COLUMBIA | SOCIAL DIFFERENCE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL DIFFERENCE WOMEN CREATING CHANGE

WHAT WE CAN DO WHEN THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE

STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE

FEATURING

Lila ABU-LUGHOD, Ayşe Gül ALTINAY, Sama ALSHAIBI,
Carol BECKER, Judith BUTLER, Sarah COLE,
María José CONTRERAS, Ricardo DOMINGUEZ, Noura ERAKAT,
Masha GESSEN, Farah Jasmine GRIFFIN, Bernard HARCOURT,
Saldiya HARTMAN, Marianne HIRSCH, Jean HOWARD,

SEPTEMBER 28, 2018 9:30AM-7:30PM

Lyndsov STONESDIDGE, Diana TAYLOR, Xeeanna-Yamahtta TAYLOR



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

COLUMBIA | SOCIAL DIFFERENCE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL DIFFERENCE

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The Center for The Study of Social Difference is an interdisciplinary research center supporting collaborative projects that address gender, race, sexuality, and other forms of inequality to foster ethical and progressive social change.

The Center's work has two overarching research themes, Women Creating Change and Imagining Justice.

STAFF



MARIANNE HIRSCH
DIRECTOR



CATHERINE LASOTA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MEERA ANANTH
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS



AYAH ELDOSOUGI
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

KEVIN WINDHAUSER English and Comparative Literature Columbia University GRADUATE ASSISTANT

LIZA MCINTOSH English and Comparative Literature Columbia University ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION GRADUATE FELLOW

2018-19 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lila ABU-LUGHOD Jack HALBERSTAM Frances NEGRÓN-MUNTANER

Rachel ADAMS Marianne HIRSCH Anupama RAO

Christina HEATHERTON Jean HOWARD Victoria ROSNER

Eileen GILLOOLY Laura KURGAN Paige WEST

Catherine LASOTA Claudio LOMNITZ Inga WINKLER

DIRECTORS' LETTER

This has been a year of milestones and new beginnings at the Center for the Study of Social Difference and Women Creating Change. We began the year with our anniversary events, telling women's stories and celebrating active interventions, large and small - what we can do when it seems like there's nothing to be done. And we ended by preparing to launch five new projects, bringing together working groups from Columbia and elsewhere to focus on women's heart disease awareness, migrant personhood and rights, transnational Black feminisms, and more.

As U.S. political life and public discourse become increasingly polarized and contentious, sinking to unimaginable depths, and as autocracies around the globe threaten freedom and democracy, our work of imagining justice and creating change is increasingly urgent. But it is not just the topics we engage and the publications and transformations they engender that nourish us as academics: it is also our way of working together. Collaborating across disciplines, geographies and generations as academics, artists, activists, and practitioners; meeting in New York, Amman, Paris, Rio, Istanbul, Port Moresby, Mexico City and Madrid; publishing books and organizing conferences and workshops that advance knowledge; bringing collaborative research to our teaching and developing new pedagogies— all these enable us to imagine moving forward even as our world seems to be retrenching.

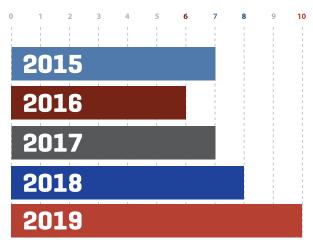
As you peruse this report on our 11th year, I invite you to join the circles of collaborative work we have been building at the Center. Bring us your ideas, your energies and your enthusiasm.

I now conclude my directorship of the Center but not my commitment to its mission and participation in its projects. I am enormously grateful for the creative engagement of our fellows and Executive Committee, the generosity of our partners and supporters across the globe, and the great work of our staff. It's been a privilege for me to be building the Center in your company. With great pleasure and anticipation, I welcome Paige West to the CSSD directorship.

MARIANNE HIRSCH

William Peterfield Trent Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Columbia University

NUMBER OF ACTIVE PROJECTS



67% increase in CSSD-supported working groups from 2016 to 2019.

CUTTING ACROSS DISCIPLINES

We're collaborating with over 16 Columbia Schools/Units on projects and content.



PHOTO CREDIT: Eileen Barroso, Columbia Office of University Publications.

- Columbia Law School
- School of Journalism
- Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Columbia University Libraries
- School of General Studies
- School of International and Public Affairs
- Columbia Business School

- Columbia College
- Barnard College
- Mailman School of Public Health
- Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
- School of the Arts
- Columbia Global Centers

TURNING IDEAS INTO IMPACT: HOW WE DO IT



BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS



PUBLIC EVENTS AND WORKING GROUPS



WITH COMMUNITIES



CREATING NEW
ACADEMIC COURSES



INFLUENCING POLICY

OUR WORK: BY THE NUMBERS

3 YEARS

DURATION OF OUR PROJECTS

\$75,000

AVERAGE PROJECT COST

40+

PUBLIC EVENTS EACH YEAR



OUR WORK SPANS

8 WORLD REGIONS AND OVER 28 COUNTRIES

WHAT WE CAN DO WHEN THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE COLUMBIA | SOCIAL DIFFERENCE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL DIFFERENCE An Anniversary Celebration

STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE







2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

WOMEN CREATING CHANGE

Women Creating Change, celebrating its sixth year in 2019, engages distinguished feminist scholars from diverse fields throughout Columbia University. With project partnerships across departments and schools, WCC focuses on contemporary global problems affecting women and on the roles women play in addressing these problems.

