IMAGINE REPAIR

April 23—May 15, 2022
The Zip Code Memory Project at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

During the last two years of the global Coronavirus pandemic, New Yorkers have suffered isolation and devastating loss, much of it caused by inequality and neglect. Yet through the restorative power of artistic collaboration and community, this exhibition aims to Imagine Repair.

How has the pandemic affected our lives? Where, in our bodies, do we carry the uncertainties, anxieties, and fears it has provoked? Can we heal and grow together?

Following several months of workshops created by the Zip Code Memory Project, this exhibition offers a space in which we can listen to the voices and stories of New Yorkers and invite us to share our own. We can accompany each other in the work of remembering and grieving, in moments of joy and intimate moments of pain and loss. The artists in this exhibition have worked for hours to convey the responsibility to bear witness to an extraordinary historical moment. They come together here to express a collective desire for renewed hope and a demand for transformative justice.

Photo by Desiree Rios
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.
Throughout my career I’ve always felt privileged to be a member of the faculty. The opportunities one has as a part of the Columbia University community are incredible. Our students are intensely committed to learning and a pleasure to teach, our academic colleagues are pushing the boundaries of scholarship with research and publications, and our staff colleagues are working tirelessly to create conditions where learning, writing, making, and doing can happen in spaces of support, equality, care, and comfort. Together these practices have made Columbia University what it is, a global center for knowledge and education. For the past few years, Columbia has also worked to encourage the entire community to highlight their already existing partnerships with individuals and groups who are moving research, scholarship, and teaching beyond the walls of the University, and to support more of this kind of engagement. The Center for the Study of Social Difference has been committed to cutting edge interdisciplinary scholarship and social engagement for the entire life of the Center, so serving as the Faculty Director for the past three years as I’ve watched this larger institutional pivot has been incredible. I have a deep sense of gratitude to our staff, faculty, and supporters for allowing me to serve in this position and am happy to say that I’ll be with the Center as Faculty Director for three more years.

This year we have had twelve active Working Groups. Our “Women Creating Change” Working Groups have focused on motherhood and technology, work and the home, women’s heart health, Black feminist thought and activism, global menstrual health, urban life and gender, and pandemic nursing. Our “Imagining Justice” Working Groups have focused on prison education, race and ecology, migration and immigration, environmental justice, and the global politics of sexuality and gender. We also have two active “Social Engagement Projects”. One of these projects has worked in partnership with activist groups in Rio and Mumbai to create spaces for people living urban settlements to tell their stories in their own words. The other has worked with community groups, artists, and activists in Morningside Heights, Harlem, Washington Heights and the South Bronx to work towards multiple forms of memorialization, repair, and justice in the way of the devastation that the Coronavirus pandemic has brought to these neighborhoods.

In reading this list, I know that you can see that we are doing work on the most important issues of our time. At a time when the rights of people are deemed socially different by authoritarian regimes, national political movements, fringe religious groups, and others who are seeking to destabilize societies around the world, our work matters more than ever before. At a time when people all over the world are struggling for racial justice and reparations, our research and scholarship helps to both document and push the movements forward.
to the global biophysical environment are altering life as we know it on our planet, our Working Groups are at the forefront of understanding how to bring social justice and ecological justice together. At a time when women’s rights are being attacked locally and globally, CSSD stands at the nexus of scholarship, teaching, and collaborations with activists working to make sure that we do not go backwards.

None of this work would be possible without the CSSD staff. Business Officer Fahmida Hussain and I were lucky to work with four graduate student colleagues this past year. Tomoki Birkett, Alex Pekov, Kalyani Madhura Ramachandran, and Abby Schroering. These members of our team created our media presence and served as our connections to the many other graduate students working with our Working Groups.

We also enjoyed the pleasure of working with Olivia Deming, Sungyoon Lim, and Stephanie Sanchez, three undergraduate students who served as our work study colleagues.

We also said goodbye to long-time staff member Catherine LaSota this year and welcomed our new Associate Director Kasheba Marshall. Kasheba came to us from the Columbia Business School and is already a crucial member of our team. Together, our team looks forward to 2023.

I keep hearing people refer to the past few years in higher education as “unprecedented” and I think that they often mean this in terms of the enormity of the task of mounting classes and keeping universities running during times of intense disruption and uncertainty. I also tend to think about these years being unprecedented in terms of the pressures we have all been under as humans who love and live with intensity. We have all lost loved ones, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to Covid-19 and to the longer-term health and mental health ramifications of the intensity of the crisis in 2020 and 2021. We have all watched national and global politics unfold in ways that are chilling. And we have all watched the progress of climate change related disasters with an increasing feeling of grief and panic.

For me, directing the Center and focusing on the importance of the work that our Working Groups do has kept me centered and focused on what we can do to make this world better. At the Center for the Study of Social Difference, our work continues to make lives better, to help us understand our world more clearly, and to move through it in ways that create opportunities for others.

