

Division of Interdisciplinary Studies
at the Center for Worker Education

The City College
of New York

Downtown Campus

City College
D O W N T O W N
S C O P E

FALL
2021

Don't Forget to Check your CityMail Everyday!

NOTE:

Schools and Colleges require at least 10 days to verify and approve the vaccination documents after students upload such information to the CUNYfirst system.

Until October 7th, 2021, students attending "in-person" or "hybrid" classes must be fully vaccinated and have their vaccination documentation uploaded and approved, or they have to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within seven (7) days prior to accessing a campus at a CUNY testing site.

Dear CWE Community,

I hope that you and your family are doing well. Little by little we are moving towards the College offering more in-person classes. As you have seen the University aims to have next semester 70% in-person/HyFlex courses and 30% hybrid and online courses; and all full-time faculty members would be teaching at least one in-person course.

At CWE, the situation is different and we have more flexibility because of space limitation, and logistics must be coordinated with Brooklyn College, Quest and the Building. In addition, we are the only Division of the College that has a degree approved to be offered totally online. As I informed you in my last communication, we have finished upgrading the Auditorium and two big classrooms to offer online/hyflex classes. Quest has been using these classrooms very successfully. Now we are working on upgrading every single classroom which would allow us to offer online/hyflex classes. Also, we are in the process of replacing all our podiums which have served us since inception. I have to recognize Robert Hernandez and his team for their work on this.

As you know staff has been working partially at CWE and partially from home; however, advisor services will continue remotely. Our facility is open for those students who are fully vaccinated, and who for various reasons need space to study or to use the

computer lab.

Now some news on our Division activities:

**In October we'll have the International Poetry Festival of New York, organized by Prof. Aguasaco. We are also planning two international conferences for Spring 2022: the Second International Conference on Human Rights (April, at the Center), and the Historical Links Conference between Spain and the Americas, (Alcala, Spain). Stay tuned for more details.

**My congratulations to our student Patriece Spann on being the winner of the Women's Forum of New York 2021 Education Fund \$10,000 Scholarship.

**I would like to recognize Prof. Carlos Aguasaco on being the 2021 winner of the Academy of American Poets' Ambroggio Prize; Prof. Seamus Scanlon for getting \$5,000 from the City Artist Corps Grant; Prof. Gay Wilgus and Adjunct Associate Prof. Alessandra Benedicty for their publications; and Prof. Danielle Zach and Prof. Martin Woessner for their paper presentations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. David Eastzer for his service to the College and our Division. David is enjoying a deserved retirement. Also, I would like to welcome Prof. Gail Russell-Buffalo who has been appointed substitute Assistant Professor. My congratulations to Prof. Susanna Schaller for being elected to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate. This is the first time that our Division has a faculty member at the EC of the Faculty Senate.

As I've said in previous communications, during this difficult time, you all have been doing exceptional work in the classrooms, in the different committees at the Divisional level as well as the College and University levels. What you, the faculty, staff and students, all working together, have been able to accomplish during the last eighteen months is simply amazing.

Thank you again for all that you continue to do.



Juan Carlos Mercado, PhD

Dean | Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education



School of Education The City College of New York

Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education The City College of New York

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

For More Information, Please Contact Carlos Aguasaco or Christopher D. Yawn

Carlos Aguasaco
Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Chair
caguasaco@ccny.cuny.edu

Christopher D. Yawn
Special Education Program Director
cyawn@ccny.cuny.edu



Division of Interdisciplinary Studies
at the Center for Worker Education

The City College
of New York



The MA Program in the Study of the Americas continues to grow. In keeping with its tradition of scholarly innovation and pedagogical outreach, we have developed two Accelerated MA degrees, one in conjunction with our own BA degree in Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences and one in collaboration with CCNY's Black Studies Program on the uptown campus.

Accelerated MA students, Black Studies students who are accepted into the Accelerated MA Program will now have the opportunity to enroll in Study of the Americas seminars while completing their undergraduate requirements, giving them a head start on their graduate educations.

