Vol.3, Issue 2: November 2020

Hello everyone -- this is going to be a shorter than usual second and last newsletter of the term but I want to start by wishing all of you a very safe and nice Thanksgiving holiday. This is one of the most challenging academic years at the Graduate Center in a long while as the pandemic’s second wave continues and the economic repercussions of the current situation continue to be anxiety provoking and uncertain.

But, speaking for myself and I imagine for many of you, I am thankful for the democratic process that allowed for our recent Presidential election to finally move toward resolution and the inauguration of a new president in January 2021. And I am certainly grateful for the ongoing culture of collegiality and critical thought that we collectively nourish and maintain, even virtually, in the Ph.D. Program at the Graduate Center.

The following pages, as usual, are filled with news -- with spotlights on new committee and committee heads, and on student representatives of the SSA who demonstrate great commitment to the GC with the time and energy they put into serving. We also have news about fellowships and upcoming events that we have tried to keep going.

Speaking for myself again, I am grateful for
--our terrific new cohort of first years who, remotely, are about to finish their first terms
--the many faculty from GC and the campuses who work closely with students
--Rati!! And Jeremy!!
--Van Tran and his work, with academically exciting projects of our second years, on the new qualifying paper sequence
--our new masters’ students, many of whom are interested in sociology;
--Hayden!! And Maria!
--our many students and faculty participating in wide-ranging conversations we are now having about admissions and fellowship policies as we try to make our Program the best and most inclusive and intelligent (even amidst limited resources) it can be
--and numerous other people and developments that you won’t know unless you please show up to hear more about them on

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4th -- following the 3-5 Colloquium -- COME TO OUR XMAS ZOOM EVENT!!

In the meantime, enjoy the newsletter and the holiday, and sending warm and heartfelt regards to all of you….Lynn
Interested in contributing to the Sociological Imagination?

This monthly newsletter contains updates from the CUNY Graduate Center's Department of Sociology. It is produced and monitored by Lynn Chancer (Program EO) and her 2020-2021 Graduate Research Assistants, Maya Tellman and Gabriel Haro. If you have suggested content or feedback for the newsletter, or would like to highlight your work and that of others across the GC, please email lchancer@gc.cuny.edu and/or mtellman@gradcenter.cuny.edu and/or gharo@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

Credit goes to Sejung Sage Yim (sejungsageyim@gmail.com) for publicizing all our student and faculty events and who manages the social media presence for the Ph.D. Program in Sociology.

**Events, Colloquia, & Workshops**

**November - December 2020**

**COLLOQUIA**

**Sociology Colloquia Series, December**

- **Title:** Higher Education, Digital Transformation and COVID-19
- **Speaker:** Tressie McMillan Cottom
- **When:** Friday, Dec. 4, 3-5pm

Tressie McMillan Cottom, is an associate professor in the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Information, Technology and Public Life (UNC) and 2020 MacArthur Fellow. She received a PhD in Sociology at Emory in 2015. Dr. McMillan Cottom’s research spans higher ed, labor, race, class, gender and digital societies. She is the author of LOWER ED: THE TROUBLING RISE OF FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES IN THE NEW ECONOMY and the award-winning essay collection THICK.

**EVENTS**

**Immigration Seminar Series**

**Colonial Migrants at the Heart of Empire: Puerto Rican Workers on U.S. Farms**

- **Speaker:** Ismael García-Colón, Associate Professor of Anthropology, CUNY College of Staten Island
JOINT FACULTY/STUDENT AND STUDENT WORKSHOPS

Society and Protest Workshop
This workshop brings together practitioners, PhD students, and faculty across disciplines in a space to reflect on the role of formal and informal Civil Society in expressing citizen demands. Civil society is itself contested and a battleground; both a site of struggle and organization is the domain of class politics. At the same time, formalized civil society and philanthropy are looking to social movements and critical thinking to open up new possibilities and ways of working.

**When:** Bi-weekly on Thursdays, from 12:00 to 1:30 pm via Zoom (next meeting is on December 3)
**Contact:** If interested, you can [RSVP HERE](#) for any and all upcoming sessions.

Urban Studies Workshop
The Urban Studies Workshop is an informal group of urban sociologists in our department. Everyone is in varying stages of the program, which makes for very product meetings and information sharing. We meet about 4 times every semester and primarily read and give feedback on each other’s writing—be it dissertation chapters, class papers, articles for publication, etc.

