



THE OBSERVER January 31, 2022

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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Monday and happy first day of study groups!

Doesn't quite feel like "spring" yet after the snowy weekend, but very glad to be welcoming you back to a full week after the winter recess.

Our office looks forward to meeting some members as they come into the Graduate Center this week for in person (only) study groups. We will also see a lot of you on Zoom for Wednesday's Science Seminar, kicking off activities for the term.

I will have Director's Office Hours this week on Wednesday at noon. Please join me to say hello - bring your questions if you have: <https://gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us/j/87450295130?pwd=Q3FMMUJqeWQzYVFUU1hhMmQzaWdpZz09>

We have been busy over the break getting coordinators set up for study groups— from the DEI* Roundtable Discussions to workshops and trainings led by the Tech Committee, and preparations for HyFlex study groups. I'd also like to point members to the reminders enclosed in this issue of the Observer about etiquette in study groups on Zoom. I know we are fatigued by Zoom and pandemic life in general, and it's important as ever to be kind to and respectful of each other — even when in debate, while in study groups and other LP² activities.

Take good care and wishing you a rewarding semester.

Best,
Mariel

*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

MESSAGE FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Welcome to the first day of LP² Spring 2022 semester. As the saying goes, hope for the best and plan for the worst. We were hoping to welcome many of you to the Graduate Center at the start of this semester. However, because of Omicron only the two in-person only study groups will begin the semester at the Graduate Center. **HyFlex study groups will be on Zoom for the first two weeks and are scheduled to begin in HyFlex mode on February 14.**

We have 308 members registered for Spring semester, a slight increase from Fall registration. Let's all have a stimulating semester ahead.

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.

Zoom Guidelines

Being on Zoom for two years has been challenging, from technical issues to participant burnout. Here are some guidelines for better discussions on Zoom.

Etiquette

Over the past year we have had a number of incidents of rude behavior in study groups. Coordinators will spend a few minutes in the first session discussing general rules for discussion including hand raising, waiting to be called on, not interrupting, and norms for disagreeing with others. In lively discussions, participants challenge ideas expressed by others, but it is never appropriate to criticize or demean the person. We can disagree without being disagreeable.

Video

Out of respect for the coordinator and class members DO NOT turn off your video. Videos should be turned off only sparingly and briefly. Nobody wants to speak to a black box with a name on it. It makes for a much better discussion if you can see faces and expressions.

Chat

Please do not use "Chat" to send a message to everyone or in a private chat (the equivalent to passing notes in class). These messages can be distracting. If you have something to say, raise your hand and wait until you are called on.

THE COORDINATOR DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES

The Workshop Group of the Curriculum Committee has designed an expanded set of Coordinator Development Workshops with an updated approach.

There will be weekly sessions from the second week of the semester to one month before Study Group Proposals are due. Workshops will be informal free-wheeling discussions tailored to the needs of the attendees.

These workshops will be in conjunction with the two sessions for new coordinators that are offered closer to the beginning of the Fall semester.

Here is the schedule for Spring 2022, all to be held on Tuesdays at 4 pm. Registration links are included. Be sure to hit "Submit" when you register. **(Starting next week, we will be posting information only on the upcoming workshop.)**

Tuesday, February 8 @ 4PM: Brainstorming – Let's Get Started

Where do ideas for study groups come from? Where do you fit in the process? Brainstorming – Let's Get Started will be an informal forum for discussion. It will stimulate you to think of a study group that you might like to coordinate or co-coordinate in the future. We will help you decide what will work. We invite you to join us, even if you haven't yet formulated a study group idea. Bring your questions and open minds next Tuesday, February 8 at 4 pm. The Zoom link will be sent before the workshop. To register, click on this link: [Brainstorming - Let's Get Started](#)

Tuesday, February 15 @ 4PM: Brainstorming -- More Than One Way to Present Study Groups

This week we'll be continuing the series of Coordinator Development Workshops with a discussion of More Than One Way to Present Study Groups. We'll consider how to find the format that fits your style and use it to share your ideas effectively. The Zoom link will be sent before the workshop.

To register, click on this link: [More Than One Way to Present Study Groups](#)

Tuesday, February 22 @ 4PM: Bonus – Two workshops this week! (same day, same time, different links)

Speed Dating for Prospective Co-coordinators

Designed for those who would like to find someone sharing their interests who might like to cooperate in putting together a study group, this is a chance to see if you can locate a compatible collaborator. Maybe you'll find a match.

To register, click on this link: [Speed Dating for Prospective Coordinators](#)

or

How's it Going? *(for current coordinators)*

This will be an opportunity for both new and experienced coordinators to discuss how their current study groups are progressing and to share problem-solving strategies. We'll be getting together to talk about what's working, what isn't, and what to try next. The Zoom link will be sent before the workshop.

