

LP² A Lifelong Peer Learning Program at the Graduate Center, CUNY

THE OBSERVER March 1, 2021

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

We had a wonderful presentation by Dr. Gretchen Sorin on Friday to kick off the Spring term of Fridays@3 talks. Thank you for attending and bringing your questions into the conversation – I have fun moderating, especially with such engaging scholars. If you joined us, please complete the survey. Dr. Sorin's book, *Driving While Black*, is available for purchase on bookshop.org and I encourage all to watch the eponymous film, made available free of charge on PBS. All links are below.

I will open my virtual office (link below) tomorrow, Tuesday, at 11AM for Director's Office Hours. No agendas or specific questions required – it's an opportunity to chat and get to know one another.

As a follow-up to last week's shared resources and the workshop with librarian Mason Brown, we have included the link to watch the recorded workshop and the links referenced throughout under **Library Resources Workshop**. Mason remains available for your questions as you move through the research process, even from an exploratory starting point. I hope you will join the upcoming Curriculum Committee workshops to inform study group proposal development, or to learn more about coordinating.

Stay well,
Mariel

Survey: <https://formfaca.de/sm/PDJLjkXKx>

Driving While Black Book: <https://bookshop.org/books/driving-while-black-african-american-travel-and-the-road-to-civil-rights/9781631495694>

Driving While Black Film: <https://www.pbs.org/video/driving-while-black-race-space-and-mobility-in-america-achvfr/>

Director's Office Hours:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us/j/87450295130?pwd=Q3FMMUIqeWQzYVFUU1hhMmQzaWdpZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 5029 5130

Passcode: 383634

Our office contact information:

engagement@gc.cuny.edu

212-817-2474

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Vaccine Assistance Project

Members who wish to schedule Covid 19 vaccination appointments and have had problems...and might need some help:

We have a committee that is ready and willing to help:

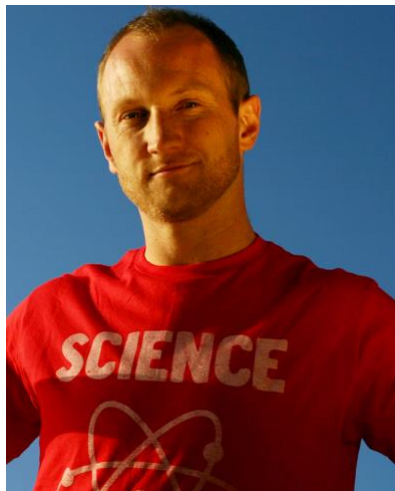
- with making appointments
- with paperwork and
- with assisting in arranging transportation.

Contact Steve Kalinsky via e-mail at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu. and please include your telephone number. A member of the committee will contact you and we will do our darndest to make an appointment.

LP² members who have already been vaccinated and wish to help members who are having problems getting vaccine appointments are needed and should also contact Steve.

Vaccine Reminder: If you haven't already, take a photo of your vaccination card. It's important documentation and easy to misplace or lose.

Save the Date: Friday, March 26, 3PM



The next Fridays@3, to be held **Friday, March 26, at 3PM**, features **Rap artist Baba Brinkman: Rap Guide to Climate Change**, followed by audience-selected improvisation topics. To register click [here](#).

Baba Brinkman is a rap artist, science communicator and award-winning playwright based in New York City. He performs at all types of virtual events, applying humor, music, and language arts to science and technology themes for a unique entertainment experience.

Baba Brinkman's rap on climate chaos breaks down the politics, economics, and physical science of global warming, following its surprising twists from the carbon cycle to the energy economy, in a pull-no-punches hip-hop manifesto that confronts both the scale of the challenge and also the failings of human psychology that make it such an easy problem to ignore.

Called "Astonishing and brilliant" by the New York Times, Baba is a Scotsman Fringe First Award winner for Exceptional New Writing, and a two-time Drama Desk Award Nominee, for "Outstanding Solo Performance" and "Unique Theatrical Experience". He has performed live on MSNBC's "The Rachel Maddow Show" and shared stages with science luminaries including Stephen Hawking and Neil deGrasse Tyson. Baba is also a winner of the National Center for Science Education's "Friend of Darwin Award" for his efforts to popularize evolutionary biology. After the rap session, Baba will perform an improvisation based on audience input so be prepared to submit your ideas through the Q+A.

Save the date: Wednesday March 31, 2021, 2 PM (ET)

LP² SCIENCE SERIES

This gathering marks the first in a series of talks and discussions on topics related to science.

