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2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2021-2022 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, <u>Women Creating Change</u> and <u>Imagining Justice</u>.

# STAFF



PAIGE WEST
DIRECTOR



CATHERINE LASOTA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



FAHMIDA HUSSAIN
BUSINESS OFFICER

# COORDINATORS



TOMOKI FUKUI
NEWSLETTER & BLOG



ALEX PEKOV
SOCIAL MEDIA & WEEKLY DIGESTS



KALYANI MADHURA RAMACHANDRAN
DATABASE & WEBSITE



ABBY SCHROERING
WORKING GROUP LIAISON

# **WORK STUDY STUDENTS**



OLIVIA DEMING
WORK STUDY



SUNGYOON LIM WORK STUDY



STEPHANIE SANCHEZ
WORK STUDY

# 2021-22 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE







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MATTHEW ENGELKE



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**EILEEN GILLOOLY** 



**RISHI GOYAL** 



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**JEAN HOWARD** 



**ANA PAULINA LEE** 





CELIA E. NAYLOR FRANCES NEGRÓN-MUNTANER



MAE M. NGAI



**ANUPAMA RAO** 





ANOORADHA IYER SIDDIQI



ALISA SOLOMON



MARISA SOLOMON



**SONIA TOLANI** 



PAIGE WEST

Throughout my career I've always felt privileged to be a member of the faculty. The opportunities one has as a part of the Columbia University community are incredible. Our students are intensely committed to learning and a pleasure to teach, our academic colleagues are pushing the boundaries of scholarship with research and publications, and our staff colleagues are working tirelessly to create conditions where learning, writing, making, and doing can happen in spaces of support, equality, care, and comfort. Together these practices have made Columbia University what it is, a global center for knowledge and education. For the past few years, Columbia has also worked to encourage the entire community to highlight their already existing partnerships with individuals and groups who are moving research, scholarship, and teaching beyond the walls of the University, and to support more of this kind of engagement. The Center for the Study of Social Difference has been committed to cutting edge interdisciplinary scholarship and social engagement for the entire life of the Center, so serving as the Faculty Director for the past three years as I've watched this larger institutional pivot has been incredible. I have a deep sense of gratitude to our staff, faculty, and supporters for allowing me to serve in this position and am happy to say that I'll be with the Center as Faculty Director for three more years.

This year we have had twelve active Working Groups. Our "Women Creating Change" Working Groups have focused on motherhood and technology, work and the home, women's heart health, Black feminist thought and activism, global menstrual health, urban life and gender, and pandemic nursing. Our "Imagining Justice" Working Groups have focused on prison education, race and ecology, migration and immigration, environmental justice, and the global politics of sexuality and gender. We also have two active "Social Engagement Projects". One of these projects has worked in partnership with activist groups in Rio and Mumbai to create spaces for people living urban settlements to tell their stories in their own words. The other has worked with community groups, artists, and activists in Morningside Heights, Harlem, Washington Heights and the South Bronx to work towards multiple forms of memorialization, repair, and justice in the way of the devastation that the Coronavirus pandemic has brought to these neighborhoods.

In reading this list, I know that you can see that we are doing work on the most important issues of our time. At a time when the rights of people are deemed socially different by authoritarian regimes, national political movements, fringe religious groups, and others who are seeking to destabilize societies around the world, our work matters more than ever before. At a time when people all over the world are struggling for racial justice and reparations, our research and scholarship helps to both document and push the movements forward. At a time when human-induced changes

to the global biophysical environment are altering life as we know it on our planet, our Working Groups are at the forefront of understanding how to bring social justice and ecological justice together. At a time when women's rights are being attacked locally and globally, CSSD stands at the nexus of scholarship, teaching, and collaborations with activists working to make sure that we do not go backwards.

None of this work would be possible without the CSSD staff. Business Officer Fahmida Hussain and I were lucky to work with four graduate student colleagues this past year. Tomoki Fukui, Alex Pekov, Kalyani Madhura Ramachandran, and Abby Schroering. These members of our team created our media presence and served as our connections to the many other graduate students working with our Working Groups.

We also had the pleasure of working with Olivia Deming, Sungyoon Lim, and Stephanie Sanchez, three undergraduate students who served as our work study colleagues.

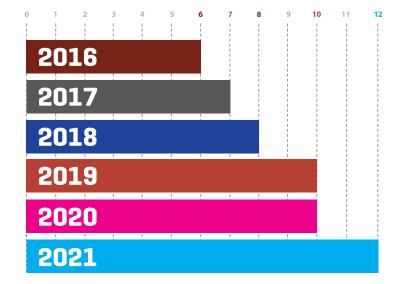
We also said goodbye to long-time staff member Catherine LaSota this year and welcomed our new Associate Director Kasheba Marshall. Kasheba came to us from the Columbia Business School and is already a crucial member of our team. Together, our team looks forward to 2023.

I keep hearing people refer to the past few years in higher education as "unprecedented" and I think that they often mean this in terms of the enormity of the task of mounting classes and keeping universities running during times of intense disruption and uncertainty. I also tend to think about these years being unprecedented in terms of the pressures we have all been under as humans who love and live with intensity. We have all lost loved ones, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to Covid-19 and to the longer-term health and mental health ramifications of the intensity of the crisis in 2020 and 2021. We have all watched national and global politics unfold in ways that are chilling. And we have all watched the progress of climate change related disasters with an increasing feeling of grief and panic. For me, directing the Center and focusing on the importance of the work that our Working Groups do has kept me centered and focused on what we can do to make this world better. At the Center for the Study of Social Difference, our work continues to make lives better, to help us understand our world more clearly, and to move through it in ways that create opportunities for others.

Paige WEST, Director

Claire Tow Professor of Anthropology, Barnard College and Columbia University

# **NUMBER OF ACTIVE PROJECTS**



# **CUTTING ACROSS DISCIPLINES**

We're collaborating across Columbia Schools and 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 College

- Barnard College
- Mailman School of Public Health
- Columbia University Irving Medical Center
- School of the Arts
- Columbia Global Centers
- Teachers College
- Columbia Business School

