

OBSERVER
MARCH 9, 2020

FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Update on the Corona Virus

Here are the latest communications from CUNY and the CDC on the corona virus to complement the updates from TNS that we have already sent you. CUNY update: <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/> and CDC update: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html#who-is-higher-risk>.

You have undoubtedly seen many communications already and know the advice about prevention and about remaining at home if you do not feel well, plus the recent warning about the increased risk to people over 60. We send these updates mainly to say that the IRP leadership is following developments closely to assure as best we can that our members are aware of the information and recommendations from authoritative sources.

At this point, we don't have the information to give any further specific guidance, so as of now IRP study groups and activities are continuing. Individual coordinators and members will make their own choices based on their particular circumstances.

It is important throughout to remember that open transparent communication is essential on all sides as we make our way through these troubled times. This includes communication between IRP leadership and members, coordinators

and participants, and also among members. So please keep in touch with your colleagues, including if you are in need of assistance.

The Advisory Board and the Executive Committee are meeting today and tomorrow to plan our response to developing circumstances. And our Tech Committee is exploring ways that we can conduct our educational and social activities online should that become necessary. The goal is to continue our communal life directly, and if necessary virtually, to the greatest extent possible.

We will continue to forward information and recommendations from the GC, SLU, CUNY, TNS, and government health sources to you. We also will report immediately any decisions or recommendations from the AB and keep you updated on developments in our online capacities.

Meetings with The New School

As you know from the Bulletin we issued last week, the IRP team (Executive Committee and Bernie Belkin) met with TNS President David Van Zandt, Executive Dean Mary Watson, and Chief of Staff Deborah Bogosian on Tuesday March 3 to discuss our future relationship. As it became clear during the meeting that TNS could no longer house the IRP, we informed them that we were involved with

the CUNY Graduate Center and expected to become a program of the GC with classes to begin there by September at the latest. The President expressed admiration for the IRP's ability to confront and solve the space problem, thereby securing its future, and said that he and his staff would help in the transition in every way possible. The President, seconded by the chief of staff, also wants to find ways to honor the IRP and its long relationship with TNS. The IRP team said that before we proceed with activities and announcements about the transition, we need to resolve some important financial issues with TNS; the President acknowledged this to be the case. In a subsequent conversation with the chief of staff, a meeting was set for Tuesday March 10 to discuss with the relevant NS staff the disposition of our annual appeal funds as well as our various bequest and gift funds.

Requests from the School of Labor and Urban Studies

SLU staff asks that we not overcrowd the elevators, which are built to accommodate eight or nine people.



This type of overcrowding could mean the elevator remains stuck between floors. Also as a reminder, please confine eating to the pantry areas on the 18th and 19th floors.

For socializing during regular class hours, the pantry areas on both 18 and 19 and the reception area on 19 are available and either room 1804 or 1923 is often free. Walk by to check them out.

IRP Office

Another reminder: A calendar of our events and meetings is now available on the ZINE (click on the calendar tab and scroll down). If you are scheduling a meeting, check the calendar first and then email Adam with your date/time, identifying the nature of the request in the subject line. Remember also that rooms 19b and 1923 are available at SLU Monday through Thursday for committee meetings and events after regular class hours, until 4:30. Room 1923 is also sometimes available for committees during class hours. Adam records these meetings on the calendar, so you can check and see when the rooms are free.

EVENTS

Report on Information Session

On February 28th, 21 potential new members, representing the diversity of New York City, attended the first information session of the semester. They had discovered the IRP through family, friends, and internet searches. Barry Cooper and Laini Gerald, co-chairs of the Admissions Committee, ran the session, discussing the IRP's history and its likely move to the CUNY Graduate Center in September but focusing on the concept of peer learning and the expectation that new members will become active participants in

the IRP community, including by eventually coordinating or co-coordinating a study group.

At the end of the session, members of the Admissions Committee—Marc Scher, Colette Siegel, Phyllis Holloway, Dolores Walker, Micky Joseph, and Kathy Dieter—circulated with the attendees, answering questions and telling them more about the program. Applications are due March 11th, with interviews scheduled for later in the month.

The Admissions Committee will hold its second Information Session on April 22. Spread the word.

Travel: Upcoming Trips

Morocco Sahara Odyssey

- When: January 10-25, 2021

The Travel Committee has made a reservation with Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) for a trip to Morocco in January, 2021 for a small group of 16 people, including at this time only IRP members and their friends. The price per person is \$2,995 plus round trip airfare of \$900. Four single rooms were assigned at this price, three have been taken already, one more is available. More single rooms might be available at a higher price.

For more detail, visit www.oat-travel.com/TPP or www.oat-travel.com/MSO21. To reserve, call Overseas Adventure Travel Reservations at 800-955-1925 and mention Group Code: G1-29177. Say you want to reserve for the Morocco trip in 2021 with the Institute for Retired Professionals. The deposit is \$350 per person.

If you have questions, contact Myriam Bucatinsky at myriambuca@gmail.com.

Note: the Civil Rights Journey planned by the Travel and Diversity Committees for May 14 to May 17 has been postponed because of recent warnings about air travel for older people. For more information, contact Myriam Bucatinsky or Doris Wallace.

MEMBER FORUM

Happy Hour on March 24

The Orientation Committee invites you to join us on Tuesday, March 24th at Connolly's, 121 W. 45th St., from 2PM to 4PM. Stop in after class and catch up with friends and meet new members, too. The Pour at 4 is not happening this semester, but Connolly's has a cash bar and Happy Hour all day. Mark your calendar and join us.

Online Art Show

Susan Rauch provides our tenth contribution to the online art show.



View from the East River, by Susan Rauch

According to Susan:

“I was on a cruise devoted to architectural projects currently under construction or planned on the banks of the East River. I was drawn to the image showing completed iconic structures.”

Travel Committee Seeks New Members

The Travel Committee is looking for new members to help organize and expand our travel adventures not only for this year, but for future years as well. If you are interested, please contact Myriam Bucatinsky at myriambuca@gmail.com, or Bob Gerace at rgerace234@yahoo.com.

REMINDERS

Curriculum Committee Workshops

COMPLETING A PROPOSAL—Want some help completing a study group proposal for next semester or for the future? Join us:

- Today, Monday, March 9, 1:15-3PM or
- Wednesday, March 11, 3-4:30PM

Experienced coordinators will be there to answer your questions. [Register here](#).

RESOURCES

IRP Zine

- To access the Zine, go to www.irpzine.org. To view the directory or IRP Faces, you must login with these credentials:
 - Username: IRPNewSchool
 - Password: Fall2018

- For the fall and spring calendars, [click here](#).
- Member bios: <https://www.irpzine.org/news/new-member-bios-fall-2016/>
- Observer Archive: <https://www.irpzine.org/irp-observer-2/>
- [List of restaurants and places of interest](#) near SLU.

New School Events Calendar

- [Learn more](#) about upcoming events at The New School.

CUNY Events

- Graduate Center Spring Public 2020 Events—To view the lineup and reserve your spot now, click here: www.gc.cuny.edu/publicprograms
- School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU) [public programming schedule](#), 2019-2020
- [Public programs in Midtown Manhattan](#)