

DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AT THE CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION



Don't Forget to Check Your Citymail Every Day!

Division of Interdisciplinary Studies
at the Center for Worker Education



The City College
of New York

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Dear CWE Community,

I would like to introduce the new edition of Scope. It has been over three years since the pandemic started, but what a ride this has been. We have almost reached 100% operating capacity in person, but still continue to offer a sizable selection of online classes to meet student preferences for this learning modality.

We have had a great semester, thanks to you all—students, staff, and faculty. We had a terrific [Historical Links Conference](#) (May 3-5, 2023) with 15 panels and two keynote speakers: Kaven Madani—the Director of the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health and Research Professor at the City College—and Carmen Boullosa, one of the most prominent Latin-American writers today, who is also a Distinguished Lecturer at the Macaulay Honors College, CUNY.

We just completed the 10th edition of [The Film Festival of the Americas New York](#) (TAFFNY) (June 15-22, 2023), which happened fully in person, in multiple venues; and we had record attendance at every single screening.

Earlier in the Spring on February 28, author Maisy Card joined us at CWE for a reading from her award-winning book, *These Ghosts are Family*, as part of our Black History Month celebration.

In the Fall, we will be celebrating the 10th edition of [The Americas Poetry Festival of New York](#) (October 11-13, 2023).

I would like to thank Prof. Danielle Zach for organizing pressing human rights initiatives this past academic year. These include Frances S. Patai program public lectures; a Human Rights Forum panel event; and three Human Rights Workshops featuring scholars from both CUNY and Canadian universities.

This year we had two more winners of [The Women's Forum of New York](#) initiative. (Applications will open from September 1 to February 8, 2024; individual awards are an unrestricted amount of \$10,000). A total of ten CWE students have achieved this great recognition, amounting to \$100,000 in awards for students at our campus. We urge all eligible students to apply. Our annual CWE Awards & Scholarships ceremony with a fund of \$27,000 took place on May 24, 2023.

We continue to host the QUEST community, who are close partners with us in the philosophy of life-long learning and community. They are also generous supporters of our annual CWE Awards & Scholarships. See below for a detailed article on QUEST.

We are in the final process of selecting new hires—a faculty line in Economics, a Lecture line, and an Advisor/Communications and an Assistant to the Dean.

Robert Hernandez and the CWE IT staff have been busy upgrading our classroom technology for the last month. We plan to complete the installation of state-of-the-art podiums as well as 65-inch screens for all classrooms by the end of the summer.

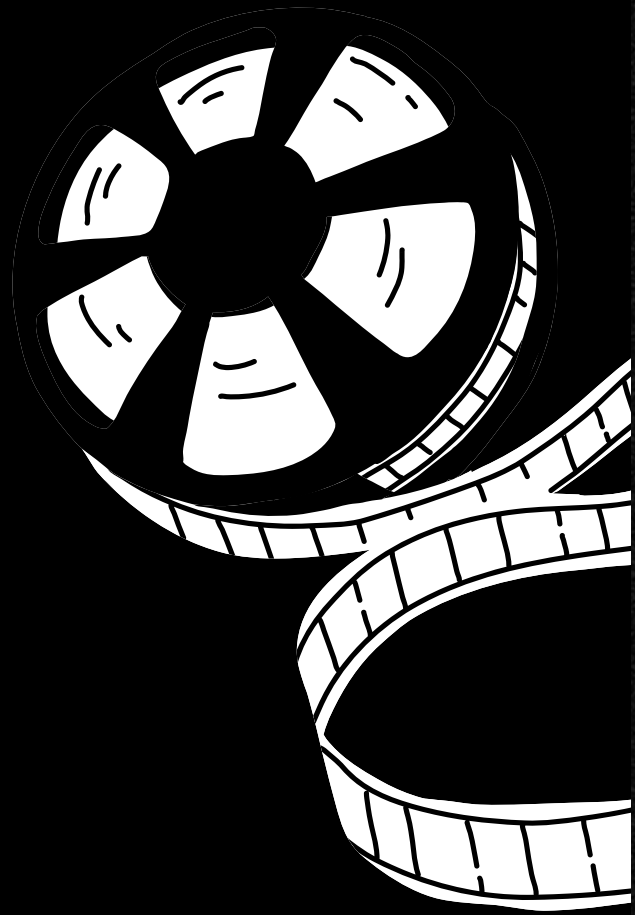
Our 25 Broadway lease renewal is now complete. We expect contractors to come in soon to handle the upgrades that we requested for the 7th floor. As soon as we have a schedule of construction and projects, we will let you know. I ask for and appreciate your understanding and cooperation during construction as there may be some inconveniences.

I have said this numerous times, but it merits repeating: to see what you—the faculty, staff, and students—working together have been able to accomplish during these past three years is simply amazing. Thank you for your dedication and all that you continue to do. We have created a robust intellectual community that reflects the ethos of this division.



Juan Carlos Mercado

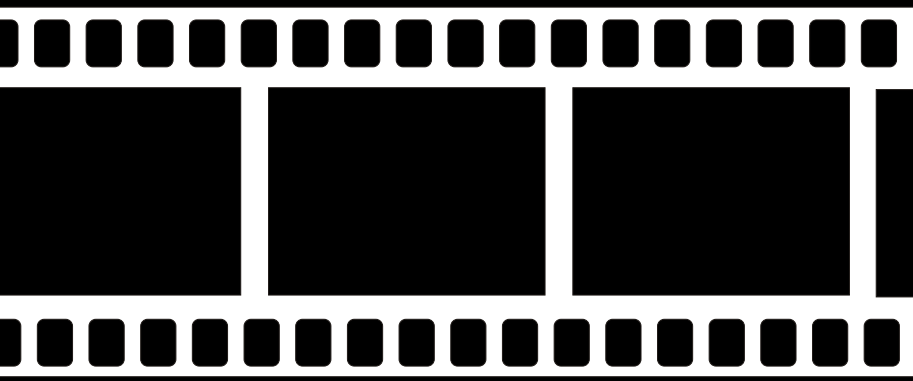




2023

TAFF





2023

TAFFNY

**THE AMERICAS FILM FESTIVAL NY -TAFFNY-
CELEBRATED ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY, JUNE 15-22,
WITH A RECORD-BREAKING ATTENDANCE!**

Creating a film festival requires, among many other things, political will. In the case of The Americas Film Festival NY, it was, first, Dean Juan Carlos Mercado and then many other organizations, who decided to bet on giving a voice to The Americas and on creating a dialogue with other cultures through the movies. For a film festival, reaching its tenth anniversary is a major achievement. More so in a decade like this, with a global pandemic that closed our national borders and communal spaces; with historic challenges to the rights of many groups of people in the U.S., including women, Black and Indigenous People of Color, immigrants, child laborers, voters, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, to name a few; and, of course, the advent of online streaming services; (in fact, last month Netflix closed at \$440 a share, an increase of about 1,000% from its price on the first TAFFNY Opening Night in 2014).

With all these challenges, we find it truly amazing that so many of you continue to be with us year after year. Whether they attended their first TAFFNY as a filmmaker, audience member, volunteer, sponsor, or organizer, they always return as a friend.

With our program of seven feature films and 36 short films allowed us, as a community, to expand our thoughts, share our experiences, and reduce our political and social biases in this extraordinary moment in which we find ourselves. With movies like the one we saw on Opening night, the thriller *As Bestas* (The Beasts, Spain), the documentary *Las Abogadas* and the animation, *Home is Somewhere Else*, we took a look at the complexity of immigration. From the distrust that we have of the one who comes from a different place to the manipulations of profiteering politicians, to the daily tragedies of those who cross a border seeking better opportunities to grow and live in peace; these movies expanded our views.