# TURNING IDEAS INTO IMPACT: HOW WE DO IT



BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS



PUBLIC EVENTS AND WORKING GROUPS



CREATING NEW
ACADEMIC COURSES



INFLUENCING POLICY
AND WORKING
WITH COMMUNITIES

# **OUR WORK: BY THE NUMBERS**

**3 YEARS** 

**DURATION OF OUR PROJECTS** 

\$75,000

**AVERAGE PROJECT COST** 

40+

**PUBLIC EVENTS EACH YEAR** 

43

PROJECTS & COUNTING

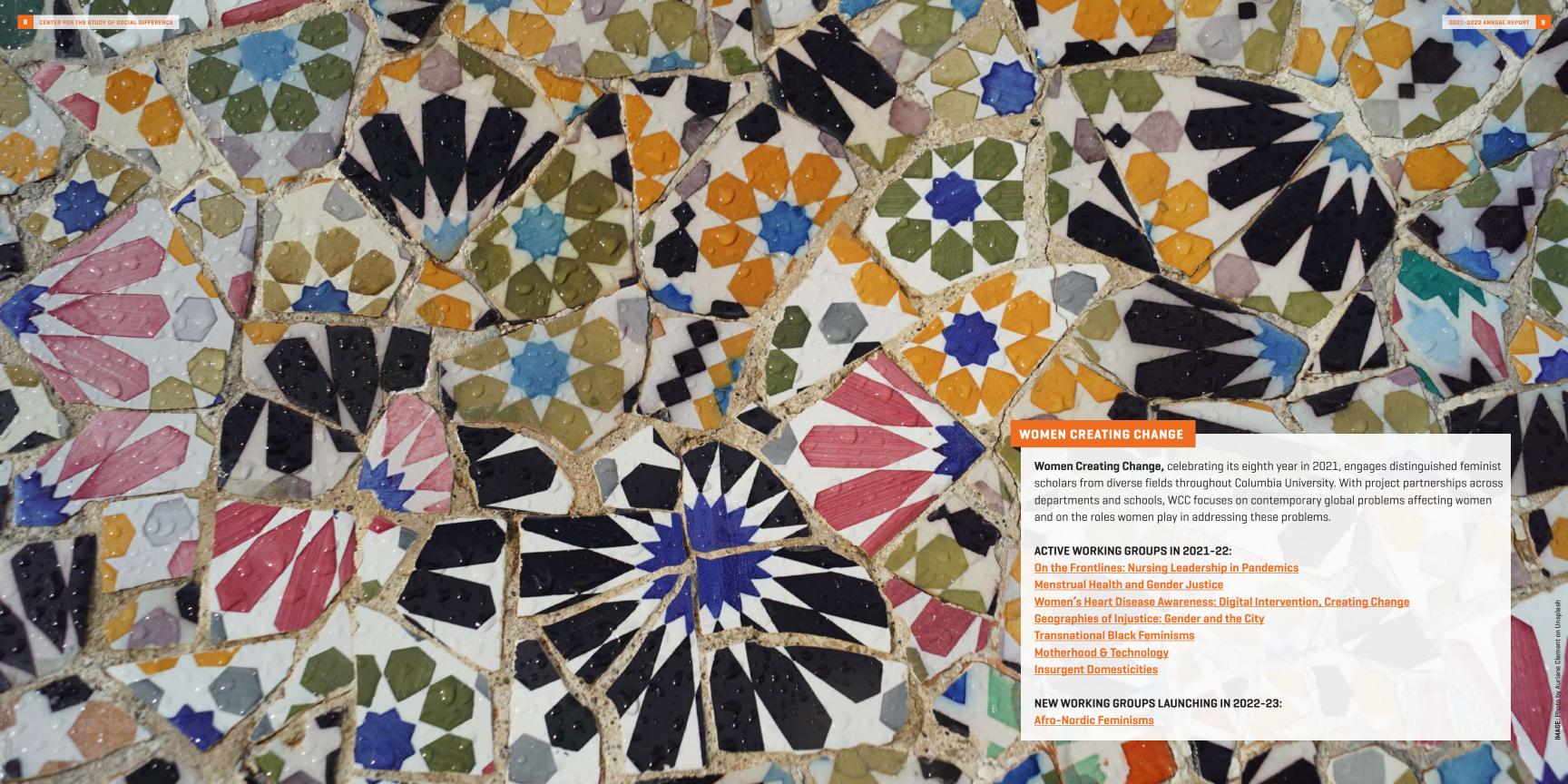


OUR WORK SPANS

8 WORLD REGIONS AND

OVER 36 COUNTRIES

[DB] (52) Se M. 10 Sque Guz Bond A black-and-white map of New York City is being drown upon by **TABLE OF CONTENTS** participants with an assortment of color markers, drawing shining red hearts, green paths in parks, bridges, and other placemarkers. 18 (E) 18 **WOMEN CREATING CHANGE 8-23** Some hands point while others trace. On the Frontlines: Nursing Leadership in Pandemics 10-11 MYZ Menstrual Health & Gender Justice 12-13 Women's Heart Disease Awareness: Digital Intervention, Creating Change 14-15 Geographies of Injustice: Gender and The City 16-17 Transnational Black Feminisms 18-19 Motherhood and Technology 20-21 (NY254) ASLOTIA BOLLEVATO Insurgent Domesticities 22-23 outevard **IMAGINING JUSTICE 24-35** Environmental Justice, Belief Systems, and Aesthetic Experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean 26-27 Queer Aqui 28-29 Migrant Personhood and Rights: Crises of Recognition 30-31 Prison Education and Social Justice 32-33 Black Atlantic Ecologies 34-35 **SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT 38-43** ZIP Code Memory Project: Practices of Justice and Repair 40-41 ERS ISLA Reconstructing History in Rocinha, Rio de Janeiro and Dharavi, Mumbai 42-43 WEEHAWKEN **WOMEN CREATING CHANGE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 42** MA THURSDAN WEINE EST NEW YORK IN FAIRVIEW GSOS BERGEN CUSCWALE! THE BROY





On the Frontlines: Nursing Leadership in Pandemics seeks to understand the role of nurses as change agents in the prevention, detection and response to pandemic infectious disease outbreaks. Although nurses are crucial to combatting pandemics, their work is often not considered when international leaders gather to discuss global health issues. This is a consequence of both the MD-centered hierarchy of medical practice and the fact that nursing remains a profession in which women – whose work is systemically undervalued – predominate (in the US, over 90% of registered nurses are women). This is a dangerous omission, since although nurses are on the front lines of care, little is known about the range of activities they undertake beyond what may be obvious in patient care. Even key clinical innovations are often overlooked when they should be universally implemented. And there is little record of the painful choices nurses and other health professionals often make between taking care of patients and protecting themselves and their families.

This working group is necessarily inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary. On the Frontlines draws on the work of the health science community – nursing, medicine, public health, evolutionary biology and immunology, as well as demography – to understand the changing nature of infectious diseases and how to manage and contain them. We engage the scholarship – international health regulations, international law and the doctrine of the duty to protect – that deals with the ethical character of leadership in the global health and biodefense communities and the barriers nursing leaders face in pursuing the public good. Further, to document the role of nurses, we draw on historical methods, anthropology and journalism to capture nurses' experience in the field.

This group formed around an interest in understanding the work of nurses and midwives in the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. In response to recent events, we have expanded our scope to include a comparative study of the work of nurses and midwives in the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak. In collaboration with the Columbia Center for Oral History Research, we are conducting oral histories of COVID-19 nurses, and this effort is being jointly directed by Mary Marshall Clark and Jennifer Dohrn.

