Center for the Humanities

2025–2026 Annual Report







Humanities in *Action*





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Letter from the Director



End of year celebration at the Center

Whether addressing democratic participation, the rapid emergence of generative AI, the vulnerability of cultural creators in conflict zones, or the social dimensions of climate change, the humanities shine a light on what's happening, why it matters, and what we can do about it!

Since 1998, the Center for the Humanities has served as a hub for critical, creative, and collaborative scholarship at the CUNY Graduate Center. **This past year, public scholarship projects like the CUNY Climate Assembly Project, El Puente: Our Archive is a Bridge, and the NYC Climate Justice Hub have strengthened bonds between civil society, the university, and the cultural sector.**

Throughout our history, the Center has stretched the boundaries of humanities discourse and practice by fostering collaborations among humanists, social scientists, environmental scientists, community members, policymakers, and artists. Together, we advance critical scholarship with social impact aims. The Center is a site of innovation deeply embedded within and indebted to the GC's legacy of public scholarship. In the years ahead, we will continue to build on this work through new and evolving projects like JustMedia and Just Transition Stories—media literacy and oral history projects in development.

"The meaning and full implications of climate change are set within socially constructed attitudes and beliefs about distributional justice, progress, and human agency. Humanities frameworks are critical to help the broader society and engaged practitioners and policymakers better understand the cultural and historical context of contemporary environmental challenges."

Dr. William Solecki Distinguished Professor of Earth and Environmental Science at Hunter College and member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

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The Center address the challenges facing the humanities as a discipline and its role in society by building out infrastructure that supports integrative scholarship across CUNY with actionable outcomes throughout NYC; prepares GC faculty and graduate students to thrive in myriad sectors; and strengthens public trust in higher education through sustained cultural engagement.

Recent shifts in higher education have made clear that the humanities cannot be taken for granted. The Center will continue to champion activist and applied scholarship while also reaffirming our commitment to uplifting the intrinsic value of the humanities themselves.

We will launch four new Humanities Catalyst Grants for students in English, History, Art History, and Philosophy; inaugurating an annual lecture series devoted to literary creation and criticism; and introducing a new State of the Discipline series, co-curated by students and faculty in the English Department.

Through the creation of arts, culture, and engaged research, the Center for the Humanities builds community and makes space to live the GC's mission: graduate education for the public good. Together, we continue to meet contemporary challenges with creativity, integrity, strategic vision, and collective purpose. We hope you will join us in 2026-2027!

Kendra Sullivan



Overview

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The Center for the Humanities at the CUNY Graduate Center encourages collaborative, creative, and engaged work in the humanities and humanistic social sciences across CUNY and throughout NYC.

Our offerings include:

- Grant strategy, development, and implementation
- Project management and communications strategy
- Fellowships, internships, mentorships, and cohort-based learning programs
- Working groups, reading groups, interdisciplinary seminars, public programs, and professional training programs
- Research partnership, technical assistance, and small grants

Reaching a broad range of publics through our various platforms, we have had 1,500,000+ website views and interactions, 75,000+ newsletter subscribers and 17,600+ subscribers and followers on our social media platforms across Center for the Humanities, Lost & Found, and NYC Climate Justice Hub.



Alignment with the GC's Mission, Vision, and Strategic Plan

Supporting the Whole Student

This year we were able to offer **9** Graduate Center Student Fellowships; **48** Summer Research Awards (through Lost & Found, the NYC Climate Justice Hub, WSQ, and PS2), **11** Small Group Facilitator Fellowships for participants in the CUNY Climate Assembly Project; **6** Working Groups in the Humanities; **2** Reading Groups in the Humanities, and myriad opportunities for students to curate and attend programs that build professional networks, support constructive debate, and advance creative discourse in the humanities. We created **6** paid internships opportunities for Graduate Center Students that team them up with faculty and community partners to produce research in the field. We were able to offer **12** fellowships to undergraduates from across CUNY participating in the Hub; and **43** fellowships for Hunter students participating in our assembly. Lost & Found and WSQ hosted **6** interns from the senior colleges. We are able to support the vast majority of these student opportunities, which are all paid, through grants received from private donors and foundations.

"In my role as a social media fellow I learned and honed valuable skills such as editing and distilling often complex academic descriptions and concepts into digestible copy to communicate to our broad public via social media platforms, something that I think is a valuable skill for any graduate student. Doing this job affords the opportunity to learn from the Center and all of the varied, meaningful work that we are producing and collaborating on, which makes it a useful entry point for a professional pathway in pursuing a career in this arena of public scholarship."

Natasha Ochshorn Social Media Intern



An engaged audience watching Ronaldo V. Wilson's performance lecture "Still Candy: Visions, Alters"

Critical Public Impact

The Center strengthens critical public impact through community-led research with actionable outcomes, creative activities that nourish communities throughout NYC, and cultural programming with lasting impacts on civil society. For example, NYC Climate Justice Hub's robust research teams model brought over fifty researchers into collaboration with six community based organizations over three years. The Hub was recognized with a Certificate of Excellence from the Public Advocate's Office, led by Brooklyn College Graduate Jumaane Williams.

"The Hub will not only have an immense impact on sustainability, but will also cultivate the next generation of environmental leaders in New York City. (...) I'm especially proud to celebrate this next step in CUNY's lasting commitment to climate justice and continued work to provide opportunities for the historically marginalized population to participate in environmental policy review and development."

NYS Attorney General **Letitia James**

Institutional Capital

The Center for the Humanities engages the social good and philanthropic sector to support students, faculty, and community-led research in the humanities, social sciences, and environmental sciences. We are putting the humanities into dialog with climate justice, environmental science, waste management, sustainability, civic education, democratic innovation, and more. In so doing, we are building public confidence, political commitment, and community engagement, advancing evidence-based research with clear objectives, and turning our findings into actionable implementation, and management pathways that always foreground justice, dignity, creative arts, and critical thinking.

NYC Climate Justice Hub Research Team participants learn about the housing history of the South Bronx through a modified game of Jenga.



What We Do

Publications

Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative remaps the post-war literary landscape through archival research and publication. L&F is edited by doctoral student researchers and guided by poets, archivists, and practitioners. In 2026, we launched our latest publication series Mouth to Word, which focuses on interviews and conversations between student editors and figures key to their archival research. L&F provides research funding and mentorship for 20-26 fellows annually.

Distributaries: New Writing in the Public Humanities is the Center's digital and print publication series. Our digital publication platform is a site for new writing and editing by CUNY faculty and students. Publications include: The City Amplified: Oral Histories and Radical Archives; Disruptive Engagement: Land Use Organizing in NYC; Approaching Reparations; The Children of the People Write! Autoethnographies of CUNY; and Sisters of the Milpa.

Women's Studies Quarterly (WSQ) is a joint project of the Center for the Humanities, the Center for the Study of Women and Society, the Women's and Gender Studies MA Program, and Feminist Press, led by a board of scholars, artists, performers, and poets for over 50 years. WSQ offers two graduate assistantships as well as a paid internship for a Queens College student, ensuring students gain professional experience in feminist scholarship and publishing each year.

Climate, Sustainability, Democracy, and the Humanities

The NYC Climate Justice Hub is guided by grassroot leaders in the NYC-Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) while CUNY supplies the capacity and resources of the largest public-urban university in the US. The Hub funds 3 positions, 4 graduate student fellows; 25 undergraduate fellows; 6 interns working at community-based organizations, as well as 43 CUNY researchers developing community-led research projects.

The CUNY Climate Assembly Project is a cross-CUNY collaboration with the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC) and Sustainable CUNY. The CUNY Climate Assembly Project on Waste at Hunter College forged meaningful ties between the GC and Hunter, funded 14 Graduate Student Fellowships and 42 undergraduate assembly members from Hunter.

What We Do

Public Scholarship

PS2 (Public Scholarship Practice Space) is a programming and engagement platform designed to amplify the Advanced Certificate in Public Scholarship Program, which launched in spring 2026. PS2 is governed by a board of faculty, and is a legacy platform seeded by Transforming Doctoral Education and the Mellon Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research, which ran from 2014-2024 at the Center.

The Stanley Burnshaw Lecture Series is a biannual endowed lecture that offers a public platform for one poet to deliver a lecture on the intersections of poetry and politics.

The Irving Howe Lecture Series is an annual endowed lecture that offers a public scholar a platform to build on Howe's legacy as a public intellectual, educator, and political organizer.

The Herb Gutman Fund provides resources for a talk, project, or publication that builds on Gutman's legacy as a labor historian with strong CUNY and union ties.

The CUNY Adjunct Incubator is an annual grant program that funds 8-10 contingent faculty in their efforts to produce public scholarship. The CAI is an endowed program cofacilitated by Public Scholarship Practice Space at the Center for the Humanities and the Gittell Collective.

The Humanities in Higher Education Now

In 2026, C4H is thrilled to launch three new humanities catalysts!

The State of Discipline series is curated by students and faculty and designed to explore the economic, political, technological, and ideological pressures that humanities disciplines face today.

The Annual Lecture in Literature will enhance our understanding of literature, comparative literature, and critical theory, applying frameworks including but not limited to New Historicism, Postcolonialism, Feminism, Black & Ethnic Studies, and Queer Studies to literary creation and analysis.

Humanities Catalysts Grants support graduate students developing scholarship in English, History, Philosophy, and Art History. This annual award aims to uplift critical and interpretive inquiry that highlights humanistic contributions to knowledge and society writ large.