ACTIVE WORKING GROUPS IN 2018-2019:

Geographies of Injustice: Gender and the City

Menstrual Health and Gender Justice

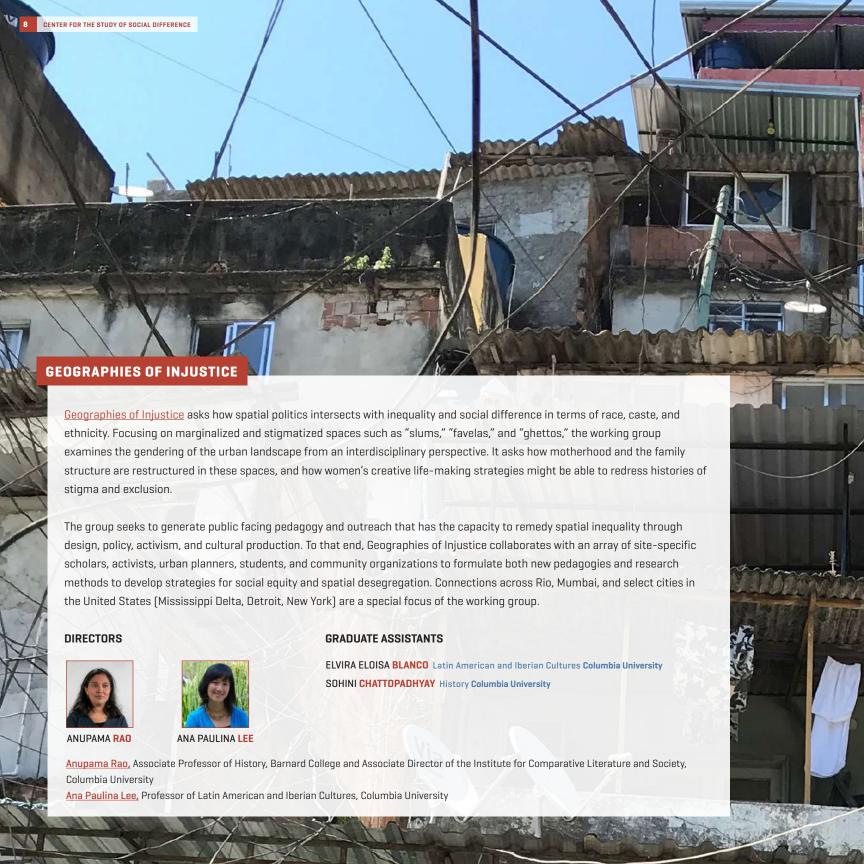
On the Frontlines: Nursing Leadership in Pandemics
Religion and the Global Framing of Gender Violence

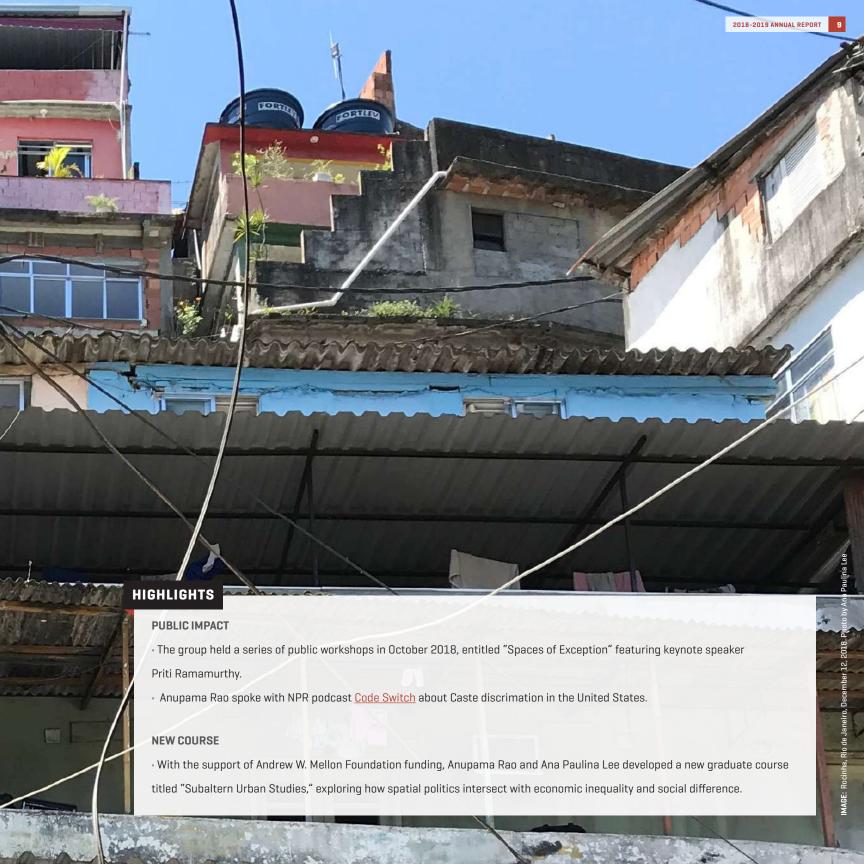
Reframing Gendered Violence

NEW WORKING GROUPS LAUNCHING IN 2019:

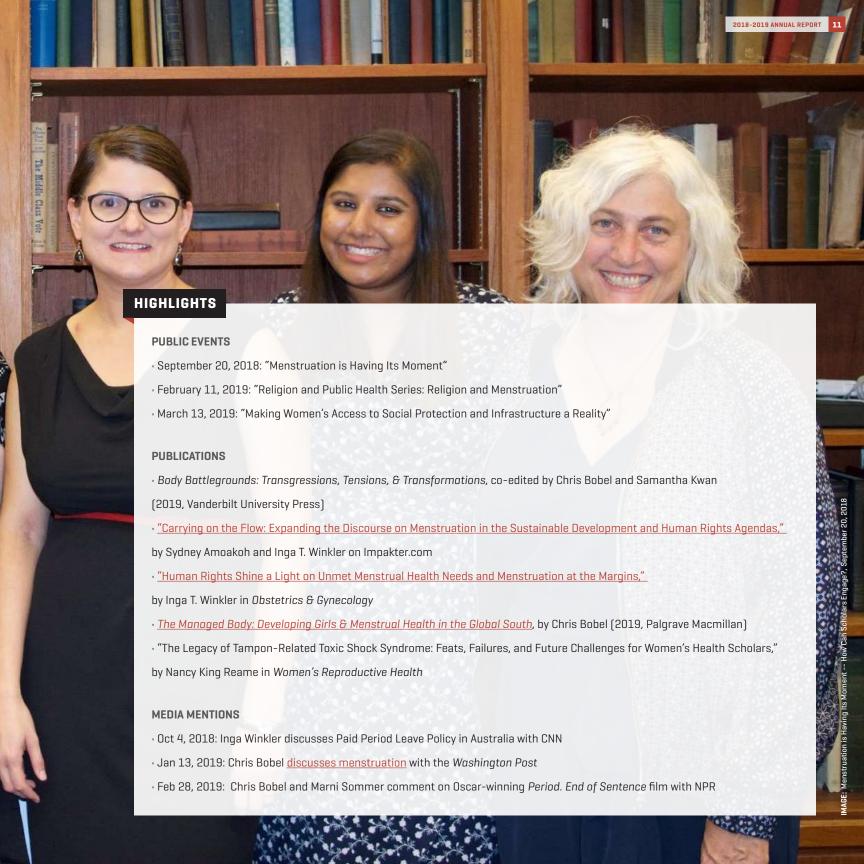
Transnational Black Feminisms

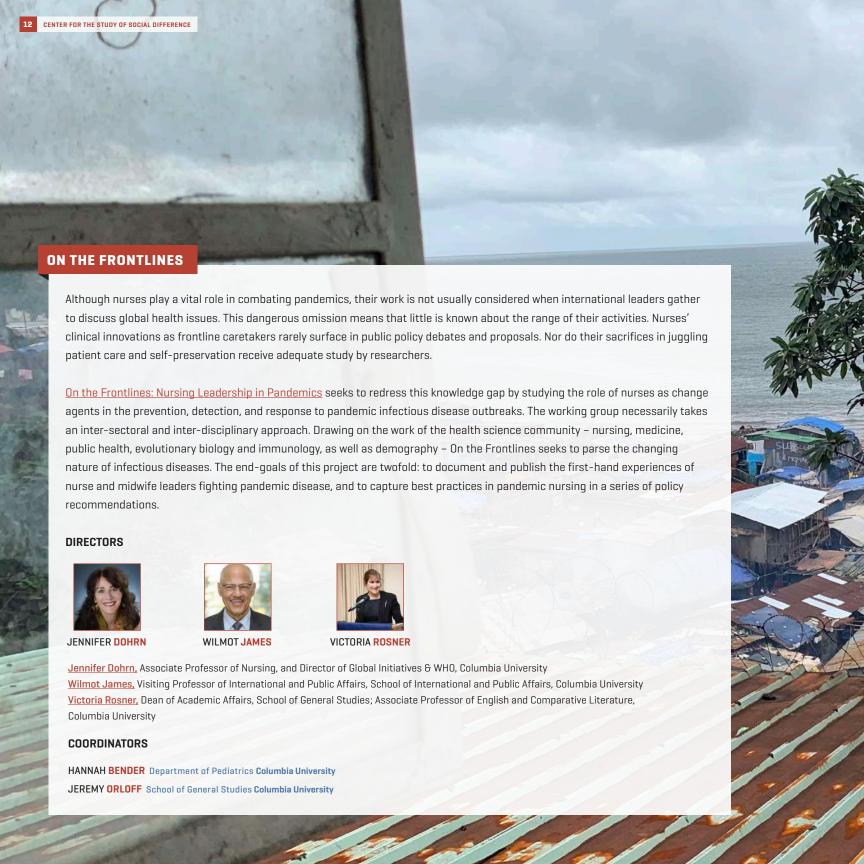
Women's Heart Disease Awareness: Digital Intervention, Creating Change



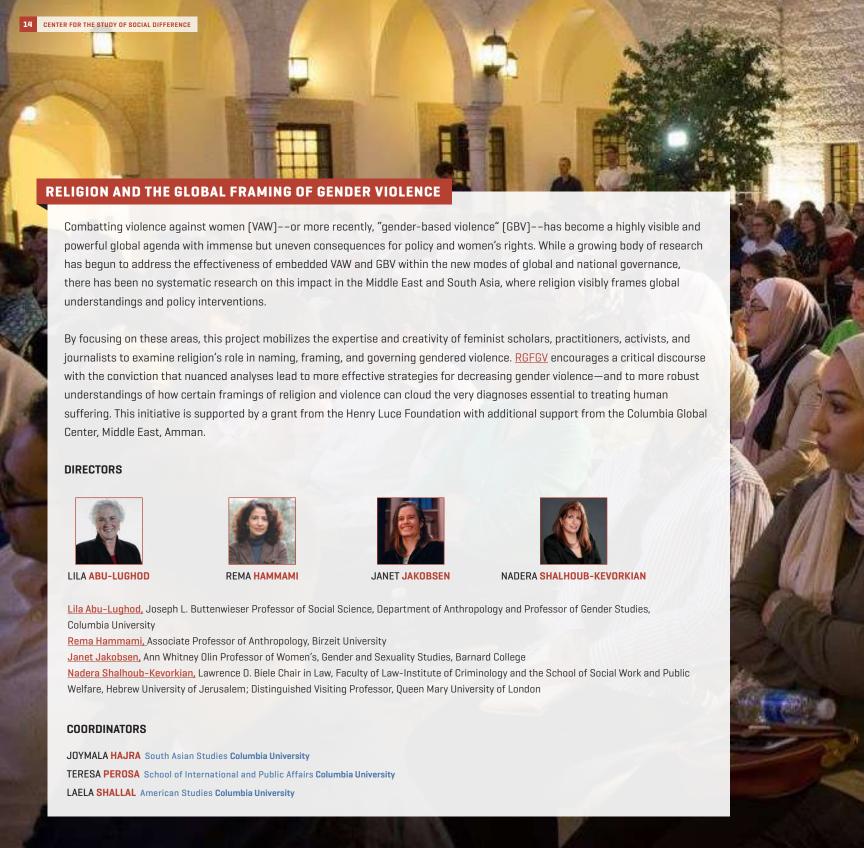














2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLICATIONS BY RGFGV FELLOWS

HIGHLIGHTS

- · <u>"Men in Pakistan are Blackmailing Women on Facebook"</u> by Samira Shackle on *Elle UK*
- · "On their Own Terms: Syrian Women in Turkey Seek to Define Their Independence" by Maryam Saleh on The Intercept
- · "Foreign Charities and Sexual Exploitation" by Dr. Senila Khoja-Moolhi in The Express Tribune
- · "Follow the Numbers: Global Governmentality and the Violence Against Women Agenda in Occupied Palestine" by Rema Hammami in *Governance Feminism:* Notes from the Field, edited by Janet Halley, also an RGFGV fellow

GLOBAL AND DOMESTIC IMPACT

- · RGFGV held two well-attended public events: "Whose Feminism? Critical Perspectives on Gender and Security Policy" in November 2018, and "Unsettling Space: Technologies of Violence in Palestinian Jerusalem" in February 2019.
- The project convened a major international workshop in September 2018 at Columbia. "Global Governance of the Intimate" brought together twenty-five scholars, journalists, lawyers and activists for two intensive days of collaborative research sharing and brainstorming.
- · Lila Abu-Lughod offered a new graduate course in Spring 2019: "Reframing Gender Violence Globally" at the Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality at Columbia.
- · Lila Abu-Lughod, Rema Hammami, Janet Jakobsen, and Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian are preparing an edited book with 14 chapters titled Governing the Intimate: Islam and the Global Framing of Gender Violence.