We saw the problems of indigenous peoples who have experienced systematic negligence and violence that in the case of indigenous, native American women is even more painful and malevolent, presented in their own voices in the films *Reclaiming Power* and *Fancy Dance*. We listened to 'Vallenato', the music that Garcia Marquez praised so highly in *Leyenda Viva*, and we saw some amazing, award-winning stories made by the film students from City College.

In Pride Month, we paid homage to the LGBTQ+ community with the movie *Sublime* in which a teenager lives a process of discovery that is threatened today by absurd policies from opportunistic politicians and preposterous religious positions. At The Americas Short Film Competition, 390 films were submitted and 30 were chosen to compete, some of those filmmakers we had the privilege of having with us during the screenings.

A film festival not only brings together people who love movies but above all, brings together those of us who believe that the stories that we see on the big screen can transform us and bring out the best in us. And although we all sit down to watch the same movie, each one of us will have his or her own interpretation. We all have a movie that has marked us in our personal or professional life. With movies we have created our family history, made our friends, learned to appreciate our surroundings, criticized or applauded our governments, and most importantly, movies have convinced us that love exists.

Therein lies the importance of film festivals like TAFFNY, which, thanks to the support of cultural and educational institutions such as the Center for Worker Education of City College Downtown, the Cervantes Institute, the Argentinean Consulate, and the National Museum of the American Indian, create bridges of understanding and welcome stories of the Americas.

This Project has been supported since day one by cultural institutions that have a strong commitment with the city: the Cervantes Institute, The National Museum of the American Indian, consulates such as the Consulate of Argentina in NY, and CUNY academic institutions such as the CCNY Division of Humanities and the Arts, the CCNY Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, the MFA in Film Program at the City College of New York (CUNY). For the first time, TAFFNY partnered with the NYC Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment and received recognition from NYC Mayor Eric Adams via a proclamation.

For those who make movies, they are the honest expression with which they manifest and reflect new forms of coexistence in the societies in which we live. Through the movies, new customs and social aspirations of a world that is continuously changing are revealed to us. The cinema is the medium par excellence to mark positions in life. Create critical visions, modify our cultural and ideological manifestations, and question our confirmation biases.

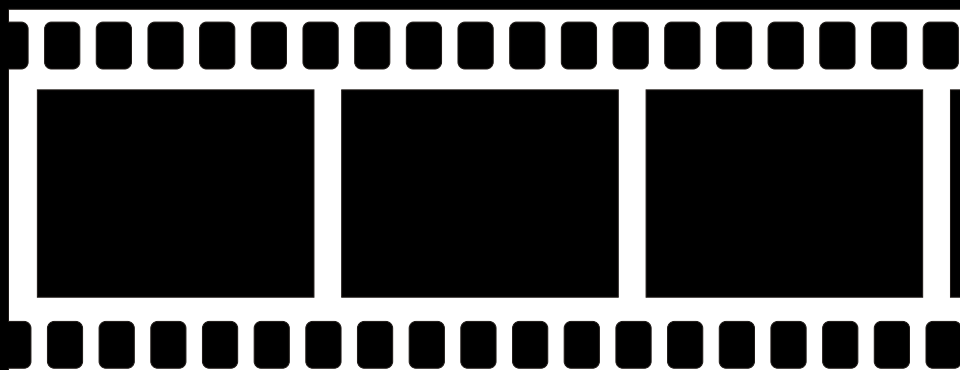
Thanks to all the filmmakers who supported and accompanied this 10-year celebration of The Americas Film Festival NY.

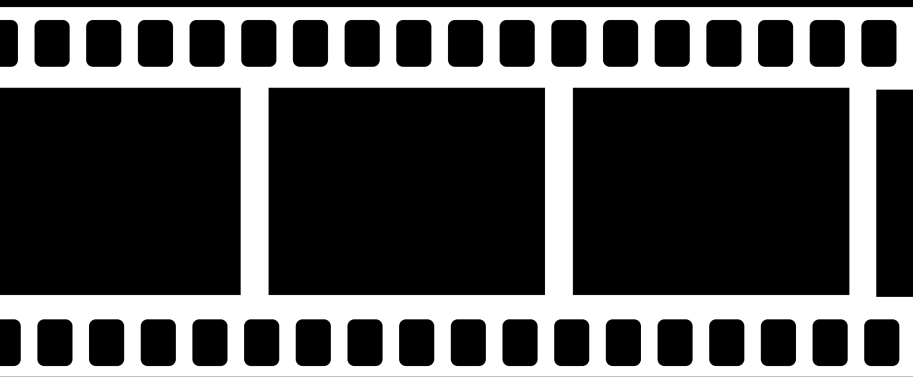
We hope that you the viewers and we who made it possible have been able to leave the movie theater refreshed, and appreciating the creative effort of the filmmakers to give us a new way of observing and acquiring a critical look at the world.

We also hope that during these 8 days, the films that you saw and that represent many unknown and often ignored corners of the Americas, have helped us to see ourselves as part of those societies. Remember, good cinema breaks customs and renews ideas. Cinema and especially independent films address essential issues of society, because in life as in the cinema, people matter.

Long life to TAFFNY!!

Diana Vargas
TAFFNY Artistic Director



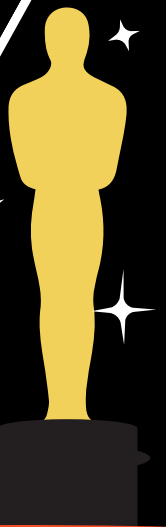


2023 TAFENY



HIGHLIGHTS

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



2023 TAFFNY

2023 AWARD CEREMONIES



VIEW LIST OF ALL AWARD WINNERS AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

**LibGuides: Center for Worker Education Library:
CWE Awards & Scholarships Winners**

City College Downtown Satellite Campus.