To register, click on this link: [How's it Going?](#)

Tuesday, March 1 @ 4PM: Beyond Beginnings: Zeroing In on Research Resources

You've done the hard creative work, landed on a theme, and conceptualized your idea for a Study Group. Now, it's time to deepen your research, investigating available resources and methods for making your ideas accessible. This week, we'll look at some library and research sources to enrich your topic's content. The Zoom link will be sent before the workshop.

To register, click on this link:

[Beyond Beginnings: Zeroing in on Research Resources](#)

Tuesday, March 8 @ 4PM: Making it Happen

You've come up with a great idea. You've been thinking about the first few sessions a lot and you're ready to get started. But soon you will have to come up with a semester's worth of weekly lessons. It's time to think about long-term next planning. You're invited to come to talk about creating a syllabus. The Zoom link will be sent before the workshop.

To register, click on this link: [Making it Happen](#)

Save Another Date for the Spring Speakers Lineup

Unmasking Bias

Thursday, February 24 @7:00PM

Nicole Javanna Johnson, Founder & Creative Director of the Harriet Tubman Effect Institute, a human resource center and institute of research and strategy for justice advocacy, will present **Dismantling Systemic Oppression in the Theater**. Nicole will share her insight into the

education, principles and rhythms of effective Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) initiatives in Broadway and regional houses, including *Passover*, *Dana H* and *Freestyle Love Supreme*.

A Shout-out to Break Activity Leaders

Members enjoyed and appreciated your efforts. The Community Building Initiative (CBI) will be reaching out to members again later in the spring semester seeking volunteers to lead break activities during the next break. So put on your thinking caps!

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

Robin Hamlich

rhamlich@gc.cuny.edu



Robin writes:

I am excited to be starting my retirement and next chapter of my life with all of you!

As a person who grew up on Long Island, moved to upstate New York for college, graduate school, marriage, child, exciting and satisfying work career, I am living my childhood dream of living in the city! As a kid I would spend many Saturdays driving into “the city” with my parents to explore different neighborhoods (they grew up in Brighton Beach) or to see a ballet/ or a Broadway show. We didn’t

have a lot of money, so it was more walking around the LES, Chinatown, SOHO or Little Italy.

I am trained as a clinical social worker and have spent all my professional life in Ithaca, NY, working at several agencies, in private practice and 22 years at the Cornell University counseling center as a therapist, clinical director and ending my career as the Interim Director of Counseling and Psychological Services. I was married for 17 years until my husband died in 1999. We had one child who is now married, with 2 children, living in NJ.

I enjoy travel, hanging out, wine, food, exploring, my 2 grandchildren (Jacob is 8 and Emma is 6) and interior design (In 2009, I got a certificate in Design from Parsons by doing 3 summers of intensive coursework and studios). I look forward to meeting you all to share ideas, meet new people, find some new interests, and enjoy this next journey.

Rosalie Zuckerman

rzuckerman1@gc.cuny.edu



Rosalie writes:

I am very excited about joining LP². I was a bankruptcy attorney for 25 years. Prior to that, I was a journalist for newspapers in Indiana, Florida and New Jersey. I serve as a volunteer attorney coaching high school student debates and mock trials. I have tutored adult ESL students. I love art, opera, classical music and travelling. I have traveled throughout the world including Turkey, Morocco, Eastern and Western Europe. I

spend my free time visiting museums and taking long walks, exploring nature and new neighborhoods. A Jersey City resident, I enjoy picnics and hikes in Liberty State Park and walks along the river. I look forward to meeting everyone.

ONLINE ART SHOW

Iz Greenwald was a frequent contributor to our art shows. In his memory we are reprinting one of his oil paintings, "The Path Home."
Iz said he liked the feeling of peace and quiet it evoked.

From: Iz Greenwald

Title: "The Path Home"



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

So Long Ebinger's (Hello Weight Watchers?)

If you grew up in Brooklyn, your mouth will water with memories of Ebinger's Blackout Cake. Even if you were not a Brooklynite, you may have had the pleasure. (Brooklynites: remember traveling from home on subways, buses, trains and planes and seeing boarding passengers carrying those distinctive green boxes?) Does this cake stand up to today's tastes? Maybe not, but it sure is a sweet memory.

Here's your chance to try it at home or at least linger over the photo!

<https://cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/1018772-blackout-cake>



Year of the Water Tiger...a good year to be a newborn

February 1, 2022 starts the year of the Water Tiger, which only occurs every 60 years. Any Year of the Tiger is associated with such auspicious symbols as strength, exorcising evils, bravery and competitiveness.

Water Tiger comes from Tiger's five elements (Gold, Wood, Water, Fire and Earth). Water Tiger babies have the additional advantages of being smart, humorous, and good at socializing. They usually have good luck in making money and have a strong ability to adapt to new things.



Black History Month

Since 1976, U.S. presidents have officially designated the month of February as Black History Month, an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

Every year, the president endorses a specific theme. The Black History Month 2022 theme, "[Black Health and Wellness](#)," explores

"the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well."

See more about Black History Month, its origins, themes, and documentaries on [History.com](https://www.history.com). Also see <https://asalh.org>, the website for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

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.