

LP² Lifelong Peer Learning Program

CU NY GRADUATE CENTER

THE OBSERVER February 5, 2024

Editors: Irene Sax, Ruth Mackaman

Please note: Because of holiday scheduling, items for the February 12 Observer must be received by February 8. There will be no Observer on February 19.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, February 7 Curriculum Committee workshop 4:15PM
Brainstorming on Zoom

Friday, February 9 Tuesdays with Friends deadline

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Director's Note
Save the Date: GMM
Towards a Strategic Plan
Tuesdays with Friends
Photo SIG Event
Pour at Four
Curriculum Committee Workshops
Dates for Fridays@1
Have You Always Wanted to Be a Mentor?
Meet the New Members
Meet the Chairs
Member Forum
Online Art Show

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Hello all,

I hope the semester is off to a good start for you all. A reminder that the last day to add or drop a study group is on Friday the 9th. Please submit any requests through the [Google Form](#).

On Monday, February 12 and Monday, February 19, the Graduate Center is closed for Lincoln's Birthday and Presidents' Day, respectively. Study groups will not be meeting.

We have some staff transitions to announce; our Administrative Assistant Valerie Joly Chock will work her last day in our office today. While we bring on new people in the coming month or two, we ask for your patience if there are delays in response. Please continue to use lp2@gc.cuny.edu as the primary contact email for program-related questions and concerns.

I look forward to seeing you all at the February 23 General Membership Meeting – please save the date!

Take good care,
Mariel

SAVE THE DATE – GMM February 23

There will be a General Membership Meeting at the Grad Center on Friday, February 23, from 1:30PM to 3:30PM. A Zoom connection will be available for those unable to attend the get-together. A rainstorm of the century left many of you at home for the September GMM, so let's hope there are no late February snowstorms.



TOWARDS A STRATEGIC PLAN

In the Spring semester, LP² members will participate in a strategic planning process to identify the organization's future directions. Topics that may be considered include Communication, Level of Member Participation, Social Engagement, Quality of Academic Programs, Remote Programming, Diversity, Relationship with the GC and IER Finances.

The first phase of the strategic plan is a series of focus groups, to be followed by a survey of all the members.

To learn more, [click here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesdays with Friends

Registration deadline is Friday, February 9! This spring, Tuesdays with Friends will sponsor three member talks. Held in members' homes, these relaxed gatherings will inform you while you hang out with others from LP². Refreshments are served, but space is limited, so register today.

Tuesday, February 27 3:30PM to 6PM

WHERE WE ARE NOW IN THE STRUGGLES ON GERRYMANDERING

Presented by Michael Shapiro, hosted by Elise Goodman

Michael has been a member of LP2 for 15 years. He developed a niche as an SG Coordinator of U.S. Presidents, namely LBJ, JFK and Truman, and recently stepped outside to wannabe president, Huey Long.

Tuesday, March 26 3:30PM to 6PM

CAN I GET THROUGH THIS? RESILIENCY AND THE GOLDEN YEARS

Presented by Deb Markow, hosted by Betsy Gitter

Deb is an art historian with an abiding interest in cognitive awareness. Her observant nature has led her to see an explanation for why some people can bend and sway in the winds of adversity while others seem to snap and break under pressure. She sought guidance from experts and would like to share what she has learned.

Tuesday, April 16 3:30PM to 6PM

WE ALREADY HAVE A WOMAN WE LIKE - A CIA MEMOIR

Presented by Lucy Kirk, hosted by Laurie and Maury Harris

Lucy is a retired CIA Operations Officer and former Chief of Station. She spent over three decades working in the CIA in assignments in the US and abroad. Her focus over the years was, increasingly, the USSR and post-Soviet Russia

**To register, NO LATER THAN Friday, February 9, please [click here](#).
Members will be notified of their status by mid-February**

Tuesdays with Friends Committee:

Susan Belkin, Eileen Hanley, Greg McCaslin, Sefi Shlisselberg, Sue Yellin



PHOTO SIG EVENT

On February 26th at 12PM we will visit THROUGH OUR EYES: YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE BRONX DOCUMENTARY CENTER, 2013-2023. The photographs in the exhibition tell community stories through portraits of the borough and neighborhood. There are a couple of places left, so **RSVP quickly to arill@gradcenter.cuny.edu**. This is a very special event and will fill up fast.

The Bronx Documentary Center is a non-profit gallery and educational space showing the work of internationally-renowned and emerging photographers and filmmakers. Its goal is to advance themes of justice, education, community-building, and positive social change.