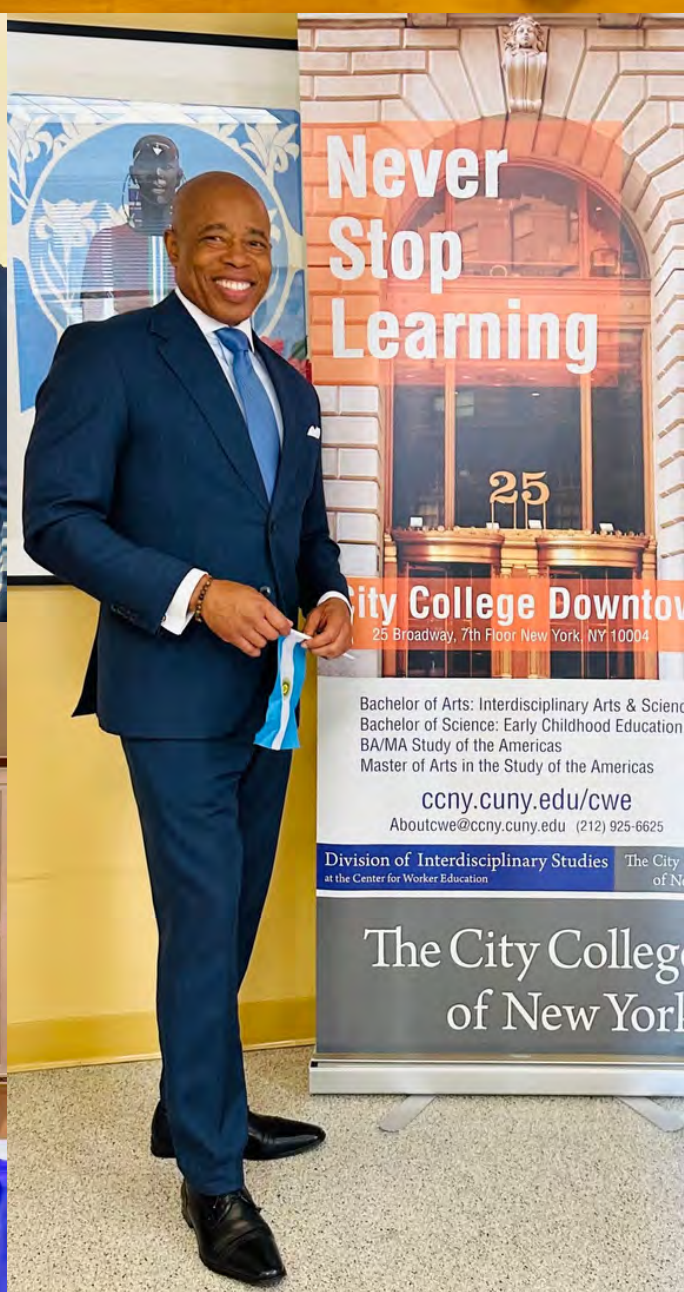


BROWSE THROUGH A COLLECTION OF PHOTOS FROM
CWE AWARDS CEREMONIES BELOW:



2023 AWARD CEREMONIES





MEET THE 2023 CWE VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIAN



Valedictorian

DARRESA RODRIGUEZ



Salutatorian

EMELY AMADA JOSE



Valedictorian

DARRESA RODRIGUEZ

Salutatorian

EMELY AMADA JOSE



The City College
of New York

Great Grads 2023

Featured as a CCNY Great Grad for 2023 is CWE graduate in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences: Literary, Media and Visual Arts, **Dylan Ewing!**

Originally from Cincinnati, Dylan Ewing started at The City College of New York in the fall of 2019. Returning to school after a long hiatus, he worked diligently to obtain an undergraduate degree while working full time. “CCNY has had a very positive impact on my life. I enrolled here because I had been wanting to change the direction of my work and life for some time but only had a high school diploma,” said the 42-year-old, who has lived in Brooklyn since 2006. “I felt that going back to school would help me move forward.” He is a member of Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society, a premier nationally recognized honor society for adult learners, and excelled in literature and film studies. Throughout his time at CCNY, he maintained a 3.9 GPA and is graduating summa cum laude. “Taking things one step at a time, I found a renewed passion for education, research, and writing, and a much better sense of direction than when I started,” he said. After graduation, Ewing plans to attend graduate school, and pursue research and writing opportunities in the humanities and arts.

TO READ MORE CLICK [HERE](#).



“ CCNY HAS HAD A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY LIFE. I ENROLLED HERE BECAUSE I HAD BEEN WANTING TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF MY WORK AND LIFE FOR SOME TIME BUT ONLY HAD A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA. ”



ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA INDUCTEES 2023

As the premier nationally recognized honor society for adult learners with more than 75 years of established history in higher education, Alpha Sigma Lambda represents the top non-traditional students for more than 300 institutions across the United States. CWE Chapter counselor Dr. Sophia Demetriou established the [CWE Branch](#) in 2016. [See the list of the 2023 CWE Inductees:](#)

- Lorena Almonte
- Lisette Ayala
- Dana Berge
- Macrina Brim
- Stephanie Caesar
- Ivonne Diaz Vargas
- Maria Echevarria
- Dylan Ewing
- Isela Favela
- Kaitlyn Fernandez
- Noemi Garcia
- Kelsey Gordils
- Stephanie Grant
- Courtney Hibbert
- Racine Higgins
- Makeba Hudson
- Angisselle Lopez
- Daphon Reid
- Lucero Saavedra
- Vanessa Sanchez
- Patriece Spann
- Christanya Symplice
- Sarah Torres
- Anabel Trotman Barrios
- Catalina Ventura

EVENT RECAP



Eighth International Conference on the Historical Links between Spain and the Americas

The Eight International Conference on the Historical Links between Spain and the Americas was held May 3rd-5th, 2023 at City College Downtown (CWE) and the Instituto Cervantes New York.

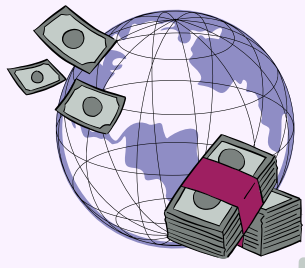
To learn more visit:

<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/cwe/historical-links-between-spain-and-americas>

International Conference



The City College of New York



EVENT RECAP

Neoliberalism and Women's Rights

with Professor Zehra F. Kabasakal Arat

On November 3rd, 2022, Zehra F. Kabasakal Arat, a Professor of Political Science at the University of Connecticut, joined as a speaker for the Frances S. Patai program's virtual event on Neoliberalism and Women's Rights.

Studying human rights with an emphasis on women's rights, she has published numerous journal articles, book chapters, books, including *Democracy and Human Rights in Developing Countries*, *Human Rights Worldwide*, and *Deconstructing Images of "The Turkish Woman."* She is also the editor of the book series "Power and Human Rights" by the Lynne Rienner Publishers. She has been active in professional organizations and engaged in human rights activism. She is the Founding President of the Human Rights Section of the American Political Science Association and a founding member of the Women's Platform for Equality (EŞİK) in Turkey.

For more information, please see <https://polisci.uconn.edu/person/zehra-arat/>.



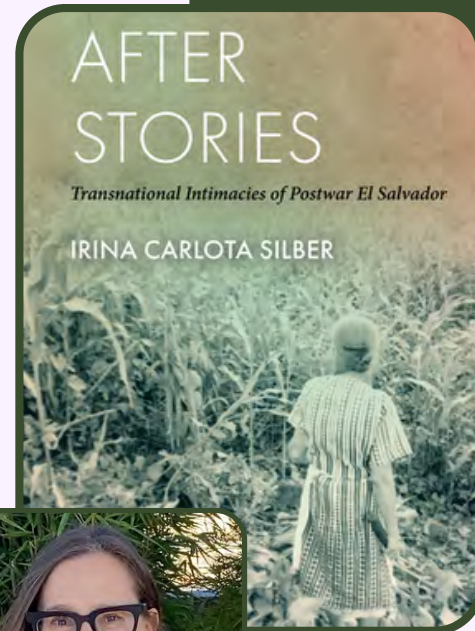
Book Talk:

After Stories: Transnational Intimacies of Postwar El Salvador

by Irina Carlota (Lotti) Silber,
moderated by Susanna Rosenbaum

On March 13th, 2023, The Frances S. Patai program of CWE Downtown was joined by Author Irina Carlota for a Book Talk discussing her new book *After Stories: Transnational Intimacies of Postwar El Salvador*, moderated by Professor Susanna Rosenbaum.

Irina Carlota (Lotti) Silber is Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology, Gender Studies, and International Studies at CCNY where she also holds the position of Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. She is also on the Doctoral Faculty in Anthropology at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her first book, *Everyday Revolutionaries: Gender, Violence, and Disillusionment in Postwar El Salvador* (Rutgers 2011) won the 2013 Mariposa Award from the International Latino Book Awards and was subsequently published in Spanish with a new preface with UCA Editores in El Salvador (2018). Her third book, *After Stories: Transnational Intimacies of Postwar El Salvador* (Stanford 2022) explores the *longue durée* of El Salvador's postwar through the lives and narratives of the 1.5 insurgent generation—the now adult children of the too-often-forgotten rank-and-file Salvadoran revolutionaries. She is also co-editor of *Higher Education, State Repression, and Neoliberal Reform in Nicaragua: Reflections from a University under Fire* (Routledge 2023), a volume that explores the role of the university as a space of resistance to state repression and neoliberal reform.



