The Center for The Study of Social Difference is an interdisciplinary research center supporting collaborative projects that address gender, race, sexuality, and other forms of inequality to foster ethical and progressive social change.

The Center’s work has two overarching research themes, Women Creating Change and Imagining Justice.
This has been a year of milestones and new beginnings at the Center for the Study of Social Difference and Women Creating Change. We began the year with our anniversary events, telling women’s stories and celebrating active interventions, large and small - what we can do when it seems like there’s nothing to be done. And we ended by preparing to launch five new projects, bringing together working groups from Columbia and elsewhere to focus on women’s heart disease awareness, migrant personhood and rights, transnational Black feminisms, and more.

As U.S. political life and public discourse become increasingly polarized and contentious, sinking to unimaginable depths, and as autocracies around the globe threaten freedom and democracy, our work of imagining justice and creating change is increasingly urgent. But it is not just the topics we engage and the publications and transformations they engender that nourish us as academics: it is also our way of working together. Collaborating across disciplines, geographies and generations as academics, artists, activists, and practitioners; meeting in New York, Amman, Paris, Rio, Istanbul, Port Moresby, Mexico City and Madrid; publishing books and organizing conferences and workshops that advance knowledge; bringing collaborative research to our teaching and developing new pedagogies— all these enable us to imagine moving forward even as our world seems to be retrenching.

As you peruse this report on our 11th year, I invite you to join the circles of collaborative work we have been building at the Center. Bring us your ideas, your energies and your enthusiasm.

I now conclude my directorship of the Center but not my commitment to its mission and participation in its projects. I am enormously grateful for the creative engagement of our fellows and Executive Committee, the generosity of our partners and supporters across the globe, and the great work of our staff. It’s been a privilege for me to be building the Center in your company. With great pleasure and anticipation, I welcome Paige West to the CSSD directorship.

MARIANNE HIRSCH
William Peterfield Trent Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Columbia University
67% increase in CSSD-supported working groups from 2016 to 2019.

We’re collaborating with over 16 Columbia Schools/Units on projects and content.

- Columbia Law School
- School of Journalism
- Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Columbia University Libraries
- School of General Studies
- School of International and Public Affairs
- Columbia Business School
- Columbia College
- Barnard College
- Mailman School of Public Health
- Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
- School of the Arts
- Columbia Global Centers

3 YEARS
DURATION OF OUR PROJECTS

$75,000
AVERAGE PROJECT COST

40+
PUBLIC EVENTS EACH YEAR

OUR WORK SPANS
8 WORLD REGIONS AND OVER 28 COUNTRIES
# Table of Contents

**Women Creating Change 6-17**
- Geographies of Injustice: Gender and the City 8
- Menstrual Health and Gender Justice 10
- On the Frontlines: Nursing Leadership in Pandemics 12
- Religion and the Global Framing of Gender Violence 14
- Reframing Gendered Violence 16

**Imagining Justice 20-31**
- Unpayable Debt: Capital, Violence, and the New Global Economy 22
- Queer Theory: Here, Now, and Everywhere 24
- Racial Capitalism 26
- Pedagogies of Dignity 28
- Precision Medicine: Ethics, Politics and Culture 30

**Women Creating Change Leadership Council 32**

**Selected Events and Publications 34, 35**

**A Note from Our New Director 36**
Women Creating Change, celebrating its sixth year in 2019, engages distinguished feminist scholars from diverse fields throughout Columbia University. With project partnerships across departments and schools, WCC focuses on contemporary global problems affecting women and on the roles women play in addressing these problems.

ACTIVE WORKING GROUPS IN 2018-2019:
- Geographies of Injustice: Gender and the City
- Menstrual Health and Gender Justice
- On the Frontlines: Nursing Leadership in Pandemics
- Religion and the Global Framing of Gender Violence
- Reframing Gendered Violence

NEW WORKING GROUPS LAUNCHING IN 2019:
- Transnational Black Feminisms
- Women’s Heart Disease Awareness: Digital Intervention, Creating Change
Geographies of Injustice asks how spatial politics intersects with inequality and social difference in terms of race, caste, and ethnicity. Focusing on marginalized and stigmatized spaces such as “slums,” “favelas,” and “ghettos,” the working group examines the gendering of the urban landscape from an interdisciplinary perspective. It asks how motherhood and the family structure are restructured in these spaces, and how women’s creative life-making strategies might be able to redress histories of stigma and exclusion.

