Entering our fifth year at 20 Cooper Square, the graduate program in American Studies at NYU continues to thrive within the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis alongside our affiliated graduate programs in Africana Studies and Social and Cultural Analysis. This year we welcomed a cohort of six new Ph.D. students in American Studies, whose fields of interest range across Latino/a, indigenous, urban, queer, performance and disability studies. During the past year, new and recent graduates of our program took up tenure-track positions in American Studies at Brown University and Dickinson College, in Black Studies and Gender Studies at Amherst College, in Gender and Labor Studies at the University of Washington-Tacoma and Gender and Women’s Studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Others accepted prestigious post-doctoral fellowships at Haverford College, the Center for Reproductive Rights at Columbia Law School, the Charles Warren Center at Harvard University, and the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African American Studies at Rochester University.

We again want to acknowledge the many publications by recent graduates and current students, including Christina Hanhardt’s *Safe Space: Gay Neighborhood History and the Politics of Violence* (Duke); *The Sun Never Sets: South Asian Migrants in an Age of U.S. Power* (NYU), a book edited by former graduates of the American Studies program, Sujani Reddy, Manu Vimalassery, Vivek Bald and Miabi Chatterji, (that originated in a group research seminar undertaken while in the program); Davarian Baldwin and Minkah Makalani, eds., *Escape from New York: The New Negro Renaissance Beyond Harlem* (Minnesota); Jennifer Duffy, *Who’s Your Paddy? Racial Expectation and the Struggle for Irish American Identity* (NYU); and finally, an E-book on the Occupy movement, *Is This What Democracy Looks Like?* (http://what-democracy-looks-like.com 2012), co-edited by current program faculty and students.

We also recognize Mabel O. Wilson’s *Negro Building: Black Americans in the World of Fairs and Museums* (California, 2012), runner-up for this year’s John Hope Franklin Publication Prize for the best book published in American Studies in 2012, and Adria Imada’s *Aloha America: Hula Circuits through the American Empire* (Duke, 2012) winner of the Lawrence W. Levine Award given by the Organization of American Historians to the best book in American cultural history, winner of the Best First Book in Women’s, Gender, and/or Sexuality History awarded by the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, and runner-up for this year’s Lora Romero Prize for the best-published first book in American Studies that highlights the intersections of race with gender, class, sexuality and/or nation.

In the tradition of group research and intellectual activism and engaged scholarship that have been the hallmarks of our program, in spring 2013, the American Studies Program and the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis hosted a successful conference "Abolish/Reform: Rethinking Education and Incarceration." The goal of the conference was to create a space for a critical reflection on the relationship between education and incarceration in our time, in conjunction with a burgeoning Prison Education Initiative that many program faculty and graduate students have been centrally involved with at NYU. Stay tuned for further developments!

Nikhil Pal Singh, Director of Graduate Studies
Andrew Ross, Director of American Studies
Jennifer Ayres is an avid thrifter and owns a vintage clothing shop with her twin sister in Sacramento, California. In 2008 Jen completed her Bachelor's degree in Women and Gender Studies at UC Davis and immediately opened up a vintage clothing shop, putting feminist theory into DIY entrepreneur practice. With Jen's sister running the shop Jen pursued graduate studies at Cornell University and earned her MA in Apparel Design in 2011. Jen's thesis entitled "Thrifting: Trash to Treasure in the Goodwill Bins" investigates Goodwill Outlet thrift stores throughout the country and the marginalized immigrant and multinational subcultural communities that transform these spaces into their work, homes, and lives. Drawing on this research, Jen hopes to conduct her PhD work in American Studies connecting the role of The Bins to secondhand clothing circuits of transnational entrepreneurs across the US-Mexico border. Jen's general research interests include: trash, dirt, fashion, used goods, thrift stores, flea markets, consumption, cultural geography, material culture, feminist ethnography, and social justice.

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A.J. Bauer is a doctoral candidate in American Studies whose dissertation, “Before Fair and Balanced,” explores the history of conservative media activism and alternative media from the 1950s through the 1990s. He is a contributor to the Historian’s Eye online archive, co-edited Is This What Democracy Looks Like? (Social Text: Periscope, 2012) and is a member of the Writers for the 99% collective, which authored Occupying Wall Street: The Inside Story of an Action that Changed America (OR Books, 2011; Haymarket, 2012). Prior to his graduate studies, Bauer served as editor of The Daily Texan, the student newspaper of the University of Texas at Austin, before working as a reporter, writer and researcher in Texas and Massachusetts.

Frank Brancely is completing his MA thesis in American Studies. By foregrounding Schomburg Center documents relating 1990’s black queer community responses to the AIDS epidemic in New York City, he intervenes in usages of the archive in queer theory. His current research interests take as their point of departure the intersection between psychoanalysis and the “history” of madness as discussed in the final exchange between Foucault and Derrida. He is also interested in the institutionalization of queer theory as it emerged in tandem with the AIDS epidemic, an analysis that might benefit from the vantage point of trauma studies.

Thulani Davis is a fifth-year PhD student in American Studies. Her dissertation, “Fugitive Freedoms: A Race, Politics & Blues Circuit Before Civil Rights,” concerns the embedding of a broad-based political process along a circuit of cities and towns, sites of agricultural shipping, labor camps, and tent shows, which became working-class political organizing centers. Her academic interests include black political thought & intellectual history, slavery, and Reconstruction, as well as African American literature and performing arts. Davis is a past recipient of a Lila Wallace-Readers Digest Writers Award, a PEW Foundation National Theatre Artist Residency, and a Charles H. Revson Fellowship. Since joining the program she has been honored by the Veterans Committee of the Congressional Black Caucus for her work to establish the Fort Monroe National Monument. This year she received the American Studies Program’s Lerner Prize and was named the Africana Studies Distinguished Alumna at Barnard College.

