

THE OBSERVER
February 14, 2023

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[Current Observers](#) are available on the website all week from 5PM on the publication date.
Previous editions are kept on the website's [Observer Archive](#).

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear members,

Happy Valentine's/Palentine's Day. I hope your long weekend was whatever it needed to be at this time in winter – restful, engaging, quiet, or loud. We are settling into the semester now that the add/drop period has closed.

We have a number of events coming up soon, including the Science SIG on Thursday of this week and the General Membership Meeting on Friday, February 24. If you are a committee member or SIG leader, please remember to submit your events to the Observer and to be included on the www.lp2nyc.org calendar to best avoid conflicts in scheduling.

Last week, a joint committee focusing on diversity outreach presented a recruitment marketing plan to the Advisory Board with the intention to connect with retiring/retired professionals from demographic groups currently underrepresented in the LP² membership. I applaud the effort in putting this plan together and the energy towards its goals.

By now, you should have accessed your new @gradcenter.cuny.edu email address. CUNY has recommended using your browser to access your email box (read on for further instructions). Our staff is not able to configure your personal devices – laptops, tablets, or smartphones. Further, the new security settings do not allow retrieving your Graduate Center email from another email address (for example, forwarding your GC email to your Gmail account). If forwarding was previously set up for your now disabled @gc.cuny.edu address, you should cancel that function. In Gmail on a computer, you can click on the settings icon in the top right corner, then click "see all settings", and then click the tab called "Forwarding and POP/IMAP" and disable forwarding.

Be well!
Mariel

You are invited to the annual Spring LP² General Membership Meeting, which will take place on Friday, February 24th, at 1:30PM. You'll learn a lot and have some fun. Details forthcoming next week. [Register here](#).

FROM THE BOARD

The LP² grapevine is humming. We hear talk about two major issues: Study Group Assignments and the GMM on Zoom.

Study Group Assignments

We had an unusually complex registration period for the Fall semester for many reasons:

- The number of full-time equivalent study groups was below our usual goal of 36.
- There were two unusually popular study groups.
- There was only one film study group on the grid.
- Members listing only 2 or 3 choices, reduced the number of study groups to which they could be assigned

A small number of members did not get their first choice. Another group did not get their second choice. In addition, there have been questions as to why when members dropped study groups that had been closed, empty seats were not filled.

The registration process has generally followed the guidelines that were used for many years at The New School. The assignment to study groups is a labor-intensive process, including the use of multiple lotteries to assure fair access.

Times have changed and, as with many traditional procedures, it is time for a review. Curriculum Chair Ruth Mackaman and Co-Chair, Randy Ross, will be meeting with Director Mariel Villeré at the end of February to review the study group assignment procedures. We are confident the review will lead to improvements.

GMM

Many of us were hoping to meet at the upcoming GMM in person. Although COVID cases in New York City have receded, COVID is still infecting our members. Moreover, with both the flu and the respiratory virus (RSV) circulating, the Director and Executive Committee of the Board thought it prudent not to schedule a large in-person gathering for our high-risk group. Planning has begun for an in-person GMM on April 28th. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Board is planning to schedule Town Hall meetings in March to hear what's on your mind. STAY TUNED.

AISI Office Hours

A reminder that the Office of Academic Initiatives and Strategic Innovation (AISI) is located in Room 8309 on the 8th Floor, and you can reach our staff at lp2@gc.cuny.edu or 212-817-2474. The office is open Monday thru Friday, 9:00AM to 5:00PM.

Please note: Our staff email lp2@gc.cuny.edu and engagement@gc.cuny.edu migrated to the cloud on February 9th. There may be delays in response during the week.

ID Cards and Stickers

- Graduate Center Student IDs can be obtained remotely or on campus. Please print your Spring 2023 schedule as proof of enrollment and identify yourself as an LP² member at the front desk. Public Safety will direct you to the ID office. Please reach out to lp2@gc.cuny.edu for instructions to request an ID remotely.
- Current term stickers are available in the AISI Office in Room 8309.