The group seeks to generate public facing pedagogy and outreach that has the capacity to remedy spatial inequality through design, policy, activism, and cultural production. To that end, Geographies of Injustice collaborates with an array of site-specific scholars, activists, urban planners, students, and community organizations to formulate both new pedagogies and research methods to develop strategies for social equity and spatial desegregation. Connections across Rio, Mumbai, and select cities in the United States (Mississippi Delta, Detroit, New York) are a special focus of the working group.

**DIRECTORS**

Anupama Rao, Associate Professor of History, Barnard College and Associate Director of the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University
Ana Paulina Lee, Professor of Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Columbia University

**GRADUATE ASSISTANTS**

Elvira Eloisa Blanco, Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Columbia University
Sohini Chattopadhyay, History, Columbia University
PUBLIC IMPACT

• The group held a series of public workshops in October 2018, entitled “Spaces of Exception” featuring keynote speaker Priti Ramamurthy.

• Anupama Rao spoke with NPR podcast Code Switch about Caste discrimination in the United States.

NEW COURSE

• With the support of Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funding, Anupama Rao and Ana Paulina Lee developed a new graduate course titled “Subaltern Urban Studies,” exploring how spatial politics intersect with economic inequality and social difference.
From the perspective of gender equality, menstruation is a fascinating subject of study as it combines attention to biological processes, to deeply rooted stereotypes and social norms, and to associated cultural and religious practices. The Menstrual Health and Gender Justice working group seeks to further the nascent field of menstrual studies. This group puts particular emphasis on critically evaluating the current state of research, advocacy and programming. They ask: Whose voices are being represented in the field? Which actors shape the dominant narrative? Whose voices are marginalized? What are the gaps in the research and how might interdisciplinary collaboration help remedy some of these gaps?

Attention to menstrual issues across the lifespan surfaces broader societal tensions, including gender inequality, practices and discourses of embodiment, and emergent technologies. The working group provides a forum for individual and collaborative research on menstruation that crosses disciplinary boundaries.

**DIRECTOR**

Inga Winkler, Lecturer in the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Human Rights Program, Columbia University

**COORDINATOR**

Michelle Chouinard, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

**MENSTRUAL HEALTH**
PUBLIC EVENTS

• September 20, 2018: “Menstruation is Having Its Moment”
• February 11, 2019: “Religion and Public Health Series: Religion and Menstruation”
• March 13, 2019: “Making Women’s Access to Social Protection and Infrastructure a Reality”

PUBLICATIONS

• “Human Rights Shine a Light on Unmet Menstrual Health Needs and Menstruation at the Margins,” by Inga T. Winkler in Obstetrics & Gynecology
• *The Managed Body: Developing Girls & Menstrual Health in the Global South*, by Chris Bobel [2019, Palgrave Macmillan]
• “The Legacy of Tampon-Related Toxic Shock Syndrome: Feats, Failures, and Future Challenges for Women’s Health Scholars,” by Nancy King Reame in Women’s Reproductive Health

MEDIA MENTIONS

• Oct 4, 2018: Inga Winkler discusses Paid Period Leave Policy in Australia with CNN
• Jan 13, 2019: Chris Bobel discuses menstruation with the Washington Post
• Feb 28, 2019: Chris Bobel and Marni Sommer comment on Oscar-winning *Period. End of Sentence* film with NPR
Although nurses play a vital role in combating pandemics, their work is not usually considered when international leaders gather to discuss global health issues. This dangerous omission means that little is known about the range of their activities. Nurses’ clinical innovations as frontline caretakers rarely surface in public policy debates and proposals. Nor do their sacrifices in juggling patient care and self-preservation receive adequate study by researchers.

*On the Frontlines: Nursing Leadership in Pandemics* seeks to redress this knowledge gap by studying the role of nurses as change agents in the prevention, detection, and response to pandemic infectious disease outbreaks. The working group necessarily takes an inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary approach. Drawing on the work of the health science community – nursing, medicine, public health, evolutionary biology and immunology, as well as demography – On the Frontlines seeks to parse the changing nature of infectious diseases. The end-goals of this project are twofold: to document and publish the first-hand experiences of nurse and midwife leaders fighting pandemic disease, and to capture best practices in pandemic nursing in a series of policy recommendations.