REFRAMING GENDERED VIOLENCE

Over the past few decades, "violence against women" (VAW) and "gender-based violence" (GBV) have become prominent loci for activism throughout the world—garnering international media attention and occupying a growing place in international law and global governance. When invoked in the halls of the United Nations and used to shape international policy, these terms are often reductively assumed to have stable meanings. What do different parties mean when they talk of VAW or GBV? Is the main form of violence against women sexual in nature, as the "Me Too" movement would indicate? Does it occur primarily in domestic and work settings? What is left out when the problem is framed in this way, and whose interests are served by such a framing?

Reframing Gendered Violence opens up a critical global conversation among scholars and practitioners that recasts the problem of violence against women as it is currently discussed in a wide range of fields, both academic and policy-oriented, including human rights, public health, journalism, law, feminist studies, literature, sociology, religious studies, anthropology, and history. The project is supported by the Dean of the Humanities and the Columbia Global Centers.

DIRECTORS



LILA ABU-LUGHOD



KAIAMA GLOVER



JENNIFER HIRSCH



MARIANNE HIRSCH



IFAN HOWAR



ANUPAMA RAO



KENDALL THOMAS



PAIGE WEST

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

LIZA MCINTOSH

English and Comparative Literature

Columbia University

Lila Abu-Lughod, Joseph L. Buttenwieser Professor of Social Science, Department of Anthropology and Professor of Gender Studies, Columbia University

Kaiama Glover, Associate Professor of French and Americana Studies, Barnard College

Jennifer Hirsch, Professor of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

Marianne Hirsch, William Peterfield Trent Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Columbia University

Jean Howard, George Delacorte Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

Anupama Rao, Associate Professor of History, Barnard College and Associate Director of the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University

Kendall Thomas, Nash Professor of Law, Columbia Law School

Paige West, Claire Tow Professor of Anthropology, Barnard College and Columbia University











IMAGINING JUSTICE

Imagining Justice brings together scholars, activists, and artists on projects that envision new ways of fighting inequality and promoting gender, racial, economic, and environmental justice in global and domestic contexts.

ACTIVE WORKING GROUPS IN 2018-2019:

Unpayable Debt: Capital, Violence, and the New Global Economy

Queer Theory: Here, Now, and Everywhere

Racial Capitalism

Pedagogies of Dignity

Precision Medicine: Ethics, Politics and Culture

NEW WORKING GROUPS LAUNCHING IN 2019:

Migrant Personhood and Rights: Crises of Recognition

<u>Environmental Justice, Belief Systems, and Aesthetic Experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean</u>

Data, Algorithms, and Social Justice



UNPAYABLE DEBT

For three years [2016-2019], <u>Unpayable Debt: Capital</u>, <u>Violence</u>, and the New Global Economy has been raising critical questions about the role of debt and the rise of a debt regime in the global economy; the relationship between debt, migration, and violence; and the emergence of new political and cultural practices, particularly among subordinated groups, that challenge debt and austerity as forms of governance. The project's members, which include scholars, filmmakers, and journalists, examine the politics of artistic practice, autogestion, and local and global solidarities.

The interdisciplinary group has compared recent and landmark cases such as Puerto Rico, Argentina, Greece, Spain, and U.S. cities like Detroit as well as other spaces that have been historically affected by debt. The project has also developed multiple public interventions that have broken new ground and facilitated public engagement, enhancing broad discussions about the politics of debt.

DIRECTORS







SARAH MUIR

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

LAURA CHARNEY Human Rights Columbia University

MATAN COHEN MESAAS Columbia University

<u>Frances Negrón-Muntaner</u>, Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Former Director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Columbia University

Sarah Muir, Assistant Professor and Deputy Chair, Department of Anthropology, Gender Studies, and International Studies, City College, CUNY; Affiliated Faculty, Linguistic Anthropology, CUNY Graduate Center



NEW CURRICULUM

HIGHLIGHTS

- $\cdot \text{``} \underline{\text{Caribbean Syllabus: Life and Debt in the Caribbean''}} \text{ is the first ever digital resource to study debt and the Caribbean.''}$
- · "Puerto Rico Syllabus" offers essential tools for critical thinking about the Puerto Rican debt crisis.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- · October 10, 2018: "Reimagining Money Workshop and Caribbean Syllabus Launch"
- · February 2, 2019: Launch of Valor y Cambio, a social currency project, in Puerto Rico
- · April 10, 2019: "Unpayable Still: Debt in a Global Context" conference at Columbia University
- May 26, 2019: Launch of Valor y Cambio in New York at the Loisaida Cultural Festival

PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

- "Back from the Storm" by working group fellow Ed Morales in The New York Times
- · "Our Fellow Americans" by Frances Negrón-Mutaner in Dissent Magazine
- $\cdot \underline{\text{``The Emptying Island: Puerto Rican Expulsion in Post-Maria Time''}} \text{ by Frances Negrón-Mutaner for the Hemispheric Institute}$
- · Valor y Cambio project featured in the Manhattan Times article, "Currency in Community"
- · Frances Negrón-Mutaner was interviewed about her hometown San Juan in Worlds Without Borders.
- Frances Negrón-Mutaner was featured on <u>The Takeaway</u>, where she spoke with film critic Rafer Guzman about the film Sicario: Day of the Soldado.





