Who are the faculty in the M.A. in the Study of the Americas?

The Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences has its own designated full-time faculty. This faculty, consisting of members from various disciplines has a particular expertise in the Study of the Americas. Faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the uptown campus, and other expert professionals will also be invited to teach courses in their areas of specialization.

Current full-time faculty members teaching in the program include:

Carlos Aguasaco, Ph.D.
Carlos Aguasaco was born in Bogotá, Colombia (1975). He earned his Ph.D. at Stony Brook University and was awarded the prestigious W. Burghardt Turner Doctoral Fellowship by the State University of New York. He holds an M.A. in Spanish from The City College of New York and a B.A. in Literature from the National University of Colombia. In fall 2002, The Simon H. Rifkind Center For The Humanities & The Arts granted him a Blanche Mason Starweather Student Award for his project “Four Discoveries of America in William Ospina's El pais del viento.” A sample of his work as a poet and translator was included in Red Hot Salsa Bilingual Poem On Being Young And Latino In The United States (Henry Holt, 2005). His short stories have been included in anthologies such as Pequeñas Resistencias 4 Antología del nuevo cuento norteamericano y caribeño published in Spain (2005). He is the co-editor of five anthologies: Encuentro 10 poetas latinoamericanos en USA (2003), Narraciones sin Frontera 27 cuentistas hispanoamericanos (2004) and Ensayos sin frontera -Estudios sobre literatura hispanoamericana (2005), Antología del festival latinoamericano de poesía ciudad de Nueva York (2012.) In 2010 Carlos won the India Catalina prize for best video in the art category at the 50th Cartagena International Film Festival. His video art work has been featured at Camaguey International Video Art Festival and Region 0. His poetry has been published and translated in several venues and countries, including the United States, Spain, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Honduras, Colombia and the Dominican Republic. He is the founder of Artepoética Press, a Hispanic publishing house devoted to bringing the very best of contemporary Latin American literature to the Spanish-speaking public in the United States. He is a co-founder of the Latin American Poetry Festival NYC and is currently in charge of the Cátedra Cultura de México (Mexical Culture Lecture Series) at CCNY. He coordinates the Spanish Language program at CWE, and teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes on: Latin American Popular Culture, Latin American Civilization, Latin American Cinema, Society and Culture of the Americas, and all levels of Spanish.
Alessandra Benedicty, Ph.D.
Alessandra Benedicty is Assistant Professor of Caribbean and Francophone Literatures and director of the Master of Arts in the Study of the Americas at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at The City College of New York. Previously, she worked at the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in New York as Director of Development (2007-2009) and before that at the Québec Government Office in New York as Attaché for Inter-Governmental and Academic Affairs (2004-2007).

Marlene Clark, Ph.D.
Marlene Clark completed a Ph.D. in English at The Graduate School and University Center, CUNY and, more recently, an M.A. in Philosophy and the Arts at Stony Brook University, SUNY. She teaches interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate courses at CWE. Research interests include the philosophy of place and space; Brooklyn, New York; the 1960s throughout the Americas; the Cold War; and writing across the disciplines.

Kathlene McDonald, Ph.D.
Kathy McDonald is an Associate Professor of English and Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. Her work considers the relationship between class, culture, and politics in twentieth-century United States literature. McDonald’s first book, *Feminism, the Left, and Postwar Literary Culture*, examines the cultural work of women writers on the Left in the United States in the years immediately following World War II. She argues that these cultural works anticipate issues about women’s cultural and ideological oppression and the intersections of gender, race, and class that would become central tenants of feminist literary criticism and black feminist criticism in the 1970s and ‘80s. She has also published articles in various journals and edited volumes, including *Black Scholar*, *Women’s Studies Quarterly*, *Against the Current*, *Invisible Suburbs: Recovering Protest Fiction in the 1950s United States*, *Encyclopedia of Activism and Social Justice*, and *Working USA: The Journal of Labor and Society*. In 2008, she guest edited a special issue of *Working USA*, on women and labor.

In the past few years, her work has shifted into the field of narrative medicine, a field that applies literary understanding to medical education, practice, and health care policy. Her current project examines the relationship between personal narratives, end-of-life care, and public policy advocacy. She has received numerous grants and awards to support her research, including several PSC-CUNY Research Awards, a CCNY Presidential Research Award, the Margaret Storrs Grierson Travel-to-Collections Fund award, and the Lillian S. Robinson Scholar award.

