



## **FACULTY FELLOWSHIP PUBLICATION PROGRAM (FFPP) 2014-2015**

The Faculty Fellowship Publication Program (FFPP) is sponsored by the Office of the Dean for Recruitment and Diversity in order to advance CUNY's institutional commitment to diversity. This University-wide initiative assists full-time untenured CUNY faculty (assistant professors) in the design and execution of writing projects essential to progress toward tenure. These projects may include scholarly articles for juried journals and books for academic presses. This program provides 3 credit hours of course release time for the spring semester, a discipline-based writing group, and the guidance of a senior faculty member.

### **Academic Co-Directors**

**Bridgett Davis**, Professor, Baruch College, Department of Journalism and Creative Writing  
**Shelly Eversley**, Associate Professor, Baruch College, Department of English and American Literature

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

#### **Mentor**

**Bridgett Davis**, Professor, Baruch College, Department of Journalism and Creative Writing

#### **Fellows**

**Lisa R. Barry**, Assistant Professor, LaGuardia Community College, Department of Humanities  
*"Bitch Bad": Baring Blackface in Contemporary Hip-Hop Music Videos*

This study examines Lupe Fiasco's 2012 "Bitch Bad" to illuminate how he questions the messages that permeate hip-hop music and music videos and highlighting the very real-world implications of those messages. Situated within the theoretical perspectives of spectatorship, image studies, political economy of communication, and resistance, this close analysis of "Bitch Bad" illuminates the very subtle way the hip-hop industry reinforces blackface oppression and subjugation in a way that appears to celebrate the successes of those who "made it out of the 'hood," while at the same time perpetuating the most harmful stereotypes of Black men.

**Isabel Estrada**, Assistant Professor, City College of New York, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature

*Expanded Cinema in Spain: Media, Technology and Cyberspace in the Twenty-First Century*  
This book project examines a new generation of Spanish filmmakers that follow the main tenets of Jonas Mekas's (1964) and Gene Youngblood's (1972) conceptions of *expanded cinema*. They challenge film as

commercial entertainment for passive consumption; they subvert the hierarchical relationship between artists and audience by encouraging audience participation; and they reflect upon media while using cyberspace as a new channel of distribution. The preliminary corpus of my investigation includes works by María Cañas (1973- ), Julio Von Drove (1972- ), Kike Piñuel (1970- ), Isaki Lacuesta (1975- ), Sergio Oksman (1970- ) and Andrés Duque (1972- ).

**Thomas Ort**, Assistant Professor, Queens College, Department of History

*Memories of Resistance: How the Heydrich Assassination Became Good*

This is a proposal to pursue work on a new book project entitled *Memories of Resistance: How the Heydrich Assassination Became Good*. The book explores the curious transformation in postwar Czechoslovakia and today's Czech Republic of the memory of one of the most important and controversial acts of anti-Nazi resistance to take place on Czech soil during World War II: the assassination of SS General Reinhard Heydrich. Whereas in 1943 and for years thereafter, the assassination was widely remembered as a reckless and ill-conceived endeavor that threatened the very existence of the nation, by the end of the 1990s it came to be celebrated as the single most important and necessary act of Czech resistance.

**Robert Ostrom**, Assistant Professor, New York City College of Technology, Department of English

*Disputed Territory, Poems*

The poems in this manuscript will explore the usual: relationships, love, and death. However, they will also tackle political themes—the wars involving our country, the financial crises, the fall and rise of tyrannical leaders, and the various forms of oppression victimizing people. The book will investigate the different philosophies of the future, particularly presentism, the idea that both the past and the future are a construct. It is my hope that through FFPP, I'll be able to further study, merge and bridge these different themes.

**J. Ely Shipley**, Assistant Professor, Baruch College, Department of English

*"Playing Dead" A Lyric Essay*

Conceptually aligned with queer theories of temporality, "Playing Dead" is a lyric essay that collages fragments of memoir with the language of psychiatric and medical regimes at the site of an adolescent body that does not conform to a gender binary. Poetic techniques, such as associative leaps and juxtaposition, draw out supernatural resonances between the literature of pathology and the experience of gender dysphoria. This piece adds another pattern to the mosaic of the author's second book.

**Theresa Smalec**, Assistant Professor, Bronx Community College, Department of Communications Arts and Sciences

*Ron Vawter's Life in Performance*

My goal is to publish the first scholarly book about Ron Vawter (1948-1994). How did a soldier who claimed to have no training or prior interest in theatre become the legendary leading man of New York's acclaimed Wooster Group? Using interviews that I conducted from 2002-2008, I will debunk transmitted narratives, and analyze how Vawter's working-class military upbringing and homosexuality informed aesthetic and political choices he made onstage. Vawter's complex life exposes the challenges of writing biography, yet it also offers a unique perspective on an era of experimental theatre that spanned from the Vietnam War to the AIDS crisis.

## ENGLISH

### Mentor

**Shelly Eversley**, Associate Professor, Baruch College, Department of English and American Literature

### Fellows

**Melissa Coss Aquino**, Assistant Professor, Bronx Community College, Department of English  
*Reclaiming "Locas", Wild Girls, Witches and The Feminine Divine: Latina Characters in the "Borderlands"*  
*Embodying the Subjugated Wisdom of the Heroine's Journey*

Foucault's theory of "subjugated knowledges" and the Jungian concept of the archetypal (with great emphasis on Jungian psychoanalyst, Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Este's work on the wild feminine archetype) serve as a point of departure for examining the lost wisdom of the "wild feminine" retrieved through Jaime Hernandez's more than thirty-year graphic journey with embodied Latinas in *Locas/Love and Rockets* and Anecy Baez's *My Daughter's Eyes and Other Stories*. The work will explore the "borderlands" (geographic, cultural and spiritual) where lost or subjugated knowledge about healing, power, sexuality and identity are retrieved and practiced by Latina characters coming of age.