Paige WEST, Director
Claire Tow Professor of Anthropology, Barnard College and Columbia University
Women Creating Change, celebrating its eighth year in 2021, 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 2021-22:
- On the Frontlines: Nursing Leadership in Pandemics
- Menstrual Health and Gender Justice
- Women’s Heart Disease Awareness: Digital Intervention, Creating Change
- Geographies of Injustice: Gender and the City
- Transnational Black Feminisms
- Motherhood & Technology
- Insurgent Domesticities

NEW WORKING GROUPS LAUNCHING IN 2022-23:
- Afro-Nordic Feminisms
On the Frontlines: Nursing Leadership in Pandemics seeks to understand the role of nurses as change agents in the prevention, detection and response to pandemic infectious disease outbreaks. Although nurses are crucial to combating pandemics, their work is often not considered when international leaders gather to discuss global health issues. This is a consequence of both the MD-centered hierarchy of medical practice and the fact that nursing remains a profession in which women - whose work is systemically undervalued - predominate (in the US, over 90% of registered nurses are women). This is a dangerous omission, since although nurses are on the front lines of care, little is known about the range of activities they undertake beyond what may be obvious in patient care. Even key clinical innovations are often overlooked when they should be universally implemented. And there is little record of the painful choices nurses and other health professionals often make between taking care of patients and protecting themselves and their families.

This working group is necessarily inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary. On the Frontlines draws on the work of the health science community - nursing, medicine, public health, evolutionary biology and immunology, as well as demography - to understand the changing nature of infectious diseases and how to manage and contain them. We engage the scholarship - international health regulations, international law and the doctrine of the duty to protect - that deals with the ethical character of leadership in the global health and biodefense communities and the barriers nursing leaders face in pursuing the public good. Further, to document the role of nurses, we draw on historical methods, anthropology and journalism to capture nurses’ experience in the field.

This group formed around an interest in understanding the work of nurses and midwives in the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. In response to recent events, we have expanded our scope to include a comparative study of the work of nurses and midwives in the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak. In collaboration with the Columbia Center for Oral History Research, we are conducting oral histories of COVID-19 nurses, and this effort is being jointly directed by Mary Marshall Clark and Jennifer Dohrn.

DIRECTORS

Jennifer Dohrn, Associate Professor of Nursing, and Director of Global Initiatives, Columbia University
Wilmot James, Senior Research Scholar at the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), Columbia University
Victoria Rosner, Dean of Academic Affairs, School of General Studies; Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

COORDINATOR: Jeremy Orloff, Post Baccalaureate Student, School of General Studies, Columbia University
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, with interest in examining whose voices are being represented in the field, which actors shape the dominant narrative, whose voices are marginalized, what the gaps are, and how interdisciplinary collaboration might help remedy some of these gaps.

The field is rich with questions: How do women and girls decide which menstrual care practices to adopt? How do girls experience menarche, how do women experience menopause, and what shapes these experiences? How do social media, magazines and social enterprises influence the discourse on menstruation? What are the implications of the recent case supported by the ACLU in which a woman claims to have been fired for leaking menstrual blood at work? Do recent policy developments address the needs of all menstruators, including the most marginalized? What is the role of development agencies and philanthropists in supporting menstrual hygiene management? What kind of interventions do they support and with which results? To what extent does language — menstrual health or menstrual hygiene management — matter? What cultural and religious practices exist around menstruation and how do they relate to gender equality?

Attention to menstrual issues across the lifespan surfaces broader societal issues and tensions, including gender inequality, practices and discourses of embodiment, processes of radicalization and commodification, and emergent technologies. From the perspective of gender equality, menstruation is a fascinating subject of study as it combines various facets including biological processes, deeply rooted stereotypes and social norms, and associated cultural and religious practices. Menstruation has become a category of analysis as a multi-dimensional transdisciplinary subject of inquiry and advocacy. Against this background, this working group capitalizes on the presence of faculty across different departments interested in menstruation and provides a forum for encouraging individual and collaborative research that crosses disciplinary boundaries.

DIRECTORS

INGA WINKLER
Lauren C. Houghton

Inga Winkler, Lecturer in the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Human Rights Program, Columbia University
Lauren C. Houghton, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

HIGHLIGHTS

1.36 million Accesses 129 Citations 1025 Altmetric Score

EVENTS
* November 12, 2021: Discussion with Silvia Young, a menstrual advocate in California
* November 17, 2021: Launch of MOOC: Menstruation in a Global Context: Addressing Policy and Practice
* February 2022: Transnational Convening for the Menstrual Movement
* University Seminar on Menstruation and Society (ongoing)

GRANTS RECEIVED
* MOOC development grant
* The Case for Her Grant
* Center for Science and Society Grant
* Foundation for a Just Society

NEW CURRICULUM
* MOOC: Menstruation in a Global Context: Addressing Policy and Practice
* University Seminar on Menstruation and Society
Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of mortality for women in the United States, accounting for more deaths than breast cancer, cervical cancer, and Alzheimer’s disease combined. While the majority of women age 40-60 have at least one risk factor for CVD, very few have had this risk assessed by their doctor. Nearly half of women are still not aware that CVD kills more women than cancer and only about a third of Hispanic and African American women identify it as the number one cause of death.