Leadership Team

Center for the Humanities Staff

Dasharah Green
Presidential Research Fellow

Madeleine Barnes
Creative Communications and Design Strategist

Alexandra Millatmal
Programs Manager

Prithi Kanakamedala
Faculty Coordinator, Public Scholarship Practice Space (PS2)

Stephon Lawrence
Managing Editor, Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative

Pedro Cid Proença & Serena Solin
Designers, Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative

Natasha Ocshorn
Social Media Fellow

Maithreyi Rajeshkumar
Public Engagement Strategist

Matthew Binetti
Financial Administrator

Sampson Starkweather
Publicity & Communications Director

Kendra Sullivan
Director fo the Center for the Humanities

Forrest Sparks
Program Lead, CUNY Climate Assembly Project

Jazmyn Michelle Blackburn
Hub Coordinator, NYC Climate Justic Hub

Kobie Coleman
Classes & Curriculum, Coordinator, NYC Climate Justice Hub

Stanley Burnshaw Advisory Board

Wayne Koestenbaum
CUNY Graduate Center

Mónica de la Torre
Brooklyn College

Chris Campanioni
CUNY Graduate Center

Rosamond King
Brooklyn College

Zohra Saed
Macaulay Honors College

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BOMB Magazine

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Borough of Manhattan Community College

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CUNY Graduate Center

Margo Viscusi
Founding Trustee

Sue Lonoff DeCuevas
Founding Trustee

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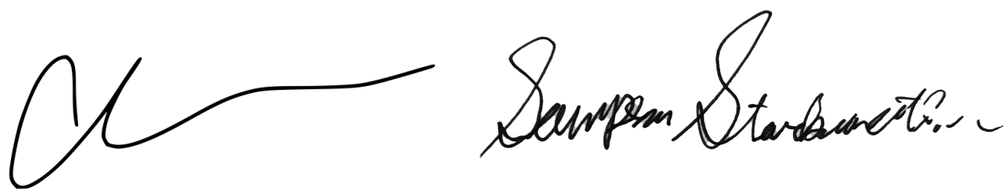
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This year, the Center helped organize **76 programs** and hosted over **6,080 attendees** in person at the CUNY Graduate Center. With support from the Center, CUNY students and faculty drive the curation and conception of these public events and workshops, amplifying their scholarship and enriching the academic experience of their given programs. These events — while ephemeral in nature — are a point of contact, a place to imagine and participate in making a world in community with one another.

For the 2025-2026 academic year, we launched a streamlined event submission process with the goal of lowering barriers to meaningful participation in the knowledge sector. This democratic process helped increase transparency and inclusivity, amplify voices often absent from mainstream public discourse, and build equitable and creative partnerships between the university and community organizations.

In a time of manufactured scarcity and isolation, it is an honor to be a part of connecting CUNY voices with the broader public.

Alexandra Millatmal & Sampson Starkweather



All Events

Fall 2025

- Research Assistants Lunch and Learn
  August 21
- Using and Abusing 'The Master's Tools' with Caleb Ward and Ju Ly Ban
  August 26
- NYC Climate Justice Hub Professional Learning Community Discussions
  September 18, October 2, 16, 30, November 13, 20, December 4, 18
- Poetry Reading and Conversation with Crisitina Pérez Díaz and Isabel Sobral Campos
  September 17
- CONTROLLED DEMOLITION: Book Launch and Reading with Ammiel Alcalay
  September 19
- Low Fixed-Cost Green Energy for All: from Sweden to the US
  September 22
- Community Colleges and Climate Futures
  September 25
- Tackling the Common Corporate Drivers of Global Warming and Noncommunicable Diseases
  September 26
- *Hot Maroc*: Bilingual Reading with Yassin Adnan and Alexander Elinson
  October 7
- Letters from the Edge: Outrider Conversation with Margaret Randall
  October 8
- Discourses on Colonialism Revisited: The Philosophy and Religion in Africana Traditions (2025 Conference)
  October 18
- Lesbian Lives Conference
  October 24 & 25
- Exophony in New York o el inglés como lengua literaria
  October 25
- The Passion According to Janair: Performance and Discussion on the Work of Clarice Lispector
  October 29
- Compassion Beyond Reason with Anaïs Duplan
  October 29
- Downtown and The Twilight of Bohemia
  November 4
- Eating Disorders in Life Writing with Leslie Jamison
  November 7
- *Budget Justice*: Book Launch, Reading & Conversation with Celina Su
  November 12
- Compassion Beyond Reason with Anaïs Duplan & Farnoosh Fathi
  November 12
- TLC x PS2 Sip n' Chat
  November 13
- Worms for Brains: A Graduate Student Conference
  November 14
- Ann Powers: Telling the Storytellers' Story
  November 18
- *Black Owned*: The Revolutionary Life of The Black Bookstore with Char Adams
  November 21
- Compassion Beyond Reason with Anaïs Duplan
  December 3
- Public Scholarship Certificate Program Open House
  December 4
- *Women's Studies Quarterly* "Body Matters" Special Issue Launch
  December 5
- Instant/ce Installations: A Creative Workshop with Ronaldo V. Wilson
  December 11
- Still Candy: Visions, Alters with Ronaldo V. Wilson
  December 12
- Graduate Center Shorts: An Evening of Films and Discussion
  December 12

All Events

Spring 2026

- 2026 Lost & Found Fellows Showcase: New Poetics and Archival Research Projects
  February 19
- CCAP Public Launch & Civic Lottery
  February 20
- Feminist Biography and Social Justice: A Conversation
  March 3
- TCB: The Toni Cade Bambara School of Organizing
  March 4
- "Realizing the Dream of a Black University": Pedagogy Workshop on Toni Cade Bambara
  March 4
- Motherless Tongues: Harmonics of Belonging and Estrangement by Amelia Roselli and Etel Adnan
  March 6
- Palestinian History Between Past and Present Colloquium
  March 6
- Janice Nimuri on Knowing Her Place: Rachel Carson and the Women Who Came Before Her
  March 9
- Student Movements and Social Justice: Histories and Futures
  March 10
- Poetics of Refusal
  March 12
- La Lotería Niuyorkina: An Educational Game to Explore the City's Linguistic Landscape
  March 9
- Pills & Protest: Abortion Access in Ireland by Brenna McCaffrey
  March 17
- Against Innocence: Miriam Ticktin in Conversation with Ruth Wilson Gilmore
  March 17
- 2025 Ukrainian Contemporary Music Festival: Mosaics
  March 19
- Making NYC a Nature City
  March 19
- (Dis)Placing Us On The Map: An Interactive Exhibition of LGBTQIA+ Spaces
  March 19
- "Rooted in Community:" NYC Climate Justice Hub Collaborative Research Showcase
  March 24
- Sara Ahmed presents NO!: The Art and Activism of Complaining with Roxane Gay
  April 7
- Chavela: A Screening
  April 14
- This Portrait is NOT an Indian
  April 15
- Queer-Class Relations Conference
  April 17
- Digital Colonialism
  April 21
- Parallel Processes: Interactive Poetry Book Talk and Publishing Workshop
  April 22
- NY-CJH Classes & Curriculum Spring Symposium and Workshop
  April 29
- CCAP: Model Assembly
  April 30
- What We Desire: Critical Perspective on Beauty, Pleasure, and Value
  May 1
- We Know it Well: Red Scare at CUNY and the Archival Politics of Dissent
  May 1
- The Center for the Study of Women and Society: Works in Progress
  May 5
- Teaching & Learning Center x PS2 Spring 2026 Sip n Chat
  May 7
- Decolonizing Afghanistan: Countering Imperial Knowledge and Power
  May 13
- CCAP: Public Forum
  May 15
- Lost & Found Series X Launch: Lois Elaine Griffith
  May 21
- *Women's Studies Quarterly* "Chronic" Special Issue Launch
  May 26
- America at 250: Critical Perspectives
  May 29

In the 2025-2026 year, our public programming made space for...



An engaged audience partaking in The Toni Cade Bambera School of Organizing (TCB)

In this season, the Center offered programming that took a critical look at the university and its role in society by exploring its history in order to understand the present. Through events like the Toni Cade Bambara School of Organizing, the Student Movements and Social Justice conference, and “We Know it Well: Red Scare at CUNY and the Archival Politics of Dissent,” the Center helped bring together a wide range of archivists, activists, scholars, and artists to discuss and explore archival strategies for navigating the current conjunctural crises of economic austerity, governmental surveillance, and heightened suspicion of critical thinking.



Activities from the “Community Colleges and Climate Futures” Panel

We hosted a panel conversation on “Community Colleges and Climate Futures” which spotlighted exciting climate work taking place at CUNY community colleges and supported the ongoing work of the CUNY Climate Assembly Project, which collaborates on the challenges and opportunities for improving waste management at Hunter College.

...the university to speak back to itself

...play and possibility in our scholarship

Our partners brought novel and playful approaches to their inquiries, from movement and performance to educational game design. As a Burnshaw lecturer, Ronaldo V. Wilson embodied form and place through poetry, dance, song, and video, exposing intersections between lived realities of space, identity, tenderness, and desire.

Ronaldo V. Wilson performing "Still Candy: Visions, Alters"









La Lotería Niuyorkina by Diana Higuera-Cortes

In the spring, CUNY Adjunct Incubator fellow Diana Higuera-Cortes hosted a La Lotería Niuyorkina game, a free pedagogical toolkit for Latinx students and educators to explore the varieties of Spanish spoken across New York City and uncover how language is used to shape identity.

Performances from “This Portrait is NOT an Indian”



...subversion and refusal

Quite literally! We helped bring to life events such as “Poetics of Refusal,” “Against Innocence,” “NO!: The Art and Activism of Complaining,” and “This Portrait is NOT an Indian.” Our partners rejected longstanding frames that have been placed around them, allowing for an expansion of what it means to refuse to comply with power, and why we need to say “no” as boldly, creatively, and collectively as we can.

“I see the thoughtful, courageous, necessary programming that the Center for the Humanities team is presenting. It is vital for the CUNY community, the City, and for the ripples it sends out into the world. It is crucial for the participating artists to have platforms and payment for their work right now.”

Rosamond King Honors Academy Chair and Professor of English at Brooklyn College



Panel and audience members from “This Portrait is NOT an Indian”



...the people materially impacted by the topics we discuss



Audience members asking questions during the Student Organizing conference

Some of the most magical moments of our programming were ones where the stakes of our conversations were abundantly clear. Attendees heard from educators in Palestine during our student organizing conference; connected macroeconomic theories from Michael Kwet to the lived realities of Gloria Ushigua organizing to protect Ecuadorian Amazon land from big tech contracts during “Digital Colonialism”; and learned first-hand from queer labor organizer Anne Balay, queer-caste theorist Anjali Arondekar, and genderqueer, disabled, class writer Eli Clare during the CLAGS’ Queer-Class Relations conference.

These gatherings allowed the voices of those whose lives are directly and materially affected by the issues of the moment to be heard, with participants sharing their lived-experience and unique perspectives to help us better understand and respond to the pressing issues that shape our lives and society.





Digital Colonialism audience and panel members

CLAGS Queer-Class Relations conference



...transdisciplinary reading and collaboration

As part of our public programming offerings, the Center also provides resources and guidance to support transdisciplinary Working Groups and Reading Groups in the Humanities. Led by students, faculty, and community partners, these groups provide the time, space, sociality, and institutional support necessary for participants to develop and implement sustained intellectual inquiry in extra-disciplinary fields.





Working Groups in the Humanities

This past year, the Center supported and helped facilitate **4 working and reading groups**, including:

The French & Comparative Literature Research Group

A collaborative forum where graduate students and faculty present works in progress—such as conference papers and journal articles—and receive constructive peer feedback to strengthen their scholarship before publication or public presentation.

