

INSTITUTE FOR RETIRED PROFESSIONALS
The Observer, October 13, 2020

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear all,

Mark your calendars and register [here](#) for the next Fridays@3 talk on October 30 by Kathleen Hall Jamieson. Jamieson is an American professor of communication and the director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. She co-founded FactCheck.org, and she is an author, most recently of *Cyberwar*, which won the Roderick P. Hart Outstanding Book Award from the Political Communication Division of the National Communication Association (NCA). You may recognize Jamieson's name as she was quoted in last week's New Yorker article about the Lincoln Project, among many other news appearances and mentions of her scholarship on the 2016 election. In case you missed the last Fridays@3 talk by Harold Holzer on September 25, we have posted the talk online with closed captions: [watch it here](#).

Speaking of elections, the IRP Voter Registration Committee has connected with Graduate Center students to offer assistance with registration and absentee ballots, of special importance this year for so many reasons. Your peers have helped students navigate processes in other states through a help desk session and communications through the Student Activities office. We will continue to explore opportunities to expand these efforts to other CUNY campuses over time.

At the recent General Membership Meeting and in past Observer editions I have introduced you to the [Graduate Center COVID-19 Reactivation Plan](#) and committee work. Moving forward, IRP member and board chair, Harold Berkowitz, will be sitting on that committee along with Dean Peterson and me. We are happy to hear your questions about the plans to return to in-person activities in the future.

Current coordinators! You are invited to a Zoom session to discuss HOW IT'S GOING with your present Study Group -- what's working and what...not so much. The meeting is on Wednesday, October 14, 3:45-

5:00PM. Come and share insights and techniques with your colleagues. The curriculum committee and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to compare notes as these meetings have proven very helpful. RSVP to Linda Anstendig (lanstendig@gmail.com) by Tuesday evening, October 13 to then receive the Zoom invitation.

Director's Office Hours this week are Wednesday from 12-1PM. I'd love to meet you and learn more about how your semester is going. Join me in my virtual office [here](#).

See the last page of The Observer for a special message about IT Security.

Yours,
Mariel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVISORY BOARD ELECTION NOVEMBER, 2020: FAQ

To prepare IRP members for the other important election this November –the elections to our Advisory Board (from November 9 to 13)—the Elections Committee has prepared this FAQ to inform both potential candidates and voters. Please consider running for the Board; it's a great way to help guide the IRP's future!

How Many Positions Are on The Advisory Board?

There are 15 positions on the Board.

Twelve positions are elected, and three positions are held for representatives of the Curriculum, Admissions and Diversity Committees. One of the elected positions is held for someone who is in in the second or third year of IRP membership.

How Many Positions Are We Electing in November?

We are electing 12 positions this November.

When Will Nominations Be Accepted?

Nominations will be accepted from October 5 through October 23.

How Do I Get A Nomination Form?

The nomination fillable form can be accessed on the Zine or by clicking this [link](#).

Forms can be returned to Michelle Harris, Mharris@gc.cuny.edu

Can I Nominate Myself?

You can nominate yourself by filling out the nominating form and submitting it.

Why Are We Electing Members for One-Year, Two-Year and Three-Year Terms?

This year is unusual in that we are voting for all the elected members of the board. In order to establish staggered terms so that there are never fewer than two-thirds experienced members, we are electing members for one-year, two-year and three-year terms.

When and How Will the Election Take Place?

The election will be held online during the week of November 9-13 by secret ballot.

How Will I Get My Ballot?

Members will receive an email with the ballot and instructions on how to submit it.

How Do I Know If I Am Eligible to Vote?

Everyone in the IRP is eligible to vote.

How Do I Know If I Am Eligible to Run?

The positions will be open to all members of the IRP community, without exception, who have been members for at least one year.

How Will We Know Who Is Running for The Advisory Board?

Candidates are asked to submit a brief summary of their reasons for wanting to serve on the board. We will publish the summaries in the Observer. We will also introduce the candidates via Zoom during the period of October 26 – November 6.

