

Program Archive

Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program (CUSP)
2000-2026

Columbia University
Berick Center for Student Advising

CONTENTS

Yearly Themes and Events	5
Evolution and Innovation: 2025-2026	6
Speaker Series 2025-2026	7
Harmony: 2024-2025	19
Speaker Series 2024-2025	20
Absence: 2023-2024	28
Speaker Series 2023-2024	29
Emergence: 2022-2023	38
Speaker Series 2022-2023	39
Resilience: 2021-2022	49
Speaker Series 2021-2022	50
Disruption: 2020-2021	58
Speaker Series 2020-2021	58
Dissonance: 2019-2020	67
Speaker Series 2019-2020	67
Lateness: 2018-2019	75
Speaker Series 2018-2019	75
Insight: 2017-2018	87
Speaker Series 2017-2018	87
Navigation: 2016-2017	98
Speaker Series 2016-2017	98
Metamorphosis: 2015-2016	107
Speaker Series 2017-2016	107
Revolution: 2014-2015	120
Speaker Series 2014-2015	120
Wonder and Imagination: 2013-2014	131
Speaker Series 2013-2014	131
Play and Performance: 2012-2013	143
Speaker Series 2012-2013	143
Borders and Boundaries: 2011-2012	151
Speaker Series 2011-2012	151
Cultural Outings 2011-2012	160
Crisis And Response: 2010-2011	161

Speaker Series 2010-2011	161
Scholar Forums 2010-2011	164
Cultural Outings 2010-2011	167
Beyond the Evident: 2009-2010	168
Speaker Series 2009-2010	169
Transformative Dialogue: 2008-2009	172
Speaker Series 2008-2009	172
Scholar Forums 2008-2009	176
Cultural Outings 2008-2009	176
The Person and The Polis: 2007-2008	177
Speaker Series 2007-2008	178
Scholar Forums 2007-2008	182
Cultural Outings 2007-2008	182
Excavation of the Truth: 2006-2007	183
Speakers Series 2006-2007	183
Scholar Forums 2006-2007	186
Cultural Outings 2006-2007	187
Beyond These Shores: 2005-2006	188
Speaker Series 2005-2006	188
Scholar Forums 2005-2006	194
Cultural Outings 2005-2006	194
America on the World Stage: 2004-2005	195
Speaker Series 2004-2005	195
Scholar Forums 2004-2005	201
Cultural Outings 2004-2005	202
Columbia in Context: 2003-2004.....	203
Speaker Series 2003-2004	203
Scholar Forums 2003-2004	210
Cultural Outings 2003-2004	210
Responsibilities: 2003	212
Speaker Series 2003	212
Modern Challenges: 2002	216
Speaker Series 2002	216
Scholar Forums 2002-2003	218
Cultural Outings 2002-2003	218
Speaker Series 2001-2002.....	219
Scholar Forums 2001-2002	225
Cultural Outings 2001-2002	225

Cultural Outings 2000-2001225

PROGRAM ARCHIVE INTRODUCTION

YEARLY THEMES AND EVENTS

Several major presentations, or **Speaker Series** events, per semester are connected under one theme. Such a thematic thread is an exciting and challenging lens through which students in the Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program (CUSP) can approach the pressing issues of the day, linking discrete areas of speculation. Under separate thematic covers, CUSP has explored questions of education, expression, professional and social responsibility, international and public health, civil and human rights, science and technology, business ethics, sustainable development, politics and finance, art and representation, and the role of the writer as witness. In our speaker series, distinguished faculty and guests can speak to the yearly theme and provide ample opportunity for questions and interaction with the Scholar audience.

Scholars are also invited to attend off-campus events, or **Community Building events**, which tie into the yearly themes, and **Professional Development events**, which help scholars build skills for their future careers. Additionally, the student-led council, the **CUSP Alliance**, organize other opportunities for discussion and collaboration among Scholars. The CUSP website is regularly updated with the events offered each semester.

This Program Archive is a collection of CUSP's events from 2000-2026 and documents the breadth and depth of programming available to Scholars.

EVOLUTION AND INNOVATION: 2025-2026

The CUSP Distinguished Speaker Series follows an intellectual theme that is the foundation of our year-long inquiry. This year's talks explore the theme of "Evolution and Innovation." We will consider this theme from the perspective of various disciplines, including natural and environmental sciences, engineering, literature, philosophy, art, history, politics, and religion.

What happens when we are faced with the necessity or opportunity for change? We may need to pivot and turn the challenge into a springboard, either by adjusting and recalibrating (*evolution*) or by recognizing the moment as an invitation for creativity and invention (*innovation*). Evolution brings us to adapt and repurpose what we have, while innovation may encourage us to break patterns entirely.

This year's theme will explore how these two processes dynamically shape our world, and can be seen – from a nano to a macro-level – as developments of natural forces and/or outcomes of human ingenuity and creativity. Through the lens of the natural and social sciences, the humanities, the arts, and engineering, we will investigate how nature, individuals, and societies evolve and innovate in response to internal and external pressures. Do these transformative processes build cumulatively over time, or are they sudden responses to urgent problems? Are they inherently positive or can they carry unintended negative consequences? Which ones are the product of conscious developments, and which emerge organically?

While reflecting critically and ethically on all the complexities they may introduce, we will consider how evolution and innovation are forces that propel us forward, opening new paths for growth across disciplines and finding ways to revitalize existing structures.

SPEAKER SERIES 2025-2026

Gareth Williams, Tuesday, August 19, 2025 - CUSP/ASP Annual NSOP Lecture: *Evolution, Innovation, and Your Years at Columbia*

Gareth Williams

Anthony Professor of Latin Language and Literature
Department of Classics, Columbia University

As you embark on this new chapter of your life at Columbia, you will doubtless undergo many processes of personal evolution and innovation in all the mind-expanding experiences that await you in the classroom, in the College, and in New York City more generally. In your Core classes, and perhaps most immediately in Literature Humanities, you will find that your own transition is reflected in so many aspects of human behavior that are examined in the texts you will soon be reading. Homer, Virgil, the Greek tragedians and the other writers we shall touch on in this brief presentation are centrally concerned with the complexities of evolution and innovation, and they all have their eye on you. To explore how and why this is so, please join me for our discussion on August 19th, and for its central focus on Your Years at Columbia.

Biography

Gareth Williams has taught at Columbia since 1992. He received a Ph.D. in 1990 from Cambridge University for a dissertation on Ovid's exilic writings that subsequently resulted in two books: the first, *Banished Voices: Readings in Ovid's Exile Poetry* (Cambridge, 1994), and the second, *The Curse of Exile: A Study of Ovid's Ibis*, *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society Supplementary Volume 19* (Cambridge, 1996). Two distinct research phases followed, the first of which focused on the Latin ethical writings of Lucius Annaeus Seneca. Two monographs resulted, the first an edition with commentary of *L. Annaeus Seneca: Selected Moral Dialogues. De Otio, De Brevitate Vitae* (Cambridge, 2003); the second, *The Cosmic Viewpoint: A Study of Seneca's Natural Questions* (Oxford, 2012), was awarded the Goodwin Award of Merit by the Society for Classical Studies in 2014. Most recently, among various other projects and edited volumes in the area of Roman philosophy, his research has focused on the socio-literary culture of Renaissance Venice, an interest that recently resulted in the publication of *Pietro Bembo on Etna: The Ascent of a Venetian Humanist* (Oxford, 2017).

James Gibbs, Thursday, September 11, 2025 - *Giants of Change: The Past, Present, and Future of Galápagos Tortoise*

James Gibbs

Distinguished Professor
State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse

Once found across every continent except Antarctica, giant tortoises have vanished from nearly all their former habitats following human arrival—surviving today only on Aldabra Atoll and in the Galápagos Islands. This talk explores discoveries in Galápagos tortoise evolution, taxonomy, and conservation, including the identification of new species, rediscovery of presumed-extinct lineages, and innovative efforts to restore ecosystems through rewilding. This story of extinction, resilience, and innovation—both

on the part of the tortoises themselves and those seeking to save them from extinction - told through the lens of conservation scientist who has worked with them for 35 years.

Biography

James Gibbs is a Distinguished Professor at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, where he teaches and conducts research on biodiversity conservation. He also serves as Vice President of Galápagos Conservancy and helps lead the *Iniciativa Galápagos*, the Conservancy's flagship program in conjunction with the Galapagos National Park for wildlife restoration across the archipelago.

Dennis Tenen, Thursday, October 2, 2025 - *The Evolution of Literary Cooperation*

Dennis Tenen

Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature
Columbia University

How does literature evolve? Not by solitary genius, but through seismic shifts in how texts are made. In this talk, we will explore the evolution of literary cooperation, tracing how collaborative dynamics reshape genres, propel innovation, and reconfigure meaning across history. Emphasizing labor, productivity, and the transition toward industrial-scale manufacture of intellectual goods, Tenen illustrates how changing modes of literary production transform narrative forms and the cultural valuation of creativity.

Biography

Dennis Yi Tenen is an associate professor of English at Columbia University, where he also co-directs the [Narrative Intelligence Lab](#). His published work can be found in monographs including *Plain Text: The Poetics of Computation* (Stanford University Press, 2017), *Literary Theory for Robots* (W.W. Norton, 2024) and *Author Function* under contract with Chicago UP. His [recent articles](#) appear on the pages of *Modern Philology*, *New Literary History*, *Amodern*, *boundary2*, *Computational Culture*, and *Modernism/modernity* on topics that span literary theory, the sociology of literature, media history, and computational narratology.

A long-time affiliate of Columbia's Data Science Institute, formerly a Microsoft engineer in the Windows group and fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society, his code runs on personal computers worldwide.

Stefano Boeri, Monday, October 6, 2025 - *Trees Towards Cities, Humans Towards Forests*

Stefano Boeri

Architect and Urban Planner

While we can work to prevent or reduce our impact on the planet, the only technology currently capable of absorbing the CO₂ already emitted — and, in a sense, of undoing some of the damage — is nature itself: plants and forests, through the process of photosynthesis. No artificial solution can yet match what nature accomplishes on its own. This is why increasing living nature in our cities is a powerful way to address the climate crisis. Urban forestry is not just an option — it is the most effective, economical, and inclusive strategy to tackle both the symptoms and root causes of climate change.

Biography

Stefano Boeri, architect and urban planner, is Full Professor at *Politecnico di Milano* and Director of the Future City Lab at *Tongji University* in Shanghai. He is President of the *Future of Cities Foundation* and of the Scientific Committee of *Forestami*, the urban forestation project in the Milan metropolitan area.

Renowned architect of the *Bosco Verticale*, his work spans from urban visions to design, consistently addressing the geopolitical and environmental implications of urban phenomena. Among the main actors of the climate change debate in the field of international architecture, he participates in the *Commonwealth Regenerative Development to Reverse Climate Change* program; he is co-chair of the scientific committee of the *World Forum on Urban Forests* (Mantua, 2018 – Washington D.C. 2023) and, on the occasion of the UN Climate Action Summit 2019, he presents in New York the *Great Green Wall of Cities /Green Urban Oases* project, realized together with FAO, C40 and other international research institutes.

Stefano Boeri is known for his research, visions and master plans on the future of the urban condition in the world, which have seen him engaged in designing regeneration and development plans for metropolises and large cities, including São Paulo, Geneva, Tirana, Cancun, Riyadh, Cairo and in Italy Milan, Genoa, Cagliari, Naples, Padua, Taranto and many others. Among his achievements, he was awarded an *Honorary Doctorate in Chemical, Geological, and Environmental Sciences* by the University of Milano-Bicocca and his design approach “Green Obsession” received in 2023 the *UN SDG Action Award* for its contribution to advancing the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. Stefano Boeri has been President of *Triennale Milano* since 2018 and he is Commissioner - General of the 24th International Exhibition, Inequalities, from May to November 2025.

His research is published in international books and journals; among his books are *Il territorio che cambia* (Milan 1992); *AAVV, Mutations* (Barcelona 2001); *Multiplicity, Use Uncertain States of Europe* (Milan 2003); *Biomilano: glossary of ideas for a metropolis of biodiversity* (Milan 2011); *L'anticittà* (Bari 2011); *A Vertical Forest* (Milan 2015); *La città scritta* (Macerata 2016); *Urbania* (Bari 2021); *Green Obsession: Trees Towards Cities, Humans Towards Forests* (Barcelona 2021); *A private glossary* (Rizzoli, 2024); *Bosco Verticale. Morphology of a Vertical Forest* (Rizzoli 2024 – Rizzoli NY, 2025).

Courtney Schreiber, Wednesday, October 8, 2025 - *Innovations in Reproductive Health Care: Intersections between Academia, Health Care, and Policy*

Courtney Schreiber, MD, MPH

Stuart and Emily B.H. Mudd Professor of Human Behavior & Reproduction
Chief, Division of Complex Family Planning
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Executive Director, FOCUS on Health and Leadership for Women
Perelman School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

While Reproductive Health primarily refers to the health of the reproductive system, this area of healthcare intersects with sociocultural aspects of society in profound ways. Perhaps for this reason, reproductive healthcare delivery is regulated far beyond other areas of healthcare. Dr. Schreiber, a

clinician and researcher, will provide examples of how a career in academics can be influenced by policy, and also result in policy change.

Biography

Courtney A. Schreiber MD, MPH is the Emily and Stuart Mudd Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Chief of the Division of Family Planning in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, and founding director of PEACE, the Pregnancy Early Access Center at Penn Medicine. She has devoted her career as a physician-scientist filling scientific and healthcare delivery gaps in women's health and reproduction, with a focus on underserved women. Using translational, clinical, and health-services research methodologies to advance science and improve clinical outcomes, she has participated in more than 60 studies in reproductive health resulting in more than 130 peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Schreiber also holds leadership roles in organizations that address knowledge gaps and improve women's health care. She serves as Executive Director of The Perelman School of Medicine's FOCUS on Health and Leadership for Women and a Senior Fellow, Leonard Davis Institute of Health. She co-leads Penn PROMOTES Research on Sex and Gender in Health a University-wide center that aims to illuminate the understanding of the wide-reaching and established sex differences in disease prevalence, phenomenology and treatment. She was the inaugural Chair of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology's Complex Family Planning Division. Dr. Schreiber applies the tools of academic medicine to provide innovative clinical care solutions and advance the science of women's reproductive health while nurturing the pipeline of future leaders.

Bärbel Hönisch, Thursday, October 23, 2025 - *Natural climate experiments in Earth history*

Bärbel Hönisch

Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences of Columbia University

The daily news are frequented by extreme weather events, long-term changes in global habitats and environments, and stories of people, animals and plants migrating in search of more favorable conditions than the ones that they left behind. Climate researchers agree that these changes are largely due to human emissions of greenhouse gases. But how much farther will these changes go? What will the future hold for life on Earth as we know it? This talk will provide some answers from the geological record, which documents natural events of past climate changes, evolution of species, and recovery from perturbations of Earth' carbon cycle.

Biography

Bärbel Hönisch grew up in Germany and studied Biology and Geology before she moved to New York City to join Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in 2002 and the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences in 2007. Hönisch is interested in the effects of global carbon cycle perturbations on climate and the oceans, in particular past variations of seawater acidity and its relation to atmospheric CO₂. Her research includes culture experiments with living marine calcifiers to validate proxies for past environmental conditions, and the application of the resulting calibrations to reconstructing seawater carbonate chemistry and atmospheric CO₂ variations through Earth history. At LDEO, her current research projects include the synthesis and modernization of atmospheric CO₂ reconstructions over the

past 470 million years, and calibration studies on the boron isotope proxy for seawater acidity. At CU, she teaches classes on past, present and future climate change, and oceanography.

Suzana Camargo, Monday, November 17, 2025 - *Hurricanes and Climate Change: What do we know? What can we expect?*

Suzanne Camargo

Professor of Climate & Co-Director Postdoctoral Research Program
Columbia Climate School, Columbia University

In this talk, I'll summarize the current knowledge on the impact of climate change on hurricanes, typhoons (tropical cyclones). First, I'll discuss the current trends and what we can say on how anthropogenic climate change has already modified the characteristics of tropical cyclones. Second, I'll explain the methods used to do future projections of tropical cyclones, their caveats, and what we have learned so far. Finally, I'll explore the main issues that need to be addressed by the scientific community to make progress on this topic.

Biography

Suzana J. Camargo is a Professor of Climate at the Climate School and a Co-director of the Climate School Postdoctoral Program. She is an expert on extreme weather events, in particular tropical cyclones and their relationship with climate on various time scales. Her research includes exploring predictability, seasonal forecasting, climate change projections, as well as the risk and impacts of extreme weather events. She teaches courses on climate, extreme events and natural disasters.

Originally from Brazil, where she studied Physics at the University of São Paulo, she received a PhD in Physics from the Technical University of Munich in Germany. She is an elected Fellow of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and has received the American Meteorological Society Distinguished Scientific/Technological Accomplishment Award in Climate Variability and Change. She has been an editor of the prestigious AGU journal *Geophysical Research Letters* since December 2017.

Bruno Bosteels, Thursday, November 20, 2025 - *Changing the Subject*

Bruno Bosteels

Dean of Humanities
Jesse and George Siegel Professor in the Humanities
Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures
Institute for Comparative Literature and Society

This presentation looks at the supposed links between change and the notion of the modern subject. The latter is supposed to be the result of a historic change, often associated with humanity's entrance into modernity, so that there is something redundant about speaking about the modern subject. It would be characteristic of the modern era to see human subjects as capable of changing their circumstances while also changing themselves. What does this point of view presuppose in terms of unspoken assumptions?

Biography

Bruno Bosteels is Dean of Humanities and Jesse and George Siegel Professor in the Humanities in the Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures, with a joint appointment in the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society. Prior to returning to Columbia in 2016, he taught for many years at

Harvard and Cornell University. His research covers a wide range of topics in literature, culture, and politics in modern Latin America as well as contemporary philosophy and political theory. He is the author of *Badiou o el recomienzo del materialismo dialéctico* (Palinodia), *Alain Badiou: une trajectoire polémique* (La Fabrique, translated into German as *Alain Badiou: Werdegang eines Streitbaren* with Laika), *Badiou and Politics* (Duke, translated into Spanish as *Badiou y lo político* with Prometeo Libros), *The Actuality of Communism* (Verso, translated into German with Laika as *Die Aktualität des Kommunismus*, into Korean with a new preface by Galmuri as *공산주의의 현실성 : 현실성의 존재론과 실행의 정치*, into Serbian with Univerzitet Singidunum as *Aktuelnost Komunizma*, and into Spanish with Prometeo Libros as *La actualidad del comunismo*, forthcoming in Japanese with Koshisha), *Marx and Freud in Latin America* (Verso, Spanish translation as *Marx y Freud en América Latina* with Akal), *El marxismo en América Latina: Nuevos caminos al comunismo* (Vicepresidencia del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia), *El pensamiento de Oscar del Barco: De Marx a Heidegger* (Ariel Pennisi), *La comuna mexicana* (Akal-Mexico, 2021; second edition Akal-Spain, 2022; forthcoming in English as *The Mexican Commune* with Duke University Press); and *¿Qué es la antifilosofía?* (Prometeo Libros, 2024).

J. John Mann, Tuesday, December 2, 2025 - *The Impact of Social Media Use on Brain Health*

J. John Mann

Paul Janssen Professor of Translational Neuroscience in Psychiatry and Radiology
Director, Molecular Imaging and Neuropathology Division,
Department of Psychiatry
Co-Director Columbia Center for Prevention and Treatment of Depression
Columbia University/New York State Psychiatric Institute

New research found that youth who become increasingly addicted to social media, mobile phones or video games were at greater risk of suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts and emotional or behavioral issues. The study, published June 18 2025 in JAMA.

Unlike previous studies that focused on total screen time at one point in a child's life, this study looked at how young people's patterns of compulsive or "addictive" use changed over time. Features indicating addiction included feeling unable to stop using a device, experiencing distress when not using it or using it to escape from problems. In contrast, simply spending more time on screens at 10 years old wasn't associated with worse suicide-related and mental health outcomes.

Focusing prevention efforts on those youths who exhibit addictive use patterns may spare a lot of kids who exhibit only nonaddictive use from a ban on cell phone usage. Banning cell phone use for part of the day like during school hours has not been shown in a clinical trial to be effective in reducing the risk of suicidal behavior or improving other aspects of mental health.

This study could signal a paradigm shift in how the impact of screen time on youth mental health is addressed. Testing interventions that work against other types of addiction may be one way to approach this type of social media and mobile phone use.

Biography

J. John Mann is The Paul Janssen Professor of Translational Neuroscience (in Psychiatry and in Radiology) at Columbia University and Director, Molecular Imaging and Neuropathology Division at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. He is a Past President of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, the International Academy of Suicide Research and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. He is a

Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a Fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology.

Dr. Mann received his medical degree from the University of Melbourne, and then completed his internship and residency at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. He was trained in Psychiatry and Internal Medicine and has a Doctorate in Neurochemistry. His research employs functional brain imaging, neurochemistry and molecular genetics to probe the causes of depression and suicide. Dr. Mann has published over 900 peer-reviewed papers and edited 11 books on the biology and treatment of mood disorders, suicidal behavior and other psychiatric disorders. In private practice he specializes in the treatment of mood disorders.

Dr. Mann has received numerous research and teaching awards, including the Colvin Prize from the Brain Behavior Research Foundation, American Suicide Prevention Foundation Research Award and the American Suicide Prevention Foundation Lifetime Research Award, the American Association of Suicidology Louis I. Dublin Award, the New York State Office of Mental Health Research Award, the Klerman Senior Investigator Award from the National Depressive and Manic Depressive Association, the Columbia University Department of Psychiatry Medical Student Teaching Award, the Stengel Award from the International Association for Suicide Prevention, the Morselli Medal from the International Academy of Suicide Research, The Juluis Axelrod Mentorship Award from the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and the Mood Disorders Research Award from the American College of Psychiatrists. Dr. Mann is an Honorary Professor of the University of Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Macedonia, and a Lifetime Member of the Israeli Psychiatry Association.

Lydia Chilton, Thursday, January 29, 2026 - *The Future of Work with AI*

Lydia Chilton

Associate Professor of Computer Science
Columbia University

Generative AI has fundamentally changed the way people work. Not only has it changed the way computer scientists work, but it has also changed how the entire design, development, and business lifecycles work. We will introduce two new paradigms for how app design and programming will be in a future powered by generative AI and AI agents.

Biography

Lydia Chilton is an Associate Professor in the Computer Science Department at Columbia University. Her research focuses on human-centered AI -- developing principles for combining the best of human and AI abilities to enhance design, innovation, and problem-solving. Projects include AI code synthesis for interactive app creation, interactive animation authoring, creating media for journalism, helping scientists communicate their work to the public, assisting farmers in adapting to climate change, and simulating human behavior to inform social policy decisions.

Merlin Chowkwanyun, Monday, February 2, 2026 - *Toxic Docs: Leveraging IT for the Environmental Health Good*

Merlin Chowkwanyun

Donald Gemson Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences
Columbia University

The twentieth-century saw the stunning and rapid introduction of toxic substances into the bodies of Americans. These were new and old, synthetic and naturally occurring: lead, PCBs, asbestos, polyvinyl chloride, silica, and others. These stories have largely remained beneath the surface until recently, with the emergence of once-secret documents that sat in the attics of companies for decades. My presentation will discuss this story and an attempt — ToxicDocs.org — to bring these materials to the public. I'll also spotlight novel information technology advances — from cloud-computing to AI — that have aided our efforts. Throughout, I'll highlight major facets of this new world of environmental health risk: corporations suppressing information about the safety of their products, obfuscating scientific results to regulators who inquired about them; and running PR campaigns that misled the public about the dangers of their everyday lives.

Biography

Merlin Chowkwanyun is the Donald Gemson Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health. Their first book was *All Health Politics is Local: Community Battles over Medical Care and Environmental Health*, published by UNC Press. They are now finishing up a short trade book for W.W. Norton assessing the social influences of health in an age of AI hype. Merlin is also the Principle Investigator of ToxicDocs.org, a National Science Foundation-funded database of once-secret documents on industrial poisons such as lead, asbestos, and PCBs.

Thomas Ripsam, Tuesday, February 10, 2026 - *Evolution and Innovation at Martin Guitars*

Thomas Ripsam
President & CEO
C.F. Martin & Co

How do you ensure a 200-year-old business that is centered around craftsmanship and tradition stays relevant and fit for the future? Martin Guitars, founded in 1833, is a family-owned business and one of the most iconic and leading Acoustic Guitar Manufacturers in the world. Legendary artists that have played Martin guitars include Elvis, the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, David Gilmour, Eric Clapton, John Mayer, and many more. Thomas will put one foot in the past and one foot in the future to talk about how evolution and innovation have played a critical role to get Martin Guitars where it is today and how these concepts play a critical role going forward for the company in a music industry and world that faces change at all levels at an ever-increasing pace.

Biography

Thomas is the President & CEO at C.F. Martin & Co. In his role, Thomas' focus has been to make sure the company continues to deliver strong results in an uncertain environment, and to shape the brand and growth strategies, capabilities, and culture to position the company well for the future. Prior to Martin, over the course of a 25+ year consulting career, first at Booz Allen & Hamilton, and most recently at Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Thomas worked with consumer goods companies, specialty retailers, technology solutions providers, Fortune 50 companies and family-owned businesses in the Americas, Europe and Asia, helping them to tackle their biggest strategic issues, evolve, innovate and transform, and create lasting value. Thomas has had a life-long passion for music and the arts. He has been creating and writing music since his teenage years and has released several albums under the band name Seeds of Imagination. He loves all things guitars. He plays and collects them, and he has had the privilege of designing several guitars for the Martin Guitar company, including the recent CEO-10 and CEO-11 models. Another creative outlet has been in the visual arts. He enjoys painting landscapes and still lives in various mediums. Designing art for his albums has been a way to marry his love for music with his love

for the arts. Thomas is a member of various Boards, incl. C.F. Martin & Co., National Association of Music Merchants, and United Way Greater Lehigh Valley. He holds an MBA in Strategy & Finance from Columbia Business School in New York City and a BA in Business Administration and Management from Reutlingen University in Germany and Middlesex University in London.

Monica Miller, Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - 'The Literary,' Fashion, and Race: the Grammar/Glamour of it All

Monica Miller

Chair and Professor of Africana Studies
Barnard College, Columbia University

What is literary about fashion and what are the ways in which fashion is literary? How and why does this matter for Black designers who reference Black history and culture in their work? How does their practice of “close reading” intervene in dominant narratives about black identity and the ways in which fashion broadcasts and/or delimits black cultural expression? This talk will discuss how the work of Black designers and wearers evolve and innovate conversations about the representation of Blackness to create a new, liberatory language for and with fashion and race.

Biography

Monica L. Miller is Chair and Professor of Africana Studies at Barnard College, Columbia University. A specialist in contemporary African American and Afro-diasporic literature and cultural studies, she is the author of the book *Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity*, winner of the William Sanders Scarborough Prize for an outstanding scholarly study of black American literature or culture from the Modern Language Association. A frequent commentator in the media and arts worlds, she teaches and writes about black literature, art, and performance, fashion cultures, and contemporary Black European culture and politics. A grantee from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the Institute for Citizens and Scholars, she is the guest curator of the spring 2025 Costume Institute exhibition *Superfine: Tailoring Black Style*.

Clemence Boulouque, Thursday, February 26, 2026 - The meaning of tradition or efforts to read religious texts anew

Clemence Boulouque

Carl and Bernice Witten Associate Professor of Jewish and Israel Studies
Department of Religion, Columbia University

Tradition is often described, in the words of Karl Mannheim, as a “tendency to cling to the past and a fear of innovation.” Religion, in turn, is frequently portrayed as a bastion of traditionalism and conservatism. This lecture will explore how some nineteenth-century thinkers challenged this binary, arguing instead that tradition could itself be a vehicle of progress and an embrace of modernity.

In the Jewish world, the Italian rabbi Benamozegh paved the way for interreligious dialogue after the Second World War. In Islam, the political leader and Sufi Abd el-Kader—who resisted the French conquest of Algeria—likewise understood tradition as a mode of coexistence, fully in tune with the spirit of their times.

Biography

Clémence Boulouque is the Carl and Bernice Witten Associate Professor in Jewish and Israel studies. She received her PhD in Jewish Studies and History from New York University in 2014 and took postdoctoral training at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania. Her interests include Jewish thought and mysticism, intellectual history and networks with a focus on the modern Mediterranean and Sefardi worlds, as well as the intersection between religion and psychoanalysis.

Prior to resuming her studies at NYU, Clémence Boulouque worked as a literary and movie critic in Paris. A novelist and essayist in her native France, she published *Another Modernity: Elia Benamozegh's Jewish Universalism* (Stanford University Press, 2020) and *On the Edge of the Abyss: the Jewish Unconscious before Freud* (Chicago University Press, 2025). She is the co-editor of the *Stanford Studies in Jewish Mysticism* series.

Reinhold Martin, Tuesday, March 3, 2026 - *What is a University?*

Reinhold Martin

Professor of Architecture
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation
Columbia University

This talk will place Columbia University in the world. Utilizing a series of campus buildings as our historical guide, we will witness the evolution—and contemplate the future—of the research university in the United States, of which Columbia remains a pre-eminent example. In addition to the laboratories and libraries that provide the infrastructures of basic research, we will observe changes in liberal education, the growth of professional schools, the institutionalization of new academic fields, varieties of political expression on campus and beyond, and the emergence of “innovation” as an intellectual and economic priority. In the process, we will gain insight into how contests over culture have intersected with social and scientific controversies, as well as with new technological developments, inside and out. Using the architecture and urbanism of the campus as our template, we will, in short, reconceptualize the university as a boundary problem, the resolution of which remains permanently subject to change.

Biography

Reinhold Martin is a historian of architecture, technology, and media who teaches at Columbia’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. He has previously chaired the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture, the Society of Fellows / Heyman Center for the Humanities, and the Committee on Global Thought, and is currently president of the Columbia chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). Martin’s most recent book is *Knowledge Worlds: Media, Materiality, and the Making of the Modern University* (Columbia, 2021), and he is the co-editor with Claire Zimmerman of *Architecture against Democracy: Histories of the Nationalist International* (Minnesota, 2024). He is presently working on two books. The first considers the technological conditions—understood as a “symbolic form”—under which distinct political-economic conceptions of usefulness, from “use-value” to “utility,” converge within the twentieth century technosphere. The second addresses key aesthetic concepts such as style, type, and symbol, as these have historically defined architecture’s place in a politics of culture in the United States and now inform efforts to re-establish a perceived classical order.

Kai Ruggeri, Thursday, April 2, 2026 - *Behavioral economics cannot solve population-level inequality, but it can make life better for a lot of people (if done correctly)*

Kai Ruggeri

In this presentation, we will explore how a decade of research led us to conclude that taking an approach known as positive deviance allowed us to build improved behavioral interventions based on sound theory that had a direct impact on economic inequality, at least for disadvantaged individuals. Using both traditional experiments testing core theory as well as multiple real-world applications in contexts like financial and health behaviors, we find a clear improvement in the effectiveness of methods used in behavioral policy. But rather than rely on anecdotes, which have undoubtedly hurt the field and lowered standards for science and practice, we provide a whole-population theory for why this approach offers both greater overall effectiveness and a direct impact on reducing inequality. Furthermore, we show how this can also be linked directly to improving wider population well-being.

Biography

Dr. Kai Ruggeri is Professor in behavioral science and analytics in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. His research focuses on fundamental theory of human behavior and decision-making, with a focus on how those insights can be applied to public policy to solve real-world issues.

Frances Negrón-Muntaner, Wednesday, April 8, 2026 - *Changing the Game: 10 Questions on Bad Bunny's Halftime*

Frances Negrón-Muntaner

In this talk, cultural historian Frances Negrón-Muntaner discusses how Bad Bunny's rise to the United States' "biggest stage" due to his global influence arguably indexes a shift at multiple levels. These include the end of US cultural hegemony, the importance of "small" places to global culture, the role of the internet in creating new music publics regardless of linguistic difference, and the resignification of the "local" as "universal."

Biography

Frances Negrón-Muntaner is a filmmaker, writer, scholar, Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities, and the founding curator of the Latino Arts and Activisms collection at Columbia University. Among her books and publications are *Puerto Rican Jam* (1997), *Boricua Pop: Puerto Ricans and the Latinization of American Culture* (CHOICE Award, 2004), *The Latino Media Gap* (2014), and *Sovereign Acts: Contesting Colonialism in Native Nations and Latinx America* (2017). Negrón-Muntaner has received various recognitions, including the United Nations' Rapid Response Media Mechanism global expert designation in Latin/o American media studies (2008); the Lenfest Distinguished Columbia Faculty Award, (2012), the Latin American Studies Association's Frank Bonilla Public Intellectual Award (2019), and the Premio Borimix from the Society for Educational Arts in New York (2019). Her films and media works include *Brincando el charco* (1994), *War for Guam* (2015), and *Valor y Cambio*, an art, digital storytelling, and just economy project in Puerto Rico and New York (valorymcambio.org).

William H. Robinson, Monday, April 13, 2026 - *Epstein-Barr Virus and Autoimmune Disease*

William H. Robinson, MD, PhD

James W. Raitt, MD Professor of Medicine
Chief, Division of Immunology and Rheumatology
Stanford University

The Robinson laboratory investigates the role of EBV and other microbes in the pathogenesis of autoimmune disease, with a focus on systemic lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and multiple sclerosis. His laboratory pioneered development of protein arrays and high-throughput sequencing approaches to identify the targets of antibody responses, investigate mechanisms underlying disease, and to develop novel therapeutic approaches. Using these technologies, his lab is defining key roles for EBV and other microbes in the initial and progression of SLE, RA and MS.

Biography

Dr. William Robinson co-founded the Stanford Human Immune Monitoring Center, serves on the editorial boards of several journals, and serves as the Treasurer and on the Board of Directors of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies. He is an inventor on 23 patent applications, and technologies developed in his Stanford and VA laboratories have been licensed to nine companies in the biotechnology industry. He was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Henry Kunkel Society. Dr. Robinson received his MD and PhD degrees from Stanford University, and completed his clinical training in internal medicine at UCSF.

HARMONY: 2024-2025

“Harmony can manifest in many forms, from the symphony of natural ecosystems to the synergy in communities striving for collective well-being. It encompasses the integration of disparate perspectives, the resonance of diverse voices in dialogue, the alignment of individual passions with broader societal goals, and the pursuit of coherence amidst complexity. Moreover, harmony may reveal itself in unexpected places, or even by coincidence, where varied elements serendipitously align to create beauty, coherence, and meaning. We can see it in the realm of politics, where principles of justice and fair representation strive toward a harmonious social fabric; we can see it in the realm of art, where melodies, colors, movements, genres, and more, fuse to create new forms of artistic expression.

Achieving harmony, however, is much harder than it looks. Getting people to agree on collective action or behavior, bringing parts of an experiment or an idea together, and embracing differences and resolving conflicts are all essential parts of moving toward a unified whole. In a world marked by polarization, the pursuit of harmony is not merely an aspiration but a necessity. How do we reconcile competing interests and ideologies to build a society in harmony with our collective needs? How do we understand harmony in the face of ecological crisis, political turmoil, war, the new and rapidly-advancing frontiers of technology, and other challenges of our current moment? How can harmony emerge as a counterpoint, a potential antidote to discord, fragmentation, and dissonance?

Through our speaker series, we will explore the dynamics of harmony in its many forms, and uncover strategies for cultivating and understanding it. Join us as we embark on a journey to discover the transformative complexities of harmony and its place in our individual lives, our academic community, and beyond.”

SPEAKER SERIES 2024-2025

Gareth Williams, “*Harmony and Human Action*” – CUSP/ASP Annual NSOP Lecture
Wednesday, August 21, 2024 | Online via Zoom

In this fractious world we are used to seeing so many patterns of dissension within political and institutional discourse. In such times, the idea of harmony can seem so distant from the everyday flow of life; and yet in literature across the ages, moments of external challenge and crisis are so often offset by reflex-like evocations of – or yearnings for – states of internal harmony. This talk explores some examples of this psychological quest for inner peace amid conditions of wider crisis, but we shall also touch on the more challenging aspects of that quest: to what extent is the search for harmony (whether at the individual or an interpersonal level) often more escapist than ‘real’? Does the very idea of harmony inevitably presuppose a reaction against conflict and disturbance? Does human experience tell us that harmony is more often a dream-state than a truly attainable condition? Homer, Euripides and Jane Austen (among others) will help us dwell on such questions as we travel on the pathway of optimism.

Biography

Gareth Williams has taught at Columbia since 1992. He received a Ph.D. in 1990 from Cambridge University for a dissertation on Ovid’s exilic writings that subsequently resulted in two books: the first, *Banished Voices: Readings in Ovid’s Exile Poetry* (Cambridge, 1994), and the second, *The Curse of Exile: A Study of Ovid’s Ibis*, Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society Supplementary Volume 19 (Cambridge, 1996). Two distinct research phases followed, the first of which focused on the Latin ethical writings of Lucius Annaeus Seneca. Two monographs resulted, the first an edition with commentary of L. Annaeus Seneca: *Selected Moral Dialogues. De Otio, De Breuitate Vitae* (Cambridge, 2003); the second, *The Cosmic Viewpoint: A Study of Seneca’s Natural Questions* (Oxford, 2012), was awarded the Goodwin Award of Merit by the Society for Classical Studies in 2014. Most recently, among various other projects and edited volumes in the area of Roman philosophy, his research has focused on the socio-literary culture of Renaissance Venice, an interest that recently resulted in the publication of *Pietro Bembo on Etna: The Ascent of a Venetian Humanist* (Oxford, 2017).

Robert O’Meally, “*Here’s to Life: Whatever You Major in*”
Wednesday, September 11, 2024 | Online via Zoom

This talk will invite students to think about life on our planet, not just our lives as humans. Particularly at this time of global emergency—and of crisis on our campus—with the usual curtains snapped aside, what might we see more clearly? What can we do on behalf of life itself? What can we ever do?

Biography

Robert G. O’Meally is the Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, where he has served on the faculty for thirty years. The founder and former director of Columbia’s Center for Jazz Studies, O’Meally is the author of *The Craft of Ralph Ellison*, *Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday*, *The Jazz Singers*, and *Romare Bearden: A Black Odyssey*. His edited

volumes include *The Jazz Cadence of American Culture*, *Living With Music: Ralph Ellison’s Essays on Jazz, History and Memory in African American Culture*, *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* (co-editor), *Uptown Conversation: The New Jazz Studies* (co-editor), and the Barnes and Noble editions of Mark Twain, Herman Melville, and Frederick Douglass. For his production of a Smithsonian record set called *The Jazz Singers*, he was nominated for a Grammy Award. O’Meally has co-curated exhibitions for The Smithsonian Institution, Jazz at Lincoln Center and The High Museum of Art (Atlanta). He has held Guggenheim and Cullman Fellowships, and was a recent fellow at Columbia’s Institute for Ideas and Imagination at the Global Center/Paris. His new books include *The Romare Bearden Reader* (edited for Duke University Press, 2020) and *Antagonistic Cooperation: Collage, Jazz, and American Fiction* (Columbia University Press, 2022), which won the 2023 Columbia University Press Distinguished Book Award.

Lisa M. Wong, M.D., “*Scales to Scalpels: Finding Harmony in Life Amidst the Dissonance of Disease*”
Monday, September 30, 2024 | Online via Zoom

As a musician and pediatrician, I seek to make sense of the dissonances I hear and see in our world. As an educator, I encourage learners to integrate the arts and sciences, incorporating music and other arts into patient care and self-care. This commitment to harmony may take different forms from the bedside to the classroom to the community, but the melodies remain the same.

Biography

Dr. Lisa Wong grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii with a passion for music. As a child, she studied violin and piano while exploring several other instruments, including guitar, ukulele, organ and Hawaiian percussion.

Dr. Wong graduated from Harvard College with a degree in East Asian Studies and received her M.D. at NYU School of Medicine. Now an assistant professor of pediatrics and associate director of the Arts and Humanities Initiative at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Wong teaches and works at the intersection of music, health and education. She served as president of Boston’s Longwood Symphony Orchestra for 21 years, where she was the lead designer of LSO’s signature “Healing Art of Music Program” a collaboration with community based healthcare organizations. The author of *Scales to Scalpels*, Dr. Wong speaks on arts and health nationally and internationally.

While maintaining her pediatric practice during the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr. Wong helped create Boston Hope Music that provided music and music education to patients and frontline caregivers. She serves on the boards of Conservatory Lab Charter School, A Far Cry ensemble and the Boston Public Schools Arts Expansion Initiative and has previously served on the boards of New England Foundation for the Arts and Massachusetts Cultural Council. Dr. Wong is currently working with the Massachusetts Cultural Council on an innovative model of cultural social prescription program, Arts on Prescription.

Oleksandra Matviichuk, “*Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times*”
Monday, October 21, 2024 | Online via Zoom

Ordinary people have much more influence than they can even imagine. Voices of millions of people can change world history faster than interventions of the UN.

Biography

Oleksandra Matviichuk is a leading Ukrainian human rights defender, one of the top 25 most influential women of 2022 in the world by the Financial Times, and head of the Center for Civil Liberties. Her team, which has been documenting war crimes since 2014, became the first Ukrainian Nobel Peace laureate in 2022.

Illana Raia, “*Exploring Harmony in Mentorship and Networks*”
Wednesday, November 13, 2024 | Online via Zoom

How do people meet mentors? Where do they look, what do they ask, and when do they first see the impact of early mentorship? These are questions that I hear often - from students eyeing internships and first jobs and from C-suite executives seeking higher level coaching. Mentorship matters, and what makes mentor moments differ from traditional networking interactions is...harmony. This talk will unpack the various elements of mentorship, explore what makes these relationships beneficial from all sides, and invite you to ask me anything.

Biography

Named one of the first 250 entrepreneurs on the Forbes Next 1000 List and recognized twice by Fast Company’s World Changing Ideas, **Illana Raia** is the founder and CEO of Être - a mentorship platform for girls. Believing that mentors matter as early as middle school, Illana brings girls directly into companies they choose to meet female leaders face to face.

Illana is chair-elect of the International Space Station U.S. National Lab Education Subcommittee, serves on the National Girls’ Collaborative Project Champions Board and was recently appointed to the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine Board of Governors. Illana contributes to the Forbes Business Council, has authored 60+ articles for HuffPost, Ms. Magazine and Thrive Global, and her award-winning book Être: Girls, Who Do You Want To Be? was released on Day of the Girl 2019. Her second best-selling book, The Epic Mentor Guide, arrived during Women’s History Month 2022, sparking a weekly conversation on LinkedIn with The Epic Mentor Newsletter. Prior to launching Être in 2016, Illana was a corporate attorney at Skadden Arps in NYC and a guest lecturer at Columbia University. She graduated from Smith College and the University of Chicago Law School and remains unapologetically nerdy.

Brian Smith, “Towards Experience-Based Computing”

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 | Online via Zoom

Computer science has followed a functionality-based paradigm, focusing on providing the features needed to accomplish tasks. It has been successful: our digital platforms give us functionality today that past generations only dreamed of such as access to the world's information from one's pocket, access to news and other cultures, and the ability to connect instantly via text, video calls, or virtual reality. And yet we see many harms to our well-being and harmony: we have less control over our information, we feel lonelier and more divided than ever, and we are creating careers where computer algorithms make all the interesting decisions and workers themselves lack autonomy.

In this talk, I will argue that we need to shift from functionality-based computing towards experienced-based computing. We must think of what we create as not just the digital platforms themselves but rather the experiences that result from those platforms. By considering people's interactions and feelings to be part of the overall system and by drawing insights from psychology and game design, we can ensure that we are crafting meaningful experiences for people and helping people live their best lives.

This perspective has guided much of my work, from making video games accessible to blind players to enabling social experiences on smartglasses. I will show how this approach sheds new light on longstanding areas of computer science: accessibility, social computing, and artificial intelligence.

Biography

Brian A. Smith is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Columbia University, where he directs the Computer-Enabled Abilities Laboratory (CEAL). His research goal is to reimagine how digital platforms should be designed so that they create meaningful experiences for people and help people live their best lives. He views technology design through a holistic lens, incorporating fundamental insights from engineering, social sciences, design, and games. His recent research includes work in accessibility, social computing, augmented reality, and smart city infrastructure.

Smith enjoys collaborating with companies, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to solve problems and maximize impact. He has been named a National Academy of Sciences Kavli Fellow and is a recipient of the NSF CAREER Award, Columbia Engineering's Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award, and Columbia Engineering's Janette and Armen Avanesians Diversity Award. He received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Computer Science from Columbia University.

Roosevelt Montás, “Harmony and the Common Good: Reflections on Freedom and Citizenship”

Monday, December 2, 2024 | Online via Zoom

We live in times of extreme political polarization. What is the nature of our disagreements? What are the requirements of a democratic political community? What can we learn from other moments of political polarization? What does freedom mean, politically and personally? This talk will be an invitation to think together about these and related questions at this moment in our national life.

Biography

Roosevelt Montás is Senior Lecturer in American Studies and English at Columbia University and director of the Freedom and Citizenship Program, which introduces low-income high school students to the Western political tradition through the study of original texts. He is the author of *Rescuing Socrates: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation*, (Princeton University Press, 2021).

Konstantina Zanou, *“The (Dis)harmonies of Living and Writing in the In-Between”*

Thursday, February 13, 2025 | Online via Zoom

Konstantina Zanou experienced a panic attack while crossing a bridge some years ago. Since then, she has been reflecting on what it means to live and write in between languages, homelands, cultures, and disciplines, and on the harmonies and disharmonies that such a situation engenders. In this talk, she will offer both an autobiographical narrative of living her life in the in-between, and an account of how she narrated the lives of people who lived as in-betweeners in the past in her book *Transnational Patriotism in the Mediterranean, 1800-1850: Stammering the Nation* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Biography

Konstantina Zanou is Associate Professor of Italian, specializing in Mediterranean Studies, in the Italian Department at Columbia University. She is a historian of the long nineteenth century in the Mediterranean. Her research focuses on issues of intellectual and literary history, history of archaeology, nationalism, and biography, with a special emphasis on Italy and Greece. She is also a student of modern diasporas and of the trajectories and ideas of people on the move. Her book *Transnational Patriotism in the Mediterranean, 1800-1850: Stammering the Nation* (Oxford University Press 2018) won the 2019 Edmund Keeley Book Prize in Modern Greek Studies, the 2019 Marraro Prize in Italian History, and the 2020 Mediterranean Seminar Best Book Prize, and was translated into Italian and Greek. She has also co-edited the volume *Mediterranean Diasporas: Politics and Ideas in the Long Nineteenth Century* (Bloomsbury 2016). Her current book project, *Sea of Antiquities: The Cesnola Brothers, the Global Mediterranean, and the Making of the Modern Museum*, is forthcoming by Oxford University Press in 2025.

Jessica Fanzo, *“Healthy Diets for Everyone: Challenges with the Climate Crisis and a Changing World Order”*

Monday, March 3, 2025 | Online via Zoom

With climate change, the long tail of the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing conflicts, food systems and the diets they produce are facing increasing fragility. In a turbulent, hot world, threatened resiliency and sustainability of food systems could make it all the more complicated to nourish a population of 9.7 billion by 2050. Climate change is having adverse impacts across food systems with more frequent and intense extreme events that will challenge food production, storage, and transport, potentially imperiling the global population’s ability to access and afford healthy diets. Inadequate diets will contribute further to detrimental human and planetary health impacts. At the same time, the way food is grown, processed,

packaged, and transported is having adverse impacts on the environment and finite natural resources further accelerating climate change, tropical deforestation, and biodiversity loss. This seminar will present (1) how climate change is connected to food systems and how dietary trends and foods consumed worldwide impact human health, climate change, and environmental degradation; (2) how food systems affect global dietary trends and the macro forces shaping food systems and diets; and (3) how specific food policies and actions related to dietary transitions can contribute to climate adaptation and mitigation responses and, at the same time, improve human and planetary health.

Biography

Jessica Fanzo, Ph.D., is a Professor of Climate and the Director of the Food for Humanity Action Collaborative at Columbia University's Climate School in New York City. Before coming to Columbia in 2023, Professor Fanzo was the Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Global Food Policy and Ethics at Johns Hopkins University. She has also held positions at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN), the UN World Food Programme, Bioversity International, the Earth Institute, the Millennium Development Goal Centre at the World Agroforestry Center in Kenya, and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. She has participated in various collective endeavors, including the Food Systems Economic Commission, the Global Panel of Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition Foresight 2.0 report, the Lancet Commission on Anaemia, and the EAT-Lancet Commissions 1 and now 2. She was also the Co-Chair of the Global Nutrition Report and Team Leader for the UN High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Systems and Nutrition. She currently leads the development of the Food Systems Dashboard and the Food Systems Countdown to 2030 Initiative in collaboration with the Global Alliance of Improved Nutrition. Fanzo became an elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 2024.

Kartik Chandran, “Engineering Cooperation in Wastewater Microbiomes”

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 | Online via Zoom

The current model for wastewater treatment and sanitation is resource-intensive and inaccessible to much of the world's population, including those in some parts of the United States. In this talk, we will explore alternatives for (re-) engineering the structure, function, and metabolism of wastewater treatment microbiomes and, in turn, promoting efficient and accessible models for wastewater treatment and sanitation.

Biography

Kartik Chandran is a global leader in sustainable wastewater treatment and engineered resource recovery. Chandran's work is enabled through understanding and harnessing the biochemical potential and metabolism of microbial communities and developing appropriate technologies towards addressing global environmental and societal needs.

Rachel Chung, *“World Classics, Pedagogy, and Interculturation”*
Tuesday, March 25, 2025 | Online via Zoom

Symposium is a student club at Columbia that takes Columbia’s ideal of the Core a step further, engaging students all over the world each year in the discussion of classics from three different civilizations as part of growing a movement themed “Classics for an Emerging World.” But perhaps even more importantly, Symposium uses these workshops on world classics as opportunities to build and engage in pedagogy (as distinct from teaching) and interculturalism, experiencing what it is to embody harmony through diversity, and dismantling colonial mentality one self at a time. Please come join the conversation to think about how you can adapt these ideas in/for your own contexts.

Biography

Rachel E. Chung, Ph.D., recipient of the coveted Tang Research Grant in 2016, is Lecturer in Disciplines in the Music Department at Columbia University.

For many years, as the Associate Director of University Committee on Asia & the Middle East (UCAME) at Columbia, she worked closely with Wm. Theodore de Bary to develop and implement new Global Core courses that span East Asian, Indian, Middle Eastern, and Western civilizations, most notably *Nobility & Civility I and II*, and *Nature & Human Nature I and II*. As Associate Director she was also instrumental in reaching out to the community of leading colleges and universities around the world to build international consensus and cooperation for global core curricula, including with Chinese Association for Liberal Education and its cohort of over 400 higher education institutions in China. As Lecturer with research interests in pedagogy of interculturalism and Neo-Confucian cultural and intellectual history, she developed two new seminars, *Friendship in Asian & Western Civilizations* with Prof. Allan Silver, and *Ritual & Music in East Asian Traditions*, as well as taught Core courses in Music and EALAC Departments.

Dr. Chung received her B.M. and M.M. degrees from the Juilliard School in New York, and her M.A., M. Phil, and Ph.D. in Historical Musicology from Columbia in 2002. Having published numerous articles, including the "Song of Ch'unhyang" for *Wisdom in East Asian Classics*, she is currently working on three books, *The Pedagogy of Confucius; Interculturation: Rethinking the Future of Democracy with James Jinhong Kim*; and *Song Hyon's "Model for Study of Music": A Culminating Treatise of Neo-Confucian Political Philosophy*. She has been on the Advisory Board of RCSS since 2014.

David MacDonald, *“The Natural Foundations of Harmony in Music”*
Tuesday, April 8, 2025 | Online via Zoom

What is harmony in music? What is beautiful harmony? For that matter, what is ugly harmony? To what degree are these subjective questions, and what role does nature (in both the physical and mathematical realms) play in such distinctions? My presentation will examine these questions from the perspective of two music theorists: Gioseffo Zarlino (1517-1590) and Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683-1764).

Biography

David Macdonald holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Manhattan School of Music, an MFA degree from SUNY Purchase and a BA from St. John's College. His composition teachers have included Nils Vigeland, David Noon, Charles Jones and Joseph Webber. He is a co-director of the Locrian Chamber Players contemporary music ensemble. He has been a fellow at June In Buffalo, the MacDowell Colony, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Kimmel, Harding Nelson Center for the Arts and has participated in master classes with Lukas Foss, George Crumb, Roger Reynolds and others. Commissioners of his music include: The Elements Quartet; The Queen's Chamber Band; the New Hudson Saxophone Quartet; RiverArts and Tactus. His works have been performed by: The Chappaqua Orchestra; Collegium Westchester; on The Hartford Commissions Concert (in Merkin Hall); Genealogies (in Rock Hall, Philadelphia); The OWU NOW festival (Ohio) and on recitals in the U.S. and abroad. He regularly contributes music to productions of The Actors' Company Theater in New York, including their critically acclaimed off-Broadway revival of "Home" by David Storey in 2006. In 2016 he was awarded a grant by the National Endowment for the Arts to write the music for *Braiding*, an evening-length multimedia work that was premiered in 2018. His sacred choral music is published by Kjos Music. Since 2001 he has taught at The Manhattan School of Music in the Theory and Composition Departments and is the Director of Music at Pleasantville Presbyterian Church in Pleasantville, NY.

ABSENCE: 2023-2024

“The idea of absence has often been understood as negative: a lack or loss of something potentially vital. But how else can we understand this negative space, and what happens when it is considered expansively as a generative force in its own right, outside of its opposition to presence? Where, when, and under what circumstances does absence become visible and worth talking about, and who sets the terms under which absence operates? Should we accept absence as a given or should we seek to rectify, undo, and/or challenge certain forms of absence?”

This Speaker Series considers absence in all its manifestations, from black holes and the mathematical concept of zero to photo negatives and memory loss. Absence can refer to something that has disappeared or is in the process of doing so, such as an endangered language or natural environment. The rise of religious “nones” in the U.S. can be considered in terms of absence, as can the need for accessible design or the suppression of cultural practices by an occupying force. Absence can also evoke a feeling, as with grief around death, displacement, or an uncertain future. Perhaps it reflects an omission, as with underrepresented voices in historical sources and archives.

Absence’s suggestion of emptiness generates the potential for deeper critical thought about meaning and matter. Here, we will explore how we can apply the concept of absence to our present moment. In a time of constant change—in climate, in politics, in the college experience itself—absence is not only a byproduct, but a critical tool for understanding what’s next.”

SPEAKER SERIES 2023-2024

Gareth Williams, “*Here, There, Everywhere, and Nowhere: Some Thoughts on the Ubiquity of Absence*”

– CUSP/ASP Annual NSOP Lecture

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 | Online via Zoom

The idea of absence has often been understood as a negative phenomenon, denoting loss, deficiency, denial, forgetfulness, under-representation, and so on. But the idea of absence also has great potential as a more positive and empowering force: absence as a detached and often intimidating position of power and influence, for example, or as a principled mode of resistance, or as a self-sacrificing cultivation of distance from others for the common good, or as a voluntary form of exile-as-protest. This talk explores various literary representations of both these positive and negative valences of absence, with emphasis on the psychological as well as the spatial/ physical implications of absence and presence. To what extent is absence often, even always, in tension with ideas of presence? We shall explore the ramifications of this and other questions through the lens of Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey, Greek tragedy, and other ancient and modern texts that figure prominently in the Columbia Core Curriculum.

Biography

Gareth Williams has taught at Columbia since 1992. He received a Ph.D. in 1990 from Cambridge University for a dissertation on Ovid’s exilic writings that subsequently resulted in two books: the first, *Banished Voices: Readings in Ovid’s Exile Poetry* (Cambridge, 1994), and the second, *The Curse of Exile: A Study of Ovid’s Ibis*, *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society Supplementary Volume 19* (Cambridge, 1996). Two distinct research phases followed, the first of which focused on the Latin ethical writings of Lucius Annaeus Seneca. Two monographs resulted, the first an edition with commentary of *L. Annaeus Seneca: Selected Moral Dialogues. De Otio, De Brevitate Vitae* (Cambridge, 2003); the second, *The Cosmic Viewpoint: A Study of Seneca’s Natural Questions* (Oxford, 2012), was awarded the Goodwin Award of Merit by the Society for Classical Studies in 2014. Most recently, among various other projects and edited volumes in the area of Roman philosophy, his research has focused on the socio-literary culture of Renaissance Venice, an interest that recently resulted in the publication of *Pietro Bembo on Etna: The Ascent of a Venetian Humanist* (Oxford, 2017).

Jonathan Fein, *Film Screening: Objects and Memory*

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 | 401 Lerner Hall

We preserve the past and speak to the future through the things we treasure and the memories they evoke. Using stories of items recovered from or offered in response to dramatic and pervasive American experiences, this film explores the human impulse to create community and reestablish connection in times of upheaval. Guided by Frank Langella’s narration and set to the music of Philip Glass, the OBJECTS AND MEMORY helps viewers better understand their own thoughts, emotions, and behavior; the intangible values they hold dear; and the tangible objects that represent them. In presenting meaningful physical symbols - those that speak, those that reach out, and those that heal - and their stories, in the unusually dramatic setting of their retrieval, OBJECTS AND MEMORY explores the things we most value. Without the objects,

the stories would lack vibrancy; without the stories the objects would lack significance. Taken together, the images of the objects, the stories they evoke, and the stories of their collection lead the viewer on a journey where the commonplace is transformed into the remarkable and where the stuff of history is highly personalized.

Jonathan Fein, *“Objects and Memory”*

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 | Online via Zoom

How do we retain connections with people, places, and events that are now absent from our lives? How do otherwise ordinary things become conveyors of memory? Examination of the objects in our homes and museums that we care about the most reveals fundamental aspects of being human and provides a portal for inquiry through the various humanities disciplines. We navigate through a material world by imbuing witness objects with meaning and value. We use these things and the memorials we construct to preserve the past and speak to the future – when we will be absent.

Biography

Jonathan Fein has long been interested in the interrelationships of the tangible and the intangible. As a sculptor (University of Pennsylvania MFA '78), his work has evolved from the manipulation of physical material to sculpting in time: filmmaking. His award-winning documentary *Objects and Memory* was a four-time PBS national prime time special. His other credits include the award-winning documentary, *Journeys to Peace and Understanding*; the Emmy Award-winning series, *4Stories*; the documentaries *The Competition*, *Death Row Diaries*, and *A Change of Heart*; the PBS series *The Fred Friendly Seminars*; and the Wisdom Channel series *Innerviews*. He is the founding director of EVER - Environmental Video, Education, and Reports, an organization dedicated to using media to improve the world. His current documentary project will be a series about innovators successfully addressing global problems.

Ross Perlin, *“Just out of Earshot: Listening for Endangered Languages in the Global City”*

Monday, October 2, 2023 | Online via Zoom

For over a decade, the Endangered Language Alliance (ELA), a linguist-led nonprofit with a mission to document and support linguistic diversity, has been working with speakers and communities to map and document the lesser-known, minority, endangered, and Indigenous languages of the New York area. In an age of language loss, cities are more linguistically diverse than ever before, but this diversity may be transient. ELA co-director and Columbia instructor Ross Perlin will discuss findings from ELA's work, as well as the difficult questions of representation, both technological and conceptual, raised by “absent” languages.

Biography

Ross Perlin is a linguist, writer, and translator focused on exploring and supporting linguistic diversity. Since 2013 he has been co-director of the non-profit Endangered Language Alliance (ELA), managing research projects on language mapping, documentation, policy, and public programming for urban linguistic diversity. He also teaches linguistics at Columbia. His first book was *Intern Nation: How to Earn Nothing and Learn Little in the Brave New Economy*, and his next one is *Language City: The Fight to Preserve Endangered Mother Tongues in New York*, out with Grove Atlantic February of 2024.

Brian Greene, *“Until the End of Time: Mind, Matter, and Our Search for Meaning in an Evolving Universe”*

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | Online via Zoom

The format of this talk was a Q&A with Brian Greene focusing on his latest book, "Until the End of the Time: Mind, Matter, and Our Search for Meaning in an Evolving Universe."

Biography

Brian Greene is the Director of Columbia’s Center for Theoretical Physics. He has made groundbreaking discoveries in mathematical physics and superstring theory, including the co-discovery of mirror symmetry and the discovery of spatial topology change. Professor Greene's books, *The Elegant Universe*, *The Fabric of the Cosmos*, *The Hidden Reality*, and *Until the End of Time*, have collectively spent 70 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list and sold over two million copies worldwide. Professor Greene is a frequent guest on late night television and was the host of two Emmy and Peabody award-winning NOVA mini-series based on his books. He also wrote and performed in *Light Falls*, a live theatrical exploration of Einstein’s discoveries, that was broadcast nationally on PBS. Together with Tracy Day, Professor Greene co-founded the World Science Festival and serves as Chairman of the Board.

Marilee Talkington, *“The Invisibility of Disability in TV, Film, and Theater”*

Monday, October 23, 2023 | Online via Zoom

We create beliefs about ourselves and other 'different' kinds of people by watching tv, film, and theater. But what happens to those beliefs around worthiness and human value when we don't see ourselves nor those 'different' people, or we see wholly inaccurate portrayals of us and them instead?

Biography

Marilee Talkington is a professional actor, disability activist, and creator of new stage and screen works. They have recently performed on Broadway in Aaron Sorkin's new adaptation of *CAMELOT* and have appeared on television shows such as *SEE* (Apple TV+), *Extrapolations*

(Apple TV+), FBI: Most Wanted (NBC), Law and Order: SVU (NBC), NCIS (CBS), and New Amsterdam, (CBS). Marilee is the voice of Mind's Eye at the Guggenheim Museum and is the founder of AC3 (Access Acting Academy), the world's first Acting Studio for blind and low vision performers. They are one of the only blind/low vision actors in the United States to earn an M.F.A in Acting (American Conservatory Theater) for which they received the Carol Channing Troupier award for excellence, leadership and dedication. Marilee has originated over 100 characters on stage and screen, and has been founder and artistic director of two theater companies. Their original work has been produced nationally and their solo show TRUCE ran on the BBC. In 2020, Marilee was honored with the Dr. Jacob Bolotin international award for paradigm shifting work for blind persons, and was also named as one of Park Avenue Armory's 100 Women: 100 Artists. Marilee is currently working on her first book

Mark Vernon, *“Spiritual Intelligence and the threat of AI”*

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 | Online via Zoom

Artificial Intelligence has become a spectre, even threatening civilisation and humanity itself, according to some. In this talk, Mark Vernon will explore how AI functions like a mirror, reflecting back our greatest hopes and darkest fears. But also how the spread of AI into our lives is an opportunity to recall the potency of other types of intelligence, not least that which can be called spiritual intelligence, which is also to remember what it is to be human.

Biography

Mark Vernon is a writer and psychotherapist. He contributes to and presents programmes on the radio, as well as writing for the national and religious press, and online publications. He also podcasts, in particular The Sheldrake-Vernon Dialogues with Rupert Sheldrake, gives talks and leads workshops. He has a PhD in ancient Greek philosophy, and other degrees in physics and in theology, having studied at Durham, Oxford and Warwick universities. He is the author of several books, including A Secret History of Christianity: Jesus, the Last Inking and the Evolution of Consciousness which in part explores the work of Owen Barfield, and Dante's Divine Comedy: A Guide for the Spiritual Journey. He used to be an Anglican priest and lives in London, UK. Mark's latest book is Spiritual Intelligence in Seven Steps. For more information see www.markvernon.com.

Michael Anthony Fowler, *“Taking Things Out of Context: Interpretive Challenges and Approaches to Unprovenanced Artifacts”*

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 | Online via Zoom

Absence is a challenge that archaeologists and art historians, especially those dealing with more remote periods, inevitably face. The material record is riddled with fragmentary data and

evidentiary gaps. Some of these absences are bequeathed to us by the biases and habits of the cultures that we study. Others are due to the impact of natural or anthropogenic factors over time. One of the most challenging absences is caused by unscientific or illicit excavation practices, according to which artifacts are removed from the earth without recording anything about their context of discovery, or provenience. Anyone who has visited a gallery of ancient Greek and Roman art, for instance, has likely noticed how frequently artifacts on display lack specific details about their provenience (to say any provenience at all). Beyond this, artifacts are still largely exhibited according to aesthetic rather than archaeological criteria, which privileges where an object was made and not where/how it was used or ended its “life”. How do we interpret these objects out of context? Using a select number of cases of unprovenienced ancient works of art, with a particular emphasis on Greek vases, this talk will address the problems and pitfalls of interpreting such artifacts and the creative approaches that scholars must adopt in order to make optimal use of them as historical sources.

Biography

Dr. Michael Anthony Fowler is Assistant Professor of Art History in the Department of Art & Design at East Tennessee State University. He completed a Ph.D. in Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University in 2019, specializing in ancient Greece and West Asia. An award-winning educator, Dr. Fowler teaches courses across the global history of art, seeking to introduce students to the diversity of visual cultures around the world and to the critical role that the arts play in expressing, shaping, and responding to peoples’ ideals and realities. In his research and scholarship, Dr. Fowler focuses on topics related to material religion, iconography, gender, and violence (and their intersections). Over the past 15 years he has participated in a variety of archaeological surveys and excavations in the Mediterranean, including in the hinterland of Marsala (W Sicily), the sanctuary of Poseidon at Onchestos (Boeotia, Greece), and, most recently, the sanctuary of Apollo on the Cycladic islet of Despotiko (Greece).