# DIRECTORS







**WILMOT JAMES** 



VICTORIA ROSNER

Jennifer Dohrn, Associate Professor of Nursing, and Director of Global Initiatives, Columbia University

Wilmot James, Senior Research Scholar at the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), Columbia University

Victoria Rosner, Dean of Academic Affairs, School of General Studies; Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

COORDINATOR: Jeremy Orloff, Post Baccalaureate Student, School of General Studies, Columbia University



The field is rich with questions: How do women and girls decide which menstrual care practices to adopt? How do girls experience menarche, how do women experience menopause, and what shapes these experiences? How do social media, magazines and social enterprises influence the discourse on menstruation? What are the implications of the recent case supported by the ACLU in which a woman claims to have been fired for leaking menstrual blood at work? Do recent policy developments address the needs of all menstruators, including the most marginalized? What is the role of development agencies and philanthropists in supporting menstrual hygiene management? What kind of interventions do they support and with which results? To what extent does language – menstrual health or menstrual hygiene management – matter? What cultural and religious practices exist around menstruation and how do they relate to gender equality?

Attention to menstrual issues across the lifespan surfaces broader societal issues and tensions, including gender inequality, practices and discourses of embodiment, processes of radicalization and commodification, and emergent technologies. From the perspective of gender equality, menstruation is a fascinating subject of study as it combines various facets including biological processes, deeply rooted stereotypes and social norms, and associated cultural and religious practices. Menstruation has become a category of analysis as a multi-dimensional transdisciplinary subject of inquiry and advocacy. Against this background, this working group capitalizes on the presence of faculty across different departments interested in menstruation and provides a forum for encouraging individual and collaborative research that crosses disciplinary boundaries.

# DIRECTORS



INGA WINKLER



LAUDEN C HOUGHTON

Inga Winkler, Lecturer in the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Human Rights Program, Columbia University

<u>Lauren C. Houghton</u>, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

# HIGHLIGHTS

# HANDBOOK OF CRITICAL MENSTRUATION STUDIES



1.36 million Accesses



129 Citations



1025 Altmetric Score

# **EVENTS**

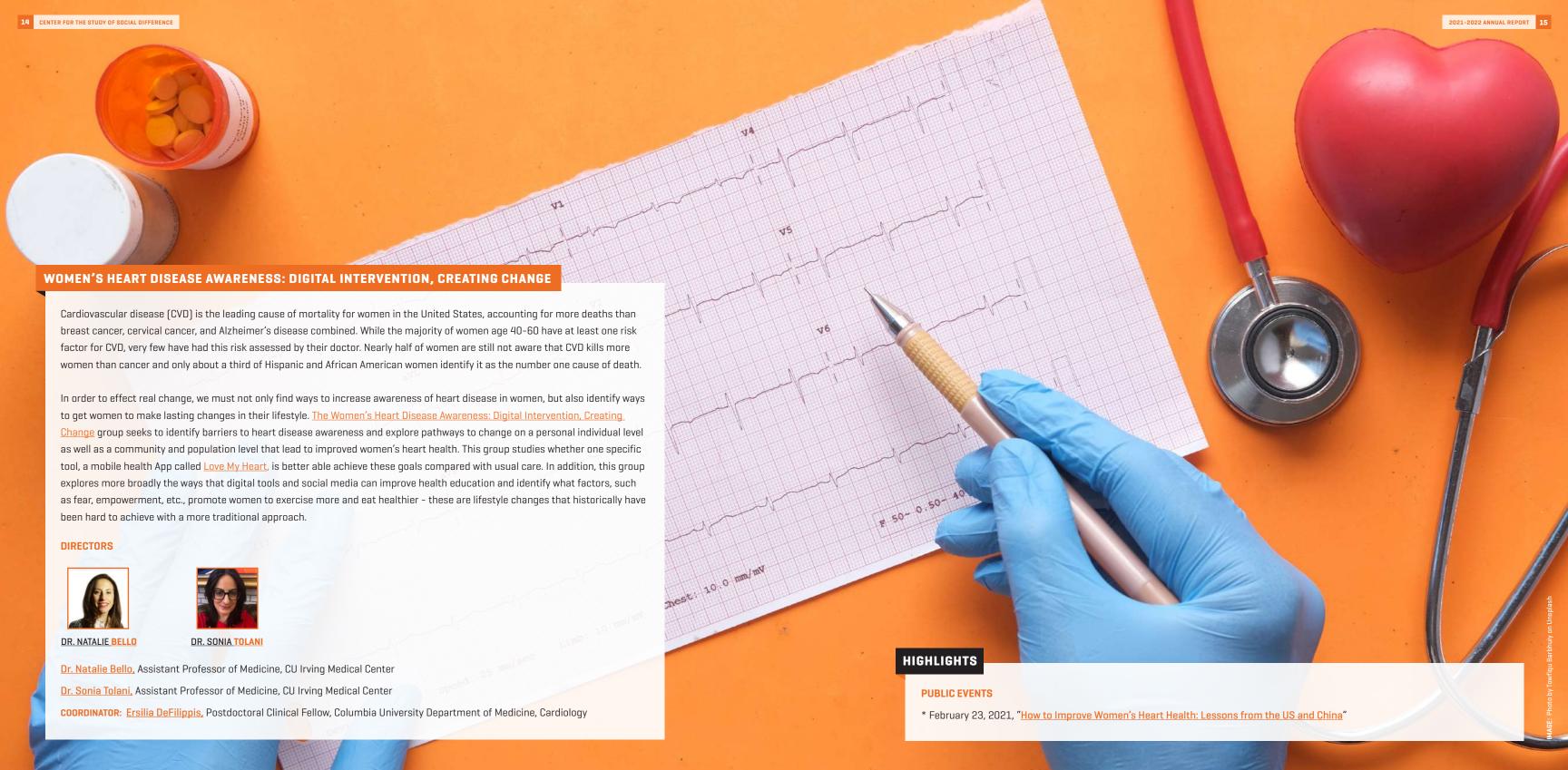
- \* November 12, 2021: Discussion with Silvia Young, a menstrual advocate in California
- \* November 17, 2021: Launch of MOOC: Menstruation in a Global Context: Addressing Policy and Practice
- \* February 2022: Transnational Convening for the Menstrual Movement
- \* University Seminar on Menstruation and Society (ongoing)

