MISSION STATEMENT

The Center for LGBTQ Studies provides a platform for intellectual leadership in addressing issues that affect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals and other sexual and gender minorities. As the first university-based LGBTQ research center in the United States, CLAGS nurtures cutting-edge scholarship, organizes events for examining and affirming LGBTQ lives, and fosters network-building among academics, artists, activists, policy makers, and community members. CLAGS stands committed to maintaining a broad program of public events, online projects, and fellowships that promote reflection on queer pasts, presents, and futures.

CONTENTS

Mission Statement 2
Letter from Executive Director 5
Letter from Board Chair (Debanuj and Shereen) 6
The Kessler Award 8
José Esteban Muñoz Award 10
Events 12
CUNY Digital History Archives 14
Report from the CLAGS Archive Committee 15
Fellowship winners 16
CLAGS Fellowships General 18
Edward Carpenter Collection 19
CLAGS Internship 20
Visiting Scholar 22
Donors 23
CLAGS Membership 24
Board 26
Staff 30
Fundraising efforts 32
Finance Report 33

Editor: Jasmina Sinanović, Assistant Editor: Adric Tenuta, Ariel G. Mekler
Contributors: Chris Morabito, Shawnta Smith Cruz, Justin Brown, Shereen Inayatulla
Dear CLAGS family, friends, partners, & supporters,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as well as reflect upon the work of this past year. I have had the honor of serving as the new Executive Director of the Center for LGBTQ Studies (CLAGS).

Upon entering this space, my aim was to take this inaugural year to learn through collaborative action and engagement with the staff, board members, and the larger CLAGS community. I hoped to understand the organization more through the lived experiences and eyes of the aforementioned parties. My goal was to begin establishing long-lasting relationships and begin the process of developing a course of action for the years ahead. This year of exploration and critical analysis has helped me establish the skeletal structure for reinvesting in long-standing community partnerships and planning for new future initiatives. Before discussing these things further, I wanted to take this opportunity to examine the CLAGS year in review.

Despite being a transition year for CLAGS, we had a successful year ensuring the continuation of established programming and activities. The weekly programming that we provided spanned a number of topics and disciplines from LGBTQ health, critical pedagogy and the future of LGBTQ Studies to exploring Southeast Asian queerness. Much of the work related to our public programming this year was a result of strong collaborations with other centers, institutes, community organizations, and our board members. In fact, several of our events were co-sponsored by partnering entities and spearheaded by our board members as program developers, conveners, moderators, and presenters.

This year we provided several fellowships and awards to a broad array of deserving scholars, students, artists, and community members dedicated to uplifting the LGBTQ community through their work. In regards to this, it was an honor to see two of our past fellowship recipients return to CLAGS and personally give back to the community by presenting on their current research in the field to improve the lives of LGBTQ individuals and push the theoretical frameworks used within LGBTQ Studies forward. CLAGS has continued to be an “academic home” for many and a safe haven for those that may not have access to supportive communal spaces to do their work. CLAGS has continued to be a place where students, scholars, and activists continue to develop their craft and grow in both personal and professional ways.

Two of CLAGS’ anchor awards, Kessler and Jose Esteban Munoz, honored well-deserving individuals.

Dr. Sara Ahmed gave a stirring lecture and Patrisse Kahn-Cullors engaged in a riveting conversation. Both of these scholar-activists, through their words, provided a call-to-action for social change both within the academy and larger society. Each of their calls-to-action urged us all to continue fight for social justice for all members of the diverse LGBTQ community through mobilization, advocacy, and disruption.

As we look ahead to next year, CLAGS will continue to be an industry lead addressing the issues impacting the LGBTQ community. We look forward to providing a space for young scholars entering the academy to conduct their research, developing a stronger education/training platform and certificate program, creating a larger digital footprint, introducing new opportunities for interdisciplinary convenings, conferences, and finding new ways to honor members of our community and expanding our membership base.

With all this said, I am looking forward to building upon our past as we work toward a brighter future. I hope that you will continue to support CLAGS. Please join us for our future events and engage with us in both continuing and new collaborations.

With joy, love, and pride,

Justin T. Brown, PhD, Executive Director
The Center for LGBTQ Studies, CLAGS
The Graduate Center, CUNY
Assistant Professor, Health Sciences
LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Dear friends of CLAGS,

I write this letter from rain soaked Kolkata, India. I am presently traveling throughout South Asia to conduct academic & activist collaborative research that documents transgender activism in South and South-East Asia. Serving as board co-chair for CLAGS has been of immense joy for me, while CLAGS also continues to provide me a much-needed home and a platform for creating transnational cutting edge queer (of color) scholarship.

I spent over 10 years in New York City, organizing within LGBTQ immigrant communities. During this period, CLAGS provided me with an intellectual space, wherein I could learn and co-theorize with fellow queer theorists and activists. I stepped up to join the CLAGS board and serve as board chair as a way of giving back to my beloved CLAGS community. Presently, we live within a very precarious political conjuncture. The attacks on public education, LGBTQ and feminist studies (as well as our human rights) are relentless. In this political climate CLAGS events and community continue to carve out an academic-activist space for queer scholars within one of the largest public university systems in the country. As a scholar of transnational sexuality studies, I was able to organize a panel that brought together queer studies scholars such as Dr. Rohit K. DasGupta from the Loughborough University and Dr. Kaustuv Balshi from Jadavpur University along with Indian queer activists from the New York City area at CLUNY. The panel discussed how the movement for LGBTQ rights in India privileges upper class and upper caste communities. We were able to identify philanthropic organizations, and every day ethical practices that will decenter an upper class and caste narrative within queer movements in India.

