

ANNUAL REPORT 2022–2023



THE SOCIETY OF FELLOWS AND
HEYMAN CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES



THE SOCIETY OF FELLOWS AND
HEYMAN CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Although uncertain what a return to “normal” would look like after more than two years of pandemic living, we were nevertheless delighted, relieved, grateful to find ourselves once again in situ at the Heyman Center this past September, enjoying lunch over Thursday lectures and drinks after Friday writing workshops—as well as the chance conversations in hallways and the Fellows Lounge that sometimes spark both ideas for collaborative projects (see below) and lasting friendships. We are still experimenting with which COVID-wrought changes we ought to keep. We learned, for example, that the environmental benefits of forgoing campus interviews compensated for the lost pleasure of meeting potential Fellows in person, however much we regretted that loss. And we continue to practice balancing in-person, online, and hybrid events in our efforts to best serve our growing and geographically expanded audience.

In January, the Fellows selection committee interviewed fourteen candidates, four of whom joined the Society this past fall. [Knar Abrahamyan](#) (Yale PhD) is a music scholar whose book project “Opera as Statecraft in Soviet Armenia and Kazakhstan” focuses on one particular way in which the Soviet state, under the pretense of “cultural modernization,” set out to dominate its non-Russian citizens culturally as well as politically. [A. Véronique Charles](#) (UPenn PhD), who was appointed Lecturer in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies (AAADS), is an interdisciplinary literary scholar whose work draws upon French colonial administrative archives, autobiographical narratives, creative fiction, and anthropology to



Eileen Gillooly

examine slavery and abolition from a continental African perspective. [Atesede Makonnen](#), who holds an MA in Shakespeare studies from King's College London and a PhD in English, with an emphasis on Romanticism, from Johns Hopkins University, considers visual representations of Blackness in British culture from the Early Modern period through the nineteenth century, discovering that anti-Blackness increased as slavery in the Empire was gradually ending. And [Ege Yumuşak](#) (Harvard PhD) is a social and political philosopher who examines the material foundations, social manifestations, and epistemic properties of political disagreement. Together with [Renzo Aroni](#) (CSER and History), [Leah Aronowsky](#) (History), [Youssef Ben Ismail](#) (MESAAS and History), [Emma Shaw Crane](#) (CSER and Anthropology), and [nyle fort](#) (AAADS), these scholars comprised this year's Society of Fellows.

Fellows and Board Members, past and present, were especially energetic this year in producing

some of the 149 lectures, seminars, workshops, book panels, symposia, and conferences we offered, many of which can be viewed on our [website](#). Together with [Rishi Goyal](#) (SOF/Heyman Board, 2019–22), [Arden Hegele](#) (Lecturer in Discipline in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, SOF 2016–19) organized six events in the [Explorations in the Medical Humanities](#) lecture series, including the two-day conference “Conception and Its Discontents,” co-sponsored by the Motherhood and Technology working group at the Center for the Study of Social Difference. With additional support from the Harriman Institute, the MESAAS Armenian Center, and the Department of Music, Knar Abrahamyan organized “[Unsettling the Union: An Interdisciplinary Symposium](#),” which, by focusing on such issues as racialization, environmental colonialism, cultural assimilation, and historical memory, disclosed the ways that ethnic minorities, both during and after the Soviet Union, were the target of Russian imperial aggression. Leah

Aronowsky, working with [Joerg M. Schaefer](#) (current Fellow and SOF Board Member, respectively), launched “[Climate Futures/Climate Justice](#),” an “interdisciplinary series exploring the relationship between climate justice, carbon tech, and climate futures,” which inaugurated our [Climate Series](#), a capacious category of programming that joins [Health and Medical Humanities](#), [Humanities in Practice](#), and [Justice-in-Education](#) under our [Public Humanities Initiative](#). Renzo Aroni, with assistance from the Department of Music, the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, and the Institute for Latin American Studies, arranged a performance and discussion with the Latin Grammy Award-nominated world music/jazz fusion band Afro-Andean Funk about its efforts to preserve Quechua language and culture through music; and Youssef Ben Ismail partnered with [Emmanuelle Saada](#) (SOF Board Member 2019–21) and colleagues at the Maison Française and the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies to convene the workshop “[Ottoman](#)

[Algiers Beyond 1830.](#)” All the Fellows worked on our [Spring 2023 Thursday Lecture Series](#), which returning to the topic of our [2017 Failure conference](#) but from a less hopeful perspective, examined the ethical and material consequences of our political failure to act—to address the climate crisis, systemic racism, gun violence, forever wars, and other threats to human and planetary existence.

Our [New Books Series](#) remains among our most popular, and we encourage you, as ever, to let us know about your own new or forthcoming publications. Other highlights of this year’s programming included [Marina Warner’s Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture](#), “Strangers in a Strange Land: Displacement, Sanctuary, and the Traveling Tale,” co-sponsored by the School of the Arts and the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies; and [New Irish Fiction: A Symposium](#)—in which eleven award-winning contemporary Irish writers discussed their work; their influences; and the political,

ethical, and existential concerns that preoccupy them individually and collectively.

Goings and Comings:

We were fortunate—and thankful—to have been able to gather together once more at our annual end-of-year dinner party to celebrate the graduating Fellows. [Renzo Aroni](#) leaves us for the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, where he’ll continue his research on the Pacto de Alianza entre Pueblos, a multi-communal indigenous coalition formed in resistance to the Shining Path in the later years of its insurgency. [Leah Aronowsky](#) has accepted an assistant professorship at the Columbia Climate School, beginning Spring 2024, from which position we eagerly anticipate her continuing collaboration on Climate Futures/Climate Justice (see above). [Atesede Makonnen](#) takes up the tenure-track position in the Department of English at Carnegie Mellon University that she deferred to come to the Society

this past year. And in Fall 2023, [Knar Abrahamyan](#) moves her office from the Heyman Center to Dodge Hall to begin her appointment as Assistant Professor in Music Theory and Race—where she'll be joined by [Ruth Opara](#) (SOF 2020–21), returning (from Syracuse) to Columbia as Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology.

Later this summer, we look forward to the arrival of our newest Fellows and to learning more about their research. [Iheb Guermazi](#) (MIT PhD), an art and architectural historian of the Middle East, discloses the influence of Emir Abd el-Qadir and his coterie of mid-to-late-nineteenth-century Arab Sufi mystics and European Islamic converts upon the development of Islamic aesthetic theory and discourse a century later. [Irina Kalinka](#) (Brown PhD) is a scholar of political theory and digital media whose project explores the ways that tech-corporate power, administering the digital platforms upon which we increasingly live our lives, engenders and promotes a concept of democracy as a project not of

deliberation and struggle for the common good but of technological optimization and management. And [Valeriia Mutc](#) (Yale PhD), focusing on the work of Leo Tolstoy, Anton Chekhov, and Maxim Gorky, argues that the burgeoning of positivist thought at the end of the nineteenth century led these writers to turn away from psychological realism and to experiment with dramatic writing—both in prose fiction and theater—as a mode of expression more methodologically aligned in its emphasis on observation with the scientific zeitgeist. These three—along with [Buell Fellow Maura Lucking](#) (UCLA PhD), an interdisciplinary scholar of the built environment supported by the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation but hosted by the Society—will join returning Fellows Youssef Ben Ismail, Emma Shaw Crane, nyle fort, A. Véronique Charles, and Ege Yumuşak to form the 2023–24 cohort.

And finally, boundless thanks to Nadia Abu El-Haj for all her efforts on behalf of the SOF/Heyman over the past six years. Nadia was

elected to the Board in 2017 and served—with unfailing good humor and grace—as its Chair from July 2020 to July 2023, a period that coincided with both the SOF's first official academic review and the COVID-19 pandemic. That she did so even while on leave for one of those years—when she completed [Combat Trauma: Imaginaries of War and Citizenship in post-9/11 America](#)—merits special gratitude.

Do let us know when you're coming to town: we'd love to see you. And in the meantime, remember to send us your news—especially, though not exclusively, about your new book publications.

Eileen Gillooly
Executive Director

MEMBERS OF THE 2022–2023 GOVERNING BOARD

Nadia Abu El-Haj*
Chair, Governing Board
Anthropology
Barnard College

Manan Ahmed
History

Hiba Bou Akar
Urban Planning
Graduate School of Architecture,
Planning and Preservation

Thomas W. Dodman
French

Noam M. Elcott
Art History

Matthew Engelke
Religion

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Executive Director
English and Comparative Literature

Kaiama L. Glover
French and Africana Studies
Barnard College

Marguerite Holloway
Journalism

Joseph A. Howley*
Chair, Literature Humanities
Classics

David C. Johnston
Political Science

Brian Larkin
Anthropology
Barnard College

Eugenia Lean*
Seminar Co-Director,
Heyman Center Fellows
East Asian Languages and Cultures

Dorothea von Mücke*
Seminar Co-Director,
Heyman Center Fellows
Germanic Languages

Katharina Pistor
Law School

Samuel K. Roberts
History

Joerg M. Schaefer
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

Benjamin Steege*
Chair, Music Humanities
Music

Gareth Williams*
Director, Friends of the
Heyman Center
Classics

**Ex officio*



FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SOCIETY OF FELLOWS COMPETITION

The forty-eighth Society of Fellows in the Humanities fellowship competition closed on 3 October 2022, with 703 applicants contending for the four fellowship positions available for 2023–24. Representatives from twenty-two departments, institutes, and centers conducted the first round of vetting. Each application recommended for advancement to the next level 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 subcommittee of the Governing Board. In mid-December, the committee invited sixteen applicants to interview via Zoom in January 2023.

The 2023–24 fellowships were accepted by Iheb Guerhazi, Irina Kalinka, and Valeriia Mutc. Iheb Guerhazi is an architect and architectural historian who is interested in the intersection of art, architecture, and modern mystical and esoteric movements. Irina Kalinka, a scholar of political theory and digital media with a global purview, centers her research around platform studies, democracy, and digital publics. Valeriia Mutc is a scholar of Russian literature and theater whose research unites three divergent fields of inquiry: nineteenth-century literature, theater, and the history of science.

New Fellows for 2023–2024

Iheb Guerhazi, PhD in History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Irina Kalinka, PhD in Modern Culture and Media, Brown University

Valeriia Mutc, PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures, Yale University

SOCIETY OF FELLOWS COMPETITION NUMBERS

Fellowships Starting in 2023–2024

703 Applicants



22 Departments Reviewing



122 Universities Represented



24 Countries Represented



DEPARTMENT	APPLICANTS	%
African American and African Diaspora Studies	10	1.4
Anthropology	58	8.3
Art History and Archaeology	56	8.0
Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race	23	3.3
Classics	24	3.4
East Asian Languages and Cultures	32	4.6
English and Comparative Literature	78	11.1
Film Studies	14	2.0
French	13	1.8
Germanic Languages	8	1.1
History	99	14.1
Institute for Comparative Literature and Society	29	4.1
Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender	23	3.3
Italian	8	1.1
Latin American and Iberian Cultures	23	3.3
Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies	35	5.0
Music	33	4.7
Philosophy	28	4.0
Political Science	37	5.3
Religion	34	4.8
Slavic Languages	7	1.0
Sociology	31	4.4
TOTAL	703	100

**FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE
2022-2023**



Knar Abrahamyan, 2022–2023

Yale University, Department of Music Theory, PhD 2022

Project: *Opera as Statecraft in Soviet Armenia and Kazakhstan*

Knar Abrahamyan is a music scholar whose work examines the historical and political entanglements of cultural production. Her book project re-envisioning Soviet music history by analyzing the power dynamics between the state and its ethnic and racial others. In September, Dr. Abrahamyan gave a lecture titled “From Steppe to Stage: Racialization and the Making of the First Kazakh National Opera” as part of the Society’s Thursday Lecture Series. She presented a shorter version of this talk at the annual meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Dr. Abrahamyan also gave an invited paper, “The Kazakh Nightingale: Vocal Technique as Colonial Anthropotechnology,” at a symposium in honor of Patrick McCreless’s retirement from Yale University’s Department of Music. In October, she presented the paper “Whose Arzum?: Edgar Hovhannisyian’s Operatic Adaptation of Pushkin’s Travelogue” on the panel “The Soviet Experience in Armenia and Its Legacy” (sponsored by Columbia’s Armenian Center in partnership with the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn).

In April, Dr. Abrahamyan workshoped her article “Formalism as ‘Bad Magic’: Russian Orthodoxy and Eurocentrism in Yuri Kholopov’s Universal Harmony” at the Society of Fellows’ Friday workshop series. Later that month, she organized the interdisciplinary symposium “Unsettling the Union.” This one-day event brought together junior and senior scholars, specializing in ethnomusicology, history, literary studies, and anthropology, whose work underlines the experiences of marginalized communities within the former Soviet Union.

In the summer, Dr. Abrahamyan presented an invited paper, “Socialist Verismo and the Pastoral Idyll of the Armenian *Kolkhoz*,” at a conference titled Arts, Heritage, and Belonging: Armenian Transcultural Entanglements, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She also participated in an international conference in Yerevan, Armenia, presenting a paper about urban planning and its role in Soviet nation-building in Andrei Bitov’s travelogue *Lessons of Armenia*. Dr. Abrahamyan spent May and June 2023 conducting research in Yerevan, Tbilisi, and Almaty for her monograph, “Opera as Statecraft in Soviet Armenia and Kazakhstan,” with funding from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, the US Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and the Harriman Institute’s PepsiCo Research Fellowship.



Renzo Aroni, 2020–2023

University of California,
Davis, History Department,
PhD 2020

Project: *Huamanquiua:
Indigenous Peasant Resistance
against the Shining Path in Peru*

Renzo Aroni is a historian of modern Latin America who is broadly interested in social revolutions, Indigenous peoples, and human rights, particularly at their intersection with culture, memory, and political violence. His book manuscript examines Peru's internal armed conflict (1980–1992) between Maoist Shining Path insurgents and government forces from a microdynamic of wartime violence, resistance, and massacre in the Andean village of Huamanquiua. In February, Dr. Aroni organized a workshop on his manuscript, improving his final revision submitted to Duke University Press.