**Dionne Bennett**, Assistant Professor, New York City College of Technology, Department of African American Studies

*Race, Gender & Intellectual Authority: Lessons from Black Women's Studies*

This paper will explore the race and gender politics of how intellectual authority is performed within American cultural discourses. It will foreground how Black Women's studies and Black Women's media have engaged challenges related to intellectual racism and sexism and responded with strategies for performing intellectual agency and activism. It will argue that intellectual ability is one of the most contentious battlefields upon which many struggles of race, gender and power have been fought and that intellectual authority is a resource whose distribution is directly related to the social politics within which a range of cultural discourses are embedded.

**Inmaculada Lara Bonilla**, Assistant Professor, Hostos Community College, Department of Humanities

*Transforming the Autograph: 1980s Latina Life-Writing and Feminist Theory in the 21st Century*

Moving from memoiristic narrative to political diatribe, from autoethnography to poetry, from confession to history, Latina women's autobiographical writing published in the years following the seminal *This Bridge Called My Back* (1981) represents a robust literary body that expanded the anthology's original proclamation of radical feminism and transformed self-writing in the United States. My research focuses on two of the major full-length autobiographical volumes published by Latina authors in that decade: *Loving in the War Years* by Cherríe Moraga (1983) and *Getting Home Alive* by Rosario Morales and Aurora Levins Morales (1986). Through a comparative study and an assessment of these texts' connections to contemporary feminist theory, I seek to demonstrate how the authors' radically new visions of self-writing included theoretical implications that can be intimately linked with the neorealist turn in 21st-century feminism in the United States.

**Jungah Kim**, Assistant Professor, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Department of English  
*Guilt, Repentance, Forgiveness*

In Chang-rae Lee's *A Gesture Life*, fragmented memories of wartime crimes are woven into a story in which much of what is remembered is unforgivable, yet embedded in a narrative structure that evokes a quest for forgiveness. Through this retrospective blurring of the distinction between good and evil, the

novel, which looks back on the sexual enslavement of Korean "comfort women" during World War II, confronts the moral ambiguity of war. This paper illustrates the importance of Lee's novel in offering an "aporetic" moment of forgiveness that requires a radical confrontation between the guilty and the victim.

**William Orchard**, Assistant Professor, Queens College, Department of English

*Graphic Educations: Pedagogy, Politics, and the Latino/a Graphic Novel*

While examining Latina/o visual culture in many media, *Graphic Educations* focuses its attention on the graphic novel. I argue that the graphic novel is a form that captures anxieties about the political efficacy of two forms of cultural discourse: a literary discourse that is mediated by the university and a graphic or visual discourse that emerges in an array of "unofficial" locations. The project traces the case made for the significance of popular graphic arts, which are seen as articulating a distinct political pedagogy that re-orders social experience and defines new roles that Latinos may play in public life.

**Mary Phillips**, Assistant Professor, Lehman College, Department of African and African American Studies

*Black Power Feminism: The Leadership of Ericka Huggins and Elaine Brown in the Black Panther Party*

This research study provides an in-depth analysis on the participation of high-ranking women in the Black Panther Party (BPP), a grassroots political organization. I chart the rise in leadership of unknown women including Ericka Huggins and Elaine Brown and highlight their insights and perspectives on numerous topics such as self defense, education, electoral politics, and feminism. By showcasing the intersections of black power and black feminist politics illustrated through their experiences, this work complicates gender politics in the BPP. I uncover the existence of a black feminist theory and practice among some members in the BPP.

**Lara Saguisag**, Assistant Professor, The College of Staten Island, Department of English

*Drawing the Lines: Constructing Childhood and Citizenship in Progressive Era Comics Strips*

My project, titled "Drawing the Lines: Constructing Childhood and Citizenship in Progressive Era Comic Strips," examines how discourses of childhood and citizenship were expressed and intertwined in late nineteenth and early twentieth century comic strips. I demonstrate that the strips not only theorized childhood but also used the figure of the child to reinforce and complicate notions of who could claim membership in a modernizing, expanding nation. In the strips, images of childhood were deployed to simultaneously ridicule and redeem those who were viewed as outsiders or threats. Thus these visual-verbal texts gestured toward the rigidity and porousness of the lines drawn between "us" and "them."

## EDUCATION

### Mentor

**Amita Gupta**, Professor, The City College of New York, School of Education

### Fellows

**Collette Chapman-Hilliard**, Assistant Professor, The College of Staten Island, Department of Psychology

*Examining the Psychological Impact of Cultural Knowledge among Black College Students: A Qualitative Investigation*

Cultural knowledge is often highlighted as significant to fostering psychological resilience and supporting the overall mental health of Black people. However, despite the fact that cultural knowledge has been

demonstrated as theoretically significant to psychological health among Black people, very little research has directly examined the impact of cultural knowledge or explored the contexts in which cultural knowledge is fostered. The current study uses a qualitative approach to examine Black students' experiences with cultural knowledge in the classroom context. Findings from this investigation underscore students' experiences of consciousness-raising and empowerment as a result of cultural knowledge.