Queer Theory: Here, Now, and Everywhere sets out to discuss, debate and investigate the politics of sexuality and gender in a global frame. This group builds upon the vast network of queer scholars in the New York area and reaches out to groups in Beirut, Buenos Aires, Rio De Janeiro, Quito and Istanbul in order to consider how best to resituate queer studies to respond to shifts in the meanings of family, sexual health, gendered embodiment, religion, sexual practices, gender variance, activism and sexual communities worldwide. This group's main focus is to consider the place of sexuality and gender in both the spread of global capitalism, right-wing populism, and in the activist responses to these new forms of authoritarianism.

Scholars in this group have worked on neoliberalism, LGBT law, trans* issues, transnational imaginaries, queer diaspora, negative affects, art and politics, the queer decolonial, temporality and spatiality, phenomenology, and much more. This multidisciplinary group is committed to asking questions about the future of queer politics, the future of queer culture, and the potential of new forms of solidarity, protest and queer thought.

DIRECTORS



JACK HALBERSTAM



MACARENA GÓMEZ-BARRIS



DANIEL DA SILVA

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

MIA FLORIN-SEFTON English and Comparative Literature

Columbia University

<u>Jack Halberstam</u>, Professor of Gender Studies and English Literature, Columbia University

<u>Macarena Gómez-Barris</u>, Chairperson of Social Science and Cultural Studies and Director of the Global South Center, Pratt Institute

<u>Daniel Da Silva</u>, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, Rutgers University



HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLIC EVENTS

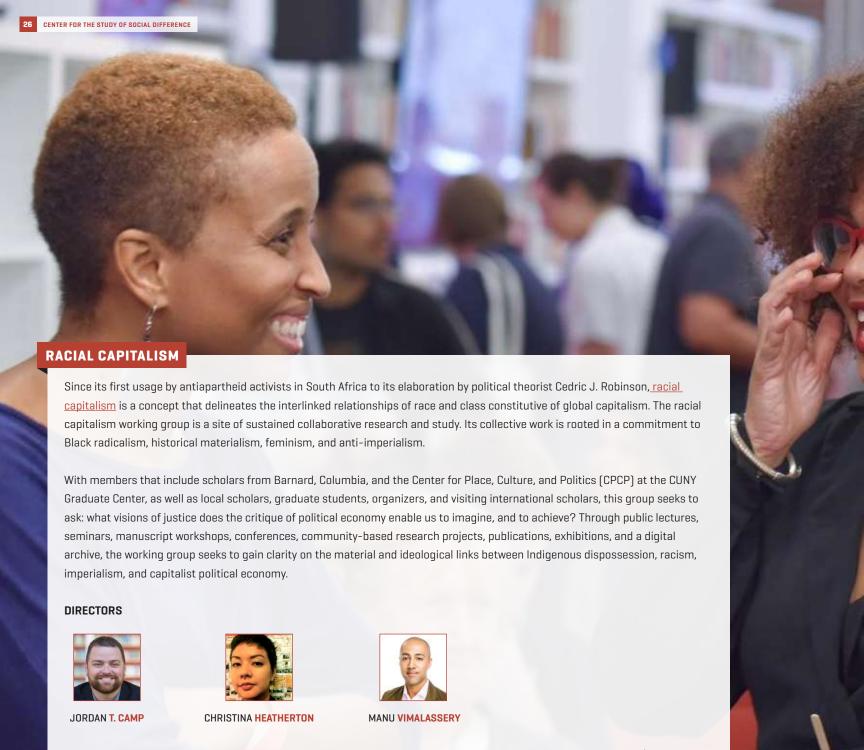
- · December 6-7, 2018: "Queer Studies: Here, There and Elsewhere" workshop in Paris
- · February 28-March 1, 2019: "Queer Disruptions (QD3)" conference at Columbia University

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND PUBLICATIONS

- Jack Halberstam spoke with New York Times staff writer Jenna Wortham for "Is RuPaul's Drag Race the Most Radical Show on TV?"
- · Halberstam published "My Struggle: Confessions of a Tall, Aryan White Man Volume 7" in Politics/Letters on the final book of Karl Ove Knausgaard's autobiographical series
- · Halberstam published "Unbuilding Gender: Trans* Anarchitectures In and Beyond the Work of Gordon Matta-Clark" in Places Journal
- · Working group fellow Tey Meadow was interviewed by The Atlantic for their report "Young Trans Children Know Who They Are"

FUTURE PLANS

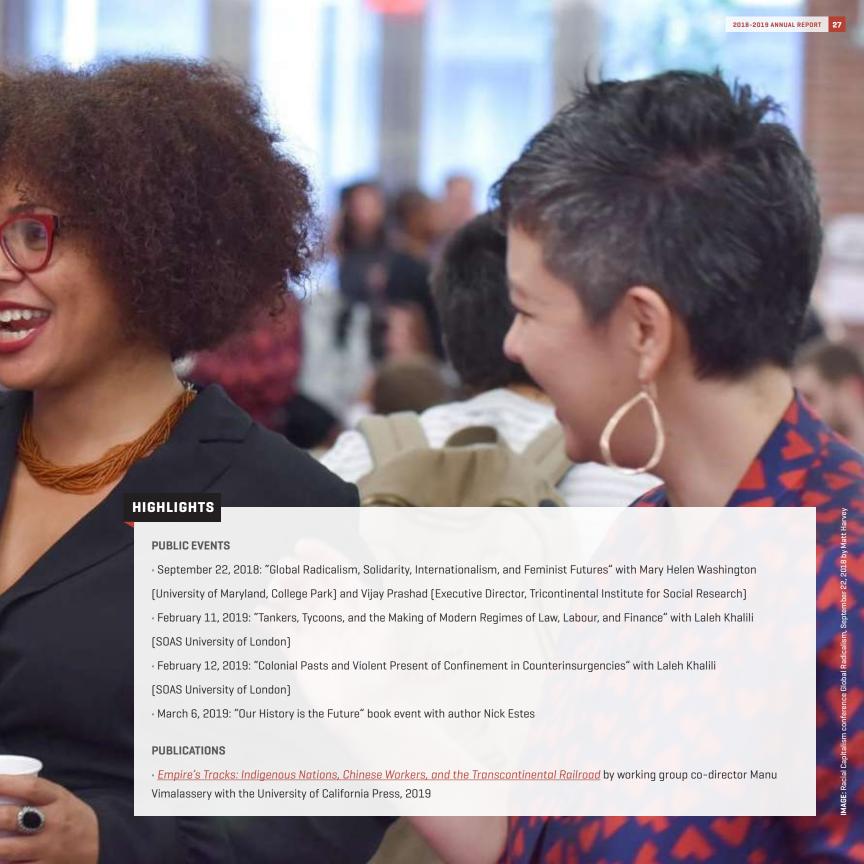
- · A symposium in Fall 2019 will pair junior scholars developing new work in queer studies with senior scholars from the working group
- · A conference/series of workshops to be held out of the Columbia Global Center in Rio de Janeiro in March 2020