Last Spring, we were delighted to welcome our first Black Studies Accelerated MA student, and to debut a new graduate course--"Haiti and the Americas"--taught by Professor Vanessa Valdés, director of the Black Studies Program. Additionally, two of our Accelerated MA students completed their BAs in Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences and are now fully enrolled as MA students.

This Fall, we continue to expand the diversity of course offerings. Professor Ramona Hernandez, director of the Dominican Studies Institute, is offering "The Dominican People in the United States," a new course in our Dominican Studies Track. Additionally, Professor Justin Williams is inaugurating a new course: "African Diasporas in the Americas."

For more information on the Accelerated MA with Black Studies, please visit:

<http://www.citycollegeamericasma.org/for-black-studies-majors>

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS



There is a total of \$20,000 worth of Scholarships in 2021

Applications will open soon!

Take a look at last years' and previous years' award winners:

<https://sites.google.com/view/ias-cweawards/home>



WOMEN'S FORUM
O F N E W Y O R K

**Women's Forum of New York
2021 Education Fund \$10,000 Scholarship Winner at
The CUNY Center for Worker Education**

Patriece Spann

"Patriece grew up the oldest of 4 children and the first in her family to pursue higher education, her mother doing her best to financially support Patriece's dreams of graduating college, but, as a single parent among the working class, there wasn't enough income to continuously pay tuition and take care of her siblings.

In 2004 Patriece headed off to college filled with excitement and high expectations. Unfortunately, the financial burden of tuition forced Patriece to end her college career in 2006, facing a large amount of college debt. Although this came as a huge disappointment to Patriece, she knew she would never give up on her dream of becoming a successful college graduate. After working past her college debt from Fordham University, Patriece was able to enroll in City College of New York.

In 2010 Patriece began working in early childhood education, primarily serving African American and Latin students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. As an educator, Patriece witnessed the inequalities these children face, the institutional racism that exists within our educational system and the biases educators and administrators have towards these children. These injustices have influenced Patriece's career goals and motivated her to end the miseducation of children of color. Becoming an educator and providing students with access to a quality education, are at the core of Patriece's goals.

With the help of the Education Fund, Patriece will continue to grow and expand her skills as an educator by pursuing her masters degree in educational leadership, without facing the financial burdens that arise in higher education. "Taking on a leadership position within the educational system will allow me to be a part of creating a more equal and equitable educational system for whom the system was not designed, namely black and brown students."

- Patriece Spann

The 2022 Education Fund Award Application is now available. All applications and supplementary materials must be received no later than February 1st, 2022. Applicants will be notified of results before June 20th, 2022.

[Learn more here](#)

academy of
american poets

2021 prize winners

Carlos Aguasaco

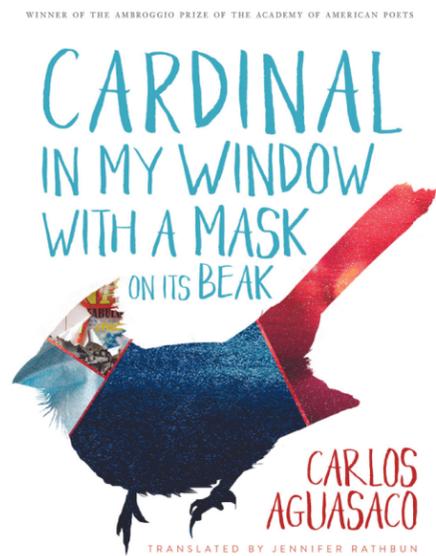
TRANSLATED BY

Jennifer Rathbun

AMBROGGIO PRIZE



Carlos Aguasaco, CCNY Professor
2021 Prize Winner of the Academy of American Poets' Ambroggio Prize



"... this book reaches beyond surprising premises and literary inspirations to arrive at a place where the poet also finds wonder in everyday encounters and solace in the sobering knowledge that everything comes to an end, but not before dispelling its magic upon the world."—Rigoberto González, Ambroggio Prize 2021 judge

academy of
american poets

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ARIZONA PRESS

September 17th, 2021

"Cardenal en mi ventana con una máscara en el pico / Cardinal in My Window with a Mask on its Beak," a poetry manuscript by [Carlos Aguasaco](#), professor of Latin American cultural studies at The City College of New York, is the winner of the [Academy of American Poets' Ambroggio Prize](#).