In order to effect real change, we must not only find ways to increase awareness of heart disease in women, but also identify ways to get women to make lasting changes in their lifestyle. The Women’s Heart Disease Awareness: Digital Intervention, Creating Change group seeks to identify barriers to heart disease awareness and explore pathways to change on a personal individual level as well as a community and population level that lead to improved women’s heart health. This group studies whether one specific tool, a mobile health App called Love My Heart, is better able achieve these goals compared with usual care. In addition, this group explores more broadly the ways that digital tools and social media can improve health education and identify what factors, such as fear, empowerment, etc., promote women to exercise more and eat healthier - these are lifestyle changes that historically have been hard to achieve with a more traditional approach.

DIRECTORS

Dr. Natalie Bello, Assistant Professor of Medicine, CU Irving Medical Center
Dr. Sonia Tolani, Assistant Professor of Medicine, CU Irving Medical Center
COORDINATOR: Ersilia DeFilippis, Postdoctoral Clinical Fellow, Columbia University Department of Medicine, Cardiology

HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLIC EVENTS

* February 23, 2021, “How to Improve Women’s Heart Health: Lessons from the US and China”
Geographies of Injustice: Gender and the City is based on its collaborative working relationships with Sankofa Museum of Rocinha, Observatório de Favelas, and Instituto Moreira Salles in Rio de Janeiro on the Reconstructing History in Rocinha, Rio de Janeiro, and Dharavi, Mumbai project. In collaboration with these organizations, this project completed a podcast series “Música e Migração nas favelas do Rio e Mumbai” (Memory and Migration in Rio and Mumbai’s Favelas) currently housed on Spotify and the Instituto Moreira Salles’ web radio Radio Batuta, one of the most widely recognized and accessed online radio stations in Brazil. “Música e Migração” consists of interviews with musicians/performers based in Complexo da Mare and Rocinha. In addition to the podcasts, we produced mini-video clips of the interviews with English subtitles. Following the completion of the podcast series, we organized a Spring Festival in which Rocinha and Mare–based historians, artists, archivists, and geographers used the podcast as a teaching tool for teenagers and young adults to learn about the histories of these two largest informal settlements in Latin America. Educational programming prioritized music and sound in reconstructing histories of migration to the favelas. These histories include stories about economic migration, war, and displacement. This podcast also informs performance and memory research in Mumbai in collaboration with URBZ, and completes a critical stage of a larger project to foster equitable access to the city, history, and education.

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, Assistant Professor of Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Columbia University

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

* Music and Migration podcast:
  * Music and Migration Seminar Series (Reconstructing History in Brazil’s Favelas and India’s Zhopdis)
    * September 13, 2021: Camila Daniel and Slim das Minas
    * November 3, 2021: Bahia Munem and Joilson Pinheiro
    * December 20, 2021: Muniz Sodre and Niluy
    * February 11, 2022: Will Almandia and MC Carol

* Spring Festival

GRANTS RECEIVED

* Social Science Research Council
* ILAB, Faculty Working Groups and Seminar Series Grant
The Transnational Black Feminisms working group aims to think about how transnational Black feminisms can move us beyond survivability and demands for recognition, and instead generate alternative frames and understandings around belonging, community, justice, and equity. Black feminism has, by necessity, emerged in tandem with political mobilizations: the struggle against slavery and colonialism; demands for government assistance or social services; and opposition to sexual or state violence, including Black Lives Matter. Such struggles have created the conditions of possibility for nurturing a politics of radical social transformation. They have also raised broader, foundational questions about the relationship between theory and praxis, lived experiences and the articulation of expansive visions of social change.

We have named this initiative transnational Black feminisms—with transnationalism as a modifier—because it foregrounds the long history of Black feminist praxis and theorization, dating back to the 19th century. “Black feminisms” also reflects our understanding of the importance of racial politics in the development of capitalism and global politics—what Cedric Robinson called “racial capitalism”—as well as our goal of integrating a gendered analysis into the concept of racial capitalism. In an era of heightened anti-Black racism—which manifests as systematic police violence, webs of carcerality, discourses of cultural depravity, ghettolization, gentrification, and disposability—it is essential to center a politics of blackness through a feminist, queer, anti-capitalist and anti-imperial lens, as an important vector for the political and social possibilities of imagining and working towards the realization of justice.

In addition, problematic historical and contemporary stagings of the history of feminism in the U.S. position Black women as marginal to a more significant, mainstream white feminist movement, circumscribe them to a limited time frame, and continue the erasure of a long history of a Black feminist politic that was diasporic, imaginative, and radical in both theory and praxis. We hope to explore the historic and ongoing intellectual engagements between Black feminism, transnational feminism, queer politics, anti-imperialism, and anti-capitalism—all of which Black feminisms speak to through Black women’s analyses of intersecting oppressions, the simultaneity of oppression, and strategies for reimagining freedom.