During the 2022–23 academic year, Dr. Aroni gave lectures at several universities, including Harvard University, New York University, and Columbia University, and he presented a paper at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association conference at the University of Toronto. His publications include a chapter in Spanish, “Pumpin por la Memoria: Música y teatro escolar en la conmemoración de la masacre de Cayara,” on how music and performance act as ways of remembrance in post-war Peru. This chapter is found in the volume *Más allá de la violencia. Cuerpos, memorias y conflictos entre Perú y Colombia* (Beyond the Violence. Bodies, Memories, and Conflicts between Peru and Colombia), edited by Silvia Romio, Marco Tobón and Diana Gomez (2023, Universidad de los Andes & IFEA).

In November, Dr. Aroni organized a workshop and performance with the band Afro-Andean Funk; and in March, as part of the Thursday Lecture Series, he organized a talk by Alberto Vergara. He also co-created and produced the Kuskalla podcast on Quechua language and Andean knowledge systems in the diaspora.

Dr. Aroni co-edited the volume *Una revolución precaria: Sendero Luminoso and la Guerra en el Perú, 1980–1992* [A Precarious Revolution: Shining Path and War in Peru, 1980–1992] (Lima: Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, November 2023). He also resubmitted his article entitled “Gendered Massacre and Haircut Punishment in Peru’s Shining Path,” after a first review, to the *Journal of Latin American Studies* (JLAS). He completed a fellowship at the Oral History Summer Institute Program at Columbia.

Dr. Aroni will join the History Program at the Department of Humanities at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru in Lima, as a lecturer and researcher, in July 2023.

**Leah Aronowsky, 2020–2023**

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

Project: *The Science of
Planetary Crisis*

Leah Aronowsky is a historian of science and the environment whose work focuses on the history of the climate crisis. This past year, her final as a Fellow, she continued revising her book manuscript on the history of climate and energy policy in the United States between 1979, when the US experienced its second major oil shock in less than a decade, and 1982, when the price of crude oil collapsed, marking the beginning of the end of the world's energy crises. The book looks at why the US failed to account for the risks of climate change as it attempted to devise long-term policies for achieving "energy independence." Over the course of the academic year, Dr. Aronowsky was invited to present work from this book project to multiple audiences, including at the University of Zurich, New York University, and the Columbia Climate School. In the spring, with SOF Board Member Joerg M. Schafer, she organized a lecture series at the SOF/Heyman titled "Climate Futures/Climate Justice," which featured social scientists and scientists working to incorporate principles of justice and equity across proposed solutions to the climate crisis. Also in the spring, Dr. Aronowsky taught a graduate/undergraduate history seminar on the history of the climate crisis. She had the honor of serving on the Columbia College Climate Humanities Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and on the SOF/Heyman programming committee. Additionally, Dr. Aronowsky continued to write for a public-facing audience. Her essays and reviews on contemporary climate politics appeared or are forthcoming in *The Nation*, *Public Books*, *Jacobin*, *MoMA Magazine*, and *New York Review of Architecture*.



Youssef Ben Ismail, 2021–2024

Harvard University,
Department of Near Eastern
Languages and Civilizations,
PhD 2021

Project: *Sovereignty Across
Empires: France, the Ottoman
Empire, and the Imperial
Struggle over Tunis*

Youssef Ben Ismail is a scholar of imperial history and political theory whose work investigates the tangled history of modern state sovereignty across legal traditions. His research project focuses on the Ottoman Maghrib, where French and Ottoman conceptions of sovereignty circulated, competed, and influenced one another throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This past year, he continued to revise his book manuscript, for which he has been in conversation with editors at Stanford UP and Harvard UP.

In September, Dr. Ben Ismail submitted an article to *Annales. Histoire, Sciences Sociales*, titled “Contested Subjects: Imperial Rivalries and Legal Belonging in the Ottoman Mediterranean (1880–1920),” which examines two categories of legal belonging, nationality and protection, as fundamental tools in the jurisdictional politics of empire at the end of the twentieth century. He also wrote a chapter on the sacking of Ottoman libraries during the French conquest of Algiers in 1830, which was published in an edited volume on the global history of French colonialisms (*Colonisations. Notre Histoire, Le Seuil*, 2023).

Throughout the academic year, Dr. Ben Ismail worked on a special issue of the *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*, which he is co-editing with Jessica Marglin (USC). This special issue, titled “The Maghribi Turn in Ottoman History,” presents recent historiographic contributions from Maghribi history to the broader field of Ottoman studies.

In addition to his speaking/workshop commitments at the Society of Fellows, Dr. Ben Ismail presented aspects of his work at multiple academic venues throughout the year. These included invited lectures at Harvard University, Rice University, and Amherst College; paper presentations and workshops at the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory in Frankfurt, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, Harvard Center for Renaissance Studies in Florence, and University College London. He co-organized (with Zeynep Çelik Alexander and Emmanuelle Saada) a symposium titled “Ottoman Algiers Beyond 1830,” hosted at the Maison Française with participants from France and Algeria. He also presented a paper at the Middle East Studies Association Conference in Denver as part of a panel on conceptions of sovereignty in modern North Africa.

In the spring, Dr. Ben Ismail taught an advanced undergraduate seminar, “Islam and the Politics of Modernity.”



A. Véronique Charles, 2022–2025

University of Pennsylvania,
Department of Comparative
Literature and Literary
Theory, PhD 2021

Project: *The Middle Passage
in Continental Terms:
Ante>Returns and the Practice
of Atlantic–African Slavery*

A. Véronique Charles is an interdisciplinary literary scholar whose work draws from anthropology, history, and postcolonial and diaspora studies in making sense of the complexity of Atlantic-African slavery, particularly as institutionalized in French colonial Senegal. Working with both anglophone and francophone sources, she focuses attention on locales, subjective positionalities, and imperial records that have too often been rendered obsolete in teleological narratives about Atlantic slavery.

Dr. Charles's recently completed essay "Unfreedom from a Place of Métissage: The Reprint of Abdoulaye Sadjí's *Nini* in Postwar Black France" uses the analytic of *métissage*, or miscegenation, to chart unfreedom as a leitmotif within that novel, which appeared in the Parisian journal *Présence Africaine* in the late 1940s. This analytic frame allows us to consider the extent to which the shortcomings of nineteenth-century abolition in Senegal informed the caution of colonized Black intellectuals toward purportedly emancipatory projects of the twentieth century, entangled as those projects are in the long history of European imperialism. Dr. Charles served as discussant for Imane Terhmina's talk in the Thursday Lecture Series, and she presented her research at the French Colonial Historical Society's annual meeting at Université des Antilles.

Dr. Charles taught the undergraduate Core course "Contemporary Civilization" in the fall and her self-designed Global Core seminar "Blackness and Frenchness: A Radical Genealogy" in the spring. She also designed and taught a summer course titled "France's Abolitions and Republics" at Columbia Global Centers | Paris, alongside "Blackness in French," co-taught by Kaiama L. Glover and Maboula Soumahoro. These courses contributed to the curriculum of the Black France Consortium—an interuniversity partnership dedicated to foregrounding Black French studies. Throughout July, the Consortium organized a film series entitled "Black France on Film/La France Noire à l'Écran" that featured scholars, filmmakers, and journalists as guest speakers.

In June, the Office of Provost awarded an Interdisciplinary Teaching Initiatives grant for the 2023–24 academic year to Dr. Charles, along with Drs. Farah Jasmine Griffin and Thomas Dodman. Together, they'll launch "Afro-Francospheres," a working group dedicated to intercontinental research and teaching within African Diaspora Studies at Columbia, in partnership with AAADS, the SOF/Heyman, and Columbia Global Centers | Paris.



Emma Shaw Crane, 2021–2024

New York University,
Department of Social and
Cultural Analysis, PhD 2021

Project: *Counterinsurgent
Suburb: Race, Empire, and
Repair at City's Edge*

Emma Shaw Crane is a scholar of race, environment, and US empire in the Americas. This past year, she began work on her book manuscript, an ethnography of care and counterinsurgency on a military base and in a detention camp for migrant children outside Miami. In the fall, Dr. Crane published two essays, one titled “The Poisoned Periphery” in *Public Culture*, and the other, a review essay titled “The New Geography of the Carceral State” in *Public Books*. And in April she published material drawn from her book manuscript as an article in *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*.

Dr. Crane was also an invited participant at several workshops and symposiums. In December 2022, she participated in “Traffic in the Americas,” a Social Science and Humanities Research Council workshop on racialization and policing in the urban Americas at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá. In April 2023, Dr. Crane was an invited participant in “Urban Life at the Extensions,” a weeklong program curated by AbdouMaliq Simone in Paris. With Guadalupe de la Cruz, she presented collaborative research at a symposium at Cornell University; the symposium, titled “Displaced. Detained. Undeterred,” brought together refugee and migrant scholars, artists, and community organizers. In June 2023, Dr. Crane joined the steering committee of the Beyond Inhabitation Lab, a European Research Council project based at the Politecnico de Torino and directed by AbdouMaliq Simone and Michele Lancione.

Dr. Crane presented work at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in Seattle, and the International Studies Association Annual Meeting in Montréal. At Columbia University, she participated in two working groups: Refugee Cities, supported by the Center for the Study of Social Difference; and Criminalization-Militarization, in the Department of Anthropology. She also taught a semester of “Colonization/Decolonization,” a core requirement for the major in Ethnicity and Race Studies. Finally, Dr. Crane continued her collaborative research with movements for migrant and environmental justice in South Florida and completed six months of interviews and archival research for a forthcoming report on the intersection of confinement and sugarcane economies at a hybrid municipal jail and federal migrant detention center in Glades County.

**nyle fort, 2021–2024**

Princeton University,
Department of Religion,
PhD 2021

Project: *Amazing Grief:
African American Mourning
and Contemporary
Black Activism*

nyle fort is a minister, activist, and scholar. He studies how people resist oppression, build beloved community, and struggle to transform the world. Dr. fort is currently working on a book project that examines the spiritual life of contemporary social movements. His writing is featured in the *Guardian*, the *Boston Globe*, *New York Magazine*, *Socialism and Democracy*, *Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy*, and *There's a Revolution Outside, My Love: Letters from a Crisis*. His scholarship has been funded by the Ford Foundation, the University of Pennsylvania, the Forum for Theological Exploration, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and the Atlantic Fellowship for Racial Equity. Dr. fort earned a BA from Morehouse College, a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a PhD in religion and interdisciplinary humanities, with a concentration in African American studies, from Princeton University.

Over the 2022–23 academic year, Dr. fort presented his scholarship at several academic institutions, including Stanford University, the University of Chicago, and Tufts University. At Stanford, he discussed his research on the politics of African American mourning, which grew out of his dissertation. At the University of Chicago, he spoke during Black History Month about the challenges and opportunities of activist scholarship in and beyond academia. And at Tufts, he presented work on his current book project, sharing his ethnographic findings about the spiritual life of Black Lives Matter.

In addition to presenting his research, Dr. fort taught a signature course: “Spirit of Justice.” The course explores the relationship between spirituality and activism with particular focus on Black and multiracial social movements in the United States from the nineteenth century to today. Students read scholarship that covers ideas of love, spirituality, ethics, and religion in radical political movements, while also considering how the tradition of spiritual activism may help us confront ongoing legacies of injustice. As a final project, students conducted Service Learning projects where they worked with local social justice organizations, connecting what they learned in class to what is happening in the world.



Atesede Makonnen, 2022–2023

Johns Hopkins University,
Department of English
Literature, PhD 2022

Project: *The Actual Sight
of the Thing: Visualizing
Blackness in Nineteenth-
Century British Culture*

Atesede Makonnen's work examines the understudied role of British cultural objects and institutions in the creation and perpetuation of racial thinking. This year, she visited several libraries and archives as she conducted research for her manuscript, including Yale's Center for British Art Library, the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and the Lewis Walpole Library. She also completed a short-term fellowship at the New York Public Library in the summer. Dr. Makonnen finished chapters for three separate collections, including "I Saw Othello's Visage in His Mind": Visualizing Othello in Nineteenth-Century British Theatre," which inspired her Thursday Lecture Series talk; "Romanticism and the (Novel)ty of Race" for *The Cambridge Guide to Race and Romanticism*; and "Performance/Theatrical Contexts and Sancho" for *The Cambridge Guide to Ignatius Sancho*. Her research this year has sparked several future projects, including an article on commonplace books, a longer project on the racialization of the novel form, and an invited contribution to a special issue of *Nineteenth Century Theatre and Film*.

During her time at Columbia, Dr. Makonnen was delighted to teach two seminars for the English department, "Black Lives in Pre-Modern Britain" in the fall semester and "Happily Ever After (?): Fantasies of Nineteenth-Century Romance" in the spring. She presented on two panels, "Race and Empire Caucus: Romanticism and Race" and "The Visual Life of Romantic Theatre Roundtable" at the 2022 North American Society for the Study of Romanticism/ British Association for Romantic Studies annual conference. She also gave a presentation on strategies for teaching *Othello* for Literature Humanities instructors in February. She ended the year by giving opening remarks for the symposium "Abolitionism and the Arts in the Long Eighteenth Century," co-sponsored by the SOF/Heyman.

Dr. Makonnen will be joining the Carnegie Mellon University English Department as Assistant Professor in Fall 2023.



Ege Yumuşak, 2022–2024

Harvard University,
Department of Philosophy,
PhD 2022

Project: *Perspectival
Clashes: Saliency as a Site
of Contestation*

Ege Yumuşak is a philosopher whose research examines political disagreement—its material foundations, social manifestations, and epistemic properties. This past year, her first as a Fellow, she continued work on a series of articles on the nature and significance of clashes of perspective in social life. She presented work from this project to multiple audiences throughout the academic year including the MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory, the Good Attention research group at the University of Oslo, and the Department of Philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Yumuşak gave comments on a symposium on gaslighting at the American Philosophical Association's Eastern meeting in January 2023. She was also invited to give comments on a paper by Professor Amy Kind (Claremont McKenna) at the American Philosophical Association's Pacific meeting on feminism and the imagination in April 2023.