Important Reminders About Your Graduate Center Email Account

As a reminder, all LP² members have been given a new GC email account. Members have received personalized communication from the Graduate Center IT department with their new email address and initial password. The easiest way to check your GC email is to use your internet browser (Safari, Chrome, Firefox, etc.) to the website www.outlook.com and log in with your new e-mail address and provided password.

What changed:

- Your GC email address changed from username@gc.cuny.edu to username@gradcenter.cuny.edu.
- The easiest way to use your Graduate Center email account is online at www.outlook.com.
- The contents of your old email inbox have been automatically moved to your new inbox.
- You now have access to a free Microsoft Office 365 subscription for software to use on your personal computers and mobile devices.

What remains the same:

- You will continue to use your old GC account username and password to use the GC library online databases, GC community WIFI, and computer workstations and printers on campus.

Things to keep in mind:

- You will continue receiving communication from our office at your personal and new @gradcenter.cuny.edu email accounts.

This transition does not affect how you log in into www.lp2nyc.org website and the LP² Member Directory. Check out this great new guide to the LP² website <https://www.lp2nyc.org/new-lp2-website/> For all questions related to the website, please contact website@lp2nyc.org.

GRAD CENTER CAMPUS COVID-19 GUIDANCE

[The Graduate Center's COVID-19 guidance](#) follows [CUNY's COVID-19 Guidelines](#). All members of our community should be familiar with the protocols and services that are in place to keep our community safe and supported during the 2022-23 academic year.

Important notes about being on campus this Spring:

- LP² members who test positive for COVID-19, whether through a testing provider or with an at-home kit, must email the Graduate Center's Covid-19 Campus Coordinator at reactivation@gc.cuny.edu. The Coordinator will work with AISI staff to aid in identifying and notifying those who may have been exposed.
- CUNY mandates that all students taking in-person and hybrid classes be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. LP² members must upload their proof of vaccination to CUNY's Cleared4 system to obtain an electronic access pass, which must be presented to enter the building. If you don't have a Cleared4 pass, please contact our office at lp2@gc.cuny.edu.
- Watch this [how-to video](#) to add a shortcut to your Cleared4 CUNY Access Pass to your smartphone.
- At this time, CUNY does not have a mask mandate. Masking is optional and recommended in crowded public spaces at times of high transmission in NYC.
- Regular testing is recommended and especially after travel. If you feel sick, stay home.

- CDC guidance on [isolation](#) and [exposure](#). Quarantining is no longer necessary if you have been exposed to a person who has tested positive and do not experience symptoms yourself.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THINKING ABOUT COORDINATING A STUDY GROUP?

We know that coordinating your first study group can be daunting. The Curriculum Committee is here to help first time and repeat coordinators.

[Submit this form](#) if you would like help, and someone on the Curriculum Committee will contact you. Or you can contact one of the [Curriculum Committee Members](#). We will help you develop your idea, write a proposal, answer your questions and provide support. If you would like to have a co-coordinator or be a co-coordinator, we will try to match you up with a someone.

Each semester, we offer workshops on coordinating, from brainstorming to leading your study group. You don't have to use technology (lots of coordinators don't), but if you want to show presentations, the Tech Committee workshops can show you how.

For more information on the Workshops, scroll down to UPCOMING EVENTS. For a description of all the resources available to guide you, see [Coordinate a Study Group](#) on the LP2 website.

The Curriculum Committee wants to hear from you!

Free Hearing Test

The Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) Program
Spring Appointments: Wednesdays Only
9:00am, 10:30am, 1:00pm, and 2:30pm
For appointments, please call 212-817-7980

Do you or a family member have difficulty hearing?
Do you have a child with hearing difficulty or middle ear problems?
Do you have a child who may have difficulty processing speech?
Do you have a relative who is complaining that you do not seem to understand them?
Do you or a family member listen to the television or music at loud levels?
Do you want advice regarding custom-fitted ear-molds for your iPod?
Do you want advice regarding custom-fitted ear-protectors or swim-molds?
Do you want to try assistive devices which can help you understand television?
Do you or a family member want advice about hearing aids or assistive technologies?
Do you or a family member want advice about hearing protection?
Are you a musician needing advice about your hearing and hearing protection?