**When:** Thursdays, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm via Zoom (next meeting is on December 10)
**Contact:** Kasey Zapatka ([kzapatka@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:kzapatka@gradcenter.cuny.edu))

Criminology/Deviance/Law/Policy Workshop
This is a long standing GC workshop that was run last year by Candace McCoy, Jayne Mooney, Ian Heller and Edwin Grimsley and which will have one more meeting in December before starting up again full steam in spring 2021. Contact Candace at [CMcCoy@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:CMcCoy@gc.cuny.edu) or Jayne at [jmooney@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:jmooney@jjay.cuny.edu) for more information. THE DECEMBER MEETING AND SPEAKER WILL BE ANNOUNCED AFTER THANKSGIVING.

Psychosocial Reading Group
An international once a month reading and discussion group that is run by Lynn Chancer and Neil McLaughlin with people participating by zoom from Brazil, Canada, New Zealand and other places around the world. Our focus is on how to better understand social and sociological issues from points of view that are respectful of both agency and structure, and that take complex and non-reductionist perspectives on the relationship between psyche and society when it comes to myriad contemporary problems from trauma to social movement. We will also be taking up the rise of populism around the world from the standpoint of psychosocial and cultural perspectives; discussions may lead to an edited volume currently being contemplated on “The Authoritarian Turn.” Write to Lynn Chancer
(lchancer@gc.cuny.edu) or Neil McLaughlin (celticspursbarca@gmail.com) if you are interested in being added to the listserve and wish to receive readings.

When: December 11th, 3 to 5
Contact: Lynn Chancer (lchancer@gc.cuny.edu) and she will send zoom link

Professional Preparation Sociology Series
The next PPSS meeting will focus on: “FELLOWSHIP TIPS FROM FACULTY AND STUDENTS”
When: Dec. 10, 4:00pm to 6:00pm via Zoom
Contact: Lynn Chancer (lchancer@gc.cuny.edu)

Immigration Working Group
The GC Immigration Working Group is a graduate student-run group where we exchange, discuss, and collaborate on ideas and research related to immigration. This semester, our monthly workshops will take place on Tuesdays at 3:30pm via Zoom.
When: Tuesdays, 3:30 pm via Zoom (next meeting is on December 8)
Contact: Hayden Ju (dju@gradcenter.cuny.edu) & Janina Selzer (jselzer@gradcenter.cuny.edu)

Recordings of past colloquia and other department events can be accessed here:
https://sociology.commons.gc.cuny.edu/event-videos/

Spotlights

Executive Committee Student Representatives

Beiyi Hu
Beiyi is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Sociology program. Her research focuses on ethnoracial inequalities, racial legacies, international migration, and nationhood in Sweden. Beiyi has served on the SSA for two and a half years. As an EC student representative, she hopes to strengthen communication and mutual understanding between faculty and students and represent and relieve student concerns. Beiyi received her B.A. in Sociology from Minzu University of China and M.A. in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago.
Brian Mercado

Brian Mercado is a third-year doctoral student in the Sociology program at the Graduate Center, CUNY. His research interests center around understanding the ways schools operate as sites seeped in carceral logic and how youth observe, analyze, and resist surveillance, discipline, and criminalization. His prospective dissertation project involves understanding these processes as they are enacted against youth with tenuous legal statuses, as well as centering how students experience, navigate, produce, (re)claim, and contest spaces in schools in the face of these carceral processes. In his role as a member of the Executive Committee, Brian pushes for the program to create more open and participatory spaces for program-wide discussion and student input around issues affecting us, as well as for the program to center and take action around the demands voiced by students. He is the coordinator of the CUNY Pipeline Fellowship Program, a CUNY-wide initiative designed to provide support to undergraduates from groups underrepresented in academia who are interested in pursuing a PhD. Brian has taught as an adjunct faculty member in the Sociology Department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.

Joanna Dressel

I’m Joanna, a fourth year student serving on the Executive Committee with Beiyi and Brian. This is a two-year position; I’m in my second year and Beiyi and Brian will continue serving next year. As Executive Committee reps, we try to bring student opinions to the faculty, and also report back to students on the goings-on in the faculty executive committee. I’m interested in community and economic sociology, and have really enjoyed being a part of the Urban Studies Workshop in our program. You should join us! Here’s a picture of me and one of my cats/space heaters, Momo.