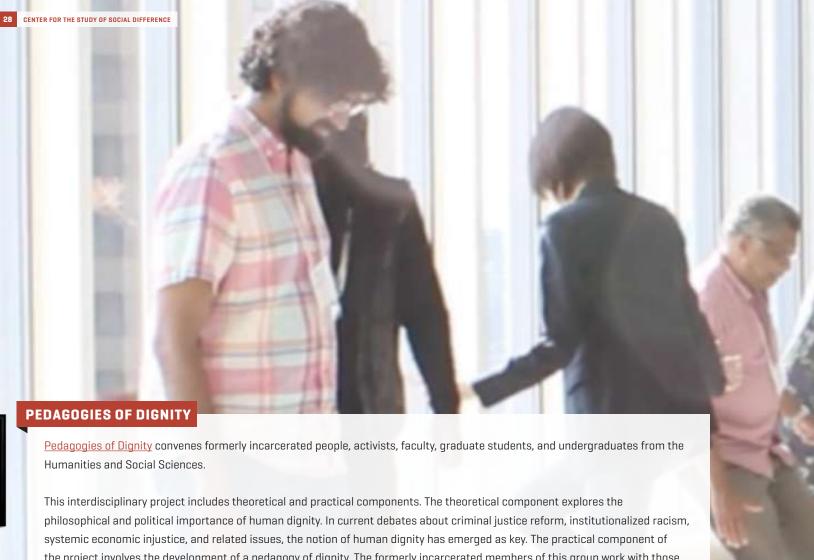


Jordan T. Camp, Visiting Scholar, Center for Place, Culture and Politics, CUNY Graduate Center, and Director of Research, The People's Forum

Christina Heatherton, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Barnard College

Manu Vimalassery, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Barnard College





the project involves the development of a pedagogy of dignity. The formerly incarcerated members of this group work with those

who have taught in prison to create best-practice standards for such teaching. The practical work of the group informs - and is informed by - its theoretical conversations.

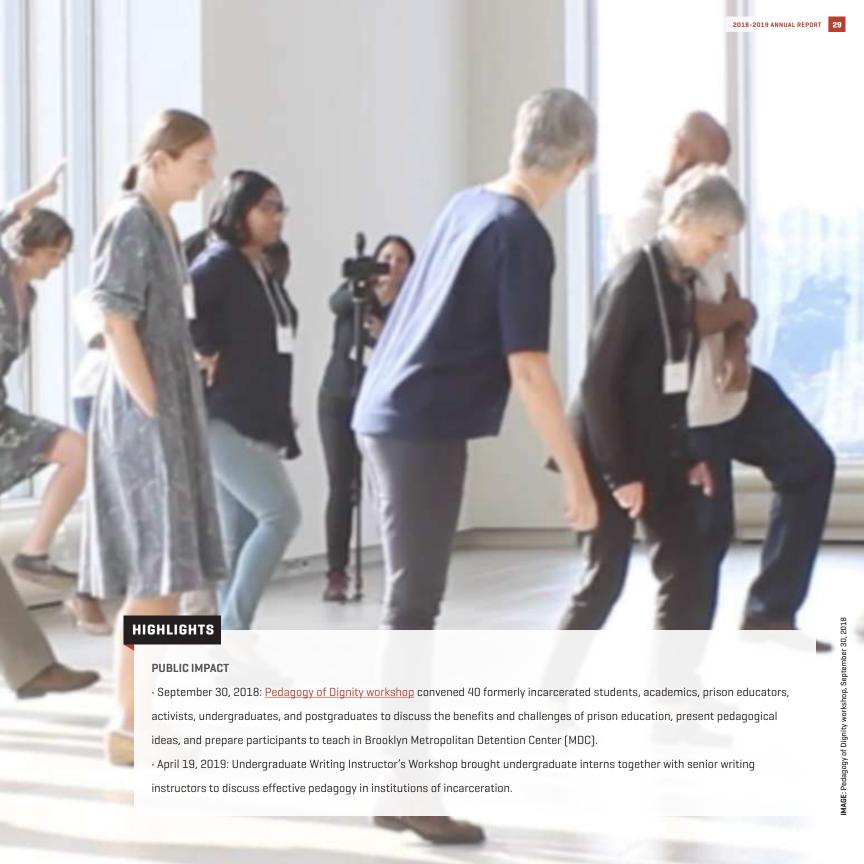
DIRECTORS

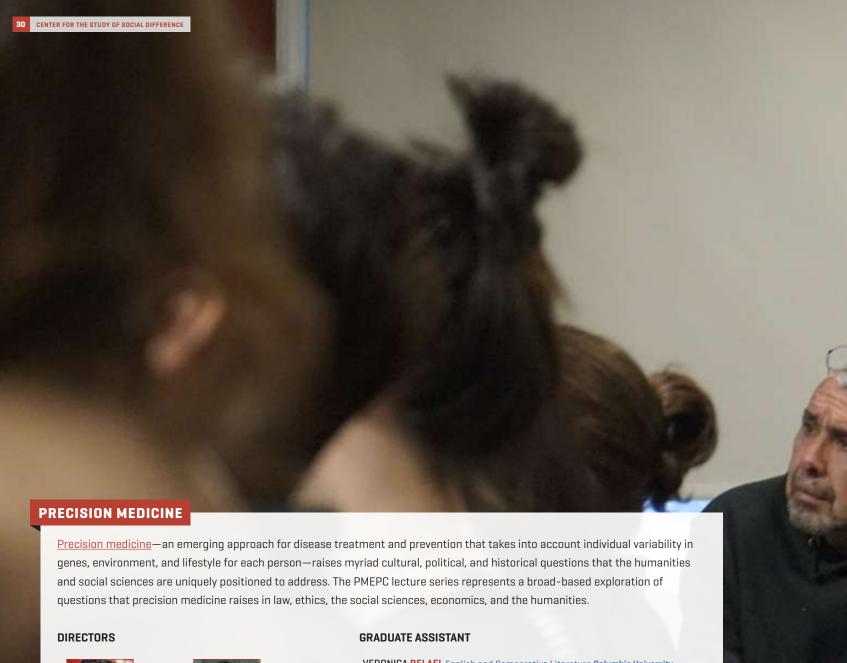
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