Another highlight for me, has been the highly attended Kessler Award and lecture by Sara Ahmed. Ahmed’s lecture discussed the uses of queer and the queering of value. Ahmed urges us to decenter a value based approach within queer and feminist movements. Rather, she asks us to return to objects that have lost values, or different values. We at CLAGS are very proud to be able to host Sara Ahmed and her partner, and to be able to provide the New York City community an opportunity to attend Ahmed’s lecture for no cost at all. Now that’s called queering value!

We at CLAGS are very blessed to have amazing staff members who remain dedicated to our mission and purpose. Our new Executive Director, Dr. Justin Brown brings with him a passion for developing CLAGS infrastructure as well as programming around community health. Our board members bring a diversity of academic, activist, and professional backgrounds. Such diversity is reflected in the rich programming of CLAGS that ranges from humanities to the social sciences. I am honored to have worked aside Dr. Sheeren Inayatullah as Board Co-Chair and have every faith in our incoming board chairs. CLAGS will always be my intellectual home, even when I am thousands of miles away from the graduate center.

Yours truly,

Debanuj DasGupta
CLAGS Co-chair

Dear CLAGS Community,

It has been an honor to serve as co-chair of CLAGS for the 2017-2018 academic year. Throughout the year, CLAGS continued its commitment to centralizing, serving, and representing the intersectional experiences of LGBTQ+ communities and individuals. In my capacity as co-chair, I witnessed the ways in which our communities navigate an often unpredictable and destabilizing sociopolitical climate, and for me, working with and in these communities was transformative. It was simultaneously gratifying to take stock of and celebrate the victories won locally, nationally, and globally. CLAGS’s programming over the last year created space to reflect upon this duality—the struggles and triumphs faced by LGBTQ+ communities—and a range of realities that lie in between.

I would like to express deep gratitude to the board members and staff for their generosity and collaborative energy as Debanuj DasGupta and I familiarized ourselves with the co-chair responsibilities, while also supporting our new Executive Director, Justin Brown. On a personal note, I worked this year toward reaching underrepresented CUNY campuses in outer borough neighborhoods via CLAGS educational programming.

I envision a continuation of this effort as a way to bolster the kind of inclusivity that CLAGS holds as a core value.

Some of the highlights of the board members’ labor this year include a renewed effort to archive CLAGS artifacts with precision and purpose. This work has created opportunities to reflect on our past in ways that productively shape our goals for the future. Also with future goals in mind, board members generated innovative ideas for fundraising that centralize and showcase the artists, activists, and workers in our broader community. Although this work of planning and securing future activities is unending, we made significant strides toward sustaining low/no-cost programming, continuing to offer fellowships, and advancing the kinds of educational opportunities that foster vibrant learning communities.

As I reach the end of my one-year term as co-chair, I am moved and invigorated by the paradigm of affirmation within which CLAGS operates. For by acknowledging and affirming the material realities, accomplishments, challenges, and endeavors of LGBTQ+ communities, our collective struggles and achievements can be documented in the narratives we, ourselves, compose.

In solidarity,

Sheeren Inayatullah
CLAGS Co-chair

Debanuj DasGupta
CLAGS Co-chair
The Kessler Award

The Kessler award is given to a scholar who has, over a number of years, produced a substantive body of work that has had a significant influence on the field of LGBTQ Studies. The awardee, who is chosen by the CLAGS Board of Directors, receives a monetary award and gives CLAGS’ annual Kessler Lecture. No applications or nominations are accepted for the Kessler award.

Date: December 4th, 2017
Title: Queer Use
Recipient/Speaker: Sara Ahmed

Sara Ahmed’s Kessler Lecture, Queer Use, which took place on December 4th, 2017 examined the ways in which academic institutions impede diversity work through the use and misuse of employees, resources, and policies. Drawing from her recently published book, What’s the Use, Ahmed articulated use as a relation and an activity which often points beyond something, arguing that objects possess intrinsic use values. Ahmed offered direct actions the audience members could take toward altering their normative use-relation to academic, political, and social institutions in the status quo.

One way Sara addressed this issue was by outlining the biographical benefits of use: “a way of tending a story of things.” Ahmed explained the heuristic implications of use, as revealing the intended function of an object. Understanding this functionality elucidates the limitations of the used object. Ahmed advocated for the queering of use, which, ultimately, aims to understand the value of being unusable, reusable, or mis-usable. To illustrate her point, Ahmed offered heterosexuality as reflecting a form of intended functionality. In this instance, behavior is normalized through its repetitive use, while this normalized use is not its only one, deviant uses are rendered perverse (i.e. homosexuality). Furthermore, Ahmed offered a temporal dimension to use, arguing that through use an object is prescribed instructions about maintaining bodily and social boundaries.