Susanna Rosenbaum, Ph.D.
Susanna Rosenbaum earned her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from New York University. Before joining CWE, she served as Mellon Sawyer Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto, as well as Visiting Assistant Professor and Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University.

Her research and teaching centers on immigration, race, and citizenship; gendered labor and neoliberalism; kinship and reproduction; and the Americas. She is currently completing her manuscript, *Domestic Economies: Women, Work, and the American Dream in LA*, for
publication with Duke University Press. Based on ethnographic fieldwork with Mexican and Central American domestic workers and their (primarily white) middle-class employers in Los Angeles, this book explores how domestic service simultaneously facilitates, complicates, and transforms the processes of self- and nation-making for women in both groups.

Susanna Schaller, Ph.D., AICP

Susanna Schaller is Lecturer in Public Administration at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education. She earned her Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University and is a certified urban planner. Her research examines the intersection of ethnicity, race and gender in urban planning discourses and the construction of “ideologies place.” Her most recent work focused on the use of business improvement districts (BID) as strategies to revitalize ethnically and economically diverse urban neighborhoods in Washington, DC. In her analysis she deliberately situates BIDs historically. She argues that economic development strategies should not be divorced from an understanding of the trajectory of urban planning policies aimed at and implicated in producing a fractured and segregated urban space. The question, then, remains what kinds of economic development strategies might further equity and economic development goals simultaneously. Her work on BIDs has been published in the US as well as Germany and Ecuador. Her professional practice has focused on urban governance and economic development as well as small business development and microfinance. She has served as Senior Planner to the Municipal Art Society in New York, worked extensively with a community development credit union in Upper Manhattan and developed a microenterprise program as well as managed community visioning projects for a Latino community development corporation in Washington, DC.

Justin C. Williams, Ph.D.

Justin Williams is Assistant Professor of History in the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at The City College of New York. His teaching and research interests focus on Modern Africa and its diaspora. He received his Ph.D. in History from Stony Brook University. His dissertation focused on “Pan-Africanism in One Country: African Socialism, Neo-Liberalism and Globalization in Ghana.” He reaned his MA in History from Stony Brook University and his BA in History from Columbia College.

Martin Woesnner, Ph.D.

Martin Woessner is Associate Professor of History & Society at The City College of New York's Center for Worker Education (CUNY). Martin received his BA in European history and philosophy from the University of San Francisco in 1999, and his Ph.D. in modern intellectual history from the CUNY Graduate Center in 2006. He teaches interdisciplinary courses in twentieth-century intellectual and cultural history at both the undergraduate and graduate levels—courses such as "The Age of Extremes," "The History of Human Rights," "Genocide in the Twentieth Century," "Capitalism and Anti-capitalism from Adam Smith to Slavoj Zizek," "Inventing the Americas," "Religion in the Americas," and "Weimar in America." Martin's first book examines the American reception of the work of the German philosopher Martin Heidegger. It covers a wide range of topics in philosophy, theology, and contemporary theory. His current research focuses on transnational intellectual and cultural history in the twentieth century, with a particular emphasis on the topics of genocide and human rights. His interdisciplinary work has led to essays and articles on the South African novelist J.M. Coetzee, the English thinkers Iris Murdoch and Michael Oakeshott, the American filmmaker Terrence Malick, the
intellectual history of human rights, and the philosophy of history in relation to the phenomenon of genocide. As the director of the Frances S. Patai Program at CWE, Martin oversees courses and an annual lecture series devoted to a wide range of themes in Holocaust, genocide, and human rights studies. Martin has received fellowships from the Center for Humanities as well as the Center for Place, Culture, and Politics—both at the CUNY Graduate Center. In 2004 he was the recipient of a Charlotte W. Newcome Dissertation Fellowship, and in May 2011 he received the Feliks Gross Endowment Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement from the CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences. Woessner has a Ph.D. in Modern Intellectual History from the City University of New York and a B.A. in European History and Philosophy from the University of San Francisco.

*We also host visiting professors from across CUNY to teach courses in our program.*