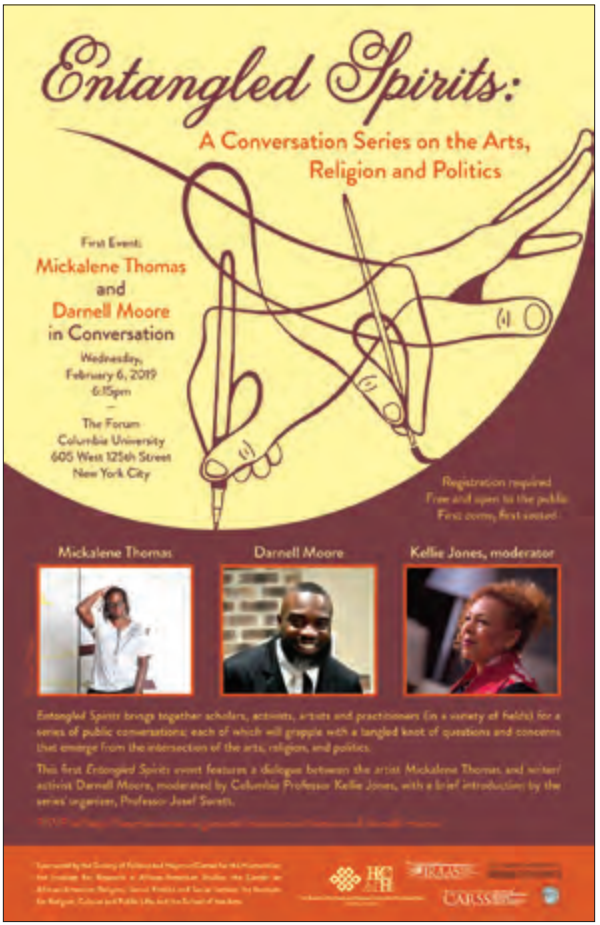
Entangled Spirits: A Conversation Series on the Arts, Religion, and Politics
Mickalene Thomas and Darnell Moore in Conversation

This event inaugurated a new series, *Entangled Spirits*, which brings together scholars, activists, artists, and practitioners in a variety of fields for public conversations, each of which will grapple with a tangled knot of questions and concerns that emerge from the intersection of the arts, religion, and politics. The series is organized by Professor Josef Sorett (SOF Board Member) in partnership with the SOF/Heyman. The first *Entangled Spirits* event featured a dialogue between the artist Mickalene Thomas and writer/activist Darnell Moore, moderated by Columbia Professor Kellie Jones, with a brief introduction by Professor Sorett.

28 February–1 March

Narrative in the Natural Sciences and Humanities

While all disciplines employ narrative in their work to summarize and communicate their theories, methods, and results, the realm of narrating (more colloquially known as storytelling) has traditionally been considered a literary or historical endeavor under the purview of the humanities and social sciences. This is no longer the case. As evidenced by the burgeoning fields of narrative medicine and science communication, narratives and narrating are also important tools for the natural sciences. Speakers from different



disciplines were invited to share their perspectives and engage in a moderated discussion. Organized by the Center of Science and Society and co-sponsored by the SOF/Heyman, the conference included a public keynote lecture by Lawrence Weschler (author and journalist) and a workshop on science communication that allowed student participants to put what they have learned from the conference into practice.

6 March

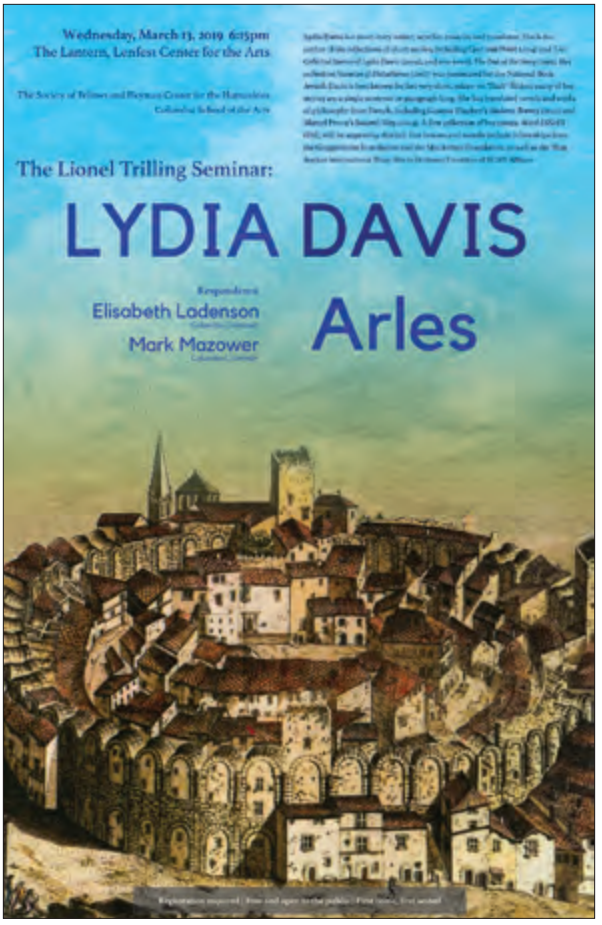
Contemporary African Fiction
Let's Tell This Story Properly

Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi, a Ugandan novelist and short story writer, gave a reading from her forthcoming collection *Let's Tell This Story Properly*. Makumbi's first novel, *Kintu*, won the Kwani Manuscript Project in 2013 and was longlisted for the Etisalat Prize in 2014. She was awarded the 2014 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for "Let's Tell This Story Properly" and was awarded the prestigious Windham-Campbell Prize for Fiction in 2018 to support her writing. In addition to this public reading, Makumbi participated in a workshop sponsored by ISERP and the Department of History on the topic of "Time and Temporality in the African Past." Makumbi's visit was organized by Heyman Center Fellow Rhiannon Stephens, Abosede George (Barnard), and Gregory Mann (Columbia). This event, in addition to the Caine Prize Lecture by Makena Onjerika, contributed to the SOF/Heyman's programming on Contemporary African Fiction.

13 March

The Lionel Trilling Seminar
Lydia Davis on "Arles"

Lydia Davis gave this year's Lionel Trilling Lecture on the subject of the historical city of Arles. Drawing upon her trademark style of experimental short prose, she took the audience through a series of vignettes tying together personal narrative, detailed description of the city and its architecture, and deep research into the city's history. Davis is the author of six collections of short stories, including *Can't and Won't* (2014) and *The Collected Stories of*



Lydia Davis (2009), and one novel, *The End of the Story* (1995). Her collection *Varieties of Disturbance* (2007) was nominated for the National Book Award. Davis is best known for her very short, micro- or "flash" fiction; many of her stories are a single sentence or paragraph long. She has translated novels and works of philosophy from French, including Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* (2010) and Marcel Proust's *Swann's Way* (2003). Her honors and awards include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation, as well as the Man Booker International Prize. This lecture series, organized by the SOF/Heyman, honors Lionel Trilling (1905–75), one of Columbia's most celebrated faculty members and one of the great humanist scholars and public intellectuals of the twentieth century.

22–23 March

We the People: Public Workers in Service of America

Organized by SOF Fellow Christopher Florio, this symposium on the history of public work in modern America brought together established and early-career scholars working to recover the history of public work, a crucial sector that has indelibly shaped both American labor and the American state. The symposium was the first of its kind—the first time historians studying public workers came together to collaborate, share findings, and demarcate the state of the field. It is an opportune moment. The history of public workers sheds light on some of today's most relevant social and political issues: the renewed prominence of teachers' unions, stagnant American wages and the disappearance of the vaunted middle class, the stubborn persistence of racial and gender discrimination, and the destructive results of the ongoing disinvestment in government and social infrastructure. Public workers are among the most organized yet most threatened of workers in the contemporary United States. The goal of this symposium was to provide the groundwork for a subsequent edited volume that will shape how both historians and the public at large understand, recognize, and engage public work in the United States.

25 March

Contemporary African Fiction
The Caine Prize Reading: Makena Onjerika

The Caine Prize for African Writing is a literature prize awarded to an African writer of a short story published in English. The prize was launched in 2000 to encourage and highlight the richness and diversity of African writing by bringing it to a wider audience internationally. The focus on the short story reflects the contemporary development of the African story-telling tradition. The SOF/Heyman hosted the 2018 Caine Prize winner Makena Onjerika, who read from her short story "Fanta Blackcurrant" (*Wasafiri,* 2017). Narrated in the first-person plural, "Fanta Blackcurrant" follows Meri, a street child of Nairobi, who makes a living using her natural intelligence and charisma but wants nothing more than "a big Fanta Blackcurrant for her to drink every day and it never finish." The reading was introduced by SOF Board Member Jennifer Wenzel.

26 March

A Light in Dark Times: The New School for Social Research and Its University in Exile

Founded in 1919 in the name of academic freedom, the New School for Social Research quickly became a pioneer in adult education—what its first president, Alvin Johnson, called "the continuing education of the educated." In 1933 Johnson opened the University in Exile within the New School, providing visas and jobs for nearly two hundred refugees fleeing Hitler. In this book, Judith Friedlander reconstructs the history of the New School in the con-

text of ongoing debates over academic freedom, democratic education, and intellectual dissidents. Against the backdrop of World War I and the first Red Scare, the Hitler years and McCarthyism, the student uprisings during the Vietnam War and the downfall of communism in Eastern Europe, Friedlander tells a dramatic story of academic, political, and financial struggle by way of brief sketches of New School administrators, faculty members, trustees, and students, among them Alvin Johnson and the political philosopher Hannah Arendt. In this roundtable discussion, co-organized by Columbia University Press and the SOF/Heyman, Professor Friedlander was joined by Columbia professors Jonathan Cole, Ira Katznelson, and Alice Kessler-Harris.

28 March

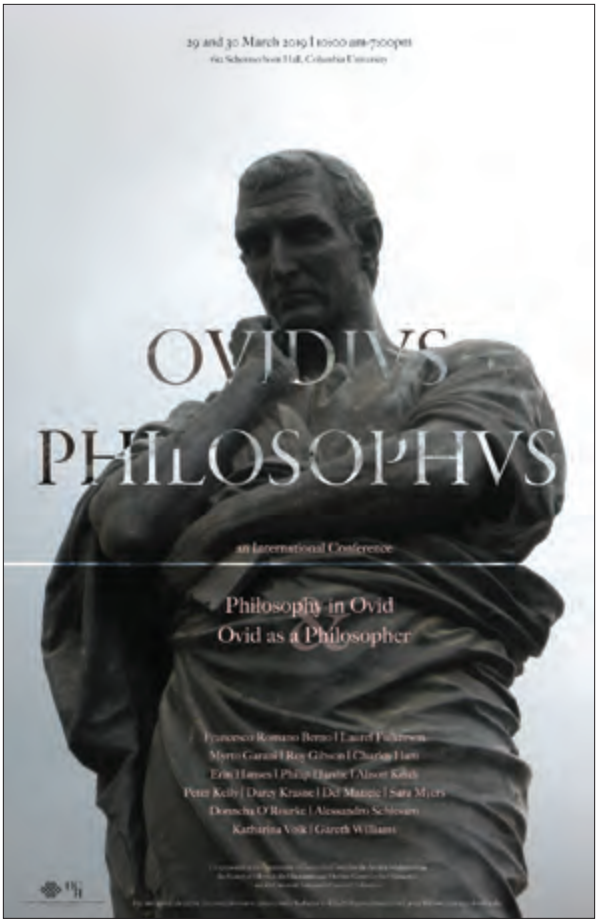
Medea on Trial: A Conversation with Margaret Atwood and Lisa Dwan

Margaret Atwood, author of more than forty books of fiction, poetry, and critical essays, including *The Handmaid's Tale*, visited Columbia to speak with actor Lisa Dwan about the troubling power and enduring influence of Euripides' *Medea*. The conversation took place at the Forum on Columbia's Manhattanville campus and was part of a slate of programming on *Medea* organized by Tricia Dailey and Lisa Dwan as part of their collaborative course titled "Medea on Trial." The course and related programming were sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality.