EVENT RECAP

HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM

Humanitarian Intervention and Mass Atrocity Crimes

As part of the Human Rights Forum event, **Humanitarian Intervention and Mass Atrocity Crimes** was held on March 22nd, 2023 at The City College of New York Uptown Campus. The panel event was Moderated by **Dirk Moses** and joined by speakers, **Rajan Menon**, **Savita Pawnday** and **Jennifer M. Welsh**. The legitimacy of intervening in foreign countries to stop atrocities committed has been debated for centuries. In the early 2000s, the United Nations debated and agreed to the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle "to end the worst forms of violence and persecution." Since then, R2P and the work of International Criminal Court have been criticized on a number of grounds. This panel of experts debated these and related issues as a new world order is taking shape in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Watch the recorded live stream here:



Dirk Moses (Moderator) is the Anne and Bernard Spitzer Professor of Political Science. He researches different aspect of genocide.

Rajan Menon is the director of the Grand Strategy Program at Defense Priorities and the Anne and Bernard Spitzer Chair (Emeritus) in International Relations at the Powell School, City College of New York/City University of New York, a Senior Research Scholar at the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University, and a Non-Resident Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Savita Pawnday is the Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, the world's leading research and advocacy organization for advancing the international norm of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) at the United Nations and beyond.

Jennifer M. Welsh is the Canada 150 Research Chair in Global Governance and Security at McGill University and Director of the Centre for International Peace and Security Studies.

Human Rights Forum Workshops

On February 23rd, 2023 at the CUNY Graduate Center, **Heath Brown** of John Jay College joined the Human Rights Forum for the workshop titled:

"Advocacy for Human Rights with Joe Biden and Kamala Harris: The Case of Slavery Reparations" with discussant, John Torpey.

Jennifer Welsh of McGill University spoke at the workshop titled:

"Responsible Sovereignty and Individual Accountability: Liberal Internationalist Aspirations from the 1990s" on March 23rd with Discussant, Bruce Cronin

On April 6th, **Nergis Canefe** of York University, Canada spoke at the workshop titled: **"Statelessness as a Permanent State: Deep Challenges to the Human Rights Paradigm"** with Discussant, Danielle Zach.

Maria Barberan-Reinares of Bronx Community College spoke for the workshop titled: **"The Role of Context in Artistic Representations of Human Rights Violations of a Sexual Nature"** on April 27th with Discussant Jill Strauss.



MODERATOR
Dirk Moses



SPEAKER
Rajan Menon



SPEAKER
Savita Pawnday



SPEAKER
Jennifer M. Welsh

EVENT RECAP



"The Uses of 'Genocide' in Irish Republican Movement Propaganda in the United States," Journal of Genocide Research Workshop

On February 24th, 2023, the editors of the **Journal of Genocide Research** gathered scholars from across the county and beyond at **City College** to present ongoing research concerning mass atrocity crimes. **Danielle Zach** presented the following paper: **"The Uses of 'Genocide' in Irish Republican Movement Propaganda in the United States."**

"Human Rights and United States," Thomas G. Weiss, April 28, 2023, CUNY Graduate Center

On April 28th, 2023, **Danielle Zach** delivered a presentation discussing 21st century human rights challenges, the relevance of the UN, as well as the influence of her long-time mentor, **Presidential Professor of Political Science Thomas G. Weiss**, on her academic career as part of a panel devoted to his profound contribution to the field of International Relations held at the **CUNY Graduate Center**.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS



The Graduate Center, CUNY awarded four CCNY faculty BRES Fellowships. Clockwise from bottom left: Susanna Rosenbaum, Kathlene McDonald, Norma Fuentes-Mayorga, and Justin Williams.

Three CWE Professors Awarded Graduate Center Fellowships

"Four CCNY faculty members were awarded Black, Race and Ethnic Studies (BRES) Fellowships by the Graduate Center, CUNY. Associate Professor of sociology Norma Fuentes-Mayorga and Associate Professor of history Justin Williams are being awarded BRES Research Faculty Fellowships. English Professor Kathlene McDonald and Associate Professor of Anthropology Susanna Rosenbaum are being awarded BRES Curriculum Development Faculty Fellowships.

The fellowship is designed to enhance Black, race and ethnic studies scholarship and teaching throughout CUNY schools, and is part of a \$3 million Mellon Foundation-funded initiative Black, Race and Ethnic Studies Initiative (BRESI) at CUNY, which seeks to reimagine and expand University programs in Black, race and ethnic studies.

Williams was awarded for his work "A Talented Tenth: Afrocentrism, Gentrification, and Racial Uplift in Newark, New Jersey." McDonald and Rosenbaum proposed a graduate level course titled "Centering Care/Work in Black, Race, and Ethnic Studies."

Fellows will be affiliated with the BRES Collaboration Hub, a CUNY-wide, multidisciplinary initiative based at the Graduate Center..."

To continue reading more click [here](#).

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS



Rainbow Sarah Farr (left), Doreen Ahumah (middle) and Darresa Rodriguez (right) are Women's Forum Education Fund recipients.

Three City College of New York students are recipients of the Women's Forum Education Fund Award, which supports women over the age of 35 who have overcome adversity to resume their education. The unrestricted \$10,000 grants are awarded directly to the recipient for any costs associated with advancing her education.

Two of the awarded students are recent CWE graduates, Rainbow Sarah Farr and Darresa Rodriguez.

To read more, click [here](#).



Video to the left features two CWE winners of the 2020 Women's Forum Education Award

Previous CWE recipients of the Women's Forum Education Fund Award include

2021: Patriece Spann

2020: Sandra Serrano, Michelle Caines, Sheila Castillo

2019: Kereen Brown

2018: Jilian Alvelo

2014: Rita Rivera

2010: Christa Meir-Staude

**ACCELERATED****MASTER'S OPTION****M.S.Ed. in Teaching Students with Disabilities, Grades 1-6 /
B.A. in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and Sciences**

The Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences is pleased to partner with the CCNY School of Education to offer a new Accelerated Master's Option, an M.S.Ed. in Teaching Students with Disabilities, Grades 1-6 /B.A. in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Undergraduate students accepted into the Accelerated Master's option will be able to apply up to 12 credits of graduate courses to the B.A. in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and Sciences and the M.S.Ed. in Teaching Students with Disabilities, Grades 1-6 degree requirements. At the undergraduate level, the courses would count as general electives. To be admitted to the accelerated M.S.Ed. option, students must:

The Accelerated Master's Program in Teaching Students with Disabilities Grades 1-6 will provide a mechanism for highly successful undergraduates in the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences to seamlessly transition into a Master's degree program in Special Education. This option will enable talented and motivated undergraduate students who are interested in working with children with disabilities to enroll in courses in the M.S.Ed. in Teaching Students with Disabilities, Grades 1-6 and to complete this M.S.Ed. degree soon after receiving a B.A. degree in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. By more quickly receiving an advanced degree, successful participating students will be more competitive for jobs in schools and special education programs.

For years, the supply of special education teachers has been far outpaced by the demand for these specially trained educators in New York City schools. Exacerbating the problem is the inverse relationship between the number of students with disabilities entering schools versus the number of special educators entering the profession. Arguably, the number of students retained in special education could be greatly reduced if they were identified early and received the appropriate services to prevent, compensate, and/or remediate the effects of a disability.

