

THE OBSERVER
NOVEMBER 15, 2021

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

It's peak foliage as we look towards Thanksgiving next week. I hope you can safely gather and enjoy a meal with family and/or friends. I am looking forward to having family from Minneapolis and the chance to see a friend in town from Chicago.

Last Friday afternoon we had a great event with acclaimed writer Clint Smith, in conversation with Fridays@3 co-chair Ruth Mackaman. Smith discussed his book, *How the Word is Passed*, and the research process from which it developed. I'm inspired to read it having listened to the talk about the work it does to illustrate lesser told histories, unpack the sociopolitical complexities around the way we teach and learn history, and the language we use that reinforces inequitable racial dynamics. If you missed the talk, it will be available to view for two weeks with the link below. If you joined us, please do complete the survey as it helps us plan future programs.

With the curriculum committee, our office plans to distribute the Grid prior to opening registration so that you can read through class plans and map out preferred schedules. The grid will list each study group's anticipated modality (hybrid, zoom, or fully in person). We expect to open the two-week registration period on November 30, to close on December 14.

Once we return from the Thanksgiving holiday (no study groups November 22-26), please join us for the science talk with Joshua Brumberg on Thursday, December 2 and the Unmasking Bias talk with Van Tran on Monday, December 6; both are Graduate Center professors. Links to register follow.

Stay well and enjoy the break!

Best,
Mariel

Recording of Fridays@3 with Clint Smith: <https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/rec/play/CQ5ggcBXZoZRMGe228D1bMuFyUpFc7DZtl-9AZ4fholkRkFWE9BIGVwqxsGLNdwyRnMrdahCNqDP7dZD.muDCtaOMODr3cQGo?continueMode=true>

Register for the Science Seminar Series with Dr. Brumberg on December 2 at 4pm here: <https://forms.gle/TUycWQDubLH4vEpJ8>

Register for the talk, Racial Discrimination during the COVID-19 Pandemic by Professor Van Tran on December 6 at 4pm here: https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8gVTFGHaTxmMaXB3iWYu6w

Our office contact information:
engagement@gc.cuny.edu
212-817-2474

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

LP² Science Seminar Series

Joshua Brumberg, Dean for Sciences, CUNY Graduate Center
My Journey in Science and Exploring the Mysteries of the Brain
Thursday, December 2, at 3:45PM



This Seminar is dedicated to the memory of Norma Grossman.

Following graduation from The Bronx High School of Science, Dr. Joshua Brumberg studied Biology at Williams College and then earned a Ph.D. in Neurobiology from the University of Pittsburgh. After completing post-doctoral fellowships at Yale and Columbia, he started his own laboratory at Queens College, where he has been studying the effect of the environment on the development and function of cortical circuits.

Dr. Brumberg has published over 60 peer-reviewed articles and has received multiple grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. As the Dean for the Sciences at the Graduate Center, he oversees cutting-edge research by the science faculties of the entire CUNY system, encompassing a wide variety of fields. He has introduced CUNY scientists to LP² and has facilitated making our access to them “up close and personal.”

Following our usual format for these Seminars, Dr. Brumberg will be interviewed for about half an hour, followed by an audience Q&A.

We dedicate this Science Seminar Series event to longtime IRP member Norma Grossman, who died on September 4, 2021. Norma was IRP’s coordinator of science study groups par excellence. During her 25 years as a member, she coordinated over 44 study groups, mostly on various aspects of science. She was an extraordinary teacher and an inspiration to many of us. A short tribute to Norma will precede the talk by Dr. Brumberg. A number of members shared their memories of Norma in response to her obituary notice. If you would like to add your thoughts, to the slide show tribute, please send your memories to bmarwell@gc.cuny.edu

To register for the Seminar, use this link:
<https://forms.gle/TUycWQDubLH4vEpJ8>

Diversity Outreach Committee Unmasking Bias Series

Professor Van Tran, *Racial Discrimination during the Covid-19 Pandemic*

Monday, December 6, 4 - 5:30PM



Dr. Tran has a Ph.D. in Sociology and Social Policy from Harvard University. An immigration scholar and urban sociologist, his research and teaching are deeply connected to the diversity, history and vibrancy of New York City.

After spending his early years in refugee detention camps in Northern Thailand, Dr. Tran — a native of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam — moved to the Bronx as a teenager when his family was

resettled by the International Rescue Committee in 1998. As a social scientist, he views the city as a social laboratory for original research and innovative teaching, both of which hold the potential to substantively inform urban social policy. Since 2019, Dr. Tran has helped mobilize research on critical issues facing New York City as the Deputy Director for The Center for Urban Research at the CUNY Graduate Center.