Second, Ahmed explained how use-value is institutionalized within academic administrations through examining her own and other’s experience navigating, confronting, and reimagining diversity work within academia. Ahmed identified the dynamic of non-performativity at work as a critical mechanism through which administrations may elect to identify institutional problems without taking material action. This dynamic was epitomized in Ahmed’s experience negotiating the bureaucratic minutia while working on an equality and diversity committee. Ahmed described a social reality in which an institutional controversy arose over a minor discrepancy in a meeting’s recorded minutes, and a council member’s recalled experience, resulting in months of inaction. Because of this Ahmed likened the role of a diversity worker to that of an “institutional plumber,” arguing “[they] have to work out not only where something is blocked but how it is blocked.”

Furthermore, Ahmed explained how academic institutions privilege certain individuals through making use of selection. Academic institutions select employees who reflect their mission, establishing and reinforcing rigid criteria. Employees who deviate from these institutions preconceived stereotypes, cis-heteronormative, and economically privileged image are scripted as useless or as a hindrance to the functionality of the institution. As Ahmed explained, this creates an environment in which participation, complaining, or asking for help are deemed “disruptive.”

Third, and most importantly, Ahmed advocated for acts of queer vandalism, which she identified as the “the willful destruction of something that is venerable and beautiful.” Ahmed encouraged the audience to occupy unusable spaces, as to question what makes something functional. Ahmed located queer vandalism and use within acts of citation and scholarship, arguing that to queer use in an academic setting is to question and problematize how knowledge is produced and for whom it is produced. Ultimately, Ahmed’s nuanced and unique analysis of queer use revealed the seemingly mundane activities and spaces which can be sites for critical resistance.

The full lecture was live streamed and posted online.
Recipient of the 2017 Jose Muñoz Award, Patricia Cullors, on June 12th 2018, discussed before a panel the challenges and triumphs of the Black Lives Matter movement. The Jose Muñoz Award recognizes cultural icons that through their work serve as social activists to shed light upon LGBTQ and LGBTQ people of color. Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, touched on the practicality of intersectional politics, the relationship between social practice and art, as well as the physical and emotional toll of activism. Ultimately, Cullors advocated for a dynamic coalition comprised of the LGBTQ community, persons of color, and allies, each willing to acknowledge their individual privileges and engage in courageous conversations about their own identities. The dialogue began with Cullors sharing her experience as a queer woman of color, drawing a connection between the marginalization of her identity, and her willingness to engage in activism. When asked by CLAGS Executive Director, Justin T. Brown, about the centrality of queer individuals of color within freedom movement Black Lives Matter, Cullors again explicated the macro relationship between communities of color and the LGBTQ movement. Which is to say, as Cullors poignantly stated: “No one is free until black people are free.”

Furthermore, Cullors examined the increased normalization of white supremacy, homophobia, transmisogyny, and xenophobia experienced under the Trump administration. Cullors made a critical scalar distinction between national and local politics, encouraging audience members to contextualize local, grassroots politics and activism within the national politics climate. Cullors explained that critical inter-communal dialogues must be substantiated by constant vigilance and awareness of each group’s privilege. As she explained, raising awareness and representation may not be enough to combat the increasing erosion of marginalized communities.

Lastly, and most importantly, Cullors discussed the emotional deconstruction, physical stress, and celebratory joy resulting from organizing and activism. While Cullors conceded that she has felt like giving up, she believes that hope lies in the Black Lives Matter movement and its attendant organizations. Concluding, Cullors discussed the importance of self-care, joking that “[she] believes that everyone needs a therapist,” and that “Therapy should be a part of [her] reparative package.”

During the Q&A audience members asked Cullors about the challenges of inter-generational collaboration between activists, the role of white allies within the Black Lives Matter, and the role of pedagogical approaches to social change. More specifically, several audience members asked Cullors how broader policy changes could be implemented within the increasingly segregated and unfunded public education system. Cullors responded by advocating for an increase of people of color in an administrative and executive level, as well as encouraging teachers to raise critical questions, and have tough conversations within the classroom surrounding issues of racism, homophobia, and classism.
Events

Throughout the 2017-2018 academic year, CLAGS sponsored multiple events centered around pedagogical approaches to queer studies, queer praxis and colonial politics, and academic implications of women’s gender and sexuality studies. Events like Queer Pedagogies Initiative, Queering LGBT Studies in Curriculum Development and Program Design, and Poor Queer Studies Mothers approached various aspects of queer education and teaching.

CLAGS’ Queer Pedagogies initiative, led by Maria R. Scharron-del Río, Kale Westering, and Stephanie Hsu, attempted to address ways in which educators at all levels of education can create LGBTQ+ spaces within educational institutions. Sharing resources, experience, and formal instruction, this event was co-sponsored by the Futures Initiative.

CLAGS also sponsored a panel on Queering LGBT Studies in Curriculum Development and Program Design, which focused on program sustainability, institutionalization, faculty labor issues, and the promise of what Matt Brimm calls “poor queer studies,” or creating pedagogies at working-poor and working-class institutions of higher education. This event was directly followed by Brimm’s talk, “Poor Queer Studies Mothers,” in which he addressed the urgent problem of class stratification in higher education through the lens of a specific academic formation: queer studies. Both events were centered around the central question of how the field of queer studies can be a site of intervention for redistributing resources and advancing “epistemic equality” in the academy.