Dr. Yumuşak made progress on her second project on the philosophical commitments within social movements. She conducted a study into grievance-handling work in higher education labor unions and presented her findings as part of a panel at the 50th anniversary conference of the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions in March. In June, she published a review of *Rules to Win By* by Jane McAlevey and Abby Lawlor for *Boston Review*, interrogating the principle of open bargaining in labor negotiations and its instrumentalization to win collective bargaining agreements. Other activities included teaching two courses that she designed for the Department of Philosophy: one on political responsibility and social identity and another on epistemic disagreement. At the SOF/Heyman, Dr. Yumuşak gave a talk titled "Contestations of Saliency and the Theory of Everyday Political Conflict"; chaired a talk by Lea Ypi (LSE) as part of the Thursday Lecture Series; and served as a moderator at a lecture titled "Just Transition or Just a Transition?" by J. Mijin Cha (UCSC), organized by Fellow Leah Aronowsky in the event series "Climate Futures/Climate Justice." Over the summer, Dr. Yumuşak will travel to Turkey to present her work at Bosphorus University at a conference on ethics and relationships.

THURSDAY LECTURE SERIES

22 September 2022

Beyond Nationality: Belonging and Empire in Ottoman North Africa
Youssef Ben Ismail, Lecturer in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies

In September 1874, the Tunisian government issued a decree declaring that, from then on, all Algerians living under its jurisdiction would be considered local subjects. In practice, this meant that Algerians residing in Ottoman Tunis would no longer benefit from the broad array of extraterritorial rights they previously enjoyed as protected subjects of a French colony. But if Algerians in Tunis were no longer France's protégés, then what were they? What did it mean to be "from" Tunis in the nineteenth century? Dr. Ismail took the status of Algerians in Tunis as a case study to explore the layered and multidimensional nature of subjecthood in Ottoman North Africa. Through a careful analysis of the category of *himāya*, Dr. Ismail ultimately suggested that we look beyond the European legal repertoire in order to understand conceptions and experiences of belonging outside of the West.

29 September 2022

From Steppe to Stage: Racialization and the Making of the First Kazakh National Opera
Knar Abrahamyan, Lecturer in Music

Dr. Abrahamyan examined racial politics in the creation and performance of the first Soviet Kazakh national opera, *Kyz Zhibek* (1934), by the Jewish-Russian composer Yevgeny Brusilovsky, in her lecture. She explored how the process of making the opera was informed by racialization whereby Brusilovsky ascribed pre-conceived notions of inferiority, such as metric inability and vocal difference, to Kazakh musicians. Dr. Abrahamyan argued that the presence of racialization in the so-called "soft power" realm of cultural production was intricately connected with veiled yet highly coercive political ends of the Soviet state—assimilation, subjugation, and erasure of Kazakh identity—with the aim of eliminating resistance to imperial domination.

6 October 2022

How Initial Peasant Support for Shining Path Shifted to Violent Resistance in Peru
Renzo Aroni, Lecturer in Anthropology and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race

Why did Indigenous peasants, particularly youth, support but ultimately resist the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla group in highland Quechua communities? Dr. Aroni explored this question by considering how the different ways rebels and government security forces interacted in each Andean community might explain the diverse peasant responses. At first, Dr. Aroni explained, the politics of pursuing social justice mobilized a large part of the rural population, especially the youths, who often sympathized with the Maoist revolution. The motivating factors in engaging with the insurgency in rural communities include local experiences of state neglect, social inequality, power relation, and fear and intimidation. As Dr. Aroni showed in his lecture, Shining Path's mounting authoritarianism, most notably their brutal killing of community authorities and demand that peasants withdraw

from the market economy, explains the root of violent peasant uprisings against the rebels.

13 October 2022

A Rose from Canfield
nyle fort, Lecturer in African American and African Diaspora Studies

On 9 August 2014, white police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed Black teenager Michael Brown, Jr. To add insult to injury, the local police department left his lifeless body on the ground for over four hours. Canfield residents immediately took to the street to demand answers, express rage, and, as this lecture explored, build a makeshift memorial. Throughout the Ferguson Rebellion, the memorial became a site of struggle that animated what Dr. fort called “makeshift politics.” That is, a form of activism that challenges pressures to translate protest to policy, while insisting on the value of grassroots organizing, the building of beloved communities, and the persistence of collective grief. Dr. fort’s talk invited attendees to think about the possibilities and challenges

of this particular form of political engagement within contemporary Black social movements.

20 October 2022

The Middle Passage Viewed from Africa: Scenes from the Francosphere
A. Véronique Charles, Lecturer in African American and African Diaspora Studies

From the 1848 emancipation proclamation written for French colonial Senegal to metropolitan literature about the region published a century later, this talk proposed seemingly counterintuitive modes of inquiry into the past of slavery in its institutionalized iteration. This form of slavery is typified by the oceanic journey of slave ships departing from the West African littoral, a journey alternatively known as the Middle Passage. The imperial records and novels that framed Dr. Charles’s talk recall the dual processes imposed on the enslaved subject at the advent of Atlantic slavery, namely racialization and what Aimé Césaire termed “*chosification*” (thingification). And yet these very objects of study trouble the necessity of westward displacement via the Middle Passage to enact said

processes upon the enslaved subject. In her lecture, Dr. Charles reckoned with this critical tension.

10 November 2022

Contestations of Salience and the Theory of Everyday Political Conflict
Ege Yumuşak, Lecturer in Philosophy

Conflicts abound in ordinary life. Some conflicts are easy to dissipate, while others require more work to overcome. Dr. Yumuşak dispelled a common misconception about everyday political conflicts: that political conflict is intractable to the extent to which the opposing sides are entrenched in their positions. This misconception is often rooted in seeing conflict as either a disagreement over facts or a coordination problem arising from divergent interests. Call this assumption the conflict binary, Dr. Yumuşak suggested. Drawing on negotiation theory and recent work in epistemology, she cast doubt on the implicit but widespread endorsements of the conflict binary around us and introduced new epistemological tools to analyze everyday political conflict.

Dr. Yumuşak focused, in particular, on contestations over what's salient as a kind of conflict that eclipses the conflict binary.

17 November 2022

A History of Decarbonization

Leah Aronowsky, Lecturer in History

Dr. Aronowsky narrated the story of how scientists, policymakers, and corporations have grappled with decarbonization as a policy response to climate change. Over the course of the 1970s and 1980s, decarbonization advocates struggled to garner political support for the idea; they ultimately lost out to economists who championed a program of adapting to climate change's consequences rather than combating its causes. Dr. Aronowsky situated the history of decarbonization as part of a broader story about the shifting boundaries of political possibility in the history of climate politics.

1 December 2022

Lush Aftermath: Race, Labor, Scorched Earth

Emma Shaw Crane, Lecturer in Anthropology and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race

Dr. Crane took up the afterlives of scorched earth counterinsurgency in Guatemala in an unlikely place: a migrant suburb of Miami. In South Florida, ornamental plant and palm nurseries produce plant life that populates suburban landscapes across the United States. In contrast to analyses that emphasize the disorder of war, Dr. Crane attended to order and beauty in the wake of war. Dr. Crane also took up, in her talk, the Homestead nurseries—and the suburban landscapes they produce—as a lush and lucrative aftermath of scorched earth. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork with developers, plant nursery owners, and Maya migrant workers, Crane showed that displacement and policing in the wake of counterinsurgent war nurture (sub)urban regimes of property and personhood.


8 December 2022

"I saw Othello's visage in his mind": Visualizing Othello in Nineteenth-Century British Theatre

Atesede R. Makonnen, Lecturer in English and Comparative Literature

Dr. Makonnen explored the

performance of race through illustrations and portraits of two famous Othellos: Edmund Kean, the British actor who tried to “whiten” the character; and Ira Aldridge, the groundbreaking African American actor who attempted to conquer Othello. As Dr. Makonnen showed, both Kean and Aldridge worked as actors with careers spanning Black and White roles; for both, Othello presented challenges around agency and racial identity. Kean, it seems, could not escape Othello's Blackness, and Aldridge could not escape Othello. How does Othello act as a site of identity creation and identity limitation? How do illustrations, exhibitions, and academic narratives contribute to that creation and limitation? In addressing these questions, Dr. Makonnen revealed that despite their attempts to control race on stage, Kean and Aldridge met with spectators whose visual processing of their performances forced them back into familiar racial identities.



This lecture series is preoccupied with failure: the failure to meaningfully address the climate crisis, to regulate capitalist greed, to ban guns, to repair systemic racism, to stop wars. The responsibility for these failures does not fall on the shoulders of all people equally. While some benefit from these failures, at least in the short run, others suffer. Scholars have grappled extensively with the notion of responsibility and complicity with respect to failure. Less scholarly attention has been paid, however, to the emancipatory potential of failure. After all, the telos of success, grist for the capitalist mill, undermines revolutionary change. At the same time, the notion that failure can also be something systematic, structural, or inevitable is antithetical to the ethos of capitalism, which depends on the reification of the individual, celebrates “merit,” and posits a causality between good behavior and good outcomes. Can the inevitability of failure signal a different set of liberatory politics? Does the heightened awareness of failure signal a possibility to overcome “reckless optimism,” as Barbara Ehrenreich described? Does it make room for “a hope not

hopeless but unhopeful” in our “twilight civilization,” as Cornel West proposed? Does the inevitability of failure license authoritarianism or invite empathy?

2 February 2023

Freedom in Transition

Lea Ypi, Professor in Political Theory, London School of Economics

Lea Ypi introduced her new book, *Free: Coming of Age at the End of History* (Penguin Books, 2021), and discussed the idea of freedom that is at its center, its relationship to ideology, and how different conceptions of freedom are reflected in characters and personal histories. Dr. Ypi explained the book’s methodology and explored the question of its relationship to facts, values, and fiction.

23 February 2023

Black Against the Rainbow: An Azanian Afropessimist Critique of Frank Wilderson’s South Africa
Panashe Chigumadzi, Doctoral Candidate, Departments of African and African American Studies and History, Harvard University

The North American tradition of

Afropessimism is indebted to what South Africans would call the “struggle credentials” of Frank B. Wilderson III as a Fanonian-Marxist-Leninist member of the ANC from 1992 to 1996. Unfortunately, to the detriment of both conceptualizations and critiques of Afropessimism, Wilderson’s *Incognegro* and *Afropessimism* simplify and truncate the history of Black political, ideological, and intellectual resistance in South Africa to his arrival in 1989 and years as an elected official in the ANC. Chigumadzi’s talk argued instead that the ANC’s failure to ameliorate Black abjection in the “Rainbow Nation” is not the result of “selling out” the Marxist-Leninist path, but of the ANC’s “nonracial” Congress Tradition historically sidelining the Azanian (Pan-Africanist-Black Consciousness) Tradition’s “Black-first” pessimism toward successive “multiracial” and “nonracial” universalisms of South Africa’s left-liberal political traditions. The talk examined the erasure of Afropessimist theorizations in postapartheid Black academia and movements such as Blackwash, the September National Imbizo, and the Fallist Movement.



2 March 2023

The Republic Betrayed

Alberto Vergara, Professor in Political Science, Universidad del Pacifico, Peru

In recent years, a wave of protests has swept Latin America. Peru and Ecuador, Chile and Brazil, Guatemala and Colombia, Mexico and Bolivia have all seen massive protests. At the same time, regional surveys show that trust in institutions and democracy has diminished; the number of Latin Americans who believe the system is rigged against them has grown to unprecedented levels, as has their tolerance for eventual coups. What explains these different expressions of regional malaise? Dr. Vergara's talk used the concept of "republic" as a theoretical tool to assess this situation. Republic and republicanism can integrate the different dimensions (institutional, social, economic) that keep Latin America on a path that leads away from inclusive development and, therefore, toward one that produces dissatisfaction.

9 March 2023

The "Failures" of Liberal Capitalism and the Racial Regime of Religion in Late Colonial Algeria

Muriam Haleh Davis, Associate Professor of History, University of California, Santa Cruz

For decades, historians have argued that late colonial development in Algeria was a failure in that it did not prevent the creation of an independent Algerian nation-state in 1962. This was not the first time that the imagination of colonial development was rooted in an image of failure. The French planners and politicians who attempted to implement the Constantine Plan in the late 1950s identified a precise reason why their attempts to introduce a market society in Algeria had been unsuccessful: the inability of Muslim Algerians to adopt the values of productivity and calculation. Rather than propagating the myth of failure, Dr. Davis argued that debates on economic reform allowed the colonial state to propagate a distinction between *homo Islamicus* and *homo economicus*. These two tropes structured understandings

of racial difference and shaped late colonial—and postcolonial—attempts at economic and social development in Algeria. The alleged failure of the Constantine Plan thus reveals, Dr. Davis argued, the particular "racial regime of religion" constructed through colonial rule in Algeria and elucidates the resulting tensions between Algerian nationalism and pan-Arabism after independence.

23 March 2023

Make Your Own Job: Success and Failure in the Depression-Era United States

Erik Baker, Lecturer in History of Science, Harvard University

The New Deal had a far-reaching impact on every aspect of life in the United States, but it did not accomplish the fundamental transformation of American capitalism that seemed possible in the early years of the Great Depression. Historians have identified a variety of explanations for the limitations of Depression-era political form. Dr. Baker highlighted the importance of the nascent self-help publishing industry in stigmatizing jobs created by the government. Early

twentieth-century self-help encouraged the development of a new economic culture in which the key criterion of success was not one's employment status, income, or possessions, but whether one had managed to take the advice to "make your own job," as the title of one Depression-era book phrased it. Dr. Baker argued that the pervasive conviction that government-created jobs lacked the dignity and social utility of jobs created by "entrepreneurs" encouraged New Deal policymakers to focus on promoting private-sector job creation—instead of shifting the balance of employment toward the public sector or, as some contemporary radicals urged, decoupling income from work altogether.

30 March 2023

The Manufacture of Failure: How "Africa" (De)Constructs the "Wes"

Imane Terhmina, Assistant Professor of Francophone Studies, Cornell University

In the global popular imagination, Africa is still primarily considered a locus of violence and chaos. More specifically, the contemporary, familiar

narrative of failed African nation-states continues to place the continent under the discursive signifier of lack. Dr. Terhmina aimed to first challenge the epistemological premises of this view by deconstructing its main implicit binary, namely that "Africa" and "the West" constitute mutually exclusive, internally coherent discursive objects of knowledge. Second, Dr. Terhmina explored possible venues for restoring the African continent as a site of political, social, and epistemic innovation and experimentation.

