

Tanya Domi:

Hi. This is Tanya Domi. Welcome to The Thought Project, recorded at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York fostering groundbreaking research and scholarship in the arts, social sciences, and sciences. In this space, we talk with faculty and doctoral students about the big thinking and big ideas generating cutting-edge research, informing New Yorkers and the world.

Tanya Domi:

Melissa Checker is the Hagedorn Professor of Urban Studies at Queens College and Associate Professor of Anthropology and Environmental Psychology at The Graduate Center, CUNY. Her research focuses on environmental justice, activism in the United States, urban sustainability, and environmental gentrification.

Tanya Domi:

She is the author of *The Sustainability Myth: Environmental Gentrification and the Politics of Justice*, NYU Press, 2020, and *Polluted Promises: Environmental Racism and the Search for Justice in a Southern Town*, NYU Press also in 2005. She has co-edited and published numerous articles in academic journals as well as mainstream publications. Welcome to The Thought Project, Prof. Melissa Checker.

Melissa Checker:

Thank you. It's really great to be here. Thank you for inviting me.

Tanya Domi:

So it is fortuitous we're meeting today because breaking late this morning was the announcement that president-elect Joe Biden has selected Michael Regan, North Carolina's top environmental regulator, to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

Tanya Domi:

It would seem in reading the reviews that the progressive left of the Democratic Party and environmentalists in general are quite pleased. And that once again, James Clyburn, the powerful South Carolina member of the House of Representatives that endorsed Biden for president, called for the selection of Regan and pushed for a first in nominating a Southerner who is black to lead the agency.

Tanya Domi:

It is interesting to note that environmental activists not only like Regan selection, but it is widely held that North Carolina is where the environmental justice movement began. This rounds out Biden's environmental team that also includes John Kerry as the climate change envoy, and Gina McCarthy as the White House climate czar.

Tanya Domi:

So you have written an op-ed in the New York Daily News issuing a cautionary concern that while you acknowledge the Biden's plan for a clean energy revolution and environmental justice, it is a broadly acknowledged top priority by Biden, you fear that the plan's good intentions would backfire on people it's intended to help.

Tanya Domi:

So now that we know about these Biden personnel selections, what is your immediate reaction to that? And then we're going to get into how you really studied these issues in context and how it informs your opinion.

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. A disclaimer, I don't know that much about Regan himself. I haven't really been following the environmental politics in North Carolina that closely. I know about the history there, and I do know about the black farmers movement also started there.

Tanya Domi:

Of course, yes.

Melissa Checker:

I would say cautiously optimistic. I mean, Obama's first pick for EPA was Lisa Jackson, who was from Newark. I think she might've grown up in New Orleans. But anyhow, she had been the New Jersey Environmental Protection administrator and she was a little disappointing.

Melissa Checker:

I mean, I remember very clearly how excited the environmental justice activists that I work with were about Lisa Jackson, in that case because she was black woman and also from an urban area, and so really understood the urban problems. But at the end of the day, it was disappointing. And I actually have a more pointed critique of some of her initiatives in my book.

Melissa Checker:

So I want to give everybody a chance. And I think it's great that they put a person of color in there. I think that's fantastic especially in light of just the dismantling of environmental justice in particular under the Trump administration.

Melissa Checker:

And I also really like the fact that he's an air quality specialist, because I think as much as we need to pay attention to climate change and issues of climate change, obviously sometimes I get worried that we get so wrapped up in that that we lose sight of the current issues that are facing urban communities, communities of color and poor communities all over the country, which are just more traditional issues of air pollution.

Tanya Domi:

Yeah. These are like bread and butter issues; clean water, clean air. I mean, they are basic. It was advanced really in the '70s ironically with Nixon. I mean, Nixon was really progressive.

Melissa Checker:

In that sense. Yeah.

Tanya Domi:

Yes. Yes, in that sense. Yes.

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. And I think also, that was where the result of a lot of activism had been going on since the mid-60s around those issues.

Tanya Domi:

Sure.

Melissa Checker:

So I think there's a lot of hope that they'll really help carry through some of Biden's ideas about both environmental justice and climate justice. And we'll see. I mean, sometimes I think these individuals can come in with the best of intentions, and the question is really whether they are able to enact the kind of change that they want to.