Services Include:

- Basic hearing and speech test

- Hearing aid checks, hearing aid counseling
- Testing hearing of children
- Advice about hearing aids and adjustment to hearing aids
- Hearing aid checks
- Advice and opportunity to experience the benefits of hearing assistive technologies
- Advice about custom ear protection including musician ear plugs and swim molds
- Advice about custom ear buds for iPods, MP3 Players
- Auditory evoked potentials testing
- Hearing health promotion
- Opportunities to experience our portable hearing loop system
- Auditory processing tests

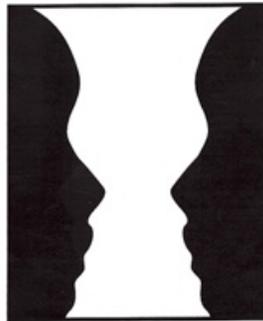
UPCOMING EVENTS

Coordinator Development Workshops

This semester there will be a series of sessions on Zoom designed to answer your questions about coordinating and help you get started on the process of putting your study group together. Brainstorming was the first workshop in the series and was designed to help you come up with a study group topic that could work and consider how to develop it.

Here are the workshops that are coming up.

More Than One Way To Present Study Groups



A Coordinator Development Workshop

More Than One Way to Present Study Groups

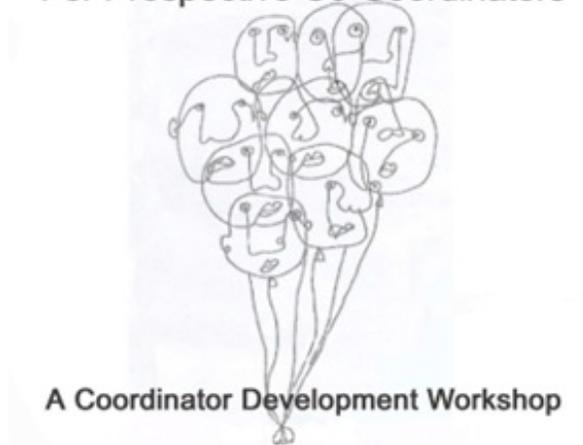
Wednesday, February 15th from 4:15-5:15PM on Zoom

What makes study groups engaging? This session we'll consider how to find the format that fits your style and your topic and use it to share your ideas effectively.

[Register](#)

Speed Dating

For Prospective Co-Coordinator



Speed-Dating - for Prospective Co-coordinators

Wednesday, February 22nd from 4:15-5:15PM on Zoom

Want to find someone with similar interests to put together a study group? We'll help you learn what's involved in working with a compatible collaborator. Maybe you'll find a match.

Note: This runs concurrently with **How's it Going?**

[Register](#)

How's It Going?

For Current Coordinators



A Coordinator Development Workshop

How's it Going? – for Current Coordinators

Wednesday, February 22nd from 4:15-5:15PM on Zoom

Want to discuss how your current study group is progressing and share problem-solving strategies with other new and experienced coordinators? We'll talk about what's working, what's not, and what to try next.

Note: This runs concurrently with **Speed-Dating**.

[Register](#)

...and coming later in the semester:

Research Resources – Zeroing In

Wednesday, March 1st from 4:15-5:15PM on Zoom

[Register](#)

Making It Happen – Developing a Syllabus
Wednesday, March 8th from 4:15-5:15PM on Zoom
[Register](#)

Engaging the Group – Ways to Encourage Participation
Wednesday, March 15th from 4:15-5:15PM on Zoom
[Register](#)

Managing Media – Using Slides, Images, and Video
Wednesday, April 19th from 4:15-5:15PM on Zoom
[Register](#)

Science Seminar Series

***Politicized Science in the United States* with Dr. Matthew Goldberg**
Thursday, February 16th, at 4:00PM (Zoom, LP² Members Only)



Our next Science Seminar on Thursday, February 16th, will feature Dr. Matthew Goldberg speaking about *Politicized Science in the United States*. Matthew is an Associate Research Scientist at the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication at Yale University. A graduate of the CUNY Graduate Center, he studies persuasion, social influence, ideology, and strategic communication. Matthew will discuss his research insights into building public understanding and motivation to address climate change and other urgent environmental, social and political issues.

