

365 Fifth

50 YEARS AT
THE CENTER

February 2012

News and Events of Interest to the Graduate Center Community



PHOTOS: MICHAEL DI VITO

(Clockwise from above left) President Kelly, David Nasaw, Joan Richardson, Allan Atlas, William Kornblum, Mary Ann Caws, Wayne Koestenbaum, and Jane Schneider

Looking Back with Pride at Fifty Years of GC Scholarship

The year 2011 was a golden one in Graduate Center history. Fifty years prior, in 1961, Governor Nelson Rockefeller signed legislation creating the City University of New York (CUNY) and the legislature endorsed the Board of Higher Education's recommendation that this newly formed institution be given authority to grant doctoral and postgraduate professional degrees. Thus the GC was born.

In honor of the GC's fiftieth anniversary, faculty members, students, staff, and alumni gathered in Elebash Recital Hall on October 25 to celebrate this major milestone. "We are here to remember the great scholars of our past that set us on the path of scholarly achievement," proclaimed President William P. Kelly before introducing seven current faculty members who, one at a time, took to the stage to pay tribute to a well-known predecessor.

David Nasaw, the Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Professor of American History, reminisced about the "little bespectacled bow-tied smiling man" after whom his chair is named, lauding Schlesinger's ability to "write for those in the academy and those outside it." Joan Richardson (Prof., GC, Comparative Literature, English, Liberal Studies) spoke of the influence American writer and literary critic Alfred Kazin had on her as a young academic, when she first took a seminar he was giving. Allan Atlas (Dist. Prof., Brooklyn, Music) spoke eloquently of Barry S. Brook, who founded the GC's music program in 1967, brought Atlas to the GC in 1979, and served as the program's executive officer until his retirement. Moreover, said Atlas, as founder of RILM (Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale), the first international bibliography of music scholarship, Brook "singlehandedly changed how we do musicological research."



GC 50th Anniversary Book
To download:
<http://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Presidents-Office/GC-50th>

**GC 50th Anniversary
Hold the Dates**

**Community Celebration
Monday, April 16**

**Benefit Concert
Thursday, April 19**

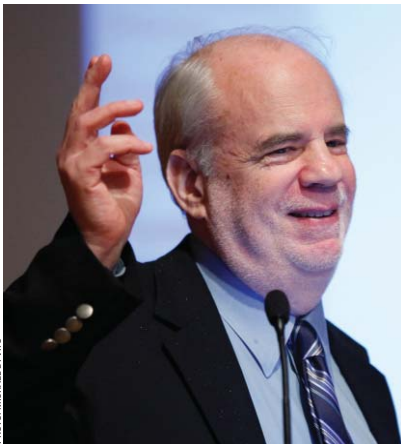
Jane Schneider (Prof. Emerita, GC, Anthropology), coeditor of *Articulating Hidden Histories: Exploring the Influence of Eric R. Wolf*, recalled her days at the University of Michigan where Wolf, an advocate of Marxian perspectives within anthropology, and ultimately a distinguished professor of anthropology at both Lehman College and the GC, helped organize one of the country's first major teach-ins against the Vietnam War.

In honor of Martinican writer, poet, and literary critic Édouard Glissant, who died last February, Mary Ann Caws (Dist. Prof., GC, Comparative Literature, English, French) recalled Glissant's passionate belief in treating translation as an art form. She then ended her remarks with a reading from her own translations of his work.

Wayne Koestenbaum (Dist. Prof., GC, English) shared his admiration for Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, whose critical writings on the ambiguities of sexual identity in fiction helped create the discipline known as queer studies. By publishing essays with such controversial titles as "Is the Rectum Straight?" and "How to Bring Your Kids Up Gay," said Koestenbaum, Sedgwick took steps that, he felt, helped to "transform a sissy's shame."

And finally William Kornblum (Prof., GC, Psychology, Sociology) recalled American literary and social critic Irving Howe with, appropriately enough, readings from "City College and Beyond," a chapter in Howe's autobiography *A Margin of Hope*.

At a second anniversary convocation in the spring, GC faculty will describe new directions of scholarship in their fields. There will also be a benefit concert in Elebash Recital Hall on April 19, featuring musician and arranger Vince Giordano and his band, the Nighthawks, playing music of the 1920s and '30s. For more information see <http://www.gc.cuny.edu/BenefitConcert>.



Saul Kripke

Marking an Historic Moment for Philosophy: Publication of *Philosophical Troubles*, the Collected Papers of Saul Kripke

The renowned philosopher and logician Saul Kripke (Dist. Prof., GC, Philosophy) made a rare public appearance to participate in a two-day conference in September, sponsored by the Saul Kripke Center, to mark the publication of his *Philosophical Troubles: Collected Papers, Volume 1* (Oxford University Press, 2011).

The book contains a number of Kripke's previously published essays, widely held to have changed the landscape of twentieth-century philosophy, together with previously unpublished material. Some of the unpublished material has been discussed for years and, while transcriptions and notes have occasionally surfaced, no authoritative text existed. This material surfaced in the process of organizing the Kripke Center's archives, which include recordings of lectures and seminars, lecture notes, manuscripts, and philosophical and mathematical correspondence dating back to the 1950s. Gary Ostertag, GC associate professor of philosophy and director of the Kripke Center, heads the transcription effort and is creating a digital archive of the center's holdings. One gem discovered in the archive was a reel-to-reel tape of the lectures on which was based Kripke's book *Naming and Necessity*, widely considered one of the most important philosophical works of the twentieth century. A digital version of the recording will be part of a new edition of that work to coincide with the fortieth anniversary of its initial publication.

CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein started the celebration by welcoming the large gathering of philosophical authorities, professors, and doctoral students, eager to see and hear from Kripke and learn about the new publication. Kripke began gaining notoriety in the field while a high school student in Nebraska, when he wrote the first in a series of papers that transformed logic and remain canonical works in the field. In his opening remarks, Chancellor Goldstein recalled how he, as a City College undergraduate in the early 1960s, first heard of the *wunderkind* responsible for these formidable results. After high school, Kripke entered Harvard University, where he became a junior fellow in his sophomore year; while still an undergraduate, he gave



(L. to r.) Philosophers Graham Priest, Karen Bennett, Michael Devitt, Saul Kripke, Phillip Bricker, and Mircea Dumitru

lectures to graduate students at MIT. During the 1960s, Kripke developed a revolutionary theory of reference in lectures and seminars at various universities, culminating in lectures delivered at Princeton University in 1970 and subsequently published as *Naming and Necessity*. This work sparked a veritable industry of philosophical commentary and criticism, as did his 1982 book, *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language*—a work widely thought to have changed the course of Wittgenstein scholarship. In 2001, Kripke won the Schock Prize in Logic and Philosophy, which is given by the Swedish Academy of Sciences and which some consider the equivalent in its field of a Nobel Prize. Before arriving at the Graduate Center in 2002, he was McCosh Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University, where he is now professor emeritus; he also served on the faculty of Rockefeller University, was John Locke Lecturer at Oxford, and was A. D. White Professor-at-Large at Cornell.

Joining the discussions on the newer material in *Philosophical Troubles* were distinguished philosophers from the Graduate Center, which boasts one of the strongest U.S. doctoral programs in the field, and from across the United States and abroad. Among them were Karen Bennett (Cornell), Phillip Bricker (University of Massachusetts–Amherst), Elizabeth Camp (University of Pennsylvania), David Chalmers (Australian National University/NYU), Keith DeRose (Yale), Michael Devitt (GC), Mircea Dumitru (University of Bucharest), Stephen Neale (GC), Christopher Peacocke (Columbia), Graham Priest (GC), Nathan Salmon (UCSB/GC), Ernest Sosa (Rutgers), and Stephen Yablo (MIT).

In one exciting presentation, “Kripke on Frege on Sense and Reference,” Chalmers highlighted Kripke’s analysis of the German mathematician, logician, and philosopher Gottlob Frege’s highly influential theory of sense and reference. Among the questions Chalmers addressed were how words refer to objects or individuals, what the relationship is between a word and its meaning, and how the time of utterance is incorporated into a sentence’s meaning.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Chalmers put into words what many of Kripke’s colleagues felt: “It’s an honor to pay tribute to someone who has—for me and for so many other people in philosophy—been an influence and an inspiration.”

For more information on the Saul Kripke Center and upcoming events, visit: <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/kripkecenter/>.

Mellon Supports Three-Year Project in Curatorial Training

The Graduate Center has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to fund New Initiatives in Curatorial Training, a three-year pilot project in the Ph.D. Program in Art History. The grant is the most generous received by the Ph.D. Program in Art History since its founding in 1978. Serving as principal investigator of the grant is Executive Officer Kevin Murphy (Prof., GC/Brooklyn, Art History).

This highly ranked doctoral program (among the largest in the field with nearly two hundred students) has a long-standing commitment to training future curators and other museum and arts professionals. The New Initiatives in Curatorial Training project will deepen and formalize that commitment while strengthening curatorial training in the established fields of European and North American art history and, especially, in the emerging areas—Latin American, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, and contemporary art. The Mellon Foundation grant will help address the need for more focused curatorial training by facilitating student fellowships in New York-area museums, supporting graduate seminars focused on the direct analysis of works of art in museums and galleries, and funding a yearlong seminar on curatorial practice culminating in a student-curated exhibition in the Graduate Center's James Gallery.

President William P. Kelly said of the award: "This new initiative will not only enhance the already high caliber of the Ph.D. Program in Art History: it will also reinforce the long-standing connections between this institution and New York City's museum community. This project will ensure that we continue to produce scholars and curators whose cutting-edge work will contribute to the city's cultural vitality."

GC Philosophy Ranked among Top Five in Cognitive Science

The GC's Doctoral Program in Philosophy has been recognized as one of the top five programs for the study of cognitive science by Brian Leiter's highly regarded Philosophical Gourmet Report: http://leiterreports.typepad.com/blog/philosophical_gourmet_report/.

The top five programs are, in alphabetical order: City University of New York Graduate Center; New York University; Rutgers University–New Brunswick; the University of Arizona; and Washington University, St. Louis. The rankings are based primarily on perceived quality of the philosophical work of the faculty members.