NEW PROGRAM COMMITTEES AND THEIR CHAIRS

Consortium Committee

The Doctoral programs at the Graduate Center are consortial, meaning that they are connected to “the campuses” meaning the other twenty-three senior colleges, community colleges and professional schools that make up CUNY. Sociology has eighteen faculty on (Graduate) Center lines, but there are about sixty other faculty who are official affiliates of the program and, of course, many more sociology faculty in
sociology and other departments across the campuses. Doctoral students interact with the campuses when teaching and sometimes doing research with campus-based faculty. And the Doctoral program is important for recruiting faculty to all of the campuses. The idea of this committee is to look at how all this is working and how it could work better. For example, simple things, such as how do we make sure that doctoral students know about job opportunities on campuses? What are the campus-based faculty thinking? Especially in these challenging times, we can work together to make sociology across CUNY resilient and successful.

Elin Waring
I’m a professor of sociology at Lehman College, CUNY. I define my work as mainly being about “how people organize themselves to do things together” but you could also say it is mainly about crime. Specifically, most of my publications are about white collar crime, organized crime, and, more recently, the impact of mass incarceration on the communities left behind. Currently I’m thinking a lot and writing some about open source software, quantitative reasoning (and how to teach college students to think about numbers and data), and the history of the idea of white collar crime. At Lehman, mainly I teach Research Methods and statistics and am currently recovering from six years of doing my time chairing the department.

Finance Committee

Michael Jacobson
The new Finance Committee will devote itself to helping to coordinate and trying to improve resources for students in and outside the Program. It will be starting to meet in December and then again next term, and will stay in touch with the Executive Committee about suggestions and possibilities. Prior to joining CUNY in May 2013 to help create the Institute for State and Local Governance, Michael Jacobson was president of the Vera Institute of Justice, serving from 2005 to 2013. He is the author of Downsizing Prisons: How to Reduce Crime and End Mass Incarceration (New York University Press 2005). Holding a Ph.D. in sociology, he has had an ongoing academic career coupled with more than 20 years of government service. From 1998 to 2005 he was a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center of CUNY. He was New York City correction commissioner from 1995 to 1998, New York City probation commissioner from 1992 to 1996, and worked in the New York City Office of Management and Budget from 1984 to 1992 where he was a deputy budget director. In 2010 to 2012, Michael served as the chair of Altus, a global alliance working across continents and from a multicultural perspective to improve public safety and justice.
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee aims to foster a culture of inclusion within our doctoral program. Our goal is to nurture a diverse and inclusive community dedicated to reducing inequities and improving health and well-being for all through concrete actions, behaviors, conversations and discussions. We firmly believe in the value of diversity in its many forms (e.g. race, ethnicity, class, gender identity, cultures, backgrounds, experiences and perspectives) and in equity as a core principle that can promote a more inclusive community. Our committee seeks to identify specific areas in our program that can benefit from ongoing discussions and improvements to increase diversity and decrease inequality among members of our community. Our goal is to address these concerns through new policies, practices and programs that will be developed in deliberate, careful and full consultation with faculty, students and staff.

Current members of the committee are Paul Attewell, Juan Battle, Lynn Chancer (ex officio), Joanna Dressel, Beiyi Hu, Rati Kashyap, Mary Clare Lennon, Barbara Katz Rothman, and Van Tran. Our current priorities are adequate funding for doctoral students, diversity in graduate admissions, and mentoring and support of doctoral students to ensure their successful completion of the program.

If you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to any member of our committee or to contact Van at vtran@gc.cuny.edu.

Van Tran

Van Tran is an immigration scholar and urban sociologist who studies the integration of immigrants and their children, ethnic and racial categories, diversity and intergroup relations, neighborhood gentrification, and urban poverty and social inequality.

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS/JOBS
Internal:

Data For Public Good / COVID Tracking Project Partnership

*Deadline: December 4, 2020*

Students will benefit from hands-on experience working with an important, highly-visible, and public interest project, learning how teams collaborate to solve open-ended data problems. Through participation, fellows will become familiar with project management, project design, and collaborative coding. By the end of the semester, fellows will present their work to the GC community during the GC Digital Showcase. Fellows will receive a $250 financial aid award in Spring 2021.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdH05-o4Tlsp1C1vjkaxn9IlhTf6b7kTK-4g9UWCG94-Az7Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdH05-o4Tlsp1C1vjkaxn9IlhTf6b7kTK-4g9UWCG94-Az7Q/viewform)

The Duberman-Zal Fellowship

*Deadline: December 15, 2020*

An endowed fellowship named for CLAGS founder and first executive director, Martin Duberman, and partner, Eli Zal, this fellowship is awarded to a graduate student, an independent scholar, or an adjunct from any country doing scholarly research on the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer (LGBTQ) experience.