Jennifer Flores Sternad’s work as an academic, curator and writer focuses on political art, decolonial thought, and left social movements in the Americas. Her work has been published in Resistant Strategies: Strategies of Resistance (forthcoming); Art and Activism in the Age of Globalization; Live Art in LA, 1970-1983; MEX/LA: Mexican Modernisms in Los Angeles; Zona de Poesía Árida, Coletivos de Arte; Haciendo Tiempo: Arte Radical, 1999-2004; The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinas & Latinos and in the journals e-misférica, GLQ, Aztlán, Contemporary Theatre Review, The Journal of American Drama and Theater.
and *Interreview*. She curated the exhibition *Arrhythmias of Counter-Production: Engaged Art in Argentina, 1995-2011* for the University of California, San Diego, and she has also curated and directed symposia and public art events in L.A., Mexico City, Buenos Aires and Santiago. She received a Bachelor’s degree in Literature magna cum laude from Harvard in 2005 and a Master’s degree in Art History from UCLA in 2008. She entered the NYU PhD program in American Studies in 2010.

**Lezlie Frye** is a doctoral candidate in the American Studies Program, Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at NYU, and a performance artist, poet and movement worker based in Brooklyn. She is a former company member of GIMP, a NY-based interdisciplinary dance project focused on the relationship between bodies, difference, spectacle, and movement, and a former collective member of SINS Invalid, a San Francisco–based artist’s collective exploring intersections of sexuality and dis/ability. Her research interests include dis/ability, race, citizenship, and technologies of exclusion; epistemologies of care and social reproduction; human rights and the borders of personhood; biopower and the politics of life and death; and the counter Projects and logics of crip and queer aesthetics. Frye’s dissertation, tentatively titled “Race, Capacity, and Neoliberalism: Tracing Transformations in State Care from the 1970s to the Present,” tracks the process by which the nexus of race, gender, and capacity becomes animated and repurposed in the post-civil rights period by an explicit articulation of dis/ability—in politics, law, and popular culture—with new carceral projects.

**Ricardo Gamboa** is a first year Ph.D. student in American Studies with research interests including history of capitalism, finance and derivative logics, the politics of knowledge production and race, and aesthetics and social movements with particular attention to immigration, incarceration, and life in urban enclosure or the ghetto. In summer 2013, Gamboa completed his M.A. in Arts Politics from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts after working as an artist creating work in an activist key for almost a decade in Chicago and New York City. In Chicago, Gamboa was a Company Member of Barrel of Monkeys and founding Artistic Director of Teatro Americano as well as recipient of the CAAP Grant, MacArthur Foundation International Connections Award, ImPACT Latino Playwright Award. His first short, *The Southside Has Many Beauty Queen* received Best Short and his first feature *MAYDAYS* premiered at the 2010 and 2013 Chicago Latino Film Festivals, respectively. In 2010, Gamboa moved to New York City where he was Associate Producer and National Youth and Engagement Coordinator for ScenariosUSA, EmergeNYC fellow at the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, developed his Border Jump-Off Short Film Series, Company Member of New York Neo-Futurists, featured performer at queer venue Low Standards. In addition to his studies, Gamboa is also currently authoring a novel for a queer independent press, directing a playformance on Chicago’s epidemic youth violence, and developing his next feature film while guest contributing with cultural commentary to NPR’s Chicago Vocalo station.

**Claudia Sofía Garriga López** is a doctoral candidate in American Studies. She received a Bachelor’s degree from the department of Gender and Sexuality of Rutgers University, and a Master’s degree in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Gender Studies from the CUNY Graduate Center. Her doctoral dissertation, “Constitutional Transformations and Transgender Politics in Ecuador,” investigates the expansion of social rights under the new Ecuadorian constitution of 2008 and how these are being put to use by transgender activists in the cities of Quito and Guayaquil. Her dissertation investigates both the possibilities and limitations of pursuing legal reform campaigns as a strategy for achieving increased rights and social wellbeing for transgender people in Ecuador. Her research aims to contextualize transgender struggles for legal reform within a macro economic analysis of Latin America and
to place transgender politics within a genealogy of feminist theory and activism in Ecuador.

A first-year PhD student in American Studies, Emmaia Gelman has been an activist and policy strategist for grassroots, labor and political organizations. Her work ranges from direct action to legislative and regulatory work on housing, energy democracy, labor, immigration, AIDS, anti-discrimination, democracy in Palestine and Ireland, and other issues. Emmaia is a queer New Yorker with three kids and a dog. She holds a Master’s degree in Urban Planning from MIT.

Ayasha Guerin is a second-year PhD student in the American Studies who studies the complex relationships between urban development, land-use activism and environmental ecologies. Her art, research and writing concern themes of neoliberalism and city planning, community studies and urban sustainability. Lately she has been engaged with subjects who have organized against facets of urban precarity by exploring alternative forms of communal property in Berlin. Another ongoing project concerns community-based planning along New York City’s waterfront.

Eva Hageman is a PhD student in American Studies and a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow 2010–2013. Her research examines the political and visual economy of race in popular culture, in particular reality television. Eva has produced/directed two short documentaries that focus on race in popular culture: Legendary and You, As Seen On TV.

Allison Janae Hamilton draws from the fields of fashion theory and visual culture in order to explore multiple traditions of black style. Locating the dressed body as a critical expressive mechanism, Hamilton examines the visual rhetoric of black resistance and its relationship to the American fashion industry. Her research interests include: fashion, the black body, visual culture, material culture, performance, and contemporary art. She has published in Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society, Words Beats and Life: The Global Journal of Hip Hop Culture, and Insight Magazine. As a scholar and visual artist, Hamilton has presented her work at The Smithsonian Institution, The Brooklyn Museum, Université Paris Diderot, The University of Manchester (UK), Columbia University, Northwestern University, Rush Arts Gallery, chashama Gallery, and other institutions. She has also been a costume stylist for a number of theatrical pieces, including the Off-Broadway production of The Archbishop Supreme Tartuffe. Hamilton was a 2013 Summer Artist-in-Residence at the School of Visual Arts (New York, NY). She is currently a 2013-2014 Helena Rubinstein Fellow in Critical Studies at the Whitney Independent Study Program sponsored by the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York, NY).

