

THE OBSERVER
March 13, 2023

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[Current Observers](#) are available on the website (lp2nyc.org) all week from 5PM on the publication date. Previous editions are kept on the website's [Observer Archive](#).

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Reminder: For security purposes **The Observer and the website do not publish personal information, including emails and phone numbers. Rather, we use gradcenter.cuny addresses, refer to the website Directory page, or request a website address (@lp2nyc.org) that will deliver email directly to your preferred email mailbox.**

Members,

Thank you for registering for and attending Town Halls last week and those scheduled for Monday and Tuesday afternoons of this week. Advisory Board members organized these sessions to hear your feedback and ideas for how the program should move forward out of the pandemic. Your voices are critical to the conversation and along with coordinator preferences expressed on study group proposals, will shape the composition of the Fall semester and next academic year.

I also want to spotlight your opportunity to run for the Board. There has already been a call for nominations in past issues of The Observer and there will be a form distributed to members to collect more information to assemble a “meet the candidates” guide. Please step up and bring your ideas!

The Observer is taking a break for the next two weeks over Spring Break. Enjoy the time, whether spent at home or away. On April 4th, we have both a Science Seminar and the second Information Session for Fall admissions. Remember that Fall study group proposals are due to the Curriculum Committee on April 13th.

Until soon,
Mariel

Some helpful guides as you take the next steps with Outlook and Microsoft 365:

[MS365 Guide for GC Graduates and Students](#)
[Microsoft 365 Quick Starts - Microsoft Support \(Outlook and other apps\)](#)
[Set up an Outlook account on the iOS Mail app - Microsoft Support](#)
[Set up email in the Outlook for Android app - Microsoft Support](#)
[Outlook training - Microsoft Support](#)

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Still Time to Come to a Town Hall! Hear about Issues the Board is Considering; Let the Board Know What You Think.

The Advisory Board has been holding Town Hall meetings, facilitated by Board members, to share some of its thinking about the Fall study group schedule and to get your feedback. The remaining Town Hall meetings are in-person at the Graduate Center, **today** and tomorrow, Tuesday, March 14 at 2PM. If you have a last-minute change of plans and can attend today or tomorrow's meeting, just come to Room 9207 at 2PM.

Scroll down to the last "page" of this Observer, for the Background document that describes more precisely what issues we are planning to discuss.

The next edition of The Observer will feature an article summing up the opinions expressed by members in the Town Halls and addressing any actions taken by the Advisory Board.

Board Elections Coming Soon: Nominate a Colleague or Self-Nominate



In accordance with the LP² Guidelines, four Board members rotate off the Advisory Board each year. Barry Bryer, Micky Josephs, Susan Rauch and Colette Siegel, will be leaving the Board at the end of the current semester. If you want to play a role in shaping policies for LP², nominate a colleague or self-nominate for a position on the Advisory Board. Send nominations to Micky Josephs, Chair, Nominating and Elections Committee, mjosephs@gradcenter.cuny.edu

Deadline for nominations is **April 6**. There will be a candidate forum on **April 14**. Elections will be held online **April 19-26**. New Advisory Board members will be announced at the GMM on **April 28**.

Seeking Older Participants for Speech Perception Study

Hyungi Chun, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences at the CUNY Graduate Center, is seeking native English speakers over 60 years old to participate in a speech perception study. The study offers free hearing tests and a cognitive screening test. Participants will receive \$15 per hour for the study, which will take 1.5 hours; they will receive \$30.

Hyungi is studying how a slow speech rate and enhanced target word intensity impact older adults' speech perception, processing and listening effort where there's background noise. If older adults have normal hearing, they can participate in this study. They will listen to speech sounds in noise in a lab setting. They will be asked to press a button in response to target words while

their brain waves are being recorded in an EEG. For more information, see the study flier, below.

Adults Needed for EEG Research Study

To qualify, you must:

1. Have normal hearing (no more than a mild sensorineural hearing loss)
2. Be between the ages 21 - 40 years old OR the ages 60 - 75 years old
3. Have no history of neurological or learning problems
4. Speak English as your first language

We will test your hearing, middle ear function, and cognitive ability to see if you qualify.

If you qualify, we will record your brain responses while you listen to speech sounds. Your brain responses will be recorded using small sensors placed on your scalp with gel. Sounds will be presented via loudspeakers at a comfortable level.

You also need to press a button in response to certain words in an awake state.

The test takes one hour and a half.

You will be paid \$15/hour for your participation in the study.