Tanya Domi:

Of course. Absolutely. So we're here today to talk about your book, *The Sustainability Myth*. It's a study of environmental justice and politics in New York City. Of course, the thing is you can sometimes judge a book by its cover, but I like to really judge a book by its title. *The Sustainability Myth*. How did you come up essentially with that title?

Melissa Checker:

Oh. Okay. I'll tell you the truth here. I had wanted to call it *Sustainaphrenia*. And that was the working title, although my publisher was never very happy with it, and we didn't come up with *The Sustainability Myth* until the last minute. So it just really hasn't even been that long. Maybe six months.

Tanya Domi:

I see.

Melissa Checker:

The essence is still the same. I wanted to talk about this notion of contradictions, and that something that we think of as being really positive and that sounds really good... it can be, it has a lot of promise... but the way that it's actually playing out isn't necessarily living up to that.

Tanya Domi:

Like where's the beef, so to speak?

Melissa Checker:

Yeah, basically.

Tanya Domi:

Right. You looked at and you studied Harlem and Staten Island within the city of New York, and I'm interested in your top takeaways on the intersection. I mean, you really studied this up-close on a micro level with activists that represented those communities. What are your top takeaways in that intersection of gentrification, racism, and then advancing sustainability while gentrification is going on? And it seems like, in many ways, the losers have been poorer people that are pushed out in that process.

Melissa Checker:

Yes.

Tanya Domi:

That's one of the things that I take away from your book. And let's talk more about Staten Island later. What are your thoughts?

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. Well, what I found in Harlem was that Harlem is undergoing a lot of gentrification as most New Yorkers are fully aware. Actually when I really started looking into it, the gentrification in Harlem started a long time ago. And I live in Harlem, full disclosure. I've been living here since 2007, so I have a very close-up view of the unfolding of gentrification in this neighborhood, which is almost a separate story because it doesn't follow the same patterns that other neighborhoods have followed.

Tanya Domi:

Right. But it is part of what's going on.

Melissa Checker:

Sure. Certainly. For sure. Also, it's a concern that pervades the neighborhood. So even in the areas that aren't gentrifying quite as quickly, the people who've been living here for a long time are very afraid of gentrification. So certainly one of the big pressing issues in the neighborhood.

Melissa Checker:

And so when I started living here and seeing how gentrification was, again, unfolding, it was really tied to sustainability. So there were these green condos going up, parks being refurbished or new parks coming in, lots of greening, even from like traffic islands. They really seem to go together; that the upscaling of Harlem really went with the greening of Harlem.

Melissa Checker:

And I wanted to see how that was really playing out because Harlem is also a neighborhood that has traditionally had a lot of issues with pollution because of a legacy of industry along the waterfronts, truck traffic, and municipal facilities that have clustered in this neighborhood because it's historically been a black and Hispanic neighborhood.

Melissa Checker:

And there's been a longstanding environmental justice organization here that's been really fighting against the piling on of toxic facilities and polluting facilities. So I thought, "Well, would the greening of Harlem be a big boost to its overall environmental quality, and would it bring with it some of the environmental justice that activists had been calling for and bring things that would benefit long-term residents who've been living under these polluted conditions for a long time?"

Melissa Checker:

And so that's what I wanted to look into. But of course, gentrification, although it doesn't always immediately and directly cause displacement, over the long-term there is a lot of displacement that follows gentrification. It doesn't necessarily have to, but it often does.

Tanya Domi:

Yeah. It's one of the outcomes, it seems.

Melissa Checker:

Right. It's one of the outcomes. When I saw that really sustainability and the greening initiatives were being, I would say, cherry-picked to serve gentrification, then it became clear that they were not really meant for the long-term residents.

Tanya Domi:

So I've been a New Yorker for 20 years, and I probably started paying attention to gentrification in Harlem when I went to grad school at Columbia, which is 20 years ago. And then of course, Columbia bought 17 acres in western Harlem, which is called Manhattanville. And they actually did put in green technology planning into the building of the campus there, the street level, and that workers were actually trained and recruited in Harlem.

Tanya Domi:

So given the past that Columbia had in Harlem, this was a huge advance. Western was very ware hothouse. It was like warehouse and car shops, couple of major apartment buildings that were in pretty bad shape apparently, and that they were bought out by the university and the university moved people. So they paid for it and moved people, allegedly.