**DIRECTORS**

Jennifer Dohrn, Associate Professor of Nursing, and Director of Global Initiatives & WHO, Columbia University
Wilmot James, Visiting Professor of International and Public Affairs, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
Victoria Rosner, Dean of Academic Affairs, School of General Studies; Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

**COORDINATORS**

Hannah Bender, Department of Pediatrics Columbia University
Jeremy Orloff, School of General Studies Columbia University
PUBLIC TALKS

• November 27, 2018: "Building Resilience Against Health Catastrophes"
• April 11, 2019: "Children in Catastrophes"

FUTURE PLANS

• The group is conducting a research trip to West Africa to train in-country oral history interviewers and conduct a first round of oral histories of nurses who worked in the 2014 Ebola outbreak.
Combatting violence against women (VAW)––or more recently, “gender-based violence” (GBV)––has become a highly visible and powerful global agenda with immense but uneven consequences for policy and women’s rights. While a growing body of research has begun to address the effectiveness of embedded VAW and GBV within the new modes of global and national governance, there has been no systematic research on this impact in the Middle East and South Asia, where religion visibly frames global understandings and policy interventions.

By focusing on these areas, this project mobilizes the expertise and creativity of feminist scholars, practitioners, activists, and journalists to examine religion’s role in naming, framing, and governing gendered violence. RGFGV encourages a critical discourse with the conviction that nuanced analyses lead to more effective strategies for decreasing gender violence—and to more robust understandings of how certain framings of religion and violence can cloud the very diagnoses essential to treating human suffering. This initiative is supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation with additional support from the Columbia Global Center, Middle East, Amman.

DIRECTORS

LILA ABU-LUGHOD  
REMA HAMMAMI  
JANET JAKOBSEN  
NADERA SHALHOUHB-KEVORKIAN

Lila Abu-Lughod, Joseph L. Buttenwieser Professor of Social Science, Department of Anthropology and Professor of Gender Studies, Columbia University  
Rema Hammami, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Birzeit University  
Janet Jakobsen, Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Barnard College  
Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, Lawrence D. Biele Chair in Law, Faculty of Law-Institute of Criminology and the School of Social Work and Public Welfare, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Distinguished Visiting Professor, Queen Mary University of London

COORDINATORS

JOYMALA HAJRA  South Asian Studies Columbia University  
TERESA PEROSA  School of International and Public Affairs Columbia University  
LAELA SHALLAL  American Studies Columbia University
PUBLICATIONS BY RGFGV FELLOWS

- “Men in Pakistan are Blackmailing Women on Facebook” by Samira Shackle on Elle UK
- “On their Own Terms: Syrian Women in Turkey Seek to Define Their Independence” by Maryam Saleh on The Intercept
- “Foreign Charities and Sexual Exploitation” by Dr. Senila Khoja-Moolhi in The Express Tribune
- “Follow the Numbers: Global Governmentality and the Violence Against Women Agenda in Occupied Palestine” by Rema Hammami in Governance Feminism: Notes from the Field, edited by Janet Halley, also an RGFGV fellow

GLOBAL AND DOMESTIC IMPACT

- The project convened a major international workshop in September 2018 at Columbia. “Global Governance of the Intimate” brought together twenty-five scholars, journalists, lawyers and activists for two intensive days of collaborative research sharing and brainstorming.
Over the past few decades, “violence against women” (VAW) and “gender-based violence” (GBV) have become prominent loci for activism throughout the world—garnering international media attention and occupying a growing place in international law and global governance. When invoked in the halls of the United Nations and used to shape international policy, these terms are often reductively assumed to have stable meanings. What do different parties mean when they talk of VAW or GBV? Is the main form of violence against women sexual in nature, as the “Me Too” movement would indicate? Does it occur primarily in domestic and work settings? What is left out when the problem is framed in this way, and whose interests are served by such a framing?

Reframing Gendered Violence opens up a critical global conversation among scholars and practitioners that recasts the problem of violence against women as it is currently discussed in a wide range of fields, both academic and policy-oriented, including human rights, public health, journalism, law, feminist studies, literature, sociology, religious studies, anthropology, and history. The project is supported by the Dean of the Humanities and the Columbia Global Centers.