Twenty-seven philosophers from around the world sat on the evaluation committee: Murat Aydede (University of British Columbia), José Luis Bermudez (Texas A&M), Ned Block (NYU), David Braddon-Mitchell (University of Sydney), Peter Carruthers (University of Maryland), David Chalmers (University of Arizona), Jonathan Cohen (University of California–San Diego), Tim Crane (University of Cambridge), John Doris (Washington University, St. Louis), Owen Flanagan (Duke University), Tamar Szabó Gendler (Yale University), Alvin Goldman (Rutgers University), Paul Griffiths (University of Sydney), David Hilbert (University of Illinois at Chicago), Anne Jaap Jacobson (University of Houston), Patricia Kitcher (Columbia University), Stephen Laurence (University of Sheffield), Peter Ludlow (Northwestern University), Edouard Machery (University of Pittsburgh), Ronald Mallon (University of Utah), Jennifer Nagel (University of Toronto–Mississauga), David Papineau (King's College, London), Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Duke University), Stephen Stich (Rutgers University), Michael Strevens (New York University), Michael Tye (University of Texas–Austin), Robert Wilson (University of Alberta).

\$1.8 Million State Grant to RISLUS and Urban Education

The CUNY–New York State Initiative on Emergent Bilinguals (NYSIEB), a new project of the Research Institute for the Study of Language in Urban Society (RISLUS) and the

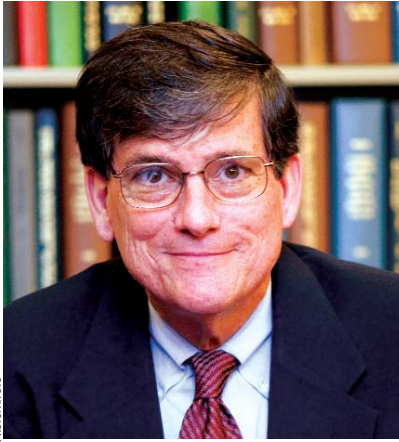


PHOTO: A. PIVO

Ricardo Otheguy

Ph.D. Program in Urban Education, has been awarded \$1.8 million for two years by the New York State Department of Education. RISLUS is a university institute housed in the Graduate Center's Ph.D. Program in Linguistics; the Ph.D. Program in Urban Education is a leading doctoral degree-granting program in the field of educational research, which specializes in school and policy issues affecting urban environments.

The initiative addresses the enduring issue of multilingualism in New York State's public schools and represents an effort to improve the public school experience and the academic success of emergent bilingual students. The grant will fund an extensive program of professional development for school principals around issues of language and multilingualism, and will promote materials, staffing conditions, policies, programs, and practices that will improve the educational achievements of emergent bilinguals.

The project has a vital dissemination component designed to document and publicize existing successful programs. Titled "Best programs and practices for emergent bilinguals in schools in the State of New York," the portfolio is intended to influence and improve the practices of less successful programs. Professor Anthony Picciano, executive officer of the doctoral program in urban education, will lead this component of the initiative.

Also to be explored and developed are New York State Native Language Arts (NLA) standards that are aligned with the new Common Core standards, NLA being an important component in the education of emergent bilinguals.

Ricardo Otheguy (Prof., GC, Linguistics, Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages, Urban Education), director of RISLUS, is principal investigator (PI) of the project; serving as co-PIs are two members of the GC's doctoral faculty in urban education, Professor Ofelia García and Associate Professor Kate Menken; and serving as acting project director is Nelson Flores, a doctoral candidate finishing a dissertation on the history of U.S. educational language policy. Moreover, eight CUNY faculty members from five colleges—Brooklyn, City, Hunter, Lehman, and Queens—all with expertise in the field of bilingual education, will work as associate investigators in the initiative, and a number of GC graduate students in urban education and linguistics will have the opportunity to serve as research assistants.



PHOTO CREDIT: COURTESY BECKMAN AWARD TRUST

Maria Elena Torre and Michelle Fine at the Beckman Award ceremonies

Beckman and Henry Murray Awards to Michelle Fine

Michelle Fine (Dist. Prof., GC, Psychology, Urban Education) is the 2011 recipient of both the Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award and the Henry Murray Award. The Beckman Award recognizes educators in the preferred fields of psychology, medicine, and law who have inspired their students to create an organization which has demonstrably conferred a benefit on the community at large or who have established a lasting basis, concept, procedure, or movement of comparable benefit. The award specifically recognizes Professor Fine and her students for creating the Public Science Project (PSP), which, in its dedication to advancing a democratic social science for the public good, has performed transformational and inspirational work in the community. Now run by Fine and psychology alumna Dr. Maria Elena Torre, PSP has for more than ten years collaborated with communities to design research and practice that examines the impact of policy and structural injustice. For more about PSP and its programs, see <http://www.publicscienceproject.org>. Fine will receive the award, which carries with it substantial financial recognition, at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, in January.

The Henry Murray Award is granted by the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP). In announcing the award, SPSP declared: "Perhaps more than any other practicing research psychologist, Professor Fine has responded to Henry Murray's call for a psychology that studies the complexity of persons and of the socio-cultural environments in which they develop."



PHOTO: THE GRADUATE CENTER

Raymond Erickson

Raymond Erickson's Work on Religious Tolerance in 18th-Century Saxony Awarded a Mellon Emeritus Fellowship Grant

Raymond Erickson (Prof. Emer., Queens, Music) has won an Emeritus Fellowship from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which awarded a \$42,700 grant to the Graduate Center to support his proposal "Tolerance, Jews, and the Early Enlightenment in Saxony: The Witness of Leipzig Theologians."

Erickson, a noted Bach authority, was looking several years ago for information on Jews in Leipzig around 1724, when Bach first composed and performed the *St. John Passion* there. In the course of his research he learned of a 1714 *Gutachten*, or learned opinion, by the dean and other theological faculty of Leipzig University that strongly defended Jews against the long-standing accusation that they killed Christian children in order to use their blood in Jewish rituals. Surprised by the existence of such a document in an area and among churchmen with a long history of anti-Judaism, he sought out a copy of the document in the Dresden State Archives, and transcribed and translated it. An article on this appears in the current *Musical Quarterly* (see <http://mq.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>).

The one-year fellowship will allow Erickson to finish a critical edition and translation of the *Gutachten*, with extensive annotation, passages from sources cited in the *Gutachten*, and essays dealing with the broader cultural context.

The Emeritus Fellowships support the scholarly activities of outstanding retired faculty members in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation invites institutions to nominate applicants, after which a panel of distinguished scholars selects a group of finalists. Other GC recipients in recent years have included Samuel L. Leiter (Theatre), Jane M. Ross (Art History), and Leo Treitler (Music), who won two such awards.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOC.

Setha Low

Max Planck Institute Commits Three Years of Staff, Funds for Setha Low's Working Group on Public Space and Diversity

Setha Low (Prof., GC, Anthropology) will direct a Working Group on Public Space and Diversity with Darshan Vigneswaran (Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute), for which the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity has committed funds and personnel to support events and pilot studies for three years. The group will study the increasingly complex forms of migration and mobility, ethnic and cultural affiliation, and religious aspiration that determine how contemporary public spaces are built, regenerated, controlled, and experienced. Patterned on the success of the institute's working groups on health and markets, this group will draw together leading scholars to develop collaborations and publications in an increasingly important area of diversity research. It is expected that this investment will lead to a longer-term, multifaceted research program focused, in particular, on forging new paths through the comparative analysis of less studied public spaces in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

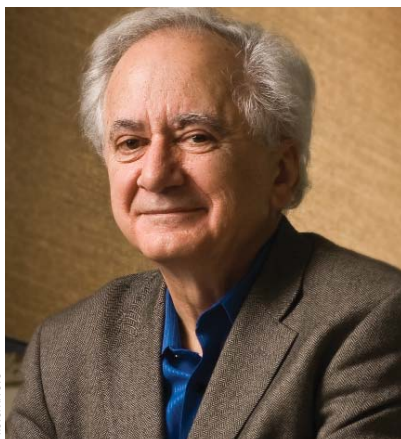


PHOTO: A. PIVO

Richard Alba

Urban Research Center's Wall Street Report Makes News

More minorities and women are working on Wall Street, but white men remain dominant when it comes to the financial rewards available there, according to "The Progress and Pitfalls of Diversity on Wall Street," a new report released by GC's Center for Urban Research (CUR). Prepared by Richard Alba (Dist. Prof., GC, Sociology) and Joseph Pereira, director of the CUNY Data Service, the report is available for downloading at <http://www.urbanresearch.org/news/new-report-progress-and-pitfalls-of-diversity-on-wall-street>. The findings have grabbed the attention of the *New York Times* (<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/12/02/study-sees-wall-street-pay-tilted-toward->

white-men/); the *Huffington Post* (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/02/wall-street-diversity-_n_1126496.html?ref=business); NY1, where Errol Louis interviewed Professor Alba on December 5 for “Inside City Hall” (http://www.ny1.com/content/news_beats/151998/ny1-online—new-report-examines-wall-street-diversity); and the *Wall Street Journal*, with Sumathi Reddy’s article “Report Parses Wall Street Workforce” on December 2.



Laird Bergad

CLACLS Reports Major Shifts in NYC’s Latino Population

Dramatic changes are taking place in New York City’s Latino population, according to the annual report of the Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies (CLACLS), which is headed by Laird Bergad (Dist. Prof., Lehman, History). The extensive report makes use of the 2010 census to examine demographic, social, and economic changes between 1990 and 2010 and documents a fundamental transformation among the city’s Latinos, who increased from 24 percent of the city’s total population in 1990 to nearly 29 percent in 2010.

The Puerto Rican share declined in absolute and relative terms, from 49 percent of all Latinos in 1990 to 31 percent in 2010, while Dominicans increased from 20 to 25 percent of all Latinos and are poised to surpass Puerto Ricans in absolute terms within the next decade. Mexicans were the fastest-growing Latino national subgroup, now 14 percent of the city’s Hispanic population.