FRIDAYS@THREE CONTINUES

The committee chairs Lesley Herrmann and Ruth Mackaman, working with Ruth Clapper and Ken Witty, have arranged another exciting lecture on

Friday, October 30 at 3:00PM.

The distinguished scholar and well-known commentator **Kathleen Hall Jamieson**, director of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center

and co-founder of FactCheck.org, will discuss her latest book, *Cyberwar: How Russian Hackers and Trolls Helped Elect a President*.

The Zoom talk will be open to an unlimited audience, so feel free to invite others. Dr. Jamieson's presentation will be followed by comments and questions from the audience. To register please click [here](#).

Here's the rest of the lineup. Mark your calendars!

Friday, November 20 at 3:00PM, Maya Wiley - Wiley a former top counsel to Mayor Bill de Blasio and an ex-head of New York City's police oversight board, has just announced her candidacy for mayor of NYC.

Friday, December 4 at 3:00PM, Martin J. Blaser – Blaser was included in TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2015. He is director of the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine at Rutgers University and professor of medicine and microbiology at the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

His pioneering work, *Missing Microbes: How the Overuse of Antibiotics is Fueling Our Modern Plagues*, has become a bible in modern biological research.

Special thanks to Mariel Villere, our director, and to CUNY Graduate Center for hosting these talks.

New York State Voting Tips

From the Voter Registration Project

You Can Still Vote in Person if You Request or Submit an Absentee Ballot

New York is unique in that you can submit an Absentee Ballot and also vote in person though, of course, your vote will only be counted once. This gives you some leeway in making your plans. It means that you can vote by mail and then decide to vote during early voting or on Election Day. The Election Law in New York State recognizes that plans change. The Board of Elections is required to check the poll book before canvassing any absentee ballot. If the voter comes to the poll site, on Election Day or during early voting and votes in person, the absentee ballot is set aside and not counted.

See New York State Board of Elections for details [here](#).

Vote Early in Person Starting October 24

You no longer have to wait until Election Day, November 3, to vote. Early voting is available in New York State starting October 24 and in order to avoid the long lines, it's probably best to vote early. Early voting is NOT necessarily at your regular polling location, so it is important to look up YOUR Early Voting Location and times here: <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov>

A Good General Voting Guide from The Gothamist can be found [here](#).

FOR ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE COORDINATORS

Question About Library Resources

Have you been able to access the books and articles you require to prepare your study groups from the resources available to us remotely through CUNY and the New York Public Libraries? If not, please let Eileen Sullivan know by sending her an email listing the books and journals that you have not been able to get.

We will submit the list to the librarians at CUNY to see if they can do something to remedy the situation. Email Eileen at esullivan@gc.cuny.edu

NEED HELP WITH YOUR PROPOSAL?

On Monday, October 19, 3:45-5pm and Wednesday, October 21, 3:45-5pm, on Zoom the Curriculum Committee will offer a workshop on **COMPLETING A PROPOSAL**. If you are thinking about submitting a study group proposal for next semester or for the future, join us to learn more about:

- Developing a successful proposal
- Finding appropriate resources on your topic
- Organizing a working syllabus
- Completing the Proposal Form

Experienced coordinators will be there to answer your questions and to share their techniques for developing a proposal. We encourage those of you who are at a later stage of proposal development to attend one of these workshops.

RSVP to Linda Anstendig, by Sunday, October 18; Zoom invitation will follow lanstendig@gmail.com

HOW'S IT GOING? WORKSHOP

Current coordinators are invited to a Zoom session to discuss HOW IT'S GOING with your present study group -- what's working and what -- not so much. The date is **Wednesday, October 14, 3:45-5PM.**

Come and share insights and techniques with your colleagues. These meetings have proven very helpful! RSVP to Linda Anstendig; Zoom invitation will follow.
lanstendig@gmail.com

ONLINE ART SHOW

Sara Pettitt: Fabric Collage



Sara says: In order to meet the requirements of an exhibition in Japan, this fabric collage is five inches by five inches. By choosing bold color and composition, I think it looks larger.

Calling All Painters, Photographers, Block Printers, Textile Artists, Collagists, and Sculptors

Did you spend the lockdown making art? Show us what you did by displaying it in the Observer's Online Art Show. Take a photograph of your work, add a title, and a sentence or two about how you made it -- or why or where.