- be a current B.A. in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and Sciences major
- have completed at least 72 credits
- have taken the major requirements (IAS 24200, IAS 23324 or 23304, and SPAN 22504)
- have an overall GPA of at least 3.0
- Submit a personal statement



THE CCNY COMMUNITY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

QUEST Lifelong Learning Community is a peer-learning group, which operates under the auspices of the CCNY Center for Worker Education (CWE), at the City College facility at 25 Broadway, near the Southern tip of Manhattan. It was founded in 1995 by an enterprising group of retirees who wanted to establish a communal peer-learning experience for retired and semi-retired adults in a relaxed and informal setting.

Today our members can participate in any of approximately forty courses each semester, all of which are taught and/or led by fellow members. Subjects range from literature and history to science and math; from politics and current affairs to philosophy and the arts. There are no exams, no papers, no grades, and no required attendance – just stimulating classes and lively discussions. We encourage our members to prepare and present at least one class each semester, and to open themselves up to the extraordinary variety of offerings available.

Classes are held four days per week, Monday through Thursday, in the morning from 10:30 to noon, and in the afternoon from 1:00 until 2:30; in between is an hour for lunch, when members may eat in our lunchroom or nip out for a quick bite in a nearby place. We also hold “Noontime Knowledge” mini-sessions to which members can bring a sandwich and relax while listening to talks on a wide variety of topics.

All courses are designed, managed and taught by our members, who first create and organize a course and then recruit instructors to teach individual classes. (Or, perhaps, teach specific classes themselves.) Some presentations draw from the members’ expertise; many from their interests and avocations. We also sponsor field trips to local museums, theaters, places of architectural and historic interest, and more, where learning can be broadened and friendships strengthened.

Of course, at Quest, the real learning comes from the insights and questions raised by the participants in each class. We encourage people from all backgrounds to join us, and do not discriminate on the basis of prior education, work experience, race, color, ethnicity, - sexual orientation or religion. Our members include people of all life experiences; we believe strongly that the broader the diversity of our members the richer the experience for all. We have retired teachers, musicians, former trades union workers, engineers, lawyers, artists, doctors, business people, and more. Most live in Manhattan, but we also have a large contingent from Brooklyn, and several members from Queens, Long Island and New Jersey.



Bowling Green Campus
25 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Phone: 212.925.6625 ext.229
Email: questlifelonginfo@gmail.com
Web: www.questlifelong.org



Quest students respond during a class on New Yorker cartoons. Photo: Carl Glassman/Tribeca Trib

The Quest Lifelong Learning Community was featured in the article "*'It Fills My Mind': Fitness for the Brain at a Downtown Place Called Quest*" on the Tribeca Trib. Read below an excerpt from the article that follows the experiences of Quest members and the positive impact that it's had on their life.

I COME HOME FROM QUEST AND
I'M IN A WONDERFUL MOOD...
AND MY WIFE IS THRILLED

"'Get a job.' That's what my wife said to me after I'd been retired for a few years," recalls Peter Dichter, a former fragrance marketer. "You're vegetating, you have to start doing something." Dichter agreed to join Quest, an adult learning center at 25 Broadway—on one condition. "I told her, I'll go to classes but I won't participate, and I'll never, ever join a committee."

Today, Dichter is on not one but two committees, and so enthused about teaching his second class ("Classical Music in Pop Culture") that he's already prepared for it—six months ahead of schedule. "I come home from Quest and I'm in a wonderful mood...and my wife is thrilled," he said.

Quest, aka Quest Lifelong Learning, offers more than 40 classes conceived and presented by its members. This spring, for example, there were classes on folk music, the history of Germany, Black women writers, Frederick Olmstead, and the Pogues, a 1980s Celtic punk band. Trips outside the classrooms included visits to three museums and a trolley tour of the historic Greenwood Cemetery. Starting next month anyone can get a free sampling of Quest's classes during its "Summer Encore Program," a selection voted by the members as the best of the year. Classes will be held from June 3 to July 29. See the full schedule [here](#).

Questers, as they call themselves, are eager to tell you what they love about the program.

Like Arlynn Greenbaum, 74, a former lecture agent for writers, who says that joining Quest gave her "a whole second life." Or Lois Klein, 76, who describes her days at Quest as "so stimulating. It fills my mind." Or Ellie Schaffer, a former systems analyst, whose new friendships, she says, have been reinforced by mutual interests in Shakespeare or the overlooked British author Elizabeth Gaskell. "You find out that you're interested in things that you never knew you were interested in," she said. [Read more at Tribeca Trib.](#)



Former CWE Graduate, Diami Virgilio, Ph.D. will be starting a new job as an Assistant Professor at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in New York City this Fall!



Pictured is Diami Virgilio, third from left.

Diami Virgilio studies group identification and Black politics online. His work focuses on critical and qualitative approaches to understanding how people use and are used by digital media.

Diami Virgilio's research interests include digital culture and politics, processes of identification online, data and credibility, and race and nationalism. He uses methods and frameworks derived from critical theory, ethnography, world history, and political economy. Prior to his arrival at Annenberg, he spent 16 years in the New York City non-profit social service sector in management, development, communications, and direct social services.

ALUMNI NEWS

Former CWE College Assistant, Tuan Cassim, has been selected to receive a 2023 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship!

Four CCNY alumni are on the list for this year!

Further information on the fellowship: "The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) helps ensure the vitality of the human resource base of science and engineering in the United States and reinforces its diversity. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited United States institutions. As the oldest graduate fellowship of its kind, the GRFP has a long history of selecting recipients who achieve high levels of success in their future academic and professional careers. The reputation of the GRFP follows recipients and often helps them become life-long leaders that contribute significantly to both scientific innovation and teaching.

Past fellows include numerous Nobel Prize winners, former U.S. Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, Google founder, Sergey Brin and Freakonomics co-author, Steven Levitt. NSF Fellows are anticipated to become knowledge experts who can contribute significantly to research, teaching, and innovations in science and engineering. These individuals are crucial to maintaining and advancing the nation's technological infrastructure and national security as well as contributing to the economic well-being of society at large."

CWE GRAD UPDATES

Lara Rodriguez (2013)

completed her Ph.D. in Anthropology from The George Washington University (GWU) in 2022. She currently serves as a Professorial Lecturer of Writing at GWU while she works on a book project based on her dissertation research.

Nelson Santana (2013) is deputy chief and collection development librarian at Bronx Community College of The City University of New York <http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/employees/santana-nelson/>

Maarja Sau (2013)

Organizational Development Consultant, Tallinn, Estonia

Selvia Sikder (2016)

Program Officer, NYC Department for the Aging

Jorge Arteaga (2016)

Vice President, Lead Operations Office at Right to Be (formerly Hollaback!)

Eskimo Emolade (2023)

Eskimo Emolade is currently working as a CA in the CWE Library - her mother [Barbara](#) was a founding member of CWE back in 1981. Eskimo aims to enroll in the MLS program at CUNY in 2024. Anna Li (2019) also works at the CWE library and is enrolled in an MLS program.