Tanya Domi:

So anyway, I will say this: I started paying attention to that very closely. And so for me, that crosses over and I'm thinking in my mind and I wanted to ask you about this, this does intersect... I mean, like you said, it's been going on for a long time, but this does really intersect with Bloomberg as mayor. And I'd like to have some of your thoughts about the politics that's ongoing with the activists in Harlem and with city hall.

Tanya Domi:

What was the reaction and has been the reaction of local Harlem-elected officials? That I think is a very interesting intersection, too, between the neighborhood and its elected officials in city hall, and I would imagine it could even involve Albany.

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. Well, that whole Columbia expansion, I became somewhat involved in that right after I moved to Harlem because I was very active between... I think it was like around 2008 to 2010, and it was very contentious. Extremely contentious.

Tanya Domi:

Yeah. I was on staff at Columbia then in the Office of Communications. So I was really aware of it.

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. So probably we're getting different information about the project.

Tanya Domi:

Oh, for sure. For sure. No question. I am not naive about these situations.

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. So I was on a committee with a lot of neighborhood activists, including some environmental activists, but people who had been very involved in the neighborhood for a long time. And we had a lot of meetings about this community benefits agreement that they were trying to work out with Columbia to ensure that people got hired from the neighborhood and that the housing would be shuffled fairly. But a lot of people were really unhappy, especially with small business owners over there.

Tanya Domi:

Sure.

Melissa Checker:

And in environmental terms, it was being billed as very much of a sustainable green development, but the environmentalists that I was working with were really questioning that. I mean, there's a question about whether any kind of large new development could be considered sustainable just by the fact that it involves a lot of construction, and materials, and glass, and cement. So I'm not sure how much it actually improves, makes things any better.

Melissa Checker:

But they were also concerned about it being in a flood plain and not that the structure itself was going to be flood-proof. But what happens, and this is a larger issue that goes on with a lot of these developments that say, "Well, they're being built to withstand flooding from sea level rise," or climate change or whatever, even though the structure itself can withstand the flooding, it displaces the water because if the water is coming in it has to somewhere. So oftentimes, these new big buildings will just spread the water to neighboring buildings and actually make flooding worse in nearby areas.

Melissa Checker:

And so that's always a really big concern because they're usually just protecting the new development itself and they're not thinking about how they can protect the surrounding buildings. And so that's something that comes up over and over again with these new developments going in in these flood-prone areas. And so that was a big concern with that.

Tanya Domi:

The commissioner for land use in New York City, that is an omnipotent office, is it not?

Melissa Checker:

Well, it's not supposed to be that omnipotent.

Tanya Domi:

I mean, it has that reputation, doesn't it?

Melissa Checker:

I think that really depends on who you talk to. I'm sure if you talk to a developer, they would say that communities have way more power than they should, the recent failure of Amazon to go into Long Island City being an example. But then if you talk to community members, they would say that it's really the developers who put pressure on the city to bring in these developments, and the city of course has an interest because it's trying to raise its tax base and all that stuff.

Tanya Domi:

Before we move into Staten Island, what are your assessment of the situation in Harlem? I mean, you do have gentrification and there's a lot more white people living in Harlem. I know that that in and of itself is a big change. I mean, it's been happening for a long time, and these issues remain in terms of environmental justice. And also, let's go back to the topic of what did you find out in terms of the relationships between the activists and the local-elected officials. That dynamic.

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. I think it's changing. I mean, there've been some really longstanding stalwarts in Harlem-elected officials that have been here forever. And again it wasn't the focus of my research, but my impression is that it was like having an uncle who sometimes says something that you really don't like but they're still your uncle. I don't want to say it's like such a patronage relationship, but they had kind of an established relationship with these people, they didn't always do everything the way they wanted them to. It was like a give and take, let's say, a relationship.

Melissa Checker:

But now there's a lot of new people coming on the scene, elected officials in Harlem, and I think that's a good thing because people can sometimes just stay in office for too long.

Tanya Domi:

Right. Do you think it's also a generational change? I mean, you've had some major retirements in Harlem in the last few years.