The Samuel Delaney Reading Group: Delaney ‘68, Delaney ‘69

A student-led reading group that follows Delany beyond his most well-disseminated novels, to delve into his less circulated, shorter, unpublished, and/or out-of-print works as a collective archival journey, constellating these texts to discover what reading these works alongside and through one other uncovers.

Poetics Research Entanglements (PRE)

An interdisciplinary working group lead by GC students that brings together scholars, poets, artists, and theorists to collaboratively explore poetry and poetics through discussion, experimentation, and critical engagement across fields such as decolonial studies, ecocriticism, gender studies, and affect theory.

Nuyorican Artists in the Cafe

A working group dedicated to documenting, studying, and archiving the artists who emerged from the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, highlighting its enduring influence as a vital Afro-Caribbean cultural hub that has shaped American literature, performance, and the arts since 1973.

“The Delany ‘68, Delany ‘69 reading group was a smashing success. 18 people consistently came to each session and we even extended it by an additional week b cause so many people wancmsl ted to continue the conversation. Talk has emerged about a potential experimental sonic-film based on the group, a holographic arts show inspired by it, and papers on Delany ranging from his readings of Fanon to his deployment of the parenthetical to his theorizing of extralegal forms of work! My immense gratitude for your support and vision across these Delanyian ventures that have made so much expansiveness possible in truly life affirming ways!”

Rebecca Teich PhD student in English

PS2 (Public Scholarship Practice Space)

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PS2, or the Public Scholarship Practice Space, honors the past, present, and future of public scholarship at the CUNY Graduate Center (GC). We intentionally build on the expertise, knowledge production, and radical tradition created by generations of GC faculty, staff, and students who were and who continue to be at the center of applied, engaged, and activist research. In 2025–2026, PS2 completed its third year and honored this radical GC tradition of producing scholarship for and in partnership with various publics, by:

- Supporting current GC Doctoral Students through the Early Research Initiative/ PS2 Summer Public Research Fellowship
- Collaborative Public Programming,
- A new (since Fall 2025) Advanced Certificate in Public Scholarship

We hold a deep commitment to supporting projects, scholars, and practitioners whose work centers social justice, engages in interdisciplinary effective practices, and adopts non-extractive research models including questions of accessibility, reciprocity, self-representation, and equity in all community-engaged, or public-facing work. In doing so, we acknowledge our debt to fields such as Black Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Queer Studies that have long been at the forefront of making scholarship for and by the people.

In community,

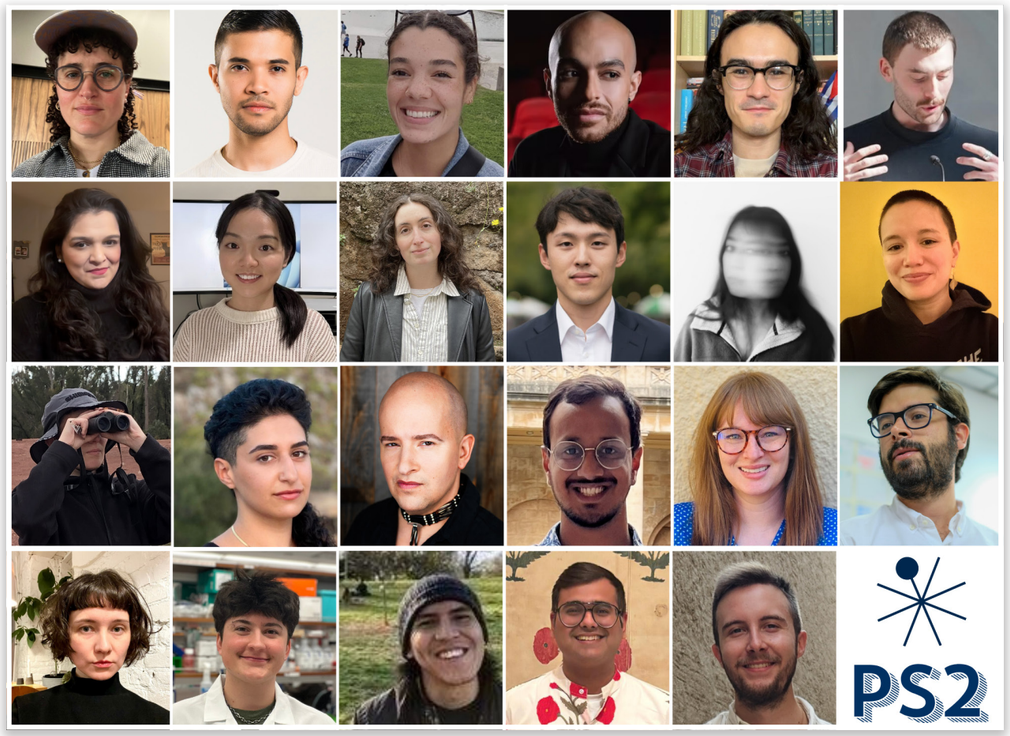
Prithi



2026 ERI / PS2 Summer Public Research Fellows

A record **23 doctoral students** at the CUNY Graduate Center were awarded **ERI/PS2 Summer Public Research Fellowships** in 2026, with generous funding from the Provost's Office.

This cohort represents a range of programs that have long-championed public scholarship including Anthropology, Computer Science, Critical Psychology, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Economics, History, Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Cultures (LAILAC), Theatre and Performance, and Urban Education.



Clairette Atri Mizrahi *Critical Psychology*

Clairette Atri Mizrah, from Mexico City, is conducting research at the Maguen Abraham Synagogue in Beirut.

Luis E. Banegas *Sociology*

Luis E. Banegas is examining how immigration courts interpret violence against male asylum seekers — particularly in cases involving forced gang recruitment — and whether this coercion is gender-based persecution meriting protection.

Marisa Breathwaite *Cultural Anthropology*

Marisa's research focuses on the emergence of femtech platforms in Cairo, Egypt and asks how AI-enabled femtech is situated within longer histories of development.

Adam A. Elsayigh *Theatre & Performance*

Adam will spend the summer building a public dataset tracking financial and programming records across four major Off-Broadway institutions from 2008 to 2025, to test a hypothesis: that money is doing a lot of the deciding of what we see Off-Broadway.

Xavier Fitzsimmons Cruz *History*

Xavier studies Latinx migration, labor, and public history, with a focus on archives, oral histories, and community memory, and is committed to building community-centered archives that document the stories of Latinx communities in the United States.

Chris Harding *History*

Chris' work focuses on labor and capital in the Mandate period (1922-1948) in Palestine. Recent work appeared in Public Seminar magazine and as part of the exhibition South West Bank—Landworks, Collective Action and Sound at the Venice Biennale.

Diana Higuera *LAILAC*

Diana will spend the summer researching and collaborating with a group of ESOL students from different parts of Latin America to design resources that empower English-language learners to fight wage theft and linguistic injustice.

Chufeng Jiang *Computer Science*

Chufeng is researching safety-aware evaluation and scenario-level analysis of 3D lane perception models, contributing to more reliable and socially responsible intelligent transportation systems.

Googie Karrass *Cultural Anthropology*

Googie's dissertation examines polygenic embryo screening and how it is reshaping ideas about heredity and human difference, with a particular interest in the ways that genomic frameworks are taken up in political projects and the porous boundaries between political and scientific and public discourse.

2026 ERI / PS2 Summer Public Research Fellows

Alexander Kwon *Economics*

Alexander's work focuses on causal inference, machine learning, and applied econometrics, with a particular interest in how research evidence can be generalized across populations to inform public decision-making.

Danning Li *Cultural Anthropology*

Danning's research focuses on the role of market logic, class, and consumer desire in shaping political subjectivity. This summer, she will study Arabic and spend time with Palestinian traders who source goods in China.

Noelle Mapes *Urban Education*

Noelle's research focuses on participatory democracy, teachers' unions, and the political economy of schools. She is a strike-ready member of PSC-CUNY and an organizer with MORE-UFT, a k-12 social justice caucus of the NYC teachers' union.

Stella Maynard *Geography*

Stella's dissertation examines the changing geographies of policing in the South Pacific region. This summer they will visit the National Archives of Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) and the National Archives of Australia (Canberra).

Foiniki Papadopoulou *Cultural Anthropology*

Foiniki's research focuses on sites in Cyprus that operate simultaneously as material repositories of violence and as generative arenas where counterhegemonic historical discourses and political futures are imagined and experimented with.

Opalanietet (Ryan) Pierce *Theatre & Performance*

Opalanietet is a member of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape tribal nation, and founder and artistic director of Eagle Project. He has performed at The Public Theater, New York City Opera at Lincoln Center, and gave the first-ever land acknowledgement at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Nikhil Ravipati *Cultural Anthropology*

Nikhil's research interests span agrarian social movements, neoliberalism, and the politics of caste, class, and gender in rural life in the Malwa region of Punjab, India. His current research how landless agricultural workers and poor peasants build broad-based coalitions to challenge dispossession and authoritarian populism.

Taylor Rubin *Biology*

Taylor works in the Urban Ecology Lab, investigating how scavengers that live in cities interact with food waste and how that interaction may influence disease spread. She plans to continue pursuing ecological research while working alongside community members and policymakers to translate scientific knowledge into meaningful change.

Guillermo Sardi Garcia *Political Science*

Guillermo's research focuses on the intersection of democratic backsliding, criminal governance, and state extralegal violence, seeking to incorporate the voices of community leaders, NGO workers, and activists who are often excluded from research.

Irina Shirobokova *Environmental Psychology*

Irina is a feminist geographer and researcher in the Cities 'Becoming Lost': Ruptures of Grand Narratives of Modernity project at The Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography. Her research, grounded in years of fieldwork in the Arctic's peripheral cities, draws on feminist methodologies and engages with political geography and psychoanalysis.

Ava Stoddard *Biology*

Ava studies the development of radiotheranostics for a rare pediatric disease called desmoplastic small round cell tumors (DSRCT), researching radiotheranostic tools that can provide clinical care for DSRCT patients.

Paulo Suarez *Anthropology*

Paulo studies housing, migration, and social movements in Los Angeles, shedding light on how "the immigrant" serves as more than a pillar of the contemporary resentful structure of feeling uplifting American authoritarian hegemony.

Vinit Vyas *Art History*

Vinit's interdisciplinary research focuses on issues of same-gender desire, transgender narratives, and gender ambiguity in early modern and colonial visual and material culture of South Asia.

Bret Windhauser *History*

Bret's work focuses on imperial law and religious understandings of the body conflicted in court in cases pertaining to corpse smuggling and burial in important Shi'a shrine cities during the British Mandate of Iraq. He is currently developing a website to provide visualizations and translations of this research in order to increase accessibility.