FACULTY NEWS

READ DEAN JUAN CARLOS MERCADO'S AND PROFESSOR CARLOS AGUASACO'S NEW BOOK:

ESPAÑA Y NORTEAMÉRICA EN EL CORREDOR TRANSATLÁNTICO: RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES, DERECHOS HUMANOS Y CARTOGRAFÍAS DE LA REPRESENTACIÓN
TRANSLATION: *SPAIN AND NORTH AMERICA IN THE TRANSATLANTIC CORRIDOR: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CARTOGRAPHIES OF REPRESENTATION.*

This book is the result of the call for papers based on the works presented at the "Seventh Congress on historical links between Spain and the United States", issues related to the transatlantic corridor, its processes of migration and human rights. In a globalized world, the study of population movements is and has been essential to understand the formation, evolution and existence of many of the countries, economic communities and regions of the planet. The very circumstance of the transfer of people from one place of origin to another for a certain time —or for a lifetime— configured and transformed the political, social, economic and cultural structures of both the countries of origin and those of reception. Migratory movements and respect for the human rights of immigrants are closely related. Human rights are those that all people have, regardless of their country, gender, ethnicity or other characteristics. Human rights include, among others, the rights to physical integrity, such as not to be killed or tortured; civil rights, such as the freedom to practice your religion and move freely within your country; and political rights, such as the freedom to assemble without restriction and express their views. This book presents ten different articles divided into three sections: International Relations: origin, theory and present movement; Cartographies of Human Rights: exile and migration; and finally Cartographies of Representation: stories, audiovisual media and biographies.

READ [HERE](#).

EDITORS

Juan Carlos Mercado

Juan Carlos Mercado is the Dean of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the City College of New York/City University of New York. He is also a faculty member of the Doctoral Program in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages (HLBLL) at the Graduate Center/CUNY. Mercado has worked on 19th century Latin American studies, history of ideas, and 16th century Spanish explorations in what is now the United States. He is the author of numerous books, reviews and articles. His most recent publications are two annotated editions by Menéndez de Avilés and Florida: *Crónicas de sus expediciones* (2010), *Escritores Coloniales* by Juan María Gutiérrez (2012), *Historical links between Spain and North America* (2016), "Latin America and the National Question: José Carlos Mariátegui's Case," in *Homage to Eugenio Chang-Rodríguez*, (2017), and *Alberdi: La noble igualdad*, by Juan Pablo Lichtmajer. Prologue (2022). Currently, Mercado is working on an annotated edition of *La Argentina: Historia de las Provincias del Río de la Plata* by Ruy Díaz de Guzmán. In addition, Mercado is the founder of The Americas Film Festival of New York (TAFFNY), and co-founder of the Human Rights Forum. He also oversees the office of Study Abroad and International Programs as well as the Office of Continuing and Professional Studies.

Carlos Aguasaco

Carlos Aguasaco is Professor and Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at City College of the City University of New York. An academic specializing in cultural studies and poetry, he has edited thirteen literary anthologies and published several books of poems. These include: *The New York City Subway Poems – Poemas del metro de Nueva York* (Ashland Poetry Press -Ashland University-: Ohio, 2020). Aguasaco has won the Juan Felipe Herrera Award for the best bilingual book of poetry at ILBA 2021. In 2021 The Academy of American Poets awarded him the Ambroggio Prize, the only national award for an author whose first language is Spanish for his book "Cardinal in My Window with a Mask on Its Beak" translated by Jennifer Rathbun (Arizona University Press , 2022). He is the author of the first academic study of the Latin American superhero *El Chapulín Colorado: They did not count on my cunning! Mexico: parody, nation and subject* in the series of *El Chapulín Colorado* (2014). He is also the editor of *Transatlantic Gazes: Studies on the Historical Links between Spain and North America* (2018). He is the director of The Americas Poetry Festival of New York (poetryny.com) and coordinates The Americas Film Festival of New York (taffny.com). Since 2021, he is a columnist at *Newsweek* in Spanish.

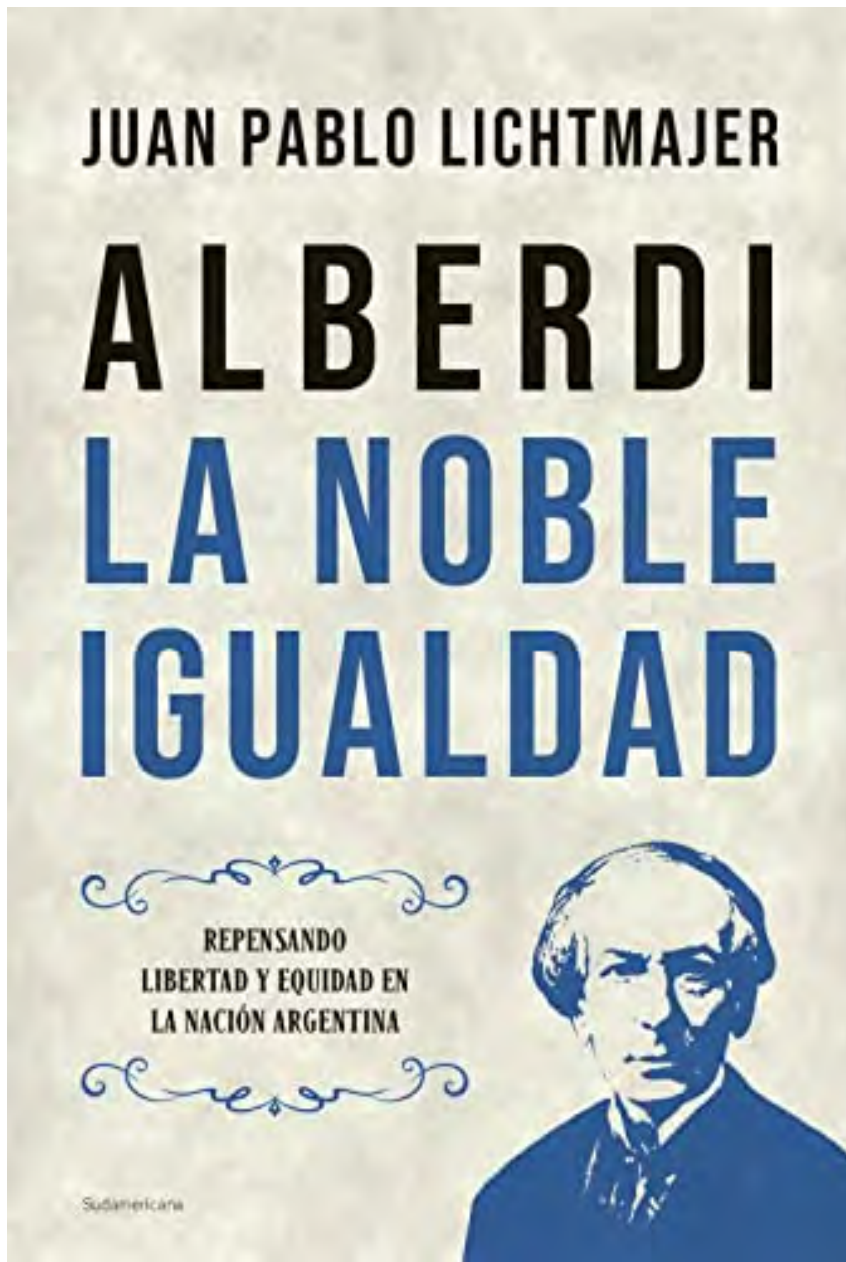
España y Norteamérica en el corredor transatlántico

Relaciones internacionales, derechos humanos y
cartografías de la representación

Juan Carlos Mercado
Carlos Aguasaco



Emily
COLLECTION
EMILY DICKINSON



READ DEAN JUAN CARLOS MERCADO'S PROLOGUE IN JUAN PABLO LICHTMAJER'S BOOK

"ALBERDI LA NOBLE IGUALDAD"

Juan Pablo Lichtmajer has a PhD in History from Essex University, England. Currently, Lichtmajer is Tucuman Minister of Education (Argentina).