Christina Lazaridi, *“Storytelling for the Screen: Building Meaning through Absence”*

Monday, March 4, 2024 | Online via Zoom

The classic narrative syntax of filmmaking is guided by editing techniques, and the power of the “cut.” Highlighting the narrative power of omission, we will reveal the dynamic role absence plays in shaping stories, challenging audiences and ultimately driving the creation of meaning and change.

If what is left unsaid, avoided, or implied, shapes our understanding of stories, characters and life itself, how do we choose what is best to omit or include in a narrative? And what does that the propelling power of absence tell us about the narrative evolution of our storytelling selves?

Biography

Christina Lazaridi is an Academy Award nominated screenwriter and an expert in script development and audience response. Projects she has authored, or actively developed, have won awards at Cannes (Camera D' Or) and Berlin Film Festivals (Golden Bear), Sundance, SXSW and the Ariels (Mexican Oscars), among others. Her work as a development expert for award-winning properties was recognized in 2019 and 2020 by a grant to the organization she co-founded, Cine Qua Non Lab, from the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences.

Christina currently serves as Head of Concentration for Screen & TV Writing at Columbia University's Graduate Film Division where she is an Assistant Professor of Practice. Prior to this position Christina designed and ran Princeton University's Screenwriting track for its prestigious Creative Writing Program and conducted pioneering research on storytelling and the brain with Princeton's Neuroscience Institute and Uri Hasson's Lab. Results of their research were published by MIT's Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience in 2021.

Born and raised in Greece in a family of Asia Minor refugees and artists, Lazaridi's personal written work focuses on high emotional-impact narratives of dislocation and survival and her performance-centered screenplays have consistently attracted major collaborators domestically and abroad. Her first feature film *Coming Up Roses* starred Broadway icon Bernadette Peters and introduced Rachel Brosnahan, and her historical feature documentary *Varian and Putzi: A 20th Century Tale* was directed by Academy Award winner Richard Kaplan and was released theatrically at the Museum of Modern Art. In 2017 Christina's first produced screenplay in Greece, *Rosa of Smyrna*, was a box office sensation surpassing all international sales.

Current projects include TV series *Escape Attempt*, based on the Strugatsky brothers Soviet sci-fi novels, (in collaboration with Grammy Award winning company Aggressive TV) and *Femen*, a dramatic biopic of the Ukrainian activist movement (produced by Pan-Europeenne and Arthouse Traffic for director Darya Zhuk).

Lazaridi is the recipient of a prestigious Silver Condor Award for best screenplay for her work in Julia Solomonoff's critically acclaimed *Nobody's Watching*. She was nominated for an Academy Award for her work in Hungarian Holocaust drama, *One Day Crossing*.

Christina holds an MFA with Honors from Columbia University's Graduate Film Division and a BA with Honors from Princeton University. She lives in New York City, with her husband and young daughter.

Homi Bhabha and Paul Chouchana, "In Absentia"

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 | Online via Zoom

Today, we are increasingly interpellated by potentially traumatic images—from across the world and from down the street—directly addressed to us. They are there when we open our phones, our computers. They pop up on our feeds, are sent to us by friends. They command our attention

and demand a response. They make us belated witnesses to events that we were absent for, participants in global, virtual political conversations. What ethical response do they call for? How do they affect us? In this conversation, we will explore what it means to live through events in absentia.

Biography

Homi K. Bhabha is the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities in the English and Comparative Literatures Departments at Harvard University. He was founding director of the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University from 2011-2019 and director of the Harvard Humanities Center from 2005-2011. From 2008-2019, he held the inaugural position of Senior Adviser on the Humanities to the President and Provost at Harvard University and from 2005-2008 served as Senior Adviser in the Humanities at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Bhabha is the author of numerous works exploring postcolonial theory, cultural change and power, contemporary art, and cosmopolitanism, including *Nation and Narration*, and *The Location of Culture*, which was reprinted as a Routledge Classic in 2004. His next book will be published by the University of Chicago Press. Bhabha has written extensively on contemporary art for *Artforum* and has written a range of essays on William Kentridge, Anish Kapoor, Taryn Simon and Mathew Barney, amongst others. He is a member of the Academic Committee for the Shanghai Power Station of Art, advisor on the Contemporary and Modern Art Perspectives (CIMAP) project at the Museum of Modern Art New York, and Curator in Residence of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Bhabha served on jury for the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009 and the Sharjah Biennale in 2018. With the support of the Volkswagen and Mellon Foundations, Bhabha is leading a research project on the Global Humanities. In 1997 he was profiled by *Newsweek* as one of “100 Americans for the Next Century.” He holds honorary degrees from Université Paris 8, University College London, and the Free University Berlin. In 2012 he was awarded the Government of India’s Padma Bhushan Presidential Award in the field of literature and education and received the Humboldt Research Prize in 2015. In December 2018 Bhabha received an honorary doctorate at Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa. Since 2021, he has been critic in residence at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Last year, he was named Honorary Student of Christ Church, Oxford College and Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Paul Chouchana is a PhD Candidate in the department of Comparative Literature at Harvard University. He is writing a dissertation at the intersection of film studies, philosophy, and memory studies, on the inscription of memory in the domestic in three documentaries and one play from around the world, focusing on traumatic memories of recent wars. Before that, he studied literary theory at the École normale supérieure in Paris and Russian Literature & Culture at Columbia University, where he was a John Jay Scholar, and Lavinia’s favorite advisee. Paul is currently spending the year in Paris researching and writing on a fellowship from Harvard.

Timnit Gebru, “*#TeamHuman: Community Rooted AI Research*”

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 | Online via Zoom

In the last few years, the quest to build so-called Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), an undefined system which seemingly can do any task under any circumstance, has captured the public's imagination. Those whose mission has been to build this system, like the leaders of OpenAI, Deepmind and others, discuss the utopia that will imminently come from building AGI, or the apocalypse that will be caused by it rendering humanity extinct. In this talk, I discuss the history of the AGI movement, and its link to the 20th century eugenics movement, with those who "christened" the term AGI having the goal of replacing humans with a superior race they call "transhuman AGI." I outline the harms the quest to build AGI has caused, including labor exploitation, centralization of power and the safety issues associated with building an unscoped system. I close by giving examples of various movements to resist this trend, including artists' fight to preserve their humanity and dignity with the hashtag #TeamHuman. I urge the African machine learning community to focus on small, constrained, task specific models, and present some of our work from DAIR showing how this approach outperforms the one size fits all trend to building machine learning based models.

Biography

Timnit Gebru is the founder and executive director of the Distributed Artificial Intelligence Research Institute (DAIR). Prior to that she was fired by Google in December 2020 for raising issues of discrimination in the workplace, where she was serving as co-lead of the Ethical AI research team. She received her PhD from Stanford University, and did a postdoc at Microsoft Research, New York City in the FATE (Fairness Accountability Transparency and Ethics in AI) group, where she studied algorithmic bias and the ethical implications underlying projects aiming to gain insights from data. Timnit also co-founded Black in AI, a nonprofit that works to increase the presence, inclusion, visibility and health of Black people in the field of AI, and is on the board of AddisCoder, a nonprofit dedicated to teaching algorithms and computer programming to Ethiopian highschool students, free of charge.

Jose Contreras, “*Absence of Life: A Palliative Care Journey Exploring Life and Death*”

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 | Online via Zoom

Palliative care is a medical specialty that focuses on the wellness of a person with serious illness. Anybody with serious illness, young, old or in between, can receive palliative care consultation in the medical setting. The expectation when working with a palliative care team is the best outcome possible in any serious disease trajectory that is measured by optimal quality of life and increased survival. This discussion will focus on my personal journey and a special person I met along the way.

Biography

Jose Contreras, M.D. has worked at Hackensack Meridian Medical for just over 18 years. Dr. Contreras is board certified in Family Practice and Palliative Medicine and is Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. He graduated from University of California with a B.A. in Economics, University of Francisco Marroquin - School of Medicine and completed a fellowship in Pain and Palliative Care at Memorial Sloan-Kettering.

Dr. Contreras has held a longtime passion for medical education and its humanitarian role that has translated into his commitment with the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine where he is an assistant professor in the unique, longitudinal Human Dimension course. The Human Dimension course is dedicated to lifelong learning and includes a student's role in the community and in the context of health and wellbeing, empathy towards suffering, excellence in medical care, research and discovery and humility in service. These topics resonate strongly with Dr. Contreras. He recognizes the importance of recruiting medical students that have attained outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated dedication to the mission and vision of the medical school. The mission of the school of medicine includes professional reverence to the human condition and a commitment to serving the underrepresented minority populations. Dr. Contreras is a cancer survivor.

As the Chair of the Institute of Pain & Palliative Medicine he leads innovative culture change; specializes in oncology pain and palliative medicine. Voted as Top Doctors in NJ since 2014 and Castle Connolly Top Doctors in NJ and NY since 2015. Dr. Contreras was honored with the Planetree Physician Champion Award, given for honoring patient respect, compassion and empathy. Dr. Contreras was recently honored with the Hackensack Meridian Health, Jose A. Contreras, MD scholarship award that contributes towards a young, up and coming employee's higher education.

Favorite quotes are many and include "every man is free to rise as far as he's able or willing, but it's only the degree to which he thinks that determines the degree to which he'll rise." "Compassion and love are not mere luxuries. As a source of inner and outer peace, they are fundamental to the continued survival of our species."

EMERGENCE: 2022-2023

Since early 2020, when Covid-19 was first declared a public health emergency, questions of emergence — that is, when, how, and if we will emerge from the pandemic — have dominated news headlines and dinner table conversations. But what does it mean to “emerge”? How can we — as individuals and as a global community — truly emerge from a continuously shifting public crisis? What aspects of our society have emerged as points of social, political, cultural, and scientific importance over the past few years? And what aspects of our society have yet to emerge?

In this Speaker Series, we will consider “emergence” broadly, with the understanding that emergence can mean one of (at least two) related but distinct ideas. On the one hand, “emergence” can involve an uncovering of something formerly concealed or muddled - think of a deer inching its way along a forest boundary, or of a swimmer’s head and shoulders breaking up through the surface of a swimming pool. On the other hand, we can understand “emergence” as a concept or idea that, though made of disparate parts, takes on its own shape and meaning. Here, we can think of the forest that emerges conceptually when we “see the forest for the trees.”

What do these various interpretations of “emergence” tell us about our present moment? How has our understanding of the world changed with the emergence of new technologies and modes of thinking? What relationship does the newly emerged bear to its recently submerged predecessor(s)? How can we define emergence if something (such as a pandemic) is not ever really behind us, and does emergence necessitate the shedding of the past? These questions guide us as we engage with the theme on a cross- and interdisciplinary scale, and challenge our understanding of what it means to “emerge.”

SPEAKER SERIES 2022-2023

Gareth Williams, “*Emergence, Renewal, and Learning from Experience: Some Ancient Thoughts on How to Come Back from a Setback*” – CUSP/ASP Annual NSOP Lecture
Wednesday, August 24, 2022 | Online via Zoom

At last our emergence from the pandemic has begun to gain momentum, and we all hope that that emergence will continue steadily in the next years so that we can regain stability in all our lives. So much has happened on so many fronts beyond the pandemic in recent times – so many socio-political crises and reckonings that have brought deep challenges and opportunities to our way of life. One useful way of thinking about how to emerge and learn from our own times of change is to look to the example of the past. In this talk the Greco-Roman myths of Odysseus, Oedipus, Aeneas and others will help us to think widely about the nature, scope, and excitement of emergence in our own times – emergence from (among other things) struggle, oppression, error, inhibition, and self-delusion.

Biography

Gareth Williams has taught at Columbia since 1992. He received a Ph.D. in 1990 from Cambridge University for a dissertation on Ovid’s exilic writings that subsequently resulted in two books: the first, *Banished Voices: Readings in Ovid’s Exile Poetry* (Cambridge, 1994), and the second, *The Curse of Exile: A Study of Ovid’s Ibis*, *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society Supplementary Volume 19* (Cambridge, 1996). Two distinct research phases followed, the first of which focused on the Latin ethical writings of Lucius Annaeus Seneca. Two monographs resulted, the first an edition with commentary of *L. Annaeus Seneca: Selected Moral Dialogues. De Otio, De Brevitate Vitae* (Cambridge, 2003); the second, *The Cosmic Viewpoint: A Study of Seneca’s Natural Questions* (Oxford, 2012), was awarded the Goodwin Award of Merit by the Society for Classical Studies in 2014. Most recently, among various other projects and edited volumes in the area of Roman philosophy, his research has focused on the socio-literary culture of Renaissance Venice, an interest that recently resulted in the publication of *Pietro Bembo on Etna: The Ascent of a Venetian Humanist* (Oxford, 2017).

David Krakauer, CUSP Inaugural Talk – “*Emergence: Evidence, Aesthetics, and Ethics*”
Wednesday, September 28, 2022 | Online via Zoom

In a new book project with my collaborator Tony Eagen called The Transcendent Triangle, we are endeavoring to grasp the triple foundations of understanding. We argue that all phenomena can be, and should be, viewed in terms of their truth claims, their appeal to beauty and emotion, and their social implications. And this holds for the concept of emergence on which I shall focus. I shall review the evidence bearing on emergence and how new phenomena arise through collective dynamical patterns. How these patterns give rise to challenging social and ethical questions in the domain of society. And end by considering the meaning of beauty in the unpredictable domain of emergent order.

Biography

David Krakauer is the President and William H. Miller Professor of Complex Systems at the Santa Fe Institute. His research explores the evolution of intelligence and stupidity on Earth. This includes

studying the evolution of genetic, neural, linguistic, social, and cultural mechanisms supporting memory and information processing, and exploring their shared properties.

He served as the founding Director of the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, the Co-Director of the Center for Complexity and Collective Computation, and Professor of Mathematical Genetics all at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Krakauer has been a visiting fellow at the Genomics Frontiers Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, a Sage Fellow at the Sage Center for the Study of the Mind at the University of Santa Barbara, a long-term Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and visiting Professor of Evolution at Princeton University. He was included in Wired Magazine's 2012 Smart List as one of fifty people "who will change the world," and Entrepreneur Magazine's 2016 list of visionary leaders advancing global research and business.

Ellen Sandler, "*How to Stand Out When You Have to Fit In—The Writer's Voice in a Collaborative Medium*"

Monday, October 17, 2022 | Online via Zoom

TV Writer and Producer, Ellen Sandler, will share her experiences at the writers' table and how an individual voice emerges through the collaborative process of television staff writing. She'll also let us in on a few of her favorite techniques for finding personal connections in a script.

Biography

Ellen Sandler received an Emmy nomination as a Writer/Producer of *Everybody Loves Raymond*, and has worked on the writing staffs of many TV comedies. [See [here](#) for complete credits.] She is the author of *The TV Writer's Workbook, A Creative Approach to Television Scripts* [Bantam/Dell]. It is a required text in film studies programs at UCLA, USC, NYU, Stanford, Northwestern, and the Sundance Film Festival. An internationally known speaker and teacher, she has consulted on TV development in Australia, Canada, Italy, Singapore, Japan, China, Dubai, and Israel; and has taught TV writing at Chapman University, UCLA, USC, the David Lynch Graduate School of Cinematic Arts at Maharishi International University, The New School, and The HB Studio Playwrights Unit, New York. She has an MFA from the American Film Institute and is a lifetime member of the Writers Guild of America.

Mark Wilding, "*TV: You Simply Can't Get Away From It*"

Thursday, October 27, 2022 | Online via Zoom

Long-time TV writer Mark Wilding offers a behind-the-scenes look at the world of television. He promises some statistics, some observations and as much gossip as time will allow.

Biography

Mark Wilding has worked in television for almost three decades, writing and producing both comedies and dramas. Comedy credits include *Ellen*, *Caroline In The City*, *The Naked Truth*, *Working* and *Jesse*. Drama credits include *Grey's Anatomy*, *Scandal*, *Good Girls* and *Charmed*.

Mark served as executive producer on Grey’s Anatomy for seven years, during which time he wrote a dozen episodes and was part of a writing staff that was twice nominated for an Emmy for best dramatic writing. His episode “Where The Boys Are” won the GLAAD Media Award for outstanding individual episode. He was executive producer and head writer on *Scandal* for five years. One of his episodes, “Nobody Likes Babies” was cited by Time Magazine as one of the Top 10 TV episodes of 2013. In 2005, “The Cell”, a pilot he co-wrote, was hailed by the New York Times as the “funniest unproduced script in Hollywood.” His play, “Our Man In Santiago”, is currently running off-Broadway.

James Colgrove, *“Trust and Authority: The Future of the U.S. Public Health System in a Post-COVID World”*

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 | Online via Zoom

The COVID pandemic has sparked polarizing debates in the U.S. over control measures such as quarantine, masking, and vaccination. The credibility and authority of the U.S. public health system has often come under attack during these debates. Although the politicization of COVID has been widely lamented over the past two years, disease outbreaks have always been inherently political events that entail not just scientific considerations but also questions of ethics, law, and policy. This talk will situate the COVID pandemic in historical context, examine some of the political controversies that arose as the U.S. confronted COVID in 2020-21, and reflect on the future of the U.S. public system as the country transitions into the next phase of the pandemic.

Biography

James Colgrove, PhD, MPH, is Dean of the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program at the Columbia School of General Studies and Professor of Sociomedical Sciences at the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. His research examines ethical, historical, and legal dimensions of public health policies. His books include *Epidemic City: The Politics of Public Health in New York* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2011) and *State of Immunity: The Politics of Vaccination in Twentieth-Century America* (University of California Press, 2006). His articles have been published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Science*, *Health Affairs*, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, and the *Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics*. His research has been supported by grants from the National Library of Medicine, the Greenwall Foundation, the Russell Sage Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Milbank Memorial Fund.

Ethel Sheffer, *“Why Does New York City Look the Way it Does?”*

Monday, November 14, 2022 | Online via Zoom

This presentation will provide a rapid survey and analysis of New York City’s land use development, its density, its skyscrapers, and its varied neighborhoods from the early 20th century to the present day. New York City was the fastest growing business and population center in the country in the early 20 th century, but in response to unregulated development, to growing concerns among various interests about the disruptive side of that development, New York City did create the first comprehensive zoning legislation in 1916. We will track and analyze that “tool” of planning and development, through the era of

New York's famous skyscrapers of the twenties and later, on to the changing population patterns due to the growing influence of the automobile and to the changing patterns of work and suburbanization, which resulted in the very great changes contained in the 1961 Zoning regulations. We will also reference the very recent New York and world wide-growth of the supertall building, as we examine the "emerging" 21st century city of New York.

Biography

Ethel Sheffer, FAICP, is an urban planner, civic and community leader and educator. She has served as an Adjunct Professor in Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation for more than 15 years. She has an extensive knowledge of New York City's neighborhoods, has been a community leader in several noteworthy battles and developments, has served as the President of the New York Chapter of the American Planning Association, and is a member of the NYC Public Design Commission.

Jeffrey Kluger, "*The James Webb Telescope—and the Cosmic Secrets it Will Reveal*"
Wednesday, December 7, 2022 | Online via Zoom

Ten billion dollars worth of Earthly hardware is parked in space one million miles from our planet. The hardware is the James Webb Space Telescope. The one-million-mile location is a Lagrange point—a spot in space where the gravity of the Earth and Sun effectively cancel each other out, allowing the telescope to remain stable and in place, gazing unblinkingly out at the cosmos for what engineers expect will be the next 25 years. The Webb telescope is far and away the most capable and ambitious cosmic observatory ever built, able to peer 13.6 billion light years away—and thus 13.6 billion years back in time—to a moment in cosmic history just 200 million years after the Big Bang. The Webb will witness the moments that the universe first turned its lights on—when stars and galaxies first swirled into existence, when the celestial nothing that was once all that existed began to transform itself into the celestial something that surrounds us today. We will discuss both the remarkable machine that the James Webb Space Telescope is, and—more importantly—the remarkable things it may discover.

Biography

Jeffrey Kluger is Editor at Large for Time Magazine, where he has written more than 45 cover stories on topics ranging from space to physics to health to psychology to human behavior. He is the author of 12 books, including "Apollo 13," which served as the basis for the 1995 movie, and the recent novel "Holdout."

Josef Sorett, "*Black is a Church: Christianity and the Contours of African American Life*"
Monday, January 30, 2023 | Online via Zoom

Within the context of American culture, Black studies are often described as if they are secular phenomena, but this talk will argue for the centrality of religion, religious expressions, and religious institutions to their identity, as well as examine what constitutes Afro-modernity and the polyvocal nature of "the Black church," a phenomenon often assumed to be monolithic

Biography

Josef Sorett serves as dean of Columbia College, the Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor and Vice President for Undergraduate Education at Columbia University. As the chief academic and executive officer of the College, Dean Sorett's central focus is to ensure that students have the best possible experience inside and outside the classroom. The dean oversees the College curriculum, which includes the Core Curriculum, as well as the other academic, co-curricular and programmatic services that form the foundation of the undergraduate experience at the College.

Prior to his current roles, Dean Sorett chaired the Department of Religion; was the director of the Center on African-American Religion, Sexual Politics & Social Justice; and was director of undergraduate studies in the Departments of Religion and African American and African Diaspora Studies. A recipient of Columbia's Lenfest Distinguished Faculty Award (2018) and a Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence (2022), he has also sat on numerous departmental and University-wide committees, councils and boards, including the Joint Committee on Instruction, which oversees the College and General Studies, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Policy Planning Committee, and chaired the Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Committee.

As an interdisciplinary scholar of religion and race in the Americas, and a professor of religion, African American and African diaspora studies, Dean Sorett employs primarily historical and literary approaches to the study of religion in Black communities and cultures in the United States, straddling the disciplines of history, literature, religion, art and music. His first book, *Spirit in the Dark: A Religious History of Racial Aesthetics*, illuminates how religion has figured in debates about Black art and culture across the 20th century. In addition to editing the recently released volume *The Sexual Politics of Black Churches*, Dean Sorett's forthcoming second book, *Black is a Church: Christianity and the Contours of (African) American Life*, will be published in 2023. He is working on a third, *There's a God on the Mic: Hip Hop's (Surprising) Religious History*.

Prior to joining Columbia's faculty in 2009, Dean Sorett was a fellow at Harvard's W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute, and an instructor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Medgar Evers College. He earned a B.S. from Oral Roberts University, an M.Div. in religion and literature from Boston University and a Ph.D. in African American studies from Harvard.

Peter Brannen, "*600 million years of CO₂: The carbon cycle in the age of animals*"

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 | Online via Zoom

Carbon dioxide is popularly portrayed as an industrial byproduct that just so happens to come out of smokestacks, rather than the fundamental substrate of all life--one whose balanced movement through the Earth's atmosphere, oceans, crust, and life has kept the planet habitable for billions of years. When this balance has been thrown off, in a manner similar to the current global industrial chemistry experiment on the planet, mass extinction has resulted. This talk will discuss our global crisis in the context of deep time--a context that illuminates just how unusual, and dangerous, this moment in time is.

Biography

Peter Brannen is an award-winning science journalist and contributing writer at The Atlantic. His work has also appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Scientific American, among other publications. His book, *The Ends of the World*, about the five major mass extinctions in Earth's history, was published in 2017 by Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins. He is an affiliate at the University of Colorado-Boulder's Institute for Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR).

Tumi Mogorosi, “*Black voice and the limit before invention, Louis Moholo and the incoherence of the beyond*”

Thursday, February 23, 2023 | Online via Zoom

What happens when thinking with incoherence as a marker to the limit of recognition, and what opens or closes when coupling it with Louis Moholo's adage "Yes baby, No Baby" (Mogorosi, 2020)? I wrestle with a way to engage Clark Terry's *the Mummies* (1966) that by way of Jes Grew in Reed is known as *Mumbo Jumbo* (1972). How do these moments read as a limit to coherence, or as something beyond the limit of recognition? Are they presenting the Fanonian leap which is the emergence of a potential to liberation or do they fall back into the wars of representation?

Biography

Tumi Mogorosi is an artist, activist and theorist with a focus on the Black liberation through the prism of the Black Radical tradition, also as way to engage the Black sonic in its diasporic articulation. Mogorosi has three Jazz and improvised music albums (*Project Elo*, 2014; *Santum Santorium*, 2017; *The Wretched*, 2020; *Group Theory: Black Music*, 2022), and features as a sideman on some leading groups in South Africa and globally. He holds an MAFA from University of Witwatersrand and he is currently enrolled in the political studies PhD programme with a focus on Afro pessimism and cultural work. As a Yeoville inhabitant, Mogorosi also has an anthology of essays titled *Deaesthetic: writing with and from the Black Sonic 2020* Iwalewa Books. Being a Yeoville inhabitant has enabled his trans-national orientation to thought and being which fosters the infidelity to the performative relay of national situated (ness). His practice straddles across performance theory, jazz studies, Afropessimism, critical theory and Black studies in close relation with the question on Black liberation beyond the incompleteness of the South African rainbowism and global emancipation politics. Thinking beyond the national level opens up ways to think of the trans-national acoustics that can be found as a "trace" of the sameness in different cultural articulations. Within the South African context and its eleven official cultures there is an opening to create and complicate narratives that are historically bound, and finally to open up a conversation between ethnomusicology and critical race theory as a way to think historical images presented through the sonic lenses.

Jamieson Webster, “*Emergent Psychoanalysis*”

Thursday, March 2, 2023 | Online via Zoom

How does psychoanalysis deal with emergent phenomenon? Is it simply the old cliché about the unconscious, repressed trauma, disavowed sexuality, the Oedipus complex? Or is there something more important to learn here, not just about individuals, but how we are bound together as a society? Freud

once felt that psychoanalysis, in so far as it listened to our latent wishes and how they create social bonds, could be prophetic. In this talk I will present this future oriented psychoanalysis.

Biography

Jamieson Webster is a psychoanalyst in New York City. She teaches at the New School for Social Research and supervises doctoral students in clinical psychology at the City University of New York, and is a member of the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. She is the author of *The Life and Death of Psychoanalysis* (Routledge, 2011), *Stay, Illusion!* with Simon Critchley (Vintage, 2013), *Conversion Disorder* (Columbia University Press, 2018), and *Disorganisation and Sex* (Divided, 2022). She writes regularly for *Artforum*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times* and *Spike Art Quarterly*.

Jane Adams, “*Emergence in Complex Self-Organizing Systems, or: Ants Invented TCP/IP*”

Thursday, March 23, 2023 | Online via Zoom

Forager ants in the Arizona desert have a problem: after leaving the nest, they don't return until they've found food. On the hottest and driest days, this means many ants will die before finding food, let alone before bringing it back to the nest.

All ants in the colony coordinate to minimize the number of forager ants lost while maximizing the amount of food foraged. Their solution is necessarily decentralized and abstract: no single ant coordinates the others, and the solution must withstand the loss of individual ants and extend to new ants. The solution focuses on simple yet essential features and capabilities of each ant, and uses them to great effect. In this sense, it is incredibly elegant.

In this talk, we'll examine a handful of natural and computer systems to illustrate how to cast system-wide problems into solutions at the individual component level, yielding incredibly simple algorithms for incredibly complex collective behaviors.

Biography

Jane Adams works at Two Sigma Investments, where her job is to think about the many ways datasets can break and how to deal with it. Previously, she worked as a data scientist in the child welfare domain. She has an undergraduate degree in Emergence in Complex Systems from NYU, and a MS in Applied Urban Data Science (also from NYU). Outside of work, she makes ceramics and runs a community direct aid operation to provide diapers to Brooklyn families every week.

Andrew Smyth, “*The Emergence of a Digital Layer within Our Urban Infrastructure*”

Wednesday, March 29, 2023 | Online via Zoom

With increasing urbanization in America and around the world, urban challenges have become humanity's challenges. Engineering can play a critical role in addressing these challenges. Already opportunities of new and more pervasive sensing modalities coupled with powerful computational

modeling tools to better understand and manage our cities are hitting their stride to improve efficiencies, safety and performance. But over the horizon an even greater opportunity to overlay and integrate a digital layer with our physical urban system layer offers new channels for improved livability for all through adaptive urban functionality. Next Generation low-latency high-bandwidth communications and edge computing technologies leveraging broader contextual awareness from sensor arrays will be at the heart of this digital layer. Critical to the adoption of a more real-time, high precision, digital layer with urban functionality is the integration of security, privacy and fairness from inception at this new frontier in processing of sensed data from the public domain. The presentation traces the speaker's research path from infrastructure monitoring, to vehicle fleet monitoring to broader use of urban sensor data in enhancing performance of infrastructure systems, culminating in a new initiative - the NSF Engineering Research Center for Smart Streetscapes.

Biography

Andrew Smyth is the Robert A.W. and Christine S. Carleton Professor of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics at Columbia University. He is the Co-Chair of the Smart Cities Center at the Columbia Data Science Institute. He specializes in structural health monitoring, using sensor information to determine the condition of critical infrastructure. Recently his interest in sensor network monitoring has expanded to large fleets of vehicles in urban environments. Smyth has been involved with the sensor instrumentation and vibration analysis and remote monitoring of a large number of iconic long-span bridges and landmark buildings and museums. His research interests include the development of data fusion and system identification algorithms to derive maximum information from large heterogeneous sensor networks monitoring dynamical systems, nonlinear system dynamical modeling and simulation, and natural hazards risk assessment.

He is the PI and Director of a recently (2022) awarded \$26M NSF Engineering Research Center for Smart Streetscapes. He is an NSF CAREER award recipient, 2008 ASCE Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize recipient, and in 2013 was elected as a Fellow of the ASCE Engineering Mechanics Institute. In 2007 he was a Visiting Researcher at the Laboratoire Central des Ponts et Chaussées, Paris, in 2014 a Visiting Researcher at KU Leuven in Belgium, and in 2019-20 a Visiting Professor at Trinity College, Dublin. In 2018-2019 he served on NY State Governor's 6 member L-Train Tunnel Review Panel which proposed a rehabilitation redesign obviating the need for a 15-month shutdown. In 2018 received the Great Teacher Award from the Society of Columbia Graduates.

He currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering & Engineering Mechanics, and is the Faculty Director of Research for Columbia's Robert A.W. Carleton Strength of Materials Laboratory. He is the founding co-Editor in Chief of the Journal of Intelligent Infrastructure and Resilience. He has served as an Assoc. Editor of the ASCE Jo. of Engineering Mechanics and on the Editorial Board of the Int. Jo. of Structural Control and Monitoring, and in 2011 was elected to serve on the Board of Governors of the ASCE Engineering Mechanics Institute, and in 2013 served as the Vice President of the EMI. He is the President of the International Association of Structural Control and Monitoring.

Prof. Smyth received his Sc.B. and A.B. degrees at Brown University in 1992 in Civil Engineering and Architectural Studies respectively. He received his M.S. in Civil Engineering at Rice in 1994, an M.S. in

Electrical Engineering (1997) and his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering (1998) at the University of Southern California.

Key Rhodes, *“Tech Talk: Ethical Design // Responsible Innovation - Then, Now and Later”*

Monday, April 3, 2023 | Online via Zoom

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the world was confronted with the proliferation of social impact initiatives grounded in the prioritization of privacy, human-centered artificial intelligence, product inclusion standards and much more. Due to an unprecedented degree to which individuals relied and continue to rely on technology to access care and resources, connect and collaborate within and across personal and professional environments in addition to the institutional uses of technology to monitor, report and facilitate the Covid-19 responses -- ethical questions have been raised. The question of ethics have compelled people and organizations to explore and/or reexamine the design, delivery and development of new and emerging technology. Questions across the tech, government, nonprofit and academic institutions, among others, include: Is privacy a human right? What does responsible innovation look like in a world where everyone's humanity is honored? How can technologists design with diversity, equity and inclusion in mind? What is corporate social responsibility? To what extent can the government create processes of accountability with institutions that violate humane standards? How do policymakers rectify the pace through which policymaking happens and the rapid speed of innovation?

Biography

Keyaria “Key” Rhodes an innovative visionary working toward a fairer, healthier, more inclusive world. As a social change leader committed to responsible artificial intelligence and innovation, her intersectional and cross-sectorial work has informed her multifaceted approach to achieving justice. She has served as a trusted advisor for global initiatives across corporate, universities, government and nonprofit institutions for over 10 years. She's the founder of a successful consulting firm and leads ethical design initiatives grounded in social science research at Microsoft.

As a Tech Evangelist who advocates for the business value of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Key is deeply invested in the intersections of technology and justice. Her research explores the role of data and social media in shaping the lived experiences of historically excluded people. She has earned several honors and awards for her work, which includes receiving national recognition as a Research Fellow at Columbia University, the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, the University of Chicago – among others.

Key holds an M.A. from Columbia University in African-American and African Diaspora Studies, a graduate certificate from the Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality at Columbia University along with a B.A. and Advanced Research Certification from the University of Washington. She is passionate about applying her knowledge and skills as a subject matter expert on issues that pertain to race, gender, sexuality, accessibility, etc. Key can be found enjoying brunch, roller skating, or hiking in her free time and she's an active mentor for early in career professionals.

Denise Cruz, “*The Rise of Couture in Manila: Fashion in the Postwar Philippines*”

Thursday, April 20, 2023 | Online via Zoom

1947 was a good year to become a fashion designer in Manila. While New Yorkers and Parisians hotly debated Christian Dior’s “new look,” on the other side of the globe, elite Filipina women recovered from the ravages of the Pacific War in part by completely reconfiguring the nation’s relationship to dress. Fashion transformed from being inspired by individual choices made by prominent socialites and their in-house dressmakers to a new process outsourced to designers. The city saw the efflorescence of salons and ateliers, the creation of fashion schools, and the appearance of the word “couturier” (fashion designer) in the press. In this presentation, I examine the rise of a new practice of fashion that unsettled social boundaries, as women became entrepreneurs and gay men became celebrities, and recover the story of how this emergence led to forms of recovery and creativity in the decades after World War II.

Biography

Denise Cruz (she/hers) is Professor and Chair of English and Comparative Literature. She writes and teaches about gender and sexuality in national and transnational cultures. She is the author of *Transpacific Femininities: the Making of the Modern Filipina*, the editor of Yay Panlilio’s *The Crucible: The Autobiography of Colonel Yay, Filipina American Guerrilla*, and she has published essays in *American Literature*, *American Quarterly*, *American Literary History*, *PMLA*, *the Journal of Asian American Studies*, *Modern Fiction Studies*. She was a Ford Foundation predoctoral, dissertation, and postdoctoral fellow, and she was the 2021 recipient of Columbia’s Presidential Teaching Award and the Mark Van Doren Teaching Award.

RESILIENCE: 2021-2022

“Disasters shake things loose and the things we regarded as fixed and unchangeable can suddenly be changed,” Rebecca Solnit commented on a WBUR podcast last year. In 2020, we reckoned with a severe disruption in our status quo. Economies, health care systems, food chains, and the everyday lives of people were quickly dismantled, laying bare the fragility of the values and structures of our pre-pandemic world, and opening up the possibility to reimagine our futures. Since March 2020, institutions—corporate, medical, academic, familial—have called upon their members to recover the losses from the last year, to show resilience in the face of a mercurial instability that promises to last beyond the current pandemic.

In a world of continual disruptions—by climate disasters, border disputes, mutating viruses, and more—resilience is power. And who holds it determines everything. Resilience can manifest as resistance to disaster and disruption, and also to hierarchies of power and the status quo. Resilience can be mobilized as a way of adapting to challenges brought about by new political and ecological disruptions. But it can also be wielded as a tool for accepting new forms of institutional exploitation and inequality. The call for resilience has the potential to disrupt or to reinforce existing power structures and dynamics. In many ways, as Arundhati Roy states, “the pandemic is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.” But who gets to determine the contours of that “next” world? When the nature of such rebuilding and reimagining is slow and unremarkable, visible only in hindsight, how do we begin to account for and guide the development of what is to come? How do calls for resilience and adaptability unite or divide individuals, societies, nations and ecosystems? In the face of constant upheavals, what roles do resilience and stability play in our futures?

SPEAKER SERIES 2021-2022

Gareth Williams, *On the Rebound: Resilience, Bouncing Back, and Encore in the Core – “CUSP/ASP Annual NSOP Lecture”*

Thursday, August 26, 2021 | Online via Zoom

Just what is resilience? How do we begin to define such a wide-ranging term? Has that quality been differently perceived over the ages within a given culture or across diverse cultures? Is resilience always a good thing? This talk will consider various forms and illustrations of resilience in different cultural settings from the past, with reference to many of the texts that figure in the Columbia Core. A major aim will be to complicate our view of what resilience is and can be in the different settings that we shall consider.

Biography

Gareth Williams has taught at Columbia since 1992. He received a Ph.D. in 1990 from Cambridge University for a dissertation on Ovid’s exilic writings that subsequently resulted in two books: the first, *Banished Voices: Readings in Ovid’s Exile Poetry* (Cambridge, 1994), and the second, *The Curse of Exile: A Study of Ovid’s Ibis*, *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society* Supplementary Volume 19 (Cambridge, 1996). Two distinct research phases followed, the first of which focused on the Latin ethical writings of Lucius Annaeus Seneca. Two monographs resulted, the first an edition with commentary of *L. Annaeus Seneca: Selected Moral Dialogues. De Otio, De Brevitate Vitae* (Cambridge, 2003); the second, *The Cosmic Viewpoint: A Study of Seneca’s Natural Questions* (Oxford, 2012), was awarded the Goodwin Award of Merit by the Society for Classical Studies in 2014. Most recently, among various other projects and edited volumes in the area of Roman philosophy, his research has focused on the socio-literary culture of Renaissance Venice, an interest that recently resulted in the publication of *Pietro Bembo on Etna: The Ascent of a Venetian Humanist* (Oxford, 2017).

Scott Barry Kaufman, *“Post-Pandemic Growth — “CUSP Inaugural Lecture”*

Wednesday, October 13, 2021 | Online via Zoom

Can we grow from traumatic events? If so, how can such growth be fostered and cultivated? In this talk, I will present the latest science of post-traumatic growth and help people find meaning and process the events of the past year. Humans have a great capacity for resilience. I will help people tap into it using the tools of gratitude, exploration, purpose, and other areas of positive and humanistic psychology.

Biography

Scott Barry Kaufman, Ph.D., is a cognitive scientist and humanistic psychologist exploring the mind, creativity, and the depths of human potential. He is founder and director of the Center for the Science of Human Potential and is an Honorary Principal Fellow at the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Wellbeing Science. He is author/editor of 9 books, including *Transcend: The New Science of Self-Actualization*, and is host of the #1 psychology podcast in the world—

The Psychology Podcast— which has received over 17 million downloads. Dr. Kaufman received a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from Yale University and has taught courses on intelligence, cognitive science, creativity, and well-being at Columbia University, Yale, NYU, the University of Pennsylvania, and elsewhere. In 2015, he was named one of “50 groundbreaking scientists who are changing the way we see the world” by *Business Insider*.

Susanna Coffey, *“Imagination: Source of Resilience”*

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 | Online via Zoom

The word 'imagination' is often associated with terms like fantasy, fairy tale, lack of reality, false memory, even lie. But if one closely considers one’s imaginative activities one might understand this wonderful, vital capability... Its ability to help us survive the unexpected.

Biography

Susanna Coffey, Director of Undergrad Studies in Columbia University’s School of Visual Art has been a Visiting Professor of Painting since 2018. She recently retired as the F.H. Sellers Professor in Painting at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. After receiving her BFA magna cum laude from the University of Connecticut at Storrs she graduated as a MFA from the Yale School of Art. A respected figurative painter, her works in self-portraiture are investigations of the iconic human head. Her series of paintings portraying other women artists and writers at work in their studios was recently exhibited at Steven Harvey Fine Arts Projects. In addition to her work in portraiture she is involved in other projects. Her book *Night Painting* was recently published in its second edition by MAB Books. This book features her nocturnal landscape paintings as well as essays, poems and prose poems by Dr. Carol Becker, Brice Brown, Jane Coffey, Jane Kenyon and Mark Strand. Currently she is working with The Leroy Nieman Center for Print Studies on a series of woodcut illustrations for Apostolos Athenassakis’ English translation of *The Homeric Hymn to Demeter*.

Coffey’s work is included in the collections of The Art Institute of Chicago, The National Portrait Gallery, National Academy of Design, The Hood Museum, The Honolulu Museum of Art, Minneapolis Museum of Art, The Weatherspoon Art Museum, the Yale University Art Gallery, and others. This year she was one of the recipients of the “Artist x Artist Award” given by the Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Other awards include the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, the National Endowment for the Arts Award, and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Award. Her many one-person exhibitions have been written about in *The New York Times*, *Art in America*, *Art News*, *The New Yorker*, *Hyperallergic*, and other publications. Several books and monographs have included, or featured, her work. She received honorary degrees from the Pennsylvania College of the Arts and the Lyme Academy of Art.

This coming fall her work will be exhibited at the High Museum in Atlanta, Georgia and the Yale University Art Gallery in New Haven, Connecticut. Ms. Coffey is represented in New York by Steven Harvey Fine Arts Projects.

Kyle T. Mandli, *“Coastal Resilience in the Face of Climate Change”*

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 | Online via Zoom

Coastal communities from small islands in the Pacific to New York City are all threatened by climate change. The changing risk to these communities is a central question that needs to be assessed in order to address how to best make each diverse community more resilient to the threat of climate change. This discussion will focus on some of the computational tools that mathematicians, scientists and engineers across the spectrum of disciplines, from anthropology to civil engineering, and how these disciplines are contributing to a solution that can hopefully span the diversity of communities that are under threat.

Biography

Kyle T. Mandli is Associate Professor of Applied Mathematics in the department of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics and affiliated with the Columbia Data Science Institute. Before Columbia he was at the University of Texas at Austin where he was a Research Associate at the Institute for Computational and Engineering Sciences working in the computational hydraulics group. He received his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics in 2011 from the University of Washington studying multi-layered flow as it applies to storm-surge simulation. His research interests involve the computational and analytical aspects of geophysical shallow mass flows such as storm-surge, tsunamis, and other coastal flooding. This also includes the development of advanced computational approaches, such as adaptive mesh refinement, leveraging novel computational technologies, such as accelerators, and the application of good software development practices as applied more generally to scientific and engineering software.

Peter Basch, “My loopy, inefficient, random trajectory to Mars”

Thursday, December 2, 2021 | Online via Zoom

Peter worked on the Mars 2020 (Perseverance to you) project at the Kennedy Space Center, documenting the 1000-odd procedures used to assemble and test the Rover and Helicopter. He will share his view of the process, complicated by Covid-19, which struck smack in the middle of his stay in Florida. He will also share his story of being a first-generation college student at Columbia.

Biography

Peter Basch is a technical writer and editor at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the Center for Robotic and Deep-Space Exploration at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He studied Physics, took lots of classes in Medieval Studies (being obsessed with Tolkien), then dropped out of grad school at Berkeley to be an actor in New York. He spent fifteen years slowly realizing that maybe he should write instead. He wrote a play called *English (It's Where the Words Are)*, which got a good review in the New York Times. This brought him to Los Angeles where he met his wife and found, to his surprise, that there were other places in the world than NYC. Suddenly needing to make an actual living, he evolved into a technical writer and got a job at JPL, where he has been for a decade.

Mujib Mashal, "Storytelling as Coping"

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 | Online via Zoom

Mujib Mashal will discuss the impact of trauma on identity, and the place of storytelling as a coping tool when trauma becomes the overwhelming reality.

Biography

Mujib Mashal is the Bureau Chief of South Asia for The New York Times based in New Delhi. Born and raised in Kabul during Afghanistan's civil war, he received a school scholarship to study at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts soon after the fall of the Taliban in 2001. He graduated with a degree in South Asian history from Columbia University, focusing on India's independence movement.

Thomas Dodman, “Extravagant Feelings: Resilience and Emotional Survival at War”

Monday, February 21, 2022 | Online via Zoom

There is an old saying, dating back to the American Civil War if not before, that soldiering is 99% boredom and 1% terror. The experience of war is an affective one--possibly one of the most intensely felt activities known to human beings. But this is also a site of erasure, insofar as soldiers are typically expected to master their feelings and cultivate stoicism. What tremors lie beneath their "stiff upper lips"? What muted cries of pain, anger, and joy rise out of the trenches? This talk will explore the wide-ranging emotional lives of soldiers at war to help us think about the notion of resilience in extra-ordinary times.

Biography

Thomas Dodman is Assistant Professor in the Department of French at Columbia University and director of the MA program in History & Literature at Columbia's Global Center in Paris. A historian by training, he is the author of *What Nostalgia Was: War, Empire and the Time of a Deadly Emotion* (Chicago, 2018) and the coeditor of *Une Histoire de la guerre du XIXe siècle à nos jours* (Seuil, 2018). He obtained his PhD from the University of Chicago in 2011 and was a Mellon Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton in 2016-17.

Mary Marshall Clark, “*Oral History Lessons from 9/11 and Covid-19 Stories*”

Wednesday March 9, 2022 | Online via Zoom

In two longitudinal oral history projects conducted by the Columbia Center for Oral History Research/INCITE, one focused on the welfare of New Yorkers begun immediately after 9/11, and the other, focused on the welfare of New Yorkers during the COVID-19 pandemic, ordinary New Yorkers seek, and sometimes fail, to make meaning of their experiences. For those who were able to find meaning, connecting to resilience, they did so by forging and maintaining relationships with others

Biography

In addition to being the Director of the Columbia University Center for Oral History Research in INCITE, Mary Marshall is the co-founding director of Columbia's Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) degree program (with Peter Bearman) created in 2008-09, the first oral history master's program in the United States. Mary Marshall has been involved in the oral history movement since 1991, and was president of the United States Oral History Association from 2001-2002. She was the co-principal investigator (with Peter Bearman) of *The September 11, 2001 Oral History Narrative and Memory Project*, a longitudinal oral history project through which over 1,000 hours of interviews were taken with eye-witnesses, immigrants and others who suffered in the aftermath of the events. She also directed related projects on the aftermath of September 11th in New York City.

Mary Marshall has directed projects on the Carnegie Corporation, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Japanese Internment on the East Coast. She founded the *Guantanamo Rule of Law Oral History Project* in 2009, through which over 350 hours of oral history were collected with advocacy and constitutional lawyers, lawmakers, judges, representatives from the department of state, former prisoners and psychologists who protested the American Psychological Association's involvement in torture. Mary Marshall was president of the national Oral History Association in 2001-2002, and participated in the founding of the International Oral History Association. She has conducted life history interviews with lead figures in the media, human rights, African American history, South Africa history and recorded women's achievements in journalism, politics and the arts. Mary Marshall directs Columbia University's biannual Summer Institute in Oral History. She writes on issues of memory, the mass media, trauma, and ethics in oral history. Mary Marshall is an editor of *After the Fall: New Yorkers Remember September 11, 2001 and the Years that Followed*, published by The New Press in September, 2011. She is a co-author of the human rights publication *Documenting and Interpreting Conflict through Oral History: A Working Guide*, co-produced by Columbia University and TAARII, the American Institute for Research in Iraq. She is an editor of the Columbia University Press Oral History Series, announced in 2019. Currently, Mary Marshall is a co-principal investigator and interviewer on the [Obama Presidency Oral History Project](#) and is the director of the [Human Rights Campaign Oral History Project](#), tracing the history of the Human Rights Campaign in advocating for the rights of LGBTQ people in the United States.

Derek Kravitz, "Documenting COVID-19"

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 | Online via Zoom

Documenting COVID-19 (<https://documentingcovid19.io/>) is a searchable repository of documents obtained through local, state and federal open-records laws and the Freedom of Information Act related to the coronavirus pandemic. Since the project's inception in March 2020, it has grown to include more than 500,000 pages of tagged and keyword-searchable health department and government records and we have partnered with dozens of newsrooms, including The New York Times and The Washington Post, to produce journalism on the pandemic's impact on meatpacking and migrant farm facilities, reopening plans and super-spreader events. Over the course of the next four months, we would like to expand the project, to allow for a

searchable timeline of pandemic-related information, for academics, historians and researchers, and new visualizations for our growing collection of health and business data.

Biography

Derek Kravitz is working on grant-funded initiatives in 2020-21 through Columbia and Stanford's Brown Institute for Media Innovation. He is also an instructor for the Columbia Journalism School's Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism, where he teaches research and reporting skills. From 2016 to 2019, he was the research director at ProPublica, the New York-based investigative nonprofit newsroom, and, for the past decade, has worked as a reporter and editor at The Wall Street Journal, The Associated Press and The Washington Post. Kravitz is a two-time Livingston Award finalist — for work with The New Yorker and ProPublica — and projects he edited or reported have won prizes from the George Polk Awards, the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, the Online News Association, Investigative Reporters and Editors and the Deadline Club. He has also been a part of three teams that have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize.

Rishi Goyal, "*Heroes and Villains: Moral injury and Resilience in healthcare during COVID*"
Tuesday, March 29, 2022 | Online via Zoom

Throughout the pandemic, doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers were celebrated as "heroes". This form of address came even as those same healthcare workers felt needlessly endangered by precarious working conditions. The metaphoric framework of pandemic as war resulted in valorization, but also in the roll calls of the fallen. I want to explore the narrative and discursive possibilities afforded by the idea of the hero in the setting of moral injury while also pointing to acts of resilience, generosity, and gratitude.

Biography

BA, Dartmouth (1997); MD, Columbia (2001); MA, Columbia (2002); Ph.D., Columbia (2010). Professor Goyal is Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center (in Medical Humanities and Ethics and the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society) and founding director of the major in Medical Humanities. Professor Goyal completed his residency in Emergency Medicine as Chief Resident while finishing his PhD in English and Comparative Literature. His research interests include the health humanities, the study of the novel, and medical epistemology. His writing has appeared in *The Living Handbook of Narratology*, *Aktuel Forskning*, *Litteratur, Kultur og Medier*, and *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, among other places. He is a Co-Founding Editor of the online journal, *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, and a recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant. He is currently working on Increasing Vaccine Confidence through a grant from Columbia World Projects.

Eric Sanderson, "*Prospects for Resilience: Learning from the Past to Plan New York City's Future*"
Thursday, April 14, 2022 | Online via Zoom

Hard as it might be to believe, peering over the pile of concrete, glass, asphalt, and building stone that is New York City, at one time there was no city. Rather there were forests with streams running through; wetlands loud with insects and frogs; beaches lapped by estuary waters; and wildlife in numbers astounding to the modern mind. These ecosystems and their inhabitants, including the indigenous cultures of people over the last 8000 years, knew some things about dealing with climate change, great storms, long droughts, social unrest, and living on the land with grace and dignity. Here I will try to extract a few parables from the city's historical ecology to help spur our collective imaginations toward conceiving a hopeful and thriving future for awesome Gotham through what remains of the 21st century and beyond.

Biography

Eric W. Sanderson is a Senior Conservation Ecologist at the Wildlife Conservation Society. Sanderson received his Ph.D. in ecology (emphasis in ecosystem and landscape ecology) from the University of California, Davis, in 1998, while studying with Dr. Susan Ustin. Starting at WCS in 1998, he established the “Landscape Ecology and Geographic Analysis” program to bring landscape thinking and geographic analysis tools into the conservation practices of the WCS. In 2002 Dr. Sanderson and colleagues created the Human Footprint map, the first look at human influence globally at less than 1 square mile resolution. He is also an expert on species conservation planning and has contributed to efforts to save lions, tigers, Asian bears, jaguars, tapirs, peccaries, American crocodiles, North American bison and Mongolian gazelle; and landscape planning conservation efforts in Argentina, Tanzania, Mongolia, and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Adirondack Park, in the USA. He has edited two scientific volumes and written numerous scientific papers. His work has been featured in the New York Times, National Geographic Magazine, CNN, NPR, and The New Yorker. He is also the director of The Mannahatta Project, an effort to reconstruct the original ecology of Manhattan Island at the time of European discovery in the early seventeenth century. In 2009 he published a book, “Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City,” illustrated by Markley Boyer. From May 20 – October 12, 2009, Dr. Sanderson curated an exhibition based on the Mannahatta Project on display at the Museum of the City of New York.

Christina Lazaridi, *"Scars of Life, Seeds of Life: Empathy, Storytelling, and Resilience"*
Monday, April 18, 2022 | Online via Zoom

Tonight I'd like to speak to you about the connections between storytelling and resilience. The resilience a writer needs in order to discover the stories they are passionate to share with the world. The resilience an audience needs in order to be able to embrace difficult stories, unfamiliar stories, slow down and be able to listen, so that they can grow. The resilience our bodies need, in order to hold onto the stories we experience so we can chart our next steps forward and share them, bravely, with the world. Because stories are meant to be shared. Storytelling is power. And storytelling is scary. Stories, like life, are filled with things that endlessly go wrong... But stories are also what allow our brains and bodies to remember, and shared experience becomes a path through which we can connect deeply to each other. What we think is our life, what we think is the end of our story, is never how we plan it. And what allows

a writer to complete a story, and similarly, a human to complete a life of purpose, is the essence of resilience.

Biography

Christina Lazaridi is an Academy Award nominated screenwriter and an expert in script development and audience response. Projects she has authored, or actively developed, have won awards at Cannes (Camera D' Or) and Berlin Film Festivals (Golden Bear), Sundance, SXSW and the Ariels (Mexican Oscars), among others. Her work as a development expert for award-winning properties was recognized in 2019 and 2020 by a grant to the organization she co-founded, Cine Qua Non Lab, from the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences.

Christina currently serves as Head of Concentration for Screen & TV Writing at Columbia University's Graduate Film Division where she is an Assistant Professor of Practice. Prior to this position Christina designed and ran Princeton University's Screenwriting track for its prestigious Creative Writing Program and conducted pioneering research on storytelling and the brain with Princeton's Neuroscience Institute and Uri Hasson's Lab. Results of their research were published by MIT's Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience in 2021.

Born and raised in Greece in a family of Asia Minor refugees and artists, Lazaridi's personal written work focuses on high emotional-impact narratives of dislocation and survival and her performance-centered screenplays have consistently attracted major collaborators domestically and abroad. Her first feature film *Coming Up Roses* starred Broadway icon Bernadette Peters and introduced Rachel Brosnahan, and her historical feature documentary *Varian and Putzi: A 20th Century Tale* was directed by Academy Award winner Richard Kaplan and was released theatrically at the Museum of Modern Art. In 2017 Christina's first produced screenplay in Greece, *Rosa of Smyrna*, was a box office sensation surpassing all international sales.

Current projects include TV series *Escape Attempt*, based on the Strugatsky brothers Soviet sci-fi novels, (in collaboration with Grammy Award winning company Aggressive TV) and *Femen*, a dramatic biopic of the Ukrainian activist movement (produced by Pan-Europeanne and Arthouse Traffic for director Darya Zhuk). Lazaridi is the recipient of a prestigious Silver Condor Award for best screenplay for her work in Julia Solomonoff's critically acclaimed *Nobody's Watching*. She was nominated for an Academy Award for her work in Hungarian Holocaust drama, *One Day Crossing*. Christina holds an MFA with Honors from Columbia University's Graduate Film Division and a BA with Honors from Princeton University. She lives in New York City, with her husband and young daughter.

DISRUPTION: 2020-2021

“Move fast and break things” was Facebook’s internal motto until 2014; move fast, break things, disrupt the world’s stale status quo. In retrospect we can only understand the irony. For a long time “disruption” was both a corporate buzzword and one of our society’s guiding tenets – what Jill Lepore, writing for the New Yorker, called our “theory of nature.” Entrepreneurs, artists, and scholars alike sought to disrupt their fields with the latest and greatest technologies, techniques, and thoughts. Things seem different, now. We live intimately with unavoidable disruptions: to our living habits and habitats, to our families and occupations, to our relationships with our political and social institutions, to our understandings of ourselves in the context of our world. And dislocation for many of us is not metaphorical, as much of our Columbia community is no longer situated in New York. What does it mean to live in such a world – one where disruption keeps us apart but also makes our togetherness possible, even across oceans? Where disruptive technologies serve to both connect and to divide and surveil? How can we embrace changes and innovations without hurting our communities? How can we live like this? Now seems like a good time to think critically about our “theory of nature” – both its detriments and its possibilities.

SPEAKER SERIES 2020-2021

Gareth Williams, *The Columbia Core 2020 and COVID-19 – “CUSP/ASP Annual NSOP Lecture”*

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 | Online via Zoom

We have all experienced the major upheaval caused by this year's global coronavirus pandemic, and as the new academic year begins, we all have to adjust to instructional methodologies that are shaped by that upheaval. Core teaching will be remote for all students entering Columbia College. But in what ways might the Core itself reflect or inform the stresses that have resulted from the drastic changes to everyday life in recent months? More generally, in what ways does the Core provide an apparatus for very practical reflection on the shaping of our daily lives amid all of the urgent socio-political challenges and crises that we have witnessed in recent times?

Biography

Gareth Williams has taught at Columbia since 1992. He received a Ph.D. in 1990 from Cambridge University for a dissertation on Ovid’s exilic writings that subsequently resulted in two books: the first, *Banished Voices: Readings in Ovid’s Exile Poetry* (Cambridge, 1994), and the second, *The Curse of Exile: A Study of Ovid’s Ibis*, *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society* Supplementary Volume 19 (Cambridge, 1996). Two distinct research phases followed, the first of which focused on the Latin ethical writings of Lucius Annaeus Seneca. Two monographs resulted, the first an edition with commentary of *L. Annaeus Seneca: Selected Moral Dialogues. De Otio, De Brevitate Vitae* (Cambridge, 2003); the second, *The Cosmic Viewpoint: A Study of Seneca’s Natural Questions* (Oxford, 2012), was awarded the Goodwin

Award of Merit by the Society for Classical Studies in 2014. Most recently, among various other projects and edited volumes in the area of Roman philosophy, his research has focused on the socio-literary culture of Renaissance Venice, an interest that recently resulted in the publication of *Pietro Bembo on Etna: The Ascent of a Venetian Humanist* (Oxford, 2017).

William Deresiewicz, *The Fate of Art and Artists in the Age of Disruption*
Wednesday, September 30, 2020 | Online via Zoom

Silicon Valley says there's never been a better time to be an artist. Artists say they've hardly ever had it worse. So who is right? And since people are still making a living as artists today, how are they managing to do it? If artists were artisans in the Renaissance, bohemians in the nineteenth century, and professionals in the twentieth, a new paradigm is emerging in the digital age, one that is changing our fundamental ideas about both the nature of art and the role of the artist in society.

Biography

William Deresiewicz is an award-winning essayist and critic, a frequent speaker at educational and other venues, and a former professor of English of Yale. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Atlantic*, *Harper's Magazine*, and many other publications. He is the recipient of a National Book Critics Circle award for excellence in reviewing and is the best-selling author of *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life*. His new book is *The Death of the Artist: How Creators Are Struggling to Survive in the Age of Billionaires and Big Tech*.

Angelica Patterson, *The Road Not Taken: A Journey from Tangled Paths to Open Forests – “Research and Industry in Action (RIIA)/Cool Jobs”*
Monday, October 19, 2020 | Online via Zoom

In the presentation titled, “The Road Not Taken: A Journey from Tangled Paths to Open Forests,” Angelica Patterson will highlight her experiences as a first generation college student finding her passion towards the world of plant ecology and the challenges she faced along the way. You will also hear how she became an outdoor environmental educator and the career boosting opportunities she encountered throughout her professional journey.

Biography

Angelica Patterson is the Master Science Educator at Black Rock Forest. She received her B.S. degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY and her M.A. and M.Phil degrees from Columbia University, where she is currently completing her doctoral degree in plant ecophysiology. Her interests in the physiological mechanisms behind plant community shifts due to climate change inspired her to examine tree physiological responses to changes in surface air temperature for her PhD research. More specifically, her dissertation compares the photosynthetic and respiratory responses of over 20 tree species with differing historic range

distributions in order to evaluate which species may be better able to tolerate climates that are predicted to occur within the next 50-100 years. Patterson is a strong advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the environmental sciences and has served on various committee and working groups. She has served as a speaker at several US universities, environmental organizations, and K-12 institutions, and has recently been profiled in *The Guardian*, *The Forestry Source*, and the National Environmental Education Foundation.

Maury Harris, *COVID-19 Economics*

Thursday, October 22, 2020 | Online via Zoom

The COVID-19 crisis has spawned a huge amount of new and exciting economic analysis. For example, exploiting big data has enhanced understanding the relative roles of lockdown policies and the COVID19 infection and death rates in driving consumer spending and economic activity. A variety of macroeconomic stabilization policies have provided a laboratory for testing major theories of household behavior. Also, the debates over Federal deficits and Federal Reserve balance sheet expansion/monetization have been revisited in a totally unprecedented environment for macroeconomic stabilization policies.

Biography

Dr. Maury Harris for 36 years was the Chief US Economist for UBS and PaineWebber. Prior to his Wall Street career, Dr. Harris worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland. He earned his PhD in economics from Columbia University after graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Texas. Dr. Harris has served as President of the Forecasters Club of New York and in 2015 published *Inside the Crystal Ball: How to Make and Use Forecasts*.

Lyle Owerko, *A Long Way from Anywhere*

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 | Online via Zoom

Lyle Owerko is a photographer and filmmaker with a diverse roster of clients that include major brands, corporations and human rights groups. Known for a keen perception and knowledge of urban movements, his instinctually crafted visual images have found an indelible place in the lexicon of both pop culture and journalism. Recognized for his high-resolution documentation of Sept 11th (featured on the iconic 9/11 cover of TIME Magazine), to his in-depth survey of the history and impact of Boomboxes on popular culture, to his seminal portraits of distinct cultures residing in Africa and Mongolia. He's seen and experienced disruption both on the global frontier and on the global stage. Turning a page in to a new era with his work, his current projects bridge the borders of both sculpture, photography and technique in a manner that documents the basic human inclination to elevate the universal condition. A recipient of numerous awards, editorial and television profiles, his work is collected and exhibited around the world. Lyle was raised in Calgary, Canada, studied at The Pratt Institute in New York, and currently resides in Los Angeles.

Biography

A photojournalist, artist and filmmaker, Lyle Owerko has documented a diverse range of subjects, from early 80s neon-colored BMX bikes to members of Kenya's Samburu tribe. However, his most iconic image is the 2001 photograph *The Second Plane*, capturing Flight 175 as it struck the second tower of the World Trade Center on September 11. This image appeared on the cover of the September 14, 2001 issue of TIME magazine, and stands as an unforgettable record of a national tragedy. Often working with human rights organizations, such as Charity:Water and the United Nations Millennium Promise, Owerko frequently merges art with a social mission in his work. His seminal body of work, *The Boombox Project*, began in 2005 as documentation of vintage portable stereos and now includes a series of sculptures and a documentary on the subject. In 2010, Abrams Image published a book of those photos, which included a foreword by Spike Lee and interviews with some of the most distinct contributors of that era. Owerko's work is included in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress, and is included in the permanent collection at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, among other galleries and institutions globally.

Caroline Marvin, *Rekindling Curiosity*

Monday, November 30, 2020 | Online via Zoom

Psychologist William James posited that by age 25 we've gained all the ideas we'll ever have and we cannot learn anything new: "Disinterested curiosity is past, the mental grooves and channels set, the power of assimilation gone." While there is little empirical evidence to support this rather bleak view of growing up, we do tend to become more efficient -- but also less flexible and expansive -- in our learning as we age. If there can be one small hope in this otherwise devastating year, it's that disruption has the power to jolt us awake, to remind us to ask difficult questions, and to approach ourselves and each other with generous, genuine curiosity.

Biography

Caroline Marvin teaches in the Department of Psychology, where she also serves as Director of Academic Affairs and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Neuroscience & Behavior major. Her research examines curiosity and its neural substrates, aiming to understand how curiosity motivates information-seeking and drives learning.

Jennifer S. Hirsch and Shamus Khan, *Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power and Assault on Campus* – "Book Talk"

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 | Online via Zoom

In *Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus*, Columbia professors Jennifer S. Hirsch and Shamus Khan lay out an expansive, empirically-grounded vision for campus sexual assault prevention. The book is rich with the testimonies of over 150 Columbia students who participated in the Sexual Health Initiative to Foster Transformation. Hirsch and Khan's goal, in sharing these stories, is not to make moral judgments or decide what

the ideal legal ramifications of assault should be. Rather, with empathy and compassion for the many struggles that young people face, they approach sexual assault as a public health problem and explain it by setting out a broader understanding of how sex is organized and what it means to young people in college.

Grounded in the intimate, often painful accounts of the human beings at its center, *Sexual Citizens* is a bold and comprehensive analysis of a social ecosystem where sexual assault is a regular feature, concluding with a bracing set of recommendations for what families, teachers, policy makers, and leaders in higher education can do to prevent it.

Biography

Jennifer S. Hirsch, a medical anthropologist and Professor of Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia University, co-directs the Sexual Health Initiative to Foster Transformation (SHIFT), a research project on sexual assault and sexual health among Columbia undergraduates. With Shamus Khan, she is coauthor of *Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus*, which draws on SHIFT's ethnographic research to examine sexual assault and consensual sex among undergraduates in relation to the broader context of campus life. Hirsch co-directs the Columbia Population Research Center, which brings together faculty from schools across the campus who work on population health and inequalities. A 2012 Guggenheim Fellow, a 2015 Public Voices Fellow, and a 2018-19 Visiting Research Scholar with Princeton's Center for Health and Well-Being, Hirsch's published work includes both scholarly and popular writing on health and social inequality. She is author of *A Courtship After Marriage: Sexuality and Love in Mexican Transnational Families*, the award-winning coauthored *The Secret: Love, Marriage and HIV*, two edited volumes on the anthropology of love, more than 70 peer-reviewed articles, and many op-eds in venues such as *Time* and *The Hill*. Hirsch also just completed six years of service as a board member for Jews for Racial & Economic Justice, including the last two as board chair. Hirsch earned her A.B. from Princeton University in History, with a certificate in Women's Studies, and her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in Population Dynamics and Anthropology.