29–30 March

Ovidius Philosophus

This international conference on philosophy in Ovid and Ovid as a philosopher, organized by Heyman Center Fellow Katharina Volk and Society of Fellows Board Member Gareth Williams, included talks on exile, mortality, choice, labor, and natural philosophy, among many other topics. The conference brought together the following speakers: Francesca Romano Berno (Università di Roma, La Sapienza), Laurel Fulkerson (Florida State University), Myrto Garani (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), Roy Gibson (Durham University), Charles Ham (Grand Valley State University), Erin Hanses (Pennsylvania State University),



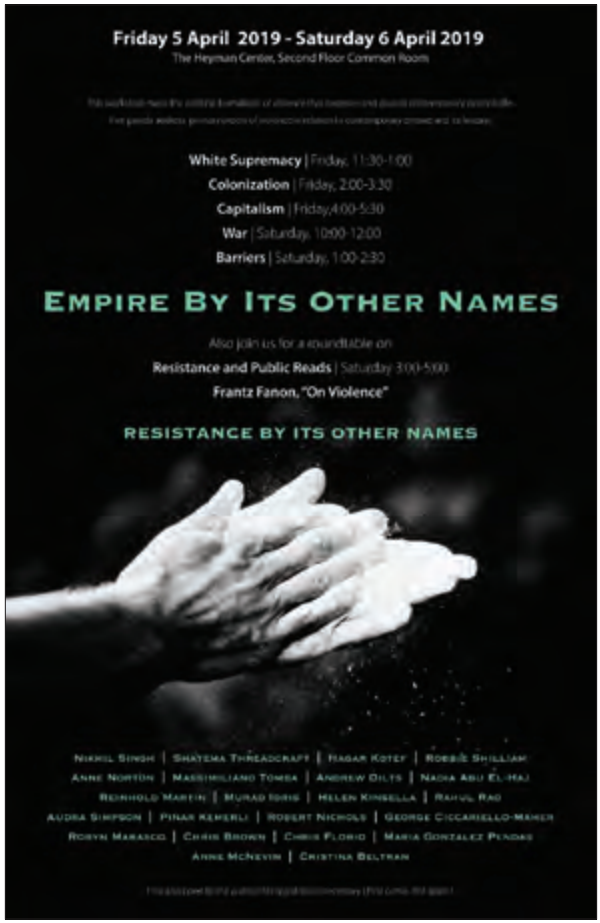
Philip Hardie (University of Cambridge), Alison Keith (University of Toronto), Peter Kelly (University of Oregon), Darcy Krasne (Columbia), Del Maticic (NYU), Sara Myers (University of Virginia), Donncha O'Rourke (University of Edinburgh), and Alessandro Schiesaro (University of Manchester).

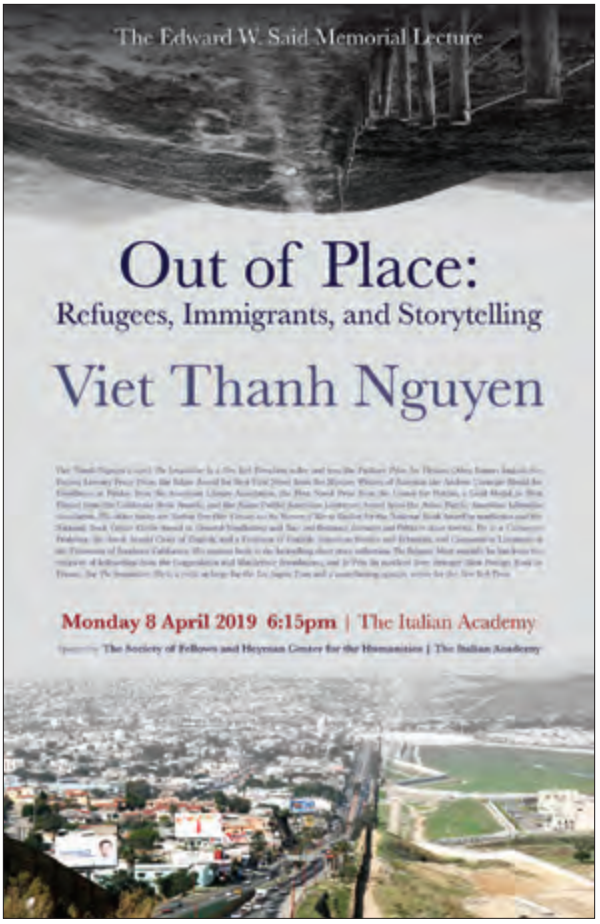
5–6 April

Empire By Its Other Names

This workshop, organized by alumni Fellows Hagar Kotef (SOAS, University of London, SOF 2009–12) and Murad Idris (University of Virginia, SOF 2014–15), aimed to map the political formations of violence that organize and govern contemporary political life. Following Trump's election, questions emerged about how to best

typify this regime: Is it fascism, authoritarianism, or populism? A new or old form of white supremacy? The truth of American democracy, or its betrayal? The essence of neo-liberalism, or a backlash against it? On the other hand, do these questions presuppose a form of American exceptionalism, accounting for it by discounting its global contexts? And is the perplexity and urgency surrounding Trump not itself symptomatic of American exceptionalism? By thinking through some primary orders of violence, this conference systematically placed these questions and themes within a wider global history. The workshop was composed of five sessions, each dedicated to a distinct order of violence: Colonization, White Supremacy, Capitalism, Barriers, and War. The second day featured a roundtable organized around a discussion of Frantz Fanon's "On Violence."





8 April

The Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture
Out of Place: Refugees, Immigrants, and Storytelling

Viet Thanh Nguyen delivered the 2019 Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture to a full house at the Italian Academy this spring. The author related tales of his family's experience leaving Vietnam and acclimating to life in the United States as refugees, he stressed, rather than immigrants. His narrative focused on his younger self and his brother, their frames of reference as children in a new country and their respective perceptions of parental expectations. Nguyen discussed the contemporary need for Asian Americans to achieve "narrative plenitude," where there is enough representation in the media of one race that a few instances of representa-

tion do not make up the whole. Nguyen's novel *The Sympathizer* is a *New York Times* bestseller and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction among many other prizes and awards. He is a University Professor, the Aerol Arnold Chair of English, and a Professor of English, American Studies and Ethnicity, and Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California. Most recently he has been the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim and MacArthur Foundations, and *le Prix du meilleur livre étranger* (Best Foreign Book in France), for *The Sympathizer*. He is a critic-at-large for the *Los Angeles Times* and a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times*.

9 April

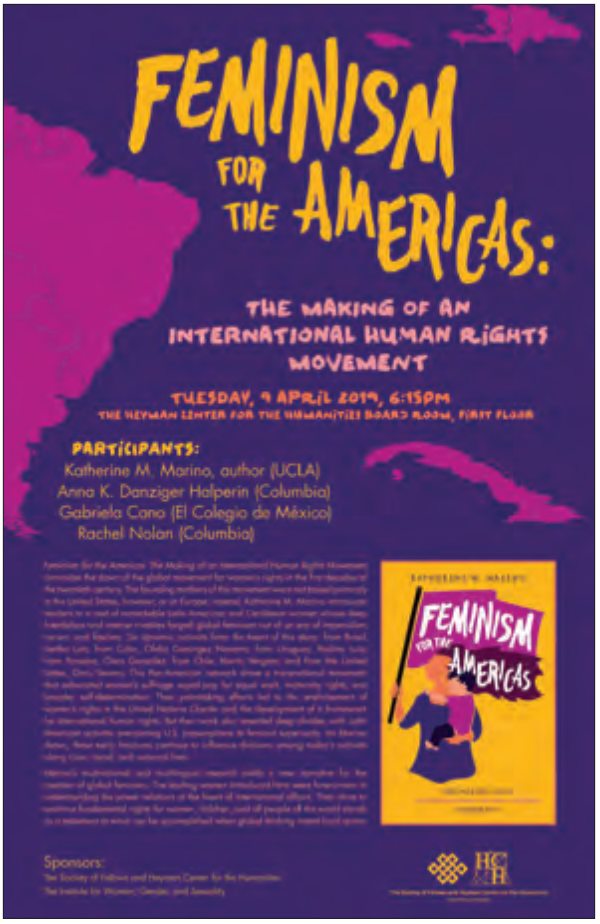
Feminism for the Americas: The Making of an International Human Rights Movement

SOF Fellow Rachel Nolan invited Katherine M. Marino (UCLA) to discuss her new publication, *Feminism for the Americas: The Making of an International Human Rights Movement*. This book chronicles the dawn of the global movement for women's rights in the first decades of the twentieth century. The founding mothers of this movement include a cast of remarkable Latin American and Caribbean women whose deep friendships and intense rivalries forged global feminism out of an era of imperialism, racism, and fascism. This Pan-American network drove a transnational movement that advocated women's suffrage, equal pay for equal work, maternity rights, and broader self-determination. Their painstaking efforts led to the enshrinement of women's rights in the United Nations Charter and the development of a framework for international human rights. Marino's multinational and multilingual research yields a new narrative for the creation of global feminism. Other panelists included Anna K. Danzinger Halperin (Heyman Center Fellow, 2017–18) and Gabriela Cano (Columbia).

12 April

Proust 2019

In 1919, Marcel Proust was officially recognized as a great writer when the second volume of his magnum opus was awarded France's most prestigious literary prize, the Prix Goncourt. This



conference, in honor of the centenary of Proust's Goncourt award, brings together writers, scholars, and translators to discuss the reasons Proust is now, one hundred years later, more popular and influential than ever. Participants included Anne Carson (reading her "Albertine Workout"), Nicholas Dames, Sara Danius, Lydia Davis, Saskia Hamilton, Andrew Holleran, Michael Lucey, Colm Toíbín, Caroline Weber, Edmund White, and Michael Wood. The conference was organized by Elisabeth Ladenson and hosted by Maison Française with financial support from the SOF/Heyman.

19 April

Aesthetic Science: A History of Taste, Judgment, and Affect in Scientific Practice

SOF Fellow Ardeta Gjikola and Alex Wragge-Morley (NYU) discussed Wragge-Morley's forthcoming book *Aesthetic Science: Representing Nature in the Royal Society of London, 1650–1720*, in a wide-ranging discussion about the place of taste, judgment, and sensory pleasure in the production of scientific knowledge. The event was organized by Lan A. Li (Postdoctoral Scholar in Society and Neuroscience, Columbia).

23 April

Marina Carr in Conversation with Lisa Dwan on Greek Drama, Beckett, and Adaptation

Marina Carr's *By the Bog of Cats* premiered at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin's national stage, to wide acclaim in 1998. Based on Euripides' *Medea*, the play tells the story of Hester Swane, an outsider in her small rural community, driven to acts of vengeance and self-destruction. The play raises important questions about the status of outsiders, the treatment of women and mothers, and the roots of violence. In this conversation with actor Lisa Dwan, Marina Carr discussed the stakes in adaptations of the Classics, Dwan and Carr's shared Beckett influence, as well as the role of women in theater today. Following Dwan's conversation with Margaret Atwood (28 March), this event was part of a slate of programming on *Medea* in collaboration with the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality.