Juan Bautista Alberdi's life and work are the focus of this book, which reveals, from an original perspective, a greater ambition: to discuss the present. Indeed, the journey through Argentina's history—from the end of colonization to independence—traced by Juan Pablo Lichtmajer follows the evolution of perhaps the most important figure of the Generation of 37—the intellectual author of the country's Constitution of 1853. It constructs a lucid reading of the past that prompts connection to the challenges of the present. One of the clearest purposes and one of the greatest strengths of this work is to encourage a rereading of Alberdi in order to think about contemporary Argentina.

FACULTY NEWS

CWE'S Dr. Gail Buffalo was featured on CUNY TV
2022 National Education Assessments (January 2023)

Watch below:



FACULTY NEWS



READ CWE'S PROFESSOR SUSANNA ROSENBAUM'S PIECE WITH RUTI TALMOR ON SELF- CARE AS A KEY WORD FOR *FEMINIST ANTHROPOLOGY*

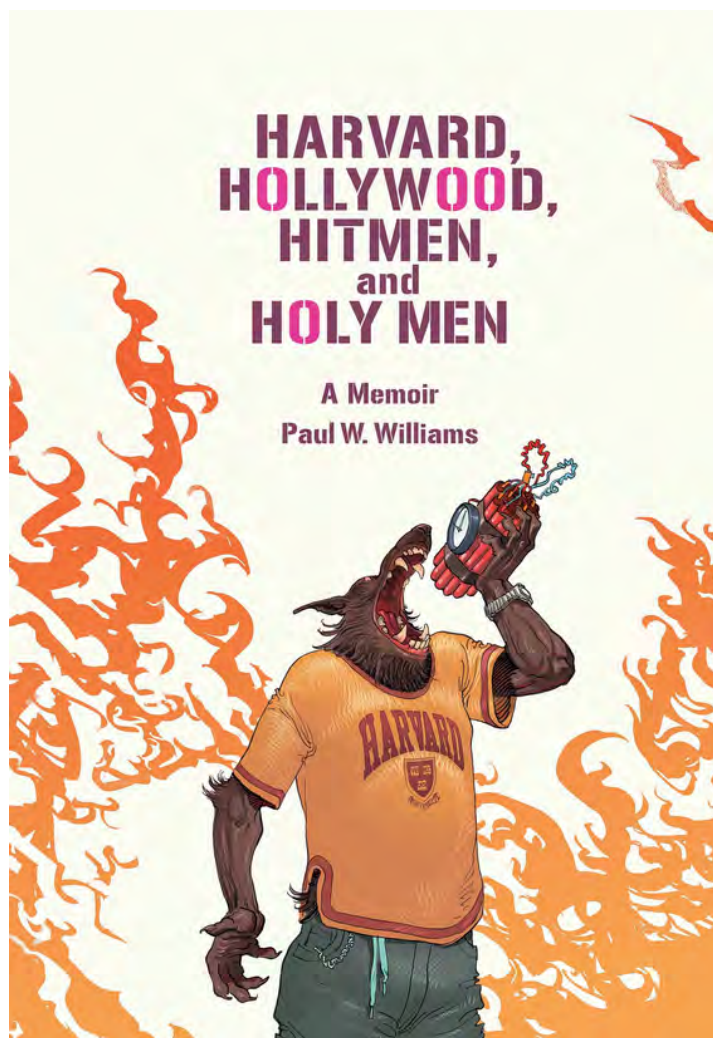
[Read the full text](#)

Abstract

Self-care is everywhere these days. Unlike “care,” it is not yet a central term in anthropology, but recent ethnographic studies point up its potential. In this keyword entry, we trace out distinct yet co-present understandings of the term that stem from radically different worldviews and construct it in oppositional, mutually exclusive ways. The first is the Black feminist lineage, which defines self-care as a political warfare within and against an American system of intersectional oppression. The second is a multidisciplinary body of work which builds on Foucault and defines self-care as a neoliberal form of domination and subjectification. Finally, we examine a burgeoning literature on refusal that emerges from multiple disciplines, including queer and affect theory, Native studies, Black feminism, and disability studies. Centering the margins, this perspective directly speaks to processes of domination, elucidating the recursive relationship among self, care, and personhood—how practices of care produce persons, and in turn, how only those accorded full personhood are deemed worthy of care. Containing these multiple and conflicting definitions, self-care thus exposes the current experience of crisis as bifurcated: either hopelessly ongoing or hopefully at a breaking point that will lead to change.

FACULTY NEWS

READ CWE'S PROFESSOR MARTIN WOESSNER'S BOOK REVIEW
ON PAUL WILLIAMS'S
"HARVARD, HOLLYWOOD, HITMEN, AND HOLY MEN"



“

HOLLYWOOD MEMOIRS GENERALLY FOLLOW A PRETTY COMMON NARRATIVE ARC: THE OBSCURE BEGINNINGS AND THE SURPRISING BREAKTHROUGH; THE STEADY RISE CUT SHORT BY THE ABRUPT DOWNFALL; THE ARDUOUS STRUGGLE FOR REDEMPTION AND THE LATE-IN-LIFE RECOGNITION. BUT WHEREAS CLASSICS OF THE GENRE, SUCH AS ROBERT EVANS'S *THE KID STAYS IN THE PICTURE* (1994), OFFER US ACCOUNTS OF THE OUTSIDER-AS-INSIDER, THE TWO-BIT ACTOR BECOME STUDIO BOSS, *HARVARD, HOLLYWOOD, HITMEN, AND HOLY MEN* GIVES US A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE, THAT OF THE OUTSIDER-AS-OUTSIDER, THE CURIOUS OBSERVER WHO DISHES ALL THE JUICY GOSSIP, BUT WITH A HEFTY AMOUNT OF ANTICAPITALIST, COUNTERCULTURAL SALT THROWN IN.

”

READ THE FULL REVIEW [HERE](#).

SEE OTHER WRITING BY MARTIN AT LARB BY CLICKING [HERE](#)



**READ CWE'S ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR DR. SUSANNA
SCHALLER'S
RESEARCH ARTICLE PUBLISHED
IN THE *URBAN STUDIES*
JOURNAL
*MAKING POWER VISIBLE:
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICTS AND CREATIVE
PLACEMAKING IN
WASHINGTON, DC***

[Read the full text](#)

Abstract

Business improvement districts represent a privatising urban governance instrument that visibly transforms urban landscapes. In the United States, the racialised impacts of business improvement districts require examination. Through a discussion of Washington, DC, a city profoundly injured by racist planning histories, we illustrate how business improvement districts, as part of a broader entrepreneurial regime, have driven gentrification citywide since the late 1990s. Focusing on the intersection of redevelopment and 'creative placemaking', we make visible the contradictions embedded in this business improvement district urbanism, which has harnessed the work of a network of actors to revalorise urban space while erasing working class places and in DC, its Black cultural, political and economic space.

To read more works from Dr. Schaller click [here](#).