6 April 2023

Failed Kinship and the Brown Commons

Manu Samriti Chander, Associate Professor of English, Rutgers University-Newark

In his 1940 autobiography *Dusk of Dawn*, W.E.B. Du Bois writes of a "kinship [that] binds together not simply the children of Africa, but extends through yellow Asia and into the South Seas." Dr. Chander argued that this political ideal and the revolutionary possibilities it introduces emerge from the failure of capital to consolidate the familial bonds among forcibly displaced peoples.

Noting that Du Bois identifies this failure with a racialized position he describes as "brown," Chander suggested that the alternative kin network Du Bois calls forth might productively be read in terms of what José Esteban Muñoz called "the brown commons," where "Brownness . . . affiliates and intermeshes with blackness, Asianness, [and] indigenouness." He then considered how this commons is imagined in the series of books that the revolutionary historian Walter Rodney was writing for the schoolchildren of Guyana at the time of his assassination in 1980. These works represent, Dr. Chander suggested, the promise of kinship among differently racialized working peoples who share a common history of vulnerability and violence.

13 April 2023

On and In Their Bodies: Masculinist Violence, Criminalization, and Black Womanhood in Trinidad

Leniqueca Welcome, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs, George Washington University

Dr. Welcome's research explores the production and mobilization of the

spatialized, gendered, and racialized figure of the violent criminal in Trinidad, the anti-Black state violence it legitimizes, and the quotidian ways people invoke a decolonial and abolitionist world through and beyond criminalization where their lives are seen as unconditionally precious. In this talk, she turned her focus to the configuration of criminal life poor, Black women in Trinidad endure in the wake of the plantation. Dr. Welcome placed in conversation multiple forms of violence against those who occupy the category of “poor Black woman” to detail more comprehensively the ongoing colonialist extraction of Black women’s lives as she showed how actors in different social positions in contemporary Trinidad seek to constitute masculinist power through violence performed on and in women’s bodies. With this, she also centered on the ways Black women continue to make joy with and despite this terror as they contribute to recrafting a world where women no longer have to steal space for themselves in landscapes of death—where they no longer have to be women as womanhood has been defined by Western humanism.

20 April 2023

Abandoned or Washed Away?: Make (Big) Opera Listen to You
Nina Eidsheim, Professor of Musicology, University of California, Los Angeles

About twenty years ago, Dr. Eidsheim began studying the work of California performance artist and soprano Juliana Snapper. A superb classical singer, Snapper was on a mission to understand vocal failure—specifically the points and scenarios where the voice breaks down and can no longer function to deliver the professional results for which her own voice had been highly calibrated. When Snapper was a small girl, ExxonMobil chose to hide its research modeling the current climate change (1977) while publicly questioning science on the connection between fossil fuels and global warming. This decision was consequential in the US decision not to sign the 1997 Kyoto protocol. A few years later, Snapper began singing upside down and underwater. She was preparing to survive in a scenario where humans had failed the earth and sea levels had risen, flooding all livable spaces—including the opera house. In January 2023, 90% of California was

under flood watches. Dr. Eidsheim’s talk returned to the story of Snapper and her work, in which she asks—indeed, demands—that still-dominant but failed narratives stop guarding their secrets and trying to convince the world of their own storylines, and instead just listen.

27 April 2023

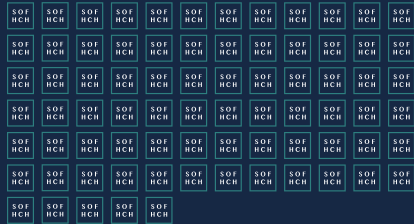
Putting Race to Work: Neoliberal Development in the US Virgin Islands
Tami Navarro, Assistant Professor and Chair of Pan-African Studies, Drew University
Natasha Lightfoot, Associate Professor in the Department of History and Faculty Fellow in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, Columbia University

Tami Navarro and Natasha Lightfoot discussed Navarro’s book, *Virgin Capita: Race, Gender, and Financialization in the US Virgin Islands*, which explores racial capitalism and the failures of neoliberal development in the Caribbean and beyond. With their shared intellectual engagement in the region, their conversation touched on the past, present, and possible futures of islands in the Caribbean.

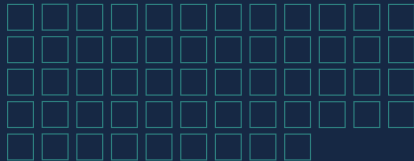
YEAR IN REVIEW

134 Total Events 

77 Events Led by the SOF/Heyman



57 Cosponsored Events



PROGRAMMING PARTNERS

African American and African Diaspora Studies	Classics	Institute for Ideas and Imagination	Office of the President
Alliance Program	Columbia Climate School	Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies	Philosophy
Anthropology	Columbia Public Health Club	Institute of Latin American Studies	Political Science
The Armenian Center at Columbia University	Columbia Research Initiative on the Global History of Sexualities	Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life	Post-Conflict Cities Lab
Art History and Archaeology	Columbia School of Journalism	Institute for Research in African-American Studies	Program in Hellenic Studies
Barenboim-Said Foundation	Columbia World Projects	Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy	Religion
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Barnard Center for Research on Women	Decarbonization, Climate Resilience and Climate Justice Network	Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender	School of General Studies
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Center for Contemporary Critical Thought	European Institute	Latin American and Iberian Cultures	Slavic Languages
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Center for Palestine Studies	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation	Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies	Tamer Center for Social Enterprise
Center for Science and Society	Harriman Institute	Motherhood and Technology Working Group	Undergraduate Writing Program
Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race	History	Music	University Seminar on Affect Studies
Center for the Study of Muslim Societies	Humanities New York	New York City Irish Consortium	University Seminar on Cultural Memory
Center for the Study of Social Difference	Institute for Comparative Literature and Society	Office of the EVP of Arts & Sciences	University Seminar on Modern British History
			Zip Code Memory Project



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

With a return to fully in-person programming, the SOF/Heyman Fellows and Board Members organized and cosponsored events that continued to bring people together from near and far by retaining the benefits of online accessibility. Some of these events are highlighted here, and many events, organized as part of a series or initiative, are found in those respective sections of this report. Additional programming and further details—including information about speakers and cosponsors—may be found on the [Events](#) section of our website, and select events are available for viewing in the [Media](#) section.

10 October 2022

Last Call at the Hotel Imperial: A Conversation between Deborah Cohen and Adam Tooze
Deborah Cohen (Northwestern University), Sharon Marcus, Adam Tooze

Acclaimed historians Deborah Cohen and Adam Tooze held a conversation about Cohen's *Last Call at the Hotel Imperial: The Reporters Who Took On a World at War*. Hailed by *The New Yorker* as "effervescent," the book explores a globe-trotting set of interwar American reporters who raised the alarm about the rise of fascism and rewrote the rules of journalism along the way. *Last Call at the Hotel Imperial* is the extraordinary story of John Gunther, H. R. Knickerbocker, Vincent Sheean, and Dorothy Thompson. In the tumultuous years before the start of World War II, they landed exclusive interviews with Hitler and Mussolini, and Nehru and Gandhi, and helped shape what Americans knew about the world. Told with the immediacy of a conversation overheard, this revealing book captures how the global upheavals of the twentieth century felt up close. The discussion between Cohen and Tooze, moderated by Sharon Marcus, beautifully captured *Last Call at the Hotel Imperial's* many revelations.

20 October 2022

The Lionel Trilling Seminar: Amanda Anderson

Esteemed literary scholar and theorist Amanda Anderson's lecture was premised on a central paradox: despite extensive interest over the past few decades in the question of method, the literary field's informing psychological frameworks are often not subject to much scrutiny, particularly their tendency to privilege



psychoanalytic categories drawn from the tradition of Freud, Klein, and Lacan. Taking John Guillory's *Cultural Capital: The Problem of Literary Canon Formation* as a case in point, Anderson explored the ways in which the encounter with the psychological unconscious of the field remains largely deferred thirty years later after the publication of that important study. Anderson looked back at one particular consequence of this field condition: that the dominant psychological assumptions continue to have an ineluctable connection to, and constraint on, the field's political imaginary. Ultimately, Anderson suggested that by shifting our attention to post-Kleinian object relations (Winnicott, in particular) and Axel Honneth's work on recognition and respect, we might begin to develop a political psychology more attuned to current challenges and more in line with some of the impulses behind the method debates. Nancy Yousef and Nicholas Dames served as respondents.

9 February 2023

The Meddlers: Sovereignty, Empire, and the Birth of Global Economic Governance

Turkuler Isiksel, Jamie Martin (Harvard University), Susan Pedersen, Charles Sabel, Jack L. Snyder

The Meddlers is a pioneering history that traces the origins of global economic governance—and the political conflicts it generates—to the aftermath of World War I. In a discussion with *The Meddlers* author Jamie Martin, Susan Pedersen, Charles Sabel, and Jack L. Snyder explored the contours of that history. Martin argues that international economic institutions such as the International Monetary

Fund (IMF) and World Bank exert incredible influence over the domestic policies of many states. In order to understand their deeper origins and the ideas and dynamics that shaped their controversial powers, we must turn back to the explosive political struggles that attended the birth of global economic governance in the early twentieth century. Martin follows the intense political conflicts provoked by the earliest international efforts to govern capitalism—from Weimar Germany to the Balkans, nationalist China to colonial Malaya, and the Chilean desert to Wall Street. *The Meddlers* shows how the challenges to sovereignty and democracy posed by such international economic institutions are not unique to late twentieth-century globalization, but instead first emerged during an earlier period of imperial competition, world war, and economic crisis. Discussion focused on the tensions between global capitalism and national sovereignty facing us today. The panel was co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the Center for Global Thought.

25 March 2023

New Irish Fiction: A Symposium

Colm Tóibín and Kevin Power moderated this daylong symposium that brought together some of the most widely acclaimed and adventurous Irish writers of the twenty-first century. Over the course of the symposium, Eimear McBride, Colin Barrett, Luke Cassidy, Naoise Dolan, Rob Doyle, Nicole Flattery, and Mike McCormack discussed the way forward for Irish fiction in a time of migration, right-wing populism, and increasing demands for gender, racial, economic, and climate justice. Structuring the symposium



was the premise that Irish writers have long been at the forefront of formal experimentation in English-language fiction; now, a hundred years after James Joyce and Samuel Beckett shattered expectations of the conventional novel, Irish writers are asking new questions about what fiction is capable of doing. Their works represent remarkable innovations in the representation of subjectivity, identity, and time in fiction. They are also deeply attuned to politics, writing in the wake of the global economic downturn, the collapse of the moral authority of the Catholic church, the Good Friday Agreement, and the creation of new forms of identity in Ireland.

1 May 2023

Days of 2023: A Poetic Symposium on C.P. Cavafy

Orfeas Apergis (poet and translator), Susan Bernofsky, Sarah Cole, Yiannis Doukas (poet and essayist), Karen Emmerich (Princeton University), Phoebe Giannisi (University of Thessaly), Janlori Goldman, Stathis Gourgouris, Katerina Iliopoulou (poet and translator), Nikolas P. Kakkoufa, Robin Coste Lewis (University of Southern California), Iman Mersal (University of Alberta), Neni Panourgiá, Brenda Shaughnessy (Rutgers University-Newark), Haytham el-Wardany (writer and translator)

Stathis Gourgouris and Karen Emmerich led a symposium inspired by the poet C.P. Cavafy—for poets from New York, Egypt, and Greece—as part of the Onassis Foundation’s citywide Archive of Desire: A Festival. “Days of 2023” references Cavafy’s many works named “Days of . . .” with the year of their writing or a date of reflection as titles. After an introduction from Sarah Cole and Stathis Gourgouris to the symposium’s many participants, a fruitful day of discussion, questions, and conversation on Cavafy’s legacy followed.



6 October 2022

Strangers in a Strange Land: Displacement, Sanctuary, and the Traveling Tale
Marina Warner (All Souls College, Oxford)

The Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture is given once a year in honor of the public intellectual and literary critic Edward W. Said, who taught in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia from 1963 until 2003. Said wrote that he habitually felt “out of place” and in his memoir movingly explores the strategies and theoretical ideas the experience inspired. This lecture, annually organized by the SOF/Heyman on behalf of the Said Memorial Committee, pays tribute to Professor Said by bringing to Columbia speakers who embody his beliefs and the legacy of his work. In her poignant lecture, Marina Warner returned to Said’s ideas about estrangement, the traveling tale, and contrapuntal reading, focusing on the Biblical story of Mary/Mariam’s flight into Egypt. The legend—spread through stories, cult practices, and pilgrimages—lives on in some form in both the Christian and Islamic traditions. In a time of ever greater displacements and tumult, this narrative, Warner suggested, offers a test case of storytelling’s role in living through exile and dislocation—and a lesson in surviving somewhere that is not home. The event was co-sponsored by Columbia’s School of the Arts and the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies.

23 February 2023

Education Through Music

Michael Barenboim (Barenboim-Said Akademie), Rashid Khalidi, Miriam Manasherov (musician), Samir Obaido (musician), Mariam C. Said (Barenboim-Said Akademie)

Co-founded by Edward W. Said and pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim, the acclaimed West-Eastern Divan Orchestra promotes coexistence and intercultural dialogue by bringing young Israelis, Palestinians, and Arabs together to make music. In honor of the twentieth anniversary of Said’s death, “Education Through Music” celebrated the orchestra’s work since its founding in 1999 and the many partner projects—including a musical academy in Berlin—to which it has given rise. The panelists discussing the history of the Barenboim-Said collaboration and its rich legacy included Mariam C. Said, vice president of the Barenboim-Said Foundation (USA); Michael Barenboim, dean of the Barenboim-Said Akademie; and musicians Miriam Manasherov and Samir Obaido. The panel was moderated by Rashid Khalidi, Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies, and co-sponsored by the Department of English and Comparative Literature, the Center for Palestine Studies, the Barenboim-Said Foundation, the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, and the Italian Academy.