We are particularly interested in charting, exploring, and interrogating the nuances and intricacies of transnational Black feminisms across time and space. Black feminist theoretical lenses have evolved out of internationalist and oppositional engagements throughout the Caribbean, Africa, South America, and Europe. This expansive global view will enable us to assess the coherence and/or visibility of a transnational Black feminist politic, as well as the convergences and divergences, overlaps and contradictions, and synesthetic associations among Black feminism, Indigenous feminism, Latinx feminism, and Asian feminism.

DIRECTORS

Celia E. Naylor, Associate Professor, Africana Studies and History, Barnard College
Premilla Nadasen, Professor of History, Barnard College

COORDINATOR: Chloé Samala Faux, Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology, Columbia University

EVENTS

* November 12, 2021: “Transnational Anti-Apartheid Movement”
  * The writer, editor, and anti-apartheid activist Nadia Joseph and Professor Lynette Jackson (Professor of Gender Studies and Black Studies at University of Illinois, Chicago), the author of Surfacing Up: Psychiatry and Social Order in Colonial Zimbabwe considered the particular ways in which Black women activists, such as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Adelaide Joseph, were instrumental in the anti-apartheid efforts within and without South Africa.
The Motherhood and Technology working group explores how technological innovations have radically transformed the biological and social experience of motherhood in recent decades. Advances in genomic and reproductive care, the circulation of novel kinship structures, the entrenchment of existing global networks of power and privilege, and the politics of contested bodily sites mark this emerging constellation. Technological progress and development is often seen as the driver of these changes, but the revolution in motherhood is as much a product of changes in other domains: ethics, social structures, aesthetics, and lived experiences. Our group seeks to understand how medical technologies have changed—and have been changed by—the experience of motherhood in a global context.

Foremost to our exploration is our strong conviction that technology is not neutral. Rather, we believe (following Heidegger) that technology operates as a form of “un-concealment” that reveals the “forcing into being” of culture. Thus, we are particularly interested in how the production of and access to such first-world biomedical technologies of motherhood both index and create broader cultural trends across what Arlie Hochschild has called “global care chains,” in which the burden of care is borne disproportionately by women of color and women in the developing world. We are motivated, then, to consider how technologies of motherhood operate among poor and working-class women, both internationally and within the first world. While India has emerged as a global nexus of commercial surrogacy, in New York City and at the US southern border alike, technologies controlling motherhood, including monitoring technology, are used to regulate incarcerated and paroled women. Fundamental to our exploration is our conviction that these very different forms of technological intervention are working together to produce a global reimagining of motherhood.

As we explore these questions, we are guided by the interdisciplinary approach of the medical humanities. Medical humanities offers both a set of methodological approaches to address such challenges, and a broad umbrella under which to study the mutual influences of medical- scientific ideas and cultural/aesthetic practices. Medicine, from intimate care to public health policymaking, has much to contribute to a humanistic understanding of the social role of motherhood; meanwhile, approaches that emerge from a humanistic framework can enrich those coming from the physician’s black bag. The expansive view of the medical humanities will allow the group to develop a scholarly intervention into debates around technology and motherhood, while also producing a cultural artifact that narrativizes these dilemmas, and their solutions, for the public.

EVENTS
* 9/20/21 Covid-19 Vaccine Disinformation and Fertility, with presentations by Arden Hegele and Rishi Goyal
* 10/18/21 Rethinking Sperm Counts: Guest presentation from Harvard GenderSci Lab Sarah S. Richardson, Marion Boulcault, and Helen Zhao
* 11/15/21 Surrogacy: Guest presentation from ReproTech journalist Alison Motluck, chaired by Nancy Reame
* 12/12/21 End-of-year meeting
* 1/21/22 Arden Hegele, Romantic Autopsy: Literary Form and Medical Reading book launch
* 2/21/22 Worksprint: Proposing topics for conference and publication
* 3/28/22 Book Talk: The Maternal Imprint: Sarah Richardson (Harvard), with Alexis Walker, Clare McCormack, Helen Zhao, Arden Hegele responding
* 4/8/22 - 5/13/22 Meredith Sauer Lectures at Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art
* 4/18/22 Worksprint: Pairing essayists and planning conference

PUBLICATIONS
* Emily Bloom, Public Books, “Mother of A Pandemic”
* Rishi Goyal, Dannis Tenen, Arden Hegele, publication in LA Times on Vaccine Hesitancy

MOTHERHOOD AND TECHNOLOGY

The Motherhood and Technology working group explores how technological innovations have radically transformed the biological and social experience of motherhood in recent decades. Advances in genomic and reproductive care, the circulation of novel kinship structures, the entrenchment of existing global networks of power and privilege, and the politics of contested bodily sites mark this emerging constellation. Technological progress and development is often seen as the driver of these changes, but the revolution in motherhood is as much a product of changes in other domains: ethics, social structures, aesthetics, and lived experiences. Our group seeks to understand how medical technologies have changed—and have been changed by—the experience of motherhood in a global context.