To register, [click here](#).

Diversity-Outreach Committee Unmasking Bias Series

A Conversation with Jessie Montgomery: *The Changing American (Music) Canon*
Tuesday, March 7, at 4:00PM (Webinar, Open to the Public)

The headline of the ***New York Times's*** full page [2021 profile on Jessie Montgomery](#) reads '*The Changing American Canon Sounds like Jessie Montgomery*'. The article continues "...a new portrait of American sound has emerged, with Montgomery's music providing some of the latest, crucial touches She's pretty much changing the canon for American orchestras."

Suddenly, Jessie Montgomery's music is



everywhere. Orchestras in the U.S. and overseas are opening their programs with [Strum](#), [Starburst](#) and [Banner](#) (click to listen).

Her music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, poetry, and social consciousness, making her an acute interpreter of 21st-century American sound and experience. Her works have been described as “turbulent, wildly colorful and exploding with life” (*The Washington Post*).

She is the recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation, the Sphinx Medal of Excellence, and *Musical America’s Composer of the year*.

To register, [click here](#). *BRING YOUR QUESTIONS for the Q&A.*

NEW MEMBER BIOS

Michele Kasson



I’m a lifelong New Yorker, originally from Brooklyn, but living in Manhattan for most of my life. I spent many years in school to become a psychologist but now I want to know about all of the things I never took in school. Anyone for astrophysics or anthropology? I did my dissertation with a science fiction book (The Foundation Trilogy) as my muse. When I begin coordinating at LP² I hope to lead a study group involving science fiction (although I am not a fanatic) and I am open to a collaborator. I currently teach in a graduate program at Yeshiva University and have a small private practice. But I don’t analyze my friends. Who wants to take work home?

I have spent my adult years as a single parent. Recently my son and his family moved to Virginia. I visit but wouldn’t want to move there. Even through the pandemic I have continued to do my NY thing by enjoying the diversity of the city and going to museums, concerts and plays.

Patricia Licklider

In the 1970’s, while finishing my PhD at Columbia, I started teaching literature (mostly classical) and writing at John Jay College-CUNY, just as open admissions was beginning. Because



my husband taught Poli Sci at Rutgers, we lived in New Jersey and raised our daughter there. But in 2000, we sold up and moved into the city, specifically, to the UWS. Then after 45 years of teaching, I retired in 2015 to enjoy both life in the city and spending every Friday caring for my twin grandkids. My husband and I travelled widely our whole married life—Africa, Europe, the US, but now that I am a recent widow and the grandkids involved with school, I need something else to occupy my mind. I miss the interaction with other readers that I enjoyed in the classroom and look forward to finding that joy again with other LP² members. I love murder mysteries, the literature of the ancient world, film and art of all kinds, cooking, traveling, and rooting for the Yankees.

Jonathan Merrill



I worked in real estate acquisitions and asset management for 42 years until October 2022, acquiring and managing residential and commercial real estate. I focused on commercial property financing, construction, leasing, operations, and disposition. The assets were multi-family rental and residential condominiums, offices, industrial and retail in New York, Ontario, Berlin and elsewhere. Prior to that I was a city planner for New York City.

The most rewarding aspect of my work was to see new, high-quality housing added and good-quality working space provided. The disappointment was the time that it takes to build new multi-family housing and the frequent local opposition to the construction of additional apartments in markets where there is a housing shortage.