DIRECTORS

Lila Abu-Lughod, Joseph L. Buttenwieser Professor of Social Science, Department of Anthropology and Professor of Gender Studies, Columbia University

Kaiama Glover, Associate Professor of French and Americana Studies, Barnard College

Jennifer Hirsch, Professor of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

Marianne Hirsch, William Peterfield Trent Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Columbia University

Jean Howard, George Delacorte Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

Anupama Rao, Associate Professor of History, Barnard College and Associate Director of the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University

Kendall Thomas, Nash Professor of Law, Columbia Law School

Paige West, Claire Tow Professor of Anthropology, Barnard College and Columbia University

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Liza McIntosh

English and Comparative Literature

Columbia University
PUBLIC EVENTS

- November 12, 2018: “Portraiture and Enslavement at the Thresholds of Emancipation” with Agnes Lugo-Ortiz [University of Chicago]
- January 24-25, 2019: Two-Day Workshop, “Reframing Transgender Violence” at Columbia Law School

FEATURED PUBLICATION

- “A Lack of Sex Ed May Impact How Some College Students Practice Consent, Research Says” cites Jennifer Hirsch in Teen Vogue
“I can’t think of any other center that aspires to this level of expansiveness, allowing you to think interdisciplinarily while at the same time harnessing your own deep skills and scholarship, to ask the really big questions in much more robust and meaningful ways.”

- Anupama Rao, Co-Director of Geographies of Injustice

“When you start asking questions, and you start putting them in a global context, that inherently leads you to engage in conversations with people in, out, and beyond your immediate community.”

- Frances Negrón-Muntaner, Co-Director of Unpayable Debt
"In the UN and advocacy circles I work in, we often talk about the importance of connecting evidence to storytelling to drive meaningful change. Naturally, this is easier said than done - and yet the Center puts this strategy into action everyday. I don’t know of another entity like it. And right now, in our current political moment, this work is ever more urgent.

- Aly Neel, Women Creating Change Leadership Council Member and Policy & Advocacy Strategist, Global Policy Team, United Nations Foundation

"The Center has definitely enhanced Columbia as an intellectual community."

- Farah Jasmine Griffin, Inaugural Chair of the African American and African Diaspora Studies Department
Imagining Justice brings together scholars, activists, and artists on projects that envision new ways of fighting inequality and promoting gender, racial, economic, and environmental justice in global and domestic contexts.

ACTIVE WORKING GROUPS IN 2018-2019:
- Unpayable Debt: Capital, Violence, and the New Global Economy
- Queer Theory: Here, Now, and Everywhere
- Racial Capitalism
- Pedagogies of Dignity
- Precision Medicine: Ethics, Politics and Culture

NEW WORKING GROUPS LAUNCHING IN 2019:
- Migrant Personhood and Rights: Crises of Recognition
- Environmental Justice, Belief Systems, and Aesthetic Experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Data, Algorithms, and Social Justice
For three years (2016-2019), Unpayable Debt: Capital, Violence, and the New Global Economy has been raising critical questions about the role of debt and the rise of a debt regime in the global economy; the relationship between debt, migration, and violence; and the emergence of new political and cultural practices, particularly among subordinated groups, that challenge debt and austerity as forms of governance. The project’s members, which include scholars, filmmakers, and journalists, examine the politics of artistic practice, autogestion, and local and global solidarities.

The interdisciplinary group has compared recent and landmark cases such as Puerto Rico, Argentina, Greece, Spain, and U.S. cities like Detroit as well as other spaces that have been historically affected by debt. The project has also developed multiple public interventions that have broken new ground and facilitated public engagement, enhancing broad discussions about the politics of debt.