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DIRECTORS
Arden A. Hegele, Lecturer in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
Rishi Goyal, Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, and Director, Medical Humanities Major, Columbia University
COORDINATOR: Anna Krauthamer, Ph.D. Candidate, English, Columbia University

HIGHLIGHTS

ARDEN A. HEGELE

RISHI GOYAL

Arden A. Hegele, Lecturer in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
Rishi Goyal, Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, and Director, Medical Humanities Major, Columbia University

COORDINATOR: Anna Krauthamer, Ph.D. Candidate, English, Columbia University

EVENTS
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PUBLICATIONS
* Emily Bloom, Public Books, “Mother of A Pandemic”
* Rishi Goyal, Dannis Tenen, Arden Hegele, publication in LA Times on Vaccine Hesitancy
‘Home’ has been used as a boundary-forming device to identify, homogenize, normalize and exclude. Composed of family and nation, and attendant notions of their sanctity, ‘home’ is no longer open to reinterpretation and reconfiguration; it is pressured as a lived space. 

**Insurgent Domesticities** brings into focus the insurgent environments, objects, and practices that make up the maintenance, creation, labor, and intimacies of home. Our collective investigates the more processual aspects of domesticity, to interrogate the politics of ‘home,’ through histories of solidarity, disobedience, stealth, and militancy, from the scale of the clothesline to that of the state.

The Insurgent Domesticities working group is committed to liberatory historiographical approaches and scholarly caregiving, orientations that transcend ideological frames deploying ‘domesticity’ to organize, limit, or subjugate life, time, people, and places, from the non-male figure to the non-capitalistic landscape. It draws on practices that emerge from and constitute interiority, which transform the figurations, materiality, and narrations of ‘home’ and ‘domesticity’ within the present worldwide protectionist climate, in which ‘home’ is still a fiercely pursued, maintained, and guarded space. Dissident domesticities, bound up in questions of governance, global economies, geopolitical borders, war, labor, and ecological crisis, call for emancipating, subversive, and collaborative research approaches that straddle or sit between territories, institutions, states, and national space.

Through insurgent domesticities of laundry, gardens, cats, kitchens, the home office, the migrant camp, the kindergarten, the settlement, the housing block, the border wall, the reserve, or the reservation, we center histories of the active construction of home through occupancy, the making of new territories by transgressing boundaries, and the transcending or transforming of oppressive domestic structures.

Insurgent Domesticities indexes and reveals inequalities and injustices cohering social, cultural and political aspects of domesticity. Because domesticity is involved in the production of identity, security, comfort, and belonging, as well as strategies necessary to maintain the status quo, it serves as a double-edged tool that can be confining or emancipatory in its different guises. To combat the pliancy of its shapeshifting between safeguarding and critiquing notions of family and nation, migration and home, our collective proposes the fundamental understanding that domesticity is a politicized field of many interdependencies, from the sociospatial to the material and aesthetic, which demand regular negotiation and theorization.

**Insurgent Domesticities** is a working group under the CSSD theme, **Women Creating Change**, which engages distinguished feminist scholars from diverse fields who focus on contemporary global problems affecting women and on the roles women play in addressing these problems.

**DIRECTORS**

AKIRA DRAYE RODRIGUEZ
ANJA GISELE OZAKI
TORANDRACHA YER SEEDER
BARBARA PENNER
DELIA DUONG BA WENDEL

**COORDINATOR:** Javairia Shahid, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), Columbia University

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

**TEACHING RESOURCES**

- Readings: Concepts, Epistemologies, Feminisms
- Teaching Tool: Establishing the Interior
- Teaching Tool: Material Intimacy

**EVENTS**

- Feb. 5, 2021 Session I. Concepts, Epistemologies, Feminisms
- Mar. 19, 2021 Session II. Establishing The Interior
- Apr. 23, 2021 Session III. Material Intimacy
- May 14, 2021 Session IV. Queer And Feminist Care
- September 2021, “Caregiving as Method” Series at the Society for Architectural Historians
- Oct. 15, 2021 Session V. Guest: Huda Tayob
- February 11, 2022 Session VI. Guest: Anurupa Roy
- (Postponed) Session VII. Guest: Christina Sharpe
- Mar. 25, 2022 Session VIII. Guest: Zahra Malkani and Shahan Rajani

**FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS**

- “Caregiving as Method,” gta papers

**MEDIA**

- “Conversations On Care” Podcast
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 2021-22:
- Environmental Justice, Belief Systems, and Aesthetic Experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean (with support from IRCPL)
- Queer Aquí
- Migrant Personhood and Rights: Crises of Recognition
- Prison Education and Social Justice
- Black Atlantic Ecologies (with support from Earth Institute)

NEW WORKING GROUPS LAUNCHING IN 2022:
- Refugee Cities: Urban Dimensions of Forced Displacement
- Extractive Media: Infrastructures & Aesthetics of Depletion
- Recovery
The Environmental Justice, Belief Systems, and Aesthetic Experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean group, supported with funding from the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life at Columbia University, studies current struggles for justice that are articulated through the expressive cultures and aesthetic experiences of local communities in these regions. Environmental conflicts have increased dramatically over the past few decades, affecting and displacing indigenous populations, Afro-descendants, women, children, and peasants. Communities have to confront the transnational increase of agribusiness, hydroelectric projects, mining corporations, systematic food injustice, and their entanglement with the drug war and localized armed conflicts. Such struggles are taking place amidst dramatic events provoked by climate change as well as the rise of extremist governments in the Americas, supported by the evangelical right, increasing the number of climate, alimentary, and war refugees and asylum-seekers.