29 April 2023

Late Style or a Double Fugue: Beethoven and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra

Kinan Azmeh, Tanya Jayani Fernando, Amer Hasan, Fouad Hassan, Saba Husain, Susan Jahoda, Michael Laurence, Omar Metwally, Sindy Mohamed, Bassam Nashawati, Nurit Pacht, Lia Chen Perlov, Andrew Polk, Rony Rogoff, Carl Hancock Rux

“Late Style” invited us all into the extraordinary friendship between a Palestinian-American scholar and an Israeli conductor and the global orchestra they imagined into being. Edward Said and Daniel Barenboim created the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra to bring together Palestinian, Arab, and Israeli musicians. It became an unsettling, humbling, and joyful experiment in understanding the “other.” The performance piece of “Late Style” is an adaptation of *Parallels and Paradoxes: Explorations in Music and Society* (2002, Vintage Press), a book of conversations between Said and Barenboim on aesthetics and politics. “Late Style” is timely: it speaks about music and late Beethoven, Israel and Palestine, immigration, belonging, the rise of totalitarianism, and the necessity of the arts to find political solutions. As this performance illustrated, “Late Style”—with all its music—expresses radical hope in a world that cannot afford to lose it. The music was performed live by a quartet from the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra at the Italian Academy Theater. The evening was co-sponsored by the Barenboim-Said Foundation, the Department of English and Comparative Literature, the Puffin Foundation, the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, and the Italian Academy.

4 November 2022

Ottoman Algiers Beyond 1830

Noureddine Amara (independent scholar), Youssef Ben Ismail (SOF 2021–24), Zeynep Çelik Alexander, Isabelle Grangaud (Norbert Elias Center, Marseille), Emmanuelle Saada (SOF Board Member 2019–21)

In 1830, French troops conquered Ottoman Algiers. In the following 130 years, the occupation—and subsequent annexation—of Algeria became one of the most significant examples of European colonialism. However, the all-colonial narrative, one where the French conquest appears inevitable and hegemonic, often obscures fundamental dimensions of Algeria’s modern history. This workshop instead considered the history of the conquest from the point of view of the conquered: the Ottoman province of Algiers. Speakers included Zeynep Çelik Alexander, Isabelle Grangaud, Noureddine Amara, Youssef Ben Ismail, and Emmanuelle Saada. The event was organized by Youssef Ben Ismail (SOF 2021–24) and co-sponsored by the Department of French; the Department of History; the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy; the Middle East Institute; and the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies.



11 November 2022

Preserving the Afro-Andean Culture and the Indigenous Quechua Language through World Music

Knar Abrahamyan (SOF 2022–23), Renzo Aroni (SOF 2020–23), Matt Geraghty (musician), Araceli Poma (musician)

Afro-Andean Funk, a band based in New York City and founded by musicians and producers Araceli Poma and Matt Geraghty, gave a performance following a Peruvian traditional music workshop. The band's debut album, *The Sacred Leaf*, which was nominated for a 2022 Latin Grammy Award, combines a broad range of modern musical styles with traditional Afro-Andean music and lyrics in Quechua, the most spoken Indigenous language in Latin America, with about eight to ten million speakers in the diaspora. The album comments on the struggle of women and Indigenous people for social justice and human rights, including of those forcibly sterilized under Alberto Fujimori's authoritarian regime in Peru. Organized by Renzo Aroni (SOF 2020–23), the workshop was co-sponsored by the Institute of Latin American Studies, the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, and the Department of Music.

14 April 2023

Unsettling the Union: An Interdisciplinary Symposium

Knar Abrahamyan (SOF 2022–23), Margarethe Adams (Stony Brook), Sarah Cameron (University of Maryland), Choi Chatterjee (California State University, Los Angeles), Bruce Grant (New York University), Oksana Kis (The New School), Khatchig Mouradian, Arpi Movsesian (Rutgers), Aziza Shanazarova, Nari

Shelekpayev (Yale), Yana Skorobogatov, Maria Sonevytsky (Bard College), Ronald Grigor Suny (University of Michigan)

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 erupted into world history as the largest-scale war on European soil since World War II. The unprecedented war prompts an urgent call for a critical reassessment of Russian imperialism, raising anew the question of the Soviet Union's geopolitical status and nation-building legacy. While scholars have extensively studied the economic, social, and political stakes of Soviet communism and totalitarianism, much of the Anglophone academic discourse remains driven by the so-called "Red Scare," which to this day overshadows and obscures the USSR's role as the heir and promulgator of the Russian Empire's colonial agenda. Unsettling the Soviet Union's "friendship of the peoples" paradigm, this symposium foregrounded the perspectives of marginalized ethnic and racial minorities by bringing together scholars from disciplines that offer novel methods and theories for analyzing the Soviet Union as a colonial empire: anthropology, ethnomusicology, history, literary studies, religious studies, and Slavic studies. Participants presented on themes including racialization, colonial resistance, cultural assimilation, nation-building, urban development, historical memory, and environmental colonialism in a rich and varied series of discussions. Organized by Knar Abrahamyan (SOF 2022–23), the symposium was co-sponsored by the Harriman Institute; the Armenian Center; the Department of Music; the Gevork M. Avedissian Chair of Armenian History and Civilization; and the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies.

27–29 April 2023

Reproduction of Possibility

dee(dee) c. ardan, Amaryah Shae Armstrong (Virginia Tech), Franco Barchiesi (Ohio State University), Daniel G. Butler (University of California Santa Cruz), Sean Capener (Dartmouth University), Roy Cherian (University of California Irvine), Cecilio M. Cooper (New York University), Tanzeen Rashed Doha, Patrice D. Douglass (University of California Berkeley), Colin Drumm (independent scholar), Joshua Falek (York University), Marcelle-Anne Fletcher (York University), Tapji Paul Garba (York University), Mohamad Jarada (University of California, Davis), Leah Kaplan (Emory University), Erich Kessel (Yale University), Semassa Kpatinvo Bovo (University of California Irvine), Jesús Luzardo (Loyola University Chicago), Taija Mars McDougall (Boston University), Sihle Motsa (Wits University), Vusumzi Nkomo (Emory University), Linette Park (Emory University), Sara-Maria Sorentino (University of Alabama), Brianna Simmons (University of California, Riverside), Patrick Teed (York University), Rei Terada (University of California, Irvine), Selamawit D. Terrefe (Tulane University), Parisa Vaziri (Cornell University), Mlondi Zondi (University of Southern California)

Organized by Chloe Samala Faux, Sarah R. Haughn, and Tyrone Palmer (SOF 2019–20)—and co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology; the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies; the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life; and the Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender—this three-day symposium used Black critical thought to excavate the moves,

attachments, and structures of desire that stabilize critical lexicons around (re)production and regimes of valorization, as well as their implications at the level of political and libidinal economy.

Questions that each panel sought to engage included: What logics and attachments are being reproduced in the name of the (re)production? How do “possibility” and its reproduction operate as political and methodological imperatives within Black studies? What modes of analysis are available once we divest from the logic of “the possible” and its future-oriented affirmationism? What is obscured by the fixation on possibility, otherwise potentialities, generativity, renewal, et cetera? With these questions in mind, the symposium aimed to interrogate the limitations of reproduction as an explanatory mechanism in the context of anti-Black worlding.

6 May 2023

Abolitionism and the Arts in the Long Eighteenth Century

Awet Andemicael (Yale), Adrienne Childs (The Phillips Collection), Atesede Makonnen (SOF 2022–23), Patricia A. Matthew (Montclair State University), Magdalena Stern-Baczewska

This symposium addressed how the opposition to slavery and the slave trade permeated the worlds of literature, music, and visual art in the long eighteenth century. Europeans and Americans composed poetic critiques of the slave trade, sang songs of sympathy for enslaved people, and engraved images that asserted the common humanity of Africans and Europeans. This interdisciplinary symposium brought together historians, musicologists, literary and theater scholars, and art historians to think

through the connections between the arts and the history of abolitionism in the Atlantic world. The symposium featured opening remarks by Atesede Makonnen (SOF 2022–23), two interdisciplinary panels of prepared papers, and a lively plenary dialogue between Adrienne Childs (Art History, The Phillips Collection) and Patricia A. Matthew (Literature, Montclair State University). Co-organized by Julia Hamilton, Stephanie Insley Hershnow, and Patricia A. Matthew—and co-sponsored by the Maison Française, the Center for Ethnomusicology, the Royal Musical Association, Music & Letters, the Department of Music, Columbia University Seminars, and the Department of Music at Goldsmiths, University of London—the day concluded with a concert of rarely heard abolitionist songs from the long eighteenth century performed by Awet Andemicael (soprano, Yale University) and Magdalena Stern-Baczewska (piano, Columbia University).



Senior Scholars Events

Established in 1988, the Society of Senior Scholars comprises a community of retired faculty from Columbia University and, by invitation, from other institutions who wish to remain engaged in a scholarly and/or teaching life in their retirement. The Society, which is funded by grants from the Mellon Foundation and supplemented by gifts from other donors, regularly contributes to SOF/Heyman programming.

13 February 2023

Naturally Universal: How Aristotle Explains the Success of Medieval French Song

Sarah Kay

Senior Scholar Sarah Kay (Emerita, New York University) explored a compelling phenomenon in Medieval French song: poets and singers in a number of medieval vernacular languages reached non-native audiences and inspired speakers of other languages to compose in theirs, many imagining their compositions enjoying the universality of such cosmopolitan languages as Latin and Arabic. An interesting rationalization of these aspirations can be discerned in a short verse narrative of a well-known episode

in the youth of Alexander the Great, conqueror of India, together with his tutor, the philosopher Aristotle. Not only does it involve Greeks and Indians singing French songs and cosplaying French lovers, but the philosopher is induced to pretend to be a horse and then justifies his behavior as “natural,” with far-reaching implications that Dr. Kay’s talk illustrated. This event was co-sponsored by the Department of French, Medieval & Renaissance Studies, and the Department of Music.

24 March 2023

An Afternoon with Judith Butler: On the Pandemic and Our Shared World Judith Butler (University of California, Berkeley), Mia Florin-Sefton (Public Humanities Fellow 2021–22), Rishi K. Goyal (SOF Board Member 2019–22), Marianne Hirsch

In *What World Is This? A Pandemic Phenomenology* Judith Butler shows how COVID-19 and all its consequences—political, social, ecological, economic—have challenged us to reconsider the sense of the world that such disasters bring about. The pandemic compels us to ask fundamental questions about our place in the world: the many ways

humans rely on one another, how we vitally and sometimes fatally breathe the same air, share the surfaces of the earth, and exist in proximity to other porous creatures in order to live in a social world. What we require to live can also imperil our lives. How do we think from, and about, this common bind? Judith Butler, joined by Mia Florin-Sefton, Rishi K. Goyal, and Marianne Hirsch, probed the dimensions of these complexities and more. Ultimately, their discussion illustrated how *What World Is This?* offers a new account of interdependency in which touching and breathing, capacities that amid a viral outbreak can threaten life itself, challenge the boundaries of the body and selfhood. The afternoon’s panel discussion was co-sponsored by the Zip Code Memory Project; the Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender; the Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought; the Division of Humanities, Arts and Sciences; the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement; the Department of English and Comparative Literature; the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life; and the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies.



28 September 2022

Loving the Planet: How to Turn Ecology into Planetary Erotics

Emanuele Coccia (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales)

Contemporary ecological discourse, by its own confession, poses the climate crisis as an erotic problem: human beings fail to love the planet either spontaneously (moved by its beauty and hospitality) or penitentially (in remorse for the damage we cause it). In this talk, Emanuele Coccia argued that we have not been educated or accustomed to thinking of love as something that can affect individuals belonging to different species or kingdoms: as we see in fairy tales, we are ready to love a frog only if it turns into a prince. What would it mean to think about nature as if the relationships that bind species together are (as complicated as) love relationships? What if we were to understand love, in its original and paradigmatic form, as that which always binds us to individuals of other species? The event was co-sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender, the Maison Française, the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, and the Office of the Divisional Deans in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

18 October 2022

Book Talks in Medical Humanities: Britt Wray's Generation Dread: Finding Purpose in an Age of Climate Change

Britt Wray (Stanford), Kate Marvel, M. Katherine Shear

Dr. Britt Wray (Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University) discussed how climate and environment-related fears and anxieties are on the rise everywhere. As with any type of stress, eco-anxiety can lead to burnout, avoidance, or a disturbance of daily functioning. But these intense feelings are a healthy response to the troubled state of the world. The first crucial step toward becoming an engaged steward of the planet is connecting with our climate emotions, seeing them as a sign of humanity, and learning how to live with them. Moderated by Kate Marvel (Climate and Society), the event featured Britt Wray in conversation with M. Katherine Shear (Psychiatry, School of Social Work), and was co-sponsored by the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society. The event was also part of the series Explorations in the Medical Humanities.



15 November 2022

**Book Talks in Medical Humanities: Heather Davis's
*Plastic Matter***

**Heather Davis (The New School), Leah Aronowsky (SOF
2020–23), Jennifer Wenzel**

Professor Heather Davis (The New School), in conversation with Jennifer Wenzel (English and Comparative Literature), traced plastic's relations to geology, media, biology, and race to show how matter itself has come to be understood as pliable, disposable, and consumable. Davis charted these relations to matter by mapping the queer multispecies relationships between humans and plastic-eating bacteria and analyzing photography that documents the racialized environmental violence of plastic production. In so doing, Davis provoked listeners to reexamine their relationships to matter and life in light of plastic's saturation. Moderated by Leah Aronowsky (SOF 2020–23), the event was co-sponsored by the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society and was part of the series Explorations in the Medical Humanities.



CLIMATE FUTURES/CLIMATE JUSTICE

Climate Futures/Climate Justice

How can technology-based solutions to climate change center questions of equity and justice? How can they avoid further entrenching or exacerbating historical injustices?

Climate Futures/Climate Justice is an interdisciplinary event series exploring the relationship between climate justice, carbon tech, and climate futures. Climate scientists, engineers, anthropologists, geographers, science studies scholars, political ecologists, legal scholars, and industry leaders connect to discuss justice-centered climate futures and engage defining issues of the carbon tech/ climate justice nexus. This series was organized by Leah Aronowsky (SOF 2020–23). The series was co-sponsored by the Columbia Climate School; the Center for Science and Society; and the Decarbonization, Climate Resilience, and Climate Justice Network.