Shifting the focus to international politics and human rights discourse, the Center hosted “Queer/Trans/National Adoption Politics: An Adoptee Roundtable” and “Sexing India: Hindutva, LGBTIQ Rights, and Global Philanthropy.” Led by writer, activist, and adoptee Liz Latty, “Queer/Trans/National Adoption Politics” shifted the focus of adoption narratives from the voices of adoptive parents and non-adopted professionals to queer and trans adoptees. Along with M. Campbell, Amandine Gay, and Tara Linh, this event discussed how queer and trans adoptees can destabilize, expand, and situate the “right to parent” narrative within a larger human rights framework.

“Sexing India,” led by a panel of various scholars and activists, examined the transgender identity as a legally and medically institutionalized concept in relation to the rise of Hindu Nationalism. The panel highlighted the importance of establishing transnational LGBTQ+ coalitions.

“What Would an HIV Doula Do” aimed to increase the awareness surrounding the AIDS crisis. Described as a community collective of artists, activists, academics, chaplains, doula, health care practitioners, nurses, and filmmakers, “What Would the HIV Doula Do” partnered with CLAGS to host a participatory workshop about how to honor, support, and activate transitions in personal health and the political climate through the lens of the AIDS crisis. Using video, writing prompts, and group discussions, the collective members and Ted Kerr explored current realities for people living with HIV, those deeply impacted, and those who wish to be more involved.

CLAGS sponsored several film screenings, including Guo with Eduardo Velaquez and Roksana Filopowska, Madam Secretary with Sara Ramirez, and Out in the Night. Guo, set in Buenos Aires, explored the realities of transgender and racial identity through the story of Luisa, a Caribbean immigrant: and “shy boy with a profound love for Catherine Denueve.” The film was directly followed by a discussion with the director, Eduardo Velaquez, and art history scholar, Roksana Filopowska. CLAGS partnered with the Human Rights Commission and OutRight Action International to screen Madam Secretary and discuss the ongoing persecution of LGBTQ+ people globally, as well as what organizations and individuals are doing to engage with this issue and support LGBTQ+ communities abroad. Finally, Out in the Night, a documentary by Blair Dorosh-Woloff, examined the 2006 case of the New Jersey 4, a group of four young African-American lesbians who were violently and sexually threatened by a man on the street. The documentary addressed how race, gender, and sexuality is criminalized.

CLAGS sponsored staged readings like O, Earth!, a play by Casey Llewellyn, which zeroes “horton wilder’s Our Town to a contemporary LGBTQ context, asking who lives (and dies) in “our towns and what queer legacies we hope to leave on this earth. In collaboration with the student organization GLASS (Gender, Love, and Sexuality Studies) at Baruch, CLAGS performed O, Earth! Similarly, “Queer Performance Legacies: Charles Ludlam Lives” examined the impact of Ludlam’s playwriting on contemporary queer performance in New York City.

CLAGS 2017-2018 Visiting Scholar, Emily Paine’s talk explored what keeps LGBTQ+ people from accessing health care in light of sexual, gender and racial identities. Paine’s lecture was based on the premise that LGBTQ+ people seek healthcare less often than their straight peers and report more unmet health care needs. Moreover, care-seeking patterns among LGBTQ people are reversed from those in the general population: cis straight women are more likely to access healthcare compared to cis straight men, but cis LGQ+ women are less likely to seek care compared to cis GBQ+ men. Among trans people, however, the pattern again reverses: trans men are less likely to seek care than trans women.

Events like “Hip Hop Heresies: Queer Aesthetics in New York City” and “Flamenco Rosado: Gender and Sexual Identity in Flamenco” explored the performative and culturally queer aspects of hip hop and flamenco. “Hip Hop Heresies,” led by Shante Paradigm, proposes new ways to think about the “authentic” hip hop body and the ways hip hop artists, DJs, rappers, and filmmakers deploy New York City and its specific artistic, racial, gender, and sexual populations and traditions to remake hip hop meaning and doing. “Flamenco Rosado” offered a performance and discussion led by Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana company. The event tackled queerness within this art form originating from disenfranchised communities in Spain including the Moors, Sephardic Jews, African slaves, and Gypsies.

CLAGS also hosted The Kessler Award event which is given annually to a scholar who has, over the course of their career, produced a substantive body of work that has made a significant impact on the field of LGBTQ Studies. CLAGS presented Sara Ahmed as the 2017 Kessler Award recipient for her critical examinations of feminist theory, queer studies, cultural pedagogy, and their intersections. Sara Ahmed’s Kessler Lecture, “Queer Use,” examined the ways in which academic institutions impede diversity work through the use and misuse of employees, resources, and policies. Drawing from her recently published book, What’s the Use, Ahmed articulated use as a relation and an activity which often points beyond something, arguing that objects possess intrinsic use values. Ahmed offered direct actions the audience members could take toward altering their normative use-relation to academic, political, and social institutions in the status quo.

CLAGS concluded the 2017-2018 academic year with the annual José Esteban Muñoz Award, awarding Black Lives Matter co-founder, Patrice Collors. Collors and CLAGS Executive Director Justin Brown discussed the challenges facing the Black Lives Matter movement in the current political climate, the relationship between Collors’ art and activism, and the need for an intersectional approach to activism.
CUNY Digital History Archive

By Christopher Morabito

Over the past academic year, I have worked for the CUNY Digital History Archive, making a collection about the history of CLAGS. The CUNY Digital History Archive, CDHA, is an online repository for archival material related to the history of CUNY that is then organized into collections pertaining to specific topics. I was brought on to this project by former CLAGS employee Yana Calu, who had originally pitched the idea of a CLAGS collection to the CDHA, but had to step down from the project because they got a new job.