Select Program Highlights

We Know It Well: Red Scare at CUNY and the Archival Politics of Dissent

Panel discussion on the history of the Red Scare at CUNY, the importance of collecting and preserving our stories in times of political upheaval, and archival strategies for navigating the present conjuncture, with **Mariame Kaba**, **Jeanne Theoharis**, **Marianne LaBatto**, and **Ted Schmiedeler**, moderated by **Shana L. Redmond**. Co-sponsored by the Cultivating Archives and Institutional Memory Project, with support from TRiO: The Radio in the Orchard; the American Social History Project: Center for Media and Learning; and PSC CUNY, and the Mina Rees Library.

May 4, 2026

PS2 Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 Sip 'n' Chat

Sip 'n' Chat is a space for peers to develop applied, engaged, and/ or public-facing research in an interdisciplinary community of practitioners. The spring Sip 'n' Chat was co-hosted by the Teaching and Learning Center at the GC.

November 13, 2025 & May 7, 2026



Fall 2025 Sip 'n' Chat

Certificate Program Open House

In Fall 2025, Public Scholarship joined the exciting range of certificate programs that students can enroll in at the CUNY Graduate Center.

December 5, 2025

Certificate Program Open House attendees



Downtown and the Twilight of Bohemia

An event to celebrate **Peter Trachtenberg's** *The Twilight of Bohemia: Westbeth and the Last Artists in New York* with Trachtenberg in conversation with writer **Francine Prose**, artist **Howard Michels**, and writer/curator **Sur Rodney (Sur)** to tackle the larger question of what "downtown art" means at this precarious cultural moment. Co-sponsored by the American Studies Certificate Program, the Leon Levy Center for Biography, the Center for the Humanities, and the Public Scholarship Practice Space (PS2) at the CUNY Graduate Center

November 4, 2025

Advanced Certificate in Public Scholarship

Launched in Fall 2025 in close collaboration with the GC Provost's Office, the Advanced Certificate in Public Scholarship embodies the Graduate Center's core value that "knowledge is a public good." This innovative, 12-credit program is designed for graduate students who want to deepen their engagement with communities, develop interdisciplinary research skills, and communicate their scholarship beyond academia.

Through a curriculum that blends theory and practice, students explore activist, applied, and community-engaged research while prioritizing social justice and public impact. The certificate is open to all matriculated Graduate Center students and is designed to complement a student's primary field of study, preparing them for diverse career pathways both inside and outside of academia. The program began the year with three students enrolled, and ended with a total of ten enrolled students and two graduating students (a 233.33% program growth). In Fall 2026, Prithi Kanakamedala will transition from interim coordinator to certificate coordinator for a three- year term.



Prithi Kanakamedala

Advanced Certificate in Public Scholarship

In the program, students complete two core courses:

PUBL 70100 Introduction to Public Scholarship: Theories, Methods, and Approaches (3 credits)

This course introduces students to public scholarship. Students will learn about the history and development of engaged and collaborative public-facing scholarship in the humanities and social sciences as an interdisciplinary field and a public good. Students will also consider the theoretical nature of and methodological approaches to public scholarship, major debates in the field, and their own lived experiences.

Taught in Fall 2025 by Dr. Ángeles Donoso Macaya (GC/BMCC), whose research and writing spans Latin American and Caribbean photography theory and history, counter-archival production, human rights activism, memory studies, documentary film, (trans) feminisms in the Southern Cone, and public humanities scholarship.

PUBL 70200 Social Justice and Public Scholarship (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the myriad ways in which public scholarship and social justice intersect. Interdisciplinary by design, students examine, analyze, and reflect on a range of scholars, artists, and activists who are committed to the vision of a more just world through their community-engaged, or public-facing work. Taught in Spring 2026 by Dr. Kendra Sullivan (GC), a poet, a public artist, and an activist scholar.



Kendra Sullivan



Ángeles Donoso Macaya

Leadership Team

Team

Prithi Kanakamedala
Faculty Coordinator

Dasharah Green
PS2 Presidential Research Fellow

Matthew Binetti
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Advisory Committee

Anne Valk
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Anthropology, Psychology, Women's and Gender Studies

Kendra Sullivan
Director, Center for the Humanities

Michelle Fine
Psychology, Urban Education, Liberal Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, American Studies

Matt Gold
English, Liberal Studies, Interactive Technology and Pedagogy, American Studies, Director, Graduate Center Digital Initiatives, Digital Humanities, Data Analysis and Visualization

Ujju Aggarwal
Anthropology and Experiential Learning, The New School

NYC Climate Justice Hub

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The NYC Climate Justice Hub champions the environmental justice efforts of local communities facing the adverse impacts of climate change and discriminatory climate adaptation policies in New York City. By galvanizing community-based organizations with a wealth of academic resources, the Hub amplifies community voices and bridges institutional divides. Presently, the Hub is the only infrastructure in NYC that makes it possible for grassroots organizations and public universities to co-design sustainable, community-driven climate adaptation solutions at scale.



Fireside chat featuring CUNY professors and students and NYC-EJA member organizations staff during the "Classes & Curriculum Spring Symposium"

Launched in September 2023, the Hub is a partnership between CUNY, the nation's largest public urban university with over 225,000 undergraduate students and 40,000 staff and faculty, and the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA). NYC-EJA is a citywide coalition of grassroots organizations from the city's most environmentally-burdened neighborhoods who have been leading the fight for environmental and climate justice in NYC since 1991.



2025-2026 Climate Justice Action Fellows and family members engage with the CityWorks exhibit at the NY Hall of Science.

"Without the Hub, it would have been a lot to try to recruit and find the professors that are aligned and interested in this work. So by already having a network of people that understand the values and really deeply understand environmental and climate justice, it was so much easier to collaborate and allowed us to really go deeply."

Maria Reyes Staff Member of The Point CDC (Hunts Point, South Bronx)

Unlike traditional community–university partnerships, the Hub's "community-first" structure centers local leadership and lived experiences as essential tools for achieving climate justice. Through the Hub's three core programs—Research Teams, Climate Justice Education & Outreach, and Climate Justice Fellowship Academy and Internship—communities are both the drivers and beneficiaries of the change they seek for their neighborhoods.

"[Community engagement] has been a great tool for us to understand what we are investigating and researching and what our focus should be because when you start to interact with the community and start hearing what they have to say about their problems and issues and also the good things about their context, you start to understand more about the goals of your final project... You also make them feel seen and include[d] in this research because they are part of the research and they're basically the most important thing you have: the community there."

Gaston Fernandez NYC Climate Justice Hub Research Assistant and Graduate of Urban Design and Planning at City College



2025-2026 Climate Justice Action Fellows participate in an icebreaker activity during the kick-off Academy

Core Initiatives

Research Teams

This initiative models effective community-driven research partnerships by partnering CUNY faculty and students from diverse fields and disciplines directly with NYC-EJA member organizations. The researchers provide technical assistance and academic visibility that help community-based organizations unpack the environmental challenges they face and strengthen their proposals for policy reform. Through ethical, non-extractive research practices, the Research Teams have co-produced a variety of environmental justice research and education tools for participating organizations, such as hyper-local air quality data, flood resiliency surveys, and plans for community-owned solar.

"The professors and the research assistants were super knowledgeable, super helpful, ready and willing to answer all of our questions—but most importantly, really under[stood] that this is our project and that we need to be the lead voice in what is happening here to execute this project in a way that we can feel really proud of and that really puts our community stamp on it."

Maria Reyes Staff Member of The Point CDC (Hunts Point, South Bronx)

Climate Justice Education & Outreach

This initiative creates mutually beneficial co-learning opportunities by pairing academic knowledge with the local expertise of communities. It enables CUNY faculty at any level who are teaching courses with an environmental or climate justice focus—or who are aiming to develop such a course—to meet with a peer group, share syllabi, and connect directly to NYC-EJA member organizations and coalitions. Students taught by participating professors can directly apply their learning to solve grassroots environmental justice challenges through capstone projects, place-based learning, and other hands-on experiences.

"This work is highly collaborative...We co-develop the curriculum together and then we help the youth to increase their leadership skills by training other youth and then from there we go to the community... The youth will use the work that we are doing with the curriculum to reach out to the community, to do advocacy, and to improve the wellbeing of the community."

Elia Machado Professor of Earth, Environmental, and Geospatial Sciences at Lehman College

Climate Justice Fellowship Academy and Internship

This program equips an emerging generation of climate justice leaders from across CUNY with the skills and network to advance climate solutions. Through study, service-learning, professional development, research, and advocacy, Fellows connect to opportunities for on-the-ground activism. Interns are placed with NYC-EJA member organizations, which are often located in the very same neighborhoods where the students reside, to work on neighborhood-specific initiatives.



CUNY faculty and NYC-EJA member organization staff mingle during the "Classes & Curriculum Spring Symposium"



2025-2026 Climate Justice Action Fellows meet and mingle during the kick-off Academy



Research Team members present at the "Rooted in Community: Research Teams Collaborative Spring Showcase"



Impact

By integrating CUNY's research, staffing, and training infrastructure with the lived expertise of NYC-EJA's members, the Hub is building long-term civic infrastructure that strengthens organizations, transforms public education, and anchors climate governance in the communities most impacted by climate change.

- Over two years, the Hub's Research Teams have contributed more than 1,500 hours of applied research and technical support per NYC-EJA member organization, enabling them to take on climate justice work that would otherwise be out of reach.

- By housing staffing, program management, and administrative functions within CUNY, the Hub removes operational burden from frontline organizations, allowing them to focus their resources on community engagement, advocacy, and implementation.

- Research Teams connect organizations to high-level technical expertise, including GIS, data visualization, engineering, land use planning, natural sciences, and food policy, at no cost to community partners.

- More than 30 CUNY students have been trained in foundational climate justice principles through the Climate Justice Action Fellowship program, creating a growing pipeline of informed advocates rooted in New York City communities.

"I think this [NYC Climate Justice Hub Fellowship] has been quite a nice immersion into social and environmental justice, into making the connection between the struggles of people in the neighborhood—struggling with asthma, for example—and making the connection to the fight for a better transportation route... We need more people working together figuring out ways of dealing with the very real climate change that we are experiencing."

Alexandra Viteri Arturo 2025 - 2026 NYC Climate Justice Hub Fellow and Ph.D of Theater and Performance at CUNY Graduate

- Multi-year engagement has built durable, trust-based relationships among students, faculty, staff, and NYC-EJA members, translating into sustained volunteerism, shared leadership, and collective action.