31 January 2023

Another Skin: Climate Adaptation and Accountability

Sarah E. Vaughn (University of California, Berkeley), Emma Shaw Crane (SOF 2021–23)

Life in the Anthropocene is structured by racial hierarchies, even as people recognize the obstacles racial thinking poses to surviving climate change. This tension begs the question: how do race and climate change interact with one another, and why does it matter? Sarah E. Vaughn addressed this question by analyzing the ways people talk about race, and, in many cases, avoid the subject entirely, in order to make sense of what climate adaptation projects can offer them. Attending to the intensified but uncertain dynamics of climatic threats, she argued that both engineers and ordinary citizens share a loss of confidence in race as an organizing principle of daily life. Yet because climate adaptation intervenes across spatial-temporal scales, it requires that experiences of racialized belonging as much as injustice be addressed. To this end, Vaughn presented a case study of Guyana to explore how climate adaptation projects shape the

process of racialization, even as they offer a space to imagine alternative modes of accountability and planetary engagement. Moderated by Emma Shaw Crane (SOF 2021–23).

28 February 2023

MRV as a Tool for Achieving Just Outcomes in the Carbon Removal Sector

Anu Khan (Carbon180), Joerg Schaefer (Board Member 2021–24)

As carbon removal gains prominence as a climate solution and carbon removal companies vie for billions of dollars in public and private funding, there is growing interest in developing standardized protocols to measure exactly how much carbon has been removed from the atmosphere. MRV (monitoring, reporting, and verification) is the quantitative accounting of a carbon removal project that enables accountability for project outcomes, including payment for tons of carbon removed and enforcement of contractual and regulatory obligations. But who is being held accountable in today's carbon removal market—or in the gigaton-scale removals market we will need in the future to achieve our climate goals?

In this talk, Anu Khan explored the development of MRV practices and protocols that allow communities and the public more broadly to hold project operators accountable for their climate, public health, and environmental impacts. Moderated by Joerg M. Schaefer (Board Member 2021–24).

28 March 2023

Climate Tech: Why It Needs the Humanities and Social Sciences
Holly Jean Buck (University at Buffalo), Leah Aronowsky (SOF 2020–23)

Climate tech—technologies responding to climate change—gathered over \$50 billion in startup funding in recent years and billions more in public support. Carbon tech is a subset of climate tech: it denotes technologies to suck carbon out of the atmosphere and use and store it as well as platforms to exchange abstractions of all this carbon. Successfully scaling some forms of climate tech and carbon tech will be critical for confronting climate change. However, these technologies will fail to be deployed unless they borrow both theories and practices from the humanities and social sciences.

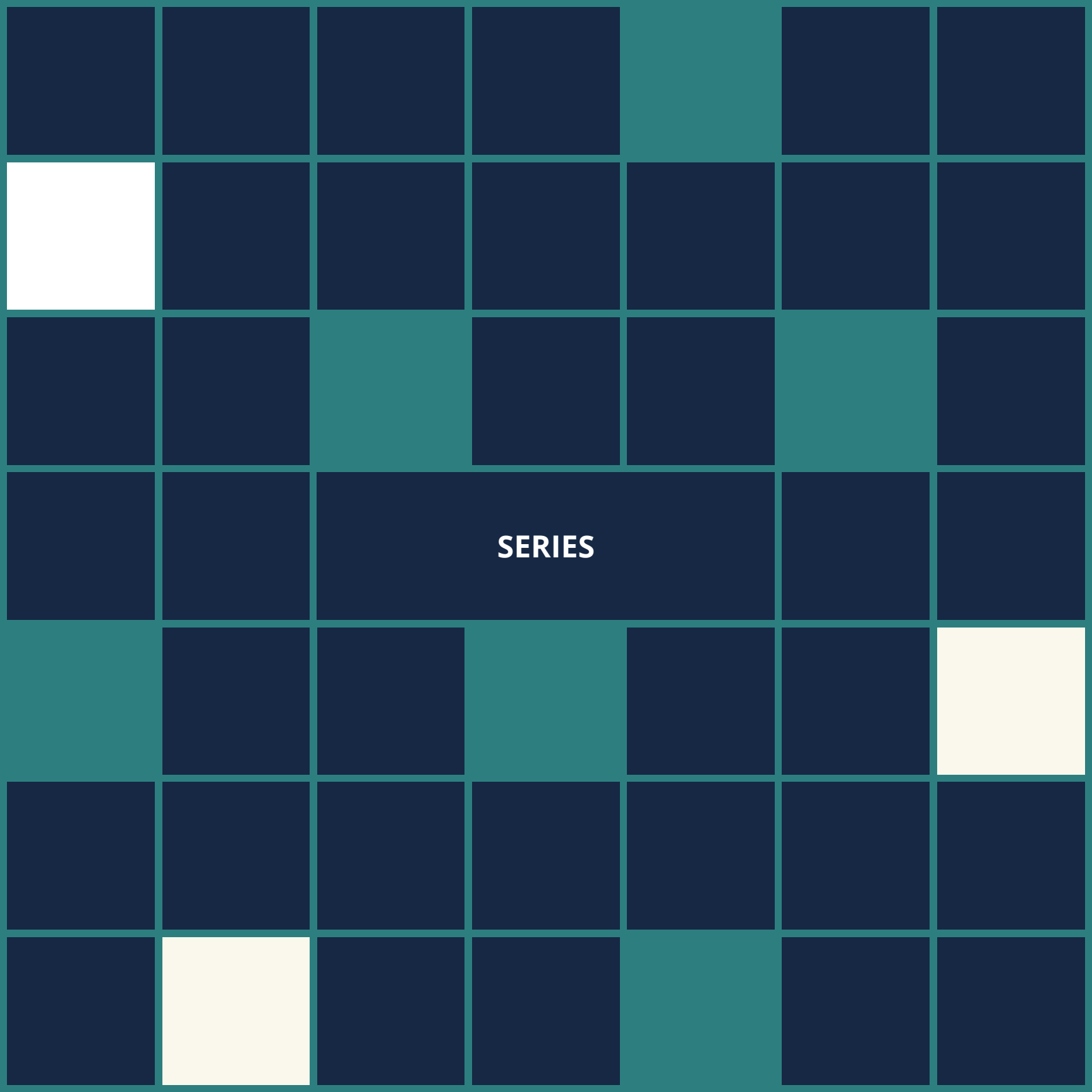
Tech industries alone cannot envision alternative business or ownership models, nor can they understand factors discouraging individuals, institutions, and governments from embracing new technologies and the infrastructure to support them. Holly Jean Buck argued strongly for humanities and social science practitioners to become active partners in developing these emerging technologies. Moderated by Leah Aronowsky (SOF 2020–23).

25 April 2023

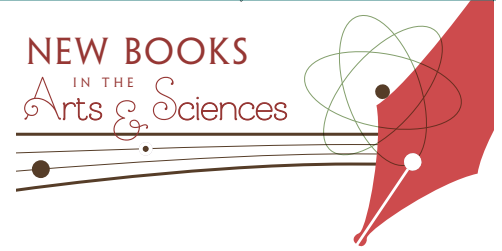
Just Transition or Just a Transition? The Importance of Power, Organizing, and Framing in Decarbonization
J. Mijin Cha (University of California, Santa Cruz), Ege Yumuşak (SOF 2022–24)

While a rapid and dramatic reduction in fossil fuel use is necessary to stave off the worst impacts of the climate crisis, there will be negative socioeconomic consequences for workers and communities in fossil fuel regions, in addition to the ongoing pollution from fossil activity that is disproportionately borne by marginalized communities. Addressing and mitigating these consequences is not incompatible

with an equitable energy transition, yet a just energy transition is far from guaranteed. Who and what is covered by “just transition” is increasingly unclear as the term becomes popularized and co-opted. Dr. Cha’s talk explored what is meant by “just transition,” the importance of “just,” and how to advance a just energy transition. Moderated by Ege Yumuşak (SOF 2022-24).



SERIES



New Books in the Arts and Sciences

Cosponsored by the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for Humanities, the Office of the Divisional Deans in the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, and the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, this series celebrates recent work by Columbia faculty with panel discussions of their new books. Unless otherwise noted, the participants are Columbia faculty.

20 September 2022

Julie Stone Peters, *Law as Performance: Theatricality, Spectatorship, and the Making of Law in Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern Europe* (Oxford University Press)

Denise Cruz, Eleanor B. Johnson, Julie Stone Peters, Camille Robcis, Jesús Velasco (Yale University)

25 October 2022

Jessica Merrill, *The Origins of Russian Literary Theory: Folklore, Philology, Form* (Northwestern University Press)

Ilya Kliger (New York University), Liza Knapp, Mark Lipovetsky, Jessica Merrill, Dennis Yi Tenen

26 October 2022

Michele M. Moody-Adams, *Making Space for Justice: Social Movements, Collective Imagination, and Political Hope* (Columbia University Press)

Seyla Benhabib, Robert J. Gooding-Williams, Serene Khader (Brooklyn College), Michele M. Moody-Adams, Christopher Peacocke

3 November 2022

Jack Snyder, *Human Rights for Pragmatists: Social Power in Modern Times* (Princeton University Press)

Sarah Z. Daly, James A. Goldston (Open Society Foundations), Joseph R. Slaughter, Jack Snyder, Andreas Wimmer

16 November 2022

Alessandra Ciucci, *The Voice of the Rural: Music, Poetry, and Masculinity among Migrant Moroccan Men in Umbria* (University of Chicago Press)

Alessandra Ciucci, Virginia Danielson (Harvard University), Kevin Fellezs, Brinkley M. Messick, Christopher Washburne

17 November 2023

Nadia Abu El-Haj, *Combat Trauma: Imaginaries of War and Citizenship in post-9/11 America* (Verso)

Thomas W. Dodman, Nadia Abu El-Haj, Catherine Fennell, Miriam Ticktin (CUNY Graduate Center)

26 January 2023

Isabel Huacuja Alonso, *Radio for the Millions: Hindi-Urdu Broadcasting Across Borders* (Columbia University Press)

Isabel Huacuja Alonso, Dolores Inés Casillas (University of California, Santa Barbara), Gil Hochberg, Debashree Mukherjee

2 February 2023

James Stafford, *The Case of Ireland: Commerce, Empire, and the European Order* (Cambridge University Press)

Isaac Nakhimovsky (Yale), Susan Pedersen, Pablo Piccato, James Stafford, Nadia Urbinati

6 February 2023

Muhsin J. al-Musawi, *Arabic Disclosures: The Postcolonial Autobiographical Atlas* (University of Notre Dame Press)

Roger Allen (University of Pennsylvania), Muhsin J. al-Musawi, Hamid Dabashi, Madeleine Dobie, Yasmine Khayyat (Rutgers)

15 February 2023

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

Emily Apter (New York University), Claudia Breger, Noam M. Elcott, Andreas Huyssen, Oliver Simons

17 February 2023

Rhiannon Stephens, *Poverty and Wealth in East Africa* (Duke University Press)

Laura Fair, Raevin Jimenez (University of Michigan), Pablo Piccato, Caterina Pizzigoni, Rhiannon Stephens

23 February 2023

Bruce Robbins, *Criticism and Politics: A Polemical Introduction* (Stanford University Press)

Amanda Anderson (Brown), Denise Cruz, Jack Halberstam, Bruce Robbins

27 February 2023

Sarah Zukerman Daly, *Violent Victors: Why Bloodstained Parties Win Postwar Elections* (Princeton University Press)

Lisa Anderson, Sarah Zukerman Daly, Michael Gilligan (New York University), Justin Phillips, Andreas Wimmer

22 March 2023

Annie Pfeifer, *To the Collector Belong the Spoils: Modernism and the Art of Appropriation* (Cornell University Press)

Claudia Breger, Andreas Huyssen, Kristina C. Mendicino (Brown), Annie Pfeifer, Bruce Robbins

27 March 2023

Lauren Robertson, *Entertaining Uncertainty in the Early Modern Theater: Stage Spectacle and Audience Response* (Cambridge University Press)

Julie Crawford, Jeremy Lopez (Montclair State), Lauren Robertson, Alan Stewart, W.B. Worthen (Barnard)

6 April 2023

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson and Carl Wennerlind, *Scarcity: A History from the Origins of Capitalism to the Climate Crisis* (Harvard University Press)
Deborah Valenze, *The Invention of Scarcity: Malthus and the Margins of History* (Yale University Press)

Alyssa Battistoni (Barnard), Fredrik Albritton Jonsson (University of Chicago), James Stafford, Deborah Valenze (Barnard), Carl Wennerlind (Barnard)

17 April 2023

Marie Myung-Ok Lee, *The Evening Hero* (Simon & Schuster)

Frances Cha (author), Denise Cruz, Lis Harris, Marie Myung-Ok Lee, Dana Spiotta (author)

20 April 2023

Oliver Simons, *Literary Conclusions: The Poetics of Ending in Lessing, Goethe, and Kleist* (Northwestern University Press)

Joseph Albernaz, Stefan Andriopoulos, Claudia Breger, Fatima Naqvi (Yale), Oliver Simons



Utopia 13/13

Utopia 13/13 is the eighth 13/13 seminar series held over the course of the academic year at the Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought. These seminars focus each year on a different set of topics at the heart of contemporary critical thought and action in philosophy, politics, law, and social inquiry.