In order to create this collection, I had to first learn the history of CLAGS and decide what items to feature. I did this by spending time in the CLAGS archive, going through forgotten files and reading about past events. I then selected a number of items — including posters, fliers, vices, letters, internal documents, and memos. Each of these items was then digitized and accompanied with a short explanation of the item and its significance. The collection also contains a short history of CLAGS to encompass all of the items.

Creating this collection was a truly educational and rewarding experience. I learned a great deal about not only the history of CLAGS, but also about the history of the LGBTQ movement within both academia and the larger society. One of the most interesting parts of this experience has been digitizing VHS tapes of old lectures that have become all but forgotten. These videos include Kessler Lectures by prominent queer scholars such as Eve Sedgwick and Judith Butler and early panels like “The Nation and the Closet,” now available for all to see on the CLAGS YouTube channel.

If I have learned one thing while creating this collection, it is that CLAGS was and continues to be an institution that defines the field of LGBTQ studies. This CDHA collection serves an important role in bringing this history into the light. I’m hopeful that the collection will be a resource for many. The collection is currently in the final rounds of edits, but once it is live it can be reached on cdha.cuny.edu.

Christopher Morabito is an English doctoral student at the Graduate Center, CUNY. He is interested in researching literary representations of queer adolescence with an emphasis on identity formation and rationality. He received his bachelor’s degree from the College of Staten Island, CUNY, where he will be teaching starting this fall.

Report from the CLAGS Archive Committee

By Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz

The CLAGS Archive Committee has engaged in large-scale and collection based assessment in the 2017-2018 academic year. The CLAGS Archive has been hard at work on multiple fronts:

Access to online audiences
In Spring 2018, CLAGS chose select items, documents, records, images and videos to be digitized and become part of the Archivo Yeguas del Apocalipsis (AYA), with the purpose of putting them in value, safeguard and access to researchers, students and the general public. To support preservation tasks, including the execution of digital copies and transfer to updated formats, as well as the physical printing of copies of all documents and records, access will be made through the following public institutions: Library of the Municipality of Concepcion, Library of the Museum of Fine Arts of Santiago, the National Archive of Chile and the Museum of Lima (MALI) Peru and through Gallery D21.

CUNY Digital History Archive (CDHA) has reserved a spot on its site to include a subset of the CLAGS archive with the support of Christopher Morabito, a doctoral student here at the Graduate Center, employed via the CDHA to process the CLAGS collection.

CLAGS News processing
A call for interns was put out in the Spring 2018 for a ten-week internship which was inhabited by Marybeth Coscia-Weiss and Caroline Jedlicka, both students of Queens College Masters of Library and Information Studies program. Caroline and Marybeth laid the groundwork to determine the authors of CLAGSNews articles in order to gather permissions for upload into the CUNY Academic Works Institutional Repository. This work was the precursor to the GC Library receipt of the CLAGSNews digital archive. Additionally, the GC Library will hold an exhibition in its display cases to commemorate the receipt of this digital collection.

General processing, outreach, and development
An aim to secure a vendor for large scale digitization; follow-up with the uncovering of the IRN Archive; continued correspondence with any interest in use of the CLAGS Archive; conversations surrounding past Kessler lectures and any potential publishing contracts; establishment of potential relationships with outside organizations within and outside of CUNY as it pertains to CLAGS Archives, such as with LaGuardia Community College Archive projects for CUNY-wide queer archives.

The goal for the efforts relating to the CLAGS Archive is to adequately quantify what exists within the collections, to find repositories for which the material may become accessible to a wider public, and additionally to allow for easeful solicitation, with a readiness for use, research, and exhibition.
Roberto Tondopó studied photography at the Contemporary Photography Seminar in Centro de la Imagen. Currently, he is pursuing a master’s degree in Visual Arts in the postgraduate program of Arts and Design at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

Tondopó has received grants and prizes including the prestigioù Grant Young Creators (in 2011 and 2009) and the National System of Art Creators of His Country (2014-2007). He was also awarded the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize in London (2017). He was chosen for the 2011 Photographic Essay to represent Mexico. He received Honorable Mention in the Grant Fototúria (2014), was a finalist for the Roberto Villanueva award (2013) in Spain, and won the Tamany Fellowship in NY (2011); he was also a finalist in the Magnum Foundation Emergency Fund Grant (2012).

Tondopó received the Robert Gloar Foundation Fellowship (2018). He has been featured in various exhibitions worldwide.

His book Casa de la Tortu was published by La Fábrica in 2015. Roberto Tondopó’s work is part of the Collection of Bank of America, Televisa Foundation, and the Centro de la Imagen, among other public and private collections.

Margaret Wolff, MPH, MSW is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies at Columbia University and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Her research focuses on sexual behavior associated with HIV and other STI transmission and substance use among sexual minority populations. Her research examines the associations between substance abuse, HIV-related sexual risk behaviors, and sexual orientation within the context of sexual minority stress and how these associations may differ depending on how sexual orientation is measured (e.g., in terms of sexual identity, behavior, and/or attraction). She is especially interested in using research findings to develop and implement tailored substance abuse and sexual health services for sexual minorities with an ultimate focus on queer and other sexual minority women.

