

OBSERVER  
JULY 20, 2020

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear members,

This past week, I met with members of the Community Project team and continued conversations about how best to support you all and the program needs as part of this shift to a new institutional home and through the challenges of society's new normals. Our team at The Graduate Center has also been busy working with partners to develop new cultural programs and initiatives that we hope IRP members will take part in – from book talks to concert series to lectures on NYC-related topics. Stay tuned for fall happenings!

### A Few Reminders:

- Remember to **set up your GC email account**, as all official correspondence from The Graduate Center (and CUNY) will be directed to that email address.
- Please look out for email messages from “Engagement” in your inbox, these are from our office address: [engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu)
- If you would like to **add or drop a study group** in summer session two or for fall, please email all requests to [engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu) so that we can notify coordinators accordingly and keep rosters up to date.

I will hold **Director's Office Hours** tomorrow from 12-1pm in [my virtual office](#). Please stop in to say hello!

My best,  
Mariel

## LIBRARY RESOURCES

Your peers at the IRP and the team in The Graduate Center's Office of Academic Initiatives and Strategic Innovation are working towards library access solutions. As you may remember, the current access limitations are due to contracts held by the Graduate Center with each database provider (over 300 unique agreements) that outline varying privileges and restrictions as they pertain to non-degree students in the *remote* format. (Note that these restrictions do not apply to IRP members when we are on campus, but alas, we do not currently know when that will be!)

So, in the meantime, we are working with GC Librarians to find solutions for the databases most often used by IRP members. Librarian Mason Brown is our point person who can work with members to navigate Open Educational Resources/Open Access Materials. You can reach out to Mason at [mbrown3@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:mbrown3@gc.cuny.edu). As of right now, the library has a number of workshops scheduled over the next month or so on Open Access! All of the relevant details are here:

<https://library.gc.cuny.edu/events/list/>.

I encourage you to attend those that sound interesting or of use to your studies.

- Please peruse The Graduate Center's Open Access and Open Educational Resources Libguides:

- Open Access:

<http://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/openaccess>

- Open Educational Resources:

<https://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/OER>

- This guide is specifically for the resources that are available from other library networks in New York, like the PublicLibrary:

<https://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/MaRLI>

- NYPL has made several research databases available to cardholders during this lockdown period. If you are not currently a cardholder, you can apply for a digital card from home. Available databases include JStor, EBSCO, ThomsonGale (Gale), ProjectMUSE, ProQuest Research Library, and many others. See this page:  
<https://www.nypl.org/collections/articles-databases> to find the database you are looking for, click the one you want to access, and you will then be prompted to log in with your NYPL barcode and pin before being brought to the database.

- If you do not reside in New York City or state, check out what's available in your area. NJ State Public Library Network also has a number of resources, for example.

- ProjectMUSE is offering free resources during COVID-19 through 80 participating publishers (at the discretion of the individual publishers), more details and the portal can be found here:  
<https://about.muse.jhu.edu/resources/freesourcescovid19/>

- I also share this crowd-sourced document, of particular note is the tab named "Open Educational Resources" (at the bottom of your browser window): <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AtREaTOY74xqPsgz8No8GMtSvn-40Y3KFVOM9hixGRM/edit?usp=sharing>

More soon!  
Mariel

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS: BETWEEN TERM EVENTS**

### **Special IRP Author Interview**

Topic: Inside *The Poison Factory—Operation Kamera* with our own Lucy Kirk

When: Monday, August 24, 1PM

Former CIA professional Lucy Kirk will be interviewed by Susanne Yellin about her new suspense spy thriller, *The Poison Factory—Operation Kamera*. Find out what the writing process was like, how Lucy drew on her own experiences and got CIA approval, and get a preview of the book's characters and themes. Q and A will follow the interview. To sign up, email Lucy at [lk214@aol.com](mailto:lk214@aol.com) and she will send you a Zoom invitation.

### **Book Discussion**

Topic: *The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary* by Simon Winchester

When: Monday, August 31, 1PM

Join a lively discussion of the national bestseller that the *New York Times* called the linguistic detective story of the decade and a fascinating, spicy, learned tale. To sign up, email Jane Case Einbender at [jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu) and she will send you a Zoom invitation. Session is limited to the first 25 who sign up.

### **Encore: China & the U.S.**

When: Thursday, September 3, 1PM

In this follow-up to the summer session I study group coordinated by Tom Hardy, participants will continue the discussion of the challenge the U.S. faces in "getting its act together"—both

domestically, in terms of foreign policy and internationally, with its allies. Former class members will automatically be signed up to receive a Zoom invitation. Others who wish to participate, should email Tom at [thardy@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:thardy@gc.cuny.edu).