Angel F. Hernandez is a first-year Ph.D. student in American Studies. He entered the program after completing a B.A. (cum laude) in Chicana/o Studies (major) and Pan African Studies (minor) at California State University, Northridge. Theoretical perspectives and methods of critical ethnography, comparative ethnic studies, cultural studies, and urban studies have informed his interest in counter-cultural urban youth formations as they intersect with notions of race, space, place, citizenship, criminalization, and representation. More specifically, he intends to explore the complex and contradictory ways in which urban youth and adults creatively mark the neoliberal city as they negotiate its limits. Recently his research has focused on marginalized urban street-skateboarders who employ the culture as a transitory mode of existence. Publications on this topic include, “A Barrio Playground: Urban Street-Skateboarding in Pacoima” (Tia Chucha Press, 2012), and “Urban Life: In Search of the Black Skater” (Hip-Hop Think Tank Journal, 2013). Angel is committed to political engagement in his teaching and research.

Emily Hue is a doctoral candidate whose research interests include critical ethnic studies, queer studies, diaspora studies,
transnational feminisms, and Asian American women's cultural production. Her dissertation explores how the circulation of Burmese and Southeast Asian visual and performance art intersects with NGO humanitarian interventions both in the U.S. and abroad in the wake of U.S. empire. She holds a B.A. with honors in Women's Studies from Vassar College. She has previously taught courses in (Asian)American Studies, and Gender and Sexuality departments at Hunter College and NYU. She has previously been involved in the Asian American Writers' Workshop, a non-profit in NYC; has co-edited and served as interviewer on a podcast series about Burmese diasporic art for the Flux Factory; and worked in the academic publishing industry. She hails from Brooklyn, NY.

Zenia Kish's dissertation examines the changing ethical landscape of private investment post-2008. The financialization of everyday life is expanding globally through socially and environmentally responsible investing practices, and her transnational ethnography of finance examines this trend by engaging with philanthrocapitalists in the United States as well as communities affected by their investments in Ghana. The project charts how emergent forms of value and global entrepreneurial subjects are involved in privatizing international development and forging new markets out of social and environmental good. Zenia is interested in cultures of finance, food politics, racial capitalism, visual culture, and environmental justice. She has published in American Quarterly, The Encyclopedia of Global Justice, and Public Books, and is currently an ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Fellow.

Marisol LeBrón is a PhD candidate in the American Studies program whose dissertation, “Violent Arrest: Punitive Governance and Neocolonial Crisis in Contemporary Puerto Rico,” traces the growth of increasingly punitive policing measures within the context of a deepening neocolonial crisis between Puerto Rico and the United States. Marisol is currently a Pre-doctoral Fellow in American Studies at Dickinson College. She will join the Dickinson faculty as an Assistant Professor of American Studies in July 2014.

Justin Leroy is an advanced doctoral candidate in the American Studies program at NYU. He is an intellectual historian of the African diaspora, with particular expertise in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, slavery, black radical thought, and the history of political theory. His dissertation, “Empire and the Afterlife of Slavery: Black Anti-Imperialisms of the Long Nineteenth Century,” argues that black-authored theories of race, slavery, and freedom were crucial sites for producing knowledge about empire in the British Atlantic world between the 1770s and 1910s. This project provides the first sustained account of black anti-imperialism in the United States and Britain before the twentieth century by reading the canon of black antislavery and antiracist intellectual production through an interdisciplinary critique of territorial expansion, capitalist development, and colonial violence.

Oscar Marquez is a first year American Studies PhD student, and a DJ, cultural activist, avid Zapatista supporter and participant in Urban Zapatismo. He received his B.A in Gender, Ethnicity & Multicultural Studies from Cal Poly Pomona and his M.A in Latin American Studies from Cal State Los Angeles. His thesis, “Tod@S Somos Arizona: Indigenous Cultural Resistance and the Immigrant Rights Movement,” explored newly formed transformational hybrid indigenous identities and indigenous subjectivity within the Immigrant Rights Movement(s) in Arizona. His current research interests are indigeneity, the modernity/coloniality/decoloniality collective project, cultural politics, hip hop, and popular social movements in the Americas.

Julia A. Mendoza is a second year doctoral student in American Studies. Prior to entering the American Studies program, Julia worked at the ACLU of Northern California in the Racial Justice Project as a legal fellow. During her fellowship she worked on two advocacy campaigns that
utilized a combination of legal and legislative advocacy, public education, and organizing strategies to address both felon disenfranchisement and racial disparities within schools. In New York, she is continuing her advocacy and wishes to pursue research in similar areas by using research as a tool to address the problems and issues confronting urban public schools and schools located within prisons/jails. She is also interested in how both the criminal and immigration legal systems create a compromised citizenship for some individuals both before and after the moment of incarceration.

Susana Morales is a scholar activist of color, mother, and now first year doctoral student in the American Studies program. Her research interests include globalization, feminist studies, place-based movements, intersections of gender, power, and ethnicity, informal economy, and decoloniality.

American Studies PhD student Joan Morgan is a pioneering hip-hop journalist, author, and cultural critic, who coined the term “hip-hop feminism” in 1999. Her book, When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost is used routinely in college coursework. Her current research interests are pleasure and black feminist thought, black American ethnicities, diaspora, transnationalism, cultural studies and second-generation identity formations of Black Caribbean-Americans. She is particularly interested articulating a politics of pleasure in black feminist thought, black feminist sexuality theory, and the historic and social conflation of the terms Black and African-American, excisions of Black-Caribbean ethnicity and the erasures these conflagrations produce in African-American scholarship and socio-political movements.

Manijeh Nasrabadi is a 5th year PhD candidate writing a dissertation titled: "Neither Washington Nor Tehran: Political Cultures of Iranian American Un/belonging (1953–2013)." She researches Iranian American cultural production and transnational solidarity activism from a queer feminist perspective. Her interests include the affective politics of social movements, diasporic/mixed-race memoir, and the praxis of revolution. She is the former co-director of the Association of Iranian American Writers and received her MFA in creative non-fiction from Hunter College in 2007. She has a B.A. in English and American Literature from Brown University. Currently, she is a member of the New York City-based Raha Iranian Feminist Collective and Havaar: Iranian Initiative Against War, Sanctions and State Repression. Her essays and articles have appeared in the journals *Comparative Studies of South Asian, Africa, and the Middle East*, *Social Text: Periscope*, *jadaliyya.com*, *Hyphen Magazine*, *tehranbureau.com*, and *Callaloo*. Her essays have also appeared in *About Face* (Seal Press, 2008) and *Love and Pomegranates* (Nortia Press, 2013).