Testing will take place at the Graduate Center of CUNY located at 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016. If you would like further information about the study or would like to schedule an appointment to potentially participate, please contact Hyungi Chun and please leave a message at 646-899-5804 or email at hchun@gradcenter.cuny.edu.



Links to Recordings of Recent Online Events

In the past two weeks, the Fridays @1 and Unmasking Bias committees have presented two outstanding events that are now available via links to their recordings (click on event):

[3.3.23 Fridays@1 with Jennifer Homans](#)

A Conversation with Jennifer Homans, Author of *Mr. B: George Balanchine's 20th Century*

[3.7.23 Unmasking Bias with Jessie Montgomery](#)

A Conversation with Jessie Montgomery: *The Changing American (Music) Canon*

The Voices team wants you

Voices displays the creative work of our membership in poetry, prose and photography. It has appeared on-line (at lp2voicesonline.com) for over a decade and is also accessible through our website. We invite LP² members to join our team as readers, judges, editors and techies as we prepare a new issue later in 2023.

Interested? Curious? Contact Charles Troob at ctroob@gradcenter.cuny.edu for more information.

Co-coordinators Wanted

Twelve Best Films of All Times seeks five people to present one session each, Fall '23 - Doris Wallace at dwallace1@lp2nyc.org

Deadlines for Study Group Proposals

If you are coordinating in the summer or fall, please submit your proposal to your Curriculum Committee contact as soon as possible. We need your proposal to meet our quota of 36 study groups.

- **The deadline for Summer proposals** is Thursday, April 6th. Click [here](#) for the form.
 - **The deadline for Fall proposals** is Thursday, April 13th. Click [here](#) for the form.
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UPCOMING EVENTS - Speakers

Science Seminar Series

Reflections on the Minds of Dolphins and Elephants with Dr. Diana Reiss
Tuesday, April 4th at 4:00PM (Zoom, LP² members only)

Dr. Diana Reiss, a marine mammal scientist and a cognitive psychologist, is Professor, and Director of the Animal Behavior and Conservation Graduate programs in the Psychology Department at Hunter College, City University of New York (CUNY) and Professor in the Cognitive and Comparative Psychology Doctoral program at the Graduate Center, CUNY.

Dr. Reiss's research focuses on dolphin communication, cognition, comparative animal cognition, cetacean welfare, and the evolution of



intelligence. She has directed dolphin research programs at Marine World Africa USA, Osborn Laboratories of Marine Sciences of the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the National Aquarium. She pioneered the use of an interactive underwater keyboard system with dolphins, thus affording them the choice and control to investigate their spontaneous vocal learning abilities. Dr. Reiss and her colleagues have demonstrated that bottlenose dolphins and Asian elephants possess the advanced cognitive ability for mirror self-recognition, previously considered unique to humans and great apes. Her current research focuses on decoding dolphin communication and developing interfaces for facilitating interspecies

communication.

To register, [click here](#).

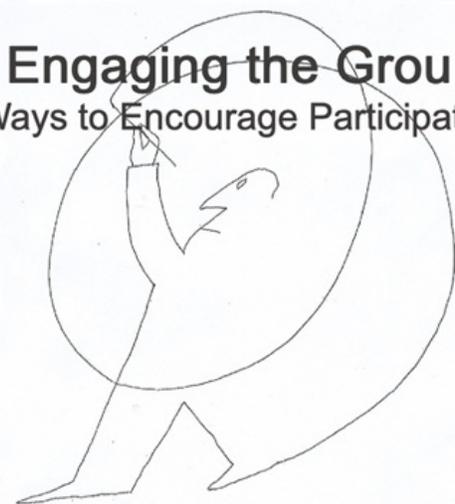
UPCOMING EVENTS - Workshops

Coordinator Development Workshops

This semester, we have had 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.

We encourage you to join us for the two remaining Workshops. Attendance does NOT obligate you to coordinate.

Here are the Workshops that are coming up.



Engaging the Group Ways to Encourage Participation

A Coordinator Development Workshop

Engaging the Group - Ways to Encourage Participation
Wednesday, March 15th from 4:15-5:15PM on Zoom

What makes a study group effective? How can you help participants to collaborate in making it work? We'll look at strategies to promote interaction and discussion.

[Register](#)

...and last but certainly not least:

Managing Media

Using Slides, Images & Video



A Coordinator Development Workshop

Managing Media – Using Slides, Images, and Video

Wednesday, April 19th from 4:15-5:15PM on Zoom

This Workshop will be an overview of how to use Google Slides, Power Point, and videos to enhance your presentation. We will also cover where to find images and how to use them most effectively with text.