25 April

The Digital Future of the History of Science

Historians of science have long engaged with public-facing initiatives, but as the discipline has professionalized, conversations have increasingly taken place behind paywalls and within academic presses. On the occasion of the launching of the online, open-access *Encyclopedia of the History of Science*, this roundtable discussion focused on the history of attempts to use digital and electronic resources to develop and deepen academic fields. Focusing on both the pitfalls and possibilities of such resources, the discussants—Christopher Phillips (Carnegie Mellon), Pamela Smith (Columbia), Alex Wellerstein (Stevens Institute of Technology), and Marwa Elshakry (Columbia)—engaged with the question of how to shape such an initiative to be lasting and valuable. What might be gained and lost by creating a resource that provides a more holistic, up-to-date, and easily accessible portrayal of the history of science than is currently available? This workshop was organized by SOF Fellow Whitney Laemmli.

3–4 May

States of Crisis: Disaster, Recovery, and Possibility in the Caribbean

The Caribbean is often described as a region in crisis. In the aftermath of recent natural disasters in the region, the Caribbean is understood to be uniquely imperiled by climate change and is subjected to various forms of political and fiscal intervention. In September 2017, Hurricanes Irma and Maria ravaged the re-

gion and elevated questions surrounding climate change and its impacts on the Caribbean to the forefront of political discourse. Meanwhile, Caribbean states and territories are afflicted by crises in governing legitimacy, as sovereign debt, multinational disinvestment, and heightened rates of violent crime threaten political order. The conference featured ethnographic research on the impacts of natural disaster and political crises throughout the Caribbean and also considered how empirical perspectives from the Caribbean inform approaches to political anthropology in an epoch of anthropogenic climate change. Organized by SOF Board Member David Scott.

17–19 May

History of Gossip and Falsified Documents in the Archive in Latin America

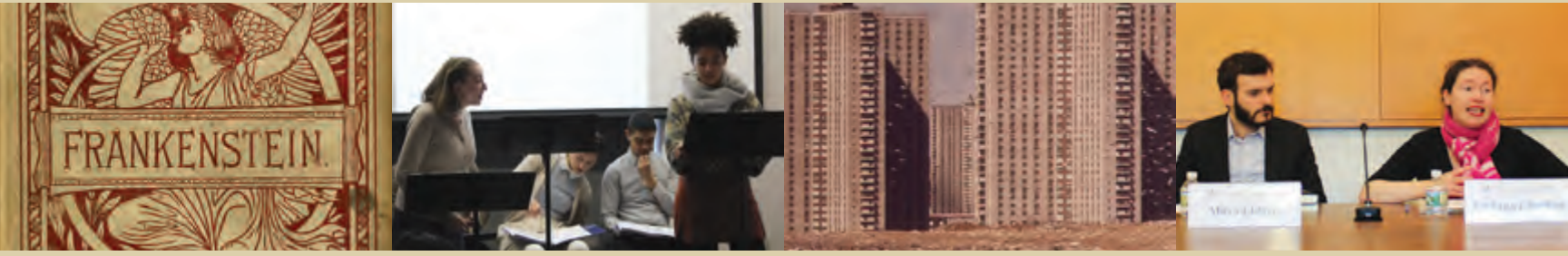
This conference, organized by SOF Fellow Rachel Nolan, brought together historians from Latin America and the US to consider a set of questions: How should we analyze rumors that have entered the written record? How should we work with archives that have been tampered with, falsified, or contain unsubstantiated accusations, often without recourse to more reliable sources on the same subjects? Participants contributed papers on a variety of topics, from rumors of "Little Cubas" in the Guatemalan jungle during the Cold War, to falsified passports used by formerly enslaved people in transit to freedom in the Caribbean, to lynchings following rumors of child-theft in Mexico. David Sartorius (University of Maryland), José Ragas (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), Colby Ristow (Hobart and Williams Smith Colleges), Gema Kloppe-Santamaría (Loyola University Chicago), Jonathan Ablard (Ithaca College), Ernesto Bohoslavsky (Universidad Nacional de Sarmiento), and Sarah Foss (Oklahoma State University) all presented original work. Co-organized with Vanessa Freije of the University of Washington, the conference was structured as a workshop with commentators from Columbia and surrounding universities. The papers under discussion were first drafts of a series of articles that will be submitted to the *Journal of Latin American Studies* for a special journal issue. Dr. Nolan and Dr. Freije are currently co-writing the introduction.

14–15 June

The Council of Humanities Centers and Institutes Medical Humanities Summer Institute: "Health Beyond Borders"

The Council of Humanities Centers and Institutes and Medical Humanities Network is a partnership of over thirty universities worldwide working in the medical and health humanities. In 2019, SOF Fellow Arden Hegele co-organized the CHCI Medical Humanities' annual Summer Institute at Columbia Global Centers | Paris on the theme of "Health Beyond Borders."

Human health is shaped by borders—from the protected space of the hospital to the international boundaries that govern the health of populations. But even as borders offer a way of delineating health and disease in physical space, the border itself is often understood as a boundary to be transcended or a frontier to be crossed. The notion of moving beyond borders helps to make sense of broader trends in global health, from debates about migration, contested sovereignty, and environmental accords to the boundary-crossing work of clinicians such as the *Médecins sans frontières* (Doctors Without Borders). Within the medical and health humanities, the border provides a rich zone for investigation into how well-being is constituted across a continuum of individuals and populations. Importantly, at the heart of the concept of the border is the issue of representation: borders are necessarily shaped as much by human expression as they are by physical markers. This conference explored the interdisciplinary facets of the border, from the metaphorical to the political with keynotes by Jens Brockmeier (The American University of Paris), Ghada Hatem (Maison des Femmes, Paris), Samuel Roberts (Columbia University), and Craig Spencer (Columbia University).



THE SOCIETY OF FELLOWS AND HEYMAN CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES
SERIES & WORKSHOPS

SOF/Heyman Series and Workshops

The SOF/Heyman sponsored several new and ongoing series this year: Politics of the Present; Praxis & Critique 13/13; Explorations in the Medical Humanities; New Books in the Arts & Sciences; and New Books in the Society of Fellows.

Politics of the Present

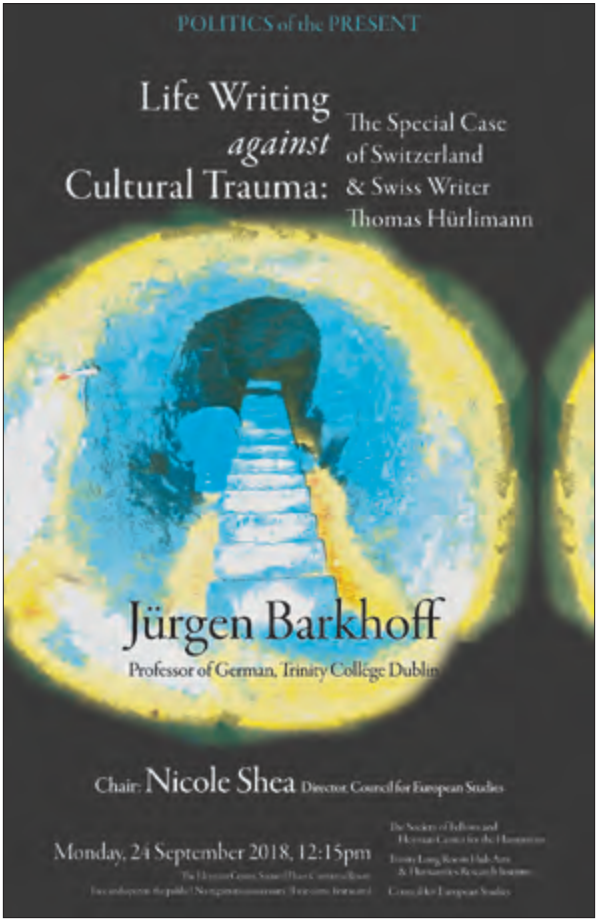
In order to address the challenges of our current political moment, the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities worked closely with partnering institutions to organize and publicize events on a wide range of topics that included borders and migration, political action in an age of uncertainty, polarization, and cultural trauma. The seven events in this series included the inaugural talk of the Heyman-Hub Fellowship, a new partnership between SOF/Heyman and the Trinity College Long Room Hub Arts & Research Institute that allows at least one faculty member from Trinity and one from Columbia to take up residence at the other's institution.

The wide-ranging conferences, lectures, discussions, performances, and film screenings helped to broaden and deepen the political discussion on contemporary issues across campus and beyond.

24 September

Heyman Hub Fellowship Lecture
Life Writing Against Cultural Trauma: The Special Case of Switzerland and Swiss Writer Thomas Hürlimann

Jürgen Barkhoff, the first Heyman-Hub Fellow, opened the Fall series with a talk on the Swiss writer Thomas Hürlimann, the son of a prominent Swiss politician and a central voice in Switzerland's cultural and societal debates. Barkhoff argued that Hürlimann employs a variety of sophisticated strategies to reflect cultural trauma in Swiss identity, playing off the taboos and silences of his own family history to convey the hypocrisies and repressions of recent Swiss history. Among the themes reflected in this manner are anti-Semitism, Swiss opportunism towards Nazi-Germany and its



ongoing legacies, patriarchal power structures and gender issues, globalization and its effects on notions of place and belonging.

25 September

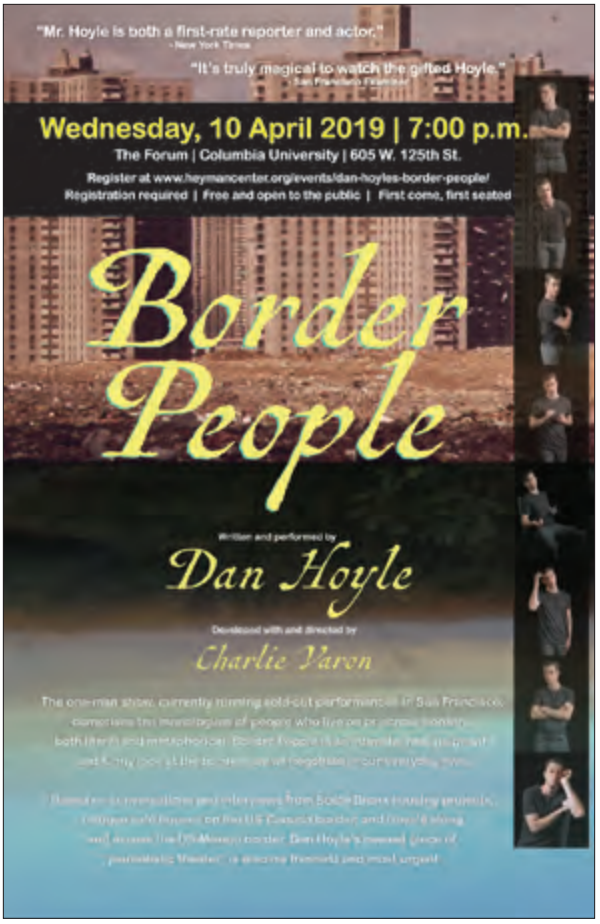
Agora Europe: The Socrates of Prague

The Agora Europe Series, co-founded by Caterina di Fazio, Nadia Urbinati, and Étienne Balibar, is a permanent and itinerant forum for discussing the future of Europe and the potential of each country to reshape the European political space. This event involved a film screening and discussion of *The Socrates of Prague* with participants who included the film's producer Nicolas De Warren (Penn State University), Simona Forti (New School), Giovanni Giorgini (University of Bologna), and James Dodd (New School). *The Socrates of Prague* involves a series of interviews with students and friends of Jan Patočka, the unlikely spokesperson for Charta 77, a proclamation signed by more than two-hundred Czech dissidents and published in 1977. The Charta was presented to the communist authorities to point out the flagrant disregard of the norms of freedom and legality in Czechoslovakian society.