Sam Ng graduated from Yale University in 2009 with a BA in American Studies. Before coming to NYU, he worked as an intern in the National Museum of American History and as a teaching fellow in the history department at Phillips Andover. His research interests include black intellectual history in the 20th century, civil rights movements, nationalism and empire, and gender and sexuality studies. He recently published an article in *Left History*, entitled, “Trans Power! Sylvia Lee Rivera’s STAR and the Black Panther Party.” He is currently at work on a dissertation that charts the emergence and development of mourning and lingering in despair as a viable mode of black political protest and organizing in the United States during the first half of the twentieth century.

Kaitlin Noss completed her MA in Sociology and Equity Studies at the University of Toronto and taught in the cultural and regional studies department at Prescott College in Arizona until 2012. Her academic and political work is concerned with the relationship between race and capitalism, decolonization movements, queer and feminist theories, and radical pedagogy and methodologies. Since 2005 she has worked with the Maasai Community Partnership Project doing legal and archival research to
support Indigenous land rights cases and compile watchdog reports on the practices of US and UK gender-focused and environmental NGOs operating in Indigenous lands. She came to the American Studies program in 2012 to continue her work on the interlocking relations of race and sexuality within NGO development work as it relates to both transnational neoliberal capitalism and U.S. settler-colonialism.

Ariana Ochoa Camacho, ABD in the American Studies program, is an acting Assistant Professor of Gender Studies based in Ethnic, Gender and Labor Studies, Interdisciplinary Arts and Science Department at the University of Washington Tacoma after completing the Cesar Chavez Fellowship at Dartmouth College (2012-2013). Her dissertation, titled “Racial Longings, Migrant Belongings,” argues that the racial performances of Colombian migrants in New York are part of a creative petition that simultaneously refuse racial marking as ‘other,’ even as they are shaped by the processes of racialization. She has also worked with students from diverse backgrounds at institutions like Community Colleges, San Francisco State University, Dartmouth College, Montclair State University and New York University in addition to her work mentoring for which she was awarded the “Inspiring Woman” award by the WNBA/NBA and the Hispanic Scholarship Foundation in 2012-2013. As a Davis Putter Scholar (2012-2013) Ochoa Camacho has demonstrated a deep commitment to working with community groups. Her first hand experiences with communities of color offer an on-the-ground analysis of race that now complements her academic research and teaching.

Andrew Ojeda is an American Studies M.A. student. Andrew’s research interests center on the topic of black being in the present moment. Research subjects related to this issue that he focuses on include racial performativity, identity, and colorism. Prior to pursuing his M.A., Andrew received his B.A. in American Studies at the College of William and Mary. While at William and Mary, Andrew wrote an honors thesis entitled “Yeah, My Mom is Milk and My Dad is Granola: The Depiction of Interracial Relationships and Racial Hybridity in U.S. Visual Culture,” which concentrated on both interracial relationships and mixed-race individuals in American society.

Carmen Phillips began the PhD program in American Studies directly after her 2008 graduation from Macalester College. There she received an honors distinction in American Studies, as well as a dual minor in Political Science and History. Her research interests include 20th century African American & U.S. Latina/o history, black freedom movements, conceptions citizenship & the Nation, critical race theory, Afrolatinidad, post-World War II U.S. Latina/o literature, and women of color feminism. Her dissertation “Breaking Nation” focuses on African American and U.S. Latina/o understandings of nationalist politics, articulations of citizenship, and belonging between World War I and the end of the power movements.

Elliott H. Powell entered the NYU Program in American Studies in the fall of 2007 after completing his BA in History from the University of Chicago the same year. His dissertation, “Kindred Sounds: Afro-South Asian Musical Intersections in Jazz and Hip Hop,” traces the resonances between Afro-South Asian sonic bonds in postwar U.S. jazz and post-9/11 U.S.-based hip hop. It argues that these collaborative music-making endeavors served as sites from which African American and South Asian (diasporic) artists sought to form cross-cultural, interracial, and transnational political alliances. He successfully defended his dissertation in September 2013, and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Frederick Douglass Institute for African & African-American Studies at the University of Rochester.

Marisa Ranieri is a first year M.A. student in Social & Cultural Analysis. She holds a bachelor’s degree in International Affairs from George Washington University, with dual concentrations in Contemporary Cultures & Societies and Africa, as well as
minors in American Studies and LGBT & Sexuality Studies. She is founder of The Nyota Fund, which provides full academic scholarships to 50 secondary school students in Northwestern Tanzania. Her academic interests include the emergence of the LGBT movement in Kenya, the rise of political Islam in Tanzania and the history of the Swahili Coast. For her thesis, she plans on concentrating on the Rasta populations and extremist groups of the Swahili Coast.

**Brian Ray** is a second-year doctoral student in American Studies. He holds a BA in Philosophy and Women's Studies as well as a graduate certificate in Women's Studies from the University of Georgia. Conceptually, his work explores the materiality of deindustrialization and postindustrialism in the Americas, straddling discussions around biopolitics, Marxism, affect studies, and science studies. These theoretical interests have led him to a wide variety of topical research: lesbian and gay conservatism; a cadre of new age psychics, but primarily televangelism; cybernetics; the conservative intellectual tradition; alternative camp aesthetic cannons; neoliberal religiosity; migration in the Americans; and the history of behavioral sciences. He is a founding member of Freedom University Georgia, which provides college instruction to students, free-of-charge, regardless of immigration status in the state of Georgia.

**James Rodriguez** entered the American Studies PhD program in 2012 following his graduation from Brooklyn College, where he obtained a BA in both English and Psychology. His senior thesis, “Divide on the Lower East Side,” laid the groundwork for his research interests in gentrification, public-housing, neighborhood ethnography, and community responses to urban change. James is an occasional freelancer whose writing has appeared in *More Intelligent Life* and *The Economist*. Most recently, he worked as a contributor to the Advertising Educational Foundation and The Smithsonian Institution’s online exhibition, Race, Ethnicity, and Advertising in America 1890-1900.