"I think it's really important to uplift partnerships like these because it's a model for change. When I think of... a public institution working with community-based grassroots organizations to advance environmental justice advocacy, research and policy, I think that's a future... we win."

Dani Castillo Staff Member of El Puente (Williamsburg, Brooklyn)

2025-2026 Climate Justice Action Fellows bring together fellow CUNY students interested in learning more about environmental and climate justice



El Puente Research Team presents their work-in-progress to community members during the ¡WEPA! Festival



Select Program Highlights



Research Teams End-of-Year Gratitude Celebration

Participating CUNY professors and students gathered to reflect on two years of work, highlighting the connections they have forged that have enabled them to better understand the intersections of environment, climate, race, and class.

November 2025

“Rooted in Community:” Collaborative Research Showcase

During this interactive, full-day event, participants shared the outcomes of the two-year collaborations between mission-minded CUNY faculty and students and NYC-EJA member organizations.

March 2026





Wearable Waste: Mask-Making Workshop

Ezra Undag, 2025-2026 Hub Climate Justice Action Fellow, hosted a mask-making workshop at the City College of New York (CCNY) to explore how waste management connects to climate justice, environmental justice, and waste equity.

April 2026

Classes & Curriculum Spring Symposium

This in-person gathering discussed ways that CUNY professors can move away from extractive academic practices. It featured a “Syllabus Lab” for participants to incorporate literature into their courses that centers the lived experiences and needs of grassroots community organizations.

April 2026





End-of-Year Climate Justice Action Fellowship Closeout at NYSCI: CityWorks

The 10-month 2025-2026 Climate Justice Action Fellowship concluded with a visit to “CityWorks,” a permanent exhibition at the New York Hall of Science where the Fellows explored ways to make learning about environmental justice interactive and engaging for public audiences.

June 2026

Leadership Team

Kendra Sullivan, PhD

Hub Co-Director
Director, Center for the Humanities,
CUNY Graduate Center

Mike Menser, PhD

Hub Co-Director
Associate Professor, Brooklyn College

Eddie Bautista

Hub Co-Director,
Executive Director of NYC-EJA

Eunice Ko

Hub Co-Director,
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Charlie Overton

Climate Justice Action
Fellowship Co-Lead

Maithreyi Rajeshkumar

Climate Justice Action
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Pierina Pighi Bel

Communications Lead

Forrest Sparks

Project Manager





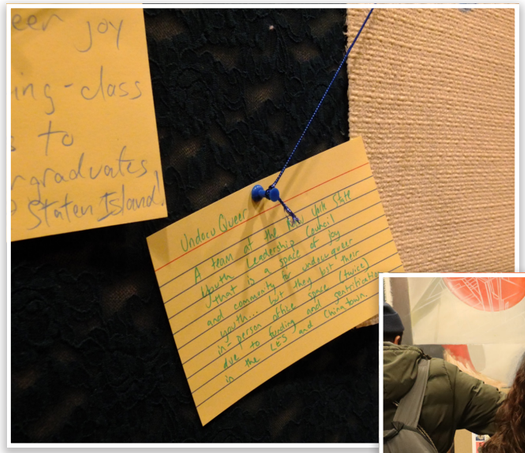
The CUNY Adjunct Incubator (CAI)

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The CUNY Adjunct Incubator (CAI) is a granting program co-sponsored with Gittell Urban Studies Collective. CAI funds, supports, and highlights the scholarship and pedagogy of adjuncts teaching across CUNY.

In 2025, CAI was able to support **11** adjuncts and their projects. Our 2025 cohort adjuncts represented **9** CUNY campuses and departments: **LaGuardia Community College** (Film), **Guttman Community College**, **John Jay College**, **Queensborough Community College**, **the Mina Rees Library at the Graduate Center**, **Queens College** (Design), **Lehman College** (Languages and Literatures), **Borough of Manhattan Community College** (Department of Ethnic and Race Studies), and **Hunter College** (Urban Planning and Policy, and the Macaulay Honors Program), demonstrating CAI's capacity to seed cross-campus collaborations.





The 2025 cohort demonstrated the remarkable range of creative and engaged scholarship produced by contingent faculty at CUNY, benefiting colleges across the consortium and throughout NYC. They created documentary films and digital archives, facilitated workshops on media literacy, developed educational games, hosted art exhibitions, created materials to support housing rights, advanced mental health and stress management on campus, innovated oral history and autoethnographic methodologies, led participatory research projects, and documented culinary traditions. Communications & Design Fellow **Madeleine Barnes** created a campaign to disseminate research findings and creative outputs.



Taken together, the 2025 projects exemplified CAI's central purpose: to build community and to recognize and materially support the significant scholarly, creative, pedagogical, and activist contributions of adjunct faculty, while helping bring their work to wider publics. Through funding, cohort support, publication, and publicity, CAI helped transform individual scholarship, research, and projects into public scholarship with tangible and lasting connections to CUNY students and communities.

2025 CUNY Adjunct Incubator Awardees and Projects

Tusia Dabrowska
Design, Queens College
Film, John Jay College

Dabrowska used mixed methods to explore the symbolic and political meaning of the new Polish–Belarusian border, creating work that highlights refugee experiences, political barriers, and humanitarian challenges.

Seith Fein
Film, LaGuardia Community College

Fein created a documentary video essay to connect the lives and legacies of Isamu Noguchi and Joseph Cornell, exploring art, memory, and gentrification in Queens.

Naziat Hassan
Queensborough Community College

Hassan facilitated a series of community workshops to teach stress management, coping skills, and awareness of on-and-off-campus counseling resources.

Diana Higuera-Cortés
Languages and Literatures, Lehman College

Higuera-Cortés created a free educational game and pedagogical toolkit *La Loteria Niuyorkina* that uses New York City's linguistic landscape to teach Spanish heritage and Latinx identity.





2025 CUNY Incubator project presentations

2025 CUNY Adjunct Incubator Awardees and Projects

Alex Ho and Joy Liu
Department of Ethnic and Race Studies, Borough of Manhattan Community College

Ho and Liu developed a journaling workbook that combines oral history, artmaking, and collaborative autoethnography to explore Taiwanese-American identity.

Alice Kallman
Mina Rees Library, CUNY Graduate Center

Kallman documented Syrian culinary beliefs and superstitions across religious communities through oral histories, research, and a multimedia dinner experiences.

Jerald Isseks
Guttman Community College

Isseks expanded participatory action research in first-year courses, enabling students to investigate social justice issues and publicly present their research.

Hannah Weiss
Urban Planning and Policy, Hunter College

Weiss examined how immigration status affects housing insecurity and access to justice for undocumented New Yorkers, advocating for more inclusive housing protections.

Natalie Willens
LaGuardia Community College

Willens produced a participatory exhibition featuring student photographs and oral histories that document and celebrate LGBTQIA+ community spaces in New York City.

Desislava Zagorcheva
LaGuardia Community College

Zagorcheva organized an interdisciplinary faculty seminar to strengthen media literacy and critical evaluation of information.

"The exhibition had three main goals: To highlight the powerful collaborative work of CUNY students/faculty and community organizers, to respond to the ever-increasing erasure of LGBTQIA+ spaces that serve the most marginalized members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and to secure more sustainable funding for the organizations that cultivate these life-saving spaces. Thanks to the CUNY Adjunct Incubator award and collaborative support, the exhibition was a successful event. By weaving together student research, community memory, and public imagination, the exhibition positioned the archive not as a static record, but as an active, intergenerational dialogue that has the potential to spark new policy decisions that protect, nurture, and dream about liberatory LGBTQIA+ spaces in our city."

Natalie Willens on her project, "(Dis)Placing Us On The Map: An Interactive Exhibition of LGBTQIA+ Spaces"



"(Dis)Placing Us On The Map: An Interactive Exhibition of LGBTQIA+ Spaces" presentation

CUNY Climate Assembly Project on Waste at Hunter College (CCAP)

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CCAP Climate Assembly with students at Hunter College

In Spring 2026, **The CUNY Climate Assembly Project on Waste at Hunter College (CCAP)** made history by **convening the first university climate assembly in the US**. CCAP is a deliberative democracy initiative that empowers Hunter students to shape sustainable waste strategies for the Hunter Campus Community.

New York State Executive Order 22 requires all public entities, including CUNY, to develop waste diversion plans that reduce waste disposal by 75 percent from a baseline of Fiscal Year 2018-19. To meet these policy goals, an assembly composed of 34 Hunter College student delegates and 8 CUNY Graduate Center Small Group Facilitators convened for five full days and four 2-hour workshops to democratically develop waste management solutions at Hunter.

The student delegates were selected by lottery to broadly represent Hunter's perspectives and demographic diversity. During the assembly convenings, delegates learned from a diverse range of experts, weighed the opportunities and challenges of various waste management solutions, and collectively generated **nine recommendations** for the campus community.

From Fall 2026 to Spring 2027, nine post-assembly fellows will work with Hunter College leadership to review, respond, and begin implementation planning of the accepted recommendations. You can learn more details at the **CCAP website** and in the **CCAP Final Report**.

The partnership between the CUNY Graduate Center (the Center for the Humanities and the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean) and Hunter College (The Office of the Provost, Sustainability Council, and The Center for Sustainable Cities) was made possible by the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



How the Humanities Can Strengthen Democratic Praxis



- Our working hypothesis is that engaging a diverse & demographically representative cohort of CUNY students through democratic decision-making—grounded in lived experience, expert testimony, active learning, and, uniquely, humanistic inquiry—**will deepen both process and outcomes from ethical, cultural, and historical perspectives.**
- By bringing multiple perspectives into synthesis through the Assembly process itself, students will begin to critically **reimagine their relationship to democracy, sustainability, and public higher education** through the "wedge issue" of waste. Building on the 3Cs of youth development (competence, connection, confidence), the Assembly will provide a civic platform that prepares students to participate more fully in constructive dialogue, campus governance, and civil society.
- **This hypothesis is grounded by over 1000 examples of civic and climate assemblies worldwide**, but is distinct as CCAP is the first university-convened climate assembly in the US– situated at the nation's largest urban public university.

CCAP at a Glance

Student-led & Administration-backed. Hunter College President Nancy Cantor and top-level administrators have committed to the democratic process and will review and respond to the Assembly's recommendations.

Nearly 600 students entered the Civic Lottery to be one of the 34 selected Assembly Delegates. Spanning the five boroughs and 17 academic departments, the Delegates were representative of Hunter College's student population across major, class standing, race, income, and gender.

Over 250 students engaged in CCAP's broader public programming. Students not selected in the assembly participated in public events, the campus waste survey, and classroom curriculum.