Our guide will be Michael Kamber, founder and creative director, who spent a decade photographing conflict and war for The New York Times. When he left Afghanistan in 2011, he returned to the Bronx with a dream of creating an educational space that would provide the South Bronx with access to high-quality documentary work. You can see his work at:

<https://www.amazon.com/Photojournalists-War-Untold-Stories-Iraq/dp/0292744080>

At the end of the visit we will have lunch at the world-famous (or Bronx famous) Xochimilco restaurant nearby. Michael and some of the photographers will join us for lunch.

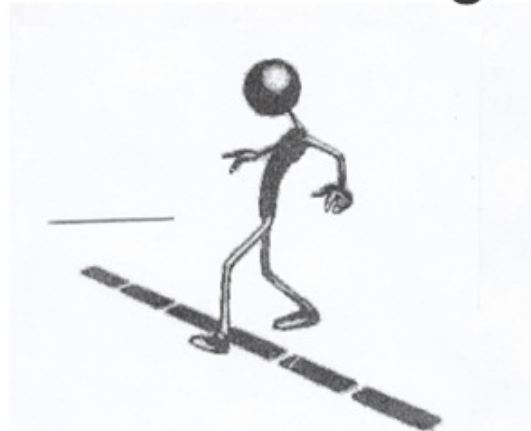
For more details, click [here](#).

POUR AT FOUR

Thursday, February 15 at 4PM
David Geffen Hall, Lincoln
Center



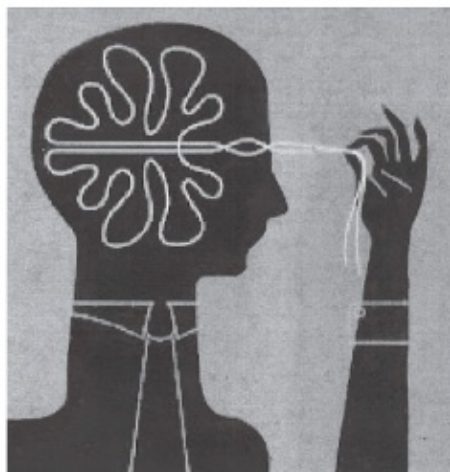
Thinking About Coordinating?



Coordinator Development Workshops Can Help

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 Let's Get Started



A Coordinator Development Workshop

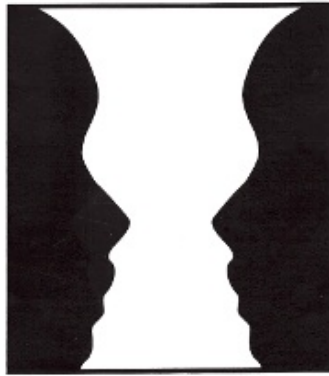
Wednesday February 7
from 4:15-5:15 pm on Zoom

Where do study group ideas come from? This session will help you think of a

topic that could work and consider how to develop it.

[Register](#)

More Than One Way To Present Study Groups



A Coordinator Development Workshop

**Wednesday February 14
from 4:15-5:15 pm on Zoom**

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

[Register](#)

Additional workshops will be run on Zoom on Wednesdays from 4:15-5:15 through April 10. [Click here](#) for descriptions and registration links.

Ready to get started? Contact Randy Ross, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, at ross1@gradcenter.cuny.edu to begin the process of preparing your study group.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR FRIDAYS@1

March 1: Hernan Diaz, best-selling author, winner of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *Trust* and a Pulitzer finalist for his 2017 *In the Distance*, will be interviewed by LP² member Ellen-Sills Levy. Diaz is Associate Director of the Hispanic Institute for Latin American and Iberian Culture at Columbia University. "Trust examines the human costs of wealth in a novel that keeps revising itself," wrote Michael Gorra in *The New York Times*.

April 5: Yascha Mounk, professor of international affairs at Johns Hopkins University, author of *The Identity Trap: A Story of Ideas and Power in Our Time* (2023) and *The Great Experiment: How to Make Diverse Democracies Work* (2022) will be interviewed by LP² member Jeffrey Siegel about the future of liberal democracy. "An intellectual tour de force about the origins of identity

politics and the threat it presents to genuine, honest, old-fashioned liberalism.” —Bret Stephens, The New York Times

May 3: Peter Beinart, professor of journalism and political science at the Newmark School of Journalism, CUNY; editor of Jewish Currents; political commentator and writer on foreign policy, will be interviewed by LP² member Carolyn Setlow about the Israeli/Palestinian situation . On October 14, 2023, Beinart’s Guest Essay titled, “There is a Jewish Hope for Palestinian Liberation. It Must Survive,” on the Opinion page of the New York Times, attracted much attention. He publishes a weekly newsletter, The Beinart Notebook, on Substack (<https://peterbeinart.substack.com>).