Shamus Khan is a professor of Sociology and American Studies at Princeton University. He writes on culture, inequality, gender, and elites. He is the author of over 100 articles, books, and essays, including *Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul's School* (Princeton), *The Practice of Research* (Oxford, with Dana Fisher), *Approaches to Ethnography: Modes of Representation and Analysis in Participant Observation* (Oxford, with Colin Jerolmack), and *Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus* (W.W. Norton, with Jennifer Hirsch). He co-directed the ethnographic component of SHIFT, a multi-year study of sexual health and sexual violence at Columbia University. He directed the working group on the political influence of economic elites at the Russell Sage Foundation, is the series editor of "The Middle Range" at Columbia University Press, and served as the editor of the journal *Public Culture*. He writes regularly for the popular press such as the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and has served as a columnist for *Time Magazine*. In 2016 he was awarded Columbia University's highest teaching honor, the Presidential Teaching Award, and in 2018 he was awarded the Hans L. Zetterberg Prize from Uppsala University in Sweden for "the best sociologist under 40."

Patricia Cruz, *A Change is Gonna Come...Or Is It?*

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 | Online via Zoom

Patricia Cruz will discuss how the roles and responsibilities of individuals, and groups of individuals, united by shared values can effect lasting change. Octavia Butler has said “the only lasting truth is change.” She hopes to be able to touch on the impact that art has in inspiring and reflecting change or transformation.

Biography

Patricia Cruz began her term as Executive Director of Harlem Stage in 1998. Ms. Cruz is a member of the Board of Directors and is responsible for overseeing Board Development, long-range planning, fundraising, and program development. The highlight of her tenure has been the \$26 million renovation of the Gatehouse for use as Harlem Stage’s new home. Cruz serves on The CalArts Board of Overseers.

Cruz has also served on the Tony Nominating Committee and the Board of Urban Assembly. She is also past President of The New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), an organization that supports and nurtures the work of artists and arts organizations throughout the state, and ArtTable, a national organization of women in the arts.

Indrani Das, *On a Slippery Slope: The Science and Story of the Potential Instability of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet*

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 | Online via Zoom

The Antarctic Ice Sheet is the largest ice sheet on this planet. It is beautiful, surrounded by the Southern Ocean, with icebergs and sea ice moving with the waves, the winds, and the tides near its coast.

Unprecedented climate change related ocean warming is causing the ice sheet to lose mass rapidly in the recent decades. The western part of Antarctica is one of the most vulnerable section of the ice sheet. Large portions of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet are deemed susceptible to rapid disintegration, partly because of the warmer Amundsen Sea melting the ice shelves and grounding line from underneath, and partly because it is situated on backward-facing bedrock slope that renders it inherently unstable, defined as the marine ice sheet instability.

In this session, Indrani Das will talk about the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, discuss its present state of vulnerability and climate change. She will also share field pictures and stories of Antarctica, her life, science and art in this extreme environment that she is trying to understand to predict how it may change.

Biography

Indrani Das has a Glaciology and Atmospheric Sciences background with expertise in satellite and airborne remote sensing. The main area of her research includes mass balance of ice sheets

and ice shelves. She studies physical processes that impact the mass balance and stability of ice sheets and ice shelves, ice-atmosphere and ice-ocean interactions using a combination of satellite remote sensing, airborne radar and laser altimeter, ground based measurements, and modeling. Indrani earned her Ph.D in Atmospheric Physics from Indian Space Research Organization in 2007 where she worked on radiative transfer algorithms to retrieve marine aerosols from satellite data. After briefly working on estimating snow depth in the Himalayas, in 2007 she came as a postdoc to University of Alaska Fairbanks to work on mass balance of Alaskan glaciers using airborne laser altimetry.

In 2010, Indrani came to the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory to work on surface processes impacting surface mass balance of Antarctica. She is now an Associate Research Professor and her work has evolved to include both surface and basal processes of ice sheets and ice shelves. She also works on paleo observations of accumulation rates and climate history of Greenland ice sheet.

Her active projects include the NERC-NSF-funded ITGC project PROPHET for which she is the institutional PI. Indrani uses airborne radar to study ocean water intrusion in the grounding line of Thwaites. She compares observed bed slippery conditions with ice sheet modeled drag and friction.

Indrani serves as a committee member on the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NAEM). She is also a council member of the International Glaciological Society (IGS) and on the Organizing Committee of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) Meeting.

Norrell Edwards, *Translating Your Research Outside the Academy – “Research and Industry in Action (RIIA)/Cool Jobs”*

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 | Online via Zoom

In December 2019, Norrell Edwards completed her doctorate in English literature from the University of Maryland, College Park with a specialization in 20th and 21st century Black Diaspora Literature. Dr. Edwards will share her experience weaving together her research interests with working outside of academia. Both her employment experience and research interests place her work at the nexus of global Black identity, cultural memory, and social justice. She has worked with several criminal justice and education-focused non-profit organizations including: The Drug Policy Alliance, Advancing Real Change, John Hopkins Institute for Education Policy and TandemEd.

Biography

Dr. Norrell Edwards recently joined Texas Christian University as a Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow from her position at Georgetown University where she served as Assistant Director of Education of the Prison and Justice Initiative. Norrell also currently serves as the volunteer director of communications for the Next Step Forward Initiative, a New York-based grassroots organization focused on making progress to eradicate systemic racism. To learn more about

Norrell's work and scholarship, follow her on Twitter @Norrellexplains or stop by her website, www.Norrelledwards.com.

Irwin Redlener, *Getting to Here: From Lee County to COVID-19*

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 | Online via Zoom

Sometimes career paths are linear, heading in a single direction and sticking to the well-worn path. "I want to be a surgeon, or an electrical engineer. That means college in a certain set of acceptable majors, grad school and advanced training, and, if all goes as planned - Voila, I've made it!" But other times, life is more of an adventure; serendipity is a driver, paths are indistinct or malleable. This can be wildly gratifying or deeply unsettling, provoking anxiety or worse. "What am I doing? I'm lost!" Dr. Redlener will share what it has been like to have a terrific time pursuing an eclectic path, hardly always perfect, to be sure, but never, ever boring.

Biography

Irwin Redlener, M.D. is a pediatrician and founding director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's Earth Institute and director of the Center's Pandemic Resource and Response Initiative.

Since 2019, Dr. Redlener has been serving as an on-air public health analyst for NBC & MSNBC.

Dr. Redlener is also President Emeritus and Co-Founder of the Children's Health Fund, a philanthropic initiative that he created in 1987 with singer/song-writer Paul Simon and Karen Redlener to develop child health care programs in 25 of the nation's most medically underserved urban and rural communities.

He currently serves as a special advisor on emergency preparedness to New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, and regularly communicates with leadership in U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, as well as Homeland Security. He was an advisor to then Vice President Joe Biden, and, in 2015, served as an advisor to the federal czar on the Ebola outbreak. In 2019 Dr. Redlener worked with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in repeated efforts to stop inhumane treatment of immigrant families and children on the SW U.S. border.

Over his career, Dr. Redlener has created or expanded programs to treat victims of child abuse and neglect and was the principal designer and lead in the development of the Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM), the first institution of its kind in the Bronx, one the most indigent urban zip codes in the U.S. Early in his career, Dr. Redlener's positions included medical director of a community health center in an impoverished rural county in Arkansas and directing a new pediatric intensive care unit at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital.

As an advocate on issues pertaining to the health and well-being of children living with multiple adversities from extreme poverty to domestic violence and homelessness, Dr. Redlener has long-standing relationships with Members of Congress and, from time to time, high ranking Administration officials. He has advised every Democratic presidential campaign since 1988.

Dr. Redlener has authored and co-authored numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals on issues related to access to care for children and disaster-related topics. He is a regular resource to journalists on these and related issues and has contributed opinion pieces to the Washington Post, The Daily Beast, The Hill, CNN.com, The New York Times and other media. He is the author of *The Future of Us, What the Dreams of Children Mean for Twenty-First-Century America* (Columbia University Press) which was released on September 19, 2017 (updated and re-released in 2020). He also authored *Americans at Risk: Why We Are Not Prepared for Megadisasters and What We Can Do Now* (Knopf).

Dr. Redlener completed his undergraduate degree at Hofstra University and received his M.D. at the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami. Specialty training was received at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, the University of Colorado Medical Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He holds honorary degrees from Hofstra University and Hunter College of the City University of New York.

DISSONANCE: 2019-2020

Dissonance is typically defined as the absence of harmony. In music, a lack of conformity or unified pattern in sound can often lead to unpleasant compositions that can be jarring to the listener's ears. However, this dissonance can be deliberately used as a tool to create moods that evoke powerful emotions, such as excitement, anguish, or sorrow. Dissonance engenders tension, but from this tension springs innovation and novel experiences. Beyond the confines of music, dissonance exists similarly in the ways in which artists, scholars, and scientists meld seemingly disparate media, inquiries, and philosophies to produce surprisingly consonant works. Dissonance reverberates in the pages of popular and poignant literary works, as the rising action among protagonists settles into satisfying narrative resolution. It echoes in the meeting rooms of large corporations and small start-ups alike, where individuals with diverse specializations and varying levels of expertise come together in pursuit of a shared goal. It rings in the awareness of the painful histories of conflict in nations and societies that, today, exist in a state of peace that could have never been anticipated. In many ways, dissonance embodies the rhythm of life itself, an existence fraught with the uncertain and unexpected that somehow still manages to give way to beauty and closure. More than just curiously placed notes on a musical staff, dissonance captures the value of navigating through and learning from the discomfort of the known past and an unknowable future.

This year's CUSP Distinguished Speakers Series will explore the theme of dissonance within the fields of music, psychology and behavioral science, technology, philosophy and ethics, health and medicine, the biological sciences, and economics.

SPEAKER SERIES 2019-2020

Gareth Williams, *What's the Score with the Core – "CUSP/ASP Annual NSOP Lecture"*
Friday, August 30, 2019 | Faculty Room, Low Memorial Library

This talk is designed to describe how the Core contributes to your larger intellectual trajectory at Columbia; how it fits in with and strengthens the competencies that a Columbia education aims to foster; and what you can expect to find when you enter the classroom in such courses as Literature Humanities, Contemporary Civilization and the other Core offerings. A period of question and answer will follow the talk.

Biography

Gareth Williams has taught at Columbia since 1992. He received a Ph.D. in 1990 from Cambridge University for a dissertation on Ovid's exilic writings that subsequently resulted in two books: the first, *Banished Voices: Readings in Ovid's Exile Poetry* (Cambridge, 1994), and the second, *The Curse of Exile: A Study of Ovid's Ibis*, *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society* Supplementary Volume 19 (Cambridge, 1996). Two distinct research phases followed, the first of which focused on the Latin ethical writings of Lucius Annaeus Seneca.

Two monographs resulted, the first an edition with commentary of *L. Annaeus Seneca: Selected Moral Dialogues. De Otio, De Brevitate Vitae* (Cambridge, 2003); the second, *The Cosmic Viewpoint: A Study of Seneca's Natural Questions* (Oxford, 2012), was awarded the Goodwin Award of Merit by the Society for Classical Studies in 2014. Most recently, among various other projects and edited volumes in the area of Roman philosophy, his research has focused on the socio-literary culture of Renaissance Venice, an interest that recently resulted in the publication of *Pietro Bembo on Etna: The Ascent of a Venetian Humanist* (Oxford, 2017).

Ravi Kailas and Cathy Guo CC'17, *The Striver vs. The Witness: An Entrepreneur's Search for Value – "CUSP Inaugural Lecture/Alumni Journeys"*

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

The "Myth of the Entrepreneur" is a critique of assumptions which are commonly held about the role of the entrepreneur. Specifically, that the differentiated ability of the entrepreneur rightfully deserves the majority of rewards (financial and otherwise) from a venture's success; that entrepreneurial ventures are net social impact positive by creating employment and productivity increases in the economy; and that the system of prioritizing rewards to shareholders creates aligned incentives at the firm level and the broader economy. What happens when an entrepreneur begins questioning these assumptions – and acknowledging the structural inequalities which are perpetuated by this model of entrepreneurship? What other models for designing firms can bring an entrepreneurial venture closer to positive social impact? As a serial entrepreneur, Kailas has built multi-billion dollar ventures in India throughout his career. At age 35, he experiences a catalyzing moment of dissonance – between his conception of an entrepreneur and how value is actually created and distributed. Leaving all three of his active ventures behind, he embarks on a five-year journey of meditation, introspection, and global research of the history of capitalism and various experimental structures of the firm. What emerges from that searching is an ongoing process of working through dissonance and contradiction – both personal and societal.

Biography

Ravi Kailas is a serial entrepreneur who has built and scaled ventures spanning telecom, software, financial options, infrastructure and more. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Mytrah Group, one of India's largest independent renewable power producers. He spends much of his remaining time on Pravaha Trust, an open philanthropic foundation.

Cathy Guo graduated from Columbia in 2017 as a John Jay Scholar, summa cum laude, with a degree in Philosophy and Economics. She lives in Bangalore.

Katja Maria Vogt, *Disagreement and Relativism*

Thursday, October 10, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

If we disagree about how many people are in the room, we count them. If we disagree how the people in the room should act – whether someone's views are offensive, someone's actions

hurtful, and so on – what do we do? We don't seem to have a method of resolving the disagreement. And typically, we are invested in our views. We *care* about what we see as good and bad, right and wrong. This talk examines what's special about value disagreement, why it is so persistent and so pervasive, and what, if any, the truth in relativism might be.

Biography

Katja Maria Vogt, Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University, is a specialist in ancient philosophy, ethics, and normative epistemology. She is a recipient of the Columbia Distinguished Faculty Award, and currently works on externally funded projects on *Agency Imagination* and *Dogmatism and Skepticism*. In her books and papers, she focuses on questions that figure both in ancient and contemporary discussions: What are values? What kinds of values are knowledge and truth? What does it mean to want one's life to go well? Vogt has published widely on skepticism and relativism. Her most recent book – *Desiring the Good: Ancient Proposals and Contemporary Theory* (Oxford University Press, 2017) – focuses on questions about human motivation and agency. She is an editor of *Nous* and serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Philosophy*, *Apeiron*, and *Rhizomata*, and as Associate Editor for philosophy of language, epistemology, and logic of *Dialogoi: Ancient Philosophy Today*. For more information, please visit her [website](#).

Scott B. Kaufman, *The Light vs. The Dark Triad of Personality*
Wednesday, October 23, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

We all have a light and a dark side. However, we all vary in the extent to which we consistently exhibit light vs. dark patterns of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors in our daily lives. Over the past 15 years, psychologists have studied the “dark traits” that are associated with ethnically, morally, and socially aversive beliefs and behaviors. This includes traits such as narcissism, psychopathy, sadism, and spitefulness. However, in only the past few years have psychologists begun to investigate the light side of personality, and our capacities for forgiveness, trust, honesty, caring, acceptance, and seeing the best in others. In this talk, Kaufman will review his recent research on “everyday saints,” and discuss implications of the light side of personality for healing the many divides we are seeing in the world today.

Scott Barry Kaufman is a psychologist at Columbia University who is interested in using psychological science to help all kinds of minds live a creative, fulfilling, and meaningful life. Kaufman has over 60 [scientific publications](#) on intelligence, creativity, personality, and well-being. In addition to writing the column [Beautiful Minds](#) for Scientific American, he also hosts [The Psychology Podcast](#), which was named by [Business Insider](#) a podcast that “will change how you think about human behavior.” Kaufman is author and/or editor of 8 books, including [Twice Exceptional: Supporting and Educating Bright and Creative Students with Learning Difficulties](#), [Wired to Create: Unravelling the Mysteries of the Creative Mind](#) (with Carolyn Gregoire), [Ungifted: Intelligence Redefined](#), and [The Complexity of Greatness: Beyond Talent or Practice](#). Kaufman received a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from Yale University, and an M. Phil in experimental psychology from the University of Cambridge under a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. You can find out more on his [website](#).

Brad Garton, *Computer Music: A Dissonance of Disciplines?*

Wednesday, October 30, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

What exactly is computer music? What makes a contemporary computer musician? Brad Garton will describe how different, perhaps "dissonant," disciplines such as music, art, computer science, data science (and others!) can harmonize to form an exciting area of technological creativity.

Biography

Brad Garton received his BS in Pharmacology from Purdue University, where he also worked towards an MS in Psychoacoustics. He eventually entered the graduate music composition program at Princeton University and was awarded a PhD in Music Composition in 1989. He is currently a Professor on the composition faculty of Columbia University, where he has served as the Director of the Computer Music Center since 1995.

He has assisted in the establishment and development of more than fifty computer music research studios throughout the world. He is an active contributor to the greater community of computer musicians/researchers, formerly serving on the Board of Directors of the International Computer Music Association as editor (with Robert Rowe) of the ICMA newsletter. Garton has been the artistic director or co-organizer of many high-profile festivals and conferences of new computer music.

His past work encompassed research on the modeling and enhancement of acoustic spaces as well as the modeling of human musical performance on various virtual "instruments." He is also the primary developer (with Dave Topper) of RTcmix, a real-time music synthesis/signal-processing language. His recent work has focused upon the use of these tools in musical settings, especially in collaboration with Terry Pender and Gregory Taylor in the internationally-known improvisatory group "PGT." He has written a number of 'language objects' for the Max/MSP authoring environment, melding the capabilities of diverse music and general-purpose programming languages with the extensive music and graphics processing of the Max platform. He has also embedded the RTcmix language inside the Unity Development Environment, making it the first fully-featured generative/algorithmic music package available for VR and AR work.

Jonny Podell, *Consciousness Is the New Rock 'N' Roll*

Wednesday, November 20, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Join Jonny as he divulges never-before-told stories from behind the scenes of rock 'n' roll's greatest era, to the awakening that changed his life forever. "Rock 'n' roll is a great laboratory to study darkness and light" and amazing music was born out of this clash. In addition, Jonny will share some of the lessons he learned along the way.

Biography

One of the most legendary behind-the-scenes figures in rock 'n' roll history, "Jonny Podell changed the way people listen to music" as per *New York Magazine*. In a career spanning more than four decades, Podell has built a string of successful companies, including the most recent Podell Agency. As creator of the first "boutique agency," BMF Enterprises in 1974, he is credited for single-handedly transforming the concert business. Among the numerous Hall of Fame artists Podell has represented are The Allman Brothers Band, Alice Cooper, George Harrison, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, Robert Plant and Jimmy Page, Lou Reed, and Blondie, to name a few. In 1974, Podell collaborated with his mentor and long-time friend Bill Graham to produce the historic trek by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young – the first stadium tour ever, selling out 50,000 seats in every city and establishing a new way to present rock 'n' roll. As Head of Music for William Morris Agency, and then as Worldwide Head of Music for International Creative Management, Podell continued to add to his roster of stars, discovering illusionist David Blaine and signing long-time hero Peter Gabriel. Helping the singer realize his dream, Podell brought Gabriel's WOMAD Festival to America. The festival drew 100,000 concert goers to Golden Gate Park, the first time that the city of San Francisco had ever allowed a paid event in that location.

Evolution Talent was the next step for Podell and his new partner, David Zedeck. Together they helped guide the careers of pop sensations NSYNC, Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears, at one point in 2001 booking stadium tours for all three acts at the same time.

After exiting Evolution in 2004, Podell added stars Van Halen, Gipsy Kings and Cyndi Lauper to the Hall of Fame artists that continued to follow him, and turned his attention to creating franchises for his clients. Cyndi Lauper's *True Colors* benefit concerts and tours engage audiences to take part in the advancement of LGBTQ equality. Among other initiatives, *True Colors* is now the number-one website for homeless youth. Having already built housing for this community in Harlem, the *40 to NONE* project leads the way in fighting the epidemic of homeless gay youth. Podell also created two ongoing festivals – WANEE Festival in Northern Florida and PEACH Festival in Scranton Pennsylvania – for The Allman Brothers. These franchises continue to generate income for the founding artists after they have stopped touring.

Chapter Two of Podell's life began in 2012 when he finally tamed his high-flying lifestyle. What began with a simple meditation grew into a full-on spiritual awakening. Inspired by the words of his idol, Muhammad Ali – "service to others is our rent for being on the planet" – he embarked on a personal journey of consciousness and truth, searching for a way to best serve the world. In this spirit, Podell initially merged his new desire to serve with his existing infrastructure and music business acumen. The primary purpose was "to serve existing spiritual teachers, healers and consciousness-based artists by expanding their outreach to a wider audience through events, workshops, lectures, books, live-streaming, education and media throughout the world." By connecting to existing spiritual practices from Kabbalah and Transcendental Meditation to receiving divine energy from Amma and John of God, Podell is helping to raise their collective visibility and impact, furthering the planet's already existing movement towards spiritual evolution and growth.

Podell's latest project, inspired by the Women's March in 2016, is the IRIS Fest, a three-day event in Oct 2020 to celebrate and empower women. Approximately 75,000 women will enjoy yoga by day and the most important woman's voices of our time speaking throughout. In the evening, a music event will feature the most powerful and uplifting women artists of this generation.

"I am here to serve" is Podell's fight song.

Jason Flom, *Why I Care About Criminal Justice*

Wednesday, November 20, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

This is the story of Jason Flom's crazy journey from a wannabe Jimi Hendrix to the Chairman & CEO of three of the biggest record companies in the world, and more importantly from being a drug-addicted college dropout to a pioneer in criminal justice reform. Flom's talk will focus on his career in music and how he found his true calling in fighting to end the disastrous failed social policy of mass incarceration.

Biography

Jason Flom is the Founder and CEO of Lava Records, Lava Music Publishing and Lava Media LLC. Flom previously served as Chairman and CEO at Atlantic Records, Virgin Records and Capitol Music Group, and he is personally responsible for launching acts such as Katy Perry, Kid Rock, Lorde and Greta Van Fleet. He is a leading philanthropist and expert on criminal justice issues and an internationally recognized and celebrated public speaker. Flom is the founding board member of the Innocence Project and serves on the boards of numerous criminal justice reform organizations. He is the host of the hit podcast, *Wrongful Conviction*, now in its seventh season, which features interviews with men and women who have spent decades in prison for crimes they did not commit, some even sentenced to death. Flom's love for animals inspired his latest project, the children's book *Lulu Is a Rhinoceros*, co-written with his daughter Allison Flom and released in June 2018. The book explores social themes addressing individuality, tolerance, and most importantly, acceptance, and launched with partnerships including Bonobos, Zappos and the African Wildlife Foundation.

Linda P. Fried, *Public Health's Success – Our Longer Lives – Requires Changing Public Health*

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

In the past century, an unprecedented, historic transformation of society has occurred as life expectancy has increased by 30 years. Around the world, we expect 80-90% of babies born to survive past 65 years. Public health underlies three-quarters of this success, and is the basis for maintaining it for future generations. This phenomenon demands that we build a society that enables every person to arrive at old age healthy and remain healthy. Public health needs to be at the center of this transformation, as health is the key in the lock that will unlock the opportunities

of longer lives. This will take 40 years to build, during which time Columbia students can lead and personally benefit from this.

Biography

Linda P. Fried, MD, MPH, is Dean and DeLamar Professor of Public Health Practice at the Mailman School. Dr. Fried is a geriatrician, epidemiologist, and internationally renowned scientist who has propelled our understanding of how to create healthy aging. She has led the scientific work to define the medical syndrome of frailty and its causes and prevention as keys to optimizing health. She is the recipient of numerous international awards and was named a “Living Legend in Medicine” by the U.S. Congress and one of the most influential scientific minds of the past decade by Thompson Reuters.

Robert G. O’Meally, *What’s the Score with the Core?*

Thursday, February 13, 2020 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

For this talk, Professor Robert G. O’Meally will consider this statement by the composer-pianist-bandleader Duke Ellington: “Ours is an American band, because it is a democratic band. Each player is an individual with a personality and a voice.” Asked about being a Black American musician, Ellington turned to his piano. “Hear that chord?” he said. “That’s us. Dissonance is our way of life in America. We are something apart, yet an integral part.”

Biography

Robert G. O’Meally is the Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, where he has served on the faculty for twenty-five years. The founder and director of Columbia’s Center for Jazz Studies, O’Meally is the author of *The Craft of Ralph Ellison*, *Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday*, *The Jazz Singers*, and *Romare Bearden: A Black Odyssey*. His edited volumes include *The Jazz Cadence of American Culture*, *Living With Music: Ralph Ellison’s Essays on Jazz, History and Memory in African American Culture*, *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* (co-editor), and the Barnes and Noble editions of *Mark Twain*, *Herman Melville*, and *Frederick Douglass*. For his production of a Smithsonian record set called *The Jazz Singers*, he was nominated for a Grammy Award. O’Meally has co-curated exhibitions for The Smithsonian Institution, Jazz at Lincoln Center and The High Museum of Art (Atlanta). He has held Guggenheim and Cullman Fellowships, and was a recent fellow at Columbia’s new Institute for Ideas and Imagination at the Global Center/Paris. His new books are *The Romare Bearden Reader* (edited for Duke University Press, 2019) and *Antagonistic Cooperation: Collage, Jazz, and American Fiction* (Columbia University Press, 2020).

Venkat Venkatasubramanian, *How Much Income Equality Is Fair?*

Monday, March 2, 2020 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Extreme economic inequality is widely seen as a serious threat to the future of stable and vibrant capitalist democracies. In 2015, the World Economic Forum in Davos identified deepening income inequality as the number one challenge of our time. Yet some inequality is inevitable, even desirable and necessary, for capitalist societies to work productively. As different people have different skills, and different capacities for work, they make different contributions in a society, some more, others less. Therefore, it is only fair that those who contribute more earn more.

But how much more? What is the fairest inequality of income? This critical question is at the heart of the inequality debate. The debate is not so much about inequality *per se* as it is about fairness. This central question about fair inequality has remained unanswered in economics and in political philosophy for over two centuries. Mainstream economics has offered little guidance on fairness and the ideal distribution of income in a free-market society. Political philosophy, meanwhile, has much to say about fairness, yet relies on *qualitative* theories, such as the ones by Rawls and by Nozick, which cannot be verified by empirical data.

In this talk, Professor Venkatasubramanian will discuss his recent work on answering this question quantitatively. His theory leads to surprising insights into political philosophy, economics, game theory, statistical mechanics, information theory, and systems engineering perspectives to this question.

Biography

Professor Venkat Venkatasubramanian is Samuel Ruben-Peter G. Viele Professor of Engineering in the Department of Chemical Engineering, Professor of Computer Science (Affiliate), and Professor of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research (Affiliate) at Columbia University. He earned his Ph. D. in Chemical Engineering at Cornell, M.S. in Physics at Vanderbilt, and B. Tech. in Chemical Engineering at the University of Madras, India.

Venkat is a complex dynamical systems theorist interested in developing mathematical models of their structure, function, and behavior from fundamental conceptual principles. His natural tendency is to conduct curiosity-driven research in a style that might be considered impressionistic, emphasizing conceptual issues over mere techniques. He strives to create a simplified but essentially correct model of the reality that he studies. Venkat's research interests are diverse, ranging from AI to systems engineering to theoretical physics to economics, but they are generally focused on the theme of understanding complexity and emergent behavior in different domains. Venkat's new book, *How Much Inequality is Fair? Mathematical Principles of a Moral, Optimal and Stable Capitalist Society*, was published by Columbia University Press in 2017.

Professor Venkatasubramanian received the Norris Shreve Award for Outstanding Teaching in Chemical Engineering three times at Purdue University. He won the Computing in Chemical Engineering Award from AIChE and is a Fellow of AIChE. In 2011, the College of Engineering at Purdue University recognized his contributions with the Research Excellence Award. He currently serves as an editor for *Computers and Chemical Engineering*. Venkat's non-academic interests include comparative theology, classical music and cricket.

LATENESS: 2018-2019

Priority is the significance given to what is *prior*—to what comes first or manifests earlier. Beginnings, innovation, the precocious and *avant-garde* tend to attract notice, as an overture might feature a fanfare unheard in a postlude. What then is the music that comes later? Instead of priority, this year’s CUSP Distinguished Speaker Series will turn attention to manifestations of *posteriority*—of coming late or *after*. The series entitled “Lateness” will examine posteriority in the late phase of a continuum, on the one hand, or the aftermath of a historical rupture, on the other.

Latecoming within a continuum can raise the issues of belatedness, latency, limitation, or finality. In the arts, for example, lateness can manifest in the notion of “late style,” the idea that the work some artists produce toward the end of their careers reflects a conspicuous development from their earlier productions. What constitutes a “mature” creative phase in literature, music, and the visual arts? Late style may or may not coincide with late age. The concept of late age might more broadly apply to fields ranging from medicine to evolution and earth science, raising questions about the longevity and viability of biological life, on the one hand, or the geological age and habitability of Earth, on the other. It broaches ethical issues from end-of-life care and the “right to die” controversy to the global responsibility surrounding climate change.

When a late phase presents more of a departure from than continuity with the past, it may reflect a historical rupture. Posteriority thus concerns phenomena that are “post” such a break. What do these “post-phenomena” look like? What is the shape of an aftermath? An aftermath, for example, might take the form of anticlimax in post-apocalyptic literature or of efforts toward recovery in post-crisis reconstruction policy. Instead of resolution, an aftermath might encompass reverberations or echoes—*aftershock*. PTSD flashbacks in psychology, reproduction in postmodern aesthetics, or cultural appropriation in postcolonial politics may suggest such residual effects. Post-human discourse similarly traces the remains of humanity amidst technological advances in AI, robotics, and genetic engineering. Among these post-phenomena, the loss of a prior significance, while destabilizing, might nevertheless allow the possibility of new meaning. Lateness might then point to what is *latest*, or cutting-edge. Maturity might coincide with modernity, and the music of a postlude might sound the first notes of a prelude.

This year’s CUSP Distinguished Speakers Series will explore the theme of lateness within the fields of the arts and humanities, medicine, evolution, technology, counterterrorism intelligence, ethics, astronomy, disaster response, and post-crisis reconstruction.

SPEAKER SERIES 2018-2019

Gareth Williams, *What’s the Score with the Core?*
Friday, August 31, 2018 | Skyline Ballroom, Faculty House

Gareth Williams will describe how the Core Curriculum contributes to your larger intellectual trajectory at Columbia; how it fits in with and strengthens the competencies that a Columbia education aims to foster; and what you can expect to find when you enter the classroom in such courses as Literature Humanities, Contemporary Civilization and the other Core offerings. A period of question and answer will follow the talk.

Biography

Gareth Williams has taught at Columbia since 1992. He received a Ph.D. in 1990 from Cambridge University for a dissertation on Ovid's exilic writings that subsequently resulted in two books: the first, *Banished Voices: Readings in Ovid's Exile Poetry* (Cambridge, 1994), and the second, *The Curse of Exile: A Study of Ovid's Ibis*, *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society Supplementary Volume 19* (Cambridge, 1996). Two distinct research phases followed, the first of which focused on the Latin ethical writings of Lucius Annaeus Seneca. Two monographs resulted, the first an edition with commentary of *L. Annaeus Seneca: Selected Moral Dialogues. De Otio, De Brevitate Vitae* (Cambridge, 2003); the second, *The Cosmic Viewpoint: A Study of Seneca's Natural Questions* (Oxford, 2012), was awarded the Goodwin Award of Merit by the Society for Classical Studies in 2014. Most recently, among various other projects and edited volumes in the area of Roman philosophy, his research has focused on the socio-literary culture of Renaissance Venice, an interest that recently resulted in the publication of *Pietro Bembo on Etna: The Ascent of a Venetian Humanist* (Oxford, 2017).

Bernard E. Harcourt, *On the American Counterrevolution: The Long View of History in Politics and Law*

Wednesday, September 19, 2018 | 3rd Floor Lecture Room, Pulitzer Hall

Recent political events feel like spontaneous revolutions. With 24-hour news cycles, daily revelations, and viral Tweets, politics resembles today reality-TV and marches on the temporality of social media. But it brings with it new and radical ways of governing that have deep roots. Lurking beneath today's rapid-fire politics and law, there is a longer, slower course of history, one that plants the seeds for what will come later, after the momentary crises. This keynote lecture will focus both on the emergence of the American Counterrevolution and the long-defense of a death row inmate to explore lateness in politics and law.

Biography

Bernard E. Harcourt is the Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law and Professor of Political Science at Columbia University. He is the Executive Director of the Eric H. Holder Initiative for Civil and Political Rights, and the founding director of the Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought at Columbia University. He is also a *Directeur d'études* (chaired professor) at the *École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales* in Paris.

A contemporary critical theorist and social justice advocate, Harcourt is the author most recently of *The Counterrevolution: How Our Government Went to War Against Its Own Citizens* (Basic Books, 2018). Harcourt's writings examine modes of governing in our punitive and surveillance

society, especially in the post-9/11 period and the digital age. He traces the birth of what he calls our “expository society” and our recent turn to the paradigm of “counterinsurgency warfare” as a mode of governing. He is the author, recently as well, of *Exposed: Desire and Disobedience in the Digital Age* (Harvard 2015), *The Illusion of Free Markets: Punishment and the Myth of Natural Order* (Harvard 2011), and *Occupy: Three Inquiries in Disobedience* with Michael Taussig and W.J.T. Mitchell (Chicago 2013). Earlier books include *Against Prediction: Profiling, Policing and Punishing in an Actuarial Age* (Chicago 2007), *Language of the Gun: Youth, Crime, and Public Policy* (Chicago 2005), and *Illusion of Order: The False Promise Of Broken Windows Policing* (Harvard 2001).

A passionate advocate for justice, Harcourt started his legal career representing death row inmates, working with Bryan Stevenson at what is now the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. He lived and worked in Montgomery for several years and still today continues to represent *pro bono* inmates sentenced to death and life imprisonment without parole. He recently resolved the case of death row inmate Doyle Hamm who was executed but survived the ordeal. He also served on human rights missions to South Africa and Guatemala, and actively challenged the Trump administration’s Muslim Ban, representing *pro bono* a Syrian medical resident excluded under the executive order, as well as Moseb Zeiton, a Columbia SIPA student.

Sylvain Pascaud, *Exploration and the Digital (R)evolution*

Monday, October 1, 2018 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

In 1985, the RMS Titanic was discovered at the bottom of the North Atlantic two and a half miles below the surface. That discovery was made with the equivalent of a torch light and a camcorder. Thirty-five years later, the doomed Air France jet AF 447 was also found in the deep ocean, this time with the help of the latest digital autonomous robots, manned with acoustic imagery.

The digital revolution has impacted every aspect of the planet’s exploration; and we are only glimpsing the possibilities: from underwater robots to sophisticated drones and high-altitude solar vehicles, technology will enable us to go deeper and understand more about how our planet works than ever before. It will catapult us into a future we could not have imagined only decades ago. And it will also provide a key to preserving our place on that planet.

Biography

For the past fifteen years, Sylvain Pascaud has served as Managing Director and Expedition Leader of Libre Comme l’Air (LC) Productions, a documentary film production company specializing in adventure, science and technology. LCL has developed projects with prestigious partners such as the Airbus Group, the National Geographic Society, Columbia University, The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Dassault Systèmes, and others.

More recently, Shelter Expeditions, a spin-off company, was incorporated in the United States to develop, manage, and finance some of the scientific and technology-based expeditions that underpin the films produced by LCL.

Pascaud began his career at the French Maritime Institute, Ifremer, onboard *The Nautille* research submarine. From there he moved to the Cousteau Society, where he conducted expeditions from *The Calypso*. Pascaud continued to work as an independent underwater cameraman and commercial diver and went on to produce and direct films and TV series, as well as manage expeditions. To date he has over 100 documentaries to his name, aired worldwide.

Highlights of his career include organization of the Titanic 96 expedition, the first scientific investigation into the structure of the great sunken ship. The three-part series *Titanic: Anatomy of a Disaster* was produced by Canal Plus Group and the Discovery Channel and aired worldwide.

More recently, Pascaud has been involved with the video coverage and media outreach for the E FAN electric plane project, which featured a cross-channel crossing in 2015. He is also working with Airbus and high-profile scientific institutions to develop the Airbridge for Science project, a unique endeavor to support cutting-edge research on climate change.

Ann Temkin, *The Long Run: Artists at Mid and Late Career*
Tuesday, October 16, 2018 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

The Long Run, an exhibition from the MoMA's collection, chronicles the continued experimentation of artists long after their breakthrough moments as young newcomers. It celebrates the inventiveness that results from sustained critical thinking, persistent observation, and countless hours in the studio. The vibrancy of the artworks refutes the notion that creativity diminishes with age. They champion the reality that great artists never stop exploring and taking risks. They also attest to the mysterious and beautiful fact that what may appear to be repetition is nothing of the kind: to face what will be one's next work of art is always an encounter with the new.

Biography

Ann Temkin is The Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis Chief Curator of Painting and Sculpture at The Museum of Modern Art. Most recently she co-curated the exhibitions *Studio Visit: Selected Gifts from Agnes Gund* (2018), *Picasso Sculpture* (2015), *Robert Gober: The Heart Is Not a Metaphor* (2014), and *Jasper Johns: Regrets* (2014). She is currently deeply involved with planning the collection displays for MoMA's expanded galleries (2019) as well as preparing an exhibition of the work of Donald Judd (2020). From 1990 to 2003, Ms. Temkin was the Muriel and Philip Berman Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Her major exhibitions there included *Barnett Newman* (2002), *Alice Neel* (2001), and *Constantin Brancusi* (1995). Ms. Temkin received her BA from Harvard University and her PhD in the history of art from Yale University.

Emily Silverman, *Storytelling, Medicine and the End of Life*
Wednesday, October 31, 2018 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Founded in 2016 by Emily Silverman, The Nocturnists began as a scrappy gathering of medical residents sharing intimate, personal stories about life in medicine. Today, it is a popular live storytelling event for sold-out audiences of health care professionals in the Bay Area (with plans for a show in New York City on October 30), and growing podcast. In this talk, Emily will walk the audience through her awakening to the power of storytelling, how it transformed her approach to medicine, and how it helps health workers—who must hold their patients' experience of illness, suffering and death—to heal and connect.

Biography

Emily Silverman grew up an only child in the suburbs of Miami, Florida. Fascinated by the human body in elementary school, she devoured Magic School Bus books and idolized her pediatrician, Dr. Keller. She went to Brown University for college, where she majored in History of Art and Architecture, briefly flirting with a career in the art world before heading down the pre-med path. She went to medical school at Johns Hopkins University, and completed her internal medicine residency at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Currently, Emily is an academic hospitalist at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, where she seeks out projects that resurrect the narrative soul of medicine. She is the host and creator of The Nocturnists, a live storytelling event and podcast for physicians and other health care workers. She wrote a series of prose poems about her experiences as a medical resident, and is working on her first book. Her writing is animated by a deep-seated curiosity about science, human nature, and what it means to live and die well. In her spare time, she enjoys teaching herself electric guitar, listening to podcasts, and traveling with her husband Boaz.

She tweets @ESilvermanMD.

Jeffrey Kluger and Marsha Ivins, *Onward to Mars! (Eventually)*
Tuesday, November 13, 2018 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

NASA and official Washington love to say that America is going to Mars. The problem is, we've been *going* to Mars for the past fifty years—we just never get there. Why is that? How could the United States go from a standing start in 1961—with no American ever having been in space—to the Sea of Tranquility in 1969? And why are the resources that made that possible missing now? Jeffrey Kluger, co-author of *Apollo 13* and *Time* magazine's Editor-at-Large, and Marsha Ivins, retired astronaut and five-time space shuttle veteran, will discuss what the nation needs to make a Mars landing happen, and why a widely agreed-upon national dream has been deferred for so long.

Biography

Jeffrey Kluger is the Editor-at-Large for *Time* magazine and Time.com, principally covering science and social issues. His most recent nonfiction book is *Apollo 8: The Thrilling Story of the*

First Mission to the Moon, which was published in May 2017. His most recent novel is *Freedom Stone*, a young-adult tale set on a South Carolina plantation in 1863, published in 2011. He is the author of seven other books, including *Apollo 13*—coauthored with Jim Lovell—which served as the basis of the 1995 movie of the same name. He is also the Executive Producer of *Time*'s Emmy Award-winning “Year in Space” series, which appeared both on Time.com and on PBS. At *Time*, Kluger has written hundreds of stories, including more than 40 cover stories. He has appeared regularly on *CBS This Morning*, *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, CNN, MSNBC and others. He has also made guest appearances on *The Colbert Report* and *Late Night with Seth Meyers*.

Marsha Ivins retired from NASA in 2010 after a 37-year career as an engineer and astronaut. After graduating from the University of Colorado with a BS in Aerospace Engineering, Marsha began her employment with the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX in 1974, working in human factors and man-machine engineering on the development of Orbiter cockpit layout, displays and controls, and the Head-Up Display. In 1980, Marsha was assigned as a flight engineer on the Shuttle Training Aircraft and as a pilot on the NASA administrative aircraft. She holds a multi-engine Airline Transport Pilot License with Gulfstream-1 type rating, single engine airplane, land, sea, and glider commercial licenses, and airplane, instrument, and glider flight instructor ratings. She has logged over 7,000 hours in civilian and NASA aircraft.

Marsha was selected as an astronaut in the class of 1984 as a Mission Specialist. She is a veteran of five space flights (STS-32 in 1990, STS-46 in 1992, STS-62 in 1994, STS-81 in 1997, and STS-98 in 2001), and has logged over 1,318 hours in space.

During her tenure in the Astronaut Office, Marsha supported the Space Shuttle and Space Station programs in all areas of operational crew interface, and was the Astronaut Office expert in flight crew equipment, habitability, imagery, and stowage. In her last four years with the agency, she led the Astronaut Office team supporting the Constellation Program and the Commercial Crew Development initiative. Today Marsha works as an independent engineering consultant.

John Leland, “Alumni Journeys,” *It’s Not Too Late to Start Living Like You’re 90*
Tuesday, November 27, 2018 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

What’s the secret to living a fuller, more content life? For John Leland, an award-winning *New York Times* reporter and author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Happiness Is a Choice You Make: Lessons from a Year among the Oldest Old*, the answer came from an unexpected place: from the lives of six people age 85 and up. He expected them to educate him in the hardships of old age. Instead, they taught him lessons of resilience, gratitude, purpose and perspective that apply to people of any age. All had lost something—spouses, mobility, their keen eyesight or hearing. But none had lost everything. And they defined their lives by the things they could still do, not by what they had lost. Sociologists call this the “paradox of aging”: as much as our culture obsesses over youth, older people are more content with their lives than young adults. They’re less stressed, less afraid of death, better able to manage whatever difficulties come their way—even when their lives are very, very hard. The good news about old age is that there is

good news. And the better news is that we can all learn from our elders' wisdom and experience. Whatever your age, it's not too late to learn to think like an old person.

Biography

John Leland is a reporter at *The New York Times*, where he wrote a year-long series following six people age 85 and up, which became the basis for his new book, *Happiness Is a Choice You Make: Lessons from a Year among the Oldest Old*, a *New York Times* bestseller. Before joining *The New York Times* in 2000, he was a senior editor at *Newsweek* and editor-in-chief of *Details* magazine.

Samuel K. Roberts, Jr., PhD, *Structural Violence and the War on Drugs: What History Can Tell Us About Race and the Current Opioid Crisis*

Tuesday, January 29, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Dr. Samuel Kelton Roberts, Jr. is Associate Professor of History (School of Arts & Sciences) and Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences (Mailman School of Public Health) at Columbia University. He writes, teaches, and lectures widely on African-American history, medical and public health history, urban history, issues of policing and criminal justice, and the history of social movements. His book, *Infectious Fear: Politics, Disease, and the Health Effects of Segregation* (UNC Press, 2009), demonstrates the historical and continuing links between legal and de facto segregation and poor health outcomes. He sits on several boards for organizations working for social justice, health improvement, and arts and activism. In 2013-14, Dr. Roberts served as the Policy Director of Columbia University's Justice Initiative, where he coordinated the efforts of several partners to bring attention to the issue of aging and the growing incarcerated elderly population. This work led to the publication of the widely-read landmark report, *Aging in Prison: Reducing Elder Incarceration and Promoting Public Safety* (New York: Columbia University Center for Justice. November 2015).

Dr. Roberts, a 2017 recipient of the Lenfest Distinguished Faculty Award, and several times nominated for the Van Doren Teaching Award (not yet a winner!), brings innovative approaches to teaching through collaborative group partnerships with community organizations in which students may apply what they have learned in the classroom to the world beyond the gates. These classroom experiences include investigations of human rights and living conditions in New York's arraignment court holding pens, public policy research informing campaigns for public health improvements in New York State prisons, and oral histories of substance abuse and addiction treatment.

As the Faculty in Residence for Columbia's West Campus, Dr. Roberts brings fresh and community-building programming to campus. Many of his FIR events feature on- and off-campus opportunities for West Campus residents to engage successful professionals working in environmental justice; medicine and public health; electoral politics; and gender, sexual, and racial justice.

Dr. Roberts tweets from [@SamuelKRoberts](#).

Elaine Sisman, “Core Connections,” *Lateness: Historical, Biographical, Musical*
Monday, February 11, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

In the Core, we explore musical works written within different “life cycles”: historical eras, composers' careers, and the evolution of musical genres like opera and symphony. How do works reflect, embody, transcend, unsettle, or stand at a distance from their times and their audiences? After Beethoven's musical expressions of struggle, passion, and heroism, composers had to deal with profound feelings of belatedness and an awkward relationship to the Kantian sublime. Yet Beethoven himself embodied all the contradictions and paradoxes of the overlapping Enlightenment, Revolutionary, Napoleonic, and Romantic eras he lived through, and his controversial late works divided listeners as never before. Are Beethoven's works timeless or untimely?

Biography

Elaine Sisman is the Anne Parsons Bender Professor of Music and returning Chair of Music Humanities. Her research interests are the music of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, issues of musical meaning and persuasion, biography and late style, and the Enlightenment imagination. Her most recent publications are “Music and the Labyrinth of Melancholy” in the *Oxford Handbook of Music and Disability Studies* and “Is Don Giovanni Evil?” in *Evil: A Philosophical History* (Oxford Philosophical Concepts series). She has served as department chair and president of the American Musicological Society, and was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2014. At Columbia, she has received the Award for Distinguished Service to the Core Curriculum and the Great Teacher Award.

Souleymane Bachir Diagne, *Thinking (in) Our Post-Bandung World*
Tuesday, February 19, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

In 1955, a conference was organized in Bandung, Indonesia, between Asian and African countries, most of them already independent states, others, like Ghana (then called Gold Coast) fighting to end colonialism. The Bandung Conference was a milestone in the movement of decolonization that marked the end of the notion that imperial Europe represented universalism and therefore the model to which the rest of the world should strive to conform itself. Does that mean that in a post-Bandung world, a world of plurality of languages and cultures, all equivalent, the pursuit of universality is meaningless? That is the question this presentation will address, by examining in particular the opposition of many French intellectuals to “postcolonial studies” in the name of universalism.

Biography

Souleymane Bachir Diagne is a professor at Columbia University in the departments of French and Philosophy. He currently serves as director of the Institute of African Studies. His areas of

research and publication include History of Philosophy, History of Logic and Mathematics, Islamic Philosophy, and African Philosophy and Literature.

His latest publications in English include *Islam and the Open Society: Fidelity and Movement in Muhammad Iqbal's Thought*, Dakar, Codesria, 2010; *African Art as Philosophy: Senghor, Bergson, and the Idea of Negritude*, Seagull Books, 2011; *The Ink of the Scholars: Reflections on Philosophy in Africa*, Dakar, Codesria, 2016; *Open to Reason: Muslim Philosophers in Conversation with Western Tradition*, New York, Columbia University Press, 2018.

Teodolinda Barolini, “Core Connections,” *Lateness as Regret*
Thursday, February 28, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Modernity as lateness—whereby “modern literature emerges as a kind of late style to the vigorous youth of Antiquity” (Hutchinson, *Lateness and Modern European Literature*)—is a familiar thought. But lateness occurs in all periods. In the Italian Trecento, we find an author who is quintessentially non-late: Dante, who lived from 1265 to 1321. And we find another author, Petrarch, born in 1304 while Dante was still alive, who embodies lateness. Perhaps this is why we consider Petrarch “modern,” accustomed as we are to associate lateness with modernity. In this talk, I will discuss the idea of lateness through the verses of these two great poets. One is the epitome of heroic present-ness, of lateness always already overcome. The other is the epitome of lateness as regret.

Biography

Teodolinda Barolini is the Lorenzo Da Ponte Professor of Italian at Columbia University. A Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the Medieval Academy of America, and the Accademia Olimpica (Vicenza), she was elected to Italy's National Academy, the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, in 2018.

From 1997 to 2003, Barolini served as fifteenth president of the Dante Society of America. Her research focuses on thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Italian literary culture and its relation to classical antiquity, as well as its reception through the centuries to our own day. She has written widely on Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, and the medieval lyric.

Dante's Poets: Textuality and Truth in the 'Comedy' (Princeton, 1984; Italian trans. *Il miglior fabbro: Dante e i poeti della 'Commedia'*, Bollati Boringhieri, 1993) won the Marraro Prize of the Modern Language Association and the John Nicholas Brown Prize of the Medieval Academy. *The Undivine Comedy: Detheologizing Dante* (Princeton, 1992; Italian trans. *La Commedia senza Dio: Dante e la creazione di una realtà virtuale*, Feltrinelli, 2003) looks at how Dante constructs a virtual reality in language in the light of his repeated truth claims, and sets out a method of reading—“detheologizing”—that counteracts the narrative structures that work to overdetermine our hermeneutic response to the poem. *Dante and the Origins of Italian Literary Culture* (Fordham, 2006; Italian trans. Bompiani, 2012) explores the origins of Italian literary culture through four prisms: “Philosophy of Desire”; “Christian and Pagan Intertexts”; “Ordering the Macrotext: Time and Narrative”; and “Gender.” This volume won the Premio

Flaiano in *italianistica* in 2007.

Barolini's commentary to Dante's early lyric poetry, *Rime giovanili e della 'Vita Nuova'*, was published by Rizzoli in 2009. This commentary reconstructs Dante's poetic and ideological itinerary from its courtly beginnings to the Paradiso. Her expanded and revised English edition, with translations of Dante's poetry by Richard Lansing—*Dante's Lyric Poetry: Lyrics of Youth and of the 'Vita Nuova'*—was published by the University of Toronto Press in 2014. It was awarded the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award of the Modern Language Association for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies in 2012.

Editor of the website *Digital Dante*, Barolini is the author of the *Commento Baroliniano*, the first digital commentary to the *Commedia*, committed to an Aristotelian and non-dualist reading of Dante's poem.

Sunil Agrawal, *Robotics to Restore and Retrain Human Movements*
Tuesday, March 5, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Neural disorders limit the ability of humans to perform activities of daily living. Robotics can be used to probe the human neuromuscular system and create new pathways to relearn, restore, and improve functional movements. Dr. Agrawal's group at the Columbia University Robotics and Rehabilitation (ROAR) Laboratory has designed innovative robots for this purpose and tested these on human subjects. Human experiments have targeted patients with stroke, cerebral palsy, Parkinson's disease, ALS, vestibular disorders, elderly subjects and others. This talk will provide an overview of some of these scientific studies.

Biography

Sunil Agrawal received a Ph.D. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University in 1990. He is currently a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and the Director of the Robotics and Rehabilitation (ROAR) Laboratory, located both on the engineering and medical campuses of Columbia University. He has published close to 500 journal and conference papers.

Dr. Agrawal is a Fellow of the ASME and AIMBE. His honors include a NSF Presidential Faculty Fellowship from the White House in 1994, a Bessel Prize from Germany in 2003, and a Humboldt US Senior Scientist Award in 2007. He is a recipient of 2016 Machine Design Award from ASME for "seminal contributions to design of robotic exoskeletons for gait training of stroke patients" and 2016 Mechanisms and Robotics Award from the ASME for "cumulative contributions and being an international leading figure in mechanical design and robotics." He is a recipient of several Best Paper awards in ASME- and IEEE-sponsored robotics conferences.

He has held the positions of Distinguished Visiting Professor at Hanyang University in Korea, Professor of Robotics at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, and Visiting Professor at the Biorobotics Institute of SSSA in Pisa. He actively serves on editorial boards of conferences and journals published by the ASME, IEEE, and other professional societies.

Sophie Hollingsworth, “Cool Jobs,” *Modern Explorer*
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

With the tallest peaks climbed and the depths of the ocean reached, what is left to explore? Exploration is no longer about planting your nation’s flag in an uncharted territory or being the first to summit the world’s tallest mountains. Today, exploration is about increasing our knowledge and understanding of the world we live in and using that knowledge to help foster a more sustainable and just future. Sophie Hollingsworth will challenge our assumptions and recount her amusing and poignant tales of transitioning from a ballerina to explorer with subsequent adventures/misadventures from the streets of Managua to the mountains of Madagascar.

Captain Sophie Hollingsworth is a former ballerina turned award-winning explorer who uses her passion for exploration to help forage a more sustainable future. Sophie is a Fulbright Scholar and earned a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science and Global Public Health from New York University. Sophie is an avid sailor, has sailed across the Pacific Ocean, and holds a 200-ton captains license. At the time of her certification, she was the youngest female to ever obtain a 200-ton MCA Yachtmaster Captains License.

Sophie is the founder of AquaAid International, a non-profit organization collaborating with some of the world’s most remote villages to design and implement sustainable sources of clean drinking water and basic sanitation. Her appetite for adventure and discovering indigenous ways of life has led her to paddle uncharted rivers in Madagascar, desert treks in Namibia, and ethnographic research in the Republic of Vanuatu. Sophie’s work has been featured by National Geographic and the United Nations. She is a Fellow of The Explorers Club and a Post-Graduate Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Dave Zader, “Cool Jobs,” *Water and Fire: Managing Natural Disasters in the 21st Century*
Thursday, April 4, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Natural disasters are growing in size and scope. Why are these events getting larger? What are we doing about them? What are the after-effects of these events? How do we make meaningful change? What role does technology play? This talk will address the past, present and future of incident management from the perspective of a 30-year veteran of incident management.

Biography

Dave Zader is the Wildland Fire Administrator for the City of Boulder, Colorado Fire Department. Dave started his fire career in 1987 in Prince William County, Virginia, and has worked for the US Forest Service, Yosemite National Park as a Heli rappeler, and at multiple municipal fire departments. He has spent the last 11 Years with the Boulder Fire Department and works in Operations and Air Operations on local and national incident management teams. He is

qualified as a Division Supervisor, Helibase Manager, Incident Commander, and Burn Boss. In addition, Dave was the creator and author of the Boulder Structural Protection Plan. He teaches at numerous local, state and national courses.

Dave works very closely with National Guard and active duty aviation units to help prepare them for firefighting and domestic operations. He has been awarded two medals of valor and numerous commendations throughout his career, and has served in many roles on large incidents, from Hurricane Sandy to the Colorado Floods and the Boulder County Fourmile Fire. Dave has been involved in structural and wildland firefighting, search and rescue, technical rescue, hazardous materials, and incident management throughout his career. Dave has a passion for firefighting, aviation, technology, and communications and graphical information sharing systems. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry and Wildlife Management from Virginia Tech.

Andri Snær Magnason, *Time and Water*

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

During the next 100 years, we expect to see a fundamental change of all the elements of water on our planet. Many glaciers will melt and the sea levels will rise on a faster rate than has been seen before. Acidification will bring the oceans to a pH level not seen in 30 million years and patterns of rain, wind and snow will change dramatically in many areas. We could say that nature is not changing in geological speed anymore but entering human speed. In many ways we could say that this extreme shift is larger than any metaphor or any words or language we are used to. We hear words and terms about these issues but for most people, they are just broken sound and white noise, and 99% of the real meaning of the words are not included in our imagination. We are faced with the almost impossible task of cutting carbon emissions to zero in 2050, according to newest studies. The question is: Are we too late to do something? What can actually be done in 30 years?

Biography

Andri Snær Magnason is an Icelandic writer and filmmaker currently working on a book about time and water. He is a writer of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and plays. His book *LoveStar* won the Philip K. Dick special citation in 2014 and his children's book, *The Story of the Blue Planet*, has been published in 32 languages. His newest book, *The Casket of Time*, is a YA novel published by Restless Books in NYC in April 2019. Andri Snær Magnason ran for president of Iceland in 2016 and came third in the election.

INSIGHT: 2017-2018

The Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program (CUSP) Distinguished Speaker Series follows an intellectual theme that is the foundation of our year-long inquiry. This year's talks explore the theme of "Insight."

Insight is knowledge *from* or *of* the inside. In one light, it means seeing from within the mind or from within a particular situation in the world. It thus refers, on the one hand, to a mental faculty involving the imagination, intuition, dreams—the sources of inspiration and creativity, or what a poet calls the "inward eye." On the other hand, it derives from a perspective of inclusion or immersion within a concrete community, operation, study, etc. For example, the embedded journalist, the connected professional, or the scientist in the field all occupy a position productive of "insider knowledge."

Standing on the outside, one might alternately look into an object to gain an awareness of what lies inside. This kind of insight penetrates beneath the surface to view an interior or to grasp a hidden truth, as medicine peers inside the body, neuroscience into the brain, psychology into the psyche, religion into the soul. By other lights, insight might even suggest what is *in sight*, on the horizon, evoking the power of a visionary to predict what is to come. Any technology of vision—microscopes, satellite photography, theater—by enhancing or manipulating what one sees, can spark new understanding, or insight.

This year's CUSP Distinguished Speakers Series will explore the theme of insight within the fields of neuroscience, psychology, and medicine; engineering, physics, and astronomy; film and theater; religion, philosophy, and literature; journalism, economics, and counterterrorism intelligence.

SPEAKER SERIES 2017-2018

Roosevelt Montás, *The Idea of the Core*

Friday, September 1, 2017 | Faculty Room, Low Memorial Library

Professor Montás' welcome to Columbia present a wide-ranging overview of the Core Curriculum, from its place in the history of liberal education, to the debates that have shaped it, to the goals it pursues, and to the challenges it faces. A period of question and answer will follow the talk.

Biography

Roosevelt Montás is director of the Center for the Core Curriculum. He specializes in Pre-Civil War American literature and culture, with a particular interest in American national identity. His dissertation, *Rethinking America*, won Columbia University's 2004 Bancroft Award. In 2000, he received the Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student. Roosevelt

currently teaches Introduction to Contemporary Civilization as well as a seminar in American Studies on the themes of Freedom and Citizenship.

Roosevelt was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to New York as a teenager. He attended public schools and was admitted to Columbia College in 1991 through its Opportunity Programs. He graduated in 1995 with a major in Comparative Literature and completed his Ph.D. in the English Department at Columbia in 2003. As Director of the Center for the Core Curriculum, he also lectures widely on the history, place and future of liberal education in the university.

Eric Kandel, *Reductionism in Art and Brain Science: Bridging the Two Cultures—The Surprising Partnership of Art and Science*

Tuesday, September 19, 2017 | Rennert Hall, The Kraft Center

Can science and art find common ground? Are scientific and artistic quests mutually exclusive? In his talk, Eric Kandel, whose interests span the fields of brain science and art, will explore how reductionism—the distillation of larger scientific or aesthetic concepts into smaller and more tractable ideas—has been used by scientists and artists alike to pursue their respective truths. Their common use of reductionist strategies demonstrates how science can inform how we experience a work of art and seek to understand its meaning. Kandel draws on his Nobel Prize-winning work studying the neurobiological underpinnings of learning and memory in the sea slug, *Aplysia*, whose simple brain helps illuminate the complex workings of higher animal minds. He extends these findings to the complex processes of human perception, which uses bottom-up sensory and top-down cognitive functions to perceive the world and thus experience a work of art.

At the heart of his lecture is an elucidation of the contribution of reductionism to modern art's extraordinary evolution and its pivotal role in a monumental shift in artistic perspective. Kandel's lecture is designed to bring science and art into closer relation at a time when they seem to be growing farther apart.

Biography

Eric R. Kandel, M.D., is a University Professor at Columbia; Kavli Professor and Director, Kavli Institute for Brain Science; Co-Director, Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute; and an Investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. A graduate of Harvard College and NYU School of Medicine, Kandel trained in Neurobiology at the NIH and in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He joined the faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University in 1974 as the founding director of the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior. At Columbia, Kandel organized the neuroscience curriculum. He is an editor of *Principles of Neural Science*, the standard textbook in the field, now in its 5th edition. His previous book on art, *The Age of Insight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain From Vienna 1900 to the Present*, won the Kreisky Award in Literature, Austria's highest literary award. Kandel's new book, entitled *Reductionism in Art and Brain*

Science: Bridging the Two Cultures, published by Columbia University Press, has just been released.

Kandel's research has been concerned with the molecular mechanisms of memory storage in *Aplysia* and mice. More recently, he has studied animal models in mice, age-related memory disorders, post-traumatic stress disorders, nicotine, alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine addiction.

Kandel has received twenty-three honorary degrees, and is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, as well as a Foreign Member of the Royal Society of London, and a member of the National Science Academies of Austria, France, Germany and Greece. He has been recognized with the Albert Lasker Award, the Heineken Award of the Netherlands, the Gairdner Award of Canada, the Harvey Prize and the Wolf Prize of Israel, the National Medal of Science USA and the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2000.

Barclay Morrison, *Thinking About Concussion*

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) continues to be a major socio-economic problem with about two million head injuries in the US annually, the majority being mild in severity—what we call concussion. Recent studies from the laboratory suggest that concussion, the inability to think clearly, may be due, in part, to a disruption of dendritic organization and function resulting in the inability to make new memories. Working with tissue culture models of TBI, we have identified therapeutic interventions that rescue neuronal plasticity that underlies learning.

Biography

Barclay Morrison III received his B.S. degree in biomedical engineering from the Johns Hopkins University, his M.S.E and Ph.D. degrees in bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania, and continued his academic training as a post-doctoral fellow in the Clinical Neurosciences department at Southampton University, UK. He is currently Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Vice Dean of Undergraduate Programs in the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science at Columbia University. His research focus is on the biomechanics of traumatic brain injury at the tissue level, as well as, the biochemical, genomic, and molecular pathways responsible for post-traumatic dysfunction. He applies a quantitative approach to understand the relationship between mechanical injury parameters and the living biological response of the injured tissue. He currently serves as the vice president for the International Research Council on the Biomechanics of Injury and is associate editor for the *Journal of Biomechanical Engineering* and the *Journal of Neurotrauma*.

Paul Christie, “Alumni Journeys,” *Hologram Visions*

Monday, October 16, 2017 | 3rd Floor Lecture Room, Pulitzer Hall

The word “hologram” provokes the imagination and conjures ideas of the future. The Greek etymology yields the meaning “whole message,” and subtly implies that our current vision of the

world is somehow lacking. A Nobel Prize was meritoriously awarded for the invention of the hologram, and yet the term is continually misappropriated by everyone from dead musicians (e.g. @Hologram_Tupac) to inverted plastic pyramids sitting atop cell phone screens. What really is a hologram, and what does it mean for our vision of the future?

Biography

Paul Christie is a leading hologram technology authority, and the co-founder, CEO and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Liti Holographics, Inc. He has over 20 years of comprehensive experience running a high-tech hologram start-up, with accomplishments ranging from the completion of hologram campaigns for top ad agencies to the spearheading of holographic R&D for futuristic smart glasses. Mr. Christie has degrees from Columbia University and MIT, where he studied under renowned holographic pioneer Stephen Benton at the MIT Media Lab, and had his thesis patented by MIT.

Michael Tuts, *The ATLAS Experiment at the LHC: Revealing the Subatomic World*
Monday, October 30, 2017 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Much of our insight into the subatomic world comes from experiments that smash together particles at the highest available energies in order to understand the fundamental constituents of matter and the forces that bind them together. In order to be able to discover and explore nature at these small scales, we must build some of the world's largest scientific instruments. Prof. Tuts will take you on a journey into the subatomic world using one such instrument; into a world of quarks, leptons, bosons, where until 2012 a key element, the long sought after Higgs boson (sometimes popularly called the God particle), was still missing. What is the Higgs boson and why is it important? How was the Higgs boson discovered? The huge ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the CERN Laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland is as tall as an eight story building and was used to make this and many other discoveries. Prof. Tuts will discuss how the ATLAS detector is used to record many trillions of 'digital pictures' of the head-on collisions of protons with protons travelling at near the speed of light. That recorded data was analyzed by 3,000 ATLAS physicists from around the world to discover, together with the CMS experiment at CERN, the Higgs boson. The theoretical work, by Higgs and Englert, that had predicted the Higgs boson existence, 50 years earlier, was rewarded with the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics after the discovery by ATLAS and CMS. We have only started to explore this new energy regime, and we hope that many new discoveries are in store for us.