Professor William Harcourt-Smith, PhD

Department of Anthropology, Lehman College

Bipeds of Broadway: How We Came to Walk on Two Legs and Why It Matters

Professor Harcourt-Smith is a highly accomplished physical anthropologist who has explored the origins of the human lineage. His work on bipedalism (walking on two legs) is well known and has been seminal to our understanding of evolutionary branch points that differentiate early humans (hominins) from other primates. In a recent study Professor Harcourt-Smith analyzed a set of fossil footprints in Tanzania estimated to be between 6,000 and 19,000 years old. The footprints are believed to be made mostly by women and children and suggest cooperative and sexually divided foraging behavior in early prehistoric humans.



Harcourt-Smith: “This is the closest we’re going to get short of having a video recording of that time.”

To register for this zoom event, click [here](#).

Prehistoric footprints in the foreground.

Curriculum Committee Workshops: Reminders

Coordinating Now?

Current coordinators are invited to discuss HOW IT'S GOING with your present Study Group--what's working and what...not so much. The Workshop will be held **this Wednesday, March 3, 4-5:00PM**. RSVP to Linda Anstendig at lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu. A zoom invitation will be sent on the day of the workshop.

Completing A Study Group Proposal

The workshop COMPLETING A PROPOSAL, being held **next Monday, March 8, 4-5:15PM**, will help you develop a successful proposal, find appropriate resources on your topic, organize a working syllabus and complete the Proposal Form. RSVP to Linda Anstendig at lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu. A zoom invitation will be sent on the day of the workshops.

Library Resources Workshop: Recording and links

The Curriculum Committee's first Library Resources Workshop was led by Mason Brown, GC-CUNY Library's designated liaison with LP². Mason structured the Workshop around easing LP²-members' difficulty with accessing Library resources remotely. The full Workshop was recorded for those who missed it or want to review it. **To view the recording**, click [here](#). The passcode is **GQV.1#D8**.

Library Resources Referenced in the Workshop

GC Library Research Guides: <https://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/>

Open Education Resources page: <https://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/OER>

Outside CUNY/NYPL page: <https://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/MaRLI>

NYPL Databases from Home Page: <https://www.nypl.org/about/remote-research-resources>

NYPL E-book central: <https://www.nypl.org/books-music-movies/ebookcentral>

GC Research Guide on E-book Collections:
<https://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/ebooks>

Feedback on them is welcome as we plan future workshops and Mason would like to tailor them to our needs. If you don't already have a NYPL card, we recommend that you sign up for an [NYPL e-card](#) to experiment with some of the links/websites Mason suggests, above. (All NYPL services available to LP² members are listed in the [Library Insert](#) on pp. 6 -7 of last week's Observer.)

You can keep a list of questions, suggestions, *etc.* for the next workshop or e-mail Mason directly. He is available to answer questions about anything library and research related. His contact information is below.

Mason Brown, MS MLS
mbrown3@gc.cuny.edu
Science Research Librarian
CUNY Grad Center / ASRC / SLU

NOTE:

Richard Resnik, after consulting a NYPL librarian, has this tip for accessing JSTOR via NYPL: When logging in with your NYPL account membership (barcode) number to [the JSTOR database](#), do *not* include the spaces between numbers on your NYPL card.

Online Art Show

From: Richard Herrmann

Title: Winter Trees



Richard says: I took the photo in Central Park on a December evening. I paired [it] with a lovely poem by William Carlos William

Winter Trees

William Carlos Williams

All the complicated details
of the attiring and
the disattiring are completed!
A liquid moon
moves gently among
the long branches.
Thus having prepared their buds
against a sure winter
the wise trees
stand sleeping in the cold.

Attention Water Colorists, Sculptors, Block Printers, Photographers, Painters, Collagists and Needleworkers! Contact cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu with a title and brief statement about how or where or why you made it, and your work will appear in the Online Art Show.

MEMBER FORUM

Nancy Small offers us a weekly series:

A video view of the New York art scene

BETYE SAAR: CALL AND RESPONSE

Late last year, as the great African-American artist, Betye Saar, was celebrating her 94th birthday, The Morgan Library & Museum hosted an exhibition of her work, BETYE SAAR: CALL AND RESPONSE. The show paired found-object assemblages with notebooks that Saar filled with drawings and thoughts for future art projects, providing the viewer an opportunity to understand her thought and art-making process.

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LACMA, originally organized the exhibit, and in this [this video](#), Senior Curator, Carol S. Eliel, speaks with Saar about her life and art.

In her *New Yorker* review, Andrea K. Scott wrote, “When the Getty Research Institute acquired Saar’s archive as the lodestar of its African-American art-history initiative, it cited the Los Angeles artist as “the conscience of the art world for over 50 years.”