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A MENTOR?

The Orientation Committee is creating a pool of mentors for the class of September, 2024. If you’ve always wanted to be a mentor, here’s your chance to commit your time and energy by welcoming and guiding the new members. If you are interested, reach out to Jan Adler at jadler@gradcenter.cuny.edu and we will try to match you with a congenial mentee.

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

Peggy Daniel

I was a television producer for over 30 years for various Public Television outlets such as Channel 13, the Met Opera, Sony Classical and Bravo. I did a documentary on Philip Glass, another on the King Tut show at The Met and various programs on ecology and public affairs. I was a board member of New York Women in Film, which advocates for women in TV.



I was also an avid trekker and hiked in Nepal, India and Peru. I have been over 17,000 feet and seen Mt Everest from a close-up viewpoint. Trekking increased my interest in third world travel, so I produced several documentaries on third world development for USAID in Burkina Faso, Ghana and the Philippines. I also spent three months in Kenya with the Peace Corps. I studied history in college and after that left for a two-year stint in Paris. My French is still pretty good, but my German is less than useful, even though I took classes at Hunter for three years. Berlin is one of my favorite points of call. I look forward to the LP² classes and to making some new friends.



Denise Heebink

Thank you for the warm welcome to the LP² community. My professional life for over 30 years has been as a psychiatrist working primarily with adolescents and young adults with eating disorders. I continue to maintain a part-time private practice and teaching appointment at the Weill Cornell Department of Psychiatry. This work has been deeply rewarding. Yet now it is time for me to shake things up and explore new interests, to reinvigorate something perhaps lost and found, and to make new connections. LP² is just the place to do that! New York City is my home.

MEET THE CHAIRS

Fridays@1 Carolyn Setlow

Tell me about your committee.

I'm the chair of the Fridays@1 committee, the group responsible for LP²'s public lecture series. Every year we present online interviews with six well-known writers or experts in a webinar format series that is open to the public.

How did you get involved?



[Click here](#) to learn more.

MEMBER FORUM

From Maury Harris:

LP² is keeping me on my toes in retirement like nothing I could have imagined! I recently published two articles that were a by-product of study groups I coordinated on Crime and Punishment and on Polarization, and an upcoming SG on Issues in the 2024 Election. Being a coordinator motivated my research, and the class discussions raised further questions that helped me to better understand the topic. Coordinating is truly a stimulating and rewarding experience.

Here's an article on Trump and the 2024 election.

<https://jheconomics.com/2024-elections-the-trump-dummy-factor/>

A few months ago I wrote one on crime and the 2024 election.

<https://jheconomics.com/crime-and-politics-in-2024/>

The Women's Group

The Women's Group will meet every other week on Thursdays at 4:30PM via zoom starting February 15. If you want the link, contact aleschack@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

ONLINE ART SHOW

Artist: John Becker

Title: Deck Chairs in the Sky

John explains: View from an indoor pool on the deck of the Queen Mary.



AISI OFFICE HOURS

A reminder that The Office of Academic Initiatives and Strategic Innovation (AISI) is located in Room 8309 and is open Monday through Friday 9AM to 5PM. Questions from Advisory Board members, Committee chairs, or other activity leaders can be brought to Joanna or Mariel during their drop-in hours on Wednesdays, 1:00PM to 3:00PM, starting on Wednesday, February 7.

OBSERVER INFO

Current Observers are available on the website (p2nyc.org) all week from 5pm

on the publication date.

Previous editions are kept on the website's [Observer Archive](#).

To display your creative work 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.

The Observer welcomes member contributions. There used to be a Wednesday deadline for the following Monday; given online publishing, that has been pushed ahead to Friday. Send your contributions to isax@lp2nyc.org.

Reminder: For security purposes *The Observer* and the website do not publish personal information, including emails and phone numbers. We use gradcenter.cuny.edu addresses or request website addresses (@lp2nyc.org) to deliver email directly to your preferred email mailbox.

GRAD CENTER CAMPUS INFO

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GRAD CENTER CAMPUS COVID-19 GUIDANCE

[COVID-19 CUNY GC Information as of May 23, 2023](#)

REMINDERS

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

[Website Login Information](#)