**Kevicha Echols**, Assistant Professor, Kingsborough Community College, Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

*Sexual Health Discourses in Sex Worker-Generated Publications*

The voices of sex workers in alternative print publications are worth exploring in order to understand their experiences as a marginalized group, and as a community having shown capacity to educate and advocate for their sexual health and human rights. These publications are important platforms for challenging myths and misinformation about persons engaged in sex work. A critical discourse analysis of sex worker-generated publications between 1980 and 2010 was conducted to explore how cultural and sociopolitical factors influence sex workers' experiences. This proposal provides insight into the discourses on sexual health in sex worker-generated publications

**Akiko Fuse**, Assistant Professor, Brooklyn College, Department of Speech Communication Arts and Sciences

*Finding Ways to Guide Underrepresented, Minority Students in Communication Sciences and Disorders for Academic and Career Success*

Why are the majority of graduate programs in Speech Language Pathology (SLP) significantly less diverse, thus resulting in less diverse contributions to the field of communication sciences and disorders? The aim of the current project was to identify needs and barriers of underrepresented undergraduates, increase awareness of challenges faced by culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) students, and explore ways to guide these students toward success. Based on study results, a mechanism to address challenging factors has been developed with a focus on helping minorities, thus increasing diversity in both graduate programs and in the field.

**May May Leung**, Assistant Professor, Hunter College, School of Public Health, Department of Nutrition

*Utilizing PhotoVoice to Understand Youth Perspectives of Their Food Environment*

PhotoVoice, a community-based participatory tool, provides marginalized populations opportunities for community engagement. This study's purpose was to understand perceived influences of food choices in youth from low-income NYC neighborhoods. Sixteen, primarily Hispanic youth, took photos to answer "What influences me to make healthy/unhealthy food choices?" The photos guided interviews and discussions. Preliminary results show: (1) Youth face barriers to healthy food environments; (2) Youth's food and health-related knowledge are inconsistent, and at times, inaccurate; (3) Youth suggested community and policy-level approaches to improve food environments. PhotoVoice could be effective for youth to reflect on personal food environments and identify opportunities for positive change.

**Jason Schneiderman**, Assistant Professor, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Department of English

*Queer Futurities*

This American understandings of the future and the relationship between childhood and adulthood, which I argue is the result of Feminist and Queer activism. project explores two distinct shifts in American culture. The first shift is the change in the logic of child protection with regards to the rights of LGBT people. After roughly sixty years of using "child protection" as the logic to exclude LGBT

from the public sphere, the last ten years has seen a complete reversal: "child protection" is now the logic for LGBT inclusion. The second shift is in

**Lori Ungemah**, Assistant Professor, Guttman Community College, Education

*Academic Segmented Assimilation: Assimilate for Success or Fail*

Public schools are more and more racially diverse, but how does this racial diversity affect school culture, curriculum development, and student academic success? This school-based ethnographic research project examines an inner-city high school in Brooklyn, New York City. A multiethnic school, the racial majority of the students in the building guided many aspects of the school, including the English curriculum. What this study found was that for a student to be academically and socially successful, a certain level of in-school assimilation to the school's racial majority was mandatory. This is called Academic Segmented Assimilation.

**Mohan Vinjamuri**, Assistant Professor, Lehman College, Department of Social Work

*Educating Social Work Students for Practice with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Populations*

Training social work students to effectively serve LGBT people is of increasing importance to educators. Few studies have elicited the voices of social work students about their learning and professional growth in this area. Drawing on the results of a qualitative study, this article describes the learning journeys of graduate social work students in a semester-long course on social work with LGBT individuals and families. The article illustrates how students' knowledge, attitudes and skills about LGBT populations evolved and the ways in which the assignments, instructional strategies and classroom environment facilitated their learning. Implications for social work pedagogy are highlighted.

## ENGLISH

### Mentor

**Nivedita Majumdar**, Associate Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Department of English

### Fellows

**Johannes Burgers**, Assistant Professor, Queensborough Community College, Department of English

*Embers in the Dark: Transnational Modernism and the Jewish Question*

This project investigates the concurrent emergence of literary modernism and anti-Semitic theory in Europe and America from the Dreyfus Affair (1894) to the Holocaust (1945). I argue that both movements were reacting to the same underlying cultural forces of dislocation and fragmentation, but did so in radically different ways. Anti-Semites increasingly sought totalizing logic to identify the absolutely iniquitous nature of the "Jew." As a reaction to anti-Semitism, modernists like Marcel Proust, James Joyce, Gertrude Stein, William Faulkner, and Robert Musil produced encyclopedic works demonstrating the fundamental instability of modern existence, and celebrated the constructed nature of identity in general and Jewishness specifically.

**Matthew Eatough**, Assistant Professor, Baruch College, Department of English

*Keynesian Literary History: A Model for Global Literary Studies*

This project proposes that Keynesian economic theory provides us with a model for imagining literary history in terms of structural readjustment and adaptation. My central claim is that Keynesian theory enables us to see globalization as a type of changeable structure shaped by collective groups' emotional states, and to see history as a non-linear alternation between these structural states. By reading literary history within this frame, we are able to see how specific genres perform a vital function for the capitalist world-system, as they manage to produce the affects that in turn maintain global economic structures. More important, such a perspective helps us to move away from linear models of literary history and toward a more discontinuous, structuralist model of literary history, one that fits more closely with recent work scholarship on the history of capitalism and modernity.

**Anupama Kapse**, Assistant Professor, Queens College, Department of Media Studies

*Film as Body Politic: Indian Cinema, The Early Years 1913-1939*

*Film as Body Politic: Indian Cinema, the Early Years 1913-39* is the first book to show how Indian cinema's first spectators became political subjects both spatially and imaginatively, with a capacity to mimic the nation. In contrast, Mahatma Gandhi's trenchant rejection of moviegoing framed cinema itself as a liquor-like vice that called for prohibition since it signified the public's insatiable appetite for moving images. While Gandhi's decrimal of cinema turned it into a perfect embodiment of a polluted body politic, cinema reinvented itself by appropriating the paradigm of Gandhian suffering, inviting film viewers to transform themselves into a constituency of respectable citizens.