Established in 2017, the Ambroggio Prize is the only annual award of its kind in the United States that honors American poets whose first language is Spanish. It recognizes an outstanding book-length poetry manuscript originally written in Spanish and with an English translation.

Aguasaco chairs the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences in CCNY's [Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at Center for Worker Education](#) (CWE) and is the editor of "[Transatlantic Gazes: Studies on the Historical Links between Spain and North America](#)."

- Jay Mwamba, *The City College of New York*

[Read More](#)



Seamus Scanlon, CCNY Librarian and Playwright,
earns \$5,000 City Artist Corps Grant

September 16th, 2021

Playwright and City College of New York librarian [Seamus Scanlon](#) is the recipient of a \$5,000 [City Artist Corps grant](#) for NYC-based working artists disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The program is presented by [The New York Foundation for the Arts](#) (NYFA) and the [New York City Department of Cultural Affairs](#) (DCLA), with support from the [Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment](#) (MOME) and [Queens Theatre](#).

Scanlon was recognized for his award-winning play "The Long Wet Grass." He will arrange a bilingual reading – in English and Spanish – of the play.

Based at the [Center for Worker Education Library](#) at City College Downtown, Scanlon is a Carnegie Corporation award-winning librarian. [Click here for his other works](#).



- Jay Mwamba, *The City College of New York*

[Read More](#)

A banner for City College of New York's Center for Worker Education (CWE). On the left is the college's circular seal. In the center is a yellow and blue seal with the text "The City College of New York Downtown Campus CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION CWE". To the right, the text "CWE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS" is written in orange. At the bottom, it says "Take the time to look at our Scholarships & Awards. [Learn more here](#)".

Watch the 8th Annual The Americas Film Festival of New York Award Ceremony and Winners Showcase

June 26, 2021



Watch the Last Day of the 6th International Conference on the Historical Links between Spain and the Americas

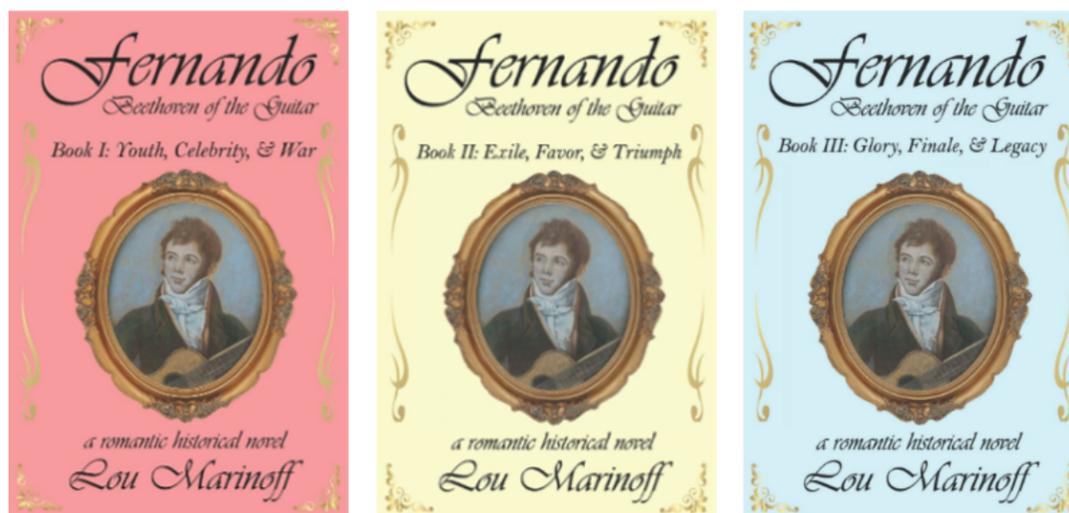
April 30th, 2021



Now up to 23 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](#)