The 2022–23 seminar took for its topic utopia, focusing on the urgent need to look around, identify, and pursue concrete utopias. In 1971, in his lectures collected in *Penal Theories and Institutions*, Michel Foucault launched into a historical analysis of government repression, while he simultaneously engaged in concrete actions to abolish prisons with the other members of the Prisons Information Group. This anecdote illustrates the animating imperatives and principles of Utopia 13/13. The need to move beyond diagnosis to positive constructive thinking; to actualize, support, and empower responses to global climate change, increasing pandemics, and extractive capitalism; and, in so doing, to collaboratively construct a history of

the future—these impulses characterize Utopia 13/13's seminars, as participants explored different experiments and models to reorganize society. Utopia 13/13 operated on the premise that we are past the time for diagnosis. In other words: we do not need to describe global warming; we need to reverse it. We do not need to critique pandemic measures; we need to end pandemics. We do not need another genealogy of white nationalism; we need to extinguish it. Utopia 13/13 enabled a full year of thinking together on these and other problematics.

blogs.law.columbia.edu/utopia1313

28 September 2022

1/13 | Critical Theoretic Foundations for Concrete Utopias with Étienne Balibar

Etienne Balibar, Bernard E. Harcourt

12 October 2022

2/13 | Cooperation Jackson with Kali Akuno

Kai Akuno, Bernard E. Harcourt

26 October 2022

3/13 | Union Organizing and the Future of Work

Alyssa Battistoni, Joselyn Chuquillanqui, Bernard E. Harcourt, Dominic Walker, Helen Zhao

9 November 2022

4/13 | “Degrowth”: History, Theory, and Praxis

Frederic Bosquet, Françoise Gollain, Bernard E. Harcourt, Télémaque Masson-Réçipon, Baptiste Mylondo, Alex Robin, Clara Ruault

30 November 2022

5/13 | Mutualism from Praxis to Theory

Sara Horowitz, Esteban Kelly, Bernard E. Harcourt

18 January 2023

6/13 | Practical Utopias with Noam Chomsky and Che Gossett

Che Gossett, Noam Chomsky, Bernard E. Harcourt

8 February 2023

7/13 | Concrete Utopianism

Nadia Abu El-Haj, Kaiama Glover, Bernard E. Harcourt, Fred Moten, Gary Wilder

21 February 2023

8/13 | A Conversation with Amna Akbar, Derecka Purnell, and Cornel West on the Role of Law in Progressive Politics

Amna Akbar, Bernard E. Harcourt, Derecka Purnell, Cornel West

13 January 2023

9/13 | Bernard E. Harcourt Lecture at the Collège international de philosophie: « Nommer, Utopier »

Bernard E. Harcourt

9 March 2023

10/13 | Critical Theory and Utopian Thought

Bernard E. Harcourt, Rahel Jaeggi, Martin Saar

17 March 2023

11/13 | Utopier le Présent

Étienne Balibar, Bernard E. Harcourt, Laëtitia Riss

12 April 2023

12/13 | Utopia and Cosmopolitanism

Seyla Benhabib, Robert Gooding-Williams, Bernard E. Harcourt, Karuna Mantena, Kendall Thomas

19 April 2023

13/13 | Architecture and Utopia

Xavi Laida Aguirre, Bernard E. Harcourt, Reinhold Martin, Felicity Scott, Anthony Vidler

26 April 2023

14/13 | Cooperation Book Launch and extra session

Amna Akbar, Bernard E. Harcourt

PUBLIC HUMANITIES

As a leading hub for public humanities research at Columbia, the SOF/Heyman sponsors a wide range of innovative projects through grant opportunities and graduate fellowships, often in partnership with other humanities centers as well as local educational and civic organizations. As an active participant in the University's Fourth Purpose, the SOF/Heyman works to advance Columbia's self-described goals to "leverage knowledge and research to create real-world impact and to serve the public good." Our signature initiatives—**Humanities in Practice**, **Health and Medical Humanities**, and **Justice-in-Education**—bring humanities thinking and values to bear in building partnerships across Columbia and with community members and nonprofit organizations that, working together in "confronting the great challenges of our time," seek to effect "meaningful change."

Humanities in Practice Initiative

The Humanities in Practice Initiative provides opportunities and training for Columbia faculty and graduate students to advance public-facing, civically engaged scholarship to foreground urgent issues of social concern. Humanities in Practice has supported Columbia scholars in projects that address systemic racism, carceral education, urban justice, and COVID recovery, among other issues.

Public Humanities Graduate Fellows 2022–2023

Ayelet Aldouby,
Voices of Multiplicity

Iuri Bauler Pereira,
Never Again Project

Alyssa James, Zora's
Daughters

Luise Malmaceda,
Never Again Project

Brendane Tynes,
Zora's Daughters

Meg Zhang, Zip Code
Memory Project

Helen Zhao, Medical
Humanities Fellow

Public Humanities Graduate Fellowship

The Humanities in Practice Initiative awarded grants to Columbia graduate fellows in 2022–23 to pursue self-directed public humanities research projects. Joined by graduate fellows working with the Zip Code Memory Project and the Medical Humanities Initiative, this cohort of Public Humanities Fellows has been vital to the expansion of engaged humanities scholarship at Columbia and beyond. This year's Fellows have developed three dynamic new projects within the SOF/Heyman: "Zora's Daughters," a podcast examining pop culture and social topics through the lens of Black feminist anthropology; "Voices of Multiplicity," an incubator and art education program to support emerging Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) artists; and the "Never Again Project," a digital art and knowledge hub on the toppling of monuments to former Latin American dictatorships. Fellows implemented these projects with the help of innovative community

partnerships and professional development opportunities organized through the SOF/Heyman.

In Fall 2022, the Public Humanities Fellows convened a biweekly workshop series on Methods for the Public Humanities. These hands-on, skills-focused workshops invited expert practitioners to lead practical tutorials on approaches such as oral interview methods, GIS mapping, and web development. The Public Humanities Fellows collectively planned and facilitated the Methods series, which they opened to the Columbia community and members of the public. The Fellows continued to share outcomes from their projects through on- and off-campus programming throughout the year, including presentations by several past and current fellows at the North Eastern Public Humanities Symposium in April. These ongoing conversations and collaborations continue to seed new possibilities for critical and impactful humanities research.

Methods for the Public Humanities Workshops Fall 2022

September 21

Scholarly Podcasting with Zora's Daughters

with Brendane Tynes and Alyssa James, PhD candidates in Anthropology

October 4

Just Asking Questions: Qualitative Interview Methods

with Alex Borsa, Columbia Mailman School of Public Health

October 19

Mapping Injustice: Experiments in Critical Cartographies and Digital Mapping

with Grga Bašić, Urban Theory Lab, University of Chicago

November 2

The Art of the Social Practice Arts Incubator

with Andrea Orellana, Voices of Multiplicity II cohort

November 16

Website as Archive for Public Humanities

with Lex Taylor, TypeFold Inc.

Public Humanities Workshop (University Seminars)

Closely aligned with the Humanities in Practice Initiative, the Public Humanities Workshop launched in Spring 2022 under the sponsorship of University Seminars. Over the past two years, this interdisciplinary and cross-institutional Public Humanities Workshop has met regularly to study and share successful models for public humanities research while discussing how to foster institutional support for this emerging field. Chaired by JM Chris Chang, Amy Chazkel, Eileen Gillooly, and Maria González Pendas, the workshop brings together a diverse group of members representing over fifteen different institutions across the Northeast. The workshop serves as a forum for the exchange of knowledge and dissemination of best practices for engaged scholarship. Topics of discussion this year have included social justice and radical pedagogy, collaborative art-making and urban space, and humanities approaches to public health.

As the capstone of its two-year grant, Public Humanities Workshop partnered with the North Eastern Public Humanities (NEPH) Consortium to co-organize the 2023 NEPH Spring Symposium. Hosted at Columbia and the Bard Graduate Center, this series of local site visits, public humanities training workshops, and roundtable talks brought together over sixty attendees to the Morningside campus for a three-day gathering. The symposium also provided an opportunity to showcase to a wider audience examples of engaged scholarship at Columbia, including the Zip Code Memory Project and the Health and Medical Humanities Initiative.

Public Humanities Workshops: 2022–2023

10 October 2022

Collective Making: Community, Collaboration, and Public Art

Doris Sommer, Harvard University
Miguel Braceli, La Escuela Art

29 November 2022

Experiments in Pedagogy

Maria González Pendas, Cornell University
Dan-el Padilla Peralta, Princeton University

15 February 2023

Care for the Public

John Freyer, Virginia Commonwealth University
George Emilio Sanchez, Independent Artist

20–22 April 2023

Public Humanities Workshop— NEPH Spring Symposium

April 20 | Site Visits

Interference Archive
 Lesbian Herstory Archives
 New-York Historical Society
 Northwest Coast Hall, American
 Museum of Natural History
 Seneca Village, Central Park

**April 21 | Expanding the
Conversation: Public Humanities
Projects-in-Progress**

I See My Light Shining
 Medical Humanities
 Zip Code Memory Project

Breakout Discussions

- Ethical and Sustainable
Community Partnerships
- Models for Oral History
and Public Memory
- Institutional Support for
Public Humanities
- Art as Care, Social Practice,
and Public Art
- Public Humanities and
Material Culture

**April 22 | Public Humanities
Training Workshops**

- In Search of a Tunnel:
Researching the Underground
Railroad in Upstate New York
- Listening for Embodied
Knowledge
- Podcasting With Zora's
Daughters
- Practicing Connection IRL //
Rooted Sharing, Listening, and
Making

*26 April 2023***Curating Feminist Activism**

Anna Danziger Halperin,
 Columbia University
 Valerie Paley, New-York
 Historical Society
 Polly Russell, The British Library



Health and Medical Humanities Initiative

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 interdisciplinary frameworks such as narrative medicine has offered a set of methodological approaches to address these challenges. Conceptualizing a field of medical and health humanities offers a broad umbrella under which to study the influence of medical-scientific ideas and practices on society. At stake are the problems of representation and the interpretation of cultural products from the past and 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.

The Medical Humanities Initiative, organized by Arden Hegele (Lecturer in the Discipline of English and Comparative Literature) and Helen Zhao (PhD Candidate in Philosophy, Public Humanities Fellow in Medical Humanities), provides an ongoing forum at the SOF/Heyman to explore these challenges and continue to discover new methodological approaches.

The Medical Humanities Initiative at the SOF/Heyman is organized in collaboration with the

- Institute for Comparative Literature and Society (ICLS) – Medical Humanities Major
- Department of Medical Humanities and Ethics (Columbia University Irving Medical Center)

Explorations in Medical Humanities Events

18 October 2022

Book Talks in Medical Humanities: Britt Wray's *Generation Dread: Finding Purpose in an Age of Climate Change*

Kate Marvel (Climate and Society), M. Katherine Shear (Psychiatry, Social Work), Britt Way (Stanford University)
This event was also part of our Climate Programming initiative.

15 November 2022

Book Talks in Medical Humanities: Heather Davis's *Plastic Matter*

Leah Aronowsky (SOF 2020–23), Heather Davis (The New School), Jennifer Wenzel (English and Comparative Literature)
This event was also part of our Climate Programming initiative.

7 February 2023

New Books in Medical Humanities: *Culture and Medicine: Critical Readings in the Health and Medical Humanities*

Organized by Rishi Goyal (Emergency Medicine, ICLS) and Arden Hegele (English and Comparative Literature)

Alicia Andrzejewski (William and Mary), Kamna Balhara (Johns Hopkins), John Carranza (UT Austin), Anna Fenton-Hathaway (Northwestern), Kristina Fleuty (Anglia Ruskin), Joshua Franklin (University of Pennsylvania), Benjamin Gagnon Chainey (Dalhousie University), Roanne L. Kantor (Stanford University), Travis Chi Wing Lau (Kenyon College), Diana Rose Newby (Princeton University), Gabriel Schaffzin (York University), and Livia Arndal Woods (University of Illinois at Springfield)

6 April 2023

Chronic Pain and Personhood

Rachel Adams (English and Comparative Literature), Travis Chi Wing Lau (Kenyon College)

1 May 2023

Cash as Technology of Motherhood: Findings from a Clinical Trial of Poverty Reduction

Kimberly Noble (Neuroscience and Education, Teachers College), Jane Waldfogel (School of Social Work, the Columbia Population Research Center), Helen Zhao

(Public Humanities Fellow in Medical Humanities)

8–9 May 2023

Conception and Its Discontents

Organized by Rishi Goyal (Emergency Medicine, ICLS) and Arden Hegele (English and Comparative Literature)

Related Activities and Events

- *Increasing COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence*: This project at Columbia World Projects, led by Rishi Goyal (ICLS, Emergency Medicine) and Dennis Tenen (English), with research coordination from Arden Hegele, is analyzing the rhetoric of vaccine hesitancy expressed on social media. Results will be used by public health partners in an ongoing pro-vaccination campaign.
- *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*: Co-edited by Arden Hegele and Rishi Goyal since 2017, and sponsored by ICLS and the SOF/Heyman.
- *Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes*: The annual meeting of the Medical and Health Humanities Network, part of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, was hosted both in person and virtually in June 2023 at the Interdisciplinary Center for the Studies of Philosophy, Arts, and Humanities (University of Chile). The Network is administered by Helen Zhao (Public Humanities Fellow in Medical Humanities), and Rishi Goyal is the director of the Steering Committee.
- *Motherhood and Technology Working Group*: The Motherhood and Technology Working Group, sponsored by the Center for the Study of Social Difference at Columbia, is co-organized and co-directed by Rishi Goyal and Arden Hegele. The group hosted a major conference, “Conception and Its Discontents,” in partnership with the SOF/Heyman, in May 2023. The group is pursuing book publication.

Justice Forum

Sponsored by the SOF/Heyman in support of the Justice-in-Education Initiative, Justice Forum is a platform for presenting ideas about education, the arts, and other emancipatory practices that resist racism, confinement, and structural inequalities more generally. Paying particular attention to the experiences of the formerly incarcerated, Justice Forum employs film, fiction, nonfiction, scholarly essays, book presentations, and other artistic production to examine, question, and elucidate the intersections of race, class, gender, age, and social violence.

Justice Forum is organized by Neni Panourgía (Academic Adviser, Justice-in-Education Scholars Program; Adjunct Associate Professor, Prison Education Program). The series is co-sponsored by the Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Department of Classics, African American and African Diaspora Studies Department, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Center for American Studies, Tamer Center for Social Enterprise, Stavros Niarchos Foundation Public Humanities Initiative, Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, and Department of Music.

Justice Forum Events

28 September 2022

**The Long March of Incarceration:
From Ancient Prisons to
Incarcerated Slavery**

Marcus Folch, Neni Panourgía

19 October 2022

**Black Music and the Elision of
Black Composers**

Adegoke Steve Colson (Musician),
Michael Veal (Yale University)

16 November 2022

**The Many Afterlives of
Incarceration with John Gargano**

Ivan Calaff, John Gargano (Activist)

25 January 2023

**Moses Hadas and Historical Black
Colleges and Universities –
Classism, Racism, Segregation**

Rachel Hadas (Rutgers University),
Roosevelt Montás, Dan-el Padilla
(Princeton University)

HEYMAN CENTER FELLOWS 2022–2023

Funded by the Office of the Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences, the Heyman Center Fellowships provided four junior and four senior Columbia faculty with course relief during the academic year. These fellowships allowed faculty to reduce their teaching loads to a minimum of one course per semester in order to make progress on research projects and to participate in a regular weekly seminar, chaired by seminar co-directors Eugenia Lean (East Asian Languages and Cultures) and Dorothea von Mücke (Germanic Languages). Four post-MPhil graduate students were also 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.