The report, which showed Latinos had the lowest high school and college graduation rates of all the city’s racial/ethnic groups and the lowest median household incomes, also discusses employment, health insurance coverage, and language. It is available for downloading at <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/lastudies>.



Matthew K. Gold

From the Team That Gave Us CUNY’s Academic Commons Comes “Commons in a Box” for Academic Social Networks

With the launching of the CUNY Academic Commons (<http://commons.gc.cuny.edu/>) in 2009, hosted by the GC’s IT Department, the diverse twenty-four-campus City University of New York system has its own academic social network through which CUNY faculty members, administrators, staff, and graduate students can share research and participate in cross-campus scholarly collaborations. Now, the team that developed the Commons is developing a similar tool to help other organizations to mount their own commons platforms, starting with the Modern Language Association (MLA).

Leading this effort and directing the CUNY Academic Commons is Matthew K. Gold, who says, “Commons-style networks can help institutions penetrate institutional silos, mitigate the effects of geographical distance, and produce collaborative, public-facing scholarship that can help demonstrate the value of intellectual life at a time when funding for higher education is increasingly being called into question.” Gold is a faculty member in the Interactive Technology and Pedagogy Certificate Program and serves as advisor to the provost for master’s programs and digital initiatives, in addition to being an assistant professor of English at NYC College of Technology.

What Gold and his team are working on is a free software package, titled Commons in a Box, which will provide the tools for outside educational institutions, scholarly associations, and nonprofit organizations to establish a similar virtual space in which to network. The project is being built on the popular open-source platforms WordPress, BuddyPress, and MediaWiki. Spearheading the project with Gold is Lead Developer of the CUNY Academic Commons and co-PI on the Sloan grant, Boone B. Gorges; George Otte, university director of academic technology, is providing additional assistance.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has pledged generous support. “CUNY has been a leader in developing an effective, innovative social network that allows scholars to connect, collaborate, and share ideas,” said Josh Greenberg, director of the Sloan Foundation’s digital information technology program. “I’m excited to see them make this platform available to other institutions in a way that is free, easy to implement, and simple to modify. This project has the potential to bring the benefits CUNY is already experiencing to countless other communities.”

In the project’s initial phase, the Commons team will be working with the Modern Language Association to create an MLA Commons for the association’s 30,000-plus members. The association, which has been exploring new ways to help promote members’ activities, established an office of scholarly community in early 2011. “The MLA is deeply grateful for the generosity and the community spirit of the CUNY Academic Commons team, and we look forward to working with them in developing a vibrant platform to support member communication,” says Kathleen Fitzpatrick, director of scholarly communication at the MLA.

For more about Commons in a Box, see <http://news.commonsgc.cuny.edu/2011/11/22/the-cuny-academic-commons-announces-the-commons-in-a-box-project/>. For an outsider’s perspective of its merits, see the blog post about it featured on the Inside Higher Ed website (<http://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/hack-higher-education/commons-box-importance-open-academic-networks>).

Finances Emphasized at President’s Community Meetings

October 5

Addressing first the GC’s financial outlook, President William Kelly offered GC members some critical numbers on this year’s budget at the first community meeting of the academic year on October 5.

From 2008 to the end of the 2010–11 fiscal year on June 30, the GC’s budget suffered a permanent drop in tax-levy revenue of \$6,377,600. Kelly reminded faculty, staff, and students that the GC was still in the woods as “our current budget calls for an additional cut of \$2,606,600.”

To avoid furloughs and potential layoffs, the administration continues to focus on making cuts in nonpersonnel budget items and IT and not filling GC positions that become vacant. These austerity measures as well as other efforts to control the budget have safeguarded student financial aid and health care, all without impeding the scholarly efforts of CUNY’s doctoral programs.

Yet the news is far from bleak, Kelly declared. In the spring, New York State passed legislation that ensures stable funding for CUNY and SUNY for the next five years, a nationally unprecedented measure. CUNY now has a level of fiscal stability that will enable its colleges to plan for the future. Further, in each of the next five years, “modest tuition increases” totaling \$1,500 will undergird new investment in full-time faculty lines and student services. “This is a time to think about our future,” Kelly continued. “In the past, we’ve set a number of benchmarks, having to do with fellowship support, student health insurance, tuition remission for students who teach at CUNY, faculty renewal, new research opportunities, and a residence facility. All of those goals have been met, and we now have some level of budgetary certainty to embolden our efforts.”

In his concluding remarks, the president advised community members not to allow themselves to be consumed by financial worry but rather to celebrate one of the most important moments in the GC’s history: “This is our fiftieth anniversary!” he declared, adding that this academic year is “a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the Graduate Center’s distinguished history.”

November 30

After briefly reporting on the budgetary matters in the second of four scheduled GC community meetings for the academic year, President William Kelly addressed concerns about the presence of additional members of our security staff on November 21 and on a number of days thereafter. Reiterating themes from his November 25 letter to the community, Kelly noted that the intent had not been to intimidate community members from assembling but to ensure that if the need for enhanced security arose, the staff “would be members of our community, not people whom we do not know and who do not know us.”

On the matter of the newly implemented tuition policy, Kelly provided “information that has not made its way throughout the Graduate Center,” specifically that CUNY’s price tag—regardless of the tuition increase—at \$5,516 for full-time undergraduate tuition and fees is less than half of what is charged by other public universities. Furthermore, despite cuts to the state’s budget and the nation’s financial woes, CUNY—without having to turn to layoffs and furloughs to free up already tight revenue streams—is providing a tuition-free education to “58 percent of full-time undergraduates,” while an additional 170,000 students receive financial aid amounting to the significant total of \$1.1 billion.

The president ended the meeting by reminding community members that “what should concern us in these contentious times is preserving mutual respect while ensuring the capacity for peaceful dissent.”



Ruth Wilson Gilmore

Doctoral Faculty Meeting Hears How Societies Organize

On November 2, President William Kelly and Provost and Senior Vice President Chase F. Robinson (Dist. Prof., GC, History), along with Martin J. Burke (Assoc. Prof., Lehman, History), chair of the doctoral faculty policy committee, gave a warm welcome to new faculty members joining the Graduate Center’s doctoral programs, from the “proverbial anthropology program to the equally proverbial urban education program,” said Robinson.

Several new faculty members in attendance gave brief reports on their current research. Among these were Gillian U. Bayne from Lehman College, joining the urban education program; May May Leung from Hunter’s School of Public Health, joining the public health program; and Soon Ae Chun from the College of Staten Island, joining the computer science program.

Audience members then turned their attention to Ruth Wilson Gilmore, a professor of geography in the earth and environmental sciences doctoral program, who presented a talk on “Big Things: Landscape, State Form, and the Infrastructure of Feeling.” Her discussion focused on how certain societies organize and reorganize themselves on a cultural and political stage. She is particularly drawn, she explained, to the question of prison infrastructure, an interest that began when she was researching the ways in which economic and political forces over the past thirty years created a massive incarceration system in the United States, which is currently responsible for 25 percent of the world’s total prisoners although it has only 5 percent of the world’s human population.

Professor Gilmore joined the Graduate Center in fall 2010. She is known as an activist as well as an intellectual and served as president of the American Studies Association from 2010–11. In *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California* (2007), she examined how political and economic forces produced California’s prison boom. Her wide-ranging research interests also include race and gender, labor and social movements, uneven development, and the African diaspora.



PHOTO: DON POLLARD
Randolph L. Braham



PHOTO: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Raquel Chang-Rodríguez

Faculty Honors

Randolph L. Braham (Dist. Prof. Emer., GC, Political Science), director of the Rosenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies and a Holocaust survivor, was awarded the Medium Cross of the Order of the Republic of Hungary at ceremonies opening the Randolph L. Braham Library and Information Center of Budapest's Holocaust Memorial Centre.

Raquel Chang-Rodríguez (Dist. Prof., City, Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages) was awarded a doctorate *honoris causa* by the National University of Athens, Greece.

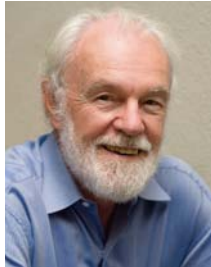


PHOTO: DON POLLARD
David Harvey

David Harvey's (Dist. Prof., GC, Anthropology, Earth and Environmental Sciences, History) *The Enigma of Capital and the Crises of Capitalism* (Oxford University Press, 2010) has been selected a Guardian Book of the Year by Paul Mason because "it remains the most complete Marxist attempt to situate the global crisis in the context of the irresolvable tensions of a system based on 'self-expanding money.'" The book was also winner of the 2010 Isaac and Tamara Deutscher Book Prize.

Alva Noë (Dist. Prof., GC, Philosophy) published "Art and the Limits of Neuroscience" in *Opinionator*, a *New York Times* exclusive online commentary, on December 4: <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/12/04/art-and-the-limits-of-neuroscience/>.



PHOTO: JUDITH NOË
Alva Noë

Tracey Revenson (Prof., GC, Psychology), associate editor of the *Annals of Behavioral Medicine* and a fellow of the American Psychology Association and the Society for Behavioral Medicine, gave a keynote speech at the European Health Psychology Society annual meeting on the island of Crete on September 21.

Alfred Rosenberger (Prof., Brooklyn, Anthropology, Earth and Environmental Sciences) and his research team discovered the skeleton of a possibly extinct crocodile, among several other fossil surprises, in freshwater caves of the Dominican Republic. The discoveries were featured in a *National Geographic* video: http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/09/pictures/110927-crocodile-fossils-found-underwater-cave/#/crocodile-fossil-found-dominican-republic-snout_40965_600x450.jpg. Recent anthropology graduate Siobhan Cooke (2011), who is serving in a postdoctoral position at Duke University, was part of Rosenberger's team.



PHOTO: DON POLLARD
David Savran

David Savran (Vera Mowry Roberts Chair in American Theatre, Dist. Prof., GC, English, Theatre) will give three Messinger Lectures at Cornell University. Savran also won a Kurt Weill Prize for the chapter "Fascinating Rhythm" in his book *Highbrow/Lowdown: Theatre, Jazz, and the Making of the New Middle Class* (University of Michigan Press, 2009).