**Stuart Schrader** is a fifth-year PhD candidate in American Studies. His dissertation is entitled “American Streets, Foreign Territory: How Counterinsurgent Knowledge Militarized Policing and Criminalized Color.” It examines transformations in policing that occurred during and in response to 1960s political struggles in the United States that relied on the work of transnational networks of social scientists and policing and counterinsurgency experts. Stuart has organized several colloquia in the Department of Social & Cultural Analysis, including in Spring 2012 “Connecting Concrete and Abstract: Conversations and Urban Revolution Inspired by Henri Lefebvre.” He has published in *American Quarterly*, *Social Text: Periscope*, *CITY: Analysis of Urban Trends*, *NACLA Report on the Americas*, *Brooklyn Rail*, and *Maximum Rocknroll*.

**Zach Schwartz-Weinstein** is a doctoral candidate in American Studies. His dissertation, “Beneath the University: Service Workers and the University-Hospital City, 1940-2005,” centers the history of food service, maintenance, custodial, and clerical workers in the expansion and restructuring of U.S. college and universities during the second half of the twentieth century.

**Jackson Smith** is a M.A. student in Social and Cultural Analysis. His long-held fascination with the urban has led him a long ways from his hometown in Idaho. He moved to Brooklyn two years ago after graduating from Reed College in Portland, Oregon. At Reed he studied history and spent his time off campus organizing ESL workshops for day laborers with the Voz Workers' Rights Education Project. During the summer of 2010 he was awarded a grant to conduct archival research in New York City for his senior thesis about gentrification and squatting on the Lower East Side. His research interests are anchored by an evolving Marxist understanding of the neoliberal urban upheaval. He investigates how transformed patterns of work,
(im)migration, and the composition of capital have reshaped the social geography of American cities. In particular, he is interested in the problem of value in the urban landscape and hopes to investigate contradictory determinations of value in “transitioning” neighborhoods by examining techniques of expropriation and moments of resistance. He is also a core member of the collective that operates the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space, a storefront museum about the rich history of squatting and community gardening in Loisaida.

Jackie Sutton is a MA student in American Studies. She completed her coursework in 2011, and moved to Cheshire, Connecticut to pursue a full-time teaching position at Cheshire Academy. Her thesis is an ethnographic study of demographic changes in Bridgeport, Connecticut following World War II.

Sunaura Taylor is an artist, writer and activist. Through painting, printmaking, writing and other forms of political and artistic engagement her work intervenes with dominant historical narratives of disability and animal oppression. Taylor's artworks have been exhibited at venues across the country, including the CUE Art Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution and the Berkeley Art Museum. She is the recipient of numerous awards including a Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA Grant and an Animals and Culture Grant. Her written work has been printed in various edited collections as well as in publications such as the Monthly Review, Yes! Magazine, American Quarterly and Qui Parle. Taylor worked with philosopher Judith Butler on Astra Taylor’s film Examined Life (Zeitgeist 2008). Taylor holds an MFA in art practice from the University of California, Berkeley and is co-founder of the disability arts collective Yelling Clinic. Her book Beasts of Burden, which explores the intersections of animal ethics and disability studies, is forthcoming from the Feminist Press.

Liza Keānuenueokalani Williams is a doctoral candidate in the American Studies program. She received her BA in Psychology and two minors in Women’s Studies and Ethnic Studies from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa in 2008 with honors. She is currently working on her dissertation titled, “The Politics of Paradise: Tourism, Tropical Imaginaries, and Colonialism in Hawai‘i,” which explores the colonial legacies, cultural politics and economic links between tourism, the military, and the prison industrial complex and their intersecting effects on Kānaka Maoli. Her poetry and writing has appeared in Anamesa, Cirque and NACLA (North American Congress on Latin America). Her research interests include U.S. and Hawaiian Nationalisms, Maoli representation(s) through visual art, touristic/cultural discourse, the politics of leisure, and the tensions between identity, gender, race, and national identities that arise from strictures of cultural commodification. Her interests are deeply informed by her personal and familial embeddedness within the U.S. colonial histories of Hawai‘i.

GRAD STUDENT NEWS:

A.J. Bauer presented a paper titled, “‘The Future is in the Re-Founding’: The Tea Party’s Vernacular Theory of Historical Time,” as part of the “Futurity of the Right” panel at the Society for the Anthropology of North America’s annual conference at Duke University in March. His paper was summarized in the October 2013 issue of North American Dialogue. He also contributed to and co-edited Is This What Democracy Looks Like? a dossier of scholarly activist essays on the Occupy movement, published by Social Text: Periscope in December 2012.


Thulani Davis received the American Studies Program’s Lerner Prize and was named the Africana Studies Distinguished Alumna at Barnard College. This year she spoke at the University of Maryland on “Blackface Imagery and Its Answers: Stereotyping from the Civil War Era to the Obama Era,” and gave a lecture at Barnard College on her dissertation work for the 20th anniversary of African Studies.
Jennifer Flores Sternad was an invited student at the Zapatistas’ “Little School of Freedom,” a pedagogical event organized by the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) and its indigenous support base in Chiapas. An essay of hers about the school is forthcoming in *Resistance Strategies: Strategies of Resistance*, edited by Diana Taylor and published by Duke University Press.

Since attaining ABD status in February Claudia Sofia Garriga López returned to Ecuador where she will spend the next year conducting fieldwork and writing her dissertation. In April Claudia served as the master of ceremony for the second annual Marcha de las Putas in Quito. In the summer of 2013 she returned to NYU to teach an advanced summer course in Gender and Sexuality Studies titled “The Politics of Sex Work.” In May of 2013, Claudia was awarded the Social Justice Agent Award by the NYU LGBT Center for her activist work with LGBT and feminist communities in New York and Ecuador. In October she presented her work on transgender activism in Ecuador at the Union Theological Seminary of Columbia University for a panel called “Latin@ and Queer Theory: Implications for the Church and Beyond.”