Featured Reads



Fernando: Beethoven of the Guitar portrays the incredible life and enduring legacy of Fernando Sor, the greatest guitarist-composer of his era, and the first to elevate the guitar from the taverns of Spain to the concert halls of Europe. Book I of this trilogy recounts Fernando's enchanted childhood in Barcelona and Montserrat, Celebrity and War. Book II: Exile, Favor and Triumph, and Book III: Gloria, Finale and Legacy. Author: **Lou Marinoff, Professor of Philosophy at the City College of New York**, and an internationally bestselling author. He publishes scholarly works, popular philosophy books, and fiction.

Dean Juan Carlos Mercado wrote a book review which was included in Book I. Below is an excerpt:

"History simply tells us about facts. The historical novel, though, is an instrument that allows readers to relive important events by introducing us into the intimate lives of great historical figures. This is exactly what Lou Marinoff does in recreating the life of an extraordinary but mostly unknown Catalan musician of the XVIII and XIX centuries: Fernando Sor. Marinoff says, "My main literary goals in writing this trilogy were to resuscitate dry bones of facticity by adorning them with human flesh and blood; to animate desiccated dates with a pounding heartbeat and a surging pulse; to restore remote events to an all-embracing immediacy; and to revivify long-dead names with vibrant personalities and vivacious passions."

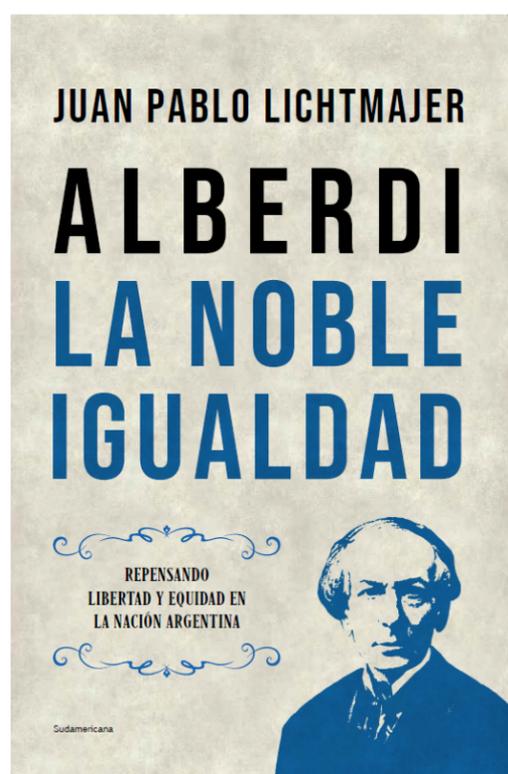
Marinoff transports readers to another time and place, both real and imagined. As we know, writing historical fiction requires a balance of research and creativity; Marinoff expertly handles both elements in a masterful way. This cast of real people living the events of their time has given the author rich

territory to tell a wholly distinctive story; creating this fantastic literary piece required a profound knowledge of the genre and unique music appreciation, both of which Marinoff possesses. By reading this book, the reader can relive many historical moments, including the unique encounter and conversations held at the Duchess of Alba's Palacio de Liria; of note, she was also the patron of Francisco de Goya. There are many more important and significant historical events such as Sor and the Inquisition, Napoleon's Invasion of Spain, the Battle of Bailen, the first defeat for the French invaders, and the execution of Madrileños at the '2 de Mayo' by French firing squads (as portrayed so majestically by Goya in his series called 'The Disasters of War'). Marinoff conveys the spirit, manners, and social conditions of a past age with realistic detail and fidelity, framed in beautiful prose. This is a very enjoyable read on many fronts.