The presence of evangelical missions among indigenous peoples, especially among recently contacted groups in need of assistance, is pervasive in the Amazon, in Colombia, and in Puerto Rico, and has augmented exponentially during the last decades. In reaction to persistent attempts at conversion by native and foreign missionaries, a new shamanistic movement and alliance has taken shape in several regions of Northwestern Amazonia, in Colombia, Peru and Brazil, and new transnational configurations of Afro-Cuban and Afro-Brazilian religions have emerged. A potent cosmopolitical alliance is taking shape, one whose ritual efficacy consists in the creation of new shared artistic forms.

Our group proposes to study current struggles for justice that are articulated through the expressive cultures and aesthetic experiences of local communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. The resurgence and mobilization of what have historically been called traditional, indigenous, and Afro-descendant expressive forms—songs, rituals, images, objects, feasts, culinary arts, and ceremonies—has been dramatic. Since the mid-1980s, we have also seen the rise of an indigenous film movement in different countries in Latin America. Technologies such as loudspeakers, microphones, hard drives, and other media are changing public and private space. New alliances between artists, scholars, and ritual specialists like shamans or babalaois (e.g. in Colombia, Cuba and Brazil), and between sound artists and activists (e.g. in Puerto Rico and Cuba) are informing these aesthetic expressions. Our working group contends that these forms of aesthetic experience—in narrative form, through visual images, through sounds, through unexpected alliances—give shape to new ways of imagining justice and of imagining the relation between humans and non-humans, including deities and other religious entities.

DIRECTORS
Ronald Gregg, Senior Lecturer, Film and Media Studies, Columbia University
Ana M. Ochoa Gautier, Professor of Music and Chair, Department of Music, Columbia University
COORDINATORS:
Julia Delgado, Film Studies MA Student, Columbia University
Carlos Gutierrez Azar, Film and Media Studies MA Student, Columbia University

PUBLIC EVENTS
* September 27, 2021: The Devouring of the World and Climate Crisis Lecture by Indigenous thinker and philosopher Ailton Krenak.
* March 10, 2022: Helena of Sarayaku. Film screening and Q&A with film director Eriberto Gualinga and Amalia Córdova, Mother Tongue Film Festival, Smithsonian.
Queer Aqui (formerly 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 in considering 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 Queer Aqui 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.

DIRECTOR

Jack Halberstam, Professor of Gender Studies and English Literature, Columbia University

COORDINATOR: Daniel S. Sáenz, Ph.D. Candidate, Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Columbia University
The Migrant Personhood and Rights: Crises of Recognition working group investigates the community impact of anti-immigrant sentiments and policies. We engage academic research and the expertise of community-based advocacy organizations to question the myths – both positive and negative – that surround migrant communities and to develop novel approaches that address current immigration issues.

Our project stems from the rising tide of anti-immigrant sentiment that characterized U.S. political culture over the course of the 2016 presidential election and the preliminary years of the Trump presidency. We ask: How does a nation-state reach the point where it becomes national policy to remove thousands of children from their parents as a deterrent to seeking asylum? How does a nation-state reach the point where it prosecutes individuals for providing water to migrants in a desert? How does a nation-state reach the point that it bans people from entering the country based on their religion?

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, our project has broadened to investigate how our partner communities are directly impacted by the virus and to explore ways we can contribute to the ongoing re-imagining of the U.S. nation-state spurred by the inequities the pandemic has exposed. Currently, we are engaging a variety of stakeholders and modalities to build participatory education initiatives that will culminate in public interventions geared toward imagining justice and recognition for migrants as members of a multitude of communities.