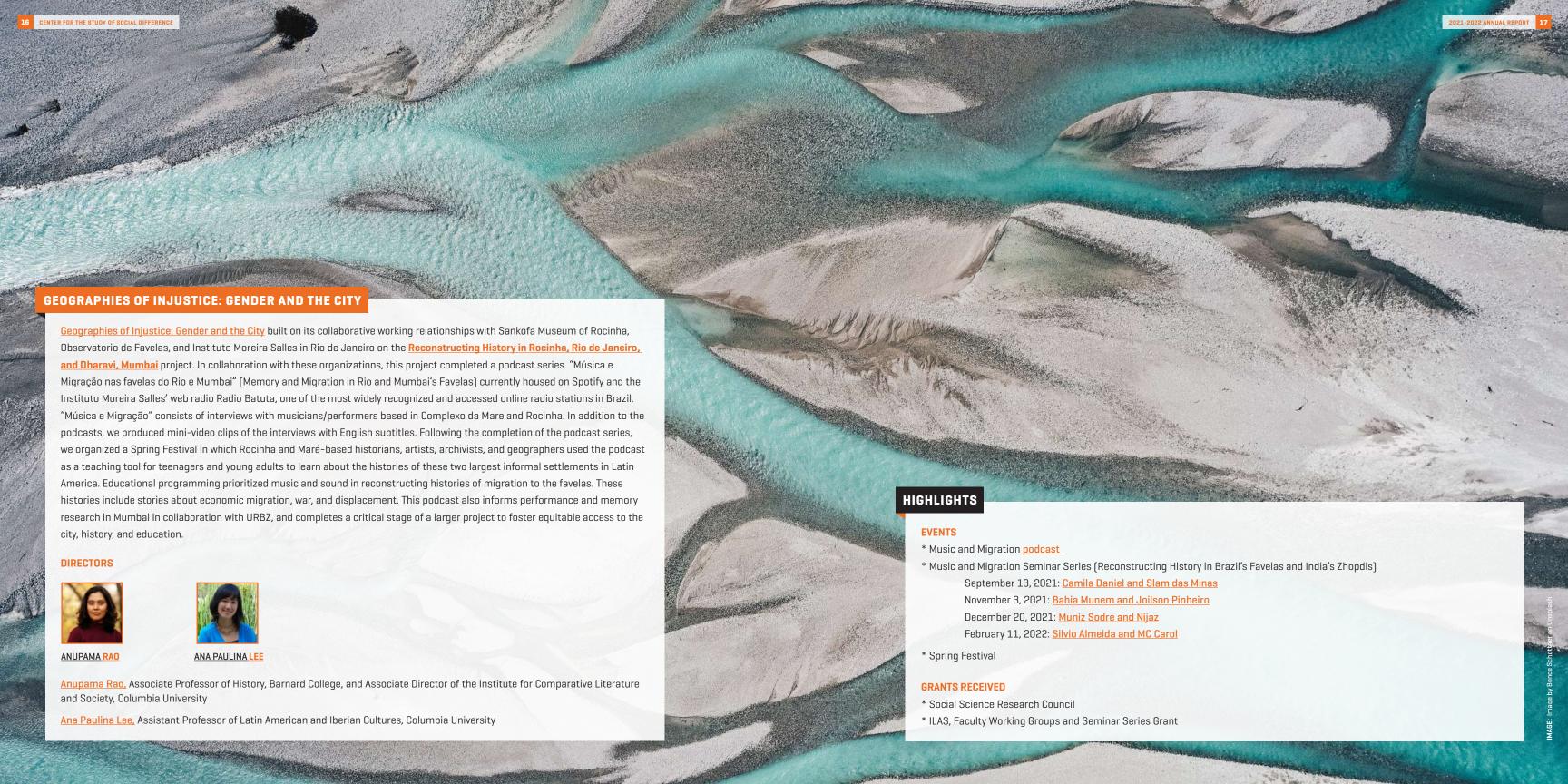
# **GRANTS RECEIVED**

- \* MOOC development grant
- \* The Case for Her Grant
- \* Center for Science and Society Grant
- \* Foundation for a Just Society

# **NEW CURRICULUM**

- \* MOOC: Menstruation in a Global Context: Addressing Policy and Practice
- \* University Seminar on Menstruation and Society





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# F. Imaga by Aaron Burden on Heenla

# TRANSNATIONAL BLACK FEMINISMS

The <u>Transnational Black Feminisms</u> working group aims to think about how transnational Black feminisms can move us beyond survivability and demands for recognition, and instead generate alternative frames and understandings around belonging, community, justice, and equity. Black feminism has, by necessity, emerged in tandem with political mobilizations: the struggle against slavery and colonialism; demands for government assistance or social services; and opposition to sexual or state violence, including Black Lives Matter. Such struggles have created the conditions of possibility for nurturing a politics of radical social transformation. They have also raised broader, foundational questions about the relationship between theory and praxis, lived experiences and the articulation of expansive visions of social change.

We have named this initiative transnational Black feminisms—with transnationalism as a modifier—because it foregrounds the long history of Black feminist praxis and theorization, dating back to the 19th century. "Black feminisms" also reflects our understanding of the importance of racial politics in the development of capitalism and global politics—what Cedric Robinson called "racial capitalism"—as well as our goal of integrating a gendered analysis into the concept of racial capitalism. In an era of heightened anti-Black racism—which manifests as systematic police violence, webs of carcerality, discourses of cultural depravity, ghettoization, gentrification, and disposability—it is essential to center a politics of blackness through a feminist, queer, anti-capitalist and anti-imperial lens, as an important vector for the political and social possibilities of imagining and working towards the realization of justice.

In addition, problematic historical and contemporary stagings of the history of feminism in the U.S. position Black women as marginal to a more significant, mainstream white feminist movement, circumscribe them to a limited time frame, and continue the erasure of a long history of a Black feminist politic that was diasporic, imaginative, and radical in both theory and praxis. We hope to explore the historic and ongoing intellectual engagements between Black feminism, transnational feminism, queer politics, anti-imperialism, and anti-capitalism—all of which Black feminisms speak to through Black women's analyses of intersecting oppressions, the simultaneity of oppression, and strategies for reimagining freedom.

We are particularly interested in charting, exploring, and interrogating the nuances and intricacies of transnational Black feminisms across time and space. Black feminist theoretical lenses have evolved out of internationalist and oppositional engagements throughout the Caribbean, Africa, South America, and Europe. This expansive global view will enable us to assess the coherence and/or visibility of a transnational Black feminist politic, as well as the convergences and divergences, overlaps and contradictions, and synergistic associations among Black feminism, Indigenous feminism, Latinx feminism, and Asian feminism.

# **DIRECTORS**





CELIA E. NAYLOR

PREMILLA NADASEN

Celia E. Naylor, Associate Professor, Africana Studies and History, Barnard College

Premilla Nadasen, Professor of History, Barnard College

COORDINATOR: Chloé Samala Faux, Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology, Columbia University

# HIGHLIGHTS

### EVEN

- \* November 12, 2021: "Transnational Anti-Apartheid Movement"
- \* The writer, editor, and anti-apartheid activist Nadia Joseph and Professor Lynette Jackson (Professor of Gender Studies and Black Studies at University of Illinois, Chicago), the author of Surfacing Up: Psychiatry and Social Order in Colonial Zimbabwe considered the particular ways in which Black women activists, such as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Adelaide Joseph, were instrumental in the anti-apartheid efforts within and without South Africa.

# **MOTHERHOOD AND TECHNOLOGY**

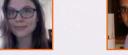
The Motherhood and Technology working group explores how technological innovations have radically transformed the biological and social experience of motherhood in recent decades. Advances in genomic and reproductive care, the circulation of novel kinship structures, the entrenchment of existing global networks of power and privilege, and the politics of contested bodily sites mark this emerging constellation. Technological progress and development is often seen as the driver of these changes, but the revolution in motherhood is as much a product of changes in other domains: ethics, social structures, aesthetics, and lived experiences. Our group seeks to understand how medical technologies have changed—and have been changed by—the experience of motherhood in a global context.

Foremost to our exploration is our strong conviction that technology is not neutral. Rather, we believe [following Heidegger] that technology operates as a form of "un-concealment" that reveals the "forcing into being" of culture. Thus, we are particularly interested in how the production of and access to such first-world biomedical technologies of motherhood both index and create broader cultural trends across what Arlie Hochschild has called "global care chains," in which the burden of care is borne disproportionately by women of color and women in the developing world. We are motivated, then, to consider how technologies of motherhood operate among poor and working-class women, both internationally and within the first world. While India has emerged as a global nexus of commercial surrogacy, in New York City and at the US southern border alike, technologies controlling motherhood, including monitoring technology, are used to regulate incarcerated and paroled women. Fundamental to our exploration is our conviction that these very different forms of technological intervention are working together to produce a global reimagination of motherhood.

As we explore these questions, we are quided by the interdisciplinary approach of the medical humanities. Medical humanities offers both a set of methodological approaches to address such challenges, and a broad umbrella under which to study the mutual influences of medico-scientific ideas and cultural/aesthetic practices. Medicine, from intimate care to public health policymaking, has much to contribute to a humanistic understanding of the social role of motherhood; meanwhile, approaches that emerge from a humanistic framework can enrich those coming from the physician's black bag. The expansive view of the medical humanities will allow the group to develop a scholarly intervention into debates around technology and motherhood, while also producing a cultural artifact that narrativizes these dilemmas, and their solutions, for the public.

# DIRECTORS





Arden A. Hegele, Lecturer in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

Rishi Goyal, Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, and Director, Medical Humanities Major, Columbia University

COORDINATOR: Anna Krauthamer, Ph.D. Candidate, English, Columbia University

# HIGHLIGHTS

# **EVENTS**

- \* 9/20/21 Covid-19 Vaccine Disinformation and Fertility, with presentations by Arden Hegele and Rishi Goyal
- \* 10/18/21 Rethinking Sperm Counts: Guest presentation from Harvard GenderSci Lab Sarah S. Richardson, Marion Boulicault, and Helen Zhao
- \* 11/15/21 Surrogacy: Guest presentation from ReproTech journalist Alison Motluck, chaired by Nancy Reame
- \* 12/12/21 End-of-year meeting
- \* 2/15/22 Arden Hegele, Romantic Autopsy: Literary Form and Medical Reading book launch
- \* 2/21/22 Worksprint: Proposing topics for conference and publication
- \* 3/28/22 Book Talk: The Maternal Imprint: Sarah Richardson [Harvard], with Alexis Walker, Clare McCormack, Helen Zhao, Arden Hegele responding
- \* 4/8/22 5/13/22 Meredith Gamer Lectures at Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art
- \* 4/18/22 Worksprint: Pairing essayists and planning conference

# **PUBLICATIONS**

- \* Emily Bloom, Public Books, "Mother of A Pandemic"
- \* Rishi Goyal, Dennis Tenen, Arden Hegele, publication in LA Times on Vaccine Hesitancy

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# **INSURGENT DOMESTICITIES**

'Home' has been used as a boundary-forming device to identify, homogenize, normalize and exclude. Composed of family and nation, and attendant notions of their sanctity, 'home' is no longer open to reinterpretation and reconfiguration; it is pressured as a lived space. Insurgent Domesticities brings into focus the insurgent environments, objects, and practices that make up the maintenance, creation, labor, and intimacies of home. Our collective investigates the more processual aspects of domesticity, to interrogate the politics of 'home,' through histories of solidarity, disobedience, stealth, and militancy, from the scale of the clothesline to that of the state.

The Insurgent Domesticities working group is committed to liberatory historiographical approaches and scholarly caregiving, orientations that transcend ideological frames deploying 'domesticity' to organize, limit, or subjugate life, time, people, and places, from the non-male figure to the non-capitalistic landscape. It draws on practices that emerge from and constitute interiority, which transform the figurations, materiality, and narrations of 'home' and 'domesticity' within the present worldwide protectionist climate, in which 'home' is still a fiercely pursued, maintained, and guarded space. Dissident domesticities, bound up in questions of governance, global economies, (geo)political borders, war, labor, and ecological crisis, call for emancipating, subversive, and collaborative research approaches that straddle or sit between territories, institutions, states, and national space. Through insurgent domesticities of laundry, gardens, cats, kitchens, the home office, the migrant camp, the kindergarten, the settlement, the housing block, the border wall, the reserve, or the reservation, we center histories of the active construction of home through occupancy, the making of new territories by transgressing boundaries, and the transcending or transforming of oppressive domestic structures.

Insurgent Domesticities indexes and reveals inequalities and injustices cohering social, cultural and political aspects of domesticity. Because domesticity is involved in the production of identity, security, comfort, and belonging, as well as strategies necessary to maintain the status quo, it serves as a double-edged tool that can be confining or emancipatory in its different guises. To combat the pliancy of its shapeshifting between safeguarding and critiquing notions of family and nation, migration and home, our collective proposes the fundamental understanding that domesticity is a politicized field of many interdependencies, from the sociospatial to the material and aesthetic, which demand regular negotiation and theorization.

Insurgent Domesticities is a working group under the CSSD theme, Women Creating Change, which engages distinguished feminist scholars from diverse fields who focus on contemporary global problems affecting women and on the roles women play in addressing these problems.

# **DIRECTORS**













**DELIA DUONG BA WENDE** 





GARNETTE OLUOCH-OLUNYA



GIL HOCHBERG



LILLIAN CHEE





**NEFERTI X. M. TADIAR** 

COORDINATOR: <u>Javairia Shahid</u>, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), Columbia University

# HIGHLIGHTS

## **TEACHING RESOURCES**

- \* Readings: Concepts, Epistemologies, Feminisms
- \* Teaching Tool: Establishing the Interior
- \* Teaching Tool: Material Intimacy

# **EVENTS**

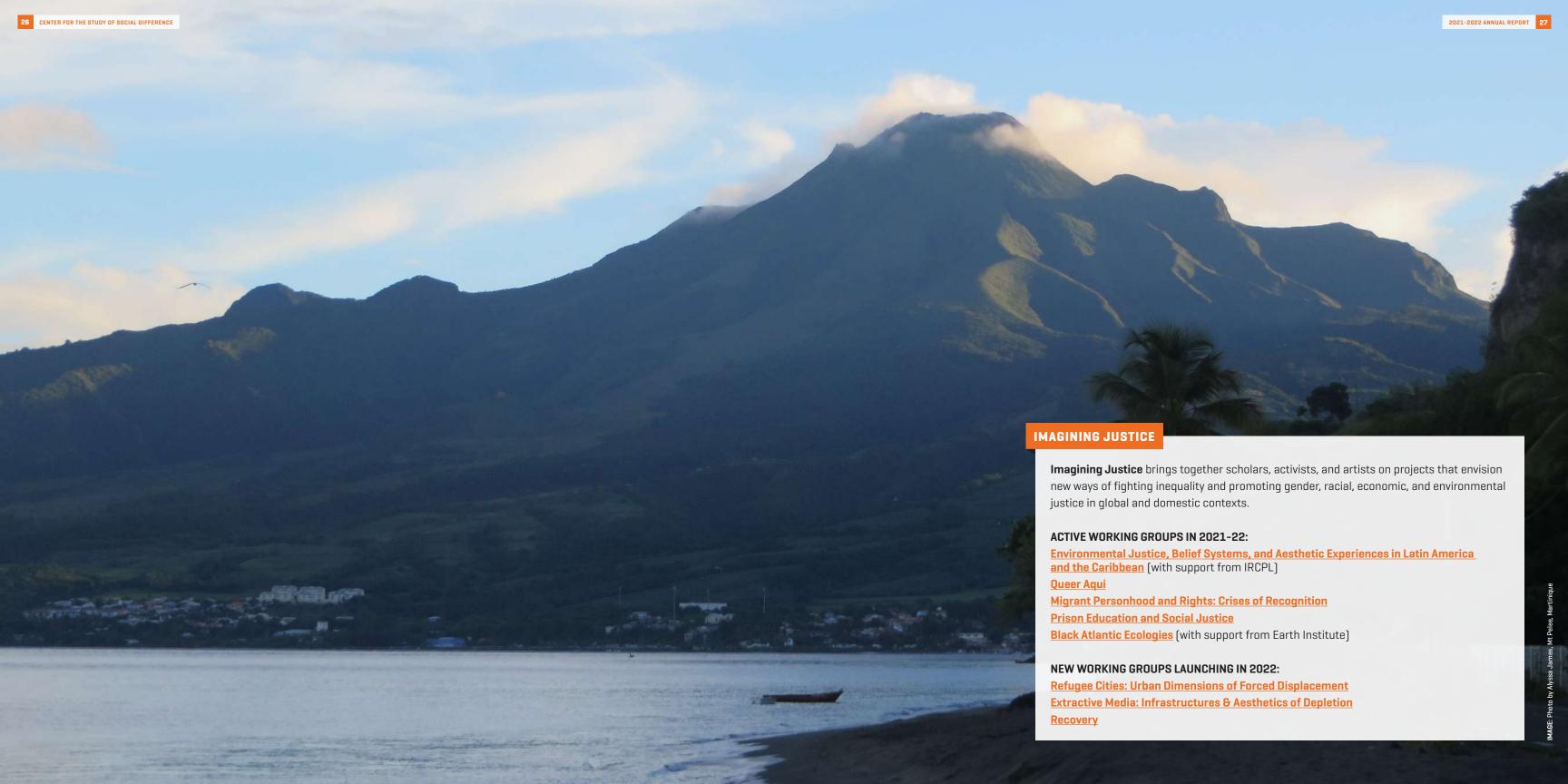
- \* Feb. 5, 2021 Session I. Concepts, Epistemologies, Feminisms
- \* Mar. 19, 2021 Session II. Establishing The Interior
- \* Apr. 23, 2021 Session III. Material Intimacy
- \* May 14, 2021 Session IV. Queer And Feminist Care
- \* September 2021, "Caregiving as Method" Series at the Society for Architectural Historians
- \* Oct. 15, 2021 Session V. Guest: Huda Tayob
- \* February 11, 2022 Session VI. Guest: Anurupa Roy
- \* (Postponed) Session VII. Guest: Christina Sharpe
- \* Mar. 25, 2022 Session VIII. Guest: Zahra Malkani and Shahana Rajani

# **FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS**

\* "Caregiving as Method," gta papers

\*"Conversations On Care" Podcast





The Environmental Justice, Belief Systems, and Aesthetic Experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean group, supported with funding from the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life at Columbia University, studies current struggles for justice that are articulated through the expressive cultures and aesthetic experiences of local communities in these regions. Environmental conflicts have increased dramatically over the past few decades, affecting and displacing indigenous populations, Afro-descendants, women, children, and peasants. Communities have to confront the transnational increase of agribusiness, hydroelectric projects, mining corporations, systematic food injustice, and their entanglement with the drug war and localized armed conflicts. Such struggles are taking place amidst dramatic events provoked by climate change as well as the rise of extremist governments in the Americas, supported by the evangelical right, increasing the number of climate, alimentary, and war refugees and asylum-seekers.

The presence of evangelical missions among indigenous peoples, especially among recently contacted groups in need of assistance, is pervasive in the Amazon, in Colombia, and in Puerto Rico, and has augmented exponentially during the last decades. In reaction to persistent attempts at conversion by native and foreign missionaries, a new shamanistic movement and alliance has taken shape in several regions of Northwestern Amazonia, in Colombia, Peru and Brazil, and new transnational configurations of Afro-Cuban and Afro-Brazilian religions have emerged. A potent cosmopolitical alliance is taking shape, one whose ritual efficacy consists in the creation of new shared artistic forms.

Our group proposes to study current struggles for justice that are articulated through the expressive cultures and aesthetic experiences of local communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. The resurgence and mobilization of what have historically been called traditional, indigenous, and Afro-descendant expressive forms—songs, rituals, images, objects, feasts, culinary arts, and ceremonies—has been dramatic. Since the mid-1980s, we have also seen the rise of an indigenous film movement in different countries in Latin America. Technologies such as loudspeakers, microphones, hard drives, and other media are changing public and private space. New alliances between artists, scholars, and ritual specialists like shamans or babalaos [e.g. in Colombia, Cuba and Brazil], and between sound artists and activists [e.g. in Puerto Rico and Cuba] are informing these aesthetic expressions. Our working group contends that these forms of aesthetic experience—in narrative form, through visual images, through sounds, through unexpected alliances—give shape to new ways of imagining justice and of imagining the relation between humans and non-humans, including deities and other religious entities.