Koonja Mitchell Award

*Deadline: December 16, 2020*

The Koonja Mitchell Memorial Prize will be awarded to a student in any Ph.D. Program at the Graduate Center working on a dissertation concerned with issues of social justice. Special consideration will be given to work on militarism and trauma.

To be considered for the prize, candidates must submit a 10-page dissertation prospectus and a CV to csws@gc.cuny.edu. A letter of recommendation from the student’s advisor should be sent to the same address, with the student’s name and award name in the subject line.


Sue Rosenberg Zalk Endowed Fund Award

*Deadline: December 16, 2020*

The Sue Rosenberg Zalk Endowed Fund Award of $4000.00 will be given to assist the scholarly research of a student enrolled in the Women’s Studies Certificate Program. While special consideration will be given to proposed research projects related to globalism and transnationalism, all
proposals will be eligible. Awards will be granted on the basis of financial need and academic excellence. Preference will be given to students at the dissertation stage.

https://centerforstudyofwomen.commons.gc.cuny.edu/awards-and-fellowships/

**Paul Monette-Roger Horwitz Dissertation Prize**
*Deadline: December 18, 2020*
This award, which honors the memories of Monette, a poet and author, and his partner, Horwitz, an attorney, will be given for the best dissertation in LGTBQ Studies, broadly defined, by a PhD candidate within the City University of New York system. The dissertation should have been defended in the previous year. Adjudicated by the CLAGS fellowships committee.

http://clags.org/fellowships-and-awards3/

**CLAGS Fellowship Award**
*Deadline: December 18, 2020*
An award to be given annually for a graduate student, an academic, or an independent scholar for work on a dissertation, a first book manuscript, or a second book manuscript. The CLAGS Fellowship is open to intellectuals contributing to the field of LGBTQ studies. Intended to give the scholar the most help possible in furthering their work, the fellowship will be able to be used for research, travel, or writing support. Adjudicated by the CLAGS fellowships committee.

http://clags.org/fellowships-and-awards3/

**CLAGS Graduate Student Paper Award**
*Deadline: December 18, 2020*
Each year, CLAGS sponsors a student paper competition open to all graduate students enrolled in the CUNY system. A cash prize is awarded to the best paper written in a CUNY graduate class on any topic related to gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, or transgender experiences. Papers should be between 15 and 50 pages and of publishable quality.

http://clags.org/fellowships-and-awards3/#GraduateStudentPaperAward

**Sylvia Rivera Award in Transgender Studies**
*Deadline: December 18, 2020*
This award, which honors the memory of Rivera, a transgender activist, will be given for the best book or article to appear in transgender studies this past year (2019-2020). Applications may be submitted by the author of the work or by nomination (the application requirements are the same for each; see below). Adjudicated by the CLAGS fellowships committee.

https://clags.org/fellowships-and-awards3/#sylviarivera
Graduate Center Dissertation Fellowship Competition

Deadline: January 15, 2021

Dissertation Fellowships are intended for students who expect to complete the dissertation during 2021-2022 award year; the applicant’s likelihood of completing the dissertation during this period may be taken into consideration in the selection process. Students must be officially advanced to candidacy (level III) before February 18, 2021.

Contact Rachel Sponzo for more information: rsponzo@gc.cuny.edu

Joan O. McCarthy Fund Research Awards

Small research awards ($500 maximum) through the Joan O. McCarthy Fund are also available. These awards are earmarked for doctoral candidates at The Graduate Center who are conducting research in philanthropy and are intended to help with travel or other research costs. Interested students should send queries with a 1-page synopsis of their research, paper or presentation, including anticipated costs to the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society.

https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Page-Elements/Academics-Research-Centers-Initiatives/Centers-and-Instit utes/Center-on-Philanthropy-and-Civil-Society/Awards-for-Students-and-Scholars

External:

Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs

Deadlines:

December 10, 2020 for Dissertation & Post-Doctoral Fellowships

December 17, 2020 for Pre-Doctoral Fellowships

Through its program of fellowships, the Ford Foundation seeks to increase the diversity of the nation’s college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.

