



THE OBSERVER
January 24, 2022

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Members: Important information follows; please be sure to read it carefully!

Dear members,

I trust you had a restorative break and hopefully were able to spend time with family or friends and stay healthy despite the challenges that are all too familiar. We at The Graduate Center have been busy preparing for the Spring term and are eager to welcome you back, whether virtually or on campus – many for the first time.

The Executive Committee and chair of the Curriculum Committee and I have made the decision to postpone in-person components of HyFlex study groups on Mondays and Tuesdays; therefore, HyFlex study groups will meet only by Zoom for the first two weeks of classes. The two in-person-only study groups will proceed as planned and on campus starting January 31 and February 1. Members of those study groups have been sent details about building entry and their class meeting space. More information follows about campus access in the Spring term.

All members should have their study group schedule for the Spring term. Coordinators will reach out to you in advance of the first day with materials. You can write to them directly if you have not yet heard from them and their study group is on your schedule.

The add/drop period ends on February 14. We cannot accept your requests for schedule changes via email; please submit those requests in the add/drop form here:

<https://formfacade.com/public/103716228190598589986/all/form/1FAIpQLSdRHeyFXGB3pMcBEH4su3dmHxWqj2RD6zLOIxiWAOAhKuT2jw>

To reduce the number of add/drop requests you must make and we must process, before submitting your request, we advise you consult the Grid and the linked syllabi within (click the title of the study group), which can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jX8p4h_WNnt3oZwjvJfjVy84lJOcdNcLZ1FfO5VKHl8/edit.

As a reminder: unless given explicit permission from the Director, you should have a total of at least two study groups on your schedule. For example, this total can be made up of two six-week classes (each worth ½) and one 12-week class (worth 1). We also have “free fourth” study groups available should you be interested in a fuller schedule this term. Please consult the add/drop form for the most up to date availability.

CORRECTION: Earlier communications listed an incorrect date for the General Membership Meeting. **The correct date for the GMM is FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18. It will be held at 2 PM via Zoom. The link will be distributed next week.**

SEE BELOW FOR GC-CUNY CAMPUS POLICY on Covid-19 testing, Cleared4 Access Passes (vaccination), student ID cards and Library information.

Until soon!
Mariel

WELCOME BACK FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Just when we thought the pandemic was waning and we were almost getting back to normal, down came Omicron. On the Spring schedule about half our study groups were scheduled for either HyFlex, or totally in person. Omicron has made us all take another look at our own risk tolerance, and we are delaying the start of HyFlex SGs for two weeks, while the in-person groups will meet as planned.

Zoom was a gift in helping us to maintain a vibrant LP² while the pandemic raged. Now many of us are experiencing Zoom fatigue. After more than two years of managing the pandemic, all of us are getting weary, nerves are fraying and cold winter days don't help.

We all want to get back to in-person study groups, committee meetings, and hanging out with friends before and after classes. The COVID pandemic coincided with our move to the CUNY Graduate Center, so most of us haven't been able to see our new home and meet Mariel, Ariana and the new office staff, Monben, in person,. Members who joined after COVID haven't even had the chance to meet most of the other members in person.

But the numbers are coming down. Like the glass half full person that I am, I'm optimistic that we will soon be dealing with an endemic rather than a pandemic virus. Hang in there, friends. Enjoy your Spring study groups. Take one more deep breath and I hope to see you all in person come Spring.

Barbara Marwell, Chair

GC-CUNY CAMPUS INFORMATION

COVID-19 TESTING

All members of LP² are required to be vaccinated to enter the Graduate Center. At this time, CUNY adult and continuing education participants like yourselves are not additionally mandated for any regular (or random) COVID-19 testing, which you may have read about as it applies to matriculated students and employees of the University. You may also know that there is a testing site on campus at the Graduate Center in addition to other locations on CUNY campuses and office buildings throughout the five boroughs. Unfortunately, LP² members are not eligible to take advantage of these testing sites as again, they are currently only available to matriculated students and employees. If LP² members were to go to one of these sites for a test, they would not be recognized in the system because it is a separate database from that for registered students, faculty, staff. Further, because of the way the testing is currently set up, participants are not provided a result as they are at testing centers. Instead, the testing program is really for reporting to the school and within the proprietary portal.

I will advise the membership, starting with those regularly accessing campus, if anything changes over the course of the next few months.