OLIVIA LEIGH BRANSCUM Philosophy Columbia University

CHRISTIA MERCER

Christia Mercer, Gustave M. Berne Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University







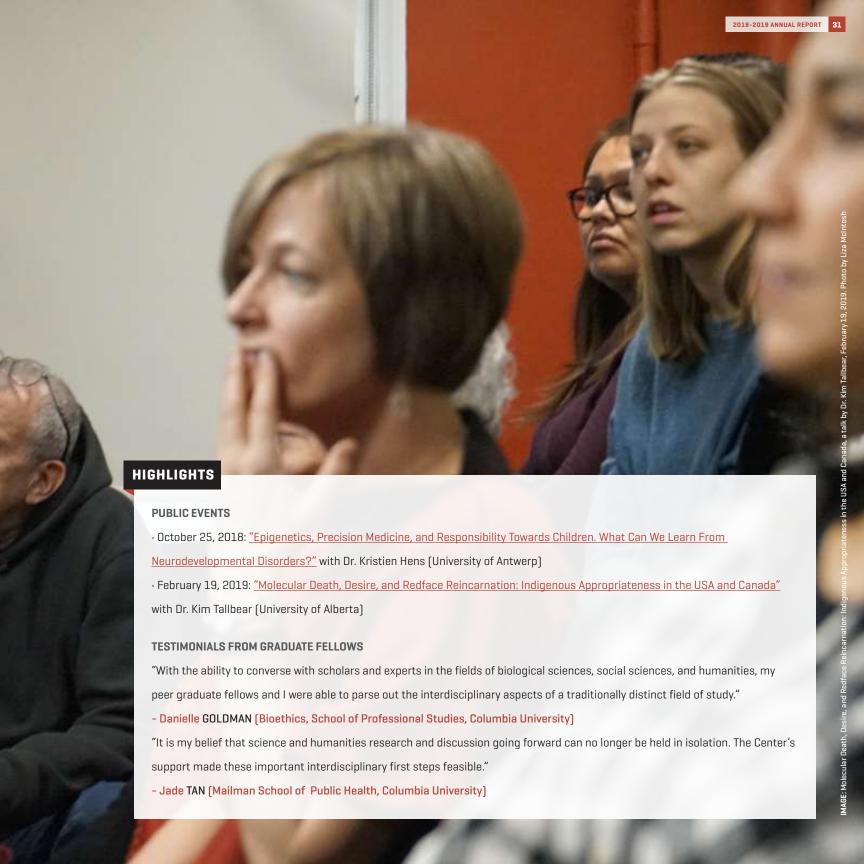
RACHEL ADAMS



MAYA SABATELLO

VERONICA BELAFI English and Comparative Literature Columbia University

<u>Rachel Adams</u>, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University <u>Maya Sabatello</u>, Assistant Professor of Clinical Bioethics, Department of Psychology



WOMEN CREATING CHANGE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



"In our current global environment, it is extremely important that we understand the influence of women on the economic, political, and cultural forces that shape our surroundings. Our programs seek to incorporate academic research about women and other underrepresented groups in the classroom and to better inform global decision making.

Our faculty leverage donor support in impressive ways to produce extraordinary global projects.

Please join us in supporting this dynamic research and outreach."

Ann KAPLAN, Columbia University Trustee Emerita Partner, Circle Wealth Management

YOUR SUPPORT

Your gift to the Center for the Study of Social Difference:



contact socialdifference@columbia.edu for more information

Columbia University's Women Creating Change Leadership Council is comprised of individuals who are committed to the exploration of issues which affect women and the ways in which women address global gender challenges. The mission of the Council is to promote interdisciplinary collaborative research and to sponsor events that publicize this important work. Council members assist the faculty in framing how their academic endeavors can create greater impact. The WCC Leadership Council provides a critical link between the university's faculty-led projects and the interlinked sphere of global business, academia, and civil society.

AMAL GHANDOUR, Lebanon

ANN KAPLAN (CHAIR), New York ANNETTE ANTHONY, London ANJALI BANSAL, India A'LELIA BUNDLES, Washington D.C. LISA CARNOY, New York ISOBEL COLEMAN, New York GEORGINA CULLMAN, New York ABIGAIL ELBAUM, New York JANICE REALS ELLIG, New York MELISSA FISHER, New York

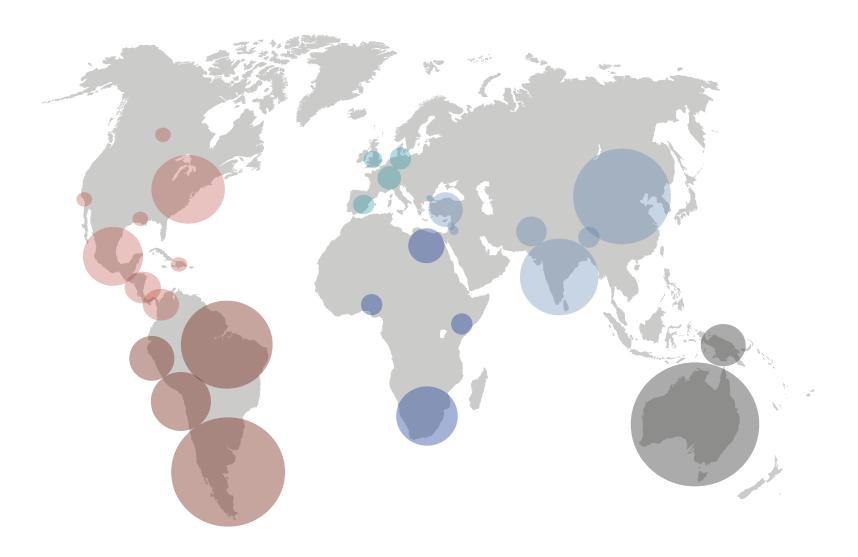
DEBORAH JACKSON, New York CAROLEE LEE, New York SAFWAN MASRI, New York CYNTHIA MOSES-MANOCHERIAN, New York MOLLY MATHEWS MULTEDO, Rio de Janeiro & New York DIANA MOREINIS NASSER, São Paulo, Brazil ALYSON NEEL, New York