Biography

Michael Tuts is an experimental particle physicist who has spent his career studying the fundamental particles and forces that make up our world. After obtaining his PhD in 1979, he joined the Columbia University Physics Department faculty in 1983, where he has been ever since. He has worked on experimental high energy physics collaborations that have grown larger as accelerators have become more and more powerful over the decades. He was a member of, and served as a co-spokesperson for, the CUSB experiment at the Cornell Electron Storage Ring that had about 25 physicists working on it. He then became a founding member of the D-Zero

experiment at Fermilab (the highest energy accelerator ever built in the US) with around 600 colleagues, and most recently served as the US Operations Program Manager for the ATLAS experiment at CERN, where he has about 3,000 colleagues he works with. Over this time, he has been an author on over 1,200 journal publications from these experiments. He is now involved in working on an upgrade to the ATLAS detector, which is expected to operate well into the 2030s. He recently finished a term as the Chair of the Physics Department, and looks forward to returning to teach introductory physics classes.

Bob Neer, “Core Connections,” *What I Learned Teaching Contemporary Civilization to 194 Columbia Undergraduates*

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Bob Neer guided 194 Columbia undergraduates along Contemporary Civilization’s (CC) arduous intellectual path during a five-year span in which he taught 16 sections of the legendary course. Along the way, he graded hundreds of essays and thousands of midterm and final examination questions, and spent about 800 classroom hours discussing the texts with his students. In this talk, he will share what he learned about how to read for the course, engage in classroom discussions, write CC essays, and answer examination questions.

Biography

Bob Neer is a historian, attorney, and entrepreneur. His historical research examines the intersection of U.S. military power, economic and cultural globalization, and international law in the 20th and 21st centuries. His book, *Napalm: An American Biography*, the first comprehensive history of the incendiary weapon, was published in 2013 by the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press to overwhelmingly positive reviews. He has been interviewed in many newspapers and magazines, NPR affiliates WBUR and WGBH Radio, Irish Radio, Russian television network RT Global, CNBC Asia, and numerous other media outlets.

He has taught a summer course for the Columbia University History Department, *Empire of Liberty: A Global History of the U.S. Military*, multiple times since 2012. He was a Core Lecturer in History and taught Contemporary Civilization at Columbia from 2011-2014. He taught at Columbia as a Preceptor, a John Jay Graduate Fellow for the Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program, and a Teaching Assistant for the History Department, between 2006 and 2011. He was nominated by the History Department for the Columbia Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student, and received the TOMS Core Faculty Fellow award for excellence in teaching in 2013-2014.

Neer received his U.S. History Ph.D. in 2011, his M.Phil in 2007, and his J.D. and M.A. degrees in 1991, all from Columbia. The History Department awarded him the Helen Lehman Bottenwieser Fellowship. The Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law at Columbia Law School granted him a Recognition of Achievement with Honors in International and Foreign Law.

Between 1991 and 2005, he founded, developed and sold media businesses in London, Los Angeles, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Boston, worked for the Howard Dean and John Kerry presidential campaigns, and served as Campaign Manager for Los Angeles County District Attorney Gil Garcetti's successful first run for the office. He is a member of the State Bar of California.

Between college and graduate school, he studied Southeast Asian politics at the National University of Singapore as a Fulbright Scholar, worked as a fund manager for the Lazard Asia investment firm in Hong Kong, wrote freelance news and travel articles for a variety of periodicals including *The Boston Globe* and *The Asian Wall Street Journal*, and traveled to all seven continents. Neer graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard College in 1986 with a major in U.S. History.

Neer is a co-founder, co-editor and frequent contributor to BlueMassGroup.com, the most widely read independent political blog in New England, with about 1.25 million unique annual readers. In 2007, he wrote *Barack Obama for Beginners: An Essential Guide*, distributed by Random House: the best-selling title in the 23-year history of its publisher For Beginners books. An expanded and revised second edition followed in 2009. A licensee published a translation of the book in Russian.

Barbara Gail Montero, *The Myth of Sudden Insight*

Thursday, January 25, 2018 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Leaps of insight—wherein a significant idea or answer to a problem appears to materialize in a flash—are often prized more than the plodding effort that is part and parcel of bringing such ideas to fruition. But why is this? While acknowledging that we sometimes do experience “aha!” moments, Professor Montero questions the claim that these apparent epiphanies bound over intermediate steps of reasoning and investigates the sentiment that they are more important than the comparatively slow, arduous, conscious thought processes that invariably accompany them.

Biography

Barbara Gail Montero (B.A. University of California at Berkeley, Ph.D. University of Chicago) is Professor of Philosophy at the City University of New York, at the College of Staten Island and the CUNY Graduate Center, where she is a member of the doctoral faculty of philosophy. She has received research fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She is author of *Thought in Action: Expertise and the Conscious Mind* (Oxford University Press) and is an active collaborator with sports psychologists. Before her career as a philosophy professor, she was a professional ballet dancer.

Mary Putman, *Insight from the Milky Way*

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

We live within the Milky Way galaxy and this provides us with a unique view. The band of light in the night sky represents the disk of stars that we live within. Gas fills the space between the stars and represents the fuel for future stars and planets to form. Prof. Putman will present the view of our galaxy from within with radio eyes, discuss how the Milky Way has built itself up to be the galaxy it is today, and the insight it provides on structure formation throughout the universe.

Biography

Mary Putman, PhD, has been a professor in the Astronomy Department at Columbia since 2008. She was previously on the faculty at the University of Michigan and a Hubble Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Colorado. Putman has published over 100 refereed publications with over 5,000 citations and is frequently invited to give review talks and write review articles in her field of gaseous galaxy evolution. One of her favorite parts of her job is completing research with the impressive Columbia undergraduate and graduate students.

Tom Kitt and Rita Pietropinto Kitt, “CUSP Alumni Journeys,” *Just a Few Stops Away: From 116th Street to Times Square—A Journey from Columbia to Broadway*
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 | 555 Lerner Hall

Columbia alumni Tom Kitt (Pulitzer, Tony and Emmy award-winning composer) and Rita Pietropinto Kitt (actor, director and Adjunct Professor of Acting at Barnard) discuss their journey together from being students and Varsity Show creative team members at Columbia College to finding success in the professional Broadway theater and entertainment world, and how their time and connections at Columbia forged that path. The team will also discuss the state of the theater as a reflection of our changing world and how necessary new voices are to the continued success and vibrancy of this art form.

Biography

Tom Kitt is a graduate of Columbia College, Class of 1996. He received the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama as well as two Tony Awards for Best Score and Best Orchestrations for *Next to Normal*. *Next to Normal* also received the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Score. He is also the composer of *If/Then* (Tony Nom., Outer Critics Nom.); *High Fidelity* (Broadway); *Bring it On: The Musical* (co-composer with Lin-Manuel Miranda, Broadway); Disney’s *Freaky Friday*; *The Winter’s Tale*, *All’s Well That Ends Well*, and *Cymbeline* (The Public’s NYSF); *From Up Here* and *The Madrid (MTC)*; *Orphans (Broadway)*, *The Retributionists* (Playwrights Horizons) and *As You Like It* (Toho Co., Japan).

Tom is the music supervisor, arranger, orchestrator and composer of additional music for *SpongeBob Squarepants: The Musical*, which opens on Broadway fall of 2017. In addition, he is the music supervisor for the new NBC drama, *Rise*, which airs in 2018. Tom was responsible for the music supervision, arrangements and orchestrations for *Grease Live!* and Green Day’s *American Idiot on Broadway*. His work with Green Day also includes additional

arrangements for their Grammy Award-winning album *21st Century Breakdown* and their album trilogy *¡Uno! ¡Dos! ¡Tré!*

Tom received an Emmy Award as co-writer (with Lin-Manuel Miranda) for the 2013 Tony Awards opening number, *Bigger*. Other television songwriting credits include a musical episode of *Royal Pains*, and songs for *Penny Dreadful* and *Sesame Street*. As a musical director, conductor, arranger and orchestrator, credits include *Pitch Perfect*, *Pitch Perfect 2*, *Pitch Perfect 3*, *2 Cellos featuring Lang Lang (Live and Let Die)*, *The Kennedy Center Honors, 13*, *Debbie Does Dallas*, *Everyday Rapture*, *Hair*, *Laugh Whore*, *Pippin (Deaf West)*, and *These Paper Bullets*.

Rita Pietropinto Kitt is the chair of the Drama Department at Marymount School of New York. She is also an adjunct professor in the Barnard Theater Department, where she teaches undergraduate acting classes. As an actress, Rita has performed on Broadway, off-Broadway, regionally, and in television and film. Rita received a BA in political science from Columbia College in 1993 and served as her senior class president, participating in the Varsity Show as an actress and producer for 4 years. She also received an MFA in Acting from the Columbia School of the Arts in 1996. She is a vice president on the Columbia College Alumni Association, a Board member for Columbia College Women, and has served as a class agent for the past 20 years. Her Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) leadership includes serving as a vice chair on the board of the CAA and past Chair of the CAA Arts Access Committee. Rita was recognized for her contributions to Columbia with a 2016 Alumni Medal.

Giuseppe Gerbino, “Core Connections,” *Musical Insights into the Core*
Monday, February 26, 2018 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Although intertwined in vocal music, music and speech belong to two related but different sound systems. What can we learn from music that we cannot learn from language? Taking its cue from classical antiquity, Renaissance humanism linked the power of music to the affective roots of human motivation and behavior. Giuseppe Gerbino’s talk explores the historical implications of the idea that while emotions may control behavior without awareness, music can be used to control emotions.

Biography

Giuseppe Gerbino is Professor of Music and Historical Musicology at Columbia University. His research interests include the Italian madrigal, the relationship between music and language in the early modern period, early opera, and Renaissance theories of cognition and sense perception. He is the author of *Canoni ad Enigmi: Pier Francesco Valentini e l’artificio canonico nella prima metà del Seicento* (Rome, 1995), and *Music and the Myth of Arcadia in Renaissance Italy* (Cambridge, 2009), which won the 2010 Lewis Lockwood Award from the American Musicological Society. His research has been supported by the American Musicological Society, the Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies (Villa I Tatti), the Renaissance Society of America, the Mellon Foundation, the American Philosophical Society,

and the Italian National Research Center (CNR). In 2013, Columbia honored him with the Lenfest Distinguished Faculty Award.

Chandrika Tandon, *Insights from Chandrika Tandon*

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 | Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR

Composer and vocalist Chandrika Tandon has been trained by masters in Hindustani, Carnatic and Western traditions. Her album *Soul Call* topped world music charts, garnering great acclaim, and earned her a Grammy nomination. All three of her albums were released under her not-for-profit label, Soul Chants Music.

Her “limpid, serene voice”—as the *New York Times* describes it—has filled major venues around the world, including Lincoln Center, the Smithsonian, Olympiastadion (Berlin), the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, and the 2016 World Culture Festival in New Delhi, supporting efforts towards peace and harmony.

Chandrika is a recognized leader in the worlds of business, education and the arts, dedicated to public service. In addition to being founder and head of her financial advisory firm, she is a member of the Board of the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts, and the Berklee School of Music’s President’s Council. Additionally, the Berklee Tandon Global Clinics connect world-class music faculty from the US to other countries. At New York University, she is Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chair of the President’s Global Council and Chair of the Board of the NYU Tandon School of Engineering. Chandrika also serves on the Boards of the NYU Stern School of Business and the NYU Langone Health System.

Chandrika has received several awards for her integrity and leadership—the Gallatin Medal, New York University’s highest honor for outstanding contributions to society; the Walter Nichols Medal for leadership and integrity; and the Polytechnic Medal, recognizing her involvement in science and engineering. In recognition of her efforts on behalf of higher education, she was inducted as a Sterling Fellow at Yale and into the Harold Acton Society of New York University. She was named an Inaugural Distinguished Alumnus of both the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad and the Madras Christian College—her two alma maters.

Sharon Lee De La Cruz, “Cool Jobs,” *Code Slang: Culturally Relevant Learning*

Thursday, March 29, 2018 | 401 Lerner Hall

Traditionally, computer programming languages are designed so that the user can understand the computer. This creates a divide and gap in computer science because it excludes people, who for a variety of reasons, have been turned off by code. “Code Slang” uses the playfulness of slang to invite people from different backgrounds to code. What could it mean for a computer to understand slang?

Biography

Sharon Lee De La Cruz is an artist and activist from New York City. She earned a BFA from The Cooper Union, is a Fulbright scholar, and obtained her Master's degree at NYU's ITP program (Interactive Telecommunications Program). Her work ranges from illustrations to interactive sculptures. She is passionate about accessible STEM education and the intersection of tech, art and social justice. She currently lives in New Jersey and is the Assistant Director of The StudioLab, a creative tech lab, at Princeton University.

George Van Amson, *Insights from a Wall Street Insider*
Monday, April 9, 2018 | 555 Lerner Hall

George Van Amson will discuss the organizational structure, history and culture of Wall Street, focusing on the last fifty years, but particularly on the last twenty-five. He will highlight the “careers, casualties, and commanders” of the industry.

Biography

George L. Van Amson serves as a Managing Director in the Institutional Equity Division—Sales and Trading, Management at Morgan Stanley. He is also Head of the North American Analyst and Associate Advising and Development Programs. Prior to assuming these responsibilities he was Head of North American Recruiting in the Institutional Equities Division (IED) of Morgan Stanley and Manager of the Sales Trading Service Desk for Global Wealth Management clients. Earlier as a Senior Sales Trader, he was responsible for managing Institutional Cash Sales Trading coverage of hedge funds, asset managers, pension funds and mutual funds. Prior responsibilities included senior position trader and sector trading head of cyclical equities, co-head trader of international equities managing the firm's Latin American capital risk as well as supervising U.S. and London trading efforts in South Africa. A 40-year veteran of Wall Street with experience in domestic and international markets, Mr. Van Amson was selected in 1993 as a World Economic Forum Global Leader and was named in 1992, 1996 and 2006 to Black Enterprise Magazine's “Top African Americans on Wall Street.” He has served as Chairman of the International Committee of the Securities Traders Association of New York. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley in 1992, Mr. Van Amson worked at Goldman Sachs as a Vice President, Equities—Trading and Arbitrage Division.

Throughout his career, Mr. Van Amson has been active in the community. He has served on the board of the Harvard Business School Alumni Association, as President of the HBS African American Alumni Association, on the Columbia College Board of Visitors, as Chairman of the United Negro College Fund Wall Street Campaign, and as board member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Currently, he serves as a Trustee Emeritus of Columbia University, Advisor to the Finance Committee of the Riverside Church, Director of Community Impact, Vice Chairman of the Board of the Amsterdam Nursing Home, Chair Emeritus of the Columbia Alumni Association, and member of the Investment Committee of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Mr. Van Amson graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School, and received his BA in Economics from Columbia College, and his MBA with second-year honors from Harvard, where he served as President of the African American Student Union. At Columbia, he was twice

elected President of the Class, Senior Class Marshall, and lettered in Varsity Football. At Brooklyn Tech, he was elected student organization president and was the recipient of the All-Tech Medal (1970). Other honors include Columbia University Curtis Medal in Gold (1974), Harvard Business School General Motors Fellowship Award (1981), HBS Dean's Leadership Award (1982), Columbia College John Jay Award (2000), Alumni of Color Heritage Award (2003), Community Impact "Making a Difference" Award (2004), Racial Harmony Award-Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (2007), Columbia Alumni Achievement Award (2009), Brooklyn Community Services (BCS) Human Spirit Award (2012), Varsity C 92nd Alumni Athletic Award (2013), the Distinguished Alumni Award-Brooklyn Tech (2013), and the Harvard Business School Alumni Professional Achievement Award (2017). Mr. Van Amson is a Sandan (black belt) in Judo and an international master's tournament competitor. A native New Yorker, he resides on the West Side of Manhattan with his family.

NAVIGATION: 2016-2017

The CUSP Distinguished Speaker Series follows an intellectual theme that is the foundation of our year-long inquiry. This year's talks explore the theme of “Navigation.” We will consider navigation from the perspective of the natural and environmental sciences, engineering, literature, philosophy, art, history, politics, and journalism.

Navigation in its most straightforward sense describes the process of guidance from place to place. One thinks of navigation in terms of nautical and aeronautical activities, or of zoological migration. Human exploration has involved the development of technical tools— from maps to sextants to compasses to Global Positioning Systems— that guide travelers from place to place and facilitate our understanding of our planet. Insects, birds, mammals and other animals utilize various environmental cues to navigate between key biotic and abiotic resources, at both fine and coarse spatial and temporal scales. Psychologists link these two through the study of mechanisms underlying the innate capacities for navigation that we humans share with other species, and the study of how these affect our brains, our memory, and our sense of self.

Geographical journeys are also intellectual, emotional, and spiritual ones. While literature, rich in descriptions of inner discovery tied to the external, draws the connection between navigation and the development of profound aspirations, philosophers consider navigation in terms of understanding alternative ways of structuring reality. Computer scientists grapple with the technological tools, data challenges, and ethics of navigating and accessing online information. Historians, sociologists, economists, and political scientists study how navigation has affected and affects the development and functioning of human societies and systems.

SPEAKER SERIES 2016-2017

Robert O’Meally, *This Music Demanded Action': The Challenge of the Core*
Monday, August 29, 2016 | 3rd Floor Lecture Hall, Pulitzer Hall

Professor O’Meally’s welcome to Columbia accentuates certain definitive qualities of the core curriculum. Every text read there sharpens the mind and sets the table for a lifetime of learning. But is there a plan of action demanded by these novels, poems, pictures, and pieces of music? By these histories and philosophical tracts? At this time of worldwide turmoil and violence, what are the most urgent demands placed upon the world’s best students?

Biography

Robert G. O’Meally is Zora Neale Hurston Professor, Columbia University, and director of Columbia’s Center for Jazz Studies. His books include *Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday*, *The Craft of Ralph Ellison*, and *Romare Bearden: A Black Odyssey*. He has edited or co-edited many volumes, including *The Jazz Cadence of American Culture, History and Memory in African American Culture*, and *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*. Several

of his music projects have won awards; his co-produced Smithsonian box set, *The Jazz Singers*, was nominated for a Grammy. In recent years, O’Meally has served as art curator for Jazz at Lincoln Center, and has curated many other exhibitions, including one that traveled for the Smithsonian Institution and others presented in New York, Paris, and Istanbul. His articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, and many other places, including *Les Cahiers du Musée National D’Art Moderne*. O’Meally is an amateur saxophonist whose sons say Dad plays “for his own amazement!”

George Michelsen Foy, *Finding North: How Navigation Makes us Human*
Thursday, September 22, 2016 | Rennert Hall, The Kraft Center

All life depends on movement: movement without figuring out where to go is useless. It follows that navigation is fundamental to how we live, to how we evolved. This talk will navigate not only how humans and animals find their way around, but also how we remember, talk, think and feel. From memory organs to satellites, salmon noses to London cabbies, we’ll discuss our direction-finding skills, how they’re changing—and why, in order not to lose our bearings, we desperately need to get lost more often.

Biography

George Michelsen Foy’s latest non-fiction book, *Finding North: How Navigation Makes Us Human*, examines how we find our way around space, emotions, and memory; it was published by Flatiron/Macmillan in May 2016. Foy’s previous non-fiction work examined the concept of silence: *Zero Decibels* came out in 2011. He has written thirteen novels (the latest in English entitled *Mettle*, 2010, under “GF Michelsen” at University Press of New England); other novels have been published by Bantam Doubleday, Viking Penguin, and Bastei Lubbe (Germany). His long-form non-fiction essays, on subjects such as the funeral industry, Filipino guerrillas, the Afghan war, and Bollywood, have appeared in Harper’s, Rolling Stone et al.; his short fiction with *Monkey Bicycle*, *Apeiron*, *Notre Dame Review*, *American Literary Review*, etc. A new novel, *Enquête sur Kamanzi*, will be published by Éditions Globophile, Paris, France this year. Foy, who was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in fiction, lives in New England and New York, and teaches writing at NYU. A former investigative reporter, fishing boat captain, and navigating officer on British tramp freighters (not at the same time), he once also held down the job of chief cream-pastries transporter in a London factory.

Gareth Williams, *Navigating Life: The Odyssey*
Wednesday, October 5, 2016 | 3rd Floor Lecture Hall, Pulitzer Hall

The bardic origins of the Homeric Odyssey are evident not least in the thrills and spills that the poet builds into the storyline of this breathless adventure of homecoming: scary monsters and super-creeps vie with seductive Siren voices and episodes of carnal indulgence in a narrative of endless twists, turns and trials. We all know that Odysseus eventually makes his way back to Ithaca, where Penelope faithfully awaits him after his twenty-year absence. Beyond the excitement of Odysseus’ travels, however, what might the Odyssey be said to be about? To what extent is the surface narrative a symbolic projection of deeper ideas and provocations about life?

In pondering such questions, this presentation moves from riding the Homeric waves of navigation at sea to considering the Odyssey as a remarkable meditation on how to navigate life more generally.

Biography

Gareth Williams has taught at Columbia since 1992. He is a Professor of Classics and a specialist in Latin literature, especially Ovid, but also in the Stoic philosophical writings of Seneca, that poisonous power before the throne of the still more odious Emperor Nero. His interests extend now to the Renaissance in Venice: He has just completed a book for Oxford University Press on Cardinal Pietro Bembo (1470-1547), on his preeminence as an outstanding Renaissance practitioner of the Latin language, and on his importance in the socio-cultural milieu of 15th century Venice.

Ivan Šimonović, UN Special Advisor on the Responsibility to Protect
Monday, October 10, 2016 | 3rd Floor Lecture Hall, Pulitzer Hall

Ivan Šimonović is the Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect (prevention of mass atrocities). From 2010 to 2016 he served as the United Nations Assistant-Secretary-General for Human Rights.

Before joining the United Nations in 2010, Mr. Šimonović held the position of Minister for Justice of Croatia. He was previously Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, where he served as President of the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. Šimonović was a professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb, where he was Head of the Legal Theory Department, and Vice-Dean and Vice-Rector for international cooperation. Serving in an expert capacity, he has been a member of the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, as well as Agent of the Republic of Croatia before the United Nations International Court of Justice.

David Helfand, *Navigating the Misinformation Age*
Thursday, October 20, 2016 | Rennert Hall, The Kraft Center

We now generate 2.5 quintillion bytes of information per day; that's 250,000 pages for each of the 7.4 billion individuals on the planet -- every day. Much of it is junk. And in this, the 25th anniversary year of the first World Wide Webpage, the junk distribution network is free. The tsunami of misinformation abroad in the land threatens to drown both individual decision-making and the formation of rational public policy. This lecture will explore the origin of the misinformation glut and illustrate the apps one must install in one's pre-frontal cortex to survive in the Misinformation Age.

Biography

David J. Helfand has been a faculty member at Columbia University for thirty-nine years, serving half of that time as Chair of the Department of Astronomy. He is the author of nearly 200 scientific publications and has mentored 22 PhD students, but most of his pedagogical efforts have been aimed at teaching science to non-science majors. Motivated by the belief that reading great books and experiencing art and music are insufficient preparation for life in a rapidly changing, tech-saturated twenty-first century, he takes full responsibility for introducing FroSci to the Core. He has won the Presidential Teaching Award and the Great Teaching Award of the Society of Columbia Graduates. In 2005, he joined an effort to create Canada's first independent, non-profit, secular university, Quest University Canada. He was a Visiting Tutor in the University's inaugural semester (Fall 2007) and served as President and Vice-Chancellor from 2008-2015. He also recently completed a four-year term as President of the American Astronomical Society. His first book, *A Survival Guide to the Misinformation Age*, appeared earlier this year.

Matt Vella, *Smart Cars, and the Increasingly Compelling Case to Why Humans Shouldn't be Allowed to Drive*

Thursday, October 27, 2016 | Rennert Hall, The Kraft Center

In the throne room of the American psyche, a driver's seat occupies center stage. Half the joy has been the freedom of finding your own way. And yet, Americans' long-standing romance with their cars is about to change as self-driving vehicles become more prevalent. Autonomous cars—from the likes of Tesla, Google, General Motors and Volvo—are rapidly approaching technological maturity. They promise to curb accidents, death, pollution, and congestion. And they may also make fallible human drivers obsolete. A look at how deeply society will be transformed when algorithms take the wheel.

Biography

Matt Vella is assistant managing editor for *Time* magazine and Time.com, primarily responsible for coverage of technology, business, and economics. He writes frequently for the magazine on emerging tech, including cover stories on wearable computing and self-driving cars. Before coming to *Time*, Vella was a reporter and editor for *Fortune*, *BusinessWeek*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. He is the winner of a New York Press Club Award for feature writing, a Telly Award for original web video and a Webby Award honoree. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Kaitlyn Parkins, "Cool Jobs," *Nocturnal Navigators: Understanding Migration Patterns of New York City's Birds and Bats*

Tuesday, November 1, 2016 | 401 Lerner Hall

Each spring and fall, tens of thousands of songbirds and bats make their way through NYC under the cover of nightfall, some journeying thousands of miles on annual migrations. Along the way these tiny animals must survive not only extreme conditions and predators, but also the perilous task of navigating through the built environment. Cities like New York create serious risks for

migrating avian species but are also capable of providing bountiful natural resources. Understanding the balance between these effects is critical to achieve positive conservation outcomes for these species. In this talk we'll explore the migration ecology of bats and birds that move through NYC, the risks they face during migration, and what we can do to protect them. I'll also discuss the circuitous path that led me to studying wildlife and working in the field of ecology in one of the most urbanized places on the planet.

Biography

Kaitlyn Parkins is the Director of Education at the Lower East Side Ecology Center and a bat research consultant for the Wildlife Conservation Society, New York City Audubon Society, and Wild Metro. She holds an M.S. in ecology and an Advanced Certificate in conservation biology from Fordham University where she investigated the role of green roofs in providing foraging habitat for bats in NYC. She has published several scientific papers on the bats of NYC, as well as the risks to migratory birds posed by glass and light. During her time as an M.S. student, Kaitlyn also became interested in the relationships between people and nature in human-dominated ecosystems. She is passionate about developing engaging educational programs that promote wildlife conservation, and providing science education to underserved communities.

Jeff Kluger and Alan Stern, *Cosmic Navigation*

Monday, November 14, 2016 | 3rd Floor Lecture Hall, Pulitzer Hall

Getting from place to place in the void that is space is a three-dimensional chess game that requires mastery of time, distance, trajectory and more.

Biography

Jeffrey Kluger is Editor at Large for *Time* magazine, covering science and human behavior. He is the author of 10 books, including *Apollo 13*—written with astronaut Jim Lovell—which was the basis for the movie by the same name.

Alan Stern is principal investigator for NASA's New Horizons, the first spacecraft to visit Pluto. The ship is now headed into the Kuiper Belt—and, eventually, to the cosmic wilderness beyond.

Greg Milner, *Time To Go*

Tuesday, January 31, 2017 | Davis Auditorium

Over the last 250 years, the idea of defining geographic position—what we mean when we say “you are here”—has become inextricably linked to the problem of time. This historical process reached its zenith with the development of GPS, a system that, at its root, is the world's most powerful clock. Every GPS receiver in the world—whether embedded in a mobile phone or a guided missile—defines its position by measuring the precise transmission time of signals sent by satellites 12,000 miles away. The next time you locate yourself by staring at that blue dot on your phone's map program, remember—the issue isn't *where*, it's *when*.

Biography

Greg Milner is an author and journalist specializing in technology and culture. His books include *Pinpoint: How GPS Is Changing Technology, Culture, and Our Minds* and *Perfecting Sound Forever: An Aural History of Recorded Music*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Slate*, *Salon*, *Time*, *Wired*, *Ars Technica*, *Spin*, *Blender*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Guardian*, and *The Sunday Times of London*. He has also worked as a magazine editor and a speechwriter for the Brooklyn Borough President. A former graduate student in New York University's Department of Anthropology and Program in Culture and Media, he has exhibited documentary work at the International Festival of Ethnographic Film.

Avery Alpha, *Foreign Fighter Flows and How We Stop Them*

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 | Rennert Hall, The Kraft Center

Foreign fighters are not a new phenomenon. But the rise and spread of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Iraq and Syria has changed the nature of the threat they present across the globe. In response, the United States and our foreign partners have reevaluated our approach, bolstered our defenses, and expanded our efforts to disrupt foreign fighters at every point in the radicalization, recruitment, and deployment process.

Biography

Avery Alpha serves as the Senior Policy Advisor and Chief of Staff for the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism at the White House. For the Obama Administration, she helps coordinate, implement, and advance the President's policy priorities on counterterrorism, homeland security, and cyber security. She joined the National Security Council in 2014 as Director for Counterterrorism, responsible for Syria, Turkey, Egypt, and Europe counterterrorism issues as well as foreign fighters. She spent 2010 through 2013 at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo working with Egyptian partners to disrupt terrorist attacks, dismantle terrorist networks, and--after the revolution--rebuild counterterrorism cooperation. She joined the Department of State in 2006, and prior to that worked in the Studies Department at the Council on Foreign Relations. She is proficient in Arabic and is a graduate of Columbia College at Columbia University.

Steve Bellovin, *Software and the Problem of Complexity*

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 | Davis Auditorium

Software seems straightforward to write: it's just a set of comparatively simple instructions. In fact, it's extremely difficult to write correct programs. This—probably a fundamental property that will never change—is at the heart of many dilemmas in our society, including cybersecurity, privacy, and encryption.

Biography

Professor Steve Bellovin is a full professor in the Computer Science Department at Columbia and an expert on cybersecurity. He completed his B.A. at Columbia College, and his M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research focuses on networks, security and why the two don't get along, and he has recently become interested in nuclear weapons command and control. As a graduate student he helped create USENET, an early networking and discussion system, for which he and his collaborators were awarded a Usenix Lifetime Achievement Award which recognizes and celebrates singular contributions to the Unix community in both intellectual achievement and service. He has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering and was awarded the 2007 NIST/NSA National Computer Systems Security Award. Professor Bellovin is co-author of *Firewalls and Internet Security: Repelling the Wily Hacker*, the second edition of which has just been published. He has been a member of the Science and Technology Advisory Committee of the Department of Homeland Security since 2005 and is a member of the Technical Guidelines Development Committee of the Election Assistance Commission. In September 2012, he became Chief Technologist of the Federal Trade Commission.

Allison Cuneo, “Cool Jobs,” *Under the Shadow of ISIS: Digging Archaeology and Documenting Cultural Property Crimes in Northern Iraq*
Monday, March 6, 2017 | 401 Lerner Hall

Archaeological sites, museums, libraries, and places of worship in Syria and Iraq are being attacked and damaged at an unprecedented rate unseen since the Second World War. The systematic and overt campaign of genocide and cultural cleansing wrought by the so-called Islamic State on the peoples and cultures of these countries has brutally underscored the linkages between cultural heritage, cultural diversity, and human rights. In response, the ASOR Cultural Heritage Initiatives (ASOR CHI), a Department of State sponsored program, documents damage to heritage as a result of the wars in Syria and northern Iraq and implements mitigation programs to support local projects that protect historic sites and cultural repositories. My talk will discuss the work being done by ASOR CHI and its recent findings, as well as a personal account of what it is like to work in Iraq.

Biography

Allison Cuneo is the Project Manager for ASOR CHI and an archaeologist focused on protection of cultural heritage in the Middle East. Working with her Syrian and Iraqi contacts on the ground, social media, and news reports, she gathers and verifies evidence of cultural property crimes committed by ISIS. Despite the nearby war, she and the Rowanduz Archaeological Project continue to excavate in Iraq, working with local researchers to discover, investigate, and preserve archaeological sites while developing educational programs to introduce a new generation to ancient and modern cultures. Previously, she was the Program Manager for the Mosul University Archaeological Program (MAP), a collaborative project between Mosul University and Boston University, aimed at fostering professional networks between Iraqi and American archaeological scholars and designing an expanded course offering for the College of Archaeology at Mosul University. She has degrees from Dickinson College and Boston University, where she developed an interest in the politics of heritage policy and a passion for

community outreach. In addition to Iraq, has archaeological field experience in Greece, England, Spain, and Israel.

Lincoln Paine, “CUSP Alumni Journeys,” *A Map and a Sense of Time: A Guide to Navigating the Global Past*

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 | Davis Auditorium

World history is daunting but by no means indecipherable. It helps to start with the basics, and a map and a sense of time are certainly indispensable. This wide-ranging talk considers various ways of approaching the global past, the value of the core curriculum as a foundation for historical inquiry, and the practical and aesthetic rewards of reading and writing world history.

Biography

Lincoln Paine is a maritime historian, author, editor, and curator whose books include the award-winning *The Sea and Civilization: A Maritime History of the World* (2013), *Down East: A Maritime History of Maine* (2000), and *Ships of the World: An Historical Encyclopedia* (1997). He has also lectured about literature of the sea, exploration, maritime law, trade and passenger shipping, naval history, geopolitics, museum curatorship, and decorative arts in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

A graduate of Columbia College, he spent fourteen years as a non-fiction and reference book editor and currently specializes in editing academic writing by non-native speakers of English. A trustee of the Maine Maritime Museum, he formerly served on the boards of the Portland Stage Company and The Telling Room, a nonprofit writing center for children and young adults.

Kathy Nagel, “Olfactory Navigation in Fruit Flies”

Thursday, April 6, 2017 | Davis Auditorium

Most people have left a piece of fruit out and found flies there the next morning. Insects are famous for their ability to find food using smell, but this problem is more difficult than it seems. A piece of fruit on a table creates an odor plume, a sinuous trail of odor that meanders its way down wind. Our lab studies how flies use this noisy signal to find their way to food. The answer in part is that their brains combine information from many senses when deciding which way to go. Studying this simple behavior is teaching us a great deal about how the brain computes, and turns sensation into action.

Biography

Kathy Nagel did her PhD with Allison Doupe at UCSF where she studied auditory processing in songbirds. She then completed a postdoc with Rachel Wilson at Harvard Medical School where she studied olfactory processing in fruit flies. She started her lab at NYU School of Medicine in July 2014.

Beau Shaw, *Navigation, Education, and Democracy in Plato's Republic*
Tuesday, April 11, 2017 | Davis Auditorium

In the *Republic*, Plato understands education less in terms of its goal—the state of having acquired knowledge—than in terms of getting to that goal: it is a turning of the soul, or, one may say, the navigation of the soul. In connection to this, a central question that Plato poses is the relation between this navigation and democracy. For Plato, democracy is that political order which rejects the idea that there exists any state of the soul that is better than any other. For this reason, democracy seems to make the navigation of the soul—education—impossible: there can be no navigation of the soul, if there is no state of the soul to which it should be navigated. This talk will discuss Plato's understanding of this problem, and relate it to contemporary issues involving democracy and education.

Biography

Beau Shaw has a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Columbia University, and has taught Contemporary Civilization for a number of years. He specializes in 19th and 20th century European philosophy, and has published in such journals as *Political Theory*, *Époche*, and *Philosophy Today*.

METAMORPHOSIS: 2015-2016

Each year, the CUSP Speaker Series is united by a common thread that is the foundation of our year-long inquiry. This year we will explore the theme of “Metamorphosis.”

Transformation has gripped the attention and imagination of humans for centuries. Change is integral in our perception of our own personal life narrative, our scientific understanding of the universe, artistic expression, storytelling, and religious belief. It can appear mundane, profound or mysterious, involving a literal or metaphorical transformation from one category of being into another.

From insect life histories to geomorphology to the evolution of galaxies and formation of black holes, the universe we live in offers dramatic metamorphoses across spatial and temporal scales. The application of scientific knowledge to engineering, medicine, psychology, and artificial intelligence has led to metamorphic changes to people’s lives and how we view the human condition. While often occurring in seemingly magical form in the natural world, in art and literature metamorphoses can blur the line between fantastical and ordinary, possible and impossible. In a social context, transformation underlies contemporary issues such as those facing transgender individuals or service men and women integrating back into peaceful society following active service.

This year’s Speaker Series will consider metamorphosis within these contexts and beyond.

SPEAKER SERIES 2017-2016

Robert O’Meally, *Hunting is Not Those Heads on the Wall: Expedition Into the Core*
Monday, August 31, 2015 | 3rd Floor Lecture Room, Pulitzer Hall

Professor O’Meally’s welcome to Columbia accentuates certain definitive qualities of the core curriculum. Every student at Columbia is a star. So now the school-time game is not to score points—or even to amaze the mind with new facts. The highest game here—the core curriculum game—is to learn how to learn with clarity and originality; to explore the depths of love with community responsibility; and to dream of new tools and techniques to create a world that is more fulfilling for all its citizens.

Biography

Professor O’Meally is Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English and Comparative Literature, and founder and former director of the Center for Jazz Studies. His major interests are American

literature, music, and painting. He has written extensively on Ralph Ellison, including *The Craft of Ralph Ellison* (Harvard, 1980), and a collection of papers for which he served as editor, *New Essays on Invisible Man* (Cambridge, 1989). Professor O'Meally has written a biography of Billie Holiday entitled *Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday* (Little, Brown, 1989) and a documentary on Holiday (which has been shown on public TV). He also is the author of *The Jazz Singers* (Smithsonian, 1997) and principal writer of the monograph, *Seeing Jazz* (Smithsonian, 1997). He edited *Tales of the Congaree* (University of North Carolina, 1990), and *The Jazz Cadence of American Culture* (Columbia, 1998); and co-edited *History and Memory in African American Culture* (Oxford, 1994), the *Norton Anthology of African American Literature*, and *Uptown Conversation: The New Jazz Studies* (Columbia, 2003). His production of the recording *The Jazz Singers* was nominated for a Grammy Award. His Holiday book and his liner notes for Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington collections won Ralph Gleason Awards. O'Meally's new book is *Romare Bearden: Black Odyssey—A Search for Home*, catalogue for a show opening this fall at D.C. Moore Gallery on Fifth Avenue. His new project is a full study of Bearden's uses of literary subjects. Professor O'Meally earned his BA from Stanford and his PhD from Harvard.

Eric Sanderson, *The Mannahatta Project: A Natural History of New York City*
Thursday, September 24, 2015 | Rennert Hall, The Kraft Center

On September 12, 1609, Henry Hudson sailed past a long wooded island and inadvertently set in motion the creation of what many, especially in New York, argue is the greatest city on Earth. Manhattan couldn't have happened however without the natural abundance and wonderful potential of Mannahatta, the island that came before. Through the Mannahatta Project, Eric Sanderson and colleagues reconstructed the ecology of the island that fateful afternoon some 400 years ago, through combining historical maps, modern ecological models, and geographic information system techniques. The result is not only compelling as an expression of the robust ways in which nature is constructed, but also provides insights in how we can construct cities going forward.

Biography

Dr. Eric W. Sanderson is a Senior Conservation Ecologist at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and adjunct faculty at Columbia University and NYU. He is the author of *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City* (Abrams, 2009) and *Terra Nova: The New World after Oil, Cars, and Suburbs* (Abrams, 2013) and the co-inventor of Visionmaker.nyc, a free on-line application to design, evaluate, and share visions for New York City's neighborhoods. He lectures widely on ecosystem and landscape ecology, wildlife conservation, and urban sustainability.

Neal Broffman, “*Help Us Find Sunil Tripathi*” U.S. Exclusive College Premiere
Wednesday, October 7, 2015 | 3rd Floor Lecture Room, Pulitzer Hall

The online metamorphosis of Sunil Tripathi’s identity from missing university student to “suspect #2” in the Boston Marathon bombing took place over the course of one night. The unofficial crowd-sourced investigation created an atmosphere of suspicion and accusation that jumped into mainstream reporting. Sunil’s virtual transformation and the transformation of rumor to breaking news raises troubling questions about how we communicate.

Biography

Neal Broffman grew up in his father’s photographic darkroom where he was mesmerized by the powerful and iconic images of the American Civil Rights Movement his father had taken. For more than 25 years Neal has been filming and documenting stories around the world and that early and influential aesthetic informs his work to this day.

Neal’s decade with CNN International, while based in London, Rome and Moscow took him to Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East where he covered wars, elections, famines and upheaval in more than forty countries and where he solidified his credentials as a journalist.

Working with One Production Place since its founding in 2001, Broffman’s work has received many domestic and international awards. *Hot Spots: Martin Parr in the American South* was featured in the Arte Cinema Festival of Contemporary Arts in Naples, Italy in October 2013 and was screened in Paris at the prestigious Maison Européenne de la Photographie. *Hot Spots* received a 2012 southeast Emmy nomination for best documentary.

Voices of Freedom, produced for the High Museum of Art in Atlanta as part of a comprehensive exhibition of Civil Rights Movement photographs, won the 2009 CINE Special Jury Prize for best in class and was screened at The Field Museum in Chicago, The Smithsonian Institution, The Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles and The Bronx Museum.

Help Us Find Sunil Tripathi is Neal Broffman’s first feature length documentary as director. The film, produced with Elisa Gambino and Heather O’Neill had its World Premiere at the Atlanta Film Festival in March, 2015 where it won the audience award for best feature film. The film had its International Premiere in Toronto at Hot Docs and was selected for Bell Media’s Best of Hot Docs. In June, 2015, the film received the audience award for best documentary feature at the Brooklyn Film Festival. *Help Us Find Sunil Tripathi* will be released through multiple broadcast and streaming outlets in the fall of 2015. For more information about the film please visit www.HelpUsFindSunilTripathi.com.

James Danoff-Burg, *Inspiring Nature: How a Beetle Can Help Alleviate Water Shortages and Other Tales*

Wednesday, October 28, 2015 | Davis Auditorium

Bioinspiration draws ideas from nature that can be used to benefit humans and nature itself. Taking the ways that nature has solved problems and metamorphosing them into human tools echoes aspects of the central theme of this speaking session. Given that I am an entomologist by training, the stories that I will tell mostly involve insects, such as the hydrophobic surfaces on the backs of Namib desert beetles that people have used to create novel water gathering schemes and the trigger hairs in snap-jaw ants to create more effective trapping tools. However, we'll range broadly and draw from my own work as an entomologist and community based conservation biologist as well as that of my colleagues. In the problem lies the solution, and we'll talk about how to solve both conservation and engineering problems by drawing inspiration from nature itself.

Biography

Dr. James Danoff-Burg is a Researcher and Chief Operating officer at New Knowledge Organization, Ltd. Dr. Danoff-Burg is a biodiversity scientist, educator, and conservation strategist focused on improving paired human/ecological systems globally. With over 20 years of experience across 16 countries in the Americas and Asia, he is a leading researcher and implementer of the human dimensions of conservation. Integral to all of these efforts is his deep commitment to inspiring hope for the future. His experience in strategic planning, evaluation, community-based conservation, biodiversity surveys, curriculum creation, and public outreach have positioned him as a global leader in conservation, education, and strategy.

Dr. Danoff-Burg's formal graduate training focused on insect and marine invertebrate conservation ecology. For the past two decades, his research, teaching, and conservation implementation actions have focused on reducing the negative effects of human activities on biodiversity through conservation education. He has published scientific research and education scholarship in a diversity of academic venues. In addition, his research has been profiled and quoted in mainstream media outlets such as *The New York Times* (three times), BBC Radio, *The New Yorker*, *Christian Science Monitor* (twice), *SEED Magazine*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Live Science*, *Science Live*, and many local newspapers in New York and California.

Dr. Danoff-Burg earned a B.A. from the University of Michigan and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Kansas, after which he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Vermont and a Samuel Research Fellow at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Kristy Biolsi, “Cool Jobs,” *New York City and its Changing Waterways: Seals in Our Harbors*
Monday, November 9, 2015 | 401 Alfred Lerner Hall

Harbor seals were once prevalent in New York City waters 100 years ago, but with the landscape change came change in local wildlife, and the seal populations decreased in our area dramatically. In recent years we have seen a resurgence of the wild harbor seal population. The Center for the Study of Pinniped Ecology and Cognition (C-SPEC), housed at St. Francis College, is currently investigating this demographic trend and the cognitive/behavioral adaptations of these pinniped species.

Biography

Dr. Kristy Biolsi is an Associate Professor of Psychology at St. Francis College (SFC), where she also serves as the Director of the BA/MA Program in Applied Psychology. She serves on the editorial board for the Journal of the Association for the Study of Ethical Behavior and Evolutionary Biology in Literature (ASEBL), and is a co-founder of the Evolutionary Studies Collaborative. She received her B.S. in Psychobiology from Long Island University, Southampton College in 2001 and in 2007 she received her Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). Her research focus was on marine mammal cognition and while at Long Marine Lab she worked specifically with the Pinniped Cognition and Sensory Systems Lab (PCSL). She is the co-founder and Director of the Center for the Study of Pinniped Ecology and Cognition (C-SPEC) at SFC. Her current research interests are in comparative cognition, focusing on marine mammals, and she has two main lines of scientific inquiry; laboratory work that is conducted at the Long Island Aquarium and Exhibition Center in Riverhead NY investigating category learning with two captive, trained, California sea lions and field work which consists of data collection from surveys and naturalistic observations of the local wild harbor seal population.

Doug Lawrence & Viki Radden, *Earth 2020: Climate Change, the Economy, Your Food and You*

Monday, November 16, 2015 | 3rd Floor Lecture Room, Pulitzer Hall

How will a changing climate impact how we live, how we work, and how we eat? In this conversation, we'll explore major trends in the real estate and agricultural sectors, driven by climate data, demographics, and prudent financial management. Doug Lawrence, Managing Principal of 5 Stone Green Capital, will discuss trends and opportunities in green real estate, and the logically imperative financial wisdom behind it. Viki Radden, COO of Controlled Environment Agriculture for 5SGC, will explain the market for food, current production systems, and the future of local, organic, consistent, and safe supply chains, and the business opportunities behind them.

Biography

Doug Lawrence is Managing Principal and founder of 5 Stone Green Capital and has more than 27 years of distinguished real estate industry experience. Prior to forming 5 Stone Green Capital, Doug was the Co-Portfolio Manager of the green real estate Urban Renaissance Property Fund for JPMorgan Asset Management's Real Estate platform. While at JPMAM he was also a key member of the real estate marketing team serving as a trusted fiduciary to many large pension plans.

His strength as a senior asset manager garnered nine international and national awards from BOMA, IREM and NAIOP. Over the course of his career, he managed a large portfolio of industrial, office, multi-family and retail assets totaling millions of square feet and valued in excess of \$1 billion while at JPMorgan.

Prior to JP Morgan he spent seven years as a senior asset manager for TIAA-CREF's real estate investment group; he also worked in the public sector as the Asset Manager for the City of Hartford. Earlier in his career, he was a residential developer in the U.S. Southwest. Doug is a frequent speaker on green building topics.

Doug received his MBA from the University of Connecticut in International Business Finance and earned his BA from Yale University. He is or has been a member of the Pension Real Estate Association, Urban Land Institute, National Association of Securities Professionals, National Association of Real Estate Investment Managers and U.S. Green Building Council. Doug sits on the Investment Committee and Natural Resources Committee of the University of Connecticut Foundation, the Advisory Board of Rutgers Business School, the Advisory Board of the Saunders Business School at Rochester Institute of Technology, the Global Board of Directors of the Climate Group and the Sustainability Advisory Board of the publication, the National Real Estate Investor. Doug holds or has held NASD Series 7 and 63 licenses.

Viki Radden is Managing Partner, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) for 5 Stone Green Capital. She brings more than 25 years of innovative experience in executive management, strategy, operations, new product development and manufacturing with Verizon Wireless, Microsoft and Motorola along with several technology and marketing start-ups. Ms. Radden combine sustainable business practices, real estate, and innovative water and energy technologies with local food production projects in response to issues of population growth, food security and the rapidly changing nexus of water, energy and food.

She applies her extensive experience from the technology sector to the technical and business areas of sustainable real estate development projects and commercial urban agriculture. She

leverages academic, agricultural, local government and strategic business relationships to develop urban and peri-urban commercial agriculture projects. Her work includes: “next generation” housing with health promoting attributes, job creating sustainable commercial hydroponic urban farm; development of Eco-Development Parks focused on companies with new applications in renewable energy, water management and controlled environment agriculture and re-purposing industrial building projects that combine CEA, renewable energy and green manufacturing.

Ms. Radden holds an MBA from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management and earned her Bachelors of Business Administration in finance and marketing from New York University’s Stern School of Business. She has written on integrating controlled environment agriculture in urban and peri urban environments. Most recently her article The Future of Urban Agriculture in U.S. Cities was published in Cornerstone Capital - Journal of Sustainable Finance & Banking.

Gareth Williams, *Why Read Ovid’s Metamorphoses in the 22nd Century?*
Wednesday, December 2, 2015 | 3rd Floor Lecture Room, Pulitzer Hall

No, this is not a misprint. We may live in the 21st century, but the *Metamorphoses* captures vital areas of human experience, changeability and volatility that will be as alive in the 22nd century as they are in our own century, and as they were in Ovid’s own times. Our conversation is intended as a stimulus towards thinking about why we might want to read so old a book in our new age. All of us have access to amazing gadgets that give knowledge at the push of a button; but perhaps we shall come to agree that one of the first information systems that gave broad, instant and accurate world knowledge was Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, a.k.a. Windows 1.0, first produced in 5 CE.

Biography

Gareth Williams has taught at Columbia since 1992. He is a Professor of Classics, specialist in Latin literature, especially Ovid, but also in the Stoic philosophical writings of Seneca, that poisonous power before the throne of the still more odious Nero. His interests extend now to the Renaissance in Venice, and to Classical reception in 15th century Venetian cultural circles.

Jennifer Boylan, *SAME MONKEYS, DIFFERENT BARREL: Transgender Identity & Narrative*
Wednesday, January 27, 2016 | Davis Auditorium

Jennifer Finney Boylan, the Anna Quindlen Writer in Residence at Barnard College, will read several short works and discuss the role that storytelling plays in the struggle to live an authentic life.

Biography

Jenny Boylan is the author of 14 books including the memoir *She's Not There*, the first bestselling work by a transgender American. She is the national co-chair of GLAAD, the media advocacy non-profit for accelerating LGBT acceptance through the media. A contributing editor for the op-ed page of *The New York Times*, she also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Kinsey Institute for Research on Sex, Gender, and Reproduction. She has been a consultant to the series *Transparent*, and was a consultant and a cast member to the series *I Am Cait* on the E! network. Boylan came to Barnard in 2014 after serving as a Professor of English at Colby College in Maine for twenty-five years. In spring of 2015, she was given the Philolexian Award by Columbia's Philolexian Society.

Erica Avrami, *Changing Landscapes: Heritage in a Sustainable Built Environment*
Thursday, February 4, 2016 | Davis Auditorium

Sustainability concerns compel significant changes in the way we design, construct, and manage the built environment, which accounts for approximately 40% of energy consumption and greenhouse emissions in the industrialized world. What is the future of older settlements and structures in this changing landscape? How do calls for higher density and greener building affect historic communities and cultural traditions? In what ways does heritage and the collective memory it represents contribute to sustainability and resilience - social, environmental, and economic? Erica Avrami will discuss how heritage places can play a critical role in shaping changing communities and will explore the fundamental question of can the past help to build a better future?

Biography

Erica Avrami is the James Marston Fitch Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation in Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, where her research and teaching focus on the intersection of heritage and sustainability, and the social, environmental, and economic outcomes of historic preservation. Erica formerly served as the Director of Research and Education at World Monuments Fund and as a Project Specialist at the Getty Conservation Institute, and has also taught in the preservation programs at the University of Pennsylvania and Pratt Institute. Erica is a Columbia alumna (CC'88, GSAPP'93) and she earned her PhD in planning and public policy from Rutgers. Erica was a trustee and Secretary of US Committee of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS) from 2004 to 2010, and she currently serves on the editorial advisory board of the journal *Change Over Time*.

Kartik Chandran, *Engineered Resource Recovery for Sustainable Urban Development*
Wednesday, February 10, 2016 | Davis Auditorium

Water reuse and recycling offer a resource and energy efficient alternate to continued water mining for meeting potable and non-potable demands. By some accounts, untreated sewage streams contain about an order of magnitude higher resources and energy compared to the resources invested to ‘treat’ them to receiving water quality standards. Accordingly, a newer model of extracting resources and energy from ‘polluted’ water streams could act as a platform not just to attain the requisite water quality objectives, but also to do so at a lower resource and energy footprint. In this presentation, the prospect of employing engineered resource recovery to drive water reuse and recycling is presented along with some considerations of the fate and transport of emerging chemical contaminants.

Biography

Kartik Chandran is Associate Professor and Director of the Wastewater Treatment and Climate Change and CUBES programs at Columbia University. In 2015 he was the recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Genius Award. His work focuses on the sustainable management and re-engineering of the global N-cycle along with its links to the water, energy and carbon cycles. Prof. Chandran has pioneered the direction of characterizing and mitigating nitrogenous greenhouse gas emissions from wastewater treatment facilities nationwide and globally. He also leads the Mainstream Deammonification track of the USEPA-WERF National Center on Nutrient Management. Some recent efforts of his group include engineered resource recovery from ‘waste’ streams through flexible biological platforms for carbon cycling. Select awards and honors received by Prof. Chandran include an invited professorship from the Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences (2014), induction as fellow of WEF (2013), WERF Paul Busch award (2010), NSF CAREER award (2009) and a NRC-NAS Faculty Fellow (2007).

Teodolinda Barolini, *Shape-changing in Dante’s Divine Comedy, Sexual and Otherwise*
Wednesday, February 17, 2016 | Davis Auditorium

A look at what Dante does with Ovidian metamorphosis, as he pushes the category's boundaries to include realities both more grotesque and more sublime.

Biography

Teodolinda Barolini, Lorenzo Da Ponte Professor of Italian at Columbia University, was Chair of Columbia’s Italian Department from 1992-2004 and from 2011-2014. She served as the fifteenth President of the Dante Society of America (1997-2003) and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Medieval Academy.

Barolini is the author of *Dante's Poets: Textuality and Truth in the "Comedy"* (Princeton 1984; Bollati Boringhieri 1993), *The Undivine Comedy: Detheologizing Dante* (Princeton 1992; Feltrinelli 2003), and *Dante and the Origins of Italian Literary Culture* (2006; Bompiani 2012). She is the editor and commentator of *Dante, Rime giovanili e della "Vita Nuova"* (Rizzoli 2009), revised and expanded as *Dante's Lyric Poetry: Poems of Youth and of the "Vita Nuova"* (Toronto, 2014). Her current projects include the second volume of her commentary to Dante's lyric poetry.

Elazar Barkan, *When Peace and Justice Collide*
Thursday, February 25, 2016 | Davis Auditorium

Accountability for mass atrocities and the pursuit of peacebuilding are often presented as complementary. Yet increasingly they present conflicting priorities. While peacebuilding is often perceived as forward looking and avoids dwelling on the past, transitional justice advocates focus on the recent past and demand accountability, including criminal culpability. Neither addresses the memory of historical violence which stretches beyond criminal liability and is at the heart of many contemporary conflicts. The challenges presented by historical memories go further than the demand for justice. The paper explores this triangulation between historical memory, demands for justice, and conflict resolution. In particular, it emphasizes the role of conflicting truths, and varieties of justice and accountability, as these shape divergent perceptions of history in protracted peace processes.

Biography

Elazar Barkan is a Professor of International and Public Affairs and the Director of the Human Rights Concentration at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs and the Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights. His research interests focus on human rights and on the role of history in contemporary society and politics and the response to gross historical crimes and injustices. His books include *Choreography of Sacred Spaces: State, Religion and Conflict Resolution*, (edited book with Karen Barkey, Columbia University Press, 2014) *No Return, No Refuge: Rites and Rights in Minority Repatriation* (with Howard Adelman, Columbia University Press 2011); *The Guilt of Nations: Restitution and Negotiating Historical Injustices* (2000); *Claiming the Stones/Naming the Bones: Cultural Property and the Negotiation of National and Ethnic Identity*, (an edited volume with Ronald Bush, Getty, 2003); and *Taking Wrongs Seriously: Apologies and Reconciliation* (an edited volume with Alexander Karn, Stanford University Press, 2006).

Caroline Leland, “Cool Jobs,” *The Tree Ring Time Machine: Understanding Past Climate through Dendrochronology*

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 | 401 Alfred Lerner Hall

Trees can persist on the landscape for centuries, if not millennia, and their growth rings can indicate how the environment around them has changed over time. The study of tree rings, or dendrochronology, allows us to quantify past environmental and climatic changes. This talk will discuss the day-to-day life of a tree-ring scientist. We will travel to lava flows in Mongolia, where ancient, stunted, spiraled trees have been recording climate for thousands of years. Tree rings hold a lot of information — it just requires sandpaper, a microscope, and a keen eye.

Biography

Cari Leland is a Ph.D. student in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department of Columbia University. She is a dendrochronologist, or tree-ring scientist, who uses annual growth rings in trees to understand environmental conditions over past centuries. She started her tree-ring journey as an undergraduate at West Virginia University, where she worked on a project investigating past moisture variability using ancient cliff-dwelling eastern redcedar trees. As a Master’s student, Cari used large networks of tree-ring data from Mongolia to study the spatial and temporal nature of climate in semi-arid Asia. Now, Cari works with samples from bonsai-shaped pine and larch trees growing on ancient lava flows in central Mongolia. She is interested not only in the climate and ecology stories that the rings in these trees can provide, but also the physiology of these long-lived, charismatic trees.

Ben Fried, “Alumni Journeys,” *There was no plan*

Tuesday, March 22, 2015 | Davis Auditorium

I’ve had a really fun career. I’ve worked at Google as its CIO since 2008. Prior to that I was a Managing Director at Morgan Stanley, where I spent almost 14 years and got to do some amazing things. I’ve also been the first employee at a tech startup (founded by two CC alums), and worked at Columbia. How did I get so lucky? Come to my talk and I’ll tell you.

Biography

Ben is Google’s Chief Information Officer, overseeing the technologies that make Googlers go. He’s also the New York office Site Lead, responsible for 3000 Googlers in the company’s East Coast headquarters. Ben has a diverse background in systems engineering and software development. He led development of mission scheduling software for NASA at a bay area startup, and spent over a decade at Morgan Stanley, where he rose to the level of Managing Director, and led teams responsible for software development, internet infrastructure, and business intelligence. More importantly, he’s a husband and father of three, and has a degree in CS from Columbia College.

James Turner Vosseler, *Metamorphosis in Medicine: How'd We Get From Here to There*
Thursday, March 23, 2015 | Davis Auditorium

It is the most central of tenets in life and perhaps its central paradox: change is a constant. In the world of medicine, change can occur at a rapid pace and in a variety of ways, yet the goal remains the same, i.e. to take good care of people. This talk will explore the theme of metamorphosis in the light of a career in medicine: the ways that the individual is changed and the ways that the individual can effect change.

Biography

J. Turner Vosseler, MD is an assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Columbia University Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Vosseler specializes in all manner of afflictions of the foot and ankle, as well as orthopaedic trauma. He has published numerous articles in orthopaedic journals and has presented his research at national, regional, and international meetings. Dr. Vosseler serves as a reviewer for the leading orthopaedic journals and is heavily involved in several orthopaedic societies. He also has a passion for international medicine and has had the good fortune to be of service in Tanzania, Vietnam, Haiti, and India.

John McWhorter, *Words on the Move*
Thursday, April 7, 2016 | Davis Auditorium

It is often thought that a dictionary captures what a language really "is"—that the official code is what is written down, and that when words are used in new ways, it is newsworthy, amusing, or even downright wrong. In fact, it is as inherent to a language to change as it is for weather to change—even if a group of people were in a cave for a thousand years, separated from technological change and cultural developments, they would emerge from the cave speaking a language quite different from the original one. A language is, at heart, a metamorphosis, not a list.

Biography

John McWhorter teaches linguistics and American Studies at Columbia, as well as music history and philosophy. He specializes in how languages change and mix, and has done much work on creole languages. He also writes on language, race, culture and other topics for Time, The Wall Street Journal, The Daily Beast, and Politico and his columns and essays have appeared in The New York Times and elsewhere. He has done a TED talk on texting, and four audiovisual sets for the Teaching Company on language and linguistics.

Nim Tottenham, *Constructing the Human Brain*
Thursday, April 14, 2016 | Rennert Hall, The Kraft Center

Unlike most species, human brain development takes years to reach maturity. This slow growth chart means that the environment can play a large role in sculpting neurodevelopment. In this talk, I will be focusing on the slow development of brain regions involved in our emotions, how we become to regulate them, and how early social environments significantly change their growth patterns.

Biography

Nim Tottenham, Ph.D. is an associate professor of Psychology at Columbia University. Her research uses fMRI and behavioral methods to examine human limbic-cortical development in children and adolescents to understand how early life experiences influence affective development. She is a recipient of the NIMH BRAINS Award, the APA Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology, and the Developmental Science Early Career Researcher Prize.

James Valentini, *Beginner's Mind*
Tuesday, April 19, 2016 | 3rd Floor Lecture Room, Pulitzer Hall

In *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*, Shunryu Suzuki wrote: "In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, in the expert's mind there are few." I will talk about how I aspire to be a beginner, not an expert, and why you should, too.

Biography

James J. Valentini became the 16th dean of Columbia College and the vice president for Undergraduate Education in September 2011. He has been the Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor of Chemistry at Columbia since 1990, and has served as the chair of the Chemistry Department and director of Undergraduate Studies in that department as well. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a fellow of the American Physical Society.

REVOLUTION: 2014-2015

Each year, the CUSP Speaker Series is united by a common thread that is the foundation of our year-long inquiry. This year, we will explore the theme of “Revolution.”

“Revolution” is a term used freely these days. From the profound changes in technology and social media to the political upheavals of the Arab spring, rupture and change, we are told, is a part of the new world order. Scholars are invited to consider the deeper significance of these claims. How can revolutions of the past teach us about the present and even the future? Does “revolution” always imply “progress”? What is the nature of the interplay between revolutions and counterrevolutions? What do the structures of change one finds in political and social spheres have in common with revolutions as they occur in technological innovation, in thought, even in art? And how does the understanding of revolution as change relate to the scientific concept (e.g. in astronomy, engineering) of revolution as a cyclical reoccurrence?

Drawing on the perspectives of distinguished artists, scientists and intellectuals, this exploration of revolutionary concepts exemplifies the CUSP spirit of interdisciplinary scholarship and community. Through reflecting on revolution as both a metaphorical and an empirical measure of change we will together explore the meanings, mechanics and limits of revolutionary transformation.

CUSP speakers, exemplars of enacted responsibility, share their personal histories of determination, encounters with adversity, insatiable intellectual curiosity, and eventual achievement. Collectively, they represent a tapestry of individual successes grounded in interdisciplinary collaboration, a passion for social justice, and group effort.

SPEAKER SERIES 2014-2015

Robert O’Meally, “Hunting Is Not Those Heads on the Wall: Expedition Into the Core”
Monday, August 25, 2014 (12:00-2:00 p.m.), Rennert Hall

Professor O’Meally’s welcome to Columbia accentuates certain definitive qualities of the core curriculum. Every student at Columbia is a star. So now the school-time game is not to score points--or even to amaze the mind with new facts. The highest game here--the core curriculum game--is to learn how to learn with clarity and originality; to explore the depths of love with community responsibility; and to dream of new tools and techniques to create a world that is more fulfilling for all its citizens.

Professor O’Meally is Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English and Comparative Literature, and founder and former director of the Center for Jazz Studies. His major interests are American literature, music, and painting. He has written extensively on Ralph Ellison, including *The Craft of Ralph Ellison* (Harvard, 1980), and a collection of papers for which he served as editor, *New Essays on Invisible Man* (Cambridge, 1989). Professor O’Meally has written a biography of

Billie Holiday entitled *Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday* (Little, Brown, 1989) and a documentary on Holiday (which has been shown on public TV). He also is the author of *The Jazz Singers* (Smithsonian, 1997) and principal writer of the monograph, *Seeing Jazz* (Smithsonian, 1997). He edited *Tales of the Congaree* (University of North Carolina, 1990), and *The Jazz Cadence of American Culture* (Columbia, 1998); and co-edited *History and Memory in African American Culture* (Oxford, 1994), the *Norton Anthology of African American Literature*, and *Uptown Conversation: The New Jazz Studies* (Columbia, 2003). His production of the recording *The Jazz Singers* was nominated for a Grammy Award. His Holiday book and his liner notes for Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington collections won Ralph Gleason Awards. O'Meally's new book is *Romare Bearden: Black Odyssey--A Search for Home*, catalogue for a show opening this fall at D.C. Moore Gallery on Fifth Avenue. His new project is a full study of Bearden's uses of literary subjects. Professor O'Meally earned his BA from Stanford and his PhD from Harvard.

William Deresiewicz, "The Revolt of the Sheep: Finding Your Way to a Real Education"

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Rennert Hall

You got to Columbia by jumping through a long series of hoops. Now that you're here, you have the chance to start to get a real education, instead: one that's going to help you find your way to your own sense of meaning and direction. Discover what the college experience is really for and why the humanities are central to it.

Bill Deresiewicz was an English professor at Yale from 1998-2008. He is the author of "The Disadvantages of an Elite Education," which has been viewed over a million times online, and is a frequent speaker on college campuses. His new book is *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life*. An award-winning writer, he holds five Columbia degrees.

Anya Schiffrin & Joe Stiglitz, "Revolutionary Ideas: Media, Human Rights, and Social Change"

Tuesday, September 30, 2014 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Davis Auditorium

How do societies change? What makes ideas spread? What is the role of the media and information in bringing about social revolutions and transformations in how people think? With the recent publication of "Global Muckraking: 100 years of journalism from around the world" (New Press, August 2014) Columbia professors Joseph E. Stiglitz and Anya Schiffrin will discuss the role that media plays in promoting economic growth, good governance and government accountability. We will consider under what conditions journalists can successfully fight for economic justice, labor and human rights and discuss the success and failure of some of the great journalism campaigns of the last 100 years.