This year, Ayasha Guerin’s research photography was presented at the three-day Feeding Cities conference at the University of Pennsylvania. She presented research on “Nomadic Garden Containers” at the 4th annual graduate student conference hosted by the Department of Cultural Analysis and Theory at Stony Brook University, and will present on “How Occupy Sandy Did Things With Words” (an expanded version of her photo essay found on TheNation.com) at the upcoming annual conference of the Social Science History Association in Chicago.


In the past year, Zenia Kish taught a course at NYU Accra (Ghana), introducing critical approaches to development, and completed her dissertation fieldwork. She took part in the 2013 “Cultures of Finance” working group conference, as well as the “Reframing the Global Conference” at Indiana University. She was also awarded the ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship as well as the NYU Humanities Initiative Dissertation Fellowship (declined).

Marisol LeBrón is currently a Pre-doctoral Fellow in American Studies at Dickinson College. She will join the Dickinson faculty as an Assistant Professor of American Studies in July 2014.

Justin Leroy has a dissertation fellowship at Boston College where he is teaching in the African Diaspora Studies program.

In the past year, Julia A. Mendoza presented at two conferences: A paper titled “Silent Disenfranchisement: An Examination of the Recent California Realignment Legislation and the Cascading Effects on Communities of Color” at the Citizenship and Its Discontents: Belonging in a Global World conference (University of Massachusetts at Amherst), and a short reflection on her work at the Prison University Project in San Quentin State Prison at the “Abolish/Reform: Rethinking Education and Incarceration” conference (NYU).

Joan Morgan was recently a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University’s Institute for Diversity in the Arts where she taught “The Pleasure Principle: A Post Post Hip Hop Search for a Black Feminist Politics of Pleasure” which culminated with a campus-wide “Pleasure Politics Panel” with Joan, award winning journalist Esther Armah, Dr. Kaila Story, Dr. Treva Lindsey and Dr. Brittney Cooper. She was also the recipient of the prestigious 2013 St. Clair Drake Teaching Award. This was the first time the award has been given to a Visiting Scholar.
In the past year, Manijeh Nasrabadi won a research grant from the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, and received a graduate student travel grant from the Middle Eastern Studies Association. She researched and wrote half of her dissertation and submitted an article for review to *Women's Studies Quarterly* on gender, sexuality and the affects of solidarity in the Iranian anti-Shah opposition movement in the U.S (1960-1979).

Sam Ng presented his ongoing work on lynching theater this past February at the annual Triangle African American History Colloquium, held at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His paper was part of a panel entitled, “Politicizing the Word: AME Leaders, Female Playwrights, and the Intersection of Christian Faith and Black Politics.” This fall he published in *Left History* an article titled “Trans Power! Sylvia Lee Rivera's STAR and the Black Panther Party,” which details the relationship between trans activist Sylvia Rivera and the Black Panthers. The article received the Sylvia Rivera Award in Transgender Studies from the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies.

Andrew Ojeda was recently awarded a scholarship by the Archival Education and Research Institute.

Elliott H. Powell spent the previous academic year as the Northeast Consortium for Faculty Diversity Predoctoral Fellow at the University of Rochester in the Department of Music. He was also awarded the David Sanjek Memorial Graduate Student Paper Prize at the 2013 International Association for Popular Music Studies, United States Branch Conference.

Marisa Ranieri spent the last year living, teaching and traveling in East Africa before starting her masters in Social and Cultural Analysis. In January of 2013, she founded The Nyota Fund, a scholarship fund which currently provides full academic scholarships to 50 secondary school students in Northwestern Tanzania.

In the past year, Brian Ray began archival research on gay conservative political groups at the University of Minnesota thanks to the University of Minnesota Libraries Andersen Research Scholar Program. He is an invited speaker this academic year at Yale University’s LGBT Studies Symposium, “Queer Life After DOMA: The Triumph of Gay Marriage in an Age of Family Values,” where he will discuss the emergence of domestic neoliberal policy and explicitly gay and right-wing electoral politics in late-1970s Southern California.

Stuart Schrader’s dissertation research over the past year was supported by a number of competitive fellowships, including the Samuel Flagg Bemis Fellowship, from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations; the Moody Research Grant for research at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library, from the LBJ Foundation; and others.

In the past year Zach Schwartz-Weinstein published two articles. The first, “Not Your Academy: Occupation and the Future of Student Struggles,” in the *Social Text: Periscope* dossier, on the occupy movement's radical democratic politics looked to student occupations as both the recent past and near future of both student radicalism and the Occupy movement. The second, “Birds of a Ledger,” in *The New Inquiry*, reads Richard Crossley's birdwatching field guides through the lenses of
animal studies and visual culture theory.

Donasia Tillery spent the last year teaching sixth grade English in Brooklyn where she worked to build and implement culturally relevant curricula. Alongside teaching, she worked as the Curriculum Development Assistant for the Institute for Social Advancement, a nonprofit organization that provides resources to struggling schools in Maseru, Lesotho.

Liza Keānuenuokalani Williams has spent the last year residing in Honolulu, Hawai‘i and undertaking the research for her dissertation. She presented a paper titled, “Re-Imagineering Paradise: Cultural Commodification and Performance in Hawai‘i Post-Statehood” at the annual Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) meeting in June.

FACULTY NEWS:

Cristina Beltrán is spending the 2013-2014 year as a Member at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton where she is working on a book manuscript on U.S. Latino conservative thought. Portions of the book project will be presented this academic year at Dartmouth College, University of Virginia, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Johns Hopkins University, and at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association. In addition to her book project, she is also co-editing a special issue of the journal Politics, Groups, and Identities with Ange-Marie Hancock on research at the intersection of Latino politics and political theory. The Spanish translation of her book The Trouble with Unity: Latino Politics and the Creation of Identity was recently published as part of the Casa de las Américas award. She has publications forthcoming in the Du Bois Review: Politics & Gender, and Contemporary Political Theory. In 2014 her work will appear in three edited volumes: Contemporary Latin® Media: Rethinking Production, Circulation, Politics, edited by Yeidy Rivero and Arlene Davila (NYU Press); Radical Future Pasts: Untimely Political Theory, edited by Romand Coles, Mark Reinhardt, and George Shulman (University of Kentucky Press); and From Voice to Influence: Youth, New Media, and Political Participation, edited by Danielle Allen and Jennifer Light (University of Chicago Press).