[Register](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS - PhotoSIG Trip

PhotoSIG Goes to View Krappy Kamera Competition

Soho Photo Gallery - 15 White St, New York, NY

Sunday, April 2nd at 1:00PM (To avoid conflicts with study groups, we are going on a Sunday instead of during the week.)

Group size: 25

Cost: Free

Lunch: TBD

Subway: #1 to Franklin Street Station

A, C, E to Canal Street

To sign up, RSVP to arill@gradcenter.cuny.edu

We have seen many types of great photographs since we started our photoSIG treks. Our next trip is very special - **we are going to see KRAP!**

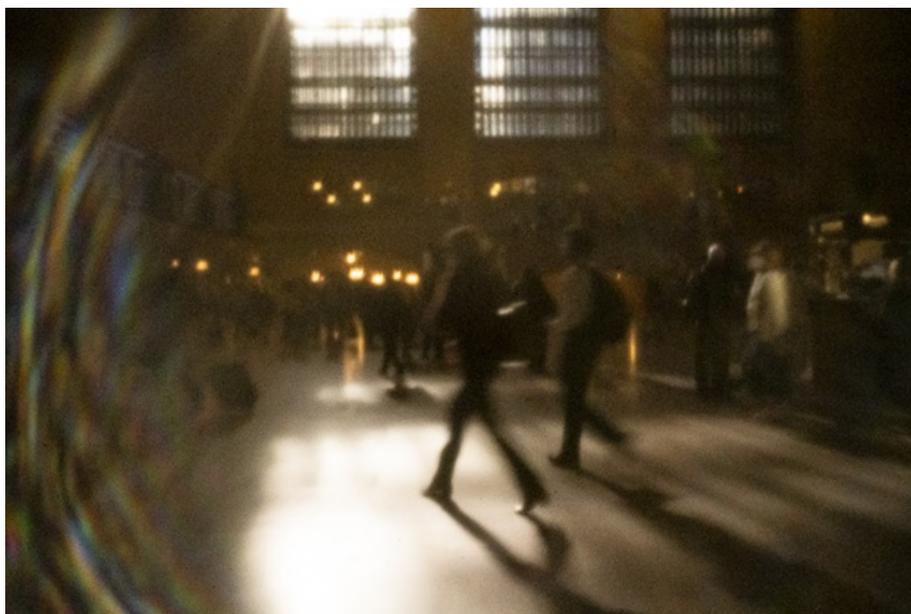
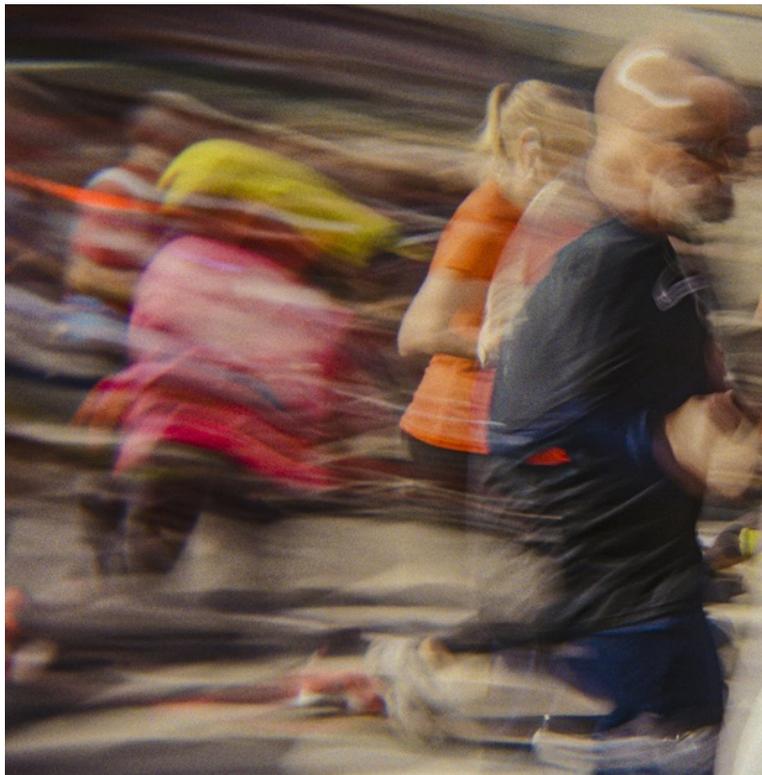
The [Soho Photo Gallery](#) is featuring the 25th Annual International Krappy Kamera (KK) Competition and Exhibit.