FACULTY NEWS

READ DR. ELIZABETH MATTHEWS' ARTICLE *A QUALITATIVE EXPLORATION OF CARDBOARD ARCHITECTURE IN POST-PANDEMIC SCHOOLS*

[Read the full text](#)

Abstract

Governments have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with social distancing measures, school closures and society lockdowns. The disruption in the functioning of schools have evoked a myriad of emotions among students including the pervasive fear of others and anxiety about a virus that cannot be controlled. As schools reopen, one immediate focus is to ensure proper sanitary measures in classrooms. While important, it is also equally critical that schools effectively support students' transition back to the classroom environment. This paper considers how cardboard architecture may support transitions between remote home learning and formal school-based education. We use a case study of the Unboxy project, a kit of cardboard shapes and connectors, provided to 18 schools in Australia following the school reopening after covid lockdown. The case study reports a qualitative analysis of how a cardboard architecture project aided students' transition back to school. Key themes revealed that students created safety structures and spaces for collaboration, thus highlighting the processes with which students interacted with spatial materials to narrate their affective response during the pandemic. Drawing on both research literature and our case study we identify design features of future cardboard architecture resources that can influence student wellbeing upon return to school.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE [HERE](#).



FACULTY NEWS

The logo for International Affairs 100, featuring the text "International Affairs" in red and "100" in white, with "1946-2016" in smaller white text below it.

**READ DR. DANIELLE ZACH'S
ARTICLE
*VIRTUAL ISSUE: 70 YEARS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS IN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.***

[Read the full text](#)

Extract

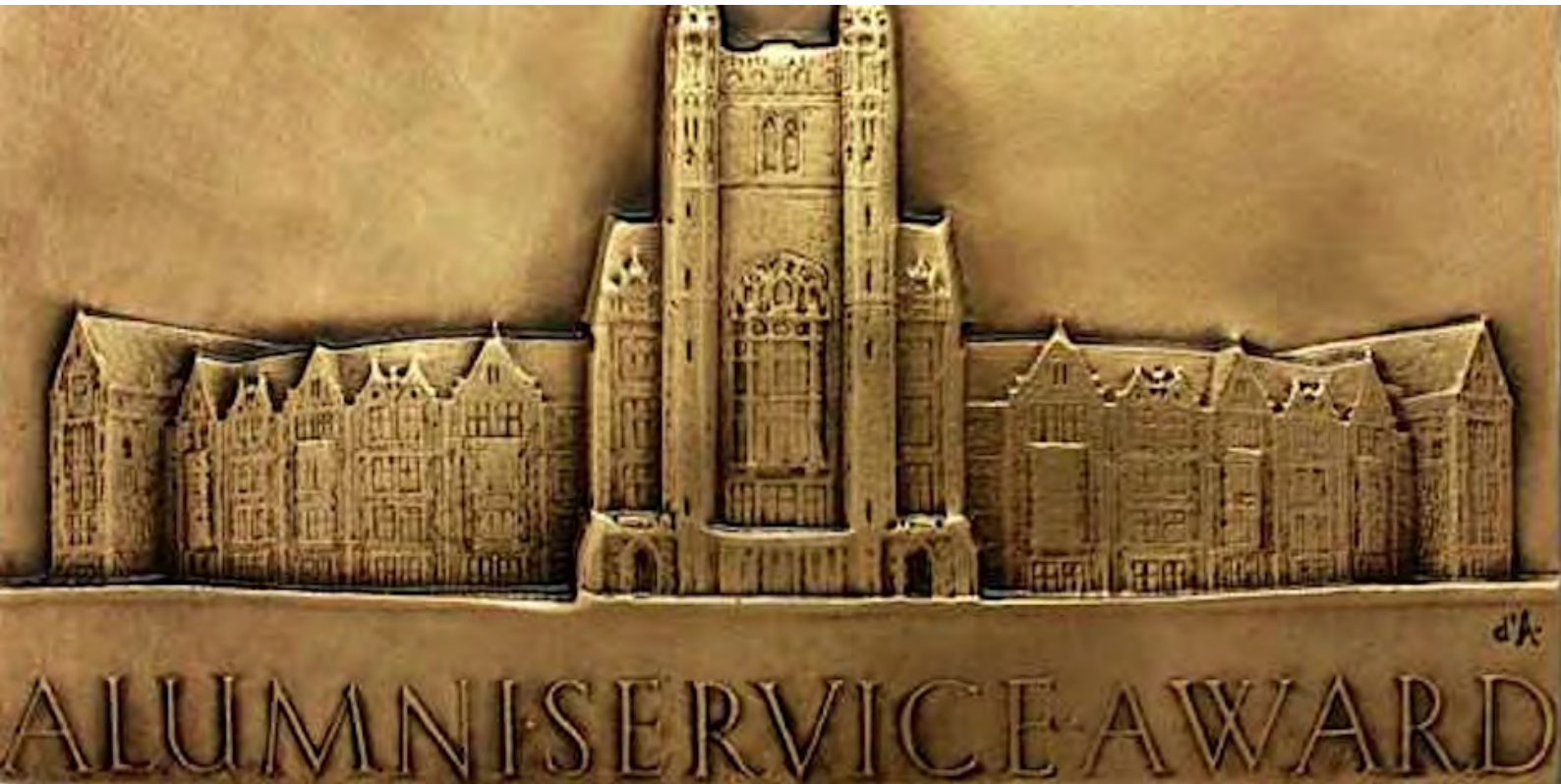
This collection of articles about the United Nations system, published during the post-Second World War life of International Affairs (IA), presented us with the daunting task of choosing only a quarter of the pool. Our selection depended, of course, on what various editors had accepted since 1946. They capture, imperfectly, the evolution of both the world organization and of the journal itself. The subject-matter and timing of their publication reflect the impact of key challenges such as armed conflict, natural and human-made disasters and terrorism; various anniversaries; substantive issues including the environment and gender; and major shifts in world politics from decolonization to the end of the Cold War. The selected articles remain pertinent for today's readers despite disproportionately reflecting the voices of the western foreign policy establishment with which Chatham House has historically been associated.

This collection reflects our judgement of not only the quality of particular contributions but also the importance of their authors on the world stage. The contributions draw on expertise derived from careers that span the 'three UNs' of member-state governments, the international civil service, and civil society (primarily academia and non-governmental organizations [NGOs]). Often, the authors have played more than one of these roles. We considered the centrality of topics within the UN system's huge portfolio; indeed, what is not on the agenda? We also sought a balance between overviews of the world body and leadership within each of its three pillars of activities: international peace and security; human rights and humanitarian action; and development and environment.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE [HERE](#).

A decorative graphic consisting of several black lines forming a series of nested, downward-pointing chevrons or triangles, located in the bottom left corner of the page.

STAFF NEWS



On Thursday, June 15th, CWE Office Manager, Nina Woods '12, was honored with the Alumni Service Award at the 171th ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING.

The Annual Members meeting honors the service of select members of the Alumni Association as well as distinguished CCNY faculty and staff.



Ninoshka Woods

 The City College of New York

Ninoshka Woods began her position at the Center as the Assistant to Dean Juan Carlos Mercado and for the past couple of years as the Office Manager. Ninoshka has been working for City College for over 15 years. She worked in different departments at the uptown campus. Her former position at the uptown campus was as the Assistant to the Dean of Faculty Relations. Ninoshka received her B.A in Interdisciplinary Studies at CWE and currently working on a MS in Business Management and Leadership.



NOW UP TO 35 EPISODES.

HOSTED BY PROFESSOR DANIELLE ZACH, RIGHTS TALK IS DEVOTED TO ENGAGING CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES AROUND THE WORLD ACROSS THE HUMAN RIGHTS SPECTRUM OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS; ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS; AND SOLIDARITY RIGHTS, INCLUDING TO A SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT. THE PODCAST INVITES CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES AND QUESTIONS THE FUTURE OF RIGHTS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

[*LISTEN TO ALL EPISODES HERE*](#)





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