Melissa Checker:

Yes. I think that's a good thing. So far, there hasn't been like a big issue, like the Columbia expansion, to see how it all is going to play out. I think maybe over in East Harlem where there's more controversial development going on at the moment that's a sort of-

Tanya Domi:

Yeah. I mean, it shifted away from Columbia at this point, right?

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. I guess it just depends on the elected officials. And I don't know that much about the new ones. I guess maybe the problem often in these kinds of situations is doublespeak. So the politician will tell the community one thing, like, "I'm on your side. We're going to do this. I'm going to stand up to these

people," or whatever, and then they say something else when they're talking to developers or the mayor, whoever it is.

Melissa Checker:

I mean, I think politics in general, especially in New York, has really shifted, and the Amazon issue was kind of a marker of that shift where I think there is more of a willingness maybe on the part of very localized politicians to take a firmer ground and take a stand and not maybe relent as much as they might have in the past.

Tanya Domi:

I do think that's also an indicator of generational change, too, because these are younger politicians. For example, like I'm up in the Bronx, and the Bronx machine just got blown out the past year. And Alessandra Biaggi defeated eff Klein who was the head of the Independent Democratic Conference in Albany. That was just an outrage for like five or six years. And so she's part of that generational change as well.

Tanya Domi:

I want to get into a complete discourse on politics, but it does seem just to point your point about the Amazon defeat, is an example I think of that. It pictures that. But before we move forward, what do you want to say about your study of Harlem? I mean, what did you learn about the activists in this ongoing effort for environmental justice, principally in a very historically black neighborhood?

Tanya Domi:

I mean my area of research and my own areas, like in Europe, and people know Harlem and they know the Bronx. That's what really sticks out people in Europe, and they don't know much about the United States but they do know those two locations. It's interesting.

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. I mean, one thing that I learned is that for the environmental justice activists here in Harlem, gentrification and the trends for sustainability really presented a paradox. I mean, they've been advocating for more green space and more environmentally-friendly initiatives for a long time. And so they would find that the city would present them with these, "Okay. Now we're going to finally build this park that you've been wanting," or whatever it was, but it would come with all this private development, high-end development that threatened to displace their constituents. So they were really caught in a bind.

Melissa Checker:

And I found that over time people were more likely to resist the Green Amendments, outright just say, "We don't want it. We know what it's going to mean, and we don't want it at all."

Melissa Checker:

I don't think that really did a lot to change the course of gentrification, but it was very sad to me that people were put in that position of having to say no to something that might have been that crucial.

Tanya Domi:

Can change the quality of their lives. Sorry.

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. And that fear has been something that I've heard people talking about communities in low-income environmental justice communities across New York. I saw that. In terms of my own just general observations from living here and being a social scientist, there's a lot of affordable housing still in Harlem because a lot of it is here under old programs, whether it's public housing, or Section 8 housing, or housing that is rent-controlled.

Melissa Checker:

And in some ways it's nice to see that that works because it's, at least in the places where I've lived in Harlem, there is a lot of diversity; economic diversity, racial diversity, ethnic diversity. My fear is that those programs, they're slowly getting phased out or there are ways that things become decontrolled, but you see that it's possible to have really mixed neighborhoods.

Melissa Checker:

It's very clear to me to see how you can have gentrification and preserve affordable housing just by boosting some of these programs that actually can work, like rent control and subsequent things.

Tanya Domi:

Yeah. When I tell people about housing court outside of New York and I talk about rent control, people just like, they can't imagine that. Like I said, "Yeah. You have rights. As a leasee, you have rights, and there's actually a court where you can go to court." It's very interesting.

Tanya Domi:

No, I think you're right, there is a diversity of housing, and that's not available everywhere. There is diversity actually, even in North Bronx where I live, there's more diversity here. It's an interesting observation. It's an interesting observation.

Tanya Domi:

But I do want to go forward and talk about your study in Staten Island, which I thought was absolutely fascinating. And I want to use the term, was it not the Superstorm Sandy, really? It's like a double entendre, almost. Was it not a watershed moment?

Tanya Domi:

I mean, really, I would say for New York residents, for example, if you didn't live in Battery Park or further South, or if you didn't live on Staten Island, or if you didn't live in Breezy Point in Queens after super storm Sandy, you might have been inconvenienced from time to time with mass transit that wasn't working that was related to the damage of the water that rushed into the subway system on the overflow.