DIRECTORS

Thea Abu El-Haj, Professor in Education and Education Program Director/Chair, Barnard College
J.C. Salyer, Assistant Professor of Practice in Human Rights and Anthropology, Barnard College

COORDINATOR:
Corinne Kantor, Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology & Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

HIGHLIGHTS

WORKING GROUP RE-LAUNCH

Mobilities: A Conference on Migration and Disability, Co-sponsored by the International Refugee Assistance Project, the Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy, and Innovation, and the Department of Human Rights at Barnard College

*April 29, 2022, The History of Abilism in the US and its Impact on Immigration Law; Intersections of Disability Law (such as the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act) and Immigration Law

*May 6, 2022, Meaningful Access to Accommodations at the Intersection of Disability and Immigration; Introduction to Asylum and Other Immigration Relief for Persons with Disabilities; Tools to Overcome Legal and Social Barriers to Support for Migrants with Disabilities; Leveraging Disability Rights Expertise to Advance the Rights of Detained Immigrants with Disabilities

*May 20, 2022, Building Culturally Appropriate Institutions for Effective Advocacy for an Intersectional Disabled Community; Community Activism: Centering Disabled Immigrants in Decision-Making
The Prison Education and Social Justice project brings together Barnard and Columbia faculty and graduate students with alums of Columbia’s prison education programs to think together about how to strengthen the courses and other educational opportunities Columbia presently offers to incarcerated students; to develop new courses and faculty training supports for those initiatives; and to think about and develop a more systematic set of classes to be offered to Columbia and Barnard undergraduates dealing with social justice and its relationship to carceral systems.

DIRECTOR

PRISON EDUCATION COURSE DEVELOPMENT
* October 1, 2021: Introduction to Prison Education
* October 22, 2021: Teaching in Prison Contexts
* November 19, 2021: Courses in Prison Contexts
* January 21, 2022: Introduction to the work of Jacinda Jones
* February 18, 2022: Planning for Course Development
* April 1, 2022: Summary of Progress This Semester

Jean Howard, English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
COORDINATOR: Patrick Anson, Ph.D. Candidate, English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL DIFFERENCES 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT
The waters are rising. The earth is warming. Species are perishing. The world is ending.

Apocalyptic pronouncements about the refiguring of the Earth are everywhere around us. Now commonplace, predictions and pronouncements about the era that geologists have called the Anthropocene remind us that we are at the end of the world as we know it, and that global warming, rising sea levels, the acidification of the oceans, crisis-rates of species extinction and ever-escalating social disasters masked as natural ones are but some of the more visible markers of the imperilment of this planet. Though they have pretensions to inclusion, many of these emergent narratives mobilize ideas about the human, the animal and the environment that universalize rather than particularize, occluding the fact that these categorizations have long been shot through with histories of normative violence.

The Black Atlantic Ecologies group supports and elaborates scholarship that centers the enduring effects of coloniality and the dynamic power of protest in African diasporic confrontations with environmental crisis. Taking as our provocation the refiguring of human and nonhuman ecologies occasioned by the transatlantic slave trade, we seek to understand what Nadia Ellis has called, riffing on José Muñoz, “the queer work of raced survival” as we come to grips with contemporary dimensions of anthropogenic climate change. As inspiration for the work that we undertake together, we ask after visions for survival and justice that are grounded in Black queer, Black feminist, and antiracist responses to the subjugation of the earth as well as of our human and nonhuman cotravelers. And given the crossing of linguistic and imperial zones that the transatlantic slave trade occasioned, we pay particular attention to the divergences and synergies among anglophone, francophone, hispanophone, and lusophone analyses of our predicament as we articulate our conditions as well as the political possibilities on our horizons. This group poses a single central question: How might Black Atlantic experience with peril, with perishment and with premature death offer a rubric for thinking futurity, including reproductive futurity, in a moment of environmental collapse?

DIRECTORS

Vanessa Agard-Jones, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University
Marisa Solomon, Assistant Professor of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Barnard College

COORDINATOR: Chazelle Rhoden, Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology, Columbia University

HIGHLIGHTS

* Attended and discussed world premiere of the play Cullud Wattah
* Reading Leah Penniman’s “Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm’s Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land”
Social Engagement Projects build on the work of former CSSD groups and align with Columbia University’s Fourth Purpose “to extend Columbia’s abilities to bring the extraordinary knowledge and capacities of the University in tandem with the wider academic community and actors beyond the campus to more effectively address pressing human problems.”

ACTIVE WORKING GROUPS IN 2021-22:
ZIP Code Memory Project: Practices of Justice and Repair
Reconstructing History in Rocinha, Rio de Janeiro and Dharavi, Mumbai
The Zip Code Memory Project seeks to find community-based ways to memorialize the devastating losses resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic while also acknowledging its radically differential effects on Upper New York City neighborhoods. Through a series of art-based workshops, public events, social media platforms, and a performance/exhibition at the Cathedral of St John the Divine, community members participate in building networks of shared responsibility and belonging.

Working across the zip codes of Harlem, Washington Heights and the South Bronx, we have gathered with local community, arts and academic organizations to imagine how the losses of the pandemic can be acknowledged, mourned, and healed, and how the mutual aid, care and repair they have occasioned can be honored.