This past year Arlene Dávila was busy editing two projects: an interdisciplinary volume on the current state of Latin@ media industries, Latin@ Media Now: On Production, Circulation and Politics, co-edited with Yeidy Rivero and due out from NYU Press in fall 2014, and a “Vital Subjects” dossier on Immigration that will be published by American Anthropologist in March 2014. Additionally, thanks to a research grant from the Provostial Research Fund, she continued ethnographic research on the intersections between urban planning, “new middle class identities” and shopping malls cultures in Colombia, where she plans to return during her leave this coming January. She especially enjoyed taking a weeklong course at the International Council of Shopping Center’s University of Shopping Malls in Mexico City, where she learned some of the in and outs of the industry as it expands in the global south. In the past year she has presented many conferences and talks focusing primarily on her last book Culture Works: Space, Value and Mobility Across the neoliberal Americas, the highlight of which was a week-long stay at Arizona State University as Scholar in Residence in their School of Transborder Studies. Among other events, she also particularly enjoyed serving as Program Committee member for the upcoming American Studies Conference in D.C., and participating in the Regional Arts Training for the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture’s summit in the Bronx.

Carolyn Dinshaw is currently working on two projects that engage visual materials. With Marget Long, she presented a talk last month at Dartmouth College entitled “Non-Existential at 82 Degrees 30' N. 108 Degrees 22' W.,” on medieval maps and legends of Paradise, early 20th-century Arctic exploration, Google Earth, and works from Long’s photo practice, all tied together by the optical phenomenon of the mirage. And at the “Medievalism in the Modern World” conference
in St. Andrews, Scotland, last summer she presented a plenary lecture on contemporary uptakes of the medieval sculptural figure of the foliate head, an eerie mix of human and vegetation known popularly as the Green Man. She is focusing on its use in sexual subcultures and in postcolonial fiction in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., and Australia. Her most recent book, How Soon is Now? Medieval Texts, Amateur Readers, and the Queerness of Time, was published by Duke University Press in December 2012.

Lisa Duggan was elected President of the ASA for the 2014-15 term. She is at work on two book projects: Precarious Intimacies, about post-kinship caretaking in neoliberal circumstances, and Atlas Shrugging, about Ayn Rand and the affective life of late capitalism. She delivered keynote addresses at the International Journal of Feminist Politics conference “(Im)possibly Queer International Feminisms” in Brighton, UK, at the Heinrich Boll Foundation conference on Censorship, Democracy and Gender in Warsaw, and at the Czech Queer Film Festival in Prague. She will be visiting for at the Center for the Study of Sexualities of the National Central University of Taiwan during May.


Anthropology. Her article “Wall Street Women: Saviors of the Global Economy?” is forthcoming in Critical Perspectives in International Business. She was the closing plenary speaker at the Critical Finance Studies Conference at Essex Business School. She also gave talks about her book at The Inaugural Symposium of the Potomac Center for the Study of Modernity in Washington D.C, The Inaugural Lecture for the Gender, Finance, and Power Lecture Series at the University of Maryland’s Department of Women Studies, and the New America Foundation in New York City. Melissa participated in the workshop “Govemark” at Copenhagen Business School in October 2012. This workshop brought together scholars engaged in interdisciplinary research on the intersection of politics and markets. Her participation was supported by a grant from the Stockholm Center for Organizational Research at Stockholm University. Melissa started working on a manuscript tentatively titled “Emerging Geographies of Governance, Development, and Mainstream Feminism.” She also began fieldwork in New York City for a new project on the emergence of “the shared economy” after the global financial crisis.

Juan Flores has continued to speak and offer seminars on Afro-Latino history and culture as ongoing follow-ups to his co-edited volume The Afro-Latin@ Reader and his advocacy work with the Afro-Latin@ Forum. In the past year and in the upcoming months his presentations have taken him to numerous local and national venues and conferences, as well as visits to Puerto Rico, Cuba and Cali, Colombia. Juan is currently finishing a new book on Latin music in New York for Oxford after having completed the autobiography of salsa pioneer Eddie Palmieri. He is also co-editor of the poetry of late Nuyorican poet Pedro Pietri, a project he undertook on the author’s personal request; that book will be published by City Lights Books in the year ahead. In the spring semester 2014 he will be on a Global Research Initiative grant to advance research and writing projects at the NYU campus in Florence.

In addition to Sharon Heijin Lee’s forthcoming book manuscript, The Geopolitics of Beauty, which maps the discursive formation of plastic surgery in South Korea, Asia, and Asian America, Lee’s forthcoming publications include an article that examines the relationship between South Korean beauty practices and new Asian modernities, as well as another on the political significance of PSY’s global hit song, “Gangnam Style.” Lee is also co-editing a forthcoming anthology on the impact of South Korean popular culture in the U.S. called Hallyu America and has been featured in The Atlantic, The Korea Times, and Southern California Public Radio, discussing culture and politics in Korea and Asian America.
Lee, along with other delegates, recently represented the Association for Asian American Studies at the American Studies Association of Korea conference in Seoul, South Korea. Since arriving at SCA in fall 2012, Lee's courses have included “The Geopolitics of Beauty,” “The Politics of Gangnam Style,” and “Modern Korea and the Korean Diaspora.”

Harvey Molotch has been active in the post-Sandy storm initiative, “Rebuild by Design,” in which design teams from around the world submit project ideas, schemes, and plans for mitigating future climate change damage to the U.S. northeast coastal region. Harvey is part of a panel of experts, drawn from various disciplines and universities, who act as advisors to the competing design teams as well as to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which is paying for the competition and will fund (with billions in set-asides) the projects eventually selected for implementation. The now completed Stage II of the process, which resulted in public presentations in October 2013, was conducted under primary auspices of NYU's Institute for Public Knowledge and IPK director, Eric Klinenberg. On other fronts, Harvey's most recent book, Against Security: How We Go Wrong at Airports, Subways and other Sites of Ambiguous Danger, won a PROSE Award from the American Association of Book Publishers and was a “Public Pick” (top dozen books of 2012) by the journal Public Culture. It has been the subject of many interviews and commentaries in various U.S. and international media and will soon be issued in paperback by Princeton University Press.