5 November

Crises of Democracy and Cultural Trauma at Trinity College Dublin

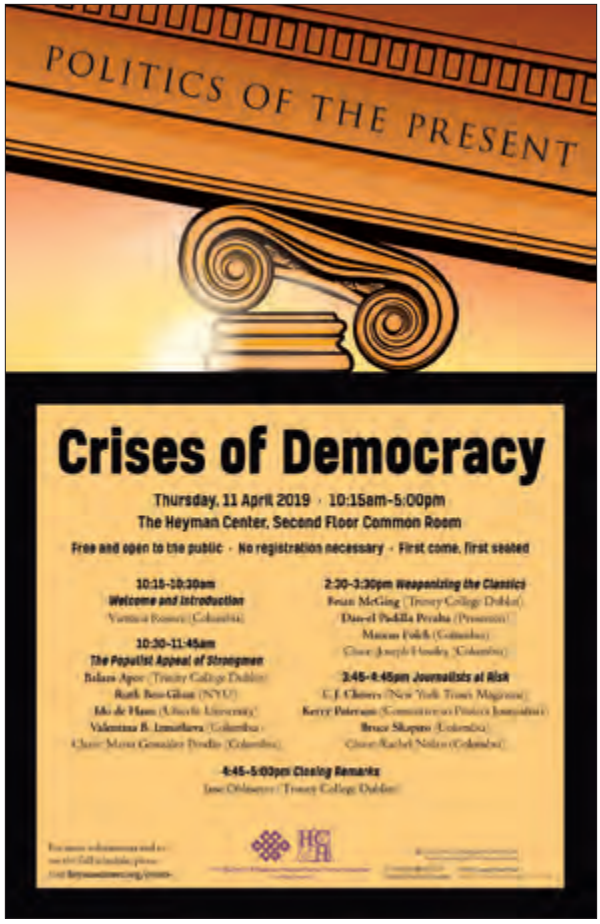
What is it in the world today that is making populist and authoritarian approaches to government more attractive than democracy? Countries that find their political systems in crisis can in most cases find causes by looking back to specific times, events and experiences in the collective life of the culture that have contributed to current crises. Columbia faculty Marianne Hirsch, Bruce Shapiro, and Stephanie McCurry joined Trinity faculty to discuss the Crises of Democracy through the prism of cultural trauma and what the erosion of democracy means for the future of our societies.



10 April

Border People

Dan Hoyle's "Border People" presented journalistic theater based on conversations and interviews with residents of South Bronx housing projects, Refugee Safe Houses on the Canadian border, and travels along the Southwestern Border and into Mexico. The show, which had a five-month run in San Francisco, is comprised of ten monologues that offer an intimate, raw, poignant, funny look at the borders we negotiate in our everyday lives. Dan Hoyle's works have been hailed as "riveting, funny and poignant" (*New York Times*) and "hilarious, moving and very necessary" (*Salon*). This public show on the Manhattanville campus helped kick off the one-day conference on Crises of Democracy that followed.



11 April

Crises of Democracy at Columbia

This symposium addressed three issues that affect democracy across the globe—The Populist Appeal of Strongmen, Weaponizing the Classics, and Journalists at Risk—and asked how academic disciplines help us understand and explain the complex relationship between representations and the exercise of power; how disciplines can be used and misused to address modern problems of democracy, racism, and labor, among others; and how we can better understand and respond to contemporary attacks on journalists and the fourth estate in general. Panelists included Balazs Apor (Trinity), Ruth Ben Ghiat (NYU), Ido de Haan (Utrecht University), Valentina B. Izmirlieva (Columbia), Brian McGing (Trinity), Dan-el Padilla Peralta (SOF 2015–16, Princeton), Marcus Folch (Columbia), C.J. Chivers (*New York Times Magazine*), Kerry Paterson (Committee to Protect Journalists), and Bruce Shapiro (Columbia).

17–18 May

Crises of Democracy at Reid Hall

SOF alumni Murad Idris (2014–15) and Hagar Kotef (2009–12) joined current Fellows Whitney Laemmli and María González Pendás and a cohort of fellows from The Columbia Institute for Ideas and Imagination, for a two-day investigation into the relationship between democracy and crisis as explored through the humanities and the arts. The institute, which opened its doors in Paris in Fall 2018, offers annual residential fellowships to seven Columbia University faculty and seven scholars, writers, and creative artists from outside the United States.

Fellows from multiple fields, institutions, and cohorts presented work on the various ways in which ideals and practices of democracy have been debated in theory, probed historically, and produced and contested culturally. Is "crisis" endemic to democracy? Is it a constitutive problem with the demos, with the enemies of democracy, or with the operations of democracy itself? How do the humanities and the arts render democracy and its crises visible? How do they reveal the contemporaneity of historical crises and the historicity of contemporary anxieties? While certainly not immune to such anxieties, scholars and artists operate in a distinct space (and at an alternative pace) from which to analyze and speculate about democracy and about the technologies, places, and means through which democracy has historically been negotiated.

13/13 Seminar Series: 10/13 The Undercommons

13/13 Praxis & Critique

With the rise of extreme-right populist movements, the impact of neoliberal government policies, and the fallout from the global war on terror, we face today an acute crisis. In times like these, there is a burning need for a new vision and renewed critical practices. This year's 13/13 seminar series took this problem as its task: to buck centuries of contemplative complacency and return *praxis* to its proper place in the order of things. In so doing, the seminar strove to address the most critical question today: What is to be done? And what exactly is critical *praxis* today?

Following in the footsteps of three previous Committee for Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought (CCCCT) seminar series, namely Uprising 13/13, Foucault 13/13, and Nietzsche 13/13, two or three guests from different disciplines, were invited to present on the themes of the seminar. Each of the thirteen seminars hosted specialists from across the disciplines, from Columbia University and from outside campus.

Explorations in the Medical Humanities

As a set of disciplines, the humanities face the challenge of how to write about embodied experiences that resist easy verbal categorization, such as illness, pain, and healing. The recent emergence of such interdisciplinary frameworks as narrative medicine offers a set of methodological approaches to address these challenges. Yet conceptualizing a field of medical humanities also offers a broader umbrella under which to study the influence of medico-scientific ideas and practices on society. Whether by incorporating material culture such as medical artifacts, performing symptomatic readings of poems and novels, or excavating the implicit medical assumptions underlying auditory cultures, the approaches that emerge from a historiographical or interpretive framework are different from those coming from the physician's black bag.

Organized by Arden Hegele (SOF 2016–19), this lecture series explored the enigma of how what we write relates back to the experience of bodies in different stages of health and disease. Speakers examined how the medical humanities build on and re-

vise earlier notions of the "medical arts." At stake are the problems of representation and the interpretation of cultural products from the past and present through medical models.

22 October

Frankenstein at 200

The year 2018 marks the two-hundredth anniversary of Mary Shelley's classic novel *Frankenstein*—a book about birth, death, fragmentation, monstrosity, and knowledge that continues to haunt contemporary thought and culture. In the two centuries since its publication, readers have variously interpreted *Frankenstein* as a cautionary tale of scientific hubris, an allegory of motherhood, a political commentary, and a gothic horror. Meanwhile, the loquacious monster at the heart of the novel has left the book to become a figure of inarticulacy and terror in the popular imagination. Recent scholarship on *Frankenstein* juggles between these polarities, while also considering manuscript evidence of a collaborative writing process shared by Mary Shelley and her poet husband Percy. In celebration of *Frankenstein*, the SOF/Heyman hosted a "lightning roundtable" featuring faculty from the Department of English and Comparative Literature. The event was co-sponsored by the Nineteenth-Century Colloquium in the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

Gauri Viswanathan, Joseph Albernaz, and Dustin Stewart

Larissa Lury

28 March

Explorations in the Medical Humanities
Lipstick Lobotomy: A Dramatic Reading

This event was the first in the Explorations in the Medical Humanities series, organized by Arden Hegele, to feature an original creative piece, Krista Knight's new play *Lipstick Lobotomy*. Knight, a former Juilliard Playwriting Fellow, is currently the Writer-in-Residence in Cinema & Media Arts and Theatre at Vanderbilt University. Drawing on Columbia's institutional history, the SOF/Heyman hosted the play in Buell Hall, the last remnant of the psychiatric institution that preceded the University on its current site. *Lipstick Lobotomy* imagines the playwright's great-aunt Ginny and John F. Kennedy's sister Rosemary Kennedy meeting at an exclusive high-end sanitarium for women in the fall of 1941. This dramatic reading of Knight's play by professional actors included commentary from the playwright and director Larissa Lury (Eugene O'Neill National Directing Fellow). The reading presented the gendered and political history of lobotomy as a widely performed psychiatric procedure in the mid-20th century, and, more generally, explored the ways in which dramatic performance can engender new ways of thinking about medical testimony.

Christopher Florio, Deirdre Cooper Owens, and Sasha Turner

29–30 March

Explorations in the Medical Humanities
Explorations in the Medical Humanities 2019: A Workshop

This two-day workshop, organized by Arden Hegele (SOF 2016–19), Heidi Hausse (SOF 2016–18), and Joelle Abi-Rached (SOF 2017–19), continued the work of the Explorations in the Medical Humanities lecture series from 2017–2018, with a new emphasis on creating an interdisciplinary conversation among scholars from a variety of institutions. By inviting scholars working in the medical humanities to Columbia to present their work-in-progress to our local experts, the workshop broadened awareness of the experience of bodies in different stages of health and disease.

Speakers explored how the medical humanities build on and revise earlier notions of the "medical arts." At stake are the issues of representation and interpretation of cultural products from the past and of the present through medical models, and the challenge of establishing a set of humanistic competencies (observation, attention, judgment, narrative, historical perspective, ethics, creativity) that can inform medical practice.

Celebrating Recent Work by Souleymane Bachir Diagne

New Books in the Arts and Sciences

Co-sponsored by the Society of Fellows and the Heyman Center for the Humanities, the Office of the Divisional Deans in the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, and the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, this new book series celebrates recent work by the Columbia Faculty with panel discussions of their work.

Monday, September 17, 2018

Celebrating Recent Work by Joseph Howley

Long a source for quotations, fragments, and factoids, the *Noctes Atticae of Aulus Gellius* offers hundreds of brief but vivid glimpses of Roman intellectual life. In *Aulus Gellius and Roman Reading Culture* (Cambridge), Joseph Howley demonstrates how the work may be read as a literary text in its own right and discusses the rich evidence it provides for the long history of reading, thought, and intellectual culture. In this roundtable discussion, Professor Howley was joined by Gareth Williams (Columbia), David Lurie (Columbia), and Joy Connolly (The Graduate Center, CUNY).

20 September

Celebrating Recent Work by Souleymane Bachir Diagne

In *Open to Reason: Muslim Philosophers in Conversation with the Western Tradition* (Columbia University Press), Souleymane Bachir Diagne traces Muslims' intellectual and spiritual history of examining and questioning beliefs and arguments to show how Islamic philosophy has always engaged critically with texts and ideas, both inside and outside its tradition. Hosted by Maison Française, this roundtable featuring Professor Diagne, Katherine Ewing (Columbia), Nabeel Hamid (University of Pennsylvania) and Christia Mercer (Columbia) included a discussion of the long history of philosophy in the Islamic world and its relevance to crucial issues of our own time.