Anya Schiffrin is the director of the media and communications specialization at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Schiffrin is on the advisory board of the Open Society Foundation's Program on Independent Journalism and on the advisory board of Revenue Watch. Her most recent book is "Global Muckraking: 100 Years of Investigative Reporting from Around the World" New Press, 2014). Her previous book (Co-edited with SIPA

alum Eamon Kircher-Allen) was “*From Cairo to Wall Street: Voices from the Global Spring*” (New Press, 2012).

Joseph E. Stiglitz is University Professor at Columbia University and has taught at Stanford, Princeton, MIT and Yale. Stiglitz was a member of the Council of Economic Advisers from 1993-95, during the Clinton administration, and served as CEA chairman from 1995-97. He then became Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank from 1997-2000. In 2001, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics for his analyses of markets with asymmetric information, and he was a lead author of the 1995 Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. He is the author several bestseller, including *The Price of Inequality* (WW Norton, 2012) and *Globalization and Its Discontents* (WW Norton, 2002).

Global Muckraking is available at Book Culture.

Sonya Dyhrman, "A Sea of Genes: The Revolution That Is Shaping Our Understanding of Microbes, Oceans, and Human Health"

Wednesday, October 8, 2014 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Rennert Hall

Microbes in the sea produce about half of the global oxygen supply, and play a critical role in shaping our environment on a planetary scale. These unseen heroes are difficult to study, and many are only known from the presence of their DNA or genetic code in different environments.

As our understanding of the earth and climate evolves, scientists are using molecular level tools to explore how marine microbes like phytoplankton shape their environment, and how the environment shapes them. This revolutionary approach to studying microbes and their activities allows us to look at the complex interplay between the ocean and microbes with new insight.

Sonya spends time traveling the world's oceans on research cruises that track this sea of genes, spanning from polar to tropical ecosystems.

Sonya T. Dyhrman is a tenured associate professor of earth and environmental sciences at Columbia University with the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory. Her research uses molecular tools to study how ocean microbes drive the earth's biogeochemical cycles, and how environmental stressors influence the distribution of both harmful and beneficial microbes. With more than 50 peer-reviewed papers, she is shaping our understanding of how these tiny cells produce the oxygen we breathe, cycle carbon, and in some cases cause human illness. Much of what she does leverages technological advances from the human genome project, and she uses these advances to study the genomes of ocean microbes. She tracks hundreds of millions of gene sequences to understand what marine microbes are doing at present and how they will change in the future. For example, she just launched a 4-year genome study of how ocean acidification will influence the distribution and activities of key ocean microbes. Dyhrman received her PhD in marine biology from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and did her postdoctoral training at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, where she was a tenured scientist until 2013. In 2007, she was a Marie Tharp Fellow of the Columbia University Earth Institute and more recently a Sir Allan Sewall Fellow of Australia's Griffith University. Dyhrman is on the scientific steering committee for the U.S. Ocean Carbon Biogeochemistry Program and an investigator in

the National Science Foundation Center for Microbial Oceanography. She has logged more than 400 days at sea on research ships collecting samples, landing in remote destinations like Antarctica and Easter Island. Her current field work is focused on studying how microbes communicate with each other in the western North Atlantic and South Atlantic. In addition to her research efforts, Dyhrman is driven to instill her enthusiasm for oceanography in others, and building a diverse workforce in science, technology and math. Her students are now working in policy, industry and academia. She is particularly interested in science education in the context of virtual environments, and has developed ocean science literacy activities for the virtual world Whyville, giving more than one million children exposure to ocean literacy standards and the process of scientific discovery.

Richard Bulliet, "Revolution Revolutions: The Three Inventions of the Wheel"

Wednesday, October 29, 2014 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Davis Auditorium

Who invented the wheel and why? To answer this old but still puzzling question one must realize that there are three fundamentally different types of wheel used for transportation. The separate stories of invention--two set in the fourth millennium B.C. and the third in the 18th century A.D.--interconnect in ways that have had powerful but generally unrecognized global impacts.

Richard Bulliet is Professor of Middle Eastern History at Columbia University where he also directed the Middle East Institute of the School of International and Public Affairs for twelve years. Born in Rockford, Illinois, in 1940, he came to Columbia in 1976 after undergraduate and graduate work at Harvard and eight years as a faculty member at Harvard and Berkeley. He is a specialist on Iran, the social history of the Islamic Middle East, the history of domestic animals, and the history of technology.

His most recent scholarly book, *Cotton, Climate, and Camels: A Moment in World History* (2009), deals with the economic history of Iran between 700 and 1200 C.E. *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization* (2004) offers a brief interpretation of the post 9/11 crisis we are still immersed in. *Islam: The View from the Edge* (1994) presents an alternative interpretation of Islamic history that departs from the political history of the caliphate and emphasizes the role of religion as a social force.

His earlier books include *The Patricians of Nishapur* (1972), *The Camel and the Wheel* (1975), *Conversion to Islam in the Medieval Period: An Essay in Quantitative History* (1979), *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History* (co-author, 6ed. 2014), and *The Columbia History of the Twentieth Century* (editor, 1998). In 2005 he published a history of human-animal relations with the title *Hunters, Herders, and Hamburgers*. He has also written five novels set in the contemporary Middle East, the most recent being *The One-Donkey Solution* (2011) and *Chakra* (2014).

Within the next few months he will publish *Wheels: A Book about Invention*.

Jos Vandelaer, "Vaccination: A Revolution in Public Health"

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Davis Auditorium

Since the late 1700s, immunization has profoundly revolutionized child health by preventing deadly diseases like smallpox and measles which decimated entire populations – with a disproportionate effect on children. By drastically lowering child mortality and dramatically improving health, vaccination has helped spur social and economic development around the world.

To make sure that all children benefit, UNICEF helped pioneer the extension of immunization programs to developing countries with the establishment of the “Expanded Program of Immunization” forty years ago. Today, these programs are as active as ever, delivering more vaccines to more children than ever before and helping to get other basic health services to some of the most remote and challenging places on earth.

Dr. Jos Vandelaer is the Chief of UNICEF’s global Immunization program, based in New York, USA. In this function he leads the agency’s HQ Immunization Team of about 20 professionals, and is responsible for strategy development, program management, and coordination. Dr. Vandelaer has been working in the field of immunization since 1996, and has held immunization-related positions at the World Health Organization in the Philippines, India, and Myanmar. He joined UNICEF in 2001 as Senior Health Specialist based in WHO/Geneva with specific focus on Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination and routine immunization. He started his career with Médecins Sans Frontières in 1986, working in emergencies in Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Surinam, and Thailand. Later he worked in migration/refugee health for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Vietnam and Croatia/Bosnia-Herzegovina and for UNHCR in Myanmar.

Dr. Vandelaer holds a Medical Doctor degree from the University of Leuven (Belgium), a diploma in Tropical Medicine from the Antwerp Institute for Tropical Medicine (Belgium), and a Masters degree in Public Health from Harvard University (USA). He speaks English, French and Dutch and is a national of Belgium.

Chris Wiggins, "What Is the Deal With Data?"

Thursday, January 22, 2015 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Davis Auditorium

Nearly every field of human endeavor--the sciences, the humanities, and industry--is being transformed by the scale of data, the availability of powerful tools to make sense of data, and a shift in mindset. Surprisingly common pain points unite "pure" research and commercial applications as we, collectively, try to make sense of a world in which data are cheaper to store than to analyze and a variety of sensors allow us to quantify our world as never before. I hope to unite applications of data science in our daily lives with academic research built on the same tools. I'll also provide some historical context as to what's new, now, with data, and what data insights have been brewing for decades, now coming to fruition.

Chris Wiggins is an associate professor of applied mathematics at Columbia University in the Department of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics. His research focuses on applications of machine learning to real-world data, particularly biology.

At Columbia he is a founding member of the Department of Systems Biology, the executive committee of the Institute for Data Sciences and Engineering (IDSE <http://idse.columbia.edu>), and IDSE's education and entrepreneurship committees. He is also an affiliate of Columbia's Department of Statistics and a founding member of Columbia's Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (C2B2) and Department of Systems Biology. He also teaches as part of the Lede program, a certification program in data, code, and algorithms organized jointly between Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism and Department of Computer Science. He is a co-founder and co-organizer of hackNY (<http://hackNY.org>), a nonprofit which since 2010 has organized 9 student hackathons, and a summer startup internship program, now hosting its 5th class of hackNY Fellows. Since January 2014 he has also served as the Chief Data Scientist at the New York Times.

Prior to joining the faculty at Columbia, he was a Courant Instructor at NYU and earned his PhD at Princeton University in theoretical physics.

Nick Frearson, Revolutionizing the way we see our planet, and others.

Wednesday, February 4, 2014 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Davis Auditorium

In December 1911 Amundsen and Scott were racing to be the first human beings to reach the South Pole. On each team was a scientific officer who faithfully recorded observations in a note book along the way throughout the many weeks of travel. In 2014, just over 100 years later, we flew from Ross Island to the South Pole in just a few hours, along almost the same route as those first expeditions. Along the way we collected Terra-bytes of data each hour from the surface, interior and base of the ice, as well as the near surface and interior of our planet. Combining this with satellite data collected over the same area and using techniques such as Big Data analysis to link loosely related data sets we will be able to better understand the processes that make and shape our planet and others. Truly a revolution in the making. What will happen in the next 100 years? What will happen in the next 20 years? Maybe you can tell me? Interesting times indeed! Nick developed the concept for and is the Lead Engineer on the Icepod program. He heads up a team of engineers who have spent the last three years bringing the Icepod to life. This device enables a variety of sensors to be integrated into an airborne portable platform which can be used to remotely monitor the changes happening in ice-sheets, ice-shelves and ice margins. Nick obtained his degree in Electronics and Physics at Northumberland University in the UK in 1984 and has spent many years since then developing sensors and remote sensing systems. Originally applying this knowledge to military systems and subsequently commercial systems, he eventually managed to combine his love for science and engineering when he went to work for the British Antarctic Survey in the UK. There he developed a radar system capable of looking through the deepest ice on the planet which is found in Antarctica and can be up to 2.5 miles thick. In early 2007 he was approached by Dr. Robin Bell at Lamont to help her and her colleagues set up a Polar Geophysics group with the aim of taking an airborne remote sensing system to Antarctica in the winter of 2008. This they did, successfully mapping an extensive

mountain range buried beneath 2 miles of ice in the remote central part of the East Antarctic Ice Sheet. In the process they provided much data for Climate modelers amongst others to use to model the way that the East Antarctic Ice Sheet has changed over time. For the last three years he and his team of engineers have been developing the Icepod, an 8.5ft long cylinder capable of carrying a variety of sensors that are attached to the side of the New York Air National Guard's LC-130 aircraft. These aircraft fly regularly to Greenland and Antarctica and with this system will enable scientists to collect data about these regions that has not been possible in this detail before.

Nick lives in New York City's West Village with his wife and two cats. When he is not away at one or other pole he enjoys cycling, playing tennis and generally being outdoors.

Todd Gitlin, "Why the University Is Dangerous (and Ought to Be)"

Thursday, February 19, 2015 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Rennert Hall

Thinking can be upsetting. It flies in the face of what we--whoever we are--used to take for granted. It can lead to action, and action always has beneficiaries and victims, and it's not altogether clear who's going to be who. Getting passionate about ideas is what makes the world move, but it doesn't always make it move where you want. We'll talk about this theme with reference to Columbia '68, Occupy Wall Street, and climate change.

Todd Gitlin, an American writer, sociologist, communications scholar, novelist, poet, and not very private intellectual, is the author of fifteen books, including *Occupy Nation: The Roots, the Spirit, and the Promise of Occupy Wall Street*. Before that, he published the novel *Undying* and (with Liel Leibovitz) *The Chosen Peoples: America, Israel, and the Ordeals of Divine Election*. Other titles include *The Bulldozer and the Big Tent: Blind Republicans, Lame Democrats, and the Recovery of American Ideals*; *The Intellectuals and the Flag*; *Letters to a Young Activist*; *Media Unlimited: How the Torrent of Images and Sounds Overwhelms Our Lives*; *The Twilight of Common Dreams: Why America Is Wracked by Culture Wars*; *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage*; *Inside Prime Time*; *The Whole World Is Watching*; *Uptown: Poor Whites in Chicago* (co-author); three novels, *Undying*, *Sacrifice* and *The Murder of Albert Einstein*; and a book of poetry, *Busy Being Born*. He also edited *Watching Television* and *Campfires of the Resistance*. He has been a columnist at the *New York Observer* and the *San Francisco Examiner*. His poems have appeared in *The New York Review of Books*, *Yale Review*, and *The New Republic*.

He holds degrees from Harvard University (mathematics), the University of Michigan (political science), and the University of California, Berkeley (sociology). He was the third president of Students for a Democratic Society, in 1963-64, and coordinator of the SDS Peace Research and Education Project in 1964-65, during which time he helped organize the first national demonstration against the Vietnam War and the first American demonstrations against corporate aid to the apartheid regime in South Africa. During 1968-69, he was an editor and writer for the *San Francisco Express Times*, and through 1970 wrote widely for the underground press. In 2003-06, he was a member of the Board of Directors of Greenpeace USA.

He is now a professor of journalism and sociology and chair of the Ph. D. program in Communications at Columbia University. Earlier, he was for sixteen years a professor of sociology and director of the mass communications program at the University of California, Berkeley, and then for seven years a professor of culture, journalism and sociology at New York University. During 1994-95, he held the chair in American Civilization at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. He has been the Bosch Fellow in Public Policy at the American Academy in Berlin, a resident at the Bellagio Study Center in Italy and at the Djerassi Foundation in Woodside, California, a fellow at the Media Studies Center in New York, and a visiting professor at Yale University, the University of Oslo, the University of Toronto, East China Normal University in Shanghai, the Institut Supérieur des Langues de Tunis in Tunisia, the American University of Cairo, and the Université de Neuchatel (Switzerland).

John Allen, “Sometimes You Just Need to Look Up”- “Cool Jobs Series”

Wednesday, February 25, 2015 (7:00-9:00 pm), Davis Auditorium

It’s too easy to get focused exclusively on our life indoors, in our palms or our inbox. Yet many of the defining moments of our lives are found outside the confines of this comfort zone. This talk will discuss how one defining meteorological event as a child shaped a career in the atmospheric sciences, and how truly seeing the science of the outside world can inform our day-to-day work. John spends his time balancing a double life as a storm and nature photographer, and as an early career researcher in tornadoes, hail and interactions with the climate system. John Allen is a Postdoctoral Research Scientist at the International Research Institute for Climate and Society at the Earth Institute of Columbia University. His research specializes in understanding the interface between the climate system and the smaller scales, particularly severe thunderstorms. In 2013 he completed his PhD at the University of Melbourne, looking at the impacts of climate change on severe thunderstorms in Australia. His present research is at the forefront of both severe thunderstorm climatology and seasonal forecasting, and already has published 11 peer-reviewed articles in top ranking journals, along with several OpEd's in national outlets. His present projects include developing a new historical tornado climatology of Australia, realizing unconventional sources of severe weather observations, developing the first seasonal outlooks for severe thunderstorms, and exploring other interactions between the climate system and severe thunderstorms.

Beyond his research, John has actively chased thunderstorms in Australia since 2003 and regularly travelled to the U.S. plains to chase storms and tornadoes since 2010. His weather photography has featured in the Australian Bureau of Meteorology Calendar, on the Weather Channel, Scientific American and Climate Central, as well as the Columbia website and has won a number of awards in international competition. These interests have overlapped with his scientific research as part of a National Geographic Expeditions Grant on the El Reno Tornado of 31st May 2013. This project uses crowdsourced visual imagery from storm chasers to build a lightning synchronized record of storm development and facilitate production of the first 3D visualizations of an observed tornado and a new template for post-storm data collection. As part of this project, John will feature in a upcoming National Geographic documentary to be released later in 2015.

Jonathan Israel, "Revolution and Radical Enlightenment: The Advent of Universal Human Rights (1775-1800)"

March 5, 2015 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Rennert Hall

"Recent research has shown that the 'invention' of universal human rights during the Eighteenth Century was due to a dramatic intellectual mutation in the 1770s specifically. It was definitely not, as has been widely argued in recent decades, the outcome of a slow, bottom-up 'cultural process' but rather a directed top-down diffusion. This emanated both within the American Revolution and the lead-up to the French Revolution from a small, highly articulate intellectual fringe very much in conflict with mainstream, conventional values in politics and social theory no less than in moral philosophy and religion. Alongside 'universal human rights', the closely related phenomenon of Anti-colonialism arose in the 1770s and 1780s among exactly the same trans-Atlantic Radical Enlightenment circles."

Jonathan Israel's work is concerned with European and European colonial history from the Renaissance to the eighteenth century. His recent work focuses on the impact of radical thought (especially Spinoza, Bayle, Diderot, and the eighteenth-century French materialists) on the Enlightenment and on the emergence of modern ideas of democracy, equality, toleration, freedom of the press, and individual freedom. His books include *European Jewry in the Age of Mercantilism, 1550–1750* (1985); *The Dutch Republic: Its Rise, Greatness, and Fall, 1477–1806* (1995); *Radical Enlightenment: Philosophy and the Making of Modernity, 1650–1750* (2001); *Enlightenment Contested: Philosophy, Modernity, and the Emancipation of Man 1670–1752* (2006); and *A Revolution of the Mind: Radical Enlightenment and the Intellectual Origins of Modern Democracy* (2009).

Jonathan Israel earned his D.Phil at the University of Oxford. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and a Corresponding Fellow of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Knight of the Order of the Dutch Lion. He is the recipient of the Wolfson Literary Award for History, the Leo Gershoy Award from the American Historical Association, the Dr. A.H. Heineken Prize in History from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Benjamin Franklin Medal from the London Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, and the Frans Banninck Cocq Medal from the City of Amsterdam.

Roxana Geambasu, "XRay: Toward a Transparent Web"

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), 401 Lerner

CUSP-CEAA Forum

Today's Web services--such as Google, Amazon, and Facebook--leverage user data for varied purposes, including personalizing recommendations, targeting advertisements, and adjusting prices. At present, users have little insight and at best coarse information about how their data is being used. Hence, they cannot make informed choices about the services they use.

To increase transparency, we developed XRay, the first personal data tracking system for the Web. XRay predicts which data in an arbitrary Web account (such as emails, searches, or viewed products) is being used to target which outputs (such as ads, recommended products, or prices). XRay's core functions are service agnostic, easy to instantiate for new services, and can track data within and across services. To make predictions independent of the audited service, XRay relies on the following insight: by comparing outputs from different accounts with similar, but

not identical, subsets of data, one can pinpoint targeting through correlation. We show both theoretically, and through experiments on Gmail, Amazon, and YouTube, that XRay achieves high precision and recall by correlating data from a surprisingly small number of extra accounts.

Roxana Geambasu is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Columbia University. She joined Columbia in Fall 2011 after finishing her Ph.D. at the University of Washington. For her work in cloud and mobile data management, she received a Microsoft Research Faculty Fellowship, an NSF CAREER award, an Honorable Mention for the 2013 inaugural Dennis M. Ritchie Doctoral Dissertation Award, a William Chan Memorial Dissertation Award, two best paper awards at top systems conferences, and a Google Faculty Research Award.

Emanuel Derman, "Understanding the World"

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Davis Auditorium

You can try to understand the world using data, intuition, models and theories. Raw data has no voice. It takes models, theories and intuition to use data. Models are metaphors that explain the world we don't understand in terms of worlds we do. Models tell you only what something is more or less like. Theories try to tell you what something really is. It takes intuition to discover a theory.

Emanuel Derman is Co-Head of Risk at Prisma Capital Partners and a professor at Columbia University, where he directs their program in financial engineering. He was born in South Africa but has lived most of his professional life in Manhattan. He started out as a theoretical physicist, doing research on unified theories of elementary particle interactions. At AT&T Bell Laboratories in the 1980s he developed programming languages for business modeling. From 1985 to 2002 he worked on Wall Street where he co-developed the Black-Derman-Toy interest rate model and the Derman-Kani local volatility model. His latest book is *Models.Behaving.Badly: Why Confusing Illusion with Reality Can Lead to Disasters, On Wall Street and in Life*, one of Business Week's top ten books of 2011. He is also the author of *My Life As A Quant*, also one of Business Week's top ten of 2004, in which he introduced the quant world to a wide audience.

Jeff Kluger & Amy Mainzer, "Rising Power: Earth Becomes a Player in a Very Big Universe"

Thursday, April 23, 2015 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), Rennert Hall

Our exploration of the cosmos is always changing: where once we looked at the universe only in the visible, we now see it in the spectra of infrared, x-ray, gamma ray. We do not just watch comets fly by, but we chase them, catch them, land on them. Most important, we are not merely witnesses of the cosmos or merely occasional explorers of it. We are now, slowly, becoming shapers of our celestial environment. Amy Mainzer's work, developing the first satellite dedicated to looking for Earth-threatening asteroids, is a very good example of that. We're not living out in the wild anymore. In cosmic terms, we're coming in out of the rain.

Jeffrey Kluger is the science editor for *Time* magazine and Time.com, principally covering science and social issues. His most recent book, *The Narcissist Next Door*, about narcissism in American and global culture, was recently released. His books include *The Sibling Effect: What*

the Bonds Among Brothers and Sisters Reveal About Us (2011), his newest novel, *Freedom Stone*, a young tale set on a South Carolina plantation in 1863, (2011), and six other books, including *Apollo 13*, coauthored with Jim Lovell, which served as the basis of the 1995 movie. In his time at *Time*, Kluger has written hundreds of stories, including 36 cover stories. Among them are 2003's coverage of the loss of the shuttle Columbia, 2005's cover on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and a 2001 cover on global warming, which won the Overseas Press Club Award for best environmental reporting of the year.

Before coming to *Time*, Kluger worked for *Discover* magazine, where he was a senior editor and humor columnist. Prior to that, he was health editor at *Family Circle* magazine, a story editor at *The New York Times Business World Magazine*, and Associate Editor at *Science Digest* magazine. His features and columns have appeared in dozens of publications, including *The New York Times Magazine*, *Gentlemen's Quarterly*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Omni*, *McCall's*, *New York Magazine*, *The New York Post*, *Newsday*, and, of course, *Time*. He has worked as an adjunct instructor in the graduate journalism program at New York University; is a licensed—though non-practicing—attorney; and is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the University of Baltimore School of Law. He lives in New York City with his wife and daughters.

Amy Mainzer is an astrophysicist, a deputy project scientist for the Wide field Infrared Survey explorer (an infrared, deep field satellite) a principal scientist with the Jet Propulsion laboratory, and the Principal investigator for the proposed Near Earth Object Camera (NEOCam) satellite, which, if given final approval, will be the first satellite built specifically to look for potentially Earth-endangering satellites.

Her main research interests include asteroids, brown dwarfs, planetary atmosphere, debris disks, and star formation, as well we the design and construction of novel instrumentation for ground and space.

Amy earned her B.S. in Physics at Stanford University and her PhD in Astronomy at the University of California, Los Angeles. Among other awards, she is the recipient of the NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal (2012), the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal (2011), and the Lew Allen Award for Excellence (2010).

WONDER AND IMAGINATION: 2013-2014

Each year, all of the elements of CUSP – the first-year seminar, the Speaker Series, and the Cultural Outings – are united by a common thread that is the foundation of our year-long inquiry. Beginning in September, we will explore together “Wonder and Imagination.” As the cornerstone of the year’s intellectual journey, “Wonder and Imagination” brings together a striking collection of artists, public intellectuals and scientists who will share their inspiration and vision with our students. From the philosophical queries of “who are we?” and how wonder makes us human to the exploration of the quarks and quasars that fill our skies, and the use of computers to discover the Earth’s last frontier; from the literary ephemera of childhood fantasy to the lingering question of “what is college?” our Scholars will encounter a vibrant academic community that will spark and nurture their own individual and collective pursuits throughout their years in our Program.

SPEAKER SERIES 2013-2014

Andrew Delbanco, “Do You Wonder What College is For?”

Thursday, September 19, 2013 (6pm-8pm)

Location: Earl Hall Auditorium

Shouldn't College be about intellectual adventure, risk-taking, and sheer contemplation of the beauty and complexity of the world? Yet from admission to graduation, college today is more and more focused on measurable performance on tests and is measured by the "metric" of grades.

How can these enlarging experiences be sustained at a time when every college, including Columbia, faces challenges old and new-- soaring tuition; student anxiety about post-college job prospects; faculty caught between specialized research and college teaching-- and many more.

Andrew Delbanco is Mendelson Family Chair of American Studies and Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University. His many books include, most recently, *College: What it Was, Is, and Should Be* (Princeton University Press, 2012), which is being translated into Chinese and Korean, and *Melville: His World and Work* (2005), which has been translated into German and Spanish.

Andrew Delbanco’s essays appear regularly in *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Republic*, and other journals, on topics ranging from American literary and religious history to contemporary issues in higher education.

In 2012, Professor Delbanco was awarded the National Medal in the Humanities from President Barack Obama “for his writing that spans the literature of Melville and Emerson to contemporary issues in higher education.”

Conversation with Andrew Delbanco and Frederick Wiseman, Moderated by Joshua Siegel
Tuesday, October 1, 2013 (6pm-8pm)
Location: Teatro, Casa Italiana

Frederick Wiseman is an independent documentary filmmaker. Since 1967 he has directed 40 films, 38 of them documentaries—dramatic, narrative films that seek to portray ordinary human experience in a wide variety of contemporary social institutions. His subjects have included a state hospital for the criminally insane, a high school, a welfare center, juvenile court, a boxing gym, ballet companies in New York and Paris, Central Park, a racetrack, and a Parisian cabaret theater. New York Times film critic Manohla Dargis writes: “Taken together, this is work that presents a sweeping, continuing portrait of modern America, its institutions, social relations, administrative and bureaucratic controls and of course—right at the center of this filmmaker’s unyielding frame—its people.”

Mr. Wiseman has directed two fiction features, *Seraphita’s Diary* (1982) and *The Last Letter* (2002). He also works in the theater. In Paris he directed “The Belle of Amherst,” the play by William Luce about the life of Emily Dickinson, and two plays at La Comédie Française—Samuel Beckett’s “Oh Les Beaux Jours,” and “La Dernière Lettre,” based on a chapter of Vasily Grossman’s novel, *Life and Fate*. He also directed “The Last Letter” (the English version of “La Dernière Lettre”) at the Theater for a New Audience in New York. The French publisher, Gallimard, and the Museum of Modern Art, New York, jointly published the book, *Frederick Wiseman*, which offers a comprehensive overview of his work through a series of original essays by distinguished critics and artists.

Mr. Wiseman received his BA from Williams College in 1951 and his LLB from Yale Law School in 1954. He has received honorary doctorates from Bowdoin College, Princeton University, and Williams College, among others. He is a MacArthur Fellow, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has won numerous awards, including four Emmys. He is also the recipient of the Career Achievement Award from the Los Angeles Film Society (2013); the George Polk Career Award (2006); and the American Society of Cinematographers Distinguished Achievement Award (2006), among many others.

In addition, Frederick Wiseman is a member of multiple artistic associations, including: Theater for a New Audience; The Artistic Council and Board of Directors, Festival Committee, Human Rights Watch International Film Festival; Honorary Member, Les Amis du Cinéma du Réel Association; and a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

Andrew Delbanco is Mendelson Family Chair of American Studies and Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University. His many books include, most recently, *College: What it Was, Is, and Should Be* (Princeton University Press, 2012), which is being translated into Chinese and Korean, and *Melville: His World and Work* (2005), which has been translated into German and Spanish. Andrew Delbanco’s essays appear regularly in *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Republic*, and other journals, on topics ranging from American literary and religious history to contemporary issues in higher education. In 2012, Professor Delbanco was awarded the National Medal in the Humanities from President Barack Obama “for

his writing that spans the literature of Melville and Emerson to contemporary issues in higher education.”

Joshua Siegel, an associate film curator at The Museum of Modern Art, has organized or co-organized more than 90 exhibitions including *The Rolling Stones: 50 Years on Film* (2012); *The New India* (2009 and 2007); the film retrospective, gallery exhibition, and award-winning concert series *Jazz Score* (2008); the gallery installation *Projects 84: Josiah McElheny* (2007), which traveled to the Moderna Museet in Stockholm and was subsequently acquired for its permanent collection; and *The Lodz Film School of Poland: 50 Years* (1999), for which the Polish government awarded him an *amicus poloniae*. His monographic exhibitions include *Werner Schroeter* (2012); *Dziga Vertov* (2011); *Henri-Georges Clouzot* (2011); *Frederick Wiseman* (2010); *Spike Jonze* (2009); *Peter Hutton* (2008); *Michael Haneke* (2007); *Gregory La Cava* (2005); *Olivier Assayas* (2003); *Jean Painlevé* (2000); *Errol Morris* (1999); *Marguerite Duras* (1996); and *Jeanne Moreau* (1994). In 2002, Mr. Siegel co-founded and co-organized *To Save and Project: The MoMA International Festival of Film Preservation*. Now celebrating its tenth year, *To Save and Project* has featured the New York or international premieres of more than 1,000 new film restorations from archives, studios, and distributors around the world. Mr. Siegel also serves on the selection committee for *New Directors/New Films*, the annual festival co-presented by MoMA and The Film Society of Lincoln Center.

Mr. Siegel is co-editor of the 2011 publication *Frederick Wiseman* (MoMA/Gallimard), which features original essays by Christopher Ricks, Errol Morris, William T. Vollmann, Wiseman and others. With Kirk Varnedoe and Paola Antonelli, he organized *Open Ends*, the major reinstallation of The Museum of Modern Art, as part of MoMA2000, and edited the accompanying catalogue, *Modern Contemporary: Art Since 1980 at MoMA*. He has been a jury member of many international film festivals, including BAFICI (Buenos Aires), Torino, Miami, and Vancouver; has lectured widely and performed studio crits at such institutions as Yale, Columbia, Cranbrook, USC, and the University of Warsaw; and has served on numerous multidisciplinary grant panels, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship at Harvard University, and the Alpert Award in the Arts/CalArts. He also serves on the executive board of *Cinema Tropical*, a non-profit organization devoted to Latin American cinema in the United States, and on the *Creative Time Reports Advisory Committee*.

Seth Anziska

“Repairing a Historical Rupture, or, The Unexpected Tale of an Israeli Pilot, a Lebanese Artist and the Unthinkable Encounters We Live For”

Wednesday, October 9, 2013, (6pm-8pm)

Location: Rennert Hall

From a chance conversation in a local bookstore in Tel Aviv to the archives of the Arab Image Foundation in Beirut, a historian-in-training shares the unlikely story that resulted in Lebanon’s Pavilion at the 2013 Venice Biennale. Bringing together a leading contemporary artist, Akram Zaatari, and a former Israeli pilot, Hagai Tamir, “Letter to a Refusing Pilot” revisits an urban myth of wartime refusal that was born in the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Both an act of

historical restoration and a meditation on postwar memory, the creation of the pavilion forces us to consider individual actions that defy the collective will. Despite the persistence of stilted debates that can paralyze imagination in the contemporary Middle East, here is a moment of convergence that might offer us a promising way out.

Seth Anziska is a Ph.D. candidate in International and Global History at Columbia University, with interests in the Middle East, US foreign relations and modern Jewish history. His dissertation explores the relationship between Israel, the Palestinians, and the United States from the Camp David Accords through the war in Lebanon and the first Intifada. He received his BA in History from Columbia and his M. Phil. in Modern Middle Eastern Studies from St. Antony's College, Oxford. A recipient of the Boren, FLAS and Wexner Fellowships, Seth has written for the New York Times, Foreign Policy, and Ha'aretz.

Eve Andrée Laramée,

“The Wondrous Glow of Radioactive Materials: Tracking our Invisible Nuclear Legacy through Environmental Art”

Monday, October 14, 2013, (6pm-8pm)

Location: Earl Hall Auditorium

Has the wondrous glow of radioactive materials and their powerful energy seduced us into leaving behind an invisible, yet toxic, environmental legacy? Interdisciplinary artist, Eve Andrée Laramée will discuss the aesthetics and ethics of the "Atomic Age" through artists' and scientists' responses to the impact of these materials on ecological systems, global issues, energy policies and ourselves. Possibilities for art-and-science collaborations will be discussed and participants will be encouraged to "think through the issues" rather than "think about the issues." Can this engagement generate new energy models and paradigms for peace that are sustainable with the life forms and resources of our planet?

The role of the artist is to creatively and artistically touch hearts and minds simultaneously, making complex issues accessible to the general public. The experientiality of art can harness matter into a means of societal or public address. Laramée's creative work and research began in the 1980's with a passion for the history of science, and its relation to artistic production and innovation. Her installation "Apparatus for the Distillation of Vague Intuitions" is a well-known work addressing the poetry, subjectivity and metaphor in art and science, bringing to the fore the beauty and wonder in both fields of practice.

Eve Andrée Laramée is the Chair of Art and Art History at Pace University. She is the founder and director of ART/MEDIA for a Nuclear Free Future, and is the U.S. Coordinator for the International Uranium Film Festival.

Laramée was born in Los Angeles, and divides her time between Brooklyn, NY, and Santa Fe, NM. Her art has been exhibited throughout the United States, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. She has participated in exhibitions at the Venice Biennale, Mass MOCA, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta; the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; among other institutions.

Her work is included in the collections of the MacArthur Foundation, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, The Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the UCLA Armand Hammer Museum, and in numerous other public and private collections. Laramée has received two grants from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, an Andy Warhol Foundation Grant, two fellowships from the New York Foundation for Arts and grants from the Mid-Atlantic States Arts Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Guggenheim Museum Sculptor-in-Residence Program.

Jesse Prinz

“Wonder: The Emotion Behind Human Uniqueness”

Monday, October 28, 2013, (6pm-8pm)

Location: Earl Hall Auditorium

Wonder has been a neglected emotion, but it may play an important role in explaining what makes us so unique as a species. Humans differ from other animals in many ways, but there are three institutions that set us apart most fundamentally and exemplify our highest achievements as a cultural species: art, religion, and science. At first, these three might seem very different--even antithetical. But they are all motivated by wonder, and they all instill wonder. This common emotional bond helps us see what our most human institutions share in common, and why wonder is vitally important to being human.

Jesse Prinz is a Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and the Director of Interdisciplinary Science Studies at the City University of New York, Graduate Center. He has published five books and over a hundred articles about the human mind, covering topics such as the nature of emotions, the origins of morality, the neural basis of consciousness, and cross-cultural differences in psychology. His forthcoming book, *Works of Wonder*, explores the role of wonder in the experience, evaluation, and evolution of art.

Jeffrey Kluger and Marsha Ivins

“The Wondrous Madness of Space Flight”

Thursday, November 14, 2013, (6pm-8pm)

Location: Rennert Hall

There are far safer ways to spend a day than climbing on top of 30 or 40 stories of explosive machine, lighting its fuse and hurling yourself into the void at up to 25,000 mph. Yet over the past 50 years, hundreds of people have done it, millions have dreamed of it, and a tragic handful have died on the way. Space travel has been part of our genetic imperative since long before we had the brain power to imagine it. The next tree, the next cave, the next hill, the next planet have always had an irresistible pull on us. There are equal parts insanity and poetry in that—and we should never wish we were any other way.

Jeffrey Kluger is the science editor for Time magazine and Time.com, principally covering science and social issues. His newest nonfiction book is *The Sibling Effect: What the Bonds Among Brothers and Sisters Reveal About Us*, published in 2011. His newest novel is *Freedom Stone*, a young tale set on a South Carolina plantation in 1863, also published in 2011. He is the author of six other books, including *Apollo 13*, coauthored with Jim Lovell, which served as the basis of the 1995 movie. He is currently writing a book about narcissism in American and global culture.

In his time at Time, Kluger has written hundreds of stories, including 36 cover stories. Among them are 2003's coverage of the loss of the shuttle Columbia, 2005's cover on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and a 2001 cover on global warming, which won the Overseas Press Club Award for best environmental reporting of the year.

Before coming to Time, Kluger worked for Discover magazine, where he was a senior editor and humor columnist. Prior to that, he was health editor at Family Circle magazine, a story editor at The New York Times Business World Magazine, and Associate Editor at Science Digest magazine. His features and columns have appeared in dozens of publications, including The New York Times Magazine, Gentlemen's Quarterly, The Wall Street Journal, Cosmopolitan, Omni, McCall's, New York Magazine, The New York Post, Newsday, and, of course, Time. He has worked as an adjunct instructor in the graduate journalism program at New York University; is a licensed—though non-practicing—attorney; and is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the University of Baltimore School of Law. He lives in New York City with his wife and daughters.

Marsha S. Ivins, former NASA Astronaut, was employed at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center beginning July 1974, working as an engineer for orbiter displays and controls and man machine engineering, and development of the Orbiter Heads-Up Display (HUD). In 1980, she was assigned as a flight engineer on the Shuttle Training Aircraft (Aircraft Operations) and a co-pilot in the NASA administrative aircraft (Gulfstream-1). Ms. Ivins was selected in the NASA Astronaut Class of 1984 as a mission specialist.

Ms. Ivins holds a multi-engine Airline Transport Pilot License with Gulfstream-1 type rating, single engine airplane, land, sea, and glider commercial licenses, and airplane, instrument, and glider flight instructor ratings. She has logged over 7000 hours in civilian and NASA aircraft. A veteran of five space flights, (STS-32 in 1990, STS-46 in 1992, STS-62 in 1994, STS-81 in 1997, and STS-98 in 2001), Ms. Ivins has logged over 1,318 hours in space. Ms. Ivins was assigned to the Astronaut Office supporting the Space Shuttle, Space Station and Constellation Branches. She departed NASA on December 31, 2010.

Roosevelt Montás

“Freedom from the Known: Reflections on Truth and Creativity”

Thursday, January 30, 2014, (6pm-8pm)

Location: Rennert Hall

The sublime, the transcendent, the aesthetic, the mystical, the ineffable all point to a realm of human experience and perception that escapes conceptualization and analysis. Can we learn anything about this sphere? Can it be in any way translatable to our highly structured forms of knowing and acting? Do these concepts have any relevance to our contemporary paradigm of knowledge? This talk will examine some classic approaches to these questions and suggest that attention to this category of experience can have profound implications for some of our most intractable contemporary problems.

Roosevelt Montás is Director of the Center for the Core Curriculum and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Columbia College. His academic specialty is in Antebellum American literature and culture, with a particular interest in questions of national identity. His dissertation, *Rethinking America*, won Columbia University’s 2004 Bancroft Award. In 2000, he received the Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student. He has taught Literature Humanities and regularly teaches Introduction to Contemporary Civilization as well as a seminar in American Studies entitled *Freedom and Citizenship in the United States*. As Director of the Core Curriculum, Roosevelt also lectures widely on the history, place, and future of the humanities in the higher education.

Alessandro Piol

"An unlikely alliance: Entrepreneurship, Innovation and New York City"

Thursday, February 6, 2014, (6pm-8pm)

Location: Rennert Hall

New York is recognized in the United States and the world as a "big business" center: financial companies, ad agencies, media, fashion, business services. Is it possible that in just a few years it has also become one of the biggest centers of entrepreneurship and startups? Let's explore how it has happened, what's going on and why young people from all over the world are coming to New York to start companies.

Alessandro Piol is a co-founder of Vedanta Capital and AlphaPrime Ventures and has over 30 years of experience in the technology industry. A graduate of Columbia University SEAS, he has been making venture capital investments for over 20 years. He also co-founded a start-up out of AT&T Bell Labs and worked in software development for a small software firm. He was one of the founders of AT&T Ventures, the venture capital arm of AT&T, and a partner of Chancellor Capital Management (Invesco) where he focused on technology investments. Alessandro is President of the New York chapter of TiE, a global organization fostering entrepreneurship; he serves on the Entrepreneurial Advisory Board and the Board of Visitors of Columbia's Fu Foundation School of Engineering and he is a mentor, advisor or board member of various private companies. In addition, Alessandro has co-authored, with Maria Teresa

Cometto, Tech and the City: The Making of New York's Startup Community, about New York's entrepreneurial ecosystem. He received a BS and MS in Computer Science from Columbia University and an MBA from the Harvard Business School. Twitter: @ilmago

Across the seas and under the ice: Polar marine science

Cool Jobs Panel in collaboration with the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
Thursday, February 14, 2104 (6pm-8pm), 401 Lerner Hall

Join Craig Aumack and Julius Busecke, scientists at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory studying the ecosystems of the Arctic and Antarctic. We will explore what it is like to do field work in some of the planet's harshest climates and most remote locations. Come join us for an evening of marine discovery!

Lamont's mission: Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory seeks fundamental knowledge about the origin, evolution and future of the natural world. Its scientists study the planet from its deepest interior to the outer reaches of its atmosphere, on every continent and in every ocean, providing a rational basis for the difficult choices facing humanity.

Craig Aumack is a post-doctoral researcher at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University. His long-term research interests focus on the physiological, biochemical, and ecological adaptations of macro and microalgae to polar environments as well as their influences on overall community structure. Currently, he is focused on Arctic sea-ice algae populations and how those communities respond to environmental changes. He is also interested in learning what contributions Arctic sea ice algae have in Arctic ecosystems, and how those may vary in a changing Arctic environment.

Julius Busecke was born in Hamburg, Germany and did his BSc at the University of Kiel/Geomar. He is a PhD candidate with the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. He studies physical oceanography and is a frequent participant on research cruises in Antarctica. His recent work has focused on the Botton Water formation processes in the Ross Sea as well as salinity and freshwater variability in the subtropical north Atlantic.

Nicholas Dames

“Two Millennia of the Book: The Slow History of Textual Imagination”

Monday, February 17, 2014, (6pm-8pm)

Location: Earl Hall Auditorium

We are currently witnesses to a long transition in culture and technology: the end of the dominance of the codex. The codex, more commonly if less precisely known as the “book,” has been the dominant container for textual material in the West since at least the 5th century CE. At a moment when the codex might be yielding its cultural centrality to the screen, it is important to take stock of how the shape of the book has helped structure our conceptions of the self. This

talk will discuss some ways in which the visual and tactile qualities of the book, particularly the long history of forms in which text is laid out and segmented on the page, has shaped both how stories are told and how we think about ourselves, our lives, our pasts. Examples from the earliest Biblical codices to Renaissance humanist editions of the classical tradition and modern novels will furnish us with clues to how experiences of reading can become experiences of living: to the kinds of thinking and imagining engendered by one specific, durable technology.

Nicholas Dames is the Theodore Kahan Professor of Humanities and Chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, where he teaches nineteenth-century fiction, the history and theory of the novel, the history of reading, and the aesthetics of prose fiction from the eighteenth century to the present. His interests center on the long history of novelistic form in Britain and Western Europe.

He is the author of *Amnesiac Selves: Nostalgia, Forgetting, and British Fiction, 1810-1870* (2001), and *The Physiology of the Novel: Reading, Neural Science, and the Form of Victorian Fiction* (2007). He has written on contemporary fiction and on the humanities for *n+1* and *Public Books*, and his scholarly articles have appeared in venues like *Representations*, *Novel*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, and *Victorian Studies*. He has been a recipient of Columbia's Presidential Teaching Award (2005), a Charles Ryskamp Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (2005-6), the Lenfest Distinguished Faculty Award (2008), and the Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching (2013). In 2009-2010 he was chair of the MLA's Division on Prose Fiction Executive Committee, and he is a founding member and on the executive board of the Society for Novel Studies (SNS).

Dames is currently at work on a book, *The History of the Chapter in the West*, which traces the development of the chapter from an editorial and scribal practice of late antiquity and early Christianity to a compositional practice of the European novel.

Sean Higgins

“Re-Imagining and Imaging of the Deep Sea: Voyages of Discovery”

Thursday, March 6, 2014, (6pm-8pm)

Location: Rennert Hall

The ocean is the defining feature of our planet and is the last and largest unexplored place on Earth. It has inspired fear, awe, wonder, and fed man's imagination and curiosity for centuries. However, up until the last century, fundamental questions like how deep is the ocean, what is the ocean floor made of, is there life in the deep sea -- and the list goes on-- had not been answered. For more than 60 years, these questions have driven scientists at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University who have pioneered studies of the world's oceans from our renowned research vessels. It was only in 2011 that programs like Google Earth unveiled the ability to view and explore what we know of the surface of the ocean floor from the comfort of our own computers. Scientists have traveled (and continue to travel) literally millions of miles in pursuit of new knowledge about our planet throughout our rich seagoing history.

Sean Higgins is Director, Office of Marine Operations and Senior Research Scientist, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) of Columbia University. His own journey of discovery started on land where his research focused on history of glaciers ranging from the midwestern US to the Himalayas to Antarctica. During his Ph.D. here at Columbia, his research focus moved to studying records of earth's history recovered from sediments in the deep sea. His research on the deep sea has continued and led him into working for the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) from 2004-2010. This internationally sponsored program began in 1968 and has its roots in LDEO as well. Sean worked for IODP as both a scientist but also as Associate Director of the US Drilling Program from 2007-2010 in Washington DC. He returned to LDEO in 2010 to take over managing operations of the research vessel, the Marcus G. Langseth, at LDEO. This vessel is part of the US academic fleet and specializes in mapping not only the seafloor but what lies deep below.

Changing earth: Exploring the science of ice, rock, and magma across the world

Cool Jobs Panel in collaboration with the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
Tuesday, March 11, 2014, (6pm-8pm), 401 Lerner

Scientists Christine McCarthy and Einat Lev have traveled the world exploring how two very different materials — chilly ice and sizzling magma — change the surface of our planet and beyond. Join their journey in the field, in the lab and on super computers, as they study both volcanoes and glaciers.

Christine McCarthy is an experimental scientist who measures the mechanical properties of geologic materials. After first pursuing careers in unrelated fields, she returned to school and earned her PhD in geophysics from Brown University. For her thesis she ran experiments to understand how tidal forces on icy satellites like Europa could generate enough heat to sustain a liquid ocean. She then took a two-year postdoctoral appointment in Tokyo, where she was living during the Tohoku earthquake. She is now a postdoc at Lamont Doherty, where she and her colleagues in the Rock Mechanics Lab are designing and building a new apparatus to measure the friction of ice as it slides against rock. She hopes to understand the mechanisms by which tides modulate flow rates and affect stability of tidewater glaciers in Antarctica and Greenland.

Einat Lev is a physical volcanologist and a geodynamicist, studying the physical processes that control the dynamics of the Earth, and volcanoes in particular. She grew up in Israel, and in college did a double major of geophysics and computer science. After two years in the software industry, she went back to school, and got a PhD in geophysics from MIT. She followed that with a postdoctoral fellowship at Lamont-Doherty, which allowed her to design her own project independently. She subsequently decided to focus on lava and volcanoes and has recently been promoted to an Assistant Research Professor position. She lives in upper Manhattan with her husband and 1 year old daughter.

Moshe Sluhovsky

“Wonder in Early Modern Europe: the Marvelous, the Miraculous, and the Strange”

Thursday, March 27, 2014, (6pm-8pm)

Location: Rennert Hall

Wonder is a cognitive state, recognition of the singularity or beauty of a thing encountered. It is also this thing itself ("It is a wonder . . ."). Wonder ignites desires: desire to get passionate (emotionally, aesthetically) about the marvelous thing, but also a desire to comprehend, to possess, to de-wonder it. Wonder is always historical: what causes wonder at one time to one group of people is not likely to also cause wonder to other people at other times. I will discuss the place of wonder in early modern Europe, the period between 1400 and 1800: the discovery of new continents and civilizations, the wide distribution of stories of marvelous, miraculous, and strange events and things due to the printing press, the alleged unparalleled increase in the number of witches who harmed people and of demons who possessed them, and the invention of the telescope and the microscope created new wonders, fascinations, and fears. At the same time, a scientific effort to make sense of wonders, to explain them away by understanding how they fit into a rational and natural philosophy of nature, was diminishing the realm of the wonderful.

I will talk about this dialectical movement that characterized early modern Europeans' approach to wonder: their growing fascination with the wonderful and their contradictory desire to demystify it.

Moshe Sluhovsky is the holder of the Vigevani Chair of European Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is the author of, most recently, *Believe Not Every Spirit: Possession, Mysticism, and Discernment in Early Modern Catholicism*, and his major field of scholarship is early modern religious history. He has taught at Princeton and Brown Universities, UCLA, and the California Institute of Technology, and has held fellowships from the NEH, Mellon Foundation, National Humanities Center, and Princeton University. This year he is a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Advance Research Collaboration Project at the Graduate Center.

Elizabeth Hillman

"I Wonder What My Brain is Doing Right Now?"

CUSP CEAA Forum Speaker

Wednesday, April 2, 2014, (6pm-8pm)

Location: 401 Lerner Hall

Dr. Hillman's research focuses on the development and application of novel imaging and microscopy techniques for investigating the living brain. She will describe her quest to find new ways to reimagine in-vivo brain imaging, and describe her explorations of the wondrous world of the working brain.

Elizabeth Hillman joined the department of Biomedical Engineering in 2006, and also holds an appointment in the department of Radiology. Always eager to figure out ‘how things work’ Dr Hillman studied Physics as an undergraduate at University College London, moving into Medical Physics and Bioengineering for her PhD. “I always loved neuroscience and medicine, but I knew I would make a terrible clinician. Medical Physics and Biomedical engineering were the perfect disciplines for me!”, she says. Following time as a post-doctoral fellow and junior faculty at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Dr. Hillman joined Columbia to establish her the ‘Laboratory for Functional Optical Imaging’. Now with over 15 members, her large lab tackles myriad technical challenges to observe the living brain in action. Composed of physicist, engineers, neuroscientists and MD/PhDs, the lab’s cross section mirror’s Dr. Hillman’s broad interests in figuring out how things work, from the microscopes that she builds, to the brains that they image.

Dr. Hillman’s work has been recognized by a number of awards, including an NSF CAREER award, and most recently the Optical Society of America ‘Adolph Lomb Medal’ for contributions to the field of optics under age 35.

James Schamus

“Why Do You Like Fake Things So Much?”

Tuesday, April 8, 2014, (6pm-8pm)

Location: Rennert Hall

The title of the talk says it all: Professor Schamus will be asking you why you like fake things (such as movies and novels) so much and will be interested to hear your answers, even if, probably, he will not be satisfied by them.

James Schamus is an award-winning screenwriter (The Ice Storm) and producer (Brokeback Mountain), and is CEO of Focus Features, the motion picture production, financing, and worldwide distribution company whose films have included Moonrise Kingdom, Milk, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, The Pianist, Coraline, and The Place Beyond the Pines. He is also Professor of Professional Practice in Columbia University's School of the Arts, where he teaches film history and theory. He is the author of Carl Theodor Dreyer's Gertrud: The Moving Word, published by the University of Washington Press. He earned his BA, MA, and Ph.D. in English from U.C. Berkeley.

PLAY AND PERFORMANCE: 2012-2013

The theme of “Play and Performance” provides a wide-ranging lens through which we wish to explore the concept of play and performance with an interdisciplinary approach. What does play mean in the context of mathematics, chemistry, psychology, anthropology, philosophy, history, the visual arts, music, or dance? What are toys and how do we build and design them? What are the spaces and opportunities we have for play as adults in a modern/post-modern society? Who is afforded the opportunity to play and why? How is play related to the hierarchies and divisions that exist in our society at large?

In theater, sport and everyday life, play often takes the form of performance. Here activities are structured with an eye towards exhibition before an audience, and spectatorship becomes another dimension through which social and cognitive development unfolds. By watching theatrical performances viewers rehearse emotional reactions to fictional persons and events; sporting events organize the experience of uncertainty and anticipation through competition, physical virtuosity and rule governed play, while musical and other forms of artistic performance bind performer and spectator together through the realization of unique instances of infinitely repeatable works of art. Scientific experiments, too, are performed and their results mobilized for interpretation before a community of experts.

SPEAKER SERIES 2012-2013

Andrew Delbanco

“Can College be Fun?”

Monday, September 17, 2012 (6:00-8:00 pm)

Location: Teatro, Casa Italiana

Every college should be a place for play--in the sense of intellectual adventure, risk-taking, and sheer contemplation of the beauty and complexity of the world. Yet from admission to graduation, college today is more and more focused on measurable performance on tests and as measured by the "metric" of grades.

How can the sense of play be restored at a time when every college, including Columbia, faces challenges old and new-- soaring tuition; student anxiety about post-college job prospects; faculty caught between specialized research and college teaching-- and many more.

Andrew Delbanco will speak about the past, present, and future of the American college, and why this endangered institution matters more than ever to our nation and the world.

Andrew Delbanco is Mendelson Family Chair of American Studies and Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University. He was awarded the 2011 National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama “for his writing that spans the literature of Melville and Emerson to contemporary issues in higher education.”

Professor Delbanco is the author of many books, including, most recently, *College: What it Was, Is, and Should Be* (Princeton University Press, 2012), and *The Abolitionist Imagination* (Harvard

University Press, 2012). *Melville: His World and Work* (2005) was published in the United States by Alfred A. Knopf, in Britain under the Picador imprint, and has appeared in German and Spanish translation. Melville was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in Biography, and appeared on “best books” lists in the Washington Post, Independent (London), Dallas Morning News, and TLS. It was awarded the Lionel Trilling Award by Columbia University.

Eitan Grinspun

“From Sorcery to Science: How Hollywood Physics Impacts the Sciences”

Tuesday, October 2, 2012 (6:00 - 8:00 pm)

Location: Davis Auditorium

Cinema uses computers to animate physics. Special effects such as explosions and lifelike depictions of imaginary characters are made possible by mathematical and computational models that capture qualitative, characteristic behavior of a mechanical system. This is scientific computing with a twist. I will describe the process by which we derive and compute models of physics, and show actual examples of resulting technologies in film, consumer products, physics, and medicine.

Eitan Grinspun is Associate Professor of Computer Science at Columbia University, and Director of the Columbia Computer Graphics Group. His research seeks to discover connections between geometry, physics, and computation, typically with applications to computer graphics. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the California Institute of Technology in 2003, and his B.A.Sc. in Engineering Science from the University of Toronto in 1997. He was Professeur d'Université Invité in Paris at l'Université Pierre et Marie Curie in 2009, and a Research Scientist at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences in 2003-04. He is an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow and NSF CAREER Award recipient, and was previously an NVIDIA Fellow and a Caltech Everhart Distinguished Lecturer. The technologies developed by his laboratory are used in consumer software such as Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator, in film studios such as Disney, Pixar, and Weta Digital, and in physics laboratories at institutions such as MIT and the Université Paris VI. His work has been profiled in The New York Times, Scientific American, and Popular Science (“Brilliant 10”).

James Ramsey

“Let There Be Light: Bringing New York's Underground to Life”

Tuesday, October 16, 2012 (6:00 - 8:00 pm)

Location: Teatro, Casa Italiana

James is also the creator of the LowLine, an initiative to create the world's first underground park, and the inventor of the solar technology that makes it possible. The LowLine seeks to transform an abandoned NYC trolley terminal into a vibrant green space with natural

sunlight. More info can be found at www.thelowline.com. James is the founder of a related non-profit group, the Underground Development Foundation, where he serves as President.

James Ramsey is an architect and inventor—a collection of traits more reminiscent of a bygone era than it is of today’s culture of intense specialization and talent streamlining. As principal of RAAD and creator of the LowLine, James has created a firm that holds true to the traditional idea that design should remain informed by the craft of building and shaping materials. This belief is apparent in all divisions of the company from product design and invention to architecture and urban planning. James’ intellectual energy and creative drive emanate through his life and his work.

James studied architecture at Yale University where he won a Bates Fellowship to study cathedral design in Europe. He then went to work as a satellite engineer for NASA, an integral part of the team that created the Pluto Fast Flyby and the Cassini satellites.

RAAD was created in 2004: www.raadstudio.com. RAAD specializes in creating objects and spaces that emphasize the craft of construction—knowledge gleaned from close and continued collaboration with builders. This focus on the materiality, joinery and detail of design is apparent in all RAAD’s work. RAAD has quadrupled in size since 2008, and now consists of three divisions—products, architecture and urban design. James closely oversees each of these aspects and personally holds several patents for inventions. His products range from mobius-loop furniture to modernist chicken coops, while his architectural work runs the gamut from multi-million dollar renovations to ground-up construction for both commercial and private clients.

When he’s not spending late nights hunched in front of a floor plan, James can be found playing North-Mississippi-style guitar in a band with a news anchor and a movie executive. An avid and accomplished chef, James enjoys foraging for ingredients and shuns any sort of cookbook as he produces regular dinner parties for 20-30 friends at a time, one of which was recently featured in *Bon Appétit*. Besides being a card-carrying member of the New York Mycological Society, the Origami USA organization, as well as several Paleontology societies, James is actively involved in ArtWorks, an organization dedicated to bringing art education to children with special needs.

Joseph Stiglitz & Anya Schiffrin

“Inequality and Occupy: The roles of political performance and fairness in shaping global political discourse in the last two years.”

Wednesday, November 14, 2012 (6:00 - 8:00 pm)

Location: Rennert Hall Auditorium

Anya Schiffrin and Joseph Stiglitz will discuss their new books and how anger at growing inequality and unemployment has influenced political discussions and protest in the US and abroad.

Joseph E. Stiglitz was born in Gary, Indiana in 1943. A graduate of Amherst College, he received his PHD from MIT in 1967, became a full professor at Yale in 1970, and in 1979 was awarded the John Bates Clark Award, given biennially by the American Economic Association

to the economist under 40 who has made the most significant contribution to the field. He has taught at Princeton, Stanford, MIT and was the Drummond Professor and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. He is now University Professor at Columbia University in New York and Co-Chair of Columbia University's Committee on Global Thought. He is also the co-founder and Co-President of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia. In 2001, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics for his analyses of markets with asymmetric information, and he was a lead author of the 1995 Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. In 2011, Time named Stiglitz one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Anya Schiffrin is the director of SIPA's International Media, Advocacy and Communications Specialization. She spent 10 years working overseas as a journalist in Europe and Asia, writing for a number of different magazines and newspapers. She was bureau chief for Dow Jones Newswires in Amsterdam and Hanoi and wrote regularly for the *Wall Street Journal*. She was a Knight-Bagehot Fellow at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in 1999-2000 and then a senior writer at the Industry Standard, covering banking and finance. In addition to serving as director of the IMAC specialization, Schiffrin directs the journalism training programs of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD), a global economic think-tank based at Columbia University. The IPD journalism training program has received support from Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Ford Foundation, and the Open Society Institute. She was the founder of the website www.journalismtraining.net which provides training materials for journalists.

Alexis Soloski

“The Body Electric: Robots, Chatbots, and the Limits of Live Performance”

Tuesday, November 27, 2012 (6:00 - 8:00 pm)

Location: Davis Auditorium

A theatrical truism states that a play requires at least one actor and one spectator. But what if that actor is something more or less than human--a robot, a chatbot, an android, a cyborg? Is a robot a thespian? Is a conversation between chatbots a play? In this talk, we'll explore the use of the non-human and super-human in contemporary drama (via discussion and clips from works by Annie Dorsen, Rich Maxwell, Les Freres Corbusier, etc.), investigating the challenges such performances pose to liveness, performance, and mimesis.

Alexis Soloski is a post-doctoral lecturer at Columbia University in Literature Humanities. Her research interests and recent publications include articles on documentary drama, contemporary playwrights, robot performance, and drama and disease. As a journalist, she is a drama critic at The Village Voice and a frequent contributor to The New York Times, The Guardian, and BBC Radio. She is a member of the New York Drama Critics Circle and the OBIE Awards Committee.

William Beeman

“Evolution on Stage: How Performance Made us Human”

Thursday, February 7, 2013 (6:00 - 8:00 pm)

Location: Rennert Hall, The Kraft Center

Performance has a unique ability to affect human beings emotionally. Moreover, it appears to be a uniquely human form of behavior. I present here a hypothesis to explain both how this is accomplished, and why performance developed as a human behavioral characteristic. Emotions serve to warn humans of dangerous circumstances, and reinforce pleasurable ones. Advances in the study of the structures of the human prefrontal cortex suggest that performance may provide a means for humans to experience and learn about emotional states in a protected environment. This ability to learn about and share emotions is one of the characteristics that distinguish humans from other animals. Thus, performance has evolutionary value for humans. To illustrate this, I will show examples from a wide variety of cultures and performance traditions.

William O. Beeman is Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota. He was formerly Professor of Anthropology and Director of Middle East Studies at Brown University. Trained as a linguistic anthropologist, he is well known as a Middle East Specialist. He has also worked in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Japan, China and South Asia. Recognized for special expertise in Iranian culture, he is the author or editor of more than 100 scholarly articles, 500 opinion pieces and 14 books, including *Language, Status and Power in Iran*, and *The "Great Satan" vs. the "Mad Mullahs": How the United States and Iran Demonize Each Other*, and (with Daniel Helfgot) *The Third Line: The Singer as Interpreter*. His most recent book is *Iranian Performance Traditions*. He is a professional opera singer and in the last decade has published widely in the area of performance theory, having investigated traditional performance in Japan, China, India, Iran and Europe. His work has increasingly focused on the neurobiology of performance including drama, dance and music.

James Green

“Playing with Sex and Gender: Brazilian Carnival Past and Present”

Monday, February 18th, 2013 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)

Location: The Faculty House

In Rio de Janeiro, pre-Lentian merriment has provided a unique moment for gender bending, cross-dressing and playful performances of race, class, and difference. Street festivities and Carnival celebrations both challenge and re enforce dominant notions of appropriate sexual and social behavior. An historic overview of Rio de Janeiro’s famous annual event, focusing especially on gay amusement examines whether these are subversive antics or merely fun-loving street frolics whose antics merely mirror the status quo.

James N. Green is Professor of Brazilian History and Culture at Brown University and the former Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. He is the author of the prize-winning books *Beyond Carnival: Male Homosexuality in Twentieth-Century Brazil* and

We Cannot Remain Silent: Opposition to the Brazilian Military Dictatorship in the United States. He is a co-editor of Modern Latin America, the most-widely used textbook in the field as well as The Brazil Reader: History, Politics, and Culture. Green has also co-edited Exile and the Politics of Exclusion in the Americas, A Mother's Cry: A Memoir of Politics, Prison and Torture under the Brazilian Military Dictatorship, among other publications. The recipient of American Council of Learned Society, National Endowment of the Humanities, and Fulbright Fellowships, Green has been a Visiting Professor at Columbia University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. He has served as the President of the Brazilian Studies Association and the New England Council on Latin American Studies. He is currently completing a biography entitled Exiles within Exiles: Herbert Daniel, Brazilian Gay Revolutionary.

Robert Zatorre

“Music in the Brain: Pitch, Imagery, and Emotion”

Monday, March 4th, 2013 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)

Location: Earl Hall Auditorium

How do our brains allow us to perceive, and perform music? How do we imagine musical sounds? Why does music elicit emotion? Neuroscientists are increasingly interested in questions such as these, because music can be a powerful way to reveal the inner workings of the mind and the nervous system that underlies it. Since music touches upon almost all of the higher mental functions, it provides us with a rich source of material to understand how the brain works. Conversely, musicians and musical scholars are beginning to become interested in the idea that the study of music and the brain may reveal insights into music, too.

In this lecture I will discuss research carried out in our lab over the past few years that help to shed light on these questions. Our research uses brain imaging technologies to investigate the patterns of brain activity that are important for simple events, like perceiving the pitch of a musical tone, to more complex abilities, such as recognizing a melody, or even imagining a melody when there is no sound. We also can study the anatomy of the living brain, to understand for example how the brain of a musician is specialized for perceiving and performing music. Finally, we can also use brain imaging to trace specific chemical pathways, such as the ones responsible for feeling emotion when we hear music. Our goal is to understand how the brain allows us to have music, and how music in turn affects the way our brains function.

Dr. Robert Zatorre is a cognitive neuroscientist whose research explores the functional and structural organization of the human brain using neuroimaging and behavioral methods. His principal interests relate to the neural substrate for auditory cognition, with special emphasis on two complex and characteristically human abilities: speech and music. He and his collaborators have published over 200 scientific papers on a variety of topics including pitch perception, musical imagery, absolute pitch, music and emotion, perception of auditory space, and brain plasticity in the blind and the deaf. In 2005 he was named holder of a James McGill chair in Neuroscience. In 2006 he became the founding co-director of the international laboratory for Brain, Music, and Sound research (BRAMS), a unique multi-university consortium with state-of-

the art facilities dedicated to the cognitive neuroscience of music. In 2011 he was awarded the IPSEN foundation prize in neuronal plasticity.

Darci Picoult

“Creating Stories for the Stage and Film”

Monday, March 25, 2013 (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

Location: Faculty Room, Low Library

What does it take to develop a story from page to performance? Darci Picoult, a screenwriting and playwriting fellow at the Sundance Film and Theater Labs, and acting teacher at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, speaks of her experience on location and in the rehearsal room, highlighting the integral relationship between actors, directors, writers and producers.

Darci Picoult’s screenplay MA' GEORGE directed by Andrew Dosunmu, is currently in post production. It was developed at the Sundance Film Labs where it was awarded a Maryland Filmmakers Fellowship, an Annenberg grant and was one of three USA finalists for the International NHK/Sundance award.