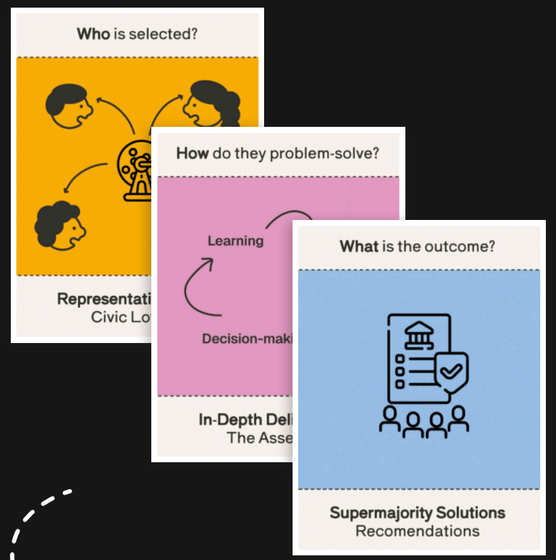
Interdisciplinary in Action - Student Delegates were emerging and established artists, writers, historians, economists, environmental lawyers, psychologists, scientists, storytellers, and filmmakers. Unique to the CCAP process, the civic lottery selected for disciplinary representation in addition to core population demographic criteria to promote multiple ways of thinking, knowing, and collaborating.

Delegates in the assembly spent 37 hours, ~1250 hours cumulatively, learning, deliberating, and civic problem-solving.

7 of the 9 drafted recommendations passed with supermajority support by the assembly (above 75%)

CCAP in the press: New York Focus published an article documenting the CCAP process as the first university-convened climate assembly in the US and its implications for the broader movement for democracy renewal in NYC and beyond.

A model for democracy in higher education. CCAP serves as a model in expanding universities into true schools for democracy and equipping the next generation of civic leaders with skills in facilitation, constructive dialogue, and democratic problem-solving.



Excerpts from the CCAP report

Leadership Team

CUNY Graduate Center

Kendra Sullivan
CCAP Co-PI,
Director of Center for the Humanities

Herman Bennett
CCAP Co-PI,
Director of IRADAC

Forrest Sparks
CCAP Program Lead

Sasha Isaac Fine
CCAP Democractic Engagement Fellow

Cameron Espinoza
CCAP Communications Fellow

Annie Stoeth
CCAP Curriculum Development Fellow

Hunter College

Gustavo Ordóñez
VP for Administrations

Kelli Stephens
Sustainability and Energy

Nicole Bennett
Associate Provost & Assistant VP, Academic Affairs

Peter Marcotullio
Professor of Geography & Env.

William Solecki
Professor of Geography & Env.

Douglas Price
Program Manager of The Center for Sustainable Cities

Distributaries: New Writing in the Public Humanities

Distributaries: New Writing in the Public Humanities is a print and online publication series documenting collaborative and creative public scholarship at CUNY and beyond. The publication features work by CUNY faculty, students, adjuncts, artists, organizers, and community partners while making humanities research accessible beyond the university.

In the past year, Distributaries published **32** digital publications. We also reprinted **5** of our flagship print publications, including offering some as free digital pedagogical resources for educators, students, and the general public, such as community reading group in the Bronx. Some of these highlighted publications include:

- *Las Hermanas de la Milpa / The Sisters of the Milpa* — a series of bilingual recipe books that disseminate indigenous knowledge and food practices, and at the same time to conceptualize and expand the ways of doing mutual aid.
- *Disruptive Engagement: An Organizer's Guide to Building Community Power for Justice in Land Use and Housing in New York City* — a handbook that draws on the knowledge of organizers from across New York City towards the goal of building justice in land use and housing.
- *The City Amplified: Oral Histories and Radical Archives* — a book of ten commissioned essays by archivists, activists, artists, and historians that explores the meaning of community-centered oral history archives and the ethics of archival work, rooted in a local context.
- "Archives in Common from La Morada to BMCC: Learning from and with recetarios" — a series of articles that explore how recipe books become living archives that preserve memory, culture, family histories, and practices of mutual aid. Inspired by the work of **Ángeles Donoso Macaya**, CUNY faculty lead of Archives in Common and *The Sisters of the Milpa* series, BMCC students created personal recetarios that demonstrate the importance of culinary traditions to strengthen cultural identity, and connect personal stories to broader histories of migration, displacement, and collective care.

"This recipe book has inspired me to have a family reunion with everyone I miss."

Nancy Zapata BMCC student



2025-2026 Distributaries publications with BMCC student recipe books

"Food wasn't my first thought when it came to the question: How would you like people to remember you? Now, I think I get it: through food, I can share memories and love with the people I care about."

Anahí Benítez Hidalgo BMCC student



BMCC students present their present their personal recetarios

Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative

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Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative (L&F) works with CUNY Graduate Center students to conduct research in literary archives–personal and institutional, at home and abroad. Our research and publication process demystifies archival research for emerging scholars and their scholarship in turn opens new pathways for broad publics to think about our common cultural inheritance.

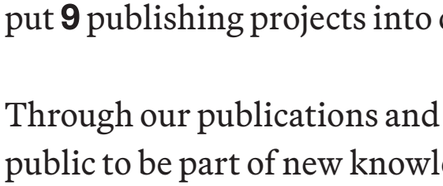
Lost & Found's work of restoring neglected and under-read materials to an intellectually curious public resonates because of our guiding motto, "follow the person," which focuses on the connections between people. We work with our fellows to practice rigorous and dedicated scholarship in order to provide richer, deeper contexts to the lives and work of these artists than the current record affords.

This year, L&F supported **23** GC fellows, hosted **6** fellow cohort meetings, held over **20** one-on-one mentor meetings, organized **15** events and workshops, published **7** print publications and **8** digital publications, and put **9** publishing projects into development.

Through our publications and events, we create spaces that invite the public to be part of new knowledge and pedagogical practices that are otherwise unavailable to them. L&F creates meaningful inroads to advanced public scholarship, and enacts the kind of recuperative research that illuminates understudied aspects of literary, cultural, and political history. The publications produced from this archival research allow for vital stories long buried to be told.

Lost & Found projects are acts of love. They assert that the artists they represent matter and that their work deserves to be understood in all its complexity. They fight to ensure that these lives of creative vitality will not vanish from our collective understanding of the world.

Stephon Lawrence



Archival image from Lost Found Series X: Phil Smith, Lois Elaine Griffith, and Miguel Algarín outside the Nuyorican Poets Cafe





Archival image from Olson Digital Publication

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Stephon Lawrence
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General Editor

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Print Publications

Lost & Found: Mouth to Word

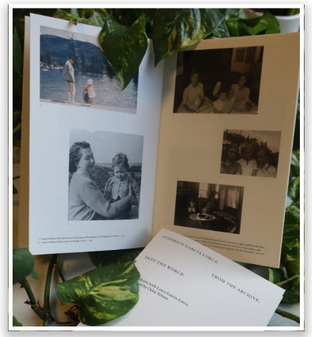
Lost & Found's latest publication series, Mouth to Word, builds on L&F's working motto, "follow the person," by publishing interviews and conversations between student editors and figures key to their archival research. In 2026, L&F published the first two titles in this new series:

- *FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA: FROM THE ARCHIVE, INTO THE WORLD* (An interview with Laura Garcia-Lorca conducted by Öykü Tekten)

  This publication offers an intimate conversation with **Laura García-Lorca** and L&F editor **Öykü Tekten** about preserving Federico García Lorca's literary legacy. It includes previously unpublished family photographs and traces the family's exile after the Spanish Civil War and their efforts to protect García Lorca's personal archive, exploring themes of memory, cultural heritage.

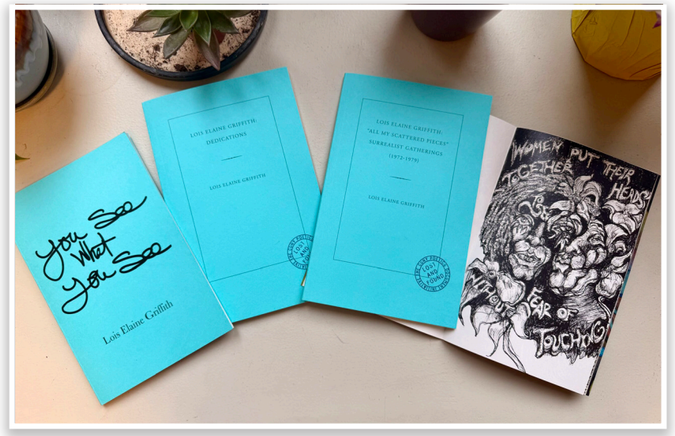
- *LEAVE HOME, MEET STRANGERS, LEARN TO DRAW (*An interview with Basil King conducted by Michael Seth Stewart)

  This interview captures artist and writer **Basil King** reflecting on his remarkable life, from his early years at Black Mountain College to decades in New York's art world, sharing stories, artistic insights, and personal wisdom. Through his conversation with **Michael Seth Stewart**, the publication presents a lively portrait of King's creative philosophy and lifelong dedication to painting and writing.





Lost & Found Series X: The Lois Elaine Griffith Series (Spring 2026)



In 2026, Lost & Found published the tenth edition of its flagship archival publishing series with all of the publications focused on the literary, visual, and cultural work of a single figure: **Lois Elaine Griffith**, one of the last surviving founders of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. Working with editor, scholar and archival collaborator **Joseph Cáceres** and collaborating with **Granary Books**, this collection of four chapbooks brings together Griffith's unpublished poetry, surrealist artwork, picture-poems, and writings that document her role as a founder and archivist of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. The series recovers and preserves Griffith's creative legacy, while highlighting the importance of documenting the intertwined histories of Nuyorican, Black, and experimental literary and artistic communities.

Print Publications

Series X publications include:

- *Dedications*: selections from unpublished poetry manuscripts of Griffith's poetics of memorialization devoted to loved ones and others who died due to sudden illness, during the HIV/AIDS crisis, or as a result of American racism.

- *"All My Scattered Pieces" Surrealist Gatherings (1972 – 1979)*: a collection of Griffith's surrealist visual artwork which led to collaborative projects with artists of the feminist, Black, and Nuyorican arts movements.

- *Keeper of the Archive* further documents people important to the Cafe not found in academic narratives, whose legacies are kept alive through Griffith's meticulous archival work, including costume designer Marcel Christian, and photographers Arlene Gottfried and Tony Gleaton.

- *You See What You See* (a collaboration and co-publication with Granary Books) is a collection of Griffith's picture-poems representing an aesthetic offering meant to inspire curiosity and collaboration, mirroring the kaleidoscopic vision of both Griffith's and the Cafe's aesthetic.



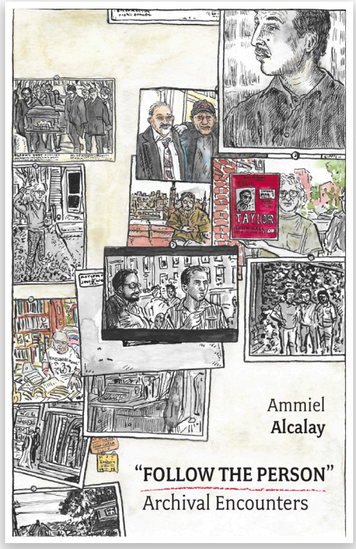
Lois Elaine Griffith walking up the steps of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe on February 23, 2023. Photo courtesy of Bing Guan, 2023.

Lost & Found Elsewhere

Lost & Found Elsewhere collaborates with different presses to publish a unique series of book-length projects emerging from the research of L&F editors. These books bring to light unpublished or long unavailable materials that have emerged alongside or as part of L&F initiatives in archives across the country.

- *"FOLLOW THE PERSON": Archival Encounters* by Ammiel Alcalay

  In 2026, L&F Elsewhere teamed up with Punctum Books to publish Lost & Found's own General Editor **Ammiel Alcalay**'s *"FOLLOW THE PERSON": Archival Encounters* which gathers an array of texts on archival practices and materials by Alcalay and Lost & Found editors. Moving from the Beats and the Black Arts Movement to the Middle East, *"FOLLOW THE PERSON"* recalibrates our sense of living history while offering new possibilities for encounters that have been relegated to oblivion or never even imagined.



Print Publications

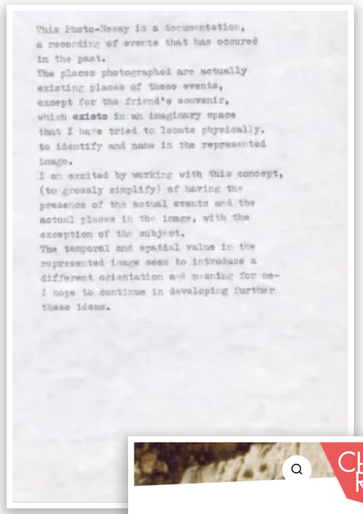
- Research for *Umbra Galaxy, Umbra Reader*

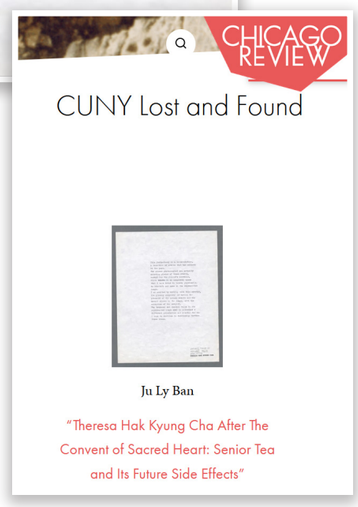
  In 2025, Lost & Found provided audio and written transcription and archival documentation from conferences hosted at the CUNY Graduate Center and research conducted from alumni and L&F editors **Tonya Foster** and **David Henderson** for the forthcoming publication with Wesleyan University Press *Umbra Galaxy, Umbra Reader*. The two-volume compendium documents the history and legacy of the Umbra Writers Workshop—a pivotal Black poetry collective from 1960s New York—and centers on recovering and analyzing the workshop's contributions to experimental Black poetics, place-based narratives, and resistance aesthetics.

- *Lost & Found* Partners with *Chicago Review*

  In 2026, Lost & Found partnered on an exciting new publishing venture with our friends and collaborators at the *Chicago Review* to publish material from our CUNY GC doctoral fellows' archival research in progress. These short scholarly pieces introduce the significance of understudied poets and poetics for New American Poetry through the fellows' "found" archival objects.

  The first publication in this series of ongoing essays was "Theresa Hak Kyung Cha after The Convent of Sacred Heart: Senior Tea and its Future Side Effects," by **Ju Ly Ban** as part of her ongoing journey and archival research for Lost & Found exploring the life and legacy of Theresa Hak Kyung Cha.


This Photo-Essay is a documentation,
a recording of events that has occured
in the past.
The places photographed are actually
existing places of these events,
except for the friend's souvenir,
which exists in an imaginary space
that I have tried to locate physically,
to identify and name in the represented
image.
I am excited by working with this concept,
(to grossly simplify) of having the
presence of the actual events and the
actual places in the image, with the
exception of the subject.
The temporal and spatial value in the
represented image seem to introduce a
different orientation and meaning for me-
I hope to continue in developing further
these ideas.



Lost & Found Internships

This year, L&F continued a partnership led by Professors Karen Weingarten and Lee Norton at Queens College to offer L&F internships to students in the QC English Department. Through this internship, students were able to experience working in publishing and bookmaking.

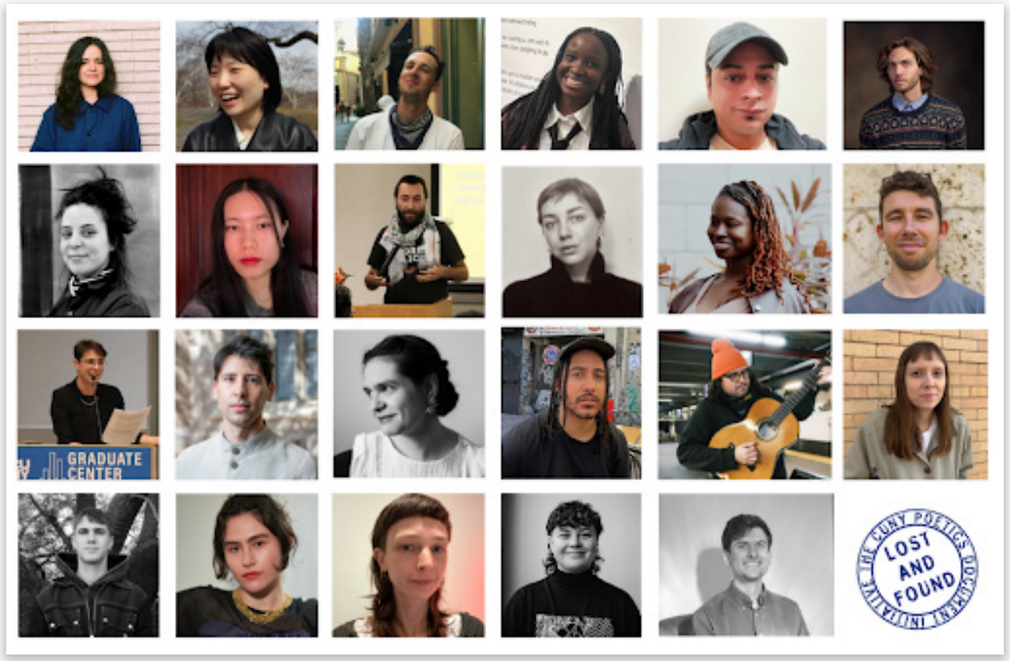
"My internship at Lost & Found turned what I learned in the classroom into real experience. Whether I was updating the website, designing promotional materials, supporting literary events, or helping with editorial projects, I learned new skills while contributing to an organization that values literature and community. Every task showed me a new perspective and helped me better understand the work that goes into publishing. I also enjoyed working with such a kind and supportive team that was always willing to answer my questions and help me learn. I am very thankful for this opportunity, and I will carry everything I learned at Lost & Found with me as I begin the next chapter of my career."

Silvia Campos Amaya Queens College, CUNY



2026 Lost & Found Archival Research

Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative awarded a record **23** doctoral students at the CUNY Graduate Center Archival Research Fellowships and Grants, funded by generous support from the Early Research Initiative. Recipients represented **9** different departments and will study archival research on poets, writers, artists, and musicians—including their political, pedagogical, and activist commitments—whose contributions remain understudied.



Student Fellows and Projects

Marcela Joya *Ethnomusicology*

Joya's research project maps Juan Flores' correspondence and unfinished writings to reconstruct his collaborative work on Latin music, race, and diaspora.

Michael Villanova *Political Science*

Villanova's project is to recover and prepare David Wojnarowicz's neglected poetry to illuminate its relationship to his visual art, politics, and queer thought.

Cortnie Belser *Urban Education*

Belser is developing "Cradle of the Revolution," a project which explores Claudia Jones' West Indian Gazette archives in London to examine its role as a site of Black diasporic political, cultural, and educational production.

Liz Janoff *Art History*

Janoff's project delves into Mary Ellen Solt's correspondence to reveal the international literary and political networks that shaped concrete poetry.

C. Francis Fisher *Comparative Literature*

Fisher's project is an archival study of Larry Rivers' unpublished poems.

Rebecca Teich *English*

Teich's project brings Samuel Delany's unpublished correspondence about Jack Spicer into print to illuminate queer literary networks surrounding Mirage magazine.

Ethel Nalule *Clinic-Psychology*

Nalule researches archival photographs to learn how Black and Indigenous communities have documented and remembered land dispossession across the twentieth century.

Lucien Baskin *Urban Education*

Baskin investigates London's Black feminist cultural archives to trace abolitionist, educational, and anti-colonial organizing across generations.

Alyx Raz *English*

Raz's is investigating Maya Deren's unpublished poems and related writings to show how her poetry informed her groundbreaking experimental films.

S. Dowdy *Political Science*

Dowdy is using Mary Oliver's archives to challenge perceptions of her by examining the political and lesbian dimensions of her work.

2026 Lost & Found Archival Research

Claire Dauge-Roth *Comparative Literature*

Dauge-Roth's project "Interlacing Text and Textile in the Archives of Anni Albers" uses Albers' archive to research how textiles function as poetic forms linking weaving, language, and poetry.

Johnathan Toro *English*

Toro's project digitizes and organizes the archives of Bobby González and Maria Aponte to preserve and highlight their contributions to the Nuyorican aesthetic.

Addy Malinowski *English*

Malinowski's project analyzes the cultural pages of The South End newspaper to understand literary responses to Black labor activism and political struggle in late-1960s Detroit.

Natasha Tiniacos *Latin American, Iberian, & Latino Cultures*

Tiniacos is researching and preparing previously unpublished poems by Gloria Evangelina Anzaldúa for publication in order to deepen understanding of her poetic, political, and personal legacy.

Danielle Johnson *Art History*

Johnson's research focuses on Jeanne Lee's poetry, vocal experimentation, and collaborations to explore the political possibilities of language, rhythm, and sound.

Jeff Voss *English*

Voss' project focuses on Richard Pryor's overlooked creative work in Berkeley, including his poetry, screenplays, radio broadcasts, and political collaborations.

Coco Sofia Fitterman *Comparative Literature*

Fitterman is studying Amelia Etlinger's multimedia artworks and correspondence to highlight the central role of friendship and mail art in her creative practice.

Sochuiwon Priscilla Khapai *English*

Sochuiwon Priscilla Khapai's research project explores the artistic and intellectual collaboration between Robert Duncan and Jess Collins through their poetry and visual art archives.

Benjamin Krusling *English*

Krusling is researching the creation of Personal Problems and interviews with Ishmael Reed to explore Black experimental art and politics during the 1980s.

Kyle Canter *Art History*

Canter looks at Arlene Gottfried's photographs of Miguel Piñero to understand how their collaboration challenged representations of the Lower East Side and Nuyorican identity.

Student Fellows and Projects

Joshua Wilkerson *English*

Wilkerson's research delves into Michael Palmer's collaborations across poetry, visual art, dance, and translation to understand their influence on his evolving poetics.

Sam O'Hana *English*

O'Hana analyzes Allen Ginsberg's tax records to understand the economics of sustaining a career in poetry as well as his financial protest against the Vietnam War.

Ju Ly Ban *English*

Ju Ly Ban's project documents Reese Williams' personal memories and archival materials to provide a fuller account of Theresa Hak Kyung Cha's life, artistic practice, and collaborative relationships.

Select Program Highlights

In the past year, Lost & Found held over a dozen public programs showcasing commitments to archival recovery, community building, poetry, and collaboration.



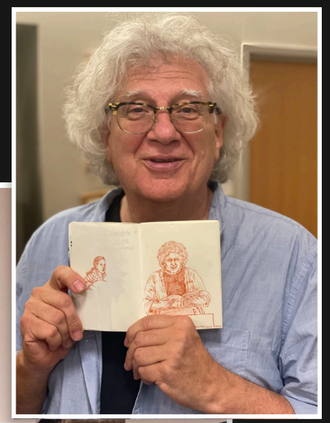


Letters from the Edge: Outrider Conversations with Margaret Randall

Lost & Found hosted a packed house for a wide-ranging and brilliant discussion with poet and activist **Margaret Randall** moderated by L&F editor **Judah Rubin**. Randall weaved cultural, historic and personal stories and shared wisdom from her correspondences and life-long commitment to activism, friendship, politics, poetry, travel, creative resistance and artistic practice.

CONTROLLED DEMOLITION: Book Launch & Reading with Ammiel Alcalay

Lost & Found teamed up with Litmus Press to present an evening of reading, music, and conversation to celebrate and launch poet, translator, critic, and scholar **Ammiel Alcalay**'s book *CONTROLLED DEMOLITION* which is a mix of memoir, poetry, auto-critique, prose narrative, history, and investigative journalism. The event was introduced by L&F Faculty Editor **Zohra Saed**, followed by **Safira Berrada-Riggs** on 'oud and vocals performing traditional Arabic folk songs of resistance.







Lost & Found Fellows Showcase: New Poetics and Archival Research Projects

The 2025 Lost & Found Fellows **Ju Ly Ban**, **Cortnie Belser**, **Jeff Voss**, **Natasha Tiniacos**, **Lucien Baskin**, **Sam O'Hana**, **Liz Janoff**, **Michael Villanova**, and **Kehinde Alonge** presented their research journeys, discoveries and adventures "following the person" in the archives.











Lost & Found Series X Launch: Lois Elaine Griffith

Lost & Found and Granary Books celebrated the launch of L&F's Series X archival publications focusing on the literary, visual, and cultural work of **Lois Elaine Griffith**. Griffith and her archival collaborator **Joseph Cáceres** shared their archival journey, discoveries, stories, and friendship with a scholarly framing and historical literary context of Griffith's crucial work and her important role as a founder and "keeper of the archive" of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe.

Women's Studies Quarterly (WSQ)

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Since 1972, Women's Studies Quarterly (WSQ) has been an interdisciplinary forum for the exchange of emerging perspectives on women, gender, and sexuality. Its peer-reviewed interdisciplinary thematic special issues focus on such topics as *Precarious Work*, *At Sea*, *Solidarity*, *Queer Methods*, *Child*, *Debt*, *Activisms*, *The Global and the Intimate*, *Trans-*, *The Sexual Body*, and *Mother*. The journal combines legal, economic, queer, cultural, technological, and historical work to present the most exciting new scholarship, fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, book reviews, and visual arts on ideas that engage popular and academic readers alike. In 2007, WSQ obtained the Phoenix Award for Significant Editorial Achievement from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals. Since then, WSQ has continued to feature groundbreaking research and creative work by emerging scholars alongside new contributions by leaders in the field such as **Angela Davis**, **Donna Haraway**, **Hortense Spillers**, **Saidiya Hartman**, **Farah Jasmine Griffin**, **Jennifer Morgan**, and **Judith Butler**.

The Feminist Press at CUNY publishes two guest-edited WSQ issues on themes in feminist studies per year. The **Center for the Humanities** is the GC homebase for WSQ, honoring 50+ years of feminist scholarship. The general editors as of June 2026 are **Inmaculada Lara-Bonilla** (Hostos Community College, CUNY) and **Christine Choi** (Hostos Community College, CUNY). An editorial board of approximately 50 scholars working in the field of women, gender, and sexuality studies provide guidance, peer review support, and editorial feedback to the general editors.

As we begin our tenure as co-editors, we are honored to take up the baton from the Editors Emeritae, Andie Silva and Shereen Inayatulla, whose stewardship over the past three years has greatly enriched WSQ. Expanding on the work of our predecessors, we bring a dynamic editorial vision grounded in interdisciplinary inquiry, feminist and queer thought, and a commitment to amplifying transnational, decolonial, and intersectional

perspectives. Building on WSQ's remarkable legacy, we seek to strengthen its role as a vital platform for engaging urgent contemporary issues, including questions of social justice, historical memory, and emerging technologies, while fostering innovative scholarship and creative expression. Our work will emphasize relationality, seek to cultivate new partnerships, and forge new alliances. We also look forward to further integrating decentralized perspectives across the borders of disciplinary field, race, language, geography, class, and other established demarcations. In the years ahead, our goal is to reassert and grow WSQ's position as a leading platform for feminist and queer thought that can reflect the current moment, honor feminist foremothers, and shape the emancipatory visions that define our common futures.

Christine Choi & Inmaculada Lara-Bonilla



Leadership Team

General Editors

Inmaculada Lara-Bonilla
Professor, Hostos Community College, CUNY

Christine Choi
Assistant Professor, Hostos Community College, CUNY

Editorial Directors

Dána-Ain Davis
Professor and Director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society, CUNY Graduate Center

Kendra Sullivan
Director of the Center for Humanities

Managing Editors

Maya von Ziegesar
CUNY Graduate Center

Googie Karrass
CUNY Graduate Center

Creative Editors

Poetry Editors

JP Howard
Melissa Castillo Planas
Coco Fitterman
Kahina Meziant

Visual Arts Editors

Maya von Ziegesar
jah elyse sayers
Crystal Z. Campbell
Shebani Rao

Creative Prose Editors

Keisha-Gaye Anderson
Anna Joy Springer

Interns/Work Study Team

CUNY GC WGS Program

Maya Shabazz-Williams

Queens College Department of English

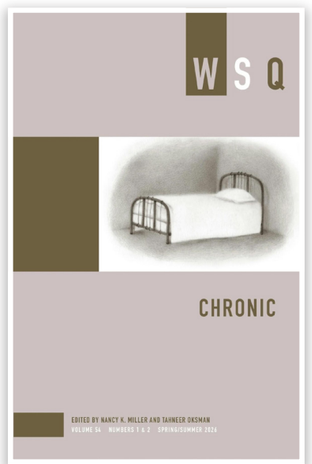
Jocelene Ramnanan & Adamarys Samaniego Otavalo

Publications

Spring 2026

This special issue of *WSQ* takes the contemporary phenomenon of long COVID as its point of departure to consider the social, affective, and political consequences of living with chronic illness.

The articles and hybrid work included in the issue map the critical and scholarly intersections of chronic illness with disability and critical race studies, care, affect, and feminist eco-theory. *WSQ: Chronic* follows activism and scholarship in the fields of health humanities and graphic medicine, proposes new paradigms of health and healthcare.

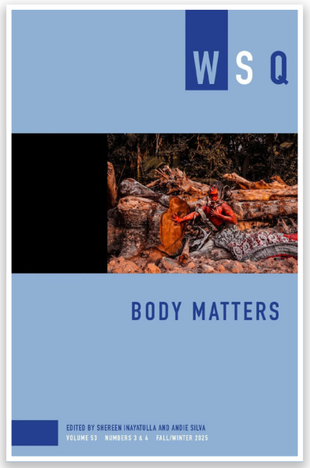


Volume 54, Numbers 1 & 2
Chronic, edited by Nancy K. Miller and Tahneer Oksman

Fall 2025

WSQ: Body Matters considers the ways in which the physical body (re) defines feminist scholarship, art, and activism in light of environmental, political, and global emergencies and transformations taking hold at the present moment.

Within the current paradigm of colonial exploitation, our bodies are sites of scrutiny, violence, commodification, racialization, policing, displacement, and strategic dehumanization. This moment demands renewed feminist critique of body politics and personhood. This special issue explores bodies marked by intersectional identities as sites of social and political violence but also as the vehicle for resistance, triumph, and decolonial justice.



Volume 53, Numbers 3 & 4
Body Matters, edited by Shereen Inayatulla and Andie Silva

Select Program Highlights

WSQ "Body Matters" Launch

Friday, December 5, 2025

The launch of the WSQ special issue, "Body Matters," co-edited by **Shereen Inayatulla** and Andie Silva was held online on December 5, 2025. It featured a reading and reflections from the "Alerts and Provocations" contributor, Dr. **Dana M. Olwan**, a Palestinian scholar who writes on gendered and sexual violence and transnational feminist solidarity and is an Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Syracuse University. Co-presented and sponsored by The Center for the Humanities, The Center for the Study of Women and Society, and Feminist Press.

WSQ "Chronic" Launch

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

The launch for the special issue "Chronic" was held as an online event on Tuesday, May 26th. The issue's editors, **Nancy K. Miller** and **Tahneer Oskman**, hosted the launch with readings by contributors from the journal. Co-sponsored by The Feminist Press, the Center for the Humanities, and the Center for the Study of Women in Society.

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