LOIS PERELSON-GROSS, New York PHILIPPA PORTNOY, New York

SAMIA SALFITI, Jordan S. MONA SINHA, New York SELENA SOO, New York ESTA STECHER, New York DIANA TAYLOR, New York DAVIA TEMIN, New York RICHARD E. WITTEN, New York JACKI ZEHNER, Utah

GLOBAL REACH: FOOTPRINTS OF OUR WORK IN THE LAST DECADE

Our work spans 8 world regions and over 28 countries.



ASIA

India Jordan Palestine Turkey Lebanon Bangladesh China Pakistan

AFRICA

Ghana Kenya Egypt South Africa

NORTH AMERICA

USA (New York, Detroit, Mississippi, Los Angeles, New Orleans) Canada Puerto Rico Central America Mexico Guatemala

SOUTH AMERICA

Chile Brazil Argentina Ecuador

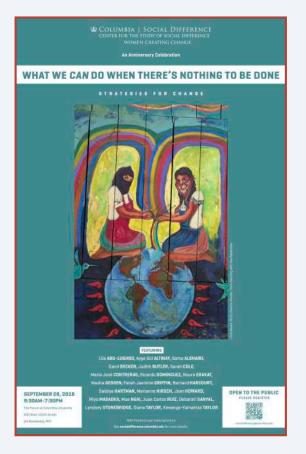
EUROPE

France Spain Greece Germany United Kingdom

OCEANIA

Papua New Guinea Australia

SELECTED EVENTS



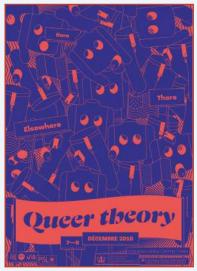
On September 27-28, 2018, we <u>celebrated ten years of CSSD</u> and five years of our <u>Women Creating Change initiative</u>, featuring a roundtable of writers moderated by Columbia University trustee A'Lelia Bundles, and the first public event at Columbia's brand new Forum building, an international symposium celebrating what we CAN do when there's nothing to be done.



Women Creating Change 5th Anniversary, September 27, 2018

Photo by Vitaliy Piltser

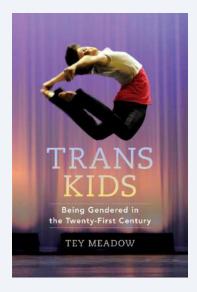


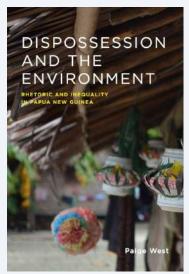


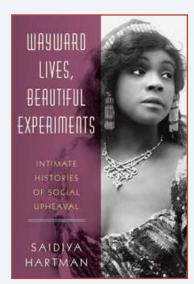


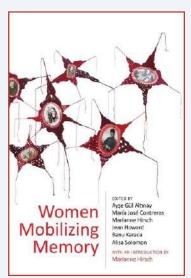


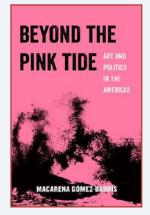
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

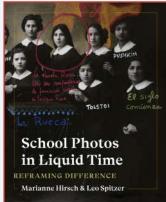


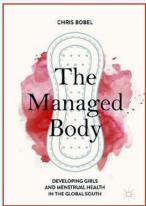


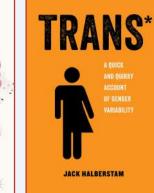


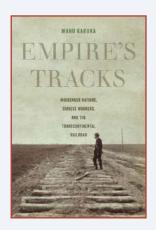


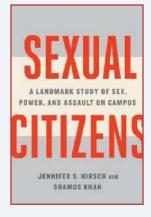


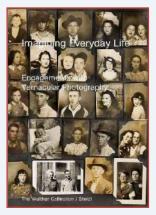




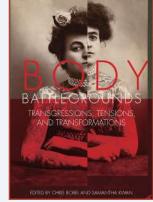


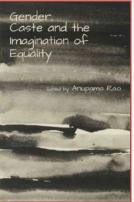












A NOTE FROM OUR NEW DIRECTOR



I am extremely honored to have been named the director of the Center for the Study of Social Difference [CSSD] for the next three years. I've been faculty at Barnard College and Columbia University for nearly twenty years and my work through and with CSSD since 2014 has been the most intellectually productive experience that I've had at the university. We provide a space unlike any other at Columbia and over the course of my time as director I would like to enhance what we already do so well across five different, but related, action points:

- 1) PROMOTE the production of knowledge through cutting edge scholarship across disciplines.
- 2) **INFORM** social and political change in the world with research-based scholarship, disseminating the knowledge produced in CSSD working groups via a public series of projects and a CSSD Media Lab and podcast.
- 3) **BUILD** CSSD's position as the home for faculty across Columbia who are working on similar issues, and asking the hard questions about how their research relates to gender, race, class, sexuality, and difference.
- 4] **GROW** our public events series with the Women Creating Change Leadership Council, bringing scholars together with practitioners, business people, and the public to examine issues that are central to gender equity.
- 5) **FOSTER** conditions for women and scholars around the globe to have space to work and think together to create change in their communities.

I believe that together with our extraordinary staff (Executive Director Catherine LaSota and Program Coordinator Ayah Eldosougi), our Executive Committee, and our Women Creating Change Leadership Council, we can continue to build CSSD and support field changing socially engaged scholarship in ways that develop faculty as scholars who change the world.

PAIGE WEST

https://paige-west.com

CLAIRE TOW PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Barnard College and Columbia University

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL DIFFERENCE Columbia University





CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL DIFFERENCE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

socialdifference.columbia.edu socialdifference@columbia.edu

IMAGINING JUSTICE

COLUMBIA AFFILIATES:















