

LP² A Lifelong Peer Learning Program at the Graduate Center, CUNY

THE OBSERVER
March 22, 2021

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

Over the past year, we have become acutely aware of bias, discrimination, and xenophobia that have long existed in the United States. Heightened by the pandemic, there have been increased reports of violence against those of Asian descent across the country.

In yet another senseless act of domestic and racial terrorism, eight people lost their lives last Tuesday night in Atlanta; six of them of Asian descent, and seven of them women. I am, as so many are, angry and sad. As CUNY Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez wrote in response to the events last week, we must come together in unity, as individuals and as a university. While Atlanta may seem far away, hate and violence is also present here at home in New York City. I stand in solidarity with Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) colleagues, friends, and neighbors in recognizing these and other terrible acts and the correlated fear, anxiety, dehumanization, pain, and sadness.

Our office shared last week the message from The Graduate Center President, Robin L. Garrell, which you can also [read on the GC website](#). There are several links to resources within that note. She also calls on us not to be silent: “As a community, let us stand together against hatred and reaffirm our commitment to knowledge, understanding, and action that will advance the values we share.” The LP² Advisory Board echoes this in their statement, included in the following pages of The Observer.

I recommend this interview with Celina Su, Professor of Urban Education and Political Science at The Graduate Center. She spoke with the *San Diego Union Tribune* and the full interview is linked within this post on the [Graduate Center website](#). I leave with you this extended quote, which

resonated for me and I hope is meaningful for you all as we confront racism as a community:

“While I strongly believe that what we need are policy-level and collective changes, actions by individuals can still make a profound difference in the meantime.... Solidarity matters. If folks feel safe enough to calmly object when a colleague makes a racist joke or perpetuates a stereotype, they can shift from being bystanders to [upstanders](#). While supposed ‘jokes’ are by no means equivalent to acts of violence, they are connected. Namely, so-called ‘microaggressions’ set the stage for more overt violence with impunity. And countering them can make a difference in our everyday lives.”

Following my signature, I have included other resources that may be of interest to you and the Asian Americans in your communities. Please also consider the relevant events listed at the end of this issue.

Be well,
Mariel

Two graduate students at John Jay College, Sugandha Gupta & Caroline Zimmerman have put together resources including websites where you can donate to support local businesses, access a list of mental health services, and learn more about how to support the Asian American community.

Please feel free to share as you see fit.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vMMaZJSjBkN7mBshqFkrY9UMmBc gQE0w-iEs1JF5OFQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Our office contact information:

engagement@gc.cuny.edu

212-817-2474

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

A Message from the LP² Board

The tragic killings of 6 women of Asian heritage in the Atlanta area brings sorrow and outrage to those who believe in a society of equality, justice and respect for all. Hate crimes against Asian-Americans and people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent have increased dramatically over the

past year. Sadly, the Atlanta killings were only one of many such unprovoked attacks. Such racially inspired violence against Asians and Asian-Americans is not new. Its history in the United States reaches back to the mid-19th century.

The Board and members of LP² join with GC President Robin Garrell in her calls to speak out against bigotry and stand by those who are targets of racism and injustice, and with CUNY Chancellor Matos Rodriguez in calling for a commitment to building a society and community that “champions diversity and equality, tolerance and inclusion.”

First LP² Member Connect Town Hall, Friday, April 9, 2:00PM

For the past year LP² members haven’t had the opportunity to mingle, exchange ideas, brainstorm, *etc.*, and to communicate via what longtime members used to call “Air IRP.” We are now introducing virtual “Air LP²” to be conducted through Member Connect Town Halls. Each gathering will include 18-20 members, carefully chosen to include a mix of longtime and new members and men and women. Each group will be led by an Advisory Board member so you will be able to hear about and discuss upcoming activities, get information about what the Board has been discussing (e.g., “reactivation” or repopulating the CUNY campuses) and to let the Board know about your concerns. (This Board member will also be your ongoing connection to the Board, should you have a Board-related question or concern.)

In the coming days, you will get an email with more details from the Board member leading your group. This is an important LP² initiative and we look forward to seeing you there. It should be an enjoyable experience. Alas, you’ll have to bring your own refreshments.

Curriculum Committee Seeks Members

The Curriculum Committee will have openings for two new members beginning in Fall 2021. Applicants must have successfully coordinated at least one study group in recent years and be prepared to attend weekly two-hour meetings, most likely on Thursdays. Initial membership is for two years, renewable for a second two-year term. Committee members have three basic responsibilities: (1) to recruit and encourage LP² members to coordinate study groups; (2) to support potential coordinators in the

development of proposals, as needed, and (3) to participate in the review of all submitted proposals. In addition, members may be asked to participate in one or more of the workshops that CC offers in support of potential and current coordinators. The application form is available in the Zine (Study Groups Tab) or from Jonathan Gaines at jgaines@gc.cuny.edu or Ruth Mackaman at rmackaman@gc.cuny.edu and may be returned to either of them by Monday April 5.

Help Wanted! - Fridays@3

The Fridays@3 Committee needs your help to increase attendance at this program!!

As you know, every semester we offer three free presentations that are open to the public, with well-known speakers on a variety of topics. This program gives LP² a chance to give back to the CUNY community and to the general public. But what is even more important, it allows our members to come together for discussion and socializing. (even though we will be on Zoom for a while longer).

So here is what we hope you will do: the Monday before each Fridays@3 program, the GC office will send you an email invitation with the link. Please forward the email to your friends, family, book club, neighbors, and anyone you think might be interested in the topic. And make sure you come too.

The upcoming program this Friday, March 26, features Baba Brinkman, Rapper and Improv artist, on "Climate Change and 'Other audience-selected Improv Topics" -- we will be able to feed him rap topics in the Q and A function of Zoom. For those of you who saw the Lin-Manuel Miranda-inspired rap show, "A Love Supreme," on Broadway (remember Broadway?), Baba trained with that group, and he knows how to rap!!

If you have other ideas for promoting Fridays@3, please contact co-chairs Lesley Herrmann at Lherrmann@gc.CUNY.edu and Ruth Mackaman at rmackaman@gc.cuny.edu.

Many thanks!!



Remember to register for this Fridays@3 event with Baba Brinkman on March 26 at 3 PM.

All are welcome, please invite your friends and family for a fun and innovative performance!

https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XoP7J_vJR-ureK6swjxP4Q

Reading Stories Aloud, March 29, 2021

Sharon Girard and Helene Schiffman invite you to the only “Stories Aloud” session in the 2021 Spring Break. We'll read a story by Andrea Barrett and, if time permits, another by Raymond Carver.

E-mail Sharon at sgirard@gc.cuny.edu for the story and the Zoom link.

Bipeds of Broadway: How We Came to Walk on Two Legs and Why It Matters

Wednesday, March 31, 2PM Professor William Harcourt-Smith, PhD,
Department of Anthropology, Lehman College
(For the full description, see the March 1, 2021 Observer.)

Register here: <https://forms.gle/BE5M86tkoQBtt9Qz6>

The Website Committee is seeking good-quality photos for the new LP² and IER websites involving LP² members during activities and study groups. Please e-mail Denise Waxman at dwxman1@gc.cuny.edu for more info.

ONLINE ART SHOW

From: Dan Marcus

Title: New Moon over Manhattan



Dan says: I saw this new moon while on an early evening socially distanced stroll through Central Park. The intense blue light was unusually striking and the new moon completed the composition.

MEMBER FORUM

Nancy Small continues her series:
[A video view of the New York art scene](#)

ALBERS AND MORANDI: NEVER FINISHED

A Man's Reach Must Exceed his Grasp - Nicholas Fox Weber on Joseph Albers

<https://vimeo.com/136860153?ref=em-share>

Milton Glaser on Giorgio Morandi

<https://vimeo.com/246551433?ref=em-share>

Josef Albers (1888-1976), was born in Bottrop, Germany. In 1920 he became a student at the Weimar Bauhaus, and later he joined the school's faculty, working in stained glass and design. In 1933, he and Anni Albers emigrated to North Carolina, and founded the art department at the famed Black Mountain College. In 1950 Josef was invited to organize the newly created design department at Yale. In that same year, he developed what would become his seminal series on color.

Nicholas Fox Weber was a graduate student at Yale when he first met and developed a close relationship with Joseph and Anni Albers. Since 1976, Weber has been Executive Director of The Joseph and Anni Albers Foundation, located in Bethany, CT. In addition to writing and lecturing extensively about Albers, Weber has written about several artists including Le Corbusier and Balthus (Interestingly, Balthus said that Morandi "was one of the greatest painters of the century. Extraordinary economy."). In this video, Weber discusses Albers development as an artist. Beginning with figurative drawings of simple beauty, then moving on to merge arts and crafts, and finally to his signature format of nesting colors in "Homage to the Square." Also included are some delightful personal stories and photos from the storied Black Mountain College.

Giorgio Morandi (1890 -1964) was born in Bologna, Italy, and lived there until his death. After studying at the Bologna Accademia di Belle Arti, he went on to teach engraving and etching at the prestigious school. Early in his career, Morandi began creating the small-scale still life paintings and landscapes that he would pursue throughout his life.

Milton Glaser (1929- 2020), is best known for his iconic *I Love New York* logo, and psychedelic Bob Dylan poster. In 1952 he received a Fulbright Scholarship, and studied with Giorgio Morandi, in Bologna, Italy. He later described the experience, "...it was eye opening and transforming in a way that I could not have expected. It challenged my assumptions that I had made about what the meaning of life was."

The 2016 video of Glaser's informal presentation takes place at an exhibition of Morandi's work at CIMA, Center for Italian Modern Art, on Broome Street. In describing his response to the exhibit, Glaser states, "When you leave this space, you are not the same. Everybody that sees this show realizes the extraordinary invisible power of these works."

Following are excerpts from an article, *The Revelations of an Unlikely Pairing*, January 25, 2021, by Peter Schjeldahl, art critic for the *New Yorker*. In reviewing the exhibition, *Albers and Morandi: Never Finished*, at the David Zwirner Gallery.

"Both artists worked independently of the canons of modern art without being outsiders—they were in the stream but resistant to its direction.....Rather, their approach proposed artistic visions that deviated from the forward march of modernism: alternative movements of one. The artists' insistence can seem exasperated, as though they were waiting for the world to catch on to truths that were obvious to them. They were brothers in perseverance. To my amazement, viewing them together electrifies, as their works' extremes play off each other. Think of it as a *pas de deux* of a drill sergeant (Albers) and an enchanter (Morandi). There's a crackle in perception when you turn from works by one artist to those of the other.

The Zwirner show is one of the best installed that I've ever seen. Its four large rooms host rhythmic arrays and alternations that induce that crackle: the soft cosmos of Morandi is both relieved and refreshed by the architectonics of Albers, and vice versa. The artists share an intensity of artistic vocation. Neither looked over his shoulder at trends of the day. Most of the pieces in the show (twenty-three by each artist) are small.

The Zwirner show provides a capital jump start to sensibilities deadened by nearly a year of scant physical encounters with art..... Nearly a year of being disheartened by the outline garishness and promotional smarm of

digitized images has set me up to rediscover the pungency of direct aesthetic experience. There can be no meaningful discourse about art divorced from that. Intellectual appreciation starves for want of it. The less you see, the dumber you get.”

Albers and Morandi: Never Finished
On view until March 27
David Zwirner Gallery
537 West 20th Street

NOTE: The works of Giorgio Morandi play an important role in the novel, *The Boy in the Field*, by Margot Livesey. Reading the novel can enhance your appreciation of the art and vice versa.

ONGOING LP² EVENTS

NOTE: All Things Covid, hosted by Barry Levine and Steve Kalinsky, will continue, but rather than weekly, sessions will be held every three weeks until the end of the semester (absent a need for an earlier update). The next session will be held on **Friday, April 9** at 3PM.

NOTE: Pour at Four, hosted by Susan Rubens, will be taking a break starting on Friday, March 26th as Susan considers a redesign of The Pour. As more of us receive the vaccine and the warmer weather makes an entrance, Susan is considering an alternative social plan. Getting together outdoors in different neighborhoods is a possible consideration. Details to follow soon.

The Women's Group meets at 3:45PM on Thursdays. Contact Arlyne LeSchack at aleschack@gc.cuny.edu.

The Men's Group meets at 3:45PM on Wednesdays. Contact Jay Fleishman at efleishman@gc.cuny.edu.

Stitch Away Stress meets at 4PM Tuesdays. Members share skills and enjoy the meditative benefits of handwork. Contact Michelle Harris at mharris@gc.cuny.edu.

TECH HELP: Zine, E-mail and Personal Computers

For access to Faces, the Directory, and the Calendar on the Zine (www.irpzine.org), the user ID is **LPsquared**; the password is **Fall2020**.

For e-mail woes, please direct all inquiries to engagement@gc.cuny.edu. If you need assistance with a personal computer or other device, check the Zine Tech Help tab or contact your PC manufacturer or software vendor.

The Graduate Center Office of Information Technology (OIT) does not provide assistance with personal computers or mobile devices.

NON-CUNY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

SciCafe: The Chimpanzee Within Us, Wednesday, April 7, 7:00PM

Thank you to Lorne Taichman for this recommendation!

Why are humans the way we are? One way to answer this question is to look to our closest cousins, the chimpanzees. Join Assistant Professor of Psychology and Anthropology Alexandra Rosati of the University of Michigan and Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Biology Zarin Machanda of Tufts University as they examine the world of chimpanzees, including chimpanzee social lives, ecological context, and how they think and solve problems. By understanding what it means to be a chimpanzee, we can turn back the evolutionary clock to glimpse the origins of human cognition and behavior. This event is free to attend! For registration information, see:

<https://www.amnh.org/calendar/chimpanzee-within-us>

CUNY EVENTS

**TODAY! [Copland House Presents UNDERSCORED: November 19, 1828 by John Harbison](#)
Monday, March 22, 1:00PM**

[Open Knowledge and the Emerging Field of Black Girlhood\(s\)](#) Tuesday, March 23, 4:00PM

[Annalyn Swan and Mark Stevens on Francis Bacon, with Michael Kimmelman](#)

Tuesday, March 23, 6:00PM

[James Beard, NYC, and the Closeted Life of the Dean of American Cuisine](#)

Tuesday, March 23, 6:30PM

[What Matters Now? Women Writers of Color](#)

Tuesday, March 23, 7:00PM

Thomas Dyja in conversation with Professor Joseph P. Viteritti on the new book, *New York, New York, New York: Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation* Presented by the Roosevelt House: Public Policy Institute at Hunter College

Tuesday, March 23, 6:00 PM, via Zoom [Click here to RSVP \[community.hunter.cuny.edu\]](#)

Thomas Dyja's book about New York City was reviewed on page 1 of this Sunday's New York Times Book Review.

[Philosophy Colloquium: Eva Kittay](#) Wednesday, March 24, 4:15 PM

[Timothy Brennan on Edward Said, with Kai Bird](#)

Wednesday, March 24, 6:00PM

[RETHINKING NYC: Governing a Diverse City](#)

Wednesday, March 24, 7:30PM

[Rachel Heiman: "Retrofitting the American Dream: An Ethnography of Sustainable Suburban Design"](#)

Thursday, March 25, 4:00PM

Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People

March 25 at 4:00PM

Colleagues at Bronx Community College is sponsoring an event lecture with Dr. Mahzarin Banaji, author of [Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People](#). Dr. Banaji will speak about the hidden biases we all carry from a lifetime of exposure to cultural attitudes about age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, social class, sexuality, disability status, and nationality. "Blindspot" is the authors metaphor for the portion of the mind that houses hidden biases. The goal of this lecture is to help us to gain awareness, adapt

beliefs and behaviors to "outsmart the machine" in our heads so that we can be fairer to one another. To register for the event [click here \[bit.ly\]](#).

[The Browning of the New South: Race, Immigration, and Minority Linked Fate](#)

Friday, March 26, 3:00PM

Please join the Asian American / Asian Research Institute for an online talk on, **1.5 Generation Working-Class Korean American Community College Students and the Fragile Sense of Social Belonging**, by Sujung Kim.

Friday, March 26, 2021, from 6:00PM to 8:00PM.

The lecture video will be available to view on AAARI's [website](#) and [YouTube \[aaari.us18.list-manage.com\]](#) channel.

----Coming Soon---

[From Newsletter to Scholarly Record: Unveiling the CLAGSNews Digital Archive](#) Thursday, April 1, 2:00PM

April 2: [A Rising Tide of Hate and Violence against Asian Americans in New York During COVID-19: Impact, Causes, Solutions \[aaari.us18.list-manage.com\]](#)

April 7: [A Cultural History of the Spanish Speaking People in Japan \[aaari.us18.list-manage.com\]](#)

April 16: [Asian Women in Corporate America: Emerging Research and Opportunities \[aaari.us18.list-manage.com\]](#)

April 23: [Korean "Comfort Women": Military Brothels, Brutality, and the Redress Movement \[aaari.us18.list-manage.com\]](#)

Observer Submissions Send items for the next week's Observer to Susan Rauch at srauch@gc.cuny.edu by 5PM on Friday. Send Online Art Show entries and suggestions for virtual tours to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu.

Member Forum If you have something to share with the LP² community, *e.g.*, a photo, an article, a book or a web site that you've discovered that you think would be interesting to members, send it to Susan at srauch@gc.cuny.edu for inclusion in the Member Forum.