CLEARED4 ACCESS PASS

All individuals seeking campus access must have a Cleared4 CUNY Access Pass – no other forms of vaccination documentation are accepted. If you are enrolled in a HyFlex or in-person study group this Spring, you have been sent information to submit your vaccination documentation to a system called Cleared4 in order to gain building access. If you have not received such an invitation and you are planning to come to campus this term for a study group please email me at mwillere@gc.cuny.edu. If your pass lists an expiration date, please disregard. The system will automatically extend the valid period.

Student ID information is being sent out in batches so that Public Safety is able to manage the requests. HyFlex participants will receive this information in the coming week.

You can also come to campus to use the library once you have a Cleared4 pass and a student ID card. Please email me at mwillere@gc.cuny.edu if you would like to make such a request.

LIBRARY INFORMATION

LP² members have access to the remote research databases through the Graduate Center library and are also able to visit the library in person with their Cleared4 Access Pass and their student photo ID card.

Remote access via catalog: Visit <https://library.gc.cuny.edu/> and begin your search in the collection using titles, authors, subjects,

etc. or via the “Databases A-Z” link under Research on the same page linked above. Once you find the item you are interested in accessing, click the title and you will be brought to a page that looks like this, where you should enter your Graduate Center email address and password that you use to access your email account.

If you have forgotten your email account password, you can use this tool to reset it, using the “Forgot your password” option: <https://passwordreset.gc.cuny.edu/>

MINA REES LIBRARY

Login Required

Please log in with your [GC network account](#).

Access to this library resource is limited to Graduate Center affiliates, including School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU).

Username:

Password:

Log In

GC network credentials are not the same as CUNYfirst credentials. In most cases, your username is your first initial followed by your last name; if you are affiliated with SLU, [log in with your EMPLID and password provided by SLU IT](#).

Forgot your password? GC affiliates can use GC IT's [self-service password reset site](#). SLU affiliates should contact SLU IT at ITHelpDesk@slu.cuny.edu.

[CUNY Accounts](#) [Ask a Librarian](#) [IT Services](#) [Report a Problem with a Library Resource](#)

Other resources include:

[Ask a Librarian:](#) This page includes all the points of contact for the Library - submit a question, live chat service, and consultation form. You can always email ref@gc.cuny.edu or contact our liaison Mason Brown directly at mbrown3@gc.cuny.edu.

LP² Research Guide: Katherine Pradt has created a research guide specifically for you as patrons, including links to free, online resources - as well as a link to Mason's previous workshop, viewable online.

Printing is available for 15 cents per page. They will purchase a \$1 copy card, add funds, and then send print jobs to the Guest Printer. Ask for help at the Reference Desk on the 2nd Floor.

Please visit the Reference Desk on the 2nd Floor with any questions, the librarians are happy to help out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

LP² Science Seminar Series

Wednesday, February 2 @ 4:00PM

The Brain in Healthy Aging vs Dementia with Dr. Loraine Obler



Many of us have probably experienced age-related changes in our facility with language. “It’s on the tip of my tongue.” “I just can’t pull up the word.” “Now where did I leave my keys?” What is happening to us? Why this happens to older adults will be addressed in this Science Seminar Series by [Dr. Loraine Obler](#), Distinguished Professor and Director of the Neurolinguistics Laboratory at the Graduate Center. Dr. Obler has published over 250 articles as well as co-authored and co-edited several books on language, the

brain, and cognition. LP² member Bob Braff will lead off with a conversation

with Dr. Obler followed by questions from our membership. Register here: <https://forms.gle/fgHWzZ5jLuSJcLcZA> to receive the Zoom link and to submit questions in advance.

Save the Dates for the Spring Lineup

Unmasking Bias

Thursday, February 24 @7:00PM

Nicole Johnson, Dismantling Systemic Oppression in the Theater

Fridays@1 (Note the change in time)

March 4

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Jesse Eisinger** on why billionaires fail to pay their fair share of taxes, based on his book, *The Chickenshit Club: Why the Justice Department Fails to Prosecute Executives*.

April 8

Roosevelt Montas, Dominican-born academic, on *Rescuing Socrates: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation*

April 22

Ellen Zwiebel, astronomer, and daughter of recently deceased LP² member, Norma Grossman, on the possibilities and promise of the new **James Webb telescope**.

HELP WANTED!