# **DIRECTORS**



RONALD GREGG



ANA M. OCHOA GAUTIER

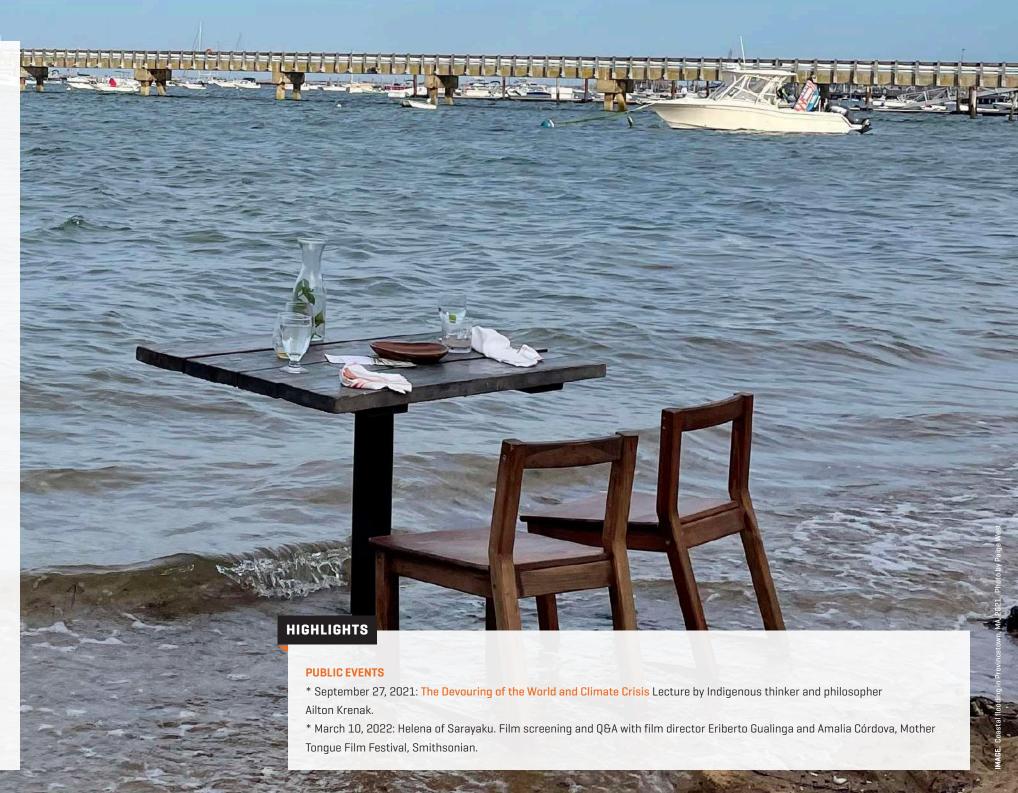


Ronald Gregg, Senior Lecturer, Film and Media Studies, Columbia University

Ana M. Ochoa Gautier, Professor of Music and Chair, Department of Music, Columbia University

**COORDINATORS:** Julia Delgadillo, Film Studies MA Student, Columbia University

Carlos Gutierrez Aza, Film and Media Studies MA Student, Columbia University





# **QUEER AQUI**

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Queer Aqui (formerly 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 in considering 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 Queer Aqui 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.

# **DIRECTOR**



**JACK HALBERSTAM** 

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

COORDINATOR: <u>Daniel S. Sáenz.</u> Ph.D. Candidate, Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Columbia University





The waters are rising. The earth is warming. Species are perishing. The world is ending.

Apocalyptic pronouncements about the refiguring of the Earth are everywhere around us. Now commonplace, predictions and pronouncements about the era that geologists have called the Anthropocene remind us that we are at the end of the world as we know it, and that global warming, rising sea levels, the acidification of the oceans, crisis-rates of species extinction and everescalating social disasters masked as natural ones are but some of the more visible markers of the imperilment of this planet. Though they have pretensions to inclusion, many of these emergent narratives mobilize ideas about the human, the animal and the environment that universalize rather than particularize, occluding the fact that these categorizations have long been shot through with histories of normative violence.

The Black Atlantic Ecologies group supports and elaborates scholarship that centers the enduring effects of coloniality and the dynamic power of protest in African diasporic confrontations with environmental crisis. Taking as our provocation the refiguring of human and nonhuman ecologies occasioned by the transatlantic slave trade, we seek to understand what Nadia Ellis has called, riffing on José Muñoz, "the queer work of raced survival" as we come to grips with contemporary dimensions of anthropogenic climate change. As inspiration for the work that we undertake together, we ask after visions for survival and justice that are grounded in Black queer, Black feminist, and antiracist responses to the subjugation of the earth as well as of our human and nonhuman cotravelers. And given the crossing of linguistic and imperial zones that the transatlantic slave trade occasioned, we pay particular attention to the divergences and synergies among anglophone, francophone, hispanophone, and lusophone analyses of our predicament as we articulate our conditions as well as the political possibilities on our horizons. This group poses a single central question: How might Black Atlantic experience with peril, with perishment and with premature death offer a rubric for thinking futurity, including reproductive futurity, in a moment of environmental collapse?

# **DIRECTORS**





VANESSA AGARD-JONES

MARISA SOLOMON

<u>Vanessa Agard-Jones</u>, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University

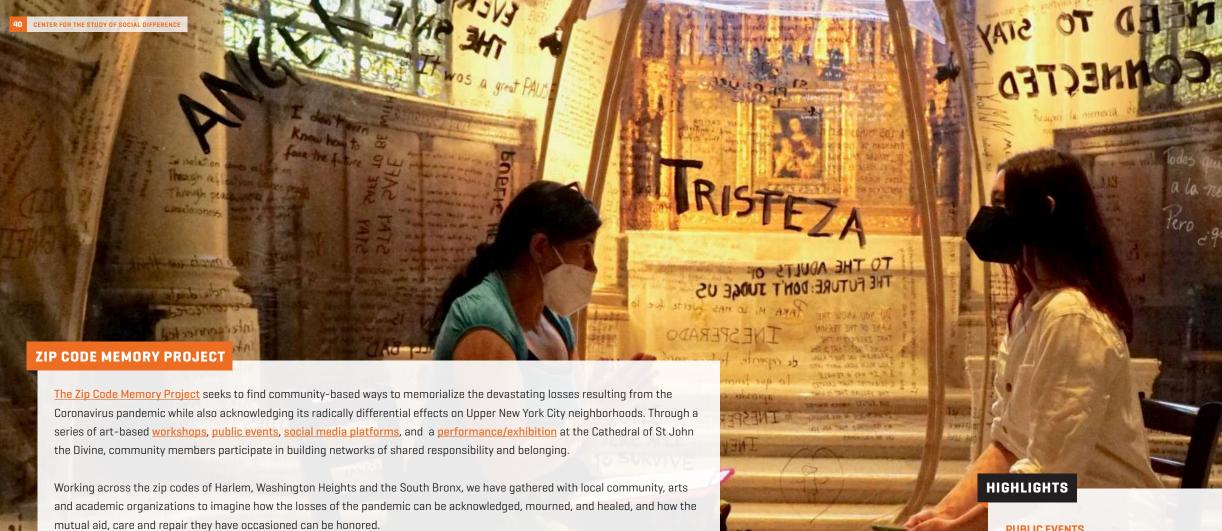
Marisa Solomon, Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Barnard College

COORDINATOR: Chazelle Rhoden, Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology, Columbia University

# HIGHLIGHTS

- $^{st}$  Attended and discussed world premiere of the play  ${\color{red} \underline{\text{Cullud Wattah}}}$
- \* Reading Leah Penniman's "Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm's Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land."