A colleague of mine who serves as a professor at a very prestigious Spanish university told me that if we want to truly know Spanish history of the last centuries, it is fundamental to read literature pieces instead of only history books. I believe this to be absolutely true in the case of Fernando Sor. Marinoff has given us a welcome and exceptional gift to better understand the life of this extraordinary musician.

- **Juan Carlos Mercado, Ph.D.**

**Dean of interdisciplinary Studies, Center for Worker Education
The City College of the City University of New York "**



Juan Carlos Mercado wrote the prologue /introduction to *Alberdi: la noble igualdad/Alberdi: the noble equality*, by **Juan Pablo Lichtmajer**.

Juan Bautista Alberdi was, without a doubt, one of the greatest thinkers in Argentina's history. He was part of the glorious Generation of 37, that group of thinkers who understood that Romanticism, education, science, law, and progress were fundamental to the construction of strong foundations for the Republic. He was also one of the most prominent Argentine lawyers, and his contribution to the historical-constitutional formation of Argentina is indisputable.

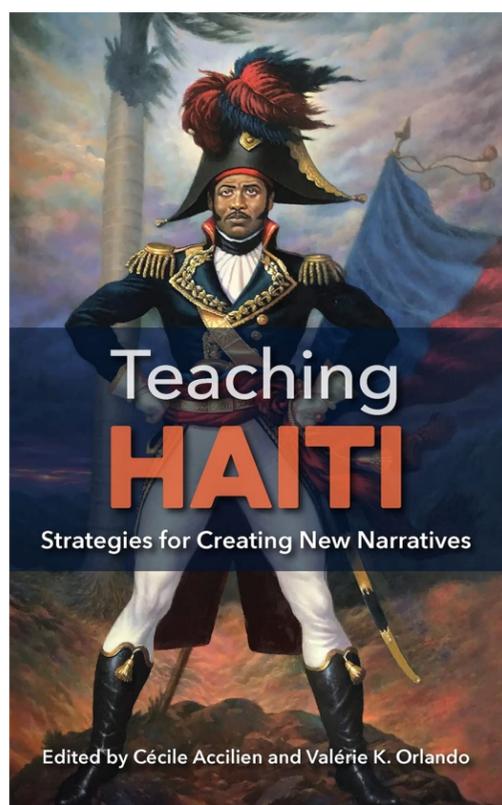
Juan Pablo Lichtmajer has a PHD in History from Essex University, England. Since 2015, Lichtmajer has served as the Tucuman Minister of Education, Argentina.

This book will be published in November by Penguin Random House/Sudamericana.



Read [Imagining Motherhood in The Twenty-First Century Edited by Valerie Heffernan and Gay Wilgus](#) Published November 30, 2020 by Routledge

Gay Wilgus is a Professor at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE).



Read **Alessandra Benedicty-Kokken's** chapter in [Teaching Haiti: Strategies for Creating New Narratives by Cécile Accilien \(Editor\), Valérie K. Orlando \(Editor\)](#) Publisher: University of Florida Press; 1st edition (August 10, 2021)

Alessandra Benedicty-Kokken's is

an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE).

Read **Danielle Zach's** Research Paper in the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, ["It was networking, all networking": the Irish republican movement's survival in Cold War America.](#)

Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 2021, Vol.47(9), p.2218-2236

Danielle Zach, PhD is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE).



Read **Martin Woesnner's** Research Paper in the journal American Literary History, ["New Detours in American Intellectual History."](#)

American Literary History, 2020, Vol.32(1), p.209-219. *Project MUSE*

Martin Woesnner is an Associate Professor at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE).