In 1972, Saar created *The Liberation of Aunt Jemima*. Arming her with a rifle, the work repositions a derogatory figure into one of black liberation and radical feminism. Angela Davis, activist and Black Panther, credited Saar’s piece as having helped to launch the Black women’s movement. (It’s taken a long time, but earlier this year, the Quaker Oats Company announced that they would drop the name and remove the racially charged image.)

(*Black Girl’s Window*, one of Saar’s, early autobiographical works, is presently on view at MoMA, Gallery #412.)

Leslie Davis has forwarded the announcement of this discussion of the work, life and legacy of **James Baldwin**, focusing on the essays *The Fire Next Time* and *The Devil Finds Work*, along with the documentary *I Am Not Your Negro*, widely available on streaming platforms, and Eddie S. Glaude Jr.’s critical biography *Begin Again*. The event will be held this **Saturday, March 6, 2-4PM**. To join, RSVP [here](#).

Ongoing LP² Events

All Things Covid, hosted by Barry Levine and Steve Kalinsky, will continue, but rather than weekly, sessions will be held every three weeks until the end of the semester (absent a need for an earlier update). The next session will be held on **Friday, March 19** at 3PM.

Pour at Four, hosted by Susan Rubens, meets from 4 to 5PM on Fridays in the 24-hour chat room <https://sites.google.com/view/irptechstuff>.

The Women’s Group meets at 3:45PM on Thursdays. Contact Arlyne LeSchack at aleschack@gc.cuny.edu.

The Men's Group meets at 3:45PM on Wednesdays. Contact Jay Fleishman at efleishman@gc.cuny.edu.

Stitch Away Stress meets at 4PM Tuesdays. Members share skills and enjoy the meditative benefits of handwork. Contact Michelle Harris at mharris@gc.cuny.edu.

TECH HELP: Zine, E-mail and Personal Computers

For access to Faces, the Directory, and the Calendar on the Zine (www.irpzine.org), the user ID is **LPsquared**; the password is **Fall2020**.

For e-mail woes, please direct all inquiries to engagement@gc.cuny.edu. If you need assistance with a personal computer or other device, check the Zine Tech Help tab or contact your PC manufacturer or software vendor.

The Graduate Center Office of Information Technology (OIT) does not provide assistance with personal computers or mobile devices.

CUNY EVENTS

[Jacqueline Woodson: A Reading and Conversation](#)

Tuesday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.

[REGISTER ON ZOOM](#)

Join us for an evening with Jacqueline Woodson, award-winning author of *Brown Girl Dreaming* (winner of the National Book Award and a Newbery Honor), *Another Brooklyn*, and most recently, the *New York Times* bestseller, *Red at the Bone*. Woodson, a 2020 MacArthur “genius award” winner, will read from *Another Brooklyn* and join in a conversation about her work and life with Dána-Ain Davis, professor of anthropology and director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society at The Graduate Center and professor of urban studies at Queens College, CUNY.

Presented with the Center for the Study of Women and Society. Co-sponsored with the Center for Humanities, the Feminist Press, the Gotham Center for NYC History, the Ph.D. Programs in Comparative Literature and English, the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas

and the Caribbean (IRADAC), The Graduate Center Library, the PublicsLab, and Women Writing Women's Lives.

See <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/All-GC-Events/Calendar> for events this week.

NON-CUNY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Jazz at Lincoln Center has announced its spring season of video presentations centered on jazz's role in the fight for social justice. Shows will be streaming on the Center's [website](#) for \$20 a ticket. Future shows, with guests joining Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra include:

March 26: Voices of Freedom, celebrating four 20th Century Jazz singers: Betty Carter, Billie Holiday, Abbey Lincoln and Nina Simone.

May 21: Freedom, Justice and Hope, featuring new compositions honoring Ida B Wells and commemorating the 1919 Elaine massacre in Arkansas. Racial justice advocate Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*, will be joining the musicians.

June 10: Honoring John Coltrane

The Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization is launching a yearlong series on Green Cities, starting on **Thursday, 4 March 2021 at noon. EST. Daniel Zarrilli, New York City's Chief Climate Policy Advisor, will be the first speaker.** Under his leadership, New York City released its newest long-term strategic plan, **OneNYC 2050.**

Every first Thursday the Consortium will have a speaker from another city. Rio de Janeiro and Barcelona follow New York. This is a free event. To register, click [here](#).

Observer Submissions Send items for the next week's Observer to Susan Rauch at srauch@gc.cuny.edu by 5PM on Friday. Send Online Art Show entries and suggestions for virtual tours to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu.

Member Forum If you have something to share with the LP² community, *e.g.*, a photo, an article, a book or a web site that you've discovered that you think would be interesting to members, send it to Susan at srauch@gc.cuny.edu for inclusion in the Member Forum.