**Natalie Marie Léger**, Assistant Professor, Queens College, Department of English

*Wonder and Revolution: Carpentier's Ontological Resistance to the West*

Alejo Carpentier's rendering of the Haitian Revolution as "marvelous" in *The Kingdom of this World* is a purposeful contradistinction to Columbus's iteration of the "marvelous" in the Americas, as the Revolution's wondrousness rests with its subversion of the ontological underpinnings of Western existence that Columbus' writings initiated. I therefore analyze Carpentier's *The Kingdom of this World* in relation to his narrative exploration of Columbus and the colonial encounter in his subsequent novel, *The Lost Steps*, as tragic iterations of wonder that reveal a commitment to rethinking the Americas beyond the dictates for thought ascribed to the region with its "discovery."

**Tram Nguyen**, Assistant Professor, Hostos Community College, Department of English

*Transnational Cartographies of Dissidence in Piercy, Atwood, and el Saadawi*

Speculative fiction is an important mode for articulating feminist resistance. In this essay, I examine the speculative novels of Marge Piercy, Margaret Atwood, and Nawal el Saadawi in relation to theories of globalization and feminist dissidence. Although these novels originated and exist in divergent ethnic and national contexts, it is my contention that important affiliations can be extrapolated in this cross reading. By transcending national, literary boundaries, it is possible to crystalize the mechanisms that proliferate oppression as well as to glean strategies for hope and resistance in this neo-liberal, globalized, hyper-capitalistic age.

**Sean Scanlan**, Assistant Professor, New York City College of Technology, Department of English  
*Radical Homesickness: Identity and Orientation Points in Pico Iyer's The Global Soul and Sir Alfred  
Mehran's The Terminal Man*

My article explores the memoirs of two displaced travelers whose stories provide evidence that anxieties associated with global mobility are heightened due to a loss of community anchors and social orientation points. The type of homesickness that I examine, radical homesickness, is activated when past memories collide with present identity tests. Iyer's class, national affiliation, and travel schedule allow him to exult his detachment. Mehran, however, is unable to move freely and he is barred from establishing a home; his narrative reveals the burden of detachment. Scholars of globalization and literature can benefit from a more rigorous understanding of how homesickness enables and disables people from remaking home.

**Danny Sexton**, Assistant Professor, Queensborough Community College, Department of English  
*Gender, Empire, and Authority: The Indian Rebellion and Matrimonial Causes Act in the British  
Imagination and Literature*

In 1857, two significant events occurred during the Victorian period. One was the Indian Rebellion and the other was the passing of the Matrimonial Causes Act. Both posed a threat to traditionally held views of gender, empire, and authority. This article examines not only these threats but also how these two events were a result of changing ideas of gender, empire, and authority. Furthermore, it explores the ways in which the two occurrences were viewed in the British imagination and literature, particularly Wilkie Collin's *The Moonstone* and Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Sign of Four*.

## ETHNIC & GENDER STUDIES

### Mentor

**Mojúbàolú Olufúnké Okome**, Professor, Brooklyn College, Department of Political Science

### Fellows

**Hara Bastas**, Assistant Professor, LaGuardia Community College, Department of Social Science  
*International Day of the Girl Child: Celebrations and Continued Challenges for Girls' Rights*

Within the sociology of children and youth, a feminist human rights analysis is used to describe the patterns of awareness, participation and support for the United Nations (UN) International Day of the Girl Child. Through the use of content analysis with the following three sets of documents, the data collectively demonstrates the complexity in the celebration of the girl child: 1) UN affiliated non-governmental organizations; 2) transnational NGO's; and 3) national community service organizations. The observance day globally exposes the social construction of social problems of the girl child while maintaining her advocacy and empowerment through girls' rights.

**Min Hee Go**, Assistant Professor, Brooklyn College, Department of Political Science  
*Behind the Name: Assimilation, Foreign Names and Voting Behavior of Asian Americans in New York City*  
As the United States becomes more diverse, there is a growing consensus that American and ethnic identities may coexist rather than replace each other. However, assimilation is believed to have a positive association with one's political engagement. Can one be assimilated into the American society economically and culturally but not politically? If this is the case, what does assimilation mean for democratic citizenship? This project seeks to address these questions by analyzing the patterns of voting behavior of Asian Americans in New York City. In particular, I examine the topic by using immigrants'

name as a simple yet important reference to assimilation in the American society.

**Stephanie Laudone Jones**, Assistant Professor, Borough of Manhattan Community College,  
Department of Social Science and Human Services

*Exploring Digital Representations of Race and Gender on Social Media*

This proposal draws from my dissertation research, which explores the construction of racial, gendered and generational identities on the social networking site, Facebook. Specifically, I am revising two dissertation chapters for publication, which I intend to complete under this fellowship. Using qualitative interviews and content analyses, my findings demonstrate the significance of new media like Facebook as a lens to understand contemporary constructions of race, and gender. The first chapter that I am expanding upon examines the ways Facebook users create, produce and “do race” and racism on the site. My research also shows that though men and women use Facebook equally, gender differences emerge in types of use. These findings reveal Facebook as a social object where boundaries and constructions of race and gender are reinforced and reproduced.

**Anne Kornhauser**, Assistant Professor, City College of New York, Department of History  
*Regime Change: A Conceptual History of American “Nation-Building” Since World War II*

Regime Change examines American thinking about the right of the United States to intervene in other countries, through occupation, invasion, or other military techniques, in order to bring about democratic change. This conceptual history of nation-building starts with the postwar occupations of German and Japan and ends with the 2003 war in Iraq. The project argues that the Cold War had the paradoxical effect of restraining American efforts at nation-building based on assumptions about the possibilities of democratic change in a bipolar world. The diffuse war on terror, by contrast, has brought back a bipartisan hubristic moralism in American foreign policy, primed by the neoliberal forays of the 1990s.