Dr. Wolff completed her doctorate in Public Health at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy in 2017 and her Masters in Social Work at the Columbia School of Social Work in 2010.

Rachel Coleman is a doctoral candidate in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Stony Brook University. Her research interests center on the history of U.S. social movements, LGBTQI+ and feminist activism, and the relationship between social movements and the formation of interdisciplinary fields of study. Her dissertation, “Confederating on the Edge: A Queer History of Feminist Field Formations,” traces the institutional and intellectual history of U.S. feminist and queer field formation, spanning the institutionalization of the first women’s studies programs in the 1970s and the development of gay and lesbian studies in the late 1980s. In addition to her work as a scholar and teacher, she is the coordinating committee of the Lesbian History Archives, the oldest and largest lesbian historical collection in the world.

Javier Fernández Galínxes is a History PhD candidate at Brown University. His dissertation explores how state authorities, scientific experts, and sexual nonconformists battled over the meanings of male homosexuality in Argentina and Spain between the 1960s and 1980s. He has a BA in History and a BA in Anthropology—both cum laude—from the Universidad Complutense. He received a RA in historical studies from The New School, where he studied as a Fulbright scholar. In 2018-2019, he will be a Mellon/UCL Fellow. He has published in the Journal of the History of Sexuality and has a forthcoming article in JLAB.

LeiLei Dowell is a Presidential MAGNIT Fellow and Ph.D. candidate in English at the City University of New York Graduate Center. She is interested in issues of granularity and power in relation to “human rights” discourses. Her current work examines US. carceral logics through the case of the New Jersey Four, a group of Black lesbian and gender nonconforming people imprisoned for defending themselves against an attack in New York’s Greenwich Village in 2006 against an attack in New York’s Greenwich Village in 2006.
CLAGS FELLOWSHIP

Graduate Student Paper Award-$250
Each year, CLAGS sponsors a student paper competition open to all graduate students enrolled in the CUNY system. A cash prize is awarded to the best paper written in a CUNY graduate class on any topic related to gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, or transgender experiences. Papers should be between 15 and 50 pages and of publishable quality.

Undergraduate Student Paper Award-$250
Each year, CLAGS sponsors a student paper competition open to all undergraduate students enrolled in the CUNY or SUNY system. A cash prize is awarded to the best paper written in a CUNY or SUNY undergraduate class on any topic related to gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, or transgender experiences and scholarship. Essays should be between 12 and 30 pages, well thought-out, and fully realized.

Student Travel Award-$250
Each year, CLAGS sponsors two student travel awards open to all graduate students enrolled in the CUNY system. A cash prize is awarded to student presenting subject matter that addresses gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, or transgender issues in their respective field. Presentations can be for conferences held in the U.S. or abroad.

CLAGS Fellowship Award-$2,500
An award to be given annually for a graduate student, an academic, or an independent scholar for work on a dissertation, a first book manuscript, or a second book manuscript. The CLAGS Fellowship is open to intellectuals contributing to the field of LGBTQ studies. Intended to give the scholar the most help possible in furthering their work, the fellowship will be able to be used for research, travel, or writing support. Adjudicated by the CLAGS fellows' committee.

Paul Monette-Roger Horwitz Dissertation Prize-$1,000
This award, which honors the memories of Monette, a poet and author, and his partner, Horwitz, an attorney, will be given for the best dissertation in LGBTQ Studies, broadly defined, by a PhD candidate within the City University of New York system. The dissertation should have been defended in the previous year. Adjudicated by the CLAGS fellows' committee.

Sylvia Rivera Award in Transgender Studies-$1,000
This award, which honors the memory of Rivera, a transgender activist, will be given to the best book or article to appear in transgender studies this past year (2017). Applications may be submitted by the author of the work or by nomination (the application requirements are the same for each; see below). Adjudicated by the CLAGS fellows' committee.

The Duberman-Zal Fellowship-$2,500
An endowed fellowship named for CLAGS founder and first executive director, Martin Duberman, and partner, Eli Zal, this fellowship is awarded to a graduate student, an independent scholar, or an adjunct from any country doing scholarly research on the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer (LGBTQ) experience.

The Robert Giard Fellowship-$2,500
An annual award named for Robert Giard, a portrait, landscape, and figure photographer whose work often focused on LGBTQ lives and issues, this award is presented to an emerging or mid-career artist, from any country, working in photography, photo-based media, or moving image, including experimental, narrative, or documentary forms of these media. The award now alternates annually between artists working with still image (photography) and those working with moving image (video or film). This year’s award is for still images.” This award will support the development or completion of a project, one that is new or continuing, that addresses issues of sexuality, gender, or LGBTQ identity. The Foundation is receptive to a variety of projects and approaches to these topics.