24 September

Celebrating Recent Work by Adam Tooze

Crashed: How a Decade of Financial Crises Changed the World (Penguin) by Adam Tooze is an eye-opening reinterpretation of the 2008 economic crisis (and its ten-year aftermath) as a global event that directly led to the shockwaves being felt around the world today. The event, organized by the European Institute, included a roundtable discussion moderated by Mark Mazower in which Professor Tooze was joined by fellow Columbia faculty Katharina Pistor, Charles F. Sabel, Tano Stantos.

2 October

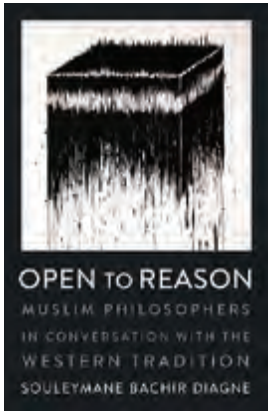
Celebrating Recent Work by Tey Meadow

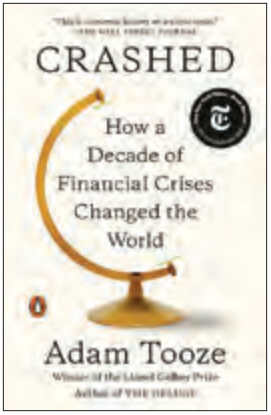
Tey Meadow's *Trans Kids: Being Gendered in the Twenty-First Century* (University of California Press) is a trenchant ethnographic and interview-based study of the first generation of families affirming and facilitating gender nonconformity in children. In a roundtable discussion led by Shamus Khan, Professor Meadow was joined by Ken Corbett (NYU) and Julia Serano (writer and activist).

3 October

Celebrating Recent Work by Ana Paulina Lee

In *Mandarin Brazil: Race, Representation, and Memory* (Stanford University Press), Ana Paulina Lee explores the centrality of Chinese





exclusion during the Brazilian nation-building project, tracing the role of cultural representation in producing racialized national categories. The book contributes to a new conversation in Latin American and Asian American cultural studies, one that considers Asian diasporic histories and racial formation across the Americas. The roundtable, moderated by Alberto Medina (Columbia), included Professor Lee, Graciela Montaldo (Columbia), Denise Cruz (Columbia), and Barbara Weinstein (NYU).

17 October

Celebrating Recent Work by Wael B. Hallaq

In *Restating Orientalism: A Critique of Modern Knowledge* (Columbia University Press), Wael B. Hallaq reevaluates and deepens the critique of Orientalism first laid out in Edward Said's foundational work in order to deploy it for rethinking the foundations of the modern project. In so doing, he exposes the depth of academia's lethal complicity in modern forms of capitalism, colonialism, and hegemonic power. Professor Hallaq was joined by Rashid Khalidi (Columbia), Sudipta Kaviraj (Columbia) and Islam Dayeh (Freie Universität Berlin) in a roundtable discussion moderated by Mamadou Diouf.

24 October

Celebrating Recent Work by Alan Stewart

Alan Stewart's *The Oxford History of Life-Writing: Volume 2. Early Modern* explores "life-writing" in England between 1500 and 1700, arguing that this was a period which saw remarkable innovations in biography, autobiography, and diary-keeping, laying the foundation for our modern life-writing. Julie Crawford (Columbia), Thomas Dodman (Columbia), and Nigel Smith (Princeton), joined Professor Stewart in a discussion of Early Modern England and life-writing on a panel moderated by Molly Murray (Columbia).

9 November

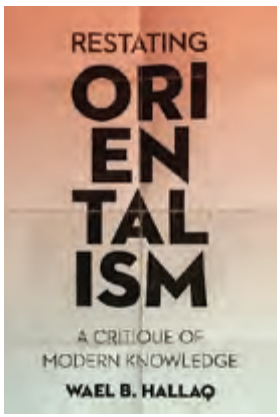
Celebrating Recent Work by Nicole B. Wallack

In *Crafting Presence* (Utah State University Press), Nicole B. Wallack develops an approach to teaching writing with the literary essay that holds promise for writing students, as well as for achieving a sense of common purpose currently lacking among professionals in composition, creative writing, and literature. In a discussion moderated by Jean Howard, Professor Wallack was joined by Sharon Marcus (Columbia), Leslie Jamison (Columbia), and Howard Tinberg (Bristol).

5 December

Celebrating Recent Work by Brinkley Messick

In *Sharī'a Scripts* (Columbia University Press), Brinkley Messick uses the richly varied writings of the Yemeni past to offer a uniquely comprehensive view of the sharī'a as a localized and lived phenomenon. Panelists including Mashal Saif (Clemson), Islam Dayeh (Edward Said Fellow), Guy Burak (New York University), Gil Anidjar (Columbia), Intisar A. Rabb (Harvard), and Mahmood



Mamdani (Columbia) joined Professor Messick to discuss the book's contributions to anthropology and to our understanding of Islamic legal theory.

4 February 4

Celebrating Recent Work by Sheri Berman

Sheri Berman's *Democracy and Dictatorship in Europe* (Oxford University Press) explains how democracy actually develops, and how we should interpret the current wave of illiberalism sweeping Europe and the rest of the world. In this timely discussion at the Maison Française, organized by the European Institute, Berman was joined in conversation by Ruth Ben-Ghiat (NYU), Jack Snyder (Columbia), and Alexander Stille (Columbia), with welcoming remarks by Adam Tooze (Columbia).

12 February

Celebrating Recent Work by Hamid Dabashi

Hamid Dabashi's *The Shahnameh: The Persian Epic as World Literature* (Columbia University Press) insightfully traces the epic's history, authorship, poetic significance, complicated legacy of political uses and abuses, and enduring significance in colonial and postcolonial contexts. In a roundtable discussion that included Mamadou Diouf (Columbia), Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (Columbia), Brian Edwards (Tulane), and Ahmad Sadri (Lake Forest College), Dabashi and his interlocutors made a powerful case that we need to rethink the very notion of "world literature" in light of his reading of the Persian epic.

18 February 18

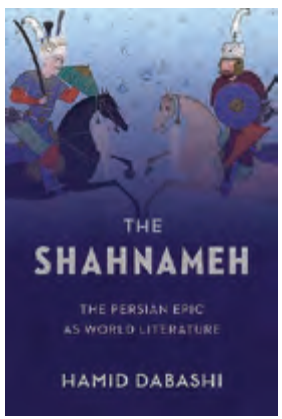
Celebrating Recent Work by Bruce Western

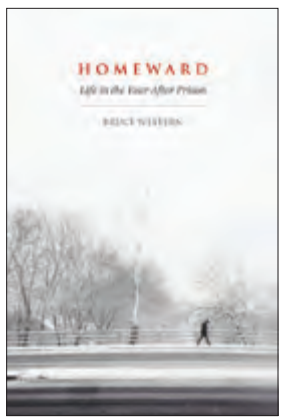
In *Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison* (Russell Sage Foundation), Bruce Western examines the tumultuous first year after release from prison. Drawing from in-depth interviews with over one hundred individuals, he describes the lives of the formerly incarcerated and demonstrates how poverty, racial inequality, and failures of social support trap many in a cycle of vulnerability despite their efforts to rejoin society. Professor Western joined Adam Reich (Columbia), Ronald B. Mincy (Columbia), and DeAnna Hoskins (JustLeadershipUSA) in a conversation moderated by Shamus Khan.

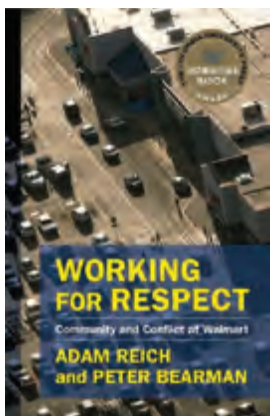
26 February

Celebrating Recent Work by Adam Reich and Peter Bearman

In *Working for Respect: Community and Conflict at Walmart* (Columbia University Press), Adam Reich and Peter Bearman examine how workers make sense of their jobs at places like Walmart in order to consider the nature of contemporary low-wage work, as well as the obstacles and opportunities such workplaces present as sites of struggle for social and economic justice. In this panel discussion, Reich and Bearman were joined by Suresh







Naidu (Columba) and Catherine Turco (MIT), with Shamus Khan serving as moderator.

28 February

Celebrating Recent Work by Pier Mattia Tommasino and Konstantina Zanou

This event celebrated two new books in Italian Studies, Pier Mattia Tommasino's *The Venetian Qur'an: A Renaissance Companion to Islam* (University of Pennsylvania Press) and Konstantina Zanou's *Transnational Patriotism in the Mediterranean, 1800–1850* (Oxford University Press) with a roundtable discussion featuring Elizabeth Leake (Columbia), Brinkley M. Messick, (Columbia), Mark Mazower (Columbia), Francesca Trivellato (Yale), and Dominique Reill (University of Miami). Pier Mattia Tommasino's book uncovers the mysterious origins of the first printed direct translation of the Qur'an in a European vernacular language, while Zanou narrates the biographies of a group of people who were born within empires but came of age surrounded by the emerging vocabulary of nationalism, much of which they themselves created.

4 March

Celebrating Recent Work by Saidiya Hartman

Saidiya Hartman's highly anticipated new book, *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval* (Norton) explores the ways young black women created forms of intimacy and kinship indifferent to the dictates of respectability, and outside the bounds of law. Combining historical analysis and literary imagination, Hartman recovers radical aspirations and resurgent desires. Scholars Daphne Brooks (Yale), Aimee Meredith Cox (Yale), Macarena Gomez-Barris (Pratt), Alexander G. Weheliye (Northwestern), and Tina Campt (Columbia) joined Dr. Hartman to discuss this book's vital contributions in an event hosted by Barnard Center for Research on Women.

5 March

Celebrating Recent Work by Nico Baumbach

In *Cinema/Politics/Philosophy* (Columbia University Press), Nico Baumbach argues that we need a new philosophical approach that sees cinema as both a mode of thought and a form of politics. Through close readings of the writings on cinema by contemporary continental philosophers, he explores how cinema can condition philosophy through its own means, challenging received ideas about what is seeable, sayable, and doable. James Schamus (Columbia, Focus Features), Bruno Bosteels (Columbia), and Homay King (Bryn Mawr College) joined Professor Baumbach for a discussion of his book, moderated by Rob King (Columbia).

2 April

Celebrating Recent Work by Claudio Lomnitz

Claudio Lomnitz's *Nuestra América: utopía y persistencia de una familia judía* (Fondo de Cultura Económica) is a mediation on the story of his maternal grandparents—and to some degree the story of his father. *Nuestra América* starts with a shipwreck, a story of language loss. The book expands from that low point toward reunion with his past, in a sustained reflection on Jewish history, the destruction of Europe, and their place in South American cultural and intellectual history of the twentieth century. In this discussion of his new book, Professor Lomnitz was joined in conversation by Jesús D.R. Velasco (Columbia), Graciela Montaldo (Columbia), and Norma Elizondo (writer).

11 April

Celebrating Recent Work by Beth Berkowitz

Beth A. Berkowitz's *Animals and Animality in the Babylonian Talmud* (Cambridge) selects key themes in animal studies—animal intelligence, morality, sexuality, suffering, danger, personhood—and explores their development in the Babylonian Talmud. She demonstrates that distinctive features of the Talmud led to unprecedented possibilities within Jewish culture for conceptualizing animals and animality. The author was joined by Sergey Dolgopolski (SUNY Buffalo) and Naama Harel (Columbia) for a discussion of her new work in an event hosted by the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies.