Send to Carol Millsom
carolmillsom35@gmail.com.

Artwork is published in the

ArtSig Recommended Virtual Tours

From Carol Millsom: Dick Kossoff and I would like to be scheduling actual tours this fall, but until we can, we want to keep you posted on the many virtual tours being offered by galleries and museums. We welcome your suggestions, too. Send them to carolmillsom35@gmail.com.

Two for this week:

Church and Rothko:

Sublime. This inspired pairing of Frederic Church and Mark Rothko needs to be seen to be fully appreciated, but that experience is available only by special appointment. Christopher Rothko, the artist's son, offers a brief introduction to the virtual tour.

Also available at this site is a weekly feature focusing on a single painting. Highlighted this week: Milton Avery's Red Kerchief. Mnuchin Gallery
<https://viewingroom.mnuchingallery.com/>

Also see Cindy Sherman's current exhibition -- an exploration of androgyny at Metro Pictures. Check out current work by Robert Longo at the same site.
<https://www.metropictures.com/viewing-room/cindy-sherman>

EVENTS

ADVANCES IN CIVILIZATION

On Thursday, October 15, at 4PM Iz Greenwald will lead a discussion on Genghis Khan in the Advances in Civilization series.

On October 29 Reuven Opher will lead a discussion on Isaac Newton.

If you would like to attend either or both (our much-in-demand 2-for-1 special), please email Steve Kalinsky for a Zoom invite at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu

ONGOING EVENTS

Pour at Four hosted by Susan Rubens meets from 4 to 5PM Fridays for an end-of-the-week gathering in the 24-hour chat room at:
<https://sites.google.com/view/irpte/chstuff> Want to co-host? Contact Susan at srubens@gc.cuny.edu

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

The Men's Group meets every Wednesday at 3:30PM. Email Jay Fleishman at efleishman@gc.cuny.edu.

MEMBER FORUM

Rosalie Frost has an online exhibit of photographic-based art through October 15 at sohophoto.com, the website for Soho Photo Gallery, of which she is an artist member. The exhibit is entitled Simulacrum: A Library Card Catalog (after Borges, The Library of Babel).

Website visitors should click on Rosalie's image on the home page to go to her images and statement.

From Carol Borelli: Parli italiano? Perhaps you would like to enjoy an aperitivo and conversation together, once every month on a designated day at aperitivo time? (Parliamo solo in italiano, per favore!) If you are interested, be in touch with your ideas at: cborelli@gc.cuny.edu.

NEED TECH HELP?

From IRP: Direct your browser to the IRP tech stuff webpage -- <https://sites.google.com/view/irpte/chstuff> -- for advice on setting up emails and Zoom accounts, among other things. If you want additional help, send an email to tech@iernyc.org.

From GC: Send email to engagement@gc.cuny.edu.
Accessing GC Email: Direct your browser to <https://wa.gc.cuny.edu/owa>

OBSERVER SCHEDULE

Please submit your items to Leslie Davis at ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu by the end of the day on Friday for inclusion in Monday's issue. Items submitted after Friday will be saved for the following week.

CUNY EVENTS AND RESOURCES: UPCOMING & ONGOING

Gotham Center Trivia Night,
Tuesday, October 13 8:00 - 9:00PM. Register here: <https://www.mcnyc.org/event/ultima-te-virtual-nyc-trivia-night-october>

David S. Reynolds on Abraham Lincoln, with James Oakes
October 13, 6:00 PM-7:05 PM.
Register here: <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/david-s--reynolds-on-abe>

Seminar in Biochemistry, Biophysics & Biodesign: Janet Iwasa, University of Utah
Animating Biology, October 14, 12:00PM - 1:00PM. See here to register <https://asrc.gc.cuny.edu/events/>

The Undocumented-Led Struggle for Freedom: A Conversation with the Authors of Eclipse of Dreams October 14, 6:30 PM – 08:00 PM. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-undocumented-led-struggle-the-undocumented-led-struggle-for-freedom-tickets-123041615785>