For more information about these and any additional fellowships and awards that we offer, please visit: http://clags.org/fellowships-and-awards/3/

Report on the Carpenter Fund - An Endowment for LGBT Library Books by Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz

Ivor Kraft, who supported LGBTQ collection building (clags.org) at the Graduate Center Library, died September 26, 2017 in Hawaii. He was 93 years old. Mr. Kraft’s gifts strengthened the ties between the Graduate Center Library, and CLAGS through a generous endowment which has funded for many years the sustained acquisition of LGBTQ related monographs, films, and other resources for GC students and the wider CUNY community. He endowed similar library collections at Sacramento State (library.csus.edu) and the New York Public Library (nypl.org), and he maintained several other charitable interests. Ivor Kraft lived modestly and pointedly refused recognition or fanfare. He lavished attention on others who were in service of shared goals, in gestures that betrayed his knack for celebration. CLAGS and Library staff reveled in Mr. Kraft’s holiday gift boxes filled with hand-made cards, booklets, banners, hats, macadamia nuts, candies -- delicious treats and embellishments for the office.

Ivor Kraft was a professor of social work at California State University, Sacramento. In retirement, he was a volunteer docent at the Honolulu Museum of Art. He mastered the Honolulu Museum of Art's Kamishibai tour, invoking the craft of the post-war Japanese itinerate news and story tellers he described. He enjoyed the camaraderie of close friends in Honolulu.

Kraft directed an additional amount to CLAGS upon his death, supplementing the library’s endowment. Both the Library and CLAGS are grateful for his support and goodwill.
Christopher Morabito is an English doctoral student at the Graduate Center, CUNY. He is interested in researching literary representations of queer adolescence with an emphasis on identity formation and rationality. He received his bachelor's degree from the College of Staten Island, CUNY, where he will be teaching this fall.

Sergio M Ozoria is a college student at Bronx Community College. Ozoria’s preferred gender pronouns are he/him/his/him. Ozoria will be graduating this Fall 2017 with an associate’s degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences. Ozoria is planning to transfer to NYU Steinhardt to get his/her bachelor’s degree in Applied Psychology and planning to get his/her PhD in Physical Therapy. Ozoria is interning at CLAGS this Fall 2017 in an Event and Marketing Internship.

Marybeth Coscia-Weiss is a graduate of Brooklyn College with a Master’s in Musicology and Adelphi University with a Bachelor’s in Music Performance. She is currently enrolled in the MLIS program at Queens College and works for the music publisher C.F. Peters Corporation. She wishes to pursue Music Librarianship or Academic Librarianship with a concentration in archives. Her research interests include YA LGBT literature, Queer Composers, and Music in 1918-1945 Germany.

Experience at CLAGS:

“My experience as the archival intern for CLAGS was really awesome. As a full time employee, it is extremely hard to find flexible internship opportunities, especially in areas of my interests. With the opportunity that CLAGS presented, I was able to gain on-site experience of archival procedures, see behind the scenes of the academic library and assist in curating an exhibit in the Graduate Center Library. Overall, it was a rewarding experience both academically and socially as I was able to steep myself in the history of CLAGS.”

Patrick Buzzelli is a graduate from LIU Brooklyn with a Masters in Education, concentration in adolescent special education. Patrick is currently a PhD student in the Urban Education Program at CUNY Graduate Center, with a focus on policy and leadership. His previous experiences have included work as a NYC public high school special educator, Gay/Straight Alliance facilitator, and volunteer work with LGBTQIA+ nonprofits. He is looking forward to teaching at a CUNY Institute and having the opportunity to advocate for LGBTQIA+ youth as part of his research and field work.

Carrie Jedlicka is a student in the Master of Library Science program at Queens College where she is pursuing a Certificate in Archives and Preservation of Cultural Materials. Carrie also interned at the Leo Baek Institute, and she has been awarded a fellowship for 2019 with Citi Center for Culture + Queens Library. Formerly, Carrie was a social worker, most recently working with adolescents in the Juvenile Justice system. Carrie feels fortunate to have the privilege of helping preserve the important scholarship of CLAGS.

Experience at CLAGS:

The experience of working in the CLAGS Archive has enriched my studies in library science. I have learned a great deal under the supervision of Shawna Smith-Cruz as we navigate the process of preparing issues of CLAGS NEWS for the CUNY institutional repository and plan an exhibit of CLAGS NEWS and ephemera in the Graduate Center Library.

Adric Tenuta is a rising Junior at Emory University. He studies English, creative writing, and women’s gender and sexuality studies. His research interests are in the work of E. Hemphill, trans poetics, and postcolonial theory.

CLAGS offers semester or year-long internships for students and individuals interested in receiving experience working for an LGBTQ research center devoted to the dissemination and support of LGBTQ research, culture, and activism. Some areas of our internship programs include: Admin & Finance, Digital Media, Membership, Fellowships & Awards, and Events. Our internship program provides individuals with an opportunity to assist the CLAGS staff in work that is integral to our success and mission, such as helping with administrative work around the office and assisting with the planning and attendance of our events and conferences. All intern and volunteer positions are unpaid, but offer school credit. In the past, interns have used their experience at CLAGS to fulfill program requirements or to satisfy course work in their academic discipline. If you are interested in interning with CLAGS, please take a look at our website for complete information at: http://clags.org/support/intern-volunteer-at-clags/
Visiting Scholar

Mission Statement
The CLAGS Residency Fellowship Program assists scholars and professionals whose research on the LGBTQ experience can benefit from access to CLAGS's resources and its location in midtown Manhattan at the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

The Scholars-in-Residence Program is designed to (1) encourage research and writing on the history, literature and culture of the LGBTQ community or other dynamic projects relating to the LGBTQ experience, broadly conceived; (2) to promote and facilitate interaction among the participants including fellows funded by other sources; (3) to facilitate the dissemination of the researcher's findings through lectures via CLAGS's ongoing Events Series.