**Mara Lazda**, Assistant Professor, Bronx Community College, Department of History  
*Women’s NGOs in Latvia and the Shaping of National and Transnational Identities*

This article analyzes how women’s non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played a central role in integration and democratization in post-socialist Latvia. Since regaining independence in 1991, Latvia has drawn attention from policy makers and scholars because of tensions between ethnic Latvian and ethnic Russians. These tensions did not erupt in conflict as expected, however. This article will demonstrate how women’s NGOs provided both the space and tools for integration of non-ethnic Latvian women, while also shaping a new kind of democratic Latvian national identity. Further, because of their interactions with women’s NGOs outside Latvia, these organizations shaped a new transnational identity.

**Ana Ozuna**, Assistant Professor, Hostos Community College, Department of Humanities  
*Banishing Blackness: The Emergence of Anti-Haitianism in the Dominican Republic*

The recent works on race and ethnicity in the Dominican Republic by authors Silvio Torres-Saillant, Ernesto Sagas, Kimberly Eison Simmons, Eugenio Matibag, and David Howard, critically explore the limitations of the nineteenth-century national identity paradigm and concomitant racist postulations that fostered the emergence of anti-Haitianismo as a state ideology during the tyrannical Trujillo regime. Their collective work challenge foundational Dominican historiography and reconstruct Dominican racial identity by recovering and validating the historically disavowed African root debarred from Dominican national identity paradigm. My project examines this body of revisionist research and correlates it with the American eugenic movement in the United States during the first half of the twentieth century.

**Michael Yarbrough**, Assistant Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Department of Political Science

How does state recognition often make a marriage feel more “real” than a marriage that lacks such recognition? My proposed project addresses this question using research in the world’s only jurisdiction to have recently extended its marriage laws to multiple social groups: South Africa. Building on years of qualitative research in the affected communities—namely, people living under indigenous systems of law and people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT)—the paper will develop a new model for theorizing and researching the relationship between marital policy and practice in settings around the world.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

### Mentor

**Stephen Steinberg**, Distinguished Professor, Urban Studies Department, Queens College and the Program in Sociology at The Graduate Center

### Fellows

**Kafui Attoh**, Assistant Professor, School of Professional Studies, Department of Urban Studies  
*Rights in Transit: The Struggle for Transportation Justice in California’s East Bay*  
*Rights in Transit* argues for placing debates over rights, justice, and urban democracy more centrally within studies of urban mass transit. While there have been any number of studies on transit’s financial and operational challenges, there have been far fewer studies that have engaged with more philosophical questions. Is public transit a right? Should it be? What qualifies an unjust transit system? What qualifies a just one? Drawing on fieldwork conducted in California’s East Bay, *Rights in Transit* explores these questions as well as the answers given by activists, transit workers and transit riders.

**Melissa May Borja**, Assistant Professor, The College of Staten Island, Department of History  
*To Follow the New Way: Hmong Refugee Resettlement and the Practice of American Religious Pluralism*  
Drawing on archival records and oral histories, this project investigates the impact of refugee resettlement policy on the religious lives of Hmong refugees in Minnesota after the Vietnam War. Nationally and locally, governments relied on Christian agencies to provide resettlement services for animist Hmong refugees. Resettlement policies also dispersed refugees geographically and deprived Hmong people of the resources necessary for their indigenous rituals. Finally, resettlement officials were uncertain about whether Christian resettlement work or indigenous Hmong practices were “religion.” Despite efforts to make refugee assistance a religiously neutral enterprise, resettlement policies caused important changes in Hmong religious beliefs and practices.

**Lawrence Johnson**, Assistant Professor, Brooklyn College, Department of Sociology  
My research examines the notion of the deracialization concept within the literature of Blacks politics. I apply a sociological lens to contemporary issues of race and inequality from a structural standpoint. I contend that an understanding of deracialization as an analytical construct, to assess the viability of Black elected officials and election outcomes, is clearer when examined from the perspective of structural change. Rather than just examining specific candidates and campaigns, a sociological approach that situates Black elected officials within the macro changes of society explains the contradiction of greater political representation yet persistent racial inequality, with a particular emphasis on political rhetoric and ideology.

**Devin T. Molina**, Assistant Professor, Bronx Community College, Department of Social Sciences

*On the Line: The Minutemen, Border Security, and White Supremacy in the United States*

My book will review the actions of armed civilian border patrols at the U.S.-Mexico border. Based on ethnographic field research conducted at the Minuteman Corps of California's base of operations at the U.S.-Mexico border between 2007-2010, the book examines how reactionary groups can tap into the repressive power of the state in ways that legitimize the violent reproduction of power and difference that excludes and marginalizes immigrants and other racialized groups, and that protects the privileges of whiteness.

**Emily Tumpson Molina**, Assistant Professor, Brooklyn College, Department of Sociology

*Housing America: Issues and Debates*

Housing availability, affordability, policy, and financing are persistently difficult problems to address from generation to generation in the U.S. because they are so deeply embedded within the nation's political, economic, and social conditions and contradictions. While housing remains a persistent social problem, texts that introduce students to this complex issue tend to be pedagogically limited. They are typically written for a very advanced audience and/or very narrowly focused, both impediments to undergraduate engagement and learning retention. *Housing America* introduces students to complex issues in U.S. housing and the social debates that surround them from an applied, critical perspective in a relatively short, accessible volume.