PHOTO: DON POLLARD
Ida Susser

Karen Strassler (Asst. Prof., Queens, Anthropology) has been awarded this year's Gregory Bateson Prize by the Society for Cultural Anthropology for her book *Refracted Visions: Popular Photography and National Modernity in Java* (Duke University Press, 2010).

Ida Susser (Prof., Hunter, Anthropology, Public Health) has been awarded the Eileen Basker Memorial Prize from the Society for Medical Anthropology for her book *AIDS, Sex and Culture: Global Politics and Survival in Southern Africa* (Wiley-Blackwell 2009).

Doctoral Faculty Appointments

The following is a list of appointments to the doctoral faculty from September 9 to December 9. Listed after each name are the faculty member's home college or home institution and fields of specialization.

ART HISTORY, PH.D. PROGRAM

Siona Wilson, CSI: History of photography, contemporary art, feminist theory.

AUDIOLOGY, AU.D. PROGRAM

Dorothy Neave-DiToro, GC: Hearing aids, aural rehabilitation, pediatric audiology. **Matilda Wissner**, Adjunct, Hunter: Central auditory processing disorders, auditory evoked potentials and amplification.

BIOCHEMISTRY, PH.D. PROGRAM

Yolanda A. Small, York: quantum mechanical/molecular mechanical modeling and simulations, electronic structure methods using Gaussian-based Density Function Theory.

BIOLOGY, PH.D. PROGRAM

Jessica M. Rothman, Hunter: Nutritional ecology, primate ecology and behavior, feeding biology. **Lei Xie**, Hunter: Molecular, cellular, and developmental biology.

CLASSICS, PH.D. PROGRAM

Rachel Kousser, Brooklyn: Greek sculpture, Roman reception of Greek art, ancient iconoclasm. **Lawrence M. Kowerski III**, Hunter: Greek poetry.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, PH.D. PROGRAM

Peter Hitchcock, Baruch: Cultural theory, world literature, postcolonialism, Marxism.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PH.D. PROGRAM

Huewon Chung, John Jay: Quantitative methods. **Robert Garot**, John Jay: Immigration, deviance, law and society, sociology of education. **Nancy G. La Vigne**, Adjunct, Urban Institute: Oversight, criminal justice program evaluation, public affairs, corrections. **Jeremy R. Porter**, Brooklyn: Social theory, ecological criminology, quantitative methods/statistics. **Richard W. Schwester**, John Jay: Power of attorney, public administration, political science, government, organizational theory and management. **Lucia Trimbur**, John Jay: Race and racism, gender, urban sociology, social theory, and sociology of crime. **Michael D. White**, Adjunct, Arizona State University: Race, ethnicity, policing, police misconduct, issues and controversies in policing.

EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, PH.D. PROGRAM

Gregory D. O'Mullan, Queens: Environmental microbiology, water resource management. **Ashaki A. Rouff**, Queens: Aqueous geochemistry, environmental mineralogy.

LINGUISTICS, PH.D. PROGRAM

Andrew M. Rosenberg, Queens: Prosody/intonation, computational linguistics, speech, machine learning.

MATHEMATICS, PH.D. PROGRAM

Adhijit Champanerkar, CSI: Hyperbolic 3-manifolds, knot theory. **Alex Chigogidze**, CSI: Topology. **Gunter Fuchs**, CSI: Mathematical logic, set theory, forcing and large cardinals, inner model theory. **Olga Kharlampovich**, Hunter: Group theory, algebra, logic. **Ilya S. Kofman**, CSI: Knot theory, geometric topology. **Joseph Maher**, CSI: Geometric topology. **Jesenko Vukadinovic**, CSI: Analysis, applied mathematics.

PHILOSOPHY, PH.D. PROGRAM

Jonathan Jacobs, John Jay: Ethics, metaethics, medieval philosophy, early modern philosophy, criminal justice ethics.

PHYSICAL THERAPY, DPT PROGRAM

Yocheved Bensinger, Adjunct, CSI: Motor learning, high-risk infants. **Boris Gilzon**, Adjunct, CSI: Certified hand therapist, orthopedic specialist. **Kristin Hansen**, Adjunct, CSI: Orthopedics. **Robyn M. Lugo**, Adjunct, CSI: Pulmonary rehabilitation.

POLITICAL SCIENCE, PH.D. PROGRAM

Ming Xia, CSI: International relations, comparative politics, American politics.

SOCIAL WELFARE, PH.D. PROGRAM

Mary M. Cavanaugh, Hunter: Family violence, sexual abuse, forensics, randomized trials.

Grants

To the GC

From September through November 2011, the Graduate Center received twenty-nine grants totaling \$2,238,863. The name(s) of the principal investigator(s), awarding agency, and project, and the amount of each award are listed below.

Joshua Brown (Center for Media and Learning), American Social History Productions, Inc., “Funded Wages,” \$49,428. **Joshua Brown, Donna Thompson Ray** (American Social History Project/Center for Media and Learning), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), “Visualizing U.S. History: The American Civil War,” \$169,894. **Helene Clark, Michelle Fine** (Center for Human Environments), Helmsley Charitable Trust, “Evaluation of Helmsley Trust Education Program,” \$201,585. **Kenneth Erickson, Leonard Markovitz** (Political Science), Q Corporation/Comparative Politics, “Journal of Comparative Politics,” \$38,846. **Howard Everson** (Center for the Advanced Study of Education (CASE)), Hunter College/National Science Foundation (NSF), “MSP in NYC 2 – A New Partnership to Transform Urban Secondary School Mathematical and Science Experiences,” \$199,505. **Howard Everson, Bert Flugman** (CASE), New Mexico Advanced Programs Initiative, Inc., “AP Performance in New Mexico,” \$5,000. **Michelle Fine** (Center for Human Environments), Helmsley Charitable Trust, “College Access/Youth Leadership,” \$115,699; Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, “College-Ready Communities,” \$15,000; El Puente, “Evaluation of El Puente’s AWAKE Project,” \$30,000; El Puente of Williamsburg, Inc., “Evaluation of El Puente – Year Two,” \$60,000. **Bert Flugman, Deborah Hecht** (CASE), Hofstra University, “Research and Evaluation of: Simulation and Modeling Technology Education,” \$80,000. **Matthew Gold** (Institutional), Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, “Commons-in-a-Box,” \$107,950. **Roger Hart** (Center for Human Environments), World Vision, “The Article 15 Project,” \$72,950; UNICEF, “Education in Emergencies/Transitional Learning Space in Emergency of Post-Crisis Transition,” \$55,000. **Bruce Homer** (CASE), NYU/IES, ED, “Molecules and Minds: Simulations for Chemistry Education,” \$64,952. **Jonathan Katz** (Music), U.S. Department of Education, “Jacob Javits Fellowship,” \$43,975. **Glenis Long** (Speech–Language–Hearing Sciences), Science Application International Corporation, “Contaminating Effects on OAE Evaluation,” \$7,084. **Gita Martohardjono** (Research Institute for the Study of Language in Urban Society (RISLUS)), New York City Department of Education, “English Language Learners Professional Development Services for the NYC Department of Education,” \$61,492. **John Mollenkopf, Steven Romalewski** (Center for Urban Research), Hagedorn Foundation, “Mapping Demographic Change on Long Island,” \$78,000. **Leith Mullings, Karen G. Williams** (Anthropology), HUD, “From Coercion to Consent?: Governing the Formerly Incarcerated in the 21st Century United States,” \$24,997. **Tracey Revenson** (Psychology/Social-Personality), Mount Sinai School of Medicine, “Breathing Interventions for Hot Flashes in PrCa Survivors on Hormone Therapy,”

\$12,749. **Gail Smith** (Institutional), NSF, “SBES Alliance – CUNY/Michigan AGEP Alliance,” \$135,000. **Lisa Tannenbaum** (Art History), U.S. Department of Education, “Jacob Javits Fellowship,” \$43,975. **Katherine Verdery** (Anthropology), HUD, “From Squatters to Homeowners: Civic Engagement, Property, and Social Networks,” \$13,742. **Suzanne Wasserman** (Gotham Center for New York City History), New York City Department of Education, “Leadership and Change: Turning Points in American History,” \$88,895. **Thomas Weiss** (Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies), Government of the United Kingdom, “GCR2P Government of Great Britain,” \$81,700; Government of Netherlands, “GCR2P,” \$337,470. **Kimberly Paige Young** (Comparative Literature), U.S. Department of Education, “Jacob Javits Fellowship,” \$43,975.

To Faculty at the Colleges

Maria Hartwig (Assoc. Prof., John Jay, Psychology/Forensic), Federal Bureau of Investigation/High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group, “Improving Credibility Judgments in Intelligence Interrogations,” \$125,000. **Margaret Wallace** (Assoc. Prof., John Jay, Biochemistry, Criminal Justice), National Institute for Justice–Applied Research and Development in Forensic Science, one year, “Development of an Immuno-Magnetic Procedure for the Separation of Spermatozoa from Vaginal Epithelial Cells,” \$196,720. **Cathy S. Widom** (Dist. Prof., John Jay, Criminal Justice, Psychology), National Institute of Justice, “Thirty-Year Follow-Up of the Cycle of Violence,” \$311,967; and, with Dr. Linda M. Brzustowicz (Rutgers), Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, “Genetic, Behavioral, and Psychosocial Factors Linking Childhood Maltreatment to Health and Disease,” \$1,346,287.



William Bialek



PHOTOS: SIRI SAMMANI

How Science Solves Mysteries Like Superconductivity

“Mercury has passed into a new state, which on account of its extraordinary electrical properties may be called the superconductive state.” So wrote Dutch physicist Heike Kamerlingh Onnes in his notebook on April 8, 1911—just over 100 years ago—when he discovered that the electrical resistance in a solid mercury wire immersed in liquid helium suddenly vanished when cooled to a temperature approaching absolute zero.

It took about another fifty years before John Bardeen, Leon Cooper, and J. Robert Schrieffer developed a plausible theory of superconductivity, known as the BCS theory after their initials, which explained the underlying mechanism of this remarkable phenomenon. For this they shared the 1972 Nobel Prize in Physics. In celebration of the original discovery’s centennial, Nobelist Leon Cooper was welcomed to the stage of Proshansky Auditorium on November 14 for a talk titled “Superconductivity and Other Insoluble Problems: Are There Limits to Scientific Understanding?”