The Gallery philosophy is that *"in the hands of any artist great photographs can be made with basic equipment: The show consists of extraordinary photographs made with lousy lenses (such as Holga, Diana, Ansco, and pinhole cameras)."*

(Full disclosure: Alec has one photo in the exhibition.)

[Sandra Carrion](#), the creator of the International Krappy Kamera Competition and Exhibition will meet us and tell us about the exhibit and its history and give us a tour.

Here are some examples of KK photos:



ONLINE ART SHOW

Photographer: Bernie Belkin

Title: *Early Morning in South Florida*



Bernie says: The early morning light reflected on this becalmed wetland caught my eye as I was walking in the Green Nature Preserve, in Delray Beach.

MEMBER FORUM

Ruth Mackaman notes that “Lincoln Center Theater membership is open for new members. I think the last time it was open was six years ago when I finally got off the waiting list. You can buy a membership for \$50 and see "Camelot" this spring for \$52 instead of \$77 to \$187.

<https://www.lct.org/membership/>

GRAD CENTER CAMPUS INFO

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 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.

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.

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

Website Login

For security reasons, you must login to use the Website Directory.

How to Login:

To login you need to set your own unique personal password. This makes the site more secure and will help keep everyone's personal information safe.

Visit [LP²login page](#) or click on the word **Login** at the top left of the site anytime in order to Login OR Reset your Password.

Click on **Forgot Password** to set your password for the first time. There will be prompts that explain next steps. You will enter your personal preferred email. Then check that email for a new link to reset your password. (This method makes sure that only YOU can reset your password.) Then just follow the prompts.

Detailed step-by-step instructions are available. If you need these instructions AND/OR one-on-one help, email website@lp2nyc.org.

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.

BACKGROUND FOR TOWN HALLS

INTRODUCTION

Long term health of LP² depends on a large majority of the membership willing to commit time and energy to making the organization work:

- Coordinating study groups

- Taking leadership roles in committees
- Do the work that makes LP² run

The Board and Director monitor and coordinate all the activities to ensure the long-term health of LP².

CHALLENGES

LP² has gone through a very stressful period in the last 3 years:

- Transitioned out of The New School
- Dealing with COVID in our first years at the GC
- Fantastic job of rising to the occasion and pivoting to Zoom to maintain a study group schedule

HOWEVER Zoom does not foster the energy, commitment and the kinds of interactions that bring new people into the community in a meaningful way.

Zoom allowed us to function with less of a commitment of time and energy.

BUT what makes LP² the unique organization it is are the people who want a place to commit the time and energy, continue growing in our knowledge and understanding of the world **AS PART OF A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO SHARE THAT COMMITMENT.**

We need to be together in a room, not on a screen, to interact in ways that bring us together.

The Board has been assessing how we are doing as we transition back to an in-person program.

1. We have been placing undue reliance on veterans of the program to work on key committees and take on leadership roles.
2. Our health depends on being able to integrate new members into participating in these roles.
3. We have had limited opportunities to meet in person before, between or after study groups.

The Board knew that there would be difficult moments transitioning back to the in-person program that was the essence of LP².

We believe it is time for another change.

- This semester we have almost 40% of our study groups on Zoom
- The Board is planning to have more in-person SGs in the fall
- Target of 80% in-person (29 SGs) and 20% Zoom (approximately 7 SGs)

We will be creating a schedule that will encourage members to come to campus, while still use zoom technology to accommodate those members who because of health and/or mobility issues are unable to come to campus. At this time we are not planning to eliminate Zoom from our program.

SOME IMPLEMENTATION IDEAS

These are some of the ideas the Board is considering for the Fall grid and registration. We are interested in your reactions to these ideas.

1. Currently there is a 30-minute break between the morning classes. Would you prefer this to change to 15 minutes?
2. Would you rather start the first study group at 10AM rather than 9:45 and have less time between sessions?
3. Afternoon zoom sessions currently begin at 2:30. We are considering moving them back to 2PM so that committee meetings and other after class events could begin earlier.
4. Would you register for a Zoom study group because of the subject matter, even if you prefer in-person sessions?
5. Would you sign up for a zoom session if you could not participate? – Webinar
6. We are considering increasing class size for the most popular study groups.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

- We are planning an in-person GMM on April 28.
- Some coordinators are encouraging class members to gather for lunch in the Dining Commons after class.
- What suggestions do you have building community?

We know that some of you may not be able to come to the Town Halls but we still want to know what you are thinking. Please send them to Barbara Marwell: bmarwell@gradcenter.cuny.edu