DIRECTORS

FRANCES NEGRÓN MUNTANER

Sarah Muir

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Laura Charney  Human Rights Columbia University

Matan Cohen  MESAAS Columbia University

Frances Negrón-Muntaner, Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Former Director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Columbia University

Sarah Muir, Assistant Professor and Deputy Chair, Department of Anthropology, Gender Studies, and International Studies, City College, CUNY; Affiliated Faculty, Linguistic Anthropology, CUNY Graduate Center
NEW CURRICULUM

• "Caribbean Syllabus: Life and Debt in the Caribbean" is the first ever digital resource to study debt and the Caribbean.
• "Puerto Rico Syllabus" offers essential tools for critical thinking about the Puerto Rican debt crisis.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

• October 10, 2018: "Reimagining Money Workshop and Caribbean Syllabus Launch"
• February 2, 2019: Launch of Valor y Cambio, a social currency project, in Puerto Rico
• April 10, 2019: "Unpayable Still: Debt in a Global Context" conference at Columbia University
• May 26, 2019: Launch of Valor y Cambio in New York at the Loisaida Cultural Festival

PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

• "Back from the Storm" by working group fellow Ed Morales in The New York Times
• "Our Fellow Americans" by Frances Negrón-Mutaner in Dissent Magazine
• "The Emptying Island: Puerto Rican Expulsion in Post-Maria Time" by Frances Negrón-Mutaner for the Hemispheric Institute
• Valor y Cambio project featured in the Manhattan Times article, "Currency in Community"
• Frances Negrón-Mutaner was interviewed about her hometown San Juan in Worlds Without Borders.
• Frances Negrón-Mutaner was featured on The Takeaway, where she spoke with film critic Rafer Guzman about the film Sicario: Day of the Soldado.
Queer Theory: Here, Now, and Everywhere sets out to discuss, debate and investigate the politics of sexuality and gender in a global frame. This group builds upon the vast network of queer scholars in the New York area and reaches out to groups in Beirut, Buenos Aires, Rio De Janeiro, Quito and Istanbul in order to consider how best to resituate queer studies to respond to shifts in the meanings of family, sexual health, gendered embodiment, religion, sexual practices, gender variance, activism and sexual communities worldwide. This group’s main focus is to consider the place of sexuality and gender in both the spread of global capitalism, right-wing populism, and in the activist responses to these new forms of authoritarianism.

Scholars in this group have worked on neoliberalism, LGBT law, trans* issues, transnational imaginaries, queer diaspora, negative affects, art and politics, the queer decolonial, temporality and spatiality, phenomenology, and much more. This multidisciplinary group is committed to asking questions about the future of queer politics, the future of queer culture, and the potential of new forms of solidarity, protest and queer thought.

**DIRECTORS**

Jack Halberstam, Professor of Gender Studies and English Literature, Columbia University
Macarena Gómez-Barris, Chairperson of Social Science and Cultural Studies and Director of the Global South Center, Pratt Institute
Daniel Da Silva, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, Rutgers University

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT**

Mia Florin-Sefton
English and Comparative Literature
Columbia University

Jack Halberstam, Macarena Gómez-Barris, Daniel Da Silva
PUBLIC EVENTS
- December 6–7, 2018: “Queer Studies: Here, There and Elsewhere” workshop in Paris
- February 28–March 1, 2019: “Queer Disruptions (QD3)” conference at Columbia University

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND PUBLICATIONS
- Jack Halberstam spoke with New York Times staff writer Jenna Wortham for “Is RuPaul’s Drag Race the Most Radical Show on TV?”
- Halberstam published “Unbuilding Gender: Trans* Anarchitectures In and Beyond the Work of Gordon Matta-Clark” in Places Journal
- Working group fellow Tey Meadow was interviewed by The Atlantic for their report “Young Trans Children Know Who They Are”

FUTURE PLANS
- A symposium in Fall 2019 will pair junior scholars developing new work in queer studies with senior scholars from the working group
- A conference/series of workshops to be held out of the Columbia Global Center in Rio de Janeiro in March 2020
Since its first usage by antiapartheid activists in South Africa to its elaboration by political theorist Cedric J. Robinson, racial capitalism is a concept that delineates the interlinked relationships of race and class constitutive of global capitalism. The racial capitalism working group is a site of sustained collaborative research and study. Its collective work is rooted in a commitment to Black radicalism, historical materialism, feminism, and anti-imperialism.

With members that include scholars from Barnard, Columbia, and the Center for Place, Culture, and Politics (CPCP) at the CUNY Graduate Center, as well as local scholars, graduate students, organizers, and visiting international scholars, this group seeks to ask: what visions of justice does the critique of political economy enable us to imagine, and to achieve? Through public lectures, seminars, manuscript workshops, conferences, community-based research projects, publications, exhibitions, and a digital archive, the working group seeks to gain clarity on the material and ideological links between Indigenous dispossession, racism, imperialism, and capitalist political economy.