Darci's one woman show, MY VIRGINIA, was presented in theaters and solo festivals both nationally and internationally. Performances include New York Theater Workshop, Ensemble Studio Theater, LA Theater Work's “The Play's The Thing” series, which was broadcast throughout the country on National Public Radio, “Women Center Stage” in St. Louis, San Francisco's Solo Mio Festival, Philadelphia's Women's Theater Festival, Slovenia's “City of Women” Theater Festival and in Croatia at the Cultural Center for Women Refugees. MY VIRGINIA has also been performed for legal and medical conferences across the country in programs cosponsored by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Health; and in Brussels for a program sponsored by the European Commission and was showcased on the BBC series MEDICINE AT THE CROSSROADS.

Theatrical work includes LIL'S 90th, developed at the Sundance Theater Lab, world premiere at The Long Wharf Theater in New Haven under the direction of Jo Bonney; JAYSON WITH A Y developed at NY Stage and Film and produced by The New Group in New York; MOTHER DAUGHTER VARIATIONS, commissioned by Larry Wilker/Theater Dreams, ANCIENT LIGHTS and MAKING THE WORLD ROUND workshopped at New York Theater Workshop and read at Lincoln Center as part of the New York Public Library Reading series.

Darci taught writing for the Legacy Project at the Public Theater, NY Shakespeare Festival and currently teaches acting at the Tisch School of the Arts/New York University.

She is the recipient of the 2008 National Theater Conference/Paul Green Award for her theatrical work.

Maria Chudnovsky

“Doughnuts, Parties, and Colors: A Few Problems in Graph Theory”

Wednesday, April 24, 2013 (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.)

Location: 401 Lerner Hall

Graph Theory is a branch of Mathematics that deals with objects called “graphs”. Roughly, a graph is a collection of points, in which some pairs are declared to be “adjacent.” In this talk we will describe a few classical problems that lay foundation to the field, as well as their connections to modern day research.

Maria Chudnovsky, who joined the IEOR Department in 2006, is interested in exploring the structure of abstract graphs, focusing her research on graph theory and combinatorial optimization. “Graph theory does not involve what most people normally think of as graphs,” she says. Instead, it involves groups of points, or vertices. Sometimes they form geometric objects like squares and pentagons. Other times, they are distributed as randomly as cities or cell phone towers on a map. “A graph is a good model for many practical problems, like finding the best route for a delivery truck or routing Internet traffic or calculating the shortest itinerary on a GPS,” she adds.

Chudnovsky was a part of a team of four researchers that proved the “strong perfect graph theorem,” a 40-year-old conjecture that had been a well-known open problem in both graph theory and combinatorial optimization. For this work, she was awarded the Ostrowski Foundation research stipend in 2003, and the prestigious Fulkerson prize in 2009. She was a research fellow at the Clay Mathematics Institute from 2003–2008 and was named one of the “brilliant ten” young scientists by Popular Science in 2004.

She received her B.A. and M.Sc. from Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University.

BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES: 2011-2012

The theme of “Borders and Boundaries” provides a wide-ranging lens through which we wish to explore issues of our own humanity, how we learn about our physical universe, how society is structured, themes of nature vs. nurture, the mind and the body, and the sacred or profane. We look forward to exploring the paradox between boundaries and boundlessness in scientific inquiry – from bioethics to space exploration, gene mutation, and virtual reality. We will engage the challenges of ethics and technology, the relationship between the arts and science, the intersections between religions, and the roots of religious violence. Through the lens of law and justice, we look forward to exploring human and civil rights and privileges, issues of race and class, definitions of citizenship, issues of migration and immigration, geographic boundaries of political entities or legal jurisdictions. In general, we will explore shifting boundaries, revolutions and counter-revolutions – political, scientific, technological, religious, and artistic discourses.

SPEAKER SERIES 2011-2012

Jeffrey Sachs

“The Meaning of the Millennium Development Goals”

Friday, September 16, 2011 (12-2pm)

Location: Casa Italiana

The MDGs are about the fight against poverty, hunger, and disease. Yet their significance is even deeper. The MDGs represent the most significant effort in global history to honor basic economic rights for all. The MDGs therefore pose deep questions about global solidarity, the role of human rights, and the potential for global cooperation. I will review the history, progress, and stumbling blocks on the path to 2015, the target year for fulfilling the MDGs.

Jeffrey D. Sachs is the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. From 2002 to 2006, he was Director of the UN Millennium Project and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals. Sachs is also President and Co-Founder of Millennium Promise Alliance.

Akhtar Badshah

“Technology at the Margins – Social Innovation for Change”

Monday, September 19, 2011 (6-8pm)

Location: Altschul Auditorium (SIPA)

Information Technology have revolutionized our lives by changing the way we live, work, play, communicate, learn, manage our finances, and stay healthy. Dr. Badshah will talk about how

technology especially within the development sector is bringing about social change and unleashing creativity that is having a positive impact on the world's poor. He will also share his thoughts on the 6C's that have guided his approach to life to bring about social change and how you can use it too.

Akhtar Badshah is the senior director of Global Community Affairs at Microsoft Corporation, where he administers the company's community investment and employee programs. Dr. Badshah is an architect by training and a doctoral graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the co-author of a new book "Technology at the Margins – How IT Meets the Needs of the Emerging Markets", published by Wiley and Sons.

Venkat Venkatasubramanian

"Madoff, Deepwater Horizon, and Northeast Blackout: Systematic Failures in Complex Systems"

Wednesday, October 5, 2011 (6-8pm)

Location: 401 Lerner

What is common among the Madoff Ponzi Scheme, BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster, and Northeast Blackout? The first is a financial scandal, the second a chemical plant accident and the last a large scale electrical power failure. They all seem so different from one another. How can they all be related?

Well, it turns out that they are all systemic failures in complex engineered systems – essentially the same problem that manifests itself in different forms in different domains.

In the history of chemical plant accidents, a few disasters have served as wake up calls. The worst was the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, in 1984. Thousands were killed and about a hundred thousand were seriously injured by the poisonous methyl isocyanate gas that was released in the accident at Union Carbide's plant in Bhopal, India. Another one was Piper Alpha, an offshore oil platform operated by Occidental Petroleum in the North Sea, about 200 miles from Aberdeen, Scotland, which exploded in 1988 killing 167 people and resulted in about \$2 billion losses. Even though the human casualties were low, this list would also include the 1989 Exxon Valdez and, now, the BP oil spill, both of which are very serious from an environmental damages perspective.

Such systemic failures are not limited to the chemical and petrochemical industries alone. As noted, the 2003 Northeast electrical power blackout was a systemic failure. Financial disasters such as Madoff, Enron, WorldCom, subprime derivatives market, and so on, also belong to the same class. While these are different disasters that happened in different domains, at different facilities, triggered by different events, involve different materials, and so on, there are, however, certain common underlying patterns behind such systemic failures. These patterns teach us important fundamental lessons that we had better learn to avoid future disasters.

To understand these patterns and learn from them, we need to go beyond analyzing them as independent one-off accidents but in the broader perspective of the potential fragility of all complex engineered systems. We need to study all these disasters from a common systems engineering perspective so that we can thoroughly understand the commonalities as well as the differences in order to better design and control such systems in the future. Further, such studies need to be carried out in concert with public policy experts so that all the scientific and engineering lessons get translated into effective policies and regulations. In this talk, I will present an overview of the challenges we face and the ongoing research in our group to address these problems.

Professor Venkat Venkatasubramanian is Reilly Professor of Chemical Engineering at Purdue University. He earned his Ph. D. in Chemical Engineering (with a Minor in Theoretical Physics) from Cornell University, M.S. in Physics from Vanderbilt University, and B. Tech. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Madras, India. Venkat worked as a Research Associate in Artificial Intelligence in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie-Mellon University and taught at Columbia University before joining Purdue in 1988. At Purdue, Venkat directs the research efforts of several graduate students and co-workers in the *Laboratory for Intelligent Process Systems*. Prof. Venkatasubramanian's research contributions have been in the areas of risk identification and management in complex engineered systems, information systems for pharmaceutical decision-making and materials design, and complex adaptive systems, using knowledge-based systems, neural networks, genetic algorithms, mathematical programming and statistical approaches. His teaching repertoire includes process design, process control, pharmaceutical engineering, systemic risks analysis and management, complex adaptive systems, artificial intelligence, statistical physics, and applied statistics.

Elsa Stamatopoulou

"Human Rights and Social Justice without Borders? Learning, Un-learning, and Re-learning from the Personal, the Local, and the Global"

Thursday, October 20, 2011 (6-8pm)

Location: 401 Lerner

If we define the pursuit of happiness, in a large sense, as the driving force of human beings and societies, what are the parameters between the internationalization of economies and ethics and the community or the individual? What is the role of your culture and mine in this tension? How should we pursue our self-determined development, our visions of well-being and justice, our sense of alternatives for a better world in the midst of hard daily realities and systemic challenges? The discussion will explore these questions giving a perspective from the speaker's work at the United Nations in the field of human rights and Indigenous Peoples' rights.

Born in Athens, Greece, Elsa Stamatopoulou is the Founder, *International Cultural Human Rights Institute*, and has devoted some 21 years of her UN work to human rights. From 2003 to 2010 she was the first Chief of the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. She joined the UN Division on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna, Austria in 1979 and the headquarters of

the UN Centre for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland in 1980. In 1984 she moved to the New York Office of the UN Centre for Human Rights and headed the Office for ten years (1986 to 1995). From 1999 to 2003 she was the Deputy Director in the New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She has also served as the Senior Legal Adviser to the Under-Secretary General for Administration and Management at UN Headquarters in New York, dealing with issues of the administration of justice. Since January 2011, she is at Columbia University as Adjunct Professor, affiliated with 3 Columbia institutions, the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, the Department of Anthropology and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights.

Stamatopoulou was a Member of the UN Panel of Counsel and a Chairperson of the Joint Appeals Board dealing with the UN justice system and defending cases before the UN Administrative Tribunal. Her involvement in public, national and international affairs includes her participation in the International Commission on the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh as Co-Chair, the NGO People's Decade for Human Rights Education as member, Children's Forum 21 (an international NGO dealing with children's rights) as Founding Member, Member of the International Advisory Board of the International Training Center of Indigenous Peoples, and, in her native Greece, Founding Member of the Center on Minority Studies, member of the Human Rights Defense Center, and founder of the International Cultural Human Rights Institute.

Stamatopoulou has cooperated closely with non-governmental organizations and other parts of civil society on a number of pioneering areas. She has received -- The Ingrid Washinawatok El Issa *O'Peqtaw Metaehmoh*-Flying Eagle Woman Peace, Justice and Sovereignty Award; the award of the NGO Committee on the Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples; the Eleanor Roosevelt Award of the Human Rights Center and of Voices 21 and other awards from grassroots organizations. The municipal "Museum "Tepee of the World" (Yurta Mira) was given her name in, Mayorsk Nasleg, Adyisk ulus (district), Republic of Sakha, Siberia, Russian Federation, in August 2010.

She obtained her Law Degree from the University of Athens Law School and entered the Athens Bar Association. She did her Masters studies in the Administration of Criminal Justice, at North-Eastern University, Boston, USA, and her Doctoral studies in Political Science with specialization in International Law, at the University Institute of Graduate International Studies, University of Geneva, Switzerland, as well as additional graduate training at the University of Vienna.

Max Kenner

"Values of Liberal Education: Reflections on the 10 Years of the Bard Prison Initiative"

Tuesday, November 1, 2011 (6-8pm)

Location: CPDavis Auditorium

Max Kenner is the Vice President for Institutional Initiatives at Bard College and Executive Director of the Bard Prison Initiative – which he founded as an undergraduate. The Bard Prison

Initiative (BPI) is the largest privately funded college-in-prison program in the United States. It enrolls nearly 250 incarcerated college students in rigorous and diverse associate and bachelor's degree programs within prisons across New York State. Those students are held to the identical standards of ambition and rigor as conventional Bard students on the main campus; they engage in a robust and dynamic college curriculum that includes advanced study in mathematics and science, the humanities, social studies, the study of foreign language, and the full breadth of the arts. In 2009, he co-founded the Consortium for the Liberal Arts in Prison at Bard College which provides funding and support to colleges nationwide as they establish independent college-in-prison programs. BPI's work has been featured in national and international press outlets such as the NY Times Magazine, *60 Minutes*, the PBS *NewsHour*, and *All Things Considered*.

As Vice President for Institutional Initiatives, Mr. Kenner oversees other Bard College programs that enroll unconventional, mostly low-income, students across the United States.

Peter Awn & John Gager

“Jews, Christians and the Dangerous Ones In Between --yet more often than not, *In Medio Stat Virtus*, ‘Virtue Stands Firmly in the Middle.’”

Thursday, November 17, 2011 (6-8pm)

Location: Kraft Center

We know that good fences make good neighbors. But is this always true? Clear boundaries make us who we are. High fences and tight borders create enclosed communities; in dealing with religions, we call them we call them sects. One question is, who gets to decide where the borders are and how tight they are. Porous borders make for very different communities. But how long can they last?

John G. Gager joined the Princeton faculty in 1968. His scholarly concern is with the religions of the Roman Empire, especially early Christianity and its relations to ancient Judaism. He has also written on the theme of religion and magic. His books include *Moses in Greco-Roman Paganism*; *Kingdom and Community: The Social World of Early Christianity*; *The Origins of Anti-Semitism*; *Curse Tablets and Binding Spells from the Ancient World*; and *Reinventing Paul*. He served as Master of Forbes College from 1992-2000. John Gager received a BA in French and a M.Div. from Yale. He also received a PhD in Religion from Harvard University. He retired in June, 2006 but continues teaching as a Visiting Professor. He is also an avid rock climber and cyclist.

Peter Awn received his Ph.D. in Islamic religion and comparative religion from Harvard University in 1978. Previously he earned a B.A. in Philosophy and Classical Languages, and an M.Div. in Christian Theology. He is presently Professor of Islamic Religion and Comparative Religion. He has been visiting professor at Princeton University and has lectured widely to academic and business professionals on the role Islamic religion plays in the current political and social development of the Muslim world. Professor Awn was the first recipient of the Phillip and

Ruth Hettleman Award for distinguished teaching and research. His book, "Satan's Tragedy and Redemption: Iblis in Sufi Psychology", a study of the devil in Islamic mysticism (Sufism), was the recipient of a book award from the American Council of Learned Societies.

Geanne Rosenberg

"Consider the Source; Information Quality in Our Digital World"

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Location: Lerner 401, 6-8 p.m.

For generations of Americans, the news was what appeared in mass media, either in major newspapers or spoken by authoritative broadcasters such as Edward R. Murrow, Walter Cronkite and Barbara Walters. Fast forward to the Internet Age. Many members of the public do not rely on the morning newspaper or the evening news to convey the most significant facts and developments of the day. The news comes to us online in a vast jumble of information, misinformation, marketing, opinion, propaganda and spin via search engine sites and YouTube and home pages and Facebook and blogs and Twitter. And, each of us, through our online participation, isn't just consuming news information but also contributing to it, by creating, commenting on and sharing information. We each have more information at our fingertips than ever before and the ability to become well informed or misinformed and the ability to inform or misinform others depending upon how we use the Internet. So how do we make sense of it all and how do we become informed and stay informed? How can we assess the quality of the information we see, hear and read and how can we be responsible contributors? What can we learn from different disciplines including journalism, law and science, about methods and standards for finding credible information and assessing accuracy? How does all of the above impact our ability to be well informed and civically engaged and what are the implications for society?

Geanne Rosenberg, a journalist and attorney, is a professor at City University of New York's Baruch College and CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism. Geanne directs the Harnisch Collaborative Future of Journalism Projects and is the principal investigator of McCormick Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, and David and Katherine Moore Family Foundation-funded journalism projects relating to media law, journalism education, citizen journalism and news literacy. She was founding chair of Baruch's Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions. Geanne has written for the New York Times, the National Law Journal, Columbia Journalism Review, Nieman Journalism Lab and many other news outlets. She has worked on a pro bono basis at the Associated Press on state and federal freedom of information appeals. In 2010, she organized and directed the first-ever news literacy summit for high school students and a national workshop for news and media literacy experts. She authored and produced Knight Citizen News Network's Top Ten Rules for Limiting Legal Risk and the Citizen Journalist's Guide to Open Government and co-authored two Poynter Institute News University media law modules, including Online Media Law: The Basics for Bloggers and Other Online Publishers and newly released Newsgathering Law & Liability: A Guide for Reporters. Geanne has a J.D. from Columbia University's School of Law, where she was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar; an M.S. in

Journalism from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism; and a B.A. in English from Bryn Mawr College. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Student Press Law Center, a national organization devoted to supporting high school and college journalism with legal resources and education. She also is a Youth and Media Lab Mentor at Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet & Society.

Dr. Owen Lewis

"Catching Serendipity Serendipity: The Planning and Unplanning of a Career"

CUSP Alliance Forum

Thursday, February 23, 2012

Location: Lerner 401, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

In "Catching Serendipity," Dr. Owen Lewis advised on finding and building a career. Using the story of his own worklife, he spoke about how to use your hunches, an acceptance and use of life conflicts, the longer arcs of fulfillment, preparation and improvisation. The key question is: Do you see yourself as a juggler or as a tight-rope walker?

Dr. Owen Lewis, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University. Apart from being a psychiatrist, he is also a poet, social entrepreneur, and an enthusiastic supporter of CUSP. Beyond his academic life, he has dedicated himself to organizations providing adolescent childcare, working tirelessly to ensure that low income does not mean low access to mental health services. In the 1990s, he co-directed the Eastern European Child Abuse and Child Mental Health Project, an organization that trained mental health workers to treat and prevent child abuse in the old USSR satellite states during the turbulent years that followed the breakup of the Soviet Union. Currently, he is affiliated with Turnaround USA as Senior Vice President for Mental Health Initiatives, helping transform low-performing primary schools into positive environments that prepare impoverished children for a lifetime of learning and improvement.

Achille Varzi

"Natural Boundaries, Artificial Boundaries: Some Lessons from Geography (and Some Morals for Philosophy)"

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Location: Lerner 401, 6-8 p.m.

There is a basic distinction, in the realm of geography, between natural (or bona fide) boundaries on the one hand, and artificial (or fiat) boundaries on the other. The former are just the physical boundaries of old, like the coastlines of Manhattan Island, of Lake Eirie, of the Mississippi River. The latter lie skew to any qualitative differentiations or spatial discontinuities in the underlying territory, as with the boundaries of Wyoming, or the border between the US and Mexico; they are the product of human decisions and stipulations, an expression of collective intentionality that translates into political, social, and legal agreements whereby it is determined where a certain territory begins and where it ends. Now, what goes for geography goes for everything, or so it seems. Boundaries are at work in articulating every aspect of the reality with which we have to deal. They stand out in every map we draw of the world—not only the world of geography, but the world of nature at large, as well as the secular world that

emerges through the weaves of our social and individual practices. And this ubiquity of boundaries goes hand in hand with that of the natural/artificial distinction, the apparent contrast between bona fide joints of reality and merely fiat stipulations. The question is: How tenable is the contrast? Are there any natural boundaries of the bona fide sort, or is every boundary, on closer inspection, the result of a fiat articulation reflecting our cognitive biases and our social practices and conventions? And how does the answer affect our overall metaphysical picture of the world? How does it affect our understanding of the identity and survival conditions of the very things that boundaries demarcate? Does the choice between the two options amount to a choice between realism and wholesome relativism?

Achille C. Varzi is Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Department at Columbia University, where he has taught since 1995. A graduate of the University of Trento (Italy), he received his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Toronto (Canada). His main research interests are in logic and metaphysics. Website: <http://www.columbia.edu/~av72>

Kartik Chandran

"Decentralized Resource Recovery in Cities"

Monday, March 19, 2012

Location: Lerner 401, 6-8 p.m.

By 2050, approximately 50% of the world's population will live in cities. Such a directed redistribution of the world's population will likely result in a severe resource stress (water, food, energy, jobs). It is quite possible that the very definition of cities as we know them could be markedly different in such an environment. As a result, it is becoming increasingly clear that we need to change the technological and social approaches to perhaps pose (and answer) a radically different set of questions to address this issue. In this talk, Professor Chandran describes the concept of decentralized, distributed resource recovery as a vehicle for sustainable cities.

Kartik Chandran is an Environmental Engineer. He is currently Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Engineering at Columbia University, where he leads the Columbia University Biomolecular Environmental Science program and the Wastewater Treatment and Climate Change program. Under his stewardship, the research directions of biological wastewater treatment and biological nitrogen removal were established for the first time ever in the history of Columbia University. Chandran is keenly interested in developing novel models for sustainable sanitation and wastewater treatment, with a specific focus on managing the global nitrogen cycle (one of the grand challenges of the National Academy of Engineering) and linking it to the carbon cycle, the water cycle and the energy cycle. Chandran has received, among other awards, the NSF CAREER award and the Paul Busch Award. He was the recipient of a 2007 National Academies of Science Fellowship and a guest professorship at the Delft University of Technology. In 2011, Chandran began implementing a novel model for sanitation in Africa, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Water Environment Federation.

Rita Charon

"A Sense of Story, or Narrative Medicine for the Chaos of Illness?"

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Location: Kraft Center, 7-9 p.m.

Narrative Medicine provides health care providers with tools to hear what patients tell them—in words, silences, mood, and the body. Because the tellings of the self that constitute health care are so complex and varied and new, and because these accounts come from so many sectors of the telling self, the "receivings" of these accounts demand much from the listener that, alas, clinicians may lack. Narrative medicine has found the means to deepen the resources of the listening self so as to recruit the imaginative, cognitive, moral, and intersubjective capacities necessary for these tasks. Our methods, to put it another way, help to make permeable the membranes that line the doctor-patient or nurse-patient or therapist-patient gap, letting flow not just information and comprehension but respect and regard and awe.

Dr. Rita Charon is a general internist and narratologist at Columbia University and founder and Executive Director of the Program in Narrative Medicine. She completed her MD at Harvard in 1978 and her Ph.D. in English at Columbia in 1999. Trained in medicine and literary studies, Rita Charon is a pioneer of and authority on the emerging field of narrative medicine. Her research focuses on doctor-patient relationships, narrative skill in medicine and reflective practice.

Paul Vining, Klaus Lackner & Ah-Hyung Park

"Fossil Fuel Energy, We Can't Live Without It, So How Do We Live With It?"

Monday, April 16, 2012

Location: Casa Italiana, 6-8 p.m.

Filling today's global demand for energy drives a dynamic international market and a very complex set of issues between energy consumers, energy producers and the environment. Our speakers will discuss the landscape of coal extraction and international energy production then overlay this perspective with advances being made toward reducing environmental impact of fossil fuel based energy. Given that the world's demand for energy prevents us from simply shutting down traditional sources of energy production, our speakers will discuss how the energy industry and how energy researchers are approaching these issues. While there are exciting advancements being made with alternative technologies of energy production, they simply can't meet demand. If we can't live with fossil fuels and we can't live without them, what are our practical strategies for moving forward?

Paul Vining (EN77, EN79 Mineral Engineering) joined Alpha Natural Resources Executive as Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer in May of 2011. Prior to serving in his current position, he served as CEO of White Oak Resources from October 2010 until April 2011. Before that time, he served as president and COO of Patriot Coal Company from July 2008 until September 2010. Mr. Vining served as president and chief executive officer of Magnum Coal Company since 2006 before the acquisition of Magnum by Patriot Coal Company. Prior to Magnum Paul was SVP, Marketing and trading at Arch Coal. From 2003 to 2006, he was president of Ellett Valley CC Inc., a coal trading, marketing and consulting company based in

Williamsburg, Virginia. Earlier in his career, Mr. Vining held leadership positions with Peabody COALTRADE, Guasare Coal America, AGIP Coal USA, Island Creek Coal and A.T. Massey Energy. Paul and his wife make their home in Middleberg, VA.

Klaus Lackner, PhD, is the Ewing Professor of Geophysics and Chair of Earth and Environmental Engineering at Columbia University, where he is also the Director of the Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy at the Earth Institute. Lackner earned his PhD in theoretical particle physics, summa cum laude, in 1978 from Heidelberg University, was awarded the Clemm-Haas Prize for outstanding PhD thesis and was named a Fleischmann Fellow at the California Institute of Technology. He was a lead author in the IPCC Report on Carbon Capture and Storage and received the Weapons Recognition of Excellence Award in 1991. In 2001, Lackner joined Columbia University; his current research interests include carbon capture and sequestration, air capture, energy systems and scaling, energy and environmental policy, lifecycle analysis, and zero emission modeling for coal and cement plants.

Dr. Ah-Hyung Park is the Lenfest Junior Professor in Applied Climate Science and Associate Director of Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy. Professor Park's principal fields of interest include: Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS), sustainable energy conversion systems, synthesis of hydrogen and liquid fuels from alternative energy sources, particle technology and electrostatic charging phenomena in multiphase flows. The specific on-going research efforts of Professor Park's group include the fundamental studies of novel organic-inorganic hybrid nanomaterials for application in CO₂ capture and conversion.

CULTURAL OUTINGS 2011-2012

"**Freud's Last Session**" (New World Stages)

"**Alvin Ailey Dance Theater Home**" (City Center)

"**War Horse**" (Vivian Beaumont Theatre, Lincoln Center) *** *CUSP-CEAA joint outing*

"**Manon**" (Metropolitan Opera House)

"**American Mavericks**" (Carnegie Hall)

CRISIS AND RESPONSE: 2010-2011

The vitality of a society may be defined by the crises it faces and the ways in which it confronts them. A crisis may test the skill and expertise of an individual discipline, but it also challenges the resilience and resolve of the greater society. Although a crisis may arrive unprovoked, the caliber of one's response is often the product of much deliberation, forethought, preparation, and skill – or it may be an occasion for improvisation and innovation. A year-long exploration of Crisis & Response invites you to consider the urgent issues we face, the instincts and expertise we use to counter them, and the ways in which we, as a community of Scholars, will address the challenges on the horizon.

SPEAKER SERIES 2010-2011

Marc Levy

Adjunct Professor, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs; Deputy Director, Center for International Earth Science Information Network

“Will Climate Change Spark Future Wars? The New Thinking about Evidence and Implications”

September 23, 2010

Some scholars and activists have suggested that climate change might trigger cataclysmic political violence including civil war. Impacts of such magnitude would be important to take into account in evaluating how serious the climate change threat is and what we should do about it. Yet the evidence has so far remained speculative. None of the four global assessments carried out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) over the period 1990-2007 mention it. But the genocidal conflict in Darfur, which unfolded in a way that seemed clearly related to the devastating 30-year drought in the region, helped spur a fresh look at the evidence. UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon in 2007 explicitly blamed climate change for contributing to the Darfur conflict. Breakthroughs in methodologies to fuse data on conflict and climate have contributed to new scientific insights on the connections. And creative exploration of the historical record found additional evidence. Professor Levy, who has been studying the connections between environmental change and conflict for the past twenty years, will explain what we now know about how changes in climate are likely to affect security dynamics. He will explain how the unfolding evidence has led him from being a strong skeptic about hyperbolic claims to being convinced that significant connections exist. He will talk about how security organizations, from the U.S. military to the UN Peacekeeping Commission, are dealing with the climate connection on a practical basis.

Marc Levy is an Adjunct Professor in the School of International and Public Affairs, and serves as Deputy Director of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), a unit of the Earth Institute. He is a political scientist specializing in the human dimensions of global change. He has worked closely with the U.S. government and the United Nations on climate-security problems, and is currently a Lead Author on the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change Fifth Assessment, which for the first time now has a chapter on security. In addition to researching climate-security connections, he explores methods for predicting emerging infectious disease risk and for measuring sustainable

development, and is leading a project in Haiti to reduce vulnerability to disaster risks by integrating ecology and economic development goals on a watershed scale.

Peter Johnson

President, Leahey & Johnson, P.C.; New York State Superlawyer

“Crisis and Response in the Age of the 24-hour News Cycle: Health and Justice in 21st Century America”

October 6, 2010

“Let's look at how the American news cycle creates crisis and public policy response and how public policy response then creates crisis and yet the newest news cycles in a dramatic and dynamic circle of political and policy frenzy. How the intersection of policy and news colors our present and affects our future...”

Peter Johnson, Jr., is President of Leahey & Johnson, P.C. His efforts as an attorney and counselor have earned him Martindale-Hubbell’s highest rating – “AV,” and he has again been named as a Superlawyer in New York State. Peter serves as Chairman of the Appellate Division, First Department’s Committee on Character and Fitness (the panel which qualifies lawyers) and served as a member of the Governor’s Judicial Screening Panel for the appointment of Supreme Court and Appellate Division Justices. He was the designee of the First and Second Department Appellate Divisions to the New York City Board of Corrections (the NYC Jail System), sat on a panel that certifies the qualifications of judicial hearing officers, and was appointed to the First Judicial District Task Force on Reducing Litigation Costs and Delay. In the wake of the 2000 presidential election, he was appointed by the Governor to chair the New York State Task Force on Election Modernization, which was widely praised for its prophetic reform recommendations which are now being adopted.

Admitted to practice law in the states of New York and New Jersey and in federal courts in New York, New Jersey, and other jurisdictions, he is a member of the City Bar of New York, having served on its committee responsible for passing on the qualifications of applicants for the judiciary in New York State and the federal courts. He has published scholarly articles in the New York State Bar Association Journal and the Commercial Damages Reporter.

For the last decade Peter has appeared regularly as an on-air Legal Analyst and sometime Anchor on Fox and Friends, the morning news program for the Fox News Channel. He also contributes opinion pieces to FoxNews.com and FoxNation.com. He has lectured at the Practising Law Institute, Columbia University’s School of Journalism, and Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs, where he was a Senior Research Fellow and has participated in conferences on law and urban policy.

A lifelong New Yorker, Peter is a graduate of Columbia University School of Law and Columbia College and is married to the former Blanche Kwas, a social worker and mother of their children Blanche and Veronica.

Craig Cummings

Chief Operating Officer, BTS

"Transforming Intelligence Operations for Modern Conflicts"

November 16, 2010

The importance of intelligence in modern day conflicts continues to grow. The pace of military operations is more and more a function of the speed and accuracy of intelligence. To improve the speed and accuracy of intelligence, the Army and the military writ large are investing heavily in getting

intelligence to and from the “tactical edge,” where soldiers must make quick decisions to help shape and win conflicts. This lecture will highlight some of the initiatives that the military and Intelligence Community are undertaking to help get and push intelligence to the “tactical edge.”

Craig P. Cummings, former Military Intelligence Officer, currently the Chief Operating Officer of BTS, helped found BTS and brings to BTS a career of leadership in both the military and the Intelligence Community. A graduate of West Point, Craig first served in the tactical Army as an Armor Officer and then served primarily in the Intelligence Community as a Military Intelligence Officer. Craig’s most recent assignment at the National Security Agency at Ft. Meade, MD, where he was the Deputy Chief of Expeditionary Cryptology for the Army Cryptologic Office. Prior to joining the Army Cryptologic Office in 2008, Craig was the Operations Officer for the Army’s largest Military Intelligence Brigade with nearly 2000 people serving in 27 locations across the United States and five countries, to include Iraq and Afghanistan. Craig deployed to Afghanistan with Special Operations Command in 2006-2007 where he earned the Bronze Star. From 2003-2005, Craig taught on the faculty at West Point as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Sciences. In the late 1990s, Craig commanded the Army’s first-ever Computer Network Operations Company which has since grown to become the Army Network Warfare Battalion.

A native of Alexandria, VA, Craig is a Distinguished Graduate of West Point and a graduate of Columbia University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences where he earned his M.A., M.Phil, and Ph.D. in Political Science (minor, Econometrics). He is a Truman Scholar, a U.S.-Italy Young Leader, and a Term Member with the Council on Foreign Relations.

Ted Zoli

*Adjunct Professor, Columbia University Department of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics;
Visiting Lecturer, Princeton University Department of Civil Engineering*

“Resilient Transportation Infrastructure: A Critical Evaluation of the Engineer’s Role in Crisis and Response”

February 9, 2011

No event demonstrates the need for resiliency in our transportation network than the abrupt failure of a critical bridge. Have we learned the right lessons from past failures? Are failures a prerequisite for change? Are we making systematic improvements in the way we plan for, design against, respond to, and recover from a damaging event? This talk explores what more we may learn from past failures and its impact on the practice of engineering.

Theodore Zoli is a structural engineer who is leading the design of elegant and enduring bridges around the world and making major technological advances to protect transportation infrastructure in the event of natural and man-made disasters. An expert in long-span, cable-supported bridges, he has played a key role in the creation of a number of bold contemporary structures, from the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge in Boston to the Blennerhassett Island Bridge over the Ohio River.

Theodore Zoli received a B.S. (1988) from Princeton University and an M.S. (1989) from the California Institute of Technology. Since 1990, he has been affiliated with the HNTB Corporation, where he currently serves as a vice president and technical director of bridges. He is also a visiting lecturer in Princeton University’s Department of Civil Engineering and an adjunct professor in the Department of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics at Columbia University.

Keith Kaseman

Co-founder, KBAS; Adjunct Associate Professor of Architecture, Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

“Moving Beyond”

March 28, 2011

Columbia University GSAPP alumni, Keith Kaseman and Julie Beckman, lived at 123rd and Amsterdam on September 11, 2001. Their grief and heartbreak over the loss of life and devastation of their city led them to enter a design competition for a memorial at the Pentagon. 9 years later, the Pentagon Memorial exists on the grounds of the Pentagon. Keith will discuss the incredible process of translating a tragic event into a place of remembering and reflection for 9/11 families and visitors from all over the world and how that experience has defined a new practice focused on community and culturally-conscience design strategies.

Keith received a BSD in Architecture from Arizona State University in 1995 and a Master of Architecture from Columbia University's GSAPP in 2001. A Leopold Schepp Scholar, he graduated from Columbia with Honors for Excellence in Design, and was a recipient of the Lucille Smyser Lowenfish Memorial Prize. Prior to his graduate studies, Keith worked as an assistant to Michael Zakian, Architect (Los Angeles) and as a designer / project-manager for AA Praha (Prague, Czech Republic). Prior to launching KBAS with his wife/partner, Julie Beckman, Keith was a designer / project manager at SHoP Architects (New York), heavily involved with several of groundbreaking projects in the office at that time. Keith is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Architecture at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) and a visiting lecturer in the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Landscape Architecture.

Gillian Dunn

Director of Emergency Preparedness & Response, International Rescue Committee

“Infinite Priorities: How Aid Workers Experience Disaster Response”

April 12, 2011

How does it feel to live alongside thousands of people who have just lost everything important to them – loved ones, a sense of security, livelihoods, social fabric? How do you start to work with communities to get back what is recoverable, maximize their inherent resiliency and help them recuperate and progress from tragedy? Gillian Dunn will lead a discussion about how aid workers experience and work in crisis situations. Drawing on years of personal experience, she will talk about the common threads that run through diverse disasters, how emergency deployments are structured, and how relief work affects one personally.

Gillian Dunn is the Director of Emergency Preparedness & Response at the International Rescue Committee, a leading humanitarian organization working with those affected by violent conflict, oppression and natural disasters worldwide. Gillian has led disaster response programs for twelve years, responding to the major crises of the period including the wars of Kosovo, Chechnya, Liberia, Congo, Afghanistan and Iraq as well as natural disasters such as the Indian Ocean tsunami, Pakistan earthquake, Myanmar cyclone and Haiti earthquake.

SCHOLAR FORUMS 2010-2011

Eric Foner

Dewitt Clinton Professor of History, Columbia University

"The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery"

October 20, 2010

How did Abraham Lincoln, and Americans more generally, respond to the crisis of the Civil War and how did the war lead to the destruction of American slavery? Professor Foner's new book, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*, traces Lincoln's relationship to and attitudes regarding slavery from his early career through the Civil War. He situates Lincoln within the broad antislavery movement, and shows how, under the impact of unprecedented events, he abandoned his earlier ideas and came to embrace the immediate abolition of slavery, the enrollment of black soldiers in the Union army, and, at the end of his life, allowing some African-Americans to vote in the postwar South. The hallmark of Lincoln's greatness was his capacity for growth.

Eric Foner, DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University, is one of this country's most prominent historians. He received his doctoral degree at Columbia under the supervision of Richard Hofstadter. He is only the second person to serve as president of the three major professional organizations: the Organization of American Historians, American Historical Association, and Society of American Historians. Professor Foner's publications have concentrated on the intersections of intellectual, political and social history, and the history of American race relations. His best-known books are: *Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party Before the Civil War* (1970; reissued with new preface 1995); *Tom Paine and Revolutionary America* (1976); *Nothing But Freedom: Emancipation and Its Legacy* (1983); *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877* (1988) (winner, among other awards, of the Bancroft Prize, Parkman Prize, and Los Angeles Times Book Award); *The Reader's Companion to American History* (with John A. Garraty, 1991); *The Story of American Freedom* (1998); and *Who Owns History? Rethinking the Past in a Changing World* (2002). His survey textbook of American history, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, and a companion volume of documents, *Voices of Freedom*, appeared in 2004. His most recent books are *Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction* (2005), and *Our Lincoln: New Perspectives on Lincoln and His World* (2008), an edited collection of original essays. His books have been translated into Chinese, Korean, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Eric Foner is a winner of the Great Teacher Award from the Society of Columbia Graduates (1991), and the Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching from Columbia University (2006). He was named Scholar of the Year by the New York Council for the Humanities in 1995. In 2006, he received the Kidger Award for Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship from the New England History Teachers Association. He is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the British Academy, and holds an honorary doctorate from Iona College. He has taught at Cambridge University as Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions, Oxford University as Harmsworth Professor of American History, Moscow State University as Fulbright Professor, and at Queen Mary, University of London as Leverhulme Visiting Scholar. He serves on the editorial boards of *Past and Present* and *The Nation*, and has written for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *London Review of Books*, and many other publications, and has appeared on numerous television and radio shows, including *Charlie Rose*, *Book Notes*, *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, *The Colbert Report*, *Bill Moyers Journal*, *Fresh Air*, and *All Things Considered*, and in historical documentaries on PBS and the History Channel. He was the on-camera historian for *Freedom: A History of Us*, on PBS in 2003. He has lectured extensively to both academic and non-academic audiences.

Robert O'Meally

Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University; Founder, Center for Jazz Studies, Columbia University

"Call and Recall, Crisis and Response: Toni Morrison, Ralph Ellison, & Music"

November 8, 2010

Toni Morrison and Ralph Ellison strongly emphasize the wisdom embedded in black American music, and the music's capacities as an institution on the broad American scene. In this session, we will look

closely at certain key passages by these great writers, and then listen to Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, and other musicians address the question: “What Did I Do to Be So Black and Blue?” (What is the crisis that has left us so bruised, physically and metaphysically?) And what are going to do about it? What will be our response?

Robert G. O’Meally is the Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, where he founded (and, for ten years, directed) The Center for Jazz Studies. At Columbia, he won both the Van Doren and the Lenfest awards for teaching. O’Meally is the author of *The Craft of Ralph Ellison*, *Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday*, and *The Jazz Singers*. He is the principal writer for the Smithsonian Institution’s exhibition catalogue, *Seeing Jazz*; editor of *The Jazz Cadence of American Culture*, and of several other volumes, including Barnes and Noble classics by Melville, Douglass, and Mark Twain. He also co-edited *The Norton Anthology of African-American Literature, History and Memory in African American Culture*, and *Uptown Conversation: The New Jazz Studies*. His articles on literature, music, and visual art have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Republic*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Callaloo*, and *The American Scholar*. For his co-production of a Smithsonian record set called *The Jazz Singers*, he was nominated for a Grammy Award. Since 2008, he has been co-curator of exhibitions, *Jazz at Lincoln Center*. His new book is *Romare Bearden: A Black Odyssey—the catalogue essay for an exhibition of the artist’s collages based on Homer*.

Jenik Radon

Adjunct Assistant. Professor at Columbia School of International and Public Affairs; Founder/Director of the Eesti and Eurasian Public Service Fellowship

“Shangri-La on Fire: Nepal, Maoists and the Constitution”

February 22, 2011

In 2006 Nepal, locked on the slopes of Mt. Everest between two economically dynamic giants, India and China (Tibet), ended more than a decade-long bloody civil war between Maoists who were Maoists in name only, on one side and monarchists and reformers on the other side. Peace saw the removal of the feudal king, the establishment of a republic, and the adoption of a new interim/peace constitution. But peace has not brought economic progress to Nepal and its people but instead ushered in constant political power struggles. The Maoists won the most seats in the first election by charming the youth and the people in the countryside. The democratic groups are divided and struggling to present a unified front. A final constitution has yet to be drafted. Tourists have to cope with constant black-outs in this fabled but tarnished Shangri-la. Can Nepal restore its popular historic image? Or will Nepal have to look jealously at its neighbor, Bhutan, which has captured the world’s attention—and hearts—with its Gross Happiness Index?

Jenik Radon ‘67CC is Adj. Asst. Professor at SIPA. He is the founder/director of the Eesti and Eurasian Public Service Fellowship, which gives Columbia students the opportunity to intern across the globe from Georgia to Nepal to Kenya to Bolivia. Prof. Radon taught at Stanford Law and Business Schools and now also teaches at the Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research in Mumbai, India, and Monterrey Tech, Queretaro, Mexico where he is Distinguished University Professor. He was an author of the interim/peace constitution of Nepal and presently advises civil society and the governments of a host of nations, including Nepal, Bhutan and Cambodia in Asia and Kenya, Malawi and Uganda in Africa. He has lectured or worked in over 50 nations.

In the early '80s, Radon founded Radon and Ishizumi, an international law firm representing international corporations and foreign public entities. From 1999 to 2007, Radon was one of the Executors/Trustees of Vetter Pharma, a privately-held German pharmaceutical company, the world leader in the production of aseptic injectable systems. In 1980 Radon co-founded the Afghanistan Relief Committee that supported

refugees displaced during the Afghan-Soviet war and freedom for Afghanistan. Advisor during Estonia's independence struggle, Radon co-authored the country's foreign investment, privatization and corporate laws and was an architect of Estonia's privatization. In 1990 he was the first to officially raise the U.S. flag in Estonia since the 1940 Soviet invasion by personally taking possession of the abandoned US embassy from the Soviets. Radon was Georgia's key foreign advisor and negotiator of the multi-billion dollar oil and gas pipelines from Azerbaijan through Georgia to Turkey (the BTC), featured in the James Bond movie, *The World is Not Enough*. In those negotiations Radon went head-to-head with BP, now known world over for the tragedy it caused in the Gulf of Mexico. In 2000 Radon was one of the first foreigners to be awarded Georgia's highest civilian award, the Order of Honor.

Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic

Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Columbia University, Director of the Columbia Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering

“Lessons Learned from Directing a Tissue Engineering Lab”

April 4, 2011

A bioengineering research lab is an excellent example of a system with a constant need to respond to some kind of crisis. Columbia’s Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering employs approximately 30 post-doctorates, as well as graduate and undergraduate students that come from 16 different countries and are engaged in highly interdisciplinary research. The lab is engaged in a challenging and collective effort to engineer human tissues for use in regenerative medicine and as models for biological and medical research. The talk will discuss how we deal with "crisis & response" in our work and life.

Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic is a Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Columbia University and Director of the Columbia’s Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering. Her research is on fundamental and applicative tissue engineering studies using human stem cells. She has published 2 books, 46 book chapters, 227 peer-reviewed articles and has 34 issued or pending patents. She is frequent advisor to governmental organizations on tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, a Distinguished Editor for NIH, a scientific advisor at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and an editorial board member of 8 journals. In 2002, Dr Vunjak-Novakovic was elected a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. In 2007, she gave the Director’ lecture at the NIH, and was the first woman engineer to receive this distinction. In 2008, she was inducted into the Women in Technology International Hall of Fame “for developing biological substitutes to restore, maintain or improve tissue function.” In 2009, she was elected to the New York Academy of Sciences. In 2010, she received the Clemson Award of the Biomaterials Society “for significant contributions to the literature on the science or technology of biomaterials.”

CULTURAL OUTINGS 2010-2011

- **“Time Stands Still”** (Samuel J. Friedman Theater)
- **“Waiting for Superman”** (Lincoln Center)
- **“American Idiot”** (St. James Theater)
- **“The Great Upheaval: Modern Art from the Guggenheim Collection: 1910-1918”** (Guggenheim Museum)
- **“Brain: The Inside Story”** (Museum of Natural History)
- **“Slam Poetry Night”** (Nuyorican Poetry Café)
- **“Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo”** (Richard Rogers Theater)

BEYOND THE EVIDENT: 2009-2010

Reaching beyond the evident requires innovation, curiosity and even skepticism. Indeed, it requires the decentering of one's perception of reality by pursuing modes of inquiry that investigate the possibilities of *what can be* rather than simply accepting *what is*, and that transform the closed and declarative *what I know* to the open interrogative *how do I know what I think I know?* Beyond the initial perception and acknowledgment, the challenge and excitement thus lie in the process itself.

Most of our world is invisible to us: the swirls of plastic floating in the ocean, the fault lines in our earth ready to shift, earthquakes about to happen, poisonous air and water choking our lungs and over-population promising suffocation everywhere. We have sealed our eyes against these things. We are willfully blind.

But we can choose to see the invisible. The most amazing quality of human beings is the ability to probe the invisible. Leonardo da Vinci was the epic poet of invisibility. In his notebooks, he revealed what was invisible to most people. Physicists play with the invisible, trying to make us see. Every artist is at war with the invisible even as she succumbs to it. Every maker of music knows that the finest notes are inaudible to the human ear, invisible to the human eye. We battle the invisible with light sabers as if we were Jedi knights. The invisible is our inspiration. The invisible is what we seek.

SEEKING THE INVISIBLE

by Erica Jong

Some say the world
Is made of tiny strings,
Some say of electrons
So far apart
That endless universes
Burgeon and die
In the infinities between them.
Some say that
In parallel universes
Everything that ever happened
Is still happening.
And some say that what
Is invisible
Has vastly more power
Than what is visible.
We cannot see the cosmos
Being born or dying.
We cannot see the stringlets
Or the microscopic fractals
Yet they are
Pushing us to plumb
The universe we live in
And curving
Our smallest moves.
Space,
Teams with furies
Just like us.

It eddies with
Invincibility.
Let us make
The invisible visible
If only to prove
our own viability -
that fierce force of life
that propels us
to answer
even though
we may never
see
the questions.

SPEAKER SERIES 2009-2010

Bruce Greenwald

Professor, Columbia University Graduate School of Business; Director of Research, Global Value Group, Arnhold and S. Bleichroeder Advisers, LLC

“Deviant Perceptions on the Current Economic Crisis”

September 30, 2009

Described by the New York Times as “a guru to Wall Street’s gurus,” Dr. Bruce Greenwald is an authority on value investing with expertise in productivity and the economics of information. He is one of the nation's leading economists and currently serves as the Robert Heilbrunn Professor of Asset Management and Finance at Columbia University's Graduate School of Business teaching Value Investing, Economics of Strategic Behavior, and Globalization of Markets. He has also taught Strategic Management of Media, Corporate Finance and Managerial Economics. Described by the New York Times as “a guru to Wall Street’s gurus,” Greenwald is an authority on value investing with expertise in productivity and the economics of information. He serves as Director of Research for Arnhold and S. Bleichroeder Advisers, LLC and consults worldwide on a variety of issues concerning capital markets, business strategy, corporate finance and labor performance.

In addition to his work in economics, he has written several investing-related books, including *Value Investing: From Graham to Buffett and Beyond*, with Judd Kahn, et al (Wiley, 2001), and *Competition Demystified: A Radically Simplified Approach to Business Strategy*, with Judd Kahn (Putnam Penguin, 2005). Recent publications include: *Economics for an Imperfect World: Essay in Honor of Joseph Stiglitz* (co-editor, MIT Press 2003), *Security Analysis, 6th Edition* (co-editor/contributor, McGraw Hill, 2008), and *Globalization* (John Wiley & Sons, 2008).

Prior to Columbia, Dr. Greenwald taught as a professor at the Harvard Business School and Wesleyan University. He was also a research economist at Bell Laboratories and, for a one-year period beginning in 1987, was the staff economist for the Presidential Task Force on Market Mechanisms (the Brady Task Force). Dr. Greenwald holds a B.S. and Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and M.P.A. and an M.S from Princeton University.

Tina Landau

Writer and Director, Steppenwolfe Theatre Company; Ford Fellow, United States Artists

“What does it mean to be an Artist?”

November 17, 2009

What does it mean to be an “artist”—beyond the obvious meaning of producing works of art? Why do we choose to create? For whom do we make art? Should the meaning of art be evident? To whom or what (if anything) is the artist responsible in these times? Are there important qualities for an artist to possess? How do you live a life that fuels creativity? Can you balance a life in the arts with paying your bills? Referencing her personal experiences and struggles as a writer and director, Landau will explore the role of the artist in society today.

Tina Landau is a theater writer and director whose work has appeared on- and off- Broadway as well as in regional theaters both in the U.S. and abroad. Tina’s recent credits include directing *Superior Donuts* on Broadway and *In the Red and Brown Water* at the Public Theater. Her original pieces include the musicals *Floyd Collins*, *Dream True* and the upcoming Broadway musical *Beauty*. Landau is a member of the Steppenwolf Theater Company in Chicago and teaches at the Yale School of Drama. In addition to her theater work, Landau has also written screenplays and the book *The Viewpoints Book* with co-author Anne Bogart. Landau was named a 2007 Ford Fellow by United States Artists, an arts advocacy foundation dedicated to the support and promotion of America's top living artists. Landau is a graduate of Yale College and later attended A.R.T.'s Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at Harvard.

Robert Klitzman, M.D.

Co-Founder, Columbia University Center for Bioethics; Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and School of Public Health

“From the Stone Age to the Cyber Age: Searching Beyond the Evident”

February 9, 2010

Dr. Klitzman will describe themes in his work over several decades that reveal how he has used social science, particularly ethnographic methods, and open-ended means of inquiry to explore phenomena beyond the evident in several areas of medicine. After college, as he described in his book, *The Trembling Mountain: A Personal Account of Kuru, Cannibals and Mad Cow Disease*, he spent a year living and working among the Stone Age Fore group in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea, studying cannibalistic rituals that led to the spread of the kuru epidemic, caused by prions, which were later found to be responsible for Mad Cow Disease. He then applied lessons he learned there concerning ethnographic study and observation to work on a variety of moral and ethical issues in medicine. He will discuss how these approaches shaped his studies of HIV transmission and sexual ethics (in *Being Positive: The Lives of Men and Women with HIV*, and *Mortal Secrets: Truth and Lies in the Age of AIDS*), the moral education of physicians (in *A Year-long Night: Tales of A Medical Internship; In a House of Dreams and Glass: Becoming a Psychiatrist, When Doctors Become Patients*), and most recently, genetics and interpretations of ethics in different social contexts. He will explore how he has sought to remain open-minded to phenomena that he has then sought to investigate systematically.

Dr. Robert Klitzman is an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry in Sociomedical Sciences in the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, the Director of the Ethics and Policy Core of the HIV Center, and the Director of the Masters of Bioethics Program. Dr. Klitzman has received numerous honors and awards for his work, including fellowships from the Russell Sage Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Aaron Diamond Foundation, and the Commonwealth Fund.

Michael Tuts

Professor of Physics, Columbia University; Co-Project Manager, D0 experiment upgrade at Fermilab; Program Manager, US ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider

**“The Physics of Angels and Demons and Beyond:
Antimatter Bombs, Mini Black Holes and Extra Dimensions”**

April 14, 2010

The movie *Angels & Demons* opens with a shot of the ATLAS experiment at the CERN Laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland. It is the laboratory where particle physicists create antimatter in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC); the antimatter is then stolen to create a bomb which is used to threaten the Vatican. Dr. Tuts will use the movie as an opportunity to tell about the real world of particle physics and what is science-fact vs. science-fiction in the movie.

Particle physics deals with the world of the very small—the world of fundamental particles (including antimatter) and the forces that bind them. How nature behaves on this small scale can be very strange indeed and at times is contrary to everyday experience and what seems evident to one’s senses. As a Columbia experimental particle physicist working on one of the world’s largest experiments, ATLAS, which will use the world’s highest energy particle accelerator, the LHC, Dr. Tuts will explain the exciting physics used to discover the nature of mass (or where is the Higgs particle?); evidence of new fundamental particles that make up the “dark matter” that accounts for a quarter of our universe; evidence for the creation of mini-black holes that are predicted by some string theory inspired models. As we look beyond the evident in nature, we will also see that the influence of particle physics extends beyond the evident in society—from recent movies like *Angels and Demons* to our everyday life.

Dr. Michael Tuts has been Professor of Physics at Columbia University specializing in experimental particle physics since he joined the faculty in 1983. He has been spokesperson for the CUSB experiment at CESR, Co-Project Manager for the D0 experiment upgrade at Fermilab, and is currently the US ATLAS experiment Program Manager for the experiment at the LHC, a position he has held since 2005. In this latter role he manages the US ATLAS program consisting of some 500 US physicists from 44 US institutions with an annual budget approaching \$40M. His research has focused on understanding and discovering fundamental particles. The ATLAS experiment is one of the largest scientific instruments ever built, and involves physicists from 169 institutions from 35 countries around the world. Dr. Tuts has published over 350 journal papers and has been a Sloan Fellow and is a Fellow of the American Physical Society. At Columbia he has been the Director of Nevis Labs and enjoys teaching undergraduates. In 2004, his teaching was recognized when he was awarded one of five Columbia Presidential Awards for Outstanding Teaching.

Roosevelt Montas

Director, The Core Curriculum, Columbia University; Recipient, Columbia University Bancroft Award

Frances Negrón-Mutaner

Director, Columbia University Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race; Founding Board Member, National Association of Latino Independent Producers

Mary Marshall Clark

Director, Oral History Research Office, Columbia University; Board Member, Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program

TRANSFORMATIVE DIALOGUE: 2008-2009

Dialogue as a creative and open exchange is a form of discourse built on trust. By its very nature, unlike discussion or debate, it welcomes the awareness of multiple perspectives, opening up new horizons and facilitating the expression and translation of beliefs.

Trans-formative Dia-logue. Etymologically speaking, both "transformative" and "dialogue" actually share the same prefix—the Latin *trans* and the Greek *dia*—suggesting "through" or "crossing over." *Logos* and *forma* can also be seen to share related meanings—"word/reasoning/thought" and "figure/form/notion." At the basis of dialogue we recognize, therefore, the concept of a forum for thought to cross over; a forum of exchange.

Platonic dialogues, known as the origin of the genre in Western literature, are conversations between two people to resolve an original disagreement. This original disagreement serves mainly as an invitation for discussion, an invitation to better understand one's own beliefs in the light of others'. While the disagreement in these dialogues remains unresolved, the process—the dialogue itself—has ultimately had a transformative effect on interlocutors and audience.

As the CUSP philosophy and mission are founded upon the transformation or translation of *logoi* into *erga*, of words into deeds, we look forward this year to thinking in new ways and viewing this process through new lenses in a dialogue with speakers whose very work expressly depends on and is fulfilled through constructive exchange, mediation, arbitration, creative expression, and civic engagement.

SPEAKER SERIES 2008-2009

Howard Gardner, PhD

Hobbs Professor of Cognition and Education, Harvard University; Senior Director, Harvard Project Zero

"What is Good Work and How Can I Achieve It?"

September 10, 2008

For well over a decade, psychologist Howard Gardner and his colleagues have been studying the nature of good work and how to achieve it. At a time when everything is in flux, our sense of time and space is being radically altered by technology, markets are tremendously powerful and there are few if any factors that can mitigate market forces. Dr. Gardner will describe the results of his study and lead a conversation where students can discuss their own views (and doubts) about good work, and how it aligns with their short- and long- term goals.

Howard Gardner is the John H. and Elisabeth A. Hobbs Professor of Cognition and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He also holds positions as Adjunct Professor of Psychology at Harvard University and Senior Director of Harvard Project Zero. Among numerous honors, Dr. Gardner received a MacArthur Prize Fellowship in 1981. He has received honorary degrees from twenty-two colleges and universities, including institutions in Ireland, Italy, Israel, Chile, and South Korea. In 2005 and again in 2008, he was selected by *Foreign Policy* and *Prospect* magazines as one of the 100 most influential public intellectuals in the world. The author of over twenty books translated into twenty-seven languages and several hundred articles Dr. Gardner is best known in educational circles for his theory of

multiple intelligences, a critique of the notion that there exists but a single human intelligence that can be assessed by standard psychometric instruments.

During the past two decades, Dr. Gardner and colleagues at Project Zero have been involved in the design of performance-based assessments; education for understanding; the use of multiple intelligences to achieve more personalized curriculum, instruction, and pedagogy; and the quality of interdisciplinary efforts in education. Since the middle 1990s, in collaboration with psychologists Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi and William Damon, Dr. Gardner has directed the GoodWork Project—a study of work that is excellent, engaging and ethical. More recently, members of the GoodWork Project have led reflection sessions in an effort to enhance the incidence of good work among young people. With colleagues at Project Zero, he is also investigating the nature of trust in contemporary society and ethical dimensions of the new digital media.

Paul LeClerc, PhD

President & Chief Executive Officer, The New York Public Library; President, Hunter College, 1988-1993

"From Theory to Practice: What Existentialism and the Enlightenment have to do with Running a World-Class Library"

October 27, 2008

Paul LeClerc is the President and Chief Executive Officer of The New York Public Library. He graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1963 and studied at the Sorbonne. He completed his PhD in French literature with distinction at Columbia University, writing his dissertation on Voltaire, an author he was introduced to by a Jesuit at Holy Cross during his freshman year. Dr. LeClerc was a member of the faculty of Union College in Schenectady, New York, from 1966-79, where he chaired the Department of Modern Languages and the Division of Humanities and received many grants to support his work on the French Enlightenment. Dr. LeClerc returned to New York City in 1979 to join the central administration of The City University of New York. In 1988, Dr. LeClerc was named President of Hunter College, where he also served as Professor of French with tenure, teaching during nearly every semester of his presidency.

Dr. LeClerc has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of The New York Public Library since 1993. David Remnick described Dr. LeClerc in the *New Yorker* as "an unassumingly brilliant administrator and Voltaire scholar." He is the author or co-editor of five scholarly volumes on writers of the French Enlightenment and his contributions to French culture earned him the Order of the Academic Palms (*Officier*) in 1989 and the French Legion of Honor (*Chevalier*) in 1996. Dr. LeClerc has received honorary doctorates from eleven universities. Dr. LeClerc is presently a trustee of The New York Public Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the J. Paul Getty Trust, the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, Union College, the American Academy in Rome, and the National Book Foundation. He serves on the Editorial Board of The Complete Works of Voltaire (Oxford University), on the Advisory Committee of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin (Yale University), and is a member of the Visiting Committee to the Harvard University Libraries. President Clinton appointed him to the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and he is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has served as a consultant to Les Musées Nationaux de France, the Rockefeller Archive Center, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. Past directorships include El Museo del Barrio, the Feminist Press, the National Center for Learning Disabilities, The New York Alliance for the Public Schools, and The Teacher Education Conference Board of NY State.

Eric Tuchmann

General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, American Arbitration Association; Former Director, International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR)

"The Origin and Resolution of Conflicts"

November 18, 2008

Individuals, organizations, corporations and governments spend considerable resources engaging others on matters in which they do not agree. The costs of resolving disputes and the resources involved may be limited to the time and energy required to communicate with an adversary on a particular issue, or they may be substantial monetary commitments to fund a lawsuit. In the extreme, in times of war, the resources expended to resolve a conflict can be measured in terms of substantial monetary amounts spent, but more significantly, those resources can also be measured in terms of human lives lost. While conflicts are an inevitable part of life, continuing attention must be given to minimizing the impact conflicts have on all of us individually and collectively.

Eric P. Tuchmann is General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for the American Arbitration Association, an organization dedicated to the widespread use of prompt, effective and economical methods of dispute resolution. In 2007, the Association administered almost 130,000 arbitrations and mediations. Mr. Tuchmann is the Association's chief legal officer and is responsible for managing legal and governance affairs of the organization. His specific responsibilities include defending the Association in litigation-related matters involving the Association or its arbitrators, directing outside counsel, and drafting the Association's amicus curiae briefs. Mr. Tuchmann analyzes state and federal legislation impacting alternative dispute resolution, the unauthorized practice of law, and attorneys' professional rules of responsibility. Mr. Tuchmann also regularly interacts with the Association's Board of Directors which is comprised of legal, business and governmental leaders and executives.

Mr. Tuchmann was the Association's Associate General Counsel before being named as General Counsel. Prior to joining the Association's legal department, Mr. Tuchmann was Director of the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) where he managed the Association's division responsible for providing international arbitration and mediation services. There, he managed a staff of bi-lingual attorney case managers handling hundreds of international arbitrations and mediations, and coordinated the Association's internal International Strategy Committee. Mr. Tuchmann also served as the Director of the Commercial Department for the Association's New York regional office where he was responsible for the management of all commercial dispute resolution services. Mr. Tuchmann makes frequent presentations and has authored numerous articles on issues related to alternative dispute resolution. Mr. Tuchmann is a member of the state bars of New York and New Jersey, the Supreme Court of the United States, the New York City Bar, the American Bar Association, and the International Bar Association.

Caroline Suh

Documentary Filmmaker

"Frontrunners: Who Wants To Be President?"

February 3, 2008

Have you ever looked at people from your own generation and wondered which one of these people will one day become President of the United States? In an age of cynicism about our elected leaders and with the great sacrifice required by public life, is politics still a desirable career choice for the best and brightest? This talk will take a look at some of these questions through the documentary film *Frontrunners*, a feature that follows the race for student body president at Stuyvesant High School, one of the most competitive and elite public high schools in the country. These teenagers face the same issues as candidates of any age, such as picking the "right" running mate, shaking as many hands as possible, preparing for televised debates, impressing the pundits and journalistic community, addressing sensitive race-related issues, and mobilizing an apathetic voter base. The talk will also explore the issues of how

and why people put themselves in the public view to be scrutinized and judged, the price and the benefits of doing so, and the level of public engagement each of us opts for as individual members of a democracy.

Caroline Suh (CC '93) with a Master of Science from GSAPP, is a documentary filmmaker.

Frontrunners, which will have its national theatrical release in October 2008 and will also screen as part of the *New Yorker* festival (distributed by Oscilloscope Pictures, a film distribution company started by Adam Yauch of the Beastie Boys), is the first feature-length documentary directed by Suh. She has also produced numerous projects in film and television for PBS, A&E and the History Channel among others, including *Final Cut: The Making of Heaven's Gate and the Unmaking of a Studio* about Michael Cimino's infamous debacle that ruined United Artists; "Antietam" for the Emmy Award-winning History Channel series *10 Days*, as well as several episodes of the Sundance Channel series *Iconoclasts*.

Gene Russianoff

Staff Attorney, New York Public Interest Research Group Straphangers Campaign; Charles H. Revson Fellow, Columbia University, 1983

"Everything You Wanted to Know About City Subways and Buses but Were Afraid To Ask"

March 5, 2008

Since 1978, Gene Russianoff has been mass transit and government reform advocate for the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), a student-directed social change organization. Serving as staff attorney for NYPIRG's Straphangers Campaign, his work has helped revive transit as a key engine for the city's vitality and economy, with subway ridership at its highest level in more than 50 years. This achievement was greatly advanced by his efforts to win unlimited-ride transit passes and free subway-to-bus transfers; \$75 billion in funds to rebuild the subway and bus system since 1982, including the "trade-in" of Westway Highway funds for transit; increased transit service; creation of independent transit safety and management watchdog agencies; and rider and labor representatives on the MTA Board of Directors.

Mr. Russianoff has also played a major role in reforming the city's political system. In 1988, he lobbied successfully for New York City's landmark campaign finance reform law, now a national model. Over two decades, he helped win major improvements in the law, such as providing greater incentives for city candidates to seek small contributions from city residents, and limiting contributions from individuals doing business with city government. His work also resulted in the creation of New York City's Independent Budget Office and the annual mailing of several million multi-lingual Voter Guides at city election time. Mr. Russianoff was awarded the 1994 Public Service Achievement Award by the National Board of Common Cause. New York 1 News named him "New Yorker of the Year" in 1997 for his coalition work to win unlimited-ride MetroCards. He is the author of more than 100 reports on transit service.

Mr. Russianoff was a Charles H. Revson Fellow at Columbia University in 1983. A native of Brooklyn, he lives in Park Slope with his wife Pauline Ann Toole and daughters Jennie and Natalie. He is a graduate of Brooklyn College (1974) and Harvard Law School (1978).

George Rupp, PhD

President and Chief Executive Officer, International Rescue Committee; President, Columbia University, 1993-2002

"Local Conflicts as a Global Challenge"

April 20, 2008

While the overall theme for this year's Columbia Undergraduate Scholar's Program, "Transformative dialogue," may seem abstract, in conflict settings all over the world it becomes urgently concrete. A new

face to war is targeting innocent victims rather than the combatants themselves. Dr. Rupp will examine the challenge that these conflicts pose from the perspective of the International Rescue Committee, which works in such settings to bring uprooted people from harm to home.

George Rupp has been president and CEO of the International Rescue Committee since July 2002. Dr. Rupp oversees the agency's relief and development operations in 42 countries, its refugee resettlement programs throughout the United States, and its advocacy efforts in Washington, Geneva, Brussels, and other capitals. Before joining the IRC, Dr. Rupp served as President of Columbia University. During his nine-year tenure, he focused on enhancing undergraduate education, on strengthening campus ties to surrounding communities and New York City as a whole, and on increasing the University's international orientation. Earlier, Dr. Rupp served as President of Rice University and before that was the John Lord O'Brian Professor of Divinity and Dean of the Harvard Divinity School. Educated in Europe, Asia, and the United States, he is the author of numerous articles and five books, including *Globalization Challenged: Commitment, Conflict, and Community* (2006).