“The intellectual outgrowth of what Cooper did—and of his style of reasoning—has implications that are still felt in many places,” declared William Bialek, GC visiting presidential professor of physics and director of the Initiative for the Theoretical Sciences (ITS @ the Graduate Center), which sponsored the event. “His style of reasoning has literally changed how we look at the world.”

In explaining the thinking that went into the BCS theory, Cooper said that he, Bardeen, and Schrieffer were guided by Albert Einstein’s advice to “make everything as simple as possible, but not simpler.” Curiously, not even Einstein had been able to explain superconductivity, as Cooper was later to learn. Another to fail in the attempt was Nobel Prize winner Felix Blochhad, who once joked, out of frustration, that “every theory of superconductivity can be disproved.”

Cooper emphasized that, whether or not humans’ potential for scientific understanding is boundless, science history is filled with accounts of “old limits that have turned out not to be limits at all.” As one of many examples, Cooper pointed out that the chemical composition of stars was once an “inaccessible mystery.” Now, thanks to spectroscopy, he noted, “We know more about stars than about the center of the Earth.”

Because he is drawn to big questions, said Cooper, he ultimately made the decision to return to his roots in biology, rather than going on to write increasingly technical papers about superconductivity. As director of Brown University's Center for Neural Science, Cooper's current research revolves around brain networks and the biological basis of memory. To him, the brain and memory processes remain the largest uncharted "next frontier," he said—an area in which a myriad of "insoluble problems" remain.

—Jackie Glasthal



(L. to r.) Dan Plesch, Robert Jenkins, Thomas Weiss, audience during Q&A.

Origins of the UN: Earlier Than You Might Have Thought

History books tell us that the United Nations was founded in 1945, the brainchild of Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the end of World War II. However, at a Ralph Bunche forum on November 3, Dan Plesch, director at the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy at the University of London, argued an alternative narrative on November 3 when he presented his book, *America, Hitler, and the UN: How the Allies Won World War II and Forged Peace* (I. B. Tauris, 2011).

"As far as I know, the January 5, 1942, *Washington Post* front page is the first time we get the UN initials," said Plesch. During that first week of 1942, twenty-six nations signed a charter vowing to rid Europe of Hitler and his Axis powers.

Thereafter, up to 1945, the UN was cited more than four thousand times in the *New York Times*, Plesch reported, and an "avalanche of material" about the UN dominated the front pages of newspapers distributed throughout the United States, from the *Brownsville Herald* in Texas to the *Brainerd Daily Dispatch* in Minnesota. A burgeoning UN was also the focus of newsreels that publicized the organization's first international conference in Moscow in 1943, where foreign ministers pledged to "fight the war and win peace." According to press reports, this was the "first world order of an international body of peace that would preserve human rights."

In one of his most compelling examples of a pre-1945 politically active and power-wielding UN, Plesch pointed to the establishment of international agencies led by UN signatories—the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and the United Nations War Crimes Commission (UNWCC), which predated the postwar Nuremberg trials in trying Nazis for the genocide of Jews.

However, Plesch declared, the UN was not just a "political answer to the Nazi new order," not just "a military name or synonym for the Allies," but a solution that helped institutionalize global peace efforts upon which current UN principles and agencies were founded.

Joining Plesch in the program "70 Years Later: The UN as a Political Response to Pearl Harbor" were discussants Robert Jenkins (Prof., Hunter, Political Science) and Thomas G. Weiss (Pres. Prof., GC, Political Science). Weiss, who also served as moderator, is director of the GC's Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies. To access Plesch's digital archives on World War II and the UN, visit: <http://www.cisd.soas.ac.uk/index.asp-Q-Page-E-research-america-hitler-and-the-un—46647280>.

—Rachel Ramírez



Jihad Al Wazir

West Bank Banking for a Changing Palestinian Economy

Just days before Palestine submitted its historic bid for state recognition to the United Nations in mid-September, Dr. Jihad Al Wazir, governor and chairman of the board of the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA), appeared at the GC to discuss “The European Union, the Emerging Palestinian State and the Role of the Central Bank” at an event sponsored by the GC’s European Union Studies Center and the European Union Center of New York.

Stressing that he is neither a government official nor an expert on the EU, and that he would prefer to “stay away from politics, as all Central Bankers should,” Al Wazir did offer up a brief overview of Europe’s official relationship with Palestine, which commenced in 1980 with the Venice Declaration. That document, issued by the nine-member economic committee of the European Economic Community (EEC), said Al Wazir, “talked about legitimate rights of Palestinians for safety and security,” adding “it has had many iterations since.”

While insistent that Palestinians generally agree “that negotiation is the only way to reach a Palestinian state,” the governor added pointedly, “we have been engaged in discussion since 1991.” In the meantime, he made clear, Palestinians must find ways to conduct trade in what at times can feel like a hostile environment.

“Not only are surplus Israeli goods dumped into Palestine,” noted Al Wazir, but “if you’re a Palestinian biscuit maker, your import costs are higher because of the fees you have to pay to the state of Israel.” On top of that, he added, “security measures” have been put in place, making it that much more difficult for Palestinian businesspeople to deliver their goods to market in a timely fashion.

Equally complex is the multiple currency system that Palestinians, as stateless people, have no choice but to use. Without their own currency, they trade instead in euros, American dollars, Jordanian dinars, and Israeli shekels, which are used most often in day-to-day cash transactions. In addition, because Palestinians in war-torn Gaza must worry about whether they will have access to cash at ATM machines when bombings occur, the PMA has actually asked the area’s forty-five bank branches to install electric generators.

Despite all this, Al Wazir boasted, the PMA, which receives funding from both the United States and the European Union, has been commended for its efficiency and improved practices. “We have one of the best credit unions globally,” he stated proudly, enabling the PMA to increase lending to Palestinians. And, despite inescapable political tensions in the region, “We have a good relationship with the Bank of Israel because we are independent.”

For more about the European Union Studies Center and its upcoming events, go to <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/Eusc/>.

—Jackie Glasthal

“9/11 Plus Ten”: How New York City Memorializes Its Loss

It’s been over a decade since the disaster. The World Trade Center, a sixteen-acre site of devastation, has been slowly but surely transforming into a civic memorial. Two architects integral to this transformation spoke at the Graduate Center on September 19: Daniel Libeskind, commissioned in 2003 as master plan architect for the entire site, and Michael Arad, commissioned in 2004 to design the memorial.

Libeskind explained that Arad’s memorial plaza and his own “Wedge of Light,” which, because of the way the project’s buildings are aligned, will direct sunlight onto the memorial on each 9/11 anniversary, would remind visitors of those who perished. He described how vital to the site were symbols of the nation’s strength and endurance. Now an American citizen, he told the audience about the tremendous inspiration the United States provided when he was a teenage Polish immigrant, which led to his including in his design the 1,776-foot spire on the tallest of five towers surrounding the



PHOTO: MICHAEL DI VITO

(L. to r.) Katherine Carl, Daniel Libeskind,
Michael Arad

site and the symbolic architectural components of the slurry wall and bedrock, which had withstood the terrorist acts.

Arad, an Israeli American, revealed that he wanted his memorial “Reflecting Absence,” which had been dedicated the previous week, a decade after the disaster, “to become a living part of the city as well as a profound site for memory.” His final design of two pools demarcating the outlines of the fallen twin towers followed his imagining two square voids in the Hudson River and his empathetic reaction to New Yorkers who gathered around Washington Square Park’s fountain to mourn the dead. The names of the almost three thousand victims, including those who died at the Pentagon and near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, surround the footprints of the twin towers, and visitors can come together, support one another, and mourn while the waterfalls mask the sounds of the city.

The panel on “Memory Foundations,” moderated by deputy director of the Center for the Humanities and James Gallery curator Katherine Carl, was part of “9/11 Plus Ten: New York City in the Aftermath of September 11th,” a daylong event which featured two other panels: “Muslim Citizens in the Wounded City” and “9/11’s Aftermath: Health, Safety, Change.” The event was organized by Susan V. Opatow (Prof., John Jay, Criminal Justice, Psychology) and cosponsored by the social/personality subprogram of the GC’s Ph.D. Program in Psychology, the Center for the Humanities, and other CUNY centers and programs.

—Rachel Ramírez



PHOTO: A POVO

Michelle Fine

Speaking Out Strongly in Support of Public Higher Education

Heightened concern about the future of public higher education drew a broad cross section of the CUNY community—professors, undergraduates, graduate students, university staff, and union representatives—to Elebash Recital Hall on October 7 for a conference on “Defending Public Higher Education.” Setting the tone was a fiery keynote address by Michelle Fine (Dist. Prof., GC, Psychology, Urban Education, Liberal Studies M.A.).

“The assault on public education has been a long, bloody, and contested thread in the fabric of American educational history,” she charged as she described the fearsome toll that the country’s fiscal crisis was taking on universities like CUNY—most notably the University of California. Faculty and staff, along with middle- to low-income students, she maintained, were staging walkouts and echoing the cries of “occupiers” to protest the damage to affordable higher education.

Tracing the history of CUNY, in light of what she called its “unshakable commitment” to provide a free high-quality higher education to all New York citizens, Fine explained how the city’s near brush with bankruptcy in 1975 forced the university

to impose tuition charges. Thirty-six years later, she sees the CUNY of today suffering from severe budget cuts and fewer investments in its university's academic programs. Among the villains in this scenario are for-profit colleges and big businesses that, Fine declared, "sneak away with public funding"; federal aid to for-profit colleges, she said, has ballooned from \$4.6 billion in 2000 to \$26 billion today.

Mincing no words, Fine indicted "privatizers and austerity butchers" who, she charged, were "now knocking on the doors of public higher education, having cleaned the carcass of K-12 education." She went on to add, "Today we witness the mugging of already marginalized students of color and poverty in diminished access to Pell grants, cuts in financial aid, rises in tuition, a switch from grants to loans, and a rise in admission standards."