## ONLINE ART SHOW

From Susan Rauch: Tuscan Fields



Susan writes: "On my first trip to Tuscany, I was enchanted by the broom and hay bales dotting the hills."

## REMINDERS

### Important Links for Tech Information and Help

Technical Support Website: Direct your browser to <https://sites.google.com/view/irptechstuff>

Zoom Technical Issues: Send email to [tech@iemnyc.org](mailto:tech@iemnyc.org)

GC Email Issues: Send email to [engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu)

Accessing GC Email: Direct your browser to <https://wa.gc.cuny.edu/owa/>

## Observer Schedule and Distribution

Please submit your items to Leslie Davis at [ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu) by the end of the day on Friday for inclusion in the Monday issue. Items submitted after Friday will be saved for the following week.

The Observer will now be sent only to your GC email address. To identify members still having trouble accessing this inbox, the GC team will send a separate email to your personal address, asking you to respond if you have NOT been able to retrieve the Observer. IRP's tech team will be in touch with those who respond.

### Call for Volunteers: Between Term Activities

**The Community Project** is seeking volunteers to lead activities during the break from August 24 to September 10. Your activity can meet one, two, or three times and be an encore from a study group. Contact Jan Adler at [jadler@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jadler@gc.cuny.edu)

**Advances in Civilization.** The organizers of this series seek volunteers to present on any relevant topic during the fall semester. Contact Steve Kalinsky at [skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu)

## EVENTS

### Book Discussion

Topic: *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo  
When: Wednesday, September 9, 1PM

This groundbreaking bestseller by a prominent antiracist educator will be the subject of a timely discussion. To sign up, contact Joy Schulman at

[jschulman1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jschulman1@gc.cuny.edu) and she will send you a Zoom invitation.

### **Short Stories Aloud**

When: Tuesdays, 4PM. Resumes July 21

Contact Sharon Girard at  
[sgirard@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:sgirard@gc.cuny.edu)

Sharon and Helene Schiffman host a gathering at which participants read stories aloud, sometimes interrupted by questions, wise insights, dumb insights, clarifications and humor. No preparation, no homework, no books to buy. We'll email the stories to you.

**Men's Group**, Wednesdays 12:15PM,  
Jay Fleishman at  
[efleishman@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:efleishman@gc.cuny.edu)

**Women's Group**, Thursdays 3PM,  
Arlyne LeSchack at  
[aleschack@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:aleschack@gc.cuny.edu)

**Pour at Four**, Fridays 4PM, hosted by  
Susan Rubens in the 24-hour chat room at  
<https://sites.google.com/view/irptechstuff>

**MEMBER FORUM** (keep your ideas coming to Leslie Davis at  
[Ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:Ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu))

From Janna Amelkin: "**The Irish Repertory Theater** has an online summer season with some interesting performances. For example, they have 'The Weir' by Conor McPherson and a performance of songs and letters of Noel Coward. I attended the Noel Coward a year or two ago and enjoyed it. The online offerings are free but a reservation is necessary."

From Carole Chamlin: **The League of Women Voters** of NYC has an

information meeting once a month; the meetings are on Zoom and are free of charge. The next session, "How You Can Impact The 2021-22 NYC Budget" will be held on Tuesday July 21 from 6 to 7:30PM. Inquire at [admin@lwnyc.org](mailto:admin@lwnyc.org) to register and receive the Zoom invitation.

### **CUNY EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**The Mina Rees Library Conversation Series** is a lively showcase of ideas, research and active scholarship, from across the CUNY system and beyond. Join the conversation on **Thursday, July 23rd, 4:00 PM to hear from [Stina Soderling](#)** (Hamilton College) with **Kate Angell** and **Elvis Bakaitis** about her research on queer rural land movements in the United States. [Sign up here for the Zoom link!](#)

And on July 29, 2020 from 6:00 PM-7:00 PM, The Leon Levy Center for Biography presents **Julian Zelizer on Newt Gingrich, with Michael Tomasky**. In *Burning Down the House*, historian Julian Zelizer pinpoints the moment when our country was set on a path toward an era of bitterly partisan and ruthless politics, an era that was ignited by Newt Gingrich and his allies. **Julian E. Zelizer** is Professor of History and Public Affairs at Princeton University. He is the author and editor of numerous books on U.S. political history and a well-known commentator in the media. **Michael Tomasky** is a Special Correspondent for *The Daily Beast*, the Editor of *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*, and a contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*. His book *If We Can Keep It: How the Republic Collapsed, and How It Might Be Saved* was published in paperback in June 2020. [Register here.](#)

## **ONGOING CUNY EVENTS AND RESOURCES**

See the GC [CUNY Calendar](#) for the most centralized GC events calendar.

[Center for Humanities](#) and [Segal Theatre Center](#) events are listed; you can also subscribe to newsletter.

[The Graduate Center News](#)