Crystal Parikh published two articles this year, “‘Come Almost Home’: Human Rights and the Return of Minor Subjects” in a special issue of the Journal of Human Rights, on humanitarianism and responsibility, and “Being Well: The Right to Health in Asian American Literature” in a special issue of Amerasia journal, on the “state of illness and disability in Asian America.” She also delivered the Distinguished Lecture in Asian American Studies at Ohio State University in January and was elected to the executive committee of the Asian American Literature Division of the Modern Language Association. Parikh is co-editing the Cambridge Companion to Asian American Literature with Daniel Kim and is continuing work on her second book, Writing Human Rights.

Mary Louise Pratt spent fall semester as a visiting scholar at the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute at the University of New Mexico, where she is studying the history of debates around language in both Spanish colonial and U.S. imperial regimes. She contributed to a collection on the Anthropology of Intangible Heritage, and experimented on a Latin American Studies Association panel with self-accompaniment on the ukelele. She is designing a new SCA/Spanish course on Language and Empire, while someone in China translates Imperial Eyes into Chinese.


Andrew Ross's latest book, Creditocracy and the Case for Debt Refusal will be published in the next few months from OR Books (http://www.orbooks.com/catalog/creditocracy/). He continues to be active in the debt resistance movement through Strike Debt, and has published and lectured, both in the U.S. and overseas, on this topic. Strike Debt recently marked one year of the Rolling Jubilee's project of debt abolition (with almost $15 million of medical debt eliminated) and also completed the second edition of the Debt Resistors Operations Manual. Along with A.J. Bauer, Cristina Beltrán, and Rana Jaleel, he also co-edited a Social Text e-book about Occupy, entitled Is This What Democracy Looks Like? (accessible at http://what-democracy-looks-like.com/).
In 2013, **María Josefina Saldaña-Portillo** co-edited an anthology with Marisa Belausteguigoitia on indigenous women’s leadership in defense of biodiversity and territory in the face of a new round of dispossession. Entitled *Desposesión: Genero, Territorio y La Lucha por la Naturaleza*, it is out with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México Press. Saldaña-Portillo’s second book, *Indian Given: The Racial Geographies of Mexico, the United States, and Aztlán*, is a comparative analysis of the racial ideologies in the U.S. and Mexico that discerns these ideologies as the distinct legacies of British and Spanish colonialism. It is forthcoming from Duke UP in 2014.


In October 2013, **Judith Stacey** was honored with the title of Professor Emerita of Social and Cultural Analysis and Sociology at NYU.

**Daniel Walkowitz** keynoted a conference in Bucharest sponsored by American Studies scholars of Europe on Edith Wharton’s New York. The event gave him the opportunity to extend his research on Jewish Heritage tourism to include Bucharest. He envisions writing this book next fall as a Global Research in London. Meanwhile, his 1992 article on Donetsk has been translated into Ukrainian for an edited collection on twenty years of capitalism in Ukraine, and his article on the politics of urban culture in country dance has appeared in Japanese. The paperback edition of *City Folk* (NYU, 2010) appeared this past summer, and plans are in the works to have a film based on the book, produced in collaboration with colleagues at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, distributed as a DVD by Folkways. Finally, he is pleased to have been hired by the Brooklyn Public Library’s Brooklyn Connections Program to develop a curriculum for Brooklyn middle and high schools on twentieth-century social movements, including learning modules on child labor, women’s rights, decent and affordable housing, civil rights, community control, environmentalism and LGBT rights, all with a “Brooklyn Connection.”

In 2013, **Deborah Willis** participated in several events commemorating 150 years since the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, giving lectures at the United Nations, Harvard University, Brown University and the National Gallery of Art. She interviewed Carrie Mae Weems at the LOOK3 Festival in Charlottesville, VA and Aaron Neville at the Art & Ideas Festival at Yale University. Her curated exhibition “Posing Beauty” opened at the Spelman College Museum of Art this September — Dr. Willis gave a curator’s lecture in conjunction with Atlanta Celebrates Photography. In addition to speaking at colleges and museums around the states, Dr. Willis traveled to Florence, Italy, Lisbon, Portugal and Sao Paulo, Brazil to participate in conferences and symposia, and exhibited a solo show of her own photographs at the International Visions Gallery in Washington D.C.

SCA GRADUATE STUDENTS AT ASA:


Claudia Sofía Garriga López, "Re-constituting the State: Latin American Strategies for Resisting Neoliberalism”; Panel: "The Spaces of U.S. Empire and the Crisis in the Academy," Saturday, Nov. 23, 4-5:45p, Lincoln West (C)

Eva Hageman, "From Foreclosure to the Amazon: Lifestyle and Debt in Reality TV”; Panel: "ASA Program Committee: Television and the Politics of Consumption and Debt," Sunday, Nov. 24, 8-9:45a, Jefferson West (C)


Liza Keanuvenueokalani Williams, "De-Occupying Hawai‘i: The Politics of 'Security' in a Touristic and Militarized State”; Panel: "Tourism, Debt, and Disaster: The Politics of Touring the Toxic Everyday," Friday, Nov. 22, 4-5:45p, G2 - Gunston East (T)

Zenia Kish, "Affecting Impact: Ethical Investing and the Privatization of Development”; Panel: "Transnational Ethical Economies: Global Frontiers in Investment, Poverty, and Entrepreneurialism," Saturday, Nov. 23, 10-11:45a, Lincoln East (C)


Samuel Ng, "In the Lord’s Hands: Spirituality, Vulnerability, and Black Womanhood in Lynching Dramas, 1914-1933”; Panel: "Minority Literature(s) and the Question of an Ethics of Collective Dissent," Thursday, Nov. 21, 8-9:45a, E - Embassy (T)


Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, "They Can Beat Us in the Streets, But They’ll Never Beat Us at the Bargaining Table: Service Work, Collective Dissent, and University Restructuring”; Panel: "Solidarities Against Slow Violence," Friday, Nov. 22, 2-3:45p, G1 - Gunston West (T)