Application Requirements
- Cover Letter including name, contact information (mailing address, email, phone), the title of your proposed study, the names of your recommenders, and the fellowship you are applying for.
- A 1500 word description of the proposed study
- Curriculum vitae
- Two letters of reference

Deadline
CLAGS Scholar in Residence Fellowships are offered annually with up to two awarded each calendar year. Applications should be submitted no later than July 1st for a September start date and November 1st for a January start date.

More information regarding application guidelines can be found on the CLAGS’ website:
http://clags.org/scholar-in-residence-fellowship/

Di Wang is a feminist researcher and advocate from China. She is a PhD candidate of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin Madison, with a focus on LGBTQ rights, legal mobilization and social policy. Her research has been informed by her ten-year experience as a women’s and LGBTQ rights advocate. Using family as a focal point, her dissertation investigates the globalisation of LGBTQ rights with an empirical focus on two powerful states: China and the United States. Her work is committed to research-based advocacy and the advancement of analytical tools for social change. She has worked on projects that evaluate the impact of law on women’s and LGBTQ rights in China and in the U.S. with organizations like Open Society Foundations, PI Net, Gender Equality Advocacy and Action Network (GEAAN) and the University of Wisconsin Law School.

CLAGS DONORS

President’s Circle - $500+
Louise Polans
Sarah Chinn & Kris Franklin
Katherine M. Frankoe & Janitor Goldman
Sel Hwang
David Kessler
Joseph Witricks Jr. & Stuart Curran

Dean’s List - $250-499
John McDonald
Rob Byrnes
David Rivera
Hans Hirsch
Michael Yarborough
Polly Kluselhwaite

Honor Roll - $100-249
Regina Kunzel
Stephanie Hsu
Alexis Nelson
Linda Camarossa
George Lam
Amelia Paulin
Sydney Garcia
Nancy Polikoff
Rob Byrnes
Hugh Ryan
David Eng
Christoph Farmer
Christoph Thomas
Kevin Bogart
Melissa Burton
Michelle Alamillo
William Cohen
Lindsey Meier
Hermann Haller
Heather Love
David Caron
Tye Gregory
Louis Kaplan
Burt Lazarin
Andrew Macphail
C. Richard Mathews
Arthur Spears
Thomas Speer
Marc Stein & Jorge Oliveras
Randolph Trumbach

Institutional Support and Foundations
The Graduate Center, CUNY
The Robert Giard Foundation
Annie E. Casey Foundation
The CUNY Diversity Project Development Fund
Each year, CLAGS’ work is made possible by the generosity of our supporters. We receive support not only from our volunteer Board of Directors, but also from foundations, corporate supporters, and from individual members. While the Graduate Center, CUNY provides us with office space, our general operating costs still exist and are funded primarily from individual donors and memberships. Indeed, CLAGS’s membership program is vital to our sustenance: it not only provides our organization with unrestricted funds that let us prioritize the most cutting edge and greatly needed programs, it also uses for the vital but less glamorous aspects of our work: stipends for our speakers, postage, student fellowships, staff support and even the paper and office supplies that we need to keep things running smoothly.

To become a member, you can make a secure donation online through Network for Good (https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1434076)
MEET THE STAFF

Justin T. Brown - Executive Director

Justin T. Brown Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Health Sciences at LaGuardia Community College, CUNY where his teaching primarily centers on courses in public health and human services. Dr. Brown's background mainly resides in the areas of program development and intervention evaluation. His collaborative research focuses on addressing health inequities among persons of color, LGBTQ youth, and those populations at the intersection through asset-based approaches. Prior to CLAGS, Dr. Brown was the Deputy Director of the CUNY Institute for Health Equity and worked for several years running one of the only national social service agencies dedicated exclusively to working with LGBTQ youth of color. Brown completed his doctoral training with a health concentration in the Critical Social-Personality Psychology program at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Contact:
Phone: (212)-817-1956

Jasmina Sinanović - Director of Finance and Development

Jasmina Sinanović teaches at the Communications, Arts and Sciences Department at the Bronx Community College and Anthropology, Gender Studies and International Studies Department at the City College by day and is a performing/theatre artist by night. Their research interests are in queer, performance and postcolonial theory as well as the study of the idea of Balkanism. She holds an M.F.A. in Drameturgy from Stony Brook University and M.A. in Theatre from CUNY.

Contact:
Phone: (212)-817-1957

Yana Calou - Events & Programs Manager

Yana Calou is a genderqueer Brazilian-American writer, artist, and media activist on economic, racial and gender justice issues. Yana is Lambda and VONA Voices fellow, and has performed at the Pop-up Museum of Queer History, La MaMa Dixon Place, and BAX. They study queer theory and literature at the CUNY Graduate Center, and have led communications and programming for the Retail Action Project, Queer Survival Economies, the Utah Pride Center, GLAMD, Planned Parenthood, and the Women's Media Center.

Contact:
Phone: (212)-817-1958