SCHOLAR FORUMS 2008-2009

Owen Lewis, MD

Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; Senior Vice President for Mental Health Services, Turnarou

Victoria Benitez

Senior Public Affairs Officer, Columbia University

Austin Quigley, PhD

Dean, Columbia College and Lucy G. Moses Professor; Associate Vice President, Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Education; Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature, Columbia University; Former President, National Association of Literary Scholars & Critics

Nadine Strossen

President, American Civil Liberties Union; Professor of Law, New York Law School

Julie Benello

Co-Founder, Chicken and Egg Productions; BC '92

CULTURAL OUTINGS 2008-2009

- **"August: Osage County"** (Music Box Theatre)
- **"All My Sons"** (Gerard Shoenfeld Theatre)
- **"In the Heights"** (Richard Rodgers Theatre)
- **"The Nutcracker"** (New York State Theatre)
- **"Fuerzabruta"** (Daryl Roth Theatre)
- **"Equus"** (Broadhurst Theatre)
- **"Gypsy"** (St. James Theatre)

THE PERSON AND THE POLIS: 2007-2008

Aristotle once defined man as a *zoon politikon*, which can be translated as "an animal that lives in a polis." Like Plato before him, Aristotle viewed people as naturally and inevitably bound within the society in which they lived. This issue of the relationship between the individual and society is hardly new, yet it has lost none of its urgency. When Columbia established the Contemporary Civilization course in 1919, it did so explicitly as an attempt at peace studies "to help students understand man's role in a society fresh from the horrors of World War I."

The theme of this year's CUSP Speaker Series is "The Person and The Polis." CUSP's goal is to engage students—both intellectually and in the field—about the connections between their college education and our modern world through an ambitious program of civic engagement and community activity that includes discussions, debates, theory and action. The individual's place in the modern polis, fraught with issues of peace and war, is not any clearer today than it was in Aristotle's time. CUSP helps Scholars engage productively with the issues they face today.

By exploring the theme of "The Person and The Polis," we look forward to a lively dialogue with leaders from the fields of engineering, science, sociology, history, medicine, journalism, the arts and economics. We will debate, discuss and grow in our understanding of the social dimension of the individual, our responsibilities towards one another within the structures in which we live and work, and the concomitant challenges that global diversity brings to civic responsibility.

This focus on civic engagement offers our Scholars the opportunity to integrate their educational experience in an authentic civic setting. Scholars will work on genuine, meaningful projects where they will listen to and collaborate with others, learn about challenges outside the gates of the University, and become active participants in the wider civic culture. They will enrich both themselves and their community through an enhanced awareness and appreciation of different perspectives.

- **Andrew Ciancia, PE**; Principal, Langan Engineering and Environmental Science, P.C.; Former President, American Council of Engineering Companies of NY; Professor, New York University
- **Patrick Keefe, JD**; Author and John Jay alumnus; Fellow, The Century Foundation
- **Dena Merriam**; Social activist and Columbia University alumna; Founder & Convener, Global Peace Initiative of Women; Advisory Board Member, Manitou Foundation
- **Nilda Mesa, JD**; Director, Environmental Stewardship, Columbia University; U.S. Delegate, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); Former appointee, Clinton-Gore Administration
- **Kenneth Forde, MD, FACS**; Trustee, Columbia University; Columbia University alumnus; José M. Ferrer Chair in Surgery (1997-2006); Vice Chairman for External Affairs of the Department of Surgery, Columbia Medical Center
- **Donatella Lorch**; Journalist, The New York Times, NBC News, Newsweek; Recipient, 2008 Barnard College Distinguished Alumna Award
- **Kathy Newman, PhD**; Director, Institute for International and Regional Studies, Princeton University; Malcolm Forbes Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs
- **Geraldine Downey, PhD**; Vice Provost for Diversity Initiatives, Columbia University; Director, Social Relations Laboratory, Columbia University; Professor of Psychology
- **Moisés Pérez**; Founder and Executive Director, Alianza Dominicana, Inc.; Dean's Distinguished Service Award, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

SPEAKER SERIES 2007-2008

Patrick Keefe, JD

Author and John Jay Alumnus; Fellow, The Century Foundation

"Sister Ping's America: The Big Business of Illegal Immigration"

September 18, 2007

The talk will recount the story of Sister Ping, a Chinese woman who arrived in the United States in the early 1980s and became a "snakehead"—or human smuggler—in New York's Chinatown. From a restaurant on East Broadway, Sister Ping operated an extensive international network with contacts in dozens of countries, smuggling thousands of undocumented migrants from China's Fujian Province into the United States, and making some \$40 million in the process. Sister Ping fled the U.S. after a mishap on a smuggling ship she helped finance resulted in ten deaths, and became a fugitive, the FBI's most wanted Asian organized crime figure. But at the same time she was revered in China and in Chinatown as a noble figure who helped thousands realize the American dream. The talk will address what the story of Sister Ping, which started as a 2006 article in the *New Yorker*, can tell us about America's conflicted attitudes toward immigration; what makes people the world over continue to leave their homes and mortgage their own lives for the perilous journey to the United States; and what it means to be—and to become—American.

Patrick Radden Keefe is a fellow at The Century Foundation, a progressive policy institute in New York. He graduated from Columbia College in 1999 with a major in history and was a Marshall scholar at Cambridge University and the London School of Economics. He received his JD from Yale Law School, and published his first book, *Chatter: Dispatches from the Secret World of Global Eavesdropping*, in 2005. His work on intelligence, international security, emerging technologies, and the globalization of crime appears regularly in *The New Yorker* and *Slate*. He is currently finishing his second book, which explores international human smuggling networks and illegal migration between China and the United States. He lives with his wife in Brooklyn. (www.patrickraddenkeefe.com)

Andrew Ciancia, PE

Principal, Langan Engineering and Environmental Science, P.C.; Former President, American Council of Engineering Companies of NY; Professor, New York University

"The Role of 'One' Engineer in Protecting Historic Structures"

October 17, 2007

Over the last 10 years there has been a tremendous construction boom in New York City. With a limited amount of available land in prime locations, developers have acquired some sites adjacent to historic structures. Some religious institutions and theaters have even sold portions of their land to developers in return for large financial gains. As a result, developers are building directly adjacent to, and sometimes over, historic churches and theaters to meet their programming needs. How does an engineer "protect" these "fragile" landmark structures from damage while allowing new buildings to be constructed without unnecessary hardship to the developer? The answer lies with a building that was constructed over 25 years ago, when relatively little data was available on the performance of historic structures during adjacent construction. During the late 1970's, Goldman Sachs Headquarters was built at 85 Broad Street, in lower Manhattan. Across the street from the site was the Fraunces Tavern Block, consisting of a series of 150+ year old historic buildings. The information and experience gained by several engineers,

including Andrew Ciancia, from this project developed into a policy by the NYC Department of Buildings on avoiding damage to historic structures; the policy is still enforced today.

Andrew Ciancia holds the position of Principal and member of the Board of Directors with Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, P.C. He received his BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering from Rutgers University. Prior to joining Langan in 1996, Mr. Ciancia was with Woodward-Clyde Consultants for 23 years. He is a Professional Engineer (P.E.) in 9 states, a member of The Moles, and for the past 10 years an Adjunct Professor at NYU teaching engineering design to undergraduate students. He was President of the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACECNY) in 2004/2005, and a member of the ACECNY Board of Directors for 6 years. Mr. Ciancia was on the Mayor's task force to update the NYC Building Code to be in line with the International Building Code. His notable projects have included the US Holocaust Museum (Washington, D.C.), Reuters/3 Times Square (NYC), Museum of Modern Art expansion (NYC), the Hearst Tower (NYC) and Giants Stadium (NJ). University projects have included the Columbia University Law School and School of Social Work, NYU Law School Building and Kimmel Center, The City College Dormitory and the Cornell University FDA Building. Mr. Ciancia has been involved with numerous landmark buildings in New York City for the past 25 years, as a consultant to the State of New York, the Landmarks Commission and many developers. He co-authored (with Dr. Melvin I. Esrig) an ASCE paper in 1981 that was the basis for the Department of Buildings Technical Policy and Procedure Notice # 10/88, "Procedures for the Avoidance of Damage to Historic Structures Resulting from Adjacent Construction When Subject to Controlled Inspection by Section 27-724 and for Any Existing Structure Designated by the Commissioner." Notable New York City landmark structures have included The Roger Miller Theater, Bronx Zoo Lion House, Federal Hall, New Victory Theater, Biltmore Theater, and Judson Church.

Dena Merriam

Social activist and Columbia University alumna; Founder & Convener, Global Peace Initiative of Women; Advisory Board Member, Manitou Foundation

"Integrating Scholarship & Activism for Social Change"

November 27, 2007

Development policies are often formulated without adequate appreciation of the historical and cultural context of a region or a people. Similarly, activists often function without a deep enough understanding of the culture and background of the countries in which they work. Scholars, on the other hand, often work at the theoretical level and may not have experience of the on-the-ground realities. Scholars and activists can supplement each other in ways vital for the enhancement of their understanding and the advancement of their work. How can these two fields work together more closely to help societies progress in ways that are in keeping with their history and culture?

Dena Merriam is Founder and Convener of the Global Peace Initiative of Women, an international interfaith organization that develops peace building programs in areas of conflict and post-conflict. She has organized major interfaith summits around the world including the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders at the United Nations. Over the past few years she has worked extensively building dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian women, and has recently launched an initiative to build dialogue among different groups of Iraqi women. Over the past several years, she has been working with the United Nations to develop leadership programs for young adults around the world. She received her Masters Degree from Columbia University with a special focus on Hindu studies. She has served on the Board of Harvard University for the Study of World Religions and the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy. She currently serves on the Board of the Interfaith Center in New York, the All India Movement for Seva and is an advisor to the Board of the Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association.

Donatella Lorch

Journalist, The New York Times, NBC News, Newsweek; Recipient, 2008 Barnard College Distinguished Alumna Award

"So Much World all at Once: Refugee Resettlement and the Lost Boys of Southern Sudan—Myth, Reality, and America's Darlings"

February 4, 2008

More than a thousand refugee youths, dubbed "The Lost Boys of Southern Sudan," came to the United States as part of a government resettlement program. Refugee resettlement may be the least recognized form of immigration, yet, for political and humanitarian reasons, the United States—till 9/11—resettled more refugees than almost all other countries in the world combined. The Lost Boys took the country by storm. This talk, which began as an article in *Newsweek* and then a book project, will focus on why their story was so appealing and moving to a public that over time mythologized and oversimplified it.

Donatella Lorch has been a reporter and correspondent for almost twenty years and has covered wars and conflicts in South Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe for *The New York Times*, NBC News, and *Newsweek*. Hired by *The New York Times*, Lorch took more than a dozen trips into Afghanistan, and was the first reporter and only woman journalist to be smuggled into communist Kabul with the Mujaheddin guerrillas to document the guerrilla underground. In the following years, she covered more than a dozen wars, including Operation Desert Storm (Iraq) and the fall of Kabul to the Afghan guerrillas in 1992. As East Africa Bureau Chief for *The New York Times*, she covered the civil war and famine in Somalia as well as the U.S. and U.N. intervention and pullout, the reign of terror of the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda, the massacres in the hills of Burundi, and the Rwandan genocide. After joining NBC News in 1996 as an on-air correspondent, Lorch covered Bosnia, Kosovo, and Iraq. As a correspondent for *Newsweek*, she reported from Africa on refugee resettlement issues, and returned to Afghanistan to embed with a U.S. Army Special Forces A Team and then base herself in the Taliban stronghold of Southeastern Afghanistan to write about the stalled efforts at reconstruction. Most recently, she was the director of the Knight International Press Fellowship, a program funded by the Knight Foundation, which sends American reporters abroad to share the best practices of journalism.

Lorch earned a B.A. in Chinese History from Barnard College as well as an M.A. in Indic Studies and an M.A. in International Affairs, both from Columbia University. A recipient of several reporting prizes, she has been profiled in the Freedom Forum and Newseum exhibit on war reporting, as well as in several books on war correspondents and a BBC/ Discovery Channel "Reporters at War" series. She is currently working on a memoir.

Kathy Newman, PhD

Director, Institute for International and Regional Studies, Princeton University; Malcolm Forbes Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs

"The Missing Class: The Near Poor in New York City"

March 6, 2008

New York has long been known as a city with a substantial poor population. But even larger, and generally unknown, is that group of New Yorkers who live above the poverty line, but well below the middle class. Nationwide, this "missing class" consists of 57 million people, nearly 20% of the nation's children. Who are the near poor and how do they differ from those who are below the poverty line? What should we be doing to insure they continue on their quest for upward mobility? Katherine Newman will address these questions based on six years of fieldwork in four New York City neighborhoods.

Katherine S. Newman is the Malcolm Forbes Class of 1941 Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs and the Director of the Institute for International and Regional Studies at Princeton University. Formerly the

Dean of Social Science at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and the Malcolm Wiener Professor of Urban Studies in the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Newman is the author of eight books on topics ranging from urban poverty to middle class economic insecurity to school violence. Her most recent book (in collaboration with Victor Chen) is *The Missing Class* (Beacon Press, 2007), an analysis of the condition of the near poor in American society. With colleagues at the Indian Institute for Dalit Studies, she has just completed work on four related projects on labor market discrimination. In the summer of 2006, she completed a five country study focused on the prolonged stay of young people in their parents' homes in Western Europe and Japan, which is the basis of her lecture and a forthcoming book. Newman has won a number of awards, including the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Book Prize and the Hillman Book Award, and appears frequently on public radio and television.

Moisés Pérez

Founder and Executive Director, Alianza Dominicana, Inc.; Dean's Distinguished Service Award, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

"Indigenous Leadership: The Role of Nonprofits in Community Development"

April 14, 2008

The recession of the '70s and the rising poverty of the '80s left the newly arrived Dominican community of Washington Heights in terrible shape. Yet, 16 years later, after the initiation of the Alianza Project, Washington Heights became one of the safest communities in the New York City area. Today, the crowded streets are unlike any other in NYC. The older folks still greet you with a *Buenos dias* as if we were still back in a small town. The local barbers rarely speak whenever Pedro Martinez loses a game or argue madly about the team that did not support him with their bat. Merengue and Palo music blast out of bodegas, and women with *pañuelos* wrapped around their heads consult the local *botanicas* for remedies before going to a doctor. As the largest and most comprehensive nonprofit organization in Washington Heights, Alianza preserves this culture by supporting the children, youth, and families of this community. Moisés Pérez will discuss his role in the founding of Alianza as an extension of his long history of civic engagement in New York City. How can these two fields work more closely together to help societies progress in ways that are in keeping with their history and culture?

Moisés Pérez is the founder and executive director of Alianza Dominicana, Inc., a multi-service, comprehensive, integrated human service organization for children, youth and families. With over 350 employees, Alianza is the largest community-based organization in northern Manhattan. Prior to Alianza, Pérez served as the Director for the Center of Organizational Development of the Community Service Society, where he directed the provision of technical assistance and support to over 400 community-based organizations throughout NYC. Pérez also worked as a Senior Staff Associate with P.R.O.G.R.E.S.S., Inc., where he was responsible for the training and provision of technical assistance to over 350 Puerto Rican and Latino community-based organizations. Pérez is a founding member of several organizations, including the Latino Commission on AIDS, the Dominican-American National Roundtable, the Hispanic Federation of New York, El Puente of Williamsburg, and the City-As-School Initiative of the New York City Board of Education. As a distinguished member of the community, Pérez is the recipient of several honors, including the New York Presbyterian Hospital Community Builders Award, the Mailman Public School of Health Dean's Distinguished Service Award, the NYC Department of Health Award for Excellence, the NY State Office of Mental Health Special Achievement Award, the NY State AIDS Institute Outstanding Achievement Award, and the Governor's Award for Hispanic Americans of Distinction under the Honorable Mario Cuomo.

SCHOLAR FORUMS 2007-2008

Nilda Mesa, JD

Director of Environmental Stewardship, Columbia University; U.S. Delegate, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); Former appointee, Clinton-Gore Administration

Kenneth Forde, MD

Trustee, Columbia University; José M. Ferrer Chair in Surgery (1997-2006); Vice Chairman for External Affairs of the Department of Surgery, Columbia Medical Center

Geraldine Downey, PhD

Vice Provost for Diversity Initiatives, Columbia University; Director, Social Relations Laboratory, Columbia University; Professor of Psychology

CULTURAL OUTINGS 2007-2008

- **"Wicked"** (Gershwin Theater)
- **"Spring Awakening"** (Eugene O'Neill Theatre)
- **"The Nutcracker"** (New York State Theatre, Lincoln Center)
- **"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"** (Broadhurst Theatre)
- **"The Lion King"** (Minksoff Theatre)
- **"Avenue Q"** (Golden Theatre)

EXCAVATION OF THE TRUTH: 2006-2007

Philosophers continue to debate numerous theories of truth: what constitutes the truth, how to define it, whether it is objective, subjective, absolute, relative; how or whether it is related to knowledge. Our theme this year does not focus specifically on these fundamental philosophical debates, but rather explores the "process" of Excavation of the Truth. "Ex-cavation"—the "drawing forth from within, from deep down," involving a necessary process of elimination, of purification and distillation—suggests a certain effort on the part of the "excavator," but also excitement in the face of the unknown, nervousness at the adventure of discovery, and resolve born from the unspoken understanding that there is indeed something to "un-cover." Whether from the vantage point of psychiatry and the military psyche, journalism and reporting, creative and documentary filmmaking, business ethics, scientific research, writing, music and performance, our speakers this year share the excitement of their search for a Truth, and explore the relationship between working hypotheses and blind adventure fueled by creativity.

SPEAKERS SERIES 2006-2007

Jonathan Shay, MD/PhD

Acclaimed author; Staff Psychiatrist, VA Outpatient Clinic, Boston, MA; Former Chair of Ethics, Leadership, and Personnel Policy; Office of the US Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel

"Homer on Military Leadership"

September 21, 2006

Homer's portraits of Agamemnon, Achilles and Odysseus as leaders are rich and subtle, as recognizable and fresh as they were 28 centuries ago. Is a leader "shepherd of the people" or "destroyer of the people" (both Homeric phrases)?

Jonathan Shay, MD, PhD, has been a Staff Psychiatrist at the VA Outpatient Clinic, Boston, since 1987, where all of his patients have been combat veterans with severe psychological injuries. In 1999-2000 he performed the Commandant of the Marine Corps Trust Study; in 2002 was Visiting Scholar-at-Large at the Naval War College; and in 2004-2005 was Chair of Ethics, Leadership and Personnel Policy in the Office of the U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (G-1). He is the author of *Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character* (1994) and of *Odysseus in America: Combat Trauma and the Trials of Homecoming* (2002), with a joint Foreword to the latter by Senators McCain and Cleland. A book with the working title, *Trust within Fighting Forces: Its Significance, Its Creation, Maintenance, and Destruction* is currently in preparation. He is a graduate of Harvard College, where Talcott Parsons was his Senior Tutor. He received his M.D. and Ph.D. (in neuroscience) from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. Between college and medical school he indulged his "most expensive vice"—education—at the Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences with an "ABD" [all but dissertation] in Sociology.

Arlene Morgan

Associate Dean of Programs & Prizes, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism; Former Assistant Managing Editor, The Philadelphia Inquirer; Recipient, Knight Ridder Excellence Award for Diversity

"Who is an American? Find out Through the Authentic Voice of Journalism"

November 9, 2006

The Authentic Voice: The Best Reporting on Race and Ethnicity is an anthology of stories and experiences from some of the top journalists in the country on how they cover racial and ethnic issues. The book/DVD/ website project arose out of the need for culturally sensitive, accurate and well-crafted reporting on race and ethnicity in this era of great demographic change in the country. Selected from works honored in the annual "Let's Do It Better! Workshop on Journalism, Race, and Ethnicity" at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, the television and newspaper stories are examples of excellence in reporting. This multimedia project, directed by Columbia Associate Dean Arlene Morgan, is a unique resource, featuring interviews with leading journalists, including Ted Koppel, interactive discussion points, teaching tips and web links that are a must for journalism educators and professionals who want to improve their craft.

Arlene Morgan is an esteemed member of the CUSP Board of Advisors. For her biographical information please see our Board of Advisors' page.

Ougie Pak & Jason Garrett Lewis

Founder, Ouri Productions; Screenwriter, independent filmmaker, and producer; Finalist, 2006 Tropfest @ Tribeca Film Festival (for his film The 100% Perfect Girl); Fellow, 2006 Pusan International Film Festival

Founder, Jason Garrett Lewis Photography; Award winning filmmaker, producer and published photographer; Producer/Director, Dare to Eat A Peach Productions

"Young Filmmaker Panel Discussion and Film Screening"

November 29, 2006

Ougie Pak is a writer and filmmaker based in New York City. After receiving a B.A. in English Literature from the University of California at Berkeley, Mr. Pak worked at Antidote Films with producers Jeff Levy-Hinte and Mary-Jane Skalski on the development and production of several films including *The Hawk is Dying* and *Mysterious Skin*. Mr. Pak's short film, *The 100% Perfect Girl*, a melancholic fairy tale exploring the possibility/ impossibility of perfect love, premiered at the 2006 Tribeca Film Festival. In addition, he was recently selected as a fellow to the 2006 Pusan International Film Festival, where he studied under internationally acclaimed filmmaker Hou Hsiao Hsien. Mr. Pak is also co-founder of Ouri Productions, a progressive arts group made up of artists/activists from various talents, places and backgrounds, who initiate, develop and support projects that forge new relationships between art and reality. Ouri Productions strives to develop cooperative relationships with artists, community organizations, and educators in order to challenge traditional notions of boundaries and margins.

Jason Garrett Lewis, a graduate of Tufts University, is a published photographer and award-winning filmmaker who first aimed his camera on the streets of New York in fifth grade; he has been shooting stills and film ever since. His still work has appeared in a variety of magazines and CD covers, shooting some of the biggest names in hip-hop and rock, including Talib Kweli, Mos Def, and Cody Chesnutt. He has also worked in film in a number of different key positions both on-set and off. Presently focusing on directing and producing, Mr. Lewis's first directorial and producing effort earned him accolades in a number of festivals; his second film, *Color of a Doubt: An Urban Fable*, is currently entering the festival circuit. He has participated in producing numerous other films, including the experimental film *Making of Americans*, which had its premier in the summer 2004 at New York's P.S.1./MOMA museum. His still work can currently be seen at The Steppingstone Gallery in Huntington, LI.

Albert Maysles

Documentary filmmaker; Emmy Award winner & Academy Award nominee; Best Cinematography, Sundance Film Festival (2000)

"Documentary Can and Must Be True"

January 23, 2007

"As a documentarian, I happily place my fate and faith in reality. It is my caretaker, the provider of subjects, themes, experiences—all endowed with the power of truth and the romance of discovery. And the closer I adhere to reality the more honest and authentic my tales. After all, the knowledge of the real world is exactly what we need to better understand and therefore possibly to love one another. It's my way of making the world a better place."

~Albert Maysles

A pioneer of Direct Cinema, Albert Maysles, along with his brother David, were the first to make nonfiction feature films (*Gimme Shelter*, *Salesman*, *Grey Gardens*) where the drama of life unfolds as is without scripts, sets, interviews or narration. His first film, "Psychiatry in Russia" (1955) he made in transition from psychologist to documentary filmmaker. In 1960 he served as co-filmmaker of *Primary*. His 36 films include *What's Happening? The Beatles in the USA* (1964), five films of the projects of Christo and Jeanne-Claude (1972 to 1995), *Meet Marlon Brando* (1965) and three documentaries for HBO. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship (1965), a Peabody, an Emmy, five Lifetime Achievement Awards, the award for best cinematography at Sundance (2002) for *Lalee's Kin*, which was also nominated in 2001 for an Academy Award and most recently, the Columbia Dupont Award (2004). In 1999, Eastman Kodak saluted him as one of the 100 world's finest cinematographers. Albert's latest project, *The Gates* (1979-2005), is presently in postproduction.\

Henry Kaiser

Former Senior Instructor, Underwater Scientific Research, University of California at Berkeley; Member, United States Antarctic Program; Explorer & underwater photographer; Innovative & groundbreaking guitarist

"Antarctic Encounters"

February 12, 2007

Guitarist Henry Kaiser has traveled to Antarctica four times as a member of the U.S. Antarctic Program. Each time he has worked as research diver beneath the 20 foot thick ice of the Ross Sea. He has just returned from his most recent Antarctic deployment with director Werner Herzog where Henry functioned as underwater cameraman and producer of a new Herzog feature film for Discovery Channel International's theatrical release unit. Henry's collaborations with Werner Herzog have included the soundtrack for *Grizzly Man*, cinematography on *The Wild Blue Yonder*, and he is currently the Producer of Herzog's *Encounters at the End of the World*, which has just completed principle photography in Antarctica. Henry will share video and odd tales of the Antarctic at his presentation.

Widely recognized as one of the most creative and innovative guitarists, improvisers and producers in the fields of rock, jazz and experimental music, California-based musician Henry Kaiser is one of the most extensively recorded as well, having appeared on more than 140 different albums. A restless collaborator who constantly seeks the most diverse and personally challenging contexts for his music, Mr. Kaiser not only produces and contributes to a staggering number of recorded projects, but performs frequently throughout the USA, Europe and Japan with several regular groupings as well as solo guitar concerts and concerts of freely improvised music with a host of diverse instrumentalists. Kaiser has recorded and/or performed with Herbie Hancock, Michael Stipe, Jerry Garcia and Cecil Taylor among others.

As one of the "first generation" of American free improvisers, born in Oakland, California on September 19, 1952, Mr. Kaiser has helped unfetter the guitar from the conventions of genre-bound techniques, and his instrumental virtuosity and technological breakthroughs are always deployed in the service of deep and immediate personal expression. Some of his musical sources include traditional blues, East Asian, Classical North Indian and Hawaiian music, free jazz, free improvisation, American steel-string concert guitar and 20th century classical, yet he also draws creatively from other abiding interests, which for Mr. Kaiser include Information Theory, experimental cinema, mathematics, experimental literature and

SCUBA diving. He was employed for the last 15 years as a senior instructor in Underwater Scientific Research at the University of California at Berkeley.

Erica Jong

Member, CUSP Board of Advisors; Award-winning poet, essayist, & novelist; New York Times International Bestselling Author; President, The Author's Guild of the U.S. (1991-93)

"Why Literature Matters"

February 28, 2007

In an age when most readers have less time than ever and competing technologies offer innumerable distractions, why does literature still matter and how can we find a place for it in our lives? Jong argues that literature brings serenity, calm and knowledge of one's self even at its most provocative. Making time for literature is making time your best self, your inner journey, your soul. Delving into literature is delving into your self—which is why nothing else comes near it in nourishing the blossoming of your soul. A world without literature is a world without soul.

Erica Jong is an esteemed member of the CUSP Board of Advisors. For her biographical information please see our Board of Advisors' page.

SCHOLAR FORUMS 2006-2007

Olati Johnson

Associate Professor, Columbia Law School; Kellis Parker Research Fellow; Former Counsel, Senator Kennedy, Senate Judiciary Committee; Former Assistant Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund

Zvi Galil

Dean, Fu Foundation School of Engineering & Applied Science; President-elect, Tel Aviv University, Israel; Julian Clarence Levi Professor of Mathematical Methods and Computer Science; Fellow, American Academy of Arts & Sciences; Member, National Academy of Engineers

Austin Quigley

Dean, Columbia College and Lucy G. Moses Professor; Associate Vice President for Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Education; Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature, Columbia University; Former President, National Association of Literary Scholars & Critics

Jesse Drucker

Staff Reporter, Wall Street Journal; Former writer; The New York Observer, The Star-Ledger; and Salon.com

Peter Scotese

Retired Chief Executive Officer, Springs Industries; Former Director, Marshall and Illsey Bank; Former Chairman, Finance & Executive Committees, American Management Association; Founding Director & VP, Politecnico Internazionale della Moda in Florence, Italy

Mary Marshall Clark

Director, Columbia University Oral History Research Office; Founder, "The September 11, 2001 Oral History Narrative and Memory Project"; Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians; Former President, Oral History Association

CULTURAL OUTINGS 2006-2007

- **“New York Yankees vs. Toronto Blue Jays”** (Yankee Stadium)
- **“The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie”** (Acorn Theatre)
- **“My Name is Rachel Corrie”** (Minetta Lane Theatre)
- **“The Nutcracker”** (New York State Theatre, Lincoln Theatre)
- **“Les Miserables”** (Broadhurst Theatre)
- **“La Boheme”** (Metropolitan Opera House)
- **“The Color Purple”** (Broadway Theatre)

BEYOND THESE SHORES: 2005-2006

"Beyond These Shores," explores man's instinctive sense of adventure, man's desire to push beyond known limits, to explore, as Dante's Ulysses states in Inferno XXVI, "the world without people." Beyond the literal, however, the theme, by suggesting a new vision, an adventure, a voyage beyond the known and the comfortable, challenges point of view. Hence the presentations not only explore our take on questions and issues that lie beyond our physical, geographical shores--discussing territorial protection, counter-terrorism, and space travel--but also challenge our own limits, our assumptions about "home" and "border," the "other," and the need to be aware of and learn from the world that lies beyond.

While we vigilantly protect our borders, we continue to explore other "continents" in the universe, and seek to discover how other populations live in urban environments. Beyond these more clear-cut interpretations of our theme, the presentations also touch upon more personal missions--the search for renewed and original interpretations and creations of space and place--and courageous forays in the world of the law. "Beyond These Shores" is an invitation to see beyond, to imagine, to learn, and to work together, optimizing man's creative potential.

SPEAKER SERIES 2005-2006

Stephen Flynn

Inaugural Occupant, Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Chair, National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations; Former Director, Global Issues, National Security Council Staff, Clinton Administration

"America the Vulnerable: Can the U.S. Homeland be Secured?"

September 20, 2005

Homeland security has entered our post-9/11 lexicon, but homeland insecurity remains the abiding reality, with the exception of airports, much of what is critical to our way of life remains unprotected. Based on rigorous research, field visits, and interviews with frontline agents, Flynn exposes many of the glaring security gaps that are receiving only superficial attention by the Department of Homeland Security - or are being overshadowed by Washington's preoccupation with offensive attacks on terrorists overseas. He also cites hard economic facts. Aside from a confounding system of color-coded alerts, the federal government has invested little in homeland security, spending less on security over the past three years to protect America's 361 commercial seaports than it is spending every three days on the war in Iraq. At the state and local levels, budget cuts have drastically reduced the ranks of vital first responders - police officers, firefighters, paramedics - as well as curtailed attempts to strengthen our infrastructure, shore up our waterways, and make sound investments in new technologies which could help us to better manage the terrorist risk.

Stephen Flynn is the author of the critically acclaimed and national bestseller, [America the Vulnerable](#). He is the inaugural occupant of the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Chair in National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. Dr. Flynn served as Director and principal author for the task force report "America: Still Unprepared-Still in Danger," co-chaired by former Senators Gary Hart and Warren Rudman. Since 9/11 he has provided congressional testimony on homeland security matters on fifteen occasions. He spent twenty years as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Coast Guard including two commands at sea, served in the White House Military Office during the George H.W. Bush administration, and was director for Global Issues on the National Security Council staff during the Clinton administration. He holds a Ph.D. and M.A.L.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and a B.S. from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Vanita Gupta

Assistant Counsel & Soros Justice Fellow, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

“From Civil Rights to Human Rights: Shifting the Discourse Around Racial Justice in America”

6 October 2005

**This event was co-sponsored with the American Constitution Society of the Columbia Law School*

Ms. Gupta discussed her litigation to free 38 wrongfully convicted defendants in Tulia, Texas and other cases to illustrate the growing need to make domestic civil rights and racial justice concerns into international human rights issues.

Vanita Gupta joined the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) as a Soros Justice Fellow in September 2001. She is now an Assistant Counsel at LDF, where her work centers on civil rights litigation that promotes systemic reform of the criminal justice system. Ms. Gupta successfully led the effort to overturn the convictions of 38 defendants in Tulia, Texas, organizing over a dozen national law firms in this fight and coordinating the legal and media strategy. Working with co-counsel, she also recently settled the civil rights cases filed on behalf of the wrongfully convicted Tulia residents for \$6 million. The settlement also disbanded the narcotics task force responsible for the drug sting and resulted in the early retirement of two key officers involved in overseeing the sting operation. In furtherance of her clients' cases, she has appeared on the NBC Today Show, CBS Evening News, CNN, PBS Lehrer News Hour, Court TV, MSNBC, and National Public Radio. For her work in Tulia, Ms. Gupta has been given the 2004 Reebok Human Rights Award, the Upakar Foundation Community Ambassador award, and the American Red Cross "Rising Star" award. She continues to represent individuals accused of crimes who have been subjected to racial bias and other serious problems in their encounters with the criminal justice system. She was on the legal team that in January, 2005, won freedom for renowned prison journalist Wilbert Rideau in his fourth trial after he had already spent forty-four years in the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

She attended Yale University, where she graduated in History and Women's Studies. Prior to attending law school, she served as the public policy coordinator at the Harvard School of Public Health in its Violence Prevention Programs.

Mindy Fullilove, MD

Research Psychiatrist, New York State Psychiatric Institute; Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Public Health, Columbia University

“So Going Around Cities”

October 26, 2005

This talk followed the travels of Mindy and Bob Fullilove, professors of public health, as they traveled around France and Spain with colleagues and students. The troupe visited a number of cities, with a focus on the similarities and contrasts in urban development in two Catalonian cities: Barcelona and Perpignan. Mindy Thompson Fullilove, MD, is a research psychiatrist at New York State Psychiatric Institute and a professor of clinical psychiatry and public health at Columbia University. She was educated at Bryn Mawr College (AB, 1971) and Columbia University (MS, 1971; MD 1978). She is a board certified psychiatrist, having received her training at New York Hospital-Westchester Division (1978-1981) and Montefiore Hospital (1981-1982). She has conducted research on AIDS and other epidemics of poor communities, with a special interest in the relationship between the collapse of communities and decline in health. From her research, she has published [Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America and What We Can Do About It](#), and [The House of Joshua: Meditations on Family and Place](#). She has also published numerous articles, book chapters, and monographs. She has received many awards including being named a "National Associate" by the National Academy of Science in 2003, being among the "Best Doctors in New York," and receiving two honorary doctorates (Chatham College, 1999, and Bank Street College of Education, 2002). Her work in AIDS is featured in Jacob Levenson's book, *The Secret Epidemic: The Story of AIDS in Black America*.

James Polshek, PhD

Design partner and founder, Polshek Partnership Architects; Professor Emeritus of Architecture, Columbia University

“An Architecture of Reconciliation”

November 9, 2005

A presentation of selected public projects demonstrates the core values that have defined a forty year practice of architecture. Unifying a diverse body of work is the search for an authentic and individual expression of place and mission, without the imposition of a repetitive style.

James Stewart Polshek is a Design Partner in Polshek Partnership Architects, which he established in 1963. Mr. Polshek graduated from Western Reserve University in Cleveland in 1951 and received a Master of Architecture degree from the Yale University School of Architecture in 1955. In 1956, he was awarded a Fulbright/Hayes Fellowship for postgraduate study at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. Among Mr. Polshek's current projects are: Newseum/Freedom Forum Foundation Headquarters, Bryant College Chapel and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation Education Center. Recent projects include William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Center, Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History, Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, Copia, the American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts, National Inventors Hall of Fame, Santa Fe Opera, Scandinavia House, the Sydney Opera House, and the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian Cultural Resources Center.

From 1972-1987, he was Dean of the faculty of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, and Special Advisor to the President for Planning and Design at Columbia University, where he is Professor Emeritus of Architecture. While at Columbia University, he established the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture, on whose Executive Committee he served for ten years. During this same period he co-founded Architects, Designers and Planners for Social Responsibility. He currently serves on the advisory boards of the New York School of Interior Design and the Lycée Français de New York. Mr. Polshek holds Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degrees from Pratt Institute (1995) and the New School University Parsons School of Design (1995) and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from New Jersey Institute of Technology (2002). In 2002, he was honored with the Municipal Art Society's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Medal, and was also inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. This year, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

David Gilman, PhD

Deputy Director, Flight Projects Office, NASA-Langley Research Center

“Far Beyond These Shores and How to Get There”

November 29, 2005

This is the golden age of the discovery of the universe, like the two decades following Columbus's discovery of the new world. We can even see the effects of two "continents" that haven't been visited, dark matter and dark energy. This presentation was a story about lessons the speaker has learned from the conquest of space--lessons about the universe from space astronomy and lessons about people from space projects.

David Gilman has a Ph.D. in astrophysics from Cornell University. He has managed space flight programs in the Office of Space Science at NASA Headquarters from 1982 to 1997 and is now the Deputy Director of the Flight Projects Office at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.

George Yancopoulos, MD, PhD

President of the Laboratories and Chief Scientific Officer, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals; John Jay Scholar alumnus

“Biotech Unlimited: Promise of Just Hype? An Insider’s Perspective”

January 26, 2006

Billions have been invested in the biotechnology industry, which has promised the public everything from cures to cancer to new organs from stem cells. What is it like to start a biotech company and be on the inside of such an enterprise, and is the industry delivering on its promises? Twenty five years ago, George Yancopoulos was a John Jay Scholar at Columbia College. Now he is a leader in the biotech industry. George Yancopoulos is a native New Yorker who graduated as valedictorian of both the Bronx High School of Science and Columbia College, and then went on to receive his MD and PhD degrees in 1987 from Columbia University’s College of Physicians & Surgeons. Following widely-recognized work in the field of molecular immunology at Columbia University, for which he received the Lucille P. Markey Scholar Award, Dr. Yancopoulos left academia in 1989 as a founding scientist for Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, where he is now the Chief Scientific Officer and President of Regeneron Laboratories. Dr. Yancopoulos is also an Adjunct Full Professor at Columbia University, and was recently awarded Columbia University’s Stevens Triennial Prize for Research and its University Medal of Excellence for Distinguished Achievement. According to a study by the Institute for Scientific Information, Dr. Yancopoulos was the eleventh most highly cited scientist in the world during the 1990s and the only scientist from the biotechnology industry on the list. Dr. Yancopoulos’ scientific contributions were recently recognized by his election in 2004 to both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Sciences.

Andri Magnason

Award-winning author; Vice President, The Icelandic Writers Union

“Living in a Laboratory: The Universe on an Island”

February 6, 2006

Mr. Magnason spoke of words and deeds, ideas, imagination and propaganda. He used Iceland as a case study and a reflection on the world in general. Living in an island with its own language you can face all the challenges you will face in other countries but the size of the population can force you to become creative and active. According to the Human Development Index (HDI), published annually by the United Nations, Iceland now ranks #2 of 177 countries; Iceland has gone from poverty to this position in less than a lifetime. The wealth does not change the human elements; the nation can go through periods of stability up to seeing very strong patterns of conflict, the level of violence or nonviolence just being a question of culture. The island can go from being a role model for the world, having a strong voice by voting for a woman president, and tolerating progressive creativity and modern thinking. Mr. Magnason spoke of his work and his cultural background, from old music and sagas to his production of Bonus Poetry, cheap poetry for the everyday consumer. He also spoke about the role of the artist, from taking on the role of a comedian, entertainer and even a clown to finding himself in a position where he has to take a stand, speak for a cause, and hopefully make a difference.

Andri Snær Magnason is an Icelandic writer; he studied physics until he turned to Icelandic literature. Mr. Magnason has written novels, poetry, plays, short stories, essays and CD’s. His novel *LoveStar*, was a bestseller and chosen Novel of the Year by Icelandic booksellers 2002. His children’s book and play, [The Story of the Blue Planet](#), was the first and only children’s book to receive the Icelandic Literary Prize. It also received the Janusz Korczak Honorary Award in Warszawa 2000 and the West Nordic Children’s Book Prize 2002. [The Story of the Blue Planet](#) has been published or performed in more than 16 countries; the latest performance in Toronto was nominated for 5 Dora Awards. Mr. Magnason has collaborated with various artists, mostly with a band, "múm." He is vice-president of The Icelandic Writers Union, and board member of The Culture House in Reykjavík. Mr. Magnason has been involved

with projects connected to the revival of Iceland's medieval musical heritage and Icelandic medieval manuscripts. Among them is the Poetic Edda from 1100, the most important source of Nordic mythology, one of the few places where mankind has preserved a whole set of gods and myths, with ideas from the beginning of a world to the apocalypse. The Edda has inspired artists like Tolkien, Borges and Wagner. In recent years, Mr. Magnason has been active in the fight for preserving the fragile wilderness of the Icelandic highlands. He has held lectures about imagination and ideas for DeCode genetics, Shell, the Icelandic Stock Market, the Icelandic Phone Company and the Icelandic Marketing Awards. Mr. Magnason lives in Reykjavík; he is married and has three children.

Peter Goldmark, PhD

Director, Climate and Air Program for Environmental Defense; Chairman & CEO, International Herald Tribune; Former Executive Director, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

“Keeping the Aspidistra Flying: Having Fun While Doing Good”

February 21, 2006

Mr. Goldmark discussed his transition from political trailblazer to press mogul to non-profit visionary along with the passion, the drive, the gratification that influences his life.

Peter Goldmark was named Director of the Climate and Air Program at Environmental Defense in August 2003. He served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the International Herald Tribune from 1998, to 2003. From June 1988 to December 1997, he was the eleventh President of the Rockefeller Foundation based in New York City. Prior to this appointment he was Senior Vice President for Eastern Newspapers for the Los Angeles based Times Mirror Company. Before joining the Times Mirror Company in 1985, Mr. Goldmark served for eight years as Executive Director of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

From 1975 to 1977, he was Director of the Budget for the State of New York and for four years prior served as Secretary of Human Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr. Goldmark also served in the budget office of New York City for four years, and was Assistant Budget Director for Program Planning and Analysis before becoming Executive Assistant to the Mayor in 1970. Earlier in his career, he was on the staff of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, and taught history at the Putney School in Vermont. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Lend Lease Corporation and the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research among other organizations, and Visiting Professor of Public Management at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University.

Stewart Sukuma

Social activist and Mozambican musician

“Feeding Mozambican Imagination: The Story of Mozambican Musician, Stewart Sukuma”

March 22, 2006

**Stewart Sukuma performed a mini-concert during this presentation*

In 1990, Mozambique was estimated to be the poorest nation in the world. Mozambican writer Mia Couto laments that "The most harrowing thing about poverty is the ignorance it has of itself. Faced by an absence of everything, men abstain from dreams, depriving themselves of the desire to be others." Is there room to dream in Mozambique, a developing nation struggling to overcome the consequences of colonialism, a 17 year civil war, extreme poverty, and AIDS? What is the role of the arts and artistic endeavor in feeding the Mozambican imagination?

Mozambican musician Stewart Sukuma, whose name can be translated from Zulu as "rise up," has devoted his career to empowering the people of his country through music. In 1983, his music first reached the ears of Mozambicans all over the nation through the radio, an integral form of communication in a nation where many do not have access to television, internet, and newspapers. Sukuma links music

and social outreach, working in conjunction with the National Campaign against AIDS, the National Election Commission, UNICEF, and other aid organizations to increase awareness about HIV, the importance of voting, and democratic rights. In 2004, he co-founded Sem Crítica, a movement dedicated to empowering young people by encouraging their artistic talents. Mozambique, like all countries in Africa, usually only receives attention from the international press in the face of tragedies, such as civil war and record floods. This type of coverage of Africa perpetuates a racist image of a continent beyond repair, and fails to shed light on Africa's enormous successes in business, media, and the arts. Sukuma is a living example of the thriving arts in Mozambique and the country's success and ability to rise up.

Stewart Sukuma, an internationally celebrated musician from Mozambique, combines traditional Mozambican music and instrumentation with contemporary styles to create a unique type of fusion African pop. In 1992, Mozambique emerged from a 17 year civil war deeply in need of national figures to instill hope in the destitute country. With the launch of his album Afrikiti in 1997, Sukuma, as vocalist and guitarist, rose as a symbol of promise for his country. Singing in Portuguese, English, and many of the languages of Bantu origin spoken in Mozambique, his themes include the daily feats and struggles of his nation's people. As a founding member of the Mozambican Musicians' Association, he has been deeply involved in promoting Mozambican music and bringing foreign musicians, including Eric Clapton and Gilberto Gil, to his country. Beyond working as a musician, Stewart has worked in music production, management, and as a television host of two shows.

George Bizos, JD

Legendary Human Rights Lawyer; Order for Meritorious Service Class II Medal Recipient

“The Deeds of Men Often Do Not Accord with Their Words”

April 11, 2006

Men and women, when seeking the right to rule, promise the good they will do for their country, its people and even the World. They say that there will be peace and happiness; liberty, equality and fraternity; education and culture; the eradication of poverty, disease and homelessness, the absence of racism and sexism and that there will be democracy, respect for human rights and justice for all. The talk deals with the instances, particularly in Southern Africa, where, with notable exceptions, despite the pious intentions, the rule of law has been abrogated; corrupt and tyrannical regimes cling to power; opposition is equated with treason and human misery prevails. The role for civil society, the judiciary, the legal profession and other structures to uphold human rights and democracy can and do make a difference. So does international assistance for the oppressed people and condemnation of those who do not live up to their promises.

The gales of war blew 13-year-old George Bizos away from Greece to South Africa where he studied law at the University of the Witwatersrand. He joined the Bar in Johannesburg in 1954 and has been a senior member since 1978. He was counsel to Nelson Mandela, where he was part of the team that defended Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Walter Sisulu, Bram Fischer, Winnie Mandela, Albertina Sisulu and Barbara Hogan. He represented the families of Steve Biko, Matthew Goniwe, Dr. Neil Aggett and others who died in detention. He opposed amnesty applications by those who killed Chris Hani and other leaders of the struggle. He has written [No One to Blame?](#) in pursuit of justice in South Africa that describes the crimes of the perpetrators who were exonerated by the apartheid's justice system. He appeared for the South African democratically elected government to successfully argue the abolition of the death penalty and the certification of the new South African Constitution.

George Bizos is a member of the National Council of Lawyers for Human Rights, which he helped found in 1979. He is Senior Counsel at the Legal Resources Centre in Johannesburg in the Constitutional Litigation Unit. He was a judge on Botswana's Court of Appeal from 1985 to 1993. Mr. Bizos was counsel to United Democratic Front leaders, including future provincial Premiers Patrick Lekota and

Popo Molefe in the Delmas Treason Trial, 1985-89. In 1990 he became a member of the African National Congress's Legal and Constitutional Committee, and at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) he served as advisor to the negotiating teams and participated in drawing up the Interim Constitution. He was involved in the drafting of legislation, and particularly the Truth and Reconciliation Bill and amendments to the Criminal Procedures Act, to bring it into line with Chapter 3 of the constitution, guaranteeing fundamental human rights to all citizens of South Africa. He was appointed by then President Mandela to the Judicial Services Commission which, in terms of the constitution recommends candidates for appointment as judges and proposes reforms to the judicial system to erase its apartheid past. He successfully defended the Zimbabwean opposition Movement for Democratic Change's leader Morgan Tsvangirai, who was charged with planning a *coup d'etat* by conspiring to assassinate President Robert Mugabe before the 2002 general elections. Mr. Bizos still works for the Constitutional Litigation Unit of the Legal Resources Centre, and has recently successfully defended Morgan Tsvangirayi on a charge of treason. He was a visiting scholar at Columbia University 1985 –1986 and 1995. He has received numerous awards for his contribution to human rights. Mr. Bizos is married to Arethe and they have three sons and six grandchildren. He is also a keen organic vegetable grower.

SCHOLAR FORUMS 2005-2006

Charles O'Byrne

Deputy Chief of Staff to NY State Senate Democratic Leader, David A. Patterson; Vice President & Director, Kennedy Smith Foundation

Zaid A. Zaid, CLS '07

Former Foreign Service Officer, Baghdad; Former staff assistant to David Welch, United States Embassy, Cairo

Mary Kelly Persyn, CLS '07

Member, CUSP Board of Advisors; President, Columbia Law School American Constitution Society (2005-2006); Editor in Chief, Columbia Human Rights Law Review (2006-2007)

Ian Eslick

Founding President, Silicon Spice, Inc.; Human-computer interface and Human cognition Researcher/Developer

CULTURAL OUTINGS 2005-2006

- “A Soldier’s Play” (Second Stage Theatre Co.)
- “The Light in the Piazza” (Vivian Beaumont Theatre, Lincoln Center)
- “The Nutcracker” (New York State Theatre, Lincoln Center)
- “Rent” (Nederlander Theatre)
- “Beauty of the Father” (Manhattan Theatre Club)
- “Ring of Fire” (Ethel Barrymore Theatre)

AMERICA ON THE WORLD STAGE: 2004-2005

The Fall 2004 series helps Scholars explore America's interactions with the world: the political, technological, and cultural/artistic dialogues and transactions that define a global society. Topics range from a discussion of election-year politics to the rise of the information economy to the intersections of politics and art all over the world. Scholars hear how today's increasingly interdependent, information-fed media contributes to the spread of democracy; they discover the strange evolution of AIDS, from a virus exclusive to African monkeys to a deadly epidemic among humans; they recognize firsthand how their encounter with the Core Curriculum can help them interpret world events as recent as 9/11; and they are challenged to question American nationalism and the U.S. empire. Woven into the theme, "America on the World Stage," the Fall Program highlights the role and responsibilities of the media, the necessarily interdisciplinary nature of today's scientific discoveries, and the relevance of art to both understanding and defining the issues of the day. The featured speakers successfully bridge the potential gap between academic theory and social change through an interdisciplinary, transcultural lens.

The Spring 2005 semester series underscores our increased awareness that the solutions to the problems of today's society will not be found within the confines of a single discipline or field. This semester's events therefore focus on the interdisciplinary foundation of modern knowledge and features prominent figures who incorporate such approaches in their scholarship, profession, and daily lives. Topics this semester include the ethics of finance in politics, the survival of secular democracy in increasingly multi-ethnic societies, the problems of global warming, the translation of private practice to public health, and the examination of racialized imagery in documentary form. Woven into the theme, "Crossroads of Knowledge," the Spring Program highlights the exciting interdisciplinarity of learning and problem solving. Hailing from different fields, the featured speakers share a transdisciplinary approach of observing, analyzing, and engaging today's most pressing issues. As Scholars participate in these evening presentations, we urge them to recognize the nexus of collaboration that is the seed from which tomorrow's knowledge will grow.

SPEAKER SERIES 2004-2005

Steve Salyer

President and Chief Executive Officer, Public Radio International

"In Search of a Global Perspective"

September 20, 2004

We know we live in a world where geography means less and less, and where information is the fuel that charges a global economy. Cultural lines blur as popular culture and icons penetrate consciousness everywhere, even as group identity seems resurgent as a source of hostility and violence. Technology allows us to communicate constantly, yet time for reflection remains elusive, and one wonders if Americans are losing their capacity to hear what others have to say. In an interdependent, information-fed world, our media are morphing at a rapid rate. How well do the changes underway serve the cause of democracy? Will a press that maximizes choice and invites everyone to co-produce their own content reignite participation or kill it? Are technologies that know no borders creating durable forms of community, or lessening a sense of place and political relevance? Is it possible to develop a global perspective alongside powerful group or national loyalty? Can media be a force for reconciliation in such a profoundly troubled world?

Stephen Salyer has been at the forefront of public media in the United States for more than two decades, first as a senior manager at WNET/Thirteen in New York, and then as president of Public Radio International (PRI), based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His own international perspective has formed through a variety of experiences including a Watson Fellowship following graduation from Davidson College, which took him to four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa studying development policy and practice, and a U.S.-Japan Leadership Fellowship from the Japan Society, during which he worked with

the Sony Corporation in Tokyo and wrote on the digital revolution in Japan. In 1999, he helped found and currently chairs the Board of Public Interactive, an internet application service provider to the public broadcasting industry that provides publishing tools, content and streaming to more than 275 radio and television station websites across the United States. Mr. Salyer has led the development of numerous public television programs, ranging from “The Brain” to “Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends” at WNET, and in public radio from “Marketplace” to “The World,” a co-production with the BBC. He is presently engaged in creating new channels for both XM and Sirius Satellite Radio, and exploring the creation of an on-demand audio service. Mr. Salyer is a graduate of Davidson College and Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. He studied law at New York University as a Root-Tilden Scholar. He serves on the Boards of PRI, Public Interactive, Davidson College, MacPhail Center for Music, and Philanthropic Research, Inc. (Guidestar.org).

Joan Connelly

Associate Professor of Fine Arts, New York University; member, President’s Cultural Property Advisory Committee, U.S. Department of State

“The Legacy of Classical Athens in Post-9/11 New York”

October 7, 2004

Few of us today think of the Parthenon as a “replacement building” but it was, in fact, constructed upon the ruins left by the Persians and their surprise attack on the Acropolis in 480 B.C. The Greeks left their “Ground Zero” untouched for more than 30 years to stand as a reminder of the atrocities committed upon their sacred shrines in the very heart of their city. This paper presents the long view from history, considering the experience of New Yorkers in the aftermath of September 11th in relation to that of fifth century Athenians. It explores the trajectory of destruction, loss, memorial and rebuilding alongside the development of a strong civic identity in the face of adversity.

Archaeologist Joan Breton Connelly holds the Lillian Vernon Chair for Teaching Excellence at New York University. She is the author of *Votive Sculpture of Hellenistic Cyprus* and the forthcoming *Portrait of a Priestess: Women and Ritual in Ancient Greece*. She has written for the Wall Street Journal and the New York Daily News. In 1996, Connelly was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship for her work in Greek art, religion and myth, particularly for her groundbreaking reinterpretation of the Parthenon sculptures. Connelly has excavated throughout Greece and Cyprus and, since 1990, has directed the NYU Yeronisos Island Expedition and Field School in Cyprus. She is a member of the French Archaeological Mission to Failaka, Kuwait, where she consulted on the design of the Kuwait National Museum’s Hellenistic galleries and published material from the fortress established by the successors of Alexander the Great. Connelly is a graduate of Princeton University and holds a PhD from Bryn Mawr College where she later served as Assistant Dean. She has been a visiting fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University. She is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Royal Geographical Society, the Explorers Club and the Society of Women Geographers. She is a trustee of the Society for the Preservation of the Greek Heritage. She holds Honorary Citizenship from the Municipality of Peyia, Republic of Cyprus. In 2003, she was appointed to the President’s Cultural Property Advisory Committee, U.S. Department of State.

Ernest Drucker, PhD

Professor of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, Montifiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine

“The Origins of AIDS in Africa: A Tale of Unintended Consequences”

October 14, 2004

AIDS is a new disease caused by a new virus—HIV. While much of our attention is devoted to stopping this deadly plague, there are some important reasons to figure out its origins: where did HIV come from? And why now? The answers that are beginning to emerge—through the study of history, medicine, and economics—tell a strange story of good intentions and unintended consequences.

Ernest Drucker is an esteemed member of the CUSP Board of Advisors. For his biographical information please see our Board of Advisors' page.

Robin Kelley, PhD

Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University

“We Threaten the World”

November 10, 2004

Today we face an American Empire more powerful than ever, and certainly as ruthless as in the days of Haiti's occupation in the early 20th century. Under the Bush administration's global war, we are witnessing the suppression of self-determination for nations of the Global South and the real possibility of re-colonization; massive poverty and the disappearance of viable welfare states in the face of structural adjustment policies; privatization of the commons, resulting in imperialist control over indigenous resources; unbridled corporate destruction of the environment resulting in global warming, droughts and epidemics; and the suppression of movements for social justice and transformation. Given the current situation, why are there so few African Americans involved in anti-imperialist and anti-globalization movements? Where are the progressive black movements concerned with influencing U.S. foreign policy and promoting internationalism? What happened to the black freedom movement's longstanding commitment to Third World solidarity and Pan-Africanism? Dr. Kelley discusses the history of African Americans' struggle against United States imperial designs; the current position of African Americans vis-à-vis the United States empire's presence in Iraq; and the irony of President Bush appointing Colin Powell to position of Secretary of State and Condoleezza Rice to National Security Advisor at a time when a black progressive critique of United States foreign policy has diminished.

Robin D.G. Kelley is a full professor in Columbia's Anthropology Department, an award-winning author and a leading United States African-American Studies scholar. Before arriving at Columbia in 2003, Professor Kelley served as the chair of the History Department at New York University from 2002-2003 and professor of history and Africana Studies since 1994. As a distinguished visiting professor in African-American studies, he taught at Columbia in 1996 and served as Columbia's Louis Armstrong Professor of Jazz Studies in 2000-2001. He also held associate and assistant professor positions at the University of Michigan and at Emory University. In addition to his now seven books in print, including the award-winning *Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and The Black Working Class*, Kelley has written more than 100 essays, opinion pieces, and book reviews for *The Journal of American History*, *The Nation*, *New Politics*, *The New York Times*, *Black Music Research Journal*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and other publications. He has edited and co-edited copious works and is on the editorial board for a dozen publications on music, popular culture, African studies and American history, including the Institute for Research in African-American Studies Journal, *Souls*. Kelley has received numerous awards for his writing over the years, and has served as an advisor for more than a dozen film projects, including Ken Burns' "Jazz" and Peter Jennings' "The American Century." Dr. Kelley has a Ph.D. in United States history and an M.A. in African history from UCLA, and a B.A. in history from California State University, Long Beach. Dr. Kelley is currently drafting a detailed biography on jazz musician Thelonious Monk entitled *Misterioso: In Search of Thelonious Monk* (under contract, The Free Press).

Phil Gourevitch,

Staff Writer, The New Yorker

“Writing About Wrongs: Moral Clarity Versus Political Reality”

November 30, 2004

Philip Gourevitch is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, where his work has appeared since 1995. His first book, [We Wish To Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda](#)—published in 1998—won a number of major prizes, including the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, and, in England, the Guardian First Book Award. His second book, [A Cold Case](#), an account of a three-decades-long investigation of a double homicide in New York City, was published in 2001, and is being developed as a feature film. Both books have been translated in half a dozen foreign languages. In addition to his work for the *New Yorker*, Gourevitch’s reportage, essays and short fiction has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies at home and abroad. He was educated at Cornell University and Columbia University, and now lives in Brooklyn and Millerton, New York.

Coco Fusco, PhD

Associate Professor, School of Visual Arts, Columbia University

“a/k/a Mrs. George Gilbert: An Artist’s Look at the Sixties”

February 2, 2005

a/k/a Mrs. George Gilbert extends Coco Fusco’s in-depth examination of racialized imagery. Fusco combines fictional and documentary source materials to reflect on the use of electronic surveillance against black intellectuals and activists in the 1960s and 1970s as part of covert FBI operations that bear a striking resemblance to the current Patriot Act-inspired activities of American law enforcement. “a/k/a Mrs. George Gilbert” is the story of an FBI agent who confesses his involvement in the nation-wide search for Angela Davis, the black philosopher who was fired from UCLA in 1969 at the order of then governor Ronald Reagan, and in 1970 was placed on the FBI’s “Ten Most Wanted List,” after which she went underground. During the two months that Davis was a fugitive, hundreds, if not thousands, of other women were incorrectly identified by law enforcement officials and many were arrested as Miss Davis. Her case culminated in one of the most famous trials in recent history and she was acquitted of all charges in 1972. Fusco weaves together archival footage, simulated surveillance footage of many Davis “look-alikes,” actual trial transcripts, FBI records and press clips with memorabilia from the international campaign to free Davis to create an imaginative recreation of a crucial political moment in US history. She collaborated with Rick Moody, the author of *The Ice Storm*, on the writing of the script. Coco Fusco is a New York-based interdisciplinary artist and writer. She has performed, lectured, exhibited and curated around the world since 1988. She is the author of [English is Broken Here](#) (The New Press, 1995), [The Bodies That Were Not Ours and Other Writings](#) (Routledge/inIVA, 2001) and the editor of [Corpus Delecti: Performance Art of the Americas](#) (Routledge, 1999) and [Only Skin Deep: Changing Visions of the American Self](#) (Abrams, 2003). Dr. Fusco is a recipient of a 2003 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts.

Dr. Fusco's performances and videos have been included in such events as The Whitney Biennial, Sydney Biennale, The Johannesburg Biennial, The Kwangju Biennale, The London International Theatre Festival, and the National Review of Live Art. Her 1993 documentary about her caged Amerindian performance with Guillermo Gómez-Peña, “The Couple in the Cage,” has been screened in over two hundred venues around the world. She recently curated a comprehensive exhibition on racial taxonomy in American photography for the International Center for Photography, *Only Skin Deep: Changing Visions of the American Self*, which is currently on tour. Her latest video, *a/k/a Mrs. George Gilbert*, was selected for the 2004 Shanghai Biennale and will screen at the Museum of Modern Art in 2005. Dr. Fusco’s writings have appeared in a wide variety of publications, including *The Village Voice*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Art in America*, *The Nation*, *Ms.*, *Frieze*, *Third Text*, and *Nka: Journal of African Art*, as well as a number of anthologies. She is the co-founder and co-moderator of *Undercurrents*, an on-line discussion about

feminism, new technologies and globalization. Fusco is an associate professor in the Visual Arts Division of Columbia University's School of the Arts.

H. Carl McCall

Vice Chairman, Healthpoint, Former Director, NYSE

“Money, Politics and the Need for Real Campaign Finance Reform”

February 28, 2005

It's no secret—the cost of campaigning for elected office is growing exponentially. Despite the 2002 passage of the McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Reform bill which promised to reduce the influence of money in the electoral process, the political money train has continued to gain speed, with no signs of slowing down. Last year, according to the non-partisan Alliance for Better Campaigns, candidates, political parties and independent groups spent at least \$1.6 billion on TV ads—more than double the previous record of \$771 million set in 2000. From County Legislature to Congress to the White House, campaign war chests are growing. The reason is clear: the rising cost of TV ads, political consultants and the ever-expanding human infrastructure necessary to get elected. Carl McCall knows about the impact of money in politics because he has lived it. In 2002, Mr. McCall made history as the first African American major party candidate for Governor of New York. During that historic campaign—and two earlier statewide campaigns for New York State Comptroller—Mr. McCall experienced first-hand the toll big-money takes on the political process. In his address, Mr. McCall detailed his experiences on the campaign trail, recounting the time spent raising campaign funds; the excessive influence wielded by major fundraisers and the threat to our democratic process posed by the current system. Finally, Mr. McCall offered insight into the obstacles to “real” campaign finance reform, and offered solutions to overcome them.

Carl McCall was the Democratic Candidate for Governor of New York State in 2002. He served as Comptroller of the State of New York from May 1993 through December 2002. As Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, he was responsible for governmental and financial oversight and pension fund management. As sole Trustee of the 880,000-member State and Local Retirement Systems, Mr. McCall was responsible for investing a pension fund valued at \$112 billion. Under his leadership, the value of the fund more than doubled. At the same time, the fund launched a campaign to improve corporate governance through regulation, legislation and direct engagement with corporations. Mr. McCall also organized a coalition of institutional investors to develop a landmark initiative to eliminate Wall Street conflicts of interests and protect investors. Mr. McCall has had a distinguished career as a public servant. From 1991 to 1993, he served as President of the New York City Board of Education where he set policy for the largest school system in the nation. He served three terms as a New York State Senator representing the upper Manhattan district of New York City; as an Ambassador to the United Nations; as a Commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; and as the Commissioner of the New York State Division of Human Rights. He was educated at Dartmouth College, Andover Newton Theological Seminary and the University of Edinburgh. Mr. McCall is married to Dr. Joyce Brown, President of the State University of New York's Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City.

Josh Ruxin, PhD

Assistant Clinical Professor of Public Health, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

“At the Crossroads of Change: Bringing Corporate Management to Public Health”

March 24, 2005

With the Millennium Development Goals for health a mere 11 years away, the poorest countries of the world face enormous hurdles to achieving health for their citizens. From childhood health to maternal health, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, the developing world remains a morbid and deadly place for the world's poor. While current trends point toward deterioration in health for nearly a billion people, for

the first time in history the financial and technological resources to deliver health seem within reach. However, the public health institutions, capacity, and know-how remain woefully inadequate. Public health as we know it, particularly in developing countries, requires a radical reframing of scope and approach. The skills of the private sector in management, systems design, monitoring and oversight are particularly critical given the major new efforts underway. Without a rapid transformation in management style, the Millennium Development Goals may prove to be goals for the next millennium.

Josh Ruxin is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Public Health at the Mailman School of Public Health and is based at the Center for Global Health and Economic Development, a joint venture between the Earth Institute and Mailman School at Columbia University. Dr. Ruxin focuses on scaling up national health programs and currently directs three related projects. The first is called MacroHealth and applies the findings of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization. He is also the coordinator of the UN Millennium Project task force focused on HIV/AIDS. Prior to joining Columbia, Dr. Ruxin was Harvard-based and directed the Access Project for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. He continues to direct the Access Project at Columbia where it provides technical expertise to several countries including Rwanda and Nigeria. Before joining Harvard, Dr. Ruxin was Vice President at ontheFRONTIER, a strategy consulting firm that he co-founded. During his five years there and at Monitor Group, he led projects in a dozen developing countries and was an advisor to government and private sector leaders on business strategy and economic development. Dr. Ruxin received a B.A. in the History of Science and Medicine from Yale University, where he was a Truman Scholar. He also holds a Master of Public Health from Columbia University, and a PhD in History from the University of London where he was a Marshall Scholar. After Yale, Dr. Ruxin was a Fulbright Scholar in Bolivia. Dr. Ruxin serves on the Board of Directors of FilmAid International and Orphans of Rwanda.