**Seth Offenbach**, Assistant Professor, Bronx Community College, Department of History

*The Other Side of Vietnam: The Conservative Movement and the Vietnam War*

This project is the first work to analyze how the conservative movement's response to the Vietnam War altered the movement's political identity. It helps explain how and why the conservative political ideals changed during the years between Barry Goldwater's failed presidential campaign in 1964 and Ronald Reagan's successful campaign in 1980. The politics surrounding the Vietnam War helped transform the movement's political goals and no historian has set forth how or why the war did this; instead all of the arguments have centered on domestic and demographic changes. My work argues that divisions about the war helped accentuate this shift.

**Susana Rosenbaum**, Assistant Professor, City College of New York, Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

*Domestic Economies: Women, Work and the American Dream in Los Angeles*

This study focuses on Mexican and Central American domestic workers and their native-born female employers in Los Angeles, showing both groups engage domestic service in pursuit of the American Dream. For both, this goal is individual and collective; all define success through their own upward mobility and the ability to ensure their children's futures. Yet each faces differing obstacles and holds divergent perspectives on the relationship between motherhood and work. Attention to both groups reveals alternative ways of defining and calibrating individual worth and social membership, foregrounding the imbrication of reproductive labor, gendered subjectivities, and national belonging.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES/ETHNIC STUDIES

### Mentor

**Vilna Bashi Trietler**, Professor and Chair, Baruch College, Black and Latino Studies and Professor, The Graduate Center, Sociology Program

### Fellows

**Rose Marie Äikäs**, Assistant Professor, Queensborough Community College, Department of Social Sciences

*The Role of Correctional Philosophies' in the Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness in a U.S. and a Finnish Prison*

This proposal seeks to develop comparative understanding of the role of correctional philosophies in the treatment and management of persons with mental illness in Finnish and U.S. prisons. A large body of international empirical research on persons with mental illness in prisons indicates that individual countries vary greatly in their treatment and management of this population. The planned paper will discuss how such inmates obtain and receive treatment, including their levels of satisfaction with that treatment, in each national context using collected and analyzed data from inmate interviews. The benefit of such research includes the opportunity to gather rich data that may otherwise be hidden from mental health practitioners, educators and policy makers.

**Lale Can**, Assistant Professor, City College of New York, Department of History

*Spiritual Citizens: Central Asians and the Politics of Pilgrimage in the Late Ottoman Empire, 1869-1914*  
*Spiritual Citizens* is a study of pilgrimage from imperial Russia and China to Ottoman Mecca in the late 19th through early 20th centuries. It explores how transimperial pilgrimage shaped Ottoman-Central Asian relations, notions of political belonging among the worldwide Muslim community, and Ottoman imperial citizenship reform. It examines pilgrimage in the context of Russo-Ottoman contestations over sovereignty and extraterritorial rights, and the spiritual and political dimensions of sacred travel and patronage. It argues that contending with the role of religious legitimacy and diverse local praxis is crucial to understanding the path from subjecthood to citizenship in multiconfessional empires, particularly polities with claims of extraterritorial sovereignty.

**Nicole M. Elias**, Assistant Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Department of Public Management

*Transgender Policy: Moving Beyond Traditional Sex and Gender Categories in Public Administration*  
Sex and gender are increasingly complex topics that prompt new administrative responses within public agencies. As the federal workforce evolves, employment policy must accommodate the needs of employees who do not fit traditional sex and gender categories. One emerging area of policy targets transgender employees, specifically guidance for employers throughout the transitioning process. This research seeks to answer the following questions: how are federal agencies crafting and implementing transitioning policy, and what are the implications for transgender employees in federal agencies. Ultimately, this work explores emergent policy and suggests avenues for designing and enacting future transitioning policy.

**Aída Martínez-Gómez**, Assistant Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

*Enabling Language Access for Foreign Prisoners: Prison Inmates as Natural Interpreters*

This project explores the actual performance of untrained interpreters in prison settings in an attempt to move beyond aprioristic views of interpreting. Their main assets and limitations are explored both

through the prism of normative standards in the discipline and from the perspective of different stakeholder groups (foreign prisoners, prison staff and interpreting experts). By combining interactional analysis and interpreting quality assessment, it aims to unveil potential advantages and disadvantages of using inmates to interpret for other inmates in correctional facilities, based on actual recorded interviews.

**Soniya Munshi**, Assistant Professor, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services and Criminal Justice

*Methodologies of Culture: A Critical Analysis of Knowledge of Production about Violence in South Asian Immigrant Communities*

The proposed publication is an ethnographic content analysis of academic scholarship about intimate violence in South Asian immigrant communities (1985-present). This article examines the discursive production of the relationship between culture, gender and violence. I will agree that an emphasis on unique cultural factors obscures structural concerns that South Asian immigrant communities face when interacting with state institutions, particularly the legal criminal system. This paper publication in an offers context for a book project situating South Asian immigrant organizing within the racial politics of anti-domestic violence advocacy in New York City.

**Shehzad Nedeem**, Assistant Professor, Lehman College, Department of Sociology

*Bourgeois Bodies: How Yoga was Made Modern and Middle Class*

Drawing on historical and ethnographic research, this project explores how yoga was made modern and middle class, beginning at the turn of the twentieth century. Once a venerable technique of spiritual liberation, yoga had fallen into disrepute. It had become associated with tantric cults and black magic. Reform-minded thinkers like Swami Vivekananda, however, recuperated yoga's public image. Yoga was redefined as a moral and health-giving pursuit and, on American shores, morphed into a project of self-improvement. Along the way, yoga further lost its contrarian edge, taking only cursory swipes at the constricting customs and conventions it once found so oppressive.