15 April

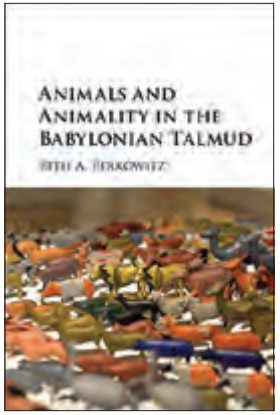
Celebrating Recent Work by Maria Victoria Murillo and Ernesto Calvo

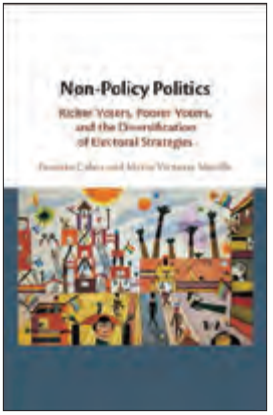
In *Non-Policy Politics: Richer Voters, Poorer Voters, and the Diversification of Electoral Strategies* (Cambridge), Maria Victoria Murillo (Columbia) and Ernesto Calvo (Northwestern) examine the non-policy benefits—such as competent economic management, constituency service, and patronage jobs—that voters consider when deciding their vote. The authors' theory shows how these non-policy resources also shape parties' ideological positions and which type of electoral offers they target to poorer or richer voters in Argentina and Chile. In this panel, John Huber (Columbia), Sheri Berman (Barnard), Justin Philips (Columbia), and Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro (Brown) discussed the book with Maria Victoria Murillo. Ernesto Calvo was unable to attend.

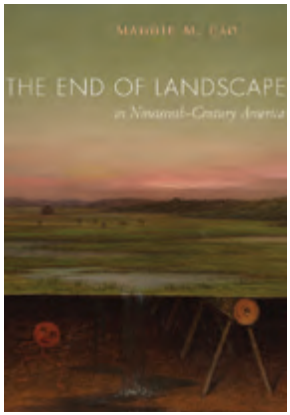
1 May

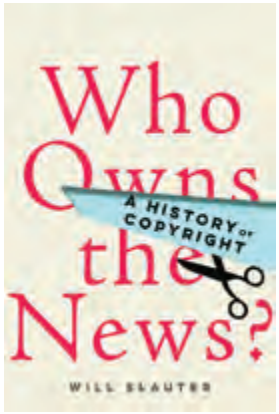
Celebrating Recent Work by James Zetzel

Critics, Compilers, and Commentators: An Introduction to Roman Philology, 200 BCE–800 CE (Oxford) is the first comprehensive introduction to the history, forms, and texts of Roman philology. James Zetzel (Classics) traces the changing role and status of Latin as revealed in the ways it was explained and taught by the Romans themselves. Gareth Williams (Columbia), David Levene (NYU), and Christopher Baswell (Barnard), joined Dr. Zetzel in a panel discussion of his new book, moderated by John Ma (Columbia).









New Books in the Society of Fellows

In 2018–19, the SOF/Heyman invited seven SOF alumni to participate in roundtable discussions celebrating their new books. These roundtables brought current and former Fellows together to discuss cutting-edge scholarship across various disciplines in the humanities. It was also a welcome occasion to introduce the Columbia community to new books by Fellows who continue to expand humanities research.

13 September

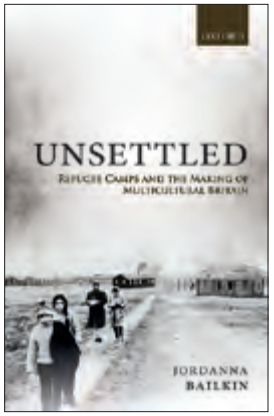
New Books in the Society of Fellows
Celebrating Recent Work by Maggie Cao, Dalia Judovitz, and William Sharpe

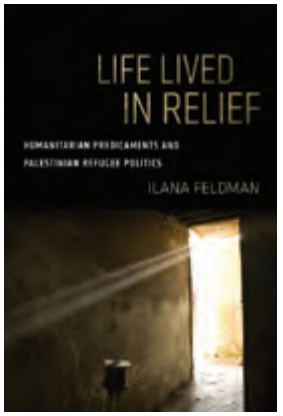
This event brought together three alumni from the Society of Fellows with recent publications in Art History. Maggie Cao's (University of North Carolina, SOF 2014–16) *The End of Landscape in Nineteenth-Century America* (University of California Press) examines the dissolution of landscape painting in the late nineteenth-century United States and argues that landscape is the genre through which American art most urgently sought to come to terms with the modern world. Dalia Judovitz (Emory, SOF 1981–82), in *Georges de La Tour and The Enigma of the Visible* (Fordham University Press), explores the representations of light, vision, and the visible in the works of Georges de La Tour. Drawing upon a range of examples from Plato to Picasso to the latest video game, 1981–83 term Fellow and Barnard Professor William Sharpe's *Grasping Shadows: The Dark Side of Literature, Painting, Photography, and Film* (Oxford University Press) identifies shadows as central players in the drama of Western culture. In a panel discussion moderated by current Fellow María González Pendas, Drs. Cao, Judovitz, and Sharpe were joined by Elizabeth Hutchinson (Barnard), Daniel Harkett (Colby College, SOF 2004–06), and Richard Brilliant (Columbia).

12 March

New Books in the Society of Fellows
Celebrating Recent Work by Will Slauter

In *Who Owns the News: A History of Copyright* (Stanford University Press), Will Slauter (Université Paris Diderot—Paris 7, SOF 2007–08) explores the intertwined histories of journalism and copyright law in the United States and Great Britain, revealing how shifts in technology, government policy, and publishing strategy have shaped the media landscape. Publishers have long sought to treat the news they report as exclusive in order to protect their investments against copying or "free riding." But over the centuries, arguments about the vital role of newspapers and the need for information to circulate have made it difficult to defend property rights in news. Beginning with the earliest printed news publications and ending with the internet, Will Slauter traces these countervailing trends, offering a fresh perspective on debates about copyright and efforts to control the flow of news. In a panel discussion at the Heyman Center, Dr. Slauter was joined by Richard





R. John (Columbia) and Kevin Lamb (SOF 2007–10). The discussion was moderated by current Fellow Rachel Nolan.

3 April

New Books in the Society of Fellows
Celebrating Recent Work by Murad Idris, Jordanna Bailkin and Ilana Feldman

This panel discussion of new books featured works by Society of Fellows alumni that address urgent political questions about war, peace, migration, displacement, encampment, and humanitarian assistance. In *War for Peace: Genealogies of a Violent Idea in Western and Islamic Thought* (Oxford University Press), Murad Idris (University of Virginia, SOF 2014–15) looks at the ways that peace has been treated across the writings of ten thinkers from ancient and modern political thought, from Plato to Immanuel Kant and Sayyid Qutb, to produce an original and striking account of what peace means and how it works. In *Unsettled: Refugee Camps and the Making of Multicultural Britain* (Oxford University Press) Jordanna Bailkin (University of Washington, SOF 1999–01) explores British refugee camps, which have housed hundreds of thousands of Belgians, Jews, Basques, Poles, Hungarians, Anglo-Egyptians, Ugandan Asians, and Vietnamese over the course of the twentieth century and, in so doing, shows how these camps have shaped today's multicultural Britain. Based on extensive archival and ethnographic field research, 2002–04 SOF alumna and George Washington University Professor Ilana Feldman's *Life Lived in Relief Humanitarian Predicaments and Palestinians Refugee Politics* (University of California Press) offers a comprehensive account of the Palestinian refugee experience, dependent on humanitarian assistance in many places and across multiple generations. In this discussion, Drs. Idris, Bailkin, and Feldman were joined by Jesus R. Velasco (Columbia) and Susan Pedersen (Columbia).

HEYMAN CENTER FELLOWS
2018–2019

Funded by the Office of the Executive Vice-President of the Arts & Sciences, the Heyman Center Fellowships provide four junior and four senior Columbia faculty with course relief during the academic year. These fellowships allow faculty to reduce their teaching loads to a minimum of one course per semester during the award year in order to conduct research and to participate in a regular weekly seminar, chaired by Heyman Center Fellows Seminar Director Mark Mazower. Five post-MPhil graduate students were appointed as Heyman Fellows and received a $5,000 research allowance for their participation.

In addition to providing the opportunity to present works in progress, the seminar fostered discussion across disciplines and fields, creating opportunities for collaborative research and teaching in future semesters. Fellows were active in organizing events in collaboration with the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities, which they took the lead in organizing. This year, Fellow Warren Kluber organized a panel discussion on drama and war, "Staging War: Theatrical Ventures, Quandries, and Prospects," with Judith Thompson, George Brant, and Stephen Wolfret as featured guests. Fellow Alma Igra organized a workshop on "Knowing Through Animals" with the Department of History. In her time as a Heyman Center Fellow, Katharina Volk organized "Ovidius Philosophus," an international conference on philosophy in Ovid and Ovid as a philosopher.

Senior Faculty Fellows

Ayten Gundogdu
Barnard, Political Science
"Forced Disappearances: A Critical Phenomenology of Border Deaths"

Theodore Hughes
East Asian Languages and Cultures
"The Continuous War: Cultures of Division in Korea"

Matthew L. Jones
History
"How Data Happened"

Katharina Volk
Classics
"The Roman Republic of Letters: Scholarship, Philosophy, and Politics in the Age of Cicero and Caesar"

Ayten Gundogdu

Theodore Hughes

Matthew L. Jones

Katharina Volk

Junior Faculty Fellows

Naor Ben-Yehoyada
Anthropology
"Getting Cosa Nostra: Inquiry, Justice, and the Past in Southwest Sicily"

Karen Benezra
Latin American and Iberian Cultures
"The Inorganic: Capitalism and Subjectivity"

T. Austin Graham
English and Comparative Literature
"The Unknowing of American History: U.S. Historical Fiction and the Incommunicable Past"

Eliza Zingesser
French
"Borderlands: Intercultural Encounters in the Medieval Pastourelle"

Naor Ben-Yehoyada

Karen Benezra

T. Austin Graham

Eliza Zingesser

Graduate Student Fellows

Elizabeth Dolfi
Religion
"Restoring Broken Selves: Gender, Humanitarian Affects, and the Evangelical Anti-Sex Trafficking Movement"

Alma Igra
History
"Food Chains: Humans, Animals, and the British Empire in the Making of Nutrition Science, 1870–1945"

Paul Katz
History
"Transnational State Torture: Counterrevolutionaries and the Left in South America, 1968–1985"

Warren Kluber
Theatre/English
"Theatre of Operations/Operating Theatre: Medical Dramaturgies in Anti-War Plays, 1918–2018"

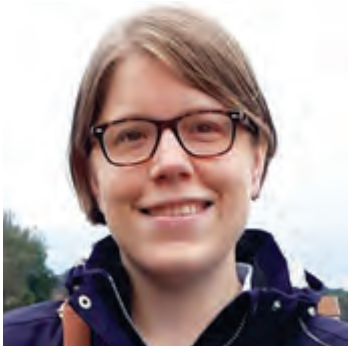
Emily Rutherford
History
"The Politics and Culture of Gender in British Universities, 1860–1935"

Elizabeth Dolfi

Alma Igra

Paul Katz

Warren Kluber



Emily Rutherford

ALUMNI FELLOWS NEWS

Andrew Apter (1987–89) published a new book, *Oduduwa's Chain: Locations of Culture in the Yoruba-Atlantic*, which came out with University of Chicago Press in 2018.

George X. Bournoutain (1978–80) published his most recent monograph, *Armenia in Imperial Decline: The Yerevan Province, 1900–1914*, with Routledge in 2018.