My main avocational activities have been raising a family, volunteer work as a docent for the Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo and as a literacy teacher for Literacy Partners for adults, international travel to India, China, Australia, Africa for four safaris, many European and Central American trips, and courses including annual participation in the Great Decisions program in foreign policy.

I enjoy outdoor activities, particularly road cycling with two local bike clubs and hiking. A great weekend now is one day with my grandsons and wife Sandy Merrill, who is also just joining LP², and one day on a long bike ride. My favorite indoor activities are theater and art museums.

Sandy Merrill

I am a retired health care executive and



nutrition and wellness coach. A native New Yorker, I am currently active in a family business and volunteer activities. I have been married to Jonathan Merrill, also a new LP² member, for 45 years.

My first love career-wise has always been healthcare. I was a hospital administrator / healthcare executive running primary care medical group practices, an Executive Director of a women's reproductive health care organization and finally a Nutrition and Wellness coach. In my administrative work, the most meaningful parts of my

work life were getting operations to run smoothly and efficiently. The most challenging parts were getting the various stakeholders to buy into changes that were deemed necessary but that they opposed for various reasons. In my coaching work, the most gratifying was to see clients making changes that improved their health, and the most challenging was realizing that I could not help everyone who came to me for coaching because if they were not ready to change, then improvements were elusive.

Family involvement has always been very important to me. I raised two daughters in NYC and now have two little grandsons, five and two, who keep me busy and active. I also love to travel, be in nature, go to art museums and theater and read. I have been taking continuing education courses-art, global affairs, literature, etc. I am currently in a book club, magazine salon, and interfaith group. My current volunteer activities are speaking conversational English with several ESL individuals as well as participating in Teen-Elder intergenerational workshops.

I look forward to wonderful new experiences by participating in LP² and meeting many great new people.

WEBSITE REPORT

Making the Leap to Coordinator



A lawyer may lead a group on **Supreme Court Decisions** or on the **History of Jazz**; an English teacher might lead a group on **The Tempest** or on **Global Warming**. Some study groups have explored concepts, like **Luck**, or places, like the **Underground**. At LP² there is no limit to your Study Group subject or to how you want to approach

it.

Hesitant?

Check out the recently updated [Coordinate a Study Group](#) page on lp2nyc.org. It explains the process for turning the glimmer of an idea into a 6- or 12-week reality and provides links to every resource on the website to support your goal.

ONLINE ART SHOW

Artist: Mary Padilla

Title: *The Seven Deadly Sins*. Ink on butcher paper 4' x 5.5'



Mary says: For my opera class, I drew this mural as a backdrop for a scene from Poulenc's *Dialogue of the Carmelites*. It was inspired by a wood relief made by my great-grandfather, a wood carver in Germany's Black Forest.

ONGOING LP² EVENTS

The Women's Group meets on Zoom on Thursdays at 4:30PM. Contact aleschack@gradcenter.cuny.edu if you want a link. There will be no meeting on February 16 so we can attend the Science SIG event.

The Men's Group meets in person every Wednesday at 1:20PM in Room 8400. Contact Jay Fleishman at efleishman@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

Stitch Away Stress meets at 4PM on Tuesdays. Members share skills

and enjoy the meditative benefits of handwork. Contact Michelle Harris at mharris@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

REMINDERS

Arts and Literature in Review

This column includes written reviews/recommendations for current arts offerings: film (in theaters or available to stream); theatrical events, music (including recordings), or literature.

If you'd like to contribute a review or a recommendation, please give us a "head's up" so we don't get multiple submissions on the same topic. Word limit - 300 or so. Tell us what you think, what's good, what's not and showcase your writing. Submit your article and/or questions to Susan Smahl at ssmahl@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

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

Display the creative work you are 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@lp2nyc.org. Art works appear in The Observer in the order in which they are received.

Observer Submissions

Send items for the next week's Observer to Susan Rauch at srauch@gradcenter.cuny.edu by 5PM on Friday. Send Online Art Show entries and suggestions for virtual tours to cmillsom@lp2nyc.org.

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@gradcenter.cuny.edu for inclusion in the Member Forum.