**Nichole Marie Shippen**, Assistant Professor, LaGuardia Community College, Department of Social Science *The Politics of Death and Dying: Reciprocity Reconsidered*

The politics of death is a continuation of my research which is grounded in Western political thought, but enriched by the contributions of feminist, post-colonial, and critical race theory. This research has already resulted in one book, *Decolonizing Time: Work, Leisure, and Freedom* published in September 2014 as part of Palgrave Macmillan's "Critical Political Theory and Radical Practice" series. My research agenda extends my previous considerations of the "good life" to considerations of the "good death." My research works with a critical framework for rethinking the possibilities of reciprocity across relations of difference, bringing together the concepts of civil death, "social death" (Orlando Patterson), and "precarious life" (Judith Butler) by considering how interdependence and relationality function when our understandings of ourselves and others are distorted by extreme conditions of inequality. Further, my work considers the ways in which conditions of inequality greatly contribute to decreased life expectancy and premature death among certain neighborhoods in New York City.

**Fumio Someki**, Assistant Professor, College of Staten Island, Department of Educational Studies  
*College Students' Stigmatizing Perception towards Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in the United States and Japan*

The proposed project is the preparation of a manuscript for submission to a major journal in the field of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), based on the data on cross-cultural comparison (between Japan and the US) of stigma towards ASD. The manuscript will focus on the differences between the two countries

in terms of college students' social distance towards ASD (i.e., willingness to engage with individuals with ASD), involving approximately 800 survey data. The data collection will be completed by December 2014. The findings will be a foundation of the future study to further examine factors that affect stigma towards ASD.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

### Mentor

**Anahí Viladrich**, Associate Professor, Queens College, Department of Sociology

### Fellows

**Prabal De**, Assistant Professor, City College of New York, Department of Economics and Business  
*Study of Racially Disparate Health Effects of the Great Recession*

Using data from the nationally representative National Health Interview Survey from before and after the great recession of 2008-2010, I preliminarily find that the recession has significantly and negatively affected African-Americans more than whites. The proportion of African-Americans having "excellent" self-rated health declined sharply during the recession. I will investigate whether the impacts of the recession were significantly more negative on blacks compared to whites in terms of self-rated health and other health outcomes, even after controlling for a number of candidate explanatory factors. Additionally, the role various social insurance schemes played to safeguard health access and outcomes of minority groups from economic fluctuations will be explored.

**Sarah Friedman**, Assistant Professor, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Department of Social Sciences and Human Services

*Socio-Economic Status and Racism as Fundamental Causes of Breastfeeding Disparities*

Researchers argue that socio-economic status (SES) and racism are fundamental causes of health disparities: unequal access to resources lead to disparities in health outcomes. Although fundamental cause theory has been applied to various outcomes, these perspectives have not adequately addressed breastfeeding disparities. I utilize data from Listening to Mothers survey to argue that SES and racism are fundamental causes of breastfeeding disparities: SES and racism impact access to supportive health resources, which in turn shape breastfeeding outcomes. This project, by applying fundamental cause theory to breastfeeding initiation and persistence, sheds new light on the neglected issue of breastfeeding disparities.

**John Gutiérrez**, Assistant Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies

*Race, Nation and Citizen in Cuba: La Liga Contra La Tuberculosis En Cuba and the Racial Politics of Tuberculosis Control, 1901-1909*

This project focuses on racial politics and the anti-tuberculosis movement in Cuba during the first years of the republic. It examines the discourses of racial difference employed by leaders of *La Liga Contra La Tuberculosis en Cuba*, (the first popular public health movement on the island), to explain the spread of tuberculosis among Havana's blacks. Arguments about race and disease occurred simultaneously with arguments about black citizenship in the new republic. My project connects these two debates into a single narrative that will improve our understanding of how disease influenced views of black *cubanidad* in the early 20th century.

**Sean J. Haley**, Assistant Professor, Brooklyn College, Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences  
*Assessing “Promoting Mental Health and Prevent Substance Abuse” Population Measures in New York Hospitals’ Community Service Plans*

Under federal law, nonprofit hospitals must engage in a collaborative process to develop evidence-based or best-practice population health strategies. Every NY hospital plan, called a Community Service Plan (CSP), is being reviewed by the PI to assess population health measures in the areas of mental health and substance abuse (MHSA). The PI will be interviewing hospital key informants about measure selection, including their attention to health disparities, and will compare the identified measures to the evidence base in order to develop recommended hospital measures consistent with the priorities identified in the New York Prevention Agenda.

**Justine McGovern**, Assistant Professor, Lehman College, Department of Social Work  
*Late-life Disparities and Immigrant Populations: Implications for Social Work Practice in the Bronx*  
This article will examine a growing public health crisis, late-life disparities faced by members of immigrant communities, who experience worse physical and psycho-social outcomes than native-born older adults. Through the lens of the African community of the Bronx, which includes 40,000 of the 2 million NYC residents, knowledge and service gaps affecting this population will be identified. It will also lay the foundation for a PSC-CUNY grant application for a Bronx-focused, pilot study on attitudes about senior services among African immigrants, and contribute to a CUNY-wide seminar series on aging and diversity, as proposed in a DPDF application.

**Anthony Monahan**, Assistant Professor, Queensborough Community College, Department of Health, Physical Education and Dance  
*A Case for Cultural Wellness*

The contemporary view of health is considered to be an association of various dimensions of well-being. These dimensions consist of physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual, and environmental wellness. This proposal explores a degree of cultural interaction beyond awareness and competence: a dimension of *Cultural Wellness*. Individuals displaying cultural wellness are able to incorporate multicultural knowledge and perspectives into their lives. Learning is enhanced with multicultural encounters and experiences. An accumulation of such experiences increases an individual’s ability to succeed in a global society. Forms of capital, recent brain research and empathy studies provide potential support for this concept.