Predoctoral, Dissertation, and Postdoctoral fellowships will be awarded in a national competition administered by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on behalf of the Ford Foundation.

https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/index.htm
**Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship**  
*Internal Campus Deadline: January 4, 2021*

The Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund was established by the Will of Dolores Zohrab Liebmann and is administered by JPMorgan, Trustee. Mrs. Liebmann was the daughter of a prominent Armenian intellectual, writer and statesman and was married to one of the owners of a successful American business. She supported students and educational and charitable organizations during her lifetime. Mrs. Liebmann’s primary concern, as expressed in her Will, was to attract and support students with outstanding character and ability who hold promise for achievement and distinction in their chosen fields of study. The trustees welcome applications from students of all national origins who are United States citizens.  

*Contact Rachel Sponzo for more information about the GC application: rsponzo@gc.cuny.edu*

**ASA Minority Fellowship Program**  
*Deadline: January 31, 2021*

The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) is designed to support the development and training of sociologists of color in any sub-area or specialty in the discipline. MFP seeks to attract talented doctoral students to ensure a diverse and highly-trained workforce is available to assume leadership roles in research. The annual stipend for each award (August 1 - July 31) is $18,000. Additional financial support is detailed on the Minority Fellowship Program page.  

[https://www.asanet.org/careers/grants-and-fellowships/minority-fellowship-program](https://www.asanet.org/careers/grants-and-fellowships/minority-fellowship-program)

**Jobs:**

**William Randolph Hearst Graduate Assistantships**  
Valued at approximately $2,000–$2,500 per semester, William Randolph Hearst Graduate Assistantships are available for CUNY Graduate Center students doing work related to civil society, philanthropy or nonprofit studies (in the U.S. or internationally) including current or historical research on NGOs, nonprofit organizations, associations, and public-private partnerships.  


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If you know of any other open positions that you’d like to share, please reach out to Gabriel at gbaro@gradcenter.cuny.edu.
Rati’s Brag Wagon
Showcasing the accomplishments of our students, alumni, and faculty

Awards

Chris Maggio
received the Junior Scholar award from the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality.

Ruth Milkman (Faculty) and Luke Elliott-Negri
Won a $48,300 grant from the Washington Center for Equitable Growth to study food workers and collective action in light of COVID-19. https://gc.cuny.edu/News/All-News/Detail?id=56208

Jayne Mooney (Faculty)
won the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Division on Critical Criminology and Social Justice of the American Society of Criminology.

Interviews

Richard Alba (Faculty)

Janet Gornick (Faculty)
talked about economics and poverty in the time of COVID-19 on CUNY TV. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNvfbSQrb5I

Publications

Juan Cruz Ferre
Wrote a piece titled “Four Strategies for Socialism” in the Left Voice online magazine.

Joseph van der Naald
Jayne Mooney (Faculty) published a new book titled *The Theoretical Foundations of Criminology: Place, Time and Context* (Routledge 2020). The book was just reviewed in *Theoretical Criminology*.

Marcela F. González (Alum) published an article titled "*High skilled immigrants’ pathways from risky to secure legality in the United States*," in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 43:15, 2807-2825.

**Emeritus**

Samuel Farber wrote a new piece titled *Cuba’s New Economic Turn* in *New Politics*.

Lily M. Hoffman published a book titled *Airbnb, Short-Term Rentals and the Future of Housing* from Routledge with Barbara Schmitter Heisler (Professor Emerita of Gettysburg College).

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**In Memoriam**

François Anick Joseph
We are saddened to share that our former student François Anick Joseph passed away on October 27. François was starting to work on his dissertation, "The Religious Practices in the Construction/negotiation of Diaspora Identity among Haitian Immigrants in New York City." with William Helmreich, Mehdi Bozorgmehr and Philip Kasinitz on his committee. He took a leave of absence in Spring 2008 but decided to continue with his other passion in his home country, as a senator. François was a former senator of the Artibonite Department in Haiti. Our deepest condolences to François' family and friends.

Erynn Masi de Casanova, our alumna who was in the same cohort as Francois and is currently Director of Research, Professional Development & Academic Affairs at the ASA, has started to collect money for his family through her PayPal (Erynn Casanova). If someone wants to
contribute but doesn't have a PayPal account, they can just email her at ecasanova@asanet.org. We recently learned that François' wife passed away four years ago, so his daughters (ages 11 and 9) have lost both parents. We would appreciate anything that people are able to send, even a small amount.

https://www.echovita.com/ca/obituaries/on/brampton/francois-anick-joseph-11673936

William Helmreich
The fourth and final book by Distinguished Professor William Helmreich The Queens Nobody Knows: An Urban Walking Guide was recently published by Princeton University Press. Prof. Helmreich died in March during the city’s initial coronavirus surge.

Read more at https://gc.cuny.edu/News/All-News/Detail?id=58309