Tanya Domi:

I mean, when we look back and see just what happened to Staten Island, I think you really, really examined in a really enlightening way, has it finally gotten sufficient attention from Albany and the city itself, the mayor's office, when it comes to what your study is indicated? I mean, there's been so much

publicity on what happened after super storm Sandy and the destruction of property, and the development on salt marshes and what happened, or people lost their homes, they lost everything, people died. It was an unbelievable outcome of climate change, really, and that intersected with probably irresponsible development.

Melissa Checker:

Yes. Absolutely. I mean, it was such a good case example of what happens when you just allow development on these areas that are wetlands, which are meant to protect the area from flooding, and so much of that damage could have been avoided if they had just left some vacant land. And the people on the South Shore of the Island that was hit the hardest, they had been for years, since the 1980s, they'd been asking for better flood protections, and to slow down the development, and to stop filling every vacant lot. Yeah. So they were unfortunately really shown to be right in demanding those flood protections.

Melissa Checker:

And now things have really changed on the South Shore. And from what I hear from the people who live there who are some of those same advocates, they're pretty happy with the kinds of flood protections that have gone in. I think there's dunes. There's the Bluebelts.

Tanya Domi:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Can you tell our listeners what the Bluebelt is?

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. The Bluebelt runs across the island. I don't know what you would call it. It's just a linked area of land that they just let stay.

Tanya Domi:

It's not developed.

Melissa Checker:

Yeah, it's not developed, and it's just meant to absorb water so that it doesn't overflow the sewer systems. Really, one of the best protections against flooding is just having vacant areas that can absorb the water. So the Bluebelt is just a belt of land where you cannot develop.

Tanya Domi:

I see. So yeah, you're talking about Staten Island, which is separated from Manhattan, and you're talking about in a city where land is discreet. It's reminiscent for me. I actually did live in Hawaii at one point. And it's similar in that you only have so much land, you can't create more land, land gets developed, people make a lot of money off the land, and then the people that live on the land are sometimes the recipients of really bad outcomes.

Tanya Domi:

And it seems like Staten Island was just ignored. People were ignored. I mean, they smelled sewage whenever there was smaller storms, and they were just ignored. I mean, nobody did anything to stop this development that you were talking about.

Tanya Domi:

I'm also fascinated by what you report in the book about how people where the majority of voters are Democrats but there is a significant Republican faction there. And that despite the politics, these issues brought people together. And you said they were arguing about it, they were loud, there were lots of disagreements, but what an interesting, fascinating coalition around these issues on Staten Island. Can you talk a little bit about that?

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. And that's a really important thing I wanted to say. So the South and East Shores of Staten Island, which are like maybe two-thirds of the Island, the population there, although it is changing, is predominantly a white middle-class homeowners. And then the north, third of Staten Island, which is really where I focused most of my attention in my research is a very diverse area. It's much denser. There's a lot of immigrant communities.

Tanya Domi:

Multiracial, right?

Melissa Checker:

Right. Multiracial.

Tanya Domi:

Multi-ethnicities. Yes.

Melissa Checker:

And they were not hit as badly by Hurricane Sandy although they were hit, they feel like they got completely overlooked in the city sustainability plans and resilience plans post-Sandy. So they really feel like they have not gotten any assistance in the aftermath of Sandy and they're still facing new developments that are encroaching on their wetlands, and they're still fighting the exact same battles that they were fighting prior to Sandy.

Melissa Checker:

And I think that's important to recognize that as much as good things happened on one area, and understandably because there was a lot more damage in that area. So that's one issue, like they had more damage and certainly a lot more reported damage.

Melissa Checker:

It was sort of a twist of fate that the North Shore didn't get hit as hard. It was just because of the way the storm came in. So they feel like they're very much unprotected, and also they're much more vulnerable economically, and politically, and socially. So, I wanted to say that.

Melissa Checker:

So what was interesting, though, was both before and after the storm, the people from the North Shore were partnering with environmentalists on the South Shore. Even though they came from completely different political affiliations and different ethnic, and racial, and economic backgrounds, but they were

actually working together on environmental issues because they recognized that they were all vulnerable ecologically.