Will Deringer (2012–15) was awarded the Kenshur Prize for the best book in eighteenth-century studies for *Calculated Values: Finance, Politics, and the Quantitative Age* (Harvard University Press, 2018).

Brian Goldstone (2012–15) accepted a new position as Director of the Media & Journalism Initiative at the Franklin Humanities Institute at Duke University, which will begin in Fall 2019. While serving as Director, he will continue to work as a freelance writer and journalist.

Hidetaka Hirota (2013–16) won several awards in 2017 and 2018 for his book *Expelling the Poor: Atlantic Seaboard States and the Nineteenth-Century Origins of American Immigration Policy* (Oxford University Press, 2017), including the Immigration and Ethnic History Society's First Book Award; the American Conference for Irish Studies' Donald Murphy Prize; the Lois P. Rudnick Book Award from the New England American Studies Association, and special commendation for the Peter J. Gomes Prize from the Massachusetts Historical Society. This year, Dr. Hirota also accepted a position as Associate Professor in the Department of English Studies at Sophia University, in Tokyo, which will begin in Fall 2019.

Since her retirement from Columbia University, **Esther Pasztory** (1980–82) has been expanding her scholarly work and exploring new personal and creative avenues. In 2018 she published a book, *EXILE SPACE: Encountering Ancient and Modern America* (Polar Bear Press) which consists of her memoir as a refugee, becoming a Pre-Columbian art scholar, an essay about Ancient America, and a fiction story about time travel in Ancient America. It is meant to be entertaining and innovative. The journal *Ancient Mesoamerica* asked her to write an intellectual autobiography which appeared in the April issue as "Wonderful Journey." She also writes a blog on esther-pasztory.net/news and welcomes readers among her fellow SOF alumni.

Edgardo Salinas (2010–13) published an article entitled "Beyond the Candelabra: The Liberace Show and the Remediation of Beethoven" in the *Journal of the Society for American Music*. In 2017–18 he served as Visiting Associate Professor in the Graduate School at Universidad Nacional de Rosario in Argentina, where he also acted as a consultant to the School of Music to help create a new master's program in chamber music performance. He teaches the new program´s graduate seminars in musical aesthetics and in critical methodologies of research.

Micah Schwartzman (2006–07) was named the Hardy Cross Dillard Professor of Law, Martha Lubin Karsh and Bruce A. Karsh Bicentennial Professor of Law, and Director of the Karsh Center for Law and Democracy at the University of Virginia School of Law to begin in August 2019.

William Sharpe (1981–83) was featured in the Society of Fellows' New Books Series in September 2018 to discuss his book *Grasping Shadows* (Oxford University Press, 2017), which was later recognized as a Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2018. For the 2019–20 academic year, he will be a Fellow at the Columbia Institute for Ideas and Imagination in Paris, doing research on the visual history of walking.

ALUMNI FELLOWS DIRECTORY

Vanessa Agard-Jones ('13-'14)
Anthropology
Columbia University
vanessa.agard-jones@columbia.edu

Molly Aitken ('00–'02)
Art History
Independent Scholar
maitkekn@ccny.edu

Michael Allan ('08-'09)
Comparative Literature
University of Oregon
mallan@uoregon.edu

April Alliston ('88-'89)
Comparative Literature
Princeton University
alliston@princeton.edu

Michael Anderson ('94-'96)
Latin
Loomis Chaffee School
Michael.Anderson.2@trincoll.edu

*Richard Andrews ('85-'88)

Karl Appuhn ('99-'01)
History
New York University
appuhn@nyu.edu

Andrew Apter ('87-'89)
History & Anthropology
University of California, Los Angeles
aapter@history.ucla.edu

Jordanna Bailkin ('99–'01)
History
University of Washington
bailkin@u.washington.edu

Jeffrey M. Bale ('94–'96)
Grad School of Intl. Policy & Management
Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey
jeffrey.bale@miis.edu

*Hilary Ballon ('85-'86)

Jeffrey Andrew Barash ('83–'85)
Philosophy
University of Picardie
Amiens, France
jeffrey.barash@u-picardie.fr

Amy Bard ('02–'04)
South Asian Studies
Harvard University
abard@fas.harvard.edu

Robert Bauslaugh ('79-'81)
History
Brevard College
bauslaugh@brevard.edu

Teresa Bejan ('13-'14)
Political Theory
University of Oxford
Teresa.bejan@oriel.ox.ac.uk

Sandrine Bertaux ('02-'04)
Boğaziçi University
Istanbul, Turkey
sandrinebertaux@gmail.com

Giorgio Biancorosso ('01-'03)
Music
University of Hong Kong
Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong
rogopag@hku.hk

Akeel Bilgrami ('83-'85)
Philosophy
Columbia University
ab41@columbia.edu

Beth Bjorklund ('82-'84)
Germanic Languages & Literatures
University of Virginia
bbb@virginia.edu

*Irene Bloom ('76-'78)

Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski ('81–'83)
French & Italian,
Medieval & Renaissance Studies
University of Pittsburgh
renate@pitt.edu

Peter K. Bol ('80-'82)
East Asian Languages & Civilizations
Harvard University
pkbol@fas.harvard.edu

George Bournoutian ('78-'80)
History
Iona College
gbournoutian@iona.edu

Betsy C. Bowen ('76-'77)
Writer, Independent Producer
loonalone@roadrunner.com

Benjamin Breen ('15-'16)
History
UC Santa Cruz
bebreen@ucsc.edu

John Bugg ('07-'08)
English
Fordham University
bugg@fordham.edu

D. Graham Burnett ('97-'99)
History
Princeton University
dburnett@princeton.edu

Glenn R. Butterton ('86-'89)

Maggie Cao (14-16)
Art History
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
mmcao@unc.edu

Mary Baine Campbell ('85–'87)
English & Comparative Literature (Emerita)
Brandeis University
campbell@brandeis.edu

David Castriota ('82-'84)
Art History
Sarah Lawrence College
dcastri@sarahlawrence.edu

William Clark ('89–'91)
Art History/Medieval Studies
Queens College and Graduate Center
City University of New York
wclark@gc.cuny.edu

Peter A. Coclanis ('83-'84)
History
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
coclanis@unc.edu

Ada Cohen ('90–'91)
Art History, Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Dartmouth College
ada.cohen@dartmouth.edu

James B. Collins ('80-'81)
History
Georgetown University
collinja@georgetown.edu

Julie Cooper ('03-'05)
Political Science
Tel Aviv University
cooper@post.tau.ac.il

Jonathan Crary ('87–'89)
Art History and Archaeology
Columbia University
jkc4@columbia.edu

Brian A. Curran ('96-'98)
Art History
Pennsylvania State University
bac18@psu.edu

James R. Currie ('00-'02)
Music
The State University of New York, Buffalo
jcurrie@buffalo.edu

Lorraine Daston ('79–'80)
Executive Director
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
kuntze@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Elizabeth Davis ('05-'07)
Anthropology
Princeton University
ead@princeton.edu

Mary Dearborn ('86-'88)
Independent Scholar
mvdearborn@earthlink.net

Mark DeBellis ('88–'90)
Social Sciences & Philosophy
Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
mdebellis76@yahoo.com

Vidya Dehejia ('84–'86)
Art History and Archaeology
Columbia University
vd2@columbia.edu

Wiebke Denecke ('04-'06)
Comparative Literature
Boston University
denecke@bu.edu

William Deringer ('12-'15)
Program in Science, Technology, and Society
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
deringer@mit.edu

Naomi Diamant ('92–'94)
Stern School of Business
New York University
ndiamant@stern.nyu.edu

Deborah Diamond ('94-'96)
Fels Institute of Government
University of Pennsylvania
diamond.deborah@gmail.com

Mary Dillard ('00-'01)
History
Sarah Lawrence College
mdillard@sarahlawrence.edu

Adrienne Donald ('92–'93)
Hunter Advisors
adonald@hunterac.com

Greg Downey ('98-'00)
Anthropology
Macquarie University
greg.downey@scmp.mq.edu.au

Laura Lee Downs ('87-'88)
Department of History and Civilization
European University Institute
laura.downs@eui.eu

Laurence Dreyfus ('79-'81)
Music
University of Oxford
laurence.dreyfus@music.ox.ac.uk

Joshua Dubler ('08–'11)
Religion
University of Rochester
dubler.joshua@gmail.com

Heather Ecker ('00-'02)
Viridian Projects LLC
heather.ecker@viridianprojects.com

Maria Farland ('98-'00)
English
Fordham University
farland@fordham.edu

Constantin Fasolt ('81-'83)
History
University of Chicago
icon@uchicago.edu

Ilana Feldman ('02-'04)
Anthropology
George Washington University
ifeldman@gwu.edu

Ruben Cesar Fernandes ('78-'79)

Dana Fields ('10–'13)
Classics
University of Buffalo,
State University of New York
dfields1@buffalo.edu

Joshua Fogel ('80-'81)
Chinese History
York University
fogel@yorku.ca

Douglas Frame ('80-'82)
Associate Director
Center for Hellenic Studies
Washington, D.C.
frame@fas.harvard.edu

*Anne Frydman ('77-'79)

Jonathan Gilmore ('99-'01)
Philosophy
CUNY Graduate Center
jonathan.gilmore@me.com

Brian Goldstone ('12-'15)
Franklin Humanities Institute
Duke University
bdgoldstone@gmail.com

Jennifer Greeson ('01-'03)
English
University of Virginia
jrg6k@cms.mail.virginia.edu

David Gutkin ('15-'17)
Musicology
Peabody Institute
dgutkin@jhu.edu

James Hankins ('83-'85)
History
Harvard University
jhankins@fas.harvard.edu

Michele Hannoosh ('82–'85)
Romance Languages and Literatures
University of Michigan
hannoosh@umich.edu

Daniel Harkett ('04–'06)
History of Art and Visual Culture
Rhode Island School of Design
dharkett@risd.edu

Gary Hausman ('96-'97)
Columbia University Libraries
gjhausman@gmail.com

Heidi Hausse ('16-'18)
Department of History
Auburn University
hlh0048@auburn.edu

Wendy B. Heller ('97–'98)
Music
Princeton University
wbheller@princeton.edu

*James Higginbotham ('76–'78, '79–'80)

Anne T. Higgins ('90-'92)
English
Simon Fraser University
ahiggins@sfu.ca

Hidetaka Hirota ('13-'16)
Institute for Advanced Study
Waseda University
hidetakahirota@aoni.waseda.jp

Victoria Holbrook ('85–'87)
Independent Scholar
Istanbul, Turkey
vrholbrook@gmail.com

Robert Holzer ('90-'92)
Music
Yale University
robert.holzer@yale.edu

Norbert Hornstein ('80-'83)
Linguistics
University of Maryland
nhornste@umd.edu

Alan Houston ('88-'89)
Political Science
University of California, San Diego
ahouston@ucsd.edu

Don Howard ('80-'81)
Philosophy
University of Notre Dame
howard.43@nd.edu

David Hoy ('81-'82)
Philosophy
University of California, Santa Cruz
hoy@ucsc.edu

Ronnie Po-chia Hsia ('82-'84)
History
Pennsylvania State University
rxh46@psu.edu

Murad Idris ('16-'17)
Politics
University of Virginia
mi7f@virginia.edu

Trinity Jackman ('05–'07)
Royal Ontario Museum
trinityjackman@gmail.com

Sarah Jacoby ('06–'09)
Religious Studies
Northwestern University
s-jacoby@northwestern.edu