1 March 2023

**Education as the Practice
of Freedom: Two Writers,
Two Teachers, and Two Friends
in Conversation**

Daniel Alarcón, Janine de Novais
(Sociologist)

5 April 2023

The Black Bibliography Project

Brent Hayes Edwards, Jaqueline
Goldsby (Yale University), Meredith
McGill (Rutgers University)

**Courtney Bender**

Religion

Project Title: The Religion of the Future

Mark Lipovetsky

Slavic Languages

Project Title: The Trickster's Modernity: Cynical Narratives in Soviet and Post-Soviet Culture

Premilla Nadasen

History, Barnard College

Project Title: Mama Africa: Miriam Makeba, the Anti-Apartheid Movement, and Transnational Solidarity

Shana L. Redmond

English and Comparative Literature

Project Title: The Last Time We Danced: Musical Life Before Mourning

**Julia Doe**

Music

Project Title: Music, Enslavement, and Empire in Joseph Bologne's Paris

E. Mara Green

Anthropology, Barnard

Project Title: Making Sense: Language, Ethics, and Understanding in Deaf Nepal

Jessica E. Merrill

Slavic Languages

Project Title: Circling in Time and Space: Modern Temporalities and the Narration of Experience

Hannah Weaver

English and Comparative Literature

Project Title: Experimental Histories: Interpolation and the Medieval British Past

**Sheila Byers**

English and Comparative Literature

Project Title: Swarms: Encounters of Sensation and Environment in 18th- and 19th-Century American Literature

Anna Simone Reumert

Anthropology

Project Title: After Labor, Future Returns: Sudanese Migrants in Lebanon's Crisis and Revolution

Niyati Shenoy

Middle East, South Asian, and African Studies

Project Title: The Body on the Threshold: Histories of Rape in Colonial India, 1820–1920

Yingchuan Yang

History

Project Title: Revolution on the Air: Mass Technology and the Demise of Chinese Socialism

“Every week, I looked forward to our Heyman meetings. . . . Our group was remarkably convivial and generous with their readings of one another’s work. It was a great chance to get to know colleagues from across the University.”

—Hannah Weaver

“I benefited greatly from the generous and thoughtful feedback from my colleagues over the course of the academic year. I also really enjoyed getting to know colleagues whom I might not otherwise have encountered so closely (i.e., from departments across the University and at different stages of their scholarly careers).”

—Julia Doe

“I was inspired by the collaborative engagement and constructive comments on everyone’s writing, and of course by the breadth and depth of scholarly power that the grad students and everyone exhibited.”

—Courtney Bender

“It was such a privilege to get to engage with scholars from multiple disciplines, working on a range of topics, and at various stages in their careers. I loved noticing moments of connection with work that was—sometimes unexpectedly—close to my own intellectual, political, and ethical preoccupations.”

—E. Mara Green

“I found my experience as a Heyman Center Fellow immensely productive as I was able to join a tight-knit group of scholars and an intellectual environment that fosters critical yet amicable conversations. The interdisciplinary nature of the Heyman Fellows seminar encourages dialogues that engage with and appreciate the methodologies and premises of other disciplines.”

—Yingchuan Ying

VISITING FELLOWS

Each year, the SOF/Heyman welcomes visiting researchers to the Center, often providing office space as well as a collegial intellectual community and opportunities to engage in SOF/Heyman activities. Some visiting fellows, such as those who come to us through our partnership with the American Council of Learned Societies, the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, and other entities, join us for a semester or full year to work on externally funded research projects. Others join us for shorter stays—such as the Edward W. Said Research Fellows, who receive modest research awards to offset the costs of their travel to consult the Edward W. Said Archives in Columbia’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

2022–2023 Fellows

Wouter Capitain (Edward W. Said Research Fellow), a visiting scholar from Utrecht University, used the Said Archives to edit the manuscript for Said’s book on opera, to be published by Columbia University Press in December 2023. In addition, he collected archival documents for four other publications related to Said’s work: an article about Said’s relation to musicology around 1990; an article about the development of Orientalism during the mid-1970s; an edition of a previously unpublished essay by Said from the mid-1980s; and a book manuscript about Said’s work on music.

Natalia Bouças do Lago, a research scholar at the University of Campinas, joined the SOF/Heyman community for the year to advance her research on social movements and networks led by family members of incarcerated people in Brazil and the Americas. Lago participated in a number of SOF/Heyman activities and co-organized “Beyond Dystopia” in conjunction with the two-day conference “Refugee Cities: Urban Dimensions of Forced Displacement.” Lago was invited to join the “Criminalization-Militarization” workshop the Department of Anthropology, in which she discussed work undertaken while in residence at the SOF/Heyman.

Min Kyung Lee was a visiting scholar through the Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship. The fellowship supported Lee’s acquisition of new skills and training for her research on the Korean diaspora throughout the twentieth century. As an architectural historian, she focuses on spaces related to the production and circulation of wigs and plywood, important Korean export products during the Cold War. The SOF/Heyman provided the administrative support for a fully funded year of coursework through the Columbia Center for Oral History Research.

S O F
H C H

Lee took courses in fieldwork, archiving, curation, storytelling, and social science methods. She also attended Geographical Information System courses at Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

Usha Natarajan (Edward W. Said Research Fellow) is an international law scholar who has worked in the Middle East for the last fourteen years. In a region subject to continual Western military, economic, and political intervention, Natarajan explores how cultural hegemony is enabled through international laws and institutions, and she works toward democratizing her discipline. Edward Said was committed to freedom for Palestine, Iraq, and more broadly throughout the Global South. As such, he was wedded to causes that provoked controversy and retaliation, and he thought deeply about how to negotiate the privileges and pitfalls of intellectual life to further global justice. Natarajan used her time in the Said Archives to investigate Said's evolving strategies and tactics over the course of several decades. For her, it was an opportunity to learn from the praxis of an academic with an unusual degree of self-awareness about the intellectual as a political actor who can speak across disciplinary boundaries to support intercultural understanding.

ALUMNI NEWS

Joelle Abi-Rachid (2017–19) will be joining Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study as the Mildred Londa Weisman Fellow for the 2023–24 academic year.

Jeffery Barash (1983–85) published a monograph, *Shadows of Being: Encounters with Heidegger in Political Theory and Historical Reflection* (Stuttgart: ibidem-Verlag, 2022), which examines the influence and critical reception of Heidegger's promise to reorient philosophy around the *Seinsfrage*, or question of being. He also edited *Die Vergangenheit im Begriff: Von der Erfahrung der Geschichte zur Geschichtstheorie bei Reinhart Koselleck*, with Christophe Bouton and Servanne Jollivet (Freiburg/Munich: Alber/Nomos, 2021), a collection that examines Reinhart Koselleck's work in history and historical theory through its reception by specialists of various disciplines.

Akeel Bilgrami (1983–85) published *Capital, Culture, and the Commons* (Permanent Black Press, 2023), which explores the extent to which regulation

and the law depend on a background of the cultural commons that is implicit and inarticulate, as well as the extent to which the cultural commons is itself sustained by overcoming alienated human relations.

Peter K. Bol (1980–82) published *Localizing Learning: The Literati Enterprise in Wuzhou, 1100–1600* (Harvard University Press, 2022), which examines literati learning in China's Wuzhou prefecture, using it to trace the evolution of moral and cultural value systems over five centuries.

John Bugg (2007–08) published *British Romanticism and Peace* (Oxford University Press, 2022), which is the first book to bring perspectives from the interdisciplinary field of peace studies to bear on the writing of the Romantic period.

D. Graham Burnett (1997–99) saw the publication of several co-edited volumes: *Scenes of Attention: Essays on Mind, Time, and the Senses* (Columbia University Press, 2023); *Twelve Theses on Attention* (Princeton University

Press, 2022); and *In Search of the Third Bird* (Strange Attractor Press, 2021). He co-curated *THE THIRD, MEANING: ESTAR(SER)*, a yearlong exhibition at the Frye Museum in Seattle. In Spring 2023 he was a visiting artist at the Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki. Also in 2023, he co-founded the nonprofit, Brooklyn-based experiment in activist pedagogy: The Strother School of Radical Attention.

Maggie Cao (2014–16) was appointed a guest scholar at the Getty Research Institute in Spring 2024.

Lorraine Daston (1979–80) published *Rivals: How Scientists Learned to Cooperate* (Columbia Global Reports, 2023), which considers how the "scientific community" has come to be the bastion of consensus and concerted action over the last 350 years. Her 2022 book, *Rules: A Short History of What We Live By* (Princeton University Press, 2022), was listed as one of the Best Scholarly Books of 2022 by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Dana Fields (2010–13) saw the publication of her book *Frankness, Greek Culture, and the Roman Empire* (Routledge, 2020), which is now available in paperback. Her most recent publications include a chapter in the *Oxford Handbook of Roman Philosophy* (2023), titled “Parrhêsia: Dio, Diatribe, and Philosophical Oratory.” She is currently training to become a barrister in the UK, having completed a Graduate Diploma in Law with Distinction at the University of London in Spring 2023.

Heidi Hausse (2016–18) received a highly competitive grant to pursue collaborative research between the History and Mechanical Engineering departments at Auburn University. The two-year Creative Work and Social Impact Scholarship grant, which runs from 2023 to 2025, provides \$40,000 to develop a method for lab-based research using a 3D-printed prototype of a sixteenth-century hand prosthesis. She is the primary investigator, and her co-investigator, Dr. Chad Rose, is a mechanical engineer who specializes in wearable robotics and assistive technologies.

Their project is entitled “Engineering History: An Experimental Approach to Recovering the Lived Experience of a Sixteenth-Century Amputee.” She also published her first monograph, *The Malleable Body: Surgeons, Artisans, and Amputees in Early Modern Germany* (Manchester University Press, 2023), which is based on the project she worked on as a Fellow.

Arden Hegele (2016–19) co-edited the anthology *Culture and Medicine: Critical Readings in the Health and Medical Humanities* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022), which explores the construction, negotiation, and circulation of biomedical knowledge.

Zaid Jabri (2019–20) won a prestigious prize for chamber music at the International Composition Competition in Udine for his composition “Prelude and Adagio in memoriam Krzysztof Penderecki.”

Muhammed Ali Khalidi (1991–93) published two books: *Cognitive Ontology: Taxonomic Practices in the Mind-Brain Sciences* (Cambridge University Press, 2023), which

explores the distinctions between cognitive and neural categories; and *Natural Kinds* (Cambridge University Press, 2023), which surveys philosophical accounts of scientific classification schemes and defends a naturalist alternative.

Hagar Kotef (2009–12) saw her book *The Colonizing Self* (Duke University Press, 2020) win multiple awards, including the 2023 Spitz Prize for the Best Book in Liberal and/or Democratic Theory, the Canadian Political Science Association’s 2022 C.B. Macpherson Prize, and the International Studies Association-Northeast’s 2022 Yale H. Ferguson Award (co-winner). The book also received honorable mentions for MESA’s 2021 Fatema Mernissi Book Award, the 2021 Sussex International Theory Prize, and the International Political Sociology Section (IPS) of the International Studies Association’s 2022 Book Award.

Scott Morrison (2004–06) became a litigation associate (solicitor and barrister) at the London office of New York law firm Debevoise & Plimpton.

Jennifer Nash (2009–10) co-edited *The Routledge Companion to Intersectionalities* (2023) with Samantha Pinto, an accessibly written reference source that approaches the analytic of intersectionality from wide-ranging perspectives.

Rachel Nolan (2018–19) published the essay “Do Cartels Exist? A revisionist view of the drug wars” (*Harper’s Magazine*) and two book reviews: “An Amazonian Exodus” (*London Review of Books*), reviewing Graciela Mochkofsky’s *The Prophet of the Andes: An Unlikely Journey to the Promised Land* (trans. Lisa Dillman, Knopf, 2022); and “Always look in the well” (*New York Review of Books*), reviewing both Alexa Hagerty’s *Still Life with Bones: Genocide, Forensics, and What Remains* (Crown, 2023) and Victoria Sanford’s *Textures of Terror: The Murder of Claudina Isabel Velasquez and Her Father’s Quest for Justice* (U of California Press, 2023).

Jessie Ann Owens (1977–79) received the 2023 Paul Oskar Kristeller Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Renaissance Society of America.

David Pike (1993–95) co-authored a book with Malini Ranganathan and Sapana Doshi, *Corruption Plots: Stories, Ethics, and Publics of the Late Capitalist City* (Cornell UP, 2023), which describes the importance of corruption to global storytelling under late capitalism.

Edgardo Salinas (2010–13) was promoted to full-time Professor of Music History at The Juilliard School in Fall 2022.

Kirsten Schultz (1988–89) published *From Conquest to Colony: Empire, Wealth, and Difference in Eighteenth-Century Brazil* (Yale University Press, 2023), in which she uses archival records of royal and local administrations, as well as contemporary print culture, to examine power and colonialism in a new history of Brazil’s eighteenth century.

Micah Schwartzman (2006–07) was elected to the American Law Institute.

William Sharpe (1981–83) published his latest book, *The Art of Walking: A History in 100 Images* (Yale University Press, 2023), which follows depictions of walking in visual culture from ancient cave art to the present day.

Samer S. Shehata (1999–2000) published an edited volume, *The Struggle to Reshape the Middle East in the 21st Century* (Edinburgh University Press, 2023). The book examines the causes, dynamics, and consequences of regional political turbulence following the 2003 US invasion of Iraq and the 2011 Arab uprisings.

Steven Wilkinson (1998–99) was appointed Vice Provost for Global Strategy at Yale University.

Ting Ting Xu (2020–22) was appointed Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Rochester.

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Opposite: An airplane used by the Argentine military to drop left-wing militants alive into the La Plata River and Atlantic Ocean during the military dictatorship is now used as an advertising object for a construction materials store in Esteban Echeverria, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Photo by João Pina, 2011.





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