Tanya Domi:

Interesting, your descriptions of the activists. Particularly, it's a little island, and people even though they're separated on the north side versus the south side, that situation did bring people together; maybe for that issue, maybe not forever, but it would seem that as the case for climate change and addressing climate change continues and we're all deeply concerned about it, it would seem that these issues are not going to go away anytime soon.

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. And I found a lot of hope. I mean, I feel like a lot of the book is bleak, but where I found hope was in these partnerships. And moving out from Staten Island, when I was doing research there after Hurricane Sandy, a lot of the people who had been hit very hard on the South and East Shores became involved in this national group of flood survivors; people who had been through floods, whether it was in the Midwest, in New Orleans, all over the country. And it was all online. They were an activist organization that had loosely formed online.

Tanya Domi:

Oh, that's interesting.

Melissa Checker:

Yeah. And they were organizing Flood Insurance Reform. But they were all flood survivors, and they commiserated a lot and gave each other a lot of support practically and emotionally. And that's when it really clicked for me that flooding is something that is affecting people all over the country and it's putting homeowners in this very precarious position. And that, I think, is something that is potentially very much uniting.

Melissa Checker:

I think it's also making people very disaffected with government, on the right and the left, but that disaffection is sort of bringing them back together in this-

Tanya Domi:

That's interesting. Yeah, Sacramento is very close to a flood plain. And of course, everybody's talking about the day that Miami will be under water. Down in Texas they're exposed. Florida, obviously. But it's interesting because New York City is surrounded by water, and so it's very unique in that way from other cities with such a mass, mass dense population.

Tanya Domi:

So I just want to ask you a final question, and that is: Here we have this new administration getting ready to take over. And if you were advising the incoming president, Joe Biden, what would you advise him. Just talking about these issues that you studied in this book, what would be like maybe four or five points of advice you'd want to give him?

Melissa Checker:

Well, I'm not sure this would be very popular advice to give a politician, but I would say really think long-term solutions, and you have to think several decades ahead. So something that might sound really good today, what's the impact of it 10, 20 years down the line? So like for example, new construction, that sounds really green, but if you keep allowing new buildings on the coasts, it builds up to a situation like you had on the South Shore, Staten Island over time.

Melissa Checker:

So really thinking down the road, where is this going to lead? Not that Biden is in charge of new buildings, but some of these, again, solutions that are sort of trendy that sound good, I think there's a lot of problems with some of the green energy.

Melissa Checker:

I hate to say that because I support alternative forms of energy, I'm certainly not an advocate for fossil fuels, but I think some of these solutions are very short-term. Like for example, building huge offshore wind farms with these enormous cement structures that are going into the bottom of our oceans. And what is that doing to the ocean? The oceans are already so fragile. So I just worry about, again, jumping on this kind of bandwagons for these solutions that may not be really that great long-term.

Melissa Checker:

And also, be really thoughtful, and careful, and thinking ahead as much as possible. And more to the point of my book is thinking about the ways that some of these solutions can backfire on low-income communities and communities of color.

Tanya Domi:

The most vulnerable people.

Melissa Checker:

Right. So that if you're putting in a lot of, let's say, green amenities, or boosting the sustainability of urban communities but not protecting them against displacement and gentrification, then you haven't really served them. That's another thing that I wrote about in my op-ed that I'm really worried about is there's a lot of talk about investing in environmental justice areas, but there's not a lot of talk about making an ecological or green investment, but there's not a lot of talk about shoring them up against being vulnerable to displacement.

Tanya Domi:

So that needs to be part of the social compact.

Melissa Checker:

Yeah.

Tanya Domi:

Melissa Checker, thank you so much. Your book, *The Sustainability Myth: Environmental Gentrification and the Politics of Justice*, I recommend that you send it to all these new nominees and to the transition team. Thank you very much for being with us today.

This transcript was exported on Dec 21, 2020 - view latest version [here](#).

Melissa Checker:

Well, thank you so much for having me. It was my pleasure.

Tanya Domi:

Thanks for tuning into the Thought Project. And thanks to our guest, Prof. Melissa Checker of Queens College and the Graduate Center, CUNY.

Tanya Domi:

The Thought Project is brought to you with production, engineering, and technical assistance by Kevin Wolfe of CUNY TV. I'm Tanya Domi. Tune in next week.