E. H. Rick Jarow ('91–'93)
Religion & Asian Studies
Vassar College
jarow@vassar.edu

Anning Jing ('94–'96)
Art & Art History
Michigan State University
jinga@msu.edu

Amy E. Johnson ('78–'80)
amyedithjohnson@gmail.com

David Johnson ('79–'81)
History
University of California, Berkeley
johnsond@berkeley.edu

Janet Johnson ('85–'87)
Independent Scholar
jlj738@gmail.com

Judith L. Johnston ('77–'79)
English
Rider University
johnston@rider.edu

Dalia Judovitz ('81–'82)
French & Italian
Emory University
djudovi@emory.edu

Jonathon Kahn ('03–'05)
Religion
Vassar College
jokahn@vassar.edu

Paize Keulemans ('05–'06)
East Asian Studies
Princeton University
pkeulema@princeton.edu

Muhammad Ali Khalidi ('91–'93)
Philosophy & Cognitive Science
York University, Toronto
khalidi@yorku.ca

Dilwyn Knox ('85–'87)
Italian
University College London
d.knox@ucl.ac.uk

Hagar Kotef ('09–'12)
Politics and International Studies
SOAS, University of London
hagarko@gmail.com

David Kurnick ('06–'07)
English
Rutgers University
david.kurnick@rutgers.edu

Guolong Lai ('02–'04)
School of Art and Art History
University of Florida
gllai@ufl.edu

Vinay Lal ('92–'93)
History
University of California, Los Angeles
vlal@history.ucla.edu

Kevin Lamb ('07–'10)
Litigation/Controversy
Wilmer Hale (Law Office)
kevin.lamb@wilmerhale.com

Robert Lamberton ('84–'86)
Classics
Washington University in St. Louis
rdlamber@wustl.edu

Richard Landes ('84–'86)
History
Boston University
rlandes@bu.edu

Charles Larmore ('78–'80)
Philosophy
Brown University
charles_larmore@brown.edu

Susan Layton ('81-'83)
Russian Literature
Visiting Scholar
University of Edinburgh
susan.layton50@gmail.com

Andrew Lear ('04-'06)
Oscar Wilde Tours
info@oscarwildetours.com

Daniel Lee ('10–'11)
Political Science
University of California, Berkeley
dan.lee@berkeley.edu

Rebecca M. Lesses ('96-'98)
Jewish Studies
Ithaca College
rlesses@ithaca.edu

Theodore Levin ('79-'81)
Music
Dartmouth College
theodore.c.levin@dartmouth.edu

Robin Lewis ('78-'81)
President
World View Global
robin@worldviewglobal.com

Conrad Leyser ('92-'94)
History
Worcester College, Oxford University
conrad.leyser@worc.ox.ac.uk

Suzanne Lodato ('98–'00)
Institute for International Business
Indiana University
smlodato@indiana.edu

Marie-Rose Logan ('76–'78)
European & Comparative Literature
Soka University of America
mlogan@soka.edu

John Lombardini ('09–'10)
Government
College of William and Mary
jlombardini@wm.edu

*Paul D. Lyon ('80-'81)

*David A.J. Macey ('76-'78)

Myron Magnet ('77-'79)
Editor-at-Large
City Journal
Manhattan Institute
communications@manhattan-institute.org

Susan Manning ('87-'88)
English
Northwestern University
s-manning@northwestern.edu

Joseph Masheck ('76-'78)
Fine Arts
Hofstra University
joseph.d.masheck@hofstra.edu

Richard McCoy ('77-'79)
English
Queens College
City University of New York
rmccoy@gc.cuny.edu

Ian McCready-Flora ('11-'14)
Philosophy
St. Louis University
mccreadyforaic@slu.edu

Darrin M. McMahon ('97-'99)
History
Dartmouth College
darrin.m.mcmahon@dartmouth.edu

Cecilia Miller ('89-'91)
History
Wesleyan University
cmiller@wesleyan.edu

Larry Miller ('84-'86)
lamillerton@gmail.com

Nancy Miller ('76–'78)
Comparative Literature, English, and French
Graduate Center
City University of New York
nancykmiller@nyc.rr.com

Max Mishler ('16–'17)
History
University of Toronto
maxmishler@utoronto.ca

Amira Mittermaier ('06–'07)
Religion & Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
University of Toronto
amira.mittermaier@utoronto.ca

Scott Morrison ('04-'06)
smsmorrison@gmail.com

Marjorie Munsterberg ('84–'86)
Member-at-Large, Board
Association of Historians of Nineteenth-Century Art
mmunsterberg@gmail.com

Christian Murck ('78–'80)
Retired President
American Chamber of Commerce in China
cmurck@amchamchina.org

Liam Murphy ('90–'92)
Law & Philosophy
New York University
liam.murphy@nyu.edu

Suzanne Nalbantian ('76–'78)
English & Comparative Literature
Long Island University
suzanne.nalbantian@liu.edu

Jennifer Nash ('09-'10)
American Studies
George Washington University
jennash@gwu.edu

John Nassivera ('77-'79)
Independent Scholar
johnnassivera@hotmail.com

Gülru Necipoğlu ('86-'87)
History of Art & Architecture
Harvard University
agakhan@fas.harvard.edu

Deborah Epstein Nord ('80-'82)
English
Princeton University
dnord@princeton.edu

Calvin Normore ('83-'84)
Philosophy
University of California, Los Angeles
normore@humnet.ucla.edu

David Novak ('07–'10)
Music
University of California, Santa Barbara
dnovak@music.ucsb.edu

Emily Ogden ('10-'13)
English
University of Virginia
emily.ogden@virginia.edu

Irina Oryshkevich ('03-'05)
Art History and Archaeology
Columbia University
ito1@columbia.edu

Jesse Ann Owens ('77–'79)
Dean
Division of Humanities, Arts & Cultural Studies
University of California, Davis
jaowens@ucdavis.edu

Esther Pasztory ('80-'82)
Art History and Archaeology
Columbia University
eszpasz@aol.com

Dan-el Padilla Peralta ('15-'16)
Classics
Princeton University
dpadilla@princeton.edu

David L. Pike ('93-'95)
Literature
American University
dpike@american.edu

Hilary Poriss ('01-'03)
Music
Northeastern University
h.poriss@neu.edu

Linda Przybyszewski ('95-'97)
History
University of Notre Dame
linda.przybyszewski.1@nd.edu

Eloise Quiñones-Keber ('84-'86)
Art History
Graduate Center
City University of New York
equinones-keber@gc.cuny.edu

Ann Ramsey ('91-'92)
Fiona Animal Refuge
Nuevo Leon, Mexico

Carmel Raz ('15-'18)
Research Group Leader
Histories of Music, Mind, and Body
Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics
carmel.raz@ae.mpg.de

John Rogers ('89-'90)
English
Yale University
john.rogers@yale.edu

Mark Rollins ('85-'87)
Philosophy
Washington University in St. Louis
mrollins@artsci.wustl.edu

David Russell ('12-'13)
English
Corpus Christi College, Oxford
david.russell@ccc.ox.ac.uk

Peter Sahlins ('87–'88)
History
University of California, Berkeley
sahlins@berkeley.edu

Edgardo Salinas ('10-'13)
Music
Department of Music History
The Juilliard School
esalinas@juilliard.edu

Scott A. Sandage ('95–'96)
History
Carnegie Mellon University
sandage@andrew.cmu.edu

Claudio M. Saunt ('96-'98)
History
University of Georgia
csaunt@uga.edu

Martha Porter Saxton ('88-'90)
History (Emerita)
Amherst College
msaxton@amherst.edu

Kirsten Schultz ('98–'99)
History
Seton Hall University
kirsten.schultz@shu.edu

Micah J. Schwartzman ('06-'07)
Law
University of Virginia
schwartzman@virginia.edu

Martha Ann Selby ('97–'98)
South Asian Studies
University of Texas, Austin
mas@austin.utexas.edu

Richard Serrano ('96–'98)
French & Comparative Literature
Rutgers University
rserrano@rci.rutgers.edu

Pavlos Sfyroeras ('92–'94)
Classics
Middlebury College
psfyroer@middlebury.edu

William Sharpe ('81-'83)
English
Barnard College
wsharpe@barnard.edu

Andrey Shcherbenok ('06–'09)
Moscow School of Management Skolkovo
Director, School of Advanced Studies,
University of Tyumen
shcherbenok@gmail.com

Samer S. Shehata ('99–'00)
International & Area Studies
University of Oklahoma
sehata@ou.edu

April Shelford ('97–'99)
History
American University
shelfor@american.edu

Leo K. Shin ('95-'97)
Asian Studies
University of British Columbia
lkshin@interchange.ubc.ca

Susan Sidlauskas ('90-'92)
Art History
Rutgers University
sidlausk@rci.rutgers.edu

Paul Silverman ('86-'88)

Patrick Singy ('07-'10)
Union College
pbsingy@gmail.com

Laura M. Slatkin ('81–'83)
Gallatin School of Individualized Study
New York University
laura.slatkin@nyu.edu

Will Slauter ('07–'09)
Intellectual History
University of Paris VIII – Saint-Denis
wslauter@univ-paris8.fr

Adam Smith ('09-'12)
East Asian Languages and Civilizations
University of Pennsylvania
adsmit@sas.upenn.edu

Robert Stillman ('80–'82)
English
University of Tennessee
rstillma@utk.edu

Ginger Strand ('93–'95)
Independent Scholar
strand@gmail.com

Yanfei Sun ('10-'13)
Sociology
Zhejiang University
yanfei.sun@gmail.com

Mark Swislocki ('01-'03)
History
New York University, Abu Dhabi
mark.swislocki@nyu.edu

Jean Terrier ('04-'06)
Department of Philosophy
University of Zurich
jean.terrier@ici-berlin.org

Miriam Ticktin ('02–'04)
Anthropology
New School for Social Research
ticktinm@newschool.edu

Barbara Tischler ('83-'85)
Head of School
Speyer Legacy School
Barbara_Tischler@horacemann.org

John Tresch ('00–'02)
History and Sociology of Science
University of Pennsylvania
jtresch@sas.upenn.edu

Joanne van der Woude ('07-'08)
American Studies
University of Groningen
joanne.van.der.woude@rug.nl

Kate Van Orden ('96-'97)
Music
Harvard University
vanorden@fas.harvard.edu

Franciscus Verellen ('87-'89)
Director
Ecole francaise d' Extreme-Orient
direction@efeo.net

Gauri Viswanathan ('86–'88)
English & Comparative Literature
Columbia University
gv6@columbia.edu

Joanna Waley-Cohen ('88-'90)
History
New York University
joanna.waleycohen@nyu.edu

Leonard Wallock ('82–'84)
Associate Director
Walter H. Capps Center for the Study
of Religion & Public Life
University of California, Santa Barbara
leonard.wallock@cappscenter.ucsb.edu

Alicyn Warren ('93-'95)
School of Music
Indiana University
warrenal@indiana.edu

Anne Waters ('95-'97)
Zuckerman Institute
Columbia University
abw17@columbia.edu

Leah Whittington ('11-'12)
English
Harvard University
lwhittington@fas.harvard.edu

Steven I. Wilkinson ('98-'99)
Political Science
Yale University
steven.wilkinson@yale.edu

Rebecca Woods ('13-'16)
History and Philosophy of Science
and Technology
University of Toronto
rebecca.woods@utoronto.ca

Grant Wythoff ('13- '16)
Center for Digital Humanities
Princeton University
grant.wythoff@gmail.com

Nicholas Xenos ('80-'82)
Political Science
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
xenos@polsci.umass.edu

Andrew Zimmerman ('98–'00)
History, International Affairs
George Washington University
azimmer@gwu.edu

*(indicates deceased)

To update a listing please email
sof-fellows@columbia.edu.