UPCOMING EVENTS



Americas Poetry Festival of New York 2021

This year the Americas Poetry Festival of New York 2021 (poetryny.com) celebrates its 8th edition with a hybrid format allowing for in person and remote participation. This event, organized by poets and professors Carlos Aguasaco, Yrene Santos and Carlos Velásquez Torres, will feature Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Some of the participants are Jennifer Rathbun (USA), Mónica Lucía Suárez Beltrán (Colombia), Mateo Morrison (Dominican Republic), Khalid Raissouni (Morocco), and Seamus Scanlon (Ireland) among many others. The venues are: City College Downtown CWE, Walt Whitman Birthplace State Historic Site and Interpretive Center, Consulate of Argentina in New York, and Instituto Cervantes NY.

Dates:

October 13th, 14th and 15th



CCNY's Second Critical Perspectives On Human Rights Conference: Power And Rights

The City College of New York, CUNY, invites submissions for its [Second Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Conference](#). CCNY's Second Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Conference (CPHRC) seeks to interrogate the complex relationships that exist between political and economic power, on the one hand, and rights claims, on the other. Proposals are due no later than December 31, 2021

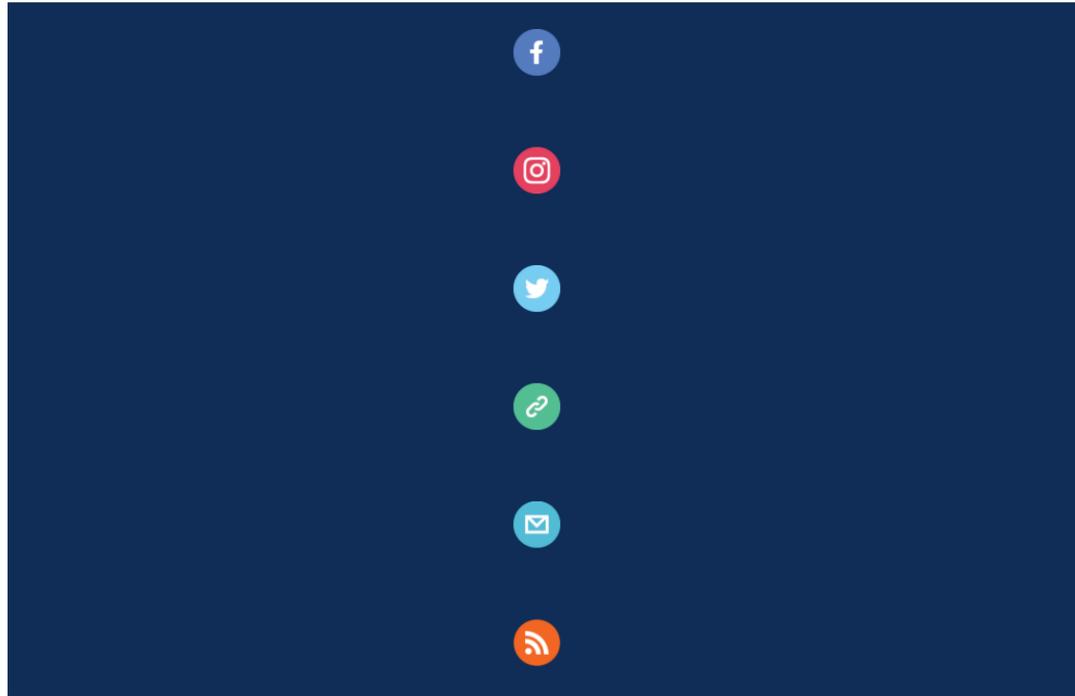
Dates:

April 20 - 22, 2022

[Learn More](#)

[Support the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies \(CWE\). Donate here.](#)

With your continued support, we are able to work to ensure that the students, faculty, and staff who are part of our campus community are able to work together to share the lives of generations to come. Your generosity provides so many opportunities.



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Juan Carlos Mercado, PhD
Dean
Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at CWE
The City College of New York/CUNY
25 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Ph. 212-925-6625, ext. 246
jmercado@ccny.cuny.edu
<http://ccny.cuny.edu/cwe>