Richard Ocejo: "Moral Framing, Community, and Conditional Gentrification in a Small City"

October 15, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

Register here: https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtc-2sqDgoE9QQNEal4b9st4nXkgE11_Yt

Female Suffering and Shakespearean Calculation: Edward Bond's Bingo

October 15, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM. Register here:

<https://bit.ly/SSWRJeanEHoward2020>

Investigation of Ultrafast Dynamics of Molecular Excitons

October 16, 11:00AM-1:00PM

Register here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSch6XumDdEYA0HtWhKoWkt9Em-FJgvwQ8Uxfza37PXxm49KLA/viewform>

Afro-Brazilian Art and Politics

October 16, 12:00-2:00PM.

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/afro-brazilian-art-and-politics-tickets-117836597435>

Environmental Sciences Seminar: Alan Titus, U.S.

Bureau of Land Management

Recent dinosaur findings (tentative title)

October 20, 4:15PM - 5:15PM.

See here to register

<https://asrc.gc.cuny.edu/events/>

Seminar in Biochemistry, Biophysics & Biodesign: Frans Mulder, Aarhus University

Probing and predicting the behavior of intrinsically disordered proteins by integrating NMR spectroscopy and computation

October 21, 12:00PM - 1:00PM.

See here to register

<https://asrc.gc.cuny.edu/events/>

The Graduate Center Presents: UNDERSCORED – Copland

Piano Quartet. Monday, October 26, 1:00 - 2:00PM Register here:

<https://underscored1026.eventbrite.com/?aff=IRPObserver>

Seminar in Biochemistry, Biophysics & Biodesign: Nobuhiko Tokuriki, University of British Columbia

Dynamics and constraints in enzyme evolution

October 28, 12:00PM - 1:00PM.

See here to register

<https://asrc.gc.cuny.edu/events/>

NON-CUNY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

El Museo del Barrio has published numerous [exhibition catalogues and brochures](#) to enjoy from home.

Jazz at Lincoln Center offering [free weekly online programs](#).

The Jewish Museum has made their [audio tours](#) available online.

MoMA is offering free online [courses and specializations](#).

The Whitney Museum of American Art is offering from artist talks to art history courses, webinars and creative projects for everyone, see what's coming up [here](#). Explore exhibitions online [here](#).

BRIC Rotunda Gallery is offering free Media Education Courses. More information [here](#)

SPECIAL IT SECURITY MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE CENTER

IT Security has received recent reports of a new phishing attempt directed toward the GC community. The scammer sends an email or text message to GC staff pretending to be high-ranking administration personnel, e.g., School Dean, Executive Director, Provost, or the President.

Emails are sent to individuals that request the receiver to purchase gift cards. The email received is either a spoofed email/fake email, a spoofed phone call, or a spoofed text from a person in authority requesting the purchase of multiple gift cards for either personal or business reasons. The email message may start by saying, *“Are you available at the moment? I need you to do something for me.”*

- Be mindful of any email, phone call, or text message requesting multiple gift cards, even if the request is ordinary.
- Carefully scrutinize all requests for multiple gift card purchases.
- Be suspicious of communications with urgent requests from executives.
- Review the sending email address closely.
- Check with the sender by phone or in person. Or send a separate email to follow up.
- Please do not reply to the request itself.

Please remain vigilant, now more than ever, and report any fraudulent or phishing emails to itservices@gc.cuny.edu

It's National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Helpful Tips

You can find the following tip sheets on the [National Cybersecurity Awareness Month Publications site](#):

- Identity Theft and Internet Scams Tip Sheet
- Phishing Tip Sheet
- Online Privacy Tip Sheet
- Social Media Cybersecurity Tip Sheet

Remember that CUNY also provides an [online security awareness course](#) (please provide the registration information requested) that is catered to CUNY students, faculty and staff. We also provide a growing security resources list on the [CUNY Information Security pages \[cuny.edu\]](#). You may also want to subscribe to [OUCH!](#) — the world's leading, free security awareness newsletter designed for technology users. View more from CUNY on the [National Cybersecurity Awareness Month page \[cuny.edu\]](#).