In this talk, Professor Tran relates how the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic not only triggered significant anti-Asian sentiment, resulting in a dramatic surge in anti-Asian violence, but also caused Blacks, and non-White Hispanics to report persistently higher levels of discrimination than Whites (including White Hispanics) throughout the pandemic. In a study using a longitudinal approach he describes significant changes over time. Early in the pandemic, Asians reported the highest level of pandemic discrimination, while Blacks and non-White Hispanics experienced a significant increase in pandemic discrimination over time. He also shows how political leadership and political climate significantly affect perceived pandemic discrimination.

Register for this timely and relevant event here: https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8gVTFGHaTxmMaXB3iWYU6w

Fridays@3

**Professor Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello, *A Scientist Gone Wild*
Friday, December 10, 3PM**



Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello is a Venezuelan-born microbiologist educated in Venezuela, Scotland and France, spent sabbaticals in the US and Spain, and has worked in Venezuela, Puerto Rico and the United States. She is currently the Henry Rutgers Professor of Microbiome and Health and the Director of the New Jersey Institute for Food Nutrition and Health at Rutgers University. She is also a fellow at the American Academy of Microbiology and is on the editorial boards of several scientific journals. She was recently awarded the 2021 Research Excellence Award by Rutgers.

Field trips have been an important part of her work: first collecting samples and data and then beginning the time-consuming process of analyzing and preparing the results for publication, On December 10, Dr Dominguez-Bello will focus on the human experience of being on the spot. "One fieldtrip," she says, "gives us fuel for years but more importantly, teaches us, opens our eyes to revere nature and value diversity." She will share with us some of her published work, but mostly, she will share field experiences that appear in her scientific papers.

To register for this event, go to: https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Hays-bbyT0Cj6jHywr8zEw

9th Edition of *Voices Online*:

We are pleased to announce the ninth edition of *Voices Online*, with the writing and photography of our amazingly talented membership. You can access it from the Zine or from this link: www.lp2voicesonline.com.

Thanks to the many people—a total of 46—who made this issue possible: the contributors, the judges, and the editors. And thanks to our new home, the Graduate Center, for a seamless transition to a bright future.

We have dedicated this issue to three people who made enormous contributions to *Voices Online* and are no longer with us, Peter Houts, Marshall Marcovitz and Mary R. Smith.

Soon it will be time to start thinking about the next edition. We invite all members of LP² to come aboard as contributors and leaders of the process.



Tulips at Jefferson Market Garden, Bob Sholiton, A Judges' Choice

Charles Troob, Publisher

Tom Ashley and Lorne Taichman, Associate Publishers

Mark Fischweicher, Mary Houts, Eric Roper, Irene Sax, Jerry Vogel, Editors

UPCOMING CURRICULUM COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

Strategies for Enhancing Your Study Group Discussions
Wednesday, November 17, 3:45-5PM

New AND experienced coordinators are invited to attend *The Art and Science of Leading a Discussion on Zoom*. For a Zoom invitation, RSVP to Linda Anstendig at lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu by Monday, November 15 (**today**).

Call for Break Activities between Semesters

The Community Building Initiative seeks volunteers to lead activities during the break from January 3rd to January 28th. Just as with our earlier break activities, your activity can meet once, twice or multiple times. Whether it's a book or movie discussion, a current events discussion, a travel adventure

or art presentation or something else, your colleagues will appreciate your efforts. We also invite all current and past coordinators to offer a one session encore presentation selected from a prior study group. Tech help is available to set up and assist you in running the Zoom session. You'll receive a Zoom link to send to participants.

Contact Jane Case Einbender at jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu to propose your activity.

The Marketing Committee Needs You!

Join our worthy cause.

Desirable Skills and Experience for Members:

Background in media, marketing, writers and creative thinkers. The Committee wants members who will tell our story, create programs to promote LP²'s mission and history, as well as publicize current activities and plan future events.

Contact: Tom Ashley at thisdayin@aol.com

Lisa Cristal at lisa.e.cristal@gmail.com

ONLINE ART SHOW

From: Susanne Yellin

Title: Shibori Jacket



Susanne says: This jacket is assembled from strips of fabric that I dyed in a variety of Shibori patterns. Shibori is a Japanese dyeing technique using various methods to 'resist' the dye, resulting in the white patterns. It is somewhat similar to our 'tie-dyeing.'

Calling All Painters, Sculptors, Photographers, Block Printers, Ceramicists
and Textile Artists!

Display the creative work you have been doing this summer in the Online Art Show. Send a photograph of your work with a title and a brief statement about it to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu. Art works appear in The Observer in the order in which they are received.

ONGOING LP² EVENTS

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.

Observer Submissions Send items for the next week's Observer to Micky Josephs at mjosephs@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 and think would be interesting to members, send it to Micky at mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu for inclusion in the Member Forum.