PERMANENT

**DIRECTORS** 







DIANA TAYLOR

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

Diana Taylor, Professor, Performance Studies and Spanish and Founding Director, Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, New York University

COORDINATOR: Lee Xie, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, New York University

# **PUBLIC EVENTS**

- \* October 14, 2021: Reparative Memory Roundtable I
- \* October 31, 2021: Samuel Hargress and the Music of Paris Blues: A Community Event
- \* December 5, 2021: The Zip Code Memory Project Gathering for Covid
- \* February 22, 2022: Virtual Roundtable: "Why Zip Codes?"
- \* March 31, 2022: Reparative Memory Roundtable II
- \* April 23-May 15, 2022: Imagine Repair: Exhibition & Performances at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine

Y WON'T BE WHONG

- \* "Imagine Repair" featured in the New York Times
- \* ZCMP Website

# **GRANTS RECEIVED**

\*Henry Luce Foundation Grant

# MARIANNE HIRSCH: IN THANKS FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP

As Marianne Hirsch, the William Peterfield Trent Professor of English and Comparative Literature and a Professor in the Institute for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, transitions to faculty emerita at Columbia, CSSD wishes to recognize the remarkable intellectual leadership and vision she has brought to her long involvement with the Center and to thank her for it. Hirsch is one of the founders of CSSD and its global initiative, Women Creating Change. She has served as project director or co-director for working groups such as Women Mobilizing Memory, Engendering the Archive, Reframing Gendered Violence, and most recently, the ZIP Code Memory Project: Practices of Justice and Repair. In all of this work, Hirsch has demonstrated her deep commitment to furthering feminist conversations about memory, violence, repair, and care. Her scholarship has shown how memories of violence can be transmitted across generations and has dedicated much of most recent work to the problem of mobilizing the memory of traumatic events to initiate repair and social transformation. The importance of her scholarship and public activism has been widely recognized. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a former President of the Modern Language Association of America, Hirsch has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the ACLS, the Mary Ingraham Bunting institute, the National Humanities Center, and the Bellagio and Bogliasco Foundations. As a vital bridge connecting CSSD to reparative work in communities within and outside the university, Hirsch has shown how feminism nurtures interconnections between research and activism, teaching and community building. CSSD wishes to thank Marianne Hirsch for her legacy of leadership and looks forward to her continuing involvement with the Center as the next stage of her remarkable life unfolds.





# CSSD IS HONORED TO WELCOME KASHEBA MARSHALL TO THE CENTER

Center's finances and projects, including operations, administration, and communications. She has worked with Columbia University for over ten years, most recently supporting the development team at Columbia Business School as a fundraiser and project manager for various fundraising initiatives for leadership prospects and donors. Kasheba is adept at developing sustainable fundraising models for micro-organizations. She leverages over ten years of experience in the fundraising industry, mapping strategy and relationships with internal and external partners, fueling expansion. She is also deeply committed to the kinds of justice-related work that we do at the Center and is excited to get to know the working groups and all of you.

Kasheba has a Bachelor of Arts from New York University and a Master of Nonprofit and Fundraising

Management from Columbia University's School of Professional Studies. She plans to complete her Master of

Public Administration at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs in 2023.

# **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 an impressive way 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:



Sustains our future Fortifies our research Supports our students

contact <u>socialdifference@columbia.edu</u> 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 will assist the faculty in framing how their academic endeavors can create greater impact. The WCC Leadership Council will provide a critical link between the University's faculty-led projects and the global business, academic, and civil society.

# WCCLC Member List, list alphabetically:

ANN KAPLAN (Chair), New York ANNETTE ANTHONY, London ANJALI BANSAL, India

JEWELLE BICKFORD, New York 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

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CYNTHIA MOSES-MANOCHERIAN, New York

MOLLY MATHEWS MULTEDO, Rio de Janeiro & New York

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**ALYSON NEEL, New York** 

LOIS PERELSON-GROSS, New York

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SAMIA SALFITI, Jordan

S. MONA SINHA, New York

**DIANA TAYLOR,** New York

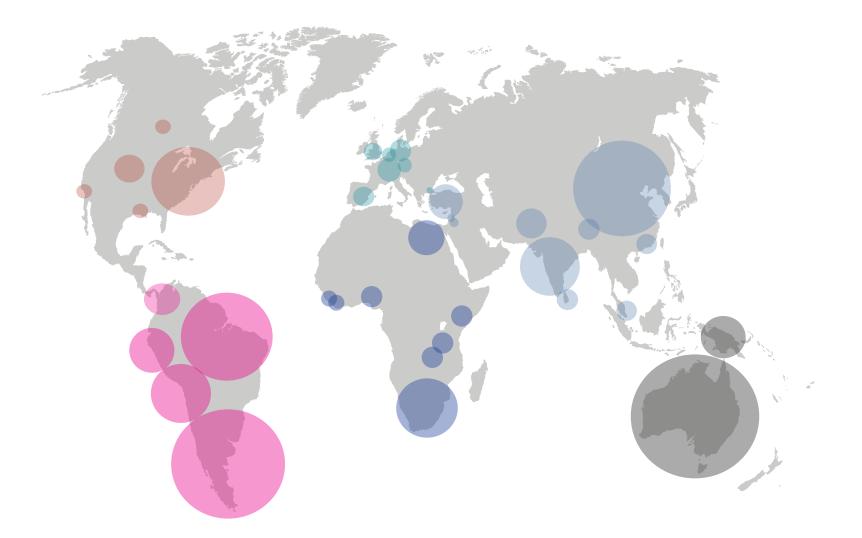
**DAVIA TEMIN, New York** 

RICHARD E. WITTEN, New York

JACKI ZEHNER, Utah

# GLOBAL REACH: FOOTPRINTS OF OUR WORK IN THE LAST DECADE

Our work spans 35 countries and counting.



# **ASIA**

Bangladesh Hong Kong India Jordan Lebanon Pakistan

Palestine Singapore Sri Lanka Turkey

Kenya Liberia Malawi Sierra Leone South Africa Zambia

**AFRICA** 

Egypt Ghana

# **NORTH AMERICA**

USA (New York, Detroit, Mississippi, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Colorado) Mexico Canada

# **SOUTH AMERICA**

Argentina Brazil Chile Colombia Ecuador

# **EUROPE**

Switzerland United Kingdom

France Greece Germany Netherlands Spain

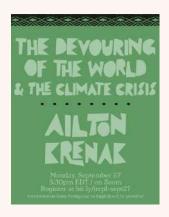
**OCEANIA** 

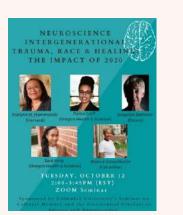
Papua New Guinea Australia

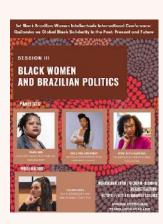
# 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT 47

# **COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER**

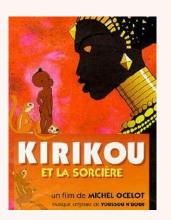
# SELECTED PUBLIC EVENTS





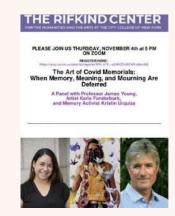


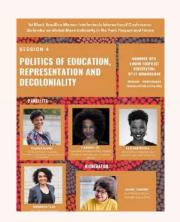


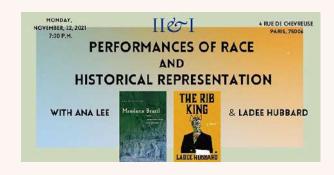


















# **CONNECTING ONLINE**





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- Center for the Study of Social Difference CSSD

# BRINGING TOGETHER PARTNERS TO CREATE CHANGE

CSSD projects have received support from external partners and from Columbia University, including:





# WOMEN **CREATING CHANGE**

# **CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL DIFFERENCE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

socialdifference.columbia.edu socialdifference@columbia.edu

# **IMAGINING JUSTICE**

# **COLUMBIA AFFILIATES**













# **CSSD PARTNERS/IS A MEMBER OF**