Fine explained that CUNY students would be hit by increased tuition, larger classes, fewer class options, and a reduction in student services over the next five years, while the university's part-time professorial staff or adjuncts may face cuts to their health-care benefits—if they have health insurance at all. Telling the audience how higher education is faring in several other states was Gary Rhoades, professor of higher education at the University of Arizona and former general secretary of the American Association of University Professors.

As outspoken as Professor Fine was Frances Fox Piven (Dist. Prof., GC, Political Science, Sociology), who stressed the parallel between student protesters and the Wall Street occupiers. Other GC speakers at the conference included Professional Staff Congress (PSC) president Barbara Bowen (Assoc. Prof., Queens, English); Stephen Brier (Prof., GC, Urban Education); PSC treasurer Michael Fabricant (Prof., Hunter, Social Welfare); Clarence Taylor (Prof., Baruch, History); and, from the GC's American Social History Project, Andrea Vasquez, a member of the PSC executive council, who introduced the event. The event was sponsored by the PSC/CUNY, the GC Doctoral Students' Council, and a wide range of other GC organizations, centers, and doctoral programs. For more information, visit: <http://defendingpublichighereducation.commons.gc.cuny.edu>.

—Rachel Ramírez



PHOTO: MICHAEL DI VITO

(L. to r.) Stephen Brier, Frances Fox Piven

Speaking Up for Minority Languages

Virtually every country in the world is multilingual, declared Robert Lane Greene, author of *You Are What You Speak* and moderator of an October 24 roundtable discussion on "Language Policies: Why Do They Matter?" Yet, he went on to say, some languages that have official status somewhere in the world—such as Welsh, Catalan, Basque, Flemish, and Québec French—must continuously fight to remain relevant.

With that, Greene introduced five panelists eager to describe the challenges facing these "at risk" tongues. Xabier Zabaltza, a linguistic policy adviser to the Basque government, spoke of the Basque people's uphill battle for "official bilingualism" in the Basque country of northeastern Spain and southwestern France. Dr. Maite Puigdevall Serralvo, associate professor of Catalan philology at the Open University of Catalonia, voiced her frustration that, while Catalan is the official language of Andorra and a co-official language in Catalonia, "it is not compulsory for businesses to provide services in Catalan, so the legal framework, in real terms, does not guarantee our rights."

Matthias Storme, appointee to the Council of Europe's Commission on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, explained the complexities of language policies in Belgium, where four language areas are stipulated by the country's constitution. The Flemish, even in their own municipality, find themselves "squeezed between English, French, and German speakers," Storme lamented, because one in five residents is of foreign origin. "We just want to be recognized as having equal rights in a country where we're the majority," he said. Guy Dumas, associate deputy minister responsible for the application of language policy for



(L. to r.) Xabier Zabaltza, linguistic policy adviser, Basque Country; Maite Puigdevall Serralvo, expert in Catalan philology, Open University of Catalonia; panel moderator Robert Lane Greene, journalist and author; Matthias E. Storme, Flemish government appointee to the Belgian Commission on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; Guy Dumas, Québec government expert on language policy; and Erin Boon, expert on the story of the Welsh language



José del Valle

the Québec government, commiserated. French Canadians too must find ways to cope in a region where citizens in a neighboring country speak a dominant language, he said.

Finally, Erin Boon, a Harvard University Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures, shared the story of the Welsh language's unexpected revival. "This is an example of a language that faced a dim future and met the challenge," she boasted. Though Welsh is not her mother tongue, Boon spoke passionately about the "largely peaceful" activism that has been vital to the Celtic language's restoration. Once people realized how central it was to their identity, she said, they expanded their efforts to increase its visibility and relevance.

After a discussion among the panelists on the delicate balance between choice in language use, and the efforts required to reinvigorate a struggling one, Greene introduced Matilde Roman, Deputy Commissioner/General Counsel of the New York City's Mayor Office of Immigrant Affairs. Her office's role is to ensure that New York's immigrant populations are able to access whatever services they need in a city where more than 180 languages are spoken by people representing 200 countries. "It's our duty to make sure people understand what we say to them, and what their rights are," she explained.

The event was introduced by José del Valle (Prof., GC, Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Language, Linguistics), executive officer of the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian program, and the Mercè Rodoreda Professorship. Serving as cosponsors were the Delegation of the Basque Country in the United States, Delegation of Catalonia, Flanders House New York, Institut Ramon Llull, Québec Government Office in New York City, and the Welsh Government in New York. At a reception following the panel, foods associated with each of these regions were served.



PHOTO: THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS



PHOTO: MATTHEW KUIP

Suzanne Wasserman, director, Gotham Center for New York City History, Stefanie Pintoff, Lyndsay Faye, and Joseph Wallace

The Girl Who Struck Out Babe Ruth and Other NY Mysteries

Seventeen-year-old Jackie Mitchell struck out legendary Bronx Bombers Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in front of four thousand fans on April 2, 1931. But her fame as pitcher for Tennessee’s Chattanooga Lookouts was short-lived. Within three days, Baseball Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis had suspended all professional baseball positions held by women players, claiming the sport was “too strenuous” for the female sex. A story similar to hers can be read in *Diamond Ruby* (Touchstone, 2010), a historical mystery by Joseph Wallace, one of three guest speakers at the Gotham Center’s “Mystery Fiction and New York City History.”

An eighty-year-old photograph of a girl “shaking hands with Babe Ruth, while Lou Gehrig looked on” provided the spark for his creative imagination. A frequent writer about baseball, Wallace found the image at Baseball Hall of Fame’s A. Bartlett Giamatti Research Center in Cooperstown, New York, and an archivist helped him identify the girl as pitcher Virne Beatrice “Jackie” Mitchell Gilbert, fondly remembered as “the girl who struck out Babe Ruth.”

Galvanized by the young pitcher’s largely untold story and the injustice done to her, Wallace decided to pay tribute by modeling his lead character, Ruby Thomas, after Mitchell and her astonishing career. He sets *Diamond Ruby* in 1920s New York, when the city became a mecca for all things baseball after the grand opening of Yankee stadium in 1923, including baseball sideshows on Coney Island’s boardwalk. In a city crazy for baseball, Wallace suggested, New Yorkers would have celebrated not only the sport but also someone of Mitchell’s caliber.

Consulting countless issues of NYC newspapers—the *Times*, *Herald*, and *Post*—and the city’s many historical archives, Wallace focused his research on women’s roles during the early days of major league baseball, when there was a “flowering of women’s rights in New York equal to that of the 1960s.” Within the niche of historical mystery fiction, Wallace gives his scenario life by bringing together fascinating moments in New York’s past, from the influenza epidemic of 1918 to the city’s gun battles between rum runners and New York’s Finest during the Roaring Twenties—and all because of a photograph.

The panel discussion, which took place on September 26, also featured authors Lyndsay Faye and Edgar Allan Poe Award–winner Stefanie Pintoff, who talked about how they integrated history into their detective novels, *The Gods of Gotham* (Amy Einhorn Books/Putnam, 2012) and *Secret of the White Rose* (Minotaur Books, 2011), respectively.

—Rachel Ramírez



PHOTOS: MATTHEW KNIP

(Above, l.) Rebecca Jordan-Young moderates a panel of previous Kessler Award scholars (r., l. to r.) Esther Newton, Gayle Rubin, and Carole Vance.



Conference and “Conversations” Focused on Sex and Gender

Merriam-Webster defines masculinity as “qualities appropriate to or usually associated with a man.” But what exactly are those qualities? How do they come to be determined?

Such were the questions facing social theorists, psychoanalysts, and academic scholars of gender and sexuality who gathered at the GC on October 21 and 22 for “Masculinity, Complex,” a fully booked and live-tweeted event to discuss gender and masculinity from feminist, queer, and psychoanalytic perspectives.

“Masculinity has finally become a site of inquiry, problematized the way femininity has been regarded for nearly a century,” said Victoria Pitts-Taylor (Prof., Sociology, Queens College, GC), director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society, coordinator of the Women’s Studies Certificate Program at the GC, and a cochair of “Masculinity, Complex.” “This conference sets out to reflect on the history of masculinity as it became interlinked with psychoanalytic and cultural discourses.”

Debated during the conference was the relevance of essentialist definitions of femininity and the repercussions of the 2008 high-profile shooting of Larry King, a fifteen-year-old gender-nonconforming youth, by a fourteen-year-old classmate in Oxnard, California. Also featured were transgender performance artist Justin Vivian Bond, who read from his memoir *Tango: My Childhood Backwards and in High Heels* (Feminist Press, 2011), and keynote talks by Judith Butler, author of *Undoing Gender*, and Pulitzer Prize winner Tony Kushner, whose 1998 play “Terminating” was also read.

A wide range of sex- and gender-related issues were also up for discussion a few days later on October 25 when three previous winners of the David R. Kessler Award—given annually to a scholar who has produced a substantive body of work in the field of GLBTQ studies—took part in a panel celebrating the award’s twentieth anniversary. Recalling a time “when sex was becoming a topic different from gender,” American cultural anthropologist Gayle Rubin joined colleagues Esther Newton and Carole Vance in Proshansky Auditorium for the first of a series of “Kessler Conversations,” sponsored by CLAGS (Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies) and moderated by CLAGS board member Rebecca Jordan-Young.

“We’re marking twenty years since CLAGS founder and first executive director Martin Duberman brought CLAGS to CUNY,” said Daniel Hurewitz (Asst. Prof., Hunter College), a member of the organization’s board of directors, in his introductory remarks. “Back then our struggle was to have LGBT lives, much less LGBT scholarship.”

“Like the Kessler lectures themselves,” noted Sarah E. Chinn, outgoing CLAGS executive director, “the Kessler Conversations are not just retrospective or reflections of the state of the field. Rather, they explore where queer studies is going and perhaps even introduce their audience to Kessler awardees of the next twenty years.” For information about upcoming Kessler Conversations, see <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/clags/>.

—Jackie Glathal

MEMEAC Marks the Arab-American Novel's Centennial

The Prophet (1923), by Lebanese American writer Khalil Gibran, was wildly popular, but it was not the first Arab American work to appear in English. That honor belongs to *The Book of Khalid*, published in New York City in October 1911, written by Gibran's fellow countryman and colleague Ameen Rihani and illustrated by Gibran. The hundredth anniversary of the book's publication was celebrated at two events sponsored by the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center (MEMEAC) on October 27.

First was a talk by Roger Allen, author of *The Arabic Novel: An Historical and Critical Introduction*, who headed the celebration. Until his retirement, Allen held the oldest professorial post in Arabic (as a separate language in its own right) in the United States, at the University of Pennsylvania. He focused his remarks on the complexities involved in making a transition from "the intellectual and literary values of one cultural system to another." This is particularly relevant to *The Book of Khalid*, he said, which is semi-autobiographical, involving two Arab boys who immigrate to New York City at the turn of the last century. After exposure to the New York artistic and cultural environment of the period, the two return to Lebanon, where, inspired by their New York experiences, they transform into political and social revolutionaries and come into conflict with the ruling Ottoman Empire. Allen quoted a line from Khalid's novel that emphasizes the author's message: "No two opposing elements meet and fuse without both losing their original identity."

Allen's talk was followed by the second MEMEAC event, a full-day conference in the GC's Martin E. Segal Theatre about the book and its author, who was known not only for his writings, but also for being the chief Arab American public intellectual in New York in the early twentieth century. Rihani dedicated his life to teaching Americans about Arab history and culture and "was a veritable Renaissance man," said Allen, "a man of many parts: traveler, translator, historian, commentator, and more."

Both events were held in partnership with the New York Public Library and Project Khalid, a centennial campaign for *The Book of Khalid* conducted by the Ameen Rihani Institute. They were part of a larger series of programs being held throughout the book's 100th anniversary year in the United States, Europe, and the Arab world. For information about other events being held in conjunction with the anniversary, see <http://projectkhalid.org/>. For more about MEMEAC and its programs, go to <http://memeac.gc.cuny.edu/>.

—Jackie Glasthal



PHOTOS: SIRIN SAMMAN

Hilary Spurling

Hilary Spurling Tells How Biographers Probe the "Irreducible Mystery at the Core of Each Human Being"

British biographer Hilary Spurling, Commander of the Order of the British Empire, Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and founder of the Royal Literary Society's Writers Fellowship scheme, provided an illuminating view of the difficulties of the biographer's task at the Leon Levy Center for Biography's fourth annual lecture on September 21.

After opening remarks by Brenda Wineapple, former director for the Leon Levy Center, President William Kelly noted how Spurling's presence continued the Center's tradition of bringing to the GC community the world's most eminent biographers, from Robert A. Caro to Stacy Schiff and Ron Chernow.

A poised Spurling began her lecture with a poignant adage for biographers and writers alike: "Truth lies unspoken and buried, consciously or not, beneath layers . . . it takes time and effort to drag it slowly towards the light."

She spoke of her beginnings as a "naïve" biographer who took on as her formidable first subject the English writer Ivy Compton-Burnett (1884–1969). "She was full of secrets," said Spurling. "She left absolutely no papers, she kept no diary, she wrote no memoirs, she confided in absolutely nobody."

Despite having few primary documents, Spurling pressed onward, meeting with Burnett's closest friends and two surviving sisters, among others, hearing a "good deal of gossip" over tea. One of the keys to her subject's novels, she learned, was that she lost four siblings—to illness, war, and suicide—during World War I, and "wanted to die." It is no wonder, Spurling suggested, that Compton-Burnett focused on families in her work.

Spurling's success with *Ivy When Young: The Early Life of Ivy Compton-Burnett 1884–1919* (Littlehampton Book Services Ltd., 1975) inspired her to undertake biographies of Henri Matisse—which took her fifteen years—Sonia Orwell, Paul Scott, and Pearl Buck, winning the 2011 James Tait Black Memorial Prize for *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China*.

Because of her fine-tuned ear and penchant for uncovering clues from times long past, Spurling has become not just an award-winning writer but a scrupulous detective, whose work goes beyond chronicling documents and delves into the "irreducible mystery" that is at "the core of each human being." This, said Spurling, is "what gives biography an edge."

—Rachel Ramírez



Patricia Bosworth



Charles J. Shields

Biographers of Fonda and Vonnegut Talk with Gary Giddins

What does actress, political activist, and fitness guru Jane Fonda have in common with the author Kurt Vonnegut? On the surface perhaps not much, acknowledged GC Distinguished Lecturer Gary Giddins, acting executive director of the Leon Levy Center for Biography. Yet, he was quick to add, there are notable parallels. "Both were popular in the 1960s, both are associated with the counterculture, and both had parents who committed suicide," he said.

Giddins made these observations while moderating a December 7 biography center-sponsored discussion with biographers Patricia Bosworth and Charles J. Shields about the problems and pleasures of writing about contemporary figures. Bosworth, whose most recent book is *Jane Fonda: The Private Life of a Public Woman*, has also chronicled the life of Diane Arbus, Marlon Brando, Montgomery Clift, and her own father, Bartley C. Crum, one of the six attorneys who defended the so-called "Hollywood Ten" at the start of the Cold War; while Shields, the best-selling author of *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee*, is now receiving accolades for his newest work, *And So It Goes: Kurt Vonnegut: A Life*.

Emerging out of the discussion were not only interesting tidbits about their subjects' lives, but also insight into how and why each was selected. Bosworth's connection with Fonda harkened back to their days together at the Actors Studio in the 1960s, she said, just about the same time that Shields was reading Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five* as a draft-eligible college student. "That book embodied the confusion a lot of us were feeling about the war," he remembered. "I wanted to get to know the author behind that book."

Letting down their own guard was the first step toward winning their subjects' trust, the biographers agreed. For Bosworth that meant presenting Fonda with a copy of her memoir *Anything Your Little Heart Desires*, recounting the tragic suicides of her own father and brother. "We never discussed it again," recalled Bosworth, "but it relaxed both of us in a way."

Shields, on the other hand, was still in the process of "punching through Vonnegut's narrative—his own view of how his life had gone" when the author died after suffering brain injuries from a bad fall. Shields was devastated. "I couldn't work after that for a while," he admitted. "I had lost my friend and partner."

To complete the biography, Shields found himself relying heavily on a collection of letters written to and from Vonnegut that fortuitously turned up. "I put them in chronological order," Shields told his listeners, "and they became the spine of the book."

Later, however, Shields was forced to “go back in and reconfigure” his writing after Vonnegut’s estate denied him permission to quote from those missives, an ironic turn of events given Shields’ final appraisal of his subject. “My premise is that he feared intimacy,” Shields concluded. “That’s what happens when your mother kills herself—and on Mother’s Day, no less.”

—Jackie Glasthal



Gail Levin

Gail Levin Gives Lee Krasner Her Due as Artist and Wife

“I was extremely blessed to have her as a mentor at what, for me, was a tender age,” acknowledged Gail Levin (Dist. Prof., Baruch, Art History). She was speaking at an illustrated talk titled “Lee Krasner: Art and Nature,” held in the GC’s Martin E. Segal Theatre on October 11, celebrating Levin’s recently published *Lee Krasner: A Biography*.

Levin first became acquainted with the work of the artist as a graduate student in 1971. But it was not until the late 1970s, while cocurating a major show at the Whitney Museum of American Art on the formative years of abstract expressionism, that Levin really got to know Krasner, who was then best known as Jackson Pollock’s widow.

As both Levin’s talk and her biography attest, Krasner did much more in her life than champion the work of her troubled yet talented legendary husband. Levin adeptly proves that she was a “first-generation abstract expressionist” in her own right, who not only contributed significantly to this artistic movement, but also influenced the work of her consort, much in the way he influenced her work.

Krasner had always been comfortable working from nature, emphasized Levin, displaying a 1929 *Self-Portrait*, painted when Krasner was twenty-one, in which she stands, flower in hand, in front of a leafy green plant in a dark and gray room, a window behind her hinting at the natural world. Another ambitious self-portrait, made around the same time, was created by nailing a mirror to a tree, and then using oil paints to capture what was reflected: herself, with trees in the background. It was this piece, said Levin, that helped Krasner qualify for a coveted seat in a life class at the National Academy of Design. “Her self-portraits made it clear that her subject was herself—as much a part of nature as anything else,” Levin noted.

To Levin, much of Krasner’s influence on her husband’s paintings was also nature-related. At her urging, said Levin, the two moved out to Long Island where they gardened, dug clams, and took long walks together. It was also there that Pollock created many of his paintings that reference the constellations. Krasner once even confided in Levin that “the only possible influence” she might have had on Pollock was to bring to him an awareness of Henri Matisse—the French artist known for his use of vibrant colors and paintings of nature scenes.

With the hundredth anniversary of Pollock’s birth coming up in 2012, said Levin, “I felt it was Krasner’s time. This is much more than the story of Pollock—as important as he was in her art and life.”

—Jackie Glasthal

Student News

Jackie Austin (Psychology) received NSF funding for her dissertation proposal titled “Evaluating the Influence of Daubert’s Cross-examination Safeguard on Jurors’, Attorneys’, and Judges’ Judgments about Scientific Evidence.”

Roberto Bongiovanni (Classics) will have his piece “P.Duk.inv. 4R: Homer, Iliad 22.111-149 with Marginalia” published in the 2012 issue of *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* (Journal for Papyrology and Epigraphy).

Emyr Dakin (Classics) presented “Classic Villains” at a Princeton Graduate Conference on Longus’ *Daphnis and Chloes*. He was also the recipient of a travel grant,

awarded by CAAS, to attend the Classical Association of the Atlantic States conference this October.

Michael Goyette (Classics) was awarded an Athens Summer Scholarship through the New York Classical Club to study at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece. He also received an Eileen Barbara Costas Contes Memorial Prize for Teaching, awarded by Brooklyn College's Classics Department to an instructor for exceptional pedagogy and departmental service. Last year, Goyette published "Ptolemy II Philadelphus and the Dionysiac Model of Political Authority" in the *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* (March 2010). He presented papers at three conferences this year: "The Art of the Insult: Catullus, Eminem, and the Pedagogy of Classics" at Brooklyn College, and both "Homer's Odyssey and Apuleius' Metamorphoses as Nostoi of Self and Identity" and "Nostos: War, the Odyssey, and Narratives of Return" at the University of South Carolina.

Monica Harte (Music), along with the Remarkable Theatre Brigade (RTB), presented Opera Shorts at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall on November 4. The production featured ten-minute operas. RTB is a performing arts group that produces new music works from various disciplines. Harte serves as the company's general director.

Tristan Husby (Classics) presented a paper on Delphi and non-Greek votive offerings at a conference on religion in antiquity titled "Encountering the Divine" at the University of Reading, England.

Sarah Ruth Jacobs (English) published "The Graduate Student as Entrepreneur" in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (December 22, 2011), in which she addresses the topic of how success in the academic market today means stepping outside the traditional boundaries of doctoral work. To read her article, visit: <http://chronicle.com/article/The-Graduate-Student-as/129903/>.

Michele Reinlieb (Psychology), working under the mentorship of Joel Sneed (Asst. Prof., Queens, Psychology), was awarded travel funding from the International Neuropsychological Society (INS) to present her paper "The Neuropsychological Profile of MRI-defined Vascular Depression" at the annual INS meeting in February 2012 in Montreal.

David Starr (Classics) took first place in the spring 2011 NY Classics Club Greek reading competition.

Alan Sumler (Classics) published "A Catalogue of Shoes: Puns in Herodas *Mime* 7" in the 2010 summer issue of *Classical World*. He gave a presentation, titled "Comic First Inventions," at "Ancient Aitia: Explaining Matter between Belief and Knowledge," NYU's 2011 Classics Graduate Student Conference.

Alissa Vaillancourt (Classics) gave a talk on "Epigram, Reader, and Immortal Frame" at Knox College in April. She also presented a paper, "Understanding the Ivy of Leonidas of Tarentum," at the 2011 annual meeting of the American Philological Association's Hellenistic poetry panel.

Maura Williams (Classics) was awarded the Glen Knudsvig Memorial Scholarship to attend the American Classical League Institute this past June.

David Zimmerman (Psychology) received NSF funding for his dissertation proposal titled "Judges' and Attorneys' Judgments of the Extent to which Jurors have been Prejudiced by Pretrial Publicity."

Documenting the Grim Lives of Romania's TB Patients

Jonathan Stillo is a doctoral candidate and medical anthropologist whose dissertation research, which began in 2006, took him to Romania, where he lives among and documents the lives of chronic tuberculosis (TB) patients, eating the same food and walking the same cheerless corridors.



Jonathan Stillo

Drawn to Romania’s “fairytale landscapes, castles, and some of the last truly untouched wilderness in Europe” as a 2001 undergraduate member of a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad trip, it was not until he was a doctoral student that Romania’s high rate of TB—by far the highest in the European Union—and its economically inefficient treatment facilities came to his attention and provided motivation and subject matter for his dissertation: “‘Magic Mountains’ in Romania: Citizenship, Poverty and the New Role of Tuberculosis Sanatoria,” a title inspired by Thomas Mann’s classic novel about a protagonist’s prolonged stay in a sanatorium.

Various grants from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fulbright-Hays program, the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, IREX (the International Research and Exchange Board), and the Romanian Cultural Institute have facilitated his five years of research. He also received \$10,000 as winner of the GC’s Randolph Braham Dissertation Fellowship competition.

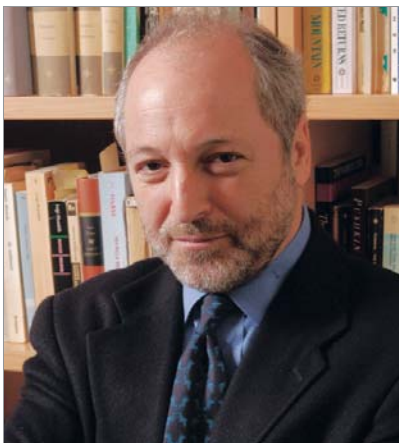
In addition to his research, Stillo serves as liaison between Romania’s National TB Program and the handful of struggling nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that work with TB patients—particularly the twenty percent with chronic conditions. Overwhelmingly poor, they “tend to have multiple social and medical problems, of which TB is only one,” explains Stillo. “They begin with normal cases of nonresistant TB that could be easily and cheaply treated, but if it’s treated without regard to these other problems, they often relapse.”

Stillo has traveled across Romania by bus, visiting TB hospitals, dispensaries, and sanatoria. Everywhere he goes, he hears yet more stories he feels need to be told. Yet, laments Stillo, there is little mention of the disease on Romania’s Ministry of Health web page.

“Romania should not need anthropologists to catalog and document the causes of people’s TB-based suffering,” asserts Stillo, who gets tested regularly and takes other precautions, given the population he works with. “I want to see Romania achieve a public health standard that does not require NGOs to work on behalf of TB patients. I want to contribute to minimizing the occurrence of TB-related preventable death.”

Stillo is working with adviser Ida Susser (Prof., Hunter, Anthropology, Public Health) and plans to defend his dissertation in September 2013. “Jonathan’s combined understanding of medical anthropology and the importance of public health make what he is doing a phenomenal piece of work,” she avowed.

—Jackie Glathal



André Aciman

Writers’ Institute Readings at the Center for Fiction

On a blustery November night, a crowd of friends, agents, and editors packed the elegant reading room at the Center for Fiction to hear fourteen writers from the GC’s Writers’ Institute (WI) read from their works. Several of the authors—with professional careers as journalists, academics, and television producers—had never before read their writing aloud to an invited audience.

“It’s exhilarating to hear the way a story unfolds in spoken voice,” said Maggie Hill, who came to support her fellow WI colleagues, “especially a story you’ve heard evolve through class workshops.”

WI’s fiction program is the only one of its kind, taught not by authors, in traditional MFA fashion, but by New York’s top publishers and magazine editors. Last year’s class, the fiction program’s inaugural, included on its faculty *New Yorker* fiction editor Deborah Treisman and John Freeman, editor of *Granta*, which will publish a story by WI alumna Judith Chicurel in the February 2012 issue.

“The access is incredible,” said Dan Hernandez, a journalist reading his fiction before an audience for the first time. “We sit around a conference table and discuss writing with Jonathan Galassi, the president of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and with Chris Cox,

the fiction editor at *Harper's*. It's what writers dream about. No middleman—just direct access to the people who decide what's worthy of being published today and what isn't."

The readings clipped along at a brisk pace of seven minutes each, much like speed dating, with time out for jazz and schmoozing, served up alongside a spread of good wine, runny cheeses, and fat Mediterranean olives.

"I heard about the reading from a friend and what an amazing surprise!" said Olga Zilberbourg, an editor visiting from San Francisco. "All the authors reading together showed the diversity of interests and talents that the Writers' Institute attracts. I look forward to seeing submissions to our journal, *Narrative* magazine."

Organized by fiction program alumnus Greg D'Alessandro, the reading was the first in a series that continues in February and May.

Applications for the 2012–13 class of the Writers' Institute are being accepted through March 15, 2012. The Writers' Institute is directed by André Aciman, nonfiction author, novelist, and executive officer of the Graduate Center's doctoral program in comparative literature. For more information: <http://writersinstitute.gc.cuny.edu/>.

In Memoriam

Florence J. Bloch, who served generations of Graduate Center doctoral students as director of financial aid from 1972 to her retirement in 1981, died on October 4, 2011. A Hunter alumna, B.A. and M.A., before coming to the Graduate Center in 1965, she served as secretary of Hunter's classics department from 1936 to 1962 while also acting as lecturer in Latin from 1942 to 1962. Among other academic distinctions Ms. Bloch was a founding member and inductee into the Hunter College Hall of Fame (1972) and received the President's Medal from the CUNY Graduate Center (1981). She was a member of Eta Sigma Phi (National Honorary Classics Society) and Sigma Epsilon Phi (National Honorary German Society). Contributions in her memory may be made to the Graduate Center Foundation, 365 Fifth Avenue, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10016.

Gerald M. Friedman, distinguished professor emeritus of earth and environmental sciences at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, died on November 29, 2011. After a long and productive career involving appointments at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the University of Cincinnati, and Amoco Petroleum Corporation, Friedman accepted an appointment at CUNY in 1985 and mentored more than fifteen CUNY doctoral students before he retired in 2004. He has received the highest honors in the field of sedimentary geology, including the Twenhofel Medal of the Society for Sedimentary Geology and the Sidney Power's Medal of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. The Ph.D. Program in Earth and Environmental Sciences honored Professor Friedman with its Distinguished Service Medal in 2006.

Allen Mandelbaum, who taught English and comparative literature at the Graduate Center from 1966 to 1986 and served as executive officer of the Ph.D. Program in English from 1972 to 1980, died on October 27, 2011. Renowned as a translator of Dante, he became the first American, and the first translator, to receive the Gold Medal of Honor from the city of Florence, Italy, which conferred the award for his *Divine Comedy* in 2000, the 735th anniversary of Dante's birth. Also highly regarded are Mandelbaum's translation of Virgil's *Aeneid*, for which he received the National Book Award in 1973, and his translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist in poetry in 1994. In addition, Mandelbaum received Italy's National Award for Verse Translation from the Presidenza del Consiglio in 1998, the Presidential Prize of the President of Italy in 2003, and Italy's highest award, the Presidential Cross of the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity, in 2004. He also published several volumes of his own poetry, and was the first American to earn the title of Professore Ordinario per Chiara Fama, teaching at the University of Torino for five years. For GC students' memories of this beloved teacher, translator, poet, scholar, and mentor, see <http://www.gcadvocate.com/2011/11/memoriam-allen-mandelbaum-1926-2011/>.

Holiday Party 2011

Celebrating fifty years of the Graduate Center.



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Jane House, Editor
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Jennie Kaufman, Associate Editor
Tim Ellis, Jackie Glasthal, Ira Mothner, Rachel Ramirez, Contributing Writers
Donald Cherry, Alex Irklevski, Graphic Designers
Elizabeth Fraser, Editorial Support

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