**Nicole Saint-Louis**, Assistant Professor, Guttman Community College, Department of Human Services and Social Sciences

*A Narrative Intervention with Oncology Professionals: Stress and Burnout Reduction through an Interdisciplinary Group Process*

Oncology healthcare professionals are faced with more challenges than ever before in their work with cancer patients, especially in hospital environments. The taxing emotional expense of these oncology-specific stressors combined with professional stress and organizational issues are documented throughout the literature. An exploratory research project provided a monthly narrative (writing and sharing) intervention to oncology professionals working at a large academic medical center to aid in dealing with the rigors of their work. Manuscripts will be developed based on the mixed methods study and data collected that investigated the impact of this narrative intervention group with oncology professionals. The primary focus will be on the development of a quantitative manuscript.

## LITERATURE

### Mentor

**Nancy Yousef**, Professor, Baruch College, Department of English

### Fellows

**Elena Borelli**, Assistant Professor, Bronx Community Colleges, Department of Modern Languages  
*The Best Within. Ethics and Politics of Desire in Fin De Siècle Italy*

My book is an interdisciplinary analysis of the concept of desire in Italy at the turn of the twentieth century. I analyze the negative view of desire embedded in late nineteenth century evolutionism and in the philosophical trends of that time, which led to a sociological paradigm where certain individuals, the artist, the woman, the criminal and the non-white person were regarded inferior. Their inferiority was linked to an excess of desire, as a residual of mankind's bestial ancestry. This view deeply affected the way artists in fin de siècle Italy perceived their role in society.

**Stephanie Insley Hershinow**, Assistant Professor, Baruch College, Department of English

*Born Yesterday: Inexperience and the Early Novel*

The story we tell about the novel's rise places philosophical empiricism at the center of the form's exploration of epistemological and moral questions. Why, then, are so many protagonists of these novels inexperienced adolescents who resist the maturation expected to result from empirical trial? Between the emergence of realism in the eighteenth century and its alignment with *Bildung* in the early nineteenth century lies a significant moment when novelistic characters we might call "realistic" were nevertheless unlikely to develop. This book reveals a curious literary and philosophical counter-tradition, one that privileges integrity over development and innate moral reason over experience.

**Abby Kornfeld**, Assistant Professor, City College of New York, Department of Art and Jewish Studies

*Out of the Margins: Toward a Reassessment of Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts*

Noteworthy for their iconographic richness and stylistic diversity, three late fourteenth century Hebrew manuscripts, exemplify the visual sophistication of the supposedly aniconic Jewish people. Contained within their folios is the ritual text for Passover, the Jewish festival commemorating the biblical exodus from Egypt. This sacred text is framed by ritual imagery, visual glosses, grotesque creatures, commentaries and poems. Densely freighted and multivalent, the interplay of word and image mediates the religious experience of the participants, imbuing these Haggadahs with tremendous intellectual, religio-historical and creative force.

**Tiffany Lewis**, Assistant Professor, Baruch College, School of Public Affairs

*Winning the West for Women: The Rhetoric of the Mythic West in U.S. Woman Suffrage Movement*

Women in the U.S. American West gained the right to vote decades before women in the Eastern states. Yet woman suffragists in the American West had to negotiate the powerful and masculine myths of the West. In five case studies, I examine the ways Western woman suffragists appropriated Western myths in their suffrage advocacy between 1885 and 1920. This book-length project illustrates the ways the mythic West shaped the U.S. woman suffrage movement and how Western women simultaneously contributed to the meaning of the American West and shaped American ideals of masculinity and femininity.

**Naomi Stubbs**, Assistant Professor, LaGuardia Community College, Department of English  
*Great Expectations: Harry Watkins and his 1860-1863 Tour*

Harry Watkins was an American actor/manager/playwright of the nineteenth century who would be largely forgotten today were it not for his extensive diary. In 1860, Watkins embarked on a “star” tour to the UK. His strategies—as evidenced by his diary, his performance choices, and the press reaction—reveal the growing consciousness of stardom, in a manner that the exceptional experiences of those who did become famous do not. In response to a recent invitation, an article will be written on what Watkins’ practices record about nineteenth century celebrity culture for a special issue of the peer-reviewed journal, *Critical Survey*.

**Christopher Swift**, Assistant Professor, New York City College of Technology, Department of Humanities  
*Religion, Identity, and Performance on the Andalusí Frontier: 1248-1575*

This manuscript project employs interdisciplinary critical methods in order to examine performative interactions between Muslims, Jews, and Christians in late medieval Spain. Culturally heterogeneous texts, spaces, and performance objects are considered when analyzing the *Cantigas de Santa Maria*, which reveal traces of pre-conquest Islamic poetic forms; the penitential movement that facilitated associations between hegemonic and minority communities; and, in the context of imperial expansion, reenactment of Amerindian ritual and the invention of New World subjectivity. From Christian reconquest through the period of Atlantic colonialism, theatre was a method of erecting and crossing religious divides, and these interactions gave meaning to devotional practices and communal identities.

**Elizabeth Whitney**, Assistant Professor, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Department of Speech, Communication and Theatre Arts

*Women on the Platform: The Public and Private Lives of Susan B. Anthony and Anna Elizabeth Dickinson*  
It is indisputable that most post-civil war and early twentieth century United States history was shaped by women fighting for suffrage and equality in civic life, and that a great deal of social reform was accomplished through public speaking platform circuits. *Women on the Platform: The Public and Private Lives of Susan B. Anthony and Anna Elizabeth Dickinson* is a book project that explores the forty year relationship between these two notable public speakers, spanning mentorship, intimate friendship, collegiality, and political strife.