Mitzi Binder is interested in **restarting the “In the City” group** that organized trips to interesting venues within the city. Please contact her if you are interested in working on the committee.

Mitzi Binder
(917) 446-0618



NEW MEMBER BIOS

LP² welcomes nine new members this semester and we'll be introducing you to two new members in each issue of The Observer. Please take the opportunity to say a real "hi" when you meet them in a virtual event.

Judy Adelson

judyadelson@gmail.com



Judy writes:

It is time for me to cut back on my psychotherapy practice and begin a new phase of life. And so here I am. Because I benefit a great deal from my connection to others, my career as a social worker suited me very well and LP² drew me in with its promise of a new and interesting community.

Actually, a friend in Massachusetts has been attending a program similar to that of LP² at Brandeis University. For years, I have been hearing about the wonderful courses she has taken there and I have become increasingly eager to enjoy learning purely for its own sake. I am mostly a fiction reader and having studied literature in college, and clinical psychology in graduate school, I am now interested in branching out. Never having studied science and really wanting to learn more of the basics, I am grateful for Science Wednesdays. There never seem to be enough science courses for retirees. But there are several study groups in history, especially, that pique my interest. I am delighted to be taking study groups on Jill Lepore's view of American history and on non-fiction narratives.

On the personal front, I am divorced. I have one daughter and two grandchildren. When the kids were growing up, the family lived very close to me on the Upper West Side and I am grateful that I had the opportunity to be a doting grandmother in my grandchildren's early lives.

If and when Covid ends, I cannot wait to travel again, to listen to live music, especially jazz, and go to the movies. I hope that I may find some friends who may be interested in getting out of the city to do a bit of hiking and birding.

Elise Goodman

elisesgoodman@gmail.com



Elise writes:

Growing up, I lived a few blocks south of the Bronx High School of Science but had no thoughts about a life in science. However, when I did not get into Music and Art - TWICE - Bronx Science was a better bet for me than Walton (all girls- no, no) or Theodore Roosevelt and Christopher Columbus High Schools, where I worried kids would be “too fast” for me. I loved Bronx Science. It turned out to be my finest academic achievement, and the place where I finally did not feel like a weirdo.

After graduating, I went to the University of Michigan, because I could earn the \$1000 a year (for room, board, tuition and transportation) every summer by working as a waitress in hotels in New Hampshire and the Catskills. I majored in English and Philosophy and took acting classes.

I chose a career in acting and spent a year as an acting apprentice at the Cleveland Playhouse, and the summer in summer stock in Camden Maine. (My greatest achievement at the Cleveland Playhouse was learning to sew in the costume department!)

In the following years, I was a *per diem* teacher in the NYC public schools to support trying for life as an actress. I did play a few roles off-Broadway, some roles on TV for Theater Guild and did some educational TV. Then came my years as an Associate Producer of *Captain Kangaroo*, a researcher and assistant at NBC in News Documentaries, and an Associate Producer on Channel 13 of a documentary film on the Algonquin Round Table, which won that year’s Oscar for best long documentary film.

I married late for those days, at almost 29 years old (never wanted to get married earlier because I loved my careers), to Arnold Goodman, with whom I shared 57 grand years and our great love for music.

Arnold was an entertainment lawyer and eventually started the Goodman Associates Literary Agency in 1977. I joined him there in 1978. I guess we were best known for being the agents for the "What to Expect" books (*What to Expect When You're Expecting*, *What to Expect the First Year*, etc.) and for representing many Australian authors in the U.S. Since Arnold died, I continue the work of the agency. Some lucky authors continue receiving royalties and their monies need to be distributed.

Arnold and I had two children. Our son, with his wife and five children, is now London-based, working for the New York Times as International Economics Correspondent. Our daughter, her husband and their daughter live on the Lower East Side, incredibly close to where my parents and two older siblings lived before I was born.

ONLINE ART SHOW

From: Sefi Shliselberg

Title: Wheel-thrown porcelain pot

Sefi says: This pot is decorated using the *sgraffito* technique. In Italian, *sgraffito* means "to scratch." I applied a layer of black, then blue, and finally a white underglaze. To create the abstract pattern, I scratched off the dry underglaze.



Calling All Painters, Sculptors, Photographers, Block Printers, Ceramicists
and Textile Artists!

Display the creative work you have been doing this summer in the Online Art Show. Send a photograph of your work with a title and a brief statement about it to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu. Art works appear in The Observer in the order in which they are received.