DIRECTORS

Jordan T. Camp, Visiting Scholar, Center for Place, Culture and Politics, CUNY Graduate Center, and Director of Research, The People’s Forum
Christina Heatherton, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Barnard College
Manu Vimalassery, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Barnard College
HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLIC EVENTS

• September 22, 2018: “Global Radicalism, Solidarity, Internationalism, and Feminist Futures” with Mary Helen Washington [University of Maryland, College Park] and Vijay Prashad [Executive Director, Tricontinental Institute for Social Research]


• February 12, 2019: “Colonial Pasts and Violent Present of Confinement in Counterinsurgencies” with Laleh Khalili [SOAS University of London]

• March 6, 2019: “Our History is the Future” book event with author Nick Estes

PUBLICATIONS

• Empire’s Tracks: Indigenous Nations, Chinese Workers, and the Transcontinental Railroad by working group co-director Manu Vimalassery with the University of California Press, 2019
Pedagogies of Dignity convenes formerly incarcerated people, activists, faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates from the Humanities and Social Sciences.

This interdisciplinary project includes theoretical and practical components. The theoretical component explores the philosophical and political importance of human dignity. In current debates about criminal justice reform, institutionalized racism, systemic economic injustice, and related issues, the notion of human dignity has emerged as key. The practical component of the project involves the development of a pedagogy of dignity. The formerly incarcerated members of this group work with those who have taught in prison to create best-practice standards for such teaching. The practical work of the group informs – and is informed by – its theoretical conversations.

DIRECTORS

CHRISTIA MERCER

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

OLIVIA LEIGH BRANSCUM Philosophy Columbia University

Christia Mercer, Gustave M. Berne Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University
PUBLIC IMPACT

• September 30, 2018: Pedagogy of Dignity workshop convened 40 formerly incarcerated students, academics, prison educators, activists, undergraduates, and postgraduates to discuss the benefits and challenges of prison education, present pedagogical ideas, and prepare participants to teach in Brooklyn Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC).

• April 19, 2019: Undergraduate Writing Instructor’s Workshop brought undergraduate interns together with senior writing instructors to discuss effective pedagogy in institutions of incarceration.
Precision medicine—an emerging approach for disease treatment and prevention that takes into account individual variability in genes, environment, and lifestyle for each person—raises myriad cultural, political, and historical questions that the humanities and social sciences are uniquely positioned to address. The PMEPC lecture series represents a broad-based exploration of questions that precision medicine raises in law, ethics, the social sciences, economics, and the humanities.

DIRECTORS

RACHEL ADAMS

MAYA SABATELLO

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

VERONICA BELAFI English and Comparative Literature Columbia University

Rachel Adams, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
Maya Sabatello, Assistant Professor of Clinical Bioethics, Department of Psychology
PUBLIC EVENTS

- October 25, 2018: "Epigenetics, Precision Medicine, and Responsibility Towards Children. What Can We Learn From Neurodevelopmental Disorders?" with Dr. Kristien Hens (University of Antwerp)
- February 19, 2019: "Molecular Death, Desire, and Redface Reincarnation: Indigenous Appropriateness in the USA and Canada" with Dr. Kim Tallbear (University of Alberta)

TESTIMONIALS FROM GRADUATE FELLOWS

"With the ability to converse with scholars and experts in the fields of biological sciences, social sciences, and humanities, my peer graduate fellows and I were able to parse out the interdisciplinary aspects of a traditionally distinct field of study."
- Danielle Goldman [Bioethics, School of Professional Studies, Columbia University]

"It is my belief that science and humanities research and discussion going forward can no longer be held in isolation. The Center’s support made these important interdisciplinary first steps feasible."
- Jade Tan [Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University]
“In our current global environment, it is extremely important that we understand the influence of women on the economic, political, and cultural forces that shape our surroundings. Our programs seek to incorporate academic research about women and other underrepresented groups in the classroom and to better inform global decision making.

Our faculty leverage donor support in impressive ways to produce extraordinary global projects.