Peter deMenocal, PhD

Associate Professor, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University

“Understanding the Global Warming Forecast: Using the Past to Understand the Future”

April 11, 2005

With the start of the Industrial Revolution, humankind began a vast global climate experiment of which we are only now realizing the effects. Combustion of fossil fuels, burning, and land-use changes over the past centuries have led to increases in greenhouse gas concentrations to levels that the earth hasn't seen for over 25 million years (when there were crocodiles in the Canadian arctic and palm trees in London). Greenhouse gases warm the planet by an amount equivalent to having two little tree lights burning continuously on every square meter of the planet. This may not seem like much but over the last 150 years the Earth's surface temperatures have risen by nearly a degree centigrade with the majority of the rise taking place in just the last fifty years. A true though seemingly improbable statistic is that all of the ten warmest years on record have occurred since 1990. Present global average temperatures are very likely warmer than at any time in the past millennium. This lecture provided an overview of the global warming issue by discussing what we know about the signatures and causes of present human-forced climate changes within the context of what we know about large and abrupt natural climate changes that have occurred over past millennia.

Peter DeMenocal is a Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences of Columbia University. His research uses ocean sediments to reconstruct past changes in climate over timescales ranging from decades to millions of years. At shorter timescales, he has been studying the patterns of climate change during the current Holocene warm period - the last 10,000 years - to address the causes and signatures of natural (preanthropogenic) climate variability. Over longer, several-million year timescales, his current research investigates past changes in African climate and their impacts on the evolution and adaptation of African mammalian fauna including early human ancestors.

He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1991, and an M.S. in Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island in 1986. He is presently one of the Directors of Undergraduate Studies for DEES and is also a member of the Earth Institute Academic Committee. He serves on the National Science Foundation Earth System History planning committee and was co-chair of the National Academy of Science "Frontiers in Science" program (2002). He presented three of the core-curriculum "Frontiers in Science" lectures of the Spring 2005 semester on the demise of the dinosaurs, human evolution and African climate change, and global warming.

Mira Kamdar, PhD

Senior Fellow, World Policy Institute, New School University in New York

"Women, Islam and the Transformation of the West"

April 27, 2005

Many experts believe that if political Islam is to be reconciled to Western modernity—and vice-versa—it will be achieved by diaspora of Muslims in the West. Muslim women are on the front lines of this process. They are the crucibles of conflict, the sites of contestation between personal liberty, religious values and universal rights. Many Muslim women are actively forging new identities, challenging both traditional Islam and the West, and in the process, transforming both. In Europe and in the United States, no less than in the larger Muslim world, Muslim women are tackling such issues as the wearing of headscarves (hijab), sexual freedom, even wife beating. At the same time, there is no doubt that the West is being transformed by political Islam. The United States has embraced pre-emptive war and the adoption of a "national security state" that restricts civil liberties and even violates civil and human rights at home and abroad in the name of security. Western Europe struggles over how to integrate growing Muslim populations whose exclusion from the full fruits of citizenship renders them vulnerable to militant Islamic proselytizers. In response to political Islam, questions about the proper relationship between religion and the state have provoked deep divisions between partisans of secular democracy and politicized Christian movements in the United States and in Europe. Can "the West" as a unified, transatlantic entity survive its confrontation with political Islam, or will Europe and the United States be further driven apart? Will secular democracy survive or will the 21st Century be, as André Malraux once said, "religious or not at all?"

Award-winning writer and current affairs commentator Mira Kamdar is a Senior Fellow at the World Policy Institute at New School University where she is Executive Director of the Program on Citizenship & Security. Her memoir, [Motiba's Tattoos: A Granddaughter's Journey from America into her Indian Family's Past](#), won the 2002 Washington Book Award and was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection. Her current work focuses on the Indian diaspora and on issues relating to citizenship and security in a transnational, post-9/11 world. She is Book Review Editor of *India Review* and is a member of the editorial boards of *World Policy Journal* and *The Subcontinental* magazine. Her work has appeared in publications around the world, including the *International Herald Tribune*, *Times of India*, *Los Angeles Times*, *World Policy Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Connecticut Journal of International Law*, *Seminar* and *Tehelka*, and she has provided expert commentary for CNN International News, TV Ontario, TV Asia, the BBC, including "The World" with Lisa Mullins, and KPFK Radio Los Angeles. More on Dr. Kamdar at www.mirakamdar.com.

SCHOLAR FORUMS 2004-2005

Rob Endelman, CC '91

Former Wall Street trader; Chef

George Takoudes, CC '91

Architect

Tamara Takoudes, CC '92/P&S '97

Obstetrician

Brooks Klimley, CC '79

Rhodes Scholar & Financial Analyst

Fernando Ortiz

Legal Officer, United Nations Peacekeeping Operation

CULTURAL OUTINGS 2004-2005

- **“The Frogs”** (Vivian Beaumont Theatre, Lincoln Center)
- **“Gem of the Ocean”** (Walter Kerr Theatre)
- **“The Nutcracker”** (New York State Theatre, Lincoln Center)
- **“Democracy”** (Brooks Atkinson Theatre)
- **“Dirty Rotten Scoundrels”** (Imperial Theatre)
- **“Glengarry Glen Ross”** (Royale Theatre)

COLUMBIA IN CONTEXT: 2003-2004

The Fall 2003 semester series introduces Scholars to the topic of Columbia University and the role it continues to play on the urban, national and global scene through the theme, "Columbia in Context." The Fall 2003 series focuses on different fields where Columbia (students, alumni, faculty, office holders) has made a difference: international politics and history, science and technology, social justice and civil rights. The two General Events highlight Columbia's active presence in the City of New York as one of the art hubs of the world.

As the entire University community enters a year-long celebration of the 250th anniversary of Columbia College, these events introduce Scholars to Columbia's rich and productive history of action, thought, creativity, and invention, and highlights its place in the national and global context. A broad historical overview of the University and Anglo-American relations through the past 250 years offers Scholars the backdrop against which to better understand Columbia's contributions in the fields of science, technology and the law.

The Spring 2004 semester's speakers, activities, and events consider the idea of "The Public Intellectual" through a variety of disciplines and perspectives--human rights, economics, history, education, and culture. The featured speakers combine integrity, courage, and expertise. They successfully bridge the potential gap between academic theory and social change, ready to tackle seemingly insurmountable problems: poverty, genocide, educational disparities, freedom of speech and expression.

SPEAKER SERIES 2003-2004

Ray Raymond, PhD

Political Officer, British Consulate General, New York; Executive Director, City Fellowships in Financial Services; Executive Secretary, New York Marshall Selection Committee

"Kings, Columbia and the Crown: The University and Anglo-American Relations 1754-2003"

September 15, 2003

Dr. Raymond explored the University's important role in shaping the Anglo-American relationship by examining the contributions of a number of its most distinguished alumni including John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, Gouverneur Morris, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Dr. Raymond's presentation, as it places in a historical and political perspective the year's celebrations, thus serves as an ante-premiere of Columbia's inauguration of the 250th celebrations that takes place in mid-October. Dr. Raymond was introduced by Dr. John Jay Iselin, President of the Marconi Foundation, former President of Cooper Union and WNET, and Marshall Scholar.

Ray Raymond was educated at the University of Dublin, the University of Kansas and Yale University. He holds degrees in modern history, US government and politics and public policy. He is political officer of the British Consulate General, New York; Executive Director of the City Fellowships in Financial Services and Executive Secretary of the New York Marshall Selection Committee. Dr. Raymond also teaches comparative politics and international relations at the US Military Academy, West Point, where he is the only non-American civilian ever appointed to the faculty. He has written and lectured widely on Anglo-American relations and international terrorism at major universities throughout the Northeastern US. Dr. Raymond has founded or co-founded six fellowship or scholarship programs designed to strengthen UK-US relations in fields including financial services, national security studies, public policy and pediatric medicine. For his contribution to Anglo-American relations, Dr. Raymond was honored by Her Majesty the Queen in 2000 and was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Manufactures. He has received several other awards for public service. These include awards from the US

Military Academy, West Point; Lincoln University, Pennsylvania; the US National Park Service; the Royal College of Defence Studies, and Childrens Hospital of Pittsburgh.

James Schamus PhD

Professor of Arts, Columbia University; Academy-award nominated screenwriter, producer and film executive; CEO, Focus Features

“Intellectuals, Property and Intellectual Property in the Age of Corporate Media”

October 8, 2003

This presentation was an informal discussion on the ways in which the continuing consolidation of market share and political power into the hands of a small number of multinational corporations affects the life of the mind in contemporary western culture.

James Schamus, who received his Ph.D. in English from U.C. Berkeley this year, is a Professor in Columbia University's School of the Arts, and an Academy Award-nominated screenwriter, producer and film executive. His long collaboration as writer and producer for Ang Lee has resulted in eight films, including “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon,” “The Ice Storm,” “The Wedding Banquet” and “The Hulk.” As co-president of Focus Features, Schamus oversees the finance, production and distribution of numerous films, including Oscar winner, “The Pianist.” Schamus has also produced or executive produced many of the most important American independent films of the past decade (among them “Safe” and “The Brothers McMullen”), including four of the past ten Grand Prize winners at the Sundance Film Festival. He is also a widely published film historian and theorist. He was recently named a Nuveen Fellow in the Humanities at the University of Chicago and was a University Lecturer at Columbia.

Dean Mort Friedman

Vice Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, Columbia University

Dr. Dimitris Anastassiou

IEEE fellow, Founder, Image and Advanced Television, Columbia University;

Dr. James Im

Professor of Materials Science in Applied Physics and Mathematics, Columbia University

“Columbia on the Cutting Edge: Inventions Old and New”

October 23, 2003

As a researcher, teacher, and administrator at Columbia for over half a century, Dean Mort Friedman has earned the de facto title of “oral historian” of the School of Engineering and Applied Science. He introduced two faculty-inventors as prominent actors in the new chapter of Columbia’s rich history of scientific inventions. This interactive panel introduced the audience – in lay terms – to the excitement of discoveries and inventions; to the translation of these scientific and technological inventions to the borderless world of business; and to the necessary awareness of ethical responsibility. Dr. Anastassiou discussed his previous research on multimedia technology, including his participation in the MPEG-2 standardization effort. He also talked about his new research, which is motivated by the vision, recently formulated by several experts, that the biology and medicine of the future will be largely information sciences. Professor Im discussed leveraging the outcome of scientific and fundamental research carried out in academia in order to create and/or address opportunities that can lead to technological advances. As an example, Professor Im highlighted how simple studies on the melting and solidification of materials have enabled his research group to develop advanced methods for making better electronic devices and products.

Morton Friedman received his B.S. and M.S. in Aeronautical Engineering from New York University, where he earned as well his Doctorate in Engineering Science. Since 1956, however, Columbia became his academic and professional home. Here he taught Civil Engineering, served as Chairman of the

Division of Mathematical Methods, as Professor of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the University Senate, Associate Dean for Instruction and Research, Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics and, since 1995, Vice Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science. His principal research contracts include the NSF Curriculum Award, the NSF Gateway Engineering Education Coalition, DARPA Large-Scale Computations, NASA SST/Sonic Boom, and NSF Variational Methods for Fluids. His awards include the Great Teachers Award (Columbia University), a Fulbright to Europe as a lecturer in Applied Mathematics, and the Field Instrumentation Scholar (American Institute for Physics).

Dimitris Anastassiou received the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1979. From 1979 to 1983 he was a Research Staff Member at the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY. Since 1983, he has been with the Department of Electrical Engineering of Columbia University where he is currently Professor and Director of Columbia's Genomic Information Systems Laboratory. He is an IEEE Fellow, the recipient of an IBM Outstanding Innovation Award, a National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award, and a Columbia University Great Teacher Award. His previous research interests have been in the area of digital signal processing and information theory with emphasis on the digital representation of multimedia signals, with contributions to the international digital television coding standard, MPEG-2. He is the founder and previous Director of Columbia University's Image and Advanced Television Laboratory. His research is now exclusively focused on using his expertise in engineering to the emerging field of computational biology.

James S. Im is a full professor of Materials Science in the Department of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics at Columbia University, and he is the inventor of a laser crystallization technology called Sequential Lateral Solidification (SLS). He received his PhD degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and worked as a post-doctoral research fellow at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) prior to joining Columbia in 1991. He has worked in various research capacities at GE Corporate R&D Center, MIT Lincoln Laboratories, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Philips Research Laboratories, and Samsung Electronics Corporation. His research activities include investigations of discontinuous phase transitions in condensed systems and excimer-laser crystallization of thin silicon films for thin-film transistor devices.

Arthur Laurents

Legendary director, screenplay writer, and author; Theater Hall of Fame inductee

“The Need for Recognition”

November 19, 2003

Why is it that celebrities strive excessively hard for recognition? When they do get it they don their dark glasses and behave as if they wish they never had gained it. Recognition is an essential aspect of our culture and plays an important role in the decisions we make. It can drive us to success, or it can lead to destruction. The human need for recognition is as essential as the need to be happy. Many of us have a pathological need for recognition. As dangerous as the need for recognition can be, lack of recognition can be every bit as devastating. Mr. Laurents examined “The Need for Recognition” and revealed the significance of it in his writing and the role it played in his life and long career. Recognition, for Mr. Laurents, is what every child wants from a parent.

Arthur Laurents, who was born in Brooklyn and educated at Cornell University, served in the U. S. Army from 1941 to 1945. He has committed over six decades to writing, and has distinguished himself writing for radio, theatre, and film. Among his many plays are “Home of the Brave,” “Time of the Cuckoo,” “A Clearing in the Woods” “Invitation to a March,” “The Enclave,” “Jolson Sings Again,” “My Good Name,” “Claudia Lazio,” “The Vibrator,” “Closing Bell” and “2 Lives,” which opened at Lincoln Center

in November of 2003. Among his more famous works are the books for West Side Story and Gypsy, which many critics consider to be among the best musicals ever produced. Among his many screenplays are “Rope,” “The Snake Pit,” “Caught,” “Anastasia,” “Bonjour Tristesse,” “The Way We Were” and “The Turning Point.” Beyond writing for the stage, Laurents directed his own plays and plays of others on Broadway and Off Broadway, including, among others, “La Cage aux Folles,” “I Can Get It For You Wholesale,” “Invitation to a March.” He has written two novels, The Way We Were and The Turning Point. His memoir, Original Story By: A Memoir of Broadway and Hollywood, received excellent reviews. Laurents, who has been honored with many awards and who has worked with many of the theatre and movie legends of the twentieth century, was elected to the Theater Hall of Fame in 1983.

Jeffrey Fogel

Legal Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights; Former Clinical Professor, Rutgers School of Law

Arthur Kinoy

Legendary Civil Rights attorney, Columbia Law School graduate

“Rights on Trial: One Man’s Struggle to Do Justice”

December 3, 2003

In a career spanning fifty years as a pioneering civil rights attorney, Columbia Law graduate Arthur Kinoy left his mark on nearly every landmark decision of the twentieth century. Sadly, Arthur Kinoy passed away unexpectedly a couple of months before giving the talk. Jeffrey Fogel led a discussion and prospectus of Kinoy’s contribution to civil rights. This evening’s event began with a short film, “Doing Justice: The Life & Trials of Arthur Kinoy,” followed by a discussion of the challenges and successes that marked Kinoy’s career – from the era of McCarthyism to the civil rights era, Watergate and the Steelworkers. This biographical film has been hailed as a celebration of “one man’s courage in demanding that America live up to its Constitutional commitment to equal justice for all; a model of how one person can make a difference” (William Chafe, Duke University).

Jeffrey Fogel, Legal Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights and former clinical professor at Rutgers School of Law, has practiced and taught civil rights and civil liberties law for more than thirty years. He has served as the litigation director of the Prisoner’s Rights Project of the ACLU of New Jersey and later as the Executive and Legal Director of the ACLU of New Jersey. Mr. Fogel has also worked for the National Lawyers Guild as a staff attorney in its Puerto Rico Legal Project (now the Puerto Rico Institute for Civil Rights) and served as a national vice president and president of its New York City Chapter.

Arthur Kinoy held the position of distinguished Professor of Law, Emeritus, Rutgers University School of Law. He taught Constitutional Law, the Law of the First Amendment and the Law of Civil Rights. He also founded and co-chaired the Board of the Center for Constitutional Rights. He authored of Rights on Trial: The Odyssey of a People’s Lawyer. He graduated from Harvard College and received his LL.B. from Columbia Law School and was admitted to the New York Bar.

In the 1950s Arthur Kinoy was Associate General Counsel of the United Electrical Workers and then in private practice represented many witnesses before the McCarthy Committee and the House Un-American Activities Committee. He was one of the appellate counsels for Morton Sobell in the celebrated Sobell-Rosenberg case. In the 1960s he was one of the lawyers for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Southern Conference Educational Fund and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He successfully briefed and argued the case of *Dombrowski v. Pfister* in 1965 in the United States Supreme Court – a case now recognized as one of the landmark decisions of the First Amendment. In a subsequent case he presented to the Supreme Court, *Dombrowski v. Senator Eastland*, the proposition was established that the counsel of the Senate Internal Security Committee was not immune from suits for violations of the civil rights of citizens. In 1966 he

obtained the first federal injunction in history against the House Un-American Activities Committee while representing student anti-war leaders. Rep. Joseph Pool of Texas, the Acting Chair, ordered Kinoy physically removed from the Committee room by federal marshals, and arrested for attempting to engage in legal argument with the Committee. Kinoy was subsequently vindicated by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

In 1969, together with Professor Herbert Reid of Howard Law School, Arthur Kinoy successfully argued the case of *Powell v. McCormack* in which the Supreme Court, in the last opinion of Chief Justice Warren, held unconstitutional the exclusion of Rep. Adam Clayton Powell from the House of Representatives. Arthur Kinoy was chief appellate counsel in the appeals of the Chicago Seven defendants from their convictions under the Federal Anti-Riot Statute. The appeals were successful and the convictions were reversed by the Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit, in November 1972. On February 24, 1972 Arthur Kinoy argued before the Supreme Court the case of *United States v. United States District Court*, contesting the Nixon's Administration's claim to the right to engage in wholesale warrant-less wiretapping against domestic political organizations. The argument was successful and in a unanimous opinion written by Mr. Justice Powell in June 1972, the Supreme Court rejected the Nixon Administration's claim of "inherent power" for the President. Arthur Kinoy appeared before the House Interior Committee of the House of Representatives in 1976 presenting testimony in support of the right of the Puerto Rican government to self-determination. He brought this struggle before an International forum when in 1977 he appeared before the United Nations Subcommittee on De-colonization presenting testimony on the right of the Puerto Rican nation to self-determination. In June of 1980, Arthur Kinoy argued before the United States Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit, on behalf of the Steelworkers of Youngstown, Ohio in their lawsuit to stop plant closings by the U.S. Steel Company. In December of 1981 Arthur Kinoy testified before Senator John Conyers' Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee of the causes of racially motivated violence and the availability of federal remedies to meet the rising tide of this type of violence.

Diane Ravitch

Professor of Education, New York University; Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

"The Language Police and I"

February 3, 2004

Diane Ravitch's book, [The Language Police: How Pressure Groups Restrict What Students Learn](#), explores the efforts of the right- and left-wing activists to censor textbooks, removing anything that might upset or offend, and hindering efforts for an honest and full education. To what exactly do the censors object? A typical publisher's guideline advises that:

Women cannot be depicted as caregivers or performers of household chores.

Men cannot be lawyers, doctors or plumbers. They must be nurturing helpmates.

Old people cannot be feeble or dependent; they must jog or repair the roof.

A story that is set in the mountains discriminates against students from flatlands.

Cake cannot appear in a story because it is not nutritious.

Diane Ravitch spoke autobiographically about her entrance into her career as a "public intellectual," her educational and professional path, and her exploration of textbook censorship.

Dr. Ravitch is a Research Professor of Education at New York University. She holds the Brown Chair in Education Policy at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., where she is a Senior Fellow and edits the Brookings Papers on Education Policy. She is a member of the Koret Task Force at the Hoover Institution. Dr. Ravitch is a member of the National Assessment Governing Board, to which she was appointed by Secretary of Education Riley in 1997 and reappointed in 2001. From 1991 to 1993, she was Assistant Secretary of Education responsible for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement in the U.S. Department of Education. Before entering government service, Dr. Ravitch was Adjunct

Professor of History and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. She has written eight books, including *Left Back* (2000); *The Troubled Crusade* (1983); and *The Great School Wars* (1974). She has edited fourteen books and written nearly 400 articles and reviews for scholarly and popular publications. Her books and articles have been translated into many languages, including Chinese, Polish, Arabic, Spanish, Swedish, and Japanese. Dr. Ravitch is a member of the National Academy of Education (1979), the Society of American Historians (1984), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1985), and PEN International. A native of Texas, Diane Ravitch is a graduate of the Houston public schools. She received a B.A. from Wellesley College in 1960 and a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 1975.

Jeffrey Sachs

Director, The Earth Institute; Professor of Health Policy and Management, Columbia University

“Ending Extreme Poverty”

March 2, 2004

On September 24, 2003, Jeffrey Sachs spoke at the Hilton Foundation Conference in New York City. An excerpt:

“As the director for the Millennium Project for the UN Secretary General, I’ve been asked to strategize on how to address problems of global poverty, focusing on the crises that intersect extreme poverty like malaria, TB, AIDS, the problems of hunger, micro-nutrient deficiencies, soil nutrient depletion, half a million mothers dying in childbirth because they lack access to health care, multiple forms of environmental degradation, etc. As horrendous and as widespread as these problems are, they are actually manageable, if you dare to look them in the eye...[T]he more you study what can be done and what can’t be done, how to do it and where to put the priorities, the more you realize something absolutely shocking: we’ve arrived at a situation today where we are truly so rich that if we ever really made a serious effort to address these problems, not only could we tremendously improve the state of the world, but actually it is not crazy for us to think about having within our power, uniquely for the first time in the history of the world, the chance to end extreme poverty within a generation.”

Jeffrey Sachs is the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is also Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan on a group of poverty alleviation initiatives called the Millennium Development Goals. Prior to joining Columbia, Sachs spent over twenty years at Harvard University, most recently as Director of the Center for International Development. Sachs became internationally known in the 1980s for his work advising governments in Latin America, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Asia and Africa on economic reforms. He is author or co-author of more than two hundred scholarly articles, and has written and edited many books. Sachs was recently elected into the Institute of Medicine and is a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. A native of Detroit, Michigan, Sachs received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard University.

Nicholas Lemann

Dean, Journalism School at Columbia University; author and New Yorker staff writer

“What Should Columbia Scholars Do with Their Lives?”

March 31, 2004

Nicholas Lemann was born, raised and educated in New Orleans. He began his journalism career there as a 17 year-old writer for an alternative weekly newspaper, the *Vieux Carre Courier*. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College in 1976, where he concentrated in American History and Literature and was President of the Harvard Crimson. After graduation, he worked at *The Washington Monthly*, as an associate editor and then managing editor; at *Texas Monthly*, as an associate editor and then executive

editor; at *The Washington Post*, as a member of the national staff; at *The Atlantic Monthly*, as national correspondent; and at the *New Yorker*, as staff writer and then *Washington Correspondent*. On September 1, 2003, he became dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. His selection marked the end of a process of reexamination of the school's mission conducted by a national task force convened by the university's President, Lee Bollinger.

Lemann has published four books, most recently [The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How It Changed America](#) (1991), which won several book prizes; and [The Big Test: The Secret History of the American Meritocracy](#) (1999), which helped lead to a major reform of the SAT. He is now at work on a book about the Reconstruction period in American history. Lemann has written widely for such publications as *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Republic*, *Slate*, and *American Heritage*; worked in documentary television with Blackside, Inc., Frontline, the Discovery Channel, and the BBC; and lectured at many universities. He serves on the boards of directors of the Authors Guild, the Center for the Humanities at the City University of New York Graduate Center, and the Society of American Historians, and is a member of the New York Institute for the Humanities. He lives in Pelham, New York, with his wife, Judith Shulevitz, a critic and author, and four children.

Michael Anderson

Editor and critic, New York Times

“In Search of the Private Intellectual”

April 20, 2004

What exactly is a “public intellectual?” Is there an alternative – a model of a private intellectual? And why does any of this matter? Michael Anderson explored the history of the intellectual in American public life during the 20th century and what part the role will play in 21st century. Michael Jon Anderson was born in Chicago, Ill., on September 13, 1952, and attended public schools there. He was student at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University from 1970 to 1975, receiving his Bachelor of Science in journalism in 1974 and his Master of Science in journalism in 1975. While at Northwestern he was a staff member on the student newspaper, *The Daily Northwestern*, for three years, serving as editor-in-chief during his senior year. He was awarded his graduate degree cum laude, was inducted into Kappa Tau Alpha, the journalism honorary society, and received the Harrington Award as outstanding graduate student. In 1997, he was one of the inaugural inductees into Medill's Hall of Achievement.

Anderson joined the staff of *The Chicago Sun-Times* upon graduation in June 1975 and worked there until June 1982. During his tenure at the newspaper he was a general assignment reporter, education writer, financial writer and financial news editor. In 1978, he received the Jacob Scher Award for investigative reporting, presented by the Chicago chapter of Women in Communication, for a series on child welfare services in Illinois. In 1982, Anderson joined the graduate division of Medill as an assistant professor, following a year of adjunct teaching. He taught the Urban Reporting of Public Affairs course. In 1984, Anderson worked for *The Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*, where his second assignment was coverage of the largest mass murder in American history, the story of James Huberty, who killed 22 people after seizing a McDonald's restaurant in San Diego. Anderson then moved to *The Los Angeles Times*, where he worked on their electronic publishing prototype, on the financial copy desk, the suburban copy desk and as suburban sports news editor. Anderson joined The Book Review of *The New York Times* in 1988 and is working there currently. In this position, he selects books for review, solicits reviewers, edits reviews and aids in production. Among the writers he has worked with are Robert Pinsky, Edna O'Brien, John Le Carré and John Irving. He currently is writing the first biography of the playwright Lorraine Hansberry, who wrote “A Raisin in the Sun.” Anderson is a fellow of Calhoun College at Yale University, where he teaches a seminar on literary criticism.

Samantha Power

Lawyer and Human Rights Activist; Pulitzer Prize winner

“American Foreign Policy, Human Rights and the Age of Genocide”

April 29, 2004

Samantha Power has recently published [A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide](#), winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction and National Book Critics Circle Award. [A Problem from Hell](#) is a scholarly analysis of America’s policy towards genocide in the 20th century, asking the haunting question: Why do American leaders who vow “never again” repeatedly fail to stop genocide? Drawing upon exclusive interviews with Washington’s top policy makers, newly declassified documents, and her own reporting from the modern killing fields, Power traces the United States’ policy toward genocide: the Turks’ slaughter of the Armenians in 1915, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Saddam Hussein’s gassing of the Kurds, the ethnic cleansings of Yugoslavia and the Hutus’ genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda. In addition to an examination of the policies which allowed these massacres to continue unabated, Ms. Power’s work also traces the historical origins of the idea of genocide and offers many stories of the individuals who fought valiantly – if unsuccessfully – for American intervention.

Samantha Power is the Executive Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy and Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Power moved to the United States from her native Ireland in 1979, and she attended Yale University and Harvard Law School. She was a journalist for *US News*, *World Report* and *The Economist*, for whom she covered the war in Yugoslavia from 1993 to 1996. In 1996 she joined the International Crisis Group (ICG) as a political analyst, helping launch the organization in Bosnia. Her article on the Rwandan genocide, “Bystanders to Genocide,” appeared in the September 2001 issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*. Samantha Power also edited, with Graham Allison, [Realizing Human Rights](#).

SCHOLAR FORUMS 2003-2004

Nathaniel Nesmith: “Freelance Writing”

Freelance writer (The New York Times, The Yale Review, The Dramatist, and African American Review, among others); PhD candidate, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Chanda Bennett: “Post Graduation Forum”

PhD candidate, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; Emerita CUSP Graduate Student Mentor

CUSP Administration: “Fellowship Opportunities”

Center for Career Education: “NPO’s and Other Internship Opportunities”

Scholar Advisory Board: “Open Forum”

CULTURAL OUTINGS 2003-2004

- “Avenue Q” (John Golden Theatre)
- “Wicked” (Gershwin Theatre)

- **“Henry IV”** (Vivian Beaumont Theatre, Lincoln Center)
- **“The Exonerated”** (Bleecker Theatre)
- **“Drowning Crow”** (Biltmore Theatre)
- **“King Lear”** (Vivian Beaumont Theatre, Lincoln Center)

RESPONSIBILITIES: 2003

The Spring 2003 semester theme, "Responsibilities," touches upon responsibility to the local and global community, and delves into a discussion of how one's professional actions can be informed by an authentic sense of responsibility that extends beyond the realm of one's own work. The events examine one's role in—and multiple responsibilities to—society, culture and the environment.

SPEAKER SERIES 2003

Harold O. Levy

Author; Former Chancellor, New York City Schools

“Challenges of Urban Public Education”

February 6, 2003

Mr. Levy discussed why the problems confronting urban public education are not intractable. He discussed the “Leave No Child Behind Act” and what political measures are needed to improve the schools. Harold O. Levy was the New York City Schools Chancellor, a post he had held for approximately three years until 2002. Prior to becoming Chancellor he had served as Citigroup's Director of Global Compliance, where he was responsible for coordinating the work of 1500 compliance professionals at Citibank, Salomon Smith Barney, Travelers Insurance and CitiFinancial. He had previously served as a member of the New York State Board of Regents and as Chairman of the New York City Commission of School Facilities. He has a BS and JD from Cornell University and an MA from Oxford. He also has honorary doctorates from Bard, Baruch and St. Francis colleges.

Regina Palumbo

Associate General Counsel and Vice President, Goldman, Sachs & Co

David P. Roye, Jr., MD

Director of Pediatric Orthopaedics, New York Children's Hospital; Livingston Professor of Pediatric Orthopaedics, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Howard Zucker, MD, JD

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health of the United States

“The Birth of the NGO: The Children of China Pediatrics Foundation”

February 26, 2003

**This presentation included a screening of a documentary on the CCPF*

How do non-profit organizations come to life? How is one person's vision transformed into an organization with ties to the American and Chinese medical communities, reliant on numerous corporate and individual sponsorships? The panel presented the story of how this organization was born, and how it continues to expand. CCPF is planning to return to Harbin for a fifth mission in spring 2003, running two operating rooms and performing surgery on over 100 children. The Children of China Pediatrics Foundation (CCPF) was founded four years ago to provide direct medical treatment for disabled children in China's orphanages. Each year, teams of American pediatric surgeons go to China to perform surgeries on orphans to correct disfiguring birth defects and disabilities. Over 180 operations have been performed by volunteer doctors, nurses, and medical technicians, with the use of donated medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, and means of transportation.

Currently Associate General Counsel and Vice-President for Goldman, Sachs & Co., Regina Palumbo graduated from Columbia University School of Law where she was a Harlan Fiske Stone

Scholar. Gina Palumbo has two young daughters, one of whom she adopted in China, and who inspired her to create and develop the CCPF.

David Roye is the Director of Pediatric Orthopaedics at the New York Children's Hospital and the Livingston Professor of Pediatric Orthopaedics at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. A native of Oklahoma, his BA is from the University of Oklahoma. He attended Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he graduated with an MD in 1975. His subsequent training included a surgical internship at the Roosevelt Hospital in New York City, Orthopedic Surgery at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and a Pediatric Orthopedic fellowship at the University of Toronto Hospital for Sick Children. He has been at Columbia and at Babies and Children Hospital since 1980. Dr. Roye has had special interest in the treatment of scoliosis and correction of spinal deformity in children, and his published research included articles on scoliosis, clubfeet, hip disease, and pediatric quality of life measures. Dr. Roye has a long-standing interest in providing medical services and teaching in developing countries. He has participated annually in overseas medical delivery since 1987 and has taught and operated in Kenya, Romania, and China. Experience treating orphans in Romania led the Royes to adopt a little girl, age 2, from a Romanian orphanage. At age nine, Elena is a loving addition to the household. Dr. Roye's wife, Dr. Carol Roye, is a pediatric nurse practitioner who has a dual appointment in the School of Nursing and the School of Public Health at City University of New York Hunter College. They have six children and three grandchildren (with two more on the way; Elena became an aunt at age four!). Helping his wife with the busy household has been Dr. Roye's primary avocation; however, he has found time to become an avid cyclist. He frequently travels to meetings and visiting professorships with a bicycle in tow. He says it is the best way to see a new place. David Roye believes it is the duty of this rich and diverse country to provide our world neighbors with the resources, skills, and education to care for their children. The mission of CCPF, providing care to those least likely to receive care is a compelling one, and has led Dr. Roye to commit more of his time and resources to that mission.

Howard Zucker is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health of the United States. He received his B.S. from McGill University and while in college worked with NASA astronauts at MIT designing Space Shuttle zero-G experiments. He received his M.D. from George Washington University School of Medicine at 22 becoming one of America's youngest doctors. Zucker trained in pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Hospital, anesthesiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, pediatric critical care medicine and pediatric anesthesiology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, pediatric cardiology at Children's Hospital Boston, Harvard Medical School and served on the Yale faculty. Zucker was Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics & Anesthesiology at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons prior to government service. He directed Columbia's Pediatric ICU and supervised design of its award-winning critical care complex. He holds a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law and a LL.M. from Columbia Law School as a James Kent Scholar. Zucker won a White House Fellowship in 2001-02 and worked for Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson. Honors include ABC News' Person of the Week, Columbia pediatrics Teacher of the Year, and is listed in "Best Doctors in America" and "Who's Who in the World." He was on the Little Hearts Foundation board, founded the Terre Verte Foundation, mentored at-risk children for the Gorilla Press Project, traveled to China to help orphans, and consulted for the American Museum of Natural History' Genomic Revolution exhibit. He enjoys writing and illustrating children's books and is presently working on a medical documentary. Zucker's work in government has involved a variety of issues, among which are biotechnology, preventive health initiatives, the medical reserve corps, global health issues, and bioterrorism.

Bruce Robbins, PhD

Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

“How to Describe an Atrocity: *Midnight's Children*”

March 3, 2003

Through Salman Rushdie's masterpiece, Midnight's Children, Professor Robbins explored the responsibilities of the writer as witness, responsibilities which are more complicated and difficult than they seem. How does the writer's role relate to our own responsibilities as spectators of – and participants in – the global and local histories we see on the media and in real life, too? Midnight's Children will serve as a vehicle to explore these questions of remembrance, creation, and experience.

Bruce Robbins was born in Brooklyn and educated at Harvard with a Ph.D. dissertation on servants in the novel. He taught for 8 years in Switzerland at the Universities of Geneva and Lausanne, then came back to the US and worked from 1984 to 2001 at Rutgers. He is currently Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia. He has written books on professionalism and on cosmopolitanism, and on the public sphere. His work on the ethical and moral obligations of intellectuals places him among the forefront of academics whose scholarly works strive to shape public discourse. As he writes in Feeling Global: Internationalism in Distress (NYU Press, 1999), the most "pertinent questions are [...] what you live for, how you live, what you eat, whose children you take care of, who takes care of yours—all the ways in which the personal, as Cynthia Enloe has put it, is international." His wife works at the UN and he has 2 children—one, a graduate of Columbia College and a John Jay Scholar.

Klaus Lackner

PhD, Ewing-Worzel Professor of Geophysics in Earth and Environmental Engineering, Columbia University

“Environmental Responsibilities: Sustainable Development and the Role of Technology”

March 6, 2003

The Western World emerged from the turmoil of the last century in a state of unprecedented wealth, comfort and security. Unfortunately the transition was not worldwide; two billion people still lack the most basic amenities in life like clean water and access to electricity. The developed nations have a responsibility to assure that sustainable development succeeds. A complication in this effort is that the West has built its wealth on technologies that are unsustainable if applied on a global scale. This could pit developed and developing countries against each other in a competition for energy and resources. To avoid such confrontation, the technologically advanced nations must take action by developing and sharing new technologies that permit a decent standard of living together with a sustainable way of life.

Klaus Lackner came to Columbia University in 2001, as the Ewing-Worzel Professor of Geophysics in the Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering. After receiving his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of Heidelberg in 1978, he held postdoctoral positions at the California Institute of Technology and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center before joining Los Alamos National Laboratory in 1983 as a member of the Theoretical Division. In recent years he also served as the Acting Associate Laboratory Director for Strategic and Supporting Research, representing roughly a third of Los Alamos National Laboratory. Klaus Lackner's scientific career started in the phenomenology of weakly interacting particles. He studied the chemical interactions of fractionally charged particles with ordinary matter. In Los Alamos National Laboratory, he became involved in hydrodynamic and fusion related research and later in automation and energy related issues. Presently he is working on innovative approaches to energy issues of the future, developing environmentally acceptable technologies for the use of fossil fuels.

Joan Helpern

International Fashion Leader and Entrepreneur; Founder and CEO, “Joan and David”

“Following One’s Muse and Fitting It onto the World Scene: Business Ethics and Moral Responsibility”

March 26, 2003

Joan Helpern conducted an informal talk on how she became who she is: the motivating forces that inspired her and the innate urge she feels to share her vision with others—her road from social psychologist to businesswoman to philanthropist. An international fashion leader and entrepreneur known as “the Joan of Joan and David,” Joan Helpern—even as an undergraduate—saw no reason to choose between her many interests. She majored in Psychology, Economics and English at Hunter, received her Master’s at Columbia in Social Psychology and Economics, and completed all but the thesis in the doctoral program at Harvard in an interdisciplinary field of business and education. Before entering and changing the fashion world, she created and supervised major new nationwide programs in the fields of psychology and child development within the public schools and universities. Founder and CEO of Joan and David for over thirty years, she wore many hats. For the first fifteen, it was she who designed all products, all advertising campaigns, established the image and direction of the company, and directed merchandising of over 200 stores and boutiques worldwide, bypassing mass marketing and focusing on lifestyle, climate, and using creative, non-traditional methods of problem-solving and management with a focus on inclusion. Joan and David as a company was from its inception widely recognized for its innovative working conditions, methodology, and commitment of its staff to the community.

Joan serves on the Women’s leadership Board of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Management, and is a founding member of the committee of 200, an organization of leading businesswomen that leverages the success, power, and influence of women in the global economy. Besides the Business Council for Peace, Joan is involved in Women Waging Peace, the Council of Women Leaders, the Council of Fashion Designers of America, and the Women’s Campaign Fund. She is known for her knowledge of and lifetime involvement in human rights and equal opportunities issues. Since 2002 Joan Helpern has been Adjunct Professor and Executive in Residence at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). Joan finds inspiration in her grandmother, a poet, who started a fashion and insurance business in the 1800s. Her true mentor, however, although she died when she was 15, was her mother because she was never satisfied with limited possibilities.

MODERN CHALLENGES: 2002

The Fall 2002 semester series addresses the challenges of growing up in the twenty-first century—in the family, in the City and in the world through the theme, "Modern Challenges."

SPEAKER SERIES 2002

Susan Villani, MD

Medical Director of School Programs, Kennedy Krieger Institute; Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

“Growing Up in the Information Age: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”

September 26, 2002

Dr. Villani described the research of the past decade regarding the impact of the media on shaping values, attitudes, and behaviors of children and adolescents. Her presentation covered all forms of media: movies, television and music videos, rock music, video and computer games. She also discussed the growing concerns about the impact of American exported media on the global community.

Susan Villani is a child and adolescent psychiatrist who currently works as Medical Director of School Programs at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, a premier organization that studies disorders of the brain in children, located in Baltimore, MD. She is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and active in national professional organizations. She has lectured internationally for the Soros Foundation and the World Health Organization. As a working professional and mother of two teenagers, she combines professional knowledge with practical experience to present information that is highly relevant to everyday life.

Daniel B. Polin

Founder, Great Projects Film Company; Emmy-award nominated and Academy-award winning producer

“Bridging New York (Great Projects: The Building of America)”

October 9, 2002

Eleven major bridges united the islands that make up New York City and connect the great metropolis to the rest of the nation. One engineer is responsible for more than half of them, yet hardly anyone knows his name. “Bridging New York,” which premiered on PBS in July of 2002 as part of the series “Great Projects: The Building of America,” tells of Othmar Ammann, who came to America as a graduate of Swiss engineering schools and became the twentieth century’s greatest bridge engineer. His is a dramatic story of vision, persistence, and leadership that provides an unusual take on New York City’s history in the last century.

Daniel B. Polin, who founded Great Projects Film Company in 1988, has been producing documentary films for two decades, primarily for public television. His PBS projects in 2002 included “Media Matter,” “Resistance: Untold Stories of Jewish Partisans,” the four-part “Great Projects: The Building of America,” and “America Rebuilds: A Year at Ground Zero.” His films have won an Emmy and have been nominated for an Academy Award. Polin graduated from Johns Hopkins University and now lives on Manhattan’s Upper West Side with his wife and three children.

Pamela Sicher Cantor, MD

Founder and President, Children’s Mental Health Alliance

“How Children, Families and Schools Recover from 9/11”

October 17, 2002

Dr. Cantor addressed the issues faced by children in New York City after 9/11. She discussed the findings of her study, which focuses on the impact of the 9/11 tragedy on children. She also highlighted the implications of the first anniversary of the event.

Pamela Cantor is the Founder and President of Children's Mental Health Alliance. The Children's Mental Health Alliance (CMHA), founded in 1994, is a not-for-profit organization that strives to directly affect the mental and general well-being of children and their families in the United States and abroad. Dr. Cantor's professional activities reflect a long-standing interest in the public health response to issues of children's mental health. More recently, Dr. Cantor and the staff of CMHA have led the Partnership for Recovery in New York City schools, a collaborative effort formed with the New York City Board of Education. Dr. Cantor is also the co-director of the Eastern European Child Abuse and Child Mental Health Project. Working with child psychiatrists and psychologists, pediatricians and educators throughout the world, the Eastern European Child Abuse and Child Health Project has established non-governmental organizations in 12 countries in Eastern Europe that are currently functioning as resources for technical assistance in those developing democracies. Dr. Cantor's interest in community mental health also led to the formation of the New York City Community Partnership, another program of the Children's Mental Health Alliance, which supports small, hands-on, community-based organizations that provide direct services for high-risk children and their families in the South Bronx.

Jennifer Jo, Erin Moriarty and Mariana van Zeller

Producers of "Childhood Interrupted"; Alumnae of the Journalism School at Columbia University

"Childhood Interrupted"

November 13, 2002

Every year thousands of children come to the United States alone seeking asylum. Fleeing war, torture, and abuse in their homelands, they arrive here only to be held by the INS in detention centers, juvenile jails, and, sometimes, adult prisons. Through the dramatic stories of the children themselves, "Childhood Interrupted" captures the experiences of the youngest and most vulnerable people seeking solace on America's shores.

"Childhood Interrupted" was produced by Jennifer Ho, Erin Moriarty, and Mariana Van Zeller while they were students at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. Before coming to Columbia, Jenny worked in documentary films for five years in the United States and Central America. Erin worked as a print journalist for three years in the United States and Asia. Mariana worked as a broadcast journalist for three years in Europe.

Nicholas Cunningham, MD

Emeritus Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Clinical Public Health, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University; Co-founder, Presbyterian Hospital Therapeutic Nursery

"What's Right But Usual Wrong with International Health and How to Fix It"

November 21, 2002

International health is what the First World calls its efforts to help the Third World to lower mortality and improve health. Mortality is lower but health has improved only where societies have moved from third- to second-world status. So let's ask: WHY—the major multinational health campaigns of the past half-century largely failed, using Nigeria and Ethiopia as examples. WHAT—has worked and why: e.g. Kerala, Ding Xian, Peru, and Jamkhed. HOW—we can and must apply what we have (or should have) learned NOW!

Nicholas Cunningham is Emeritus Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Clinical Public Health at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. He graduated from the Thacher School, Ojai, CA, and from Harvard College (1950) and went on to receive an M.D. (1955) at Johns Hopkins University, his Diploma in Tropical Health (1965) from the University of London, and his Doctor of Public Health (1977) from Johns Hopkins. The Peace Corps took him (as the first volunteer MD) to Togo, West Africa, early in his career. Since then he has had extensive experience in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo, Burundi, and, for the past 10 years, Ethiopia. In 1980, he co-founded the Presbyterian Hospital Therapeutic Nursery, later becoming its director. For this, in 1993, he was given a United Nations Environmental Programme Award. More recently, Dr. Cunningham has been associated with an interdisciplinary team working with the Open Society Institute to help new countries of Eastern Europe develop services to protect children. In November 1988, he returned from a mission to Baghdad to assess the effects of economic sanctions on women and children in Iraq.

SCHOLAR FORUMS 2002-2003

Susan Stewart: “ROOTed”,
Director, Intercultural Resource Center

Hedda Matza-Haughton: “Laugh for the Health of It” Workshop

Cynthia Duarte, PhD: “Summer Opportunities Workshop”
Emerita CUSP Graduate Student Mentor

Cynthia Duarte, PhD: “Applying to Graduate and Professional School”
Emerita CUSP Graduate Student Mentor

CUSP Administration: “Fellowship Opportunities”

Columbia Stressbusters: “Stressbusters”

CULTURAL OUTINGS 2002-2003

- **“Harlem Song”** (Apollo Theatre)
- **“Proof”** (Walter Kerr Theatre)
- **“Little Ham”** (John Houseman Theatre)
- **“The Nutcracker”** (New York State Theatre, Lincoln Center)
- **“Flower Drum Song”** (Virginia Theatre)
- **“Midnight's Children”** (Apollo Theatre)
- **“Vincent in Brixton”** (John Golden Theatre)
- **“Book of Days”** (Peter Norton Space)

SPEAKER SERIES 2001-2002

Amy Rubin, Stefan Knerricht and Michael Ray

Alumni, Columbia University School of Journalism; Winners of BNN TV.com Video Journalism Award

“From Third Reich to Third Generation”

October 11, 2001

**This presentation included a screening of the film “From Third Reich to Third Generation.”*

The film, “From Third Reich to Third Generation,” follows the relationship between a young German descendant of a soldier in Hitler’s Wehrmacht and a 101 year-old Holocaust survivor who is too frail to leave his New York City apartment. The film is the award-winning Master’s thesis of Amy Rubin, Stefan Knerricht, Michael Rey. Following the screening, the three producers fielded questions from the students about history, xenophobia, racism, war, the Holocaust, education, the role of art in responding to and recovering from tragedy, intergenerational and transnational relations. The public was also interested in discussing the technical aspect of documentary production and the producers’ more recent role in transforming this 30 minute documentary into a full-length television film (which they had just completed). Students wanted to know the personal background and motivations of these three alumni both in terms of producing this film and of pursuing a formal education in journalism. Through the discussion, the connections between personal and professional motivations came to life.

Amy Rubin , Stefan Knerricht, and Michael Rey are alumni of (Columbia School of Journalism. In 2001, the three won the BNN TV.com Video Journalism Award for this film.

Robin Bell

Director, ADVANCE Program at The Earth Institute, Columbia University

“Uncovering the Hidden Secrets of the Hudson River”

October 12, 2001

**This event took place on location at the Lamont Doherty Observatory*

The presentation followed the scope and goals of the IRI, a new component of Lamont (as of 2001), which houses under the same roof hard core scientists, economists, anthropologists, and other social scientists with the goal to study simultaneously the science of climate changes and its “human”—social, political, cultural—implications and ramifications in conjunction with the scientist’s responsibility in his or her research. Robin Bell guided the Scholars through the Lamont labs, which includes the world’s largest ocean core library, explaining to the group the different sciences (dendrochronology, glaciology, vulcanology, etc), and stopping on the way to pick some apples on the estate. Robin Bell’s presentation of her work mapping the bottom of the Hudson River underscored the inevitable/necessary interdisciplinary aspect of her purely scientific research. Her discoveries put her in contact with historians, government personnel, other scientists, the Coast Guard, the City etc. The tour ended with a presentation by a colleague of Robin Bell’s, glaciologist Michael Studinger, on his team’s recent research on Antarctica’s largest ice-covered lake.

Robin Bell is the Director of the ADVANCE program at the Earth Institute. She is also a Doherty Senior Research Scientist at Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, where she directs major research programs on the Hudson River and Antarctica. Dr. Bell has studied the mechanisms of ice sheet collapse and the chilly environments beneath the Antarctic ice sheet, including Lake Vostok, and she has led seven major aero-geophysical expeditions to Antarctica. After receiving her undergraduate degree from Middlebury College in Vermont, she built a 24-foot dory, which she sailed and rowed down the Hudson River past Lamont and Columbia on to Woods Hole where she worked for several years. Returning to the Hudson River Valley, she received her doctorate in marine geophysics from Columbia

University. Presently she is chair of the National Academy of the Sciences Polar Research Board and Vice Chair of the International Planning Group for the International Polar Year.

Jason Kahner

Senior Vice President and Director of Marketing, Foote Cone & Belding, New York office

“Morals and Ethics of Advertising”

November 14, 2001

Based on the viewing of specific television commercials, Jason Kahn led a lively discussion that touched upon the following topics:

- What are people’s perceptions of advertising agencies?
- Is advertising necessary? Evil? Brainwashing?
- Does it create unnecessary needs?
- What are the rules and regulations monitoring the advertising industry?
- What is the role of public opinion in the lifespan of a commercial?
- What is the social responsibility of advertising?
- Does subliminal advertising exist?
- Is there stereotyping in advertising?
- What is the language of advertising? How does one study it?
- September 11, 2001: what was the response of the advertising world?

Through the use of the Socratic method, Kahner was able to have the students’ comments and experiences lead into the discussion of the topics he wanted to cover. Throughout the discussion, different fields of study were touched upon, including psychology, economics, politics, sociology, the study of cultures, history, art, and the use of language.

Evelyn Moggio and Miguel Ortiz

Interpreters, United Nations

“The Interpreters: A Historical Perspective”

November 28, 2001

** The presentation included the screening of “The Interpreters: A Historical Perspective”*

“The Interpreters: A Historical Perspective,” a 50 minute, award-winning documentary produced on the occasion of the United Nations’ 50th anniversary, shows the history of the United Nations as seen through the lens of the conference interpreter. The film also covers the evolution of interpretation from consecutive (used during the first session of the United Nations) to simultaneous (first implemented during the Nuremberg trials) and now to beamed satellite simultaneous interpretation, interviews with those original interpreters as well as images of the role and responsibilities of current interpreters. The film is structured around an organic connection between defining historical moments and the evolving profession that responded to advances in technology, emergence of new issues and concerns that brought on the need for new terminology, and the increase in United Nations membership.

Evelyn Moggio produced the film and is an interpreter at the United Nations. Miguel Ortiz is an interpreter at the United Nations as well.

Arlene Morgan, Zahir sachedina, Carol Nunnelly, Eve Burton, Tom Rosenstiel, James Carey, Evan Cornog

Panel Participants

“Protecting Civil Liberties: Roles and Responsibilities of the Press”

December 7, 2001

This event was divided into two sessions. This first panel focused on the profession of journalism – what qualities, strengths, personality traits are sought out by the profession. Scholars heard from the panelists that journalism is about being insatiably curious about the world and turning that curiosity into good stories and into helping citizens be informed and thus improve their lives. Like any other profession, journalism seeks out people who know how to think – no matter what their educational background – people with an open, unaligned mind. Journalism is the way that communities talk to one another and learn about themselves. This requires from the journalist that he/she master the craft of writing. Panelists discussed how journalism evolved out of the enlightenment, and gave historical examples on how one cannot separate democracy from journalism. Magazine journalism and book writing were discussed as specific forms of journalism, with examples taken from *New Yorker* magazine: the greatest coverage of momentous historical events, such as the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement among others appeared in the *New Yorker*. Magazines offer the attraction of blending the “juice” of news cycle with more time to check facts and hone prose. Magazine writing allows one not only to engage with the art and craft of writing, but also to deal with the world of ideas and content.

The University-wide panel that followed (which was video-taped for the Columbia website) was moderated by Tom Rosenstiel, and featured Eve Burton, James Carey, and Carol Nunnelle. The panelists held an animated debate on the risks and responsibilities of the press in defending the First Amendment – in particular in times of crisis. The discussion focused on the relationship between the press and the government, on the need for the press to see itself as an instrument that orchestrates all liberties, not simply that protects the liberty of the press, on the concern with increased commercialization, the trivialization of culture, and the risk that comes from the selling of the press to the entertainment industry. The panelists underscored the journalist’s role as one not of activist but rather of committed observer, and stressed that the freedom of the press in no way guarantees that the reporter will be right: it just guarantees that the story will not go away.

Arlene Morgan is an esteemed member of the CUSP Board of Advisors. For her biographical information please see our Board of Advisors’ page. Zahir Sachedina is the producer of ABC’s 6pm newscast with Peter Jennings and the Director of the Columbia University Workshop in Race and Ethnicity. Carol Nunnelle is the Managing Editor, *Birmingham News* and works with the Associated Press Managing Editors Roundtable Credibility Project. She is also a specialist on the history and politics of communications technology. Eve Burton is an expert on the First Amendment and the news industry. Tom Rosenstiel is the Director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism. James Carey is a professor at the Columbia School of Journalism. Evan Cornog is the Associate Dean, Columbia School of Journalism.

Donatella Lorch

U.S. Correspondent to Afghanistan embedded with Special Forces

“Life as a War Correspondent: Telling the Story of Wars, Refugees and Nation Building”

February 20, 2002

This event, co-sponsored with the International Media and Communications Program of Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs, consisted in an informal discussion on the role of a foreign correspondent. Donatella Lorch discussed the foreign correspondent’s relationship with politics (both domestic and foreign), with war and its victims (the displaced, the sick, the grieving, the imprisoned), and with American foreign policy. In Lorch’s case she spoke in particular of Afghanistan, Somalia (referring to the inaccuracy and accuracy of the film “Black Hawk Down”), the civil wars in Africa, and the role and responsibilities of the United Nations. She also reviewed the role and responsibility of journalism, the bias of international reporting here in the U.S., the difference between BBC and US-based reporting, and the inevitable risks of reporting (kidnapping, mob lynching, murder – with reference to Walls Street Journal’s Danny Pearl and Lorch’s 27 colleagues who died on the job). She defined the difference between print, broadcast and weeklies in terms of what kinds of stories can be covered, and from what

angle. Finally, Lorch highlighted the role of the United States and of other countries abroad – in particular the responsibility of the United States in constructing the infrastructure needed to ensure that Afghanistan sustain itself.

Donatella Lorch is one of five U.S. correspondents that recently returned from a trip to Afghanistan embedded with Special Forces.

David McKenna

Adjunct Professor, Columbia University School of the Arts; writer, actor, story consultant, guest artist

“Myth and the Movies: Revealing the Bare Bones”

March 12, 2002

During this presentation, David McKenna explored the mythic patterns that form the structure of storytelling. Nowhere are these patterns more evident than in contemporary film-making. The seminar translated the academic language of Joseph Campbell’s *Hero with a Thousand Faces* into a working vocabulary for film- and theater-makers. The lecture began with a discussion about the historical function of story-telling and myth-making. It included a description of the recurring characters (archetypes) which Jung refers to in “the collective unconscious.” Campbell’s “universal story” was presented, suggesting that virtually all narratives emanate from a single myth which artists infinitely vary to dramatize the story of human existence. The details of Campbell’s “universal story” were identified, as the “skeleton” of the myth. The myth presents a journey. It could be outward and physical from the comforts of home into a challenging new world. Or it could be inward into the heart, mind, and spirit. The archetypal hero faces twelve progressive steps—or “bones” of the skeleton—which exist, explicitly or otherwise, in all narratives. The lecture illustrated the abstract steps with specific details from Shakespeare’s *Henry V*, “Rocky,” and “Romancing the Stone.” The workshop itself became something of a “hero’s journey” as students were offered a way of thinking not only about the stories they see (and create), but also about the stories of their own lives. By the end of the lecture, student/story-tellers had been presented with a tool that could serve as both a creative and an analytical template. (The text which was referenced during the lecture was Christopher Vogel, *The Writer’s Journey*.)

David McKenna is a writer, actor, story consultant, guest artist, and adjunct faculty member at Columbia since the 1990s in the Film Division of the School of the Arts.

Angela Diaz

Director, Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center; Professor of Pediatrics

“Bio-Psycho-Social Spirituality Among Teens”

April 24, 2002

Angela Diaz presented a complete picture of adolescent health and of the growing importance of a holistic approach to health during teen years (between age 10 and 21). Mount Sinai’s is the largest adolescent health center in the nation. The Center is 34 years old and adopts a holistic approach based on cross collaboration (collaboration with the legal system, the jails, the community centers, the churches, the schools). Its goal is to promote health and prevent diseases. Teenagers are indeed the best health care consumers if they are properly approached and teen years are the most likely time to influence and change habits. The Mount Sinai Center does much in terms of health education and hosts a number of community-based programs (peer education, teaching, training and education and technical assistance, advocacy and health policy research). It takes \$10 million to run the program and, as Mount Sinai is experiencing a major health crisis, Angela Diaz is spending much time fundraising and working on influencing policy. Scholars understood the importance not only of passion and hard work, but of multiple and transferable skills to ensure the success of such an operation.

The Center fills a very important vacuum. Since our current health system is not designed for teens, we are witnessing an adolescent health crisis. There are too many barriers to services for these teens (money, access, transportation, confidentiality, shame, lack of information). Adolescents are the least insured as a group, and the number of uninsured is growing in the city, the state, and the nation. At the same time there is an increased demand for services. The thrust of the presentation was that physical health is a minute part of serving teens who, as a general population, tend to be physically well. In the case of teens, one must focus on the psychological and on behavior. Thus social context and spirituality are very important. Adolescent sexuality is where all the domains converge. It is so polarized, however, and overshadows everything about adolescents. After abortion it is one of the most controversial models. Precisely because the care is not merely physical, the physician is the least important person when working with teens; there must be a team at work. Services must be comprehensive and the scheduling must be adolescent-friendly. The physical environment must be respectful and designed for teens. The services must be holistic, comprehensive, integrated, and culturally sensitive. The more services in one place, the better. The relationship with the provider is most important, especially for those who have not had continuity in their lives: they need a sense of connectedness and belonging. Furthermore, adolescence is a transitional stage for religious development. There is no firm consensus on how religion and spirituality relate. 95% of the adolescents interviewed believe in God or Spirit, 29% pray alone frequently. As they get older, however, they become less religious. They start questioning adults, authority; and they begin their struggle for independence. Research shows that adolescents who are more spiritual tend to take fewer risks. One must therefore, in Dr. Diaz's view, incorporate religiousness and spirituality into adolescent health care. One should ask questions of the teens directly: for if one is comfortable asking the question, they are comfortable answering any question.

Erica Jong

Award-winning Author; Alumna, Barnard College and Columbia University

“The Writing Process—From *Fear of Flying* to *Sappho's Leap*--Where Do Ideals Come From? How Do Novels Grow Wings and Claws? How Do You Let Them Go Out into the World?”

April 27, 2002

**This event was co-sponsored with the Center on Women and Gender*

In an open, direct and passionate presentation, Erica Jong described how for her the process of creation happens in the dark, in the subterranean world. She starts with an image, a dreamlike visual image. She always wanted to write poetry and prose simultaneously and she always admired Nabokov's *Pale Fire*. She became interested in Sappho about whom nothing was known and yet who had given birth to schools of poetry although only fragments of her poetry survived. Jong was fascinated by the legends surrounding Sappho, by the fragments of her lyrics which had through the centuries given birth to the language and metaphors of erotic love. Very little is known about Sappho's civilization from a woman's point of view. So Jong wrote 1000 pages of picaresque adventures, beginning with the image of Sappho standing on a cliff about to leap into the sea. Sappho, as the legend says, suffered from unrequited love from a young man had met Aphrodite on earth as an old and wrinkled woman but had treated her as a young beautiful woman. The goddess, in exchange for such gallant and decent behavior, had given him an alabastron with a magic unguent that made him irresistible, endowed with never fading beauty and never fading potency. Jong began writing in the first person – as a woman about to jump into the sea. She had researched Greece and antiquity for months. Jong discussed the fear, turmoil and liberation she feels in the act of writing. E.L Doctorow says that writing novels is like driving at night: the headlights illuminate only as far as you are driving, but that is enough. And so, Jong says, she starts by having the pen loop over the page. She tries to be as free as she can – without a censor. In her view all composition problems are psychological ones: one must be free of self-exposure which creates problems. One must try to write as if no one would read you and you would never be published.

In one of her numerous anecdotes, Jong discussed the “technique” of writing. She recalled how Henry Miller would write 50 pages and only then would he maybe hear the “fetal heartbeat” (those pages were his warm up). In *Writing Down the Bones*, Natalie Goldberg says that you must start with “automatic writing” or “morning pages.” Heinrich Boll said that after the first 100 pages he sort of knew he had a book. As for herself, Jong gave up the PhD process because it was in her eyes all about reading books about books about books: she was scared of losing all her creativity. She started *Fear of Flying* from a totally different point of view (that of a man) and was told by her editor to go home and write a novel in the voice of her poems. She had to give herself permission to talk in the voice of a woman, give herself permission to be who she was. Jong explained that for her the problems of creation are shame and guilt. We are all very similar inside: if you get the voice inside your head right, it is the same as everyone else’s. It gets harder for her, however, with each book: she has to become innocent again. It gets harder for her to pretend that no one will ever see her book.

To write you need grit and tenacity to ignore the world: never share a book in progress with any member of your family of origin or your significant other: it makes you feel inhibited. When you have enough that the book is gelled, begin to share it. She warned the public to beware of writing seminars: competitive people will not want you to succeed. It is better to find honest and tender people. You need someone fiercely honest but very kind who sees your potential. When Jong started writing she had a box of 300 index cards, cards listing her rejections: she had made a pact with herself that when the box would be full, she would go get her PhD: she needed to know that she had an out. A lot of creativity, for Jong, is about forgiving yourself, and most of us are not good at that (we are constantly graded and rated). Creativity cannot be numerically quantified. Somehow you understand what you are meant to write, but you must give yourself a lot of rope. Writing is not done in a void. One is influenced by others. Read and reread the writer you love, she admonishes. Discover what is unique about their voices (she read and reread and deconstructed Salinger’s *Nine Short Stories*, although she never wrote short stories herself). You can learn style. You can learn to write by imitating the writers you like.

Another aspect of writing is language. W.H.Auden said: “A poet has to woo not only his Muse but Dame Philology.” When Jong was young, she would open dictionaries and open them to a page and choose words and then start a poem with them: these young poems were a bit contrived, but she was crazy about language. Jong simply has a love for language as a physical, edible thing. Once you have written, how do you let novels go out into the world? Jong has a terrible time allowing them to be exposed. She delays. Once gone, it won’t be hers anymore: people can put a price on it. And what if nobody wants it? She has to acknowledge to herself that her life and experiences are worth writing about.

The form of the book is the most ancient technology and very nearly perfect. The book has the power to have people dialogue with you. It is not a profession. At 2 cents/hour, it is the most insecure profession. Yet the need to write is the need to recreate the world in a more sympathetic form. The writer has that chance. The academic way of the world is analytical. The Creative way is much more subjective. Writers have to be narcissists. For Jong, who does not write journalism or biographies, stories have to come out of her own life and her own obsessions. It is not the plot. It is the feeling and the language. Writing, as is reading, is about communicating. Books are the most intimate of objects: you feel filled up by them. A book communicates with the internal part of yourself: it is one on one communication. Jong became a novelist because when she was a little girl, she would kiss the picture of the author when she finished reading the book. If a book can make someone feel less lonely, that is Jong’s goal. People/readers need to recognize themselves, remember their own humanity. It is a magical talent. The essential impulse of writer and reader is: I am not alone. When her writing is going well it feels like flying. Dream life and fantasy life are crucial. Jong insists that we are not only made of our daily life, but of our dreams and fantasies. And thus she exhorted the audience with closing comments: Nobody knows where the story begins. It doesn’t matter where you start: start anywhere. The process of writing changes it. Shaping the story comes later. Don’t be judgmental with yourself: writing is like playing scales. A novel demands that

you go into a trance, plumbing the unconscious. (see Philip Roth's *Ghost Writer* or *Counterlife*: the writer leads a solitary life, a life of isolation.) And above all, never personalize criticism.

Erica Jong is an esteemed member of the CUSP Board of Advisors. For her biographical information please see our Board of Advisors' page.

SCHOLAR FORUMS 2001-2002

Cynthia Duarte, PhD: "Research Agenda"

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- **"The Guys"** (Queens Theatre in the Park)
- **"Stones in his Pockets"** (Golden Theatre)
- **"Proof"** (Walter Kerr Theatre)
- **"Rent"** (Nederlander Theatre)
- **"Aida"** (Metropolitan Opera House)
- **"The Nutcracker"** (New York State Theatre, Lincoln Center)
- **"Sorrows and Rejoicings"** (Second Stage Theater)
- **"Shakespeare (Abridged)"** (Broadway Comedy Club)
- **"Porgy and Bess"** (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater)
- **"The Crucible"** (Virginia Theater)

CULTURAL OUTINGS 2000-2001

- **"Kiss Me Kate"** (Al Hirschfeld Theatre)
- **"Proof"** (Walter Kerr Theatre)