MEMBER FORUM

David Lerner, Zen and the Art of Printer Maintenance

A few Sundays ago, the NY Times Book Review (link below) ran a review of a novel set in **Tekserve**, the independent Apple repair store on West 23rd Street, cofounded by **LP²'s David Lerner** "when Apple was still a feisty little outlier punching up in a Windows PC world."

In her first novel, *LaserWriter II*, author Tamara Shopsin visits the free-spirited world of Tekserve in the 1990s, a cult hangout for devoted Mac users where Claire, her 19-year-old protagonist, joins "an eccentric new work family, which includes audio engineers, theater people and a

Bulgarian electronics wizard. They're all supervised by the company's unorthodox founders, David Lerner and Dick Demenus."

[Read the New York Times book review here.](#)

David Lerner, post-Tekserve, has been at the core of LP²'s tech support team. His behind-the-scenes tech work has kept LP² on a steady course throughout the pandemic. From tech training to website development to training the trainers, David's expertise and patience have been invaluable to maintaining our program. In fact, David has even been sighted cycling around lower Manhattan delivering tablets to fellow LP² members unable to get on Zoom.

Barbara Marwell has a favorite David Lerner story: In one of the worst months of the pandemic, when I was preparing video clips for the SG Hollywood Goes West, I encountered a disc that wouldn't let me make clips. This was for one of the most important films in the history of Westerns. Despairingly, I called David for help and after talking me through several ways to address the problem, he said he would bicycle up to my building - from the Village to the UWS - pick up the disc and see what he could do. He worked his magic. I was able to make clips from the uploaded file and most importantly, *The Searchers* was included in the study group.



Ethnic Dining Returns to LP².

Thanks to Myriam Bucatinsky for reviving the ethnic dining tradition at LP². Twenty-one happy LP² diners gathered for a delicious lunch at Buenos Aires restaurant deep in Alphabet City. Although the menu offered both fish and a pasta main dish, most of us opted for steak – to honor the Argentinian dining tradition. The food was good, the conversation lively and all of us were glad to be seeing one another in person again. If the virus doesn't force us back into the confines of our apartments and houses, we look forward to a repeat opportunity in the near future to break

bread and toast friendship at another ethnic restaurant.

COVID TIPS

E-mail address for the free, at-home, covid antigen tests

https://special.usps.com/testkits?link_id=1&can_id=c3bf5dab70c7e2e23e97ee09fe1942d4&source=email-firstname-commonize-default-friend-we-wanted-to-make-sure-you-saw-this&email_referrer=email_1413876&email_subject=your-free-covid-antigen-tests-nil

Masks: Guidelines for Choosing one, IDing Fakes, Lifespan

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/01/15/1073273768/n95-mask-respirator-cdc>

<https://www.nytimes.com/article/covid-masks.html>

A rose is a rose is a rose?

Controversy Over the Term 'Latinx': Public Opinion Context

Few Hispanic Americans prefer the term "Latinx" even as controversies have emerged over its use. [Read the article](#)

You don't have to be an NYU Law alum to attend this event.

Building Inclusive Habits: A Science-Based Approach

Tuesday, February 15, 1:00–2:00PM

Join Professor Kenji Yoshino, Director of the Center for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging at the NYU Law School, in a conversation with Professor Katy Milkman, a renowned behavioral scientist at The Wharton School. Creating a more inclusive culture will require all of us to change our daily habits—in the workplace, in the classroom, and in our broader lives. But why is change so difficult, and what can we do to overcome the barriers? Professor Katy Milkman has published extensively on a range of diversity and inclusion topics, such as discrimination in academia, gender equality in the workplace, and the efficacy of diversity training. More recently, she published the bestselling book, *How to Change: The Science of Getting*

from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be. This event is part of the Center for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging speaker series. [Register](#)
The Diversity Committee recommends:

Exhibits at El Museo del Barrio, 1230 Fifth Avenue, on view until February 27th:

Popular Painters and Other Visionaries

En Foco: The New York Puerto Rican Experience, 1973--74

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/16/arts/design/latino-art-exhibitions-new-york.html?searchResultPosition=3>

ONGOING LP² EVENTS

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.

Observer Submissions Send items for the next week's Observer to Micky Josephs at mjosephs@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 and think would be interesting to members, send it to Micky at mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu for inclusion in the Member Forum.