Please join us in supporting this dynamic research and outreach.“

Ann KAPLAN, Columbia University Trustee Emerita
Partner, Circle Wealth Management

YOUR SUPPORT
Your gift to the Center for the Study of Social Difference:

- Sustains our future
- Fortifies our research
- Supports our students

contact socialdifference@columbia.edu for more information

Columbia University’s Women Creating Change Leadership Council is comprised of individuals who are committed to the exploration of issues which affect women and the ways in which women address global gender challenges. The mission of the Council is to promote interdisciplinary collaborative research and to sponsor events that publicize this important work. Council members assist the faculty in framing how their academic endeavors can create greater impact. The WCC Leadership Council provides a critical link between the university’s faculty-led projects and the interlinked sphere of global business, academia, and civil society.

Ann KAPLAN [CHAIR], New York
ANNETTE ANTHONY, London
ANJALI BANSAL, India
A’LELIA BUNDLES, Washington D.C.
LISA CARNOY, New York
ISOBEL COLEMAN, New York
GEORGINA CULLMAN, New York
ABIGAIL ELBAUM, New York
JANICE REALS ELLIS, New York
MELISAA FISHER, New York
AMAL GHANDOUR, Lebanon
DEBORAH JACKSON, New York
CAROLEE LEE, New York
SAFWAN MASRI, New York
CYNTHIA MOSES-MANOCHERIAN, New York
MOLLY MATHEWS MULTEDO, Rio de Janeiro & New York
DIANA MORENIS NASSER, São Paulo, Brazil
ALYSON NEEL, New York
LOIS PERELSON-GROSS, New York
PHILIPPA PORTNOY, New York
SAMIA SALFITI, Jordan
S. MONA SINHA, New York
SELENA SOO, New York
ESTA STECHER, New York
DIANA TAYLOR, New York
DAVIA TEMIN, New York
RICHARD E. WITTEN, New York
JACKI ZEHNER, Utah
GLOBAL REACH: FOOTPRINTS OF OUR WORK IN THE LAST DECADE

Our work spans 8 world regions and over 28 countries.

ASIA
India
Jordan
Palestine
Turkey
Lebanon
Bangladesh
China
Pakistan

AFRICA
Ghana
Kenya
Egypt
South Africa

NORTH AMERICA
USA [New York, Detroit, Mississippi, Los Angeles, New Orleans]
Canada
Puerto Rico
Central America
Mexico
Guatemala

SOUTH AMERICA
Chile
Brazil
Argentina
Ecuador

EUROPE
France
Spain
Greece
Germany
United Kingdom

OCEANIA
Papua New Guinea
Australia
On September 27-28, 2018, we celebrated ten years of CSSD and five years of our Women Creating Change initiative, featuring a roundtable of writers moderated by Columbia University trustee A’Leila Bundles, and the first public event at Columbia’s brand new Forum building, an international symposium celebrating what we CAN do when there’s nothing to be done.

Women Creating Change 5th Anniversary, September 27, 2018
Photo by Vitaliy Piltser
I am extremely honored to have been named the director of the Center for the Study of Social Difference (CSSD) for the next three years. I’ve been faculty at Barnard College and Columbia University for nearly twenty years and my work through and with CSSD since 2014 has been the most intellectually productive experience that I’ve had at the university. We provide a space unlike any other at Columbia and over the course of my time as director I would like to enhance what we already do so well across five different, but related, action points:

1) **PROMOTE** the production of knowledge through cutting edge scholarship across disciplines.

2) **INFORM** social and political change in the world with research-based scholarship, disseminating the knowledge produced in CSSD working groups via a public series of projects and a CSSD Media Lab and podcast.

3) **BUILD** CSSD’s position as the home for faculty across Columbia who are working on similar issues, and asking the hard questions about how their research relates to gender, race, class, sexuality, and difference.

4) **GROW** our public events series with the Women Creating Change Leadership Council, bringing scholars together with practitioners, business people, and the public to examine issues that are central to gender equity.

5) **FOSTER** conditions for women and scholars around the globe to have space to work and think together to create change in their communities.

I believe that together with our extraordinary staff [Executive Director Catherine LaSota and Program Coordinator Ayah Eldosougi], our Executive Committee, and our Women Creating Change Leadership Council, we can continue to build CSSD and support field changing socially engaged scholarship in ways that develop faculty as scholars who change the world.

**PAIGE WEST**
https://paige-west.com

**CLAIRE TOW PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY**
Barnard College and Columbia University

**DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL DIFFERENCE**
Columbia University