DIRECTORS

Marianne Hirsch, Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Columbia University
Diana Taylor, Professor, Performance Studies and Spanish and Founding Director, Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, New York University

COORDINATOR: Lee Xie, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, New York University

PUBLIC EVENTS

* October 14, 2021: Reparative Memory Roundtable I
* December 5, 2021: The Zip Code Memory Project Gathering for Covid
* March 31, 2022: Reparative Memory Roundtable II
* April 23-May 15, 2022: Imagine Repair: Exhibition & Performances at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine

MEDIA

* “Imagine Repair” featured in the New York Times
* ZCMP Website

GRANTS RECEIVED

*Henry Luce Foundation Grant
MARIANNE HIRSCH: IN THANKS FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP

As Marianne Hirsch, the William Peterfield Trent Professor of English and Comparative Literature and a Professor in the Institute for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, transitions to faculty emerita at Columbia, CSSD wishes to recognize the remarkable intellectual leadership and vision she has brought to her long involvement with the Center and to thank her for it. Hirsch is one of the founders of CSSD and its global initiative, Women Creating Change. She has served as project director or co-director for working groups such as Women Mobilizing Memory, Engendering the Archive, Reframing Gendered Violence, and most recently, the ZIP Code Memory Project: Practices of Justice and Repair. In all of this work, Hirsch has demonstrated her deep commitment to furthering feminist conversations about memory, violence, repair, and care. Her scholarship has shown how memories of violence can be transmitted across generations and has dedicated much of most recent work to the problem of mobilizing the memory of traumatic events to initiate repair and social transformation. The importance of her scholarship and public activism has been widely recognized. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a former President of the Modern Language Association of America, Hirsch has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the ACLS, the Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute, the National Humanities Center, and the Bellagio and Bogliasco Foundations. As a vital bridge connecting CSSD to reparative work in communities within and outside the university, Hirsch has shown how feminism nurtures interconnections between research and activism, teaching and community building. CSSD wishes to thank Marianne Hirsch for her legacy of leadership and looks forward to her continuing involvement with the Center as the next stage of her remarkable life unfolds.

CSSD IS HONORED TO WELCOME KASHEBA MARSHALL TO THE CENTER

CSSD has a new Associate Director - Kasheba Marshall. As Associate Director, Kasheba will help manage the Center’s finances and projects, including operations, administration, and communications. She has worked with Columbia University for over ten years, most recently supporting the development team at Columbia Business School as a fundraiser and project manager for various fundraising initiatives for leadership prospects and donors. Kasheba is adept at developing sustainable fundraising models for micro-organizations. She leverages over ten years of experience in the fundraising industry, mapping strategy and relationships with internal and external partners, fueling expansion. She is also deeply committed to the kinds of justice-related work that we do at the Center and is excited to get to know the working groups and all of you.

Kasheba has a Bachelor of Arts from New York University and a Master of Nonprofit and Fundraising Management from Columbia University’s School of Professional Studies. She plans to complete her Master of Public Administration at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs in 2023.
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 will assist the faculty in framing how their academic endeavors can create greater impact. The WCC Leadership Council will provide a critical link between the University’s faculty-led projects and the global business, academic, and civil society.

**WCCLC Member List, list alphabetically:**

ANN KAPLAN (Chair), New York
ANNETTE ANTHONY, London
ANJALI BANSAL, India
JEWELLE BICKFORD, New York
A’LELIA BUNDLES, Washington D.C.
LISA CARNOY, New York
ISOBEL COLEMAN, New York
GEORGINA CULLMAN, New York
ABIGAIL ELBAUM, New York
JANICE REALS ELLIG, New York
ANNETTE ANTHONY, London
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JANICE REALS ELLIG, New York

“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 an impressive way 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

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

*contact socialdifference@columbia.edu for more information*

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**GLOBAL REACH: FOOTPRINTS OF OUR WORK IN THE LAST DECADE**

Our work spans 35 countries and counting.

**ASIA**
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China
Hong Kong
India
Jordan
Lebanon
Pakistan

**AFRICA**
Egypt
Ghana
Kenya
Liberia
Malawi
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Zambia

**NORTH AMERICA**
USA (New York, Detroit, Mississippi, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Colorado)
Mexico
Canada

**SOUTH AMERICA**
Argentina
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador

**EUROPE**
France
Greece
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**OCEANIA**
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Turkey

**CONTACT**

**Your gift to the Center for the Study of Social Difference:**

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COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER

SELECTED PUBLIC EVENTS

PERFORMANCES OF RACE AND HISTORICAL REPRESENTATION

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CSSD projects have received support from external partners and from Columbia University, including:

- Luce Foundation
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics
- Individual Donors and Community Leaders
- International Association for Asian Studies
- Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies at Barnard College
- Barnard Center for Research on Women
- Blinken European Institute
- Columbia Law School
- Center for Contemporary Critical Thought
- Office of the President
- Office of the Provost
- Office of the Vice-Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion
- Office of the Vice-President for Arts & Sciences
- Office of the Executive Vice President for Arts & Sciences
- Center for the Study of Social Difference
- Center for Social Medicine & Society
- Center for Gender and Sexuality Law
- Center for Contemporary Critical Thought
- A&S Departments, Institutes, and Centers
- Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy
- Columbia Global Centers
- Precision Medicine & Society
- Office of the Provost
- Center for the Study of Social Difference